

January Labour Market Report for Saskatchewan

This report was prepared by the Sask Trends Monitor for the Saskatchewan Construction Association on February 11, 2017

Provincial Employment

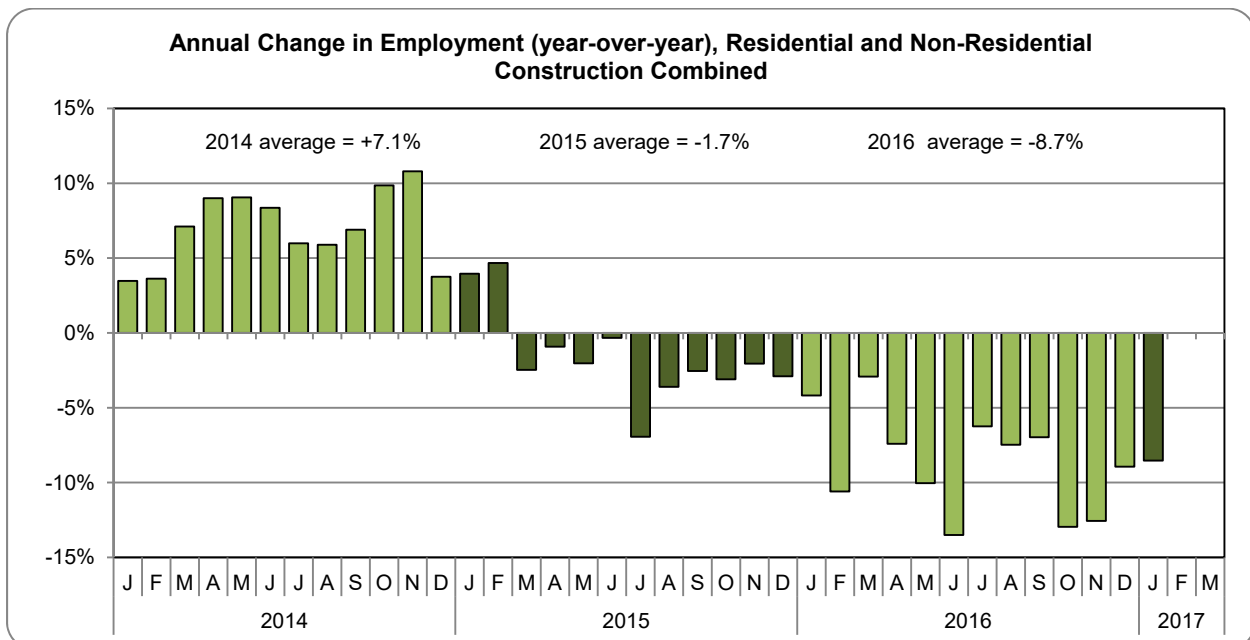
The Saskatchewan economy was still shedding jobs in early 2017. Total employment in January was 558,600. This is 0.9% lower than in January 2016 and equivalent to a loss of almost 5,000 jobs across the province. The decline was exclusively among those with full-time employment.

Counting heavy construction and both the residential and non-residential building sectors, construction employment in January was 46,100 which is 8.5% lower than the 50,400 a year ago and well below the recent peak of 52,600 in January 2015.

The weak labour market is mainly in building construction. Employment in January was, compared with January a year ago:

- up 5% in heavy and engineering construction;
- down 18% in residential and non-residential building construction; and
- down 6% in trade contracting firms.

The drop in employment was only evident among paid workers (-12%); the number of self-employed construction workers increased by 1%. The average hours fell by 1.1% to an average of 36.2 hours/week.

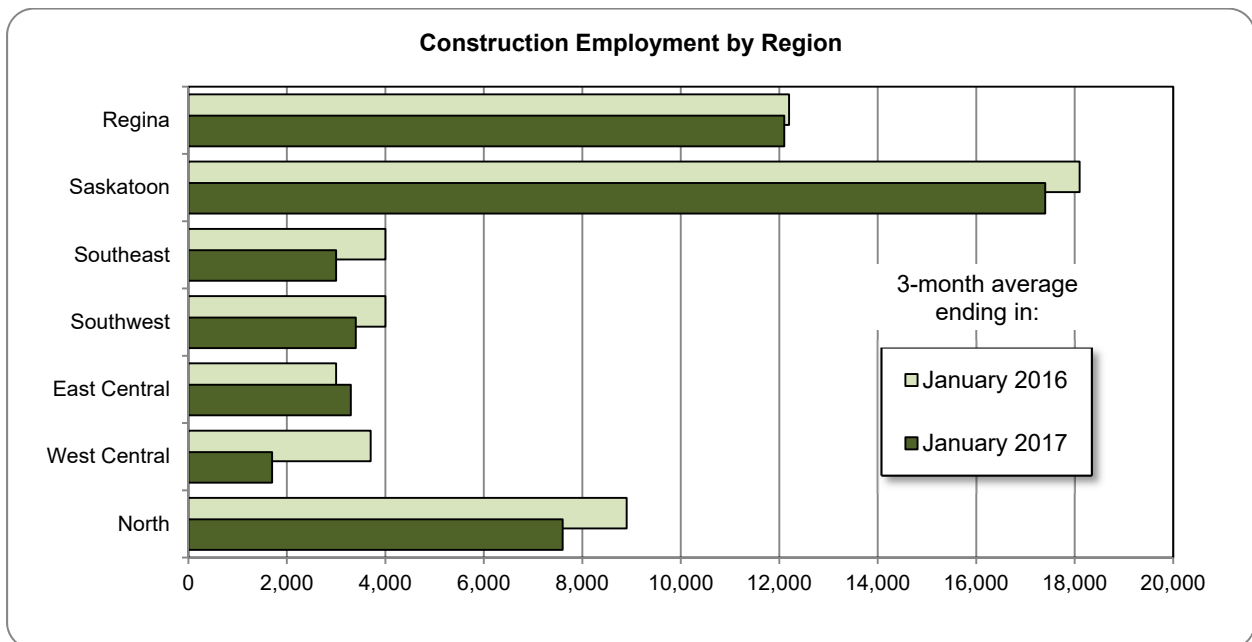


Regional Employment¹

The decline in construction employment in the early 2017 was widespread among the seven regions in the province with an increase in only one of the seven regions used in the Labour Force Survey.

In absolute numbers, the largest decline was in the west central part of the province, including the city of Saskatoon, where employment in the three months ending in January 2017 was 12% lower than it was a year ago – the equivalent of 2,700 jobs. The only region showing an increase was the east central (Melville/Yorkton) region where employment in the three months ending in January 2017 was 10% higher than a year ago.

Construction employment among residents of the Regina metropolitan area was effectively unchanged at 12,100.



¹ In the Labour Force Survey, the regional data measure where you live not where you work.

Construction Wage Rates

After three consecutive years of wage increases that were well above the rate of inflation, the January figures show that the weak labour market has finally started to exert downward pressure on construction wages.

In January 2017, the average hourly wage rate among paid workers in construction was \$27.80. This is 5.9% lower than in January 2016 and 9.3% below the peak of \$30.66 in April 2016.

