


















**ABSTRACT – Average year-to-date employment is up and the unemployment rate is down. Housing starts, building permits, new motor vehicle sales, and retail trade are down, while manufacturing sales, exports, wholesale trade, and restaurant receipts are up.**

**The Saskatchewan economy continues to show varied results in the last quarter of 2018 and into the first month of 2019...**

- Total year-to-date employment in Saskatchewan was up 1.4% or 7,700 positions in January 2019 over the same period in 2018.
- Year-to-date employment in January 2019 was up over the same period in 2018 in Agriculture (3,500), Utilities (100), Manufacturing (2,300), Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing (2,500), Business, Building and Other Support Services (1,400), Educational Services (3,400), Health Care and Social Assistance (4,300), Accommodation and Food Services (2,500), and Other Services (600).
- Year-to-date employment in January 2019 was down in Resource Extraction (-2900), Wholesale and Retail Trade (-4200), Transportation and Warehousing (-2700), Professional, Scientific and Technical services (-600), Information, Culture and Recreation (-1200), and Public Administration (-1000).
- After a weak performance in 2017, construction employment continued to decline in 2018 and into the first month of 2019. Year-to-date December construction employment was down by 500 positions from the same period in 2018 with weakening residential and non-residential construction.
- The average year-to-date unemployment rate dropped from to 6.0 % in January 2018, to 5.8 % in January 2019.
- Year-to-date, the average number of unemployed is down from 35,900 in January 2018 to 35,200 in January 2019 on the strength of surging employment growth.
- January 2019, total year-to-date housing starts are down by -272 units or -67.2%. Year-to-date increases were observed in row (6 units or 28.6%). Year-to-date declines were noted in singles (-9 units or -12.2%), apartment and other types (-269 units or -89.1%). Semi-detached units were even with January 2018 figures.
- December 2018 year to date building permits are down -23.7% over the same period in 2017. The only sub sector that posted an increase was Industrial (16.2%). During the same time period, Residential (-26.9%), Commercial (-0.1%), and Institutional and Governmental (-36.4%) posted declines.
- November 2018 year-to-date Retail Trade is down by -0.2% over the same period in 2017. Sub sectors that posted increases were: Gasoline Stations (5.5%), Electronics and Appliance Stores (3.5%), Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers (0.4%), Health and Personal Care Stores (0.9%), Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores (0.4%), Grocery Stores (1.9%), Beer, Wine and Liquor Stores (12.3%), General Merchandise Stores (1.4%), and All Other (3.2%). During the same time period, New Car Dealers (-7.1%), Used

Car Dealers (-19.8%), Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores (-8.7%), Sporting Goods, Hobby, and Book and Music Stores (-4.5%) posted declines.

- November 2018 year-to-date manufacturing sales are up by +11.9% over the same period in 2017. Sub sectors that posted increases were: Food Manufacturing Sales (10.6%), Machinery Manufacturing Sales (4.5%), Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing Sales (12.7%), and All Other Manufacturing Sales (20.6%). Sub sectors that posted decreases were limited to Chemical Manufacturing Sales (-5.5%).
- November 2018 year-to-date New Motor Vehicle sales were down -10.5% from October year-to-date 2017. Both New Passenger Cars sales and New Minivans, Sport-Utility Vehicles, Light and Heavy Trucks, Vans and Buses sales were down -18.2% and -9.1%, respectively.
- Total International merchandise exports were up 11.1% year to date November 2018 over November 2017. Sub sectors that posted increases were: Energy Products (24.4%), Metal Ores and Non-Metallic Minerals (23.7%), Metal and Non-Metallic Mineral Products (56.8%), Forestry Products and Building and Packaging Materials (22.7%), Industrial Machinery, Equipment and Parts (20.9%), and Motor Vehicles and Parts (8.3%). Sub sectors that posted decreases were: Farm, Fishing and Intermediate Food Products (-2.1%), Basic and Industrial Chemical, Plastic and Rubber Products (-12.0%), Electronic and Electrical Equipment and Parts (-6.3%), Aircraft and Other Transportation Equipment and Parts (-65.2%), Consumer Goods (-20.9%), and Special Transactions (-0.8%).
- November 2018 year-to-date wholesale trade was up 3.2% over the same period in 2017. Food, Beverage and Tobacco Merchant Wholesalers (11.3%), Agricultural Supplies Merchant Wholesalers (2.8%), Machinery, Equipment and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers (1.7%), Building Material and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers (7.3%), and All Other (5.0%), posted increases while only Farm Product Merchant Wholesalers (-2.4%) saw declines.
- November 2018 year-to-date Restaurant Receipts were up 1.6% over the same period in 2017. Within Restaurant Receipts, Full-Service Restaurants (2.7%) and Limited-Service Eating Places (2.5%) increased. At the same time, Special Food Services (-10.9%) and Drinking Places (alcoholic beverages) (-2.1%) saw declines.
- With the pace of GDP growth at the national level suggesting that the economy is operating at close to full capacity, the Bank of Canada raised the overnight rate to 1.75 per cent on October 24, up from 1.5 per cent. This represents the highest rate since December 2008 and more rate increases are likely to follow in 2019 with additional GDP growth stemming from the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.
- 2017 Provincial population was up 1.3% over 2016 to 1,163,925 on the strength of international in-migration. This can be expected to continue through 2019 with a recovering labour market.
- The Conference Board of Canada forecasts the Provincial economy to post a 1.6 per cent real GDP gain in 2019, following an identical 1.6 percent increase in 2018.

