

Labour Market Review

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November 4, 2016

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

- Month-over-month, total employment in the CER decreased slightly (-1,300), with gains in part-time (+10,200) offset by losses in full-time (-11,600). Year-over-year, total employment declined by 9,900 positions, both in goods-producing sector (-4,100) and service-producing sector (-5,800). The unemployment rate in the CER was 10 per cent, the highest among major economic regions (Table 1).
- The average weekly wage rate in the Calgary CMA edged down by 0.1 per cent year-over-year to \$1,126, and the total wage bills for the region decreased by \$8 millions (Table 2).
- In August, the number of employment insurance (EI) recipients in the Calgary CMA was 28,640 persons, up by 65 per cent from a year ago but down by 15 per cent from a month ago. The jump in July EI numbers was due to the one time effect of Ottawa easing EI rules.

The recent mixed signals from the Calgary's labour market show both the depth of the current recession and signs that the worst might be over. Months after being laid off from their previous long-term jobs, some professionals are running out of EI benefits and therefore actively looking for work, while others gained employment outside of their professions or started their own businesses and became self-employed.

In the past four decades, Alberta experienced the fastest growth in total employment in Canada (Chart 1), and a fair share of the growth came from self-employment (Chart 2). Over the years, whether in good or bad times, Alberta has had one of the highest self-employment ratios among provinces. In October 2016, the self-employment ratio in Alberta was 16 per cent, compared to 18 per cent in BC and 15 per cent in Canada.

The current economic environment in the CER is favourable to entrepreneurs. Fast job growth in four decades has created substantial wealth and built knowledge and skills in the region. With relatively low cost housing and office space among major economic centres and healthy customer bases, Calgary should benefit from laid-off professionals bringing their knowledge and skills to new businesses and industries.

Chart 1 Total Employment Growth by Province
(Oct. 1978-Oct.2016; Index: December 1976=100, 12-month moving average)

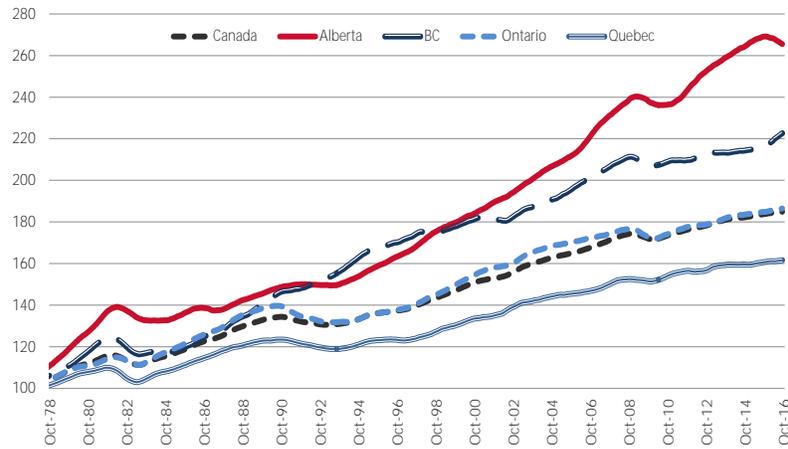
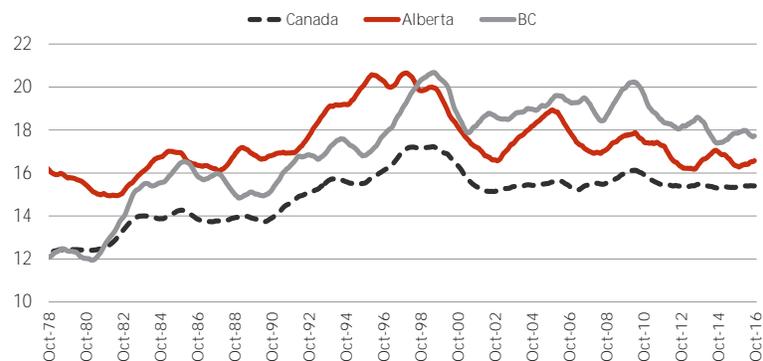


