



MARCH 2017

Labour Market Review

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April 7, 2017

Highlights: Statistics Canada's March Labour Force Survey¹ shows the following:

- Total employment in the Calgary Economic Region (CER) decreased by 2,500 from a month ago, but increased by 19,800 from a year ago. The unemployment rate in March was 9.1 per cent in the CER, compared to 8.8 per cent in Alberta and 7.1 per cent Canada.
- Year-over-year, net job gains were observed in both part-time (+11,800) and full-time (+8,000) positions. By industry, job gains were concentrated in the Transportation and Warehousing (+15,400), and Other Services (+11,300), while losses were mainly in the Construction (-17,200) and Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas (FFMQOG) (-9,200).
- The average weekly wage rate in the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was \$1,148, up 0.7 per cent from a year ago; the total weekly wage bill for the CMA increased by \$15 millions year over year.
- In January 2017, the number of employment insurance (EI) recipients in the CMA was 31,290 persons, up by 48 per cent from the same time last year.

The latest labour market peak in the CER was reached in June 2015, with a total employment of 891,000 in all industries. Among those employed, 59,300 worked in the FFMQOG industry and 90,500 in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (PSTS) industry. Since then the decline and recovery of the regional economy created a tale of two industries: while the FFMQOG industry continued to struggle with cutbacks and mergers, the PSTS industry kept its impressive level of employment (Charts 1-2).

The shrinking of the FFMQOG employment in the CER is worse than the Canadian average, which is worrisome and reminds us this downturn in the oil and gas industry is not only cyclical but also structural. However, the stronger than national average growth in the PSTS employment in the CER shows the resilience of the region and benefits of having a highly skilled labour force. With the transferable knowledge and skills they possess, PSTS professionals in the CER have increasingly found projects outside of the oil and gas industry, and outside the region.

Chart 1 Total Employment Growth in Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas Industries

(Jun. 2015 - Mar. 2017; Index: June, 2015=100)

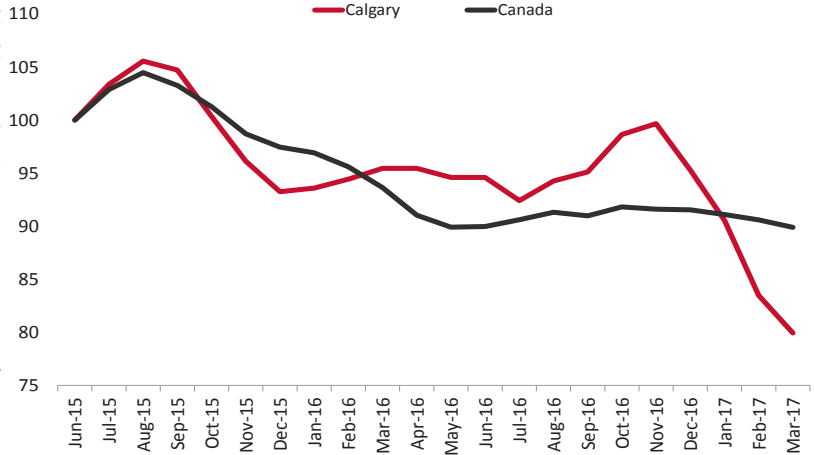
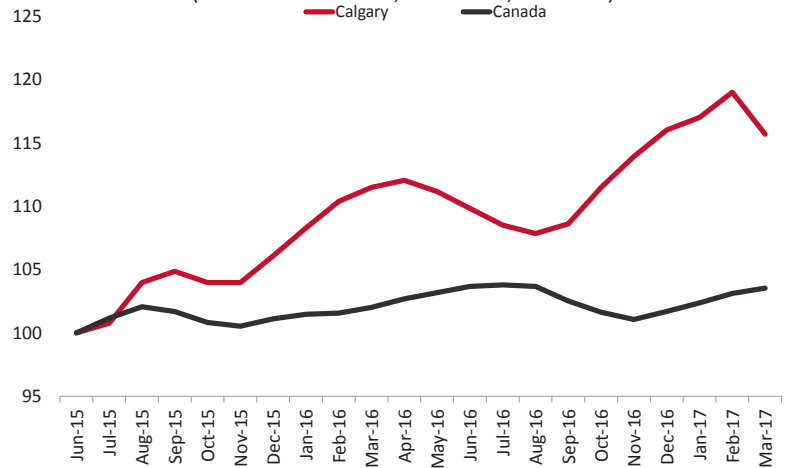


Chart 2 Total Employment Growth in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industries

(Jun. 2015 - Mar. 2017; Index: June, 2015=100)



Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 2017

Table 1 Labour Force Statistics

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month moving average)

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION	Description	Mar-17	Feb-17	Mar-16	Annual Change	ALBERTA	Description	Mar-17	Feb-17	Mar-16	Annual Change
	Working Age Population ('000)	1,300.1	1,298.5	1,283.1	17.0			Working Age Population ('000)	3,414.4	3,411.7	3,385.6
Labour Force ('000)	954.0	956.8	929.6	24.4		Labour Force ('000)	2,468.9	2,460.1	2,448.6	20.3	
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.4	73.7	72.4	1.0		Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	72.3	72.1	72.3	0.0	
Employment ('000)	867.6	870.1	847.8	19.8		Employment ('000)	2,251.9	2,248.8	2,253.7	(1.8)	
Employment Rate (%)	66.7	67.0	66.1	0.6		Employment Rate (%)	66.0	65.9	66.6	(0.6)	
Unemployment ('000)	86.4	86.7	81.8	4.6		Unemployment ('000)	216.9	211.3	194.9	22.0	
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.1	9.1	8.8	0.3		Unemployment Rate (%)	8.8	8.6	8.0	0.8	

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 2017

Table 2 on next page



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Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employment ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Mar-17	Mar-16	Change (y/y)	Mar-17	Mar-16	Change (y/y)	Mar-17	Mar-16	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	41.2	48.4	(7.2)	2,062.9	1,913.5	149.4	85.0	92.6	(7.6)
Utilities	9.5	8.1	1.4	2,134.8	1,757.0	377.7	20.3	14.2	6.0
Construction	44.6	54.5	(9.9)	1,292.7	1,319.9	(27.2)	57.7	71.9	(14.3)
Manufacturing	37.8	35.3	2.5	1,216.7	1,268.7	(52.0)	46.0	44.8	1.2
Wholesale Trade	30.4	23.5	6.9	1,363.9	1,361.8	2.0	41.5	32.0	9.5
Retail Trade	78.5	77.5	1.0	691.3	665.9	25.4	54.3	51.6	2.7
Transportation and Warehousing	48.2	37.1	11.1	1,256.1	1,072.7	183.4	60.5	39.8	20.7
Information and Cultural Industries	11.6	11.7	(0.1)	1,077.5	1,284.3	(206.8)	12.5	15.0	(2.5)
Finance and Insurance	19.4	29.4	(10.0)	1,191.7	1,303.4	(111.7)	23.1	38.3	(15.2)
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	11.4	9.2	2.2	1,033.6	1,299.0	(265.5)	11.8	12.0	(0.2)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	65.2	66.2	(1.0)	1,441.6	1,494.6	(53.0)	94.0	98.9	(5.0)
Administrative and Support	17.2	22.0	(4.8)	980.2	858.6	121.6	16.9	18.9	(2.0)
Educational Services	49.6	45.7	3.9	1,178.4	1,121.6	56.8	58.4	51.3	7.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	83.7	78.4	5.3	1,034.6	1,074.2	(39.6)	86.6	84.2	2.4
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	16.2	19.4	(3.2)	650.3	677.6	(27.3)	10.5	13.1	(2.6)
Accommodation and Food Services	48.0	48.6	(0.6)	493.9	489.3	4.6	23.7	23.8	(0.1)
Other Services(except Public Admin)	35.4	24.4	11.0	778.2	818.5	(40.3)	27.5	20.0	7.6
Public Administration	28.4	27.8	0.6	1,636.1	1,388.7	247.5	46.5	38.6	7.9
All Industries	676.5	667.9	8.6	1,148.1	1,140.5	7.6	776.7	761.7	14.9

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, April 2017
 Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: May 5, 2017

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¹ 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.