



Labour Market Bulletin

Saskatchewan

June 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

Saskatchewan's employment decreased slightly in the second quarter of 2022, down 0.1% (-500 jobs) from last quarter. Part-time employment dropped by 1.7% (-1,800 jobs) compared to Q1-2021, whereas full-time employment climbed for the fifth consecutive quarter, up 0.3% (+1,400 jobs). Overall, employment rose 3.3% (18,500 jobs) when compared to the second quarter of 2021.

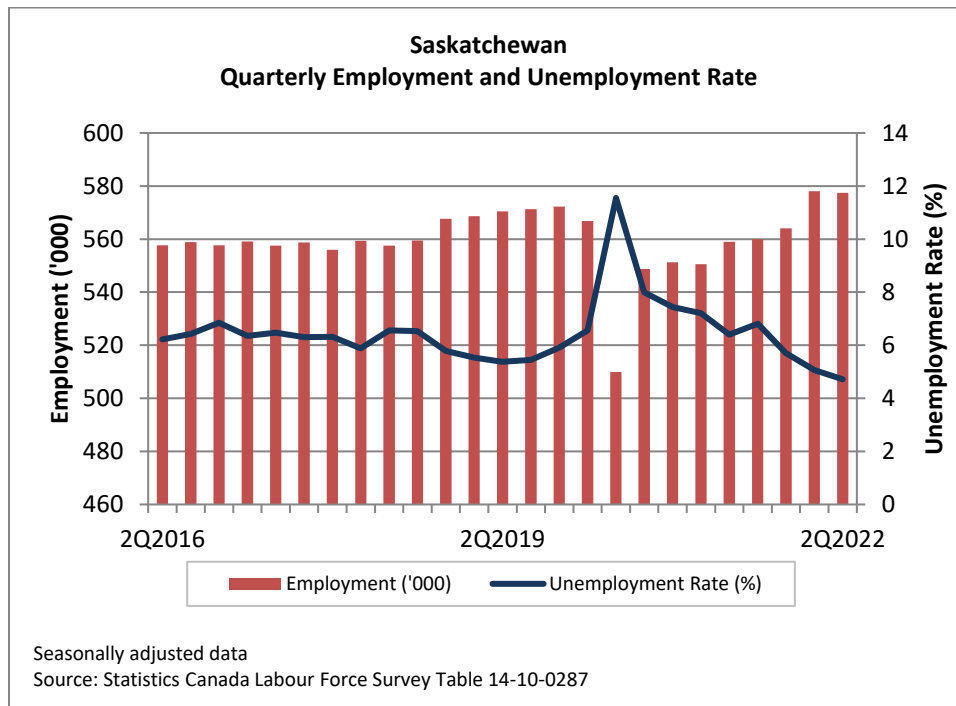
On a quarterly basis, public sector employment grew 3.2% (+4,900 jobs) in Q2-2022. By contrast, employment in the private sector slipped 0.4% (-1,200 jobs) over the same period. After two quarters of positive job growth, self-employment fell by 4.7% (-4,100 jobs). Self-employment decreased 1.2% (-1,100 jobs) on the year.¹

Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

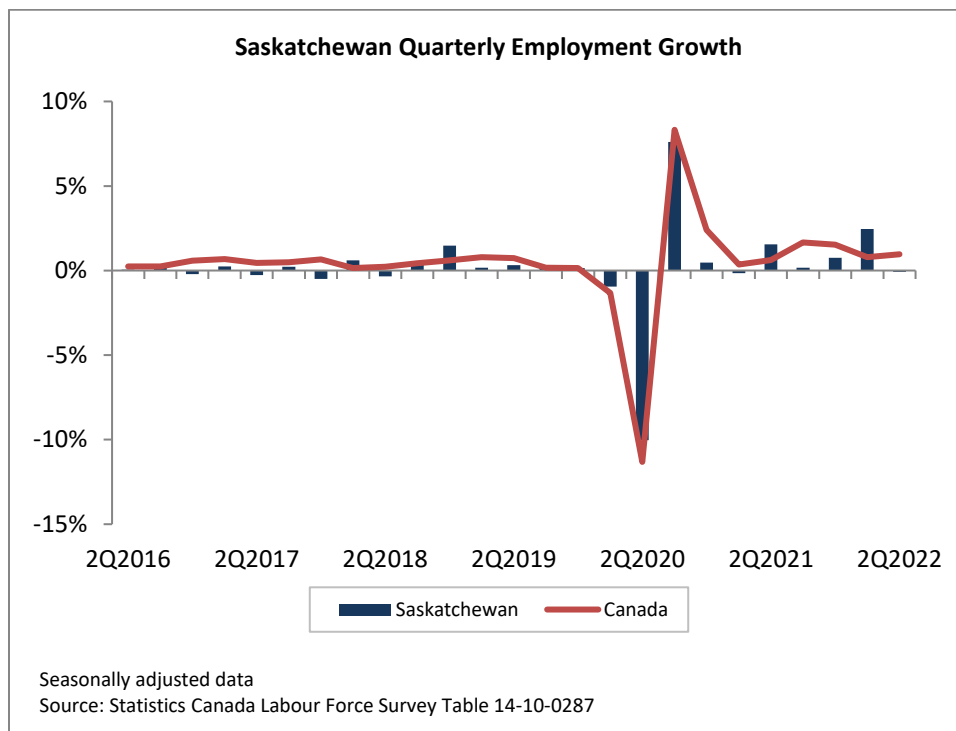
Seasonally adjusted data	2nd Quarter 2022	1st Quarter 2022	2nd Quarter 2021	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	897.2	893.0	889.3	4.2	0.5	7.9	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	606.1	608.9	597.1	-2.8	-0.5	9.0	1.5
Employment ('000)	577.5	578.0	559.0	-0.5	-0.1	18.5	3.3
Full-Time ('000)	471.8	470.4	448.7	1.4	0.3	23.1	5.1
Part-Time ('000)	105.8	107.6	110.3	-1.8	-1.7	-4.5	-4.1
Unemployment ('000)	28.6	30.8	38.2	-2.2	-7.1	-9.6	-25.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.7	5.1	6.4	-0.4	-	-1.7	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.6	68.2	67.1	-0.6	-	0.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	64.4	64.7	62.9	-0.3	-	1.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



Compared to last quarter, Saskatchewan’s unemployment rate decreased 0.4 percentage points to 4.7% in Q2-2022, below the national average of 5.1%. From an annual perspective, the rate has improved, falling 1.7 percentage points.



Saskatchewan Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally adjusted data	2nd Quarter 2022 (%)	1st Quarter 2022 (%)	2nd Quarter 2021 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	4.7	5.1	6.4	-0.4	-1.7
25 years and over	3.9	4.6	5.6	-0.7	-1.7
Men - 25 years and over	4.5	4.9	6.1	-0.4	-1.6
Women - 25 years and over	3.1	4.2	4.9	-1.1	-1.8
15 to 24 years	9.6	7.8	11.2	1.8	-1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.4	7.9	12.9	4.5	-0.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.4	7.9	9.4	-1.5	-3.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Young people in Saskatchewan typically have more difficulty finding employment than the rest of the work force, with unemployment rates sometimes more than doubling that of their older counterparts. In particular, the unemployment rate in young men, aged 15 to 24, remained the highest among all demographic groups in Q2-2022 at 12.4%, almost no change from last year (-0.5 percentage points). Young women fared better as their unemployment rate decreased 3.0 percentage points to 6.4%, over the same period. In comparison, men and women aged 25 years and up experienced unemployment rates of 4.5% and 3.1%, respectively in Q2-2022.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Goods-producing industries

Employment in this sector dipped slightly in the second quarter of 2022, down 1.1% (-1,400 jobs) from the previous quarter. The decrease is even greater when compared year-over-year, tumbling 3.3% (-4,400 jobs).

Employment in the province's **agriculture** industry was up from last quarter (+1.6% or +400 jobs), but down year-over-year (-16.3% or -5,000 jobs). Drought and extreme temperatures resulted in below-average yields for the 2021 harvest season and overall production fell nearly 47% compared to the previous year.² Cool temperatures and early spring snowstorms have delayed seeding for many producers across Saskatchewan. Crop development has also been slow due to early season drought conditions in the west and excess moisture in the east. The southwest and west-central regions did receive rain in June but it likely came too late as crops have already started to advance prematurely and may not be able to recover.³

China has ended a three-year ban on Canadian canola. Richardson International Ltd. and Viterra Inc. had been prohibited from exporting canola seed to China since March 2019. Prior to the ban, China's market made up 40% of Canada's canola exports, totalling \$2.8 billion in 2018.⁴ In addition, a growing demand for canola oil and meal could advance the industry in Saskatchewan.⁵

Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally adjusted data ('000)	2nd Quarter 2022	1st Quarter 2022	2nd Quarter 2021	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	577.5	578.0	559.0	-0.5	-0.1	18.5	3.3
Goods-producing sector	128.2	129.6	132.6	-1.4	-1.1	-4.4	-3.3
Agriculture	25.7	25.3	30.7	0.4	1.6	-5.0	-16.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	17.7	18.9	20.3	-1.2	-6.3	-2.6	-12.8
Utilities	5.9	6.0	5.7	-0.1	-1.7	0.2	3.5
Construction	46.8	47.9	43.9	-1.1	-2.3	2.9	6.6
Manufacturing	32.1	31.5	32.0	0.6	1.9	0.1	0.3
Services-producing sector	449.3	448.5	426.4	0.8	0.2	22.9	5.4
Trade	95.4	98.6	91.2	-3.2	-3.2	4.2	4.6
Transportation and warehousing	25.6	25.6	22.1	0.0	0.0	3.5	15.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	30.5	31.4	26.8	-0.9	-2.9	3.7	13.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	29.1	27.8	28.8	1.3	4.7	0.3	1.0
Business, building and other support services	12.8	16.9	15.3	-4.1	-24.3	-2.5	-16.3
Educational services	48.9	49.0	46.0	-0.1	-0.2	2.9	6.3
Health care and social assistance	91.5	87.6	86.4	3.9	4.5	5.1	5.9
Information, culture and recreation	19.8	18.5	17.6	1.3	7.0	2.2	12.5
Accommodation and food services	33.8	32.0	29.5	1.8	5.6	4.3	14.6
Other services	26.0	26.1	26.8	-0.1	-0.4	-0.8	-3.0
Public administration	35.9	34.8	35.8	1.1	3.2	0.1	0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment in Saskatchewan's resource extraction industry (**forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**) declined by 6.3% (-1,200 jobs) on the quarter and fell by -12.8% (-2,600 jobs) year-over-year. Despite the losses, the industry's outlook is promising. Saskatchewan's public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights have already exceeded sales for the entire 2021-22 fiscal year. April and June have generated more than \$22.2 million combined, surpassing the \$15 million raised in 2021-22.^{6,7}

Many potash mining companies have announced plans to ramp up production in response to the growing demand and escalating concerns around global food security. Nutrien plans to add more than 350 jobs⁸ and K+S Potash Canada is looking to hire 70 people⁹.

Saskatchewan's **construction** industry lost 1,100 jobs this quarter (-2.3%), but gained 2,900 jobs (+6.6%) when compared to Q2-2021. Due to winter and the province's short construction season, the majority of projects tend to start in the second quarter. The Government of Saskatchewan is spending \$1.4B on capital projects this year.¹⁰ The City of Regina will be spending \$118M for transportation, water, wastewater, and drainage infrastructure in 2022,¹¹ while the City of Saskatoon will spend \$65.16M on road, sidewalk and bridge maintenance during the 2022 summer season.¹² The federal and provincial governments are providing \$11M in joint funding for 24 new infrastructure projects, such as the decommissioning of landfills, local bridge revitalization and culvert installations for communities across the province.¹³

In unfortunate news, Ceres Global Ag Corp has cancelled plans to build a \$350M canola-crushing plant in southern Saskatchewan. The plant was expected to be built by 2024, near the U.S. border in Northgate.¹⁴

Moving to **manufacturing**, employment was up from the previous quarter (+1.9% or +600 jobs) as well as year-over year (+0.3% or 100 jobs). Regina-based Prairie Clean Energy has announced it is opening a new production plant in the city, turning flax straw into pellets for markets overseas.¹⁵

The sector is also dealing with jobs losses. The Evraz steel mill in Regina has laid off or has given lay off notices to 250 to 300 employees due to a lack of work. The layoffs are primarily affecting workers who make large diameter pipe in the mill's tubular division.¹⁶

Services-producing industries

Turning to the services-producing sector, employment in **education services** is slightly lower this quarter (-0.2% or 100 jobs). Compared to the previous year, employment climbed 6.3% (+2,900 jobs), which may have been partly due to the increased need for substitute teachers during the pandemic.¹⁷ Earlier this year, the provincial budget included \$7 million to help school divisions hire up to 200 new full-time educational assistants in 2022-2023.¹⁸

