



June Labour Market Report for Saskatchewan

This report was prepared by the Sask Trends Monitor for the Saskatchewan Construction Association on July 7, 2018

Provincial Employment

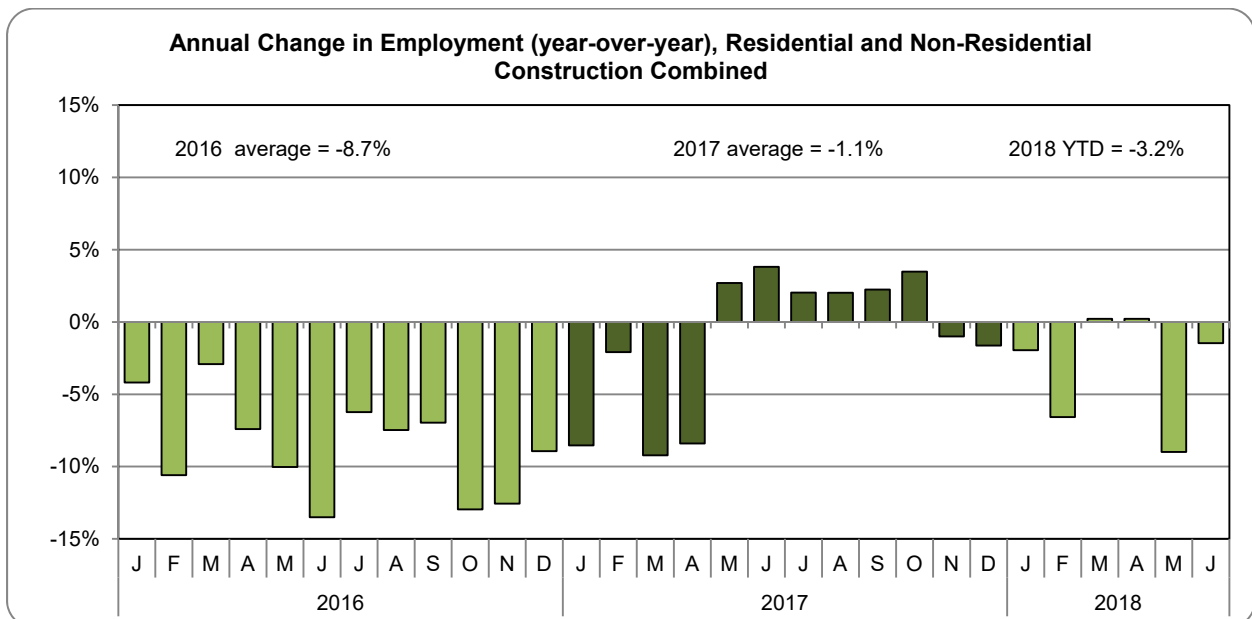
The overall labour market turned around in June 2018 with a 0.7% increase compared with a year ago – the best showing in more than a year. That brings the year-to-date decline to 0.3% because of the poorer showing earlier this year.

Construction is contributing to the lack of growth this year. Counting heavy construction and both the residential and non-residential building sectors, employment in June was 53,700 which is down 1.5% from the 54,500 in June 2017. That brings the year-to-date decline to 3.2%.

The weakness in the labour market was broadly based in the sense that employment declined in two of the three categories. Compared with June a year ago, employment was:

- down 1.4% in residential and non-residential building construction;
- down 5.7% in heavy and engineering construction; and
- unchanged in trade contracting firms.

