

## July Labour Market Report for Saskatchewan

This report was prepared by the Sask Trends Monitor for the Saskatchewan Construction Association on August 4, 2017

### Provincial Employment

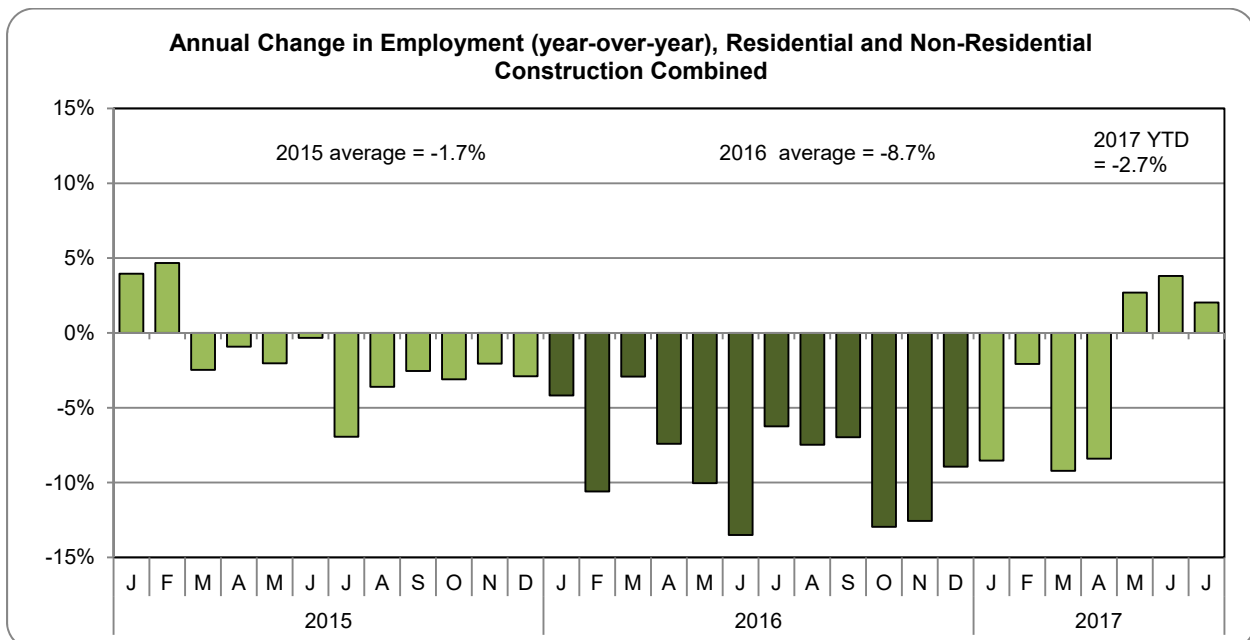
The provincial labour market is effectively stagnant this summer. Employment in July 2017 was 574,400. This is 0.3% lower than in July a year ago. The decline was most pronounced in part-time jobs and in the public sector.

Counting heavy construction and both the residential and non-residential building sectors, construction employment in July was 55,200 which is 2.0% higher than a year ago. This is the third increase in as many months and means that the employment slump that started more than two years ago has ended. A modest recovery is under way.

The July increase is evident in general building construction contractors and among trade contracting firms. Compared with July a year ago employment is:

- up 3% in residential and non-residential building construction;
- down 10% in heavy and engineering construction; and
- up 5% in trade contracting firms.

The increase was exclusively among the self-employed (+10%) – employment among paid workers was unchanged from July 2016. The hours worked fell by 2% to an average of 37.8 hours/week.

