

Labour Market Review

Patrick Walters, City Economist | Ivy Zhang, Corporate Economist

January 4, 2013

Calgary's job market outperformed the rest of the nation in 2012

Job opportunities in 2012 were better in Calgary than the rest of Canada, thanks to increased activities in the energy, construction and service industries. Despite the low natural gas prices, several multi-billion dollar takeovers of Calgary based energy companies by international players highlighted strong investment intentions in the oil sands. As a result, the local market benefited from job creation and housing construction. Total employment increased by 3.9 per cent in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) from 2011 to 2012, compared to 2.9 per cent in Alberta and 1.1 per cent in Canada (chart 1). Most new jobs in the CER, most were created in the mining, oil and gas industries (+16,100) (chart 2).

The Canadian labour market created 39,800 jobs in December 2012, on a month-over-month basis, after a moderate increase in November:

- Total employment increased in the CER by 5,800 and 39,800 in Canada, but was little changed in Alberta (-6,100).
- In Canada, new jobs were all created in full-time positions (+41,200) and mostly by male aged 25 and over (+43,400). While the number of self-employed workers declined (-22,800), the number of employees increased (+62,500) with most of them in the private sector (+59,400).

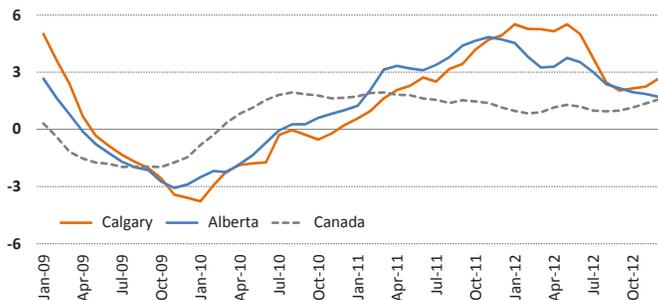
- In Alberta, job gains in full-time (+17,600) were offset by losses in part-time (-23,700). Still, the province has the lowest unemployment at 4.5 per cent, compared to the national average of 7.1 per cent.

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

- Total employment increased by 21,200, mainly in the Educational services (+11,700), Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+10,600), and Transportation (+6,300) industries. The job losses were mostly in the Trade (-12,400) and Construction (-10,700) industries.
- The unemployment rate was 4.3 per cent, compared to 4.9 per cent a year ago.
- The average hourly wage rate was \$28.75, increased by 5 per cent from \$27.37 in December 2011.
- There were 6,230 people in the Calgary Metropolitan Area (CMA) receiving regular employment insurance benefits in October 2012, down by 12.3 per cent from 7,100 a year ago.

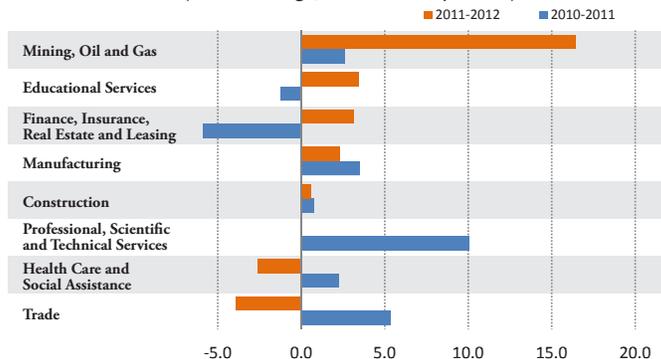
Next update: February 8, 2013

Chart 1. Total employment change comparison (year-over-year, January 2009 - December 2012, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, January 2013

Chart 2. Total employment change by major industry in the CER (annual change, thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, January 2013

Labour Force Statistics

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

	Description	Dec-12	Nov-12	Dec-11	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,151.1	1,147.9	1,119.2	31.9
	Labour Force ('000)	855.4	850.1	839.0	16.4
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.3	74.3	74.9	(0.6)
	Employment ('000)	816.4	810.6	795.2	21.2
	Employment Rate (%)	70.9	70.6	71.1	(0.2)
	Unemployment ('000)	37.9	38.3	43.9	(6.0)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	4.7	5.2	(0.6)
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	1,039.1	1,036.0	1,007.8	31.3
	Labour Force ('000)	763.7	763.5	741.7	22.0
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.5	73.7	73.5	(0.0)
	Employment ('000)	728.9	730.5	704.0	24.9
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.2	5.0	(0.5)
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,103.8	3,095.0	3,025.6	78.2
	Labour Force ('000)	2,265.0	2,261.9	2,241.3	23.7
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.0	73.1	74.1	(1.1)
	Employment ('000)	2,165.4	2,159.7	2,129.1	36.4
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.4	5.1	(0.6)

Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted by Corporate Economics, January 2013

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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.

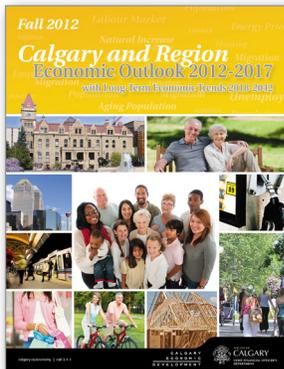
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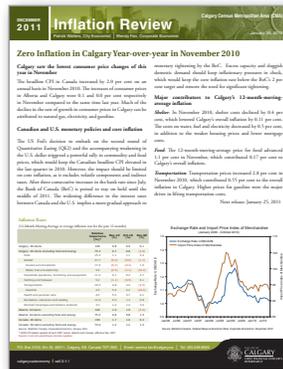
Many of our publications are available on the internet at www.calgary.ca/economy.

Forecasting



- ▶ Calgary & Region Economic Outlook
- ▶ Energy Reports on Natural Gas and Crude Oil

Information Provision



- ▶ Labour Market Review
- ▶ Inflation Review
- ▶ Current Economic Analysis
- ▶ Construction Inflation

Policy Analysis



- ▶ A Case of Fiscal Imbalance: The Calgary Experience
- ▶ Diesel Fuel Price Pass-Through in Calgary
- ▶ Calgary Residential and Commercial Real Estate Markets

Corporate Research Analyst: Estella Scruggs

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Source: Statistics Canada and Corporate Economics

