

Monthly Highlights*

Total Employment

Calgary Economic Region



February 2020
899,000

▼ **10,400** ▲ **3,300**
from January 2020 from February 2019

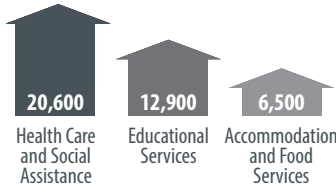
Most Job Gains by Industry

from February 2019



Most Job Losses by Industry

from February 2019



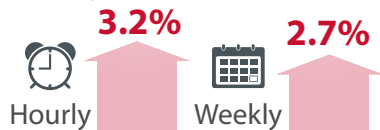
Unemployment Rates Comparison

Calgary Economic Region



Average Wage Rate

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area
from February 2019



Employment Insurance

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area



Unemployment statistics provide information about the over-supply of labour in a market. The persistent high unemployment rate in the Calgary Economic Region (CER), at 7.2 per cent in February 2020 compared to the average of 5.6 per cent in the past twenty years, has caused concerns for job seekers and government agencies alike in recent years. Job vacancy data, on the other hand, provides information about the unmet labour demand in a region¹.

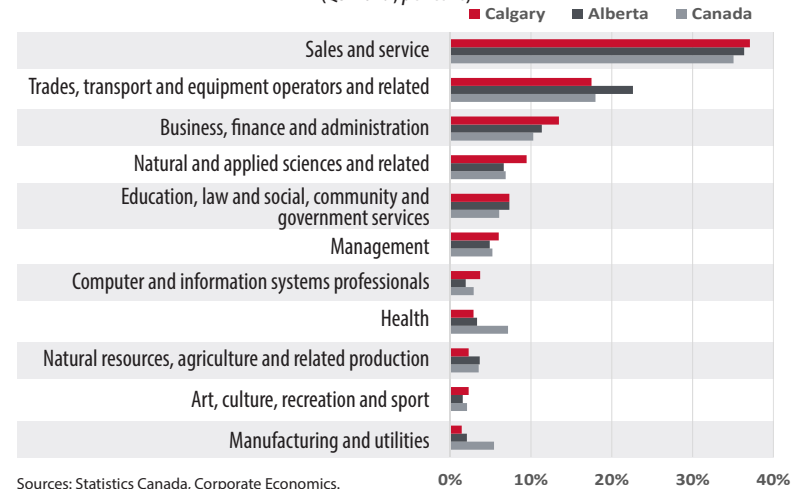
The latest job vacancies by occupation data show that the number of job vacancies in the CER was 20,850 in Q3 2019. Most of the vacant jobs were in the sales and service occupations (7,735), the trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (3,600), and the business, finance and administration occupations (2,810). The CER distribution of job vacancies by occupation is similar to that for Alberta and Canada (Chart 1).

The growth trend of job vacancies by occupation in Calgary, however, is different from that in the rest of Canada (Chart 2). There is a significant increase in unfilled labour demand for computer and information systems professionals. From Q3

2015 to Q3 2019, the highest growth rate of job vacancies in the CER was in the natural and applied sciences and related occupations (+1,135 or 135%). A sub-group of it was the computer and information systems professionals (+550 or 244%). The natural and applied sciences and related occupations, and education, law and social, community and government services categories are the ones where the rates of growth in vacancies for the CER (and Alberta) exceeded Canada. In Canada, there was an increase in job vacancy across all categories and the highest job vacancy increase was in the health occupations (+90%).

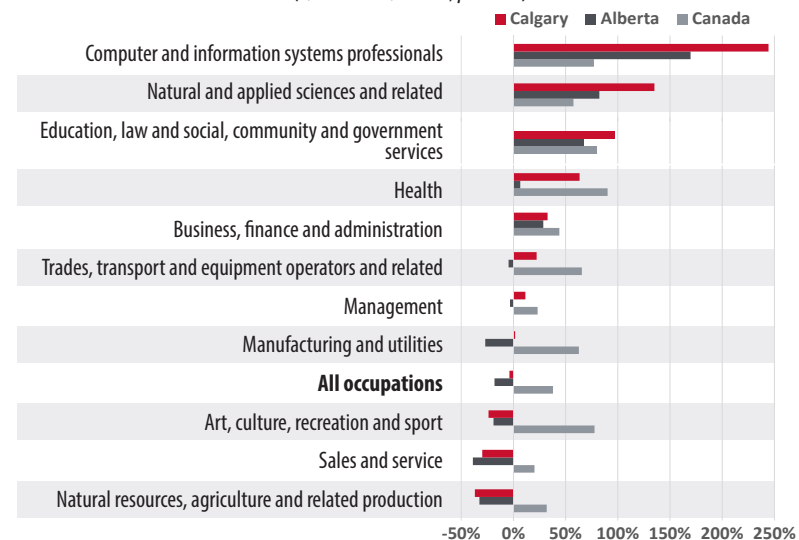
Employers in the CER were willing to pay higher wages than the rest of Canada, to attract individuals with skillsets in high demand. In Q3 2019, the average offered hourly wage for computer and information systems professionals was \$36.7 in the CER, compared to \$35.5 in Canada. It was \$36.9 for the natural and applied sciences and related occupations in the CER, compared to the average of \$31.75 in Canada.

