

Labour Market Review

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January 6, 2017

Year end review: In 2016, the Calgary Economic Region (CER) lost 18,300 jobs in total, all of them in full-time positions (-29,500). The annual average unemployment rate jumped to 9.0 per cent, from 6.1 per cent a year ago. The industries that experienced the most job losses were Transportation and Warehousing (-10,600), Health Care and Social Assistance (-7,700), and Manufacturing (-5,100). Whereas the industries that recorded most job gains were Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (+8,600), Educational Services (+5,600), and Construction (+4,100). Due to the job losses, total employment income in the region declined first time in fifteen years by \$810 million in 2016.

This month's highlights: The December 2016 Labour Force Survey¹ for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA) shows the following:

- Month-over-month, total employment in the CER increased by 4,600, both in full-time (+3,600) and part-time (+1,000) positions. Year-over-year, total employment increased by 15,800, mainly in part-time (+13,000) positions. The unemployment rate in the CER was 9.6 per cent, compared to 8.1 per cent in Alberta and 6.4 per cent in Canada.
- Year-over-year, the average weekly wage rate in the Calgary CMA was \$1,134, up by 1.2 per cent; the total wage bills for the region increased by \$25 millions.
- In October, the number of employment insurance (EI) recipients in the CMA was 30,900 persons, up by 57 per cent from a year ago.

2016 was the second year that economic activity contracted in Calgary. With the highest unemployment rate among major economic regions in Canada, the local labour market lost its attraction for job seekers from outside of Calgary. As a result, net in-migration slowed and turned to negative and the growth of working age population decelerated (Chart 1).

Nevertheless, Calgary remains one of the richest places in Canada. With an annual average weekly earning of \$1,139 and more than 674,000 people employed in the CCMA, Calgarians took home \$40 billion alone from workplace in 2016 (Chart 2).

Chart 1 CER Labour Market Changes

(Year-over-year, thousands of persons)

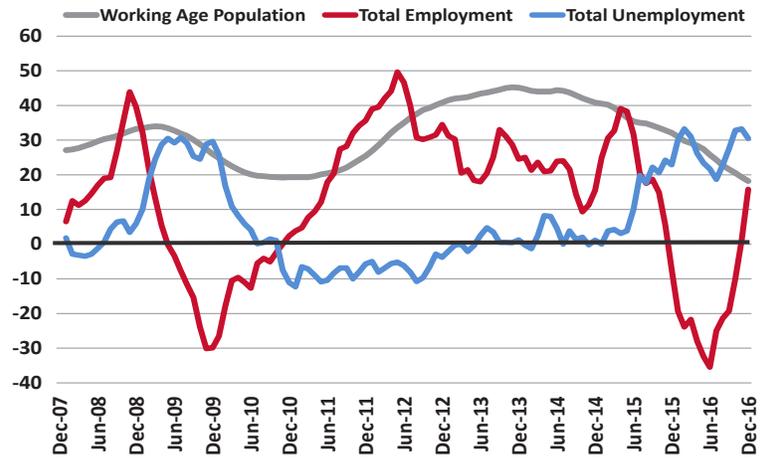
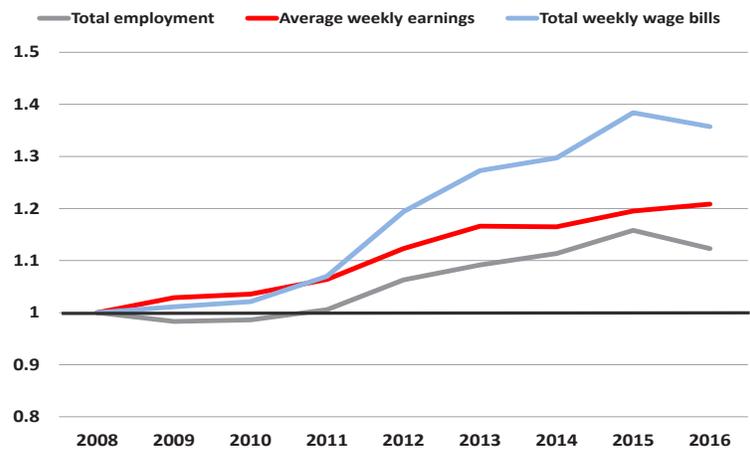


