ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGINA

July 2025

# REGINA'S ECONOMIC BRIEF

## A strong start to summer for the GRA

Inflation in the GRA nudged up to 2.1% in June (May 2025: 2.0%), while year-over-year employment growth rose 4.4% in June over the same period in 2024. In June, Regina added also 6,400 jobs to the local economy, notably in professional services, manufacturing, and healthcare, as year-over-year unemployment declined to 5.3% (June 2024: 6.6%). Lastly, and promisingly, manufacturing saw a year-over-year boost in sales, which rose 1.9% in May 2025.

Source: Praxis Consulting (Unadjusted)

### Job market expansion continues

The GRA added 6,400 jobs in June 2025, up 4.4% from June 2024. That's enough people to fill every seat in the Brandt Centre for a Regina Pats game with another 400 waiting in line. Saskatchewan's job growth is second highest of all provinces (adding 20,500 jobs), up 3.3% from June 2024, and outpacing national growth of 1.9% (401,200 jobs ) in the same period.

Source: Statistics Canada

### Manufacturing turns a corner

Manufacturing sales in the GRA rose 1.94% year-over-year in May 2025 (May 2024: $682M) to $695M. This marked the first year-over-year rise in sales since January 2025.

Source: Statistics Canada

### Housing prices climb higher

In June 2025, the GRA's Housing Price Index Benchmark Value (HPI) rose over $25,000 year-over-year to $340,800 (June 2024: $318,100), a 7.9% rise year-over-year.

Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

### Unemployment rate shrinks

In June 2025, the GRA's average year-over-year unemployment rate dropped to 5.3% (June 2024: 6.6%). Saskatchewan still leads Canada with the lowest unemployment rate among provinces (4.9%) – well below the national average (6.9%).

Source: Statistics Canada

### GRA's inflation rate expands slightly

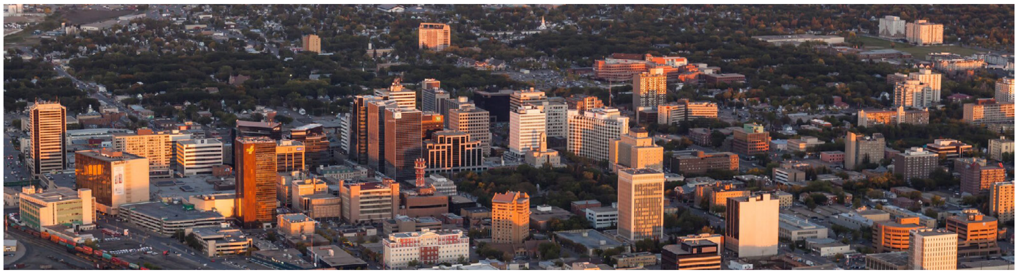
Inflation in the GRA was 2.1% in June 2025, a small hike up from 2.0% in May 2025. Saskatchewan and Canada's rates were 1.7% and 1.9% respectively. Low prices for energy and transportation continue to keep inflation low.

Source: Statistics Canada

### Rental prices edge up

In June 2025, the average apartment monthly rental cost increased to $1,413 (up 2%), while the average 1-bedroom apartment rental in Regina fell to $1,288, also a 2% change, but down, from June 2024 ($1,318). This continues Regina's streak as the most affordable rental market of the 25 cities compared across Canada.

Source: Rentals.ca



**POSITIVE** **NEED TO WATCH** **NEGATIVE**

## KEY NUMBERS

**2.1%**
GRA'S INFLATION RATE FOR JUNE 2025, HIGHER THAN SASKATCHEWAN (1.7%) AND CANADA (1.9%).

Source: Statistics Canada

**7.9%**
YEAR-OVER-YEAR RISE IN HOUSING PRICES IN THE GRA.

Source: Conference Board of Canada

**6,400**
NUMBER OF JOBS ADDED TO THE GRA IN JUNE 2025, A 4.4% INCREASE FROM JUNE 2024.

Source: Statistics Canada

**287,000**
THE POPULATION OF REGINA, A 50% INCREASE SINCE 2001.

Source: Economic Development Regina

**1.94%**
INCREASE IN MANUFACTURING SALES FOR THE GRA IN MAY 2025, THE FIRST YEAR-OVER-YEAR INCREASE SINCE JANUARY 2025.

Source: Statistics Canada

# A DEEPER LOOK...

## GRA's population growth signals big changes ahead

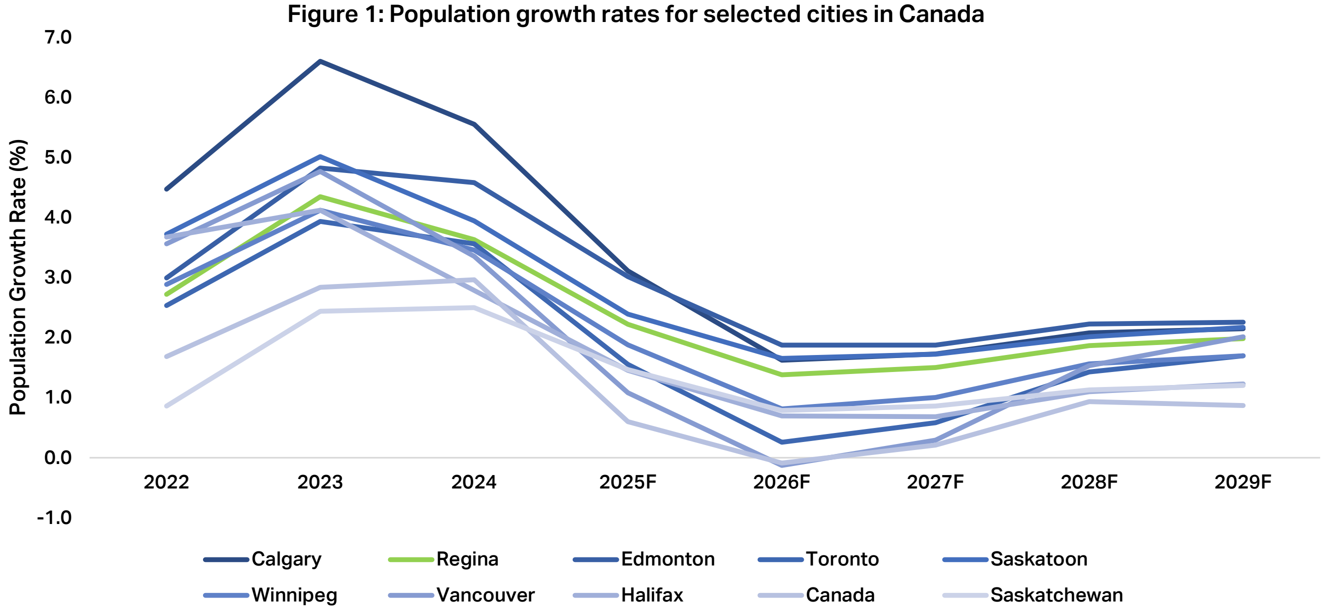
The GRA is on a roll. Since 2001, its population has surged by 50%, and the city is now home to 287,000 people. Regina is now eyeing 293,000 by the end of 2025. And the real turning point? In 2023, the city added a record 10,585 (4.3%) new residents, its fastest growth in two decades. And momentum is gaining.

A strong combination of international migration, a rebound in economic confidence, and an influx of non-permanent residents like students and temporary workers are driving this population boom. Natural population growth (births minus deaths) has slowed with immigration now the main driving factor: 9,581 immigrants arrived in 2023, considerably beyond the natural increase (just 571). While the city faces challenges with retention, and some residents continue to leave for other cities (net inter-provincial migration was -3,230), international newcomers and non-permanent residents (3,728) are underpinning growth beyond just compensating for losses from natural or preference reasons.

In Figure 1, Regina shows steady population growth and predictions (2025 to 2029) that consistently surpass national and provincial averages despite planned federal cuts to immigration. GRA's growing population is transforming both the city's economy and identity. Businesses benefit from a larger labour pool, and sectors like construction, retail, and services are thriving due to increasing demand. However, growth also presents challenges. A rising population puts greater pressure on housing, raises costs, and impacts those job seekers if new jobs do not materialize as swiftly. For housing, higher demand strains supply, leading to rent and home price increases. Over time, this could mean affordability concerns for some residents.

As Regina grows into a more global, dynamic city, its future is promising. But that future also depends on smart plans and forward thinking. Balancing job creation, housing supply, and infrastructure investment is key to ensuring this booming prairie city stays affordable and livable for everyone who chooses to call Regina home.

**Figure 1: Population growth rates for selected cities in Canada**




Source: Economic Development Regina

# News Worth Watching

### 'We've been looking for almost a year': Why Sask.'s housing market is red hot

First-time homebuyers say they are having a hard time making that milestone purchase, bidding on multiple homes that end up selling for more than the asking price.

Source: CBC News

### Canadian growers get A+ in growing low-carbon-intensity oats and barley

Findings of a new study confirms that Western Canada is leading the world in low-emission, sustainable oat production.

Source: Real Agriculture

### No summer lift for business confidence

Business confidence is fading as growing uncertainty prompts Canadian firms to hold off on investment, with no clear window for recovery in sight.

Source: Conference Board of Canada

### Sask. hiking minimum wage to $15.35 this fall

Saskatchewan's minimum wage is increasing to $15.35 per hour this fall (currently $15 per hour), which could break a tie with Alberta for the lowest rate in the country.

Source: CBC News

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