

# Labour Market Review

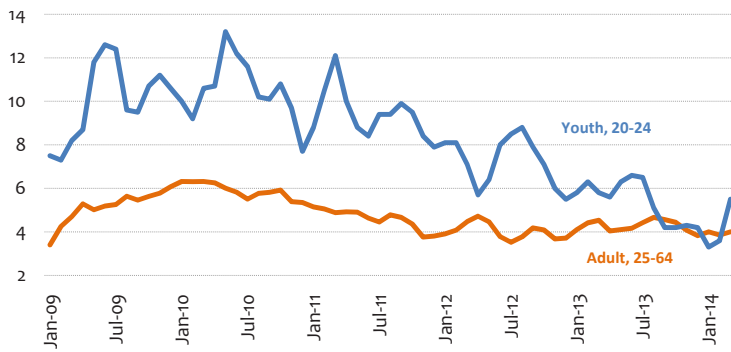
Oyin Shyllon, *Corporate Economist* | Estella Scruggs, *Corporate Research Analyst*

April 4, 2014

**Successful job seeking activities of youth (aged 20-24) has contributed to long term improvement in the unemployment rate.**

The unemployment rate was estimated at 5.0 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent the previous month but down from 5.1 per cent in March 2013. In the twelve month period between March 2013 and March 2014, the relative stability in the unemployment rate was in response to employment growing (30,200) at a similar rate to labour force growth (30,300). Longer term improvement in the unemployment rate is partly attributable to better youth unemployment rates.

**Chart 1. Youth employment recovery helps to keep unemployment rate low**  
(Monthly estimate, per cent)

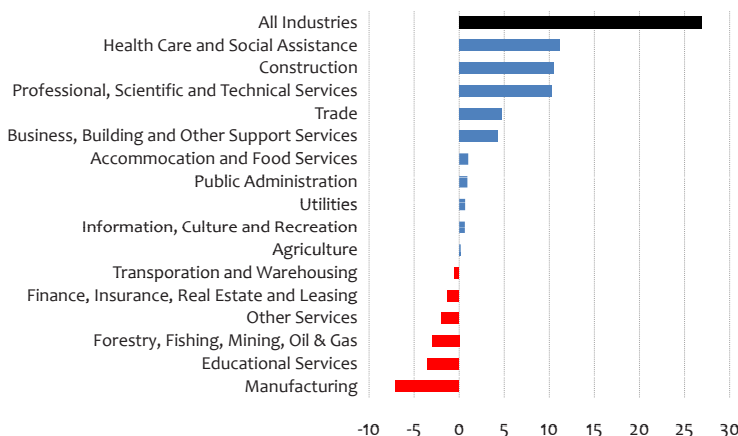


Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 2014

**Employers in three industries are the main drivers of the 3.3 per cent annual rate of job growth.**

Total employment was estimated at 838,900 in March 2014. The 12-month-moving-average of 837,400 was up 3.3 percent from 810,500 at the same time in 2013 – higher than 1.1 percent for Canada and 3.2 per cent for Alberta. Full-time employment was estimated at 703,500 and part-time employment at 135,400. Full-time employment increased 22,700 and part-time employment by 7,600 year-over-year. Comparing the 12-month-moving-average for March 2014 with March 2013, most of the growth in employment was in three industries – health care and social assistance (11,100); professional, scientific and technical services (10,300); and construction (10,500). Job losses were mainly in manufacturing (7,100).

