

Regional Labour Market Report Card

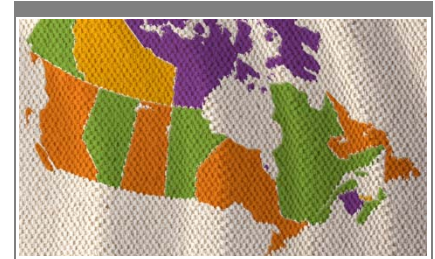
A monthly overview of regional labour market trends

2017Q3

Hammer Time

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Canadian employment posted another solid quarter in Q3, rising by 43,000 and holding annual growth at 1.8% y/y as of September—that's off the July high, but still strong. The public sector and self-employment did the lifting in the quarter, which softens the result, but full-time jobs were strong. Regionally, Ontario accounted for all of the job growth in Q3, with 8 of the 9 other provinces posting declines.



- **Ontario** posted one of the strongest 3-month job growth tallies on record in Q3, with employment surging by 91k between June and September. Gains were widespread across industries, and the jobless rate (5.6%) is now the lowest since the technology boom in 2000.
- The latest ranking now reports that **6 of the top-10 performing cities are located in Ontario**, with a distinct concentration in and around the GTA. In fact, Toronto's jobless rate sank to 6.1% in September, a 16-year low and holding below the national average (which is rare for the Big Smoke).
- **Hamilton** is the real eye-catcher, with employment up a massive 12.5% y/y and the jobless rate (4.2%) suddenly the lowest in Canada outside Quebec City. As we often caution, this partly reflects commuting out of Hamilton to jobs located elsewhere in the GTA (the survey is based on your place of residence), so this is as much a **testament to GTA strength**. Not coincidentally, **Kitchener, Barrie, Guelph** and **Oshawa** are also in the top 10.
- **British Columbia** continues to lead the pack with employment up 3.6% from a year ago, but momentum faded in Q3. Still, the jobless rate ended the quarter as the lowest in Canada at 4.9%, and the lowest since 2008. Impressively, the steady jobless rate decline comes as the prime-age participation rate has *risen* a massive 3 ppts since early 2015—this highlights the real underlying strength in B.C.'s labour market, despite the hiccup in Q3.
- After a solid rebound through mid-2017, **Alberta** lost some momentum in Q3 with employment slipping by 20k. The jobless rate is also still lingering around 8%, reinforcing our view that as the rebound fades, Alberta will settle in to a pretty subdued environment. This appears to be taking shape now, which should also contribute to taming some of the national data.
- **Montreal** sits right in the middle of the pack with solid job growth (+3.7% y/y) and the jobless rate hitting a record low in July.
- **Manitoba** gets a rare nod here too (usually passed over because of its stability, which is not a bad thing). **Winnipeg** has jumped into the top-10 on the city ranking, helping pull the province's jobless rate down sharply from a 20-year high in late-2016—we suspect that past weakness was partly oil-shock related, even though the province has little direct exposure.

Provincial Labour Market Summary

September 2017

	Employment (000s : 3- mo. chg)	(y/y % chg)	Unemp. Rate (%)	(ppts : y/y)	Emp. Rate (%)	Part Rate (%)	Median Wage (\$/hr)
Canada	43.1	1.8	6.2	-0.8	61.6	65.6	22.3
British Columbia	-13.0	3.6	4.9	-0.7	62.0	65.1	22.9
Alberta	-19.9	0.6	7.9	-0.8	66.3	72.0	26.3
Saskatchewan	-0.3	-0.2	6.2	-0.7	64.6	68.9	23.6
Manitoba	-0.4	1.9	5.5	-0.9	63.3	67.1	20.5
Ontario	91.3	2.4	5.6	-0.9	61.2	64.8	22.3
Quebec	-8.9	1.3	6.0	-0.9	60.8	64.7	21.6
New Brunswick	0.4	-1.0	7.8	-1.4	56.4	61.1	18.5
Nova Scotia	-1.4	0.7	9.0	0.9	56.3	61.9	19.5
Prince Edward I.	-1.4	2.2	9.5	-1.2	58.9	65.1	18.4
Nfld. & Labr.	-3.4	-5.6	15.1	1.3	49.6	58.4	21.4

