

Labour Market Review

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pril 9, 2021

Highlights*:





Average Wage Rate

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area from March 2020



Employment Insurance

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area



Total employment in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) registered its fourth consecutive monthly decrease. March 2021 employment fell by 5,600 persons from a month ago and is down 3,500 persons from a year ago. Total unemployed persons in the CER was 97,000, down from 98,800 a month ago, and up from 82,400 a year ago. The three-month-moving-average unemployment rate fell to 10.4 per cent in the CER, compared to 10.5 per cent in Alberta and 8.8 per cent in Canada.

The March labour force survey was conducted on the week of March 14 to 20, during Alberta's state of public health emergency with enhanced public health measures. The survey was conducted during a reopening phase that included the return of in-person dining at commercial establishments, greater retail shop capacity and additional indoor activities.

Month-over-month, the largest employment gains were in Educational Services (+3,400), Real Estate Rental and Leasing (+3,300), and Retail Trade (+2,100). The largest month-overmonth job losses were in Construction (-3,400), Finance and Insurance (-2,500), and Wholesale Trade (-2,400).

In March, the average employee wage rate in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was \$1,243 per week. From

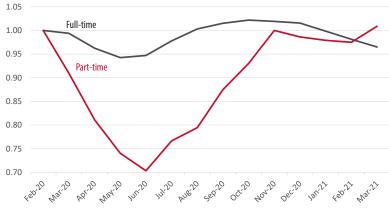
February to March, the total wage bill for all employees in the Calgary CMA decreased by \$7.1 million, following last month's decrease of \$2.7 million.

The impacts of business shutdowns due to public health restrictions to control the COVID-19 pandemic have been uneven. Chart 1 examines how full-time and part-time employment levels have changed since February 2020. As can be seen, part-time employment dipped significantly in 2020, hitting a low point in the summer, and that full-time employment, although also experiencing an employment shock, has exhibited greater resiliency since the onset of the pandemic related market shutdowns. Part-time employment in the CER is dominated by Retail Trade, Health Care and Social Assistance, Educational Services, and Accommodation and Food Services industries.

Chart 2 examines the trajectory for the three industries that have seen some of the greatest total job losses since February 2020. Employment in these industries remain far below pre-pandemic levels in the CER and it remains to be seen how they may fare in light of the recently tightened public health restrictions in Alberta on April 6 and how they may affect CER employment in April.

Chart 1. CER Part-time and Full-time Employment

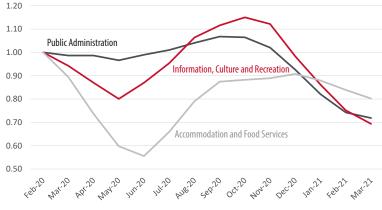
(February 2020 - March 2021, indexed February 2020 = 1.00)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

Chart 2. CER Employment, Select Industries

(February 2020 - March 2021, indexed February 2020 = 1.00)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.





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Next update: May 7, 2021

Table 1 Labour Force Statistics

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

	Description	Mar-21	Feb-21	Mar-20	Annual Change		Description	Mar-21	Feb-21	Mar-20	Annual Change
NOI	Working Age Population ('000)	1,348.6	1,347.2	1,329.6	19.0		Working Age Population ('000)	3,530.8	3,528.0	3,491.3	39.5
	Labour Force ('000)	935.2	942.6	924.1	11.1		Labour Force ('000)	2,432.2	2,418.4	2,403.4	28.8
REG	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.3	70.0	69.5	(0.2)	ĕ	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	68.9	68.5	68.8	0.1
CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Employment ('000)	838.2	843.8	841.7	(3.5)	ALBERTA	Employment ('000)	2,176.1	2,159.3	2,203.0	(26.9)
	Employment Rate (%)	62.2	62.6	63.3	(1.1)	¥	Employment Rate (%)	61.6	61.2	63.1	(1.5)
	Unemployment ('000)	97.0	98.8	82.4	14.6		Unemployment ('000)	256.1	259.1	200.4	55.7
	Unemployment Rate (%)	10.4	10.5	8.9	1.5		Unemployment Rate (%)	10.5	10.7	8.3	2.2

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 9, 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)		
mustry	Mar-21	Mar-20	Change (y/y)	Mar-21	Mar-20	Change (y/y)	Mar-21	Mar-20	Change (y/y)	Mar-21	Mar-20	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	53.2	45.9	7.3	2,037.40	1,957.22	80.18	108.4	89.8	18.6	40.5	39.8	0.7
Utilities	9.6	9.1	0.5	1,781.90	1,975.39	(193.49)	17.1	18.0	(0.9)	38.3	39.1	(0.7)
Construction	46.4	52.3	(5.9)	1,407.30	1,307.87	99.43	65.3	68.4	(3.1)	39.6	39.8	(0.1)
Manufacturing	38.0	33.3	4.7	1,320.70	1,401.29	(80.59)	50.2	46.7	3.5	39.8	40.2	(0.5)
Wholesale Trade	18.3	23.3	(5.0)	1,511.30	1,327.12	184.18	27.7	30.9	(3.3)	40.1	39.6	0.5
Retail Trade	76.3	76.8	(0.5)	812.20	711.44	100.76	62.0	54.6	7.3	34.1	33.4	0.7
Transportation and Warehousing	41.9	40.8	1.1	1,225.60	1,325.99	(100.39)	51.4	54.1	(2.7)	37.7	38.4	(0.7)
Information and Cultural Industries	13.0	9.4	3.6	1,468.70	1,178.64	290.06	19.1	11.1	8.0	38.4	37.5	1.0
Finance and Insurance	27.9	17.8	10.1	1,412.10	1,447.57	(35.47)	39.4	25.8	13.6	39.7	39.0	0.6
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	9.3	7.1	2.2	1,206.10	1,290.86	(84.76)	11.2	9.2	2.1	38.7	38.7	(0.0)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	63.9	57.2	6.7	1,461.30	1,517.82	(56.52)	93.4	86.8	6.6	37.9	38.8	(1.0)
Administrative and Support	22.0	20.7	1.3	1,006.40	966.38	40.02	22.1	20.0	2.1	36.7	38.1	(1.4)
Educational Services	68.1	59.9	8.2	1,284.10	1,219.65	64.45	87.4	73.1	14.4	34.0	34.0	(0.1)
Health Care and Social Assistance	94.7	92.5	2.2	1,066.90	1,176.28	(109.38)	101.0	108.8	(7.8)	33.3	34.2	(0.9)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	5.8	14.3	(8.5)	801.10	800.32	0.78	4.6	11.4	(6.8)	31.8	31.2	0.6
Accommodation and Food Services	41.6	46.8	(5.2)	438.40	572.32	(133.92)	18.2	26.8	(8.5)	25.6	31.7	(6.1)
Other Services (except Public Admin)	24.9	27.0	(2.1)	1,087.70	1,002.48	85.22	27.1	27.1	0.0	36.6	35.7	0.9
Public Administration	18.0	26.9	(8.9)	1,729.40	1,706.39	23.01	31.1	45.9	(14.8)	37.5	37.5	0.1
All Industries	675.0	663.8	11.2	1,243.30	1,221.99	21.31	839.2	811.2	28.1	36.8	36.9	(0.1)

^{***} Excluding self-employed

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Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 9, 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. Note: In February 2021, Statistics Canada revised its Labour Force Survey estimates including historical data.