

April 2016

www.sasktrends.ca

Volume XXXIII

Number 4

ISSN 0830 - 0143

INVESTMENT INTENTIONS FOR 2016

Capital investment in new fixed and movable assets is expected to decline sharply in 2016 for the second year in a row. The weakness is concentrated in the mining and oil/gas sector. In other industry groups, particularly those in the public sector, investment is expected to be near 2015 levels.

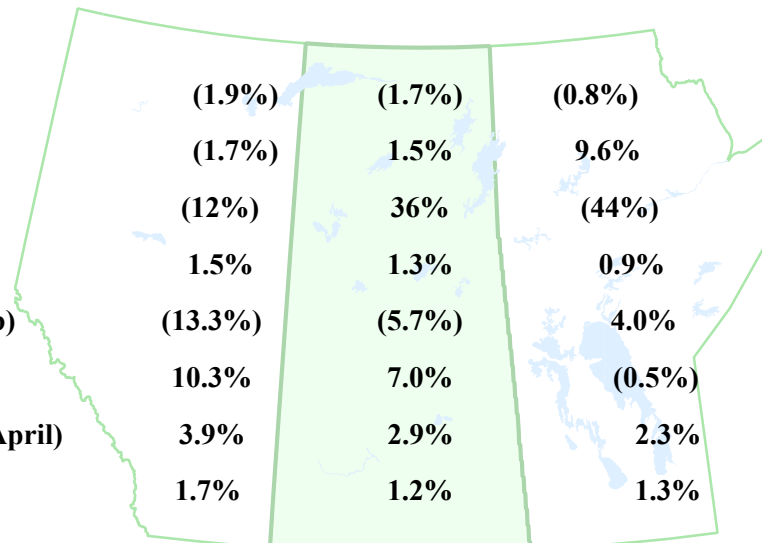
GDP BY INDUSTRY GROUP

The provincial economy was in recession last year with a 1.4% decline in real GDP. Lower output in the construction industry was the main reason.

SUMMERS JOBS

Summer jobs for students have been hard to find in recent years and 2016 promises to be just as bad.

Key Economic Indicators*

				<u>Canada</u>
Employment (April)	(1.9%)	(1.7%)	(0.8%)	0.7%
Retail Sales (Feb)	(1.7%)	1.5%	9.6%	6.0%
Urban Housing Starts (April)	(12%)	36%	(44%)	2%
Consumer Prices (March)	1.5%	1.3%	0.9%	1.3%
Manufacturing Shipments (Feb)	(13.3%)	(5.7%)	4.0%	6.8%
Farm Cash Receipts (Q3)	10.3%	7.0%	(0.5%)	3.5%
Average Hourly Wage Rates (April)	3.9%	2.9%	2.3%	2.9%
Population (Q4)	1.7%	1.2%	1.3%	0.9%

* percentage change from the same period a year ago; negative numbers in parenthesis

INVESTMENT INTENTIONS FOR 2016

Capital investment is one of the more important economic statistics we track because it is a leading indicator for economic growth, productivity increases, construction activity, and economic diversity. Capital investment in the province peaked at \$20 billion in 2014 before falling back to \$16.5 billion in 2015. All but the most determined optimist was expecting another decline for 2016 intentions. The only uncertainty was about how big the drop would be.

Figure 1 shows the steady increase in investment from \$8.3 billion in 2006 to \$20.0 billion in 2014. This sustained period of growth was equivalent to average annual increases of 13% for eight consecutive years. The drop in commodity prices reversed the pattern. Total capital investment declined by 17% to an estimated \$16.5 billion in 2015. The 18% decline in 2016 will, if not further reduced over the course of the year, bring the total to \$13.6 billion – the same level as in 2010.

Interprovincial Comparison

The expected decline of 18% in new capital investment this year is the highest among the provinces. The national average was a modest 4% drop with increases in Quebec offsetting declines elsewhere in the country.

Over the two years from 2014 to 2016, Figure 2 shows

Statistics Canada's annual survey of businesses and governments collects actual and intended capital investment in new machinery and equipment, the construction of buildings (except residential), the development or expansion of new mines and oil wells, and investments in intellectual property.

The figures exclude the repair of existing assets which typically adds another 20% to the total. The data measure investment activity in the province, whether it is made by local, national, or international investors. Price inflation is not taken into account – these are nominal figures. The most recent survey was conducted from October 2015 to January 2016 when the price of crude oil was US\$40-45/barrel.

The data are available on CANSIM Tables 029-0045, 029-0048, and 029-0050.

that the 32% decline in Saskatchewan was matched by a similar drop in Alberta. Capital investment in B.C. has also declined. East of the Manitoba border, investment has increased slightly.

Investment by Type

Capital investment is broken down into two categories, namely i) the construction of buildings or other fixed assets such as pipelines or roads and ii) the purchase of machinery, equipment, computers or other movable assets. In some sectors (e.g. agriculture, construction, finance), the mix of investment tends to favour movable assets. In others (e.g. mining, oil/gas, transportation) investment is typically in fixed assets.

Figure 1: Total Capital Investment, New Structures, Machinery and Equipment, Intellectual Property, Saskatchewan

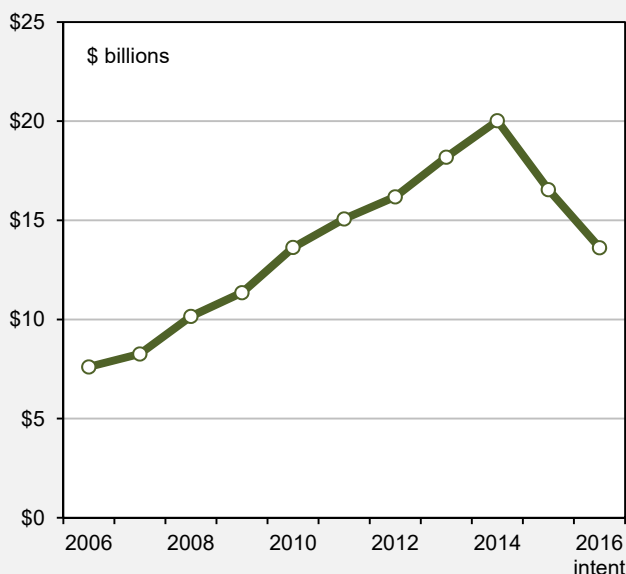
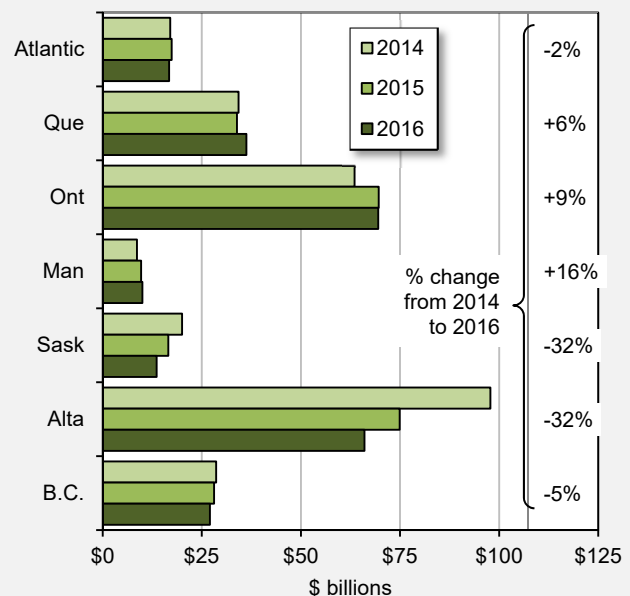


Figure 2: Capital Investment by Province, 2014 to 2016



All of the decline in 2015 was in the construction of fixed assets whereas the expected decline in 2016 is evident in both categories. One reason will be that investment in machinery and equipment typically lags investment in fixed assets – the building goes up before the machinery is installed. Another will be that the declines in 2015 and 2016 were concentrated in industry groups that normally invest in fixed rather than movable assets.

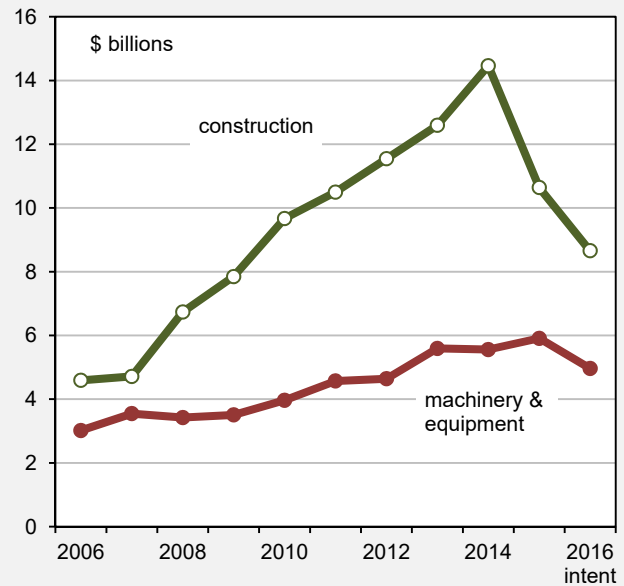
Investment by Sector and Industry Group

Capital investment is further broken down according to who owns the resulting asset and Figure 4 shows that all of the decline in 2015 and 2016 was in the private sector. Investment by the public sector (broadly defined to include health, education, and the crowns as well as government proper) increased by 5% in 2015 and is expected to decline by only 2% in 2016.

A breakdown by industry group shows the importance of the resource sector in these investment figures. Figure 5 shows that from 2012 to 2014, new investment in the mining and oil/gas sectors accounted for more than one-half of the total. Even with the decline in 2015 and 2016, it is still, by far, the largest single destination for new investment.

Figure 5 also shows how investment outside the resource sector increased in 2015 and that the decline in 2016 is quite modest. The slowdown in capital investment is clearly limited to the resource sector.

Figure 3: Total Capital Investment, Saskatchewan, by Type



The series of figures on the next page shows investment trends in other industry groups. Most show slight declines from 2015 to 2016 but these are not dramatic except for the decline in manufacturing after the equally dramatic increase in 2015. Health care and retail trade are exceptions – both are showing an increase in 2016 intentions. The former will be new health care facilities; the latter will be more “big box” stores.

