

# Labour Market Review

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October 7, 2016

**Highlights:** September's Labour Force Survey<sup>1</sup> for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA)<sup>1</sup> shows the following:

- Month-over-month, total employment in the CER was little changed (+300), with gains in part-time positions (+4,700) offset by losses in full-time (-4,300). Year-over-year, total employment declined by 19,300 positions, with job losses in full-time (-36,600) partially offset by gains in part-time (+17,400) (Charts 1-2). The goods-producing sector lost more jobs (-10,600) than the service-producing sector (-8,700).
- The unemployment rate in the CER was tabulated at 9.7 per cent, compared to 8.0 per cent in Edmonton, 8.6 per cent in Alberta, and 7.1 per cent in Canada (Table 1).
- The average weekly wage rate in the Calgary CMA increased by 0.5 per cent year-over-year to \$1,135, but the total wage bills for the region decreased by \$14.8 million due to the job cuts (-16,400) in various industries (Table 2).
- In July the number of employment insurance (EI) recipients in the Calgary CMA increased by 96 per cent to 33,210 persons from a year ago. The jump in the EI numbers was not consistent with the decelerating job cuts; rather it may be due to individuals who have exhausted their severance packages now beginning to collect EI benefits.

The labour market in Calgary grew substantially during the recent commodity super-boom; most of the growth in the service industries. Over the past fifteen years, total employment in the region grew by 41 per cent, from 613,900 in September 2001 to 867,400 in September 2016. Eighty-two per cent (or 207,000) of the new positions were in the service-producing sector (Chart 1). Accommodating large inflows of migrants and travelers, people-service industries like health care and social assistance (+46,800) and accommodation and food services (+22,400) grew significantly. Meanwhile, manufacturing shrank by 22 per cent or 12,400 positions to the current level of 44,400.

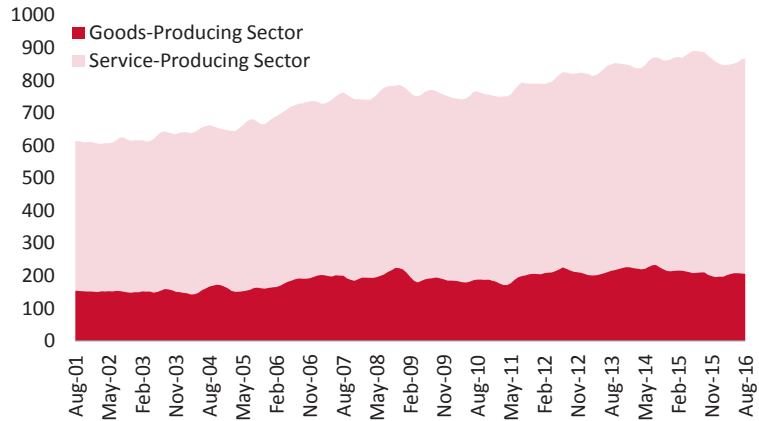
The job quality in the CER was among the highest in Canada, even with the job losses during current recession. From August 2001 to August 2016, 74 per cent of the new jobs were created in full-time positions. In September 2016, 82 per cent of total employment or 711,100 people in Calgary were employed full-time (Chart 2). Among the largest industries hiring more than 40,000 people, the average hourly wage rate ranged from \$21.1 per hour in Retail Trade and \$27.3 per hour in Transportation and Warehousing, to \$40.2 per hour in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and \$45.4 per hour in Mining, Oil and Gas industries.

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

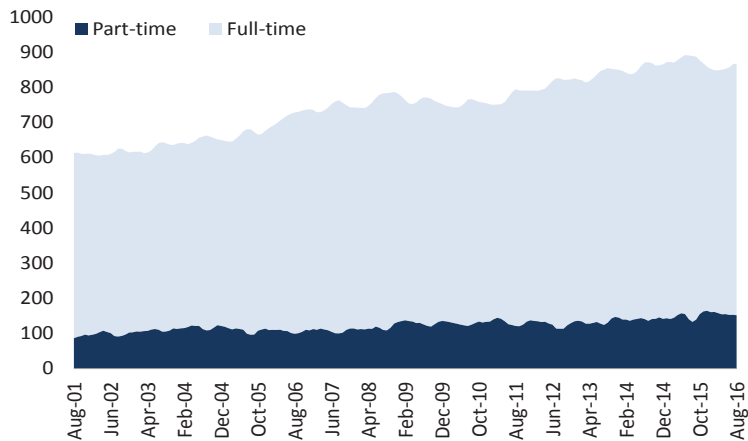
	Description	Sep-16	Aug-16	Sep-15	Annual Change
CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Working Age Population ('000)	1,293.4	1,291.9	1,271.8	21.6
	Labour Force ('000)	960.4	955.9	952.1	8.3
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	74.3	74	74.9	(0.6)
	Employment ('000)	867.4	867.1	886.7	(19.3)
	Employment Rate (%)	67.1	67.1	69.7	(2.6)
	Unemployment ('000)	92.9	88.8	65.4	27.5
	Unemployment Rate (%)	9.7	9.3	6.9	2.8

