

Monthly Highlights*

Total Employment

Calgary Economic Region



December 2020

903,800

▼ 5,500

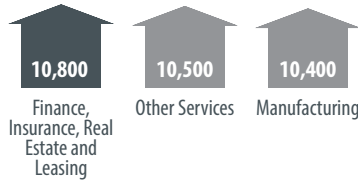
from November 2020

▼ 14,300

from December 2019

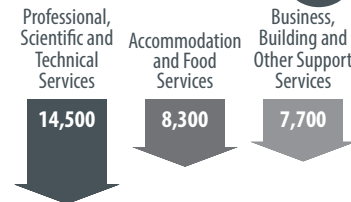
Most Job Gains by Industry

from December 2019



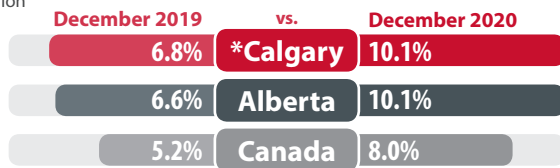
Most Job Losses by Industry

from December 2019



Unemployment Rates Comparison

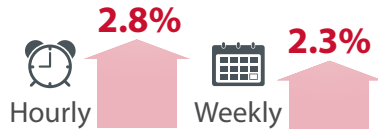
Calgary Economic Region



Average Wage Rate

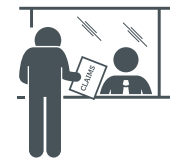
Calgary Census Metropolitan Area

from December 2019



Employment Insurance

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area



Oct 2020
76,880 recipients
▲ 405.8% from Oct 2019

Total employment in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) registered its first decline in six months in December 2020. Employment decreased by 5,500 persons from a month ago and is down 14,300 persons from a year ago. The total unemployed in the CER was 101,400, down from 105,800 a month ago, and up 34,400 from a year ago. The December labour force survey was conducted on the week of December 6 to 12, following Alberta's redeclaration of a state of public health emergency with enhanced public health measures on November 24.

From November to December 2020, the largest employment gains were in Educational Services (+3,700), Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas (+2,100), and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (+1,800). The largest month-over-month job losses were in Information, Culture and Recreation (-5,200), Business, Building and Other Support Services (-4,100), and Public Administration (-3,100).

In December 2020, the average employee wage rate in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was \$1,231 per week. From November 2020 to December 2020, the total wage bill for all employees in the Calgary CMA decreased by \$12.1 million, following last month's increase of \$1.7 million.

Following recent temporary expansions to the Employment Insurance (EI) program and the wrap up of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, the number of EI claimants in the Calgary CMA hit a new record in October 2020 (76,880), more than double the previous peak of 34,560 set in November 2016.

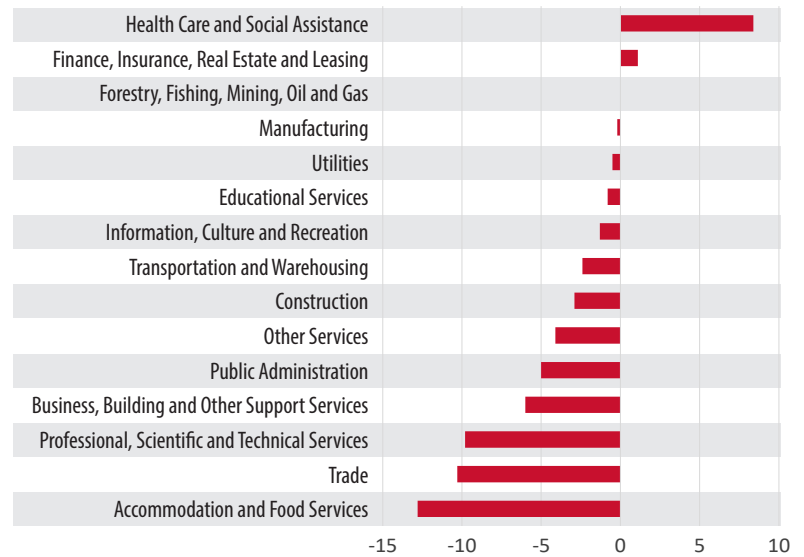
Year-end review The CER labour market experienced one of its worst years on record in 2020, as public health measures to con-

tain the global COVID-19 pandemic and plunging oil prices resulted in severe shocks to the labour market. Total employment dropped to 805,300 in June – the lowest level of total employment in the CER since April 2012 (795,600). Unemployment soared in the spring and summer, peaking at 15.0 per cent in June, the highest unemployment rate on record for the CER going back to March 1987. The CER employment picture has shown signs of improvement since the June lows, but 2020 has nonetheless been a very negative year for the CER labour market.

Chart 1 illustrates the CER Annual Employment Change by Industry in 2020. Not all industries lost jobs in 2020. In particular, total employment increased for Health Care and Social Assistance (+8,400) and Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (+1,100). Industries with the largest annual declines in total employment include Accommodation and Food Services (-12,800), Trade (-10,300), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (-9,800).

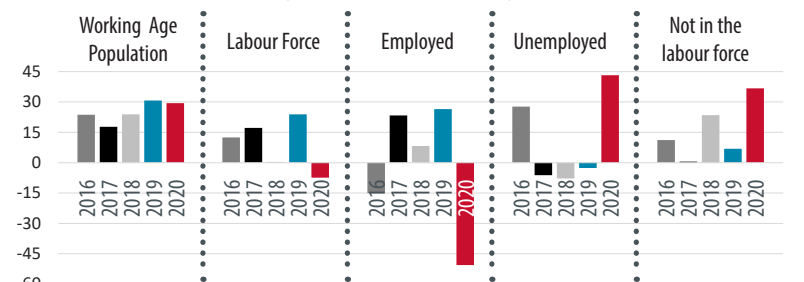
Chart 2 takes a look at how key labour market indicators in the CER have performed from 2016 to 2020. In 2020, the region's working-age population grew by 29,400 persons, from 1.363 million in 2019 to 1.392 million. The labour force decreased by 7,400 persons, from 989,300 in 2019 to 981,900 in 2020. Total employment in the CER declined by 50,600 persons, to 868,400 in 2020 from 919,000 in 2019. The total number of unemployed in the CER increased by 43,200 persons, from 70,300 in 2019 to 113,500 in 2020. The number of persons not in the labour market was 410,100 in 2020, up significantly from 373,400 in 2019.

Chart 1. Year-over-year Employment Changes (2020, thousands)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

Chart 2. Annual Changes in the Calgary Economic Region's Labour Market (2016-2020, thousands)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

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

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Description	Dec-20	Nov-20	Dec-19	Annual Change	ALBERTA	Description	Dec-20	Nov-20	Dec-19	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,400.5	1,398.7	1,375.7	24.8		Working Age Population ('000)	3,588.6	3,585.8	3,550.4	38.2
Labour Force ('000)	1,005.2	1,015.1	985.1	20.1	Labour Force ('000)	2,471.0	2,485.5	2,509.7	(38.7)		
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	71.8	72.6	71.6	0.2	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	68.9	69.3	70.7	(1.8)		
Employment ('000)	903.8	909.3	918.1	(14.3)	Employment ('000)	2,221.8	2,227.4	2,345.2	(123.4)		
Employment Rate (%)	64.5	65.0	66.7	(2.2)	Employment Rate (%)	61.9	62.1	66.1	(4.2)		
Unemployment ('000)	101.4	105.8	67.0	34.4	Unemployment ('000)	249.3	258.0	164.5	84.8		
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.1	10.4	6.8	3.3	Unemployment Rate (%)	10.1	10.4	6.6	3.5		

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, January 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)		
	Dec-20	Dec-19	Change (y/y)	Dec-20	Dec-19	Change (y/y)	Dec-20	Dec-19	Change (y/y)	Dec-20	Dec-19	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	53.1	46.2	6.9	2,060.62	2,024.08	36.54	109.4	93.5	15.9	40.2	40.2	0.0
Utilities	6.7	10.7	(4.0)	1,834.58	1,930.80	(96.22)	12.3	20.7	(8.4)	39.3	39.3	(0.0)
Construction	59.2	55.8	3.4	1,395.82	1,270.70	125.12	82.6	70.9	11.7	40.2	40.6	(0.4)
Manufacturing	42.6	35.9	6.7	1,228.88	1,280.28	(51.40)	52.4	46.0	6.4	39.9	40.7	(0.8)
Wholesale Trade	29.4	21.8	7.6	1,302.75	1,522.46	(219.71)	38.3	33.2	5.1	39.1	39.6	(0.4)
Retail Trade	76.9	85.9	(9.0)	757.64	746.23	11.41	58.3	64.1	(5.8)	33.6	34.5	(0.9)
Transportation and Warehousing	47.0	48.0	(1.0)	1,110.04	1,247.80	(137.76)	52.2	59.9	(7.7)	36.4	39.3	(2.8)
Information and Cultural Industries	14.2	10.0	4.2	1,467.74	1,265.89	201.85	20.8	12.7	8.2	38.5	37.2	1.3
Finance and Insurance	33.8	20.4	13.4	1,436.49	1,483.87	(47.38)	48.6	30.3	18.3	38.6	39.5	(0.9)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	5.3	9.3	(4.0)	1,263.29	1,217.69	45.60	6.7	11.3	(4.6)	39.1	38.8	0.4
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	64.4	67.6	(3.2)	1,582.41	1,536.52	45.89	101.9	103.9	(2.0)	38.2	39.0	(0.8)
Administrative and Support	18.1	21.9	(3.8)	1,038.16	991.32	46.84	18.8	21.7	(2.9)	36.8	37.6	(0.8)
Educational Services	56.1	63.1	(7.0)	1,330.17	1,217.16	113.01	74.6	76.8	(2.2)	34.4	34.3	0.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	94.0	98.2	(4.2)	1,075.48	1,163.33	(87.85)	101.1	114.2	(13.1)	34.1	34.4	(0.3)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	13.3	16.0	(2.7)	678.82	732.04	(53.22)	9.0	11.7	(2.7)	30.2	29.1	1.1
Accommodation and Food Services	47.5	58.6	(11.1)	483.55	481.00	2.55	23.0	28.2	(5.2)	28.4	27.7	0.7
Other Services (except Public Admin)	27.0	26.0	1.0	1,014.14	903.43	110.71	27.4	23.5	3.9	36.0	35.3	0.7
Public Administration	25.7	29.4	(3.7)	1,649.53	1,728.89	(79.36)	42.4	50.8	(8.4)	37.6	38.7	(1.1)
All Industries	715.3	729.3	(14.0)	1,231.35	1,204.21	27.14	880.8	878.2	2.6	36.9	37.1	(0.2)

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

Next update: February 5, 2021

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* Data used in this report for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is 3-month moving average, not seasonally adjusted.