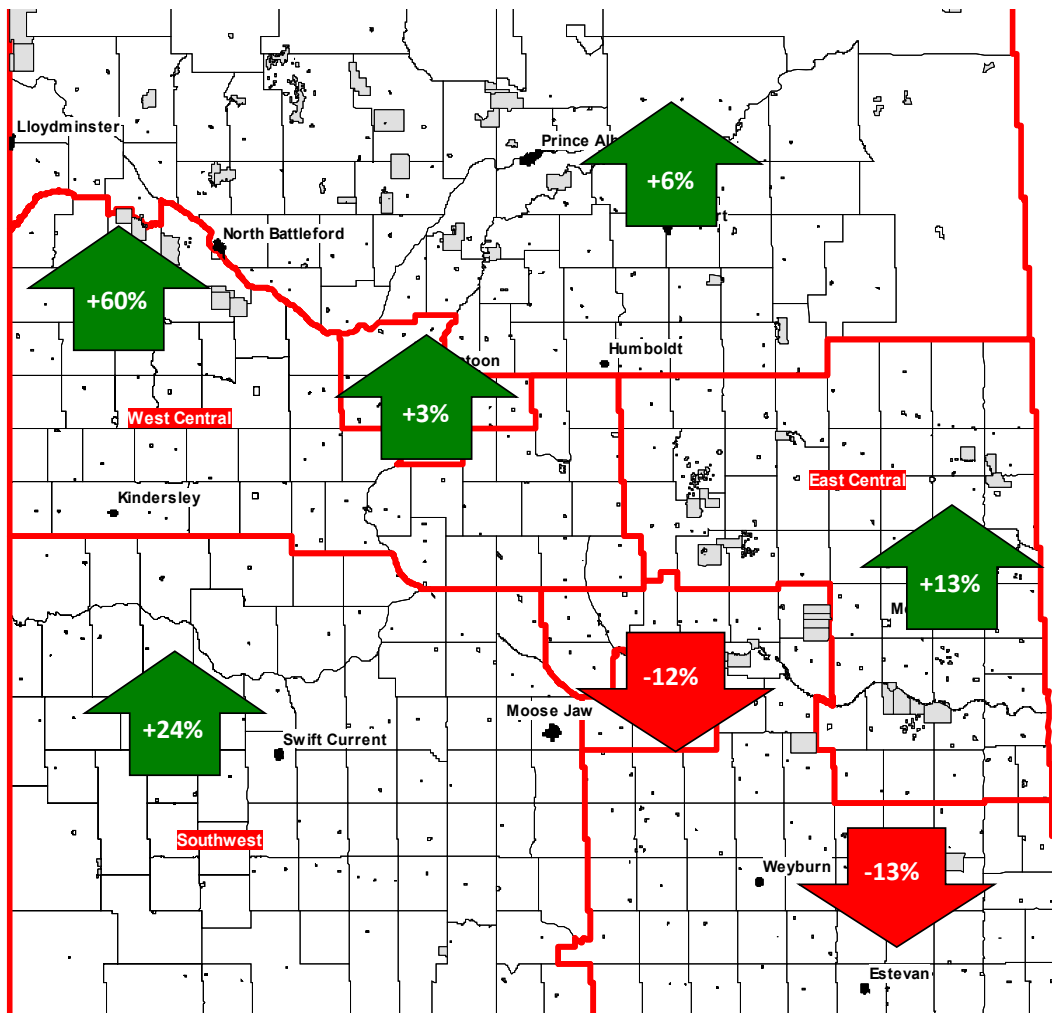


## Regional Employment<sup>1</sup>

From a regional perspective, the turnaround in construction employment in mid-2017 is broadly based. Employment in the three months ending in July 2017 increased in five of the seven sub-provincial regions used in the Labour Force Survey.

The parts of the province showing a decline are in the Southeast, including the Regina metropolitan area. In percentage terms, the largest increase is in the small west central region (Kindersley/Rosetown) which is showing a 60% increase after declines earlier in the year.

Construction Employment Change, Three Months Ending in July 2017 Compared with July 2016



<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 July figures confirm that the weak labour market is exerting downward pressure on construction wages. On a year-over-year basis, construction wage rates in July were down for the eighth consecutive month. The same restraint in wage growth is evident in other sectors and in the province as a whole.

In July 2017, the average hourly wage rate among paid workers in construction was \$28.41. This is 2.3% lower than in July 2016 and brings the year-to-date decline to 3.8%.