Figure 4: Total Capital Investment, Saskatchewan, by Sector

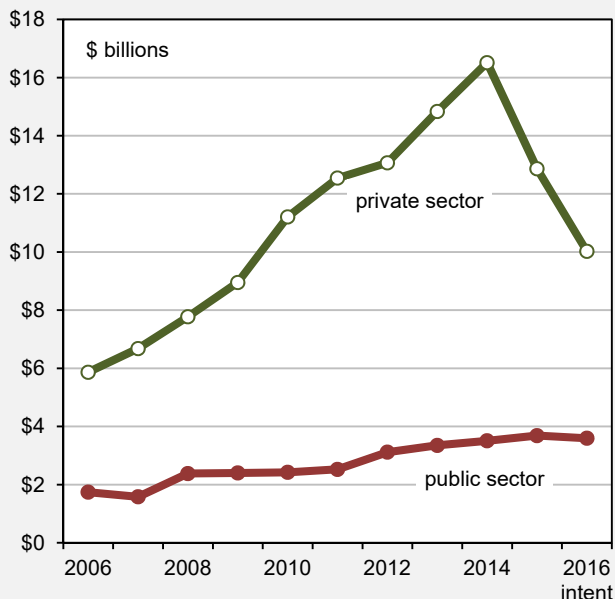


Figure 5: Total Capital Investment, Saskatchewan, by Industry Group

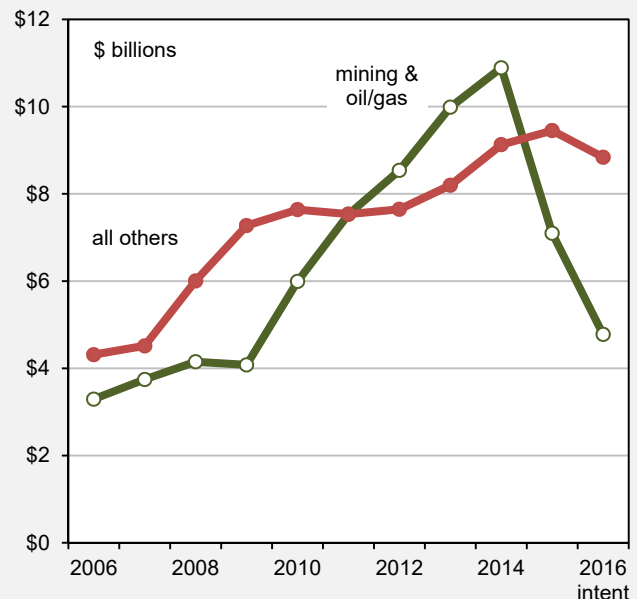
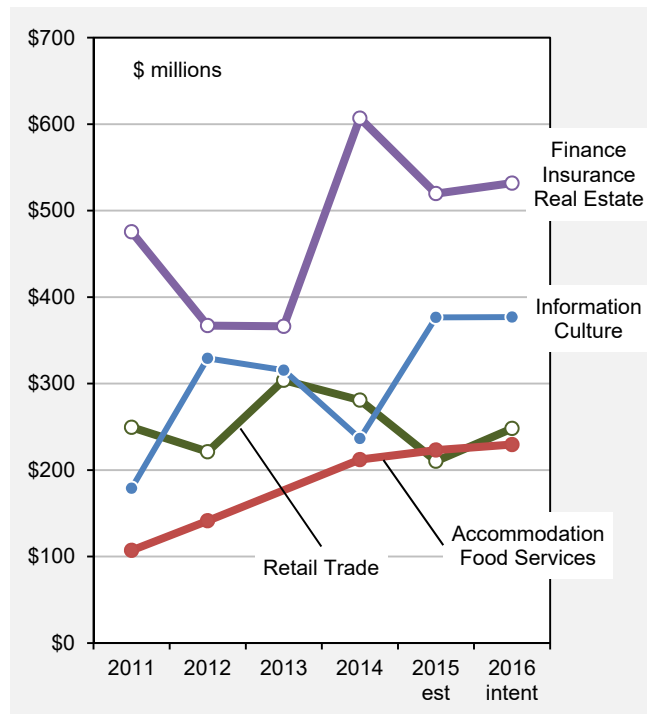
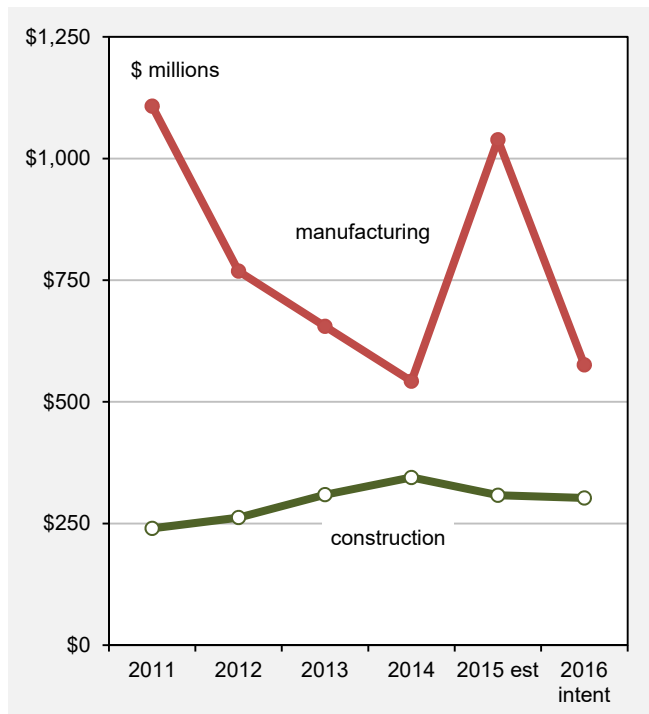
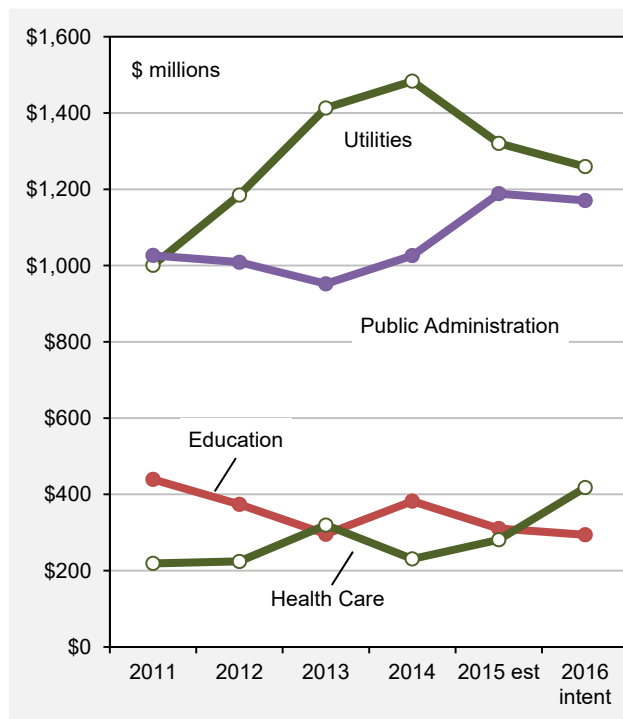
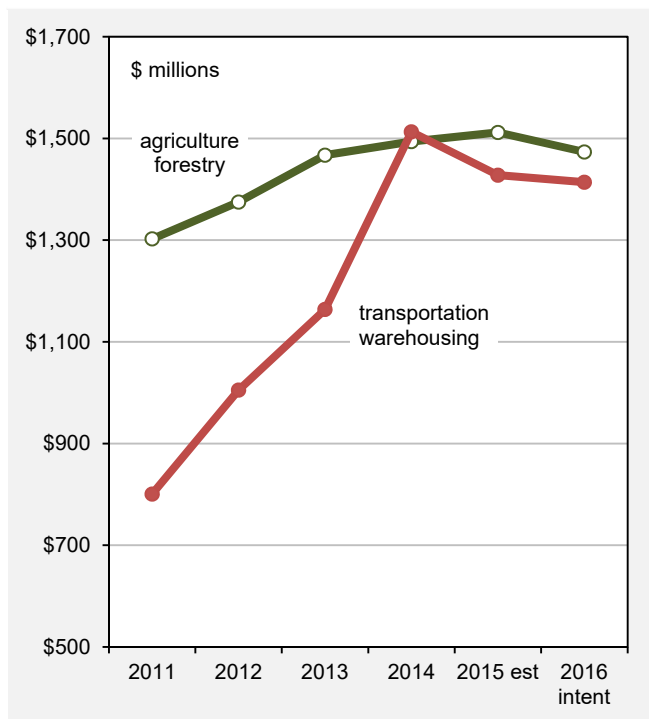


Figure 6: Actual and Intended Capital Investments, Selected Industry Groups



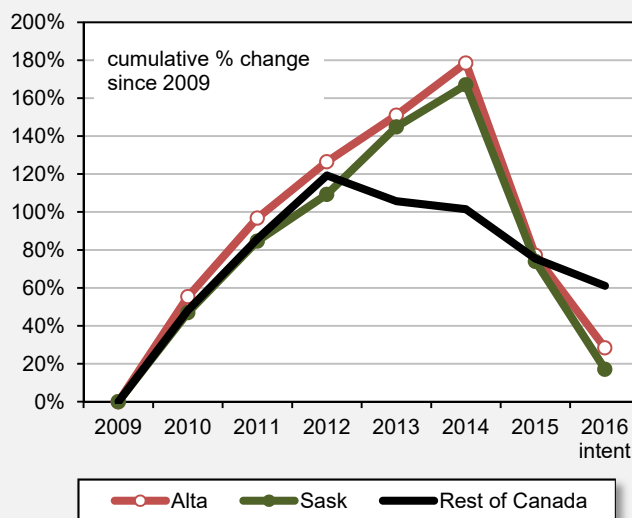
The comparison shown in Figure 7 shows how investment in the Alberta and Saskatchewan resource sectors track one another very closely. Capital investment almost doubled from 2009 to 2014, increasing by 179% in Alberta and 167% in Saskatchewan. The two-year decline from 2014 to 2016 was 54% in Alberta and 56% in Saskatchewan. In both provinces, investment levels this year will effectively be back to 2009 levels. Resource sector investment in other parts of Canada (which tends to be in mining rather than oil/gas) tracked Alberta and Saskatchewan from 2009 to 2012 but the decline started earlier and has not been as pronounced.

Summary

The two-year decline of 32% in new capital investment will clearly have a dampening effect on economic growth in the short term. On the other hand, capital investment is still relatively high compared with the early 2000s and the decline is almost exclusively in the resource sector.

Source: Statistics Canada, Capital and Repair Expenditure Survey

Figure 7: Capital Investment in Mining, Oil/Gas Extraction



Actual and Intended Capital Investment in New Fixed and Movable Assets

		2012	2013	2014	Estimate 2015	Intentions 2016
Total		\$16,184	\$18,184	\$20,021	\$16,548	\$13,617
By sector	Private sector	\$13,068	\$14,834	\$16,514	\$12,863	\$10,022
	Public sector	\$3,116	\$3,350	\$3,507	\$3,686	\$3,595
By type	Construction	\$11,544	\$12,594	\$14,463	\$10,640	\$8,656
	Machinery and equipment	\$4,640	\$5,590	\$5,558	\$5,909	\$4,961
By province	Atlantic	\$14,030	\$15,268	\$17,059	\$17,424	\$16,750
	Quebec	\$40,192	\$38,365	\$34,288	\$33,853	\$36,266
	Ontario	\$62,868	\$56,981	\$63,517	\$69,611	\$69,518
	Manitoba	\$7,795	\$7,620	\$8,633	\$9,687	\$10,014
	Saskatchewan	\$16,184	\$18,184	\$20,021	\$16,548	\$13,617
	Alberta	\$78,606	\$91,682	\$97,800	\$74,927	\$66,046
	B.C.	\$27,950	\$25,659	\$28,638	\$28,097	\$27,064
	Canada	\$249,226	\$256,042	\$272,109	\$252,596	\$241,571
by Industry Group	Mining, oil/gas	\$8,538	\$9,987	\$10,892	\$7,097	\$4,777
	Agriculture, forestry	\$1,375	\$1,467	\$1,494	\$1,512	\$1,474
	Transportation and warehousing	\$1,005	\$1,164	\$1,513	\$1,428	\$1,414
	Utilities	\$1,185	\$1,413	\$1,484	\$1,321	\$1,260
	Public administration	\$1,009	\$952	\$1,026	\$1,189	\$1,171
	Manufacturing	\$768	\$655	\$542	\$1,039	\$576
	Health care and social assistance	\$224	\$320	\$231	\$281	\$418
	All others	\$2,080	\$2,226	\$2,839	\$2,683	\$2,528

