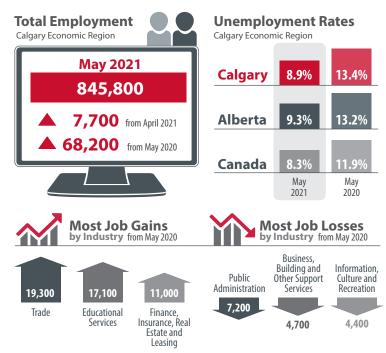


MAY 2021

Kenneth Wyllie, Corporate Economist | Estella Scruggs, Corporate Research Analyst

June 4, 2021

Highlights*:



Calgary Census Metropolitan Area from May 2020

Average Wage Rate

3.5% 4.0% Weekly Weekly

4.0% Sekly March 2021

57,830
recipients

216.0%
from March 2020

Employment Insurance

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area

Total employment in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) increased in May 2021, up by 7,700 persons from a month ago, and up 68,200 persons from a year ago. Total unemployed persons in the CER was 83,100, down from 90,300 a month ago, and down from 120,400 a year ago. The three-month-moving-average unemployment rate in May fell to 8.9 per cent in the CER, compared to 9.3 per cent in Alberta and 8.3 per cent in Canada.

The May labour force survey was conducted on the week of May 9 to 15, during Alberta's state of public health emergency with enhanced public health measures. These measures included retail capacity restrictions, the shutdown of personal and wellness services, and eliminating all dine-in services at commercial food establishments.

Month-over-month, the largest employment gains in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) were in Construction (+2,800), Health Care and Social Assistance (+2,600), and Real Estate Rental and Leasing (+2,400). The largest month-over-month job losses were in Accommodation and Food Services (-4,300), Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (-1,900), and Finance and Insurance (-1,400).

In May, the average employee wage rate in the Calgary CMA was \$1,240 per week, down from \$1,243 per week last month. From April to May, the total wage bill for employees in the Calgary CMA (total employment excluding self-employed persons) increased by \$8.2 million, following last month's increase of \$0.8 million.

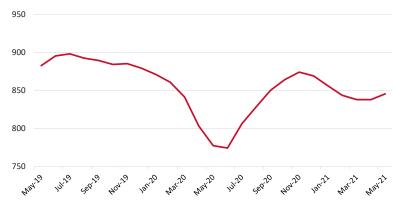
Chart 1 plots total employment in the CER over the past two years, illustrating employment levels before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Total CER employment peaked at 898,500 in July 2019, and it hit its all-time low during the pandemic in June 2020, with only 774,500 employed.

Market Re

Chart 2 examines the five largest monthly percentage gains and losses in CER employment going back to 1987 (the earliest data available). As can be seen, four of the five largest percentage losses have occurred since March 2020. Conversely, only three of the five most significant percentage gains have occurred and consecutively, beginning in July within the past year, caused by relatively looser health restrictions between the first and second "waves" of the ongoing pandemic. Over the onset of the pandemic, the employment growth has been sluggish, reflecting how the local economy remains challenged under the threat of health-related restrictions.

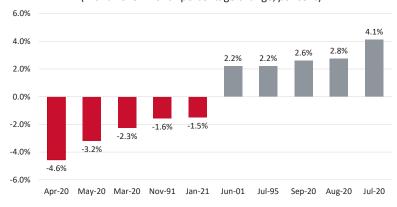
The Alberta government's Stage 1 reopening began on June 1, allowing expanded capacities for retail, the return of outdoor patio dining, and the reopening of personal and wellness services by appointment. Further relaxations of health-related restrictions are expected to occur on June 10 under stage 2 and complete relaxation under stage 3 occurring in late June or early July. The expected lessening of health-related restrictions in the coming weeks is expected to support the local labour market.

Chart 1. CER: Total Employment (May 2019 - May 2021, thousands of persons)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

Chart 2. CER: Change of Total Employment (month-over-month percentage change, per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.



