#### Calgary Economic Region (CER)

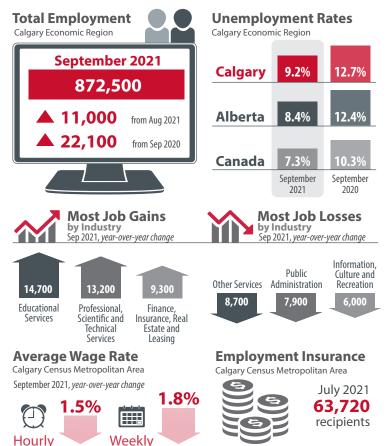
# Calgary

# Labour Market Review

Paapa Essel, Corporate Economist | Estella Scruggs, Corporate Research Analyst

#### October 8, 2021

### Highlights\*:



#### Unemployment rate primarily driven by higher rates of female unemployment

The September Labour Force Survey was conducted between September 19 to September 28, a few days after a state of public health emergency was declared. As a result, new restrictions, primarily the use of vaccine passports, were introduced, in addition to the extension of general restrictions (previously extended in August). These public health measures have been a response to the fourth growing wave, which has been an ongoing issue since August.

In September, total employment in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) increased by 11,000 from the previous month. This also marked a yearover-year increase of 22,100, representing a 2.6 per cent employment growth. The CER three-month moving average unemployment has historically been higher than Alberta but dropped below the provincial unemployment rate throughout the year's first two quarters. However, the third quarter was marked by rising unemployment rates in the CER, in contrast to declining unemployment rates at the provincial and national levels. In September however, the unemployment rate declined to 9.2 per cent in Calgary, while three-month moving average unemployment rates in Alberta<sup>1</sup> and Canada<sup>2</sup> declined to 8.4 per cent and 7.3 per cent, respectively. Calgary's unemployment rate still remains below September 2020's 12.7 per cent rate.

Throughout the third quarter, the rise in total unemployment in the CER was primarily driven by a decline in female employment numbers and a sharp rise in the female unemployment rate. The female unemployment rate has historically been lower than the male unemployment

1 The seasonal unemployment rate in September for Alberta was 8.1 per cent.

2 The seasonal unemployment rate in September for Canada was 6.9 per cent.

rate but has been higher since the start of the third quarter (refer to Chart 1, solid lines). However, the female unemployment rate declined by 1.1 percentage points in September, more than the decline for males of 0.7 percentage points. Chart 1 (dashed lines) also shows a divergence in male and female employment totals at the start of the third quarter. The male employment in September, rising by 6,700 jobs and female employment increasing by 4,300 jobs.

#### Examining employment industry trends in 2021 year-over-year

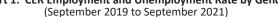
The month-over-month employment gains were led by Transportation and Warehousing (+4,500), Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (+3,300) and Information, Culture and Recreation (+2,600). However, these gains were offset by Educational Services (-2,800) and Manufacturing (-1,000).

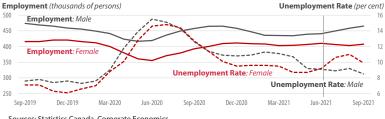
Chart 2 shows the most significant year-over-year gains have been attributable to Education (14,700), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (13,200), Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (9,300), Trade (8,500), and Construction (4,500).

Employment totals within the oil and gas sector rose from 50,400 persons in September 2020 to 56,300 persons in December 2020 (an increase of 5,900 persons). This was mainly attributable to the oil market recovery from the WTI oil price collapse of \$16.94 in April 2020 (a 73.1 per cent drop from January 2020). However, despite the steady oil market resurgence, the employment gains recorded within the referenced period<sup>3</sup> was erased by a subsequent 6,300 job decrease between January 2021 and September 2021<sup>4</sup>.

3 Between September 2020 and December 2020. 4 Subtract the employment totals in January 2021 from September 2021.

Chart 1: CER Employment and Unemployment Rate by Gender





Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

## **Chart 2: CER Employment Changes By Industry** (*thousands of persons*)

■ Juli 2021-5cp 2	
	Educational Services
	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing
	Trade
	Real Estate
	Construction
_	Transportation and Warehousing
_	Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction
<b></b>	Utilities
_	Agriculture
	Health Care and Social Assistance
	Business, Building and Other Support Services
_	Manufacturing
	Accommodation and Food Services
	Information, Culture and Recreation
	Public Administration