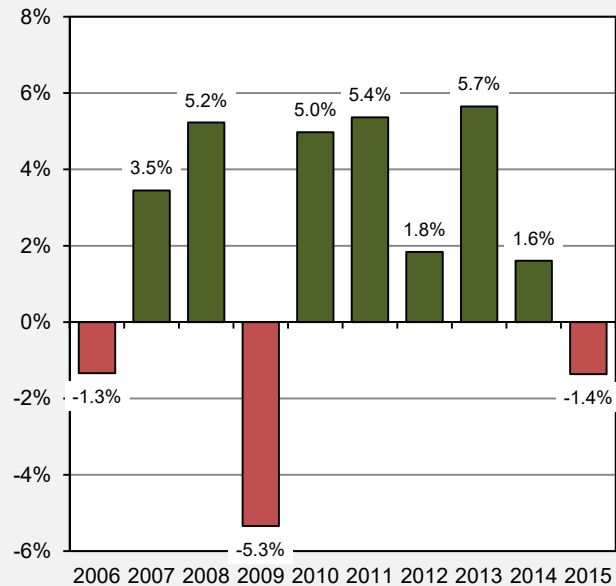
ECONOMIC GROWTH BY INDUSTRY GROUP

Preliminary estimates for economic growth in 2015 have been released by Statistics Canada. These figures measure the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices in chained 2007 dollars. This “real GDP” measures the value of goods and services produced in an economy after removing the effects of inflation. There are measurement and interpretation issues with the GDP but most economists still use this statistic as the best overall indicator of an economy’s performance.

After five years of increases, some substantial, the province’s real GDP fell by an estimated 1.4% in 2015. A decline in real GDP is the definition of a recession so Saskatchewan’s economy has been in a recession for three of the last ten years. The province was one of three showing a recession in 2015; the declines in Alberta and Newfoundland were larger.

The surprise in these statistics is not the decline but rather the industries which contracted. Real GDP measures the volume of output and output from the resource sector did not decline in 2015. Instead, the decline was the result of a sharp drop in construction, that is, in the construction of new mines, oil wells, houses, or stores. There were also declines in manufacturing and some industries affected by consumer spending, namely accommodation and food services and retail trade. Transportation, the finance

Annual Growth in Real GDP, Saskatchewan
(10 year average = 1.9%)

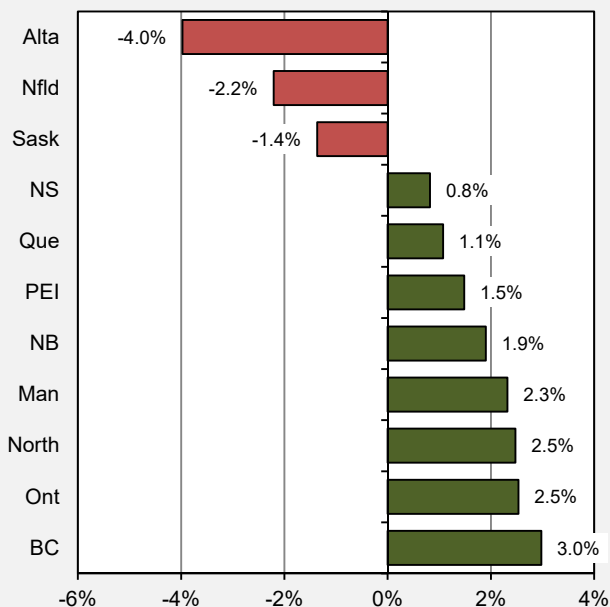


group, and the public sector industries all grew in 2015.

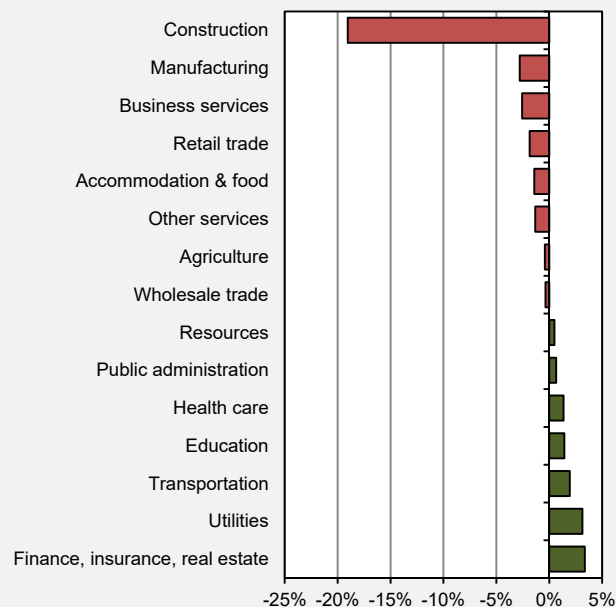
There have been layoffs announced in the mining sector and construction is still slow this year so GDP may very well decline again in 2016. A lot will depend on the size of the grain crop.

Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM tables 379-0030

Annual Growth in Real GDP, 2015



Annual Growth in Real GDP, 2015



SUMMER JOBS

Over the last decade, the number of students who were working over the summer has been on a downward trend. With the weak labour market in 2016, students can expect difficulty finding work this summer as well.

The monthly Labour Force Survey tracks the labour market activity of the 65,000 Saskatchewan students who are i) 15 to 24 years of age, ii) attended school full-time in March and iii) intended to return to school in the Fall. Figure 1 shows that, on average, 53% of these were working over the four summer months last year. With the exception of a spike in 2013, there is a clear downward trend in the employment rates for these returning students.

The unemployment rate among returning students averaged 11% over the four months. This suggests that many were looking for summer work but were unable to find it. That leaves about 25,000 who were out of the labour force, that is, neither working nor looking for work.

Figure 2 shows that the employment rates are much lower for those 15 to 16 years of age. Apparently, high school students are less likely to be working than those attending a post-secondary institution. They also have higher unemployment rates indicating that they too were looking for a summer job and were unable to find one.

