

Labour Market Review

Patrick Walters, City Economist | Ivy Zhang, Senior Corporate Economist

March 8, 2013

Calgary among the top job creating regions

The Canadian labour market created 50,700 jobs in February 2013, on a month-over-month basis:

- Total employment increased by 3,900 in the Calgary Economic Region (CER), 4,200 in Alberta, and 50,700 in Canada.
- In Canada, job gains were mainly in full-time positions (+33,600). As more people joined the labour force (+60,400), the unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.0 per cent.
- In Alberta, job gains in full-time positions (+11,700) were partially offset by losses in the part-time (-7,500). Among industries, Professional, scientific and technical services gained the most (7,800), while public administration had the largest cuts (-9,300).

According to the unadjusted 3-month-moving-average data, the following were the year-over-year changes in the CER in February 2013:

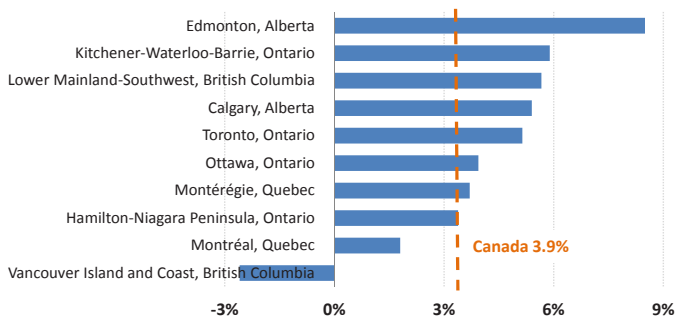
- Total employment increased by 20,000. Job creations were mainly in the finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+13,300), transportation and warehousing (+12,400), and educational services (+8,700) industries. Job losses were mostly in the trade (-10,400) and construction (-8,600) industries.

- The unemployment rate increased to 5.0 per cent, from 4.9 per cent a year ago.
- The average hourly wage rate was \$29.08, increased by 6.4 per cent from the same time last year.
- There were 8,090 people in the Calgary Metropolitan Area (CMA) receiving regular employment insurance benefits in December 2012, down by 190 persons from a year ago.

Over the past three years, the CER ranked among the top job creating economic regions in Canada. Since the recent recession, Canada's ten largest economic regions had different paces of job creation. Edmonton and Calgary ranked first and fourth in job creation (chart 1), as they benefited from a strong world energy market. The two economic regions had the highest participation rates due to their younger working age populations and better job markets. Young people from high unemployment regions came to Alberta for better job opportunities. Even with the inflow of job seekers, unemployment rates in Calgary and Edmonton were among the lowest. In 2012, skilled labour shortages drove the unemployment rates in Calgary (4.9 per cent) and Edmonton (4.6 per cent) to a new low level, compared to the national average of 7.3 per cent (chart 2).

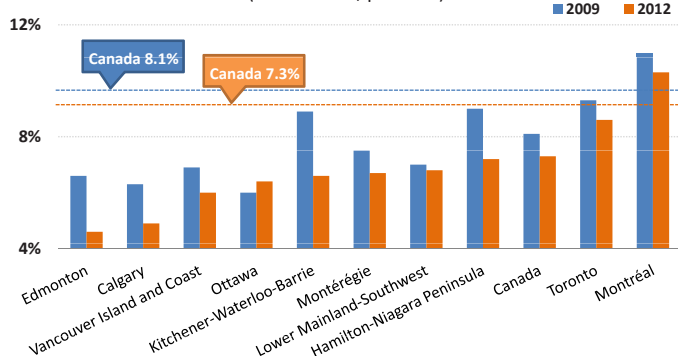
Next update: April 5, 2013

Chart 1. Job growth rate by economic region
(percentage change in 2009 - 2012)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, March 2013

Chart 2. Unemployment rate by economic region
(2009 - 2012, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, March 2013

Labour Force Statistics

Economic Regions (Seasonally Adjusted 3-Month-Moving-Average)

	Description	Feb-13	Jan-13	Feb-12	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,158.0	1,154.6	1,122.5	35.5
	Labour Force ('000)	865.1	859.0	843.1	22.0
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.3	74.3	74.9	(0.6)
	Employment ('000)	822.4	818.5	802.2	20.2
	Employment Rate (%)	70.9	70.9	71.4	(0.5)
	Unemployment ('000)	42.0	40.9	42.2	(0.2)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0	4.8	4.9	0.1
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	1,045.6	1,042.5	1,011.0	34.6
	Labour Force ('000)	764.3	765.8	741.3	23.0
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.0	73.3	73.2	(0.2)
	Employment ('000)	732.3	733.8	705.4	27.0
	Employment Rate (%)	70.0	70.4	69.8	0.2
	Unemployment ('000)	32.5	32.2	36.4	(3.9)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.4	4.4	5.0	(0.6)
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,121.9	3,113.1	3,034.2	87.6
	Labour Force ('000)	2,278.0	2,271.0	2,242.7	35.3
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.0	73.0	74.0	(1.0)
	Employment ('000)	2,184.6	2,177.2	2,142.2	42.4
	Employment Rate (%)	70.0	70.0	70.6	(0.6)
	Unemployment ('000)	101.8	98.9	108.6	(6.8)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.4	4.9	(0.4)

Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted by Corporate Economics, March 2013

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Who We Are

Corporate Economics provides services in four areas: forecasting, information provision, policy analysis and consulting. We also monitor the current economic trends which allows us to develop unique insights on how external events are impacting the local economy and the Municipal government. We are experienced at researching different economic topics and developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis.

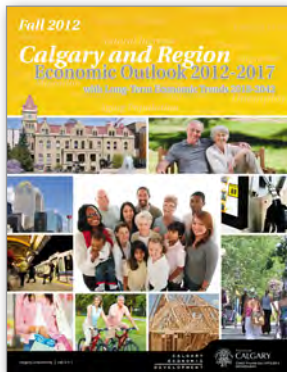
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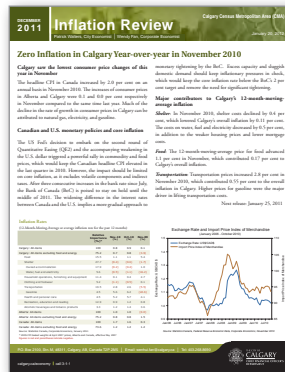
Many of our publications are available on the internet at www.calgary.ca/economy.

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- ▶ Calgary & Region Economic Outlook
- ▶ Energy Reports on Natural Gas and Crude Oil

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- ▶ Labour Market Review
- ▶ Inflation Review
- ▶ Current Economic Analysis
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Policy Analysis



- ▶ A Case of Fiscal Imbalance: The Calgary Experience
- ▶ Diesel Fuel Price Pass-Through in Calgary
- ▶ Calgary Residential and Commercial Real Estate Markets

Corporate Research Analyst: Estella Scuggs

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Source: Statistics Canada and Corporate Economics