Chart 1. Distribution of Job Vacancies by Occupation: Calgary vs Alberta and Canada (Q3 2019, per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

Chart 2. Growth in Job Vacancies by Occupation: Calgary vs Alberta and Canada (Q3 2015 - Q3 2019, per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

¹ A job is vacant if it meets all three of the following conditions: a specific position exists; work could start within 30 days; the employer is actively seeking workers from outside the organization to fill the position.

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

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Description	Feb-20	Jan-20	Feb-19	Annual Change	ALBERTA	Description	Feb-20	Jan-20	Feb-19	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,380.4	1,378.1	1,347.6	32.8		Working Age Population ('000)	3,557.8	3,554.3	3,498.1	59.7
Labour Force ('000)	969.0	976.6	967.6	1.4	Labour Force ('000)	2,485.1	2,491.8	2,481.3	3.8		
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	70.2	70.9	71.8	(1.6)	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	69.8	70.1	70.9	(1.1)		
Employment ('000)	899.0	909.4	895.7	3.3	Employment ('000)	2,306.5	2,318.5	2,311.4	(4.9)		
Employment Rate (%)	65.1	66.0	66.5	(1.4)	Employment Rate (%)	64.8	65.2	66.1	(1.3)		
Unemployment ('000)	70.0	67.2	71.9	(1.9)	Unemployment ('000)	178.6	173.3	170.0	8.6		
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.2	6.9	7.4	(0.2)	Unemployment Rate (%)	7.2	7.0	6.9	0.3		

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, March 6, 2020

Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employees* ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Feb-20	Feb-19	Change (y/y)	Feb-20	Feb-19	Change (y/y)	Feb-20	Feb-19	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	46.7	50.2	(3.5)	1,991.40	2,068.44	(77.04)	93.0	103.8	(10.8)
Utilities	8.8	9.6	(0.8)	1,922.76	2,020.17	(97.41)	16.9	19.4	(2.5)
Construction	55.2	48.8	6.4	1,292.33	1,292.54	(0.21)	71.3	63.1	8.3
Manufacturing	32.3	48.2	(15.9)	1,394.86	1,148.21	246.65	45.1	55.3	(10.3)
Wholesale Trade	22.1	25.6	(3.5)	1,340.10	1,547.74	(207.64)	29.6	39.6	(10.0)
Retail Trade	83.5	88.8	(5.3)	732.63	702.63	30.00	61.2	62.4	(1.2)
Transportation and Warehousing	45.4	48.4	(3.0)	1,287.34	1,340.76	(53.42)	58.4	64.9	(6.4)
Information and Cultural Industries	8.8	14.3	(5.5)	1,147.62	1,313.06	(165.44)	10.1	18.8	(8.7)
Finance and Insurance	20.4	21.8	(1.4)	1,492.46	1,331.61	160.85	30.4	29.0	1.4
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	7.7	11.5	(3.8)	1,285.17	982.64	302.53	9.9	11.3	(1.4)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	63.1	63.0	0.1	1,527.15	1,482.86	44.29	96.4	93.4	2.9
Administrative and Support	21.6	23.0	(1.4)	992.47	919.58	72.89	21.4	21.2	0.3
Educational Services	63.2	48.4	14.8	1,203.35	1,122.91	80.44	76.1	54.3	21.7
Health Care and Social Assistance	100.4	82.1	18.3	1,166.11	1,032.95	133.16	117.1	84.8	32.3
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	16.8	19.5	(2.7)	775.64	780.60	(4.96)	13.0	15.2	(2.2)
Accommodation and Food Services	55.1	52.9	2.2	529.55	578.13	(48.58)	29.2	30.6	(1.4)
Other Services(except Public Admin)	28.1	30.6	(2.5)	951.95	883.46	68.49	26.7	27.0	(0.3)
Public Administration	27.9	27.9	0.0	1,732.23	1,649.25	82.98	48.3	46.0	2.3
All Industries	710.0	716.1	(6.1)	1,207.14	1,175.04	32.10	857.1	841.4	15.6

** Excluding self-employed Note: lack of data for Agriculture
Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, March 6, 2020

Next update: April 9, 2020

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