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### International Comparison: Labour Force

Compared with other developed countries, Saskatchewan residents are much more likely to be working and to put in an above-average number of hours. They are equally likely to be unemployed.

### Wage Rates in 2006

Several long-standing trends for wage rates were reversed in 2006. Rates are increasing more quickly among those with lower average rates including young people, part-timers, those with less than Grade 12, those in non-permanent positions, and those who are not union members. Public administration (the three levels of government) had the highest increase among sixteen industry groups.

### Investment Intentions

Given the booming economy, lower capital taxes, and record-level corporate profits, the fact that new investment by the private sector is expected to fall in 2007 is disappointing.

## Key Economic Indicators*

| | | | | Canada |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Employment (Feb) | 5.7% | 4.4% | 0.9% | 2.5% |
| Retail Sales (Dec) | 10.7% | 5.2% | 4.3% | 4.9% |
| Urban Housing Starts (Feb) | (21%) | 44% | (41%) | (24%) |
| Consumer Prices (Jan) | 3.9% | 1.4% | 1.7% | 1.2% |
| Manufacturing Shipments (Dec) | (4.7%) | (10.7%) | 10.0% | (2.8%) |
| Farm Cash Receipts (Q4) | 7.2% | 5.3% | 3.9% | 4.3% |
| Average Weekly Earnings (Dec) | 4.3% | 2.9% | 4.3% | 2.5% |

** percentage change from the same period a year ago; negative numbers in parenthesis*

# International Comparisons:
## Labour Force

In previous issues we found that Saskatchewan's population is skewed toward older age groups but is not dissimilar from the distribution in many developed nations. Saskatchewan residents are much more likely to have a completed post-secondary education. This month we look at some general labour market statistics.

Saskatchewan adults, excluding seniors, are more likely to be working than those in almost all other countries. The employment rate, the proportion of persons 15 to 64 years of age with a job, is third highest after Switzerland and Iceland among the thirty countries in the chart. The unemployment rate is defined a bit differently in different countries. Taken at face value, our rate is higher than in many Asian and Nordic countries and near the middle of the pack.

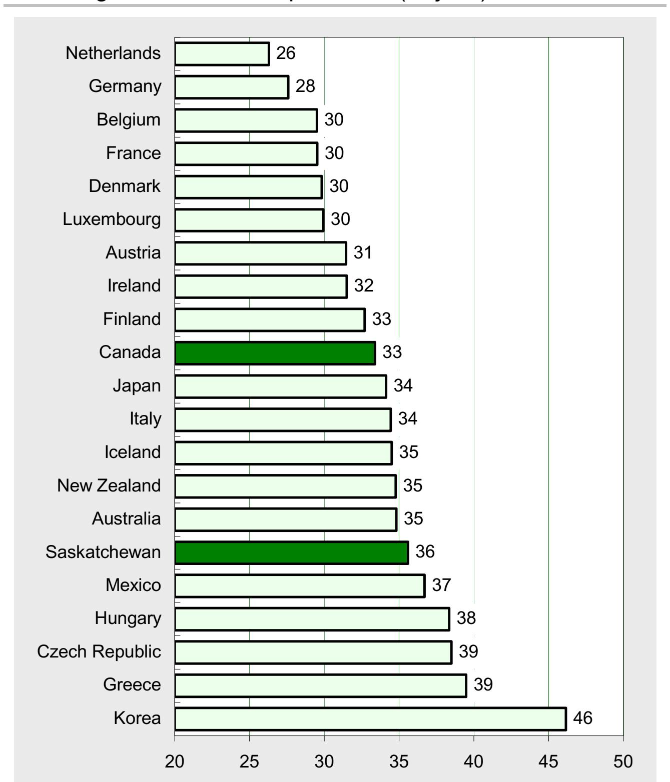
From an international perspective, employment has not increased significantly in Saskatchewan; from 2000 to 2005 employment grew by an average of 0.4% per year in the province. This compares with a national average of 1.8% and increases of 1.4% in the USA and more than 2% in Greece, Spain, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. The slow growth is not unique; employment is growing more slowly in Japan and many of the European countries including Germany, Poland, Austria, Norway, and Denmark.

In terms of work/life balance, the average hours worked (at all jobs) is much higher in Saskatchewan than in many western European countries including France and Germany. (Not all countries measure hours of work.) We don't, however, put in nearly as many hours as the average worker in South Korea.

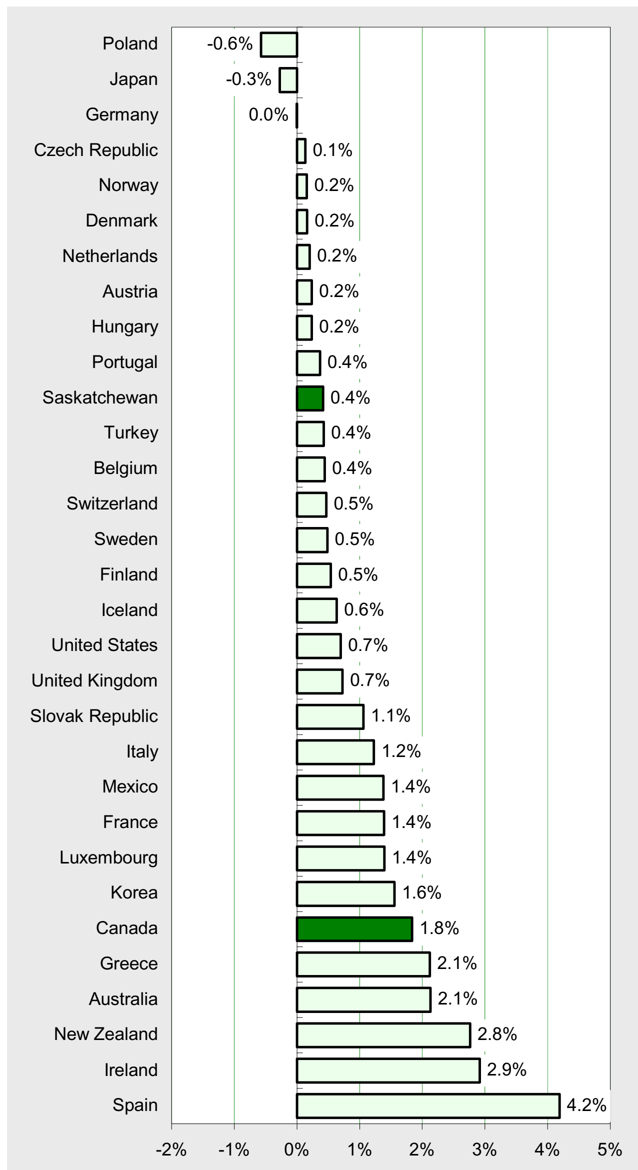
These data show that Saskatchewan residents are much more likely to have a job than those in other countries and that we tend to work long hours at those jobs. As with our population, the number of jobs is not increasing in the province but this is far from unique among developed countries.

