

Labour Market Review

Ivy Zhang, Senior Corporate Economist | Jorjeta Bojanova, Corporate Research Analyst

September 9, 2016

Highlights: August's Labour Force Survey¹ for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA) shows the following:

- On a month-over-month basis, the total employment in the CER increased by (+2,300) persons, with gains in full-time (+3,400) positions offset by losses in part-time (-1,100). Year-over-year, the region's total employment declined by 21,400 persons, mainly in the Health Care and Social Assistance (-13,800), Forestry, Mining Oil and Gas (-6,700) and Transportation and Warehousing (-6,700) industries.
- The unemployment rate was 9.3 per cent in the CER, compared to 8.3 per cent in Edmonton, 8.6 per cent in Alberta, and 7.1 per cent in Canada. The reason behind the jump in unemployment rate in the CER was due to more people joining the labour force than new jobs created at the same time (Table 1).
- The average weekly wage rate in the Calgary CMA increased by 1.1 per cent year-over-year to \$1,137, but the total wage bills for the region decreased by \$23.3 million due to the job cuts in various industries (Table 2).
- The June number of people receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits in the Calgary CMA increased by 45 per cent to 23,900 persons, from 16,490 persons a year ago.

The working age population in Canada has been aging, with the share of youth population (15-19 and 20-24 cohorts) decreasing from 20 per cent in 1989 to 15 per cent as of August 2016. The situation is slightly better in the CER, with a lower than national average share of working age population in the 15-19 cohort but higher in the 20-24 age cohort (Chart 1). The federal and some provincial governments have been using immigration policies to attract skilled young workers from all over the world. However, the CER has to compete with the rest of Canada for its needed new work force, which is difficult in the current economic downturn.

Labour force participation rates for the youth (aged 15-24) are typically lower than those of the prime working age population (aged 25-65), as many of the youth attend full-time or part-time studies. The CER has seen higher than the national average participation rates in youth groups over the years, thanks to its favorable labour market conditions. Nevertheless, over the past decades participation rates for the youth across Canada have been decreasing steadily, this might be partially explained by the fact that higher degrees and longer study times are increasingly needed in a job market transitioning from industrial to a knowledge economy (Chart 2).

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

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Description	Aug-16	Jul-16	Aug-15	Annual Change	Alberta	Description	Aug-16	Jul-16	Aug-15	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,291.9	1,290.3	1,269.2	22.7		Working Age Population ('000)	3,402.4	3,399.4	3,359.8	42.6
Labour Force ('000)	955.9	948.3	954.5	1.4	Labour Force ('000)	2,485.9	2,478.3	2,482.7	3.2		
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.0	73.5	75.2	(1.2)	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.1	72.9	73.9	(0.8)		
Employment ('000)	867.1	864.8	888.5	(21.4)	Employment ('000)	2,271.3	2,272.0	2,329.7	(58.4)		
Employment Rate (%)	67.1	67.0	70.0	(2.9)	Employment Rate (%)	66.8	66.8	69.3	(2.5)		
Unemployment ('000)	88.8	83.5	66.0	22.8	Unemployment ('000)	214.6	206.3	153.1	61.5		
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.3	8.8	6.9	2.4	Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	8.3	6.2	2.4		

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, September, 2016

Chart 1. Working Age Population by Age Group: CER vs. Canada
(12 month moving average, per cent, January 1989 - July 2016)

