



STATE OF THE GRA ECONOMY

2025 ECONOMIC REPORT CARD



EDR's Forecast Report Card for the GRA Economy: 2025			
Metric	Grade		Insight
GDP Growth	A	Exceeding	Ongoing trade disruptions aside, GDP growth in the GRA is expected to accelerate to 2.5% in 2025 from 0.8% in 2024. The GRA's rate remains high compared to other CMAs in Canada.
Employment	B	Meeting	Employment in the GRA is set to grow by 1.7%, reaching 153,500 workers by the end of 2025, and the unemployment rate is projected to slow to 5.3%. That said, U.S. tariffs on Canadian manufacturing may affect the rate, pushing it up above projections if anticipated complications manifest.
Housing Market	B	Meeting	Regina's housing market is expected to see a 9% price rise in 2025 if interest rates hold or drop further, illustrating a balanced market amid broader economic pressures. Additionally, new federal measures are expected to ease ongoing pressures in the ownership and rental markets.
Key Sectors	B-	Meeting	Overall, the GRA's economy is expected to grow and remain resilient across key sectors due to strategic investment, technological advancements, and favourable market conditions. The GRA's agriculture, energy, and food sectors are poised for steady growth. At the same time, the manufacturing sector contends with weak domestic and global demand as firms contend with uncertain trade environments and increasingly complex supply chains.
People	A-	Meeting	The GRA is projected to reach a record high of 293,000 residents in 2025, boosting the local labour and consumer markets, and indicating vibrant economic and social vitality. The GRA remains the leading destination for newcomers to Saskatchewan, but efforts to address retention challenges are needed to ensure newcomers put down roots in the region.
New Markets and Sectors	B	Meeting	With major new capital investments, the GRA is signaling new market growth in agriculture, renewable and nuclear energy, biomass, and creative industries. That said, realizing the full economic impact depends on successful integration, promotion, and diversified support.
Overall Grade	B	Meeting	The GRA's economic forecast for 2025 is mixed, but positive, underpinned by strong population growth, stable housing market, and promising employment prospects. On the other side of the coin a labour market skills mismatch persists in the GRA, making a focus on newcomer retention, and adapting to global challenges crucial to sustaining momentum. Businesses also must content with trade uncertainty, making efforts to diversify international markets more important than ever. Other potential positives like further interest rates cuts, should boost business and consumer confidence and investment.

Economic Indicators

GDP Growth: A

Saskatchewan is forecast to lead Canada in economic growth in 2025, with real GDP expected to rise by 2.7% – well above the national average of 1.5%. This marks a solid rebound after a slower year in 2024 when growth was just 0.9%. Agriculture remains the backbone of Saskatchewan's economy, and that is especially good news for the Greater Regina Area (GRA) where primary agriculture and agribusiness are deeply intertwined with local economic performance. Out of 13 census metropolitan areas (CMA) in Canada, the GRA is set to have the second highest growth in real GDP (2.5%).

Saskatchewan, and the GRA, still face challenges, including volatile commodity prices, the impacts of climate change, workforce skills mismatch, and high interest rates. Furthermore, shifting trade dynamics and policies in the United States, Saskatchewan's largest trading partner, could pose risks. That said, Saskatchewan may be more insulated than other provinces from the impacts of this uncertainty as most of the province's key exports – particularly in agriculture – have potential alternative markets, helping to steady demand.

Employment: B

The Greater Regina Area (GRA) is seeing steady employment growth, with jobs expected to rise by 1.7% in 2025 – slightly down from 1.9% in 2024. The good news? The unemployment rate is improving, dropping to 5.3% from last year's 6.2%.

But not all is smooth sailing. Many employers are still struggling to find workers with the right skills, leading to a growing mismatch between job openings and available talent. This gap is more than just a hiring headache – it costs the local economy over \$650M a year. Bridging this gap will be key to keeping the GRA's economy moving forward, ensuring local businesses and workers can grow together.

Housing Market: B

In 2025, the GRA's housing market is expected to rise 9% in average sale prices, reaching around \$423,247 by Q4 2025. This increase reflects a broader trend of market recovery and price appreciation in some of Canada's CMAs. First-time homebuyers and recent newcomers continue to drive the demand for single-detached homes. The Bank of Canada's move to cut interest rates could further boost demand by making borrowing more affordable. However, a slowdown in immigration may in turn ease pressure on housing demand. At the same time, uncertainty around U.S. tariffs could impact economic confidence, adding a layer of complexity for both buyers and developers.

Migration and Immigration: A-

As of January 1, 2025, Saskatchewan's population was estimated at 1,250,909 – an increase of 24,061 over 2024. While a significant gain, this also indicates a slower pace from previous years. Much of the province's recent population growth has been fueled by interprovincial migration and international immigration, contributing to a strong labour market and expanding consumer base. However, while interprovincial migration is set to continue, and even escalate due to the GRA's and Saskatchewan's nation-leading metrics (e.g. unemployment rates and cost of living), a sharp decline in international immigration is anticipated, and will be noticeable, given the changes to federal government quotas.