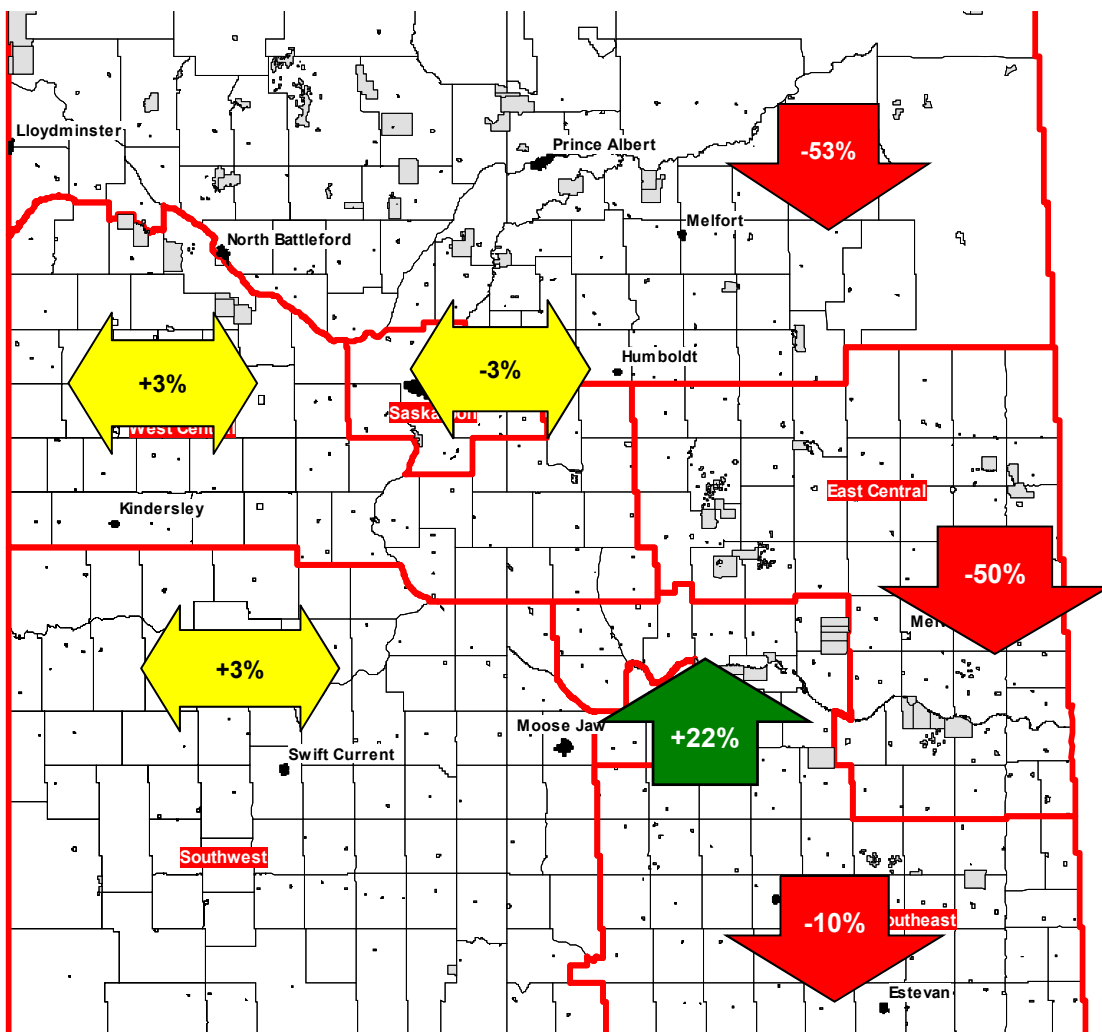
There was a 2.6% increase in the number of paid workers and an 11.2% decline among the self-employed. The hours worked increased by 6.8% to an average of 40.8 hours per week.



Regional Employment¹

From a regional perspective, the slowdown in construction employment in the second quarter of 2018 is mainly because employment is declining or stable in most of the seven economic regions. The map below shows that employment in the three months ending in June 2018 is down or stable in every region except Regina.

Annual Change in Construction Employment, Three Months Ending in June 2018



¹ 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

In June 2018, the average hourly rate among paid workers in construction was \$29.59. This is 3.6% higher than the \$28.55 registered in June of 2017.

In the first half of 2018, rates have averaged \$29.62 which is 2.8% higher than in the first half of 2017. Put another way, the average construction worker had a wage increase this year that is near or above the rate of inflation.

