



Labour Market Bulletin

Saskatchewan

February 2017



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 and Northern economic regions.

OVERVIEW

There were 575,500 people working in Saskatchewan in February, as provincial employment increased 8,000 (+1.4%) on the month. This uptick in employment follows three consecutive monthly declines. On an annual basis, employment in the province increased 1.6%, which was in line with national growth over the same period. All told, 8,800 more individuals were employed in the province this February compared to February 2016.

Both full- and part-time employment edged up in February, by 6,300 and 1,700 respectively. A similar trend is observed on an annual basis; however, the majority of new positions created over the past year were in part-time employment. Compared to last February, part-time employment in the province is up 5,500 positions.

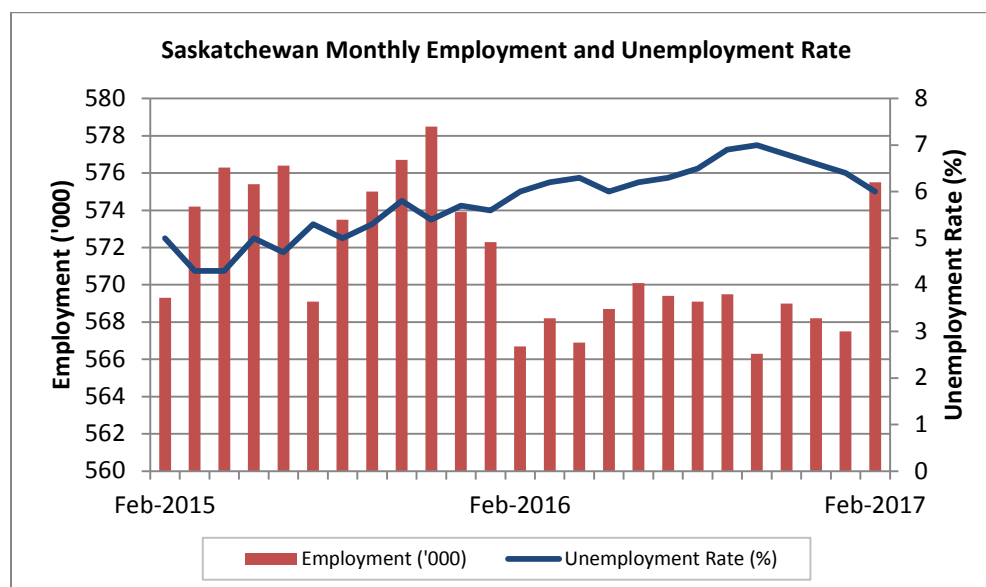
Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	873.4	872.7	865.8	0.7	0.1	7.6	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	612.5	606.3	603.1	6.2	1.0	9.4	1.6
Employment ('000)	575.5	567.5	566.7	8.0	1.4	8.8	1.6
Full-Time ('000)	469.9	463.6	466.7	6.3	1.4	3.2	0.7
Part-Time ('000)	105.6	103.9	100.1	1.7	1.6	5.5	5.5
Unemployment ('000)	36.9	38.8	36.4	-1.9	-4.9	0.5	1.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	6.4	6.0	-0.4	-	0.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	70.1	69.5	69.7	0.6	-	0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	65.9	65.0	65.5	0.9	-	0.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Looking at classes of workers, all three employment types registered significant increases in February. Public service employment rose by 4,900, while the number of individuals employed in the private sector also increased (+1,300). Meanwhile, the number of self-employed Saskatchewanians was up a significantly (+1,800) this month.



The number of unemployed individuals in Saskatchewan declined in February (-1,900). As a result, the province's unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points to 6.0% on a monthly basis. This represents the third lowest unemployment rate among provinces, behind only British Columbia and Manitoba.

