

Business Plan

2026-27

Ministry of Trade and Export Development

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Warren Kaeding
Minister of Trade and Export Development*

It is my pleasure to present the Ministry of Trade and Export Development's Business Plan for 2026-27.

Saskatchewan's economy continues to demonstrate strength, resilience and momentum in a rapidly changing global environment. The 2026-27 Business Plan reflects our government's commitment to expanding trade, attracting investment and positioning the province for long-term prosperity while delivering real benefits for the people who live and work here.

Recent economic performance showcases our strong foundation. In 2024, Saskatchewan's real GDP reached an all-time high of \$83.6 billion, growing by 3.1 per cent, the second highest rate in Canada and well above the national average. Private capital investment rose by 12 per cent to \$13.6 billion, ranking 1st among provinces, with investment projected to remain flat in 2026 at \$13.6 billion, a marginal increase of 0.03 per cent. If realized, this would mark the highest value in the last 10 years. This level of growth and confidence matters. It allows our government to continue investing in priorities that strengthen communities, including health care professionals, critical infrastructure and public services.

In an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, diversification of markets remains essential. Through our international trade and investment offices, trade missions, diplomatic engagement, work on internal and international trade agreements, and participation in global investment forums, we are supporting Saskatchewan businesses to connect with new opportunities while bolstering government-to-government relationships in new and established markets. These efforts help businesses manage risk, remain competitive, and reach customers around the world.

We are also focused on supporting businesses to grow opportunities within Canada. We are working with the federal government and other provinces and territories to reduce barriers and expand trade within the country.

We offer a compelling advantage for investors and trading partners. Our province has a global reputation for producing the food, fuel, fertilizer and critical minerals the world needs. With a population of 1.2 million and growing, we offer a competitive business environment, supported by low tax and utility rates, ongoing regulatory modernization and a suite of incentives.

In 2026-27, the Ministry of Trade and Export Development will continue to foster competitiveness, support business growth, and attract investment that creates jobs and opportunities. Our focus remains on building a resilient, diversified and innovative economy that delivers lasting benefits for Saskatchewan people.

2026-27 Budget Highlights

1	Continued support for direct flights to Minneapolis and Denver through minimum revenue guarantees with both the Regina and Saskatoon airport authorities. These flights expand the province's connectivity to major U.S. travel hubs.
2	Advance internal trade efforts through the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) alongside its federal, provincial and territorial counterparts.
3	Ongoing support for the Saskatchewan Young Entrepreneur Bursary, which provides a \$5,000 bursary to 57 recipients from 48 communities to support the development and long-term success of Saskatchewan entrepreneurs.
4	The Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Investment Tax Credit, which provides a 45 per cent non-refundable tax credit for individuals or corporations who invest in the equity of an eligible Saskatchewan small and medium-sized enterprise.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan’s Vision

“...to be the best place in Canada—to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.”

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan’s vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2026-27 Annual Reports.

Ministry of Trade and Export Development Overview

Overview

Guided by the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan*, the Ministry of Trade and Export Development advances a strong and sustainable economy to build a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people. The ministry leads international engagement and coordinates a cross-government approach to grow trade and investment, diversify international markets, increase Indigenous participation, and add value to the economy.

Mission

Lead international engagement, enable a competitive business environment, advance economic reconciliation, and provide exceptional service to businesses to grow exports, investment, manufacturing, and a sustainable economy.

Goal 1: Grow the value of Saskatchewan's exports and investment

Exports represent about 70 per cent of Saskatchewan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Given the province's export intensive nature, growth in the provincial economy requires expansion of exports and new investment. The Government of Saskatchewan will continue to ensure its export industries are competitive, diversified, and resilient.