**Chart 2: Three industries continue to drive job growth in Calgary**  
CER Employment (annual change in 12-month-moving-average, '000s of persons)

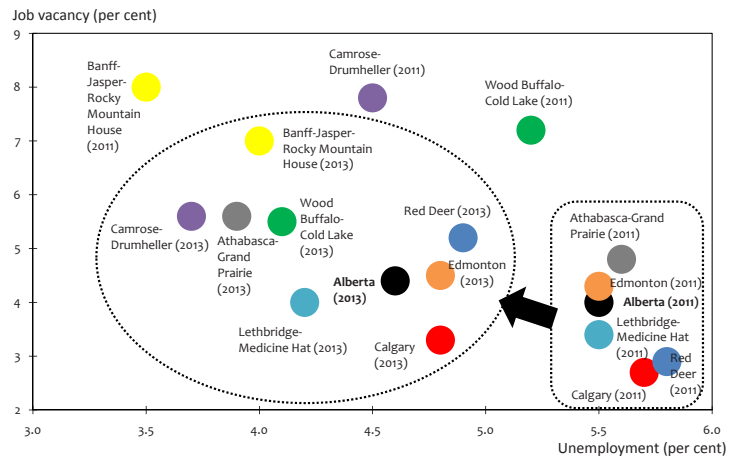


Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 2014

**3.3 per cent annual growth in labour force is recorded as labour supply strives to fulfill emerging and unmet employer needs.**

There was evidence in 2013 of movement toward increased labour market tightness (higher job vacancy rates and lower unemployment rates) in Calgary and 4 of the other 7 economic regions in Alberta, compared with 2011. In response, the labour force has increased 3.3 per cent from a 12-month-moving-average of 851,600 in March 2013 to 879,300 in March 2014 sustained by high net migration. The labour force was estimated at 882,700 in March 2014. Also, the working age population was estimated at 1,207,200 in March 2014, up from 1,161,300 in March 2013.

**Chart 3. Calgary's labour market was tighter in 2013 than it was in 2011**  
Job Vacancy and Unemployment in Alberta's Economic Regions (2011-2013)

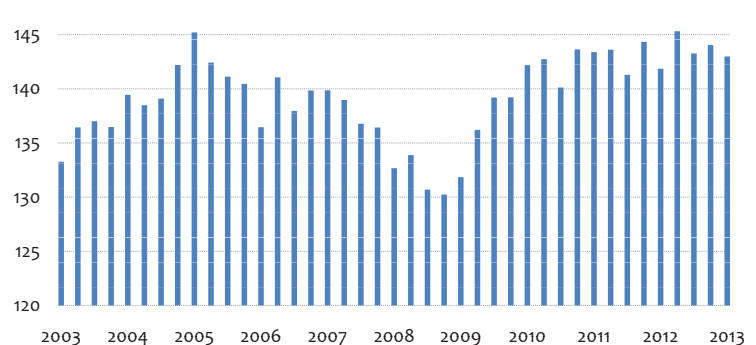


Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, Corporate Economics, April 2014

**Improvements in labour productivity required to ensure that workforce growth continues to spur economic growth.**

The average GDP per worker in Calgary was estimated at \$143,000 in the fourth quarter of 2013, down from \$144,000 in the previous quarter but up from \$141,900 in the fourth quarter of 2012. This is consistent with upward pressure on wages in Calgary CMA as the 12-month-moving-average for the hourly wage rate was estimated at \$28.85 for March 2014, up from \$28.16 in March 2013. Average GDP per worker in the first quarter was also higher than in Edmonton (\$116,600) and Alberta (\$130,500).

**Chart 4: Labour productivity continues to improve from recession low**  
CER Output per Worker (Quarterly estimate, '\$000)



Sources: Conference Board of Canada, Corporate Economics, April 2014

Next update: May 9, 2014

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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 have developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis.

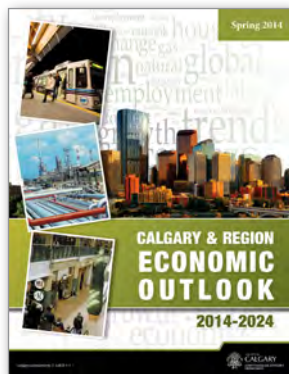
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Many of our publications are available on the internet at [www.calgary.ca/economy](http://www.calgary.ca/economy).

## 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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Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Wage and Salary Survey (Government of Alberta), Conference Board of Canada, Corporate Economics.

