

November Labour Market Report for Saskatchewan

This report was prepared by the Sask Trends Monitor for the Saskatchewan Construction Association on December 1, 2017

Provincial Employment

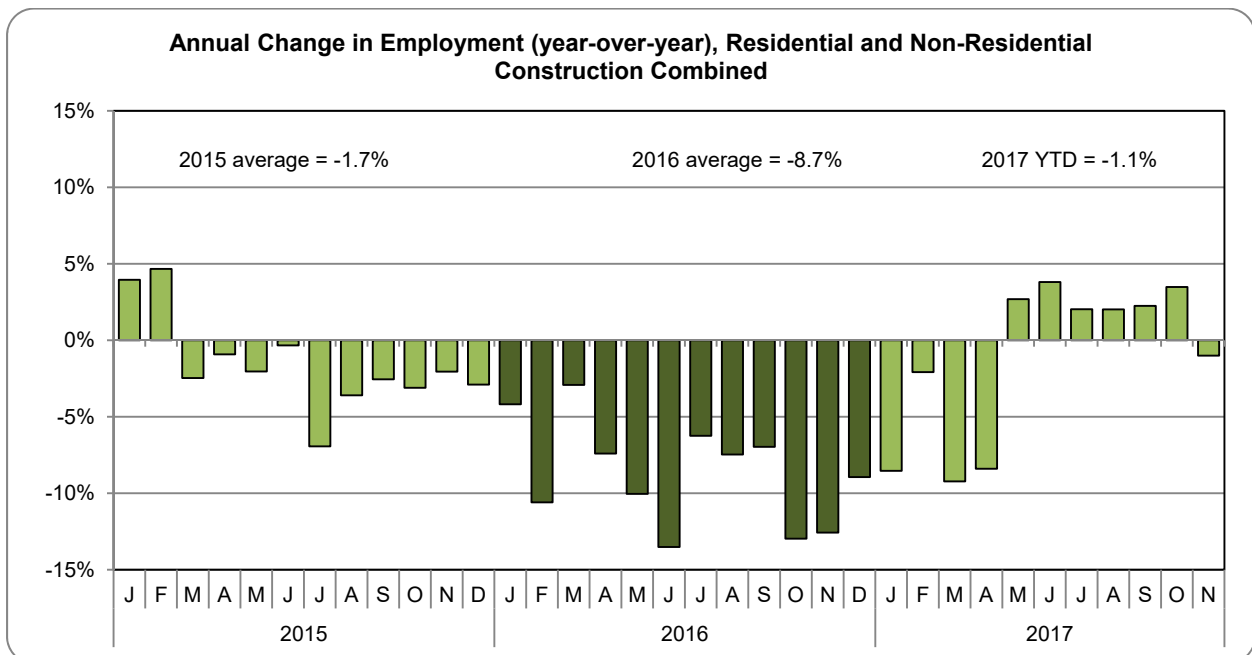
The provincial labour market has been stagnant since early 2016. Instead of the November figures showing a turnaround, they are showing an even sharper drop. In November, employment declined by 1.1% from November 2016 – the largest decline so far this year.

Construction was one of the sectors that contributed to the poor showing in November. Counting heavy construction and both the residential and non-residential building sectors, construction employment in November was 49,600 which is 1.0% lower than a year ago. This decline reverses six months of year-over-year increases.

The November decline is exclusively among building contractors. Compared with November a year ago employment is:

- down 7% in residential and non-residential building construction;
- unchanged in heavy and engineering construction; and
- up 2% in trade contracting firms.

