

Current Economic Analysis

Patrick Walters, City Economist | Estella Scruggs, Corporate Research Analyst

January 3, 2012



- In November 2011, Calgary's 12-month-moving-average inflation rate increased to 2 per cent from 1.7 per cent in October 2011 and 0.8 per cent in November 2010. Nationally, the inflation rate also increased to 2.9 per cent from 2.8 per cent last month and 1.7 per cent in November 2010.
- The unemployment rate in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) was 4.9 per cent in November 2011, down from 6.1 per cent in the same time of previous year. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 6.8 per cent, down from 7.3 per cent in November 2010.
- Total employment in the CER was 792,800 in November 2011, an increase of 35,600 from 757,200 in November 2010.
- In November 2011, the average hourly wage in Calgary was \$27.27, an increase of 4.1 per cent compared to a year ago. In Alberta, the average hourly wage was \$26.16, an increase of 3.9 per cent compared to November 2010.
- Between October 2010 and October 2011, the number of Calgarians receiving regular employment insurance fell by 40.2 per cent to 6,980. In Alberta, the number fell by 38.5 per cent to 29,030.
- In November 2011, the average price of crude oil (WTI) was US\$97.16/bbl, up 12.4 per cent from October 2011. The average price of natural gas (AECO) was \$3.09/GJ, down 3.1 per cent from the previous month.
- The Canadian prime business loan rate remained unchanged at 3 per cent in November 2011.
- After dropping to its lowest level in more than two years in October 2011, the Index of Consumer Confidence turned around in November 2011, increasing 4.6 points from the previous month to 76.4 (2002 = 100).
- In October 2011, Alberta retail sales were estimated at \$5.6 billion (seasonally adjusted), a 3 per cent increase over the previous month and a 10.4 per cent increase year-over-year.
- Alberta wholesale merchants' sales were estimated at \$6.4 billion (seasonally adjusted) in October 2011, up 3.9 per cent from the previous month and 17.1 per cent from October 2010.
- Alberta manufacturing sales were estimated at \$6 billion (seasonally adjusted) in October 2011, down 4.2 per cent from the previous month but up 15 per cent from October 2010.
- In November 2011, total housing starts in Calgary (CMA) reached 1,106 units, up from 981 units in October and 555 units a year ago.
- Calgary housing sales in November 2011 was 1,658 units, down 0.2 per cent from 1,662 units in October but up 16.3 per cent from 1,426 units a year ago.
- November's MLS average sale price for Calgary was \$409,729, up 0.3 per cent from last month's average of \$408,530, but down 0.4 per cent from \$411,295 a year ago.

Next release: January 31, 2012

Note: In January 2011, Statistics Canada applied a standard revision to its Labour Force Survey estimates following the release of final population estimates from Census 2006. As a result, the data that are related to employment have been revised accordingly.

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Sources: Statistics Canada, CMHC, CREB, MLS, Bank of Canada, Conference Board of Canada, GLJ Energy Publications, The City of Calgary, Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy and others.