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, October, 2016

**Chart 1 CER Total Employment by Industry Sector: Goods-producing vs. Service-producing**  
(3-month-moving-average, not seasonally adjusted, thousands)



**Chart 2 CER Total Employment: Full-time vs. Part-time**  
(3-month moving average; not seasonally adjusted; thousands of persons)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, October, 2016

[Table 2 on next page →](#)

	Description	Sep-16	Aug-16	Sep-15	Annual Change
Alberta	Working Age Population ('000)	3,405.1	3,402.4	3,365.1	40.0
	Labour Force ('000)	2,485.4	2,485.9	2,481.7	3.7
	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73	73.1	73.7	(0.7)
	Employment ('000)	2,272.6	2,271.3	2,325.9	(53.3)
	Employment Rate (%)	66.7	66.8	69.1	(2.4)
	Unemployment ('000)	212.8	214.6	155.8	57.0
	Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	8.6	6.3	2.3

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**Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry**

Industry	Total employment ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Sep-16	Sep-15	Change (y/y)	Sep-16	Sep-15	Change (y/y)	Sep-16	Sep-15	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	49.0	54.4	(5.4)	1,867.1	1,809.6	57.5	91.5	98.4	(7.0)
Utilities	10.7	12.0	(1.3)	1,663.7	1,906.9	(243.2)	17.8	22.9	(5.1)
Construction	53.6	56.8	(3.2)	1,318.9	1,308.9	10.0	70.7	74.3	(3.7)
Manufacturing	38.7	42.4	(3.7)	1,105.8	1,051.5	54.3	42.8	44.6	(1.8)
Wholesale Trade	26.7	23.9	2.8	1,287.2	1,291.6	(4.4)	34.4	30.9	3.5
Retail Trade	87.0	84.1	2.9	749.3	665.7	83.6	65.2	56.0	9.2
Transportation and Warehousing	45.1	49.9	(4.8)	1,035.9	1,235.8	(199.9)	46.7	61.7	(14.9)
Information and Cultural Industries	10.7	12.7	(2.0)	1,268.7	947.0	321.7	13.6	12.0	1.5
Finance and Insurance	25.1	28.2	(3.1)	1,202.3	1,279.1	(76.7)	30.2	36.1	(5.9)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	9.8	12.0	(2.2)	1,289.0	966.6	322.4	12.6	11.6	1.0
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	57.2	61.0	(3.8)	1,572.9	1,581.9	(9.0)	90.0	96.5	(6.5)
Administrative and Support	22.5	23.4	(0.9)	925.1	748.1	177.0	20.8	17.5	3.3
Educational Services	48.8	39.5	9.3	1,268.3	1,121.1	147.2	61.9	44.3	17.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	76.9	84.3	(7.4)	1,116.1	1,052.7	63.4	85.8	88.7	(2.9)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	18.3	18.4	(0.1)	668.6	768.3	(99.7)	12.2	14.1	(1.9)
Accommodation and Food Services	52.3	49.2	3.1	477.2	548.4	(71.2)	25.0	27.0	(2.0)
Other Services(except Public Admin)	31.2	28.6	2.6	806.9	952.7	(145.8)	25.2	27.2	(2.1)
Public Administration	19.0	20.4	(1.4)	1,520.6	1,395.9	124.8	28.9	28.5	0.4
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>685.5</b>	<b>701.9</b>	<b>(16.4)</b>	<b>1,135.2</b>	<b>1,129.7</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>778.2</b>	<b>793.0</b>	<b>(14.8)</b>

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

Next update: November 4, 2016

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<sup>1</sup> Data used in this report for the CER and CCMA is 3-month moving average, not seasonally adjusted

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics