

## June Labour Market Report for Saskatchewan

This report was prepared by the Sask Trends Monitor for the Saskatchewan Construction Association on July 7, 2017

### Provincial Employment

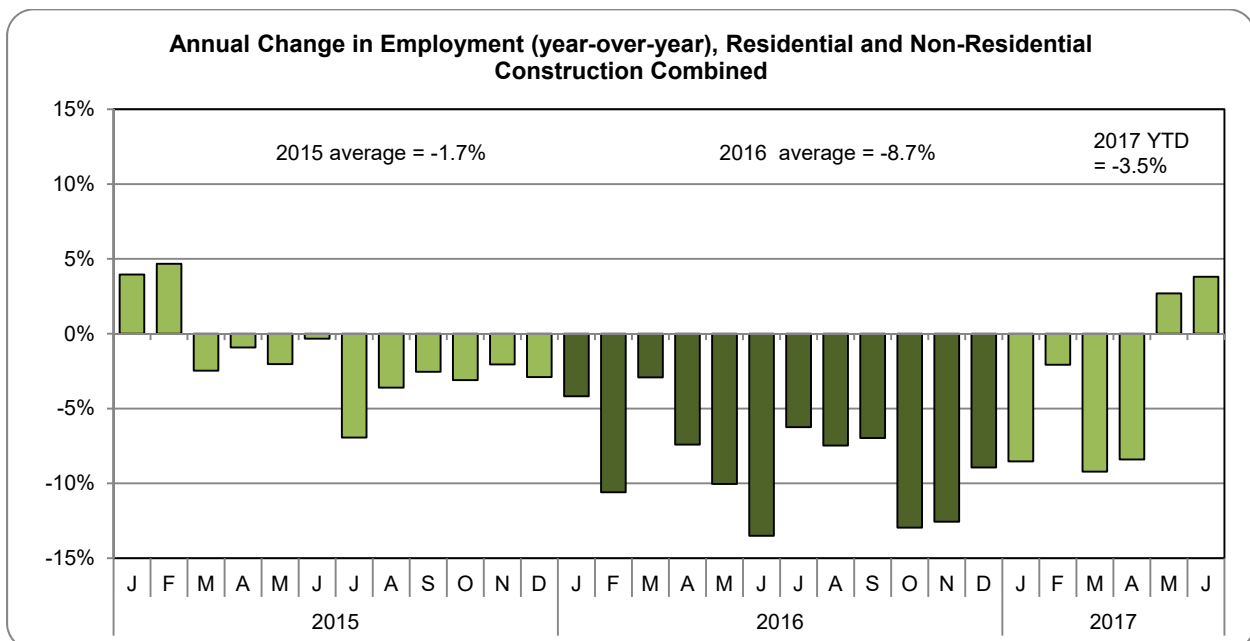
The growth in the Saskatchewan labour market earlier in the year was not evident in the June figures. After four months of year-over-year increases, total employment was down by 0.4%. The decline was exclusively in part-time employment; full-time employment increased.

Counting heavy construction and both the residential and non-residential building sectors, construction employment in June was 54,500 which is 3.8% higher than a year ago. This is the second increase in as many months and the equivalent of 2,000 new jobs. The year-to-date figures for the first half of 2017 still show a 3.5% decline in employment because of weakness earlier in the year.

The June increase is mainly in heavy and engineering construction which will be mainly highway and street work. Compared with June a year ago employment is:

- down 4% in residential and non-residential building construction;
- up 24% in heavy and engineering construction; and
- up 1% in trade contracting firms.

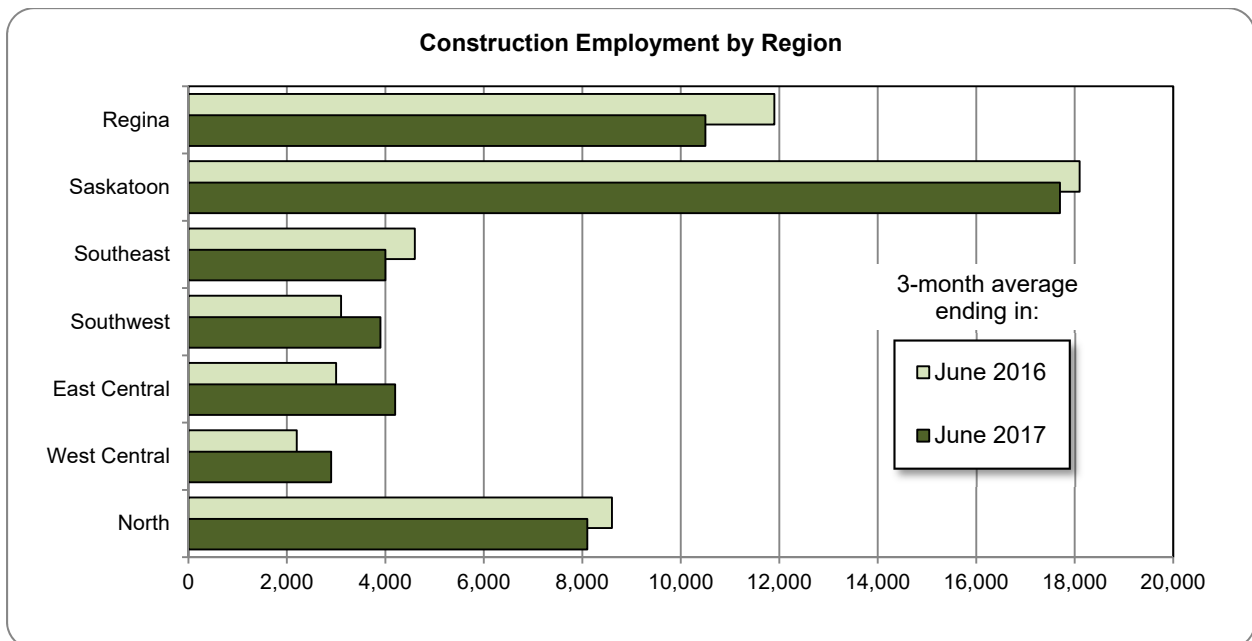
The increase was evident among both paid workers (+2%) and the self-employed (+8%). The hours worked fell by 3% to an average of 38.2 hours/week.



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

The turnaround in construction employment in the second quarter of 2017 is only evident in parts of the province. Employment in the second quarter declined in four of the seven sub-provincial regions used in the Labour Force Survey including both Regina and Saskatoon.

The parts of the province showing a substantial increase are on the east side (Melville/Yorkton) where employment in the second quarter was 40% higher than a year ago and in the southwest corner where the increase was 26%. The small west central region (Kindersley/Rosetown) is showing a 32% increase after declines earlier in the year.



<sup>1</sup> In the Labour Force Survey, the regional data measure where you live not where you work. The figure 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 June figures confirm that the weak labour market is exerting downward pressure on construction wages. On a year-over-year basis, construction wage rates in June were down for the sixth consecutive month. The same restraint in wage growth is evident in other sectors and in the province as a whole.

In June 2017, the average hourly wage rate among paid workers in construction was \$28.55. This is 3.0% lower than in June 2016 and brings the year-to-date decline to 4.0%.