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City of Calgary Monthly Economic Indicators	2008	2009	2010	2010			2011										
				Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
General Indicators																	
Inflation (12-month-moving-average)																	
Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	3.2%	-0.1%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	2.0%
Canada	2.4%	0.3%	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%	2.9%
Unemployment Rate																	
Calgary Economic Region (C.E.R.)	3.3%	6.3%	7.0%	6.9%	6.1%	5.9%	5.9%	6.1%	6.1%	6.0%	5.9%	5.7%	5.7%	6.1%	6.1%	5.6%	4.9%
Canada	6.1%	8.1%	8.1%	7.8%	7.3%	7.1%	7.4%	7.7%	8.1%	8.1%	7.9%	7.5%	7.3%	7.5%	7.4%	7.1%	6.8%
C.E.R. Employment (Person - 000s)	768	765	755	760	757	757	754	755	756	757	762	774	789	796	793	792	793
Employment insurance Alberta - # of recipients (seasonally adjusted)	17,702	56,556	49,848	47,210	47,120	46,130	44,350	42,130	39,080	37,020	34,610	33,770	32,380	32,270	29,770	29,030	
Year-over-year % change	5.7%	217.3%	-0.2%	-35.4%	-34.6%	-31.2%	-24.9%	-24.2%	-25.7%	-26.8%	-29.7%	-30.6%	-31.6%	-29.7%	-38.0%	-38.5%	
Employment insurance Calgary - # of recipients (unadjusted)	4,903	17,747	15,645	11,670	11,810	12,990	14,590	14,010	13,230	12,060	10,130	9,710	9,680	10,580	7,420	6,980	
Year-over-year % change	9.7%	261.9%	-11.8%	-36.8%	-36.9%	-34.0%	-29.8%	-30.2%	-31.2%	-31.4%	-36.2%	-33.5%	-36.4%	-32.7%	-39.9%	-40.2%	
City of Calgary Population Estimate (000s) [†]	1,043 [‡]	1,065 [‡]	1,072 [‡]	1,081	1,083	1,084	1,086	1,088	1,089	1,091	1,093	1,095	1,097	1,099	1,101	1,102	1,105
West Texas Intermediate (\$US/barrel)	99.64	61.78	79.52	81.97	84.14	89.23	89.62	89.74	102.98	110.04	101.39	96.29	97.34	86.34	85.61	86.43	97.16
Alberta Natural Gas (Cdn\$/GJ)	7.73	3.78	3.80	3.13	3.50	3.69	3.80	3.39	3.52	3.54	3.69	3.78	3.51	3.46	3.43	3.19	3.09
Canadian real GDP y-o-y % Change - (Chained 2002 dollar)	0.6%	-2.6%	3.3%	3.7%	3.6%	4.2%	3.7%	3.2%	3.0%	2.9%	2.2%	2.2%	2.5%	2.6%	3.0%	2.7%	
Canadian real GDP m-o-m % Change - (Chained 2002 dollar)	NA	NA	NA	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.3%	-0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	-0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	
Prime lending rate - Bank of Canada (%)	4.73%	2.40%	2.60%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Consumer Indicators																	
Hourly earnings - Alberta (\$) Year-over-year % change	5.6%	4.4%	1.3%	0.2%	0.2%	2.1%	0.8%	3.5%	1.2%	0.7%	1.6%	2.0%	-0.4%	0.2%	1.9%	2.1%	3.9%
Hourly earnings - Calgary (\$) Year-over-year % change	5.8%	3.7%	1.0%	0.3%	0.6%	1.0%	0.3%	0.6%	-0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	1.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	2.7%	4.1%
Retail sales - Alberta (\$ billions)	61.1	56.0	59.6	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.6	
Consumer confidence - Canada	77.7	71.4	84.7	79.7	83.6	81.0	88.1	89.3	83.7	87.7	85.6	83.1	81.3	74.7	75.0	71.8	76.4
Housing starts - Calgary CMA	11,438	6,318	9,262	784	555	486	518	627	403	556	707	719	658	1,237	810	981	1,106
# of personal bankruptcies - Alberta	6,066	9,986	8,150	700	667	519	578	636	680	640	617	649	534	595			
Calgary Housing (# of units sold) MLS	23,137	24,880	20,996	1,439	1,426	1,251	1,292	1,917	2,273	2,087	2,220	2,431	1,976	1,914	1,793	1,662	1,658
Household sales/listing ratio - Calgary	41.77	61.13	47.97	46.03	57.18	84.24	36.28	47.97	51.95	49.88	47.82	55.25	52.32	49.87	44.95	50.50	70.17
Current month average house price - Calgary Metro (\$000)	412.9	394.8	409.6	404.0	411.3	389.9	402.3	409.3	410.9	424.7	428.5	424.3	411.8	408.6	419.6	408.5	409.7
Year-over-year % change of Calgary City MLS average prices	-2.9%	-4.4%	3.7%	-1.4%	-0.9%	-3.0%	1.7%	2.4%	-2.3%	4.7%	-1.1%	-2.1%	-1.0%	3.1%	2.2%	1.1%	-0.4%
Business Indicators																	
Wholesale sales - Alberta - seasonally adjusted (\$billions)	68.7	59.0	62.9	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.4	
Manufacturing sales - Alberta - seasonally adjusted (\$billions)	70.4	54.5	59.8	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.0	
# of new businesses	**	**	**	571	553	649	NA	19 ⁺⁺	224	656	572	137	507	456	315	580	535
# of business closures - Calgary	**	**	**	141	198	197	NA	476 ⁺⁺	271	164	215	160	191	222	158	178	205
# of business bankruptcies - Alberta	447	405	378	24	19	44	30	22	26	17	22	16	15	26			

** Tracking of these indicators commenced in late 2008. Some comparative historical data has not been obtained ++ February figures are YTD to February 28 of the year † Taken from April Civic Census ‡ Revised monthly data based on April 2010 Civic Census Revised Data