



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

- In the Calgary Economic Region (CER), total employment increased by 5,000 from the previous month, and by 19,800 from a year ago. The region's unemployment rate was 7.5 per cent, compared to 6.8 per cent in Alberta and 5.7 per cent across Canada.

- From January 2017 to January 2018, new full-time jobs (+27,600) were partially offset by the losses in part-time positions (-8,000). The new jobs were mainly added in the goods-producing sector (+19,900), including the Construction (+9,900) and Agriculture (+8,000) industries. In the mean time, job losses were concentrated in the service-producing sector, in Other Services (-15,800), Health care and social assistance (-9,300) and Professional, scientific and technical services (-9,200).

- In the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA), the average weekly wage rate in January 2018 was \$1,156, up by \$22 or 2 per cent from a year ago; the total weekly wage bill for the CCMA was \$808 million, up by \$35 million year-over-year.

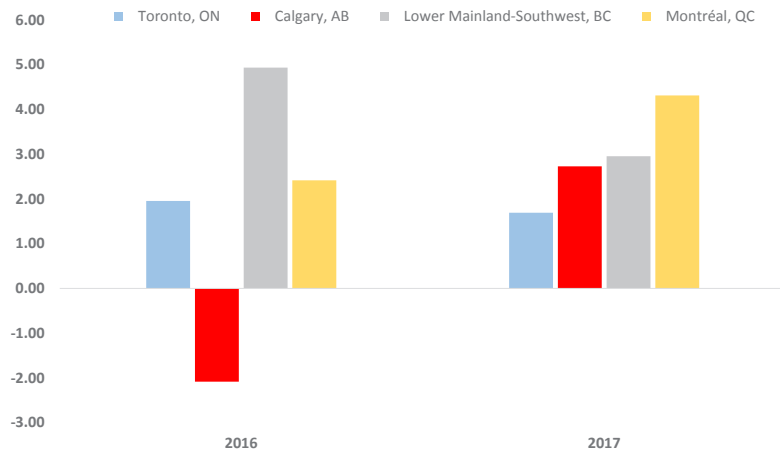
- In November 2017, there were 21,150 employment insurance (EI) recipients in the CCMA, down by 35 per cent from a year ago.

A new business cycle has started in the CER, with the region's annual average total employment reaching a new high of 884,000 persons in 2017. However, compared to the last business cycle that started after the 2008-2009 recession, the current expansion was slower: the absorption of unemployment was slower and the unemployment rate higher ([see Special Report #3: 2017 CER Labour Market Review](#)).

This was also shown when comparing the CER with other major economic regions in the past two years. Total employment growth in the CER returned to positive from -2.1 per cent in 2016 to 2.7 per cent in 2017, following the lead of Montreal and Lower Mainland-Southwest economic regions (Chart 1). However, the region's unemployment rate in 2017 was still at record high, after a modest decline from its peak in 2016. In 2017, for the first time on record, unemployment rate in the CER was the highest among the four largest economic regions in Canada (Chart 2).

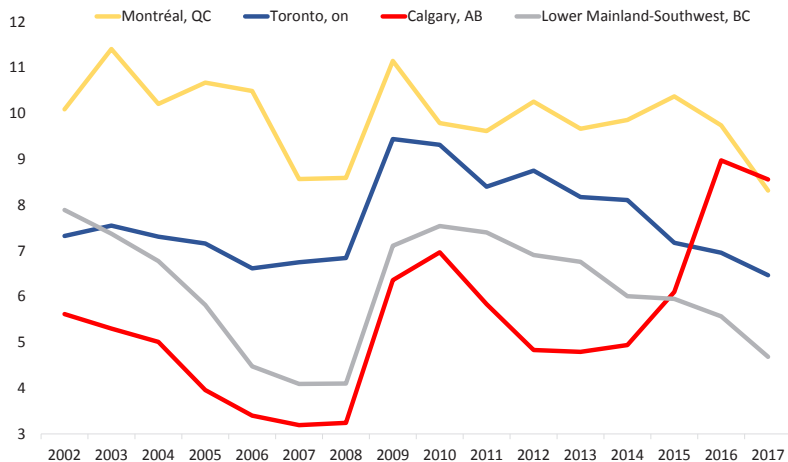
Increased volatilities at the beginning of new year presented new challenges to all regions in Canada. For example, the Ontario market just saw 59,300 part-time job losses from December 2017 to January 2018, as the result of the new minimum wage rules. As the demand for oil grew slower and the U.S. moved from our energy market customer to competitor, the current challenge to Calgary is to navigate through the new market realities and find new sustainable growth engines.

