



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Saskatchewan

December 2019



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 581,000 people working in Saskatchewan during the fourth quarter of 2019, down 800 from the previous quarter. Gains in full-time employment (+4,600) were more than offset by losses in part-time employment (-5,300). There are 3,200 more people employed in the province compared to the same period last year.

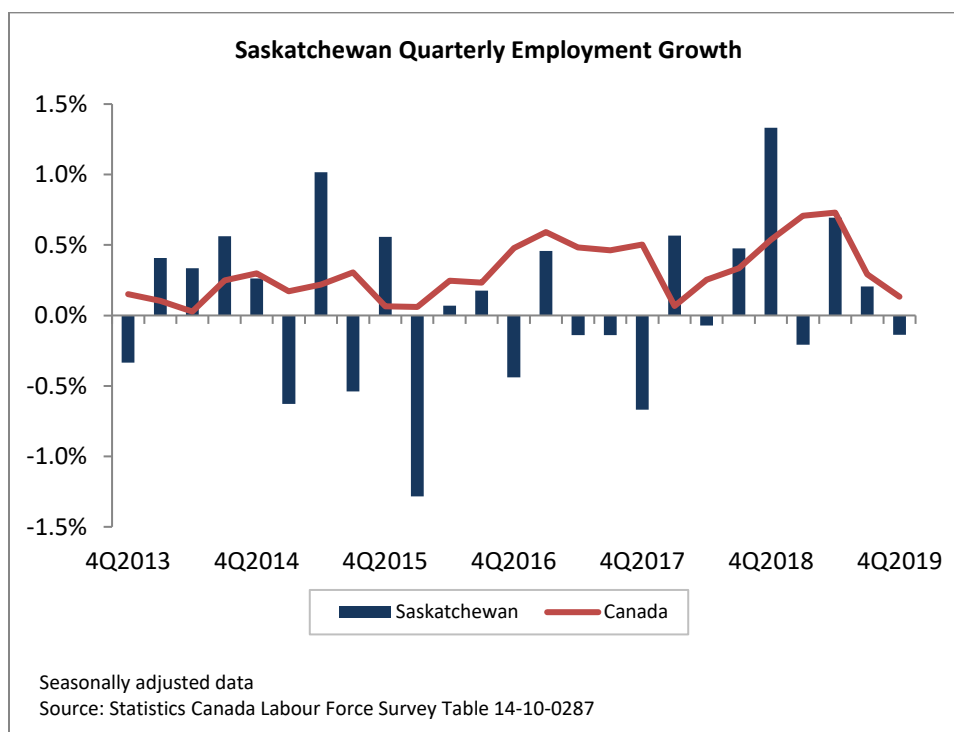
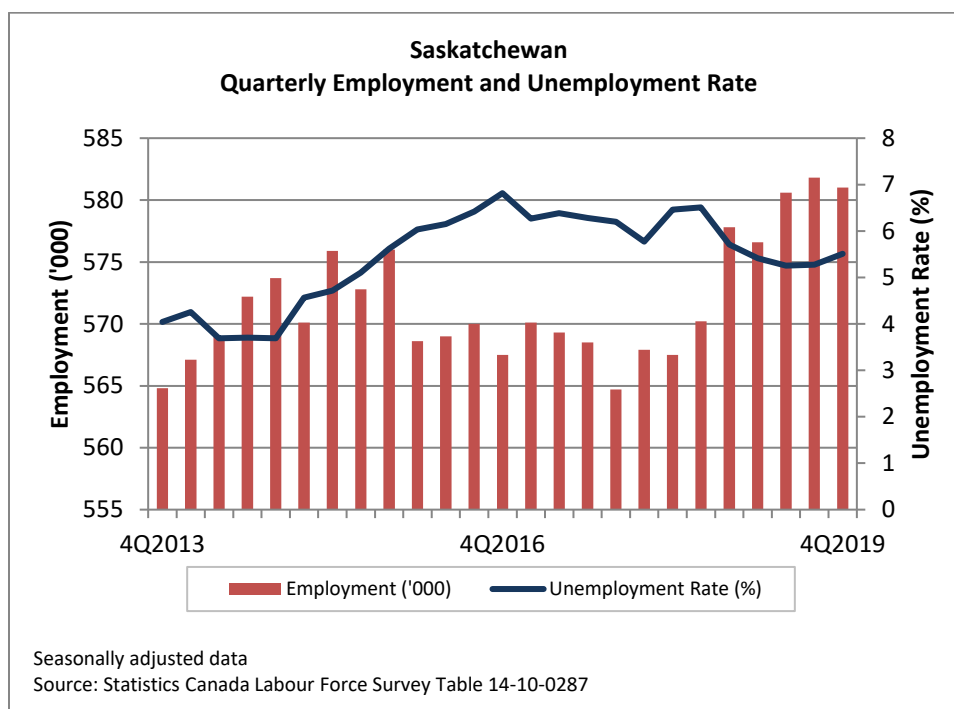
#### Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally adjusted data	4th Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	892.6	890.3	886.4	2.3	0.3	6.2	0.7
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	614.9	614.2	612.9	0.7	0.1	2.0	0.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	581.0	581.8	577.8	-0.8	-0.1	3.2	0.6
Full-Time ('000)	476.0	471.4	472.5	4.6	1.0	3.5	0.7
Part-Time ('000)	105.0	110.3	105.3	-5.3	-4.8	-0.3	-0.3
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	33.9	32.4	35.0	1.5	4.6	-1.1	-3.1
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.5	5.3	5.7	0.2	-	-0.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	68.9	69.0	69.1	-0.1	-	-0.2	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	65.1	65.3	65.2	-0.2	-	-0.1	-

