

Labour Market Review

Patrick Walters, *City Economist* | Estella Scruggs, *Corporate Research Analyst*

June 5, 2015

Key Highlight

Today's publication of the seasonally unadjusted 3 month moving average data from Statistics Canada's May 2015 Labour Force Survey for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) showed that:

- Employment increased by 7,500 persons from the previous month.
- The unemployment rate increased to 5.8 per cent from 5.7 per cent last month.
- Alberta accounted for about a third (30.5 per cent) of the annual job gains in Canada and in this period the CER's share of the national job growth was 29.5 per cent.

Summary of Survey Results:

In the May 2015, the number of employed persons in the CER increased to 884,500, up by 7,500 from the previous month and by 38,300 year-over-year. Despite this large annual increase, the goods-producing sector has recorded annual job losses, with 10,200 fewer positions today than a year ago. Mostly attributable to a decline by 16,500 jobs in two industries:

- ▶ Forestry, Fishing, Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction (-9,600);
- ▶ Construction (-6,900).

Job growth in agriculture (3,500) and utilities (2,600) acted to offset some of the losses in the goods-producing sector.

Although the goods-producing sector shed more jobs than were added in the past twelve months, there was strong annual job growth of 48,400 positions in the service-producing sector. Year-over-year, 22,200 positions were created in full-time employment and 16,000 in part-time employment. Part-time employment in the CER rose sharply between January 2015 (3,700 persons) and May 2015 (16,000 persons) [please refer to next page].

The number of unemployed in the CER rose to 54,600, pushing up the unemployment rate. This is higher than the 53,200 unemployed individuals recorded in April 2015. With a larger number of job seekers, the May 2015 CER unemployment rate was estimated at 5.8 per cent, up from 5.7 and 5.5 per cent in April 2015 and March 2015, respectively.

The number of unemployed in Alberta increased from 121,100 in May 2014 to 150,000 in May 2015. The unemployment rate in the province rose to 6.1 per cent in May 2015, from 6.0 per cent in April 2015 and from 5.1 per cent in the same period 2014. The unemployment rates in Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake (8.6 per cent), Edmonton (6.8 per cent) and Red Deer (6.2 per cent) were all above the provincial average (6.1 per cent).

Employment by Industry in Calgary Economic Region (Seasonally unadjusted 3 month moving average; Unit: thousands of persons)

Industry	May-15	Apr-15	May-14	Apr to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
All Industries	884.5	877.0	846.2	7.5	38.3
Goods-Producing Sector	211.1	213.6	221.3	-2.5	-10.2
Agriculture	8.3	7.7	4.8	0.6	3.5
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	58.8	60.5	68.4	-1.7	-9.6
Utilities	8.1	7.1	5.5	1.0	2.6
Construction	84.8	86.5	91.7	-1.7	-6.9
Manufacturing	51.1	51.8	50.9	-0.7	0.2
Service-Producing Sector	673.3	663.3	624.9	10.0	48.4
Trade	122.2	117.3	118.9	4.9	3.3
Transportation and Warehousing	65.5	67.8	47.5	-2.3	18.0
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (FIRE)	40.3	39.3	47.9	1.0	-7.6
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	87.5	86.0	93.8	1.5	-6.3
Business Building and Other Support	30.8	32.7	37.2	-1.9	-6.4
Educational Services	50.6	48.8	45.0	1.8	5.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	103.8	100.2	86.5	3.6	17.3
Information, Culture and Recreation	35.4	36.2	28.8	-0.8	6.6
Accommodation and Food Services	66.4	63.6	58.0	2.8	8.4
Other Services	43.6	42.6	38.7	1.0	4.9
Public Administration	27.3	28.8	22.6	-1.5	4.7

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2015

Labour Force Statistics (Seasonally unadjusted 3 month moving average)

