



Labour Market Bulletin

Saskatchewan

October 2022



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

After four consecutive months of decline, employment in Saskatchewan rose in October, up 1.1% (+6,100 jobs). Gains in full-time employment (+10,300 jobs or +2.2%) outpaced losses in part-time employment (-4,200 jobs or -3.9%). Overall, total employment was up 3.5% (19,800 jobs) compared to the same period last year.

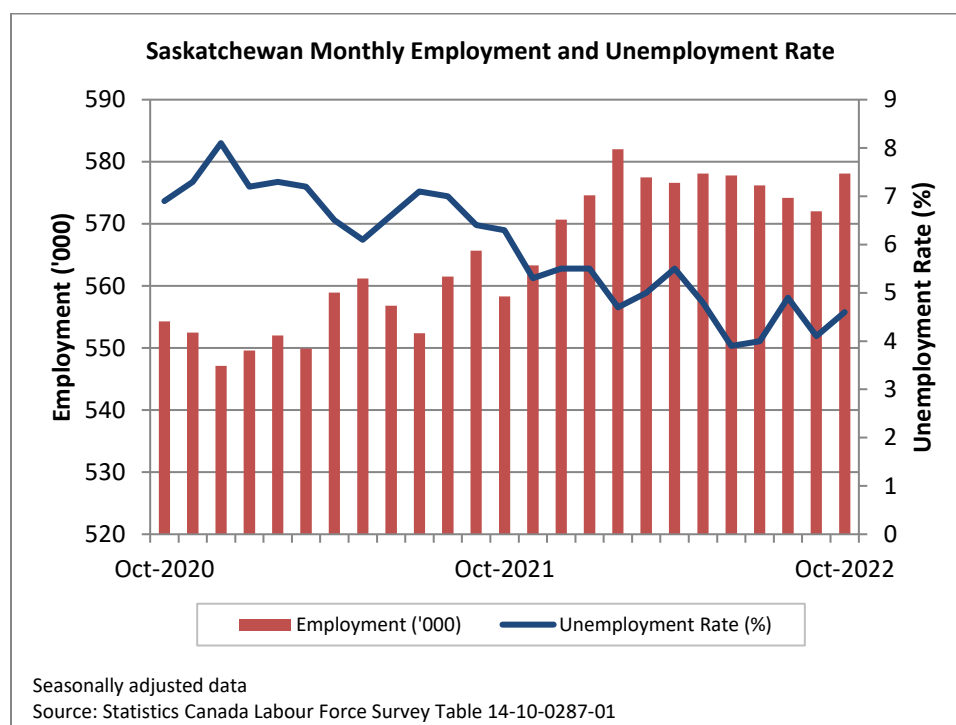
Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	October 2022	September 2022	October 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	906.4	904.4	890.0	2.0	0.2	16.4	1.8
Labour Force ('000)	606.1	596.2	595.8	9.9	1.7	10.3	1.7
Employment ('000)	578.1	572.0	558.3	6.1	1.1	19.8	3.5
Full-Time ('000)	475.2	464.9	452.7	10.3	2.2	22.5	5.0
Part-Time ('000)	102.9	107.1	105.6	-4.2	-3.9	-2.7	-2.6
Unemployment ('000)	28.0	24.2	37.5	3.8	15.7	-9.5	-25.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	4.1	6.3	0.5	-	-1.7	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.9	65.9	66.9	1.0	-	0.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.8	63.2	62.7	0.6	-	1.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Month-over-month, public sector employment grew 2.3% (+3,600 jobs) in October. By contrast, employment in the private sector shrank (-1.7% or -5,700 jobs). On annual basis, both public sector employment (+9.8%) and the number of private sector employees (+3.6%) were up compared to October 2021. Meanwhile, self-employment in Saskatchewan experienced strong monthly gains (+10.9% or +8,200 jobs) in October but remained lower compared to last year (-7.0% or -6,300 jobs).¹



On a monthly basis, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate rose 0.5 of a percentage point to 4.6% in October, below the national rate of 5.2% and still below 5% for the sixth consecutive month. For males aged 25 years and older, October's unemployment rate was 3.9%, unchanged from September and down 2.7 percentage points on the year. By comparison, the unemployment rate for females within the same age bracket increased 0.6 percentage points to 3.6%, compared to last month, but was down one percentage point on the year.

