

Calgary outperformed the rest of Canada in 2011

Looking back in 2011, Calgary and Alberta's job markets outperformed the rest of Canada (chart 1), thanks to the continuous strength in crude oil prices and increasing importance of oil sands as a safe source of oil. Economic activities in Alberta were driven mainly by investments in the province's oil sands projects. According to the Alberta Government, investment in oil sands projects (announced, planned, under construction, or on hold) accounted for 61 per cent (\$119 billion) of the \$193 billion of major projects in the province in November 2011. Compared to two years ago, only 13 per cent (\$15 billion) of oil sands projects were on hold, down from 47 per cent (\$66 billion) in November 2009. As a result, oil sands related industries in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) benefited most (chart 2).

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

- Total employment increased by 37,300, mostly in full-time positions (+35,900). The largest job gains were in the trade (+12,500), professional, scientific and technical service (+9,400) and health care and social assistance (+8,400) industries, while the major losses were in the business, building and other support services (-6,200) industries.

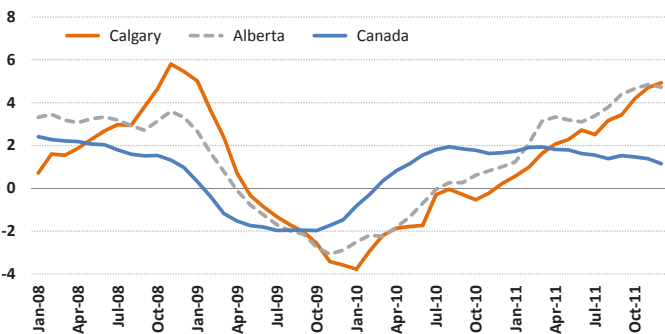
- The unemployment rate declined to 4.9 per cent, from 5.9 per cent a year ago.
- The average wage inflation rate was 4.3 per cent, compared to 1.0 per cent last December.
- There were 6,980 Calgarians receiving regular employment insurance benefits in October 2011, down from 11,670 a year ago.

The labour markets across Canada rose slightly in December 2011, following two months of decline. The seasonally adjusted data for November 2011 to December 2011 showed the following:

- Total employment increased by 2,800 in the CER, 800 in Alberta and 17,500 in Canada.
- In Canada, an increase of 43,100 part-time jobs was partially offset by a decline of 25,500 full-time positions. More people were self-employed (+31,100) and less people worked for the public sector (-17,300).
- In Alberta, jobs added in the goods-producing sector (+6,900) were mostly offset by cuts in the services-producing sector (-6,100). By December 2011, Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate (4.9%) and the highest employment rate (70.4%) in Canada.

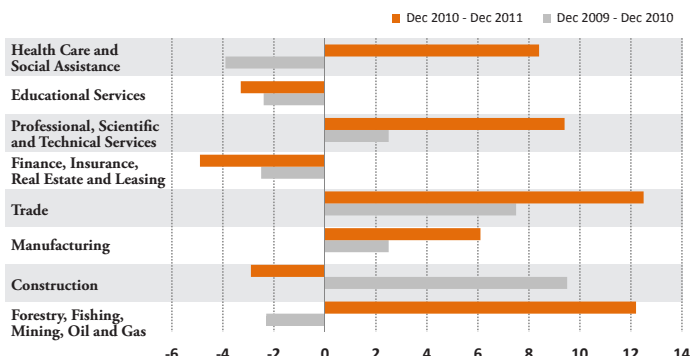
Next update: February 3, 2012

Chart 1. Total employment changes (year-over-year, January 2008 - December 2011, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, January 2012

Chart 2. CER total employment changes by major industry (year-over-year, thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, January 2012

Labour Force Statistics

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

	Description	Dec-11	Nov-11	Dec-10	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,119.2	1,117.6	1,097.1	22.1
	Labour Force ('000)	835.5	834.0	804.6	30.9
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.7	74.6	73.3	1.4
	Employment ('000)	794.3	792.8	757.0	37.3
	Employment Rate (%)	71.0	70.9	69.0	2.0
	Unemployment ('000)	41.2	41.2	47.6	(6.4)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.9	4.9	5.9	(1.0)
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	1,007.8	1,006.3	990.0	17.8
	Labour Force ('000)	737.2	740.1	705.8	31.4
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.1	73.5	71.3	1.8
	Employment ('000)	703.0	700.8	668.0	35.0
	Employment Rate (%)	69.8	69.6	67.5	2.3
	Unemployment ('000)	34.2	39.3	37.8	(3.6)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	5.3	5.4	(0.8)
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,025.5	3,021.9	2,976.3	49.2
	Labour Force ('000)	2,230.1	2,232.4	2,147.5	82.6
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.7	73.9	72.2	1.5
	Employment ('000)	2,125.6	2,122.3	2,029.8	95.8
	Employment Rate (%)	70.3	70.2	68.2	2.1
	Unemployment ('000)	104.5	110.1	117.7	(13.2)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.7	4.9	5.5	(0.8)

Source: Statistics Canada (Table ID: 282-0054), Corporate Economics, January 2012

Labour Market Review

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Who We Are

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.

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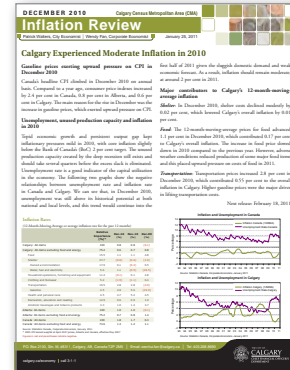
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Many of our publications are available on the internet at www.calgary.ca/economy.

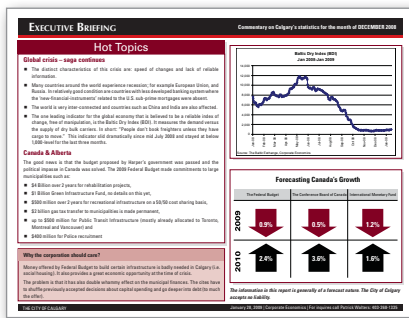
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Source: Statistics Canada and Corporate Economics