Figure 1: Employment Rates for Returning Students, 15 to 24 Years of Age, May to August Average

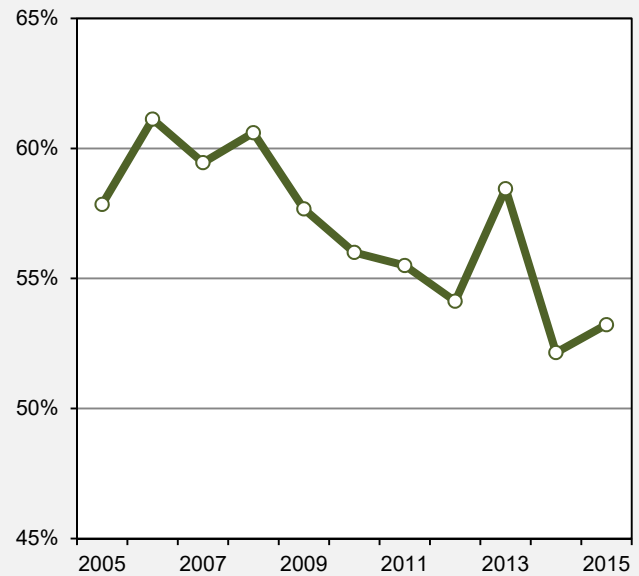


Figure 3 shows that in spite of the poor prospects for summer work among Saskatchewan students, the situation in other provinces is worse. The employment rate of 53% in 2015 was third highest among the provinces and above the national average of 49%.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Figure 2: Employment Rates for Returning Students, May to August Average, 2015

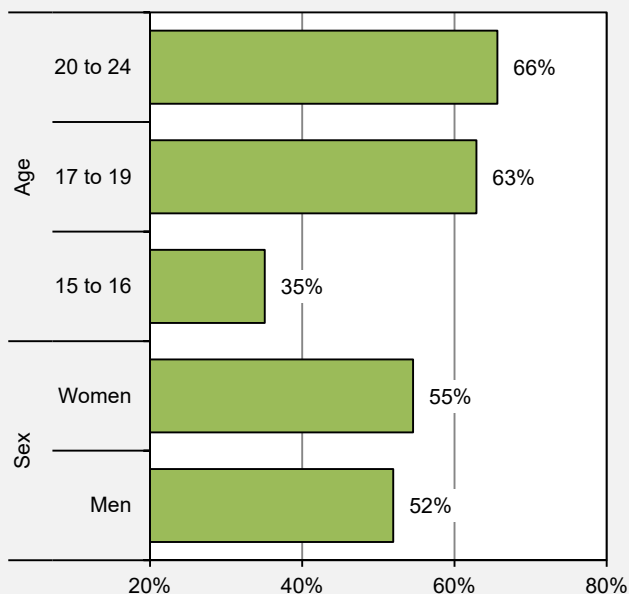
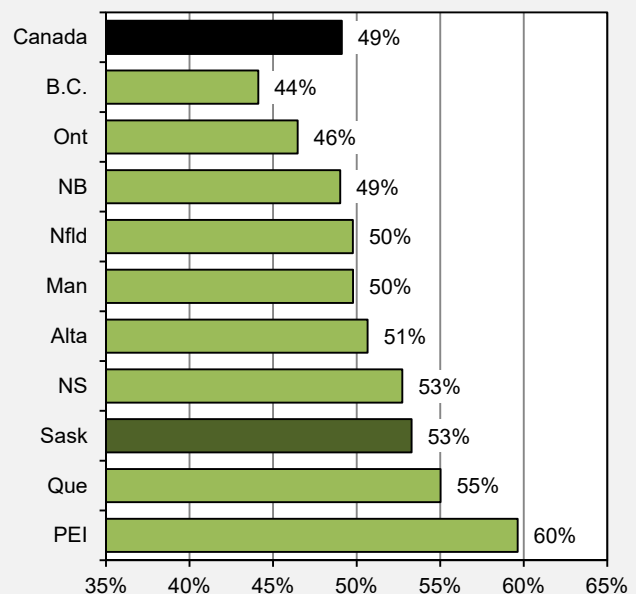


Figure 3: Employment Rates for Returning Students, May to August Average, 2015



HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT SASKATCHEWAN STATISTICS

Cultural and Sports Activity	Statistics Canada calculates the economic activity associated with culture and sports activity in a recent report. Cultural activity includes publishing, sound recording, the visual and performing arts, movie and television productions, and live performances. They estimated the cultural sector directly contributes \$1.4 billion to the provincial economy, up from \$1.2 billion in 2010 and 1.3% of all economic activity in the province. The figure shows that this is the smallest proportion in Canada. The number of people working in the cultural industries is 2.1%, which is also the lowest in Canada. The sports industry contributes 0.2%, a proportion that is near the national average.	<div>Contribution of Cultural Industries to the Provincial Economy, 2014</div> <table><thead><tr><th>Province/Region</th><th>Contribution (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Canada</td><td>~3.1</td></tr><tr><td>Ont</td><td>~3.8</td></tr><tr><td>Que</td><td>~3.5</td></tr><tr><td>B.C.</td><td>~3.0</td></tr><tr><td>Man</td><td>~2.9</td></tr><tr><td>NS</td><td>~2.7</td></tr><tr><td>NB</td><td>~2.4</td></tr><tr><td>PEI</td><td>~2.3</td></tr><tr><td>Alta</td><td>~1.6</td></tr><tr><td>Nfld</td><td>~1.4</td></tr><tr><td>Sask</td><td>~1.3</td></tr></tbody></table>	Province/Region	Contribution (%)	Canada	~3.1	Ont	~3.8	Que	~3.5	B.C.	~3.0	Man	~2.9	NS	~2.7	NB	~2.4	PEI	~2.3	Alta	~1.6	Nfld	~1.4	Sask	~1.3
Province/Region	Contribution (%)																									
Canada	~3.1																									
Ont	~3.8																									
Que	~3.5																									
B.C.	~3.0																									
Man	~2.9																									
NS	~2.7																									
NB	~2.4																									
PEI	~2.3																									
Alta	~1.6																									
Nfld	~1.4																									
Sask	~1.3																									
Employment	On a year-over-year basis, employment declined by 1.7% in April, the largest decline since 2005. Most of the decline is in full-time employment. There are double-digit declines in several industry groups including transportation, business support, and education. These were offset by increases in wholesale/retail trade, professional and technical services, and the information/culture/recreation group.																									
Retail sales	Retail sales ended 2015 down 2.9% from the previous year ago. Sales started early 2016 slowly with a 0.6% decline for the first two months of the year compared with the same period in 2015. The largest drop is in service stations (-14%) but there were also declines among new motor vehicle dealers and among grocery and liquor stores.																									
Consumer price inflation	The rate of inflation in the first quarter was 1.6%, the same as the 2015 average. A 4.2% increase in grocery prices was offset by smaller increases in other categories, transportation in particular (1.2%).																									
International trade	The value of exports in the first quarter of 2016 was 23% lower than in the first quarter of 2015. Imports fell by 16% so both total trade and net trade declined as well.																									
Job Vacancies	In the three months ending in January 2016, the number of private sector job vacancies was 5,000. This is down 42% from a year ago and the fewest since the survey was started in 2011. The number of unemployed persons in January was 36,600.																									
Construction costs	There has been an inexplicable increase in average construction wage rates in the first quarter of 2016 so the cost of construction has apparently not fallen as much as expected. In March of 2016, the labour component of the capital construction cost index is up 6.0% and the material component is down 0.8%. This suggests the cost of construction is 2.8% higher than it was a year ago.																									
Construction activity	The value of building permits issued in the first quarter of 2016 is 42% lower than in the first quarter of 2015. The decline is evident in both residential (-32%), institutional (-34%), and commercial/industrial projects (-57%).																									
Winter vacations	The unseasonably warm winter may have contributed to the decline in winter vacations as much as the economic slowdown. In February, the number of Canadians returning from a trip abroad was down 13% from February 2015. In particular, persons returning from the USA was 18% lower.																									
Grain prices	As the 2016 crop goes in, there is evidence that grain prices have bottomed out. April prices are, compared with a year ago up 10% for canola, 16% for peas, 16% for wheat, and 81% for lentils.																									

