

## Highlights\*:

### Total Employment

Calgary Economic Region

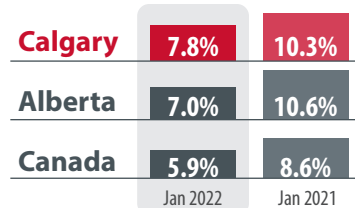


▼ **6,900** from Dec 2021

▲ **22,100** from Jan 2021

### Unemployment Rates

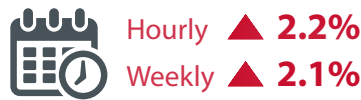
Calgary Economic Region



### Average Wage Rate

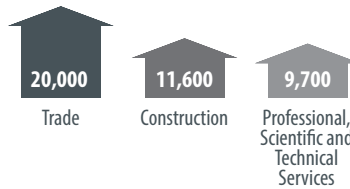
Calgary Census Metropolitan Area

January 2022, year-over-year change



### Most Job Gains by Industry

Jan 2022, year-over-year change



### Most Job Losses by Industry

Jan 2022, year-over-year change



### Employment Insurance

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area



## Job vacancy and labour underutilization issues despite the labour market recovery in 2021

Alberta recorded an average number of 52,565 job vacancies between 2017-2019. In 2020, the number of vacant jobs declined to 46,525. Despite the decline in the unemployment rate in 2021<sup>3</sup>, the average number of vacant jobs increased to 68,608, or 47.5 per cent growth in 2021.

In 2021, Alberta's total job vacancy grew by 17,335 or 25.1 per cent from Q2 to Q3. Accommodation and Food Services remains the biggest driver of job vacancies within the region. The sector previously accounted for 14.27 per cent of total job vacancies in Q2 2021. It also experienced a 3,275 increase, or 49.77 per cent growth, from Q1 2021 to Q2 of 2021. Q3 2021 saw Accommodation and Food Services share of total job vacancies increase to 20.51 per cent, representing a 7,865 increase, or 79.81 per cent growth rate. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services despite a 700 decrease, or 14.93 per cent decline in job vacancies in Q2 2021, experienced a 665 increase, or 16.67 per cent growth, in job vacancies in Q3 2021.

Labour underutilization still remains an issue within the province. The labour underutilization combines all who are unemployed<sup>4</sup>, those who wanted a job but did not look for one and those who remained employed but were working less than half their usual hours. This metric provides a clearer picture of the overall labour market conditions. For example, an unemployed person who has gained a job working an hour a week will be classified as employed. However, if the person was previously working 35 hours a week, it does not represent a significant improvement. Annually, the labour underutilization rate<sup>5</sup> declined from 23.1 per cent in 2020 to 16.1 per cent in 2021 but however remained above 2019 levels of 13.1 per cent.

3 Average annual unemployment declined from 11.5 per cent in 2020 to 9.0 in 2021 in Alberta

4 Persons who, during the survey period, were without work, had looked for work, and were available for work

5 The labour underutilization rate combines all those who are unemployed, those who wanted a job but did not look for one and those who remained employed but were working less than half their usual hours, as a percentage of the total labour force.

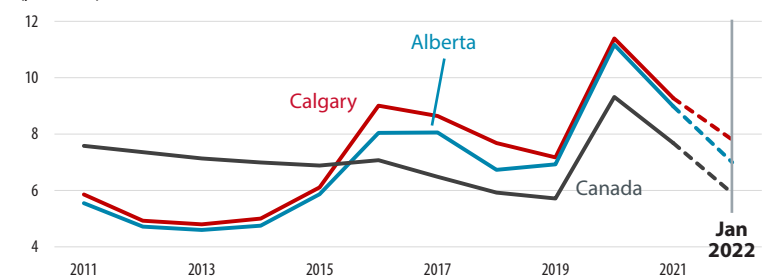
## Despite the sustained recovery in 2021 the labour market remains far from pre-2015 levels

