

Job losses closing to an end in Calgary

Job creation continued across Canada in February 2010, with Alberta being an exception. According to the seasonally adjusted data, from January to February 2010:

- Total employment was unchanged in the Calgary Economic Region (CER), compared to a decline of 14,800 in Alberta and an increase of 21,000 in Canada.
- In Canada, new jobs were created in full-time position (+60,000) and in goods-producing sector (+17,800), while job cuts were in part-time positions (-39,300) and self-employed workers (-17,200). In Alberta, job losses in Service-producing sector (-22,500) were partially offset by gains in goods-producing sector, mostly in Manufacturing (+10,500) and Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas (+6,600) industries.

Job cuts in the CER have been slowing down in recent months with the start of new hiring in some energy market related companies thanks to the firming crude oil prices and the thawing of credit markets (See Chart 1). The number of Calgarians receiving EI benefits dropped from recent peak, explained partially by the easing in job cuts and partially by expirations of EI benefits. Participation rates¹ in most age cohorts declined, due to faster growing working age population² than the growth of labour

force³ (See Chart 2). According to the unadjusted 3-month-moving-average data, the following year-over-year changes were recorded in the CER in February 2010:

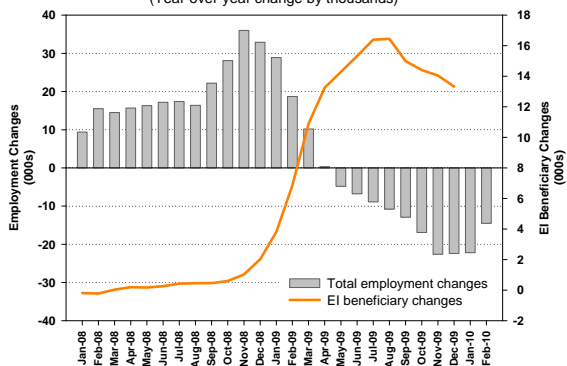
- Total employment dropped by 14,500 positions in the CER, with 8,600 losses in full-time and 5,900 losses in part-time. The unemployment rate was 7.0 per cent, compared to 5.1 per cent February last year. Average wage inflation in the CMA was 0.5 per cent, compared to 3.7 per cent a year ago.
- There were 19,640 Calgarians receiving regular employment insurance benefits in December 2009, compared to 6,310 same month a year ago.
- Labour force participation rates dropped in most age-cohorts because the growth of working age population outpaced the increase of labour force in those age groups. For example, participation rate in age cohort 55-59 declined 10.7 percentage points in February over a year, mainly due to a faster growth of working age population (+14,100 persons) compared to the growth of labour force (+3,100 persons) in this age group.

Next update: April 9, 2010

1 Labour force participation rate is defined as the ratio of labour force and working age population.
2 Working age population is defined as people at age 15 or older, including labour force population and people who are not in the labour force. People not in the labour force are those who are unwilling or unable to work, including discouraged workers and full-time students.

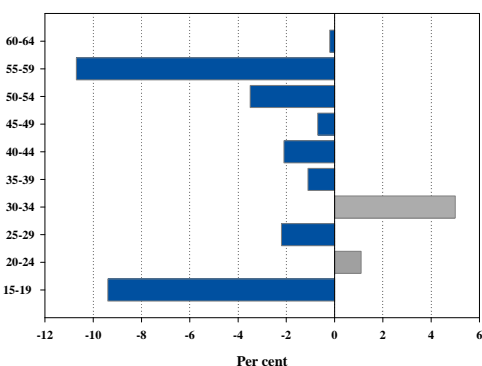
3 Labour force population includes people employed and unemployed. People who are unemployed are those who without work, are available for work, and are actively seeking work.

Chart 1. Calgary (CER) Employment & EI Beneficiary Changes
(Year-over-year change by thousands)



Source: Statistics Canada; Corporate Economics, March 2010

Chart 2. Calgary (CER): Participation Rate Change by Age
(Year-over-year, Per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada; Corporate Economics, March 2010

Labour Force Statistics

Economic Regions (Unadjusted 3-Month-Moving-Average)

Region	Description	Feb-10	Jan-10	Feb-09	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,065.6	1,063.7	1,035.7	29.9
	Labour Force ('000)	794.4	798.1	792.8	1.6
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.5	75.0	76.5	(2.0)
	Employment ('000)	738.3	740.1	752.8	(14.5)
	Employment Rate (%)	69.3	69.6	72.7	(3.4)
	Unemployment ('000)	56.0	57.9	40.1	15.9
	Unemployment Rate (%)	7.0	7.3	5.1	1.9
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	951.6	950.2	928.4	23.2
	Labour Force ('000)	680.1	686.9	669.9	10.2
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	71.5	72.3	72.2	(0.7)
	Employment ('000)	634.8	641.0	637.0	(2.2)
	Employment Rate (%)	66.7	67.5	68.6	(1.9)
	Unemployment ('000)	45.3	45.9	32.9	12.4
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	2,899.6	2,895.4	2,830.0	69.6
	Labour Force ('000)	2,110.3	2,120.8	2,098.5	11.8
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.8	73.2	74.2	(1.4)
	Employment ('000)	1,970.5	1,977.3	1,994.4	(23.9)
	Employment Rate (%)	68.0	68.3	70.5	(2.5)
	Unemployment ('000)	139.8	143.6	104.1	35.7
	Unemployment Rate (%)	6.6	6.8	5.0	1.6

Statistics Canada: CANSIM, Table ID: 282-0054

Source: Corporate Economics, Statistics Canada, March 2010

Calgary's Monthly Market Review: February 2010

Who We Are

Over the past ten years Corporate Economics has researched dozens of economic topics and developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis. Monitoring economic trends allows us to develop unique insights on how external events are impacting the local economy and the Municipal Corporation. We provide services in four areas: forecasting, information provision, consulting and policy analysis.

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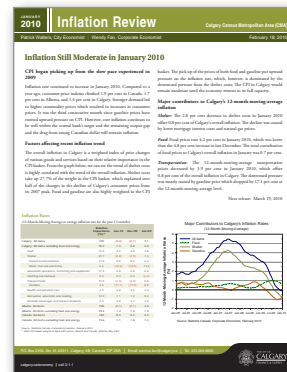
Ivy Zhang
403.268.2005 or ivy.zhang@calgary.ca

Many of our publications are available on the internet at www.calgary.ca/economy.

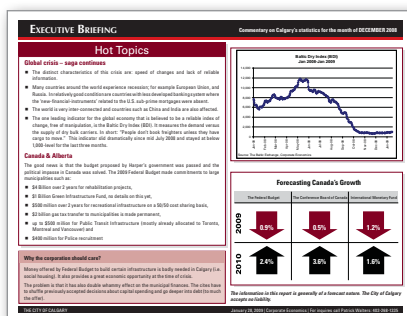
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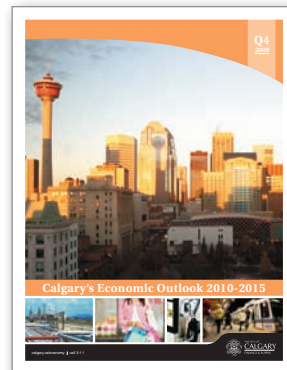
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Corporate Research Analyst: Estella Chan

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Source: Statistics Canada