Chart 2 Ratio of Self-employment to Total Employment
(October 1978-October 2016; per cent, 12-month moving average)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, November, 2016

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

Description	Oct-16	Sep-16	Oct-15	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	1,294.5	1,293.4	1,274.0	20.5
Labour Force ('000)	961.8	960.4	939.0	22.8
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.3	74.3	73.7	0.6
Employment ('000)	866.1	867.4	876.0	(9.9)
Employment Rate (%)	66.9	67.1	68.8	(1.9)
Unemployment ('000)	95.7	92.9	62.9	32.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.0	9.7	6.7	3.3

Table 2 on next page →

Description	Oct-16	Sep-16	Oct-15	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	3,406.8	3,405.1	3,369.4	37.4
Labour Force ('000)	2,477.3	2,485.4	2,471.2	6.1
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.7	73.0	73.3	(0.6)
Employment ('000)	2,277.9	2,272.6	2,318.4	(40.5)
Employment Rate (%)	66.9	66.7	68.8	(1.9)
Unemployment ('000)	199.3	212.8	152.8	46.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	8.6	6.2	1.8

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, November, 2016

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Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employment ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Oct-16	Oct-15	Change (y/y)	Oct-16	Oct-15	Change (y/y)	Oct-16	Oct-15	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	51.4	51.9	(0.5)	1,843.7	1,842.9	0.8	94.8	95.6	(0.9)
Utilities	9.6	10.3	(0.7)	1,619.9	2,045.8	(425.9)	15.6	21.1	(5.5)
Construction	50.5	56.6	(6.1)	1,313.4	1,341.5	(28.1)	66.3	75.9	(9.6)
Manufacturing	38.6	39.7	(1.1)	1,104.4	1,035.2	69.2	42.6	41.1	1.5
Wholesale Trade	26.8	24.2	2.6	1,229.0	1,302.9	(73.9)	32.9	31.5	1.4
Retail Trade	84.9	80.9	4.0	726.8	638.4	88.4	61.7	51.6	10.1
Transportation and Warehousing	45.0	47.9	(2.9)	1,078.8	1,224.4	(145.6)	48.5	58.6	(10.1)
Information and Cultural Industries	10.5	12.1	(1.6)	1,242.0	952.3	289.7	13.0	11.5	1.5
Finance and Insurance	23.9	29.0	(5.1)	1,272.7	1,255.7	17.0	30.4	36.4	(6.0)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	8.8	11.9	(3.1)	1,308.9	1,032.1	276.8	11.5	12.3	(0.8)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	59.0	58.5	0.5	1,535.5	1,577.4	(41.8)	90.6	92.3	(1.7)
Administrative and Support	22.7	22.6	0.1	927.0	804.4	122.6	21.0	18.2	2.9
Educational Services	50.2	41.9	8.3	1,220.3	1,102.9	117.4	61.3	46.2	15.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	77.1	82.2	(5.1)	1,097.4	1,051.5	45.9	84.6	86.4	(1.8)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	16.1	18.2	(2.1)	596.8	744.1	(147.3)	9.6	13.5	(3.9)
Accommodation and Food Services	51.5	50.1	1.4	482.2	522.6	(40.4)	24.8	26.2	(1.4)
Other Services(except Public Admin)	32.0	26.4	5.6	798.0	950.1	(152.1)	25.5	25.1	0.5
Public Administration	18.4	20.0	(1.6)	1,515.2	1,426.1	89.0	27.9	28.5	(0.6)
All Industries	679.4	685.7	(6.3)	1,126.5	1,127.8	(1.3)	765.3	773.3	(8.0)

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

Next update: December 2, 2016

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* Data used in this report for the CER and Calgary CMA is 3-month moving average, not seasonally adjusted

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics