



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Saskatchewan

### July 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

In July, Saskatchewan’s employment decreased for the second consecutive month, down 0.3% (-1,600 jobs). Losses in part-time employment (-6,800 jobs or -6.3%) were tempered by gains in full-time employment (+5,100 jobs or +1.1%), when compared to last month. Overall, total employment was up 4.3% (23,800 jobs) compared to the same period last year.

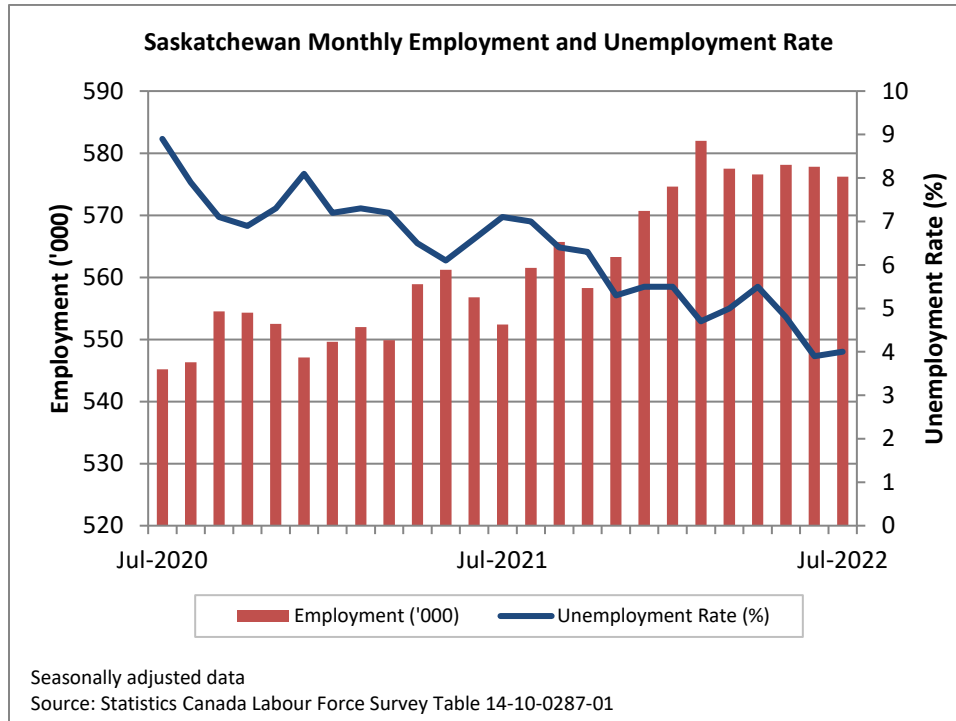
### Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2022	June 2022	July 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	900.3	898.7	889.4	1.6	0.2	10.9	1.2
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	600.2	601.4	594.4	-1.2	-0.2	5.8	1.0
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	576.2	577.8	552.4	-1.6	-0.3	23.8	4.3
Full-Time ('000)	475.3	470.2	445.4	5.1	1.1	29.9	6.7
Part-Time ('000)	100.9	107.7	107.0	-6.8	-6.3	-6.1	-5.7
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	24.0	23.6	42.0	0.4	1.7	-18.0	-42.9
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	4.0	3.9	7.1	0.1	-	-3.1	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	66.7	66.9	66.8	-0.2	-	-0.1	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	64.0	64.3	62.1	-0.3	-	1.9	-

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, the number of workers in the public sector grew 2.3% (3,600 jobs) in July. By contrast, employment in the private sector dropped 1.8% (-6,000 jobs). Looking at employment in the public sector and private sector from an annual lens, both sectors have seen growth compared to July 2021, up 10.7% and 4.3% respectively. However, self-employment in Saskatchewan continues to struggle, down 6.5% compared to last year and down 17.5% compared to February 2020, the month prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1</sup> According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, one in six businesses in Saskatchewan were considering closing their doors for good.<sup>2</sup>



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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2022 (%)	June 2022 (%)	July 2021 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	4.0	3.9	7.1	0.1	-3.1
<b>25 years and over</b>	3.7	3.3	6.5	0.4	-2.8
Men - 25 years and over	4.3	4.4	7.1	-0.1	-2.8
Women - 25 years and over	2.9	2.2	5.8	0.7	-2.9
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	6.0	7.3	10.4	-1.3	-4.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	6.3	10.2	11.9	-3.9	-5.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	5.7	3.9	8.6	1.8	-2.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

On a monthly basis, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 4.0% in July and is below the national rate of 4.9%. This is the third consecutive month the province's unemployment rate has been below 5%. For men aged 25 years and older, July's unemployment rate was 4.3%, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points on the month and down 2.8 percentage points on the year. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for women within the same age bracket increased 0.7 percentage points to 2.9%, compared to last month, but was down 2.9 percentage points on the year.

The unemployment rate among young workers in Saskatchewan remains higher than their older counterparts. The rate for males between 15 and 24 years of age has dropped to 6.3%, down 3.9 percentage points from June 2022 and fell 5.6 percentage points from July 2021. By comparison, July's unemployment rate for young females was 5.7%, an increase of 1.8 percentage points compared to June 2022, and a decrease of 2.9 percentage points compared to July 2021.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

### Goods-producing industries

Employment in this sector dipped in July, down 1.9% (-2,400 jobs) from the previous month. The decrease is slightly greater when compared year-over-year, falling 2.6% (-3,400 jobs).

Employment in the province's **agriculture** industry remained relatively the same compared to June (-0.4% or -100 jobs), but experienced a greater decline year-over-year (-13.1% or -3,900 jobs). The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress are working to match farmers with displaced Ukrainians seeking work. Ukraine is a wheat-producing country and many of Ukrainians are highly skilled in agriculture.<sup>3</sup>

According to Saskatchewan's crop report ending August 1, harvest has begun in the province with some regions still seven to ten days away due to slower crop development. The province has received more rain than last year, allowing for some areas to recover from last year's drought.<sup>4</sup>

Looking forward, a new five-year agricultural policy framework deal has been reached by federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers. Known as the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP), the new agreement will replace the current Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which is set to expire in March 2023. SCAP will also increase funding by \$500 million, to \$3.5 billion.<sup>5,6</sup>

However, the agricultural industry is concerned about the federal government's plan to reduce emissions from fertilizer 30 per cent by 2030.<sup>7,8</sup> According to Fertilizer Canada, the country could lose over 160 million metric tons of canola, corn and spring wheat between 2023 and 2030 due to the plan.<sup>9</sup> The majority of those crops are produced in Saskatchewan. It is estimated that producers could lose \$10.4 billion this decade from reducing harvest.<sup>10</sup> Farmers in the Netherlands are facing similar fertilizer restrictions.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

## Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2022	June 2022	July 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	576.2	577.8	552.4	-1.6	-0.3	23.8	4.3
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	126.8	129.2	130.2	-2.4	-1.9	-3.4	-2.6
Agriculture	25.9	26.0	29.8	-0.1	-0.4	-3.9	-13.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	17.0	17.9	19.0	-0.9	-5.0	-2.0	-10.5
Utilities	6.6	5.1	6.3	1.5	29.4	0.3	4.8
Construction	44.5	46.3	42.8	-1.8	-3.9	1.7	4.0
Manufacturing	32.8	33.9	32.2	-1.1	-3.2	0.6	1.9
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	449.4	448.6	422.2	0.8	0.2	27.2	6.4
Trade	91.9	93.9	88.8	-2.0	-2.1	3.1	3.5
Transportation and warehousing	25.1	25.6	22.1	-0.5	-2.0	3.0	13.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	30.4	29.8	27.9	0.6	2.0	2.5	9.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	31.4	31.0	27.8	0.4	1.3	3.6	12.9
Business, building and other support services	11.6	11.2	15.9	0.4	3.6	-4.3	-27.0
Educational services	49.2	48.4	43.4	0.8	1.7	5.8	13.4
Health care and social assistance	90.8	94.4	85.4	-3.6	-3.8	5.4	6.3
Information, culture and recreation	19.5	19.8	19.8	-0.3	-1.5	-0.3	-1.5
Accommodation and food services	37.1	33.8	29.2	3.3	9.8	7.9	27.1
Other services	26.7	25.9	26.0	0.8	3.1	0.7	2.7
Public administration	35.8	34.9	35.7	0.9	2.6	0.1	0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Saskatchewan's resource extraction industry (**forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**) lost 900 jobs (-5.0%) on the month and 2,000 jobs (-10.5%) year-over-year. Rio Tinto Exploration Canada Inc. has decided to keep the Star–Orion South Diamond Project on care and maintenance through Dec. 31, 2022. Located in Fort à la Corne, 60 kilometres east of the city of Prince Albert, the project has been on care and maintenance for 18 months.<sup>14</sup>

On a positive note, BHP plans to bring its Jansen potash mine into operation sooner than expected. Located about 140 kilometres east of Saskatoon, the company is working to advance Stage 1 first production at the Saskatchewan mine to 2026, a year ahead of schedule.<sup>15</sup> Furthermore, Nutrien has opened a new headquarters in Saskatoon, reaffirming plans to boost 2021 potash production by 40% by producing 18 million tonnes by 2023. The expansion will require hiring an additional 350 workers in Saskatchewan.<sup>16</sup>

The province's **construction** industry lost 1,800 jobs (-3.9%) on the month, however, employment is up 1,700 (+4.0%) when compared to last year. Despite the recent job losses, many projects have already started. For instance, construction has begun on the new \$350 million Cargill canola processing facility located at the Global Transportation Hub west of Regina. The project will generate hundreds of jobs during the construction phase and 50 full-time jobs once the plant opens in 2024.<sup>17</sup>

In addition, the federal government is providing almost \$10 million to develop clean energy solutions in partnership with Saskatchewan First Nations. The funding will help build capacity for renewable energy in Indigenous communities, develop a new solar farm near Stoughton and replace propane heating systems at schools in Pelican Narrows and Deschambault Lake.<sup>18</sup>

Finally, the Government of Saskatchewan is spending \$18 million to build six passing lanes from Kindersley to the Alberta border. The improvements to highway 7 will improve safety, increase capacity and support economic growth.<sup>19</sup>

On a monthly basis, the **manufacturing** industry lost 1,100 jobs (-3.2%) compared to June. However, year-over-year the industry experienced small gains of 600 jobs (+1.9%). The Brandt Group of Companies is expanding operations into Moose Jaw, where the company is opening a utility trailer manufacturing plant. The company anticipates the expansion will create 200 jobs over three years, with 70 created immediately.<sup>20</sup>

### Services-producing industries

Turning to the services-producing sector, on a monthly basis there was little change in July's employment numbers, up 0.2% (+800). However, from an annual perspective, employment in the sector grew by 6.4% (+27,200 jobs).

Employment in Saskatchewan's **transportation and warehousing** industry declined slightly when compared to the previous month, down 2.0% (-500 jobs) but has fared much better on the year, up 13.6% (+3,000 jobs). The Government of Canada is providing \$18M in funding through the National Trade Corridors Fund for four rail improvements in Saskatchewan. The projects aim to address supply chain issues through improvements to rail infrastructure.<sup>21</sup>

The **professional, scientific and technical services** industry added jobs on both a monthly and yearly basis, up 1.3% (+400 jobs) and 12.9% (3,600 jobs) respectively. Genome Prairie and Genome Canada are providing \$5.1M in funding for the Bison Integrated Genomics project, a genome-sequencing project intended to conserve bison herds by targeting disease and creating healthier herds.<sup>22</sup>

Employment in the province's **education services** rose slightly from the previous month (+1.7% or +800 jobs), and is 13.4% (+5,800 jobs) higher compared to last year. In May and June, many school boards announced job cuts when approving their 2022-2023 budgets. Shortfalls due to the current rise of inflation and skyrocketing expenses such as fuel, insurance and automotive parts were cited as reasons for the reduction of staff.<sup>23,24</sup> To assist with the rising costs, the Government of Saskatchewan is providing an additional \$20M to the provincial education budget. Approximately \$15M will go towards rising fuel costs and the remaining \$5M towards increased insurance premiums.<sup>25</sup>

Employment in **health care and social assistance** fell 3.8% (-3,600 jobs) on the month, but grew on a year-over-year basis, (6.3% or +5,400 jobs). Emergency departments in Saskatchewan are under elevated pressure due to limited beds and a shortage of staff. Several emergency departments have relied on measures such as closing early or temporarily shutting down.<sup>26</sup>

Saskatchewan’s surgical system has performed 5,000 more surgeries in the first five months of 2022, when compared to the same period in 2021. The province is also looking at an out-of-province surgical initiative for hip and knee replacements.<sup>27</sup>

Finally, the provincial government will be spending almost \$1.5M annually to expand the Rapid Access Counselling Program to the South and West Central regions of the province. The program provides walk-in mental health counselling services.<sup>28</sup>

## 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.<sup>29</sup>

Compared to July 2021, employment was up in two of the province’s five economic regions with the **Saskatoon – Biggar** region leading in growth, up 11.7% (+23,100 jobs). Meanwhile, the **Swift Current – Moose Jaw** region experienced the greatest employment decline, down 3.0% (-1,600 jobs).

### Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2022 ('000)	July 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2022 (%)	July 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	587.2	565.0	3.9	4.2	6.6	-2.4
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Regina - Moose Mountain	180.1	182.3	-1.2	4.4	6.7	-2.3
Swift Current - Moose Jaw	51.4	53.0	-3.0	4.8	6.9	-2.1
Saskatoon - Biggar	220.8	197.7	11.7	4.1	7.6	-3.5
Yorkton - Melville	37.9	34.7	9.2	3.3	4.1	-0.8
Prince Albert and Northern	97.0	97.2	-0.2	4.2	5.2	-1.0

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 saw its unemployment rate decline 3.5 percentage points to 4.1%. As society continues to carry on with life and COVID-19 continues to transform into a common contagious illness, festivals and outdoor gatherings are returning to the region. For example, the Saskatoon Fringe Festival returned to Saskatoon after being canceled in 2020 and having scaled back events in 2021. The 10-day festival ran from July 28 to August 6 and featured 18 live performances across 3 venues and 10 digital shows.<sup>30</sup> Similarly, the Sask. Jazz Fest returned for the festival’s first year of full operation since 2019 and is celebrating its 35th anniversary.<sup>31</sup>

The outlook for the region’s manufacturing and industrial sector looks promising as Martensville, located north of Saskatoon and one of the fastest-growing communities in Saskatchewan, is planning the construction of a 500-acre industrial area.<sup>32</sup>

On an annual basis, employment in the **Regina – Moose Mountain** region dipped slightly, down 1.2% (-2,200 jobs). Conversely, the region's unemployment rate declined 2.3 percentage points, reaching 4.4% in July 2022. The Regina Police Service is facing challenges in recruiting new officers to the force. A decline in positive public perception of law enforcement has been cited as a possible explanation for the reduction in applications.<sup>33</sup>

Saskatchewan's second utility-scale solar project is now online. The 10-megawatt (MW) Pesâkâstêw Solar facility, located in the rural municipality of Weyburn, joined SaskPower's provincial grid Tuesday. It can provide power to approximately 2,500 Saskatchewan homes.<sup>34</sup>

In construction-related news, work is progressing on the \$16.5M Wascana Pool Renewal Project. The project will see the addition of features such as waterslides, a beach-entry leisure pool, a lap pool, and a concession. The pool is scheduled to be ready for the 2023 season.<sup>35</sup> Construction also recently began on the \$325.6M Buffalo Pound water treatment plant renewal project. The new plant will serve over 260,000 people living in the Regina and Moose Jaw area, with construction expected to be complete in late 2025.<sup>36</sup>

Employment in the **Prince Albert and Northern** region remained relatively unchanged (-0.2% or -200 jobs) over the year, while the unemployment rate dropped 1.0 percentage point to 4.2%. Employment in the region's construction industry gained a boost in July as construction has begun on a new Aquatics and Arena Recreation Facility in Prince Albert. The facility will feature two NHL-sized hockey rinks as well as an aquatics center. The facility is expected to open in 2024.<sup>37</sup> Finally, a new family resource centre is under construction at the Kinistin Saulteaux Nation. Located 40 kilometres south of Tisdale, the facility is planned to be ready for use in September.<sup>38</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.*

**Prepared by:** Labour Market Information (LMI) Directorate, Service Canada, Saskatchewan

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at: [http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cqi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact\\_us.aspx?section=lmi](http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cqi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi)

**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2022, all rights reserved

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada (Table 14-10-0288-01). [Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months.](#)
- <sup>2</sup> Global News (July 19, 2022). [One in six Saskatchewan businesses considering closing, survey shows.](#)
- <sup>3</sup> SaskToday (July 25, 2022). [SARM concerned about red tape for Ukraine arrivals.](#)
- <sup>4</sup> Government of Saskatchewan (August 4, 2022). [Crop Report for the Period of July 26 to August 1, 2022.](#)
- <sup>5</sup> Global News (July 22, 2022). [Agriculture ministers reach deal on new Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.](#)
- <sup>6</sup> Globe and Mail (August 2, 2022). [Federal-provincial agriculture deal a boost for sustainable agriculture, but falls short on emissions.](#)
- <sup>7</sup> paNOW (August 5, 2022). [Farmers looking with concern at federal fertilizer target.](#)
- <sup>8</sup> CTV News (July 26, 2022). [Sask. producers caught off guard by federal government's emissions targets.](#)
- <sup>9</sup> BNN Bloomberg (July 27, 2022). [Trudeau, farmers spar on climate plan cutting fertilizer.](#)
- <sup>10</sup> The Brandon Sun (July 30, 2022). [Federal fertilizer plan full of risks.](#)
- <sup>11</sup> Food Processing (July 11, 2022). [Dutch Farmers Protest Pollution Rules.](#)
- <sup>12</sup> BBC News (July 29, 2022). [Why Dutch farmers are protesting over emissions cuts.](#)
- <sup>13</sup> TIME (July 29, 2022). [Dutch Farmer Protests Show How Messy Climate Action Will Be.](#)
- <sup>14</sup> CTV News (July 6, 2022). [Sask. diamond mine project on hold for rest of 2022.](#)
- <sup>15</sup> SaskToday (July 19, 2022). [BHP working to bring Jansen potash mine into operation earlier than expected.](#)
- <sup>16</sup> Saskatoon StarPhoenix (June 30, 2022). [Nutrien officially opens new headquarters in Saskatoon.](#)
- <sup>17</sup> CTV News (July 20, 2022). [Cargill canola crush plant breaks ground in Regina.](#)
- <sup>18</sup> Regina Leader-Post (July 11, 2022). [Feds announce \\$10M for Indigenous-led clean energy projects in Sask.](#)
- <sup>19</sup> Government of Saskatchewan (July 22, 2022). [More than \\$100 Million of Highway Construction Safety Improvements Nears Completion.](#)
- <sup>20</sup> Regina Leader-Post (July 11, 2022). [New Brandt utility trailer manufacturing plant "huge" for Moose Jaw.](#)
- <sup>21</sup> CBC News (July 15, 2022). [Federal funding to support rail projects in southern Sask.](#)
- <sup>22</sup> CBC News (July 15, 2022). [\\$5.1M dedicated to saving wood bison in Canada as animal faces 'imminent threat'.](#)
- <sup>23</sup> CBC News (March 31, 2022). [Chinook School Division says it will cut 20 teaching positions due to shortfall in Sask. Budget.](#)
- <sup>24</sup> SaskToday (May 18, 2022). [SE Cornerstone to cut staffing for 2022-23 school year.](#)
- <sup>25</sup> Global News (July 21, 2022). [Sask. government pledges 'one-time' \\$20-million boost to education budget.](#)
-



- 
- <sup>26</sup> CBC News (July 11, 2022). [Emergency departments facing extreme pressure in Sask. and across Canada.](#)
- <sup>27</sup> Government of Saskatchewan (July 25, 2022). [5,000 More Surgeries Delivered In First Five Months Of 2022 Than In 2021.](#)
- <sup>28</sup> Global News (July 4, 2022). [Free rapid access counselling expands to 8 new locations in Saskatchewan.](#)
- <sup>29</sup> Statistics Canada [Seasonally Adjusted Data - Frequently Asked Questions.](#)
- <sup>30</sup> Saskatoon StarPhoenix (July 28, 2022). [Saskatoon Fringe Festival back in full form with global 'flavour'](#)
- <sup>31</sup> Saskatoon StarPhoenix (July 3, 2022). [Sask. Jazz Fest kicks off with weekend shows.](#)
- <sup>32</sup> Saskatoon StarPhoenix (July 7, 2022). [Fast-growing Martensville plans 500-acre industrial area, more jobs.](#)
- <sup>33</sup> CBC News (July 29, 2022). [The blue line gets thinner: Saskatchewan police services face recruitment challenge.](#)
- <sup>34</sup> CKOM (July 19, 2022). [New utility-scale solar project up and running in Saskatchewan.](#)
- <sup>35</sup> Global News (July 8, 2022). [Wascana Pool set to reopen in 2023 with a wheelchair-accessible slide, tactile map.](#)
- <sup>36</sup> Global News (July 19, 2022). [Buffalo Pound water plant renewal project officially underway.](#)
- <sup>37</sup> Global News (July 28, 2022). [Prince Albert, Sask. breaks ground for new aquatics and arena facility to be ready by 2024.](#)
- <sup>38</sup> SaskToday (June 30, 2022). [Kinistin starts construction on new family resource centre.](#)