



# SREDA INSIGHTS

## ► SMEs: THE BACKBONE OF THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

Back in February, SREDA released its Saskatoon Region Economic Diversity Report. This report highlighted the Region’s diversified economy, outlining the range of industries supporting the population. The backbone of this diverse economy is an army of small businesses.

### LATEST FIGURES

Of the total 43,435 businesses in Saskatchewan that report having at least one employee, 23,816 or 55% have between 1 and 4 staff. A further 17,813 (41%) of businesses report having between 5-49 employees while only 1,806 (4%) have 50+ personnel. All data is from the Statistics Canada Business Register as of June 2016.

### CONTEXT

While there are differing opinions regarding what exactly constitutes a small, medium or large business, one common measurement used is: small business is

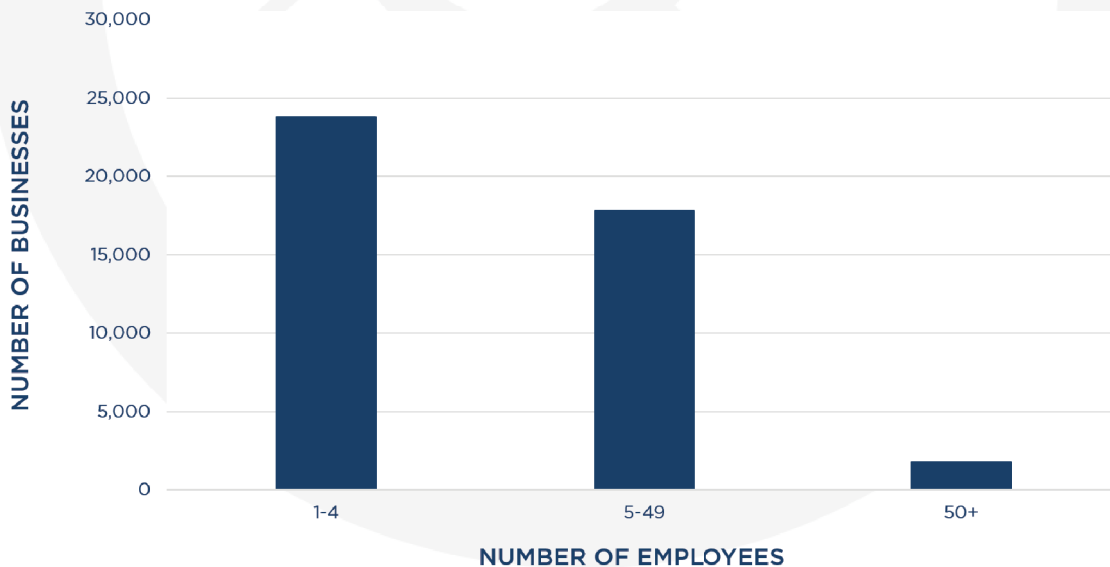
one with less than 50 employees, medium is 50-499 and large is 500+. Under this measure, 99.8% of all Saskatchewan businesses fall in the small or medium category, while only 0.2% (87 businesses) are classified as large.

Additionally, by some counts the number of small businesses is underestimated as they don’t include the 110,035 businesses that are incorporated, have revenue greater than \$30,000 per year but don’t report having any employees at all.

### THE OUTLOOK

Looking ahead there’s no reason to expect the importance of small and medium size enterprise on the economy of Saskatchewan to fall. For this reason and others SREDA continues to focus on supporting local SMEs.

SASKATCHEWAN BUSINESS COUNT



Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register

SREDA Insights provides commentary and analysis on key economic issues influencing Saskatoon Region businesses and industry. By providing timely, digestible and relevant economic analysis, SREDA helps local businesses adapt to changing market conditions. SREDA provides SREDA Insights to its members in conjunction with other ongoing initiatives through its Economic Forecasting & Analysis division.