

More job opportunities for the youth in the CER

The labour market in Canada stalled in May 2012, on a month-over-month basis, according to the seasonally adjusted data:

- Total employment was unchanged in Canada (+7,700) but increased in Alberta (+9,800) and in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) (+2,900).
- In Canada, 22,500 jobs were cut in the private sector, causing more people to be self-employed (+23,300). Job gains were mainly in the manufacturing (+36,400) and educational services (+25,700) industries, while job cuts were in the information, culture and recreation (-27,300), and construction (-23,000) industries.
- In Alberta, most new jobs that were created were full-time (+8,200) and in the accommodation and food services (+10,500), and business, building and other support services (+5,700) industries.

According to the unadjusted 3-month-moving-average data, the following year-over-year changes were recorded in the CER in May 2012:

- Total employment increased by 42,000, mainly in the mining and oil and gas extraction (+24,200), accommodation (+9,100) and other services (+7,200) industries. The major job losses were in the business, building and other support services (-5,400) and information, culture and recreation (-4,800) industries.
- The unemployment rate was 5.2 per cent, compared to 5.9 per cent a year ago.

- The average hourly wage inflation rate was 3.2 per cent, compared to 0.3 per cent last May.
- There were 8,970 people in the Calgary Metropolitan Area (CMA) receiving regular employment insurance benefits in March 2012, down from 13,300 a year ago.

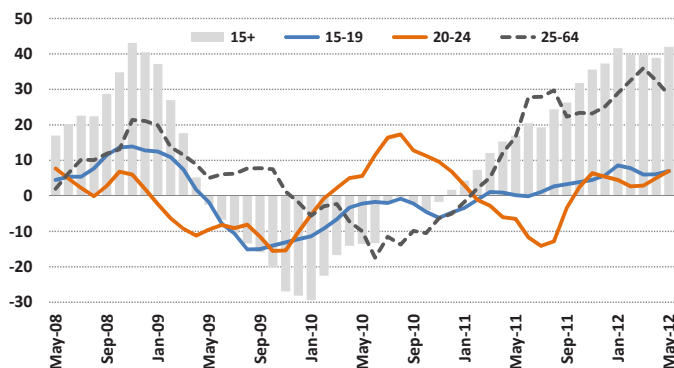
Job opportunities for new graduates in the CER

May to June is the season when the youth (aged 15-24) in the CER celebrate, since many of them would have graduated from either high schools or post-secondary institutions. Some of them will further their education and thus look for temporary summer jobs, while others will look for permanent positions in the region. Job opportunities for the youth in Calgary have improved in recent months, following the end of the recession (chart 1). Although job opportunities for the youth are not as abundant as for the core-age workers (aged 25-64) in Calgary and Alberta, yet, job prospects for youth are better in Calgary than in the rest of Canada.

The May 2012 unemployment rate for youth (aged 15-19) in Alberta was 14.5 per cent, much lower than the 20.5 per cent in Quebec, 29.1 per cent in Ontario and 22.8 per cent in Canada. At the same time, unemployment rates for the 20-24 year olds were 5.6 per cent in Alberta, 11 per cent in Quebec, 15.3 per cent in Ontario, and 12.5 per cent in Canada (chart 2).

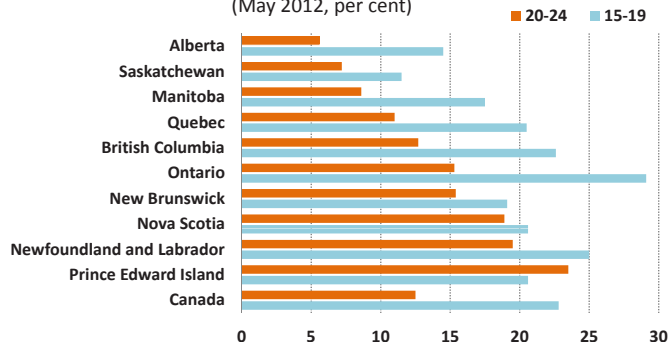
Next update: July 6, 2012

Chart 1. CER total employment change by age cohort (Year-over-year, May 2008 - May 2012, thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2012

Chart 2. Youth unemployment rate (May 2012, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2012

Labour Force Statistics

Economic Regions (Seasonally Adjusted 3-Month-Moving-Average)

	Description	May-12	Apr-12	May-11	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,129.9	1,127.2	1,105.9	24.0
	Labour Force ('000)	851.7	849.0	813.5	38.2
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	75.4	75.3	73.6	1.8
	Employment ('000)	808.9	806.0	766.6	42.3
	Employment Rate (%)	71.5	71.5	69.3	2.2
	Unemployment ('000)	43.3	43.6	47.6	(4.3)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0	5.1	5.7	(0.7)
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	1,018.3	1,015.7	996.5	21.8
	Labour Force ('000)	743.9	741.9	722.9	21.0
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.1	73.0	72.6	0.5
	Employment ('000)	708.5	703.4	682.8	25.7
	Employment Rate (%)	69.6	69.2	68.6	1.0
	Unemployment ('000)	35.7	38.9	40.4	(4.7)
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,051.2	3,044.7	2,995.3	55.9
	Labour Force ('000)	2,253.5	2,248.1	2,190.1	63.4
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.9	73.8	73.1	0.8
	Employment ('000)	2,147.5	2,138.9	2,069.7	77.7
	Employment Rate (%)	70.3	70.3	69.1	1.2
	Unemployment ('000)	107.0	110.3	120.8	(13.7)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.7	4.9	5.5	(0.8)

Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted by Corporate Economics, June 2012

Who We Are

Corporate Economics provides services in four areas: forecasting, information provision, policy analysis and consulting. We also monitor the current economic trends which allows us to develop unique insights on how external events are impacting the local economy and the Municipal government. We are experienced at researching different economic topics and developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis.

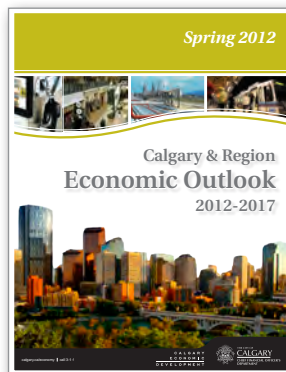
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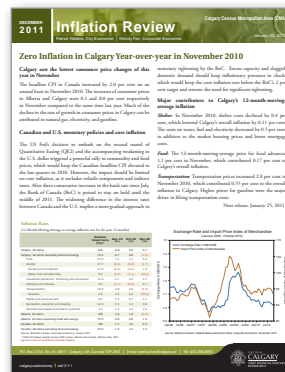
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Source: Statistics Canada and Corporate Economics