

# Labour Market Review

Patrick Walters, City Economist | Ivy Zhang, Corporate Economist

June 10, 2011



## Improving job market still hard for new graduates

Job markets across Canada made modest gains in May, following an under-performing US economy. Slowing growth in the U.S. constrained further improvement in the Canadian economy. A strong loonie is hurting Canadian manufacturing exports.

The seasonally adjusted data for April 2011 to May 2011 (month-over-month) showed the following:

- Total employment was unchanged in the Calgary Economic Region (CER), up slightly in Alberta (+8,500) and in Canada (+22,300).
- In Canada, most jobs were created in the private sector (+37,100) and service-producing industries (+37,200). Job losses were in the public sector (-44,300) and goods-producing industries (-14,900) including manufacturing (-22,500).
- In Alberta, new jobs were mainly added in full-time positions (+18,200) and the goods-producing sector (+8,300). Job losses were in part-time positions (-9,600) and the education services industry (-7,400).

The labour market in the CER continued to improve in May 2011: the employed labour force increased and the numbers of unemployed decreased (chart 1). However, the youth (aged 15-19) and the new graduates from high school or college (aged 20-24), with limited experience, still had a tough time competing with experienced job seekers. Many service, jobs that traditionally went to first time labour

market entrants, were cut during recent recession. Consequently, the unemployment rates for first time labour market entrants in May 2011 were still higher than the previous peaks (in May) (chart 2).

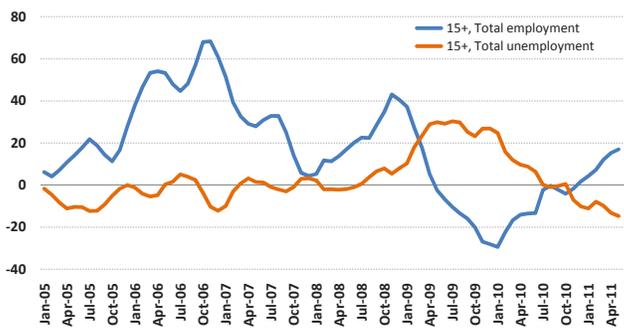
According to the unadjusted 3-month-moving-average data, the following year-over-year changes were recorded in the CER in May 2011:

- Total employment increased by 17,000, with the biggest gains in the service-producing sector (+19,900) including professional, scientific and technical services industry (+13,400). The total number of unemployed fell by 14,700 year-over-year, to 47,600 persons in May 2011.
- The unemployment rate declined to 5.9 per cent, from 7.7 per cent the same time last year.
- The average wage inflation rate was 0.3 per cent, compared to 2.2 per cent in May 2010.
- There were 13,230 Calgarians receiving regular employment insurance benefits in March 2011, down 31 per cent from 19,240 in March 2010.

Next update: July 8, 2011

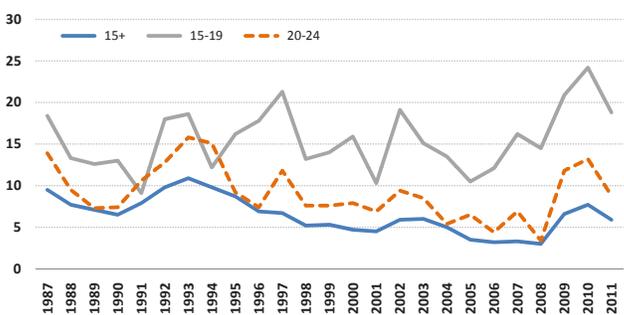
Note: On January 27, 2011, Statistics Canada released a standard revision to its Labour Force Survey estimates following the release of final population estimates from Census 2006, which would affect historical data and future estimates since then.

Chart 1. CER labour market changes (year-over-year, thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2011

Chart 2. CER unemployment rates by age group (per cent, in May)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2011

## Labour Force Statistics

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

	Description	May-11	Apr-11	May-10	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,105.7	1,103.8	1,085.4	20.3
	Labour Force ('000)	809.1	804.4	806.9	2.2
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.2	72.9	74.3	(1.1)
	Employment ('000)	761.5	756.5	744.5	17.0
	Employment Rate (%)	68.9	68.5	68.6	0.3
	Unemployment ('000)	47.6	47.9	62.3	(14.7)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	6.0	7.7	(1.8)
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	996.4	994.9	981.7	14.7
	Labour Force ('000)	720.3	718.9	701.3	19.0
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.3	72.3	71.4	0.9
	Employment ('000)	679.2	675.2	648.1	31.1
	Employment Rate (%)	68.2	67.9	66.0	2.2
	Unemployment ('000)	41.1	43.7	53.3	(12.2)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	6.1	7.6	(1.9)
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	2,994.7	2,990.4	2,951.5	43.2
	Labour Force ('000)	2,180.8	2,171.8	2,153.1	27.7
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.8	72.6	72.9	(0.1)
	Employment ('000)	2,056.2	2,044.1	1,992.5	63.7
	Employment Rate (%)	68.7	68.4	67.5	1.2
	Unemployment ('000)	124.6	127.7	160.7	(36.1)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.7	5.9	7.5	(1.8)

Statistics Canada: CANSIM, Table ID: 282-0054

Source: Corporate Economics, Statistics Canada, June 2011

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## 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.

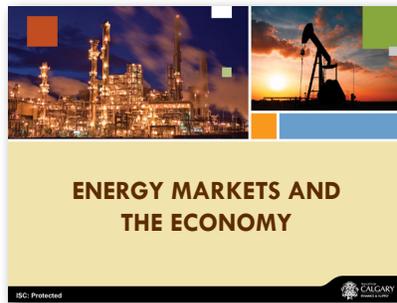
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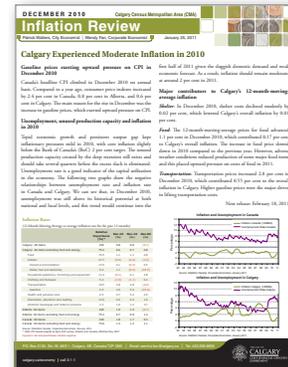
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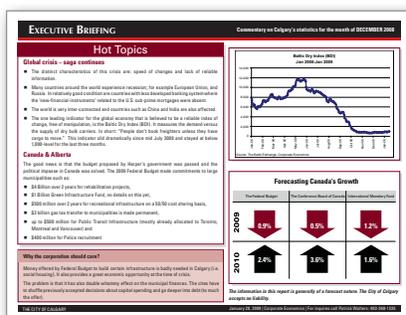
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Source: Statistics Canada

