

The Changing Economy and Demography of Saskatchewan and its Impact on Crime and Policing

Phase I Report: Overview of Demographic, Economic, Crime and Policing Trends in Saskatchewan



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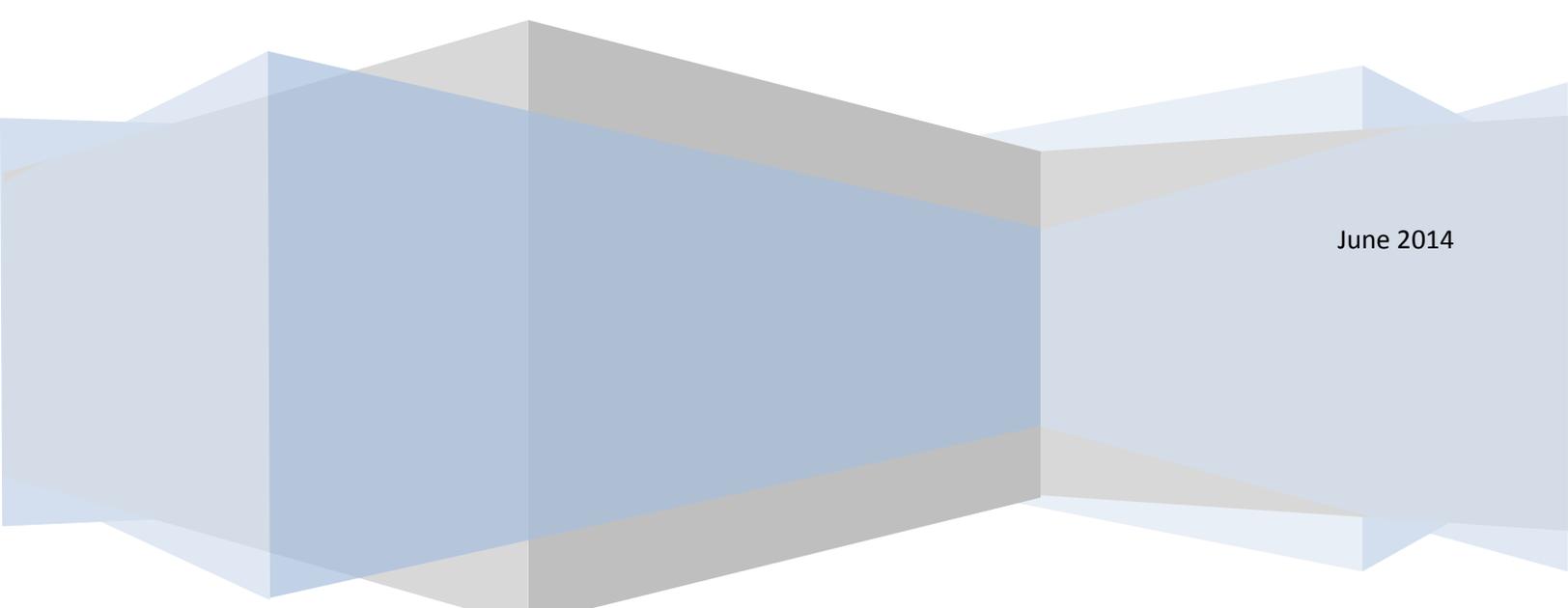
Research Collaboration Project between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the University of Regina's Collaborative Centre for Justice and Safety

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Executive Summary

This report is the first preliminary report of a larger research project. This larger research project aims to examine the socio-economic determinants of crime, identify how economic and demographic changes in Saskatchewan and its cities have influenced changes in crime rates, and to speculate how crime rates might evolve with continued resource development and the expansion of the Saskatchewan economy. This project will also attempt to identify reactive and proactive responses of police forces in the province to the changing economic, demographic, and crime patterns they face.

This first preliminary report provides an overview of the economic and demographic changes that have occurred over the last two decades in Saskatchewan and its ten major cities, and the coinciding changes in policing and crime rates.

The Saskatchewan economy shifted into a higher gear around 2006, after two decades of slow population and economic growth, and rising crime rates. The Saskatchewan economy has recently benefitted from:

- Rising commodity prices
- An export boom
- Increased resource exploration and development
- An investment and construction boom
- Increased international immigration flows
- Substantial net interprovincial in-migration

Saskatchewan residents are more prosperous and poverty rates have declined. Median family income in Saskatchewan has grown at an average annual rate of 3.7% from 2006 to 2011, in real terms after accounting for inflation, much higher than the 1.1% annual growth in the preceding five years. The prevalence of poverty, as measured by the proportion of individuals living in low-income households, declined from 17.8% in 2005, to 11.3% in 2011, falling below the rates for Manitoba and the country as a whole.

Saskatchewan has experienced substantial reductions in rates of violent crime and of property crime while economic conditions in the province improved:

- The rate of violent crime in Saskatchewan fell by 30% from 2003 to 2012
- The rate of property crime fell by 32% from 2003 to 2012

However, even with these improvements, crime rates in Saskatchewan are the highest among the Prairie Provinces:

- Rates of total violent crime, and of total property crime, 2012 (number of incidents per 100,000 residents)
 - 2,201 and 6,190 in Saskatchewan
 - 2,041 and 4,872 in Manitoba
 - 1,382 and 4,294 in Alberta
 - 1,190 and 3,414 in Canada

Violent crime rates in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are higher than the rates for Alberta and Canada. Saskatchewan and Manitoba have populations with lower rates of post-secondary completion and with higher proportions of aboriginal peoples than Alberta and Canada. Saskatchewan and Manitoba also have populations with lower median household incomes and with higher rates of poverty than Alberta. These demographic and economic characteristics may be linked to crime rates.

Rates of violent and property crime in Saskatoon and Regina have been identified as the highest of all of the census metropolitan areas in Canada. And crime rates are much higher in some of the other major cities in Saskatchewan. North Battleford, Prince Albert, Yorkton and Lloydminster have elevated rates of violent and property crime, much higher than those in Saskatoon and Regina:

- Average rates of total violent and total property crime, 2006-2011
 - 6,358 and 21,618 in North Battleford
 - 3,011 and 9,461 in Prince Albert
 - 2,986 and 11,657 in Yorkton
 - 2,834 and 9,888 in Lloydminster
 - 2,091 and 6,764 in Saskatoon
 - 1,779 and 7,063 in Regina

Since the 2009 world recession and the resumption of the economic boom, Saskatchewan has also been dealing with a surge in drug-related offenses, from 287 offenses per 100,000 residents, to 564 in 2012. Rates in Manitoba, Alberta, and Canada as a whole have been stable, and were 260, 303, and 314 in 2012 respectively.

Several Saskatchewan cities were dealing with particularly high rates of drug-related offenses in 2012, when compared to the largest cities in the province:

- Drug-related offenses per 100,000 residents, 2012
 - 2,562 in North Battleford
 - 1,595 in Yorkton
 - 1,475 in Swift Current
 - 1,110 in Estevan
 - 837 in Lloydminster
 - 447 in Regina
 - 257 in Saskatoon

Three of the high-crime cities in Saskatchewan, North Battleford, Prince Albert, and Yorkton, all have:

- low median household incomes
- high rates of poverty
- high proportions of aboriginal peoples with the associated characteristics of
 - youthfulness
 - low levels of formal education
 - low household income
 - high rates of unemployment
 - high rates of poverty

Lloydminster and Estevan both have rates of violent crime and drug-related offenses that are higher than the provincial rates and share the characteristics of:

- fast population growth
- high median household incomes

We have been able to loosely identify some common demographic and economic characteristics of provinces and cities with high crime rates in this preliminary report. Subsequent work will: provide a comprehensive survey of the literature focusing on the demographic and economic links to crime; develop an empirical model that will examine and characterize these links and how they evolve over time; and speculate how crime rates may evolve with continued resource development and the expansion of the Saskatchewan economy, to assist policy-makers and police forces plan for the future.

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1 Introduction

After two decades of slow economic growth, Saskatchewan shifted into a higher gear in 2006 and has been experiencing an economic renaissance driven by investment and resource development. Annual growth in production (GDP) rose from 5.1% over 1996-2006, to 7.5% over 2006-2011. Attracted by increased employment opportunities, the Saskatchewan population has also changed dramatically. Saskatchewan has become a province of net interprovincial in-migration, and immigration flows to the province have increased from hundreds to thousands annually. As a result, annual population growth rose from close to nil over 1996-2006, to 1.3% from 2006 to 2011. Families have benefitted from this economic boom as median family income grew at an average annual rate of 3.7% in real terms (after inflation) over 2006-2011, while it grew only 1.1% per year over 2001-06. In comparison, the rates of growth in median family real income in Canada, Manitoba, and Alberta from 2006 to 2011 were 0.3%, 1.5%, and 1.0% per year respectively.¹

Continued high growth is projected as world demand for Saskatchewan's resources is expected to grow strongly, and with large multinationals investing in resource development and extraction. Companies involved in oil and gas, coal, potash, uranium, and gold exploration and production are being joined by others exploring for base metals and rare earth elements. The Bakken oil shale deposit in the south-east is attracting investment and employment. Lloydminster is growing rapidly with oil sands development. Potash projects are expanding and developing in Jansen, and around Yorkton in the Foam Lake and Esterhazy regions.

Economic prosperity and demographic change have been experienced in cities and towns across the province. Estevan, a centre of oil and gas, coal and electricity generation, is a prime example. Estevan's population grew by 9.6% from 2006 to 2011, higher than the rate of population growth in Regina at 7.7%, and higher than the Canadian average of 5.9%. The increase of 1,085 people is attributed to a strong increase in the number of working-age males (an increase of 690 males aged 15 to 64) and females (410). Median income of individuals 15 years of age or older in Estevan grew from \$28,700 in 2005 to \$39,700 in 2010, while the median income in Regina rose from \$29,100 in 2005 to \$36,000 in 2010. Average rents for dwellings of most types approximately doubled in Estevan from 2005 to 2012. Monthly average rent of one bedroom units rose from \$470 to \$944 in Estevan, and from \$505 to \$830 in Regina. The pace of economic growth and its impact on population movements and housing costs appear to have been much faster in the smaller community of Estevan when compared to Regina.²

¹ Nominal GDP data are from Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 379-0025, population data are from the 2006 Census and the 2011 Census, and family income data are from Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 202-0410 (Survey of Consumer Finances).

² Median income data are from Statistics Canada, from the 2006 Census and the 2011 Census, and average rent data are from CANSIM Table 027-0040.

Rapid economic and demographic change can have various effects on crime and policing. Newcomers may have different behaviours and propensities to commit certain types of crimes, and policing efforts may face increased difficulties dealing with different populations (as an example, there may be significant language barriers for newcomers from abroad). Inequalities in employment, incomes, and housing may lead to increased property crimes. Improved employment outcomes of males may lead to reductions in certain types of crimes including domestic violence, but at the same time, may lead to increases in others, including auto theft.

Research investigating the demographic factors that influence crime have tended to concentrate on the youth, immigrant, aboriginal, and less-educated populations. The high rates of offenses among the youth population aged 15 to 24 years have suggested that changes in the age structure of the population can lead to substantial changes in crime rates (Messner 2000; Trevethan 2000; Pottie Bunge et al 2005; Kitchen 2007; Stevens et al 2011). Many US studies have examined the link between immigrant populations and crime, with some finding correlations between high proportions of immigrants and higher crime rates, and others finding no conclusive evidence (Butcher and Piehl 1998; Reid et al 2005; Kitchen 2007; Plecas et al n.d.). In Saskatchewan, the aboriginal population is over-represented among criminal offenders, in the corrections system, and as victims (Trevethan 2000; Kitchen 2007). And as offenders tend to have low levels of education, educational attainment is often cited as a link to crime rates (Trevethan 2000; Savoie 2008).

The economic factors that have been found to influence crime include unemployment and poverty. High unemployment rates and cyclical swings in economic performance have been found to influence crime rates (Cook and Zarkin 1985; Trevethan 2000; Raphael and Winter-Ebmer 2001; Savoie 2008). High prevalence of low income and poverty has also been linked to high rates of crime (Trevethan 2000; Kitchen 2007; Savoie 2008).

Canada has placed considerable effort and resources into policing and justice over the last decade, and has seen strong reductions in the incidence of criminal offenses. However, while crime severity indices have generally fallen in Canada and Saskatchewan over the years between 2006 and 2011, the crime severity index, the non-violent crime severity index, and the youth non-violent crime index have all fallen much more slowly in Saskatchewan than in Canada as a whole. Over this period, the number of police officers per 100,000 rose by 6.5% in Saskatchewan, and by 5.0% in Canada, and the number of criminal code incidents per police officer fell by 15.7% in Saskatchewan and by 24.3% in Canada.³ Saskatchewan communities, government, and business are facing many challenges in dealing with economic and population growth. So are its police forces.

Continuing with our Estevan and Regina comparative example, the number of total violent crime violations per 100,000 residents in Estevan doubled from 1,455 in 2005 to 3,035 in 2012, while the rate

³ Police data are from Statistics Canada, Tables 252-0052 and 254-0002.

in Regina fell from 2,113 in 2005 to 1,397 in 2012. Estevan has experienced a twenty percent increase in the rate of property crimes, while Regina has experienced a forty-five percent decline. These results appear to indicate that fast growth in Estevan has led to increasing crime rates, while the city of Regina has been able to accommodate moderate growth and a substantial decline in crime rates. How have their economic, demographic, and crime experiences differed? What are the similarities and differences in the economic, demographic, and policing and crime outcomes of the Prairie Provinces, and of the major cities in Saskatchewan?

This report is the first preliminary report of a larger research project. This larger research project aims to examine the socio-economic determinants of crime, identify how economic and demographic changes in Saskatchewan and its cities have influenced changes in crime rates, and to speculate how crime rates may evolve with continued resource development and the expansion of the Saskatchewan economy. This project will also attempt to identify reactive and proactive responses of police forces in the province to the changing economic, demographic, and crime patterns they face.

The objective of this first preliminary report is to provide a broad, yet simple, overview of the demographic, economic, policing, and crime trends in the province of Saskatchewan, and its ten major cities. Ongoing trends for Canada as a whole, and Saskatchewan's closest provincial neighbors, Manitoba and Alberta will also be examined for comparative purposes. This study will be limited to the period from 1995 to 2013, and will focus on data from the four Census surveys and other estimates compiled and made accessible by Statistics Canada.

The layout of this report continues as follows: Section 2 provides an overview of recent demographic and economic developments in Saskatchewan, with comparisons to Manitoba and Alberta, and to Canada as a whole; Section 3 presents the policing and crime trends in the three Prairie Provinces and the nation; Section 4 continues with a brief overview of demographic, economic and crime developments in each of the ten major cities in the province; Section 5 provides a summary of the major demographic, economic, and crime indicators for the provinces and cities, and suggests some of the common characteristics of regions with high crime rates; and Section 6 concludes this report with a prelude to subsequent work on this project.

2 The Recent Demographic and Economic Climate in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan is in the midst of an economic boom. Demand for Saskatchewan's abundant natural resources has led to heightened exploration and development in many regions of the province. Businesses have lured workers with increasingly attractive wages and salaries. Saskatchewan residents are seeing more incentives to stay in the province to build their careers, and are being joined by workers born in other provinces, and other countries. The climate in the province changed dramatically during the last decade, and the province and its cities are facing many opportunities, and challenges.

In this section, we examine recent demographic and economic changes in Saskatchewan. To keep our focus manageable, and due to data availability, we have limited our study to the period from 1995 to 2013, with an emphasis on the Census years of 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011. Most data are from the Census Surveys and the 2011 National Household Survey to maintain consistency and comparability, unless otherwise noted (Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2007, 2012, and 2013). An overview of recent population movements is used to provide context for a discussion of the booming Saskatchewan economy. Demographic change, improvements in household incomes, and the relative standing of aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan are then illustrated, before moving on to a description of policing and crime trends in Section 3.

2.1 Recent Population Movements

The population of Saskatchewan was estimated at 1,108,303 on July 1, 2013. Each year since 2009, population counts have been record-breaking for the province. The 1987 record of 1,032,799 residents held for over twenty years. This recent population growth is recognized as a tremendous achievement for the province, its residents, and its government. The population has grown rapidly since 2006, a net increase of 116,000 residents, which corresponds to an average annual growth rate of 1.6% to 2013. This rate of growth is second only to Alberta amongst the Canadian provinces, which grew at an average rate of 2.4% per year, a net increase of 603,700 residents from 2006 to 2013. The annual average growth rates for Canada as a whole, and for Manitoba, were 1.1% and 1.0% respectively over this period. This growth in the Saskatchewan population has been primarily driven by a combined net increase in international immigrants and non-permanent residents of 59,800, and supplemented by a net addition of 33,600 through natural increase (births less deaths), and by a net increase of 15,100 interprovincial in-migrants.

Over the previous ten-year period, from 1996 to 2006, Saskatchewan suffered population losses, with a net decrease of twenty-seven thousand residents, at an average annual growth rate of -0.3% per year. These losses were propelled by an exodus of workers. Saskatchewan had a net loss of 60,500 residents moving out of the province, an average annual rate of net interprovincial out-migration of 0.6% of the population. Losses in Saskatchewan were mitigated by net additions through the natural increase of 34,200, and net international immigration amounting to 8,600, during that ten-year period.

In contrast, the population of Canada grew at an annual average rate of 1.0%, Manitoba grew at a rate of 0.4% per year, and Alberta, the leader again in population growth amongst the provinces, grew at an annual rate of 2.1%. Saskatchewan population change data is presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Population Change Estimates for Saskatchewan, 1995-2013

Year	Mid-Year Population	Period	Natural Increase	Net International Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Resident Arrivals	Net Interprovincial Migrants
1996	1,018,945	1996/1997	4,228	615	108	(2,794)
1997	1,017,902	1997/1998	3,852	462	256	(1,940)
1998	1,017,332	1998/1999	3,826	509	389	(4,333)
1999	1,014,524	1999/2000	3,585	438	174	(7,947)
2000	1,007,565	2000/2001	3,083	475	217	(8,410)
2001	1,000,239	2001/2002	3,346	991	310	(8,820)
2002	996,816	2002/2003	2,914	782	310	(5,141)
2003	996,431	2003/2004	2,991	1,351	308	(4,521)
2004	997,312	2004/2005	3,087	1,594	295	(9,515)
2005	993,523	2005/2006	3,301	1,432	277	(7,083)
2006	992,302	2006/2007	3,530	2,886	229	1,549
2007	1,002,048	2007/2008	4,337	4,085	1,148	4,171
2008	1,017,346	2008/2009	4,886	5,719	2,296	2,983
2009	1,034,782	2009/2010	5,211	6,867	859	2,153
2010	1,051,425	2010/2011	5,045	7,347	656	545
2011	1,066,349	2011/2012	5,124	11,241	2,954	1,878
2012	1,087,546	2012/2013	5,428	9,603	3,911	1,815
2013	1,108,303	Period Sum 1996-2013:	67,774	56,397	14,697	(45,410)

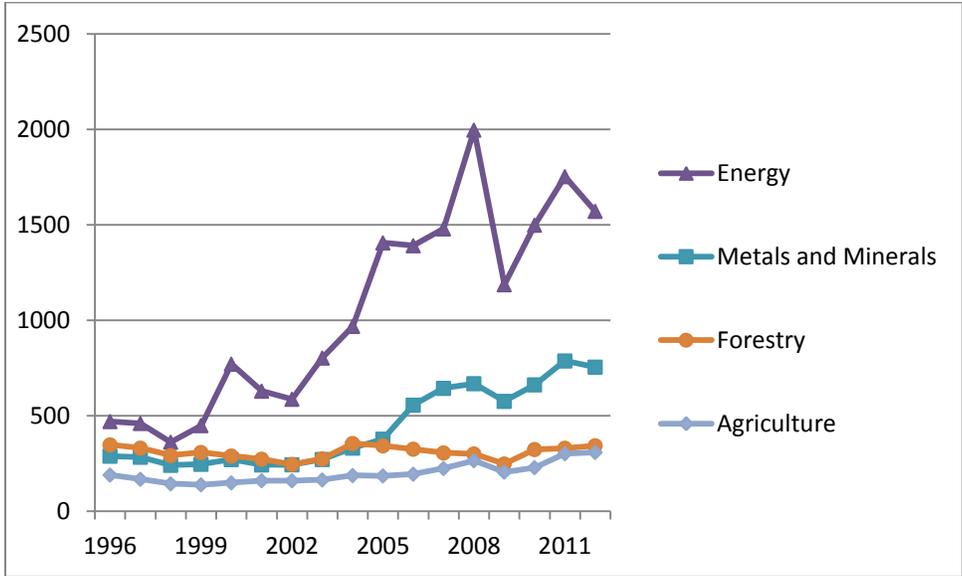
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Tables 051-0005 and 051-0004.

2.2 The Saskaboom

What caused this tremendous demographic reversal of fortune? The main reason appears to be the tremendous rise in resource prices driving an increase in the value of Saskatchewan exports, resource exploration and development, and an investment boom in the province. The Bank of Canada produces a set of commodity price indices for 24 commodities in the energy, metals and minerals, forestry, agriculture, and fisheries sectors. These 24 commodities are those produced in Canada, and sold on international commodity markets. The indices track spot prices in US dollars. These indices are used to construct the Bank of Canada Commodity Price Index (BCPI). **Figure 1** shows the price indices from

1996 to 2012 for four sectors of concern to Saskatchewan (the fisheries index was excluded). The figure illustrates the dramatic rise in energy prices, the strong growth in metals and minerals prices, and the increase in agricultural prices, from 2002 to 2008. The energy price index grew at an average annual rate of 23%, while the metals and minerals price index grew 18% per year, and the agriculture price index grew 9% per year, over the 2002-2008 period. Growth in commodity prices recovered following the 2009 world recession. Energy commodities were 1.7 times more valuable, metals and minerals were 2.1 times more valuable, and agriculture commodities were 0.9 times more valuable in 2012 than in 2002, in US dollars.

Figure 1: Bank of Canada Commodity Price Indices, 1996-2012



Source: Bank of Canada, Commodity Price Indices, <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/price-indexes/bcpi/commodity-price-index-annual>, accessed November 18, 2013.

Saskatchewan benefitted from these commodity price hikes with an increased value of sales outside its borders. The growth in the value of exports rose from \$35 billion in 2007 to \$52 billion in 2012, an average annual growth rate of 8.2%, faster than the average annual growth rate of 5.9% from 1996 to 2006. The value of imports grew as well, but at a rate slower than that of exports (6.0% per year from 2007 to 2012), and this caused the ratio of net exports (exports less imports) to rise from an average of 2.5% of GDP over 1996 to 2006, to an average of 10.6% of GDP from 2007 to 2012.⁴

⁴ Components of GDP data are from Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 384-0002 for 1996-2006, and Table 384-0038 for 2007-2012.

The growth in the value of building permits in the province shifted into a higher gear starting in 2005, growing 18% over the value in 2004, from \$770 million to \$906 million. From 2004 to 2008, before the recession, the value of building permits grew to \$2.2 billion, at an average annual growth rate of 30%. Following a drop in 2009, the value of permits increased to \$3.3 billion by 2012.⁵

Along with the increase in building permits, increased rates of investment soon followed. The rate of investment rose from 19% of GDP in 2004, to 21% in 2005, and then to 23% in 2006. The rate of investment continued climbing to an average of 26% of GDP from 2007 to 2012. This rate of investment was second-highest amongst the provinces, behind Alberta with an average rate of 32% of GDP from 2007 to 2012. The Canadian average rate was 23%.

Personal consumption, another component of provincial GDP, also grew faster during the 2007 to 2012 period, at 5.5% per year, versus an average annual growth rate of 4.3% over 1996-2006. However, since growth in other components of GDP (specifically investment and net exports) grew much faster, the share of personal consumption in GDP fell from an average of 54% from 1996 to 2006, to 43% from 2007 to 2012. The share of government spending on goods and services decreased less dramatically, from an average of 21% of GDP over the 1996-2006 period, to an average of 19% from 2007 to 2012. Thus, Saskatchewan has indeed been experiencing a tremendous export- and investment-led boom since 2006.

