

Labour Market Review

Clyde Pawluk, Sr. Corporate Economist | Ivy Zhang, Corporate Economist | May 6, 2011



More jobs needed for working age Calgarians

After two months of little change, total employment in Canada rose in April and the unemployment rate edged down slightly to 7.8 per cent. The seasonally adjusted data for March 2011 to April 2011 showed the following:

- Total employment was little changed in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) (-700) and Alberta (-4,200), and increased in Canada (+58,000).
- In Canada, most jobs were created in the service-producing sector (+69,600) and in part-time positions (+41,100). Ontario had the largest job gains (+54,800) in the country.
- In Alberta, new jobs were added in full-time positions (+9,100) and the services-producing sector (+7,300). Job losses were in part-time positions (-13,300) and the goods-producing sector (-11,500) including manufacturing (-8,500).

Over the past decade, job opportunities in the fast growing CER attracted large number of migrants from other provinces and immigrants from other countries. As a result, the region's working age population increased by an annual average of 28,000 persons (chart 1). At the peak of the business cycle, before the 2008 recession, 78 per cent of working age Calgarians (aged 15 or older) were either working or looking for work. This labour force participation rate was higher for males (84 per cent) than females (72 per cent). However, job losses in

the recent recession discouraged job seekers and caused them to drop out of the labour market. The participation rates declined accordingly, especially in males (chart 2). The decline has slowed in the recent months in response to improving job prospects in the local economy. Still, greater job creation is needed to reverse the decline in the labour force participation rates.

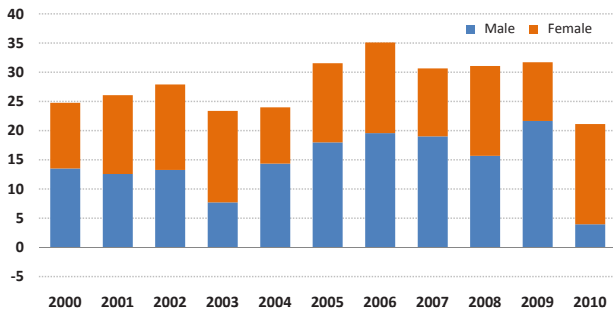
According to the unadjusted 3-month-moving-average data, the following year-over-year changes were recorded in the CER in April 2011:

- Total employment increased by 15,300, with the biggest gains in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry (+15,800).
- The unemployment rate declined to 6.0 per cent from 7.6 per cent in April 2010.
- Average wage inflation was 0.4 per cent compared to 1.9 per cent a year ago.
- There were 14,010 Calgarians receiving regular employment insurance benefits in February 2011, down 30.2 per cent from 20,060 in February 2010.

Next update: June 10, 2011

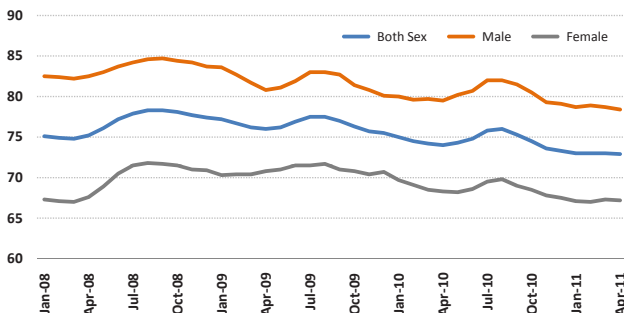
Note: On January 27, 2011, Statistics Canada released a standard revision to its Labour Force Survey estimates following the release of final population estimates from Census 2006, which would affect historical data and future estimates since then.

Chart 1. CER working age population growth (thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, May 2011

Chart 2. CER labour force participation rates (per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, May 2011

Labour Force Statistics

Economic Regions (Unadjusted 3-Month-Moving-Average)

	Description	Apr-11	Mar-11	Apr-10	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,103.8	1,102.2	1,083.4	20.4
	Labour Force ('000)	804.4	804.9	802.2	2.2
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.9	73.0	74.0	(1.1)
	Employment ('000)	756.5	755.7	741.2	15.3
	Employment Rate (%)	68.5	68.6	68.4	0.1
	Unemployment ('000)	47.9	49.2	61.1	(13.2)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	6.1	7.6	(1.6)
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	994.9	993.7	980.2	14.7
	Labour Force ('000)	718.9	721.1	693.9	25.0
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.3	72.6	70.8	1.5
	Employment ('000)	675.2	677.6	639.9	35.3
	Employment Rate (%)	67.9	68.2	65.3	2.6
	Unemployment ('000)	43.7	43.5	53.9	(10.2)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	6.0	7.8	(1.7)
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	2,990.4	2,986.9	2,947.1	43.3
	Labour Force ('000)	2,171.8	2,170.2	2,136.7	35.1
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.6	72.7	72.5	0.1
	Employment ('000)	2,044.1	2,042.3	1,978.2	65.9
	Employment Rate (%)	68.4	68.4	67.1	1.3
	Unemployment ('000)	127.7	127.9	158.4	(30.7)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	5.9	7.4	(1.5)

Statistics Canada: CANSIM, Table ID: 282-0054

Source: Corporate Economics, Statistics Canada, May 2011

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Over the past ten years Corporate Economics has researched dozens of economic topics and developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis. Monitoring economic trends allows us to develop unique insights on how external events are impacting the local economy and the Municipal Corporation. We provide services in four areas: forecasting, information provision, consulting and policy analysis.

For more information, please contact:

Clyde Pawluk
403.268.2643 or clyde.pawluk@calgary.ca

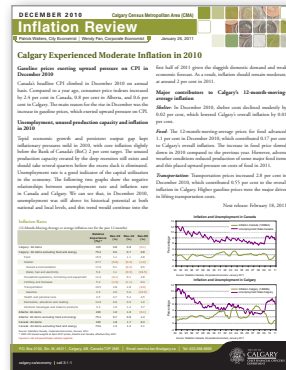
Ivy Zhang
403.268.2005 or ivy.zhang@calgary.ca

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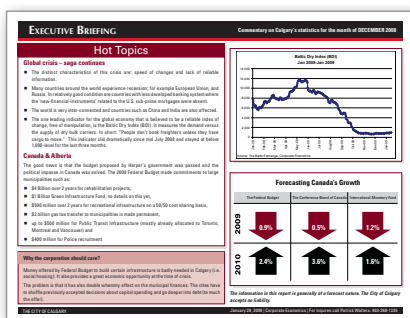
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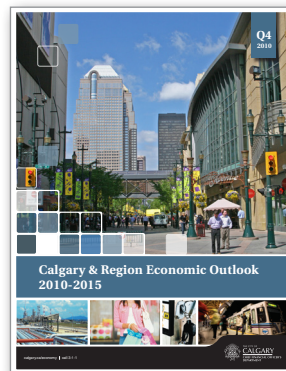
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Corporate Research Analyst: Estella Scruggs

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Source: Statistics Canada

