



## February Labour Market Report for Saskatchewan

This report was prepared by the Sask Trends Monitor for the Saskatchewan Construction Association on March 9, 2018

### Provincial Employment

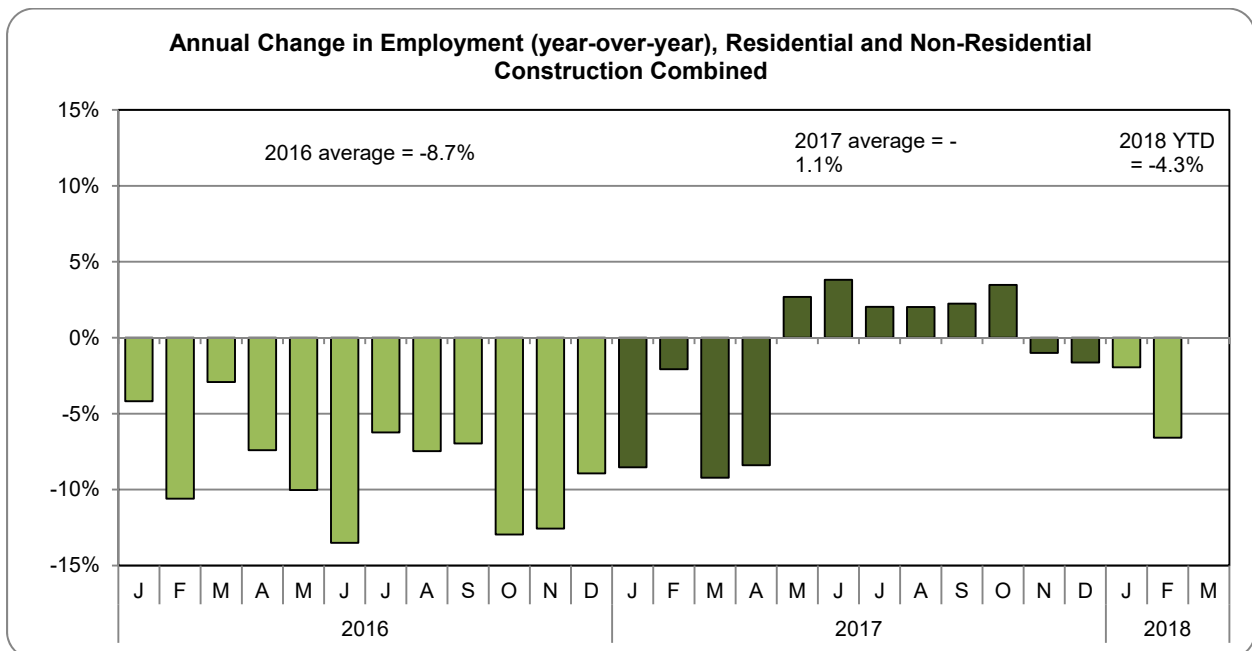
There is still no sign of a recover in the overall provincial labour market. After several months of minor ups-and-downs, employment fell by 1.4% on a year-over-year basis in February, the worst showing in more than a year.

Construction was one of the sectors that contributed to the poor showing. Counting heavy construction and both the residential and non-residential building sectors, employment in February was 44,000 which is 6.6% lower than a year ago. This is the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year declines in construction employment.

The February decline was evident across the different sectors. Compared with February a year ago employment was:

- down 19% in residential and non-residential building construction;
- down 2% in heavy and engineering construction; and
- down 2% in trade contracting firms.