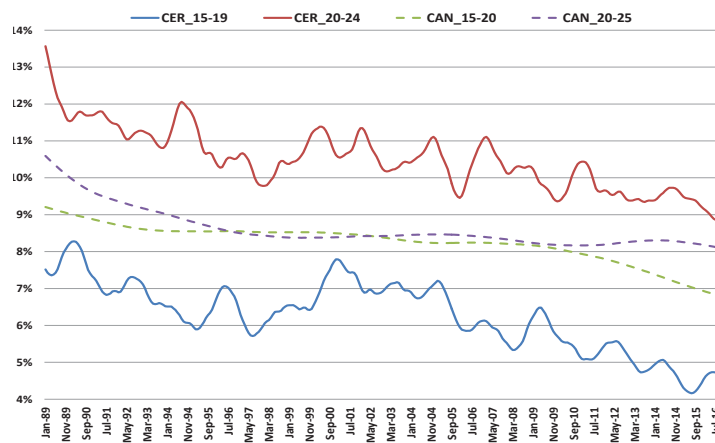
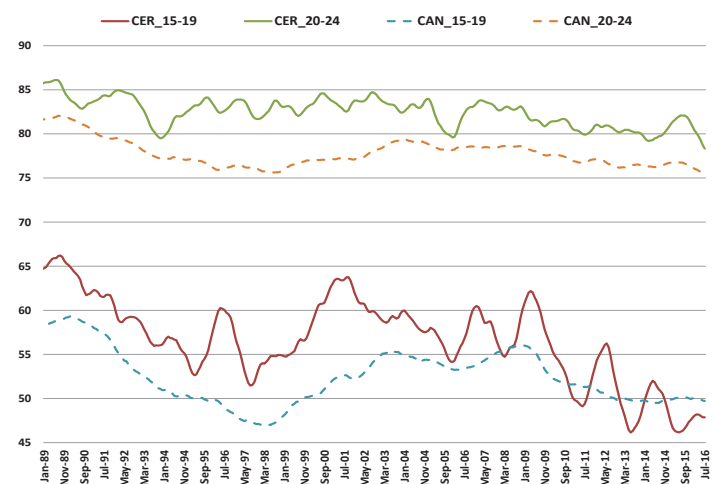


Chart 2. Labour Force Participation Rate by Age Group: CER vs. Canada

(12-month moving average, January 1989 - July 2016, per cent)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, September, 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)		
	Aug, 2016	Aug, 2015	Change (y/y)	Aug, 2016	Aug, 2015	Change (y/y)	Aug, 2016	Aug, 2015	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	48	55	(7)	1,891	1,820	72	91.2	100.8	(9.6)
Utilities	10	12	(1)	1,831	1,749	82	19.0	20.1	(1.1)
Construction	55	56	(2)	1,317	1,294	23	71.8	72.5	(0.7)
Manufacturing	39	42	(3)	1,103	1,084	20	43.4	45.7	(2.4)
Wholesale Trade	24	25	(1)	1,336	1,288	48	32.3	31.9	0.4
Retail Trade	87	85	2	745	708	37	64.6	60.1	4.5
Transportation and Warehousing	44	50	(6)	1,038	1,233	(195)	45.6	61.8	(16.2)
Information and Cultural Industries	10	13	(3)	1,308	958	350	13.6	12.6	1.0
Finance and Insurance	26	26	(0)	1,158	1,306	(148)	30.3	34.3	(4.0)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	9	13	(3)	1,308	914	394	11.9	11.4	0.5
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	59	62	(3)	1,547	1,588	(42)	91.4	98.0	(6.6)
Administrative and Support	23	23	(1)	914	710	204	20.6	16.5	4.1
Educational Services	49	38	11	1,280	1,128	152	62.7	43.1	19.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	76	87	(12)	1,098	1,023	75	82.9	89.4	(6.5)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	19	19	(0)	664	762	(98)	12.3	14.3	(2.0)
Accommodation and Food Services	51	50	1	481	553	(72)	24.6	27.9	(3.2)
Other Services(except Public Admin)	31	32	(1)	823	917	(94)	25.5	29.0	(3.5)
Public Administration	20	22	(2)	1,507	1,340	167	30.3	29.5	0.8
All Industries	682	711	(28)	1,137	1,125	12	776.0	799.3	(23.3)

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, September 2016

Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: October 7, 2016

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For more information, please contact:

Ivy Zhang

Senior Corporate Economist

403.268.2005

ivy.zhang@calgary.ca

Patrick Walters

City Economist

403.268.1335

patrick.walters@calgary.ca

Jorjeta Bojanova

Corporate Research Analyst

403-268-5556

jorjeta.bojanova@calgary.ca

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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.