

Labour Market Review

Patrick Walters, City Economist | Ivy Zhang, Corporate Economist

October 7, 2011



Structural changes in Calgary's job market

The Canadian labour market created 60,900 jobs in September, a positive surprise as the economy faced more external risks and consequently, an increased number of businesses were expected to reduce their hiring pace. The seasonally adjusted data for August 2011 to September 2011 showed the following:

- Total employment was little changed in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) (+700), compared to increases in Alberta (+8,600) and Canada (+60,900).
- In Canada, jobs were created mainly in the public sector (+36,900) and in the self-employed class (+38,900). Job losses were in the private sector (-14,900), including finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-35,300) and manufacturing (-23,500) industries.
- In Alberta, forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas industry led the growth (+10,600). Full-time job gains (+21,400) were partially offset by losses in part-time (-12,800).

In the past three years, the job market in the CER experienced structural changes in the major industries (charts 1 and 2). By September 2011, the total employment in the CER reached a higher level at 793,200, an increase of 8,200 positions compared to the pre-recession peak in

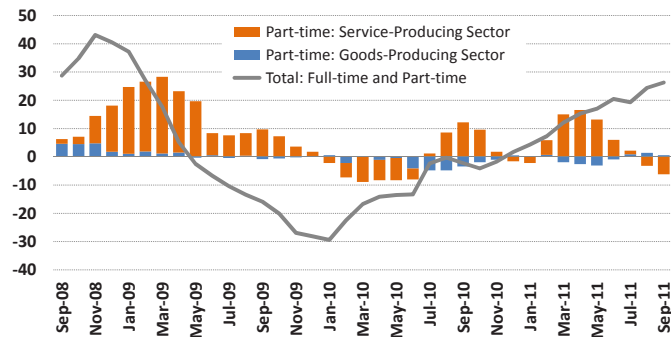
September 2008. There were more service-producing jobs (+29,100) today than three years ago, many of them full-time (+13,200) and in the health care and social assistance industry (+16,100). However, there were 20,800 less jobs in the goods-producing sector today; majority of them full-time (-17,200) and in the mining and manufacturing industries (-9,000).

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

- Total employment increased by 26,300. The largest gains were in trade (+12,500), accommodation and food services (+6,600) and transportation and warehousing (+6,400) industries, while the major losses were in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-6,000) industry.
- The unemployment rate was 6.1 per cent, compared to 6.9 per cent a year ago. The average wage inflation rate was 0.8 per cent, same as last September.
- There were 9,680 Calgarians receiving regular employment insurance benefits in July 2011, down 36 per cent from 15,210 last July.

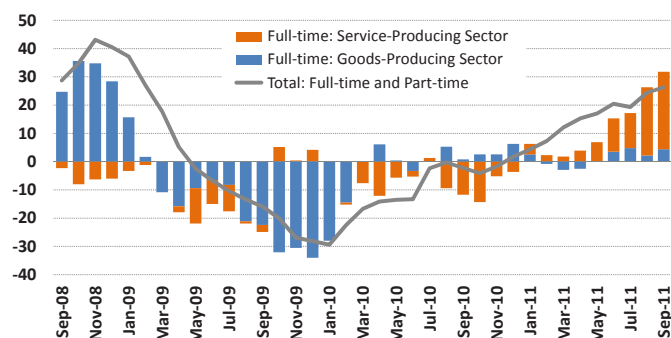
Next update: November 4, 2011

Chart 1. CER Part-time vs. Total Employment Change
(year-over-year, September 2008 - September 2011, thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, October 2011

Chart 2. CER Full-time vs. Total Employment Change
(year-over-year, September 2008 - September 2011, thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, October 2011

Labour Force Statistics

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

| | Description | Sep-11 | Aug-11 | Sep-10 | Annual Change |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Calgary | Working Age Population ('000) | 1,114.2 | 1,112.3 | 1,092.9 | 21.3 |
| | Labour Force ('000) | 844.3 | 848.2 | 823.3 | 21.0 |
| | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 75.8 | 76.3 | 75.3 | 0.5 |
| | Employment ('000) | 793.2 | 796.2 | 766.9 | 26.3 |
| | Employment Rate (%) | 71.2 | 71.6 | 70.2 | 1.0 |
| | Unemployment ('000) | 51.1 | 52.1 | 56.4 | (5.3) |
| | Unemployment Rate (%) | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.9 | (0.8) |
| Edmonton | Working Age Population ('000) | 1,003.3 | 1,001.7 | 987.0 | 16.3 |
| | Labour Force ('000) | 745.8 | 743.3 | 702.5 | 43.3 |
| | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 74.3 | 74.2 | 71.2 | 3.1 |
| | Employment ('000) | 702.5 | 701.0 | 654.5 | 48.0 |
| | Employment Rate (%) | 70.0 | 70.0 | 66.3 | 3.7 |
| | Unemployment ('000) | 43.2 | 42.3 | 48.0 | (4.8) |
| | Unemployment Rate (%) | 5.8 | 5.7 | 6.8 | (1.0) |
| Alberta | Working Age Population ('000) | 3,014.2 | 3,009.8 | 2,967.6 | 46.6 |
| | Labour Force ('000) | 2,255.2 | 2,257.8 | 2,177.4 | 77.8 |
| | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 74.8 | 75.0 | 73.4 | 1.4 |
| | Employment ('000) | 2,125.0 | 2,127.6 | 2,035.6 | 89.4 |
| | Employment Rate (%) | 70.5 | 70.7 | 68.6 | 1.9 |
| | Unemployment ('000) | 130.2 | 130.2 | 141.8 | (11.6) |
| | Unemployment Rate (%) | 5.8 | 5.8 | 6.5 | (0.7) |

Statistics Canada: CANSIM, Table ID: 282-0054

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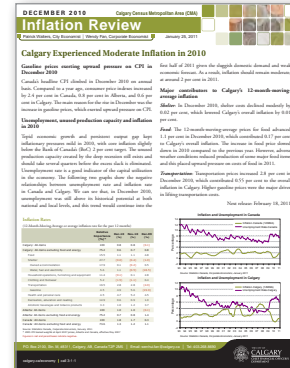
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Many of our publications are available on the internet at www.calgary.ca/economy.

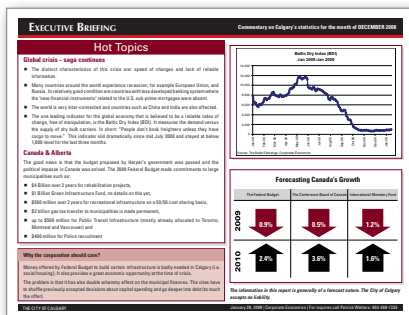
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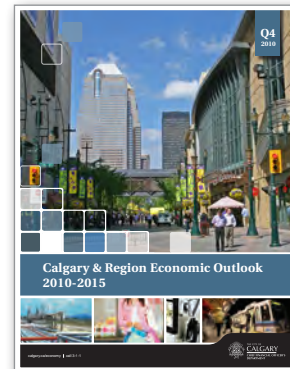
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Corporate Research Analyst: Estella Scruggs

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Source: Statistics Canada and Corporate Economics