The number of employed workers in the province grew from 455,000 in 1996 to 492,000 in 2006, an annual average growth rate of 0.8%. Under the recent climate of improved prosperity, the number of employed workers has grown by 1.5% per year, to 537,000 in 2012. And by July 2013, that number rose to 564,100. The strongest rate of growth has been in the construction industry, with employment growing by 7.1% per year since 2006. Strong gains have also been experienced in the professional, scientific and technical services industry (4.9%), and in the natural resources (excluding agriculture) and utilities industries, at 3.1% and 3.2% respectively. With this strong growth in employment and the tightening of the labour market, workers enjoyed correspondingly strong increases in wages. The average weekly wage in Saskatchewan grew at an average annual rate of 4.9% from 2006 to 2012, stronger than the growth rate for Canadians as a whole, at 3.0%, and for Manitoba and Alberta, at 3.3% and 3.9% respectively.⁶

2.3 Demographic Change

The recent boom in Saskatchewan has caused changes in the demographic composition of the population. The growth in employment opportunities has drawn large numbers of workers from neighboring provinces and from across the globe. Over the 2006 to 2011 period, Saskatchewan welcomed, on net, 11,100 migrants from other provinces. These movements were concentrated in the

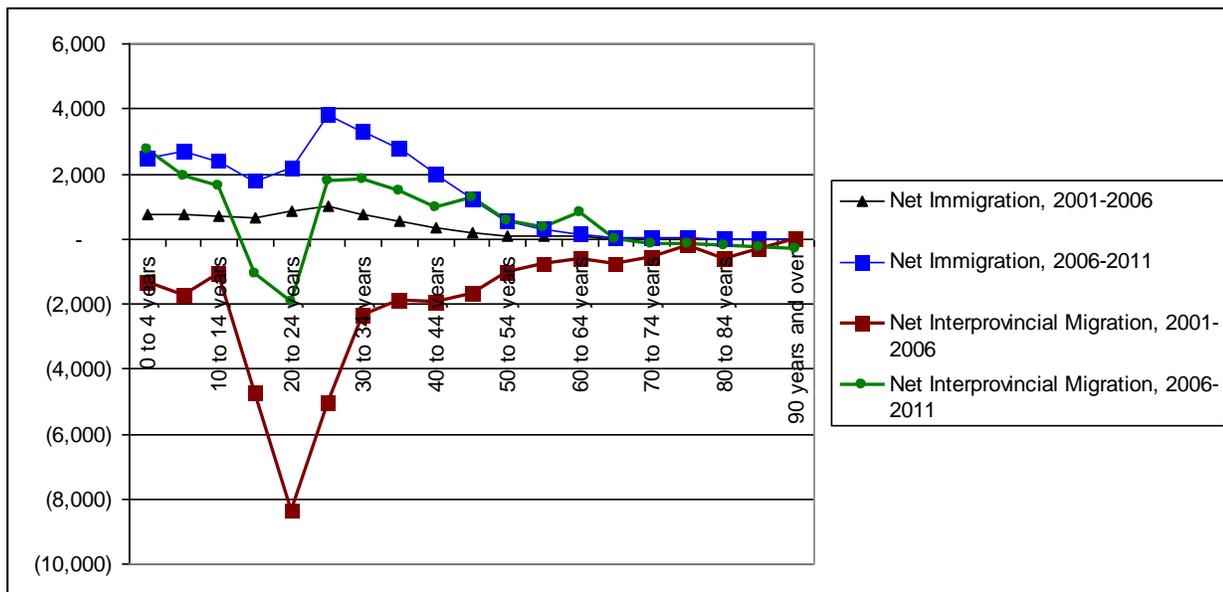
⁵ Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 026-0003.

⁶ Employment data are from Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 282-0020 and Table 282-0007, wage data are from Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 282-0072.

child (0-14) and young worker (25-44) age groups: movements were made predominantly by young working families. To a lesser degree, older workers (45-64 years of age) also migrated to Saskatchewan. During the boom, a net exodus of 3,000 youth (15-24) from the province occurred, most likely seeking educational opportunities outside the province. This recent exodus of youth, however, was much smaller than the exodus over the previous five-year period, in which 13,000 youth left for other provinces. Residents from other age groups joined this early exodus and Saskatchewan lost a net total of 35,000 residents to other provinces over 2001-2006.

The population of Saskatchewan increased by 25,600 during the 2006-2011 period through net international immigration, and the proportion of immigrants in Saskatchewan rose from 5.3% to 7.4%. These movements were primarily of young families, with 91% of migrants below the age of 45. Over 2001-2006, Saskatchewan still attracted more international migrants than it lost in residents going to other countries, with a net increase of 6,900. Again, these migrants were mostly younger than 45 years of age (94%). **Figure 2** depicts the age distribution of net interprovincial and international migration movements. Although Saskatchewan has had recent success attracting immigrants, the province still falls behind Canada and other provinces: in 2011, immigrants comprised 19% of the Manitoba population, 23% of the Alberta population, and 26% of the Canadian population, and as noted above, only 7.4% of the Saskatchewan population.

Figure 2: Saskatchewan Net Migration Movements by Age, Period Sums, 2001-2006 and 2006-2011

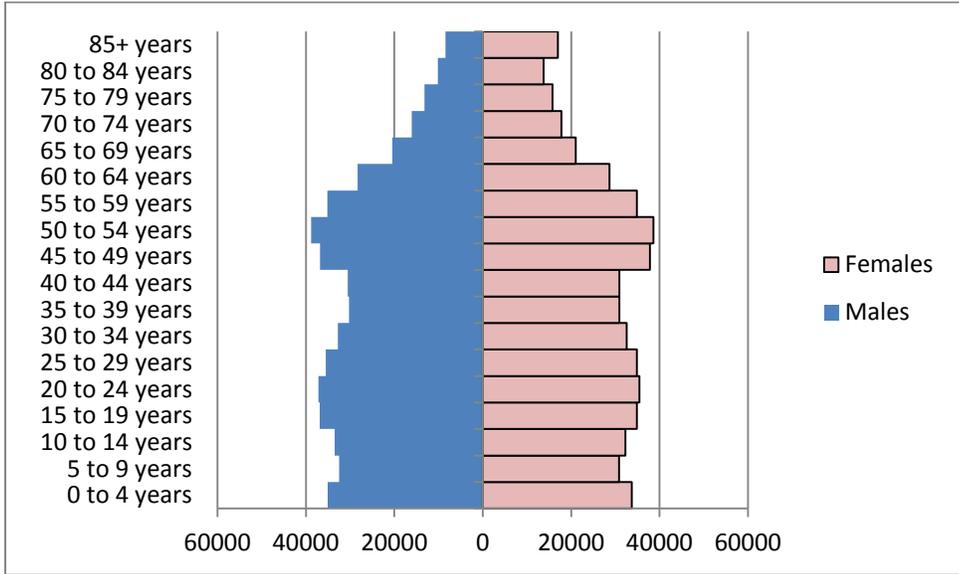


Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 051-0053

The median age in Saskatchewan rose from 36.7 in 2001, to 38.7 in 2006, as a result of the exodus of young families. However, the large increase in the younger population that occurred over 2006-2011 did relatively little to reverse the trend of population aging and the effects of the baby-boom cohort moving into the upper levels of the age distribution: the median age fell only by 0.5 years to 38.2 in 2011. The median age in 2011 was 36.5 for Alberta, 38.4 for Manitoba, and 40.6 for Canada.

The distribution of the population across age and sex is depicted in the population pyramid in **Figure 3** for Saskatchewan in 2011. The pyramid illustrates the large relative size of the baby-boom age cohort in the 45 to 64 year age group, and the echo cohort in the 15 to 34 year age group. It is this younger population that is most mobile, searching out employment opportunities. This younger working-age population is also setting up new households and having children. With strong increases in the number of young workers in the most recent five-year period, a mini baby boom has occurred. In 2011, the size of the 0-4 age cohort was larger than the size of the 5-9 age cohort, a reversal of trend from the previous two census surveys in 2006 and 2001.

Figure 3: Population Pyramid for Saskatchewan, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population

2.4 Saskatchewan Households

The improvement in the economic climate in Saskatchewan resulted in strong growth in household income. From 2005 to 2010, median household income rose from \$46,700 to \$61,700, as reported in the 2006 Census and 2011 National Household Survey. This translates to an average annual growth rate of 5.7%. In real terms, using the consumer price index for the province, the average annual growth in median household income was 3.4%.⁷ By comparison, real median household income grew only by 0.7% per year from 2000 to 2005. In 2000 and 2005, median household incomes in Saskatchewan were lower than those in Manitoba and Canada as a whole. In 2010, the median income in Saskatchewan was higher than that in Manitoba (\$57,300), and higher than that in Canada (\$61,000).

During the period of slow population growth from 2000 to 2005, new housing prices grew slowly, at an average annual rate of 4.2%. As economic growth and household income growth intensified in the second half of the decade, so too did housing prices, by 74% from 2005 to 2010, at an average annual growth rate of 12.6%. However, the bulk of the rise in house prices occurred over 2006 to 2008, when prices rose by 62% in the two-year period. Growth in new housing prices was also strong in Manitoba and Alberta from 2005 to 2010, at average annual rates of 7.7% and 9.3% respectively, while new housing price growth in Canada overall was 4% per year.⁸

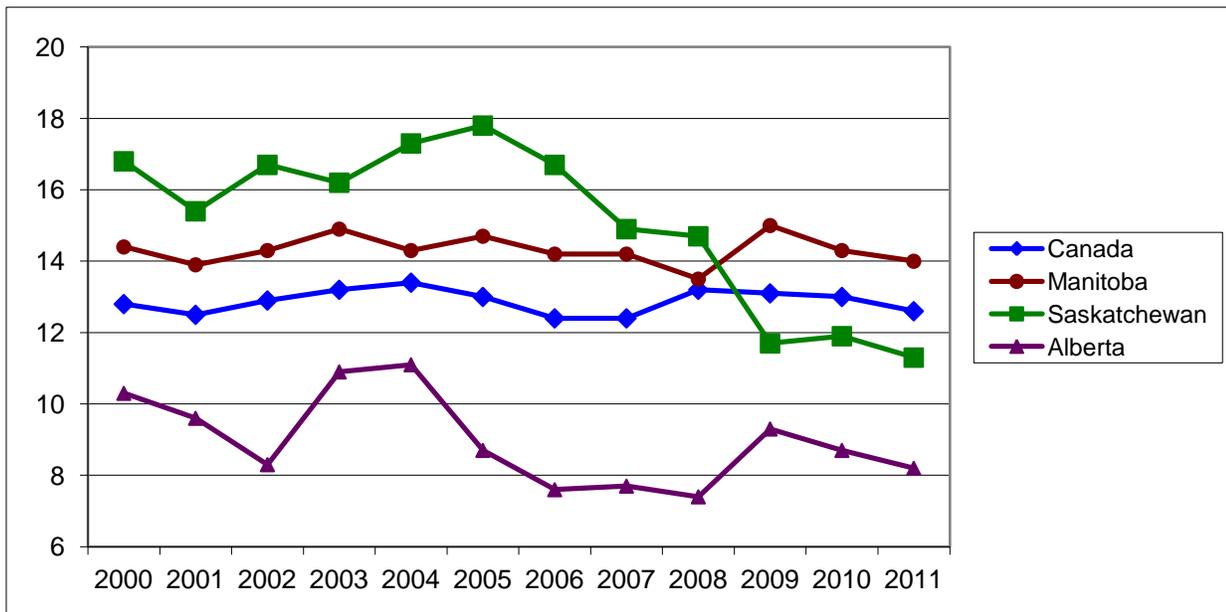
Shelter costs, as compiled by the 2001 and 2006 Census surveys and the 2011 National Household Survey, have exhibited sharp increases since the mid-2000s. From 2000 to 2005, the median monthly shelter costs for owned dwellings fell slightly from \$638 to \$614 in Saskatchewan. For rented dwellings, these costs rose from \$524 to \$568. Shelter costs for owned dwellings increased during the recent boom to \$751 in 2010, at an average annual growth rate of 4% since 2005. Shelter costs for rented dwellings rose to \$993 in 2010, at an average rate of 7% per year.

Income and economic growth were relatively slow during the first half of the past decade in Saskatchewan. During that time the proportion of the population in low income, used as a relative rate of poverty, increased from 16.8% in 2000, to a decade peak of 17.8% in 2005. Since that peak, coinciding with improved prosperity in the province, the rate declined to 11.3% in 2011. **Figure 4** depicts these low income prevalence rates for the three Prairie Provinces, and for Canada, from 2000 to 2011. Saskatchewan has had a lower rate than Manitoba, and Canada as a whole, since 2008. The economic boom in Saskatchewan has provided residents with good employment opportunities, and the ability to progress out of poverty. The 2011 low income rate for Saskatchewan was 11.3%, while the rates for Manitoba, Alberta, and Canada as a whole were 14%, 8.2%, and 12.6% respectively.

⁷ Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 326-0021 (Consumer Price Index, 2009 Basket, 2002=100).

⁸ Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 327-0046 (New Housing Price Index).

Figure 4: Percentage of Persons in Low Income, Canada and Prairie Provinces, 2000-2011



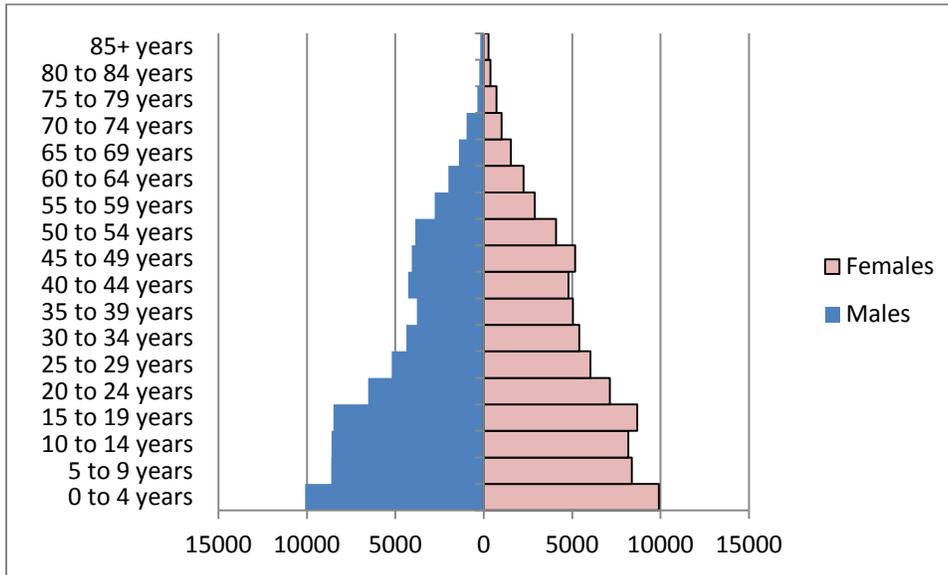
Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 202-0802.

2.5 Aboriginal Peoples

Saskatchewan is home to a large proportion of aboriginal peoples, at 16% of the population of the province in 2011. In comparison, 17% of the Manitoba population is aboriginal, as is 7% of the Alberta population. Of the 161,245 aboriginal residents in Saskatchewan in 2011, 65% are of First Nations origins, 33% are of Metis origins, and 2% are of multiple aboriginal or of Inuit identities. The aboriginal population is relatively young, with a median age of 22.6 years, and 54% were younger than 25 years of age. In comparison, the median age of the entire Saskatchewan population was 38.2 in 2011, with 33% younger than 25. **Figure 5** shows the population pyramid for the aboriginal population in Saskatchewan. The figure retains a pyramid shape, indicative of higher fertility and mortality rates than those of the Saskatchewan province as a whole, as illustrated in Figure 3 above.

Of the aboriginal population aged 15 years or older, 31% held a post-secondary degree or certificate in 2011, an increase from 29% in 2006, yet still lagging the rate of 47% for Saskatchewan as a whole. A high percentage of the aboriginal population aged 15 years and older did not hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, at 44%, compared to a rate of 25% for the Saskatchewan population in 2011.

Figure 5: Population Pyramid for the Aboriginal Population of Saskatchewan, 2011

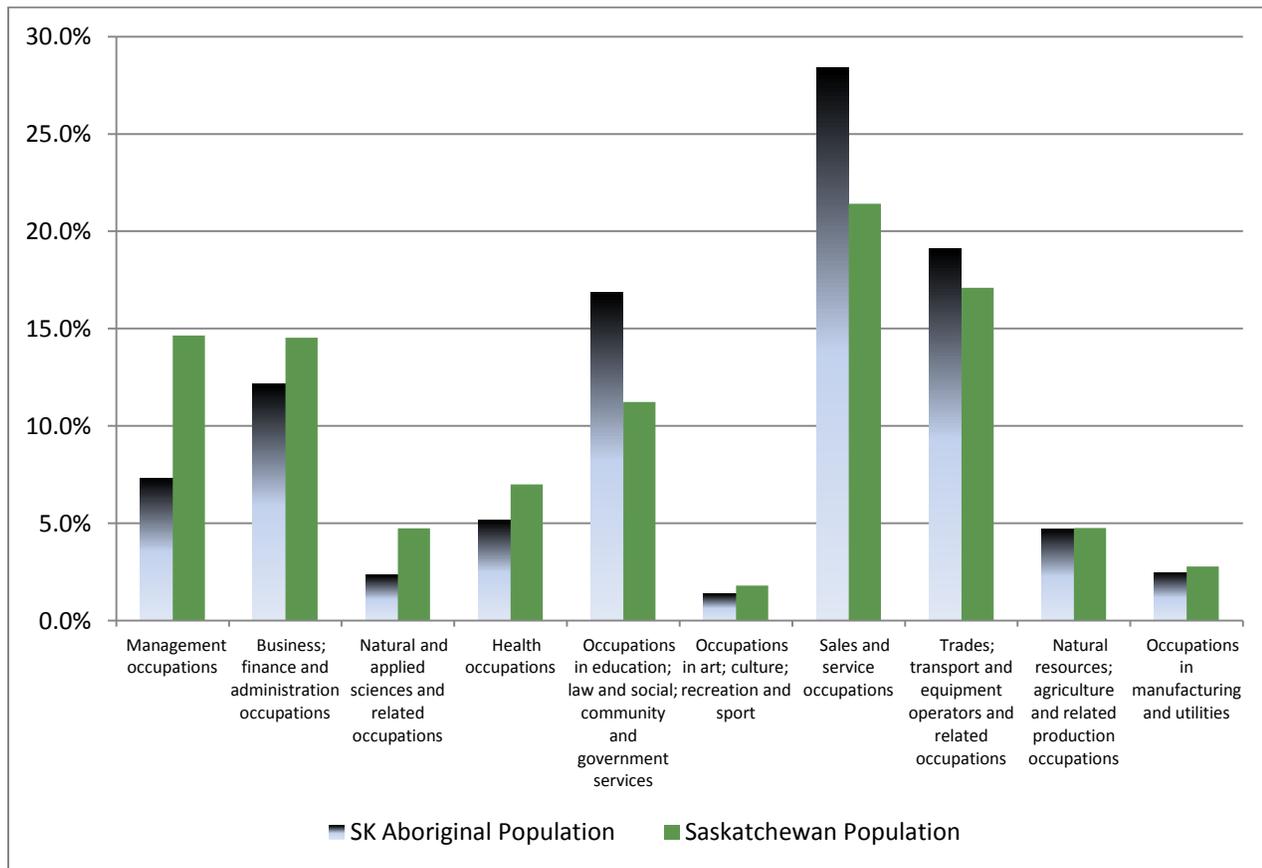


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

The labour force participation rate of those aged 15 years and older in 2010 was 69% for Saskatchewan, and 56% for the aboriginal population. Employment rates in 2010 were 65% for Saskatchewan, and 47% for the aboriginal population. The unemployment rate was 17% for the aboriginal population in Saskatchewan, compared to 6% for the province overall. While there was no change in the labour force participation rate for the aboriginal population from 2006 to 2011, the unemployment rate did fall by one percentage point from 2006 to 2011.

Workers of aboriginal origin tend to be more heavily concentrated, compared to non-aboriginal workers, in social, government, education and legal service occupations, as well as in sales and service, and trades and transport occupations. Aboriginal workers lag behind in their representation in management, business, financial, and administrative occupations, and in natural and applied science occupations. **Figure 6** presents the occupational distribution of workers. The aboriginal occupational distribution in Saskatchewan compared to non-aboriginals is very similar to those in the neighboring provinces and Canada in general.

Figure 6: Occupational Distribution of Workers in Saskatchewan, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

The aboriginal community is younger and less educated than the non-aboriginal population, and this is reflected in relative incomes. The median income for aboriginal individuals in Saskatchewan in 2010 was \$18,100, only 58% of the Saskatchewan-wide median income of \$31,400. Aboriginal households fare relatively better with a median household income of \$47,100 in 2010, 76% of the median household income in the province, and up from \$34,414 in 2005. Government transfers are a significant source of income in aboriginal communities, making up 21% of total income for aboriginal residents of Saskatchewan, whereas the figure for the general population is 12%. The aboriginal population faces a higher prevalence of poverty, as measured by the proportion of the population deemed in low-income households, at 29%, compared to 14% for Saskatchewan as a whole, using estimates from the 2011 National Household Survey.

2.6 Sectional Summary

Saskatchewan has been experiencing an export and investment boom, driven by high natural resource commodity prices, and exploration and development. As a result, it has also experienced a population boom, with a record population of 1,108,303 residents as of July 1, 2013, and an average annual population growth rate of 1.6% since 2006. The economy is attracting many interprovincial and international workers, and their families. As of 2011, 7.4% of the population were immigrants, up from 5.3% in 2006, but still far behind the proportions of immigrants in the neighboring Prairie Provinces.

Median household income in Saskatchewan has grown at an average annual rate of 5.7% from 2005 to 2010, and now exceeds that of Manitoba and Canada as a whole. The prevalence of poverty, as measured by the proportion of individuals living in low-income households, has declined from 17.8% in 2005 to 11.3% in 2011, falling below the rate for the country as a whole. Saskatchewan households are more prosperous. As a side effect of the boom, housing prices have also increased, but at a heightened rate of 12.6% per year over the same time period, higher than the rate of growth in Alberta housing prices, making it harder for new homeowners to start households. Renters also feel the effects of the economic boom as shelter costs for rented dwellings have increased at an average annual rate of 7% per year from 2005 to 2010.

Aboriginal peoples represent 16% of the population of Saskatchewan, and have also experienced improvements in educational attainment and in household income, and yet, still are disadvantaged compared to the overall population of the province. The aboriginal population is much younger, is less educated, has a higher unemployment rate, a lower median household income, and higher prevalence of living in a low-income household, when compared to the wider population of the province.

With these demographic and economic summary statistics in mind, we now turn our attention to describing recent policing and crime trends in Saskatchewan in Section 3.

3 Policing and Crime Trends in Saskatchewan

In Canada, the rate of crime as reported by police forces has been in decline since 1991, led by a strong reduction in the property crime rate, from 6,160 incidents per 100,000 residents in 1991 to 3,415 in 2012. The violent crime rate in Canada has been in decline since 2000.⁹ The Federal Government has placed much emphasis on fighting crime, most recently with initiatives like Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Action Fund and Northern and Aboriginal Crime Prevention Fund, and targeted programs like the Youth Inclusion Program for high-risk youth in Montreal.

Although the overall crime rate in Saskatchewan has also fallen recently, Saskatchewan held the highest rate of crime of all the provinces in 2012. Regina and Saskatoon had the highest crime severity index rankings of all Canadian census metropolitan areas in 2012 (Perreault 2013). Additionally, police forces in the province are dealing with unusually high rates of drug-related offenses, and have bulked up their policing strength.

This section will provide an overview of police staffing strength and changes, expenditures, and rates of the major categories of crime, over the period from 1995 to 2013. Statistics Canada releases information on police service staffing and expenditures derived from the Police Administration Survey.¹⁰ Policing services in Saskatchewan are contracted out to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with the exception of nine communities which maintain their own municipal police forces.¹¹

3.1 Staff

The number of police officers in Saskatchewan was 2,298 in 2012, having grown at an average annual rate of 2.1% since 2006, during the period in which the provincial population grew by 1.6% per year. As a result, the number of police officers per 100,000 residents grew by 0.7% per year over the previous six years to 213. In comparison, Canada had 199, Manitoba had 214, and Alberta had 175 police officers per 100,000 residents in 2012. The annual series are shown from 1995 to 2012 in **Figure 7**. The Saskatchewan police forces staffing was complemented by 878 civilian personnel by 2012, with this category of staff growing at an average annual rate of 3.4% since 2006.

