

Calgary continues to be the destination of migration

Population growth driven by job creations in Calgary and Alberta

On February 8th 2012, Statistics Canada released the population and dwelling counts data from the 2011 federal Census. The result shows that Canada's population increased at a faster rate (+5.9%), between 2006 and 2011, than that of any other G8 group member. Among all the provinces, Alberta experienced the largest population increase (+10.8%), thanks to the fastest growing job market in the country (chart 1). Interprovincial migration has been a major contributor to Alberta's population growth. People came to Alberta from other provinces such as Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and British Columbia that had relatively higher unemployment rates (chart 2). Within Alberta, the Calgary Economic Region (CER) led the rest of the province with a population growth rate of 12.6 per cent in 2006-2011 period and now accounts for 36 per cent of the province's 3.6 million total population.

The labour market in Canada stalled in February 2012, according to the seasonally adjusted data for January 2012 to February 2012:

- Total employment decreased by 7,200 in Alberta and was unchanged in Canada, however total employment increased by 2,000 in the CER.
- In Canada, unemployment rate edged down 0.2 percentage points because 37,900 people lost hope in finding jobs and left the labour force. Among those who stopped searching for jobs, 25,000 were youths aged 15 to 24, and 10,400 were women aged 25 and above.

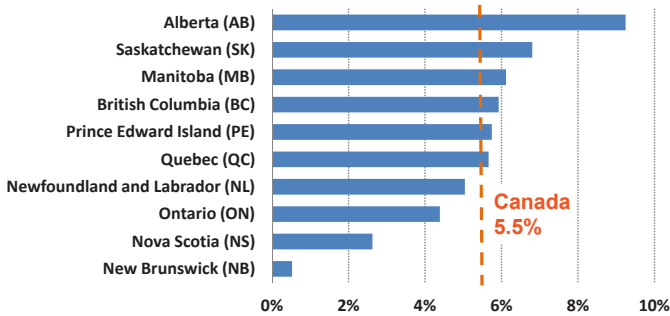
- In Alberta, the goods-producing sector added 12,300 jobs, while the service-producing sector cut 19,600 positions. Most new jobs were created in the accommodation and food services (+10,400) and construction (+9,700) industries. The biggest job losses were in the professional, scientific and technical services (-8,200) industry.

According to the unadjusted 3-month-moving-average data, the following year-over-year changes were recorded in the CER in February 2012:

- Total employment increased by 39,800, mainly in the mining, oil and gas extraction (+15,200), health care and social assistance (+12,900), and trade (+11,400) industries. The major job losses were in the business, building and other support services (-6,700) and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-5,100) industries.
- The unemployment rate was 4.9 per cent, compared to 6.1 per cent a year ago.
- The average hourly wage inflation rate was 3.8 per cent, compared to 0.6 per cent last February.
- There were 8,008 people in the Calgary Metropolitan Area (CMA) receiving regular employment insurance benefits in December 2011, down from 13,070 in December 2010.

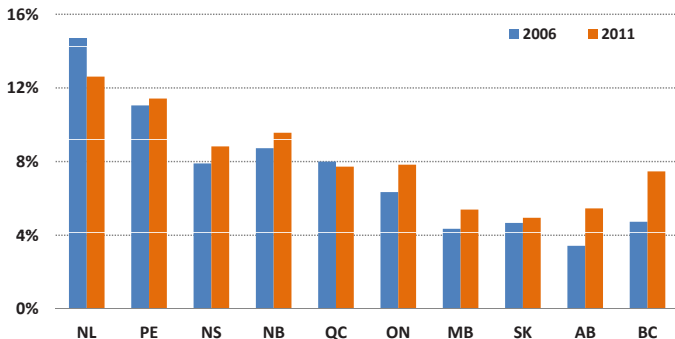
Next update: April 5, 2012

Chart 1. Job growth rate by province (2006 - 2011, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, March 2012

Chart 2. Unemployment rate by province (2006 - 2011, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, March 2012

Labour Force Statistics

Economic Regions (Seasonally Adjusted 3-Month-Moving-Average)

	Description	Feb-12	Jan-12	Feb-11	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,122.8	1,121.0	1,100.8	22.0
	Labour Force ('000)	843.3	842.4	811.5	31.8
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	75.1	75.2	73.7	1.4
	Employment ('000)	802.8	800.8	762.6	40.2
	Employment Rate (%)	71.5	71.4	69.3	2.2
	Unemployment ('000)	42.0	42.6	50.3	(8.3)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.9	5.0	6.1	(1.2)
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	1,011.2	1,009.4	992.7	18.5
	Labour Force ('000)	741.3	741.6	727.6	13.8
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.1	73.4	73.1	0.0
	Employment ('000)	705.4	706.2	686.5	18.8
	Employment Rate (%)	69.8	69.9	69.2	0.6
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,034.0	3,029.8	2,984.6	49.5
	Labour Force ('000)	2,243.7	2,244.4	2,181.4	62.3
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.0	74.0	73.1	0.9
	Employment ('000)	2,133.6	2,132.8	2,055.4	78.2
	Employment Rate (%)	70.6	70.6	69.2	1.4
Alberta (CER)	Unemployment ('000)	108.5	109.8	124.7	(16.2)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.9	5.0	5.8	(0.9)

Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted by Corporate Economics, March 2012

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 developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis.

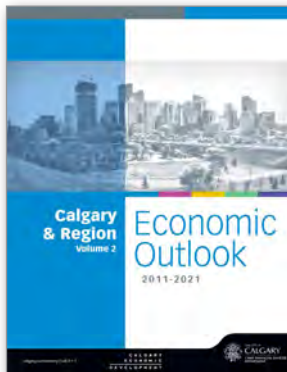
For more information, please contact:

Patrick Walters
403.268.1335 or patrick.walters@calgary.ca

Ivy Zhang
403.268.2005 or ivy.zhang@calgary.ca

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- ▶ Diesel Fuel Price Pass-Through in Calgary
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Corporate Research Analyst: Estella Scruggs

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Source: Statistics Canada and Corporate Economics