*Source: OECD and Statistics Canada*

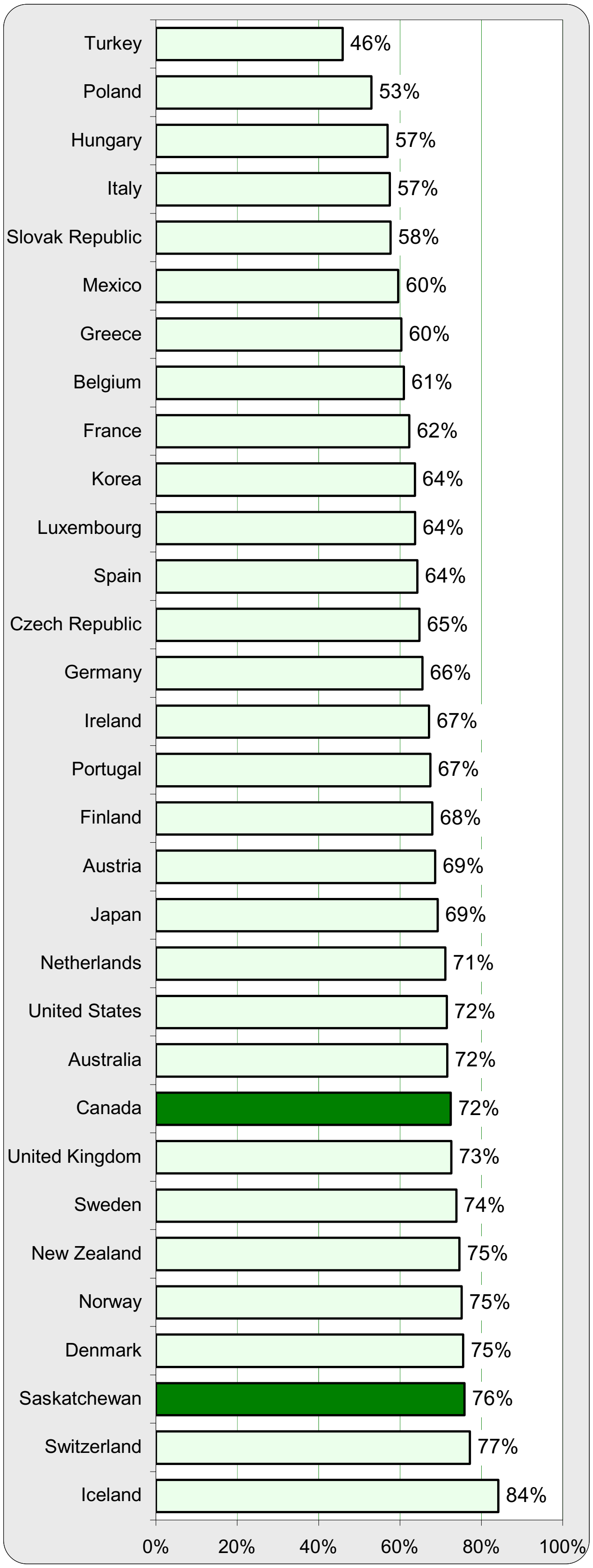
Average Hours Worked per Week (all jobs), 2005



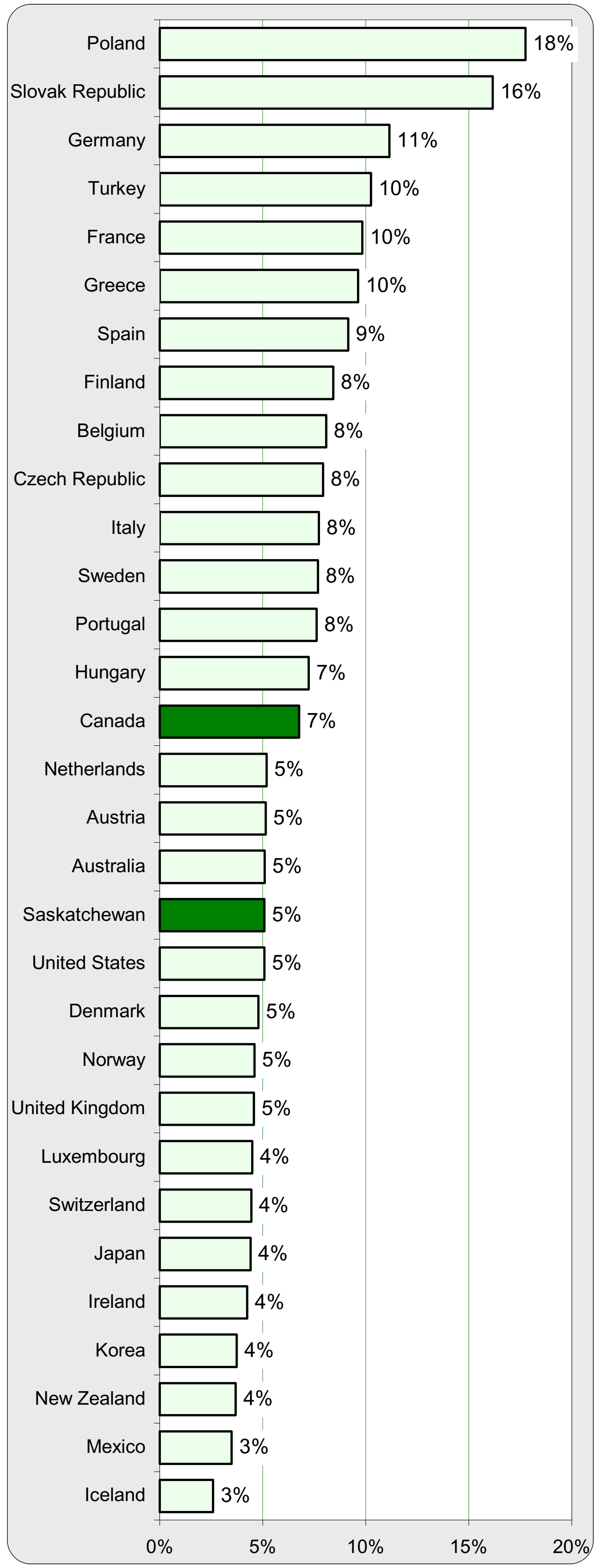

Average Annual Growth in Employment, 2000 to 2005



**Employment Rate (15 to 64 years), 2005**




**Unemployment Rate (15 to 64 years), 2005**



# Wage Rates in 2006

The labour market is unlike other markets in many ways but it does share some characteristics of classic supply and demand economics. In particular, when the demand for a product or service (labour in this case) rises, prices (wage rates) usually increase in response. This seems to be generally the case for wages last year in spite of some interesting anomalies that are not easily explained by market economics.

These figures use the average hourly wage reported by respondents to the monthly *Labour Force Survey* (LFS). The LFS excludes the northern Territories and the population living on Reserve. Those who are self-employed are not asked for their wage rates so these figures cover only paid workers. Respondents are asked to exclude tips, commissions, and bonuses.

The average wage rate in Saskatchewan during 2006 was $18.11/hour, the equivalent of about $35,000 per year for a full-time worker. The rate increased by 4.8% in 2006, the largest increase since this question was added to the LFS in 1997. Among the provinces, the increase was the second largest after the 6.9% increase in Alberta and well above the national average of 3.3%. The shortage of workers in Alberta and Saskatchewan will be largely responsible for the above-average increases last year.

The increase last year helped narrow the gap between rates in Saskatchewan and those in Canada as a whole. In 2006, wage rates were 8% below the national average compared with 11% five years ago. The gap between Saskatchewan and Alberta has, however, widened from 10% in 2001 to 14% in 2006.

With consumer price inflation at 2.0% in 2006, this means that the purchasing power of the average wage grew by 2.8% in 2006. Wage rates have grown more quickly than inflation for four of the past five years. In 2001 the average wage rate was $17.22/hour in 2006 dollar terms.

Wage rates are determined by a variety of employee and position characteristics; some of these are examined below[1].

### Job Type and Union Membership

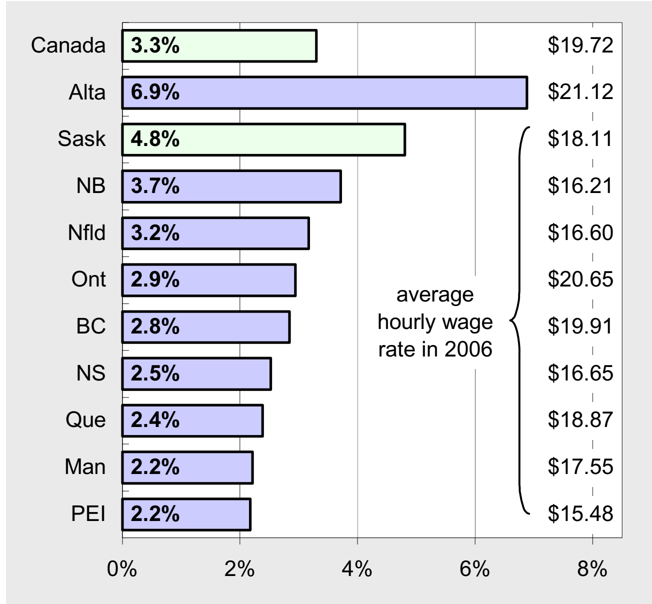
Wage rates are, on average, much higher for full-time workers and those in permanent positions. The increase in 2006, however, was higher among those with the lower paying jobs in part-time and temporary positions.

These are not one-time events. Wage rates have also grown more quickly, on average, for part-time and temporary workers over the five years from 2001 to 2006. Since 2001, the gap has narrowed:

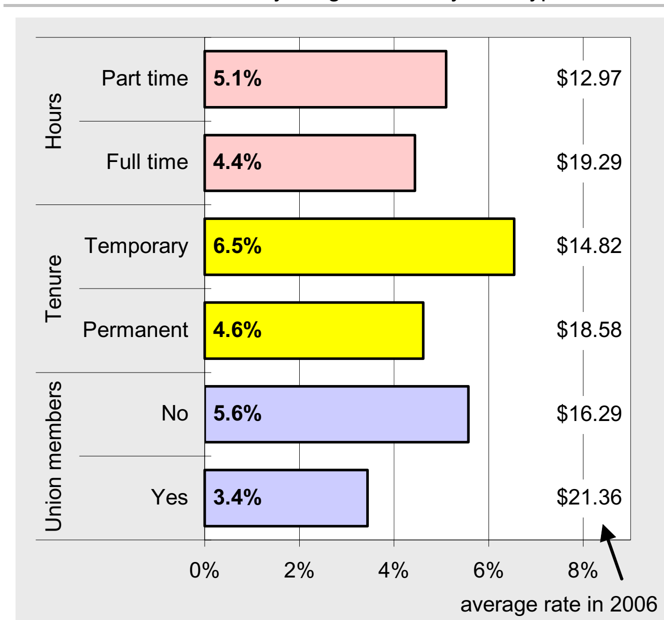
- from 35% to 33% between full-time and part-time workers: and
- from 25% to 20% between permanent and temporary workers.

Wage rates are also much higher for union members but once again, the increase in 2006 was higher among those in positions not covered by a collective agreement. The differential between union and non-union employees is 24%, unchanged from 2001, so 2006 was not part of a longer-term trend.

2006 Increase in Average Hourly Rates, by Province




2006 Increase in Hourly Wage Rates, by Job Type



## Gender, Age Group, Education

Gender should not affect wage rates of course but it does. Average wage rates for women are 15% below the rates for men and the gap widened in 2006 with an increase of 5.4% among men in 2006 compared with 4.1% for women. The gap is still narrower than it was in 2001 when women had average rates 20% lower than rates for men.

Rates grew most quickly among those under 25 years of age in 2006, a pattern that is also evident over the most recent five years. Those in the prime earning age group (40 to 54 years) had the highest rates and an above-average increase in 2006.

The normal relationship between education and income was also turned on its head in 2006 with the largest increases among those with less than grade 12 and the smallest increases among those with a university degree. This is also a longer-term trend; the same differentials are evident over the past five years.

## Occupation and Industry Group

The increases in 2006 are not concentrated in industry groups where there is a reported high demand for workers. The largest increase, for example, was in public administration (the three levels of government) and some of the lowest increases were in the resource sector and health care.

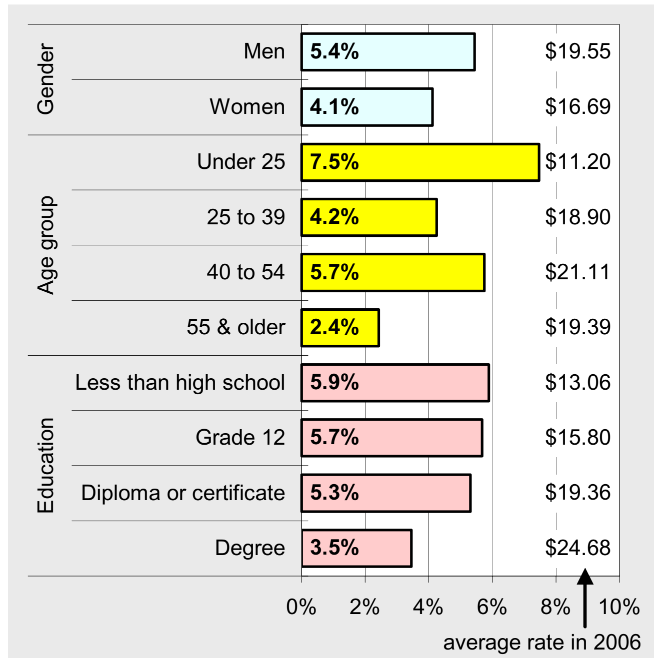
With the 2006 increase, those in public administration now have the highest rates among the sixteen industry groups. This position has traditionally been held by workers in the resource/utilities sector.

At an occupational group level, the largest increase was in the transport and equipment operating group and the smallest among teachers and professors.

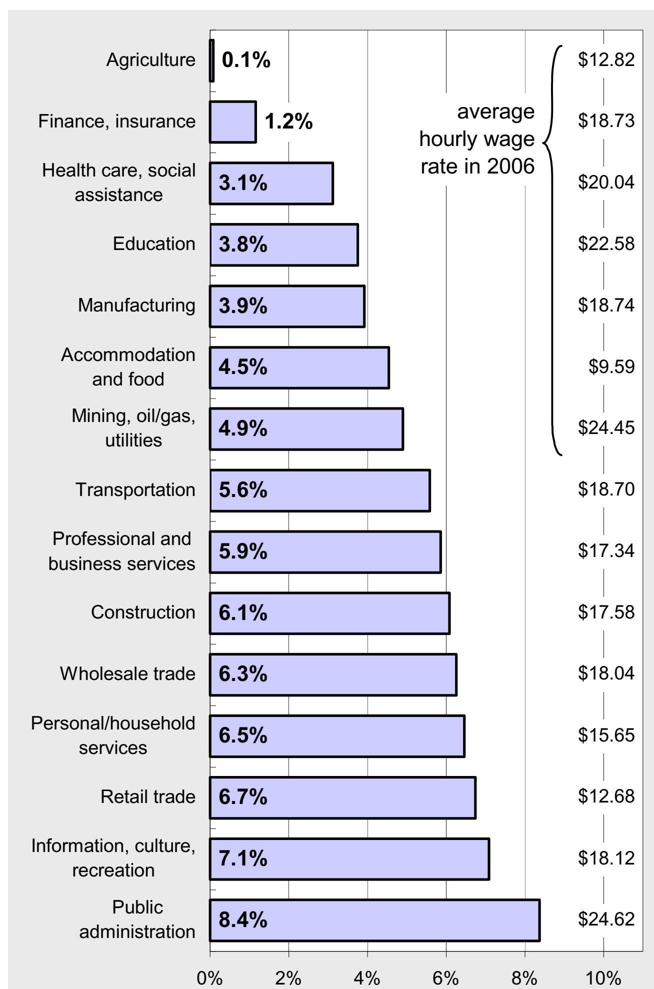
The 7% increase in the minimum wage early in 2006 will be largely responsible for the increases in accommodation and food services and retail trade industry groups. It will also be the cause for the 7.3% increase among food service workers. The shortage of truck drivers will be partly responsible for the 8.1% increase in the transport/equipment operating group.

These numbers will surprise those who think that wage rates are only determined by incremental changes in wage rate scales. Average rates increase more quickly than the "across-the-board" increases normally negotiated in collective agreements because workers move up the wage scale or receive lump sum payments. At an industry or firm level, when low-paid positions are abolished or replaced by higher paying ones, the average increases even if individual rates do not.

2006 Increase in Hourly Wage Rates, by Gender, Age Group, and Highest Level of Completed Education




2006 Increase in Hourly Wage Rates, by Industry Group



### Summary

There are three general trends in the wage rate changes last year and most have been evident since 2001. The first is the reversal of the pattern of higher increases for permanent, full-time positions held by well-educated union members. Instead, we see higher increases among those who are young, haven't completed high school, are working part-time or in temporary positions and who are not union members.

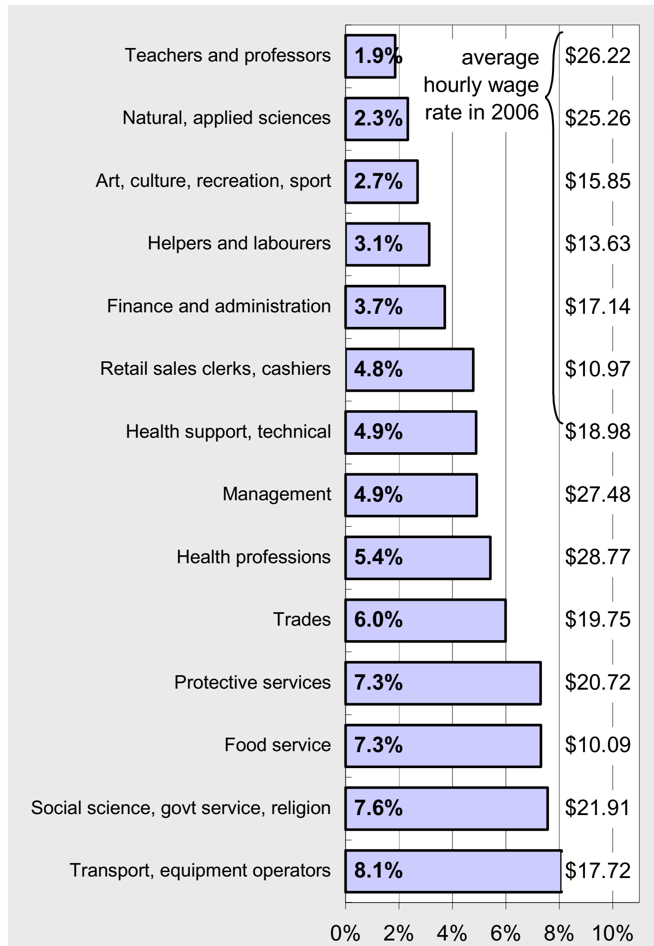
Secondly, we are seeing increases in wage rates that reflect increases in the minimum wage. This will happen again in 2007 with the 5% increase that takes effect in March.

Thirdly, there is evidence that the demand for workers in certain occupations and industries is leading to higher rates. This partly explains the overall increase of 4.8% which is well above the long-term average and the rate of inflation. It also helps explain the increase in the construction industry, the trades, and among transport and equipment operators.

The increase in public administration is harder to explain. Within the three levels of government, the largest increases were at the federal (10%) and local level (9%) rather than the provincial level (5½%). This is also not a one-year phenomenon; among the sixteen industry groups, public administration also had the highest average increase since 2001.

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey*

2006 Increase in Average Hourly Rates for Selected Occupations



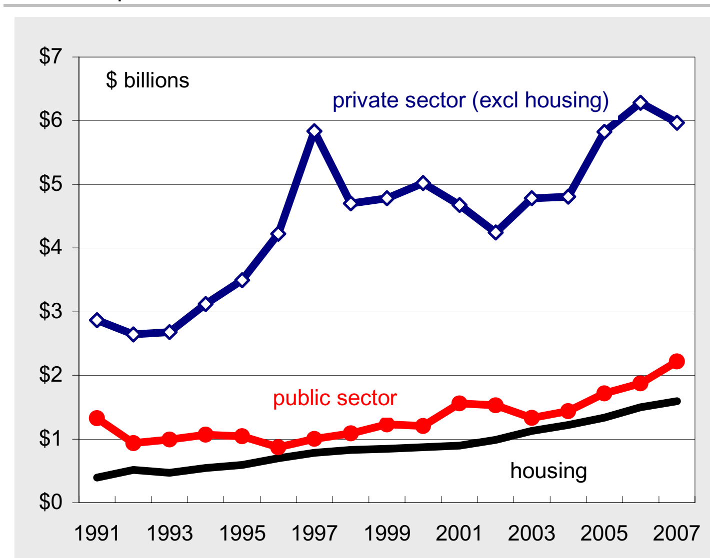

[1] The comparisons are for overall averages, that is, are not adjusted for differences in experience, job type, education, or occupation, for example.

## INVESTMENT INTENTIONS

The first reaction to the new numbers for capital investment intentions in the province was disappointment. In a booming economy and with lower capital taxes and higher profits, businesses reported intentions for new investment in 2007 at 3% below the 2006 levels. The second look is more encouraging because investment in 2006 was much higher than originally anticipated.

In last year's survey of investment intentions, investment by the private sector (excluding housing) was forecast to be $5.3 billion. This release shows that the estimated investment last year was actually closer to $6.3 billion. The oil patch was responsible for three quarters of the extra billion but many other industry groups showed an increase from their preliminary intentions as well.

New Capital Investment in Saskatchewan, Actual and Intended



With housing and the public sector included, capital investment in Saskatchewan this year is expected to be 1% higher than in 2006 and 10% higher than in 2005.

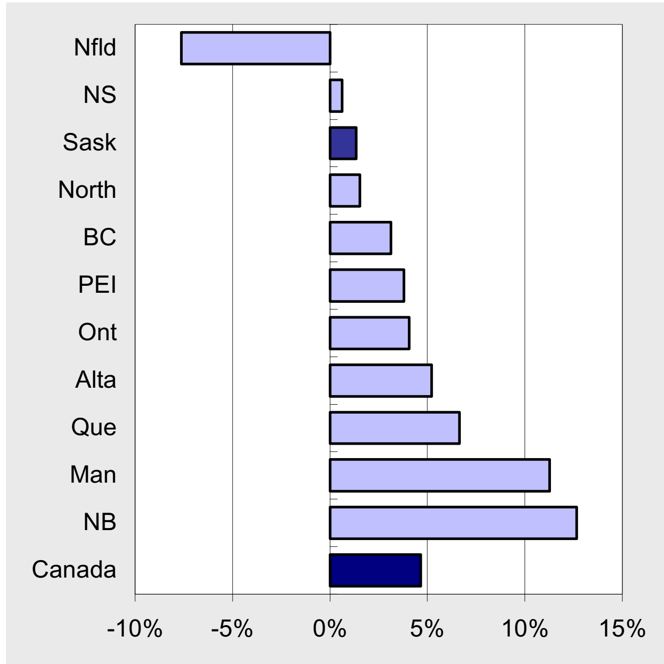
The 1% increase this year is below the national average of 5% and third last among the provinces and territories.  Capital investment in 2007 is expected to grow by 5% in Alberta, 11% in Manitoba, and 3% in B.C.  Even taking last year's stronger performance into account, and including housing and the public sector, capital investment in the province is growing more slowly than in other western provinces.

There are some positive indicators including a 31% increase in capital investment in the manufacturing sector to reach $600 million.

Time will tell if actual investment this year has also been underestimated in this survey conducted late in 2006.  If not, then the original disappointment will resurface.

*Source: Statistics Canada Survey of Capital Investment*

Annual Growth in New Capital Investment, 2006 estimate to 2007 Intentions, Private and Public Combined

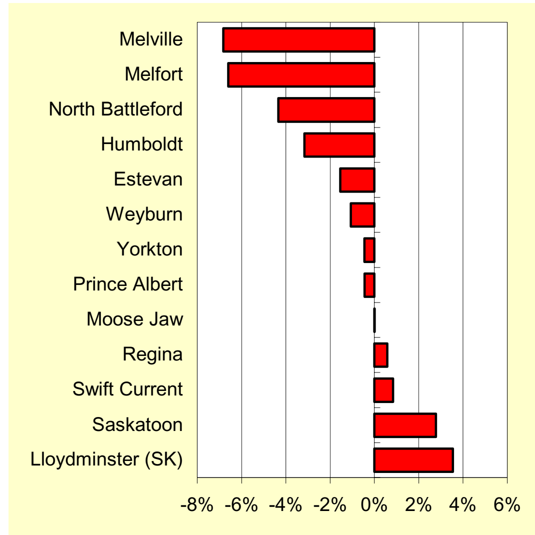



Capital Investment in Saskatchewan, Actual and Intended, 2003 to 2007, Thousands of Dollars

| | | Actual | | | Estimate 2006 | Intended 2007 | Increase in 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | | | |
| Total | | $7,242 | $7,467 | $8,878 | $9,650 | $9,781 | 1% |
| By sector | Public | $1,334 | $1,439 | $1,715 | $1,872 | $2,218 | 18% |
| | Private (excl housing) | $4,781 | $4,805 | $5,827 | $6,281 | $5,965 | -5% |
| | Housing | $1,127 | $1,223 | $1,336 | $1,497 | $1,598 | 7% |
| By type | Construction | $4,556 | $4,789 | $5,856 | $6,121 | $6,287 | 3% |
| | Machinery & equipment | $2,687 | $2,678 | $3,022 | $3,530 | $3,494 | -1% |
| By industry | Oil and gas (incl support) | $1,863 | $2,025 | $2,596 | $2,489 | $2,184 | -12% |
| | Housing | $1,127 | $1,223 | $1,336 | $1,497 | $1,598 | 7% |
| | Public administration | $415 | $583 | $609 | $828 | $959 | 16% |
| | Agriculture, forestry | $721 | $691 | $743 | $741 | $741 | 0% |
| | Mining (except oil and gas) | $191 | $334 | $588 | $850 | $680 | -20% |
| | Utilities | $403 | $378 | $634 | $414 | $631 | 52% |
| | Finance, insurance, real estate | $458 | $544 | $539 | $595 | $607 | 2% |
| | Manufacturing and processing | $714 | $256 | $298 | $457 | $600 | 31% |
| | Transportation & warehousing | $258 | $359 | $376 | $426 | $443 | 4% |
| | Retail and wholesale trade | $295 | $328 | $349 | $397 | $397 | 0% |
| | Health, education, social services | $342 | $312 | $309 | $303 | $359 | 18% |
| | Information and culture | $155 | $178 | $229 | $369 | $281 | -24% |
| | All others | $301 | $257 | $272 | $286 | $302 | 6% |

# Highlights of Current Saskatchewan Statistics

Population Growth, 2001 to 2006, City Proper




**Census population**

In the recently released 2006 census figures, the Saskatchewan population declined by 1.1% between 2001 and 2006 to reach 968,000. This is actually good news because Statistics Canada, using other sources to estimate population, had previously estimated the decline from 2001 to 2006 to be 1.5%. The census is more reliable so the lower rate of decline means that the population is dropping more slowly than we thought and the population is higher. The fastest growing communities in percentage terms are typically Reserves, Recreational Villages, or the bedroom communities around Regina and Saskatoon. The March issue of *Sask Trends Monitor* will have a more detailed analysis.

**Retail Sales**

Retail sales ended 2006 with a 5.2% year-over-year increase in December sales to bring the annual growth rate to 6.0% compared with 7.6% in 2005. Sales in 2006 grew in 12 of the 15 store categories we track with the largest increases in home centres and hardware stores (+30%), computer stores (+20%), and recreational/used vehicle dealers (+19%). The largest declines were in drug stores and supermarkets.

**Employment**

Employment continued to grow at an annual rate near 5% in February. As with the strong growth late in 2006, the increases were concentrated among the oldest and youngest workers. Six of the seven economic regions in the province, all except the Yorkton/Melville area, show increases so far this year.

**Inflation**

The annual inflation rate in January was only 1.4% because of a decline in energy-related prices such as transportation and household operations. Inflation should be relatively low in 2007, perhaps near the 2% average for 2006, because the dampening effect of the PST cut will offset increases in the prices for imported products such as food.

**International trade**

The value of exports increased by 11% in 2006 to reach \$15.4 billion. This was offset by a 16% increase in the value of imports so our overall trade balance grew by “only” 7% in 2006 to set another record at \$8.9 billion.

**Farm cash receipts**

On the strength of higher receipts for grain sales, gross farm receipts grew by 6% in 2006 according to preliminary estimates. This follows two years of increases near 4½% so overall receipts of \$6.6 billion are at an all-time high.

**Manufacturing shipments**

In spite of a difficult year in some sectors, the value of shipments topped \$10 billion in 2006, a 4.3% increase over 2005. The strongest sectors were refineries, metal product manufacturing, and electrical equipment and appliances. The wood and paper products sector dropped precipitously with the closure of the Weyerhaeuser plants.

**Building permits**

The value of building permits issued in 2006 was over \$1 billion for the first time ever. In percentage terms, the increase was the highest in the residential and institutional sectors and in Regina. January permits are up 25% from a year ago so the upward trend is continuing.

**Bankruptcies**

The number of consumer bankruptcies fell for the second year in a row in 2006 to a total of 1,784. This is down 19% from the recent high of 2,0191 in 2003. Business bankruptcies dropped by 19% in 2006 after increasing in 2005.

**Restaurant receipts**

Restaurants and bars have recovered strongly from the slow 0.3% growth rate in 2005 with a 10% increase in receipts for 2006. Adjusted for the estimated 4% price increase, growth is still a respectable 6%.

| Employment and the Labour Force | | 2004 Average | 2005 Average | 2006 Average | 2007 Feb | from Jan 2007 | from Feb 2006 | 2007 year to date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Annual/monthly totals or averages | | | | Percentage changes: | | |
| Population aged 15 and over (000) | | 746 | 748 | 746 | 747 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Labour force in thousands | Men | 273 | 275 | 276 | 275 | 0.3% | 3.0% | 2.8% |
| | Women | 234 | 235 | 240 | 239 | -1.4% | 2.3% | 3.3% |
| | Both sexes | 507 | 509 | 516 | 514 | -0.5% | 2.7% | 3.0% |
| Number of persons unemployed (000) | | 27 | 26 | 24 | 22 | -6.8% | -24.8% | -22.5% |
| Participation rate (%) | | 67.9% | 68.1% | 69.1% | 68.8% | -0.4%pp | 1.8%pp | 2.0%pp |
| Employment rate (%) | | 64.3% | 64.6% | 65.9% | 65.9% | -0.2%pp | 2.8%pp | 2.9%pp |
| Unemployment rate (%) | | 5.4% | 5.1% | 4.7% | 4.2% | -0.4%pp | -1.6%pp | -1.4%pp |
| Employment (000) | **Unadjusted (actual) total** | **480** | **483** | **492** | **493** | **-0.2%** | **4.4%** | **4.6%** |
| | Seasonally adjusted total | 480 | 483 | 492 | 503 | -0.4% | 4.3% | 4.4% |
| | Men | 256 | 260 | 262 | 262 | 0.4% | 4.4% | 4.7% |
| | Women | 223 | 224 | 229 | 231 | -0.9% | 4.2% | 4.4% |
| | 15 to 24 years of age | 85 | 85 | 89 | 88 | 1.1% | 12.9% | 13.6% |
| | 25 to 39 years of age | 143 | 142 | 143 | 142 | -0.4% | 2.7% | 2.4% |
| | 40 to 54 years of age | 180 | 180 | 180 | 183 | 0.4% | 2.0% | 2.1% |
| | 55 and older | 72 | 76 | 80 | 80 | -2.6% | 4.2% | 5.3% |
| | Full time | 386 | 390 | 400 | 388 | -1.7% | 4.2% | 4.7% |
| | Part time | 94 | 94 | 91 | 105 | 5.9% | 4.9% | 4.0% |
| | Multiple job holders | 39 | 41 | 41 | 40 | -2.7% | 1.3% | 7.4% |
| Employment by industry group (000) | Agriculture | 47 | 47 | 48 | 41 | -3.8% | -6.8% | -5.2% |
| | Forestry, mining, oil/gas, utilities | 23 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 0.4% | 4.7% | 4.9% |
| | Construction | 24 | 26 | 30 | 27 | 0.0% | 6.3% | 7.2% |
| | Manufacturing | 29 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 0.0% | -6.3% | -4.2% |
| | Transportation, warehousing | 23 | 25 | 26 | 24 | -3.9% | -6.5% | -0.8% |
| | Wholesale and retail trade | 77 | 78 | 79 | 84 | 2.1% | 10.5% | 11.7% |
| | Finance, insurance, real estate | 27 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 4.8% | 2.8% | -1.9% |
| | Professional, technical services | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | -2.0% | 13.9% | 15.0% |
| | Management and support services | 13 | 13 | 13 | 10 | -7.3% | -21.1% | -18.0% |
| | Health and social services | 58 | 58 | 59 | 62 | -3.4% | 11.6% | 10.1% |
| | Education services | 40 | 39 | 38 | 42 | 1.4% | 10.2% | 6.8% |
| | Accommodation and food services | 33 | 30 | 30 | 31 | 4.7% | 11.0% | 9.4% |
| | Information, culture, recreation | 20 | 20 | 20 | 18 | -4.3% | -1.1% | 1.1% |
| | Other services | 23 | 23 | 21 | 25 | 6.9% | 16.9% | 13.9% |
| | Public administration | 26 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 0.8% | -2.2% | -3.0% |
| Employment by category (000) | Paid, private sector | 266 | 266 | 275 | 279 | 1.4% | 7.6% | 7.5% |
| | Paid, public sector | 117 | 119 | 121 | 121 | -1.3% | 2.2% | 1.9% |
| | Self employed and unpaid family | 96 | 98 | 96 | 92 | -3.5% | -1.9% | 0.2% |
| Employment (3 month moving average in thousands) | Aboriginal (15 to 64) off Reserve | ... | 27 | 30 | 31 | -1.6% | 16.8% | 16.4% |
| | Non-Aboriginal (15 to 64) | ... | 405 | 406 | 400 | -0.4% | 3.6% | 3.5% |
| | Regina CMA | 109 | 109 | 109 | 111 | -0.8% | 5.4% | 5.5% |
| | Saskatoon CMA | 121 | 127 | 127 | 132 | -0.3% | 9.3% | 9.1% |
| | Southeast (except Regina) | 38 | 39 | 38 | 39 | 0.0% | 4.3% | 3.9% |
| | Swift Current/Moose Jaw region | 50 | 52 | 54 | 54 | 0.7% | 3.8% | 3.9% |
| | West central (except Saskatoon) | 29 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 0.0% | 7.2% | 7.8% |
| | East central (incl. Yorkton) | 39 | 40 | 41 | 39 | 0.5% | -3.4% | -4.7% |
| | P.A./Northern Saskatchewan | 92 | 90 | 93 | 91 | -1.2% | 1.2% | 1.6% |

| Paid Workers and Earnings | | 2004 Average | 2005 Average | 2006 Average | 2006 Dec | from Nov 2006 | from Dec 2005 | 2006 year to date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of paid workers (000) | Salaried | 144 | 148 | 155 | 159 | 0.7% | 1.1% | 4.3% |
| | Hourly rated and part time | 205 | 218 | 225 | 231 | 1.3% | 4.9% | 3.4% |
| | Other (including commission) | 52 | 45 | 41 | 39 | -5.8% | -15.5% | -9.1% |
| | Total | 401 | 411 | 420 | 429 | 0.4% | 1.3% | 2.4% |
| Average weekly earnings (incl overtime) | All paid employees | $645.46 | $669.63 | $693.16 | $698.99 | 1.2% | 2.9% | 3.5% |
| | Adjusted for inflation (constant $1992) | $499.05 | $506.47 | $514.06 | $518.18 | 0.6% | 1.3% | 1.5% |

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey and Survey of Employment Payroll and Hours*

| **Retail and Wholesale Trade** (gross sales in $ millions) | 2004 Total | 2005 Total | 2006 Total | 2006 Dec | from Nov 2006 | from Dec 2005 | 2006 year to date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Annual/monthly Totals or Averages | | | | Percentage changes: | | |
| Gross retail sales, unadjusted | $10,257 | $11,033 | $11,693 | $1,129 | 17.7% | 5.2% | 6.0% |
| Seasonally adjusted retail sales | $10,257 | $11,033 | $11,693 | $994 | 1.7% | 7.8% | 5.8% |
| Wholesale sales, unadjusted | $11,986 | $13,645 | $13,550 | $1,088 | 3.0% | 11.6% | -0.7% |

| **Quarterly Retail Sales by Kind of Store** (gross sales in $ millions) | | 2004 Total | 2005 Total | 2006 Total | 2006 Q4 | from Q3 2006 | from Q4 2005 | 2006 year to date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vehicle related | New motor vehicle dealers | $2,162 | $2,153 | $2,253 | $549 | -10.9% | 13.1% | 4.7% |
| | Used vehicles, recreational vehicles, and auto parts | $505 | $529 | $631 | $127 | -26.1% | 20.3% | 19.3% |
| | Service stations | $1,353 | $1,577 | $1,673 | $383 | -19.9% | -5.3% | 6.1% |
| House-hold related | Home centres & hardware | $403 | $505 | $655 | $155 | -21.4% | 10.7% | 29.7% |
| | Home electronics & appliances | $230 | $268 | $318 | $108 | 46.1% | 16.9% | 18.9% |
| | Furniture stores | $158 | $166 | $174 | $53 | 17.3% | 14.6% | 5.1% |
| | Specialized building materials and garden stores | $170 | $240 | $229 | $44 | -30.7% | -9.4% | -4.7% |
| | Home furnishings stores | $105 | $115 | $129 | $38 | 11.8% | 5.7% | 11.8% |
| | Computers and software | $33 | $36 | $43 | $12 | 14.5% | 15.5% | 20.7% |
| Personal | Clothing stores | $335 | $343 | $355 | $113 | 30.2% | 5.8% | 3.5% |
| | Shoes, clothing accessories and jewellery stores | $103 | $104 | $111 | $41 | 65.8% | 11.3% | 6.4% |
| | Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores | $154 | $157 | $196 | $70 | 52.7% | 30.4% | 24.8% |
| General | Supermarkets | $1,845 | $1,920 | $1,828 | $460 | -0.6% | -7.7% | -4.8% |
| | Pharmacies and personal care | $539 | $575 | $544 | $152 | 18.9% | -1.0% | -5.3% |
| | General merchandise (incl dept | $1,392 | $1,555 | $1,734 | $524 | 18.8% | 11.7% | 11.6% |
| Other (includes liquor board) | | $771 | $791 | $819 | $223 | -0.4% | 5.0% | 3.6% |
| **All retail stores** | | **$10,259** | **$11,033** | **$11,693** | **$3,052** | **-1.6%** | **5.2%** | **6.0%** |

| **Motor Vehicle Unit Sales** (number of units sold) | 2004 Total | 2005 Total | 2006 Total | 2006 Dec | from Nov 2006 | from Dec 2005 | 2006 year to date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Passenger cars | 14,298 | 14,162 | 13,962 | 966 | -0.3% | -8.4% | -1.4% |
| Trucks/SUVs/vans/commercial vehicles | 24,523 | 25,090 | 25,953 | 2,641 | 21.9% | 18.0% | 3.4% |
| **All vehicles** | **38,822** | **39,252** | **39,915** | **3,607** | **15.0%** | **9.5%** | **1.7%** |

