



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Saskatchewan



September 2015 (Quarterly Edition)

This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Saskatchewan, including Regina-Moose Mountain, Swift Current-Moose Jaw, Saskatoon-Biggar, Yorkton-Melville and Prince Albert & Northern economic regions.

### OVERVIEW

Saskatchewan employment fell by 3,200 this quarter, essentially returning to the level it was at in the third quarter of 2014. There has been a strong shift from full-time to part-time employment in the province recently. This quarter, 10,900 fewer people were employed full-time, while 7,600 more people were employed part-time. The pattern over the last year is much the same, with a decline of 9,100 in full-time employment and an increase of 8,700 in part-time employment. The unemployment rate has increased slightly (+0.3 percentage points) over the last quarter, despite a small decline in the province's labour force.

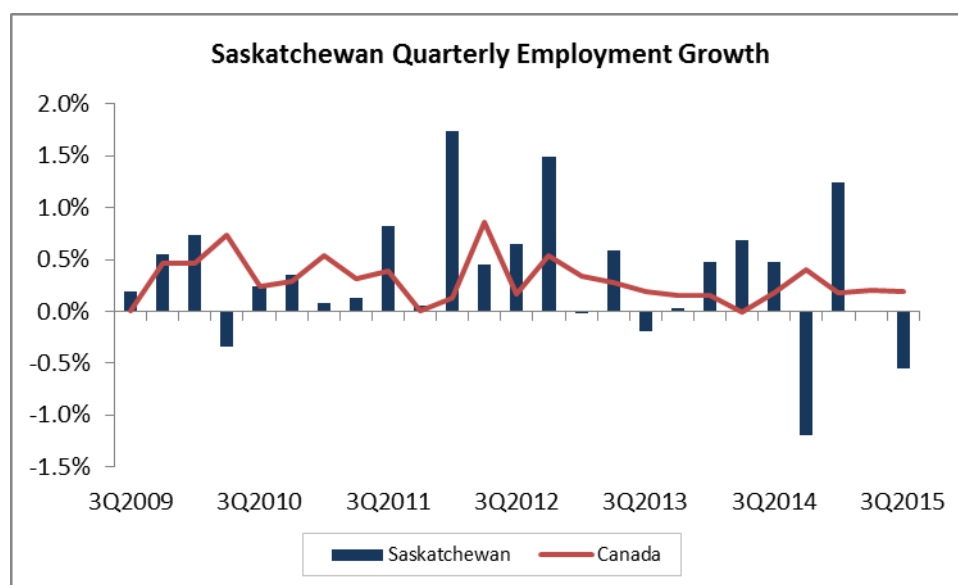
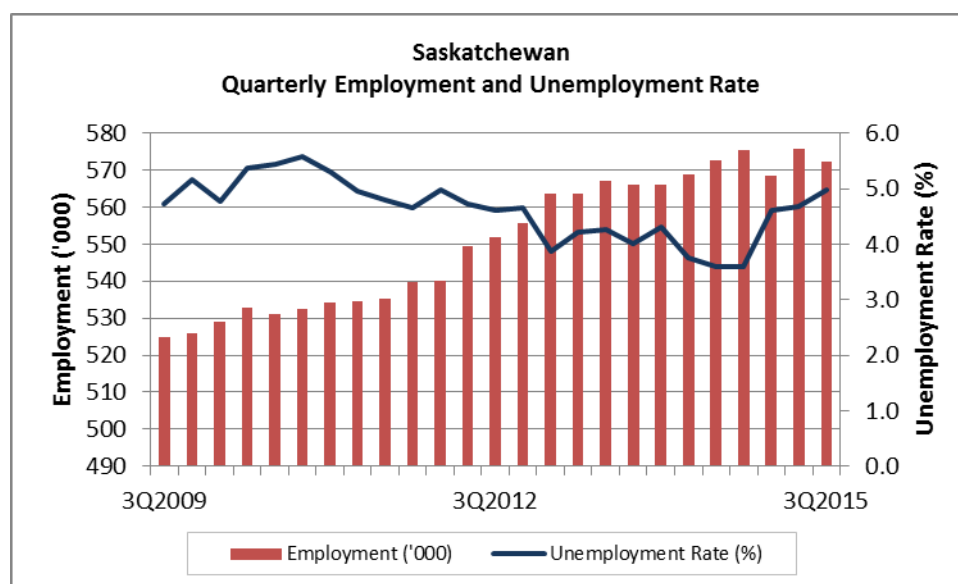
Weaker commodity prices continue to hamper Saskatchewan's labour market. According to Conference Board of Canada projections, the province will have slow employment growth in the months ahead, with only 3,000 new positions (+0.5%) expected this year. Nonetheless, the provincial economy appears well-positioned for future growth, with a rebound expected in 2016.<sup>1</sup>

### Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	3rd Quarter 2015	2nd Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	862.7	860.3	854.0	2.4	0.3	8.7	1.0
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	602.5	603.8	594.2	-1.3	-0.2	8.3	1.4
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	572.4	575.6	572.7	-3.2	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1
Full-Time ('000)	466.7	477.6	475.8	-10.9	-2.3	-9.1	-1.9
Part-Time ('000)	105.7	98.1	97.0	7.6	7.7	8.7	9.0
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	30.0	28.2	21.4	1.8	6.4	8.6	40.2
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.0	4.7	3.6	0.3	-	1.4	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	69.8	70.2	69.6	-0.3	-	0.3	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	66.3	66.9	67.1	-0.6	-	-0.7	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087



**Saskatchewan Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	3rd Quarter 2015	2nd Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	4.9	4.7	3.6	0.2	1.3
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.1	3.7	3.0	0.3	1.1
Men - 25 years and over	4.6	4.0	3.0	0.6	1.6
Women - 25 years and over	3.5	3.5	2.9	0.0	0.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	9.7	9.7	7.2	0.0	2.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	10.7	8.7	7.4	2.0	3.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.8	10.8	7.0	-2.0	1.8

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

Even though the unemployment rate increased (+1.4 percentage points) over the previous year, Saskatchewan still retains the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 5%; well below the national unemployment rate of 6.9%.

Over the last quarter, the unemployment rate increased the most for 15 to 24 year old men (+2.0 percentage points), while the rate for women in the same age group decreased 2 percentage points, evening out the quarterly variation for that age group. There was minimal change in the unemployment rate among those 25 years and over. All age groups saw a rise in unemployment since the third quarter of 2014, although the largest increase (+3.3 percentage points) was seen among 15 to 24 year old men.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

This quarter's employment decrease was concentrated mainly in Saskatchewan's goods-producing sector, which fell 3,800. The services-producing industries grew minimally this quarter (+600). On an annual basis, employment in this sector was up 11,200 in the third quarter while employment in the goods-producing sector was down 11,500, resulting in no overall employment growth (-300).

### Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2015	2nd Quarter 2015	3rd Quarter 2014	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	572.4	575.6	572.7	-3.2	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	153.4	157.2	164.9	-3.8	-2.4	-11.5	-7.0
Agriculture	40.0	41.2	44.6	-1.2	-2.9	-4.6	-10.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	25.5	26.8	28.1	-1.3	-4.9	-2.6	-9.3
Utilities	7.0	6.6	6.1	0.4	6.1	0.9	14.8
Construction	54.7	56.9	57.4	-2.2	-3.9	-2.7	-4.7
Manufacturing	26.3	25.7	28.7	0.6	2.3	-2.4	-8.4
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	419.0	418.4	407.8	0.6	0.1	11.2	2.7
Trade	85.0	83.0	84.4	2.0	2.4	0.6	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	30.0	30.7	29.0	-0.7	-2.3	1.0	3.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	30.5	30.7	31.2	-0.2	-0.7	-0.7	-2.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	24.7	24.3	26.1	0.4	1.6	-1.4	-5.4
Business, building and other support services	14.3	15.0	12.0	-0.7	-4.7	2.3	19.2
Educational services	42.5	46.0	44.9	-3.5	-7.6	-2.4	-5.3
Health care and social assistance	79.3	78.1	72.7	1.2	1.5	6.6	9.1
Information, culture and recreation	19.3	18.0	15.9	1.3	7.2	3.4	21.4
Accommodation and food services	39.0	37.1	36.5	1.9	5.1	2.5	6.8
Other services	27.1	25.9	25.2	1.2	4.6	1.9	7.5
Public administration	27.3	29.7	30.0	-2.4	-8.1	-2.7	-9.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

Employment in the agricultural sector fell 1,200 in the third quarter. Despite a slowdown due to cool, wet weather, the harvest is being completed at an above average pace. As well, yields are expected to be above average this year, a good sign given worries over drought that occurred this spring.<sup>ii</sup> The good harvest has not translated into higher employment, though, as agriculture had the largest employment drop (-4,600) of any industry over the last year.

