

February Labour Market Report for Saskatchewan

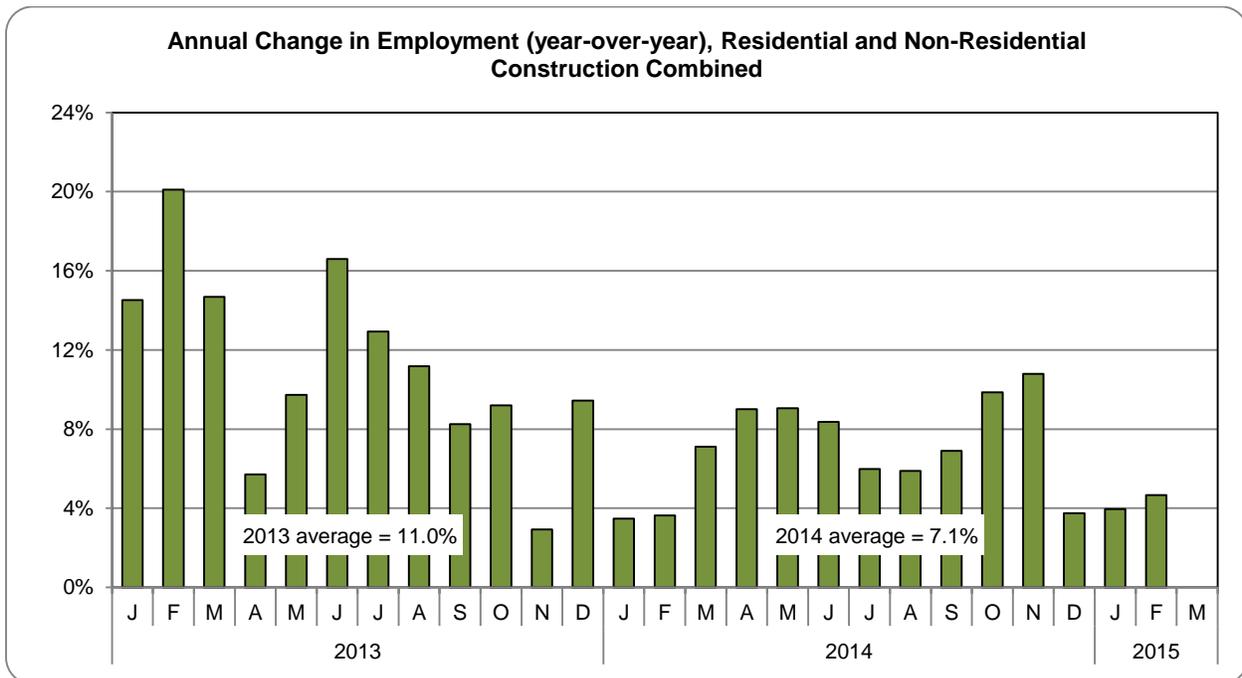
This report was prepared by the Sask Trends Monitor for the Saskatchewan Construction Association on March 13, 2015

Provincial Employment

In February 2015, employment in Saskatchewan was effectively the same as February a year ago. This is the second month in a row with no growth in overall employment so the labour market has clearly cooled.

The construction industry is one of the reasons why employment in the province is stable rather than declining. Construction employment in February 2015 was 53,800 which is 4.7% higher than a year ago. This is a slower rate of growth than over the past two years but still substantial.

The February employment growth was evident among both general contractors (+7%) and trade contractors (+3%). Employment increased among paid workers (+9%) and declined among the self-employed (-3%). The only sign of a slowdown in construction activity is a decline in hours of work. The hours worked dropped from an average of 39.1 hours/week in February 2014 to 33.1 hours/week in February 2015.

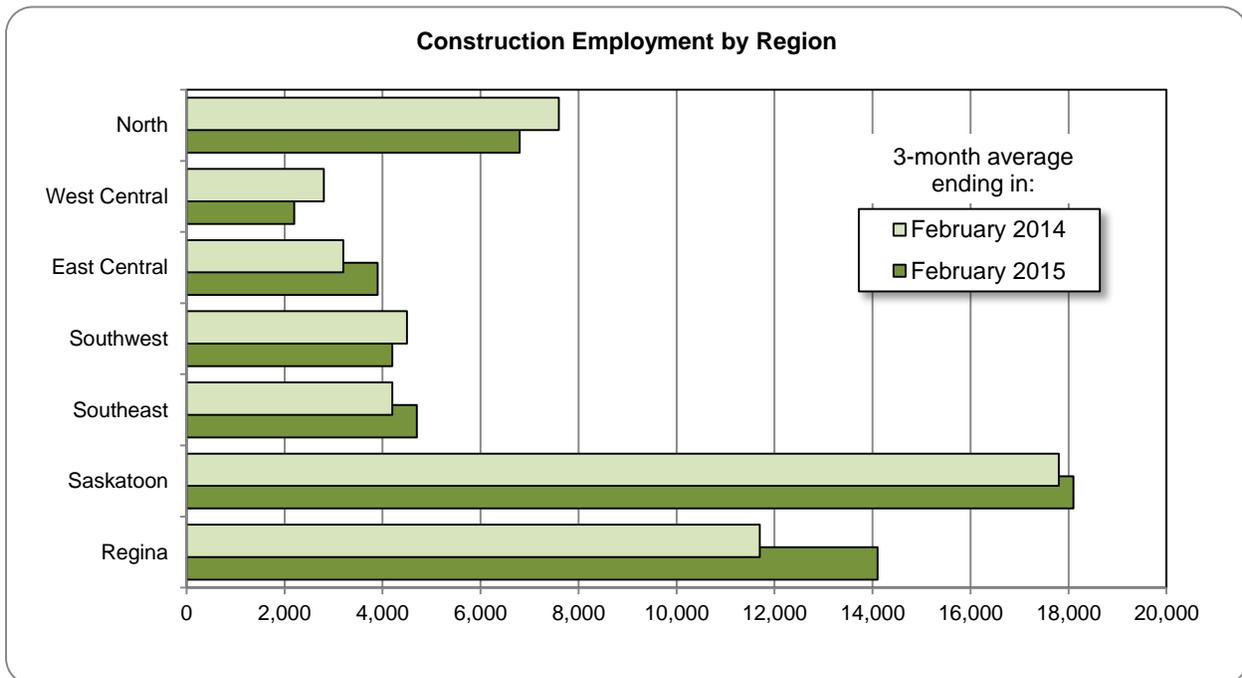


Regional Employment

Saskatoon continues to be the largest region in terms of construction employment, with an average of 18,100 workers in the three months ending in February 2015, up slightly from a year ago.

While Regina has a smaller total number of construction workers at 14,100, the city is experiencing much faster growth. From February 2014 to February 2015, Regina's construction employment grew by 20%, the equivalent of 2,400 new construction workers.

There are 7,000 construction workers living in Northern Saskatchewan and the number has declined from a year ago. Elsewhere in the province, construction employment is less common but it has increased in two of the four southern regions and declined in the other two.



Construction Wage Rates

There was a sharp increase in construction wage rates in January with a 13.4% increase from a year ago and this continued into February with a 9.3% increase. There is no obvious reason for such a large jump in wage rates and wage increases should moderate in the coming months.

The average construction wage rate of \$29.40 in February is 14% above the provincial average of \$25.76 for all industry groups.