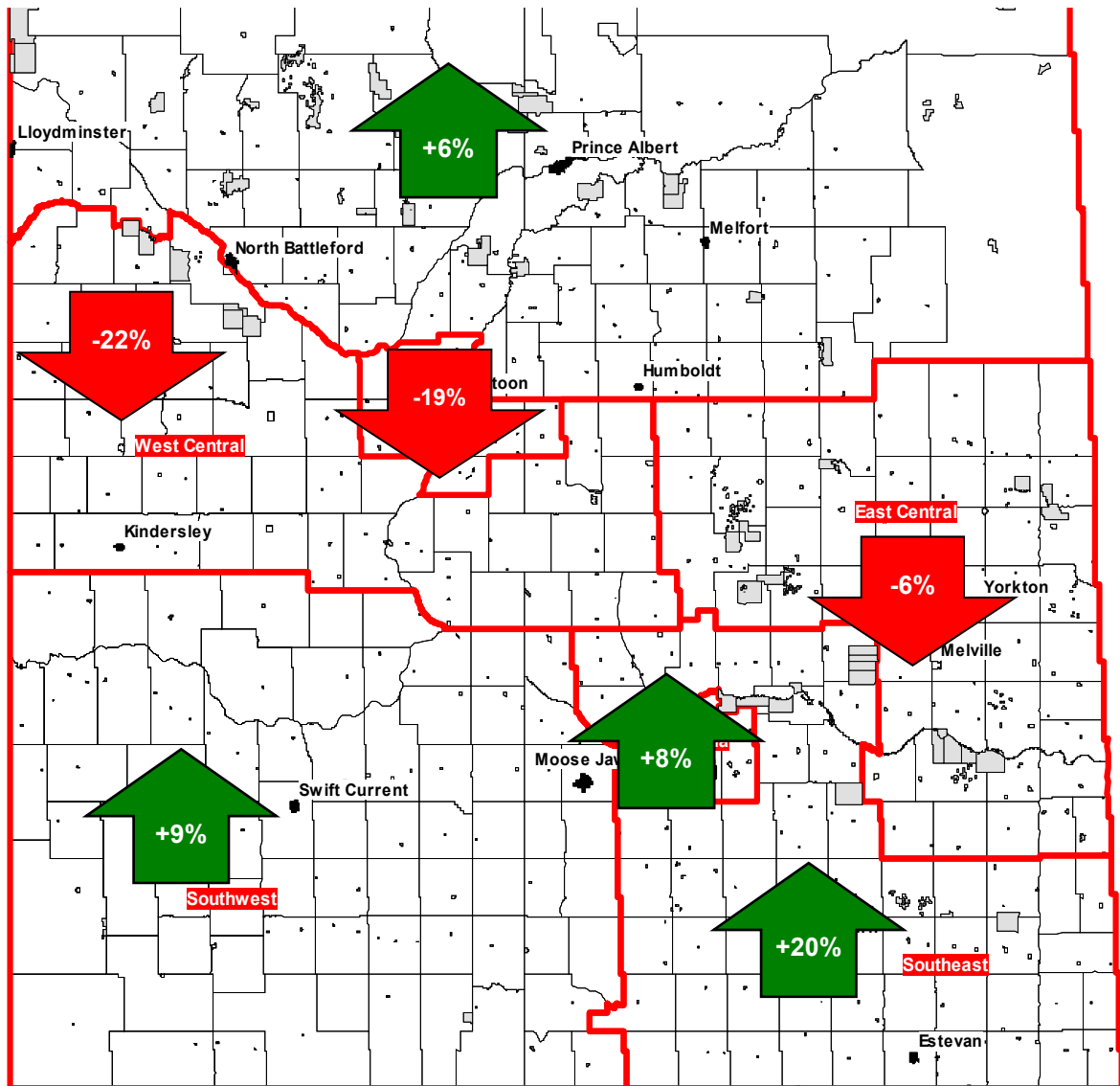
The decline was among paid workers where employment fell by 11%; employment among the self-employed was up 5%. The hours worked fell by 5% to 33.5 hours/week.



## Regional Employment<sup>1</sup>

From a regional perspective, the slowdown in construction employment in the winter months is mainly because of weak employment figures in Saskatoon (-19%). The map below shows that employment in the three months ending in February 2018 increased in four of the seven sub-provincial regions used in the Labour Force Survey and declined in the other three.

**Annual Change in Residential and Non-Residential Construction Employment,  
Three Months Ending in February 2018**



<sup>1</sup> 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

After three consecutive years of wage increases that were well above the rate of inflation, the average wage rates in the construction industry declined in 2017 as the demand for workers slowed. Calendar year 2018 started off with a sharp increase in the average wage rate in spite of the weak labour market but the February figures are more in line with expectations.

In February 2018, the average hourly wage rate among paid workers in construction was \$29.22. This is 0.2% lower than in February 2017 and brings the year-to-date increase to 4.2%.

