



Labour Market Review

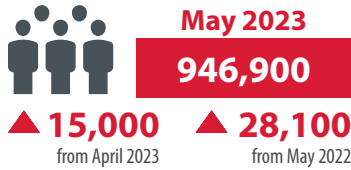
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June 9, 2023

Highlights:

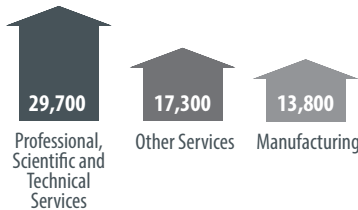
Total Employment

Calgary Economic Region
(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

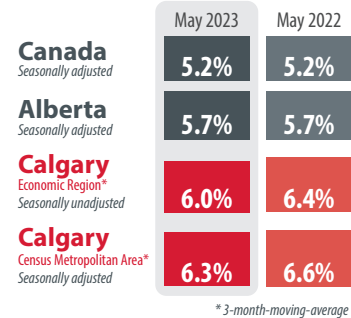


Most Job Gains by Industry

May 2023, year-over-year change



Unemployment Rates



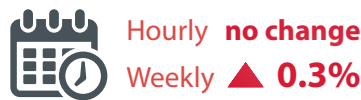
Most Job Losses by Industry

May 2023, year-over-year change



Average Wage Rate

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area
May 2023, year-over-year change



Employment Insurance

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area



In May, Calgary recorded the lowest unemployment rate for 2023

The Calgary Economic Region's (CER) three-month moving average unemployment rate decreased from 6.4 per cent in May 2022 to 6.0 per cent in May 2023.¹ The CER's labour force grew by 2.6 per cent year-over-year (y-o-y) in May 2023, while employment increased at a faster rate of 3.1 per cent, causing a drop in the unemployment rate. Alberta's (6.0 per cent) and Canada's (5.3 per cent) unemployment rates declined by 0.2 and 0.1 percentage points y-o-y. In May 2023, the CER labour force participation rate fell by 0.7 percentage points y-o-y to 70.5 per cent.

Job seekers, especially those in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry, are securing jobs

The services sector jobs increased by 16,200 (y-o-y), led by Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+29,700), Other Services (+17,300), and Real Estate (+8,700). However, jobs in the Retail Trade industry fell compared to May 2022 (-22,800). For the goods sector, employment rose by 11,900 positions y-o-y, with significant improvements in Agriculture (7,900) and Manufacturing (13,800).

Job quality, as measured by the availability of full-time positions, is improving

Job growth in the services sector is also favourable using one dimension of job quality – full-time jobs are increasing. Full-time jobs within the services sector rose by 35,600 y-o-y, while part-time jobs fell by 19,500. Part-time employment within the goods sector grew by 2,600.

However, the surge in job market entrants is due to visible minorities, who find it harder to secure jobs on average

Reflecting the surge in net migration since April 2022, more people in

visible minority groups are entering the labour force relative to new job market entrants from non-visible minority groups. A total of 84,900 persons in minority groups joined the labour force in May 2023 y-o-y, unlike non-visible minority groups that were relatively unchanged.

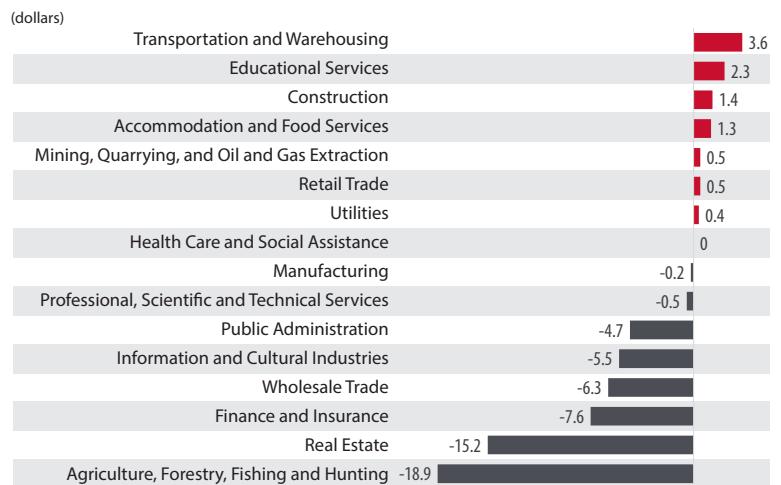
Despite lower unemployment rates and increased participation across the province, minority groups are finding it harder, on average, to find jobs. The unemployment rate among visible minority groups in Alberta stood at 7.0 per cent in May 2023, compared to the non-visible minority unemployment rate of 5.6 per cent. Black and Southeast Asian groups also have the highest unemployment rates in the province, at 13 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively.

Wages stayed flat year-over-year with adverse impacts on purchasing power

Although wage levels in Alberta are high, recently wages in Alberta have stagnated despite growth elsewhere in Canada. It means wages elsewhere are closing the gap. Alongside higher-than-usual inflation, it is impacting the purchasing power of Calgarians. Specifically, average hourly wages stayed the same in May 2023 relative to May 2022 in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).

