



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

- In the Calgary Economic Region (CER), total employment declined by 7,500 from a month ago due to the ending of summer jobs, but increased by 23,300 from a year ago. In September, the region's unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.6 per cent, compared to 8.0 per cent in Alberta and 6.3 per cent across Canada.

- Year-over-year, 17,500 new full-time jobs and 5,700 new part-time positions were created in the CER. All job gains were in the service-producing sector (+29,800), while all the losses were in the goods-producing sector (-6,500).

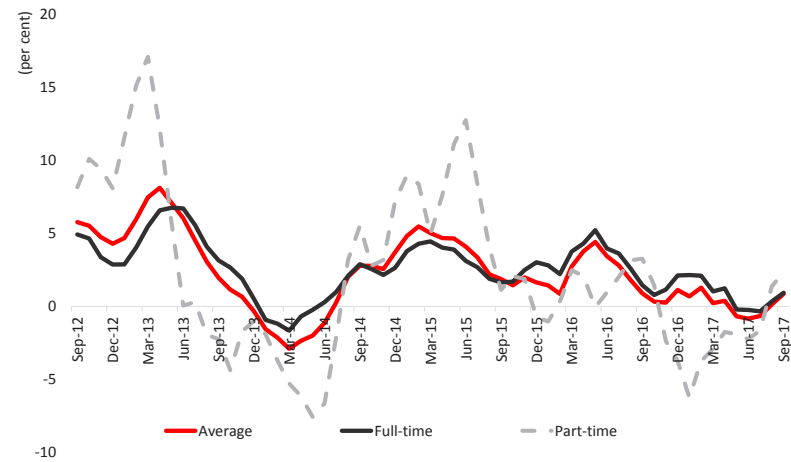
- In the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the average weekly wage rate in September was \$1135, down \$0.65 or 0.6 per cent from a year ago; the total weekly wage bill for the CMA was \$796 million, up by \$17 million year-over-year.

- In July 2017, there were 24,240 employment insurance (EI) recipients in the CMA, down by 30 per cent from a year ago.

The average hourly wage rate in Calgary has had minimal changes in recent months, following the pattern of full-time employee wages (Chart 1). The low average wage inflation is normally the result of a weak local labour market. However, the recent observations of Calgary's low wage inflation might also be explained by the fact that the composition of the local job market has changed; while many top paying industries cut employees, the low paying industries created most of the new jobs.

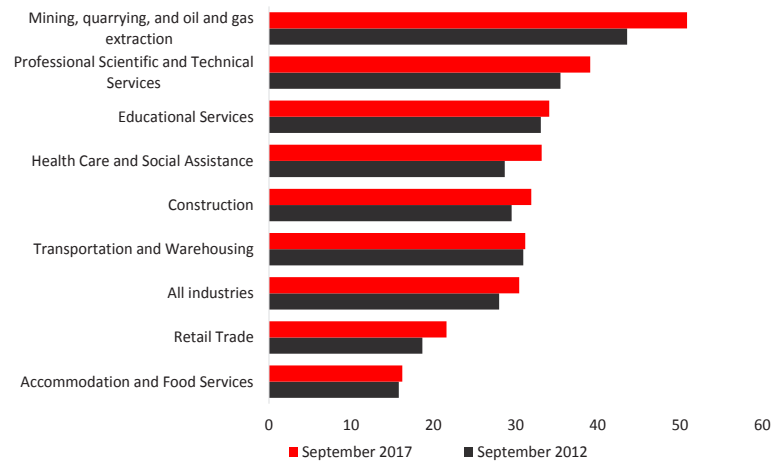
From September 2014 to September 2017, the biggest job cuts in the Calgary CMA were seen in the Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (MQOGE) industry (-15,000), the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (PSTS) industry (-14,400), and the Construction industry (-5,600). At the same time, the Accommodation and Food Services (AFS) industry added 27,400 employees. Considering the hourly wage rate of \$16.2 in the AFS industry is only 41 per cent of the wage rate in the PSTS and 32 per cent of the wage rate in the MQOGE, the shift of industrial employments may have bigger impact on Calgary's average hourly wage rate for all industries (Chart 2).

**Chart 1 Calgary CMA Hourly Wage Inflation**  
(year-over-year growth, Sep 2012 - Sep 2017)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

**Chart Calgary CMA Hourly Wage Rate by Selected Industries**  
(\$ per hour, September 2012 vs. September 2017)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

**Table 1 Labour Force Statistics**

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month moving average)

| CALGARY<br>ECONOMIC REGION | Description                         | Sep-17  | Aug-17  | Sep-16  | Annual Change |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
|                            | Working Age Population ('000)       | 1,310.9 | 1,309.3 | 1,293.4 | 17.5          |
|                            | Labour Force ('000)                 | 974.5   | 982.3   | 960.4   | 14.1          |
|                            | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 74.3    | 75.0    | 74.3    | 0.0           |
|                            | Employment ('000)                   | 890.7   | 898.2   | 867.4   | 23.3          |
|                            | Employment Rate (%)                 | 67.9    | 68.6    | 67.1    | 0.8           |
|                            | Unemployment ('000)                 | 83.8    | 84.1    | 92.9    | (9.1)         |
|                            | Unemployment Rate (%)               | 8.6     | 8.6     | 9.7     | (1.1)         |

