



Labour Market Bulletin

Saskatchewan

October 2018



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 2,500 more people employed in Saskatchewan in October compared to September. Both full- and part-time employment increased on a monthly basis, by 1,600 and 900 respectively. Overall, employment in Saskatchewan is up nearly 10,000 over the past year.

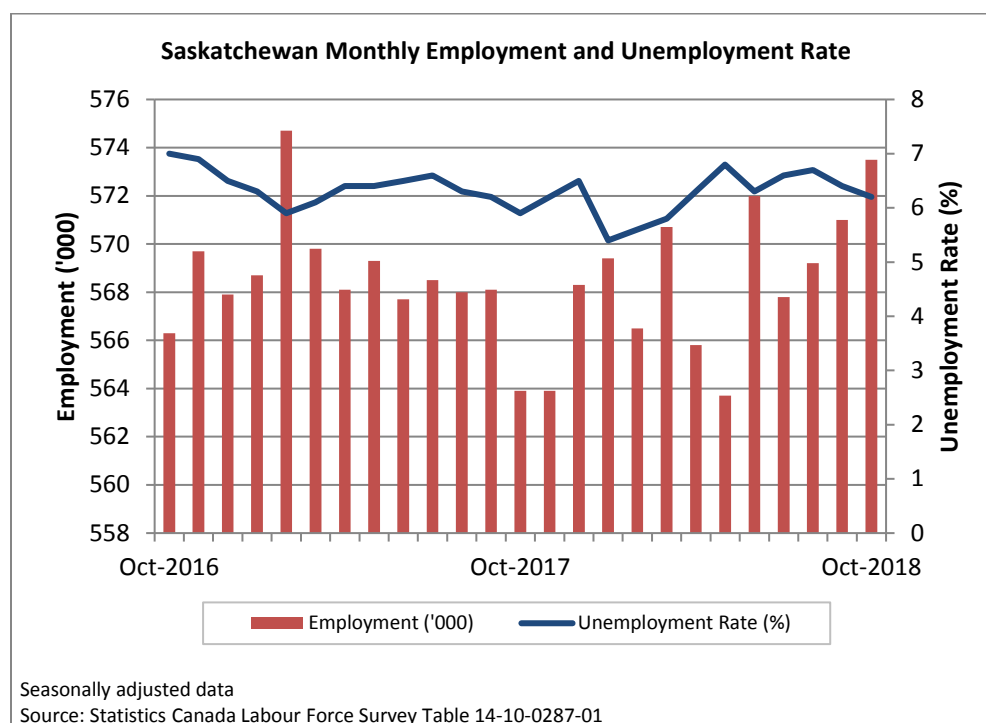
The private sector led employment gains on a yearly basis, adding 11,200 positions between October 2017 and October 2018. The public sector added 2,300 positions during this period. Conversely, the number of self-employed Saskatchewanians is down 3,900 from October 2017.¹

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	885.8	885.4	879.2	0.4	0.0	6.6	0.8
Labour Force ('000)	611.1	610.2	599.3	0.9	0.1	11.8	2.0
Employment ('000)	573.5	571.0	563.9	2.5	0.4	9.6	1.7
Full-Time ('000)	468.5	466.9	462.4	1.6	0.3	6.1	1.3
Part-Time ('000)	105.0	104.1	101.4	0.9	0.9	3.6	3.6
Unemployment ('000)	37.6	39.2	35.5	-1.6	-4.1	2.1	5.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.2	6.4	5.9	-0.2	-	0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	69.0	68.9	68.2	0.1	-	0.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	64.7	64.5	64.1	0.2	-	0.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287-01, formerly CANSIM 282-0087



For a second consecutive month, the number of individuals actively looking for employment decreased in Saskatchewan (-1,600). And the provincial unemployment rate now stands at 6.2% – down 0.2 percentage points compared to a month ago. Despite this recent drop in unemployment rate, the provincial rate still exceeds the national average of 5.8%.