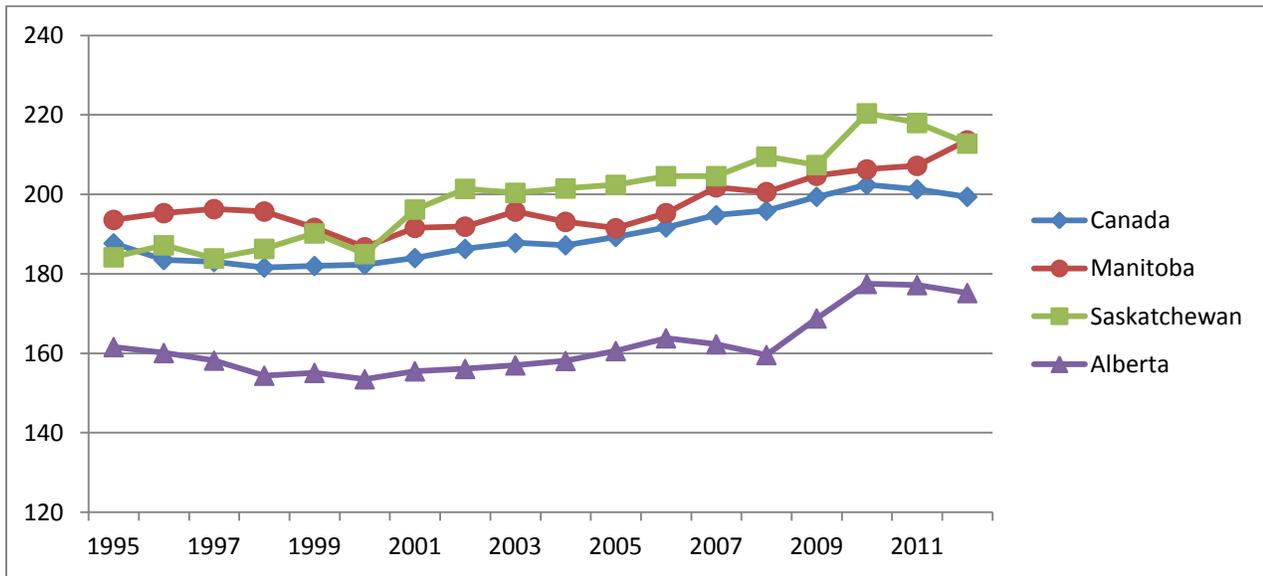
From 1996 to 2006, the Saskatchewan police forces grew at 0.6% per year, when the population was in decline (-0.3% growth per year), and the number of police officers per 100,000 residents grew from 187 to 205. Over that same period, the average annual rate of growth in civilian personnel was relatively strong at 1.8%.

⁹ Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 252-0051.

¹⁰ Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 254-0002 includes staffing data from 1986 to 2012, while the expenditure data is only available up to 2009.

¹¹ These are Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Estevan, Weyburn, Caronport, Luseland and Dalmeny. Corman Park RM, Wilton RM, Vanscoy, and File Hills First Nation have maintained additional police services, with the RCMP serving as the police service of jurisdiction for municipal policing.

Figure 7: Number of Police Officers per 100,000 Residents, Canada and the Prairie Provinces, 1995-2012



Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 254-0002

3.2 Expenditures

In 2009, the latest year for which data are available, expenditures on policing in Saskatchewan amounted to \$254 million, up from \$143 million in 1995. This translates to an average annual growth rate of 4.2%. Over this same period, since the population grew very slowly (0.1% per year), policing expenditures per capita grew by 4.1% on average each year, to the 2009 level of \$247 per person. On a per capita level, Saskatchewan’s police spending per person was in-line with spending in Manitoba, at \$253 per person, and Alberta, at \$249 per person in 2009. Canada as a whole spent \$365 per person in 2009 on policing services.¹²

3.3 Crime Rates

Police-reported crime rate data are made available by Statistics Canada from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.¹³ The major categories and subcategories of crime to be investigated in this study are as follows:

- I. Violent criminal code violations – which includes homicide, assault, robbery, abduction, harassment
 - a. Sexual assault level 1 – this level of assault is deemed to involve no or minor physical injuries, and is differentiated from level 2 sexual assault which involves weapons,

¹² Data are from Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 254-0002.

¹³ Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 252-0051.

- threats and/or physical injury, and from level 3 sexual assault which involves major physical injury
- b. Assault level 2 – is defined as assault with a weapon causing physical injury, and differs from level 3 (aggravated) assault which involves major physical injury
- c. Assault 1 – is defined as assault causing no or minor physical injury
- II. Property crime violations – includes breaking and entering, theft, fraud, mischief
 - a. Breaking and entering – refers to entering establishments without permission, and committing additional offenses (e.g. theft)
 - b. Motor vehicle theft – refers to entering a vehicle without permission and attempting to move the vehicle
 - c. Fraud – refers to deception for gain or to damage others
- III. Drug-related offenses is a subset of Federal Statute Violations which include Youth Act Offenses and violations of other federal acts (e.g. the Income Tax Act)

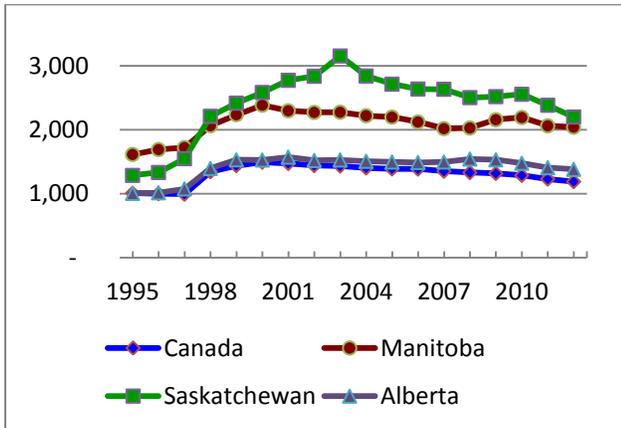
Categories of crime which will not be examined at this time include those in the “other criminal code violations”, other Federal Statute offenses, and traffic violations categories. Other criminal code violations include counterfeiting, weapons violations, prostitution, disturbing the peace, administration of justice violations including failure to appear before court, and involve many different types of violations that may not be closely linked in terms of characteristics of event, environment, and involved parties. Other Federal Statute violations are similarly excluded. Traffic violations and Youth Act offenses tend to involve different practices and/or procedures through the police and justice systems.

The experience with crime rates in Saskatchewan has been mixed over the last two decades. Most of these calculated crime rates have been trending downward since 2003. The exceptions include assault which rose to a recent peak in 2007 and has since been in decline, and fraud and drug offenses which have risen since 2009 after prior declines. **Figure 8** depicts selected major crime rates for Canada and the Prairie Provinces from 1995 to 2012.

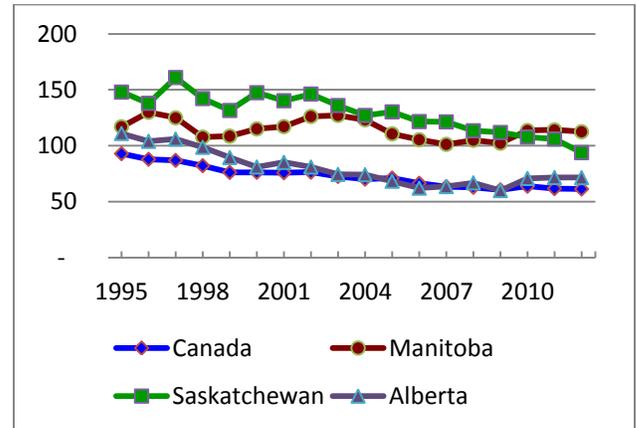
The police-reported violent criminal code violation rate for Saskatchewan rose steadily over the 1990s and into the new century. The rate peaked in 2003 at 3,154 violations per 100,000 residents, and has since slowly fallen to 2,201 in 2012. This is a thirty percent reduction in the number of violations per hundred-thousand of the population. As shown in Panel A, the rate in Saskatchewan has been consistently much higher than those for Canada, which stood at 1,190 in 2012, and for Alberta, at 1,382 in 2012. The rate in Saskatchewan surpassed that of Manitoba starting in 1998, and while the rate for Manitoba began its decline in 2000, the rate in Saskatchewan continued to rise for an additional three years. Since 2003, the Saskatchewan rate has declined and converged to the Manitoba rate, which was 2,041 in 2012. However, the rate in Saskatchewan has been almost twice as high as that in Canada as a whole since 2001.

Figure 8: Major Crime Rates (per 100,000 residents), Canada and Prairie Provinces, 1995-2012

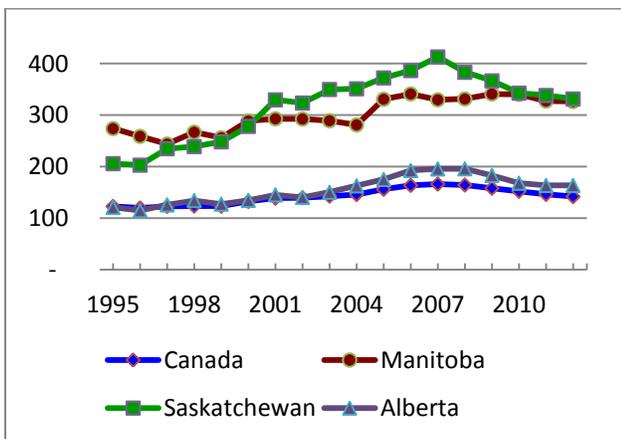
Panel A: Violent Criminal Code Violations



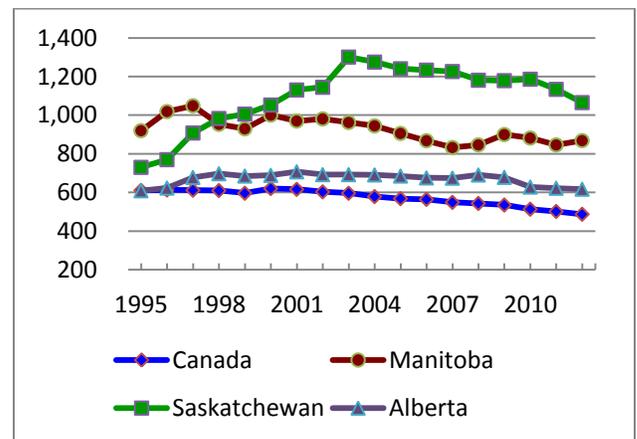
Panel B: Sexual Assault 1



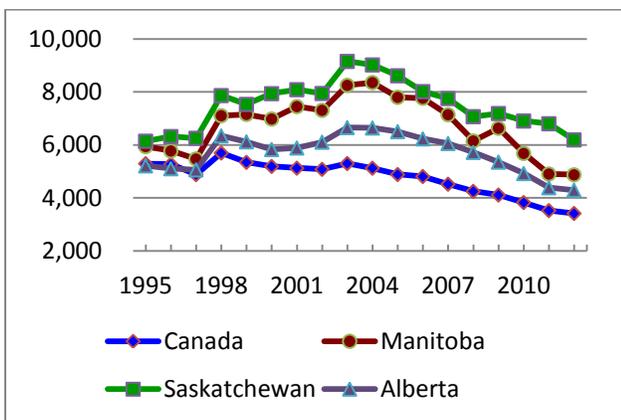
Panel C: Assault 2



Panel D: Assault 1



Panel E: Property Crime Violations



Panel F: Breaking and Entering

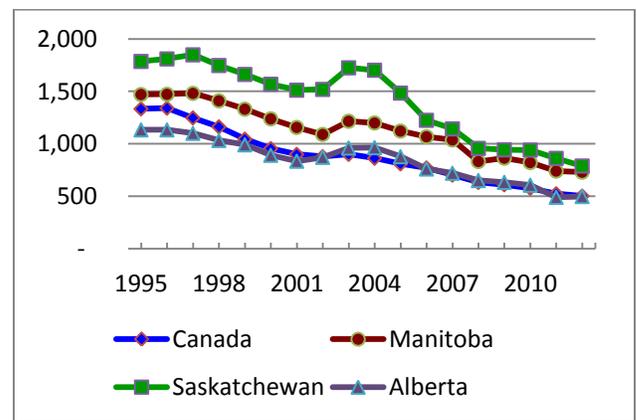
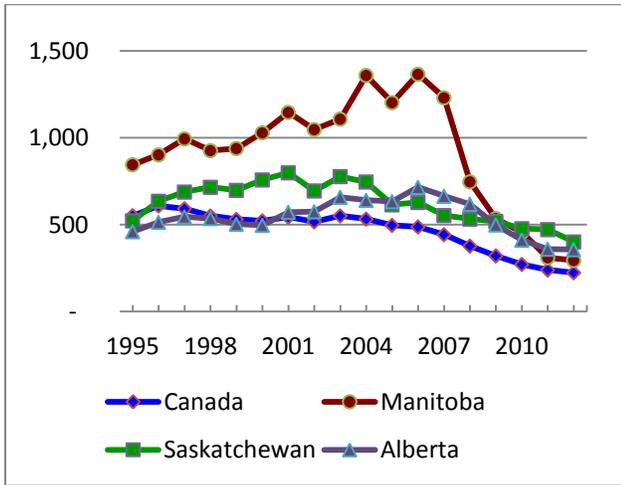
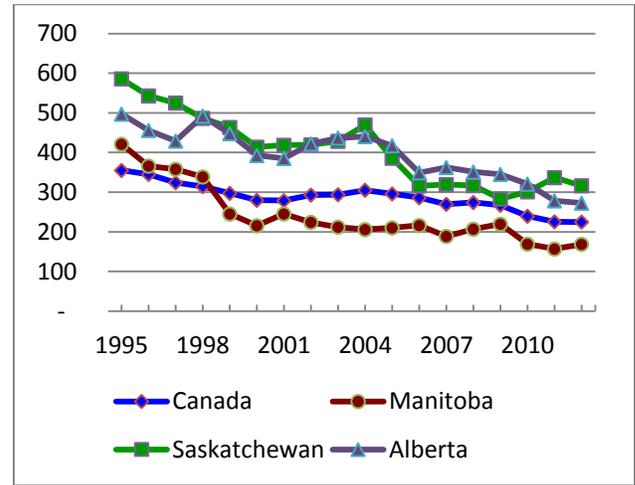


Figure 8: Major Crime Rates (per 100,000 residents, concluded)

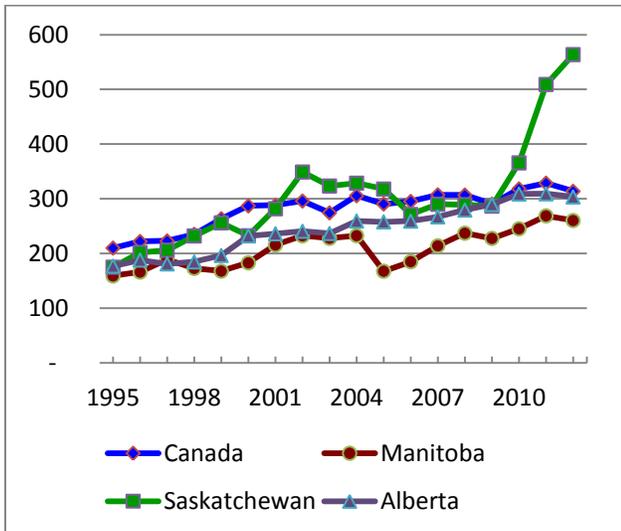
Panel G: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel H: Fraud



Panel I: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 252-0051

The rate of sexual assault in Saskatchewan has been in a general decline since 1997, as shown in Panel B, when the rate was 161 per 100,000 residents. The rate fell to 94 in 2012, representing a forty percent reduction in sexual assaults per hundred-thousand of the population. The rate in Saskatchewan was slightly higher than that in Manitoba until 2010, when the Saskatchewan rate continued to decline and the Manitoba rate rose by 12 points to 114 and then held steady. Coincidentally, the rate in Alberta also rose slightly in 2010, to 71, and has since remained at that level. Although the rate in Saskatchewan has been falling, the rate in 2012, at 94 per hundred-thousand residents, was still fifty percent higher than that of Canada as a whole, at 61.

The rate of Assault 2 has been rising in Saskatchewan since the 1990s, from 206 violations per hundred-thousand residents in 1995, to double that rate, at 413, at its peak in 2007. The rate of Assault 2 also peaked in 2007 in Alberta, at 196, and in Canada as a whole, at 166. Since then, the rate in Saskatchewan has fallen to 332, corresponding to a twenty percent reduction. However, the rates of assault in Saskatchewan and in Manitoba, are still about 2.3 times higher than that of Canada, and similarly higher than that of Alberta. These rates are shown in Panel C.

Panel D shows that the rate of Assault 1 in Saskatchewan rose to a peak of 1,301 per hundred-thousand in 2003, a rate almost eighty percent higher than in 1995. Since then, the rate has declined, to 1,065 in 2012. The rates of Assault 1 in Canada, Manitoba, and Alberta have all been in decline since 2001, and were 487, 869, and 617 respectively in 2012. Saskatchewan maintains the highest rate of Assault 1 of the three Prairie Provinces, twenty percent higher than the Manitoba rate, and seventy percent higher than the Alberta rate, as of 2012.

The rate of property crime violations in Saskatchewan jumped suddenly in 1998, from about 6,000 per hundred-thousand residents, to almost 8,000. The rate also jumped in 2003, from about 8,000 to its most recent peak of 9,153 violations per hundred-thousand residents. The rate thereafter steadily declined, as shown in Panel E, to 6,190 in 2012, a thirty percent drop in the rate since 2003. The time pattern for property crime in Saskatchewan is similar to those for Manitoba and Alberta, although the rate remained consistently highest in Saskatchewan. In 2012, the Saskatchewan rate was 1.3 times that of Manitoba, 1.4 times that of Alberta, and 1.8 times that of Canada as a whole.

One of the major subcategories of property crimes is breaking and entering. The prevalence of this type of crime declined in Saskatchewan from 1,849 per hundred-thousand residents in 1997, to 1,520 in 2002. It then jumped to 1,725 in 2003, and has since consistently declined to the 2012 rate of 790. This represents a fifty percent reduction in the rate from 2003. The rates of breaking and entering for Canada, Manitoba, and Alberta, also all declined from 1997 to 2002, suddenly rose in 2003, and then continued to decline to 2012. The rate of breaking and entering in Saskatchewan has been converging to that in Manitoba, which is now only seven percent lower than that in Saskatchewan. Rates in Alberta and Canada in 2012 were 499 and 504 respectively, both about thirty-five percent lower than the Saskatchewan rate. These rates are shown in Panel F.

The motor vehicle theft crime rate in Saskatchewan grew from 522 thefts per hundred-thousand residents in 1995, to a peak of 799 in 2001, and has since been halved, to 401 in 2012. In comparison, motor vehicle thefts had been much more prevalent in Manitoba up to 2006, when the rate was 1,366 per hundred-thousand, but the province has made major strides combating these thefts, dramatically reducing the rate to 294 in 2012. Alberta also experienced an increasing rate of motor vehicle theft up to 2006, and then a decline thereafter. The trends in these rates are depicted in Panel G.

The rate of fraud violations in Saskatchewan has generally declined since the 1990s from 586 violations per hundred-thousand residents in 1995, to 316 in 2012. The rate did experience a temporary upswing from 2000 to 2004, when the rate rose from 414 to 470, and a most recent upswing, from 283 in 2009 to 337 in 2011. This rate is shown along with those for Manitoba, Alberta, and Canada as a whole, in Panel H. Saskatchewan and Alberta have experienced similar rates of fraud, while the rate in Manitoba remained consistently lowest amongst the three Prairie Provinces, and lower than that of the country since 2000.

The final major crime category for investigation is drug-related offenses. The rate of these offenses in Saskatchewan rose from under 200 violations per 100,000 residents in the 1990s to 300 during the first decade of the 2000s. In 2010, the rate rose to 366, and then to 509 in 2011, and to 564 in 2012. This recent rise in the rate of drug-related offenses in Saskatchewan is in stark contrast to the stable rates experienced in Manitoba, Alberta and in Canada as a whole, which remained near 300 offenses per 100,000 residents. The rates of drug-related offenses in Manitoba, Alberta and Canada in 2012 were 260, 303, and 314. The rate in Saskatchewan was eighty percent higher than the rate for Canada in 2012.

3.4 Sectional Summary

Saskatchewan is in the midst of an economic and population boom. From 2006 to 2012, the population of Saskatchewan grew by 1.6% per year. Median household income grew at an average annual rate of 5.7% from 2005 to 2010. And the prevalence of poverty has fallen, from 17.8% of individuals in low-income households in 2005, to only 11.3% in 2011.

Saskatchewan has experienced substantial reductions in rates of violent crime and of property crime since 2003, while economic conditions in the province improved. Police forces have also increased their strength, with a 2.1% average annual growth in the number of police officers, and a 3.4% average annual growth in additional personnel, from 2006 to 2012.

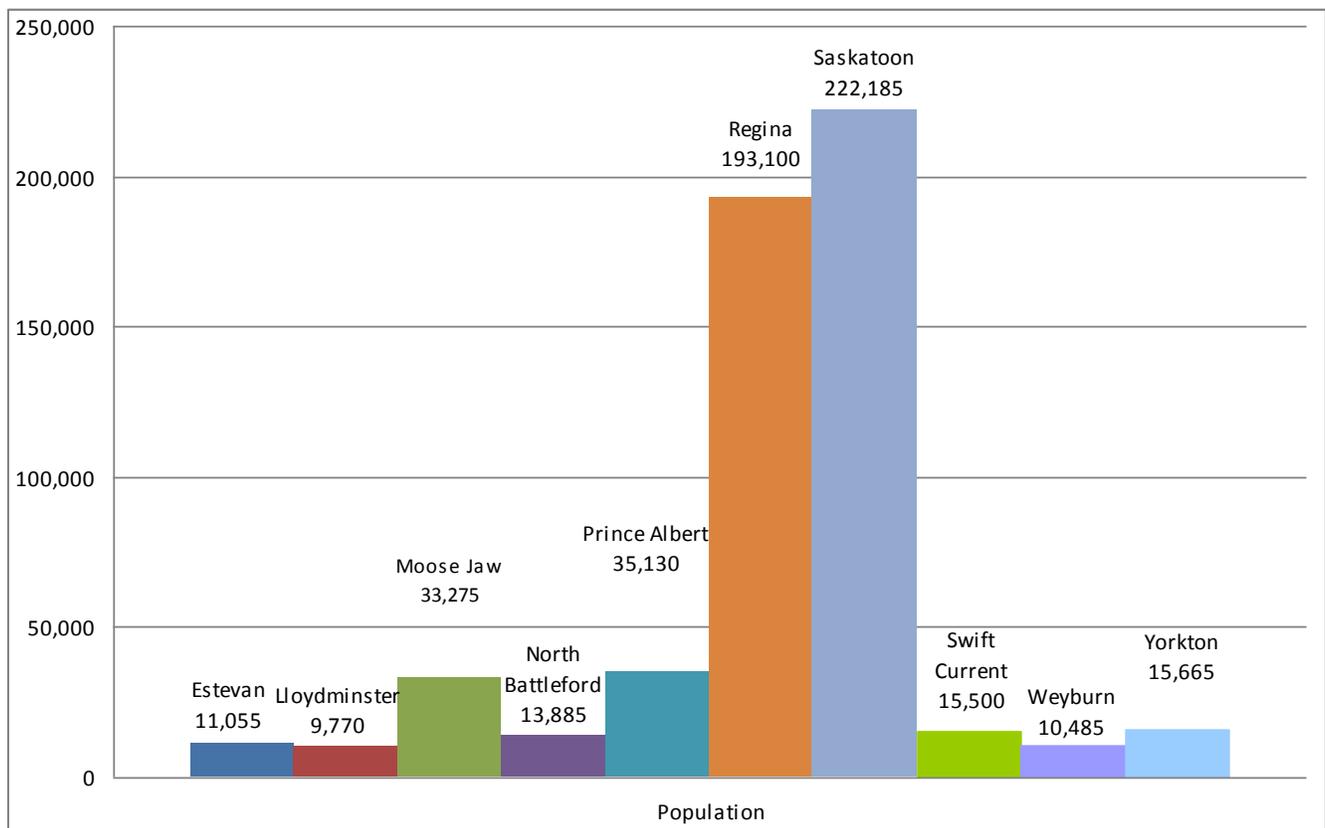
Unfortunately, crime rates are still higher than those in Manitoba, and substantially higher than those in Alberta and for the nation as a whole. Saskatchewan has the highest rates of crime of all the Canadian provinces. Its two largest cities, Regina and Saskatoon, had the highest crime severity index rankings of all Canadian census metropolitan areas in 2012. Most recently, since the 2009 world recession, the province is dealing with a dramatic surge in drug-related offenses.

