



Labour Market Bulletin

Saskatchewan

August 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 August, Saskatchewan's employment decreased for the third consecutive month, down 0.3% (-2,000 jobs) and the lowest it has been since December 2021. Losses in full-time employment (-4,800 jobs or -1.0%) were tempered by gains in part-time employment (+2,800 jobs or +2.8%), when compared to last month. Overall, total employment was up 2.3% (12,700 jobs) compared to the same period last year.

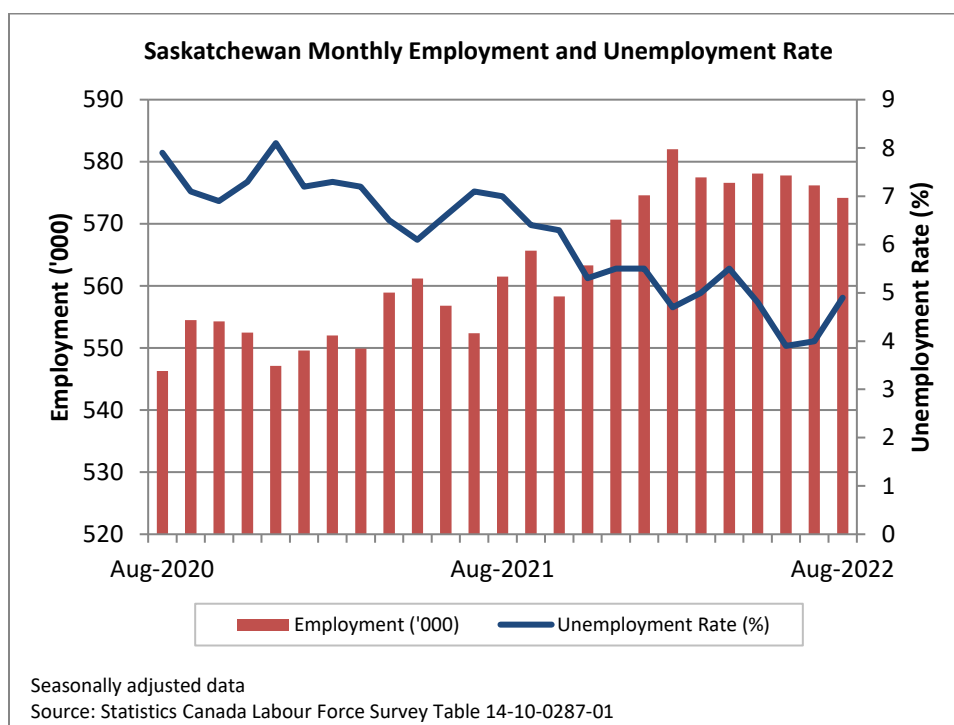
Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	August 2022	July 2022	August 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	902.6	900.3	889.9	2.3	0.3	12.7	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	603.4	600.2	603.8	3.2	0.5	-0.4	-0.1
Employment ('000)	574.2	576.2	561.5	-2.0	-0.3	12.7	2.3
Full-Time ('000)	470.5	475.3	455.8	-4.8	-1.0	14.7	3.2
Part-Time ('000)	103.7	100.9	105.7	2.8	2.8	-2.0	-1.9
Unemployment ('000)	29.3	24.0	42.2	5.3	22.1	-12.9	-30.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.9	4.0	7.0	0.9	-	-2.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.9	66.7	67.9	0.2	-	-1.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.6	64.0	63.1	-0.4	-	0.5	-

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 shrank 1.2% (-1,900 jobs) in August. By contrast, employment in the private sector rose slightly (+0.1% or +300 jobs). On annual basis, both public sector employment (+7.0%) and the number of private sector employees (+2.1%) were up compared to August 2021. However, self-employment in Saskatchewan continues to struggle, down 5.5% compared to last year and down 17.9% compared to February 2020, the month prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹



On a monthly basis, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate rose 0.9 of a percentage point to 4.9% in August, below the national rate of 5.4% and still below 5% for the fourth consecutive month. For males aged 25 years and older, August's unemployment rate was 4.6%, an increase of 0.3 percentage points on the month and down 3.4 percentage points on the year. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for females within the same age bracket increased 1.5 percentage points to 4.4%, compared to last month, but was down 0.1 percentage points on the year.

Saskatchewan Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2022 (%)	July 2022 (%)	August 2021 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	4.9	4.0	7.0	0.9	-2.1
25 years and over	4.5	3.7	6.4	0.8	-1.9
Men - 25 years and over	4.6	4.3	8.0	0.3	-3.4
Women - 25 years and over	4.4	2.9	4.5	1.5	-0.1
15 to 24 years	6.8	6.0	10.3	0.8	-3.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	7.6	6.3	11.7	1.3	-4.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.3	5.7	8.6	0.6	-2.3

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 increased to 7.6%, up 1.3 percentage points from July 2022 but still an improvement of 4.1 percentage points from August 2021. By comparison, August's unemployment rate for young females was 6.3%, an increase of 0.6 percentage points compared to July 2022, and a comparatively modest decrease of 2.3 percentage points compared to August 2021.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Goods-producing industries

Employment in this sector fell for the second consecutive month in August, down 1.5% (-1,900 jobs) from the previous month. The decrease is slightly greater when compared year-over-year, falling 2.6% (-3,300 jobs). This sector continues to struggle to reach pre-pandemic levels, down 12.2% (-17,000 jobs) when compared to February 2020.

Employment in the province's **agriculture** industry experienced little change compared to July (-0.8% or -200 jobs) but recorded a greater decline year-over-year (-9.5% or -2,700 jobs). According to Saskatchewan's crop report ending August 28, harvest continues to progress and was at 23 percent completion, just behind the five-year average (2017-2021) of 26 per cent for this time of year.² Meanwhile, some grain samples have been denied at elevators because they contain grasshoppers.³

Saskatchewan's resource extraction industry (**forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**) gained 700 jobs (+4.1%) on the month but remains down 1,400 jobs (-7.3%) year-over-year. However, future employment in this industry looks promising. According to the Conference Board of Canada, Saskatchewan will lead the country with real growth of 7.6% this year, as the oil and gas sector is expected to propel the Saskatchewan economy through 2024.⁴

Saskatoon-based Cameco, one of the largest uranium producers in the world, is planning to add more jobs in northern Saskatchewan this year.⁵ In addition, Saskatoon-based Nutrien Ltd., the largest fertilizer producer in the world, is forecasting strong demand for years to come.⁶

The Mosaic Company is providing \$1 million towards the Morris Interactive's Potash Digital Skills Training Program for Indigenous students. By partnering with Indigenous communities, Mosaic aims to help First Nations Peoples establish careers in the potash mining industry.⁷

Decommissioning of the Line 3 Replacement Program is underway in Saskatchewan. A crew of about 60 workers are working on a segment from Kerrobert to Regina.⁸

The province's **construction** industry lost 700 jobs (-1.6%) on the month; however, employment is still up 1,800 (+4.3%) when compared to last year. According to Statistics Canada, urban housing starts in the province increased 35.6 per cent in July compared to July 2021, the second highest among provinces.⁹

The Government of Saskatchewan is spending more than \$50 million to add 28 passing lanes and multiple intersection upgrades to highways across the province before the end of the year. The projects will improve safety, increase capacity and support economic growth.¹⁰ Meanwhile, to prepare for more population growth, the City of Saskatoon is developing plans for a second water treatment plant.¹¹

On a monthly basis, the **manufacturing** industry lost 1,800 jobs (-5.5%) compared to July and is also down 1,500 jobs (-4.6%) year-over-year. Regina's Evraz Steel plant has laid off 170 employees since May, with 50 to 75 more

expected in the coming months. In addition, Evraz PLC recently announced plans to sell its North American assets, which includes Regina's steel plant, raising more concerns for the industry in the province.¹²

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2022	July 2022	August 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	574.2	576.2	561.5	-2.0	-0.3	12.7	2.3
Goods-producing sector	124.9	126.8	128.2	-1.9	-1.5	-3.3	-2.6
Agriculture	25.7	25.9	28.4	-0.2	-0.8	-2.7	-9.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	17.7	17.0	19.1	0.7	4.1	-1.4	-7.3
Utilities	6.6	6.6	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	6.5
Construction	43.8	44.5	42.0	-0.7	-1.6	1.8	4.3
Manufacturing	31.0	32.8	32.5	-1.8	-5.5	-1.5	-4.6
Services-producing sector	449.3	449.4	433.3	-0.1	0.0	16.0	3.7
Trade	95.4	91.9	96.0	3.5	3.8	-0.6	-0.6
Transportation and warehousing	24.2	25.1	23.2	-0.9	-3.6	1.0	4.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	29.9	30.4	28.0	-0.5	-1.6	1.9	6.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	31.1	31.4	27.2	-0.3	-1.0	3.9	14.3
Business, building and other support services	11.4	11.6	15.1	-0.2	-1.7	-3.7	-24.5
Educational services	45.9	49.2	46.8	-3.3	-6.7	-0.9	-1.9
Health care and social assistance	92.8	90.8	86.7	2.0	2.2	6.1	7.0
Information, culture and recreation	20.7	19.5	18.7	1.2	6.2	2.0	10.7
Accommodation and food services	34.3	37.1	30.6	-2.8	-7.5	3.7	12.1
Other services	27.7	26.7	25.9	1.0	3.7	1.8	6.9
Public administration	36.0	35.8	35.1	0.2	0.6	0.9	2.6

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 a monthly basis there was very little change in August's employment numbers, down 0.02% (-100 jobs). However, from an annual perspective, employment in the sector has grown by 3.7% (+16,000 jobs). Overall, employment in this sector continues to exceed pre-pandemic levels, up 4.1% (+17,500 jobs) when compared to February 2020.