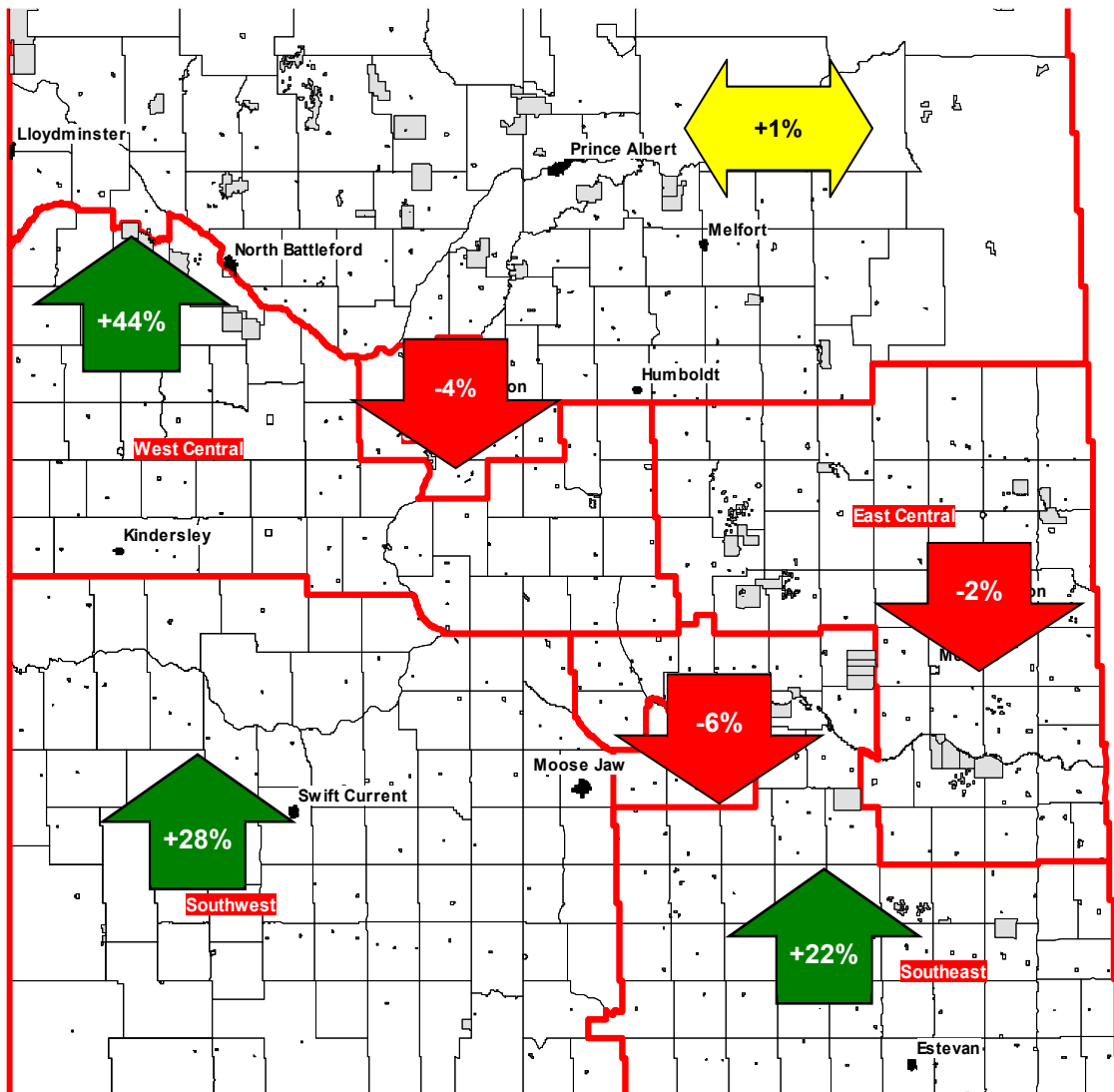
The decline was among paid workers where employment fell by 2%. Employment among the self-employed was up 2.7% from November 2016. The hours worked increased by 6% to an average of 38.4 hours/week.



Regional Employment¹

From a regional perspective, the slowdown in construction employment late in 2017 is mainly because of weak employment figures in Regina (-6%) and Saskatoon (-4%). Employment in the three months ending in November 2017 increased in three of the five rural sub-provincial regions used in the Labour Force Survey, declined in the East Central Region and was stable in the North.

**Construction Employment Change,
Three Months Ending in November 2017 Compared with the same period in 2016**



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

After three consecutive years of wage increases that were well above the rate of inflation, the average wage rates in the construction industry will decline this year as the demand for workers slows.

In November 2017, the average hourly wage rate among paid workers in construction was \$28.90. This is 0.3% lower than in November 2016 and brings the year-to-date decline to 2.6%. With inflation in the 1%-2% range this year, this decline will translate into a significant loss in the purchasing power of the wage for the average construction worker.

