ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGINA

February 2026

# REGINA'S ECONOMIC BRIEF

## GRA holds steady to start the year

Inflation in the Greater Regina Area (GRA) eased to 1.9% in January (December 2025: 2.4%), while year-over-year (YoY) employment gains were strong, growing 5.5% to 152,100 in January (January 2025: 144,200 employed) as 7,900 jobs were added to the local economy in health care, construction, and public administration. However, YoY unemployment crept up to 6.9% (December 2025: 6.7%). At the same time, manufacturing continued to underperform, falling 15.8% YoY (December 2025*).

*Manufacturing sales delayed by a month

Source: Praxis Consulting (Unadjusted)

### GRA job market outperforming nationally

The GRA's job market expanded, adding 7,900 jobs in January 2025, up 5.5%, with significant gains in key sectors like health care, construction, and public administration. Provincially, Saskatchewan employment rose more slowly (up 2.5% or +15,000 jobs), outpacing Canada, which had a relatively smaller increase of 0.6% (+125,000) over the same period.

Source: Statistics Canada

### Inflation eases

Inflation in the GRA was 1.9% in January 2026, a considerable drop from December 2025 (2.4%), reflecting lower gasoline prices. Inflation in Regina tracked closely with Saskatchewan (1.8%) and remained below the national rate for Canada (2.3%) over the same period.

Source: Statistics Canada

### Unemployment creeps up

In January 2026, the GRA's average YoY unemployment rate had a modest rise to 6.9% (January 2025: 6.7%). Provincially, Saskatchewan posted a 5.5% unemployment rate, the lowest among all provinces, remaining below the national average of 6.7%.

Source: Praxis Consulting

### Housing prices rising

In January, the GRA's Housing Price Index Benchmark Value rose over $17,100 YoY to $330,600 (January 2025: $313,500) – a 5.5% boost. Even so, Regina remains well below Saskatoon ($417,800), Halifax ($545,200), Toronto ($935,200), and Vancouver ($1,101,900), reinforcing its position as one of Canada's most affordable housing markets.

Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

### Manufacturing sales slide in December

Manufacturing sales in the GRA plummeted 15.8% YoY in December 2025 to $471M (December 2024: $560M), primarily due to drops in food and machinery manufacturing. Altogether, the GRA's manufacturing ended 2025 with a 5.4% fall from 2024.

Source: Statistics Canada

### Rental prices edge higher

In January 2026, average apartment rents in Regina rose 4.6% YoY to $1,374 (January 2025: $1,314). Despite this increase, Regina remains among Canada's most affordable major rental markets. Saskatchewan continues to report the lowest average rents nationally, reinforcing the province's cost-of-living advantage.

Source: Rentals.ca

POSITIVE NEED TO WATCH NEGATIVE

## KEY NUMBERS

**6.9%**

THE GRA'S AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY 2026, UP FROM 6.7% FROM JANUARY 2025.

Source: Statistics Canada

**$330,600**

THE GRA'S AVERAGE HOUSING PRICE INDICATOR BENCHMARK VALUE FOR JANUARY 2026, UP 5.5% OVER JANUARY 2025.

Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

**-5.4%**

MANUFACTURING SALES DROPPED $418,862, OR 5.4%, ACROSS ALL OF 2025 COMPARED TO 2024.

Source: Economic Development Regina

**$1,374**

AVERAGE RENTAL PRICES IN THE GRA IN JANUARY 2026, UP 4.6% FROM JANUARY 2025.

Source: Rentals.ca

**1.9%**

GRA'S INFLATION RATE FOR JANUARY 2026, IN LINE WITH SASKATCHEWAN (1.8%) AND CANADA (2.3%).

Source: Statistics Canada

# A DEEPER LOOK...

## Homegrown Growth: Regina's path to a $860M growth opportunity

Regina's economic future depends on building resilience, not quick fixes. As Canada's trade patterns shift and global risks rise, the city must strengthen its competitiveness by diversifying the economy and adding more value beyond raw production.

Regina sits at the heart of Saskatchewan's resource economy, with its fortunes tied to global demand for farm goods, energy, and advanced manufacturing. Trade policy changes, higher transport costs, and uneven access to markets can ripple through jobs, businesses, and city finances.

The path forward is clear: diversification and value creation. Strengthen local supply chains in agri-food processing, manufacturing, and clean-energy technology to retain more economic value at home. Improve export sophistication – focus on higher-margin, knowledge-based exports by investing in innovation, logistics, and a workforce aligned with global demand.

The domestic story matters just as much as the global one. With Canada's growth slowing, cities that attract private investment and improve productivity will be better positioned for economic uncertainty. Regina's affordability, skilled workforce, and prairie location make it attractive to investors seeking stable, cost-efficient opportunities. Last year, Economic Development Regina identified two opportunities for investment within the region for canola meal and beef processing (see Table 1). Together, these facilities have the potential to generate over $860M in economic output and are ready for investment prospects.

Real change requires coordinated action across business, government, and post-secondary institutions. Policies, training, and infrastructure should work together to build economic adaptability. By focusing on competitiveness, export resilience, and value-added growth, Regina can strengthen its economic foundation and support long-term prosperity in times of global uncertainty.

**Table 1: Economic Impact of Canola and Beef Processing Facilities in Regina**

| Source | Canola Meal Processing Plant | Beef Processing Plant |
|---|---|---|
| Economic Output | $189M | $672M |
| GDP Impact | $85M | $314M |
| Employment | 813 | 1,843 |
| Labour Income | $42M | $276M |
| Municipal Revenue | $2.1M | $24M |
| Provincial Revenue | $1.4M | $22M |
| Federal Revenue | $1.8M | $36M |

Source: Economic Development Regina. Impacts are the sum of construction-period activity and first-year operating activity. All numbers are a total of direct, indirect and induced impacts.

# News Worth Watching

### Federal funding supports Indigenous-led circular economy

Federal funding supporting a sustainable economy for Indigenous communities was announced in Regina, including $855,000 in PrairiesCan funding to Cowessess Ventures Ltd. for a rapid composting and bio-fertilizer facility.

Source: CKRM

### Carney announces "Buy Canadian" defence plan amid security concerns

Prime Minister Mark Carney announced a $6.6B Buy Canadian defence plan to boost domestic military manufacturing, increase Canadian contract shares, and support up to 125,000 jobs over the next decade.

Source: Global News

### Cautious provincial response to Supreme Court tariff ruling

Saskatchewan leaders are offering a cautious reaction to breaking news that the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down President Donald Trump's use of emergency powers to impose tariffs.

Source: SaskToday

### Indonesia opens market to Canadian pork, expands beef access

Indonesia has opened its market to Canadian pork and expanded access for beef imports, the Canadian government announced Monday.

Source: The Western Producer

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