Next, we shift our focus to the major cities of the province. Section 4 will present the demographic, economic, policing and crime trends in the ten major cities of Saskatchewan, prior to the examination of possible relationships between crime rates and demographic and economic conditions for the provinces in Section 5.

4 The Major Cities of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan currently has nine cities with populations in excess of 10,000. It's tenth largest city, Lloydminster, had a population of 9,770 in 2011, yet is in a unique situation: Lloydminster is a city with a population of 27,800 as of the 2011 Census, with 18,030 of those residents living on the Alberta side of the city. This report will focus on the ten largest cities in the province of Saskatchewan, and will treat Lloydminster as one of those cities, including information of that city's residents from the two neighboring provinces. Those ten cities, and their Saskatchewan population sizes are depicted in **Figure 9**.

Figure 9: Population of Ten Major Saskatchewan Cities, 2011 Census

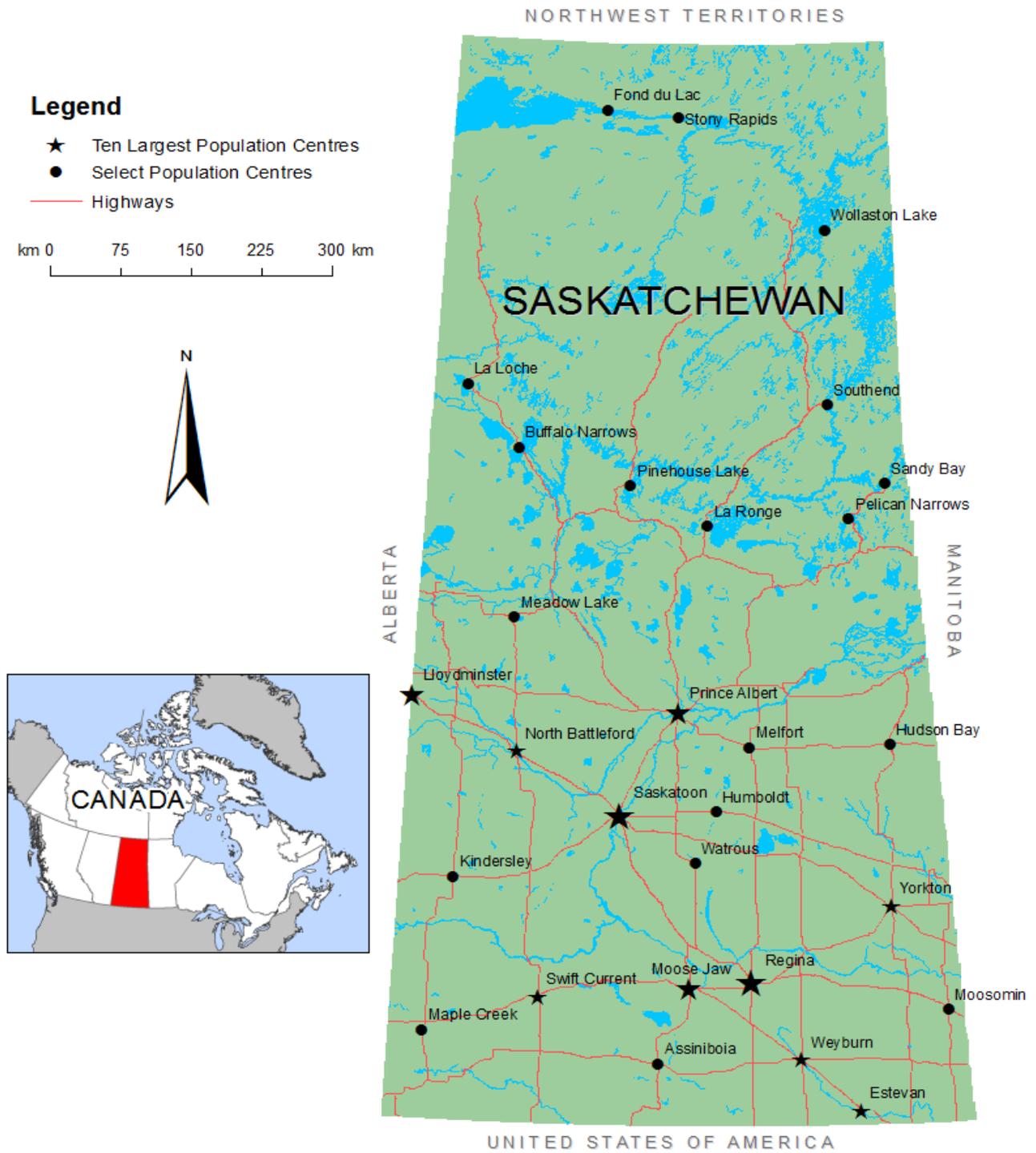


Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population

Each of these cities serves as a regional centre, for the agricultural community, for industry, for trade, and for government and community services. For the most part, these major cities are well-dispersed across the southern geographic portion of the province, with the northern-most city, Prince Albert, and the province's largest city, Saskatoon, servicing the sparsely-populated northern half of the province.

Figure 10 is a map of the province, with its major cities identified.

Figure 10: Map of Saskatchewan



"F" Division, OSB, Strategic Support, May 5, 2014

These cities have different natural resource endowments, demographic and economic pressures, industrial structures, and community advantages. These will be introduced in this preliminary report. Each community also has its own crime and policing pressures. These are also a focus of this report.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police provides policing services to most of the communities in the province. The cities of Lloydminster, North Battleford, Swift Current, and Yorkton are among those that contract their services with the RCMP. Nine communities maintain their own municipal police services. They include the major cities of Estevan, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, and Weyburn.

This section introduces each city in order of its population size, starting with Saskatoon, and ending with the border city of Lloydminster. A brief discussion of its location and some of its economic and community strengths is followed by various summary demographic, education, labour market, income, and policing and crime indicators. An emphasis is placed on the period from 1995 to 2012, using data from the 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011 Census surveys, the 2011 National Household Survey, the Uniform Crime Reporting Surveys and the Police Administration Surveys. The summary indicators are also used for intercity comparisons.

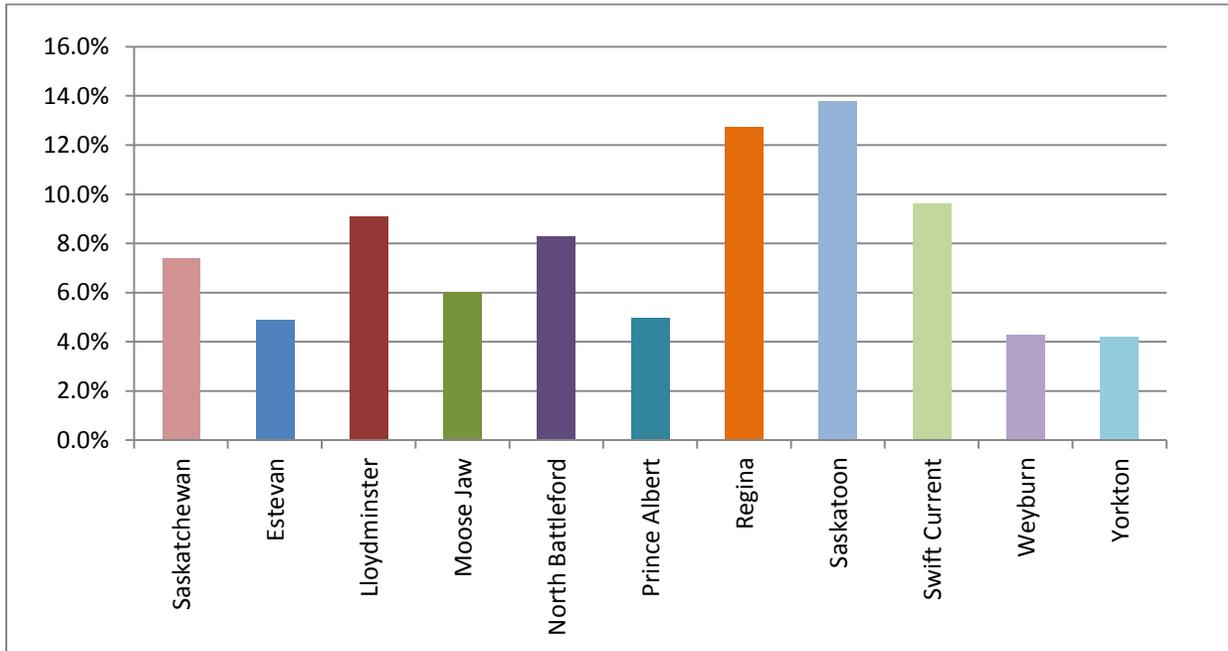
4.1 Saskatoon

Saskatoon is the most highly-populated city in the province. It is located in the heart of Saskatchewan's populated area, 225 km east of Alberta, and 350 km north of the US border. Saskatoon is a major industrial, business, social, and cultural centre for central and northern Saskatchewan. The development of potash, oil and wheat gave rise to its referral as the POW city, with natural resources and agriculture playing key roles in the growth of the city. Potash Co, BHP Billiton, and Cameco all have a major presence in Saskatoon. The technology sector is another strong growth sector, spurred on by Innovation Place and the many businesses that have located there to benefit from relationships with the University of Saskatchewan, the largest research-oriented university in the province. Saskatoon is the key social and cultural centre in the heart of the province, with professional theatre, a symphony orchestra, museums, art galleries, a zoo, parks and convention centres.

Saskatoon experienced a major population surge in recent years, growing by 10% from 2006 to 2011, to 222,185 residents, an average annual growth rate of 1.9% over the five-year intercensal period. Population growth was spread across most age groups, but predominantly among young families, and the university-aged cohort (20-24 years), as Saskatoon bristled with educational and employment opportunities for people from the city, from other regions of the province, from outside the province, and from outside the country. This inflow reversed the aging of the population as the median age fell from 35.9 years in 2006 to 35.6 in 2011. In prior intercensal periods, Saskatoon had lost university graduates and young families to other regions and provinces, as they sought careers that were not available within the city. With recent improved prosperity in the province, Saskatoon welcomed many more immigrants into the community as the proportion of immigrants rose from 9.2% in 2006 to 13.8% in 2011, the highest proportion of immigrants of the ten major cities in the province (as shown in **Figure 11**).

The largest city in the province, with the largest university and other important post-secondary institutions, also had the largest proportion of its working-age population with post-secondary degrees in the province in 2011, at 55.5%, and with the largest proportion of the population holding university degrees, at 24.3%. Of the working-age population, 27.3% had high school diplomas as their highest level of education, while 17.2% had not completed high school by 2011. These are strong improvements over 1996, when 44.0% of the working-age population had post-secondary degrees, and 31.7% had not completed high school.

Figure 11: Immigrant Population of the Ten Major Saskatchewan Cities, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

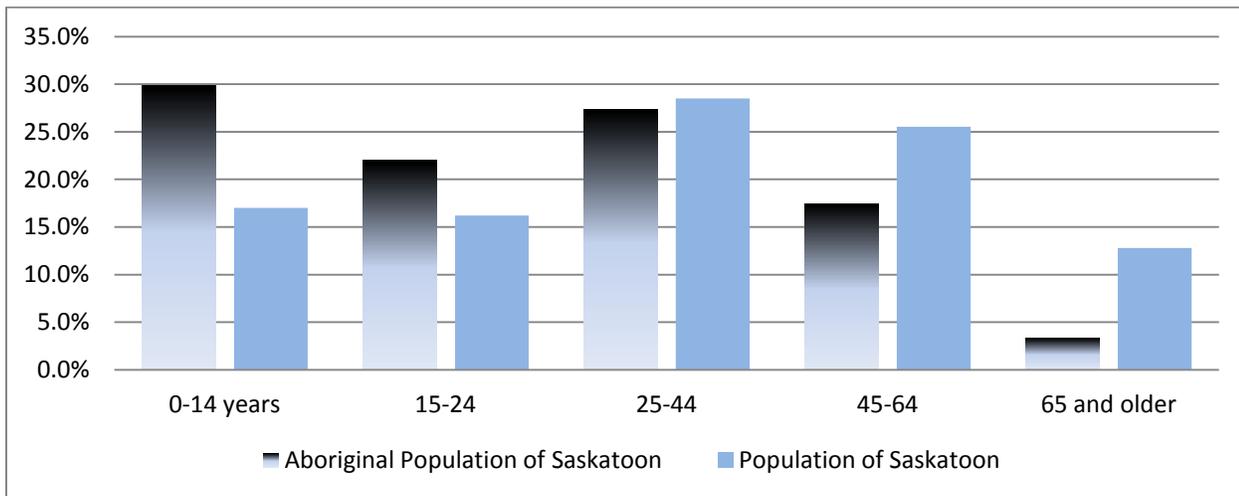
The labour market has strengthened over the years. Employment rates have steadily increased, from 63.5% in 1996, to 65.9% in 2006, and to 67.4% in 2011. Although the employment rate has increased since 2006, labour force growth has been slightly stronger, leading to a slight increase in the unemployment rate, from 5.5% in 2006, to 5.7% in 2011. However, these rates are much better than those in 2001 (7.2%) and 1996 (7.8%) before the recent natural resource boom.

Improved employment opportunities have contributed to strong income growth. The median income in 2010 was \$33,740, growing at an annual average rate of 5.5% since 2005, and of 4.2% since 1996. In real terms, median income grew at an annual average rate of 3.1% since 2005, and at 1.9% since 1995.¹⁴ Many residents have benefitted from improved prosperity. The proportion of households spending 30% or more on shelter costs decreased from 41% in 1996, to 26% in 2011. The proportion of residents living in low income households has also decreased, from 23% in 1995 to 14% in 2010.

The aboriginal population of Saskatoon has grown from 15,545 in 1996 to 22,360 in 2011, to 10.2% of the population of the city. As in the province and other cities, Saskatoon’s aboriginal population is young, with 52% less than 25 years of age. The median age of the aboriginal population in Saskatoon was 23.9 years in 2011, compared to 35.6 for the entire population of the city. **Figure 12** illustrates the age distribution of the aboriginal population in Saskatoon.

¹⁴ Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 326-0021 (Consumer Price Index, 2009 Basket, 2002=100), the provincial figures will be used for all cities.

Figure 12: Age Distribution of the Saskatoon Population, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

With a lower employment rate, at 56.5% in 2010, and a higher unemployment rate, at 12.8%, than the overall working-age population in Saskatoon, levels of financial stress are higher in the aboriginal community. The aboriginal population has a higher propensity to live in low income households, at 32%, compared to the city-wide rate of 14%, and 39% of aboriginal households spent more than 30% of their income on shelter costs, compared to the city-wide rate of 26%. Government transfers help support the less fortunate, and account for 18% of total income for the Saskatoon aboriginal community, and 9% for all city residents. The median aboriginal household income was \$51,900 in 2010, 79% of the median income for all Saskatoon households.

Saskatoon has its own municipal police force. The number of police officers has increased from 310 in 1995 to 446 in 2012, with a sizable net addition of 35 officers in 2010. The number of male officers has increased from 294 in 1995 to 339 in 2011, and the number of female police officers has increased from 16 to 107, over that same period. The rate of police officers per 100,000 residents rose from 157 in 1995, to 183 in 2012, as shown in **Figure 13**, Panel A. Police officers in the city are complemented by a civilian work force, with their numbers increasing from 159 in 1995, to 192 in 2012. The rate of total personnel per 100,000 residents rose from 237 in 1995 to 269 in 2012.

The time patterns of crime rates in Saskatoon and in Saskatchewan for the 1995 to 2012 period are also depicted in Figure 13.¹⁵ Saskatoon has rates of violent crime which are among the lowest of the ten major cities, and lower than those of the province. The rates of property crimes in Saskatoon have tended to be higher than the provincial average.

¹⁵ Please refer to Section 3.3 for crime categorization.

Panel B shows the number of total violent crime violations per 100,000 residents. This rate rose from 1,315 in 1995, to a peak of 2,586 in 2003, and has since declined to 1,588 in 2012. From 2003 to 2012, the rate of total violent crime incidents reported by police has fallen by thirty-nine percent. However, the rate has not yet returned to the levels observed during the mid-1990s. The trend exhibited over the period in Saskatoon is very similar to that of Saskatchewan as a whole with the rate in Saskatoon less than that of the province since 1997. In 2012, the rate in Saskatoon was twenty-eight percent lower than the Saskatchewan rate.

The rate of Sexual Assault, level 1, as shown in Panel C, has been declining since 2002, when the rate was 154 per 100,000 residents. In 2012, the rate was 83, indicating a forty-six percent decline in the rate since its recent peak. The rate of Sexual Assault 1 for Saskatoon has been similar to that of Saskatchewan, exhibiting the same downward trend since 2002, although with more variability over the period.

The rate of Assault 2, in Panel D, was declining over the late-1990s, and then climbed quickly from 252 in 1999 to a peak of 373 in 2001. Since 2001, the rate has decreased, to 270 per 100,000 in 2012. This represents a twenty-seven percent decrease in the rate. The most recent rate is similar to that reported for the late-1990s. The rate of Assault 2 in Saskatoon has been consistently lower than that in Saskatchewan since 2003 as the provincial rate continued to increase and peaked in 2007 before starting to decline; in 2012, the rate in Saskatoon was nineteen percent lower than that of the province.

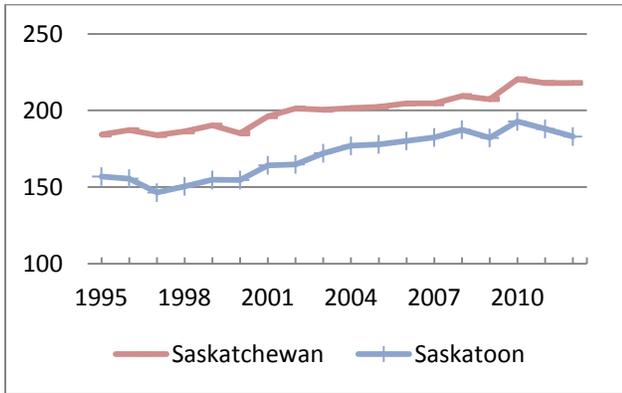
From 1995 to 2003, the rate of Assault 1 grew steadily, from 657 to 965 violations per 100,000 residents. The rate has since declined by thirty percent to 675 by 2012, and back to the rate experienced in the mid-1990s. The province also exhibited a hump-shaped pattern, but the gap between the provincial and Saskatoon rates has gradually grown; the provincial rate was fifty-eight percent larger than the Saskatoon rate in 2012.

The rate of police-reported property crime violations exhibited a hump-shaped pattern, growing in the years before 2003 and falling thereafter, consistent with other crime rates. The property crime rate in Saskatoon rose from 6,938 per 100,000 residents in 1995, to a peak of 11,372 in 2003. The rate then fell quickly over the succeeding years, to 5,040 in 2012, declining by fifty-five percent since 2003. The rate of property crime in Saskatoon also fell below the rate for the province in 2008, and was eighteen percent lower than the provincial rate in 2012. These rates are shown in Panel F.

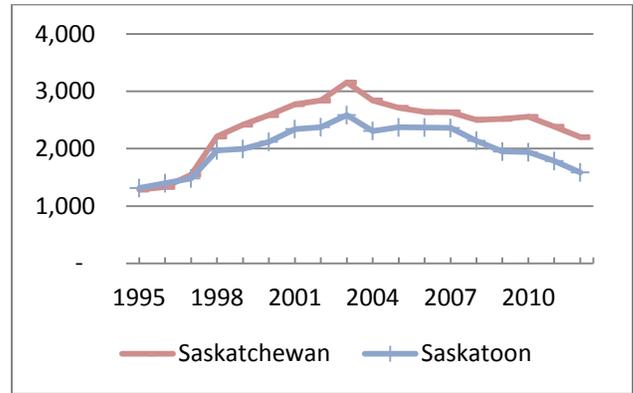
The rate of breaking and entering in Saskatoon ranged between 1,800 and 2,300 per 100,000 residents between 1995 and 2003, and then steadily dropped by sixty-nine percent over nine years, to 715 in 2012. As shown in Panel G, the rate of breaking and entering for Saskatoon had been larger than that for the province up until 2007, but has since been just slightly lower than the provincial rate.

Figure 13: Policing and Crime Rates in Saskatoon, per 100,000 residents

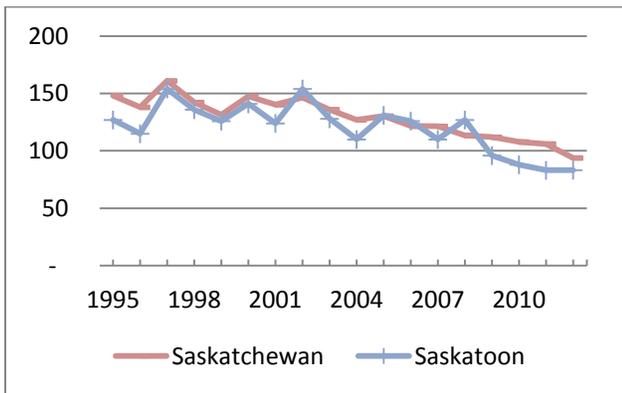
Panel A: Number of Police Officers (rate)



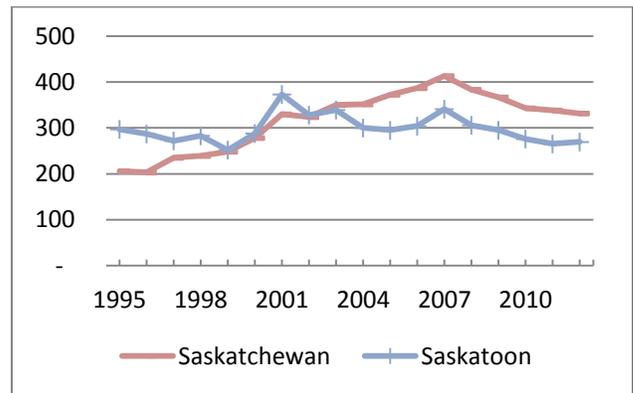
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



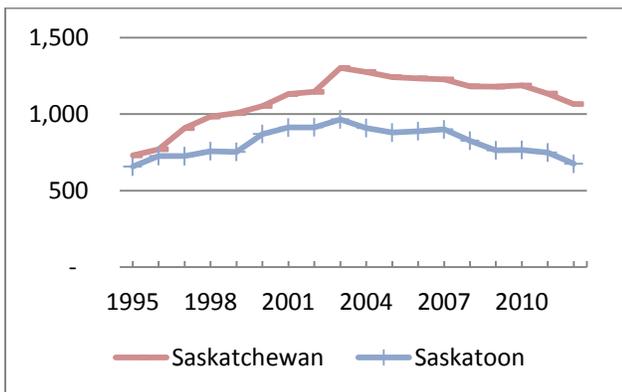
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

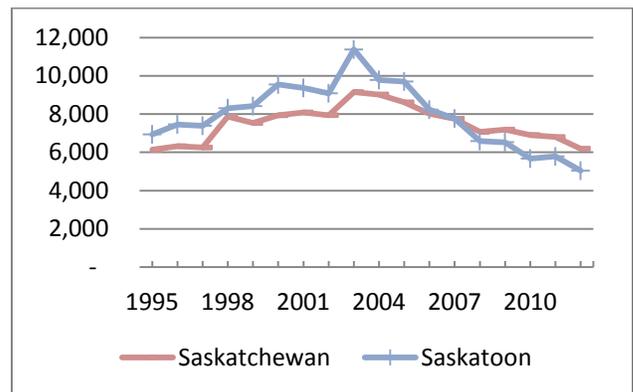
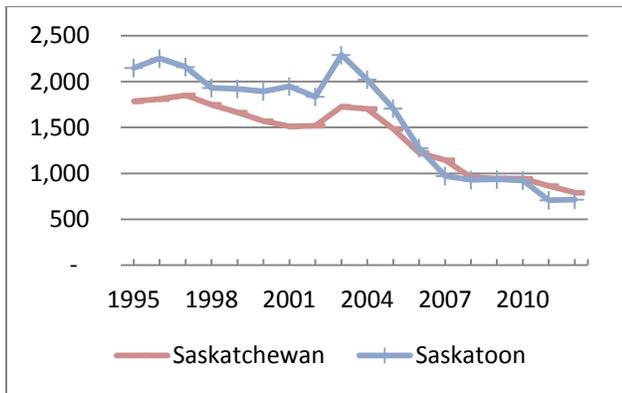
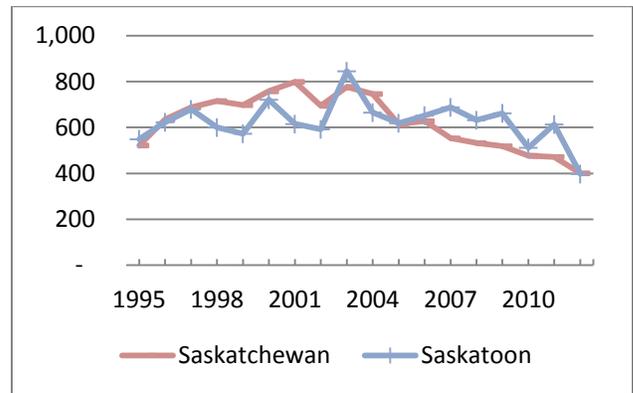


Figure 13 (Concluded)

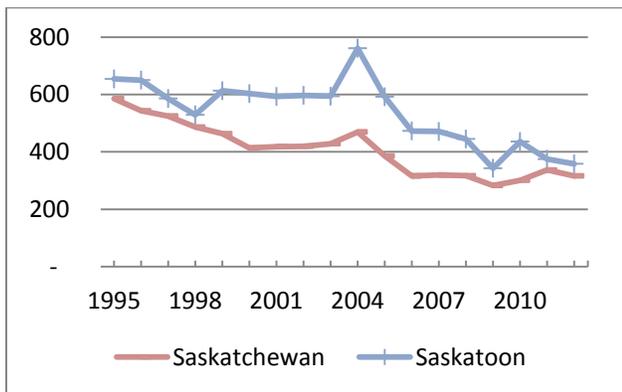
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



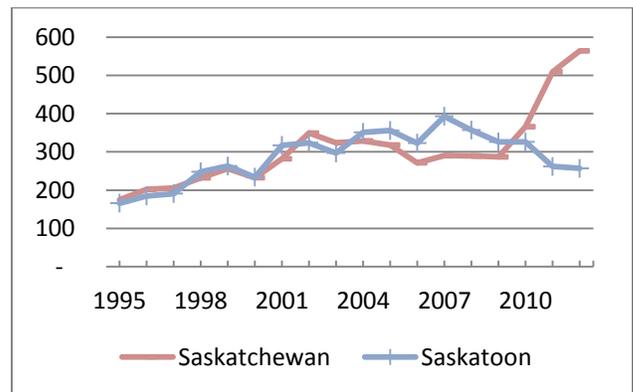
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0079

The trends in motor vehicle theft violations in Saskatoon are shown in Panel H. The rate also appears to follow a hump-shaped pattern with a rise from 549 per 100,000 residents in 1995, to a peak of 845 in 2003. From 2003 to 2012, the rate declined by fifty-three percent, to 398 in 2012. Overall, there was little difference between the rates of motor vehicle theft in Saskatoon and in the province over the period, as the rate in Saskatoon was slightly on average lower than that of the province before 2003, and slightly higher on average, after 2003.