Despite the proposed increase in provincial spending, the current rise of inflation and skyrocketing expenses such as fuel, insurance and automotive parts, have forced many school boards to tighten their budgets. When approving their 2022-2023 budgets, some school boards have decided to reduce staff to make up for the shortfalls. Regina Catholic Schools, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, the Saskatoon Public School division and the Southeast Cornerstone School Division have all announced plans to cut jobs for the 2022-23 school year.^{19,20,21,22}

The **health care and social assistance** industry added 3,900 jobs on the quarter (+4.5%), and was up on an annual basis (+5.9% or 5,100 jobs). According to the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan, the province needs more psychiatric staff. There are at least 165 vacant registered psychiatric nurse positions, with nurses retiring faster than they are being trained.²³ In addition, the Government of Saskatchewan is providing an additional \$11M in funding towards emergency medical care in 27 communities across the province. The funding will allow for 70 new full time positions, particularly in rural, remote and northern areas.²⁴ In addition, the Government of Canada is providing \$32M to improve long-term care for seniors in Saskatchewan.²⁵

The **information and cultural** industry increased 7.0% (+1,300 jobs) in Q1-2022, and grew 12.5% (+2,200 jobs) compared to a year ago. SaskTel will be spending \$337M in 2022-23 and more than \$1.5B over the next five years to upgrade wireless, Internet, television, data, and IP-based technologies and services.²⁶

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The 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.²⁷

Compared to the second quarter of 2021, employment was up in two of the province's five economic regions. **Saskatoon – Biggar** led the province in growth (+10.7% or +21,200 jobs) with **Yorkton – Melville** also posting gains (+8.4% or +2,900 jobs) after three consecutive quarters of no growth. Meanwhile, **Swift Current – Moose Jaw** experienced the greatest employment decline (-5.7% or -2,500 jobs).

Saskatchewan Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally unadjusted data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	2nd Quarter 2022 ('000)	2nd Quarter 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	2nd Quarter 2022 (%)	2nd Quarter 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Saskatchewan	582.9	562.9	3.6	4.8	6.6	-1.8
Economic Regions						
Regina - Moose Mountain	180.0	180.7	-0.4	5.2	7.1	-1.9
Swift Current - Moose Jaw	51.0	53.5	-4.7	5.2	6.8	-1.6
Saskatoon - Biggar	218.8	197.6	10.7	4.3	7.0	-2.7
Yorkton - Melville	37.4	34.5	8.4	3.4	4.2	-0.8
Prince Albert and Northern	95.7	96.6	-0.9	5.7	5.6	0.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