The ministry sets the stage for future investment and supports growth through a competitive business environment, strong suite of business incentives, low tax and utility rates, a transparent and predictable regulatory environment, and a network of nine international trade and investment offices that connect Saskatchewan to the world. The ministry will continue to advance growth by engaging with key stakeholders, working across government to provide seamless service, and partnering with the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP) to promote opportunities for Saskatchewan exporters.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Promote Saskatchewan as a preferred global partner.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Enhance the province's global presence through our network of international trade and investment offices.
- Lead Saskatchewan's international engagement through incoming visits and outgoing missions to position Saskatchewan as a preferred global partner.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Work with partners to increase the value of exports.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Expand Saskatchewan exports through strategic partnerships and funding of STEP.
- Advance the province's priorities in international trade agreements to open new markets and reduce barriers to trade.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Advance *Securing the Next Decade of Growth: Saskatchewan's Investment Attraction Strategy* to grow investment.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Provide responsive and coordinated services to current and potential buyers and investors by offering pathfinding support and facilitating strategic connections.
- Attract investment for Saskatchewan's new and emerging sectors.

- Grow investment in existing sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, mining and energy.
- Provide a strong suite of incentives that make it easier for businesses to operate and expand in the province.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Value of Exports from Saskatchewan

- Increase the total value of exports by 50 per cent by 2030.

Manufacturing Exports from Saskatchewan

- Increase the value of manufacturing exports by 50 per cent by 2030.

Private Capital Investment

- Maintain private capital investment level at \$16 billion annually.

Goal 2: Support economic reconciliation for Indigenous People of Saskatchewan

Economic reconciliation is a key priority for the Government of Saskatchewan. Indigenous people contribute significantly to the province's natural resources sector, through ownership, employment and procurement. The ministry will continue to advance opportunities for Indigenous participation in the economy through natural resource industry and business growth.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Connect Indigenous communities and businesses to economic opportunities.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Facilitate and support connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses, investors, organizations and communities to support the development of mutually beneficial relationships.
- Educate industry partners to prioritize Indigenous businesses in supply chain, procurement and partnership opportunities.
- Build sustainable, trust-based relationships with Indigenous communities and businesses through pathfinding and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Increase Indigenous participation in the economy.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Increase Indigenous ownership by providing loan guarantees, through the Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation, to Indigenous communities and entities for equity investment in eligible natural resources, value-added agriculture, and related infrastructure projects.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Indigenous Participation

- Increase Indigenous employment in Saskatchewan's natural resource industries.

Goal 3: Saskatchewan is the preferred place for business

Making Saskatchewan one of the best places in the world to do business will continue to be a key priority for the ministry. The province continues to foster competitiveness by reducing red tape and regulatory barriers while delivering effective and targeted programs for growth. The ministry coordinates economic development and policy initiatives across governments to ensure Saskatchewan is a great place to invest and grow a business.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Reduce regulatory barriers for businesses.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Reduce government red tape to foster a more dynamic, responsive business environment.
- Reduce interprovincial trade barriers to increase trade within Canada.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Analyze and coordinate policy implications across export, investment and trade domains.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support the province's export environment by monitoring data and trends.
- Enhance interprovincial coordination to reduce trade barriers and improve the efficiency of internal markets.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Red Tape Cost Savings

- Regulatory cost savings of \$10 to \$20 million annually.

Red Tape Issues Identified

- Number of actionable red tape items reviewed through the red tape review process and the Help Cut Red Tape webpage.

Red Tape Reduction Awareness

- Number of visits to the Help Cut Red Tape website.

Goal 4: Connect Saskatchewan to the world

The ministry works to strengthen international relationships to ensure businesses consider investing, scaling up or buying from Saskatchewan. Trade and Export Development will tell Saskatchewan's story, increase global awareness of economic advantages, and promote the quality and sustainability of Saskatchewan's products around the world. By participating in strategic international events, initiatives and operating the network of nine international trade and investment offices, the ministry ensures that Saskatchewan is a key part of Canada's global value proposition.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Share Saskatchewan's story around the world.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Implement an international marketing campaign promoting Saskatchewan's primary economic sectors in key markets around the world.
- Share Saskatchewan's story as an essential provider of sustainable food and energy security through a national Sustainable Saskatchewan marketing campaign.
- Share the Saskatchewan Advantage on InvestSK.ca, SustainableSK.ca and through the ministry's social media channels.
- Provide central coordination of diplomatic and commercial visits to Saskatchewan to foster relationships and strategic alliances.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Marketing Campaign

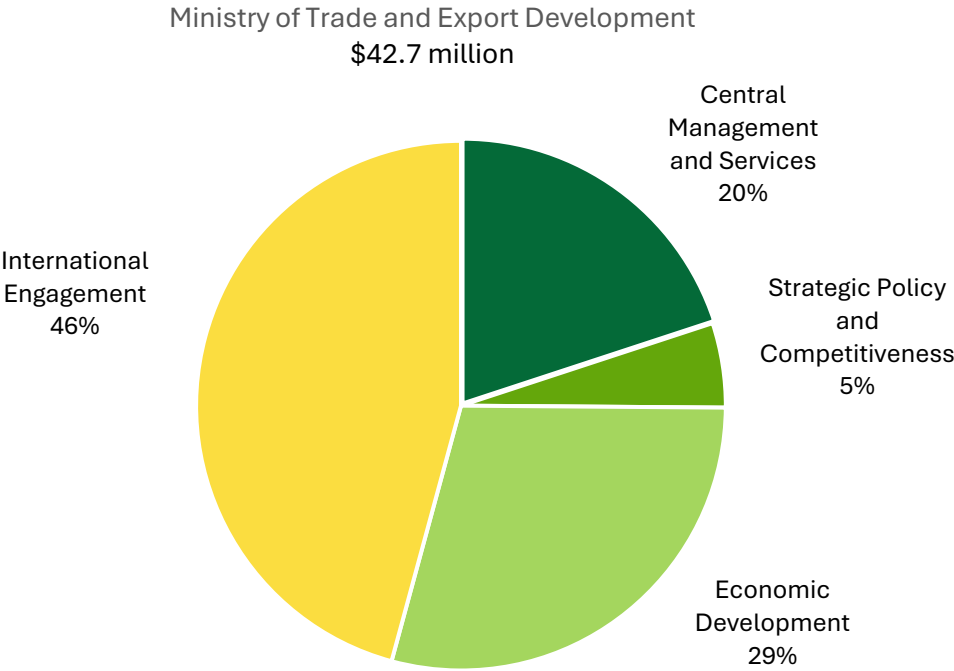
- Success will be determined through a variety of metrics such as website visits, pageviews, clickthrough and engagement scores, as well as growth across social media channels.

2026-27 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>Internal Trade and Promotion</p> <p>With the introduction of the <i>Saskatchewan Internal Trade and Promotion Act</i>, Saskatchewan will be able to support implementation of the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the sale of goods. This agreement reduces barriers to trade within Canada by allowing goods that meet regulatory requirements in one jurisdiction to be sold in another without the need for additional provincial approvals. This means Canadian businesses won't need to go through unnecessary approval processes, saving them time, effort and reducing red tape. It will also improve market access for businesses and bolster the economy.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>International Engagement Driving Trade Diversification</p> <p>Saskatchewan continues to strengthen ties with important markets including China and India. Although trade agreements occur at the federal level, the province's international engagement and advocacy efforts at the sub national level have contributed to the resolution of trade challenges for the benefit of all of Canada. An example of demonstrating this leadership on behalf of Canada is Saskatchewan being selected to host the next Western Canada-India Leaders' Summit in May 2026. The event will involve government and industry leader discussions on renewed Canada-India relations, highlighting the province's commitment to sustained engagement, growth in trade opportunities, investment and market access, ensuring food and energy security across the globe.</p> <p>With Canada-India negotiations toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement underway, the summit will reinforce Saskatchewan as a secure, sustainable partner and promote sector growth through new and strengthened relationships, advancing practical pathways for collaboration.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Regulatory Modernization and Red Tape Reduction</p> <p>The ministry will lead the next phase of Saskatchewan's regulatory modernization by coordinating cross-government efforts to improve implementation of legislation, regulation, policies and permitting processes. This work will reduce administrative burden and improve service delivery while increasing the predictability and transparency of regulatory pathways that support investment and economic growth.</p>

Financial Summary

Ministry of Trade and Export Development 2026-27 Estimates	
(\$42.7 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$8,585
Strategic Policy and Competitiveness	\$2,208
Economic Development	\$12,350
International Engagement	\$19,477
Total Appropriation	\$42,620
Plus: Capital Asset Amortization	\$120
Total Expense	\$42,740



Links to more information

- [Ministry of Trade and Export Development](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)