

SREDA INSIGHTS

▶ JULY SEES JOB GAIN AFTER LONG STRETCH OF LOSSES

After a tough stretch in which the Saskatoon Region economy saw job losses in six of the last seven months, employers changed their tune and recorded a solid gain to payrolls in July.

LATEST FIGURES

Employment in the Saskatoon CMA rose by 800 net jobs in July, the first significant gain in seven months (see graph). Along with the rise in employment, the CMA unemployment rate fell back to 6.1%, from 6.9% in June. All CMA figures are a 3-month moving average, adjusted for seasonality, and come from the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey released this morning.

CONTEXT

Nationally, the Canadian economy shed 31,000 jobs in July, due largely to job losses in Ontario. Employment in Saskatchewan as a whole was also down slightly in July (-500 positions) due to a drop in part-time employment.

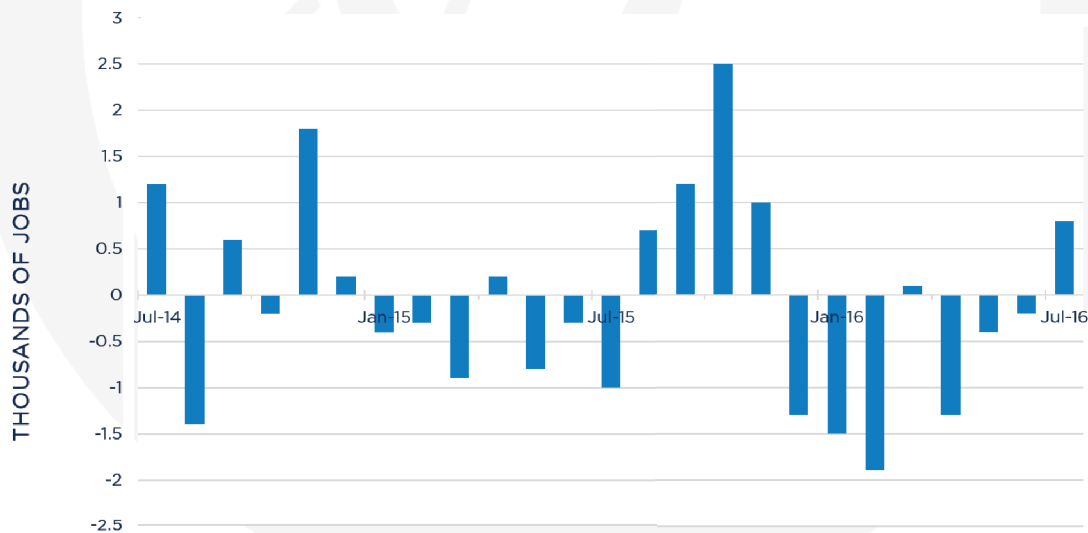
While it's not possible to drill down by sector at the CMA level to see which industries added to payrolls, it is at the provincial level. In Saskatchewan it was the education sector that saw the biggest gains, adding an astonishing 5,800 positions in July (+14.4% from June). It's likely that the gain in Saskatoon relates to this.

THE OUTLOOK

While this morning's job figures are certainly a positive for the Saskatoon Region, one month does not make a trend. Also, considering the gains were almost entirely within one sector (education) it remains to be seen if July's gain will reverse course or not.

Still, this morning's labour report is another indication that the diversity of the Saskatoon Region economy allows it to better handle the headwinds of low commodity prices.

CHANGE IN SASKATOON EMPLOYMENT



Note: Data is seasonally-adjusted, 3-month moving average
Source: Statistics Canada