Saskatchewan Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2022 (%)	September 2022 (%)	October 2021 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	4.6	4.1	6.3	0.5	-1.7
25 years and over	3.8	3.5	5.7	0.3	-1.9
Men - 25 years and over	3.9	3.9	6.6	0.0	-2.7
Women - 25 years and over	3.6	3.0	4.6	0.6	-1.0
15 to 24 years	9.6	7.6	9.6	2.0	0.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.0	8.9	10.3	4.1	2.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.1	6.3	9.1	-0.2	-3.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The unemployment rate among young workers in Saskatchewan remains higher than their older counterparts. The rate for males aged 15 to 24 years jumped to 13.0%, up 4.1 percentage points on the month and up 2.7 percentage points from October 2021. Conversely, October's unemployment rate for young females was 6.1%, down 0.2 percentage points compared to September 2022 and down 3.0 percentage points compared to October 2021.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Goods-producing industries

In general, employment in this sector gained in October after falling for three consecutive months, up 2.7% (+2,200 jobs). The increase is slightly greater when compared year-over-year, growing 3.2% (+3,900 jobs). This sector continues to struggle to reach pre-pandemic levels, down 11.2% (-15,900 jobs) when compared to February 2020.

Employment in the province's **agriculture** industry experienced little growth compared to the previous month (+2.0% or +500 jobs), with slightly greater improvements year-over-year (+6.6% or +1,600 jobs). According to Saskatchewan's final crop report of the year, harvest wrapped up in October. Crop quality this season is primarily in the top two grade categories for each respective crop. Producers are hopeful that fall and winter will bring significant amounts of precipitation to replenish soil moisture levels and dugouts.²

Saskatchewan's resource extraction industry (**forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**) gained 800 jobs (+4.2%) on the month with significant growth year-over-year, up 20.5% (+3,400 jobs). Future employment in this industry looks promising. Cameco, a Saskatoon-based uranium company, is in the process of reopening its McArthur River mine and the Key Lake mill in northern Saskatchewan. The facilities were closed in 2018 due to low demand for uranium; however, the company has hired close to 600 workers over the past year in preparation for the reopening.³

Furthermore, Prairie Lithium Corporation has converted its crown mineral exploration permits into 21-year mineral leases. Located in the province's resource-rich Williston Basin, the company will be using direct lithium extraction technology (DLE) and existing infrastructure, such as abandoned oil wells, to access vast untapped lithium resources.⁴

The province's **construction** industry gained 1,400 jobs (+3.4%) on the month; however, employment dipped 300 jobs (-0.7%) when compared to last year. Multiple infrastructure projects have recently been announced. The Government of Canada is providing \$68 million for ten infrastructure projects, including \$16.5 million to upgrade Saskatoon's Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre and Albert Community Centre.⁵ In addition, the federal and provincial governments are providing \$44.6 million in joint funding for 28 infrastructure projects across Saskatchewan. Some projects include a new recreational, cultural and community gathering centre in Meadow Lake and a new Interpretive Cultural Art Gallery at the Mosquito Grizzly Bears Head Lean Man First Nation.⁶

On a monthly basis, the **manufacturing** industry lost 100 jobs (-0.3%) compared to September and is also down 1,600 jobs (-5.0%) year-over-year. C-Merak celebrated the opening of the company's new dry milling plant. Located west of Tisdale, the new plant will create plant-based proteins, flours and other food ingredients from locally grown crops.⁷