The January Labour Force Survey was conducted between January 16<sup>th</sup> and January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Calgary Economic Region (CER) registered a total employment decline of 6,900 from the previous month and year-over-year gains of 22,100, marking a 2.6 per cent growth rate. Unemployment rates for the CER, Alberta and Canada are yet to recover to the January 2019 pre-pandemic levels. The CER three-month moving average unemployment rate<sup>1</sup> rose to 7.8 per cent in the month of January 2022, marking a 0.2 percentage point increase. Alberta and Canada recorded a three-month moving average unemployment rate<sup>2</sup> of 7.0 and 5.9 per cent, respectively, in the month of January 2022. This marked a 0.1 and 0.2 month-over-month percentage point decline at the provincial and federal levels, respectively.

While employment levels and unemployment rates signalled progress in the labour market recovery throughout 2021, the CER unemployment rate still remains far above pre-2015 unemployment rates. With two major oil market crashes in the last seven years, the road to recovery in the labour market has been challenged. However, a sustained improvement in oil prices in 2022 and the significant capital investment projects within the CER and the rest of Alberta this year should substantially boost employment within the region.

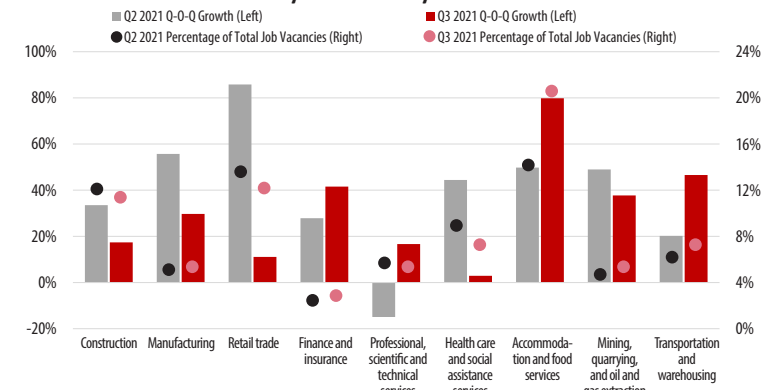
The month-over-month employment gains in January 2022 were led by Information, Culture and Recreation (+3,200), and Retail Trade (+1,400). However, these gains were offset by Transportation and Warehousing (-2,800), Health Care and Social Assistance (-2,700), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-1,700) and Construction (-1,600).

Chart 1: Unemployment Rates Comparison (per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

Chart 2: Pace of Job Vacancy and Industry Mix For Alberta



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

1 Seasonally unadjusted.

2 The seasonally adjusted rate in Alberta for November was 7.6 per cent.

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

Description	Jan-22	Dec-21	Jan-21	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	1,366.0	1,363.5	1,345.7	20.3
Labour Force ('000)	952.8	958.5	954.5	(1.7)
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.8	70.3	70.9	(1.1)
Employment ('000)	878.5	885.4	856.4	22.1
Employment Rate (%)	64.3	64.9	63.6	0.7
Unemployment ('000)	74.3	73.1	98.1	(23.8)
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	7.6	10.3	(2.5)

Description	Jan-22	Dec-21	Jan-21	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	3,568.0	3,562.1	3,524.9	43.1
Labour Force ('000)	2,449.5	2,450.4	2,417.6	31.9
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	68.7	68.8	68.6	0.1
Employment ('000)	2,277.0	2,281.0	2,160.4	116.6
Employment Rate (%)	63.8	64.0	61.3	2.5
Unemployment ('000)	172.6	169.4	257.2	(84.6)
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.0	6.9	10.6	(3.6)

