

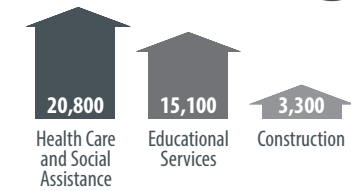
Monthly Highlights*

Total Employment

Calgary Economic Region



Most Job Gains by Industry from March 2019



Most Job Losses by Industry from March 2019



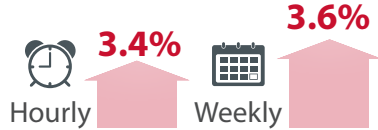
Unemployment Rates Comparison

Calgary Economic Region



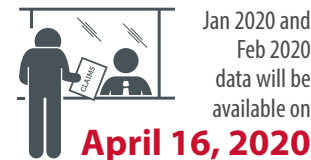
Average Wage Rate

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area from March 2019



Employment Insurance

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area



Total employment in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) fell sharply in March 2020. It was down by 20,500 persons from a month ago and by 15,700 persons from a year ago. CER's unemployment rate rose to 8.7 per cent, compared to 8.1 per cent in Alberta and 6.7 per cent in Canada. Calgary and Alberta's labour markets performed worse than Canada's because of the double concurrent challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and the historically low crude oil prices due to the price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for March 2020 are for the week of March 15-21. By mid-March, the crude oil price war just entered its second week, and physical distancing measures to contain COVID-19 were not yet enforced in many places. As a result, the March LFS release does not capture the full impact of the external shocks on CER's job market.

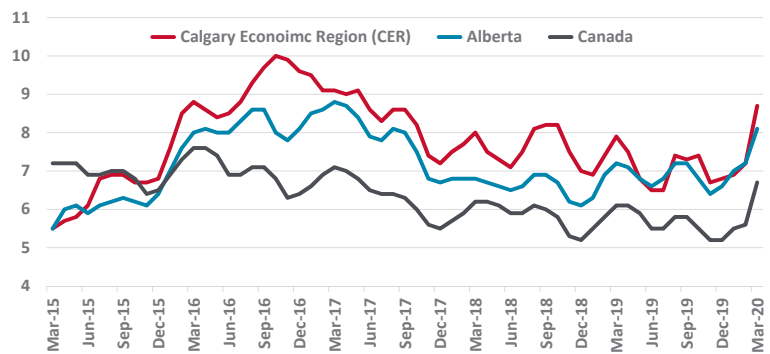
Physical distancing affected all industries, but it hit the services-producing sector the hardest. Between February and March 2020 a total of 22,900 jobs were lost in this sector, the worst seasonal decline on record. In one month the Accommodation and food services lost 6,400 jobs, the Professional, scientific and technical services lost 5,900 jobs, and

the Transportation and warehousing sector lost 3,800 jobs.

Many workers who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 lockdown measures were low-income earners. In March 2020, the average employee wage rate in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was \$1,224 per week, but only \$556 per week for the employees in the Accommodation and food services industries. From February 2020 to March 2020, the total wage bill for all employees in Calgary CMA shrank by \$13 million, as payrolls shrank by 20,700 persons.

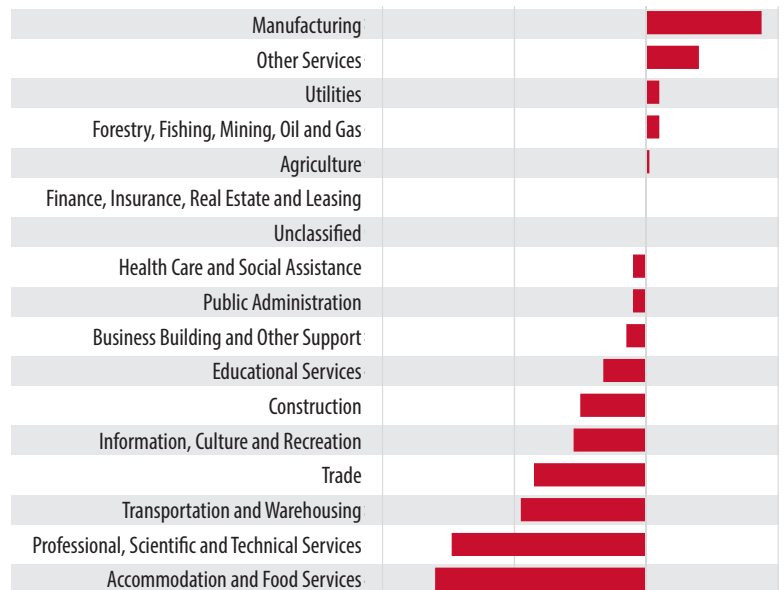
The good news is that all three levels of government have responded to the COVID-19 driven economic crisis with fiscal packages from emergency response benefits to relief measures. These government financial supports should help bridge the gaps between lost income and basic needs for those laid off or furloughed workers over the next few months.