Employment in **health care and social assistance** grew 2.2% (+2,000 jobs) on the month as well as 7.0% (+6,100 jobs) year-over-year. According to the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science, staffing shortages in laboratory services are creating disruptions at Saskatchewan hospitals. There is also a concern that retirees will outnumber new graduates.¹³

According to the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, many healthcare staff are feeling overwhelmed. Retiring healthcare workers, delayed surgeries picking back up and staffing shortages have all contributed to overcapacity in hospitals.¹⁴ Meadow Lake's newly constructed long-term care home, NorthWest Community Lodge, has only

opened 48 of the facility's 72 beds as a result of a nursing shortage. The facility is looking to recruit four full-time nurses and continuing care aides.¹⁵

Employment in Saskatchewan's **transportation and warehousing** industry declined between July and August 2022, down 3.6% (-900 jobs) but fared better on the year, up 4.3% (+1,000 jobs). WestJet recently announced plans to resume 17 non-stop routes to Regina's International airport, which were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some flights will restart as soon as November while other routes will begin in 2023.¹⁶

Meanwhile in Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Airport Authority received more than \$1.7 million in new federal funding for two renovation projects. The projects include expanding its apron to accommodate larger aircrafts and creating a new larger baggage claim area.¹⁷

The **professional, scientific and technical services** industry dipped slightly from the previous month (-1.0% or -300 jobs), but is 14.3% (+3,900 jobs) higher compared to last year. Vendasta recently laid off close to 5% of its staff as the company changes its strategy from growing quickly to being able to provide profits as well. The Saskatoon-based tech firm grew to nearly 700 employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸

The Government of Canada is providing nearly \$170 million to four research centres at the University of Saskatchewan. Canadian Light Source Inc. (CLS) plans to use their portion of the funding to advance cancer therapy and find solutions for antibiotic resistance. Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) intends to upgrade their facilities to containment level 4. SuperDARN Canada will continue to provide continuous mapping of "space weather" above Canada. Finally, the Global Water Futures Observatories (GWFO) will continue efforts to develop solutions to manage and conserve Canada's water supplies and major rivers.¹⁹

Employment in the province's **education services** fell both on a monthly and yearly basis, down 6.7% (-3,300 jobs) and -1.9% (-900 jobs) respectively. Redefined Co. is opening a new beauty academy in Saskatoon with its first class expected to begin in September. This academy will train indigenous estheticians and provide students with skills to run a successful business.²⁰

The University of Saskatchewan will begin offering a new oncology residency program in the summer of 2023 and will be offered in both Saskatoon and Regina.²¹ The University of Saskatchewan will also offer Canada's first and only dental therapy degree program starting in the fall of 2023, with enrollment opening in March 2023.²²

The provincial government is granting \$9M for Early Childhood Education (ECE) training opportunities. Beginning in 2022-23, ECE will be available at no charge at Collège Mathieu, SIIT and Sask Polytech.²³

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.²⁴

Compared to August 2021, employment was up in two of the province's five economic regions with the **Saskatoon – Biggar** region leading in growth, up 12.4% (+24,400 jobs). Meanwhile, the **Regina – Moose Mountain** region experienced the greatest employment decline, down 2.6% (-4,700 jobs).

Saskatchewan Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August 2022 ('000)	August 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August 2022 (%)	August 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Saskatchewan	585.3	565.6	3.5	4.5	6.9	-2.4
Economic Regions						
Regina - Moose Mountain	177.2	181.9	-2.6	5.0	6.7	-1.7
Swift Current - Moose Jaw	51.4	52.3	-1.7	5.2	7.7	-2.5
Saskatoon - Biggar	221.8	197.4	12.4	4.2	7.9	-3.7
Yorkton - Melville	38.3	35.5	7.9	3.0	4.6	-1.6
Prince Albert and Northern	96.6	98.6	-2.0	4.4	5.3	-0.9

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 3.7 percentage points to 4.2%. Work has begun on the new \$134M central library in Saskatoon. Crews are in the process of removing some of the existing building and parking surfaces while construction on the new library building is scheduled to begin in the spring 2023 and is anticipated to open in 2026.^{25,26}

Martensville City Council has approved the expansion of Lutheran Early Learning Centers. Once in its new location, the childcare facility will have an additional 54 childcare spaces, creating 15 new jobs. The new center is expected to open in 2023.²⁷

On an annual basis, the unemployment rate in the **Regina – Moose Mountain** declined 1.7 percentage points, reaching 5.0% in August 2022. Magic Lanterns Theatres is closing Rainbow Cinemas in Regina, a retro discount movie theatre that originally opened in 1998. The theatre's last screening will take place on September 25th.²⁸

