

Labour Market Review

Patrick Walters, City Economist | Ivy Zhang, Corporate Economist

September 9, 2011



Job recovery continues in Calgary

The Canadian job market remained virtually unchanged for the second consecutive month, as the economy adjusted to growing uncertainty in the world economy. Total employment in Alberta increased by 6,600 over the previous month. In this period, the Calgary Economic Region (CER) gained 5,000 jobs. The seasonally adjusted data for the CER showed the following:

- Total employment was estimated at 783,000 in August 2011, up from 778,000 in the previous month and 759,000 in August 2010. Total employment was up by 24,000 on a year-over-year basis.
- Total labour force averaged 833,000 in August 2011, up from 815,000 in the same period 2010.
- The number of unemployed was estimated at 50,000 in August 2011, down from 56,000 in August 2010.
- The unemployment rate was 6.1 per cent in August 2011, up from 5.8 per cent in previous month but down from 6.9 per cent in August 2010.
- The employment rate was estimated at 70.4 per cent in August 2011, up from 69.6 per cent for the same period 2010.

- The labour force participation rate was estimated at 75 per cent in August 2011, an increase from 74.7 per cent in August 2010.

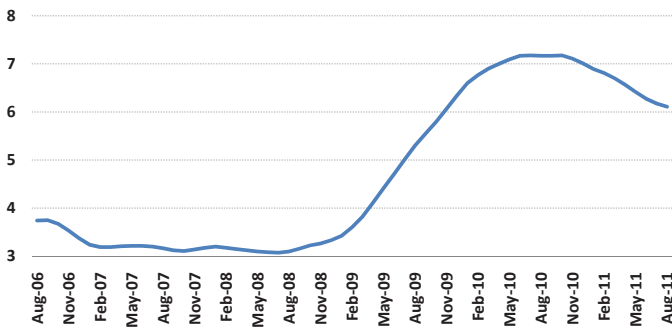
The labour force participation in Calgary is expected to increase in the coming months as former discouraged workers are drawn back to the labour market by improved prospects of finding employment. This should cause the labour force to increase and prevent the unemployment rate from falling rapidly.

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

- Total employment increased by 24,400. Most job gains were from the accommodation and food services (+12,000), trade (+11,200) and health care and social assistance (+7,000) industries. The major losses were in the finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-5,700) and educational services (-5,100) industries.
- The average wage inflation rate was 0.5 per cent, compared to 0.3 in last August.
- There were 9,710 Calgarians receiving regular employment insurance benefits in June 2011, down 33.5 per cent or 4,890 from last year.

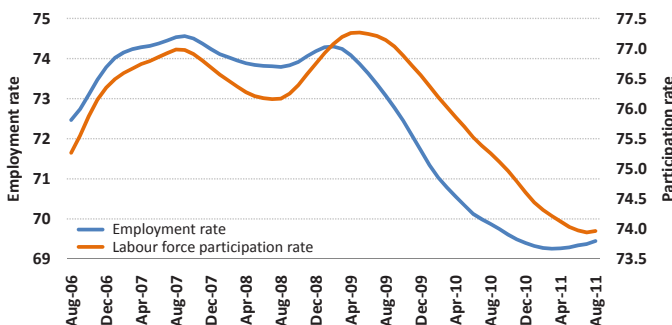
Next update: October 7, 2011

Chart 1. CER Unemployment rate (12-month-moving-average, August 2006 - August 2011, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, September 2011

Chart 2. CER Employment and labour force participation rates (12-month-moving-average, August 2006 - August 2011, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, September 2011

Labour Force Statistics

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

	Description	Aug-11	Jul-11	Aug-10	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,112.3	1,110.2	1,091.4	20.9
	Labour Force ('000)	848.2	836.8	829.3	18.9
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	76.3	75.4	76.0	0.3
	Employment ('000)	796.2	788.6	771.8	24.4
	Employment Rate (%)	71.6	71.0	70.7	0.9
	Unemployment ('000)	52.1	48.1	57.5	(5.4)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	5.7	6.9	(0.8)
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	1,001.7	1,000.0	986.0	15.7
	Labour Force ('000)	743.3	736.8	709.9	33.4
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.2	73.7	72.0	2.2
	Employment ('000)	701.0	697.3	659.5	41.5
	Employment Rate (%)	70.0	69.7	66.9	3.1
	Unemployment ('000)	42.3	39.5	50.4	(8.1)
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,009.8	3,005.0	2,964.7	45.1
	Labour Force ('000)	2,257.8	2,235.5	2,194.5	63.3
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	75.0	74.4	74.0	1.0
	Employment ('000)	2,127.6	2,114.2	2,050.0	77.6
	Employment Rate (%)	70.7	70.4	69.1	1.6
	Unemployment ('000)	130.2	121.3	144.5	(14.3)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.8	5.4	6.6	(0.8)

Statistics Canada: CANSIM, Table ID: 282-0054

Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, September 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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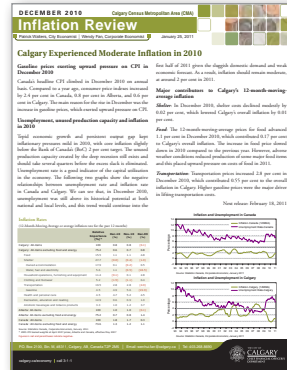
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Many of our publications are available on the internet at www.calgary.ca/economy.

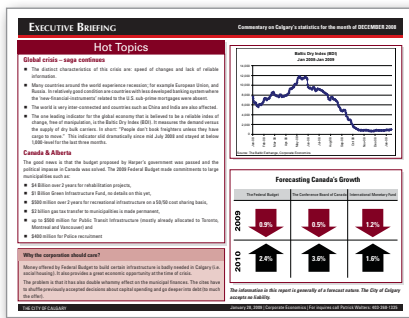
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Corporate Research Analyst: Estella Scruggs

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Source: Statistics Canada and Corporate Economics