The number of Employment Insurance (EI) regular claims in the province fell slightly over the last year. Employment Insurance is intended to provide temporary income support to unemployed workers while they look for employment or to upgrade their skills. According to the most recent data published by Statistics Canada, the number of EI regular claimants in Saskatchewan dropped from 18,420 in August 2017 to 16,400 in August 2018.²

Saskatchewan Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.2	6.4	5.9	-0.2	0.3
25 years and over	5.2	5.6	4.8	-0.4	0.4
Men - 25 years and over	5.3	6.2	5.3	-0.9	0.0
Women - 25 years and over	5.1	4.9	4.3	0.2	0.8
15 to 24 years	12.1	11.5	12.5	0.6	-0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.0	13.4	12.1	0.6	1.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.0	9.5	13.0	0.5	-3.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

Saskatchewan's youth (15 to 24 years) saw their unemployment rate fall 0.4 percentage points to 12.1% over the past year. The rate for young women declined drastically during this time, from 13.0% to 10.0%. In contrast, the unemployment rate for young men rose nearly two percentage points.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment increased both in the goods- and services-producing sectors this month, by 800 and 1,700 respectively. This is consistent with what happened on an annual basis. Year-over-year employment was up 7,400 in the services-producing sector, while employment in the goods-sector rose 2,200.

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	573.5	571.0	563.8	2.5	0.4	9.7	1.7
Goods-producing sector	147.2	146.4	145.0	0.8	0.5	2.2	1.5
Agriculture	38.7	38.0	35.7	0.7	1.8	3.0	8.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	22.0	22.8	24.1	-0.8	-3.5	-2.1	-8.7
Utilities	7.2	7.5	6.9	-0.3	-4.0	0.3	4.3
Construction	50.7	50.5	51.2	0.2	0.4	-0.5	-1.0
Manufacturing	28.6	27.6	27.1	1.0	3.6	1.5	5.5
Services-producing sector	426.3	424.6	418.9	1.7	0.4	7.4	1.8
Trade	86.5	88.1	91.9	-1.6	-1.8	-5.4	-5.9
Transportation and warehousing	28.3	28.1	29.8	0.2	0.7	-1.5	-5.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	28.7	28.5	27.4	0.2	0.7	1.3	4.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	26.5	26.1	28.8	0.4	1.5	-2.3	-8.0
Business, building and other support services	16.3	16.4	13.9	-0.1	-0.6	2.4	17.3
Educational services	45.5	45.3	40.5	0.2	0.4	5.0	12.3
Health care and social assistance	79.7	78.4	75.2	1.3	1.7	4.5	6.0
Information, culture and recreation	20.6	19.8	19.4	0.8	4.0	1.2	6.2
Accommodation and food services	38.4	38.4	36.1	0.0	0.0	2.3	6.4
Other services	25.9	25.8	25.1	0.1	0.4	0.8	3.2
Public administration	30.1	29.8	30.8	0.3	1.0	-0.7	-2.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

Employment in agriculture increased 700 in October 2018. The University of Saskatchewan recently opened the new \$38 million Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) situated at two locations near Clavet and Floral, south of Saskatoon. The LFCE aims to improve livestock production across Canada and around the world by bringing together all aspects of beef cattle research. The centre will focus its work on cow-calf production, intensive livestock production and forage, pasture and grazing management. The integrated research model brings together academics, producers, and scientists to collaborate in solving industry issues.³

The number of people employed in Saskatchewan's resource extraction industry, which includes forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas, declined this month (-800). Looking at the forestry industry, the Government of Canada has granted \$400,000 to the NorSask sawmill in Meadow Lake to improve product quality and reduce manufacturing costs and fibre waste. The project is being funded through the Indigenous Forestry Initiative and aims to increase Indigenous participation in forestry-related opportunities. The grant will help sustain more than 400 jobs near the NorSask Forest Products facility. Forestry is Northern Saskatchewan's

second largest industry after mining and supported nearly 8,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2017 – 30% of the workforce self-identify as First Nations and Métis.⁴

Meanwhile, the Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) has revised its drilling estimates for 2018, and now expects just 2,428 wells to be drilled in Saskatchewan this year. This compares to its original projection of 2,931 wells.⁵ On a positive note, investment in oil has been on the rise in the province and the industry is showing signs of recovery. For instance, Husky Energy is making progress on its six thermal plants, and expects that the first plant, Rush Lake 2, will be complete by the end of 2018. Meanwhile, construction at Dee Valley is underway with production anticipated in the first half of 2020.⁶

The diamond industry also saw positive development this month, as the provincial Ministry of Environment approved Star Diamond Corporation's Star-Orion South diamond project near Prince Albert. The proposed project includes excavating an open-pit at Star Kimberlite and a potential second pit at Orion South, as well as constructing a common processing plant. The preliminary economic assessment estimates that the project will cost \$1.87 billion in capital, including \$1.4 billion in pre-production capital costs. About 66 million carats of diamonds could be recovered from a surface mine over its 34 year project life. Overall, the mine is expected to employ over 700 people during full operation. However, in order for the project to move ahead, additional permits are required from the province and certain municipalities.⁷