		Annual/monthly totals or averages				Percentage changes:		
Employment and the Labour Force		2013 Average	2014 Average	2015 Average	2016 April	from March 2016	from April 2015	2016 year to date
Labour force status (15 and older) in thousands	Employed	565	571	574	560	0.2%	-1.7%	-0.6%
	Unemployed	24	23	30	42	1.9%	48.8%	34.7%
	Not in the labour force	250	258	257	265	-0.5%	1.1%	0.1%
	Total	839	852	861	867	0.0%	0.8%	0.9%
Participation rate (%)		70.2%	69.7%	70.1%	69.5%	0.3%pp	-0.1%pp	0.3%pp
Employment rate (%)		67.3%	67.0%	66.6%	64.6%	0.2%pp	-2.4%pp	-1.4%pp
Unemployment rate (%)		4.1%	3.8%	5.0%	7.0%	0.1%pp	2.2%pp	1.6%pp
Average hourly wage rate for paid workers		\$24.62	\$25.32	\$25.95	\$26.95	0.1%	2.9%	3.5%
Employment (000)	Unadjusted (actual) total	565	571	574	560	0.2%	-1.7%	-0.6%
	Seasonally adjusted total	565	571	574	567	-0.3%	-1.5%	-0.3%
	Men	308	312	311	303	1.4%	-1.1%	-0.6%
	Women	257	259	263	257	-1.2%	-2.3%	-0.5%
	15 to 24 years of age	89	86	84	74	-0.8%	-7.0%	-5.6%
	25 to 39 years of age	179	188	193	193	0.6%	-1.5%	1.4%
	40 to 54 years of age	179	175	175	170	0.5%	-2.9%	-3.9%
	55 and older	119	122	122	123	-0.6%	3.3%	4.6%
	Full time	467	473	473	459	1.9%	-1.9%	-1.3%
Employment by industry group (000)	Part time	98	98	101	102	-7.0%	-0.4%	2.8%
	Multiple job holders	43	41	43	43	3.9%	3.2%	0.6%
	Agriculture	44	44	41	40	-1.0%	-2.9%	0.8%
	Forestry, mining, oil/gas, utilities	32	34	33	31	1.0%	-0.6%	-2.4%
	Construction	53	57	56	50	0.2%	-7.4%	-6.3%
	Manufacturing	29	29	26	25	1.2%	-2.7%	-1.7%
	Transportation, warehousing	28	29	30	27	-0.7%	-11.2%	-5.8%
	Wholesale and retail trade	86	84	84	86	1.5%	6.0%	3.2%
	Finance, insurance, real estate	28	30	31	30	0.3%	-3.2%	-2.7%
	Professional, technical services	26	26	25	28	3.4%	10.0%	9.1%
	Management and support services	14	13	14	13	6.5%	-12.7%	-11.7%
	Health and social services	74	73	78	79	0.0%	1.5%	4.8%
	Education services	42	43	44	44	-0.9%	-10.5%	-10.2%
	Accommodation and food services	33	36	38	37	-2.7%	2.2%	2.1%
	Information, culture, recreation	18	16	19	18	-5.8%	5.3%	17.5%
	Personal and household services	26	25	26	26	0.0%	1.6%	2.8%
	Public administration	31	30	29	28	1.4%	-7.9%	1.0%
Employment by category (000)	Paid, private sector	320	324	330	313	0.8%	-1.4%	-0.9%
	Paid, public sector	138	136	140	141	-0.1%	-4.2%	-2.8%
	Self employed and unpaid family	107	111	104	106	-1.4%	1.1%	3.5%
Employment (3 month moving average in thousands)	Aboriginal (15 to 64 years) off Reserve	42	43	43	43	-0.5%	-0.2%	-0.4%
	Non-Aboriginal (15 to 64 years)	495	499	503	487	-0.1%	-1.5%	-0.3%
	Born in Canada (15 years and older)	496	496	499	475	-0.4%	-3.8%	-2.0%
	Immigrated in the last 5 years (15+)	22	26	26	27	-2.9%	13.6%	9.3%
	Immigrated 5+ years ago (15+)	34	34	36	44	2.8%	23.9%	23.5%
	Regina CMA	136	137	138	136	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
	Saskatoon CMA	164	169	170	163	-0.6%	-1.7%	-1.1%
	Southeast (except Regina)	44	45	46	45	-1.1%	6.3%	5.4%
	Swift Current/Moose Jaw region	54	53	54	52	0.4%	-3.3%	-2.4%
	West central (except Saskatoon)	29	28	29	27	-1.5%	-4.9%	-0.3%
	East central (incl. Yorkton)	39	39	38	35	1.4%	-9.3%	-9.5%
	P.A./Northern Saskatchewan	100	100	100	99	-0.2%	1.0%	3.1%
Paid Workers and Weekly Earnings		2013 Average	2014 Average	2015 Average	2016 Feb	from Jan 2016	from Feb 2015	2016 year to date
Number of paid workers (000)	Salaried	168.4	173.0	169.6	169.7	-2.4%	-2.5%	-1.7%
	Hourly rated and part time	271.7	270.6	273.7	258.4	0.8%	-1.9%	-1.6%
	Other (including commission)	37.6	40.9	40.8	38.5	0.1%	-7.3%	-7.3%
	Total	477.7	484.4	484.0	466.6	-0.4%	-2.6%	-2.1%
Avg earnings/wk (incl overtime)	All paid employees	\$945.46	\$975.24	\$981.61	\$993.09	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%
	Adjusted for inflation (constant \$2002)	\$752.21	\$757.70	\$750.76	\$757.51	0.2%	-1.2%	-1.3%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey and Survey of Employment Payroll and Hours