| **International Merchandise Trade** (millions of Canadian $) | 2004 Total | 2005 Total | 2006 Total | 2006 Dec | from Nov 2006 | from Dec 2005 | 2006 year to date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Merchandise Imports | $4,669 | $5,598 | $6,498 | $526 | 0.6% | 10.7% | 16.1% |
| Merchandise Exports | $12,093 | $13,887 | $15,397 | $1,406 | -0.1% | 14.2% | 10.9% |
| Net International Merchandise Trade | $7,424 | $8,289 | $8,899 | $879 | -0.5% | 16.3% | 7.4% |

| **Consumer Price Indices** (1992=100) | | 2004 Average | 2005 Average | 2006 Average | 2007 Jan | from Dec 2006 | from Jan 2006 | 2007 year to date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food | Purchased from stores | 121.4 | 121.1 | 123.2 | 127.8 | 0.2% | 7.4% | 7.4% |
| | Purchased from restaurants | 129.8 | 132.9 | 137.7 | 139.3 | -0.1% | 2.7% | 2.7% |
| | Food total | 123.9 | 124.7 | 127.6 | 131.3 | 0.2% | 5.9% | 5.9% |
| Clothing and footwear | | 110.2 | 110.9 | 107.2 | 104.8 | 2.3% | -2.5% | -2.5% |
| Transportation | | 140.0 | 146.5 | 151.8 | 148.6 | 0.7% | -0.7% | -0.7% |
| Shelter, owned or rented | | 137.5 | 142.3 | 147.3 | 151.2 | 1.3% | 3.4% | 3.4% |
| Household operations and furnishings | | 114.1 | 114.7 | 114.3 | 113.3 | -0.1% | -1.8% | -1.8% |
| Health and personal care | | 114.7 | 115.8 | 116.8 | 116.9 | -0.1% | 0.5% | 0.5% |
| Recreation, education, and reading | | 129.3 | 130.5 | 130.8 | 128.7 | -0.3% | -0.8% | -0.8% |
| Alcohol and tobacco | | 158.8 | 162.0 | 167.2 | 170.6 | 0.4% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| **Saskatchewan all items** | | **129.3** | **132.2** | **134.9** | **135.4** | **0.6%** | **1.4%** | **1.4%** |
| **Regina all items** | | **130.3** | **133.1** | **135.6** | **136.2** | **0.5%** | **1.6%** | **1.6%** |
| **Saskatoon all items** | | **128.4** | **131.4** | **134.2** | **134.8** | **0.7%** | **1.5%** | **1.5%** |

*Sources: Statistics Canada Retail Trade, Consumer Price Index, Motor Vehicle Sales, Strategis International Trade Database*

| Agriculture | | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | most recent period | from previous period | from same period last year | year to date | date of most recent period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Annual/monthly Totals or Averages | | | | Percentage changes: | | | |
| Farm cash receipts ($ millions) | Crops | $2,859 | $3,329 | $3,129 | $1,073 | 24% | 18% | 17% | Q4 |
| | Livestock | $1,360 | $1,485 | $1,803 | $502 | 17% | -14% | -4% | |
| | Program payments | $1,519 | $1,190 | $1,323 | $329 | 38% | 5% | -7% | |
| | Total cash receipts | $5,738 | $6,005 | $6,255 | $1,904 | 24% | 5% | 6% | |
| Farm product price index (1997=100) | Crops | 109.1 | 98.8 | 75.2 | 82.3 | 2.6% | 20.0% | -1.1% | Dec |
| | Livestock and products | 95.0 | 93.0 | 102.6 | 89.7 | -5.0% | -6.2% | 0.5% | |
| | Overall index | 105.0 | 96.5 | 83.0 | 85.5 | 2.2% | 14.6% | -0.5% | |
| Market Prices | 700-800 lb. feeder steers $/lb. | 111.3¢ | 87.2¢ | 110.1¢ | 101.6¢ | 6.2% | -9.1% | -14.5% | Feb |
| | Index 100 hog prices, $/100 kg | $127 | $155 | $140 | $137 | 10.6% | 17.2% | 13.0% | Feb |

| Resource Production, Consumption, | | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | most recent period | from previous period | from same period last year | year to date | date of most recent period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Production | Crude oil (000 $m^3$) | 24,331 | 24,584 | 24,293 | 2,021 | 3.3% | -4.9% | 1.1% | Dec |
| | Natural gas ($mm^3$) | 8,541 | 8,891 | 8,908 | 744 | -5.0% | -7.3% | 2.5% | Dec |
| | Potash (000 tonnes) | 8,638 | 9,638 | 10,133 | 817 | -4.0% | -14.5% | -24.3% | Nov |
| | Electricity generated (GWH) | 18,499 | 18,206 | 19,023 | 1,762 | 14.6% | 3.5% | -2.6% | Dec |
| | Uranium, Canada (000 kg) | 9,906 | 11,545 | 12,597 | 777 | -39.3% | 52.5% | -22.4% | Dec |
| Consumption | Motor gasoline sales (000 $m^3$) | 1,760 | 1,748 | 1,756 | 169 | -5.1% | 12.3% | 9.3% | Nov |
| | Diesel fuel sales (000 $m^3$) | 1,533 | 1,605 | 1,833 | 168 | -4.5% | 9.8% | 4.1% | Nov |
| | Natural gas utility sales ($mm^3$) | 1,725 | 1,641 | 1,608 | 191 | 57.4% | 17.4% | -5.3% | Nov |
| Prices | West Texas interm. crude oil US$/bbl | $30.41 | $41.52 | $57.16 | $59.33 | 10.8% | -1.0% | -10.9% | Feb |
| | Edmonton par crude oil C$/m3 | $271 | $330 | $432 | $431 | 6.8% | 1.7% | -4.7% | Feb |
| | Regular gas (¢/litre) Regina retail | 76.0¢ | 82.5¢ | 92.7¢ | 88.8¢ | 0.0% | 0.6% | 7.5% | Dec |
| | Regular gas (¢/litre) Saskatoon retail | 75.9¢ | 82.9¢ | 93.5¢ | 90.4¢ | 4.0% | 0.9% | 6.7% | Dec |
| | Uranium spot price US$/lb. | $11.58 | $18.55 | $28.64 | $85.00 | 13.3% | 120.8% | 110.5% | Feb |
| | Natural gas, Alberta spot market price (dollars per gigajoule) | $5.81 | $5.98 | $7.87 | $7.05 | 8.3% | -33.1% | -20.9% | Dec |

| Manufacturing Shipments ($ millions) | | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | most recent period | from previous period | from same period last year | year to date | date of most recent period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-Durable Goods | Food products | $2,045 | $2,152 | $1,993 | $177.5 | -1.8% | -2.7% | 11.9% | Dec |
| | Chemical products | $793 | $908 | $1,076 | $35.2 | -8.5% | -57.7% | -16.6% | |
| | Paper products | $462 | $624 | $602 | $2.4 | -21.9% | -93.8% | -74.2% | |
| | Printing and related support | $147 | $137 | $116 | $7.7 | -13.5% | -0.2% | -3.1% | |
| | Plastic and rubber products | $114 | $98 | $89 | $5.1 | -29.0% | -14.7% | -6.0% | |
| | Beverage products | $41 | $38 | $34 | $2.9 | 3.9% | 1.4% | 5.9% | |
| | Clothing products | $29 | $29 | $29 | $2.1 | -30.9% | -11.6% | 3.7% | |
| | Other non-durable goods | $1,300 | $1,539 | $1,992 | $215.2 | 1.9% | 1.4% | 27.6% | |
| Total non-durable goods manufacturing | | $4,930 | $5,525 | $5,929 | $447.9 | -1.6% | -16.2% | 2.6% | |
| Durable Goods | Machinery manufacturing | $697 | $736 | $751 | $69.6 | 10.8% | 32.7% | 7.2% | |
| | Wood products | $412 | $681 | $836 | $32.9 | 3.8% | -45.4% | -34.4% | |
| | Fabricated metal products | $407 | $450 | $474 | $42.2 | -19.3% | 3.9% | 22.6% | |
| | Transportation equipment | $268 | $279 | $300 | $22.7 | -17.6% | 19.9% | 7.6% | |
| | Electrical equipment/appliances | $170 | $161 | $161 | $15.1 | -20.9% | 40.2% | 31.6% | |
| | Non-metallic mineral products | $89 | $97 | $99 | $9.4 | -5.2% | 63.1% | 29.9% | |
| | Furniture and related products | $71 | $76 | $83 | $6.5 | -13.8% | -1.0% | 7.6% | |
| | Other durable goods | $809 | $1,175 | $1,305 | $116.0 | 0.1% | -6.1% | 22.0% | |
| Total durable goods manufacturing | | $2,923 | $3,654 | $4,010 | $314.3 | -3.8% | -1.4% | 6.7% | |
| **All manufacturing groups** | | **$7,853** | **$9,180** | **$9,939** | **$762.2** | **-2.5%** | **-10.7%** | **4.3%** | |

| Construction | | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | most recent period | from previous period | from same period last year | year to date | date of most recent period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residential housing starts (# of units) | Urban (population > 10,000) | 2,634 | 3,143 | 2,502 | 158 | -35% | 44% | 40% | Feb |
| | Rural | 681 | 637 | 935 | 242 | -24% | -16% | -14% | Q4 |
| | **Provincial total** | **3,315** | **3,781** | **3,437** | **1,056** | **-9%** | **17%** | **8%** | Q4 |
| Value of building permits ($ millions) | Residential | $350 | $402 | $396 | $33.4 | -3% | 78% | 78% | Jan |
| | Industrial & commercial | $261 | $260 | $362 | $24.8 | 28% | 46% | 46% | |
| | Institutional & government | $161 | $108 | $148 | $17.1 | 120% | -31% | -31% | |
| | **Provincial total** | **$773** | **$770** | **$906** | **$75.3** | **22%** | **25%** | **25%** | |
| | Regina | $265 | $242 | $278 | $27.8 | 1% | 53% | 53% | |
| | Saskatoon | $261 | $279 | $365 | $37.5 | 43% | 19% | 19% | |
| | Other provincial | $246 | $249 | $263 | $10.0 | 22% | -7% | -7% | |

*Sources: Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics, CMHC*

| Population and Migration | | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | most recent data | from previous period | from same period last year | year to date | date of most recent data |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Annual/monthly Totals or Averages | | | | Percentage changes: | | | |
| Interprovincial migration | Into Saskatchewan | 13,929 | 14,253 | 14,818 | 7,049 | 52.8% | 32.8% | 24.2% | Q3 |
| | Out of Saskatchewan | 18,519 | 20,280 | 25,664 | 7,831 | 37.1% | 0.3% | -2.6% | |
| | Net flow | -4,590 | -6,027 | -10,846 | -782 | -- | -- | -- | |
| International migration | Immigrants | 1,668 | 1,942 | 2,107 | 694 | -1.0% | 33.2% | 10.5% | |
| | Emigrants | 512 | 517 | 522 | 207 | 76.9% | 1.0% | 0.5% | |
| | Net flow | 1,156 | 1,425 | 1,585 | 487 | -17% | 54% | 14% | |
| Natural growth | Births | 12,038 | 11,983 | 12,031 | 3,034 | -0.7% | -1.5% | -0.5% | |
| | Deaths | 9,007 | 9,119 | 9,221 | 2,225 | 0.5% | 0.7% | 0.7% | |
| | Net natural growth | 3,031 | 2,864 | 2,810 | 809 | -3.8% | -7.1% | -3.6% | |
| Population at end of period (000) | | 994.5 | 992.9 | 986.8 | 985.9 | 0.0% | -0.3% | -0.5% | |
| **Canadian Commodity Price Indices** (1992=100) | | | | | | | | | |
| Raw materials price index | | 114.8 | 128.3 | 145.3 | 160.3 | -3.1% | 2.8% | 2.8% | Jan |
| Industrial products price index | | 106.2 | 109.5 | 111.1 | 115.1 | -0.1% | 2.8% | 2.8% | |
| **Other Selected Time Series** | | | | | | | | | |
| Cross border traffic (000 of person-trips) | Sask residents, same day auto | 96 | 99 | 108 | 10.4 | 7.6% | 11.7% | 8.5% | Dec |
| | Sask residents, 1+ nights auto | 89 | 102 | 109 | 6.6 | -28.9% | 10.3% | 17.2% | |
| | Sask residents returning, all modes of travel | 234 | 255 | 271 | 20.2 | -20.6% | 9.7% | 9.9% | |
| | Arrivals by out-of-country visitors | 179 | 164 | 152 | 9.0 | -6.5% | -1.4% | -9.0% | |
| Airport takeoffs and landings | Saskatoon | 76,458 | 76,581 | 81,629 | 7,074 | -9.0% | 35.3% | 35.3% | Jan |
| | Regina | 56,701 | 47,904 | 52,221 | 4,837 | -1.2% | 37.7% | 37.7% | |
| Restaurant and tavern receipts ($M) | | $887 | $909 | $912 | $87.8 | 6.7% | 10.2% | 10.0% | Dec |
| Regular employment insurance beneficiaries | | 10,869 | 10,609 | 9,716 | 9,510 | 33.0% | -1.5% | -10.2% | Dec |
| Consumer bankruptcies | | 2,191 | 2,186 | 2,050 | 122 | -11.6% | 18.4% | -13.0% | Dec |
| Business (incl. farm) bankruptcies | | 379 | 368 | 373 | 26 | 4.0% | -23.5% | -19.0% | Dec |
| Farm bankruptcies | | 65 | 74 | 80 | 8 | -27.3% | -11.1% | 12.5% | Dec |
| Chartered banks | Consumer loans outstanding ($M) | $3,991 | $4,448 | $4,724 | $4,932 | 1.9% | 2.7% | 3.4% | Q3 |
| | Residential mortgages outstanding ($M) | $4,824 | $5,052 | $5,360 | $5,832 | 2.1% | 6.4% | 6.5% | Q3 |
| | Personal deposits ($M) | $10,009 | $10,051 | $10,185 | $10,670 | 0.7% | 5.8% | 4.9% | Q3 |
| | Prime rate | 4.69% | 4.00% | 4.42% | 6.00% | 0.00%pp | 0.75%pp | 0.75%pp | Feb |
| Financial statistics | TSE composite index | 8,646 | 10,162 | 12,081 | 12,981 | -0.4% | 11.1% | 10.1% | Feb |
| | Exchange rate (US ¢) | 77.0¢ | 82.6¢ | 88.2¢ | 85.4¢ | 0.5% | -1.9% | -1.7% | Feb |

| **Weather** (data based on the twelve months from September to August) | | Sep-2003 to Aug-2004 | Sep-2004 to Aug-2005 | Sep-2005 to Aug-2006 | Feb 2007 | from Feb Normals | from Feb 2006 | YTD | date of most recent data |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Annual/monthly Totals or Averages | | | | Changes | | | |
| Precipitation in mm | Estevan/Regina/Swift Current | 435 | 405 | 347 | 18 | 34% | 84% | 54% | Feb |
| | Yorkton/Saskatoon/Lloydminster | 446 | 520 | 424 | 15 | -4% | 25% | 41% | |
| | Prince Albert/La Ronge | 489 | 600 | 532 | 22 | 66% | -8% | 30% | |
| Mean daily temperature | Estevan/Regina/Swift Current | +2.3 | +3.9 | +5.4 | -15.2 | -4.5ºC | -5.2ºC | -3.4ºC | |
| | Yorkton/Saskatoon/Lloydminster | +1.5 | +2.3 | +4.0 | -17.6 | -4.9ºC | -5.0ºC | -3.3ºC | |
| | Prince Albert/La Ronge | +0.3 | +0.9 | +3.2 | -19.3 | -4.0ºC | -4.5ºC | -3.6ºC | |

*Sources: Statistics Canada, Industry Canada, Transport Canada, Environment Canada* *pp = change in percentage points*

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