



SREDA INSIGHTS

► Saskatoon Employment Notches Higher in November

INTRODUCTION

Data released by Statistics Canada on Friday indicates that the Saskatoon Region economy added jobs for the fifth consecutive month in November 2016. However, even faster labour force growth has led to a rise in the local unemployment rate, which now sits at its highest level in the last fifteen years.

THE DETAILS

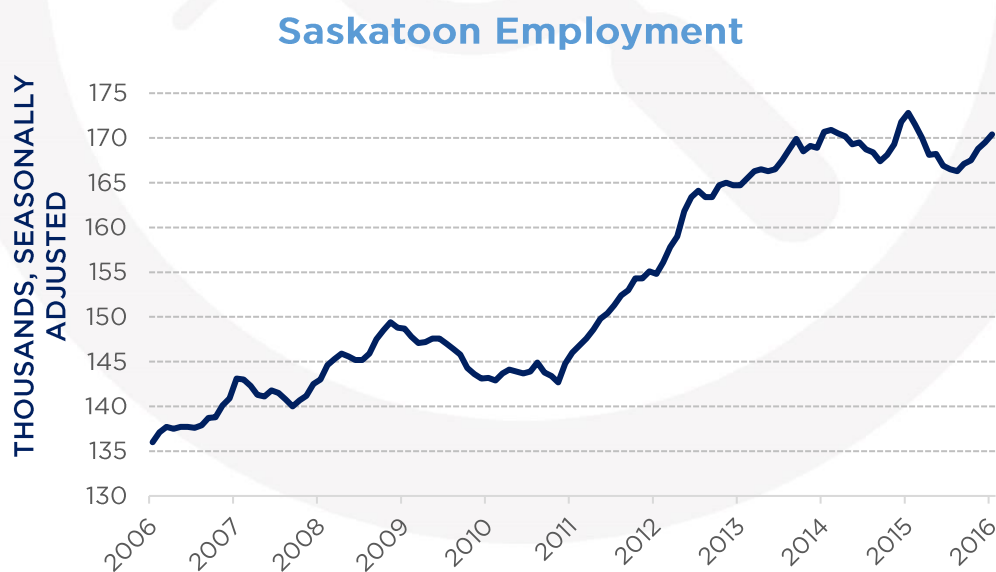
Saskatoon added 900 jobs in November 2016, bringing the total number of jobs gained over the past five months to 4,100. Despite the recent gain in employment, the number of jobs is down by 2,400 from a year ago. The unemployment rate rose to 7.5%, as the labour force (the number of employed plus those looking for work) rose by 6,300 since June. All data are seasonally-adjusted 3 month moving average, released by Statistics Canada on Friday.

THE TREND

After rising steadily from 2011 through 2014, employment in the Saskatoon Region has oscillated up and down since 2014 (see graph). Despite all the negative headlines and low commodity prices, the trend level of employment for Saskatoon over the past two years has been flat, not downwards. This is partly due to the diversification of the Saskatoon Region economy and growth in sectors like technology and retail.

THE FLIP SIDE

The flip side to the higher unemployment rate is that employers have a larger pool of job applicants from which to select. This fact has been a contributing factor to a number of infrastructure projects in the city being completed on time and budget or even being built for less than initially projected.



Source: Statistics Canada

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.