

A collage of construction-related images. It includes a worker in an orange hard hat and safety vest, a worker in a yellow safety vest and orange hard hat, and various construction equipment and structures. The text "2016-2025 Key Highlights" is overlaid on the left side of the collage.

## 2016–2025 Key Highlights

### Saskatchewan

2015 marks a change for Saskatchewan's construction industry, with non-residential activity moving gradually higher to a new peak and residential building construction declining from historically high levels.

Overall construction employment had reached a peak in 2014 at the top of a decade-long expansion. By 2021, the non-residential sector increases by almost 4,000 jobs while residential declines by 2,000 jobs. Non-residential construction growth stalled briefly in 2015, but resumes a decade-long expansion from 2016 to 2021.

Growth is driven by major resource and infrastructure projects and by steady gains in maintenance work across the scenario period. Specialized labour requirements for non-residential projects have been met through an inflow of out-of-province workers and this will need to continue to meet ongoing demands.

An estimated 6,200 were recruited to work in non-residential construction from 2012 to 2014 and another 4,000 are needed to meet increased demands from 2016 to 2021. After 2021, employment declines as projects wind down.

Housing starts are expected to continue falling, with total residential employment declining across the scenario period. Starts had slowed with a 17 percent drop in 2013, followed by a moderate decline in 2014 and a further drop in 2015.

Between 2012 and 2014, strong residential growth added more than 5,400 jobs, and many in the new workforce were drawn from outside Saskatchewan. New housing investment declined in 2015 and is projected to continue a downward trend across the scenario period.

This translates to a loss of jobs and may prompt many out-of-province workers to leave or seek opportunities in other sectors or industries.

Overall, there is little change in total construction employment in Saskatchewan by the end of the scenario period in 2025, but this surface stability conceals significant shifts in individual markets. Industry must also address an aging workforce, with 8,000 workers expected to retire, or 18 percent of the current workforce.