

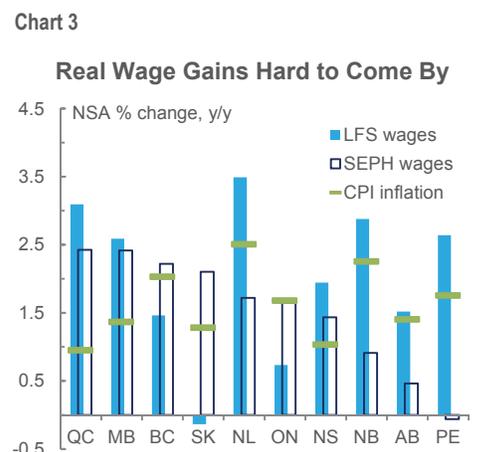
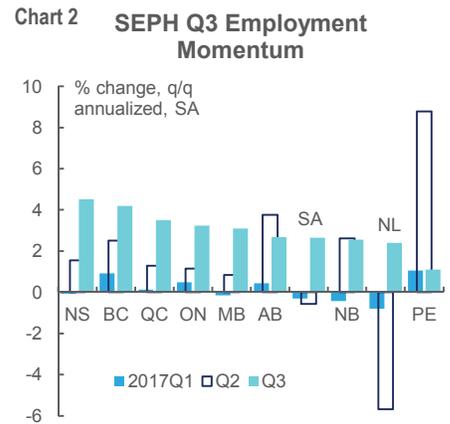
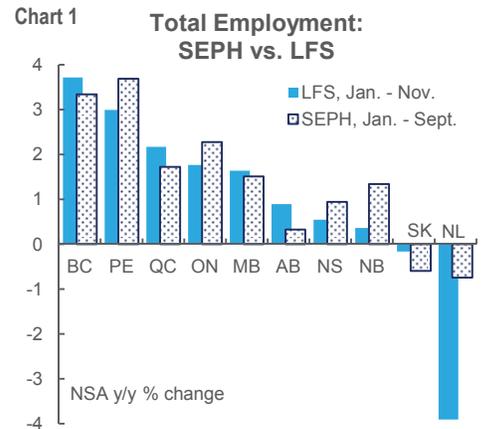
Broad-Based 2017 Employment Strength Continues

- **Year-to-date employment growth¹ of 1.5% or higher** is indicated for BC, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba (chart 1), according to the household *Labour Force Survey* (LFS) and the establishment *Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours* (SEPH). Both surveys report a modest drop in employment in Saskatchewan and a more significant contraction for Newfoundland & Labrador. Buoyant job creation this year is mirrored in both surveys indicating gains for a majority of provinces in construction, manufacturing, wholesale & retail trade, a range of business services and the broader public sector.
- **For Q3, SEPH revealed a distinct acceleration in seasonally adjusted employment**, with seven provinces witnessing faster payroll expansion (SA, q/q annualized, chart 2). The LFS is showing further strength in Q4: November's seasonally adjusted 79,500 net new positions builds on a solid increase in October.
- **Central Canada's employment upsurge** since June adds to the brisk year-over-year job creation in BC and PEI. For Ontario and Quebec, professional, scientific & technical services have helped to anchor employment gains.
- **SEPH indicates significantly stronger employment conditions in Atlantic Canada**, particularly for Newfoundland and Labrador, where SEPH's 0.7% y/y payroll decline through September contrasts with the LFS estimate of a 3.9% drop. Conversely, SEPH's estimate of 0.3% y/y job creation for Alberta is significantly weaker than the 0.9% LFS rise, possibly reflecting self-employment in the latter survey (tables 1 & 2, page 2).
- **Unemployment rates are down** on a seasonally adjusted basis in eight provinces through November. In PEI, Quebec and BC, declines of approximately one percentage point from the 2016 average are resulting from robust jobs gains offsetting increased labour force participation. In Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan, decreasing participation rates are partially responsible for falling unemployment rates.
- **One negative aspect of both surveys** is the decline of almost 1% in average weekly hours.
- **Average weekly wages**, responding to stronger labour market conditions, show a steady upward trend in year-over-year growth in the LFS, ending with a 2.9% y/y increase (NSA) in both October and November. SEPH reports more erratic monthly wage patterns, but September posted a torrid 3.9% y/y jump. In the LFS, Quebec wages have posted y/y gains averaging over 3% through November, while wage acceleration is marked in Ontario and BC over the last three months. According to SEPH, weekly wages declined 2.7% in Alberta during 2015–16, and both surveys indicate weak gains until this autumn.
- **Real wage growth** in part reflects considerable divergence in CPI inflation across the provinces. Only in Quebec, Manitoba and Nova Scotia do both the LFS and SEPH measures of wages significantly outstrip consumer price increases to date (chart 3).

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated.

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Sources for charts: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Survey* and *Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours*.

Table 1
Labour Force Survey Indicators*

year-over-year % change (NSA), except where noted

	Canada	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC
Total Employment	1.8	-3.9	3.0	0.5	0.4	2.2	1.8	1.6	-0.2	0.9	3.7
Average Weekly Hours, All Industries	-0.7	-0.3	-0.1	-1.7	0.0	-1.4	-1.0	0.6	0.3	1.1	-0.9
Average Weekly Wages, All Industries	1.5	3.5	2.6	1.9	2.9	3.1	0.7	2.6	-0.1	1.5	1.5
Unemployment Rate, SA, %	6.5	14.7	9.9	8.4	8.2	6.2	6.1	5.4	6.3	8.0	5.3
Labour Force Participation Rate, SA, %	65.8	59.0	66.1	61.9	61.4	64.8	64.8	67.2	69.4	72.5	65.4

 * January - November. Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Survey*.

Table 2
Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours Indicators*

year-over-year % change (NSA), except where noted

	Canada	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC
Total Employment	1.8	-0.7	3.7	0.9	1.3	1.7	2.3	1.5	-0.6	0.3	3.3
Average Weekly Wages, All Industries	1.7	1.7	-0.1	1.4	0.9	2.4	1.7	2.4	2.1	0.5	2.2
Average Weekly Hours, All Industries	-0.9	-1.7	0.8	-0.4	-0.4	0.3	-1.4	-1.4	-0.3	-1.2	-1.1

 * January - September, not seasonally adjusted. Source: Statistics Canada, *Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours*.

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