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, February 4, 2022

**Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry**

Industry	Total employees*** ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly wage bill (\$million)			Total hours worked (hours)		
	Jan-22	Jan-21	Change (y/y)	Jan-22	Jan-21	Change (y/y)	Jan-22	Jan-21	Change (y/y)	Jan-22	Jan-21	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	48.9	52.9	(4.0)	2,119.52	2,076.28	43.24	103.6	109.8	(6.2)	40.0	40.4	(0.4)
Utilities	7.8	8.0	(0.2)	2,282.28	1,796.62	485.66	17.8	14.4	3.4	39.5	39.1	0.4
Construction	52.3	52.7	(0.4)	1,405.77	1,416.68	(10.91)	73.5	74.7	(1.1)	39.9	40.4	(0.5)
Manufacturing	32.5	42.1	(9.6)	1,539.08	1,245.43	293.65	50.0	52.4	(2.4)	39.9	39.8	0.1
Wholesale Trade	23.7	24.5	(0.8)	1,278.51	1,341.57	(63.06)	30.3	32.9	(2.6)	39.4	39.2	0.3
Retail Trade	98.4	74.8	23.6	724.90	762.10	(37.20)	71.3	57.0	14.3	32.7	33.4	(0.7)
Transportation and Warehousing	49.3	43.0	6.3	1,228.95	1,138.23	90.72	60.6	48.9	11.6	38.7	37.3	1.4
Information and Cultural Industries	11.2	14.2	(3.0)	1,247.42	1,483.23	(235.81)	14.0	21.1	(7.1)	37.9	38.8	(0.9)
Finance and Insurance	26.8	32.1	(5.3)	1,502.43	1,462.73	39.70	40.3	47.0	(6.7)	37.7	39.5	(1.9)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	11.2	5.1	6.1	1,262.12	1,352.61	(90.49)	14.1	6.9	7.2	34.5	39.7	(5.2)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	71.8	63.5	8.3	1,683.96	1,524.10	159.86	120.9	96.8	24.1	39.1	37.8	1.3
Administrative and Support	17.6	19.5	(1.9)	1,037.32	959.06	78.26	18.3	18.7	(0.4)	37.3	35.0	2.3
Educational Services	59.8	58.7	1.1	1,317.69	1,322.84	(5.15)	78.8	77.7	1.1	35.3	34.6	0.7
Health Care and Social Assistance	96.5	92.2	4.3	1,058.39	1,075.36	(16.97)	102.1	99.1	3.0	34.4	34.0	0.4
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	15.2	9.2	6.0	656.99	728.33	(71.34)	10.0	6.7	3.3	27.5	31.5	(3.9)
Accommodation and Food Services	35.6	46.3	(10.7)	489.99	469.44	20.55	17.4	21.7	(4.3)	27.4	27.8	(0.4)
Other Services (except Public Admin)	18.6	24.4	(5.8)	1,070.16	1,093.78	(23.62)	19.9	26.7	(6.8)	37.6	37.2	0.4
Public Administration	26.1	21.3	4.8	1,770.86	1,628.35	142.51	46.2	34.7	11.5	36.8	37.3	(0.4)
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>704.3</b>	<b>686.1</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>1,263.89</b>	<b>1,237.44</b>	<b>26.45</b>	<b>890.2</b>	<b>849.0</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>

\*\*\* Excluding self-employed Note: lack of data for Agriculture  
Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, February 4, 2022

Next update: March 11, 2022

For media inquiry, please contact:  
The Media Line at 403.828.2954 or media.relations@calgary.ca

For the technical questions, please contact:  
**Chukwudi Osuji, Ph.D.**  
City Economist and Regulatory Lead  
chukwudi.osuji@calgary.ca

**Paapa Essel**  
Corporate Economist  
paapa.essel@calgary.ca

**Estella Scruggs**  
Corporate Research Analyst  
estella.scruggs@calgary.ca

Many of our publications are available on the internet at [www.calgary.ca/economy](http://www.calgary.ca/economy).

The City of Calgary provides this information in good faith. However, the aforementioned organization makes no representation, warranty or condition, statutory express or implied, takes no responsibility for any errors and omissions which may contained herein and accepts no liability for any loss arising from any use or reliance on this report.

\* Labour force data used in this report is 3-month-moving-average, seasonally unadjusted.

Note: In February 2021, Statistics Canada revised its Labour Force Survey estimates including historical data.