-10.0

-5.0

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

0.0 5.0 10.0

15.0

Ian 2021-Sen 2021

Sep 2021 (v-o-v

## Calgary

## SEPTEMBER 202 Labour Market Review

Paapa Essel, Corporate Economist | Estella Scruggs, Corporate Research Analyst

October 8, 2021

#### Table 1 Labour Force Statistics (Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

	Description	Sep-21	Aug-21	Sep-20	Annual Change		Description	Sep-21	Aug-21	Sep-20	Annual Change
CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Working Age Population ('000)	1,356.2	1,354.3	1,339.4	16.8		Working Age Population ('000)	3,545.5	3,541.3	3,512.1	33.4
	Labour Force ('000)	960.6	957.7	974.0	(13.4)		Labour Force ('000)	2,474.6	2,475.1	2,450.2	24.4
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	70.8	70.7	72.7	(1.9)	ERTA	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.8	69.9	69.8	0.0
	Employment ('000)	872.5	861.5	850.4	22.1	LBER	Employment ('000)	2,267.4	2,258.0	2,145.6	121.8
	Employment Rate (%)	64.3	63.6	63.5	0.8	AI	Employment Rate (%)	64.0	63.8	61.1	2.9
	Unemployment ('000)	88.1	96.2	123.6	(35.5)		Unemployment ('000)	207.3	217.1	304.6	(97.3)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	9.2	10.0	12.7	(3.5)		Unemployment Rate (%)	8.4	8.8	12.4	(4.0)

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, October 8, 2021

#### Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employees*** ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly wage bill (\$million)			Total hours worked (hours)		
industry	Sep-21	Sep-20	Change (y/y)	Sep-21	Sep-20	Change (y/y)	Sep-21	Sep-20	Change (y/y)	Sep-21	Sep-20	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	47.6	44.2	3.4	2,208.30	2,084.78	123.52	105.1	92.1	13.0	40.7	41.7	(1.0)
Utilities	7.9	7.6	0.3	2,246.50	1,946.49	300.01	17.7	14.8	3.0	39.6	39.3	0.2
Construction	54.7	57.2	(2.5)	1,386.00	1,588.68	(202.68)	75.8	90.9	(15.1)	41.1	42.0	(0.9)
Manufacturing	40.8	41.9	(1.1)	1,248.70	1,285.32	(36.62)	50.9	53.9	(2.9)	38.9	39.5	(0.6)
Wholesale Trade	27.6	33.7	(6.1)	1,276.50	1,281.97	(5.47)	35.2	43.2	(8.0)	39.4	39.0	0.4
Retail Trade	74.7	66.2	8.5	719.50	772.71	(53.21)	53.7	51.2	2.6	33.3	33.6	(0.3)
Transportation and Warehousing	45.8	41.1	4.7	1,333.80	1,322.35	11.45	61.1	54.3	6.7	39.1	38.4	0.7
Information and Cultural Industries	13.4	11.7	1.7	1,354.00	1,423.80	(69.80)	18.1	16.7	1.5	37.7	38.2	(0.5)
Finance and Insurance	26.5	27.6	(1.1)	1,397.60	1,512.23	(114.63)	37.0	41.7	(4.7)	39.7	37.9	1.9
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	13.0	7.7	5.3	1,339.20	968.95	370.25	17.4	7.5	9.9	37.9	35.3	2.6
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	66.3	60.8	5.5	1,531.00	1,715.32	(184.32)	101.5	104.3	(2.8)	38.6	39.1	(0.5)
Administrative and Support	21.4	24.6	(3.2)	954.20	1,016.13	(61.93)	20.4	25.0	(4.6)	37.9	38.0	(0.1)
Educational Services	54.7	41.9	12.8	1,211.20	1,275.04	(63.84)	66.3	53.4	12.8	34.8	35.6	(0.8)
Health Care and Social Assistance	88.6	82.3	6.3	1,035.40	1,102.83	(67.43)	91.7	90.8	1.0	33.4	33.9	(0.5)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	12.9	18.4	(5.5)	671.80	539.21	132.59	8.7	9.9	(1.3)	34.8	25.4	9.4
Accommodation and Food Services	41.9	46.1	(4.2)	509.10	490.18	18.92	21.3	22.6	(1.3)	28.8	29.0	(0.3)
Other Services (except Public Admin)	25.0	24.7	0.3	1,143.20	757.13	386.07	28.6	18.7	9.9	37.9	32.8	5.0
Public Administration	22.3	30.5	(8.2)	1,749.00	1,737.63	11.37	39.0	53.0	(14.0)	37.0	38.4	(1.4)
All Industries	685.3	668.4	16.9	1,240.30	1,262.80	(22.50)	850.0	844.1	5.9	37.4	37.4	(0.1)

\*\*\* Excluding self-employed Note: lack of data for Agriculture Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, October 8, 2021

For modia inquiry plaase contact:

For media inquiry, please contact: The Media Line at 403.828.2954 or media.relations@calgary.ca

For the technical questions, please contact: Chukwudi Osuji, PhD Acting City Economist and Regulatory Lead chukwudi.osuji@calgary.ca

Paapa Essel Corporate Economist paapa.essel@calgary.ca Estella Scruggs Corporate Research Analyst estella.scruggs@calgary.ca

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

The City of Calgary provides this information in good faith. However, the aforementioned organization makes no representation, warranty or condition, statutory express or implied, takes no responsibility for any errors and omissions which may contained herein and accepts no liability for any loss arising from any use or reliance on this report.

\* Labour force data used in this report is 3-month-moving-average, seasonally unadjusted. Note: In February 2021, Statistics Canada revised its Labour Force Survey estimates including historical data. Next update: November 5, 2021