

REGINA'S ECONOMIC BRIEF

GRA remains strong despite tariffs

As tariff impacts begin to surface across Canada, Regina continues to perform well. Inflation in the GRA reduced to 2.0% in May (April 2025: 2.1%) , while year-over-year employment grew by 3.5% in May over the same period, adding 5,100 jobs – particularly in agriculture, construction, retail, and transportation. Unemployment also declined, dropping to 4.7% in May 2025 from 6.9% a year earlier. However, manufacturing sales saw a 20.6% year-over-year decline in April, reflecting the growing effects of tariffs.

Source: Praxis Consulting (Unadjusted)

Job growth strengthens

The GRA added 5,100 jobs in May 2025 – a 3.5% increase from May 2024 – that's enough to fill 54 Regina Transit buses, or nearly 45% of the city's entire 120-bus fleet. Province-wide, Saskatchewan led the country in job growth, adding 16,300 jobs (up 3.6%), compared to a national increase of 265,800 jobs (1.4%) over the same period.

Source: Statistics Canada

Unemployment shrinks

In May 2025, the GRA's average year-over-year unemployment rate dropped to 4.7% from 6.9% in May 2024. Saskatchewan continued to lead Canada with the lowest provincial unemployment rate at 4.2%, well below the national average of 7.0%.

Source: Statistics Canada

Bank of Canada remains cautious, holds rate

The Bank of Canada held its policy rate at 2.75% in June 2025. Despite economic uncertainty, industries are accelerating activity to offset expected tariff-related costs.

Source: Bank of Canada

Rental prices hold

Regina's average 1-bedroom apartment rental in May 2025 held at \$1,230, nearly unchanged year-over-year from May 2024 (\$1,263). The average apartment monthly rental cost in May 2025 fell to \$1,442 (1% drop) keeping Regina as the most affordable rental market in the 25 cities compared.

Source: Rentals.ca

Manufacturing plummets

Manufacturing sales in the GRA fell 20.6% between April 2024 (\$701M) and April 2025 (to \$557M). After months of uncertainty, the impacts of U.S. tariffs are now being felt nationwide, with Canadian manufacturers experiencing the largest monthly drop in sales since October 2023.

Source: Statistics Canada

GRA's inflation continues to ease

Inflation in the GRA was 2.0% in May 2025, slightly down from 2.1% in April 2025. Saskatchewan and Canada's rates were 1.6% and 1.7% respectively. Inflation has continued to shrink thanks to forces such as low gasoline and transportation prices.

Source: Statistics Canada

KEY NUMBERS

6.5%

YEAR-OVER-YEAR RISE IN HOUSING PRICES IN THE GRA. REGINA'S AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE IN MAY WAS \$340,800.

Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

\$7.1B

CANADA'S TRADE DEFICIT WIDENED TO \$7.1B, THE LOWEST MONTH SINCE OCTOBER 2023.

Source: Conference Board of Canada

2.0%

GRA'S INFLATION RATE FOR MAY 2025, HIGHER THAN SASKATCHEWAN (1.6%) AND CANADA (1.7%).

Source: Statistics Canada

2.5%

EXPECTED REAL GDP GROWTH RATE FOR REGINA, WELL OVER THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 1.5%.

Source: Conference Board of Canada

2.75%

BANK OF CANADA'S LENDING RATE AFTER RATES HELD AGAIN IN JUNE 2025.

Source: Bank of Canada



POSITIVE

NEED TO WATCH

NEGATIVE

A DEEPER LOOK...

EDR's Forecast: Regina's economy set to outpace Canada in 2025

The GRA is poised for a strong economic year in 2025. With real GDP expected to grow by 2.5%, the region could be one of Canada's fastest-growing urban economies, second among the country's 13 largest cities. The GRA could outpace the national average (1.5%), a sharp rebound from 2024 (0.8%) (Conference Board of Canada).

One of the GRA's key sectors is agriculture, bolstered by major investments like Cargill's \$350M canola crush plant in west Regina. The facility, now over half complete, is set to open by late 2025, creating 70 full time jobs. Meanwhile, Federated Co-operatives Limited has paused its planned canola crush and renewable diesel facility in North Regina, citing regulatory uncertainty and rising costs.

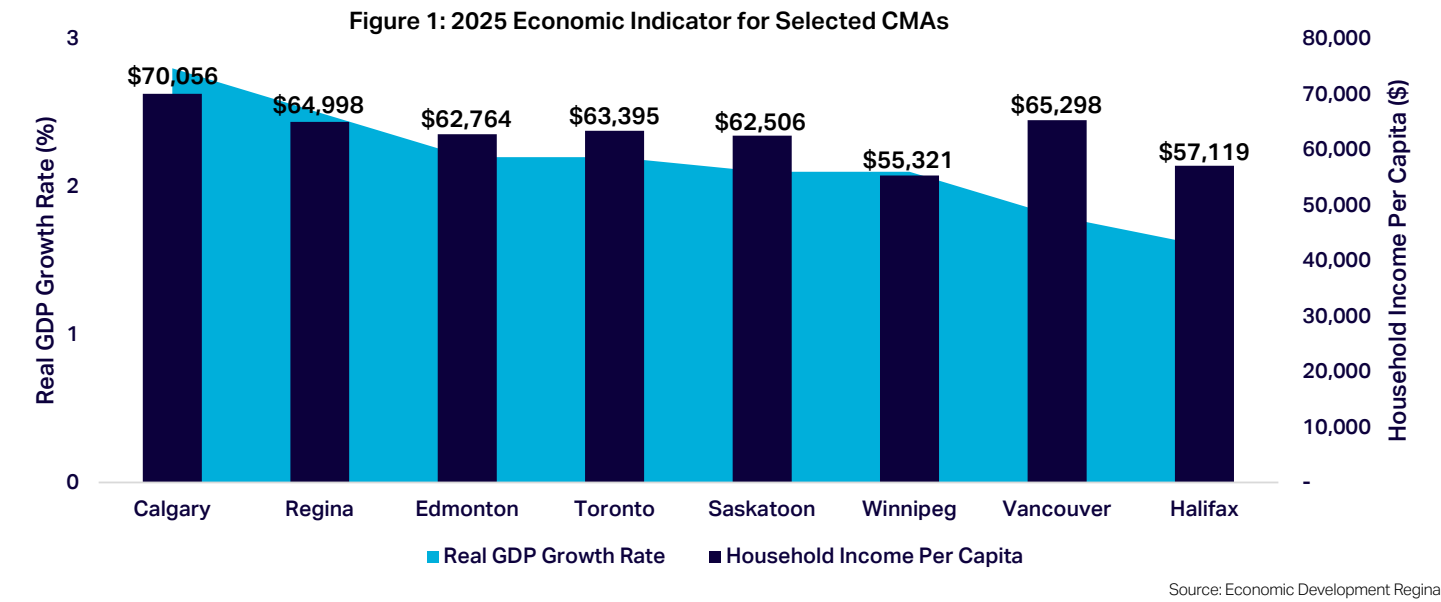
In 2025, employment is set to rise by 1.7% with the unemployment rate projected to drop to 5.3%. Manufacturing continues to be impacted by high interest rates and U.S. tariffs, and a growing skills mismatch is costing the local economy more than \$650M annually.

The GRA's housing market is on the upswing, with average prices predicted to rise 9% by late 2025. First-time buyers and new Canadians remain key drivers, although recent federal cuts to immigration targets could soften demand.

The OECD now forecasts Canada's GDP growth to slow significantly (declining from 1.5% in 2024 to just 1% in 2025). This cooling is largely tied to ongoing global trade tensions, particularly with the U.S., which are creating ripple effects across multiple sectors and eroding business confidence.

A key theme throughout 2025, trade with the U.S. and rising global uncertainty loom large, but the GRA's resilience, fueled by affordability, innovation, economic diversity, and a tight labour market, will keep it well-positioned to grow.

For more, see [EDR's Forecast Report Card for the GRA Economy: 2025](#).



News Worth Watching

Steelworkers union says incoming tariff doubling will be devastating

The 25% levy on steel and aluminum, imposed in March, was doubled to 50% on June 4, 2025.

Source: [CBC News](#)

Trade balance slumps to an all-time low

Canada's merchandise trade deficit widened from \$2.3B in March to \$7.1B in April – the largest deficit on record.

Source: [Conference Board of Canada](#)

Home sales up 3.6% in May after 'delayed' peak season start: CREA

National home sales rose 3.6% in May, with new listings up 3.1%, as activity continued to pick up across major markets.

Source: [Global News](#)

FCC announces \$2B to boost ag and food innovation via new investment arm

FCC is committing \$2B to agri-food innovation by 2030 through its new investment arm, FCC Capital.

Source: [FCC](#)

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