



April Labour Market Report for Saskatchewan

This report was prepared by the Sask Trends Monitor for the Saskatchewan Construction Association on May 13, 2018

Provincial Employment

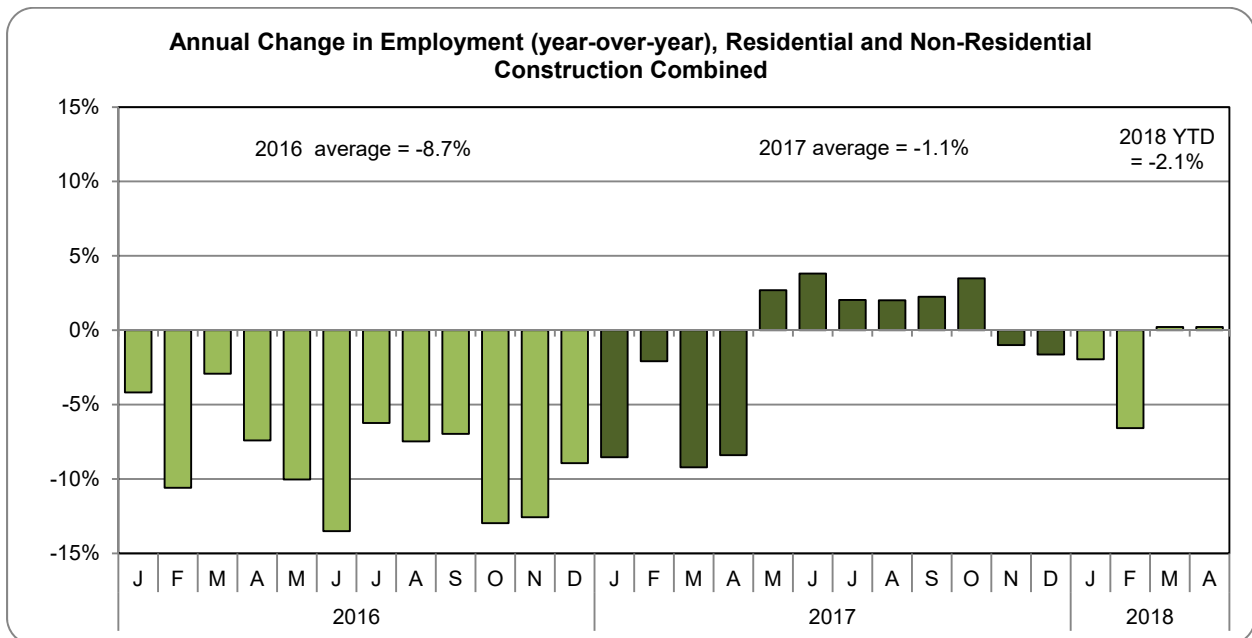
The labour market is effectively flat in early 2018 with small increases in some months and small decreases in others. April is one of the slow months with a 0.3% year-over-year decline. This brings employment in the first four months down 0.3% from the same period in 2017.

Construction is one of the sectors that is contributing to the lack of growth. Counting heavy construction and both the residential and non-residential building sectors, employment in April was 45,900 which is effectively the same as the 45,800 in April 2017.

The labour market was weakest in the heavy construction category. Compared with April a year ago, employment was:

- unchanged in residential and non-residential building construction;
- down 13% in heavy and engineering construction; and
- up 4% in trade contracting firms.

