



## Labour Market Conditions Drive Net Migration

**Highlights:** Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey<sup>1</sup> in July shows the following:

- Total employment in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) increased by 8,400 from a month ago, and by 35,900 from a year ago. The region's July unemployment rate was 8.3 per cent, compared to 7.8 per cent in Alberta and 6.4 per cent in Canada.

- Year-over-year, there were 33,200 new jobs created in full-time positions and 2,800 in part-time. By age cohort; 1,500 new jobs went to 15 to 24 year olds, 26,200 to 25 to 54 year olds, and 9,000 to 55 and older.

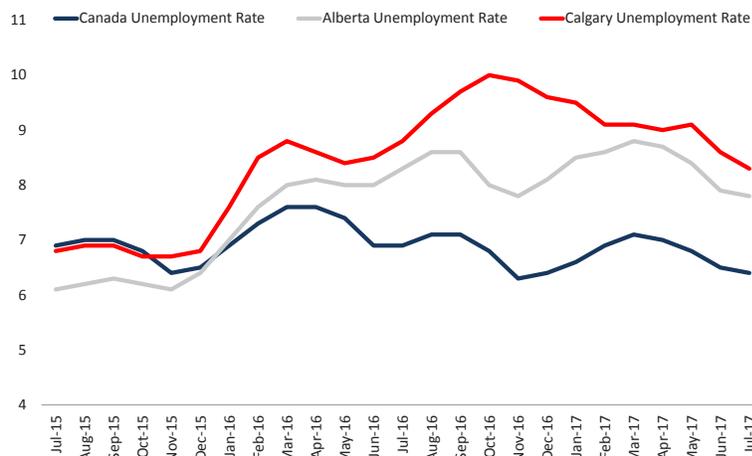
- The average weekly wage rate in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was \$1,134, down \$12.5 or 1 per cent from a year ago; the total weekly wage bill for the CMA increased by \$25 million year-over-year.

- In May 2017 there were 25,090 Employment Insurance (EI) recipients in the CMA, down by 1.5 per cent compared to May 2016.

The recently released 2017 Calgary Civic Census Results recorded a net-migration of 974 persons to the city this census year, compared to the net outflow of 6,527 people last year. After a deep oil market driven recession and two years of reduced employment, the CER has now recovered all the jobs lost since July 2015. However, Calgary has grown since then as well so it will be some time before the unemployment rate returns to normal levels of around 5 per cent. The unemployment rate in the region is lower than it was in July 2016, but is currently higher than both that of Alberta and in Canada (Chart 1).

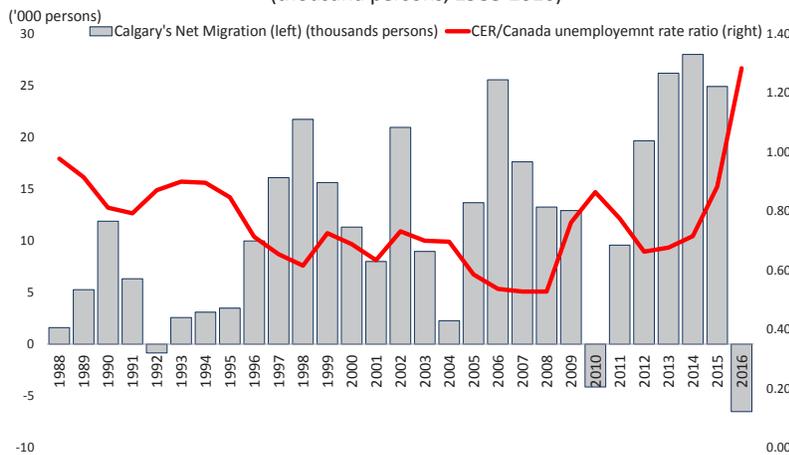
People move for jobs between regions and provinces, especially those in their prime work age (aged 25-54). When a region's unemployment rate is higher than another province or region, it means finding a job is relatively more difficult in that region than somewhere else. Consequently, more people tend to migrate away than migrate in. That was what happened in Calgary last year (Chart 2). However, with the unemployment rates of the CER, Alberta and Canada converging, Calgary should see more people come from other regions or provinces than leave to those places in the next few years.