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

On a quarterly basis, employment was down both in the private sector (-5,700) and among those self-employed (-100). Public sector employment grew by 1,800 positions during the same period.<sup>1</sup>



Saskatchewan's unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points on a quarterly basis, reaching 5.5%. The province's unemployment rate is still slightly below the national average of 5.7%.<sup>2</sup>

## Unemployment by Major Demographic Group

Saskatchewan's youth (15 to 24 years) unemployment rate of 11.9% was more than twice the rate for those aged 25 years and over (4.5%) this quarter. Young women fared better than their male counterparts on a quarterly basis. The unemployment rate for young women declined 4.3 percentage points to 9.4%, while the rate for young men increased nearly three full percentage points to 14.2%.

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

Seasonally adjusted data	4th Quarter 2019 (%)	3rd Quarter 2019 (%)	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.5	5.3	5.7	0.2	-0.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.5	4.1	5.0	0.4	-0.5
Men - 25 years and over	4.5	3.9	4.9	0.6	-0.4
Women - 25 years and over	4.4	4.3	5.0	0.1	-0.6
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	11.9	12.5	10.3	-0.6	1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.2	11.3	11.9	2.9	2.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.4	13.7	8.5	-4.3	0.9

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

## Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

In the fourth quarter of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in Saskatchewan was 892,600. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 10.0% of that, or 89,000 people. Employment among the Indigenous population in Saskatchewan increased by 4,400 positions (+9.8%) compared to a year earlier, to reach 49,500. The increase was mostly in part-time positions (+4,300 or +64.2%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 12.9% in the fourth quarter of 2019, a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from the previous year. The unemployment rate was also down slightly among the non-Indigenous population, to 4.2% -0.2 percentage points. Between the fourth quarter of 2018 and the fourth quarter of 2019, the participation rate for Indigenous people increased to 63.9% (+3.4 percentage points) while it was unchanged at 69.4% for the non-Indigenous population. The employment rate increased for the Indigenous population to 55.6% (+3.6 percentage points) while that for the non-Indigenous population nudged upwards to 66.5% (+0.2 percentage points).

## Saskatchewan - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q4 2019	Q4 2018	number	%	Q4 2019	Q4 2018	number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	89.0	86.8	2.2	2.5	803.6	799.7	3.9	0.5
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	56.8	52.5	4.3	8.2	557.8	554.9	2.9	0.5
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	49.5	45.1	4.4	9.8	534.2	530.4	3.8	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	38.5	38.4	0.1	0.3	434.2	432.6	1.6	0.4
Part-Time ('000)	11.0	6.7	4.3	64.2	100.0	97.8	2.2	2.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	7.4	7.4	0.0	0.0	23.6	24.5	-0.9	-3.7
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	12.9	14.1	-1.2	-	4.2	4.4	-0.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	63.9	60.5	3.4	-	69.4	69.4	0.0	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	55.6	52.0	3.6	-	66.5	66.3	0.2	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – ESDC custom table

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment gains in Saskatchewan's services-producing sector (+1,200) were surpassed by job losses in the goods-producing sector (-2,000) over the past quarter. The reverse trend occurred on an annual basis as employment expanded by 6,600 (+1.5%) in the services-producing sector and contracted by 3,500 (-2.4%) in the goods-producing sector.

## Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally adjusted data ('000)	4th Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	581.0	581.8	577.8	-0.8	-0.1	3.2	0.6
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	144.2	146.2	147.7	-2.0	-1.4	-3.5	-2.4
Agriculture	39.9	38.9	40.0	1.0	2.6	-0.1	-0.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	21.7	23.3	22.1	-1.6	-6.9	-0.4	-1.8
Utilities	5.5	5.6	7.0	-0.1	-1.8	-1.5	-21.4
Construction	45.7	47.8	50.0	-2.1	-4.4	-4.3	-8.6
Manufacturing	31.3	30.7	28.6	0.6	2.0	2.7	9.4
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	436.8	435.6	430.2	1.2	0.3	6.6	1.5
Trade	83.3	86.6	87.4	-3.3	-3.8	-4.1	-4.7
Transportation and warehousing	25.8	26.1	28.2	-0.3	-1.1	-2.4	-8.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	30.4	29.5	28.9	0.9	3.1	1.5	5.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	27.5	28.7	26.6	-1.2	-4.2	0.9	3.4
Business, building and other support services	16.1	15.0	16.1	1.1	7.3	0.0	0.0
Educational services	46.4	43.7	45.6	2.7	6.2	0.8	1.8
Health care and social assistance	80.9	80.4	81.1	0.5	0.6	-0.2	-0.2
Information, culture and recreation	22.6	22.0	20.1	0.6	2.7	2.5	12.4
Accommodation and food services	40.8	41.9	38.7	-1.1	-2.6	2.1	5.4
Other services	29.9	29.2	27.1	0.7	2.4	2.8	10.3
Public administration	33.3	32.5	30.3	0.8	2.5	3.0	9.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table T14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

Within the goods-producing sector, the largest quarterly increase in employment took place in the **agriculture** industry (+1,000). Prairie farmers faced a number of trade challenges over the past year, even before the fall harvest was hampered by poor weather. Despite China continuing to block Canadian canola seed imports, overall exports of canola did rebound in November, primarily due to higher exports to European destinations.<sup>3</sup>

The **construction** industry shed 2,100 positions in the last quarter of 2019. The completion of a number of large multi-year projects, combined with sluggish residential construction activity across Saskatchewan, may be driving the decline.

The number of people working in Saskatchewan's resource extraction industry (**forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**) dropped by 1,600 this quarter. Weakness in the global potash market continues to prompt producers to scale back production. Saskatoon-based Nutrien Ltd. extended the shutdown of its Vanscoy potash mine through to the end of January 2020, while opting to resume operations at its Allan and Lanigan mines. On a more positive note, Anglo-Australian mining company – Rio Tinto Exploration Canada Inc. – is moving ahead with two mining projects in northern Saskatchewan.

In the services-producing sector, **educational services** saw the largest employment increase (+2,700) on a quarterly basis, followed by **business, building and other support services** (+1,100). In contrast, employment in the **trade** industry – Saskatchewan’s largest industry by employment – saw the largest quarterly decline in employment (-3,300). The industry continues to be impacted by trade uncertainties with China and was hindered by a recent strike at Canadian National Railway that halted all commodity shipments to the coast.

Employment in Saskatchewan’s public sector industries remained strong in the fourth quarter of 2019. **Educational services** gained 2,700 positions while **healthcare and social assistance** and **public administration** added 1,100 and 800 positions respectively. One area of focus for the public sector is the welfare of Indigenous youth. Indigenous Services Canada has committed an additional \$2.5 million to the \$32 million previously allocated towards mental health services for Indigenous children and youth following several incidents of self-harm in northern Saskatchewan communities. The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations will use the funding to develop a suicide prevention strategy and to provide culture-based programs, services and activities to promote youth empowerment, health and healing.<sup>4</sup>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment increased in four of Saskatchewan’s five economic regions over the past year. Swift Current-Moose Jaw led the province in job growth on a percentage basis year-over-year (5.1%), while Saskatoon-Biggar saw the greatest increase in employment (+3,600).

**Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

Seasonally unadjusted data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2019 ('000)	4th Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2019 (%)	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	582.7	575.4	1.3	5.1	5.3	-0.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Regina - Moose Mountain	181.5	184.5	-1.6	5.1	4.9	0.2
Swift Current - Moose Jaw	53.6	51.0	5.1	3.9	4.0	-0.1
Saskatoon - Biggar	209.9	206.3	1.7	5.0	5.2	-0.2
Yorkton - Melville	37.6	37.0	1.6	4.8	3.9	0.9
Prince Albert and Northern	100.1	96.6	3.6	5.7	7.0	-1.3

