

# Labour Market Review

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August 5, 2016

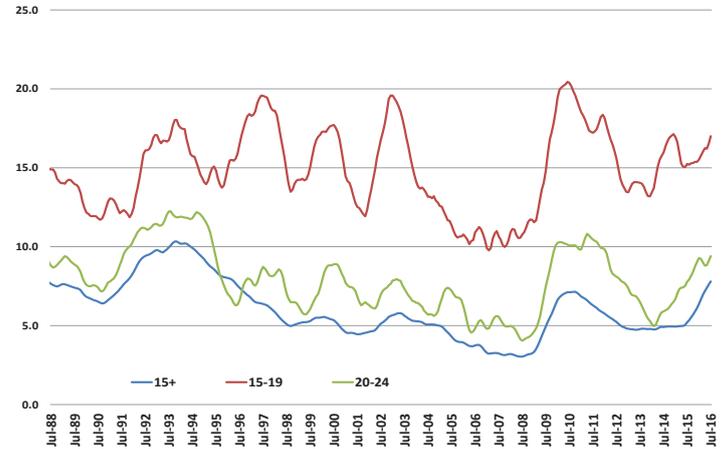
**Highlights:** July's Labour Force Survey<sup>1</sup> for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA) shows the following:

- Total employment in July in the CER increased by (+9,200) persons, almost all in full-time (+9,000). Year-over-year, the region's total employment declined by 25,000 persons, mainly in the Health Care and Social Assistance (-16,100), Accommodation and Food Services (-9,100), and Transportation and Warehousing (-8,500) industries.
- The unemployment rate was estimated at 8.8 per cent in the CER, compared to 8.3 per cent in Alberta and 6.9 per cent in Canada. The highest unemployment rates were found in the 15-19 year old (24.8 per cent) and 20-24 year old (13.2 per cent) (Chart 1) cohorts. Higher high school graduation rates but lower university graduation rates in Alberta has implications for diversifying the province's economy (Chart 2).
- The average weekly wage rate in the Calgary CMA increased to \$1,147 from \$1,126 last July. But the total wage bills for the region decreased by \$28.8 million, due to the job cuts over the past twelve months (Table 2). The decrease in labour income will weigh on the level of consumer spending and on the rate of economic growth in the local economy.
- The number of people receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits in May in the Calgary CMA increased to 24,040, from 22,370 in April and 15,330 in May 2015. As expected, the Fort McMurray fire resulted in the EI numbers spiking at the provincial level, from 69,400 in April to 77,810 in May.

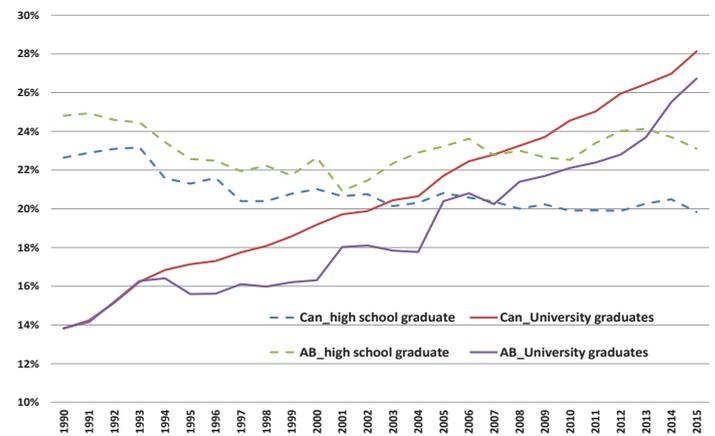
The summer job market for youth runs from May to August. During this time many full-time students especially those aged 20 to 24 enter the labour market for short-term employment. For the second year in a row, youth in the CER found it difficult to secure a job in a tough labour market. Unemployment rates jumped for all age cohorts, but the highest rates were seen in those aged 15-19 year old and 20-24 year old (Chart 1).

Difficulties in finding employment may contribute to an increase in the rate of enrollment at post secondary institutions. Survey data shows that although Alberta had a consistently higher rate of high school graduation than the Canadian average, it had a lower university graduation rate since 1993 (Chart 2). In the past, a healthy provincial job market proved a major draw for high school graduates and dampened the rate of enrollment at postsecondary institutions.

**Chart 1. CER Unemployment Rate by Age Cohort**  
(12 month moving average, per cent, July, 1988-July 2016)



**Chart 2. Share of Labour Force with Degrees: Alberta vs. Canada**  
(1990-2015, per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, August, 2016

**Table 1. Labour Force Statistics**

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month-moving-average)

	Description	Jul-16	Jun-16	Jul-15	Annual Change
CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Working Age Population ('000)	1,290.3	1,288.5	1,266.0	24.3
	Labour Force ('000)	948.3	935.1	954.7	(6.4)
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.5	72.6	75.4	(1.9)
	Employment ('000)	864.8	855.6	889.8	(25.0)
	Employment Rate (%)	67.0	66.4	70.3	(3.3)
	Unemployment ('000)	83.5	79.5	64.8	18.7
	Unemployment Rate (%)	8.8	8.5	6.8	2.0

Table 2 on next page →

	Description	Jul-16	Jun-16	Jul-15	Annual Change
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,399.4	3,396.0	3,353.3	46.1
	Labour Force ('000)	2,478.3	2,460.5	2,479.6	(1.3)
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.9	72.5	73.9	(1.0)
	Employment ('000)	2,272.0	2,263.9	2,329.5	(57.5)
	Employment Rate (%)	66.8	66.7	69.5	(2.7)
	Unemployment ('000)	206.3	196.5	150.1	56.2
	Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	8.0	6.1	2.2

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Table 1. Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employment ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Jul-2016	Jul-2015	Change	Jul-2016	Jul-2015	Change	Jul-2016	Jul-2015	Change
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	47	55	(8)	2,003	1,868	135	94	103	(9)
Utilities	9	11	(2)	1,881	1,598	283	16.6	17.1	(0.5)
Construction	56	56	0	1,351	1,299	52	76	73	3
Manufacturing	38	43	(5)	1,125	1,133	(8)	43	49	(6)
Wholesale Trade	23	27	(4)	1,371	1,254	117	32	34	(2)
Retail Trade	86	84	3	731	733	(3)	63	61	2
Transportation and Warehousing	42	51	(9)	1,059	1,241	(182)	45	63	(18)
Information and Cultural Industries	11	13	(2)	1,265	949	317	14	12	2
Finance and Insurance	27	25	2	1,134	1,277	(143)	31	32	(1)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	7	12	(5)	1,281	862	419	9	10	(1)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	61	61	0	1,541	1,600	(59)	94	97	(3)
Administrative and Support	24	22	2	872	724	148	20	16	4
Educational Services	51	42	9	1,281	1,138	143	65	48	17
Health Care and Social Assistance	76	88	(13)	1,071	1,001	70	81	88	(7)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	19	18	1	646	714	(67)	12	13	(1)
Accommodation and Food Services	48	54	(6)	475	537	(62)	23	29	(6)
Other Services(except Public Admin)	30	32	(2)	842	894	(52)	25	28	(3)
Public Administration	22	23	(1)	1,533	1,395	138	33	32	1
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>(38)</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>(29)</b>

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, August 2016  
 Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: September 9, 2016

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1 Data used in this report for the CER and CCMA is 3-month-moving-average, not seasonally adjusted.

2 In addition to the official unemployment rate, Statistics Canada also provides supplementary unemployment measures which shed further light on the degree of labour market slack and the extent of hardship associated with joblessness.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics.