



▶ **SASKATOON REGION NAVIGATES 2016 WITH SMALL JOB LOSS**

**INTRODUCTION**

2016 wasn't the easiest year economically for the prairies as prices for many commodities reached multi-year lows. However annual employment data shows that the diversity and resilience of the Saskatoon Region economy allowed it to handle the commodity storm relatively well.

**THE DETAILS**

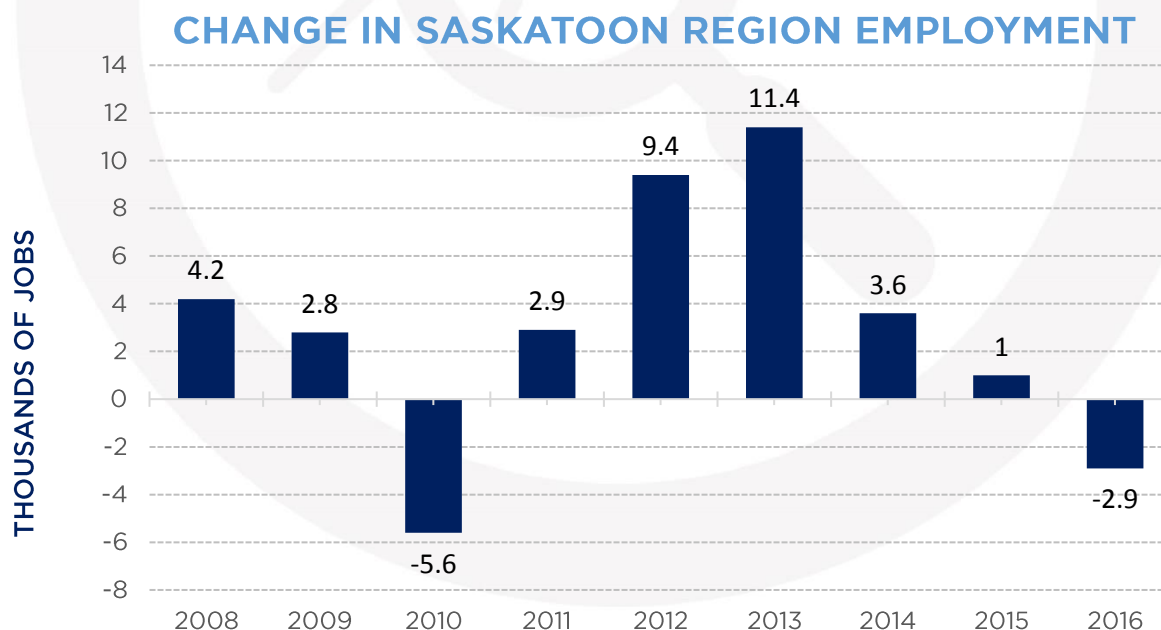
Throughout 2016 there was a net loss of 2,900 jobs in the Saskatoon-Biggar economic region (a proxy for the Saskatoon CMA). This was the first annual drop since 2010 when Saskatoon-Biggar shed 5,600 jobs. The decline in 2016 comes on the heels of five consecutive years of employment gains (see graph). All data is according to Statistics Canada (seasonally unadjusted, three month moving average).

**CONTEXT**

Three out of five economic regions in Saskatchewan shed jobs in 2016. Losses were largest in Regina Moose Mountain which lost -4,000 jobs, followed by Prince Albert and Northern which lost -3,900. However, job losses in Alberta were much larger with the province as a whole shedding 23,300 positions, and Edmonton down 32,000 positions.

**THE OUTLOOK**

With the majority of the job losses in the Saskatoon Region having occurred in the first half of the year the job picture in Saskatoon seems to be improving. Looking ahead to 2017, with oil prices having perked up and continued strong farm-cash receipts expected, we may be looking at the worst of the commodity led slowdown in the rear view mirror.



*Note: Data is 3-month moving average for Saskatoon-Biggar economic region  
Source: Statistics Canada; CANSIM table: 282-0122*

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