**Chart 1 Annual Total Employment Growth by Largest Economic Regions (year-over-year per cent change)**



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

**Chart 2 Unemployment Rate Comparison by Largest Economic Regions (percentage)**



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

**Table 1 Labour Force Statistics**

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month moving average)

Description	Jan-18	Dec17	Jan-17	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	1,316.9	1,315.2	1,297.1	19.8
Labour Force ('000)	963.4	955.7	963.5	(0.1)
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.2	72.7	74.3	(1.1)
Employment ('000)	891.6	886.6	871.8	19.8
Employment Rate (%)	67.7	67.4	67.2	0.5
Unemployment ('000)	71.9	69.1	91.7	(19.8)
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	7.2	9.5	(2.0)

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION

ALBERTA

**Table 2 on next page**

Description	Jan-18	Dec17	Jan-17	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	3,444.1	3,441.4	3,409.8	34.3
Labour Force ('000)	2,464.0	2,464.5	2,461.5	2.5
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	71.5	71.6	72.2	(0.7)
Employment ('000)	2,295.4	2,299.4	2,251.5	43.9
Employment Rate (%)	66.6	66.8	66.0	0.6
Unemployment ('000)	168.6	165.1	210.1	(41.5)
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.8	6.7	8.5	(1.7)



**Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry**

Industry	Total employed* ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Jan-18	Jan-17	Change (y/y)	Jan-18	Jan-17	Change (y/y)	Jan-18	Jan-17	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	46.7	46.2	0.5	1,910.2	1,963.1	(52.8)	89.2	90.7	(1.5)
Utilities	10.6	9.3	1.3	1,783.9	1,808.5	(24.7)	18.9	16.8	2.1
Construction	57.7	42.4	15.3	1,425.3	1,277.1	148.1	82.2	54.1	28.1
Manufacturing	38.0	39.3	(1.3)	1,099.8	1,150.2	(50.4)	41.8	45.2	(3.4)
Wholesale Trade	32.6	26.4	6.2	1,251.9	1,340.3	(88.4)	40.8	35.4	5.4
Retail Trade	82.6	86.4	(3.8)	701.5	635.9	65.7	57.9	54.9	3.0
Transportation and Warehousing	48.7	48.1	0.6	1,162.5	1,324.3	(161.8)	56.6	63.7	(7.1)
Information and Cultural Industries	13.4	11.5	1.9	968.8	1,249.6	(280.8)	13.0	14.4	(1.4)
Finance and Insurance	23.0	20.0	3.0	1,255.5	1,291.7	(36.2)	28.9	25.8	3.0
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	8.2	10.4	(2.2)	1,069.2	1,112.4	(43.3)	8.8	11.6	(2.8)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	52.5	66.3	(13.8)	1,498.4	1,483.5	14.9	78.7	98.4	(19.7)
Administrative and Support	22.1	20.1	2.0	773.0	978.1	(205.2)	17.1	19.7	(2.6)
Educational Services	51.5	48.1	3.4	1,309.7	1,160.9	148.8	67.4	55.8	11.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	77.1	81.8	(4.7)	1,122.0	1,048.7	73.3	86.5	85.8	0.7
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	16.2	16.9	(0.7)	579.4	576.7	2.7	9.4	9.7	(0.4)
Accommodation and Food Services	57.5	48.0	9.5	539.1	501.4	37.6	31.0	24.1	6.9
Other Services(except Public Admin)	25.9	36.2	(10.3)	970.1	783.0	187.1	25.1	28.3	(3.2)
Public Administration	32.5	23.6	8.9	1,587.4	1,588.6	(1.1)	51.6	37.5	14.1
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>699.2</b>	<b>682.3</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>1,155.9</b>	<b>1,133.8</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>808.2</b>	<b>773.6</b>	<b>34.6</b>

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, February 9, 2018

\* Excluding self-employed

Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: March 9, 2018

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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.