



# Labour Market Review

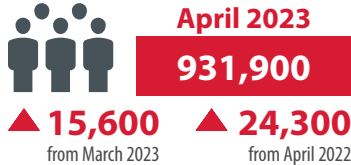
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May 5, 2023

## Highlights:

### Total Employment

Calgary Economic Region  
(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)



### Unemployment Rates

	April 2023	April 2022
Canada <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	5.0%	5.3%
Alberta <i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	5.9%	6.1%
Calgary <i>Economic Region* Seasonally unadjusted</i>	6.4%	7.0%
Calgary <i>Census Metropolitan Area* Seasonally adjusted</i>	6.4%	7.0%

\* 3-month-moving-average

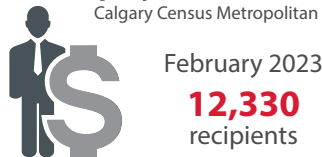
### Average Wage Rate

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area  
April 2023, year-over-year change



### Employment Insurance

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area



### Employment in Calgary is holding steady<sup>1</sup>

The Calgary Economic Region's (CER) three-month moving average unemployment rate decreased from 7.0 per cent in April 2022 to 6.4 per cent in April 2023. The CER's labour force grew by 2.0 per cent year-over-year (y-o-y) in April 2023, while employment increased at a faster rate of 2.7 per cent, causing a drop in the unemployment rate. Alberta's (6.3 per cent) and Canada's (5.3 per cent) unemployment rates declined by 0.3 percentage points y-o-y. In April 2023, the CER labour force participation rate fell by 1.0 percentage points y-o-y, meaning fewer people are looking for work. Employment is steady because it was below the record high of 963,800 in August 2022 but robust for an April reading.

### Job losses appear concentrated in the Construction and Retail Trade industries

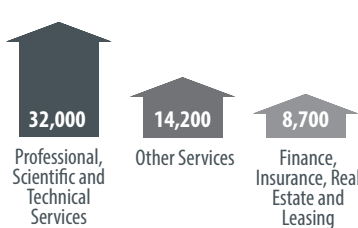
The CER added 24,300 positions between April 2022 and April 2023, with full-time employment up 44,700 and part-time employment down 20,400 y-o-y. By industry, the services-producing sector gained 28,600 jobs y-o-y, led by Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+32,000), Real Estate (+10,000), and Transportation and Warehousing (+5,100). In contrast, the goods-producing sector lost 4,400 jobs y-o-y. The Construction and Retail Trade industries led y-o-y job declines, falling by 8,100 and 25,400, respectively, for April 2023.

### Job losses are also prevalent for youth aged 15 to 24 years and those 50 to 59 years

Job losses have increased for people aged 50 to 59 years. A total of 23,000 jobs were lost y-o-y in April 2023 for those in this age group, mostly among men (16,000). Youth employment has also been on the decline, with a total of 21,000 jobs lost among persons aged 15 to 24 years.

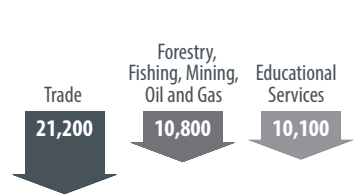
### Most Job Gains by Industry

April 2023, year-over-year change



### Most Job Losses by Industry

April 2023, year-over-year change



### On a positive note, those that experience job losses are taking less time to find new ones

The average number of weeks it takes job seekers to find jobs has fallen since it hit a record high of 34 weeks in April 2022. Since then, the average duration of unemployment in Alberta has fallen to 17.4 weeks for April 2023. This represents an improvement compared to the 2019 average of 21 weeks. Despite this improvement, the time it takes to find work within the province still has room to recover to the 2015 average of 14 weeks. The average duration of unemployment in Alberta is also slightly higher than the national average of 17 weeks.