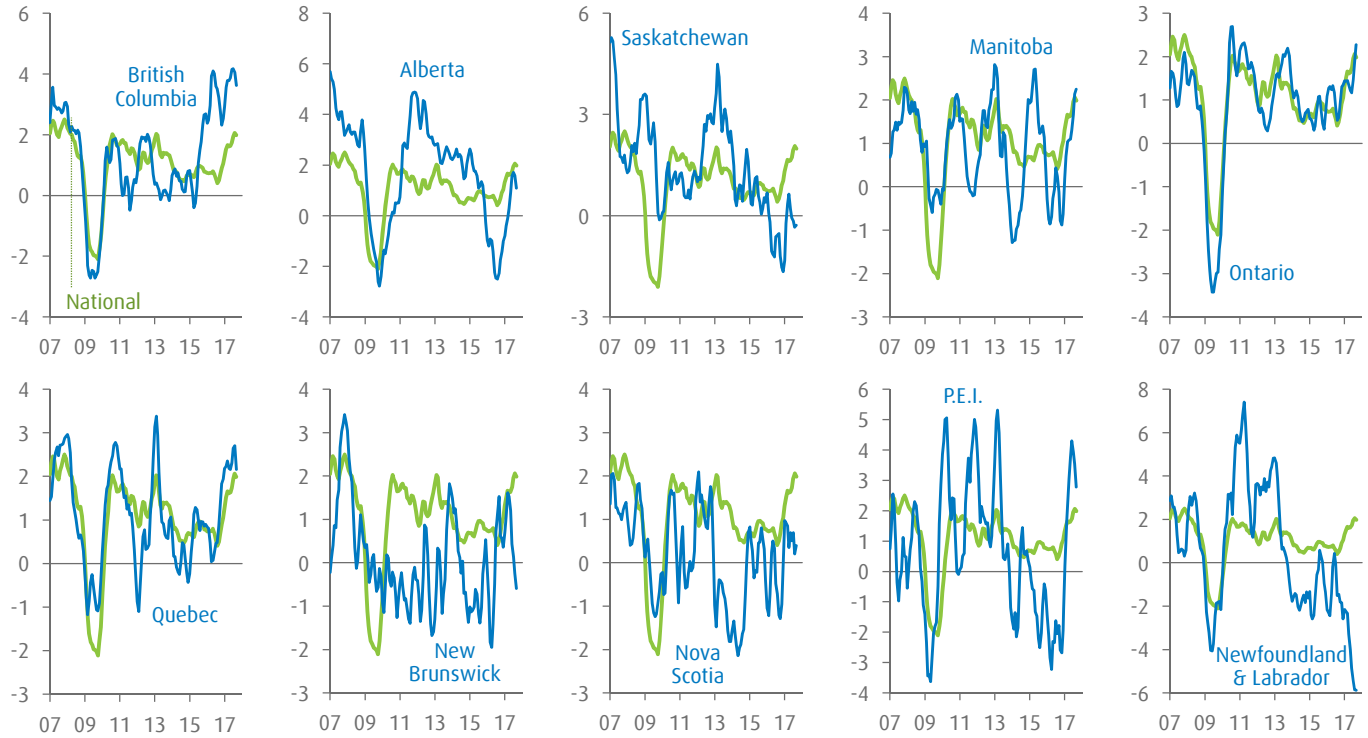
City Labour Market Performance Ranking

	Overall Rank ¹	Change	Pop. (y/y % chg)	Emp. (y/y % chg)	Unemp. Rate (%)	(y/y chg)	Emp. Rate (%)
Weight		(y/y)	15%	30%	20%	20%	15%
Kelowna, BC	1	↑ 29	2.2	14.3	5.4	-2.1	64.0
Hamilton, ON	2	↑ 25	1.3	12.5	4.2	-2.1	65.4
Kitchener, ON	3	↑ 4	1.3	4.9	4.5	-0.7	67.8
Winnipeg, MB	4	↑ 17	1.8	2.6	5.5	-1.1	64.3
Barrie, ON	5	↑ 12	1.7	-2.0	6.0	-2.5	67.9
Vancouver, BC	6	↓ 3	1.4	2.7	4.5	-0.4	64.1
Guelph, ON	7	↑ 8	1.7	4.6	5.8	1.0	68.8
Oshawa, ON	8	↓ 7	1.7	-1.7	4.9	-1.4	63.6
Toronto, ON	9	↑ 11	2.0	2.4	6.1	-1.0	61.9
Victoria, BC	10	↓ 6	1.2	3.1	4.5	-0.2	61.9
Saint John, NB	11	↑ 20	0.1	3.9	5.7	-1.9	62.3
Abbotsford, BC	12	↓ 4	1.8	1.1	5.5	-0.6	62.3
Brantford, ON	13	—	1.3	2.5	5.5	-0.6	61.8
Calgary, AB	14	↑ 19	1.4	3.9	8.5	-1.1	68.0
Quebec City, QC	15	↓ 5	0.6	-1.3	4.0	-0.8	64.1
Montreal, QC	16	↑ 3	1.0	3.7	6.5	-1.0	62.8
Kingston, ON	17	↓ 8	1.2	3.9	5.5	0.2	61.7
Regina, SK	18	↓ 13	1.6	0.1	5.7	0.5	67.9
Thunder Bay, ON	19	↑ 3	0.1	4.3	5.0	-0.8	60.0
Ottawa, ON	20	↓ 14	1.7	-0.5	5.8	-0.2	63.4
Moncton, NB	21	↓ 3	1.4	-1.8	5.6	-1.5	60.7
Trois-Rivieres, QC	22	↑ 10	0.4	4.0	6.0	-1.2	57.0
Sherbrooke, QC	23	↓ 9	1.0	-0.6	5.0	-0.6	57.5
Saskatoon, SK	24	↓ 8	2.2	1.7	7.9	0.9	65.1
London, ON	25	↑ 4	1.3	-2.0	5.5	-1.4	55.7
Edmonton, AB	26	—	1.5	1.9	8.5	0.8	67.0
Peterborough, ON	27	↑ 1	0.4	6.8	7.1	1.2	59.7
Saguenay, QC	28	↓ 3	-0.1	5.4	6.6	0.0	57.5
Windsor, ON	29	↓ 27	1.2	-2.0	5.8	0.2	57.4
Sudbury, ON	30	↓ 6	0.1	-1.9	6.0	-1.1	58.1
Halifax, NS	31	↓ 20	1.5	-1.3	7.2	1.4	62.2
St. Catharines, ON	32	↓ 9	0.9	-2.9	6.3	0.3	56.7
St. John's, NL	33	↓ 21	1.5	-9.2	8.9	1.5	58.0
City Average			1.2	1.9	5.9	-0.5	62.3