INDICATOR	MONTH TO MONTH				YEAR TO DATE				
	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	CHANGE	% CHANGE	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	CHANGE	% CHANGE	
Employment	560,100	567,800	7,700	1.4%	560,100	567,800	7,700	1.4%	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	5.8	-0.2	-3.3%	6.0	5.8	-0.2	-3.3%	
Housing Starts Total (Units)	405	133	-272	-67.2%	405	133	-272	-67.2%	
	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	CHANGE	% CHANGE	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	CHANGE	% CHANGE	
Consumer Price Index (2002=100)	135.9	137.4	1.5	1.1%	134.4	137.5	3.1	2.3%	
Building Permits Total (\$000s)	175,538	155,215	-20,323	-11.6%	2,196,216	1,830,286	-365,930	-16.7%	
Building Permits Residential (\$000s)	91,971	66,084	-25,887	-28.1%	1,175,417	859,043	-316,374	-26.9%	
Building Permits Non-Residential (\$000s)	83,567	89,131	5,564	6.7%	1,020,799	971,243	-49,556	-4.9%	
	Nov 2017	Nov 2018	CHANGE	% CHANGE	Nov 2017	Nov 2018	CHANGE	% CHANGE	
International trade domestic exports: Total of all merchandise (\$000s)	2,341,070	2,596,186	255,116	10.9%	25,804,222	28,659,260	2,855,038	11.1%	
International trade imports: Total of all merchandise (\$000s)	998,148	846,352	-151,796	-15.2%	10,444,314	10,859,095	414,781	4.0%	
Net international merchandise trade (\$000s)	1,342,922	1,749,834	9,416	36.3%	15,359,908	17,800,165	2,440,257	15.9%	
Retail trade: Total (\$000s)	1,671,614	1,621,087	-50,527	-3.0%	17,852,884	17,823,417	-29,467	-0.2%	
Manufacturing Sales: Total	1,348,249	1,479,811	131,562	9.8%	14,851,801	16,620,693	1,768,892	11.9%	
New motor vehicles sales: Total (units)	4,385	3,816	-569	-13.0%	52,560	47,031	-5,529	-10.5%	
Wholesale trade: Total (\$000s)	2,098,666	2,392,741	294,075	14.0%	24,084,528	24,851,156	766,628	3.2%	
Restaurant receipts: Total, food services and drinking places (\$000s)	153,629	156,157	2,528	1.6%	1,727,615	1,754,799	27,184	1.6%	
	2016	2017	CHANGE	% CHANGE					
Population (persons) July 1	1,148,588	1,163,925	15,337	1.3%	-	-	-	-	
	2018	2019 (forecast)	CHANGE	% CHANGE					
Gross Domestic Product (2007 \$M)	60,978	61,924	946	1.6%	-	-	-	-	

Sources: Statistics Canada Tables 14-10-0017-01, 34-10-0143-01, 14-10-0355-01, 18-10-0004-01, 34-10-0066-01, 17-10-0005-01, 17-10-0008-01, 20-10-0008-01, 16-10-0048-01, 20-10-0001-01, 21-10-0019-01, 12-10-0012-01 and Conference Board of Canada Metropolitan Outlook Winter 2018. Note: All data presented above is raw/not seasonally adjusted.