The fraud rate in Saskatoon was generally stable from 1995 to 2003, hovering around 600 violations per 100,000 residents. The rate jumped to 761 in 2004, and then started its decline, to 359 in 2012. The rate is shown in Panel I. The Saskatoon rate was higher than that of the province, and considerably so in the middle of the period of study. In 2004, the rate in Saskatoon was sixty-two percent higher than that of the province, but by 2012, the gap had narrowed to a thirteen percent difference.

The rate of drug-related offenses in Saskatoon was generally rising over the 1995-2007 period, from 166 per 100,000 residents in 1995 to a peak of 393 in 2007. The rate then declined to 257 in 2012. The rate of drug offenses in the province has been generally higher than that in Saskatoon, and the two rates substantially diverged recently, as the Saskatoon rate declined while the rate for the province increased sharply from 2009 to a rate of 1,031 in 2012, four times the rate in Saskatoon.

Saskatoon is the largest city in the province, and has experienced strong population growth during the economic boom. Its population has the highest level of educational attainment, and has attracted the largest proportion of immigrants, among the major cities in Saskatchewan. The median income has grown at an annual average rate of 5.5% (3.1% in real terms) over the 2005-2010 period, and the proportion of individuals in low-income households has dropped to 14%, from 23% in 1995. Aboriginal peoples make up 10.2% of the city population and are much younger than the non-aboriginal population. The number of police officers and the rate of officers per 100,000 residents have both increased since the beginning of the century, and rates of violent crime and property crime have been falling since 2003, during a time of improved economic conditions. Saskatoon also has exhibited a decline in drug-related offenses over the last five years, while many other cities and the province as a whole have been dealing with much higher rates.

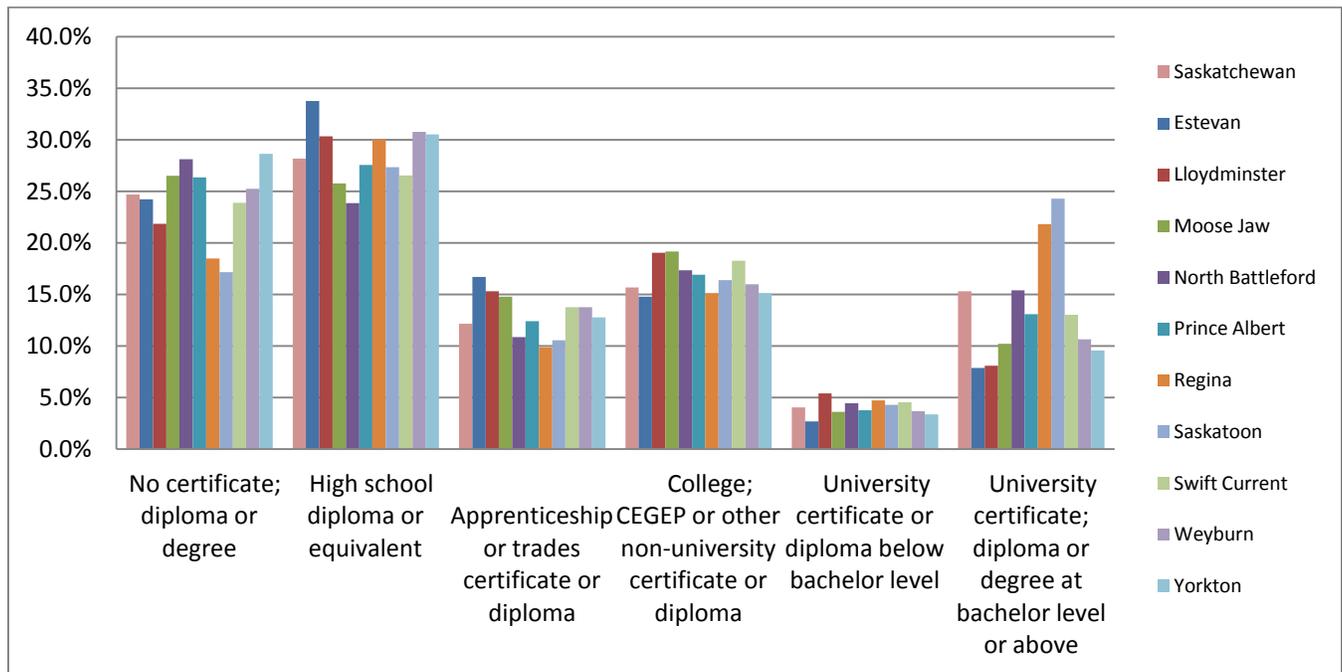
4.2 Regina

Regina is the provincial capital city, and is located in the south-central region of the province, 160 km north of the US border. It is nicknamed the Queen City, after Queen Victoria (Victoria Regina from Latin). It is a major commercial, industrial and financial centre. The public sector is a major employer in the city, with the legislature building, provincial government ministries and crown corporations, city government, school boards, the University of Regina and its federated colleges, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, the RCMP Training Academy, and the regional health authority. Regina is home to Viterra, Brandt Industries, Evraz, and the Consumer's Co-operative Refineries heavy oil upgrader. In the heart of the Canadian plains, the cities' businesses also service the surrounding agricultural communities. The city hosts the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the CFL, a team revitalized along with the provincial economy, and winners of two Grey Cups during the Saskaboom.

The population of Regina was 193,100 as of the 2011 Census, a net addition of 13,855 people over the 2006 Census. This represented a 7.7% increase over five years, for an annual growth rate of 1.5%. This strong growth coincided with the economic boom. From 2001 to 2006, the population of Regina only grew by 1,200 people, as many young workers and families were moving out of the city and province in search of employment opportunities. The recent growth in the population occurred across most age cohorts, but most strongly in the 15 to 49 age groups, as more families moved into the city, and as the influx of post-secondary students to SIAST and the University of Regina continued. Regina also experienced a strong increase in the size of the 0 to 4 age cohort, a mini baby boom, from 9,805 young children in 2006, to 12,120 in 2011. Young adults stayed and started families in the city, and were joined by new arrivals with young children. The city's ability to attract and retain immigrants has been note-worthy, with immigrants making up 12.7% of the population in 2011, the second-highest rate of the ten major cities, behind Saskatoon. That was a strong increase over the rate of 8.7% in 2006.

The level of educational attainment of the city's population aged 15 and older has increased steadily over the years. In 1996, 33.5% of the working-age population had not completed high school; by 2011, that figure had been reduced to 18.5%. In 1996, 40.6% of the working-age population had earned post-secondary certificates or degrees; by 2011 that figure had increased to 51.5%. The population of Regina has more university graduates, at 21.8% in 2011 versus 14.8% in 1996, and those with trades or apprenticeship training, at 9.9% in 2011 versus 2.8% in 1996. **Figure 14** depicts the distribution of the highest level of educational attainment for the cities and province in 2011.

Figure 14: Distribution of Educational Attainment, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Note that the horizontal (left to right) ordering of cities follows alphabetically after the province, similar to the vertical legend.

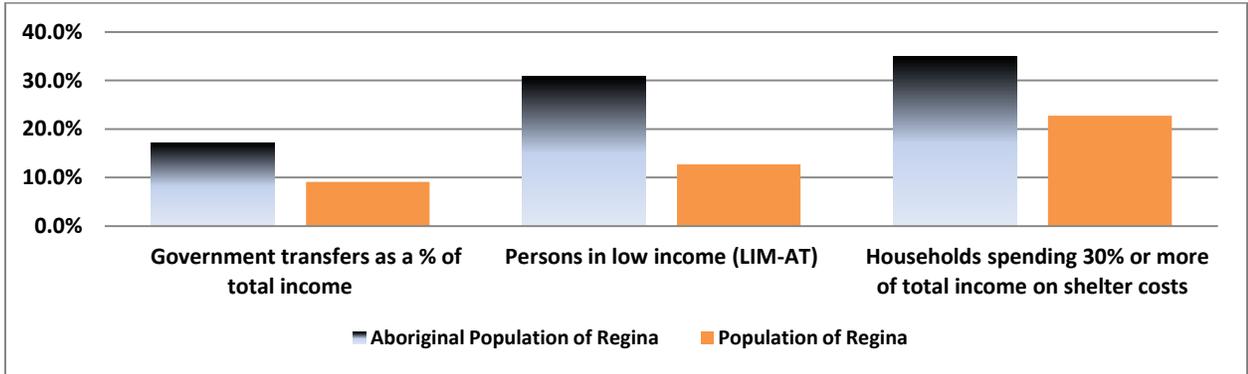
As the level of educational attainment increased, so too have labour force participation and employment rates. The labour force participation rate, at 72.4% in 2011, was up from 70.6% in 2006, and from 69.5% in 1996. The employment rate steadily increased from 64% in 1996 to 69% in 2011. The unemployment rate sat at 5% in 2011, lower than the province-wide rate of 5.9%, and much lower than the Canadian rate of 7.8%. These strong education and employment levels have translated into higher incomes in Regina. The median income in 2010 was \$36,100, which grew at an average annual rate of 3.8% since 1995, and in real terms, adjusting for inflation using the consumer price index for Saskatchewan, at an average annual rate of 1.6%. The real growth rate from 2005 to 2010 was 2.1% per year. The median household income grew to \$69,200 in 2010, at an average annual rate of 4.9% since 2005 (2.6% in real terms), and of 3.6% since 1996 (1.4% in real terms).

The improvements in employment opportunities and incomes have also led to decreases in poverty. In 2010, 12.7% of all persons in the city were estimated to live in low-income households, 22.8% of households spent more than 30% of their income on shelter costs, and 9.1% of total household income came from government transfers. In 1995, 18.3% lived in low-income households, 33.7% of households spent more than 30% of their incomes on shelter costs, and 12.1% of total income was received through government transfers.

The city of Regina is home to a large number of aboriginal peoples, estimated at 19,335 in private households in 2011, or 10.2% of the total population. As in the case of Saskatchewan as a whole, the aboriginal population of Regina is much younger than the entire population of the city, with a median age of 23 years versus 37 for all of Regina. The level of educational attainment for the younger aboriginal population is also lower than that of the older general population: of the working-age aboriginal population, 36.7% had post-secondary degrees in 2011, compared to 51.5% for the general population of the city.

The youthful and less-educated aboriginal population had a lower degree of labour market success. The unemployment rate for the aboriginal working-age population was 12.9%, much higher than the rate of 5.0% for the whole working-age population of the city. There also existed income and poverty gaps between aboriginal households and all households in Regina. The median aboriginal household income was \$53,300 in 2010, 62% of the city-wide median household income. Aboriginal households were much more likely to be dependent on government transfers, live in low-income households, and pay more than 30% of their incomes on shelter costs, as exhibited in **Figure 15**.

Figure 15: Selected 2010 Regina Indicators



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Regina maintains a police force that has grown from 310 police officers in 1995, to 385 in 2012. Major hires of 16, 19, 11, and 16 officers occurred in 1998, 2008, 2009, and 2011. Also from 1995 to 2012, the number of female officers increased from 25 to 92, and the number of civilian personnel rose from 114 to 156. The number of police officers per 100,000 residents has increased from 167 to 187 as shown in **Figure 16**, Panel A. Over the same period, the number of total personnel per 100,000 residents rose from 229 to 262.

Regina generally deals with a low rate of violent crime compared to the other major cities, and compared to the provincial rate, although it does have an elevated rate of Assault 2 (assault with a weapon causing harm). Most recently, the rate of property crime in Regina has dropped below the provincial rate, and has fallen below the rates of most of the other major cities in Saskatchewan.

The rate of police-reported violent criminal code violations per 100,000 residents grew quickly during the late-1990s, from 1,162 in 1995 to 2,124 in 1999, and then held tightly around 2,100 until 2005. Starting in 2006, the rate declined by approximately 100 points per year, to 1,397 in 2012, for a total decrease of 34% from the rate in 2005. The rate is depicted in Panel B of Figure 16. The figure shows that the rate in Regina was stable starting in 1998 while the rate for the province continued to increase till 2003, opening up a sizeable gap. In 2012, the Regina rate was thirty-six percent less than the provincial rate of violent criminal code violations.

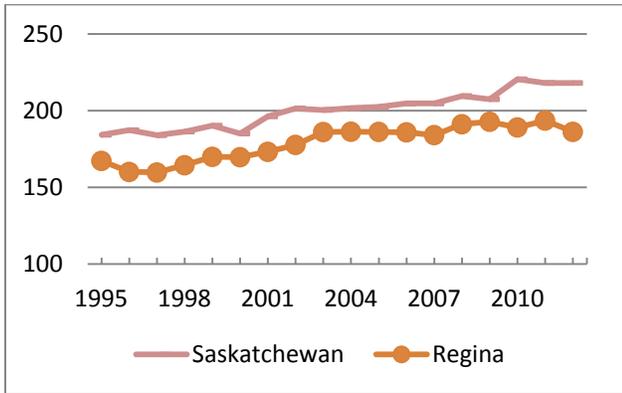
In a similar fashion, the rate of Sexual Assault (level 1) in Regina also diverged from the provincial rate in the late-1990s. The rate of Sexual Assault 1 peaked in 1997 at 150 violations per 100,000 residents, and then began to decline, reaching 63 in 2012, thirty-seven percent lower than the provincial rate. The rates of Assault 1 and Assault 2 both peaked earlier than the rates for the province. The rate of Assault 2, shown in Panel D, peaked in 1999 in Regina, at 495 violations per 100,000 residents, and then varied slightly around 430 until 2007, while the provincial rate continued to increase after 1999. Thereafter, the rate of Assault 2 in Regina decreased by thirty-four percent over five years to the rate of 289 in 2012. At that time, the Regina rate was thirteen percent lower than the provincial rate. In Panel E, the rate of Assault 1 for Regina peaked in 1998 at 948, and then dropped to 769 by 2002 before starting another cyclical increase and reaching 863 in 2005. The rate then slowly declined to 658 in 2012, at which time the rate had declined by twenty-four percent since the 2005 peak, and was thirty-eight percent lower than the provincial rate.

From 1995 to 2002, the rate of property crime violations in Regina was much higher than the provincial rate, and higher than any other major city in Saskatchewan, with the exception of North Battleford. By 2003, the rate was 11,419 in Regina (twenty-five percent higher than the provincial rate), and then started to consistently decline, reaching 5,147 in 2012, a fifty-five percent reduction since 2003. The rate in Regina was twenty-five percent higher than the provincial rate in 2003, and by 2012, was seventeen percent lower than that of the province, imitating the dramatic property crime reductions in Saskatoon. These patterns are depicted in Panel F.

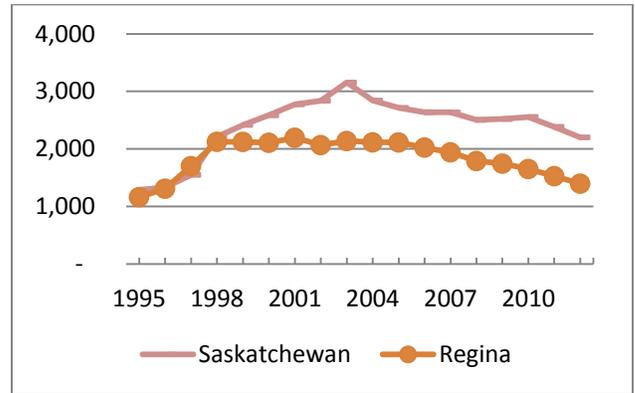
In Regina, the rate of breaking and entering violations declined after 1995, when the rate was 3,239 per 100,000 residents. This rate was the highest recorded for breaking and entering in Regina since 1987. As shown in Panel G, the rate rose slightly from 2002 to 2004, to 2,233, and then resumed its long-run decrease, reaching 689 in 2012. From 2004 to 2012, the rate in Regina had dropped by fifty-nine percent, and in 2012, the rate of breaking and entering in Regina was twelve percent less than the provincial rate.

Figure 16: Policing and Crime Rates in Regina, per 100,000 residents

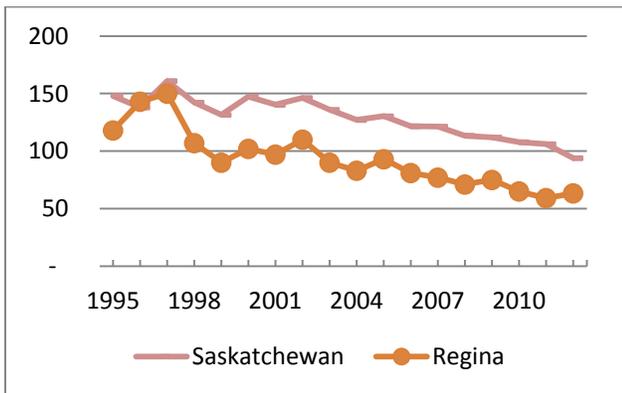
Panel A: Number of Police Officers (rate)



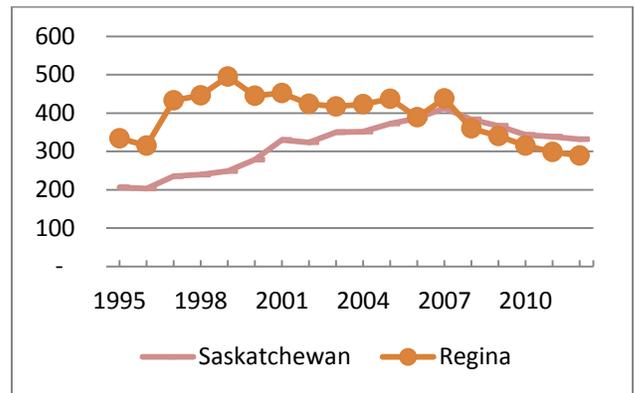
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



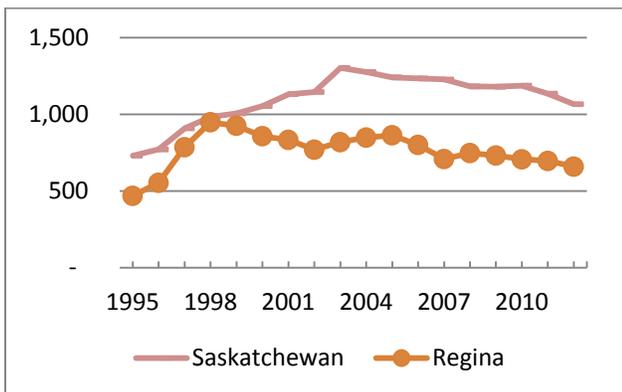
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

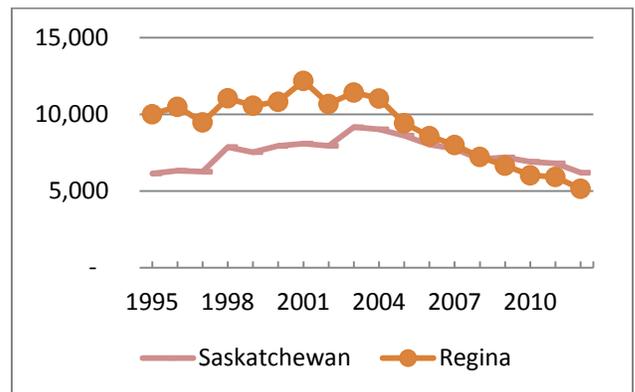
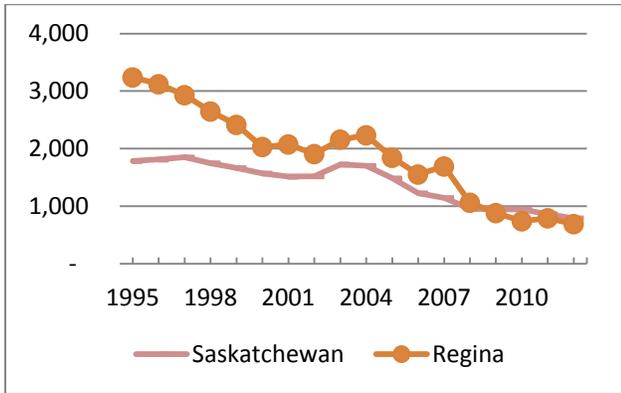
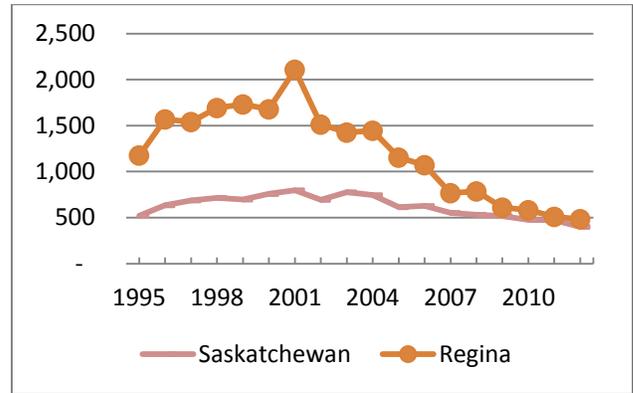


Figure 16 (Concluded)

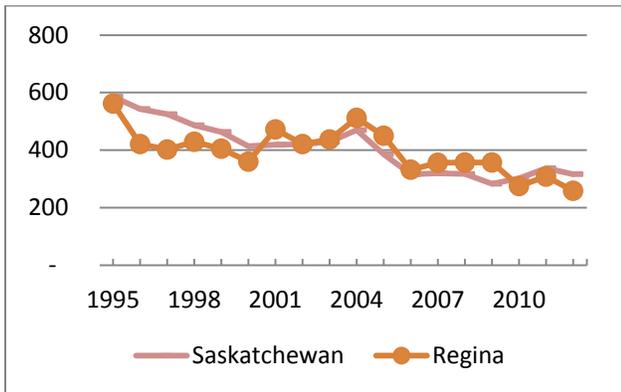
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



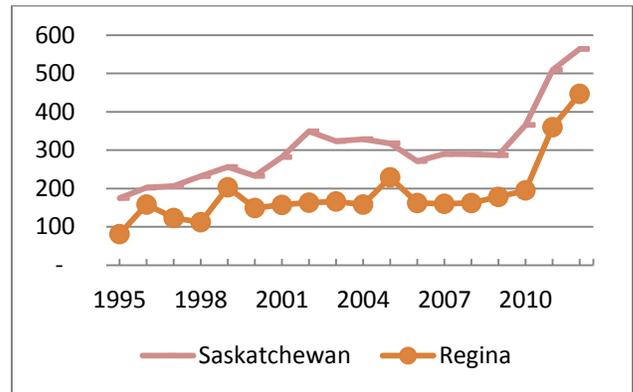
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0079

Motor vehicle theft incidents have been strikingly prevalent in Regina over the last two decades. From 1995 to 2006 with the exception of 2003, Regina experienced the largest rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 residents of the ten major cities in Saskatchewan. The peak rate for Regina occurred in 2001, at 2,108, and 2.6 times the provincial rate. Since then, the rate has dramatically decreased by almost eighty percent, to 484 in 2012, only 1.2 times the provincial rate. These rates are illustrated in Panel H.

The rate of fraud violations varied from a low of 360 per 100,000 residents to a high of 562 over the 1995-2004 period, exhibiting no clear trend. Since 2004, the rate has slowly dropped in half, from 512 to 259, and has been lower than the provincial rate for the last three years, as shown in Panel I. In 2012, the rate of fraud in Regina was eighteen percent lower than the provincial rate.

In Regina, the rate of drug-related offenses averaged 160 per year up to 2010, when the rate jumped from 195 to 360 in 2011, and further increased to 447 in 2012. This recent increase in the rate is consistent with the experience of the other major cities in the province. However, Panel J shows that the rate of drug-related offenses in Regina has been much lower than that for the province. In 2012, the Regina rate was less than half of the provincial rate.

Regina's recent experience mirrors that of the province. After a decade of little growth, the population of the city grew by 7.7% between 2006 and 2011. The proportion of international immigrants in the capital city rose from 8.7% to 12.7% over that time, and the median household income grew at an average annual rate of 4.9% (2.6% in real terms) from 2005 to 2010. During the recent period of increased prosperity, violent crime and property crime rates have declined. However, also like the province, the city has been affected by recent increased rates of drug-related offenses.

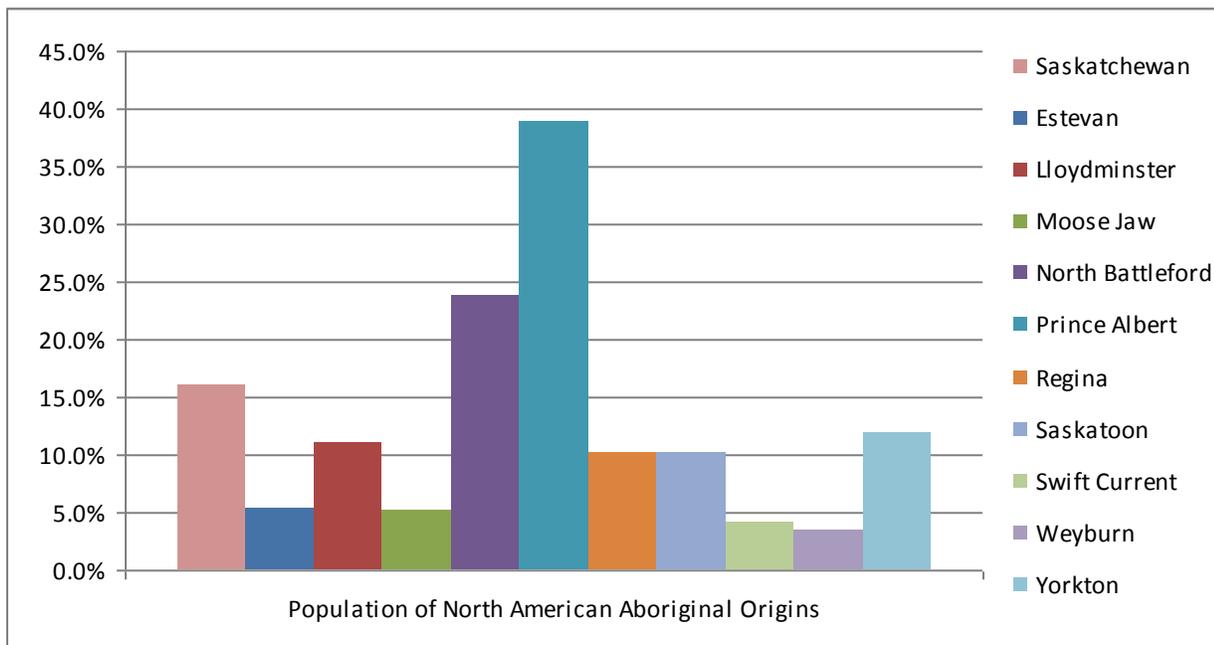
4.3 Prince Albert

Prince Albert is the third largest city in the province of Saskatchewan, situated near the geographic heart of the province, and 130 km northeast of Saskatoon. As “the Gateway to the North”, it is a major centre for tourism, and for resource development in the north, assisting further exploration and development of forestry, uranium and diamond mining industries. Prince Albert also serves as an agricultural centre for the crop-growing communities nearby. There is a strong government presence in the city, with provincial and federal correctional institutions, and with northern regional health and school boards operating out of Prince Albert. The city is in the process of setting up a green industrial park to promote eco-friendly energy industries.

The population of Prince Albert stood at 34,777 at the 1996 census, but then slowly declined over the following decade to 34,140 at the 2006 census. Many workers, between the ages of 20 and 49, left the city, taking their families with them. But from 2006 to 2011, the growth trends in Saskatchewan were also felt within the city. Many young workers, particularly males aged 25 to 39, took up residence in the city, and the number of newborns increased. By 2011, the population had grown to 35,130.

Prince Albert had the highest proportion of aboriginal peoples of the major cities, at 39% as shown in **Figure 17**, and the second-lowest median age, at 34.7, in 2011.

Figure 17: Aboriginal Proportion of the Population, Saskatchewan and major Cities, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Note that the horizontal (left to right) ordering of cities follows alphabetically after the province, similar to the vertical legend.

The level of educational attainment of Prince Albert residents increased over the past few decades, as 46.1% of the 2011 population had post-secondary certification, while only 37.5% had attained that level in 1996. A higher proportion of residents in 2011 had completed high school, received trade certification and apprenticeships, and completed university degrees, than in 1996.

Median income and median household income grew steadily, at average annual rates of 4.1% and 3.0% from 1995 to 2010 in nominal terms, and at 1.9% and 0.8% in real terms. The growth in incomes helped reduce rates of poverty, as the proportion of households in low income fell from 27% in 1995 to 19% in 2010, while the proportion of households spending more than 30% of their incomes on shelter also fell, from 39% to 26%.

Prince Albert has its challenges, with a relatively high unemployment rate, at 10.2%, by far the highest of the major cities. It also has the highest proportion of its population in low-income households, one of the lowest median incomes, and the lowest median age of the major cities in Saskatchewan.

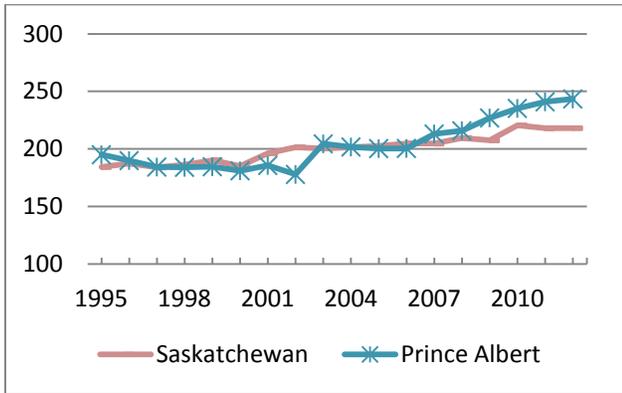
The Prince Albert police force was staffed by 81 male officers, 10 female officers, and 33 civilian personnel in 2011. The force's size declined slowly from 70 officers in 1995 to 62 in 2002, but then the force hired nine new officers in 2003, and added 18 more, on net, in the years leading to 2011. Overall, the force has grown faster than the population so that the rate of police officers per 100,000 residents has grown from 195 in 1995 to 243 in 2012, as illustrated in **Figure 18**, Panel A, which was the highest rate of the ten major cities in the province. The rate of total personnel per 100,000 residents has grown from 256 to 332, also the highest rate of these cities.

The Prince Albert police force deals with a high number of incidents each year, among the highest in the province. The major crime rates for Prince Albert are also illustrated in Figure 18. With a much smaller population in Prince Albert than the cities of Saskatoon and Regina, at just over 35,000, compared to around 200,000 for the two biggest cities, the crime rates for Prince Albert expressed as violations per 100,000 residents are expected to be much more volatile. As an example, a change of 10 violations will result in a change of 29 rate points for Prince Albert, and of about 5 rate points for Regina or Saskatoon.

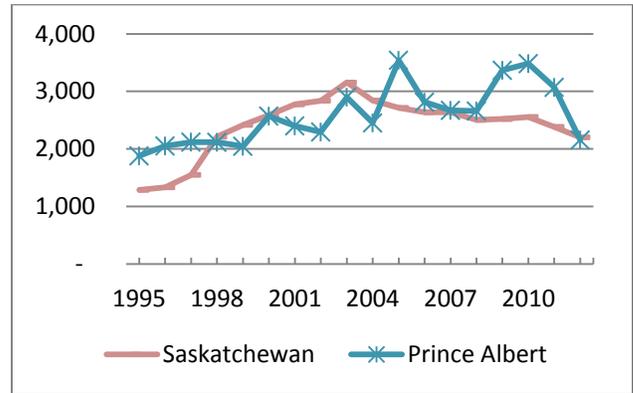
The rate of violent criminal code violations is presented in Panel B. It appears that the rate for Prince Albert was relatively stable from 1995 to 1999, around 2,000 violations per 100,000 residents. The rate then became volatile, with an upward trend, rising to about 3,000 plus or minus 500 points, over the 2003 to 2011 period. The rate dropped by almost a third in one year from 3,071 in 2011 to 2,156 in 2012. In comparison, the rate for the province was 2,201 in 2012. At this point in time, it is not known if the lower rate matching that of the province will continue or if Prince Albert will experience a return to a rate higher than that of the province.

Figure 18: Policing and Crime Rates in Prince Albert, per 100,000 residents

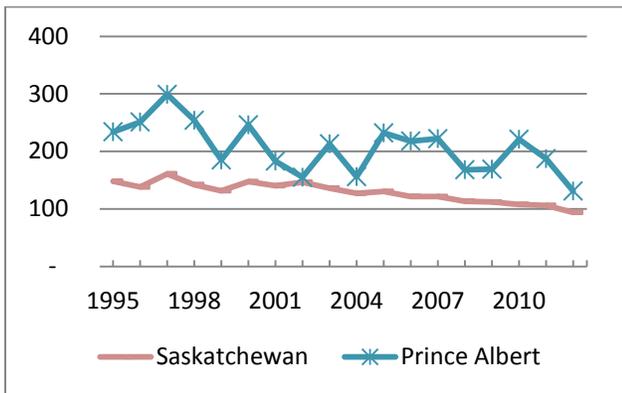
Panel A: Number of Police officers (rate)



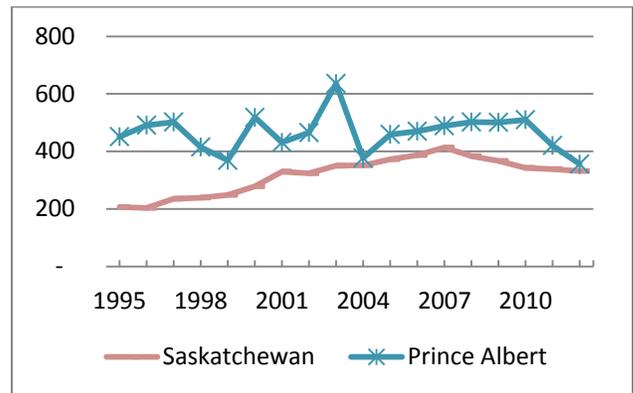
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



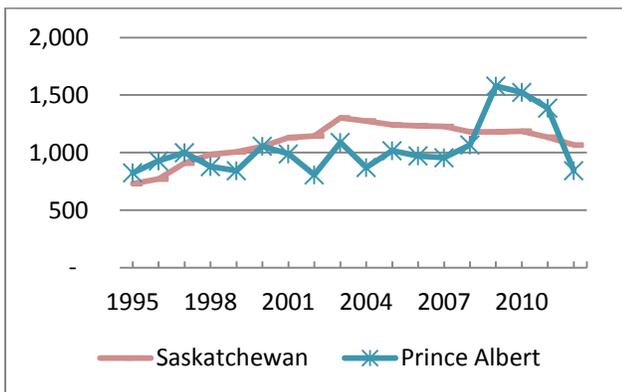
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

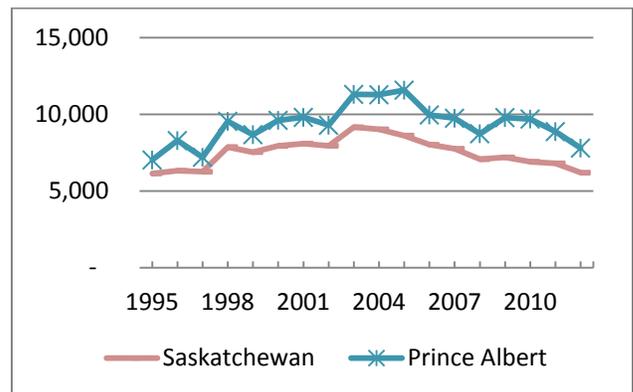
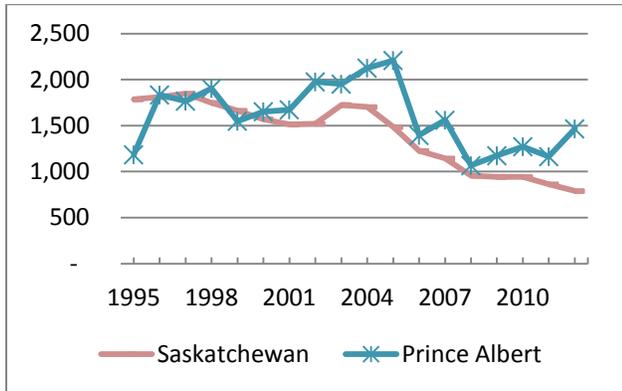
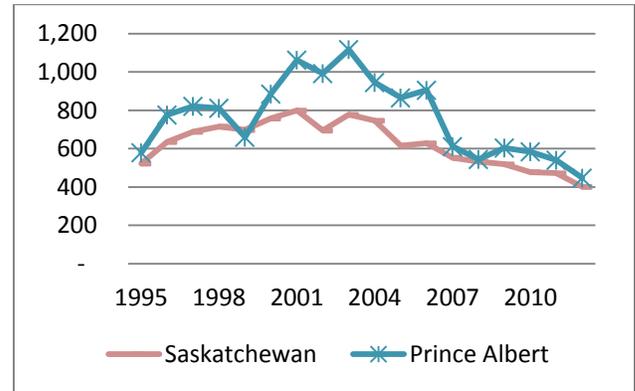


Figure 18 (Concluded)

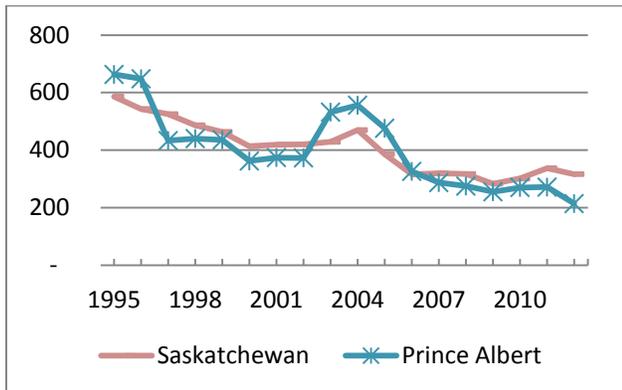
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



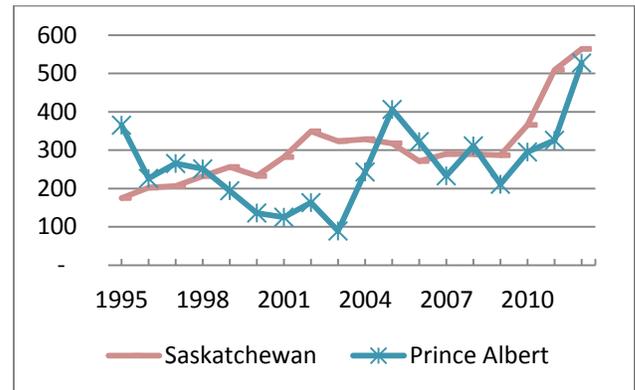
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0079

The rates for subcategories of violent criminal code violations are shown in Panels C (Sexual Assault 1), D (Total Assault 2), and E (Total Assault 1). The time pattern for the rate of Sexual Assault 1 in Prince Albert, although much more volatile, appears to follow the slight downward trend in the rate for the province. The rate peaked at 299 violations per 100,000 residents in 1999, and since reaching 221 in 2010, has declined two consecutive years to 131 in 2012. The provincial rate was 94 in 2012. The rate of Total Assault 2 for Prince Albert exhibited no trend from 1995 to 2010, ranging from a low of 369 in 1999, to a high of 636 in 2003. Prince Albert experienced two consecutive declines in the rate, from 510 in 2010 to 356 in 2012, at which time the rate for Saskatchewan was 332. The rate of Total Assault 1, the category of more common and less harmful assaults, appears to show little trend from 1995 to 2008, with a range from 806 to 1,088. In 2009, the rate exceeded this range, hitting a high of 1,578 for the study period. The rate thereafter declined, falling to 843 in 2012, once again below the provincial rate, at 1,065 that year.

Total property crime rates for Prince Albert and the province are depicted in Panel F. Both exhibit similar hump-shaped patterns. The Prince Albert rate rose from 7,018 violations per 100,000 residents in 1995 to a peak of 11,569 in 2005, and fell thereafter, to 7,795 in 2012. In comparison, the provincial rate rose from 6,141 in 1995, to a peak of 9,153 in 2003, and then declined to 6,190 in 2012, at which time the rate for Prince Albert was twenty-six percent higher than the rate for the province.

The rates for breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, and fraud, as property crime subcategories, are presented in Panels G, H, and I respectively. From 1996 to 2007, the rate of breaking and entering violations in Prince Albert varied widely from 1,400 to 2,200, with sustained high rates in the range from 2002 to 2005. Since 2007, the rate has fallen into the 1,000 to 1,500 range. The volatility in the Prince Albert rate of breaking and entering makes it difficult to predict whether or not the rate for Prince Albert will follow the long-run downward trend of the Saskatchewan rate. The rate of motor vehicle theft in Prince Albert, however, does appear to follow the hump-shaped pattern in the provincial rates, rising to a peak in the early 2000s, although at a rate of 1,117 in 2003, much higher than the peak of 799 for the province in 2001. Both rates subsequently declined to 2012, with the gap between the two rates substantially reduced. In 2012, the rate of motor vehicle theft in Prince Albert was 447, while the provincial rate was 401. The rate of fraud in Prince Albert, shown in Panel I, exhibits a general downward trend over the period, from 663 in 1995 to 214 in 2012. The Prince Albert and Saskatchewan rates of fraud both temporarily bubbled upwards from 2003 to 2005, before resuming the long-run downward trend.

Prince Albert experienced a decline in the rate of drug-related offenses, from 365 in 1995 to a low of 89 in 2003. From 2004 to 2011, the rate has ranged between 210 and 410, and it rose four consecutive years to reach a high of 527 in 2012. This recent rise in the rate mirrors the experience of the other major cities and the province as a whole. Yet, Prince Albert, like the large cities of Saskatoon, Regina and Moose Jaw, has had a much lower rate of drug-related offenses when compared to the smaller cities of Saskatchewan.

Prince Albert is the major hub serving the north of the province. It has exhibited improvements in median household income which has grown at an average annual rate of 3% from 1995 to 2010, improvements in poverty reduction as the proportion of individuals in low income households fell from 27% to 19% over the same period, and improvements in the level of educational attainment among the city population. The rate of property crime has declined since 2005, and the rate of violent crime has been rather volatile recently, showing little discernible trend. The poverty rate and the unemployment rate in Prince Albert are highest among the ten cities, and rates of violent and property crime are also among the highest.

4.4 Moose Jaw

Moose Jaw is the fourth largest city in the province, located just 75 km west of Regina, and 175 km north of the border with Montana. The city serves as a hub for the surrounding agricultural community with grain processing plants and agricultural equipment dealers. Moose Jaw is home to manufacturing companies, trade and other service providers, as well as a vibrant tourist trade, with the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa, the Tunnels of Moose Jaw, and the Moose Jaw Casino. The largest employer is Canadian Forces Base Moose Jaw, which operates the country's largest jet training base. It is well-situated to help service developing and existing potash mines in nearby Belle Plaine and Bethune.

Like most of its city peers, Moose Jaw experienced out-migration of young adults in the years leading to 2006. The population dropped from 33,000 in 1996, to 32,130 in 2001, and remained relatively unchanged to 2006. Strong numbers of young males and females moved away from Moose Jaw to pursue employment and post-secondary educational opportunities. Men and women between the ages of 30 and 55 also joined the exodus, but at a much lower rate than those between the ages of 20 and 29. As a result, the median age rose from 39.5 in 2001 to 41.6 in 2006. These trends were reversed over the 2006-2011 period as many working age adults over 24 years of age moved into the city with improved economic prospects (the younger adult cohort still experienced a decline, most likely tied to educational opportunities in the bigger cities). As of the 2011 Census, the population of Moose Jaw had grown to 33,275. Moose Jaw, however, may still be considered a relatively older city compared to other major cities in the province, with a median age of 41.9, tied for second with Swift Current, and behind Yorkton at 42.7.

The size of the Aboriginal community grew slowly over the 1996-2011 period, but remained low compared to its northern city peers, at 5.3%. Immigrants made up 6.0% of the population in 2011. As with its small peer cities in the south of the province, Moose Jaw has relatively low proportions of aboriginal peoples and immigrants.

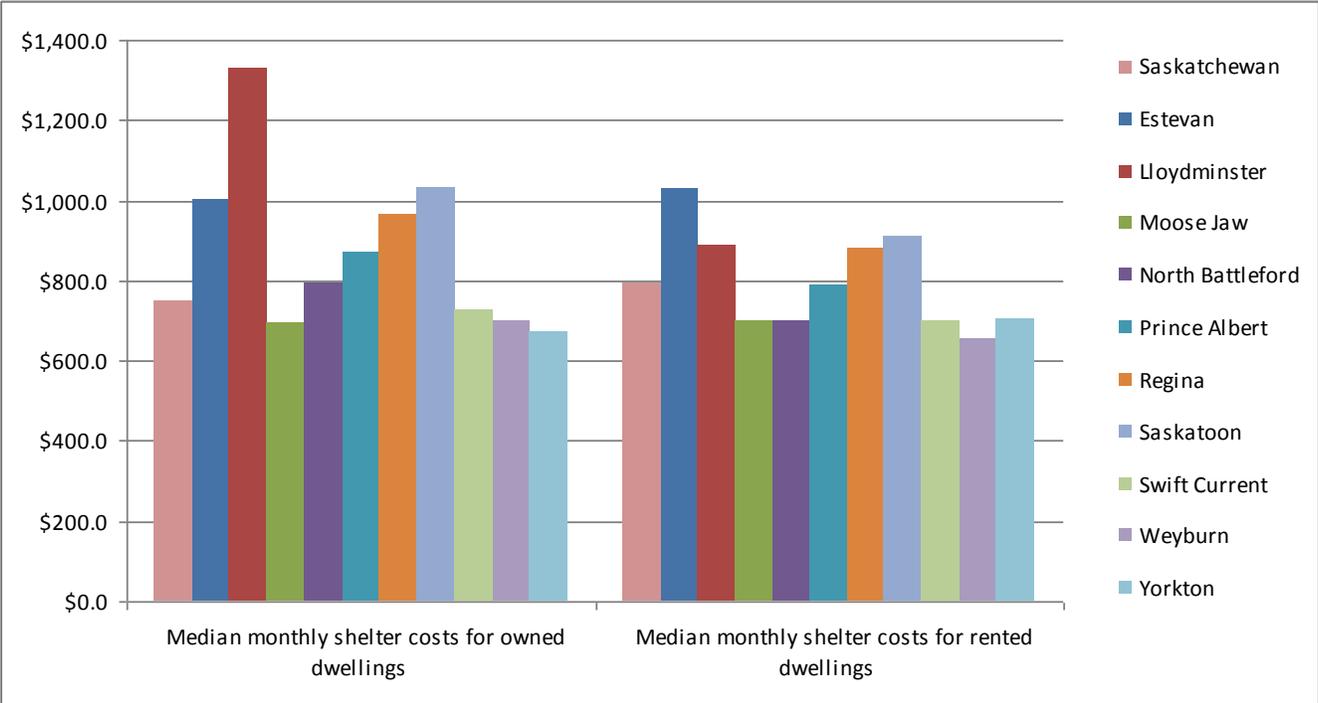
The level of educational attainment of the population of Moose Jaw has increased steadily, from 38% with a post-secondary degree in 1996, to 48% in 2011. That increase is due to more residents with trade certificates or apprenticeships (an increase from 5% in 1996 to 15% in 2011). In addition, a higher proportion of residents in 2011 had completed high school or higher levels of education (73% in 2011 versus 58% in 1996).

With a better educated workforce, labour force participation and employment rates both increased from 61% and 57% in 1996 respectively, to 65% and 61% by 2011, and the unemployment rate decreased from 6.9% in 1996 to 5.7% in 2011. The majority of workers were in sales and service occupations, but that proportion has fallen over time, with an increase of workers in management occupations, in occupations in education, law, community and government services, and in trades and transport-related occupations. In addition, with a relatively older population, Moose Jaw has lower employment rates than those cities with younger populations in Saskatchewan.

Median and median household incomes have grown by average annual rates of 3.3% and 2.9% respectively, in nominal terms, and by 1.1% and 0.7% in real terms from 1995 to 2010. And yet, compared to its peer cities, Moose Jaw had the third lowest median income, better than only Yorkton and North Battleford, in 2010. Moose Jaw residents, however, enjoy low median shelter costs, among the lowest of the major cities in the province, as depicted in **Figure 19**.

Residents of Moose Jaw became less reliant on government transfers, with these transfers comprising 18.5% of total income in 1995, and 14.7% in 2011. The proportion of households spending more than 30% of their income on shelter fell from 31.8% in 1996, to 24.5% in 2011, and the proportion deemed to be in low-income households fell from 19.7% in 1996 to 15.4% in 2011.

Figure 19: Monthly Shelter Costs, Saskatchewan and Major Cities, 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Note that the horizontal (left to right) ordering of cities follows alphabetically after the province, similar to the vertical legend.

Moose Jaw has a municipal police force that numbered 53 officers in 2012, of which 50 were male. The number of police officers has decreased slightly over the years, from a peak of 57 in 2001, and from 55 in 1995. Correspondingly, the rate of police officers per 100,000 residents has fallen from 161 in 1995 to 157 in 2012, as depicted in **Figure 20**, Panel A. However, the police force has been completed by increasing numbers of civilian personnel, from 12 in 1995 to 24 in 2012, and the rate of total personnel per 100,000 residents has increased, from 196 to 228.

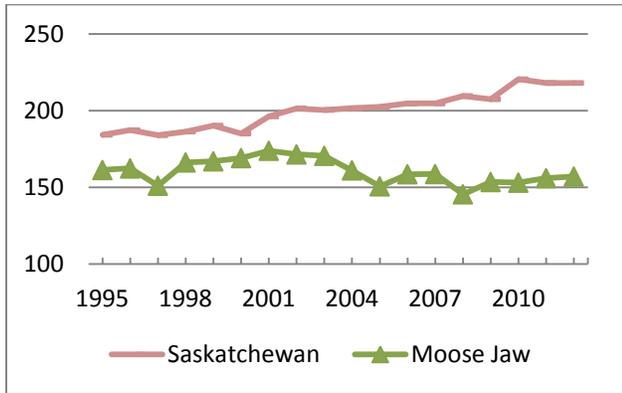
The major crime rates for Moose Jaw, along with those for the province, are also presented in the panels of Figure 20. Moose Jaw has generally exhibited low rates in all categories of crime. Panel B shows the rate of total violent criminal code violations from 1995 to 2012. In 1998, the rate of violent crime rose suddenly to 1,742 violations per 100,000 residents, from between 800 and 1,100 in previous years during the 1990s. The rate remained relatively stable from 1998 to 2009, averaging 1,800. The rate then declined by thirty percent over three years, to 1,238 in 2012. The rate of violent crime in Moose Jaw has been consistently much lower than the rate for the province, as much as forty-seven percent lower in 2011.

The rates of Sexual Assault 1, Total Assault 2, and Total Assault 1, are illustrated in Panels C, D, and E respectively. The rate of Sexual Assault 1 for Moose Jaw ranged from a low of 70 to a high of 177, and averaged 104 violations per 100,000 residents during the study period. For the most part, it appears that the rate for Moose Jaw is generally lower than that of the province, but is much more volatile, so much so that it is difficult to identify any meaningful trend over the period. Similarly for Total Assault 2, there does not appear to be a distinguishable pattern, although the Moose Jaw rate is consistently much lower than that of the province, and was between one-quarter and one-third of the provincial rate during the last three years. The rate averaged 126 violations per 100,000 residents from 1995 to 2012, reaching a period low of 59 in 1996, and a high of 178 in 2009. The rate of Total Assault 1, however, does exhibit a distinguishable and downward trend since 2001, falling from 851 to 527 by 2012. The difference between the rate in Moose Jaw and the provincial rate started to grow in the early 2000s when the rate in Moose Jaw started to decline and the rate for the province continued to rise until 2003. In 2012, the rate in Moose Jaw was half that of the province.

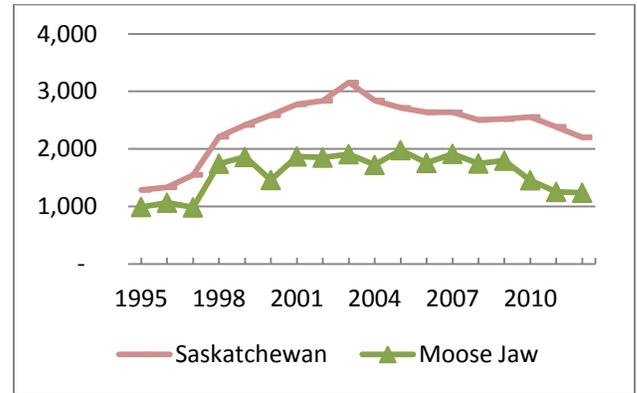
Panel F presents the rate of total property crime violations for Moose Jaw and the province. The property crime rate rose abruptly, from 6,197 violations per 100,000 residents in 1997 to 8,668 in 1998, and then remained relatively stable, varying between 8,400 and 9,400 up until 2008. Since 2008, the rate has fallen from 9,082 to 5,740 by 2012. During the study period, the rate of property crime violations in Moose Jaw has remained rather close to that for the province as a whole, with major differences of up 2,000 rate points in 1999 and 2008.

Figure 20: Policing and Crime Rates in Moose Jaw, per 100,000 residents

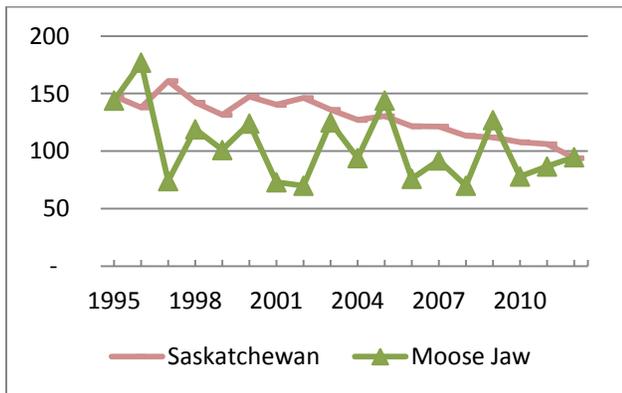
Panel A: Number of Police officers (rate)



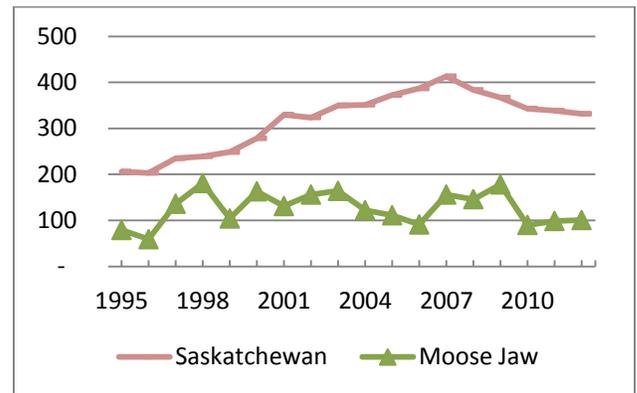
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



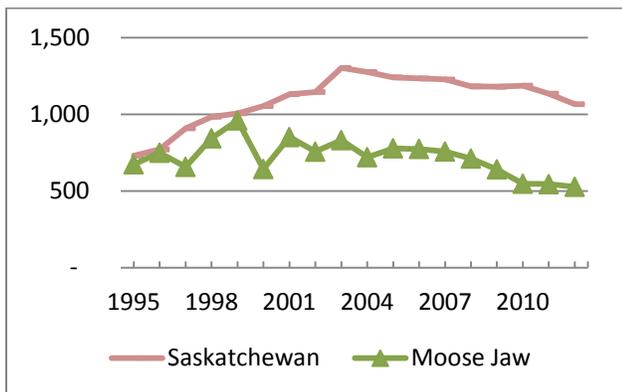
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

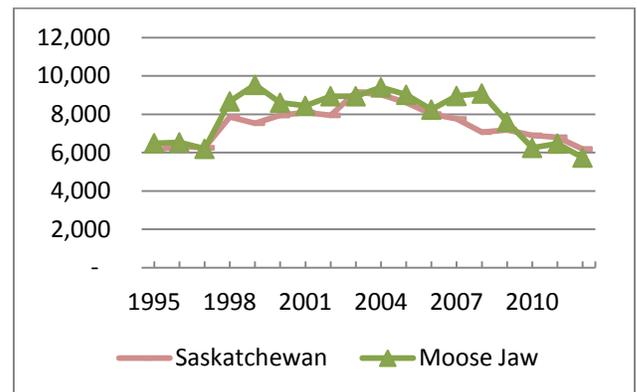
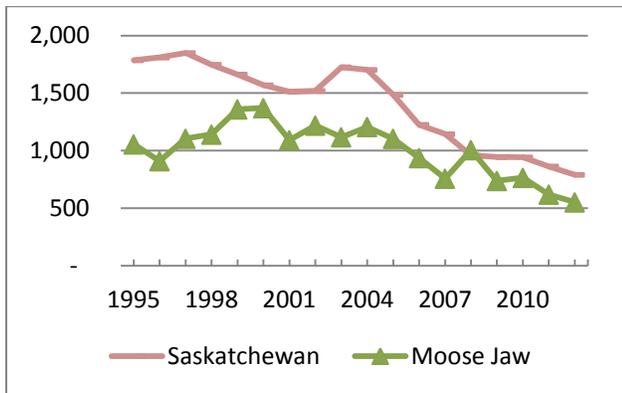
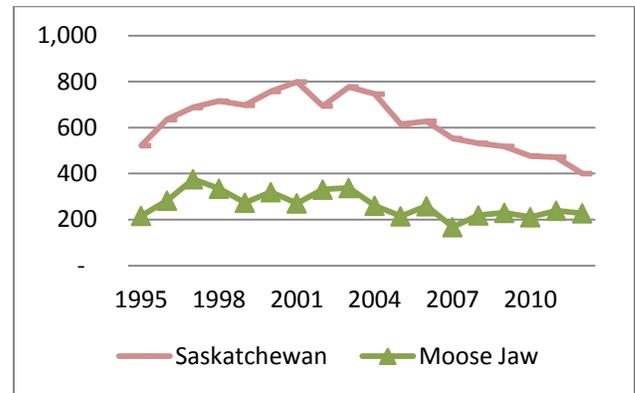


Figure 20 (Concluded)

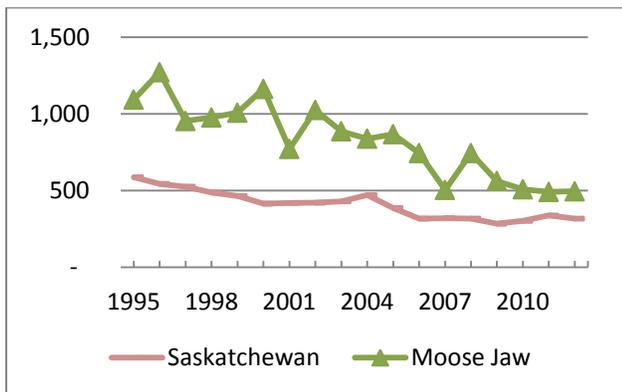
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



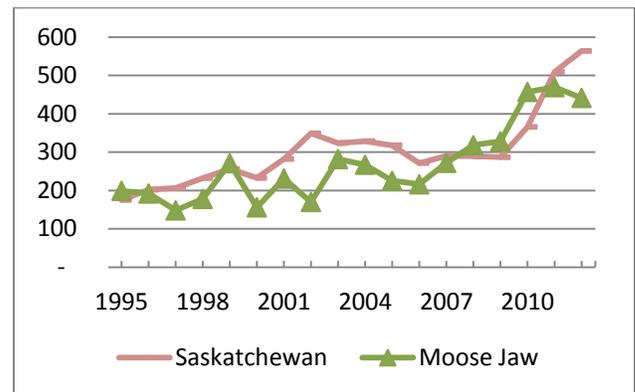
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 252-0079

The subcategories for property crime violations are breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, and fraud, and the crime rates for these are depicted in Panels G, H, and I. The breaking and entering rate in Moose Jaw rose from 1,055 violations per 100,000 residents in 1995 to a peak of 1,370 in 2000. Since 2000, the rate has exhibited a long-term decline, to 551 by 2012. The rate of motor vehicle theft in Moose Jaw appears to exhibit a slow and volatile decline, from a high of 376 in 1997 to 228 in 2012, and with a period low of 168 in 2007. The average rate for the study period was 265, and the rate was consistently below the period average after 2003. The rate of motor vehicle theft in Moose Jaw was substantially lower than, and often less than half of, the provincial rate.

The rate of total fraud in Moose Jaw, however, has been much higher than the provincial rate over the last two decades, as shown in Panel I. From a high of 1,271 in 1996, the rate has exhibited a general

decline, reaching 495 in 2012, a sixty percent reduction, although still higher than the rate of 316 for the province in 2012.

The rates of drug-related offenses for Moose Jaw and the province are illustrated in Panel J. The rate for Moose Jaw remained relatively stable from 1995 to 2006, with an average of 210 offenses per 100,000 residents. Since then, however, the rate has crept upwards to 441 in 2012. As with the other larger cities, the rate of drug-related offenses has remained much lower than the provincial rate.

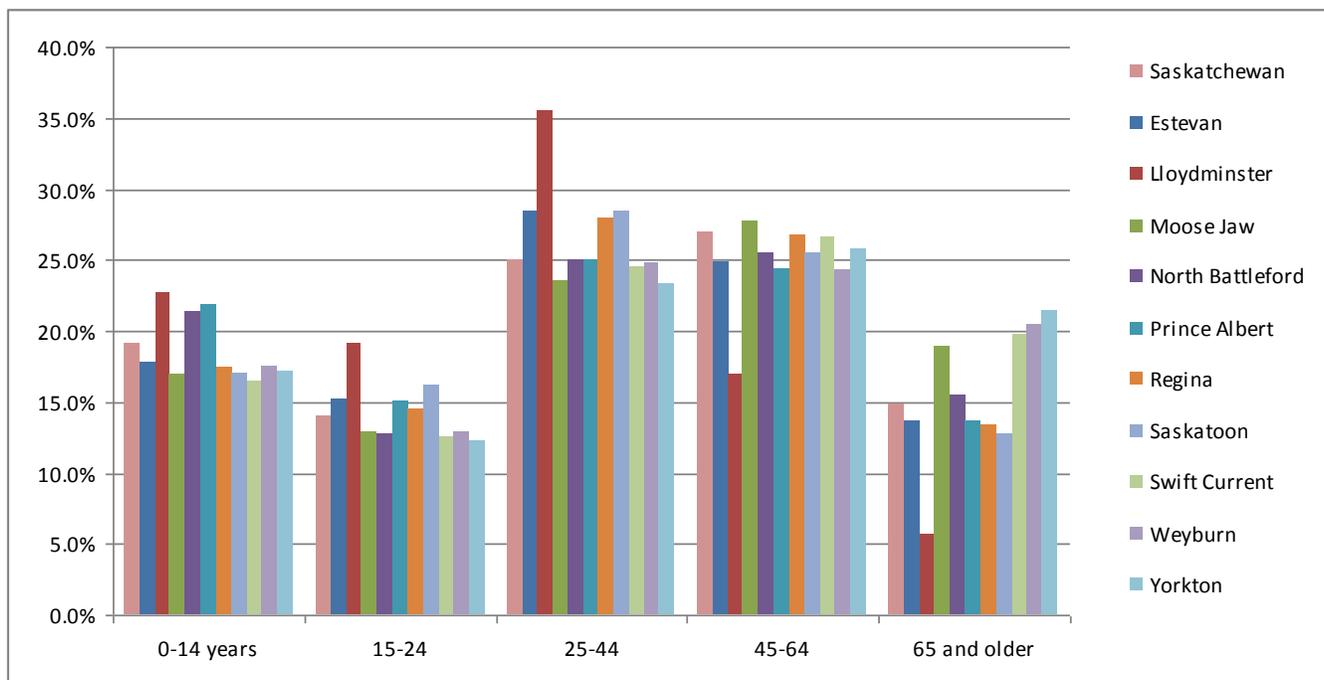
Moose Jaw is a relatively older community with a high median age, and has experienced slow population growth since 2006. The median income in Moose Jaw is among the lowest of the major cities in the province. Like its southern small city peers, it has low proportions of immigrants and aboriginal peoples. Moose Jaw has the appearance of a rather stable city, and has relatively low rates of crime compared to other cities in Saskatchewan.

4.5 Yorkton

Yorkton, the “city where good things happen,” is the fifth largest city in the province. It is located in east-central Saskatchewan, 240 km north of the border with North Dakota, and about 70 km west of the border with Manitoba. Yorkton is a regional centre for agriculture, resource development, trade, and social services. Yorkton is home to two canola crushing plants, and is situated near rich potash fields in Esterhazy, Foam Lake, and surrounding areas. Major international players, including Mosaic, Potash Corporation, Encanto, BHP Billiton and Agrium are exploring new mines and expanding existing mines in the area. Yorkton is well-positioned to service those developments.

The population of Yorkton was relatively stable over the 1996-2006 period (a decrease of 115 from 1996 to 15,040 in 2006). Yorkton’s fortunes changed with those of the province as a whole, and the population increased from 2006 by 4.2% to 15,665 by the 2011 census, with natural increase bolstered by in-migration of working-age adults. Yorkton may be considered an older community in terms of its population distribution. It has the highest proportion of the elderly (21.4%), and the highest median age (42.7) of the major cities. The older working age population (those 45-64) is larger than its young workforce (those aged 25-44). **Figure 21** presents the age distribution of the population of the major cities.

Figure 21: Population Age Distributions, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Note that the horizontal (left to right) ordering of cities follows alphabetically after the province, similar to the vertical legend.

Yorkton has relatively lower labour force participation and employment rates than other major cities in Saskatchewan, which is consistent with its older population. Median household income in 2011 (\$53,344) was lower than the provincial average (\$61,703), and was the lowest of the major cities. Yorkton had the highest prevalence of households in low income based on the after-tax low-income measure (17.4%, compared to the provincial average of 14.0%), a high proportion of households spending thirty percent or more on shelter costs (25.4%), and a high proportion of income from government transfer programs (14.7%). Yorkton also had the lowest percentage of residents with post-secondary education (40.9%) of the major cities.

Yorkton is home to a municipal RCMP detachment, which consisted of 22 male and 7 female officers in 2012. This detachment has undergone some heightened variability recently, growing from 21 to 28 officers in 2010, losing three officers in 2011, and then gaining four more in 2012. The number of police officers per 100,000 residents rose from 133 in 1995 to 192 in 2012. This rate is presented annually in **Figure 22**, Panel A. The Yorkton RCMP force, although the fourth smallest among the ten cities, deals with a large number of incidents. Crime rates in Yorkton are rather high, with the RCMP detachment handling the second highest rate of property crime violations (per 100,000 residents), and the third highest rate of violent crime, of the ten major cities in the province.

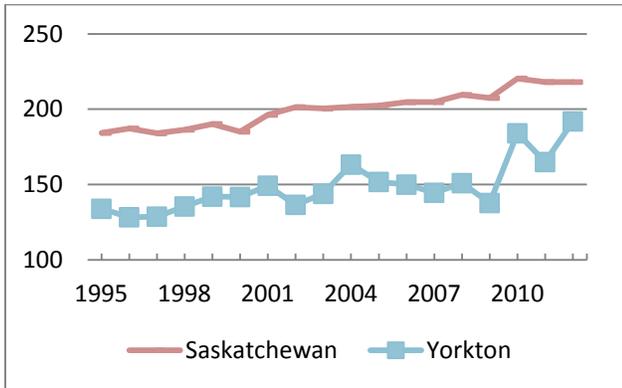
The major police-reported crime incident rates for Yorkton (with the provincial rates) are presented in Figure 22. It is important to note here that since the rates are expressed as incidents per 100,000 residents, with the smaller cities, in the 10,000 to 15,000 range, a change in the number of incidents of 10 in a year will result in a change in the rate of 100 to 67 points, while a 10 incident change for a city with a population of 200,000 will result in a 5 point change in the rate. As a consequence, rates for smaller cities tend to be more volatile than those for larger cities and for the province as a whole.

The rate of total violent criminal code violations for Yorkton is illustrated in Panel B. The rate rose from 1,033 violations per 100,000 residents in 1995, to 3,765 in 2003, almost quadrupling to a level nineteen percent higher than the rate for Saskatchewan that same year. The rate declined from 2003 to 2006, to 2,346, then climbed again, to another peak of 3,752 in 2010, and then declined, to 3,031 in 2012, a rate thirty-eight percent higher than that of the province.

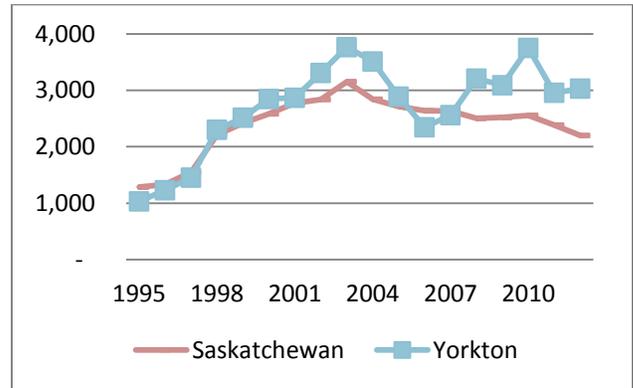
Panel C depicts the rates of Sexual Assault 1 for Yorkton and the province. The Yorkton rate increased from 45 incidents per 100,000 residents in 1995, to a peak of 175 in 2002, and then varied around 125 before rising to 256 in 2010, and ending off at 176 in 2012. The figure shows that the Yorkton rate generally increased over the period of study, while that for the province generally declined. The Yorkton rate is also more variable than that of the province.

