



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

- In the Calgary Economic Region (CER), total employment declined slightly by 2,500 from a month ago, but increased by 31,100 from a year ago. The region's unemployment rate edged up to 8.6 per cent, comparing favorably to Edmonton's 9.2 per cent. The overall Alberta unemployment rate was 8.1 per cent and across Canada the average unemployment rate was 6.4 per cent.

- Year-over-year, there were 25,500 new full-time jobs and 5,700 part-time positions created. All job gains were in the service sector (+43,800) while losses were in the goods-producing sector (-12,500).

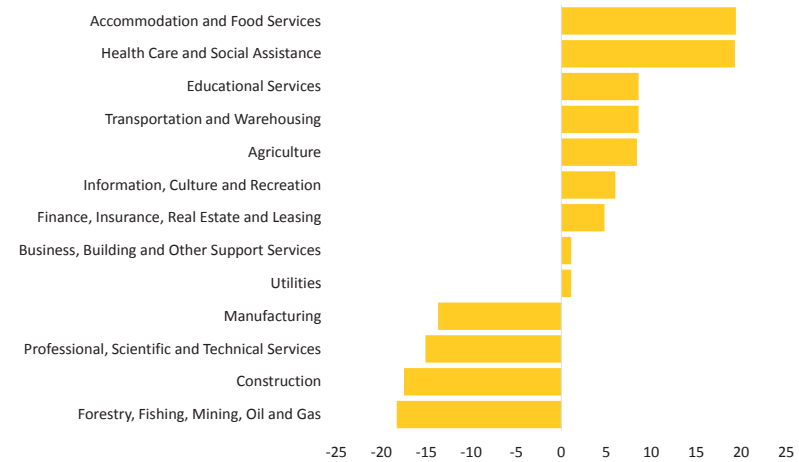
- In the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the average weekly wage rate in August was \$1,129, down \$9 or 1 per cent from a year ago; the total weekly wage bill for the CMA was \$798 million, up by \$22 million year-over-year.

- In June 2017, there were 24,910 employment insurance (EI) recipients in the CMA, down by 6.1 per cent from a year ago.

The beginning of September marked the end of summer job market as students went back to school and vacationers came back to work. Recent good news in Calgary's labour market brought optimism to job seekers. Indeed, three years after the dramatic plunge in crude oil prices, labour market in the CER not only gained back all the job losses in the recent recession but also added 27,200 new positions in all industries. However, the structure of the market has also changed considerably, which means the upcoming graduates and currently unemployed alike need to strategize on learning and retraining opportunities to be a better fit for today's labour market.

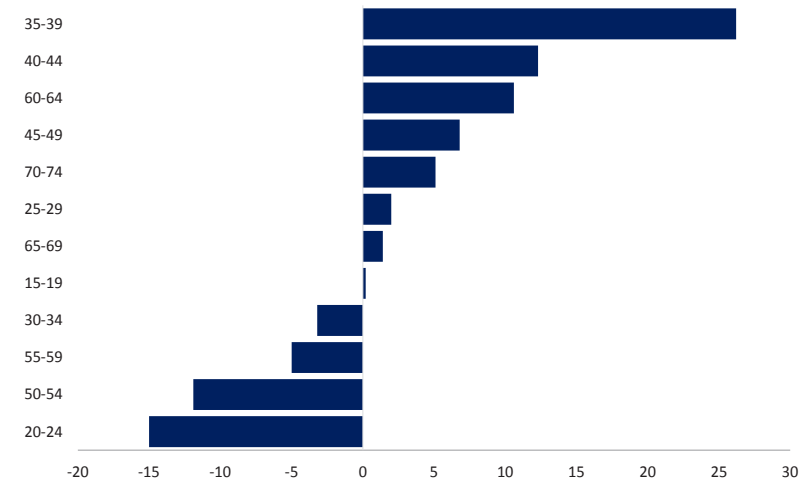
From August 2014 to August 2017, job gains were mostly in the service industries; Accommodation and Food Services (+19,400) and Health Care and Social Assistance (+19,300). Job losses mainly happened in goods-producing and energy related industries such as; Mining, Oil and Gas (-18,300), Construction (-17,500) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-15,100) (Chart 1). By age cohort, the biggest winners were those 35-39 years old (+26,200) and 40-44 years old (+12,300) who were in their prime working age and had both work experience and up-to-date knowledge or skills. The unlucky ones who lost their jobs were the people in the age cohorts of 20-24 years old (-15,000) and 50-54 years old (-11,900), who lacked either professional work experience or upgrades or training in new technologies (Chart 2).