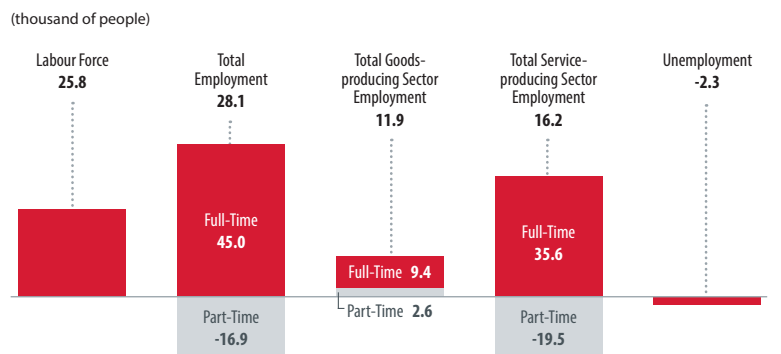
In May 2023, on a y-o-y basis, Transportation and Warehousing (10.8 per cent), Accommodation and Food Services (6.9 per cent), and Educational Services (6.3 per cent) recorded the largest y-o-y gains. Meanwhile, the most significant y-o-y wage losses were recorded in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (50.8 per cent), Real Estate (13.8 per cent), and Finance and Insurance (15.3 per cent).

Chart 1: Calgary CMA: Year-over-year Average Hourly Wage Change (May 2023)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

Chart 2: CER: Year-over-year Changes in Labour Market (May 2023)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

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

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Description	May-23	Apr-23	May-22	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,428.6	1,422.6	1,377.2	51.4
Labour Force ('000)	1,007.0	995.8	981.2	25.8	
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	70.5	70.0	71.2	(0.7)	
Employment ('000)	946.9	931.9	918.8	28.1	
Employment Rate (%)	66.3	65.5	66.7	(0.4)	
Unemployment ('000)	60.1	64.0	62.4	(2.3)	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	6.4	6.4	(0.4)	

ALBERTA	Description	May-23	Apr-23	May-22	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	3,717.5	3,703.0	3,593.8	123.7
Labour Force ('000)	2,595.9	2,574.5	2,514.6	81.3	
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.8	69.5	70.0	(0.2)	
Employment ('000)	2,440.8	2,412.7	2,358.7	82.1	
Employment Rate (%)	65.7	65.2	65.6	0.1	
Unemployment ('000)	155.1	161.7	155.9	(0.8)	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	6.3	6.2	(0.2)	

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 9, 2023

Table 2. Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employees*** ('000 people)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly wage bill (\$million)			Total hours worked (hours)		
	May-23	May-22	Change (y/y)	May-23	May-22	Change (y/y)	May-23	May-22	Change (y/y)	May-23	May-22	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	41.2	47.5	(6.3)	2,505.5	2,478.4	27.1	103.2	117.7	(14.5)	41.7	41.6	0.1
Utilities	5.6	7.3	(1.7)	2,022.4	2,018.3	4.1	11.3	14.7	(3.4)	39.3	39.6	(0.2)
Construction	63.7	61.8	1.9	1,491.6	1,449.5	42.1	95.0	89.6	5.4	40.4	40.8	(0.4)
Manufacturing	38.0	28.7	9.3	1,450.4	1,468.0	(17.6)	55.1	42.1	13.0	38.9	39.1	(0.3)
Wholesale Trade	25.9	25.9	0.0	1,302.4	1,508.2	(205.8)	33.7	39.1	(5.3)	40.6	39.3	1.3
Retail Trade	79.0	108.7	(29.7)	841.8	815.8	26.0	66.5	88.7	(22.2)	34.4	34.0	0.4
Transportation and Warehousing	47.8	42.8	5.0	1,339.4	1,308.1	31.3	64.0	56.0	8.0	36.4	39.4	(3.0)
Information and Cultural Industries	12.3	13.9	(1.6)	1,323.7	1,533.2	(209.5)	16.3	21.3	(5.0)	37.9	38.0	(0.0)
Finance and Insurance	29.4	29.8	(0.4)	1,593.6	2,045.0	(451.4)	46.9	60.9	(14.1)	37.8	41.1	(3.3)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	20.2	10.7	9.5	1,275.1	1,684.5	(409.4)	25.8	18.0	7.7	39.8	38.5	1.4
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	101.6	76.0	25.6	1,729.5	1,729.2	0.3	175.7	131.4	44.3	38.3	37.9	0.4
Administrative and Support	26.3	16.8	9.5	1,062.8	1,163.5	(100.7)	28.0	19.5	8.4	36.1	38.1	(2.0)
Educational Services	53.9	65.9	(12.0)	1,391.9	1,208.0	183.9	75.0	79.6	(4.6)	35.8	33.0	2.8
Health Care and Social Assistance	90.1	86.7	3.4	1,094.4	1,109.6	(15.2)	98.6	96.2	2.4	34.4	34.9	(0.5)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	15.6	24.3	(8.7)	833.4	652.1	181.3	13.0	15.8	(2.8)	32.6	26.6	5.9
Accommodation and Food Services	43.6	40.3	3.3	604.9	578.8	26.1	26.4	23.3	3.0	30.1	30.8	(0.7)
Other Services (except Public Admin)	26.6	16.8	9.8	1,172.2	913.7	258.5	31.2	15.4	15.8	35.6	35.3	0.4
Public Administration	28.9	36.0	(7.1)	1,671.8	1,815.3	(143.5)	48.3	65.4	(17.0)	38.0	37.3	0.7
All Industries	753.8	741.6	12.2	1,348.9	1,344.7	4.2	1,016.8	997.2	19.6	37.4	37.2	0.1

*** Excluding self-employed Note: lack of data for Agriculture
Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 9, 2023

Next update: July 7, 2023

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Footnote:

1 All statistics referenced are seasonally unadjusted unless stated otherwise.