Saskatchewan Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	February 2017 (%)	January 2017 (%)	February 2016 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.0	6.4	6.0	-0.4	0.0
25 years and over	5.3	5.6	5.0	-0.3	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	5.9	6.1	5.3	-0.2	0.6
Women - 25 years and over	4.6	5.0	4.6	-0.4	0.0
15 to 24 years	10.3	11.0	12.0	-0.7	-1.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.0	14.8	14.3	-3.8	-3.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.4	6.7	9.5	2.7	-0.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Looking at labour force results for age and gender groupings, the unemployment rate for youth (15 to 24 years) was 10.4% in February; nearly double the rate for adults aged 25 years and over (5.3%). The unemployment rate for young men declined 3.8 percentage points in February, while the rate for young women increased significantly over this period (+2.7 percentage points).

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Saskatchewan's services-producing sector was responsible for the majority of employment growth in February, as it added 6,800 positions. Employment in the goods-producing sector increased marginally this month (+1,100), but overall sector employment is still down 4,000 on an annual basis.

Looking at individual services-producing industries, employment in trade (wholesale and retail) has risen significantly during the past year. There are 8,000 more individuals employed in this industry compared to a year ago. According to Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan's retail sales totalled over \$1.5 billion in December, up 1.2% from the previous month.¹ That stated, the Conference Board of Canada anticipates that disposable income will continue to stagnate in the province in the first half of 2017 as the effects of the economic downturn linger – causing households to pull back on consumption.²

Employment in the Professional, scientific and technical services industry also climbed higher over the past year. The industry now employs 31,700 people – up 4,700 from February 2016. The province's technology industry has grown rapidly in recent years, with new tech companies opening and expanding operations. Vendasta, Noodlecake Studios Inc., Solido Design Automation Inc. and 7Shifts Inc. are only a few of the companies that have increased staffing levels in recent years. However, local technology companies are now facing a shortage of experienced software developers just as the province's tech-industry is booming.³

The finance, insurance, real estate and leasing industry suffered the largest year over year decline in employment among services-producing industries (-3,200). A slowdown in consumer borrowing and fewer people visiting bricks and mortar banks, coupled with a cooling real estate market, has negatively impacted employment in this industry. For instance, two major banks announced that they will be closing several branches in rural Saskatchewan this year. In February, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) revealed plans to close its Stoughton, Hafford, Turtleford, Radville and Norquay locations. In addition, Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) plans to shutter six of its locations in rural areas of the province, including a branch in Wawota. Both banks report that the closures are a result of more people choosing to bank online rather than visit a physical branch.⁴

Manufacturing registered the largest employment increase in the goods-producing sector on the month (+1,000), pushing overall industry employment up 11.4% year over year. According to most recent Statistics Canada figures, Saskatchewan manufacturing sales rose by 5.4% in December compared to the previous month – the highest growth among provinces.⁵

Saskatchewan's resource extraction industry continued to shed positions in February. There are now 2,100 fewer people employed in the industry compared to a year ago. Firms in the potash and uranium industries continue to struggle due to depressed prices. Consequently, capital investment in resource extraction is set to decline for a third consecutive year and will remain sluggish through the end of the decade, as various potash mining projects are either near completion or have recently been completed.⁶

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	575.5	567.5	566.7	8.0	1.4	8.8	1.6
Goods-producing sector	148.9	147.8	152.9	1.1	0.7	-4.0	-2.6
Agriculture	39.3	39.5	43.3	-0.2	-0.5	-4.0	-9.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	23.5	23.9	25.6	-0.4	-1.7	-2.1	-8.2
Utilities	7.0	6.7	6.9	0.3	4.5	0.1	1.4
Construction	50.6	50.3	51.6	0.3	0.6	-1.0	-1.9
Manufacturing	28.4	27.4	25.5	1.0	3.6	2.9	11.4
Services-producing sector	426.6	419.8	413.8	6.8	1.6	12.8	3.1
Trade	93.1	91.9	85.1	1.2	1.3	8.0	9.4
Transportation and warehousing	28.3	29.0	27.0	-0.7	-2.4	1.3	4.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	26.9	26.7	30.1	0.2	0.7	-3.2	-10.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	31.7	31.2	27.0	0.5	1.6	4.7	17.4
Business, building and other support services	13.0	13.2	12.6	-0.2	-1.5	0.4	3.2
Educational services	43.7	41.2	39.6	2.5	6.1	4.1	10.4
Health care and social assistance	78.4	76.0	79.7	2.4	3.2	-1.3	-1.6
Information, culture and recreation	21.2	21.2	20.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.9
Accommodation and food services	36.7	35.4	37.0	1.3	3.7	-0.3	-0.8
Other services	23.5	24.5	27.0	-1.0	-4.1	-3.5	-13.0
Public administration	30.0	29.5	28.0	0.5	1.7	2.0	7.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