	Description	May-15	Apr-15	May-14	Annual Change
CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Working Age Population ('000)	1,259.4	1,256.6	1,222.9	36.5
	Labour Force ('000)	939.0	930.2	897.0	42.0
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.6	74.0	73.4	1.2
	Employment ('000)	884.5	877.0	846.2	38.3
	Employment Rate (%)	70.2	69.8	69.2	1.0
	Unemployment ('000)	54.6	53.2	50.8	3.8
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.8	5.7	5.7	0.1
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,338.8	3,333.0	3,264.2	74.6
	Labour Force ('000)	2,440.2	2,419.2	2,371.8	68.4
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.1	72.6	72.7	0.4
	Employment ('000)	2,290.2	2,274.2	2,250.7	39.5
	Employment Rate (%)	68.6	68.2	69.0	(0.4)
	Unemployment ('000)	150.0	145.0	121.1	28.9
	Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	6.0	5.1	1.0

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2015

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Part-time Employment Analysis

In 2014, Alberta's part-time employment was estimated at 376,100 persons, up from 354,600 in 2013 and 271,700 in 1997, the first year for which data is readily available. The following question could be asked, is there a trend towards increasing part-time employment? The data does not support the idea that part-time employment is on an upward trend. Part-time employment as a share of total employment has varied with the business cycle: rising as the unemployment rate rises and falling as the unemployment rate falls. In addition, the number of part-time employees has increased because the size of the economy, as measured by total employment, has increased, but its share of total employment has been on a downward trend.

Individuals work part-time for a number of reasons: own illness, caring for children, other personal family responsibilities, going to school and personal preference. These reasons could be grouped into two categories: voluntary and involuntary part-time employment.

The number of persons working part-time but would have preferred a full-time job was estimated at 22,300 in 2014, up from 20,800 in 2013 and down from 27,400 in 2010. This group includes persons who wanted a full-time job but did not look because they felt jobs were scarce and those who looked but were unable to find a full-time job and chose to work part-time.

Next update: July 10, 2015

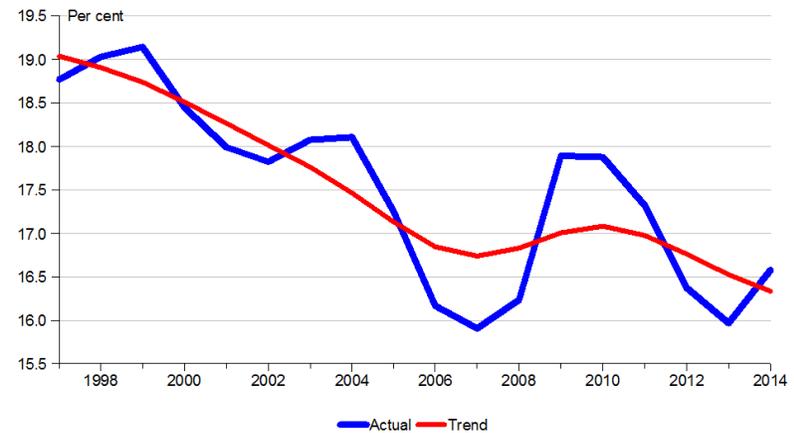
Who We Are

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 have developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis.

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

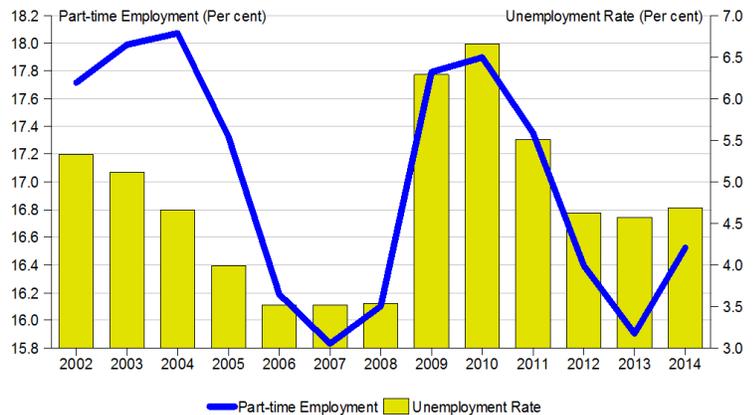
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Alberta - Part-time Employment as a Share of Total Employment



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2015

Alberta - Share Part-time Employment and Unemployment Rate



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2015