

# Labour Market Review

Ivy Zhang, Senior Corporate Economist | Patrick Walters, City Economist

June 10, 2016

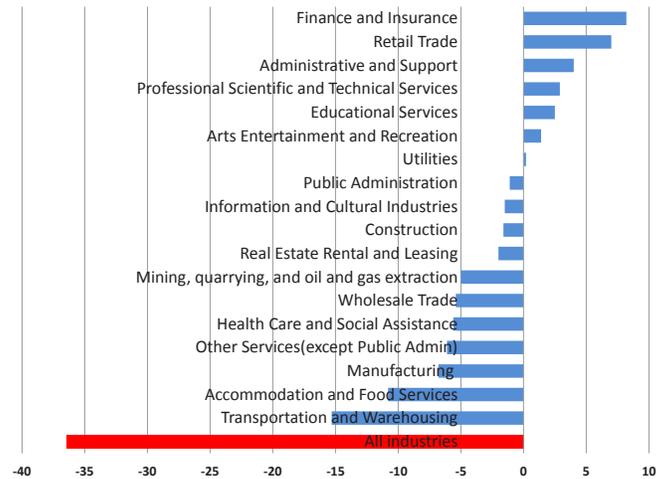
**Highlights:** Today's Labour Force Survey results<sup>1</sup> for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) shows the following:

- From April to May 2016, total employment increased slightly (+3,100), mainly in full-time positions (+2,600). Year-over-year, total employment declined by 32,400 persons.
- The unemployment rate in May was 8.4 per cent in the Calgary CER, compared to 8 per cent in Alberta and 7.4 per cent in Canada. People still came to Calgary as the region's working age population increased by 27,400 over the past twelve months. However, more people were not in the labour force (+36,300) as baby boomers retired from the labour force and some of the unemployed stopped looking for work. This resulted in the labour force participation rate falling to 72.3 per cent in May 2016 from 74.6 per cent a year earlier.
- For the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the number of people receiving regular employment insurance (EI)<sup>2</sup> benefits increased to 22,130 in March 2016, up from the low of 9,460 in August 2014. Whereas, during last downturn it took only ten months for the number of EI beneficiaries to increase from the low of 6,150 in September 2008 to the peak of 25,090 in July 2009.

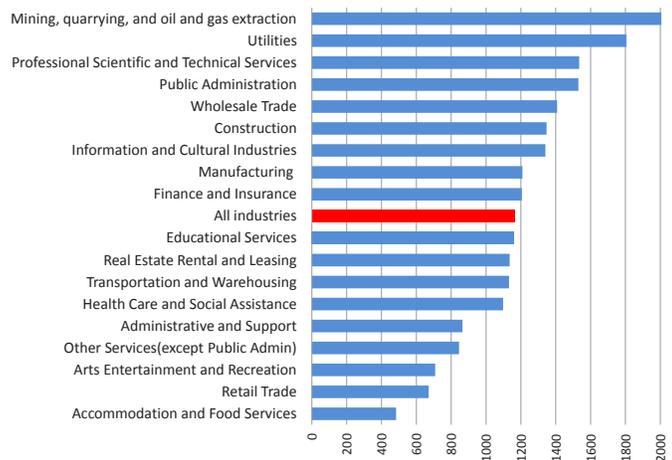
Consumer confidence in Alberta hit a record low in recent months, the second year into the current recession. The same sentiment is shown among Calgarians, as total employment in the Calgary CMA declined by 36,500 persons from May 2015 to May 2016. The job losses were concentrated in the Transportation and Warehousing (-15,300), Accommodation and Food (-10,300), and Manufacturing (-6,800) industries (Chart 1). Many of the job losses were in the high earning sectors. For example, the weekly wage rate for both full-time and part-time workers was \$2,040 in the Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction, and \$1,209 in the Manufacturing industries (Charts 2). As a result, the total weekly wage income in the Calgary CMA declined by \$14 million, or 1.8 per cent over the past twelve months (Table 2).

(Note: For more labour market analysis see: [Special Labour Market Report 2: Economic Growth and Diversification](#))

**Chart 1: Calgary CMA Total Employment Change by Industry**  
(From May 2015 to May 2016, thousands)



**Chart 2: Calgary CMA Weekly Wage Rate by Industry**  
(May 2016, dollar)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2016

**Table 1. Labour Force Statistics**

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION				Alberta	ALBERTA				
	Description	May-16	April-16	May-15		Annual Change	Description	May-16	April-16	May-15
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,286.8	1,285.0	1,259.4	27.4	Working Age Population ('000)	3,392.8	3,389.2	3,338.8	54.0
	Labour Force ('000)	930.2	928.5	939.0	(8.8)	Labour Force ('000)	2,453.3	2,449.8	2,440.2	13.1
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.3	72.3	74.6	(2.3)	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.3	72.3	73.1	(0.8)
	Employment ('000)	852.1	849.0	884.5	(32.4)	Employment ('000)	2,257.7	2,251.8	2,290.2	(32.5)
	Employment Rate (%)	66.2	66.1	70.2	(4.0)	Employment Rate (%)	66.5	66.4	68.6	(2.1)
	Unemployment ('000)	78.0	79.4	54.6	23.4	Unemployment ('000)	195.6	198.0	150.0	45.6
	Unemployment Rate (%)	8.4	8.6	5.8	2.6	Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	8.1	6.1	1.9

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2016

Table 2 on next page →

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Table 2. Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employment ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	May-2015	May-2016	change	May-2015	May-2016	change	May-2015	May-2016	change
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	53.4	48.4	(5.0)	1,870	2,040	170	100	99	(1)
Utilities	7.6	7.8	0.2	1,495	1,806	310	11	14	3
Construction	58.6	57.0	(1.6)	1,218	1,347	129	71	77	5
Manufacturing	45.0	38.2	(6.8)	1,217	1,209	(9)	55	46	(9)
Wholesale Trade	29.9	24.5	(5.4)	1,240	1,408	167	37	34	(3)
Retail Trade	74.3	81.3	7.0	718	670	(48)	53	54	1
Transportation and Warehousing	53.8	38.5	(15.3)	1,188	1,132	(56)	64	44	(20)
Information and Cultural Industries	11.8	10.3	(1.5)	1,072	1,341	269	13	14	1
Finance and Insurance	22.9	31.1	8.2	1,156	1,205	49	26	37	11
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	8.4	6.4	(2.0)	975	1,135	160	8	7	(1)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	60.3	63.2	2.9	1,573	1,535	(38)	95	97	2
Administrative and Support	19.1	23.1	4.0	805	865	60	15	20	5
Educational Services	44.2	46.7	2.5	1,197	1,161	(37)	53	54	1
Health Care and Social Assistance	84.9	79.3	(5.6)	993	1,097	105	84	87	3
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	16.0	17.4	1.4	676	708	33	11	12	2
Accommodation and Food Services	58.2	47.4	(10.8)	480	484	4	28	23	(5)
Other Services(except Public Admin)	31.4	25.3	(6.1)	922	845	(77)	29	21	(8)
Public Administration	25.9	24.8	(1.1)	1,485	1,530	45	38	38	(1)
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>707.3</b>	<b>670.8</b>	<b>(36.5)</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>(14)</b>

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, June 2016

Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: July 8, 2016

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1 Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-averagem, for Calgary Economic Region if not specified.

2 EI data for the Calgary Metropolitan Area (CMA) has two months lag compared to other Labour Market indicator.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.