**Chart 1 Unemployment Rate: Calgary, Alberta, Canada**  
(per cent, July 2015 - July 2017)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics | Author: Corporate Economics

**Chart 2 Calgary's Net Migration vs. CER-to-Canada Relative Unemployment Rate Ratio**  
(thousand persons, 1988-2016)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics | Author: Corporate Economics

**Table 1 Labour Force Statistics**

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month moving average)

Description	Jul-17	Jun-17	Jul-16	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	1,307.6	1,305.8	1,290.3	17.3
Labour Force ('000)	982.6	975.8	948.3	40.7
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	75.1	74.7	73.5	2.1
Employment ('000)	900.7	892.3	864.8	36.7
Employment Rate (%)	68.9	68.3	67.0	1.9
Unemployment ('000)	81.9	83.6	83.5	(1.6)
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.3	8.6	8.8	(0.5)

**Table 2 on next page**

Description	Jul-17	Jun-17	Jul-16	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	3,428.4	3,425.1	3,399.4	29.0
Labour Force ('000)	2,506.6	2,496.0	2,478.3	28.3
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.1	72.9	72.9	0.2
Employment ('000)	2,310.9	2,299.1	2,272.0	38.9
Employment Rate (%)	67.4	67.1	66.8	0.6
Unemployment ('000)	195.7	197.0	206.3	(10.6)
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	7.9	8.3	(0.5)



**Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry**

Industry	Total employed* ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Jul-17	Jul-16	Change (y/y)	Jul-17	Jul-16	Change (y/y)	Jul-17	Jul-16	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	40.5	46.8	(6.3)	2,100.4	2,002.7	97.7	85.1	93.7	(8.7)
Utilities	7.4	8.8	(1.4)	2,135.3	1,880.9	254.5	15.8	16.6	(0.8)
Construction	53.9	56.1	(2.2)	1,209.2	1,350.8	(141.6)	65.2	75.8	(10.6)
Manufacturing	37.6	37.9	(0.3)	1,345.1	1,124.8	220.3	50.6	42.6	7.9
Wholesale Trade	37.7	23.0	14.7	1,276.1	1,370.9	(94.8)	48.1	31.5	16.6
Retail Trade	82.0	86.4	(4.4)	747.1	730.8	16.4	61.3	63.1	(1.9)
Transportation and Warehousing	46.9	42.2	4.7	1,169.0	1,059.4	109.6	54.8	44.7	10.1
Information and Cultural Industries	9.7	10.7	(1.0)	868.5	1,265.5	(396.9)	8.4	13.5	(5.1)
Finance and Insurance	27.6	27.1	0.5	1,229.1	1,134.4	94.6	33.9	30.7	3.2
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	11.3	7.0	4.3	1,096.4	1,281.3	(184.9)	12.4	9.0	3.4
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	55.1	61.2	(6.1)	1,399.6	1,540.9	(141.4)	77.1	94.3	(17.2)
Administrative and Support	24.4	23.5	0.9	877.8	872.2	5.6	21.4	20.5	0.9
Educational Services	46.6	50.5	(3.9)	1,231.4	1,281.5	(50.1)	57.4	64.7	(7.3)
Health Care and Social Assistance	84.8	75.6	9.2	1,105.8	1,071.1	34.7	93.8	81.0	12.8
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	23.0	19.3	3.7	641.7	646.4	(4.8)	14.8	12.5	2.3
Accommodation and Food Services	61.8	47.9	13.9	534.7	474.7	60.0	33.0	22.7	10.3
Other Services(except Public Admin)	24.4	29.5	(5.1)	782.1	842.4	(60.3)	19.1	24.9	(5.8)
Public Administration	30.1	21.6	8.5	1,585.0	1,532.6	52.4	47.7	33.1	14.6
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>706.3</b>	<b>676.8</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>1,134.5</b>	<b>1,147.0</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>801.3</b>	<b>776.3</b>	<b>25.0</b>

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, August 4, 2017

\* Excluding self-employed

Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: September 8, 2017

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<sup>1</sup> Data used in this report for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA) is 3-month moving average, not seasonally adjusted.