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	October 2022	September 2022	October 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	578.1	572.0	558.3	6.1	1.1	19.8	3.5
Goods-producing sector	126.4	123.7	122.5	2.7	2.2	3.9	3.2
Agriculture	25.9	25.4	24.3	0.5	2.0	1.6	6.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	20.0	19.2	16.6	0.8	4.2	3.4	20.5
Utilities	7.3	7.2	6.4	0.1	1.4	0.9	14.1
Construction	42.8	41.4	43.1	1.4	3.4	-0.3	-0.7
Manufacturing	30.4	30.5	32.0	-0.1	-0.3	-1.6	-5.0
Services-producing sector	451.7	448.3	435.9	3.4	0.8	15.8	3.6
Trade	93.1	93.5	96.2	-0.4	-0.4	-3.1	-3.2
Transportation and warehousing	25.7	25.2	25.4	0.5	2.0	0.3	1.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	29.6	30.0	31.2	-0.4	-1.3	-1.6	-5.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	33.0	32.2	26.3	0.8	2.5	6.7	25.5
Business, building and other support services	12.9	11.3	13.3	1.6	14.2	-0.4	-3.0
Educational services	47.5	45.9	45.7	1.6	3.5	1.8	3.9
Health care and social assistance	94.4	95.6	89.9	-1.2	-1.3	4.5	5.0
Information, culture and recreation	19.5	19.7	17.7	-0.2	-1.0	1.8	10.2
Accommodation and food services	35.1	35.0	30.9	0.1	0.3	4.2	13.6
Other services	25.9	26.1	24.8	-0.2	-0.8	1.1	4.4
Public administration	35.0	33.9	34.5	1.1	3.2	0.5	1.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Services-producing industries

On the whole, there was little change in October's employment numbers, up 0.8% (+3,400 jobs). However, from an annual perspective, employment in the sector has grown by 3.6% (+15,800 jobs). Additionally, employment in this sector continues to exceed pre-pandemic levels, up 4.6% (+19,900 jobs) when compared to February 2020.

Employment in **health care and social assistance** fell 1.3% (-1,200 jobs) on the month but rose 5.0% (+4,500 jobs) year-over-year. Looking first at health care in the province, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is opening five new beds at the Kamsack Hospital. However, due to staffing shortages, the hospital will continue to operate without inpatient and some emergency services.⁸ In the meantime, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is looking to fill 175 full-time health-care positions across 49 communities in Saskatchewan. Of the 175 positions, 125 are new and 50 are existing part-time positions that are being converted to full-time.⁹ As part of the provincial government's plan to hire 1,000 health-care workers, the province is helping expedite accreditation processes for workers from other countries.¹⁰

Moving to social assistance-related news, the provincial government will be providing \$470 million for mental health and addictions services. In addition, 150 new addictions treatment spaces will be added over the next three-years.¹¹ The provincial government is also providing \$3.6 million, over three years, to the Saskatoon Tribal Council for a new program aimed at reducing the number of young Indigenous women who reoffend. The pilot program will offer services such as mental health, addictions and cultural supports.¹²

Employment in Saskatchewan's **wholesale and retail trade** industry declined on a monthly (-0.4% or -400 jobs) and yearly (-3.2% or -3,100 jobs) basis respectively. The Government of Saskatchewan is shutting down all the province's 34 Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) stores. The closing dates will vary, but all stores will close by the end of the first quarter of 2023, affecting more than 350 workers.¹³

The **public administration** industry grew slightly from the previous month (+3.2% or +1,100 jobs), as well as compared to last year (+1.4% or +500 jobs). After recent tragic events at James Smith Cree Nation and the Village of Weldon, the Government of Saskatchewan announced plans to create a new policing service based out of Prince Albert. The Saskatchewan Marshalls Service will work with the other crime teams in the province. In addition, eight new officers will be added to the Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team.¹⁴