¹ based on weighted average number of standard deviations away from 33-city average, across five categories

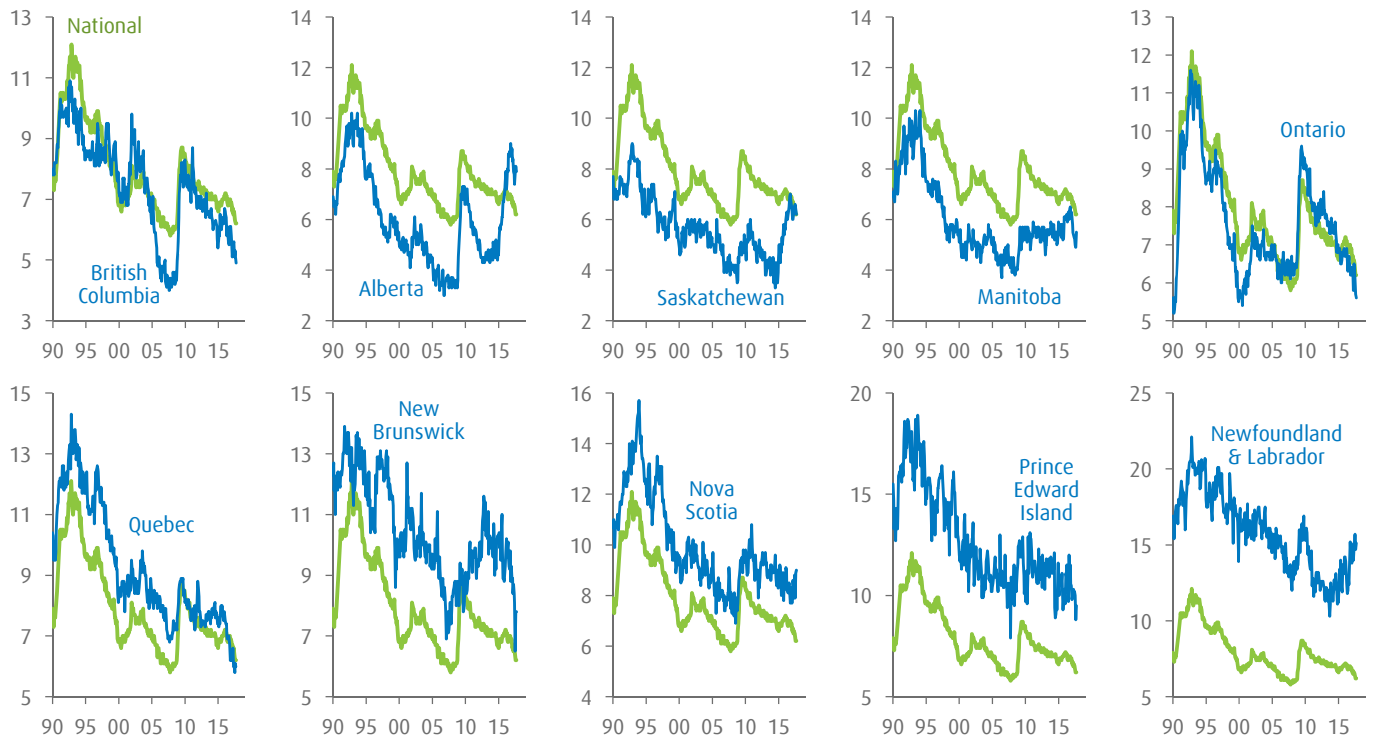
Employment Growth

(y/y % chng : 3-mnth m.a.)



Unemployment Rate

(percent)



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