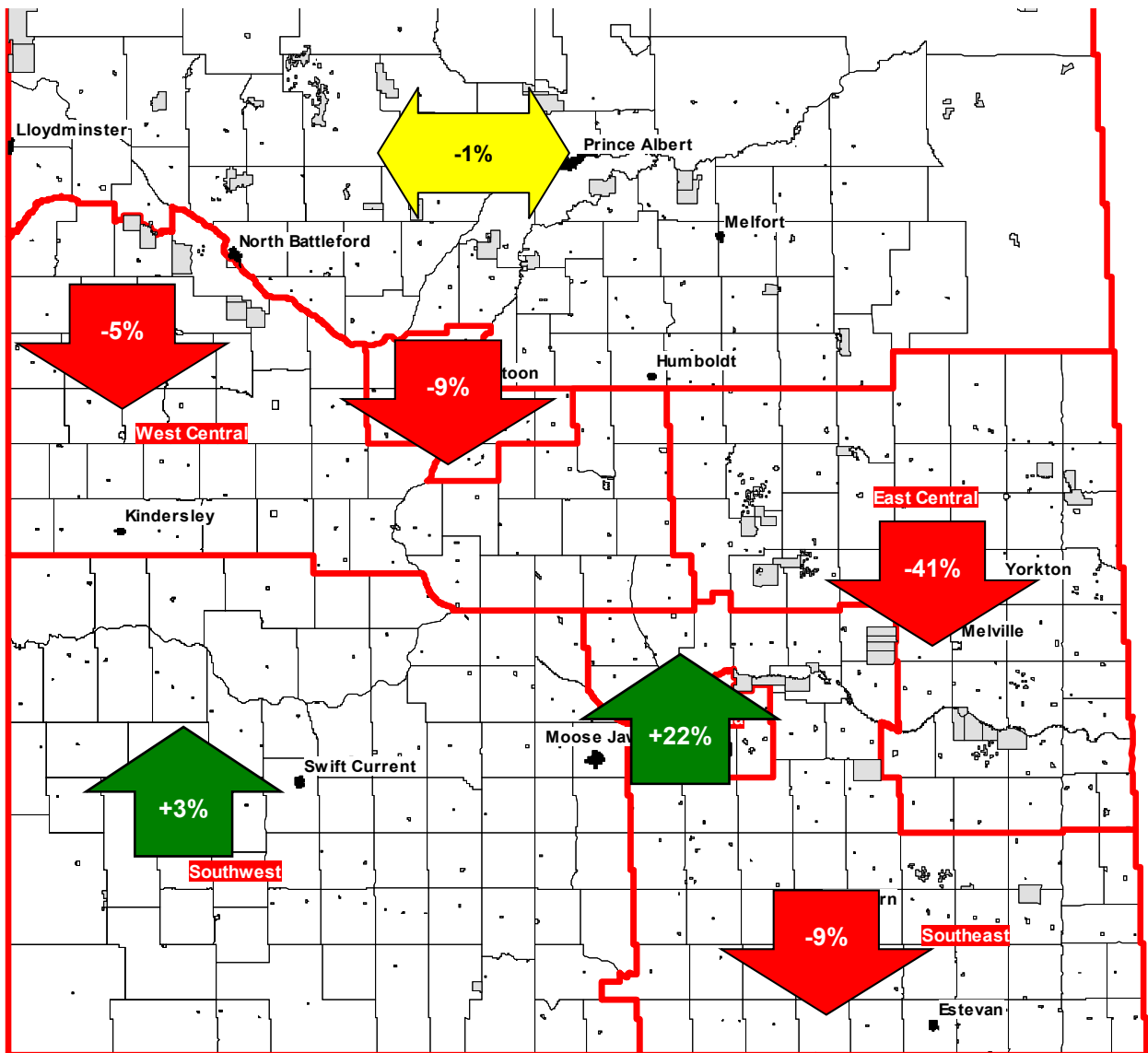
There was a 2% increase among paid workers and a 4% decline among the self-employed. The hours worked increased by 8% to 34.9 hours/week.



Regional Employment¹

From a regional perspective, the slowdown in construction employment in early 2018 is mainly because of weak employment growth in Saskatoon (-9%). The map below shows that employment in the four months ending in April 2018 declined in four of the seven sub-provincial regions used in the Labour Force Survey and increased in two including Regina.

Annual Change in Construction Employment, Three Months Ending in April 2018



¹ In the Labour Force Survey, the regional data measure where you live not where you work. The figures for Regina and Saskatoon include the surrounding "bedroom communities" such as Lumsden, Emerald Park, Martensville and Warman.



Construction Wage Rates

Calendar year 2018 started with a sharp increase in the average wage rate in spite of the weak labour market but the figures were more in line with expectations over the next three months.

In April 2018, the average hourly wage rate among paid workers in construction was \$29.94. This is 1.7% higher than the \$29.43 in April 2017 and brings the year-to-date increase to 2.6%.