The Prince Albert Grand Council, along with the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, have entered into an agreement to explore community-oriented policing in 12 First Nations and 28 communities.¹⁵ The provincial courthouse in Lloydminster has recently been re-established as a permanent court location. The Government of Saskatchewan will be looking to hire five provincial court staff and five deputy sheriffs to operate the facility on a full-time basis.¹⁶

Employment in the province's **education services** recorded both monthly and yearly gains, up 3.5% (+1,600 jobs) and +3.9% (+1,800 jobs) respectively. According to reports from local school divisions, there are more than 400 additional educational assistants working in Saskatchewan schools compared to September 2021.¹⁷ To help meet education, economic and labour market needs in Saskatchewan's southeast region, the University of Regina and the Southeast College are collaborating to provide academic programming, career training and continuing education.¹⁸

The First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) has announced that a new partnered program will be available for Indigenous students to aid in streamlining skills training in the technology sector.¹⁹ Saskatchewan Polytechnic, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, has begun offering a Health Care Cook certificate program. The 39-week full-time course is available in Moose Jaw and Prince Albert.²⁰

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The labour force statistics for the economic regions are not seasonally adjusted and should only be compared on a year-over-year basis. Employment is sometimes influenced by seasonal and calendar effects occurring at the same time and with the same magnitude every year, which can bring about changes in the data that make monthly comparisons difficult.²¹

Compared to October 2021, employment was up in three of the province's five economic regions led by the **Saskatoon – Biggar** region (+9.1% or +18,200 jobs). On a percentage basis, the **Prince Albert and Northern** region experienced the greatest employment decline, down 3.8% (-3,800 jobs).

Year-over-year, the **Saskatoon – Biggar** region saw its unemployment rate decline 2.6 percentage points to 3.8%, the lowest in the province. According to the Conference Board of Canada, Saskatoon's economy is forecasted to grow by 7.2% in 2022 and 3.9% in 2023, outpacing all other major cities in Canada in 2022. The forecasted growth

in 2022 will be driven by a boost in agricultural production, increased production of potash and uranium mining as well as a rise in output in the oil sector.²²

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2022 ('000)	October 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2022 (%)	October 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Saskatchewan	580.7	568.4	2.2	4.3	5.9	-1.6
Economic Regions						
Regina - Moose Mountain	176.9	181.3	-2.4	4.8	5.9	-1.1
Swift Current - Moose Jaw	51.8	50.2	3.2	4.1	7.9	-3.8
Saskatoon - Biggar	217.2	199.0	9.1	3.8	6.4	-2.6
Yorkton - Melville	37.3	36.6	1.9	4.1	3.7	0.4
Prince Albert and Northern	97.5	101.3	-3.8	4.3	5.0	-0.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

In construction-related news, the City of Saskatoon is continuing with strides to improve its resiliency to extreme weather events and flooding. The city has unveiled the first of 10 new dry storm water ponds, as part of a \$57 million project to improve the city's most flood-prone areas. The new installations are to be completed by 2027.²³

Employment in **Regina – Moose Mountain** fell 2.4% (-4,400 jobs) over the year, while the unemployment rate dropped 1.1 percentage point to 4.8%. According to the Conference Board of Canada, Regina's economy is forecasted grow by 6.1% in 2022 and 3.3% in 2023. Favourable market conditions for the province's key commodities and several major capital projects announced for the city will contribute to the City's growth.²⁴

Prairies Economic Development Canada is providing \$976,000 to the University of Regina for a new microgrid. Currently in the design phase, the self-sustaining energy system will generate power for the campus and help grow Saskatchewan's renewable energy sector.²⁵