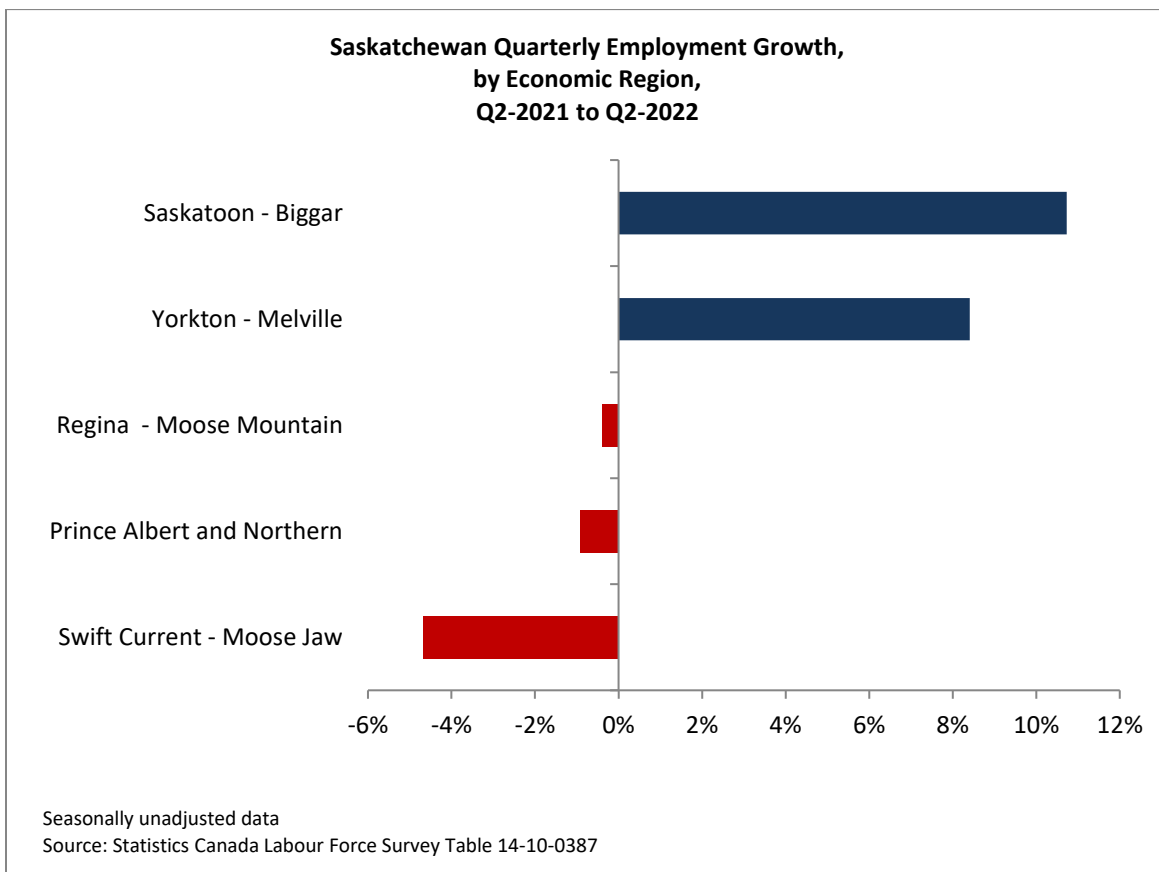
Year-over-year, the **Saskatoon – Biggar** region's unemployment rate dropped 2.7 percentage points to 4.3%, the largest improvement among regions. The region's employment growth can be attributed to strong gains in the service-producing sector (+13.8% or +21,300 jobs). A number of major investments have positively impacted employment levels over the last year. For example, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization opened a new \$28 million Vaccine Development Centre, located on the University of Saskatchewan Campus. The new facility will be able to make human and animal vaccines.²⁸

The region is making strides toward affordable living and addiction support services for vulnerable populations. The Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$3.5M to the Emergency Wellness Centre in Saskatoon. The facility is run by the Saskatoon Tribal Council and employs 81 staff.²⁹ Furthermore, 25 new affordable rental units recently opened in Saskatoon for people recovering from addictions. The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan provided \$865,000 for the project through the Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Agreement.³⁰

The **Regina – Moose Mountain** economic region posted slight employment losses over the year, (-0.4% or -700 jobs). Nonetheless, the region's unemployment rate improved by 1.9 percentage points over the year, sitting at 5.2%. The outlook for the region's accommodation and food service industry gained promise with a resumption of in-person events over the summer. For instance, the start of the new Canadian Football League season and

the return of Saskatchewan Roughrider home games will bring fans from across the province and help boost Regina’s hospitality sector.³¹ Similarly, Canada’s Farm Show returned to Regina’s exhibition grounds for its first in-person event since 2019. The event took place from June 21 to 23 and displayed 400 exhibitors from over 50 countries.³²

In addition, new initiatives in the region aim to bolster the region’s law enforcement. The Regina Police Service has launched a new recruitment website to boost the number of female uniformed officers. Currently, approximately 24% of Regina’s officers are female. However, the service hopes to increase the number of uniformed female officers to 30% by 2030.³³ Additionally, the Government of Saskatchewan is spending \$1.5M to hire 11 new constables to enhance the security presence at the Legislative Building in Regina.³⁴



Employment in the **Prince Albert and Northern** region fell slightly (-0.9% or 900 jobs) over the year, while the unemployment rate remained almost unchanged (-0.1 pp) at 5.5%. Looking at the region’s social services subsector, Multiworks has opened a new group home in Meadow Lake, with the Government of Saskatchewan providing more than \$300,000 annually for the operating costs of the home.³⁵ Likewise, the White Buffalo Treatment Centre has a new, permanent home in Muskoday First Nation.³⁶ Finally, the Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine clinic recently opened in North Battleford.³⁷

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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¹ Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0288-01 Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months \(x 1,000\)](#)

² Government of Saskatchewan. [Saskatchewan's Dashboard - Crop Production](#). Accessed July 8, 2022.

³ Government of Saskatchewan (July 7, 2022). [Crop Report for the Period of June 28 to July 4, 2022](#).

⁴ CTV News (May 19, 2022). [China lifts restrictions on Canadian canola](#).

⁵ Regina Leader-Post (June 22, 2022). [Sask. canola industry in for 'drastic change' as crop gets crushed](#).

⁶ Government of Saskatchewan (April 7, 2022). [April Oil and Gas Public Offering Raises \\$19.3 Million](#).

⁷ Government of Saskatchewan (June 9, 2022). [June Oil and Gas Public Offering Raises 29 Million in Revenue](#).

⁸ CTV News (June 9, 2022). [Nutrien to add hundreds of jobs in Sask.](#)

⁹ Regina Leader-Post (May 25, 2022). [K+S announce plans to double potash production at Bethune mine](#).

¹⁰ Government of Saskatchewan (May 18, 2022). [Work Underway On Key Capital Projects Across Saskatchewan](#).

¹¹ Global News (May 3, 2022). [Construction season kicks off in Regina as the City announces \\$118 million investment](#).

¹² SaskToday (May 6, 2022). [City of Saskatoon allocates \\$65M for road projects](#).

¹³ Government of Saskatchewan (June 30, 2022) [Canada And Saskatchewan Invest In 24 Infrastructure Projects Across The Province](#).

¹⁴ CBC News (June 24, 2022). [Ceres cancels \\$350M US canola-crushing plant planned for Saskatchewan](#).

¹⁵ Regina Leader-Post (June 21, 2022). [New Regina facility to produce flax pellets for growing biomass market](#).

¹⁶ Regina Leader-Post (June 16, 2022). [Evraz to lay off 250-300 employees at Regina steel mill: Union](#).

¹⁷ Government of Saskatchewan (March 21, 2022). [Province Provides Additional \\$1.8 Million To School Divisions For 2021-22 School Year](#).

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- ¹⁸ Government of Saskatchewan (March 23, 2022). [200 New Educational Assistant Positions Highlight \\$2.88 Billion Education Budget.](#)
- ¹⁹ CBC News (June 23, 2022). [Regina Catholic Schools eliminating a dozen teaching positions to deal with budget shortfall.](#)
- ²⁰ CTV News (June 13, 2022). [Saskatoon Catholic schools to cut 19 teacher positions, introduce a lunch-hour fee.](#)
- ²¹ CBC News (June 8, 2022). [Saskatoon Public Schools to charge fees for lunch-hour supervision, cut teaching jobs to balance books.](#)
- ²² SaskToday (May 18, 2022). [SE Cornerstone to cut staffing for 2022-23 school year.](#)
- ²³ CBC News (April 11, 2022). [Sask. people unable to access timely mental health treatment due to lack of psychiatric staff.](#)
- ²⁴ Government of Saskatchewan (April 5, 2022). [27 Communities To Benefit From Increased Investment In Emergency Medical Services In 2022-23.](#)
- ²⁵ CBC News (May 25, 2022). [Trudeau announces \\$32M in federal funding for Sask. long-term care during Saskatoon visit.](#)
- ²⁶ SaskTel (April 13, 2022). [SaskTel investing \\$337 million in Saskatchewan in 2022-23.](#)
- ²⁷ Statistics Canada [Seasonally Adjusted Data - Frequently Asked Questions.](#)
- ²⁸ CTV News (June 29, 2022). [Saskatoon vaccine development centre open.](#)
- ²⁹ CKOM (May 12, 2022). [Province announces \\$3.5M in funding for downtown Emergency Wellness Centre.](#)
- ³⁰ Government of Saskatchewan (May 13, 2022). [Affordable Housing Units To Support People Recovering From Addictions.](#)
- ³¹ Global News (June 11, 2022). [Regina restaurants ready for Saskatchewan Roughrider's home opener.](#)
- ³² CTV News (June 21, 2022). [Canada's Farm Show held in person after years long hiatus.](#)
- ³³ CBC News (June 27, 2022). [Regina Police Service launches new website aimed at drawing female recruits.](#)
- ³⁴ CTV News (May 10, 2022). [Sask. government announces enhanced security presence for Legislative Building.](#)
- ³⁵ Government of Saskatchewan (June 6, 2022). [New Group Home Opens in Meadow Lake.](#)
- ³⁶ BattlefordsNow (May 16, 2022). [Youth treatment centre celebrates opening at Muskoday First Nation.](#)
- ³⁷ Global News (June 23, 2022). [North Battleford opens new clinic and mobile harm reduction service.](#)