There are slightly more individuals working in Saskatchewan's largest economic region – Saskatoon-Biggar (+500) – than a year ago. Non-residential construction activity is facilitating positive employment growth in the region. For example, development of Parcel Y at River Landing in Saskatoon began recently. Construction of the site's parking garage is currently underway, which will eventually serve a 155-room hotel and 16-storey condominium.⁷ A second phase of this development could include two office towers, as well as a public plaza.⁸

On an annual basis, employment in Regina-Moose Mountain remained virtually unchanged this month (-200). Higher employment levels in services-sector industries helped to partially outweigh losses in goods-producing industries in this region. For example, Houston-based Fuddruckers recently opened its doors in Regina and hired 83 employees for its operations.⁹ Despite employment remaining flat, the unemployment rate in Regina-Moose Mountain increased 0.8 percentage points on a year over year basis.

Employment in Yorkton-Melville is up 3,100 compared to the same month last year. This region is home to some of the world's largest reserves of potash. Between 2005 and 2016, Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan's Rocanville mine underwent capital expansions worth \$3 billion, and the project is expected to be fully

operational this year. The expansion is anticipated to increase full-time employment at the mine to 750 – doubling the mine's current workforce.¹⁰

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2017 ('000)	February 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2017 (%)	February 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Saskatchewan	561.7	563.1	-0.2	6.6	5.9	0.7
Economic Regions						
Regina-Moose Mountain	182.7	183.0	-0.2	5.3	4.5	0.8
Swift Current-Moose Jaw	52.7	52.2	1.0	3.3	4.0	-0.7
Saskatoon-Biggar	193.2	192.7	0.3	7.1	6.3	0.8
Yorkton-Melville	37.9	34.8	8.9	6.4	7.4	-1.0
Prince Albert and Northern	95.3	100.3	-5.0	9.7	8.1	1.6

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

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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¹ Government of Saskatchewan (February 22, 2017). Saskatchewan Leads Nation in Retail Sales Growth. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/february/22/retail-sales>

² Conference Board of Canada (December 22, 2016). Provincial Outlook Economic Forecast: Saskatchewan—Autumn 2016. Retrieved from: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=8520>

³ Saskatoon StarPhoenix (November 26, 2016). Developers in short supply as city's tech sector boom continues. Retrieved from: <http://thestarphoenix.com/business/local-business/developers-in-short-supply-as-citys-tech-sector-boom-continues>

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⁴ Regina Leader-Post (February 14, 2017). Rural banks closures irk residents. Retrieved from:
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⁵ Global News (February 15, 2017). Saskatchewan leads country in December 2016 manufacturing sales growth. Retrieved from:
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⁶ The Conference Board of Canada (March 3, 2017). Metropolitan Outlook 1: Regina—Winter 2017. Retrieved from:
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⁷ Saskatoon StarPhoenix (January 27, 2017). Demand spurs taller condo tower at Parcel Y. Retrieved from:
<http://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/demand-spurs-taller-condo-tower-at-parcel-y>

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⁹ Regina Leader-Post (January 24, 2017). With its grand opening a week away, here's a sneak peek at Fuddruckers. Retrieved from:
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¹⁰ Regina Leader-Post (June 1, 2016). Expanded PotashCorp Rocanville will be one of the world's biggest underground mines. Retrieved from:
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