

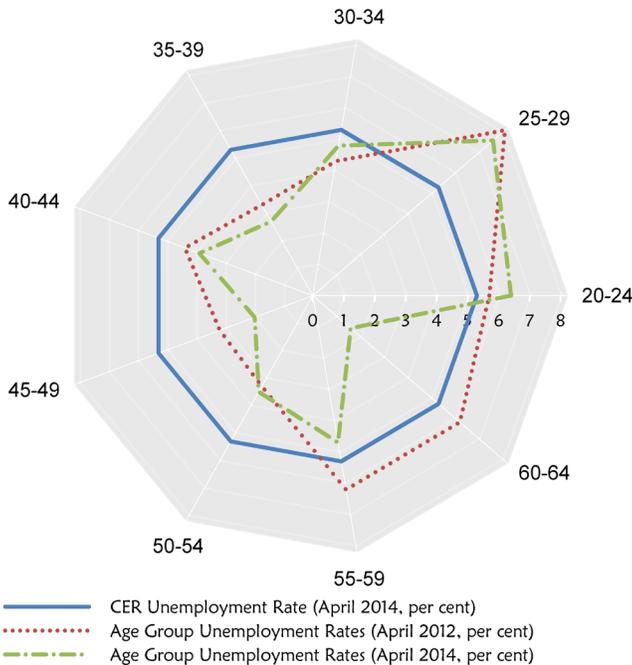
Labour Market Review

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

May 9, 2014

Over the last two years, age-group specific unemployment rates have improved for those 35 years and older. The April 2014 unemployment rate was estimated at 5.3 per cent, up from 5.0 per cent the previous month and also from 4.7 per cent in April 2013. In the twelve month period between April 2013 and April 2014, the unfavourable change in the unemployment rate was a result of slower growth in the 12 month moving average number of employed (27,500) compared with labour force growth (29,200). Despite the short-term decline over the last 3 months, there has been a general improvement in the unemployment rate for those aged 35 years and older over a longer two year period from April 2012 to April 2014.

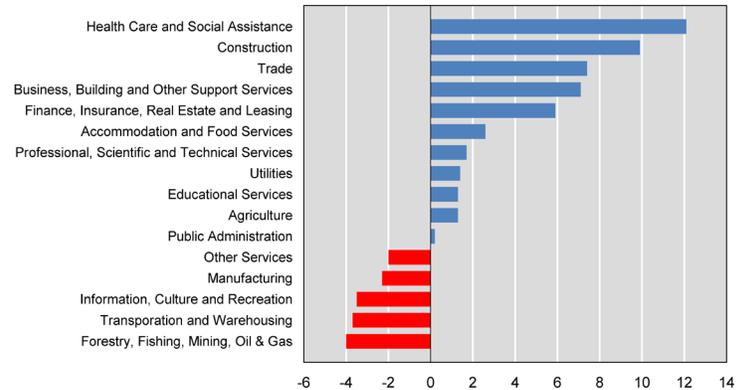
Chart 1. Unemployment rates improving for 35 years and older



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, May 2014

Employers in eleven industries have increased full-time positions reflecting widespread employer optimism and improved employee job security. Total employment in the CER was estimated at 837,600 in April 2014. The 12 month moving average of 839,500 was up 3.4 per cent from 812,000 at the same time in 2013 – higher than 1.1 per cent for Canada and 3.2 per cent for Alberta. Full-time employment was estimated at 698,700 and part-time employment at 138,800. Full-time employment increased 13,400 and part-time employment by 11,600 year-over-year. Strength in the growth of full-time positions in the last two years is mostly attributable to health care and social assistance (12,100); construction (9,900); and trade (7,400), while weakness is attributable to transportation and warehousing (-3,700) as well as forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-4,000).