Creative Saskatchewan and the provincial government announced that a major television production will begin filming in Regina this fall. The government expects the production will bring in \$20M in local spending.²⁹ Meanwhile, the Regina Folk Festival returned to the city, from August 5th to 7th, for its first full event since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival featured over 35 performers, local vendors and food trucks.³⁰

Employment in the **Prince Albert and Northern** region fell 2.0% (-2,000 jobs) over the year, while the unemployment rate dropped 0.9 percentage point to 4.4%. The Prince Albert police department is offering a one-time, \$25,000 incentive to experienced police officers interested in moving to Prince Albert. The incentive aims to address vacancies in the force along with front-line resource challenges.³¹ A new A&W restaurant is under construction in La Ronge. The fast-food chain is scheduled to open in the middle of November.³²

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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 (September 1, 2022). [Crop Report for the Period of August 23 to 28.](#)
- ³ farmnewsNOW (September 1, 2022). [Grasshopper and rain frustrating farmers.](#)
- ⁴ Global News (August 24, 2022). [Prairie provinces leading on economic growth: report.](#)
- ⁵ CBC News (July 27, 2022). [Cameco forecasts new jobs, production at Saskatchewan mines.](#)
- ⁶ Global News (August 4, 2022). [Nutrien CEO says Ukraine war will drive product demand for years.](#)
- ⁷ CTV News (August 18, 2022). [Cowessess First Nation benefits from generous Mosaic donation.](#)
- ⁸ SaskToday (August 18, 2022). [Enbridge continues work to decommission old Line 3 pipeline.](#)
- ⁹ Government of Saskatchewan (August 16, 2022). [Saskatchewan Housing Starts Continue Strong Growth in July 2022.](#)
- ¹⁰ Global News (August 4, 2022). [Saskatchewan government invests \\$50M for improved safety on Highway 16.](#)
- ¹¹ Saskatoon StarPhoenix (August 04, 2022). [Saskatoon eyes building a second water treatment plant.](#)
- ¹² CBC News (August 10, 2022). [Evraz PLC plans to sell off North American assets, including steel plant in Regina.](#)
- ¹³ CBC News (August 10, 2022). [Sask. lab service disruptions caused by staffing shortages could get worse, industry advocate warns.](#)
- ¹⁴ CBC News (August 26, 2022). [Sask. nurse's union president says province inching closer to emergency rooms collapsing.](#)
- ¹⁵ CBC News (August 26, 2022). [New care home in Meadow Lake partially open but still searching for nurses.](#)
- ¹⁶ Global News (August 9, 2022). [Service to 17 sun and leisure routes returns to Regina after suspension during pandemic.](#)
- ¹⁷ 650 CKOM (August 22, 2022). [Saskatoon airport receives \\$1.7 million for key upgrades.](#)
- ¹⁸ CTV News (August 18, 2022). [Vendasta announces layoffs after 'Best Workplace' recognition.](#)
- ¹⁹ CTV News (August 19, 2022). [University of Saskatchewan research centres get nearly \\$170M from feds.](#)
- ²⁰ Global News (August 11, 2022). [Entrepreneur combines passion for social work and esthetics into an Indigenous-based beauty academy.](#)
- ²¹ Regina Leader-Post (August 7, 2022). [U of S creating first-in-province oncology residency program.](#)
- ²² CTV News (August 9, 2022). [Sask. university prepares for dental therapy program to open at three campuses in 2023.](#)
- ²³ Government of Saskatchewan (August 15, 2022). [Government Of Saskatchewan Offers Free Training for Early Childhood Educators.](#)
- ²⁴ Statistics Canada [Seasonally Adjusted Data - Frequently Asked Questions \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)
- ²⁵ CTV News (August 10, 2022). [Construction crews start work on downtown Saskatoon library.](#)
- ²⁶ Saskatoon Public Library (accessed September 12, 2022). [Home - Saskatoon Central Library.](#)
- ²⁷ CTV News (August 18, 2022). [Martensville council approves childcare centre expansion.](#)
- ²⁸ CBC News (August 26, 2022). [Final curtain call approaches for beloved local Regina cinema.](#)
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²⁹ Government of Saskatchewan (August 19, 2022). [Lights! Camera! Action! Major TV Production Approved Through the Creative Saskatchewan Feature Film and Television Production Grant Program.](#)

³⁰ Global News (August 5, 2022). [Regina Folk Festival returns for 51st anniversary.](#)

³¹ CTV News (August 11, 2022). [Sask. police service offers \\$25,000 hiring bonus for 'experienced officers' | CTV News](#)

³² LarongeNOW (July 12, 2022). [A&W to open in La Ronge by end of 2022.](#)