

# Labour Market Review

Ivy Zhang, Senior Corporate Economist | Estella Scruggs, Corporate Research Analyst

December 4, 2015

**Highlights:** Seasonally adjusted labour force survey result indicated that Canada (month-over-month) lost 36,000 jobs in November, most of them in Alberta (-14,900), Ontario (-6,400) and Manitoba (-5,400). The seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average for the Calgary Economic Region (CER)<sup>1</sup> showed the follow in November:

- Month-over-month, total employment decreased by 8,700 positions in the CER, among them 5,000 were in the Service-producing industries and 3,700 were in the Goods-producing sector. Unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent in the CER, compared to 6.1 per cent in Alberta and 6.4 per cent in Canada.
- Year-over-year (Chart 1), total employment increased 5,500, all in the service-producing sector (+21,200). The biggest winners were Health Care and Social Assistance (+9,800), Accommodation and Food Services (+9,600), and Retail Trade (+8,200) industries, where an aging population continues to drive the growth in demand for health services and a weak Canadian dollar served to attract tourists to the Rocky Mountain region.
- Calgary's average weekly wage rate<sup>2</sup> was \$30.17 per hour, up \$0.59 from \$29.58 in November 2014. The wage inflation rate was 2.0 per cent, decelerating from 2.6 per cent for the same time last year.

Over the past ten years, more than 200,000 new jobs were added to the CER labour market. Historically, the unemployment rate in the CER has been lower than the Canadian average (Chart 2). And consequently, large numbers of people from outside the region were attracted to Calgary for jobs and the quality of life. Since the crude oil price plunged from its recent peak in 2014, the unemployment rate jumped in the CER and is now higher than the national average. As a result, it is expected that the growth rate for Calgary's working age population will moderate and revert back to its historical norm in the near to medium term.

Next update: January 8, 2016

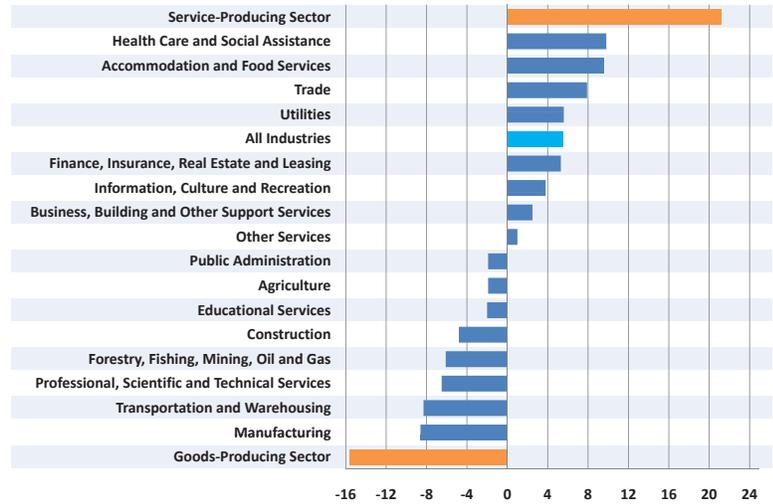
## Labour Force Statistics

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION					ALBERTA				
Description	Nov-15	Oct-15	Nov-14	Annual Change	Description	Nov-15	Oct-15	Nov-14	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	1,276.1	1,274.0	1,243.3	32.8	Working Age Population ('000)	3,373.4	3,369.4	3,306.9	66.5
Labour Force ('000)	929.1	939.0	899.4	29.7	Labour Force ('000)	2,457.5	2,471.2	2,392.3	65.2
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.8	73.7	72.3	0.5	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.8	73.3	72.3	0.5
Employment ('000)	867.3	876.0	861.8	5.5	Employment ('000)	2,306.7	2,318.4	2,294.3	12.4
Employment Rate (%)	68.0	68.8	69.3	(1.3)	Employment Rate (%)	68.4	68.8	69.4	(1.0)
Unemployment ('000)	61.8	62.9	37.6	24.2	Unemployment ('000)	150.8	152.8	98.0	52.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.7	6.7	4.2	2.5	Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	6.2	4.1	2.0

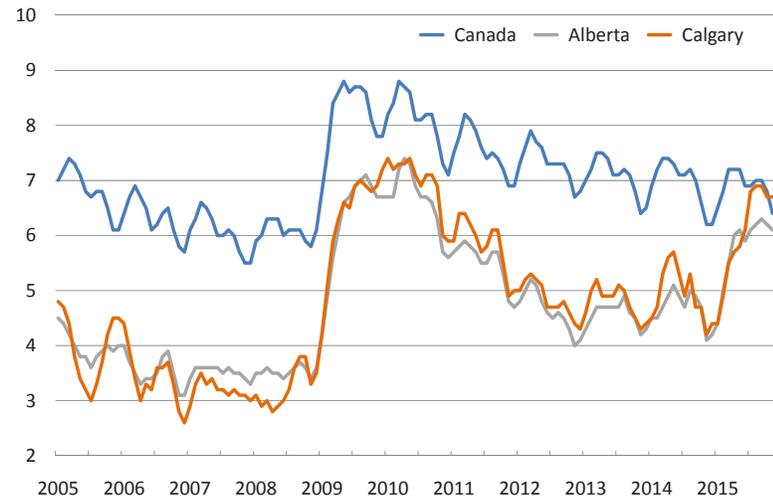
Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, December 2015

Chart 1: Total Employment Change by Industry, November 2015 (year-over-year, thousands of persons)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, December 2015

Chart 2: Unemployment Rate Comparison: Calgary, Alberta, Canada (per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, December 2015

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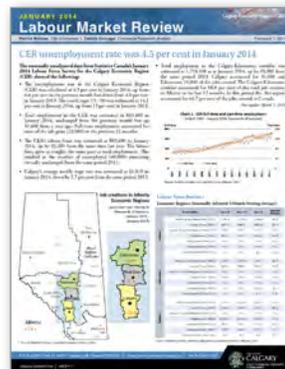
Many of our publications are available on the internet at [www.calgary.ca/economy](http://www.calgary.ca/economy).

## Forecasting



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

## Information Provision



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

## Policy Analysis



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

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1 The data for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) is the seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average.

2 Wage rate data is for the Calgary Metropolitan Area (CMA)

Sources: Statistics Canada, IMF World Economic Outlook Database, December 2015, GLJ Publications Ltd., Corporate Economics.