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

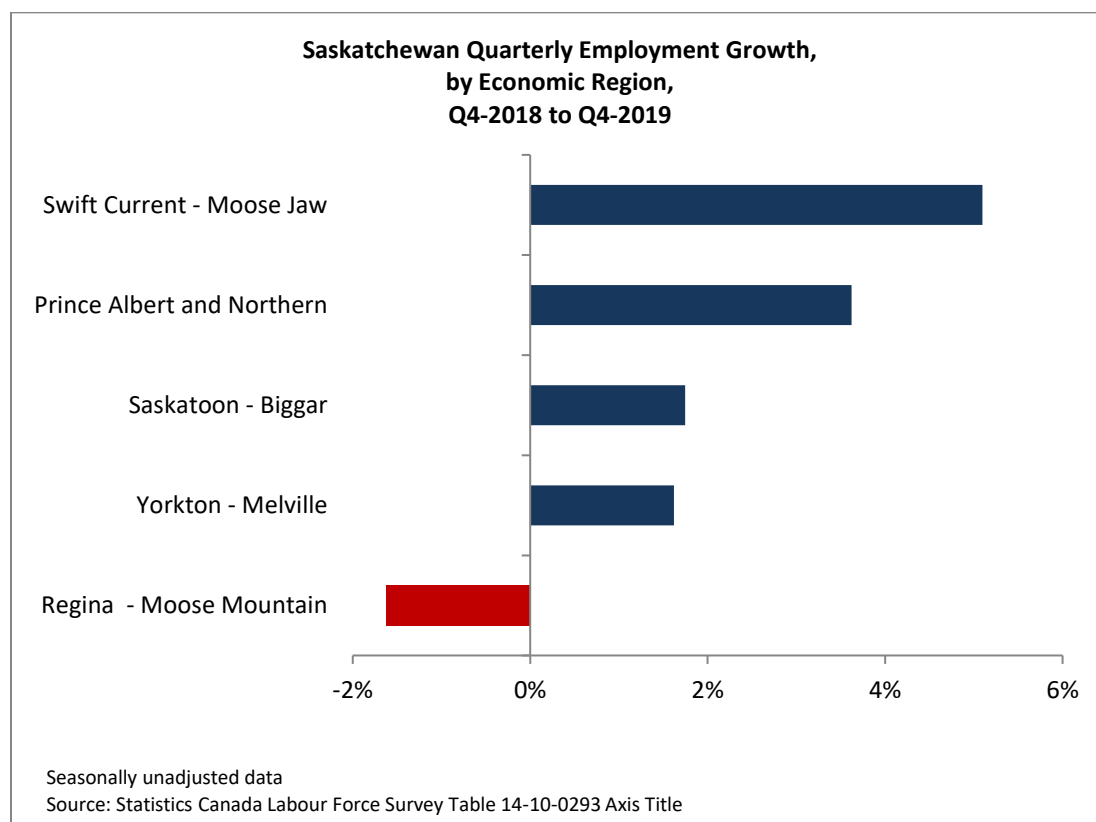
*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 282-0122*

Employment is down year-over-year in **Regina-Moose Mountain**. Almost half of all services-producing industries recorded job losses, with significant declines in transportation and warehousing, educational services, and wholesale and retail trade industries. The region is also feeling the effects of an ongoing labour dispute at the Regina Co-op Refinery Complex.<sup>5</sup>

The **Swift Current-Moose Jaw** region has the province's lowest unemployment rate at 3.9%. The number of people employed in the region is up 2,600 compared to the fourth quarter of 2018. Looking forward, large energy and helium projects may provide a boost to employment for the region's goods-producing industries. For example, increased global demand for helium is prompting both North American Helium and Weil Group Resources to revisit the commercial viability of their Saskatchewan helium properties. The Weil Group recently drilled a new well to restore output for its Mankota processing plant, while North American Helium has tentative plans to open its own helium processing plant by mid-2020.<sup>6</sup>

Employment in **Saskatoon-Biggar** advanced 1.7% year-over-year. The region's growing reputation as a technology hub continues to attract new businesses, which in turn contributed to the 3,400 new jobs added in the information, culture and recreation industry over the past year.

Meanwhile, employment in **Prince Albert and Northern** increased 3,500 on an annual basis. A number of construction projects are underway or scheduled to begin in 2020 that should stimulate employment growth in the region. Among these is a new 72-bed long term care home in Meadow Lake that replaces the 55-bed Northland Pioneers Lodge. The Saskatchewan Health Authority has allocated \$12 million towards finalizing the design and the start of construction of the facility this year.<sup>7</sup>



**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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0288-01 Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months (x 1,000). Accessed on January 10, 2020.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028801>

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months. Accessed on January 10, 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701>

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada, Canadian international merchandise trade, November 2019; January 7, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/200107/dq200107a-eng.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Government of Canada, Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities; December 19, 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>

<sup>5</sup> Financial Post, Canada's Co-op Refinery to lock out workers, plans to keep operating; December 4, 2019. Retrieved from: <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/canadas-co-op-refinery-to-lock-out-workers-plans-to-keep-operating>

<sup>6</sup> CBC News, Sask Helium drilling could provide new prospects for struggling oilpatch; January 6, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/sask-helium-drilling-oilpatch-1.5415930>

<sup>7</sup> Global News, Larger facility to replace Northland Pioneers Lodge in Meadow Lake, Sask; December 19, 2019. Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/6319512/northland-pioneers-lodge-meadow-lake/>