Chart 2 Calgary CMA: Employment and Earnings Growth

(Index 2008 = 1)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, January 2017

Table 1 Labour Force Statistics

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month moving average)

Description	Dec-16	Nov-16	Dec-15	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	1,296.1	1,295.4	1,277.9	18.2
Labour Force ('000)	966.3	963.6	920.1	46.2
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.6	74.4	72.0	2.6
Employment ('000)	873.1	868.5	857.3	15.8
Employment Rate (%)	67.4	67.0	67.1	0.3
Unemployment ('000)	93.2	95.0	62.7	30.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.6	9.9	6.8	2.8

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Description	Dec-16	Nov-16	Dec-15	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	3,408.7	3,407.9	3,376.5	32.2
Labour Force ('000)	2,463.8	2,467.7	2,444.9	18.9
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.3	72.4	72.4	(0.1)
Employment ('000)	2,264.9	2,274.2	2,288.2	(23.3)
Employment Rate (%)	66.4	66.7	67.8	(1.4)
Unemployment ('000)	198.9	193.6	156.7	42.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.1	7.8	6.4	1.7

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, January 2017



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Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employment ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Dec-16	Dec-15	Change (y/y)	Dec-16	Dec-15	Change (y/y)	Dec-16	Dec-15	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	49.1	47.6	1.5	1,912.1	1,829.3	82.8	93.9	87.1	6.8
Utilities	9.1	8.9	0.2	1,697.5	1,989.6	(292.1)	15.4	17.7	(2.3)
Construction	45.3	54.5	(9.2)	1,262.4	1,314.8	(52.5)	57.2	71.7	(14.5)
Manufacturing	40.8	38.5	2.3	1,124.3	1,083.9	40.4	45.9	41.7	4.1
Wholesale Trade	25.8	24.6	1.2	1,281.6	1,300.5	(18.9)	33.1	32.0	1.1
Retail Trade	87.1	77.8	9.3	662.3	639.4	22.9	57.7	49.7	7.9
Transportation and Warehousing	47.1	43.8	3.3	1,256.1	1,098.6	157.5	59.2	48.1	11.0
Information and Cultural Industries	11.1	12.8	(1.7)	1,306.6	944.6	362.0	14.5	12.1	2.4
Finance and Insurance	21.3	25.9	(4.6)	1,326.5	1,340.0	(13.5)	28.3	34.7	(6.5)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	9.5	11.2	(1.7)	1,184.1	1,257.0	(72.9)	11.2	14.1	(2.8)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	66.1	60.1	6.0	1,522.2	1,648.9	(126.7)	100.6	99.1	1.5
Administrative and Support	21.7	19.9	1.8	952.8	854.4	98.5	20.7	17.0	3.7
Educational Services	48.1	47.9	0.2	1,189.4	1,067.5	121.9	57.2	51.1	6.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	77.8	78.9	(1.1)	1,059.0	1,033.5	25.5	82.4	81.5	0.8
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	16.0	18.1	(2.1)	560.0	663.0	(103.0)	9.0	12.0	(3.0)
Accommodation and Food Services	47.7	48.1	(0.4)	498.5	472.3	26.2	23.8	22.7	1.1
Other Services(except Public Admin)	35.5	24.2	11.3	795.5	908.5	(113.0)	28.2	22.0	6.3
Public Administration	21.0	22.7	(1.7)	1,574.3	1,403.4	170.9	33.1	31.9	1.2
All Industries	682.1	667.6	14.5	1,134.0	1,121.0	13.1	773.5	748.3	25.2

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, January 2017

Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: February 10, 2017

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

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics