



## Sask. job numbers climb

### Neil Scott

Saskatchewan News Network; Prince Albert Daily Herald

*Saturday, March 10, 2007*

REGINA -- Employment in Saskatchewan surged for the 11th consecutive month in February, with the number of people employed jumping by 20,600 compared to February of last year.

Data released by Statistics Canada indicates that 492,500 people were employed in the province and that the unemployment rate had tumbled to a seasonally adjusted 4.0 per cent.

That unemployment rate was lower than the 5.3 per cent in February last year or the 4.1 per cent in January of this year.

An 8,000-job increase in trade -- retail and wholesale industry jobs -- was among the key factors that contributed to the overall job increase.

- Eleventh straight month of employment growth Employment also increased in construction, service industries, education and health care and in the oil, gas and mining industries.

Doug Elliott, an independent observer who publishes the Sask Trends Monitor newsletter, said the job numbers are more good news for the province.

The numbers "are not quite as good as January, but still up there," Elliott said in a telephone interview Friday.

Elliott added the rate of job growth in February was a bit slower than January, when 22,600 more jobs were added to the province's economy. But a 20,600 increase in jobs in February is still quite good, Elliott said.

Agriculture Minister Mark Wartman, who commented Friday on behalf of the provincial government, welcomed the latest employment figures.

"Our job numbers are soaring, which speaks to the fundamental strengths and momentum of the Saskatchewan economy," Wartman said in a news release.

"Businesses are creating opportunities for young workers and families and our climate for growth is resonating with people outside our province who are attracted by the Saskatchewan advantage." Elliott said it's significant that employment increased both among younger workers -- those under 25 -- and among workers aged 55 and over.

The job numbers are also positive for both Regina and Saskatoon, Elliott said.

In Regina last month, the unemployment rate was 4.0 per cent and in Saskatoon it was 3.6 per cent.

The 4.0 per cent unemployment rate for Saskatchewan last month was below the national

rate of 6.1 per cent.

Alberta, where the unemployment rate was 3.5 per cent, was the only province with a lower unemployment rate than Saskatchewan.

(REGINA LEADER-POST)

© The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon) 2007

CLOSE WINDOW

---

Copyright © 2007 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.