pp = change in percentage points

		Annual/monthly Totals or Averages				Percentage changes:		
Wholesale Trade (\$ millions)		2013 Total	2014 Total	2015 Total	2016 Feb	from Jan 2016	from Feb 2015	2016 year to date
Food, beverage, tobacco products		\$2,074	\$2,230	\$2,239	\$180	-3.9%	12.1%	9.5%
Farm products		\$1,022	\$1,754	\$1,909	\$123	49.3%	-20.7%	-19.2%
Agricultural supplies		\$8,342	\$9,040	\$11,583	\$715	-23.7%	-20.0%	-9.6%
Machinery and equipment		\$7,970	\$8,199	\$7,790	\$479	1.2%	-9.3%	-8.0%
Building materials		\$2,150	\$2,248	\$2,123	\$156	6.4%	2.2%	0.3%
All other wholesale sales		\$4,487	\$4,847	\$4,803	\$365	-2.5%	2.3%	0.4%
Wholesale sales total		\$23,972	\$26,088	\$28,208	\$1,838	-8.7%	-11.9%	-7.3%
Wholesale sales (seasonally adjusted)		\$23,972	\$26,088	\$28,208	\$2,097	-12.8%	-13.3%	-7.0%
Retail Trade (\$ millions)		2013 Total	2014 Total	2015 Total	2016 Feb	from Jan 2016	from Feb 2015	2016 year to date
Vehicle related	New motor vehicle dealers	\$3,827	\$3,975	\$4,042	\$259	0.9%	2.3%	-1.2%
	Used vehicles, recreational vehicles, and auto parts	\$1,085	\$1,096	\$1,045	\$71	15.1%	7.8%	4.4%
	Service stations	\$2,893	\$3,098	\$2,561	\$156	-10.6%	-18.4%	-14.3%
Household related	Furniture and home furnishings stores	\$453	\$484	\$486	\$35	0.0%	6.6%	2.5%
	Electronics and appliance stores	\$483	\$476	\$462	\$31	5.2%	6.4%	-1.6%
	Building materials, home centres, garden supplies	\$1,159	\$1,185	\$1,235	\$71	-2.6%	11.6%	5.7%
Personal	Health and personal care stores	\$956	\$983	\$1,009	\$81	-2.1%	8.7%	3.5%
	Clothing, footwear, accessories	\$643	\$654	\$663	\$44	1.6%	13.8%	10.4%
	Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	\$342	\$378	\$373	\$24	-2.2%	19.0%	14.2%
Other	Grocery stores	\$2,701	\$2,719	\$2,626	\$190	-9.4%	2.7%	-1.8%
	Beer, wine and liquor stores	\$645	\$671	\$728	\$43	-8.1%	-7.0%	-0.6%
	General merchandise (incl dept stores)	\$2,751	\$3,064	\$3,000	\$197	-2.6%	5.9%	4.8%
Other and Miscellaneous Retailers		\$363	\$361	\$359	\$26	-0.1%	11.4%	5.7%
Retail sales total		\$18,301	\$19,143	\$18,590	\$1,227	-3.0%	1.5%	-0.6%
Retail sales (seasonally adjusted)		\$18,301	\$19,143	\$18,590	\$1,550	-0.4%	0.8%	1.6%
Motor Vehicle Unit Sales (number of units sold)		2013 Total	2014 Total	2015 Total	2016 March	from Feb 2016	from March 2015	2016 year to date
Passenger cars		12,557	12,293	10,631	847	37.5%	-5.5%	-11.6%
Trucks/SUVs/vans/commercial vehicles		46,580	46,141	44,642	3,504	27.9%	-6.4%	-2.9%
All vehicles		59,137	58,434	55,273	4,351	29.7%	-6.2%	-4.6%
International Merchandise Trade (millions of Canadian \$)		2013 Total	2014 Total	2015 Total	2016 March	from Feb 2016	from March 2015	2016 year to date
Merchandise Imports		\$11,178	\$12,135	\$10,389	\$900	26.1%	-15.2%	-16.2%
Merchandise Exports		\$32,246	\$35,267	\$32,623	\$2,122	-1.3%	-29.2%	-23.0%
Net International Merchandise Trade		\$21,067	\$23,132	\$22,234	\$1,223	-14.9%	-36.9%	-26.5%
Consumer Price Indices (2002=100)		2013 Average	2014 Average	2015 Average	2016 March	from Feb 2016	from March 2015	2016 YTD
Food	Purchased from stores	132.8	137.2	143.1	146.6	0.4%	3.7%	4.2%
	Purchased from restaurants	136.4	139.9	143.4	145.3	0.3%	1.9%	1.6%
	Food total	134.0	138.1	143.4	146.5	0.4%	3.2%	3.6%
Clothing and footwear		96.5	97.1	98.8	100.8	2.9%	-1.2%	-0.4%
Transportation		119.9	122.4	120.1	120.5	2.7%	0.4%	1.2%
Shelter, owned or rented		149.4	154.4	158.7	160.1	-0.1%	1.5%	1.6%
Household operations and furnishings		108.7	110.5	112.4	114.3	0.3%	1.8%	1.8%
Health and personal care		116.3	117.9	119.7	121.0	0.4%	2.0%	1.7%
Recreation, education, and reading		107.3	109.2	111.4	112.1	0.1%	0.8%	0.7%
Alcohol and tobacco		150.8	158.4	161.8	165.1	0.0%	2.5%	2.5%
Saskatchewan all items		125.7	128.7	130.8	132.2	0.8%	1.3%	1.6%
Regina all items		126.7	129.7	131.5	132.7	0.8%	1.0%	1.4%
Saskatoon all items		125.7	128.6	131.0	132.9	1.0%	1.7%	1.9%

Sources: Statistics Canada (retail/wholesale trade, consumer price index, motor vehicle sales), Strategis International Trade Database (international trade)

		Annual/monthly Totals or Averages				Percentage changes:			date of most recent period
		2013	2014	2015	most recent period	from previous period	from same period last year	year to date	
Agriculture									
Farm cash receipts (\$ millions)	Crops	\$9,712	\$9,812	n/a	\$2,486	19.2%	9.1%	5.7%	2015 Q3
	Livestock	\$1,894	\$2,718	n/a	\$625	24.4%	7.6%	7.7%	
	Program payments	\$655	\$612	n/a	\$104	12.4%	-28.0%	16.1%	
	Total cash receipts	\$12,261	\$13,142	n/a	\$3,215	19.9%	7.0%	6.4%	
Farm product price index (2007=100)	Crops	128.6	104.4	118.1	128.0	3.6%	14.2%	13.2%	Dec
	Livestock and products	144.1	197.8	226.3	197.7	-8.6%	-9.0%	14.4%	
	All products	132.1	121.0	137.3	142.1	1.6%	9.6%	13.5%	
Market Prices	Canola (\$/tonne)	\$540	\$408	\$444	\$468	5.6%	9.8%	6.6%	Apr
	Field peas (\$/tonne)	\$13.85	\$10.10	\$8.33	\$9.54	4.7%	16.1%	9.2%	
	700-800 lb. feeder steers \$/lb.	138.0¢	210.0¢	257.2¢	194.7¢	-6.4%	-29.0%	-18.0%	
	Index 100 hog prices, \$/100 kg	\$163	\$207	\$158	\$150	-2.0%	8.0%	3.4%	

Resource Production, Consumption, Price									
Production & consumption volumes	Crude oil production (000 m³)	28,271	29,891	28,224	2,305	5.6%	-6.7%	-7.0%	Mar
	Natural gas production (mm³)	5,516	5,825	5,794	473	5.7%	-4.6%	-3.8%	Mar
	Potash production (000 tonnes)	9,708	10,273	11,126	936	-3.4%	-2.7%	-4.6%	Feb
	Electricity generated (GWH)	23,075	23,120	23,709	2,230	12.9%	4.0%	2.5%	Dec
	Uranium (000 kg): Canada	7,889	9,780	13,279	1,058	-13.3%	93.3%	41.2%	Feb
	Motor gasoline sales (000 m³)	2,772	2,844	2,780	229	-8.6%	2.8%	3.0%	Feb
	Diesel fuel sales (000 m³)	3,000	3,015	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prices	West Texas interm. crude oil US\$/bbl	\$97.91	\$93.26	\$48.69	\$40.75	8.5%	-25.2%	-29.9%	Apr
	Edmonton par crude oil C\$/m3	\$584	\$591	\$359	\$243	-10.3%	-35.8%	-26.3%	Mar
	Regular gas (¢/litre) Regina retail	120.1¢	121.1¢	100.1¢	86.9¢	19.9%	-10.3%	-12.4%	Mar
	Regular gas (¢/litre) Saskatoon retail	119.5¢	121.0¢	100.6¢	84.4¢	14.1%	-14.9%	-15.3%	Mar
	Uranium long-term price US\$/lb.	\$54.13	\$46.46	\$46.29	\$43.00	-1.1%	-12.2%	-11.6%	Apr
	Potash (2002=100)	114.1	100.7	114.0	112.2	-4.1%	-0.4%	5.9%	Mar
	Natural gas, Alberta spot market price (dollars per gigajoule)	\$2.83	\$4.00	\$2.42	\$1.82	-13.7%	-27.5%	-26.4%	Feb

Manufacturing Sales (\$ millions)									
Non-durable Goods	Food products	\$3,293	...	\$3,346	\$301	2.9%	Feb
	Chemical products	\$2,070	\$2,281	\$2,201	\$243	-45.4%	-16.1%	1.3%	
	Other non-durable goods	\$4,866	...	\$3,885	\$211	-2.2%	...	...
Total non-durable goods manufacturing		\$10,229	\$10,458	\$9,432	\$755	-20.8%	-8.0%	-2.5%	
Durable Goods	Machinery manufacturing	\$1,588	\$1,491	\$1,164	\$118	35.6%	12.0%	0.0%	
	Fabricated metal products	\$759	\$834	\$691	\$53	9.6%	8.2%	-7.9%	
	Other durable goods	\$2,835	\$3,097	\$2,796	\$201	-13.2%	-8.7%	-7.3%	
Total durable goods manufacturing		\$5,182	\$5,422	\$4,650	\$372	1.4%	-0.7%	-5.5%	
All manufacturing groups		\$15,412	\$15,880	\$14,082	\$1,127	-14.6%	-5.7%	-3.4%	