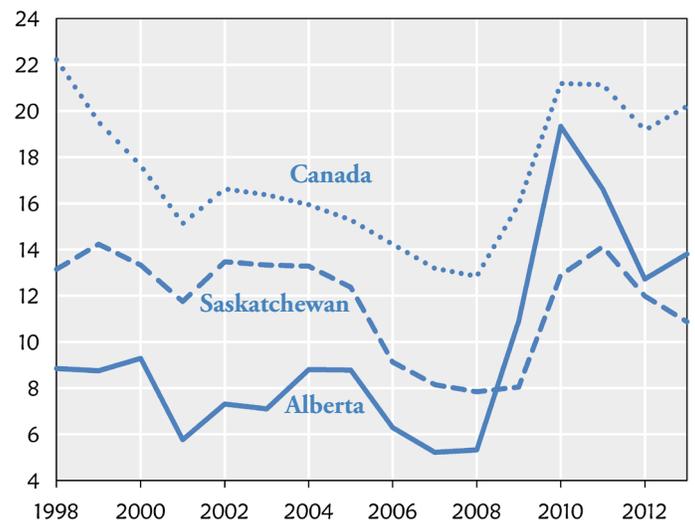
Chart 2. Growth in full-time positions in most industries (Change in number of full-time positions from April 2012 to March 2014, '000s of persons)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, May 2014

Recently unemployed job seekers (less than 27 months) are yet to re-enter the workforce as swiftly as they did between 1998 and 2008. The working age population was estimated at 1,210,800 in April 2014, up from 1,164,700 in April 2013. The labour force was estimated at 884,400 in April 2014. The labour force has increased 3.4 per cent from a 12 month moving average of 852,700 in April 2013 to 881,900 in April 2014 but is at risk of growing more slowly going forward. This is because the long-term unemployed as a share of the total unemployed is rising in most Canadian provinces and studies have shown that job seekers in this group are prone to exiting the labour market completely. Saskatchewan bucks the trend and took over from Alberta in 2009 as the province with the lowest number of long-term unemployed relative to the total unemployed.

Chart 3: Share of long-term unemployed is higher than recent history



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, May 2014

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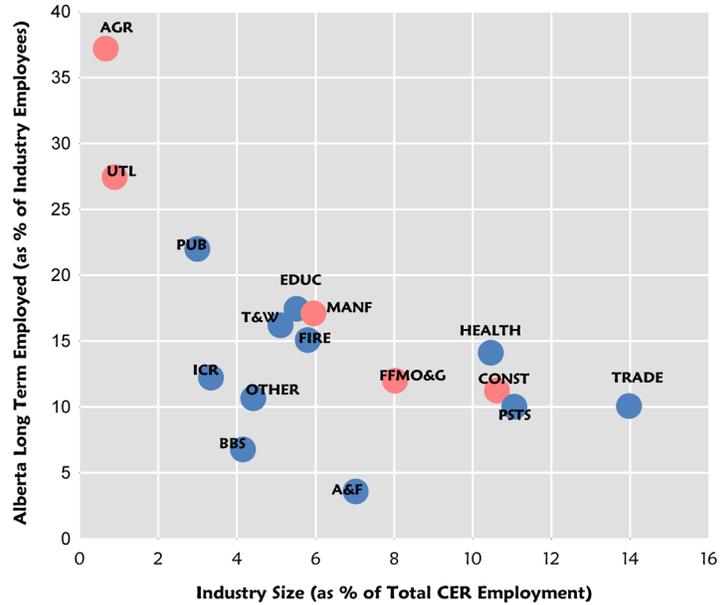
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Careers in the three smallest industries (by employee size) have the greatest employee longevity with one or two long term employees (20 years or more) for every five employees.

While the number of the long-term unemployed is increasing, so also is the number of the long term employed in Alberta at the other end of the spectrum – increasing from 209,600 in April 2010 to 224,000 in April 2014. The three industries in the CER with the lowest shares of the total employed workforce are also the Alberta industries with the largest proportions of long-term employed – agriculture (37 per cent), utilities (27 per cent) and public administration (22 per cent). The evolution of this feature of the Alberta labour market will attract keen interest going forward as baby boomers retire. The loss of a very experienced talent pool will create job openings that require specialized skill sets that may create recruitment challenges.

Next update: June 6, 2014

Chart 4: Smaller CER Industries have more long-term employed



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, May 2014

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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Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.