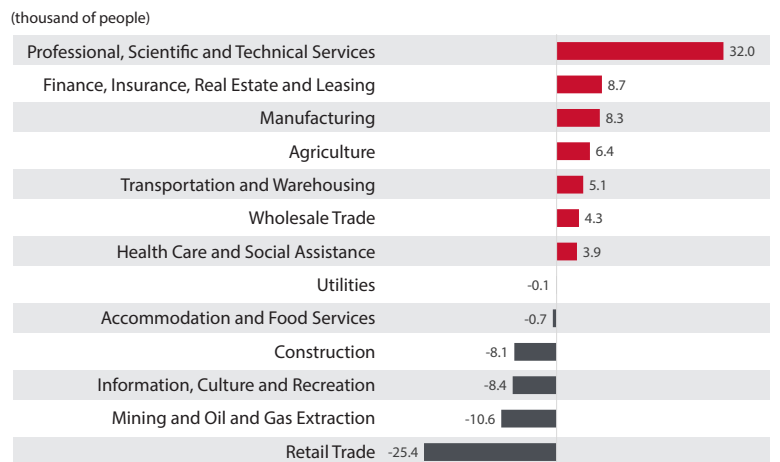
### Alberta ended Q1 2023 with slower year-over-year wage growth compared to the rest of Canada

At the end of the first quarter of 2023, wages across large Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) in Alberta have increased slower than in other provinces y-o-y. Specifically, for March 2023 (y-o-y), the average hourly wage growth in Calgary (2.5 per cent) and Edmonton (1.5 per cent) was slower than Vancouver (7.4 per cent), Montreal (6.9 per cent), Ottawa-Gatineau (6.5 per cent), and Toronto (4.8 per cent).

Overall, wages across Canada have outpaced consumer price inflation, growing at 5.3 per cent y-o-y in March 2023, compared to the 4.3 per cent inflation recorded for the same period.

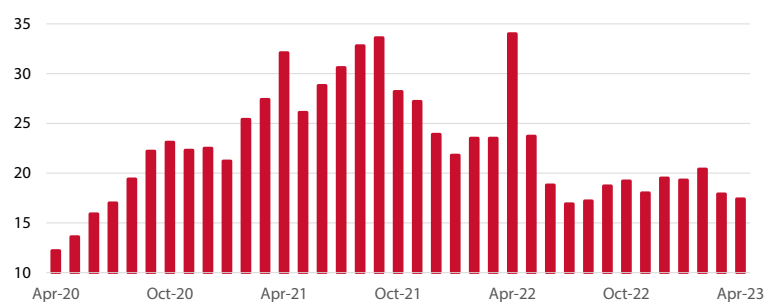
Municipalities in Alberta have bucked the national trend, recording the slowest wage growth and lagging inflation. For example, in March 2023, the headline consumer price index (CPI) in the Calgary CMA increased by 3.7 per cent over the previous twelve months, compared to the 2.5 per cent growth in average hourly wages. Similarly, Alberta saw a 2.5 per cent increase in average hourly wages when consumer price inflation grew by 3.3 per cent<sup>2</sup>.

Chart 1: CER: Year-over-Year Employment Changes by Industry (April 2023)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

Chart 2: Alberta: Average Number of Weeks Unemployed (April 2023)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

**Table 1. Labour Force Statistics**  
(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Description	Apr-23	Mar-23	Apr-22	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,422.6	1,417.4	1,374.2	48.4
Labour Force ('000)	995.8	985.0	975.8	20.0	
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	70.0	69.5	71.0	(1.0)	
Employment ('000)	931.9	916.3	907.6	24.3	
Employment Rate (%)	65.5	64.6	66.0	(0.5)	
Unemployment ('000)	64.0	68.7	68.2	(4.2)	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.4	7.0	7.0	(0.6)	