There were 300 more individuals employed in the utilities industry in October 2018 compared to the same period last year. SaskPower is making progress to reach its 2030 goal of reducing power generation emissions by 40% and generating 50% of the province's energy by using renewable resources. After approving the Blue Hill Wind Energy Project in September, SaskPower recently approved the development of Potentia Renewables' Golden South Wind Energy facility near Assiniboia.⁸ The new wind farm is anticipated to include 60 wind turbines and will supply 200 megawatts of electricity into SaskPower's grid, enough to power around 90,000 homes. The project is expected to be complete by 2021.⁹

SaskPower also announced that it will purchase all of the power produced by Cowessess First Nation's recently completed wind-solar battery storage project. The Cowessess Renewable Energy Storage Facility is the first utility-scale hybrid solar and wind power site in Saskatchewan, and the first known wind-solar battery storage project in the country. The project will feed 1 megawatt into SaskPower's grid.¹⁰

Significant employment gains were registered in Saskatchewan's public sector industries this month, led by healthcare and social assistance (+1,300). Meanwhile, public administration and educational services added 300 and 200 positions respectively. On the education front, the 2018-19 school year has started and school divisions across the province have hired more teachers and support staff due to an increase in student enrolment. For instance, the Regina Public School Division added 23.5 full-time-equivalent (FTE) teachers and 16.5 FTE educational assistants. Similarly, the Saskatoon Public School Division hired more than 21 new teachers and over 18 full-time educational assistants.¹¹

On an annual basis, the largest drop in employment was registered in Saskatchewan's wholesale and retail trade industry (-5,400). However, the legalization of marijuana is anticipated to positively impact job growth in the province's retail trade industry. The provincial government has given out a total of 51 marijuana permits across the province. Many of these newly licensed retailers are looking to hire employees locally.¹²

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Compared to the same period last year, employment is up in all economic regions in Saskatchewan except Yorkton-Melville. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate decreased in three of the province's five economic regions during the same period.

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2018 ('000)	October 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2018 (%)	October 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Saskatchewan	574.9	570.2	0.8	6.1	5.8	0.3
Economic Regions						
Regina - Moose Mountain	183.8	181.6	1.2	6.1	4.7	1.4
Swift Current - Moose Jaw	50.8	49.7	2.2	3.8	3.9	-0.1
Saskatoon - Biggar	205.1	203.6	0.7	6.4	6.8	-0.4
Yorkton - Melville	37.3	38.9	-4.1	4.4	4.7	-0.3
Prince Albert and Northern	98.0	96.5	1.6	7.2	6.9	0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

The number of people employed in Regina-Moose Mountain increased 2,200 between October 2017 and October 2018. The services-producing sector led employment growth during this period (+2,200), while employment in the goods-producing sector remained unchanged on an annual basis. Regina-Moose Mountain's manufacturing industry shed a significant number of positions on a year-over-year basis (-1,300). NAFTA negotiations, which concluded last month, created uncertainty in the region's manufacturing industry. On August 21, the U.S. government imposed preliminary anti-dumping duties on large-diameter welded pipe from Canada and five other countries. The U.S. is now collecting 24.38% cash deposits on imports from Canada. The changes could affect Evraz Regina, which is the longest-running Large Diameter pipe producer in North America, with an annual capacity of 360,000 tons.¹³

Meanwhile, there were 1,100 more people employed in Swift Current-Moose Jaw region in October compared to a year ago. Swift Current is aiming to increase its population base by 1,000 new residents a year over the next seven years to reach 25,000 people. In order to reach its population growth goals, the city has developed a plan to spur economic activity that includes municipal tax exemptions for new businesses, as well as existing business expansion, and low commercial property leasing costs for businesses. The push to attract new business has resulted in Swift Current attracting major projects such as SaskPower's \$680-million Chinook power plant, which has created about 650 jobs during the construction phase.¹⁴

Finally, employment in Prince Albert and Northern region increased 1,500 on an annual basis. The Gold Horse Casino plans to open its doors in Lloydminster in December 2018. Overall, the casino will employ 186 full-time, part-time and casual staff once it is fully operational. Gold Horse will be the seventh casino under Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. The gaming authority will have the same profit distribution model at this casino as it does at its other locations. Half of the profits generated will be given to Saskatchewan's

Indigenous Communities, while 25% will be granted towards local initiatives and the remaining will be shared with the Province.¹⁵

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.

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

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