On an annual basis, the unemployment rate in the **Prince Albert and Northern** region dropped 0.7 percentage points to 4.3%. The Government of Saskatchewan is looking to choose a contractor for the La Ronge Long-Term Care Centre. Construction on the 80-bed facility is expected to start in the spring of 2023.²⁶ Meadow Lake Tribal Council is collaborating with SaskTel and Wood River Controls to bring internet access to several rural communities. Beaver River Broadband, a new Indigenous-run internet service provider, is launching this fall and will provide internet service to five communities with the goal of expanding to more in the future.²⁷

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- ¹ Statistics Canada (Table 14-10-0288-01). [Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months.](#)
- ² Government of Saskatchewan (October 20, 2022). [Crop Report For The Period October 11 To October 17, 2022.](#)
- ³ CBC News (October 27, 2022). [Cameco reports McArthur River mine, Key Lake mill on track to open soon.](#)
- ⁴ Business Wire (October 19, 2022). [Prairie Lithium Converts Mineral Exploration Permits into 21-Year Mineral Leases, Demonstrating the Government of Saskatchewan's Commitment to Advancing Lithium Development.](#)
- ⁵ Government of Canada (October 7, 2022). [Communities across Saskatchewan to benefit from better community infrastructure.](#)
- ⁶ Government of Saskatchewan (October 6, 2022). [Canada And Saskatchewan Invest In 28 Infrastructure Projects To Build More Resilient, Greener Communities.](#)
- ⁷ NortheastNOW (October 5, 2022). [New dry milling plant celebrates grand opening.](#)
- ⁸ CBC News (October 25, 2022). [SHA to open 5 new beds at Kamsack Hospital in November, but inpatient services to remain on hold.](#)
- ⁹ Global News (October 14, 2022). [SHA seeks to fill 175 open full-time positions across the province.](#)
- ¹⁰ 650 CKOM News (November 9, 2022). [Province helping accredit health workers living in Sask. to counter shortage.](#)
- ¹¹ Global News (October 26, 2022). [Throne speech reveals 150 new addiction treatment spaces to be added in Saskatchewan.](#)
- ¹² CBC News (October 7, 2022). [Pilot program in Sask. aims to better reintegrate women from prison into community.](#)
- ¹³ CTV News (October 27, 2022). [Sask. government to sell all SLGA liquor stores.](#)
- ¹⁴ Global News (October 26, 2022). [Saskatchewan to introduce new police across province: throne speech.](#)
- ¹⁵ Government of Canada (October 17, 2022). [Governments of Canada, Saskatchewan and Prince Albert Grand Council affirm commitment to public safety.](#)
- ¹⁶ Government of Saskatchewan (October 28, 2022). [Lloydminster Courthouse Re-Opens as Permanent Provincial Court Location.](#)
- ¹⁷ Government of Saskatchewan (October 31, 2022). [Saskatchewan Schools Add More Than 400 Educational Assistants Into Classrooms To Support Students.](#)
- ¹⁸ SaskToday (October 27, 2022). [Southeast College and University of Regina sign MoU.](#)
- ¹⁹ Regina Leader-Post (October 17, 2022). [First Nations University unveils new partnered tech skills program.](#)
- ²⁰ Discover Moose Jaw (October 31, 2022). [Sask Polytech develops Health Care Cook program.](#)
- ²¹ Statistics Canada [Seasonally Adjusted Data - Frequently Asked Questions \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- ²² Conference Board of Canada (October 18, 2022). [Major City Insights Saskatoon.](#)
- ²³ Saskatoon StarPhoenix (October 4, 2022). [City of Saskatoon officially unveils first storm pond in \\$57M program.](#)
- ²⁴ Conference Board of Canada (October 14, 2022). [Major City Insights Regina.](#)
- ²⁵ University Affairs (November 2, 2022). [U of R microgrid will help grow provincial renewable energy sector.](#)
- ²⁶ Government of Saskatchewan (October 5, 2022). [Procurement Begins for La Ronge Long-Term Care Centre.](#)
- ²⁷ Global News (October 4, 2022). [Meadow Lake Tribal Council launches Indigenous-owned internet service provider.](#)
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