The GRA continues to grow steadily and is projected to become home to a population of 293,000 in 2025. However, recent alterations in federal immigration policies, including cuts to immigration targets could begin to shift these trends. If sustained, these reductions may have knock-on effects, notably dampening future growth as well as potentially affecting issues as wide ranging as workforce availability and housing demand. Even so, Saskatchewan's affordability, job opportunities, and quality of life remain attractive to newcomers from across Canada and beyond.

Key Sectors: B- (Overall)

In 2025, growth among key sectors is expected to slow due to the ongoing trade disruptions between Canada and the U.S. If the uncertainties around trade with Canada's largest trading partner persist, they could wipe out economic gains the GRA has made since the COVID 19 pandemic.

Agriculture: B+

Agriculture is set to maintain positive momentum in 2025, backed by federal and provincial investments. However, ongoing U.S. tariffs, price volatility, and supply chain disruptions pose significant challenges. Stakeholders are increasingly focused on innovation and strategic responses to ensure resilience and sustained growth amid a shifting global trade landscape.

Energy: C+

Rising oil prices and drilling activity are expected to sustain energy sector growth in 2025, though trade uncertainties have paused some regional renewable energy projects. This could potentially impact jobs and GDP. While strategic investments and innovation bolster long-term prospects, geopolitical tensions and shifting regulations present ongoing risks to the sector's stability and development.

Food: B

The food sector is projected to see steady growth in 2025, fueled by strong consumer demand and investments in value-added production. However, as with other sectors, U.S. trade policies and lingering supply chain disruptions present real and potential challenges. This is leading to industry players turning to technology and new market opportunities to adapt and sustain growth in a complex trade environment.

Manufacturing: C

The manufacturing sector faces ongoing struggles, worsened by persistent trade tensions with the U.S. A slowdown in activity is broadly expected in 2025, with job losses projected. Uncertainty around tariffs and cross-border trade continues to challenge the sector, raising concerns about long-term competitiveness and economic stability alongside long-standing issues with regards to supply chain complexity, a desire to but challenge to speed up new market exploration and other issues.

New Markets and Sectors: B

The GRA is attracting major investment in agricultural processing, led by Cargill's construction of a new \$350M canola crush plant in Regina. Located at the Global Transportation Hub, the facility surpassed its 50% completion milestone in July 2024 and is expected to be operational by the end of 2025, processing 1M metric tons of canola annually. When operating, the plant is anticipated to create around 70 full time jobs.

While Cargill's project represents a major step forward for the region's agricultural sector, not all planned developments are progressing. Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) has postponed its proposed canola crush plant and renewable diesel facility in North Regina due to regulatory and political uncertainty, shifting low carbon policy, and rising costs – factors bringing the project to a pause for now.

These developments highlight both the promise and the challenges of expanding into new agri-value and renewable energy markets in Saskatchewan.

Overall Grade: B

Overall, the GRA's economic forecast for 2025 is positive, with strong performance in real GDP growth and consumption, migration, a strong housing market, and promising new markets and sectors. While projected GDP growth may slow by due to ongoing U.S. trade disruptions, GDP growth in the GRA (2.5%) is expected to outpace Canada (1.5%) and follow Saskatchewan (2.7%). Overall, the GRA will see higher growth alongside expected key sector investments to drive this growth.

Amongst its challenges, the GRA's ability to close the growing skills gap will play a key role in keeping its economy on track, especially as new U.S. tariffs loom. The proposed tariffs are expected to hit global markets hard and could slow the fragile recovery underway after the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, having the right talent in the right place is more crucial than ever. Job growth remains moderate, but recent data from Statistics Canada shows a decline in manufacturing jobs, highlighting a labour market shift. Addressing the mismatch of available jobs and worker skills is paramount to both maintaining the GRA's economic momentum as well as weathering known and unknown economic headwinds the region might face ahead.

Unemployment in the GRA averaged 6.2% in 2024 but is on track to fall to 5.3% by the end of 2025 – a further sign of a strong job market. Consumer spending is on the rise, thanks in part to the GRA's lower cost of living compared to many other communities across Canada. Inflation has eased and prices are expected to dip even further with the federal consumer carbon tax now removed. The Bank of Canada is also likely to keep trimming interest rates, giving households and businesses more economic power. However, rising trade tensions with the U.S. could jolt inflation up, while dampening business confidence and, possibly, cooling private sector investment in the near future.

Globally, challenges like rising trade tensions, geopolitical unrest, and slowing demand will weigh on economic growth, but the GRA may be better positioned than most to weather the current times.

Thanks to its diverse economy, strategic location, and smaller size, the region is more agile and resilient. A tight labour market and strong competition for talent reflect ongoing economic momentum. These are all positive elements, but to maintain – or even grow – in today's uncertain global landscape, the GRA must stay ahead of the curve with smart planning and nimble responses to external factors.