**Table 2 on next page**

| ALBERTA | Description                         | Sep-17  | Aug-17  | Sep-16  | Annual Change |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
|         | Working Age Population ('000)       | 3,434.1 | 3,431.4 | 3,405.1 | 29.0          |
|         | Labour Force ('000)                 | 2,497.2 | 2,511.4 | 2,485.4 | 11.8          |
|         | Labour Force Participation Rate (%) | 72.7    | 73.2    | 73.0    | (0.3)         |
|         | Employment ('000)                   | 2,297.2 | 2,307.6 | 2,272.6 | 24.6          |
|         | Employment Rate (%)                 | 66.9    | 67.2    | 66.7    | 0.2           |
|         | Unemployment ('000)                 | 200.0   | 203.8   | 212.8   | (12.8)        |
|         | Unemployment Rate (%)               | 8.0     | 8.1     | 8.6     | (0.6)         |

**Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry**

| Industry                                       | Total employed* ('000 persons) |              |              | Average weekly earning (\$) |                |              | Total weekly bills (\$million) |              |              |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | Sep-17                         | Sep-16       | Change (y/y) | Sep-17                      | Sep-16         | Change (y/y) | Sep-17                         | Sep-16       | Change (y/y) |
| Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction  | 44.5                           | 49.0         | (4.5)        | 2,094.0                     | 1,867.1        | 226.9        | 93.2                           | 91.5         | 1.7          |
| Utilities                                      | 7.0                            | 10.7         | (3.7)        | 2,400.8                     | 1,663.7        | 737.1        | 16.8                           | 17.8         | (1.0)        |
| Construction                                   | 58.8                           | 53.6         | 5.2          | 1,257.6                     | 1,318.9        | (61.3)       | 73.9                           | 70.7         | 3.3          |
| Manufacturing                                  | 34.5                           | 38.7         | (4.2)        | 1,222.6                     | 1,105.8        | 116.7        | 42.2                           | 42.8         | (0.6)        |
| Wholesale Trade                                | 34.3                           | 26.7         | 7.6          | 1,294.5                     | 1,287.2        | 7.3          | 44.4                           | 34.4         | 10.0         |
| Retail Trade                                   | 86.8                           | 87.0         | (0.2)        | 723.2                       | 749.3          | (26.0)       | 62.8                           | 65.2         | (2.4)        |
| Transportation and Warehousing                 | 49.5                           | 45.1         | 4.4          | 1,171.8                     | 1,035.9        | 135.9        | 58.0                           | 46.7         | 11.3         |
| Information and Cultural Industries            | 9.5                            | 10.7         | (1.2)        | 937.5                       | 1,268.7        | (331.3)      | 8.9                            | 13.6         | (4.7)        |
| Finance and Insurance                          | 26.9                           | 25.1         | 1.8          | 1,188.4                     | 1,202.3        | (13.9)       | 32.0                           | 30.2         | 1.8          |
| Real Estate Rental and Leasing                 | 11.3                           | 9.8          | 1.5          | 1,069.1                     | 1,289.0        | (219.9)      | 12.1                           | 12.6         | (0.6)        |
| Professional Scientific and Technical Services | 51.9                           | 57.2         | (5.3)        | -                           | 1,572.9        | (1572.9)     | 0.0                            | 90.0         | (90.0)       |
| Administrative and Support                     | 26.6                           | 22.5         | 4.1          | 857.9                       | 925.1          | (67.2)       | 22.8                           | 20.8         | 2.0          |
| Educational Services                           | 40.9                           | 48.8         | (7.9)        | 1,238.6                     | 1,268.3        | (29.8)       | 50.7                           | 61.9         | (11.2)       |
| Health Care and Social Assistance              | 76.3                           | 76.9         | (0.6)        | 1,124.8                     | 1,116.1        | 8.7          | 85.8                           | 85.8         | (0.0)        |
| Arts Entertainment and Recreation              | 20.7                           | 18.3         | 2.4          | 589.8                       | 668.6          | (78.8)       | 12.2                           | 12.2         | (0.0)        |
| Accommodation and Food Services                | 66.8                           | 52.3         | 14.5         | 546.6                       | 477.2          | 69.4         | 36.5                           | 25.0         | 11.6         |
| Other Services(except Public Admin)            | 23.8                           | 31.2         | (7.4)        | 811.2                       | 806.9          | 4.2          | 19.3                           | 25.2         | (5.9)        |
| Public Administration                          | 29.5                           | 19.0         | 10.5         | 1,500.6                     | 1,520.6        | (20.0)       | 44.3                           | 28.9         | 15.4         |
| <b>All Industries</b>                          | <b>701.2</b>                   | <b>685.5</b> | <b>15.7</b>  | <b>1,134.6</b>              | <b>1,135.2</b> | <b>(0.7)</b> | <b>795.6</b>                   | <b>778.2</b> | <b>17.4</b>  |

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, October 6, 2017

\* Excluding self-employed

Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: November 3, 2017

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For more information, please contact:

### Ivy Zhang

Senior Corporate Economist  
403.268.2005  
ivy.zhang@calgary.ca

### Clyde Pawluk

Acting City Economist  
403.268.2643  
clyde.pawluk@calgary.ca

### Jorjeta Bojanova

Corporate Research Analyst  
403-268-5556  
jorjeta.bojanova@calgary.ca

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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.