

Labour Market Review

Patrick Walters, City Economist | Estella Scruggs, Corporate Research Analyst

September 6, 2013

Is rising part-time employment the new norm?

Total employment increased in Canada in August 2013:

- Total employment increased in Calgary (+3,300), Alberta (+15,200), and Canada (+59,200).
- In Canada, the job increases were in the private sector (+30,900) and public sector (+9,000). Job increases in Canada were concentrated in part-time employment (+41,800).
- In Alberta, the unemployment rate increase to 4.8 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent, as a result of the labour force (+22,300) growing faster than employment (+15,200). Industries experiencing the largest job increases were health care and social assistance (+10,300) and forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (+6,600).

According to the unadjusted 3-month-moving-average data, the following were the year-over-year changes in the CER in August 2013:

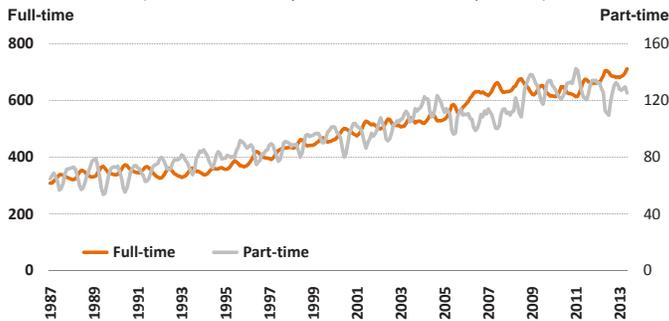
- Total employment increased by 26,500. Job creations were mainly in health care and social assistance (+18,600), professional, scientific and technical services (+14,100), and construction (+10,400) industries. Job losses were mostly in manufacturing (-11,600) and forecast, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-9,800) industries.

- The unemployment rate was 5.1 per cent, up from 4.8 per cent a year ago.
- The average hourly wage rate was \$28.65, increased by 3.2 per cent from \$27.75 in August 2012.
- There were 9,440 people in the Calgary Metropolitan Area (CMA) receiving regular employment insurance benefits in June down slightly from 9,120 a year ago.

Is rising part-time employment the new norm? Part-time employment in Calgary has risen steadily over the 1987 to 2013 period with some fluctuation. However in the same time period, full-time employment has also shown the same trend. This pattern of growth is understandable; Calgary's economy has expanded over time and consequently the need for workers has grown correspondingly. A more useful question would be to look at whether part-time employment has risen as a share of total employment. The analysis showed that part-time employment as a share of total employment has trended downward over the 1987 – 2013 period; rising and falling with the unemployment rate. Employers and job seekers choose part-time employment when job opportunities are scarce but prefer full-time work when the situation is reversed.

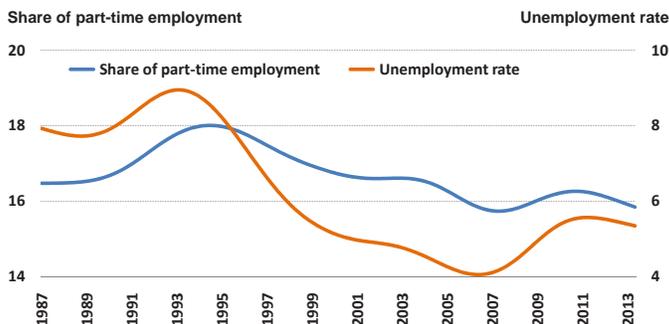
Next update: October 11, 2013

Chart 1. CER full-time and part-time employment
(March 1987 - July 2013, thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, August 2013

Chart 2. CER share of part-time employment and unemployment rate
(March 1987 - July 2013, per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, August 2013

Labour Force Statistics

Economic Regions (Seasonally Adjusted 3-Month-Moving-Average)

	Description	Aug-13	Jul-13	Aug-12	Annual Change
Calgary	Working Age Population ('000)	1,182.2	1,177.7	1,138.8	43.4
	Labour Force ('000)	872.5	870.5	842.7	29.8
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.4	74.3	74.5	(0.1)
	Employment ('000)	828.8	825.5	802.7	26.1
	Employment Rate (%)	70.1	70.1	70.5	(0.4)
	Unemployment ('000)	44.0	44.2	40.3	3.7
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0	5.2	4.7	0.3
Edmonton	Working Age Population ('000)	1,066.6	1,062.8	1,027.1	39.5
	Labour Force ('000)	782.4	773.0	749.9	32.5
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.5	72.8	73.2	0.3
	Employment ('000)	741.8	736.1	717.5	24.3
	Employment Rate (%)	69.6	69.4	69.9	(0.3)
	Unemployment ('000)	40.7	37.3	32.2	8.5
	Unemployment Rate (%)	5.1	4.8	4.2	0.9
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,177.3	3,167.1	3,071.7	105.6
	Labour Force ('000)	2,324.8	2,315.9	2,246.9	77.9
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.2	73.1	73.2	(0.0)
	Employment ('000)	2,205.8	2,201.3	2,139.1	66.8
	Employment Rate (%)	69.5	69.5	69.7	(0.2)
	Unemployment ('000)	112.8	111.6	102.0	10.9
	Unemployment Rate (%)	4.8	4.8	4.5	0.3

Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted by Corporate Economics, August 2013

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Who We Are

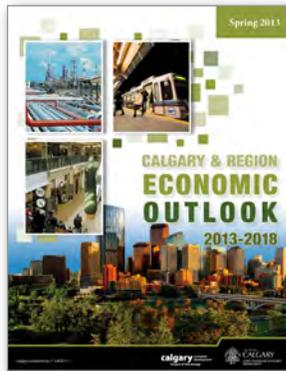
Corporate Economics provides services in four areas: forecasting, information provision, policy analysis and consulting. We also monitor the current economic trends which allows us to develop unique insights on how external events are impacting the local economy and the Municipal government. We are experienced at researching different economic topics and developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis.

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Corporate Research Analyst: Estella Scruggs

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Source: Statistics Canada and Corporate Economics