While there was minor employment growth in Saskatchewan's manufacturing industry (+600) in the third quarter, the sector now employs 2,400 fewer people than it did a year ago. According to industry representatives, manufacturing sales are down primarily due to the slumping commodities price, which is lowering demand for manufactured goods. Even a low Canadian dollar, which is generally a boon for the manufacturing industry, hasn't impeded the decline in this sector.<sup>iii</sup>

Employment in Saskatchewan's construction industry fell significantly in the third quarter (-2,200), leading to decline of 2,700 over the last year. The construction industry has undergone a correction recently as the value of construction permits has been declining. Although the value of non-residential permits increased by 24.1% between August 2014 and August 2015, residential permits fell by 37% over the same period, resulting in a large overall decline in the value of new construction projects.<sup>iv</sup>

Employment in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas declined both over the last quarter (-1,300) and over the last year (-2,600). Low commodity prices continue to hamper this industry. On a positive note, the uranium mining sector has been doing well recently, which has led to strong growth for Saskatoon-based uranium-mining company Cameco.<sup>v</sup> Cameco officially opened its new Cigar Lake uranium mine in northern Saskatchewan employing 600 workers.<sup>vi</sup>

Educational services saw the largest absolute drop in employment over the last quarter (-3,500). Similarly, employment in public administration also declined significantly (-2,400) over the last quarter.

Apart from those two industries, Saskatchewan's services-producing industries have shown moderate growth this quarter. Trade (+2,000); accommodation and food services (+1,900); information, culture, and recreation (+1,300); health care and social assistance (+1,200); and other services (+1,200) have all seen solid growth this quarter.

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Over the past year, employment growth in Saskatchewan has stagnated, and all regions have seen an increase in the unemployment rate.

Yorkton—Melville had the largest relative decline in employment (-4.3%) and the largest rise in the unemployment rate (+3.1 percentage points). Swift Current—Moose Jaw had a modest decline (-0.7%) in employment and has also seen an increase in its unemployment rate (+1.6 percentage points). No doubt, slowing activity in the oil and gas industry is having a negative impact on employment. In September, Penn West Petroleum, ConocoPhillips Canada, and Cenovus Energy, all with operations in Saskatchewan, announced large lay-offs.<sup>vii</sup>

On the other hand, Prince Albert & Northern is slowly growing with a 0.7% increase in employment over the past year. Construction began on a new hospital in North Battleford. The project is expected to create 1,500 construction-related jobs and require up to 149 staff upon completion in 2018.<sup>viii</sup>

Turning to Saskatchewan's larger centres, employment increased only modestly in both Regina—Moose Mountain (+0.4%) and Saskatoon—Biggar (+0.5). Both centres are projected to have low employment growth and a higher unemployment rate this year.<sup>ix</sup> On a positive note, each city has a major construction project starting up; construction is set to begin on the 144-unit Capital Pointe condo project in Regina, while construction has al-

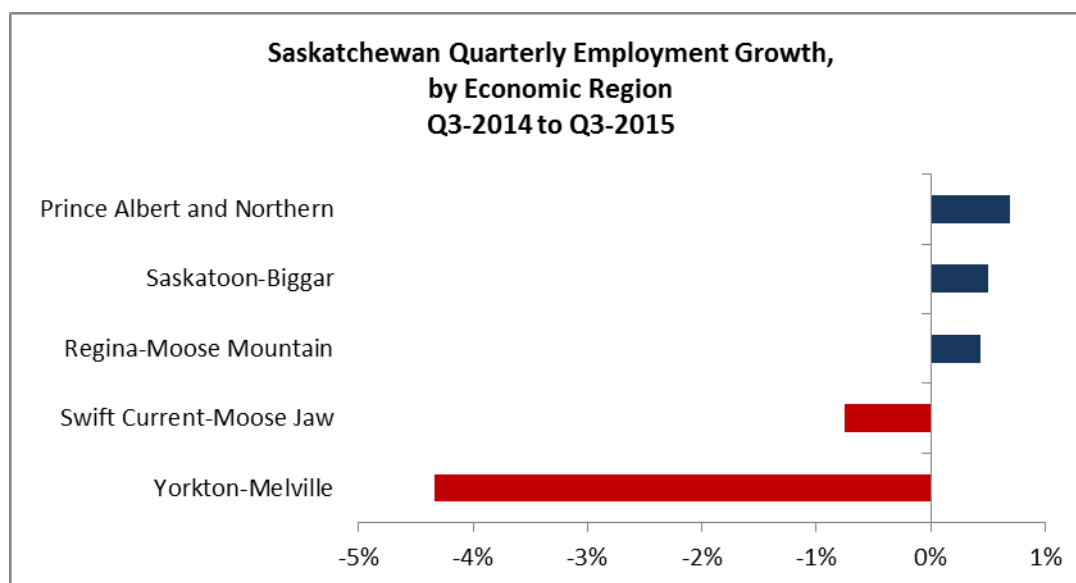
ready begun on the \$285-million Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.<sup>x</sup> However, Saskatoon will not have the job growth some anticipated for this year. The Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce set a goal of 8,000 new jobs in the city in 2015 but has since revised this goal to 3,400 new jobs. One reason given is the slow industrial construction market.<sup>xi</sup>

### Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2015 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2014 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2015 (%)	3rd Quarter 2014 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	577.8	577.5	0.1	5.3	3.9	1.4
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Regina-Moose Mountain	184.8	184.0	0.4	4.1	3.3	0.8
Swift Current-Moose Jaw	53.0	53.4	-0.7	4.0	2.4	1.6
Saskatoon-Biggar	200.7	199.7	0.5	5.6	4.1	1.5
Yorkton-Melville	37.5	39.2	-4.3	6.3	3.2	3.1
Prince Albert and Northern	101.8	101.1	0.7	6.9	5.6	1.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122



**Note:** In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

**Prepared by:** Labour Market Information (LMI) Directorate, Service Canada, Saskatchewan

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at: [NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2015, all rights reserved

<sup>i</sup> Conference Board of Canada. (August 2015). Provincial Outlook Executive Summary: Summer 2015. Retrieved from: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=7287> (subscription required for full report)

<sup>ii</sup> StarPhoenix (September 25, 2015). Pace of harvest above average despite rain, wind. Retrieved from: <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/business/pace+harvest+above+average+despite+rain+wind/11389687/story.html>

<sup>iii</sup> Johnstone, Bruce (September 17, 2015). Sask. manufacturing sales fall 13% to \$1.23B in July. *Regina Leader-Post*. Retrieved from: <http://www.leaderpost.com/business/sask+manufacturing+sales+fall+july/11368917/story.html>

<sup>iv</sup> MacPherson, Alex. (October 8, 2015). Construction slide a 'correction'. *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*. Retrieved from: <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/business/construction+slide+correction/11423330/story.html>

<sup>v</sup> Donville, Christopher (August 13, 2015). Nuclear revival sparks Cameco rally as uranium demand grows. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/nuclear-revival-sparks-cameco-rally-as-uranium-demand-grows/article25961434/>

<sup>vi</sup> Bikkis, Ian. (September 23, 2015). Cigar Lake uranium mine officially launched in northern Sask.. *CTV News*. Retrieved from: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/cigar-lake-uranium-mine-officially-launched-in-northern-sask-1.2577088>

<sup>vii</sup> Penn West announced Petroleum announced 400 lay-offs, ConocoPhillips announced 500, and Cenovus announced 540. Most of these cuts will be in Calgary, where the companies' main offices are, but all have offices in Saskatchewan. Regional break-downs of the cuts have not been provided.

The Canadian Press (September 1, 2015). Penn West Petroleum Ltd cuts 400 jobs, mostly in Calgary, suspends dividend, delays projects. *The Financial Post*. Retrieved from: <http://business.financialpost.com/news/energy/penn-west-petroleum-ltd-cuts-400-jobs-mostly-in-calgary-suspends-dividend-delays-projects>

Reuters (September 1, 2015). ConocoPhillips laying off 500 employees and contractors in Canada. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/conocophillips-laying-off-500-employees-and-contractors-in-canada/article26174779/>

CBC News (September 25, 2015). Cenovus Energy says more layoffs coming in the next few weeks. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/cenovus-energy-cuts-jobs-layoffs-1.3244991>

<sup>viii</sup> CBC News (September 21, 2015). Construction begins on new Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/new-saskatchewan-hospital-north-battleford-1.3237544>

<sup>ix</sup> The Conference Board of Canada expects that employment in both Saskatoon and Regina will advance by only 0.6% in 2015, while their respective unemployment rates could rise around one percentage point.

---

Conference Board of Canada. (May 2015). Metropolitan Outlook 1: Economic Insights Into 13 Canadian Metropolitan Economies. Retrieved from: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=7104> (subscription required for full report)

<sup>x</sup> CBC News (September 29, 2015). Developer says Capital Pointe construction to start next week. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-condo-project-to-proceed-1.3248711>

Craig, Meaghen. (September 16, 2015). Opening of \$285M Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan now expected in 2019. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2224960/construction-kicks-off-on-phase-2-of-childrens-hospital-of-sask/>

<sup>xi</sup> Giles, David (September 11, 2015). 8,000 new jobs for Saskatoon in 2015 'unlikely': chamber officials. *Global News*. Retrieved from: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2215796/8000-new-jobs-for-saskatoon-in-2015-unlikely-chamber-officials/>