Chart 1. Unemployment Rate Comparison: CER, Alberta, and Canada (March 2015-March 2020, 3-month-moving-average, per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

Chart 2. CER Monthly Employment Change by Industry (February - March 2020, thousands)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.



Table 1 Labour Force Statistics

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Description	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-19	Annual Change	ALBERTA	Description	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-19	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,382.9	1,380.4	1,349.9	33.0		Working Age Population ('000)	3,561.9	3,557.8	3,501.9	60.0
Labour Force ('000)	962.5	969.0	971.1	(8.6)	Labour Force ('000)	2,457.2	2,485.1	2,485.4	(28.2)		
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.6	70.2	71.9	(2.3)	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.0	69.8	71.0	(2.0)		
Employment ('000)	878.5	899.0	894.2	(15.7)	Employment ('000)	2,257.5	2,306.5	2,306.8	(49.3)		
Employment Rate (%)	63.5	65.1	66.2	(2.7)	Employment Rate (%)	63.4	64.8	65.9	(2.5)		
Unemployment ('000)	84.0	70.0	76.8	7.2	Unemployment ('000)	199.7	178.6	178.6	21.1		
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.7	7.2	7.9	0.8	Unemployment Rate (%)	8.1	7.2	7.2	0.9		

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 9, 2020

Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employees* ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Mar-20	Mar-19	Change (y/y)	Mar-20	Mar-19	Change (y/y)	Mar-20	Mar-19	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	47.8	52.7	(4.9)	1,959.41	2,049.85	(90.44)	93.7	108.0	(14.4)
Utilities	9.0	8.9	0.1	1,992.08	2,164.83	(172.75)	17.9	19.3	(1.3)
Construction	53.3	49.1	4.2	1,312.67	1,309.40	3.27	70.0	64.3	5.7
Manufacturing	34.2	49.0	(14.8)	1,405.53	1,166.03	239.50	48.1	57.1	(9.1)
Wholesale Trade	24.2	26.3	(2.1)	1,333.29	1,440.09	(106.80)	32.3	37.9	(5.6)
Retail Trade	79.1	87.7	(8.6)	715.48	720.67	(5.19)	56.6	63.2	(6.6)
Transportation and Warehousing	42.3	46.3	(4.0)	1,328.29	1,366.02	(37.73)	56.2	63.2	(7.1)
Information and Cultural Industries	9.7	12.8	(3.1)	1,184.14	1,298.86	(114.72)	11.5	16.6	(5.1)
Finance and Insurance	19.1	23.6	(4.5)	1,442.78	1,332.36	110.42	27.6	31.4	(3.9)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	7.7	11.8	(4.1)	1,285.46	987.75	297.71	9.9	11.7	(1.8)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	59.8	65.3	(5.5)	1,534.41	1,510.29	24.12	91.8	98.6	(6.9)
Administrative and Support	21.7	23.8	(2.1)	968.45	903.72	64.73	21.0	21.5	(0.5)
Educational Services	61.9	45.6	16.3	1,223.46	1,110.59	112.87	75.7	50.6	25.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	96.5	82.5	14.0	1,170.69	1,038.85	131.84	113.0	85.7	27.3
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	14.4	18.2	(3.8)	803.99	815.90	(11.91)	11.6	14.8	(3.3)
Accommodation and Food Services	49.1	55.7	(6.6)	575.65	566.16	9.49	28.3	31.5	(3.3)
Other Services(except Public Admin)	28.7	31.8	(3.1)	993.07	903.17	89.90	28.5	28.7	(0.2)
Public Administration	27.8	30.4	(2.6)	1,709.60	1,604.85	104.75	47.5	48.8	(1.3)
All Industries	689.3	723.3	(34.0)	1,224.49	1,181.49	43.00	844.0	854.6	(10.5)

** Excluding self-employed Note: lack of data for Agriculture
Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 9, 2020

Next update: May 8, 2020

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* Data used in this report for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA) is 3-month moving average, not seasonally adjusted.