Capital Construction Price Index									
Sask Trends Monitor Capital Construction Price Index (2010=100)	Structural products	107.9	108.1	109.3	108.7	-0.5%	-0.3%	-0.3%	Mar
	Architectural products	103.6	106.2	110.1	109.7	-0.7%	0.4%	1.3%	
	Mechanical products	104.4	106.2	110.3	111.0	-0.2%	2.3%	2.6%	
	Electrical products	104.5	104.4	106.8	106.5	-0.1%	1.7%	1.9%	
	Equipment and operating	114.7	119.5	101.1	96.6	1.6%	-8.1%	-7.9%	
	Total material costs	107.0	108.9	107.5	106.5	0.0%	-0.8%	-0.4%	
	Labour costs	110.4	116.7	124.7	130.2	0.5%	6.0%	2.4%	
Total material and labour		108.7	112.8	116.1	118.4	0.3%	2.8%	1.1%	

Construction									
Residential housing starts (# of units)	Urban (population > 10,000)	7,257	7,152	4,334	394	105%	36%	-11%	Apr
	Rural	1,032	1,104	817	74	-66%	51%	51%	Q1
	Provincial total	8,290	8,257	5,149	743	-45%	-22%	-22%	Q1
Value of building permits (\$ millions)	Residential	\$1,797	\$1,574	\$1,174	\$74.7	53%	-36%	-32%	Mar
	Industrial & commercial	\$999	\$877	\$1,033	\$32.1	14%	-60%	-57%	
	Institutional & government	\$378	\$218	\$676	\$9.6	-57%	-80%	-34%	
	Provincial total	\$3,174	\$2,669	\$2,883	\$116.4	17%	-52%	-42%	
	Regina	\$864	\$706	\$795	\$46.9	-9%	-40%	-24%	
	Saskatoon	\$1,386	\$1,100	\$1,246	\$38.7	4%	-60%	-48%	
Other provincial		\$924	\$862	\$842	\$30.9	177%	-55%	-55%	

Sources: Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan Agriculture, CMHC, Sask Economy

		Annual/monthly Totals or Averages				Percentage changes:			date of most recent data
		2013	2014	2015	most recent data	from previous period	from same period last year	year to date	
Population and Migration									
Interprovincial migration	Into Saskatchewan	18,589	18,773	19,540	3,081	-38%	-9%	4%	Q4
	Out of Saskatchewan	19,065	20,720	23,184	3,509	-37%	2%	12%	
	Net flow	-476	-1,947	-3,644	-428	...	...	...
International migration	Immigrants	10,680	11,826	12,521	2,979	-18%	14%	6%	
	Emigrants	872	875	880	205	-17%	0%	1%	
	Net flow	9,808	10,951	11,641	2,774	-18%	15%	6%	
Natural growth	Births	15,151	15,532	15,743	3,652	-12.0%	0.8%	1.4%	
	Deaths	9,623	9,742	9,846	2,464	5.1%	1.0%	1.1%	
	Net natural growth	5,528	5,790	5,897	1,188	-34.2%	0.3%	1.8%	
Population at end of period (000)		1,114.2	1,129.1	4,545.6	1,142.6	0.3%	1.2%	1.1%	

Canadian Commodity Price Indices (2010=100)

Raw materials price index	115.7	117.6	94.1	85.5	4.5%	-9.7%	-11.6%	Mar
Industrial products price index	108.6	111.3	110.3	108.3	-0.6%	-2.1%	-0.6%	

Other Selected Time Series

Cross border traffic (000 of person-trips)	Sask residents, same day auto	177	175	131	7.6	-22.2%	-14.8%	-9.6%	Feb
	Sask residents, 2+ days, auto	198	190	150	7.6	-2.1%	-30.3%	-29.2%	
	Sask residents returning, all modes of travel, all countries	608	613	488	50.8	-2.4%	-13.0%	-12.4%	
	Arrivals by out-of-country visitors	135	132	120	5.9	11.7%	18.5%	-1.2%	
Airport takeoffs and landings	Saskatoon	91,722	91,160	94,990	6,568	-4.5%	0.2%	2.6%	Feb
	Regina	56,624	58,168	57,382	4,293	13.5%	15.8%	2.3%	
Restaurant and tavern receipts (\$M)		\$1,716	\$1,802	\$1,854	\$140	-2.3%	6.0%	4.0%	Feb
Regular employment insurance beneficiaries		9,748	9,999	12,600	18,510	6.0%	29.6%	32.2%	Feb
Job vacancies (excl government), 3 month moving average		10,192	8,875	6,717	5,000	-3.8%	-41.9%	-41.9%	Jan
Consumer bankruptcies		1,038	1,105	1,155	97	6.6%	24.4%	31.5%	Feb
Business and farm bankruptcies		68	77	85	5	-44.4%	25.0%	40.0%	
Financial statistics	Prime rate	3.00%	3.00%	2.78%	2.70%	0.00%pp	-0.15%pp	-0.15%pp	Apr
	TSE composite index	12,817	14,712	14,270	13,494	3.4%	-8.4%	-11.5%	Apr
	Exchange rate (US ¢)	97.1¢	90.6¢	78.3¢	75.6¢	3.2%	-3.8%	-8.2%	Apr

Weather (data based on the twelve months from September to August)		Annual/monthly Totals or Averages				Changes			date of most recent data
		Sep-2012 to Aug-2013	Sep-2013 to Aug-2014	Sep-2014 to Aug-2015	April 2016	from March Normals	from March 2014	YTD from 2013-14	
Precipitation in mm	Estevan/Regina/Swift Current	384	449	301	17	-31%	48%	43%	Apr
	Yorkton/Saskatoon/Lloydminster	330	421	412	9	-64%	-44%	29%	
	Prince Albert/La Ronge	556	542	486	24	-20%	-27%	26%	
Mean daily temperature	Estevan/Regina/Swift Current	+2.0	+1.7	+4.1	+5.7	+0.9°C	-0.1°C	+2.7°C	
	Yorkton/Saskatoon/Lloydminster	+1.1	+0.5	+3.0	+4.6	+0.8°C	-0.5°C	+1.9°C	
	Prince Albert/La Ronge	+0.0	-1.5	+1.0	+2.2	-0.1°C	-0.5°C	+2.5°C	

Sources: Statistics Canada, Industry Canada, Transport Canada, Environment Canada

pp = change in percentage points

Sask Trends Monitor is published monthly by **QED Information Systems Inc.** Reproduction of the newsletter in whole or part is prohibited unless credit is given to **Sask Trends Monitor**. Data are obtained from what are considered reliable sources but are subject to periodic, retroactive, revisions. Additional detail about the sources and methodology is available on request. Comments on and suggestions for the material or the articles are always welcome.

Subscription information is available from:**Subscription Prices:**

ATTN: Douglas H. Elliott
Sask Trends Monitor
444 19th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4N 1H1
Website: www.sasktrends.ca

Annual electronic subscription: \$210/year + GST
Annual paper subscription: \$275/year + GST

Phone: (306) 522-5515
Facsimile: (306) 522-5838
Email: sasktrends@sasktel.net