Chart 1 CER Employment Change by Industry in Three Years
(thousand persons, difference from Aug. 2014 to Aug. 2017)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

Chart 2 CER Total Employment Change by Age in Three Years
(thousand persons, difference from Aug. 2014 to Aug. 2017)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

Table 1 Labour Force Statistics

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month moving average)

Description	Aug-17	Jul-17	Aug-16	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	1,309.3	1,307.6	1,291.9	17.4
Labour Force ('000)	982.3	982.6	955.9	26.4
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	75.0	75.1	74.0	1.0
Employment ('000)	898.2	900.7	867.1	31.1
Employment Rate (%)	68.6	68.9	67.1	1.5
Unemployment ('000)	84.1	81.9	88.8	(4.7)
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	8.3	9.3	(0.7)

Table 2 on next page

Description	Aug-17	Jul-17	Aug-16	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	3,431.4	3,428.4	3,402.4	29.0
Labour Force ('000)	2,511.4	2,506.6	2,485.9	25.5
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.2	73.1	73.1	0.1
Employment ('000)	2,307.6	2,310.9	2,271.3	36.3
Employment Rate (%)	67.2	67.4	66.8	0.4
Unemployment ('000)	203.8	195.7	214.6	(10.8)
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.1	7.8	8.6	(0.5)



Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employed* ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning (\$)			Total weekly bills (\$million)		
	Aug-17	Aug-16	Change (y/y)	Aug-17	Aug-16	Change (y/y)	Aug-17	Aug-16	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	42.3	48.2	(5.9)	2,073.0	1,891.5	181.5	87.7	91.2	(3.5)
Utilities	6.8	10.4	(3.6)	2,334.0	1,831.1	503.0	15.9	19.0	(3.2)
Construction	55.1	54.5	0.6	1,250.6	1,316.7	(66.1)	68.9	71.8	(2.9)
Manufacturing	37.3	39.3	(2.0)	1,316.0	1,103.5	212.6	49.1	43.4	5.7
Wholesale Trade	35.5	24.2	11.3	1,267.2	1,335.7	(68.5)	45.0	32.3	12.7
Retail Trade	85.9	86.8	(0.9)	727.4	744.6	(17.2)	62.5	64.6	(2.1)
Transportation and Warehousing	47.7	43.9	3.8	1,162.8	1,038.2	124.5	55.5	45.6	9.9
Information and Cultural Industries	9.1	10.4	(1.3)	907.4	1,307.7	(400.4)	8.3	13.6	(5.3)
Finance and Insurance	28.3	26.2	2.1	1,213.0	1,158.0	55.0	34.3	30.3	4.0
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	12.0	9.1	2.9	1,117.1	1,308.0	(190.9)	13.4	11.9	1.5
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	53.4	59.1	(5.7)	1,430.2	1,546.5	(116.4)	76.4	91.4	(15.0)
Administrative and Support	26.6	22.5	4.1	880.6	914.4	(33.8)	23.4	20.6	2.9
Educational Services	42.5	49.0	(6.5)	1,239.9	1,280.3	(40.3)	52.7	62.7	(10.0)
Health Care and Social Assistance	80.9	75.5	5.4	1,101.5	1,097.8	3.7	89.1	82.9	6.2
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	21.9	18.6	3.3	637.1	663.6	(26.5)	14.0	12.3	1.6
Accommodation and Food Services	65.4	51.2	14.2	535.6	481.3	54.3	35.0	24.6	10.4
Other Services(except Public Admin)	25.0	31.0	(6.0)	782.9	822.7	(39.8)	19.6	25.5	(5.9)
Public Administration	29.8	20.1	9.7	1,529.3	1,506.6	22.7	45.6	30.3	15.3
All Industries	707.1	682.4	24.7	1,128.6	1,137.2	(8.7)	798.0	776.0	22.0

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, September 8, 2017

* Excluding self-employed

Note: lack of data for Agriculture

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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 have developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis.

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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.