Labour Market Review

Kenneth Wyllie, Corporate Economist | Estella Scruggs, Corporate Research Analyst

June 4, 2021

Next update: July 9, 2021

Table 1 Labour Force Statistics

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

NOI	Description	May-21	Apr-21	May-20	Annual Change		Description	May-21	Apr-21	May-20	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,350.9	1,349.9	1,333.2	17.7		Working Age Population ('000)	3,535.0	3,533.4	3,499.0	36.0
	Labour Force ('000)	928.9	928.3	898.1	30.8		Labour Force ('000)	2,443.0	2,434.6	2,314.2	128.8
REG	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	68.8	68.8	67.4	1.4	≰	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.1	68.9	66.1	3.0
CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Employment ('000)	845.8	838.1	777.6	68.2	ALBERTA	Employment ('000)	2,216.1	2,193.7	2,009.6	206.5
	Employment Rate (%)	62.6	62.1	58.3	4.3	¥	Employment Rate (%)	62.7	62.1	57.4	5.3
	Unemployment ('000)	83.1	90.3	120.4	(37.3)		Unemployment ('000)	226.9	240.8	304.6	(77.7)
	Unemployment Rate (%)	8.9	9.7	13.4	(4.5)		Unemployment Rate (%)	9.3	9.9	13.2	(3.9)

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 4, 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)		
muustry	May-21	May-20	Change (y/y)	May-21	May-20	Change (y/y)	May-21	May-20	Change (y/y)	May-21	May-20	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	48.5	45.8	2.7	2,165.70	1,883.32	282.38	105.0	86.3	18.8	41.6	39.8	1.8
Utilities	10.2	10.7	(0.5)	1,936.20	1,886.40	49.80	19.7	20.2	(0.4)	39.9	38.9	1.0
Construction	51.9	48.6	3.3	1,351.80	1,413.98	(62.18)	70.2	68.7	1.4	39.8	40.0	(0.2)
Manufacturing	38.0	35.4	2.6	1,355.80	1,407.87	(52.07)	51.5	49.8	1.7	40.8	39.8	1.0
Wholesale Trade	21.2	25.5	(4.3)	1,389.00	1,390.76	(1.76)	29.4	35.5	(6.0)	39.8	39.2	0.6
Retail Trade	79.9	62.2	17.7	792.20	749.82	42.38	63.3	46.6	16.7	34.7	34.0	0.8
Transportation and Warehousing	39.8	34.7	5.1	1,359.20	1,418.30	(59.10)	54.1	49.2	4.9	39.2	39.5	(0.4)
Information and Cultural Industries	12.6	11.6	1.0	1,577.40	1,194.70	382.70	19.9	13.9	6.0	39.4	36.9	2.6
Finance and Insurance	24.8	16.9	7.9	1,370.40	1,435.83	(65.43)	34.0	24.3	9.7	39.0	38.8	0.3
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	15.6	8.8	6.8	1,008.50	1,079.32	(70.82)	15.7	9.5	6.2	35.3	36.7	(1.5)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	64.9	54.6	10.3	1,434.80	1,572.59	(137.79)	93.1	85.9	7.3	38.4	38.8	(0.5)
Administrative and Support	19.4	21.3	(1.9)	950.30	1,086.66	(136.36)	18.4	23.1	(4.7)	38.6	38.9	(0.3)
Educational Services	69.1	52.6	16.5	1,198.80	1,253.74	(54.94)	82.8	65.9	16.9	34.2	35.1	(0.9)
Health Care and Social Assistance	99.6	76.4	23.2	1,062.00	1,247.23	(185.23)	105.8	95.3	10.5	33.6	35.2	(1.6)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	4.7	10.4	(5.7)	1,005.30	1,018.99	(13.69)	4.7	10.6	(5.9)	34.1	35.9	(1.8)
Accommodation and Food Services	33.9	30.7	3.2	466.60	568.87	(102.27)	15.8	17.5	(1.6)	25.8	31.9	(6.1)
Other Services (except Public Admin)	28.8	22.9	5.9	1,003.60	981.14	22.46	28.9	22.5	6.4	37.9	35.7	2.2
Public Administration	18.7	26.6	(7.9)	1,764.30	1,681.75	82.55	33.0	44.7	(11.7)	38.0	37.4	0.7
All Industries	684.0	596.9	87.1	1,240.00	1,291.02	(51.02)	848.2	770.6	77.6	37.3	37.5	(0.2)

^{***} Excluding self-employed Note:

Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 4, 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.