ALBERTA	Description	Apr-23	Mar-23	Apr-22	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	3,703.0	3,690.2	3,586.7	116.3
Labour Force ('000)	2,574.5	2,564.4	2,495.9	78.6	
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.5	69.5	69.6	(0.1)	
Employment ('000)	2,412.7	2,402.0	2,327.7	85.0	
Employment Rate (%)	65.2	65.1	64.9	0.3	
Unemployment ('000)	161.7	162.4	168.2	(6.5)	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3	6.3	6.7	(0.4)	

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, May 5, 2023

**Table 2. Calgary CMA Wage by Industry**

Industry	Total employees*** ('000 people)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly wage bill (\$million)			Total hours worked (hours)		
	Apr-23	Apr-22	Change (y/y)	Apr-23	Apr-22	Change (y/y)	Apr-23	Apr-22	Change (y/y)	Apr-23	Apr-22	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	42.9	51.2	(8.3)	2,455.3	2,410.3	45.0	105.3	123.4	(18.1)	40.9	41.0	(0.1)
Utilities	6.1	6.4	(0.3)	2,188.9	2,138.7	50.2	13.4	13.7	(0.3)	39.1	38.7	0.3
Construction	58.0	60.6	(2.6)	1,483.9	1,390.4	93.5	86.1	84.3	1.8	39.6	40.0	(0.4)
Manufacturing	35.1	30.8	4.3	1,464.4	1,484.3	(19.9)	51.4	45.7	5.7	38.9	39.1	(0.1)
Wholesale Trade	28.7	27.0	1.7	1,313.6	1,489.7	(176.1)	37.7	40.2	(2.5)	39.7	39.6	0.1
Retail Trade	77.7	106.9	(29.2)	781.6	797.1	(15.5)	60.7	85.2	(24.5)	33.1	33.2	(0.1)
Transportation and Warehousing	48.6	40.2	8.4	1,297.6	1,278.2	19.4	63.1	51.4	11.7	37.6	39.5	(1.8)
Information and Cultural Industries	10.0	12.6	(2.6)	1,366.7	1,429.5	(62.8)	13.7	18.0	(4.3)	39.0	37.7	1.3
Finance and Insurance	27.9	30.7	(2.8)	1,556.9	1,784.4	(227.5)	43.4	54.8	(11.3)	38.0	39.5	(1.5)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	21.5	8.9	12.6	1,278.0	1,653.8	(375.8)	27.5	14.7	12.8	39.9	35.7	4.2
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	94.8	73.7	21.1	1,757.5	1,750.1	7.4	166.6	129.0	37.6	38.2	38.7	(0.5)
Administrative and Support	24.5	16.4	8.1	1,071.8	1,108.6	(36.8)	26.3	18.2	8.1	36.1	38.0	(1.9)
Educational Services	53.7	65.4	(11.7)	1,380.0	1,222.8	157.2	74.1	80.0	(5.9)	34.8	33.1	1.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	92.6	90.7	1.9	1,125.3	1,078.7	46.6	104.2	97.8	6.4	34.6	34.7	(0.1)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	15.9	22.4	(6.5)	862.5	628.5	234.0	13.7	14.1	(0.4)	32.4	25.7	6.8
Accommodation and Food Services	40.7	38.3	2.4	587.8	549.7	38.1	23.9	21.1	2.9	29.4	29.6	(0.2)
Other Services (except Public Admin)	25.4	18.0	7.4	1,140.4	876.2	264.2	29.0	15.8	13.2	36.1	34.4	1.7
Public Administration	29.5	32.8	(3.3)	1,736.5	1,779.0	(42.5)	51.2	58.4	(7.1)	37.8	37.3	0.5
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>736.2</b>	<b>734.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1,349.6</b>	<b>1,316.8</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>993.6</b>	<b>967.2</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>

\*\*\* Excluding self-employed Note: lack of data for Agriculture  
Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, May 5, 2023

Next update: June 9, 2023

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**Footnote:**

- All statistics are seasonally unadjusted unless otherwise indicated.
- Source: City of Calgary March 2023 Inflation Review.