Figure 22: Policing and Crime Rates in Yorkton, per 100,000 residents

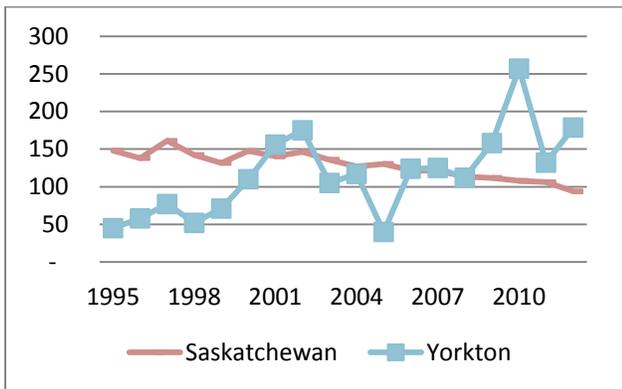
Panel A: Number of Police Officers (rate)



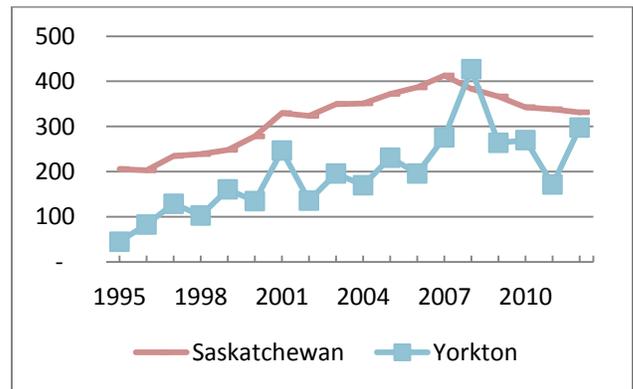
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



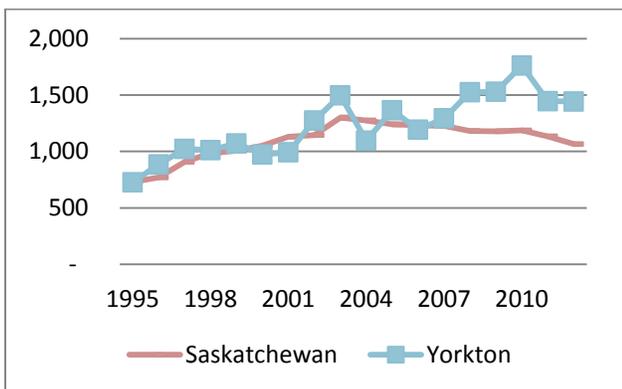
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

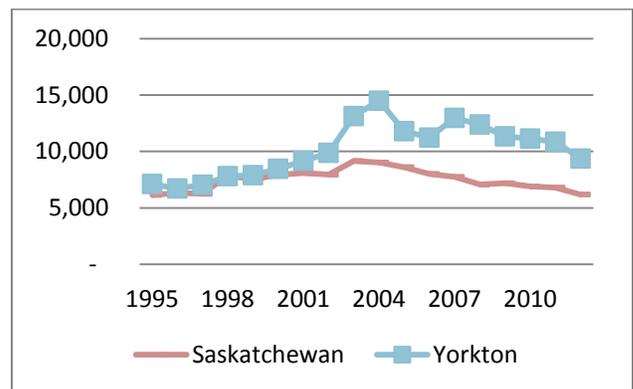
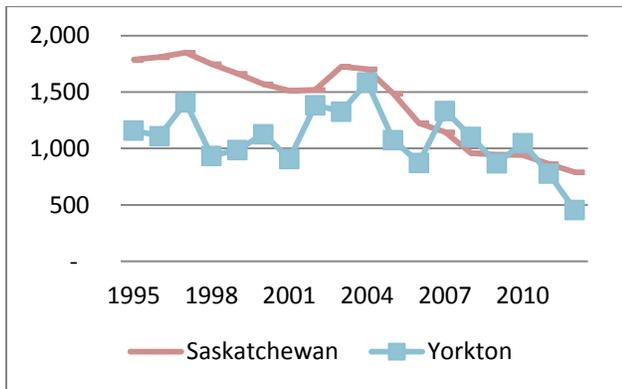
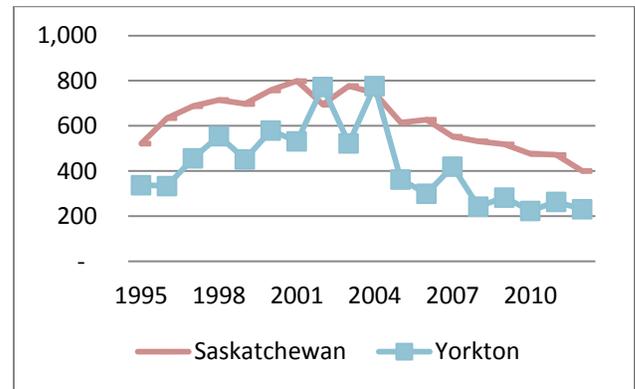


Figure 22 (Concluded)

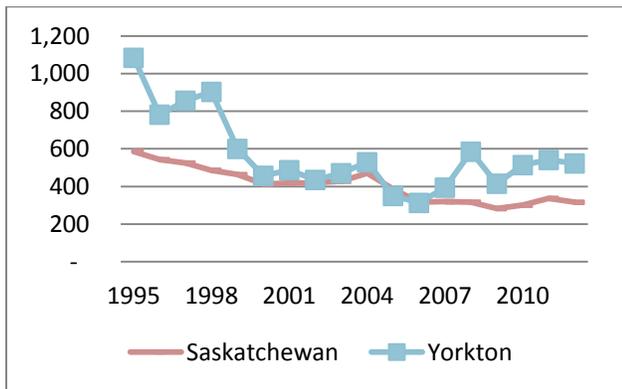
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



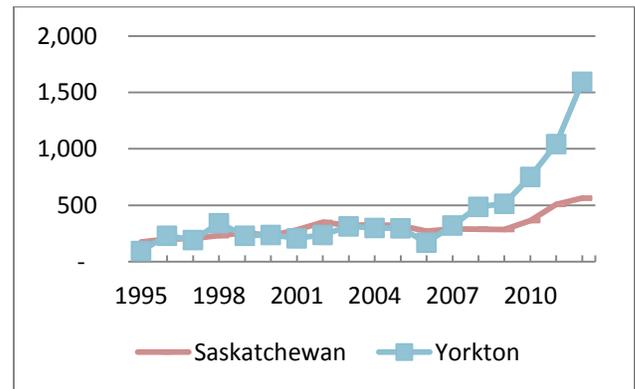
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0079

Yorkton also experienced increased rates of Assault 2 (Panel D) and Assault 1 (Panel E). Assault 2 rates rose from 45 in 1995 to a peak of 427 in 2008, and then reached 298 in 2012. Assault 1 rates rose from 727 in 1995 to 1,497 in 2003, and then varied between 1,096 and 1,761, to end the study period at 1,442 in 2012. The rate of Assault 2 in the province was regularly higher than that of Yorkton, with the exception of the unusually high rate for the city in 2008. In 2012, the rate for Yorkton was ten percent lower than the provincial rate. The rate of Assault 1 for both the province and Yorkton rose from 1995 to 2003, but it has since declined in the province, while the rate in Yorkton remained high. By 2012, the rate of Assault 1 in Yorkton was thirty-five percent higher than the provincial rate.

The rate of property crime in Yorkton rose from 7,121 in 1995 to 14,495 in 2004 and then declined to 9,369 in 2012, as illustrated in Panel F. This hump-shaped pattern was similar to that for the province, but the gap between the two rates widened over the 2003 to 2012 period. The Yorkton rate was

approximately ten percent higher than the provincial rate from 1995 to 2001, but then the gap rose to between thirty-seven percent to seventy-five percent from 2003 to 2012, and the Yorkton rate was fifty-one percent higher than the provincial rate in 2012.

The rate for breaking and entering in Yorkton was highly variable over the study period. From 1995 to 2010, the rate ranged from a low of 870 per 100,000 residents to a high of 1,586. The rate has recently fallen from 1,048 in 2010 to 457 in 2012. Panel G shows that the rate of breaking and entering has been, for the most part, lower in Yorkton than in the province as a whole, but the gap had narrowed between 2002 and 2011. In 2012, the Yorkton rate was forty-two percent lower than the provincial rate.

The rate of motor vehicle theft in Yorkton appears to follow a concave pattern consistent with other crime rates and the rate of motor vehicle theft in the province, but was also highly variable over the study period. The rate rose from 338 per 200,000 residents in 1995, to a peak of 777 in 2004, and since has fallen to 232 in 2012, forty-two percent lower than the provincial rate. These rates are shown in Panel H.

The fraud rate for Yorkton appears to follow a convex shape in Panel I, falling from 1,084 per 100,000 residents in 1995, to 313 in 2006, and then rising to 523 in 2012. The rate of fraud in Yorkton was considerably higher than that of the province in the late 1990s, tracked the provincial rate quite closely until 2007, and then diverged. By 2012, the Yorkton rate was sixty-five percent higher than the provincial rate.

The rates of drug-related offenses are illustrated in Panel J. The rate for Yorkton averaged 245 offenses per 100,000 residents from 1995 to 2007, below the provincial average. More recently, however, the rate has grown much faster than the provincial rate, increasing to 1,595 in 2012, fifty percent higher than the provincial rate. The rate of drug-related offenses in 2012 was only higher in North Battleford.

Yorkton is dealing with elevated rates of violent and property crime. It has also experienced a recent climb in drug-related offenses. Yorkton has a low median household income, a high proportion of individuals in low-income households, and a low rate of post-secondary educational attainment, which tend to be correlated with high crime rates. Yet, Yorkton also has a high median age, and a low unemployment rate, which tend not to correspond with high crime rates.

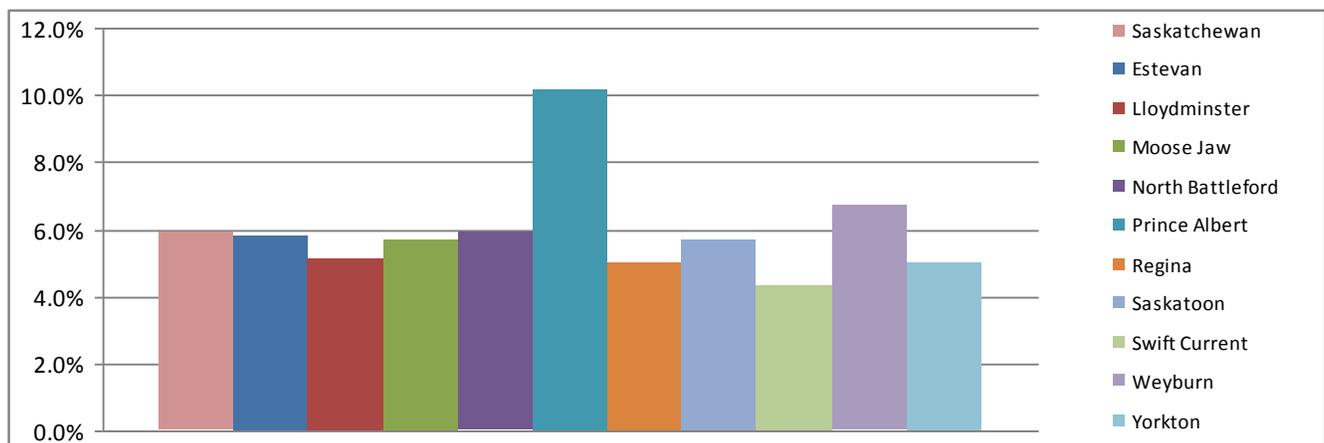
4.6 Swift Current

Swift Current is the sixth largest city in Saskatchewan by population size. It is situated in the southwest of the province, 160 km east of the Alberta border, and 150 km north of the Montana border. The city's motto is "where life makes sense." The population remained relatively stable between the 1996 and 2006 censuses, but experienced some growth, at an average annual rate of 0.7% between 2006 and 2011. The population is comparatively mature, with a median age of 42 years in 2011, and strong growth in the proportion of the population in the older worker stage (between the ages of 45 and 64). It has a relatively low proportion of aboriginal residents, at 4%, and a relatively high proportion of immigrants, at 10%, compared to other cities in Saskatchewan as of the 2011 Census. During the 1996-2006 period, many young adults were moving out of the city. After 2006, the trend reversed, and the city improved its retention of young adults, and welcomed more workers to the city, young and old.

The level of educational attainment of the Swift Current population increased markedly. In 1996, 34% of the population aged 15 and over held post-secondary certification, and by 2011, this figure rose to almost 50%, placing Swift Current third-highest among the major cities of Saskatchewan in the proportion of its population with post-secondary certification, behind Saskatoon and Regina.

Swift Current is a regional centre for agriculture, with manufacturing and oil and gas industries. Tourism and the service sector are also major employers of the local labour force. Swift Current has maintained high rates of employment, at 67% in 2011, and the lowest unemployment rate of the major cities in 2011, at 4.3% (see **Figure 23**).

Figure 23: Unemployment Rates of Saskatchewan and the Major Cities, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Note that the horizontal (left to right) ordering of cities follows alphabetically after the province, similar to the vertical legend.

Median incomes grew steadily from 1995 to 2011, at an average annual rate of 4.2%. In real terms, average annual growth in median incomes was less than 2% over 1995-2005, but grew much more quickly, at 3.5%, over 2005-2010. Measures of poverty of Swift Current residents improved over the past two decades. In 1995, 28% of households spent more than 30% of their incomes on shelter costs, and 16% were deemed to be in low income households. In 2010, 17% of households spent more than 30% on shelter costs, and 11% were in low income households.

The RCMP runs a municipal detachment in Swift Current to provide police services to the city. In 2012, the detachment had 18 police officers, down from a recent peak of 20 in 2005. Swift Current has had the lowest rate of police officers per 100,000 residents, varying between 108 and 136 since 1995, and at 118 in 2012. This rate is shown in **Figure 24**, Panel A.

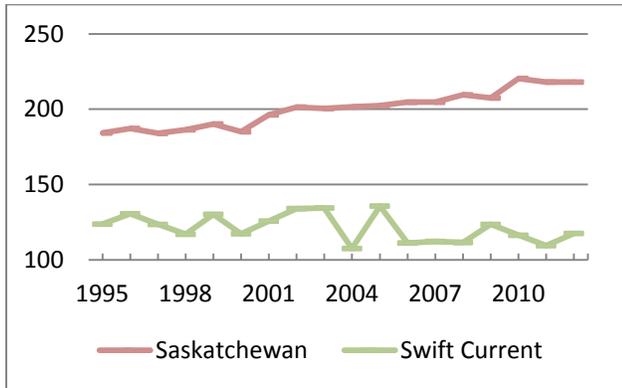
Swift Current has low rates of violent and property crime among the cities of the province. It does, however, have the second highest rate of drug-related offenses. The major crime rates for Swift Current, along with those for Saskatchewan, are presented in Figure 24. Panel B shows the time pattern of total violent criminal code violations per 100,000 residents. Similar to other cities and the province as a whole, the rate rose suddenly in 1998 for Swift Current, to 1,358 from 728 in 1997. The rate for Swift Current then appears to have stabilized around the average of 1,780 from 1998 to 2012 with no distinct trend. The rate in Swift Current was consistently lower than the rate for the province, thirty-three percent lower on average during the study period.

The rate of Sexual Assault 1 for Swift Current is depicted in Panel C, and wanders between 50 and 105 violations per 100,000 residents, with the exception of an abnormally high rate of 130 in 2011, and exhibits no discernible trend. The Swift Current rate is generally lower than that for the province over the study period, with a decreasing gap over the period. Total Assault 2 rates are shown in Panel D. The rate for Swift Current exhibits a slight increase over the period, from an average rate of 88 from 1995 to 2005, to an average rate of 121 over 2006 to 2012. Similarly for Total Assault 1, the rate appears to rise. The average rate for 1995 to 2005 was 591, while the average rate for 2006 to 2012 was 700. When compared to the Saskatchewan rate of Total Assault 2, the Swift Current rate was substantially lower, by as much as eighty percent in 2001 and 2003, and by sixty-eight percent in 2012. For Total Assault 1 violations, the gap in rates between Swift Current and the province was smaller; the rate in Swift Current was thirty-five percent lower than the provincial rate in 2012.

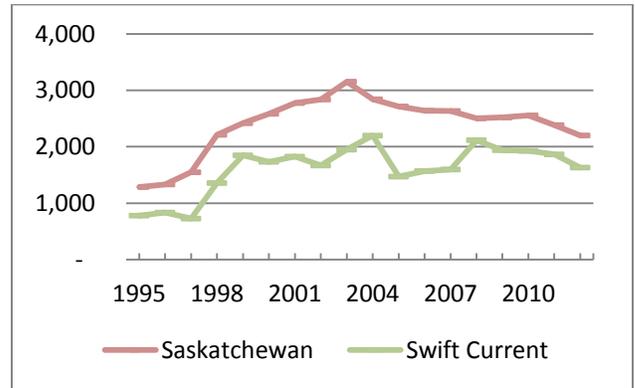
Panel F presents Total Property Crime Violations per 100,000 residents for Swift Current and the province. Overall, the rate for Swift Current shows no substantial long-run pattern over the 1995-2012 period, drifting between 4,000 and 8,000, although when looking just at the later period from 2004 to 2012, we might assume that the rate has been in decline, from a peak of 7,756 in 2004 to 5,249 in 2012. During that same later period, the provincial rate exhibited a decline, from 9,021 to 6,190. On average, the rate of property crime violations in Swift Current was twenty-two percent lower than the provincial rate.

Figure 24: Policing and Crime Rates in Swift Current, per 100,000 residents

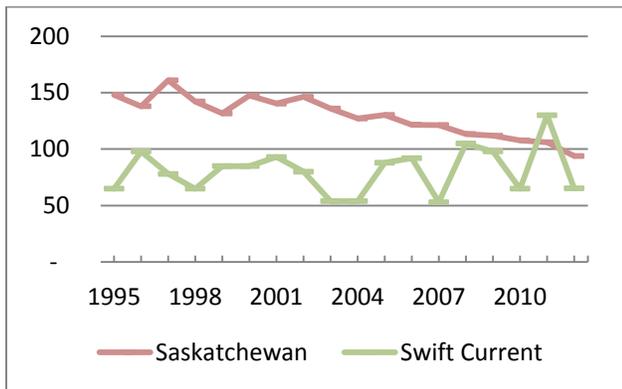
Panel A: Number of Police Officers (rate)



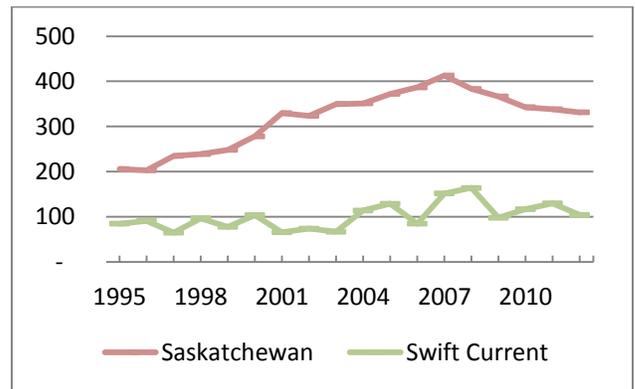
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



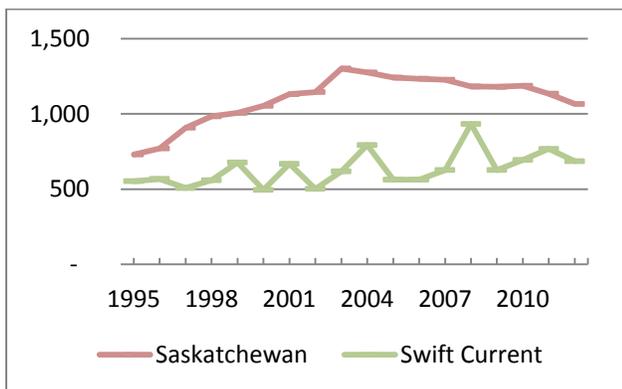
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

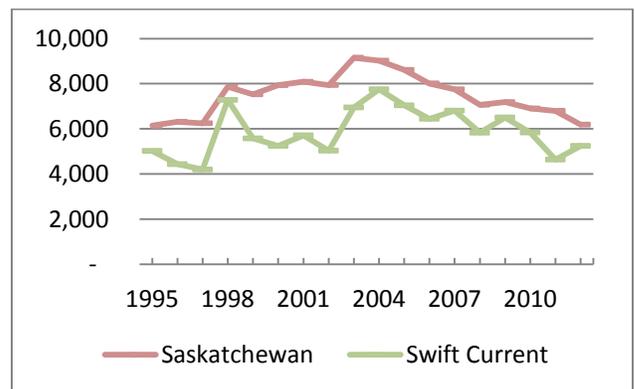
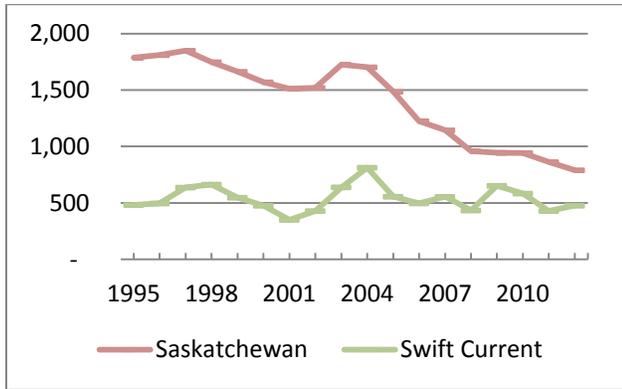
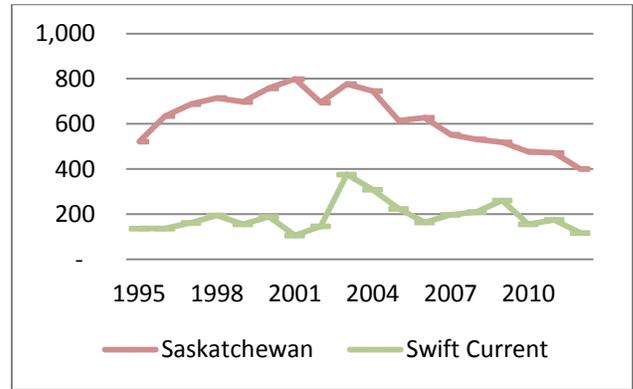


Figure 24 (Concluded)

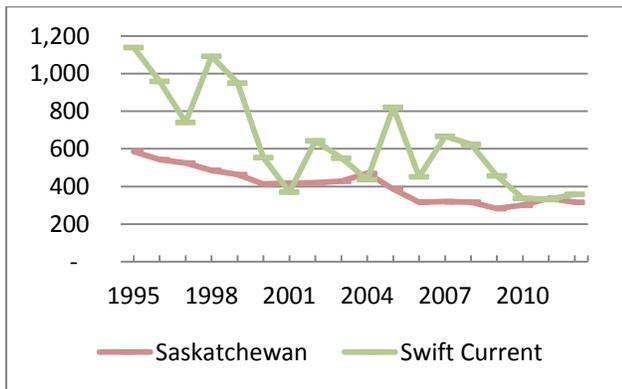
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



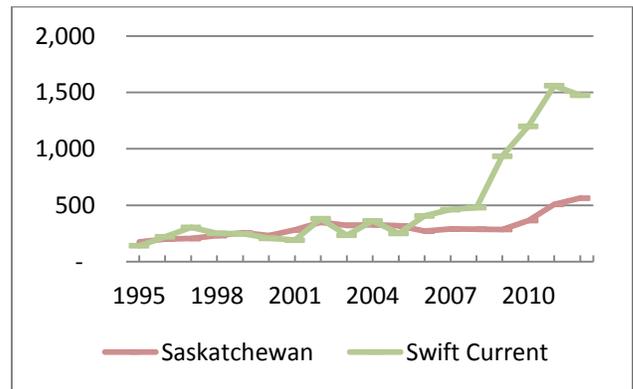
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0079

The rate for Breaking and Entering in Swift Current, shown in Panel G exhibits no discernible trend over the study period, averaging 540, with a high of 813 in 2004, and a low of 351 in 2001. The pattern for the rate of motor vehicle theft for Swift Current is also one of no trend. With the exception of the high values in 2003 (376) and 2004 (309), the rate appears to vary slightly around the period average of 190. However, it is possible to conclude that there is a slight downward trend in the rates since 2003. Fraud rates in Swift Current, depicted in Panel I, do exhibit a long-run downward trend. Swift Current had a substantially high rate from 1995 to 1999, averaging 976 violations per 100,000 residents. The rate then averaged 569 over 2000 to 2008, and then dropped to a count of 359 by 2012. On average, the rates of breaking and entering, and motor vehicle theft violations were fifty-nine, and sixty-nine percent lower than the provincial rates. The fraud rate in Swift Current was mostly higher than that of

the province, fifty-five percent on average, but the gap narrowed, from a difference of 125% over the provincial rate in 1998, to only 13% in 2012.

Panel J shows rates of drug-related offenses per 100,000 residents for Swift Current and the province. There has been a remarkable rise in the rate for Swift Current, from 143 in 1995 to 1,475 in 2012, a ninefold increase. The province experienced only a twofold increase in comparison. The pace of the increase in the Swift Current rate was swift from 2008 to 2012 when the rate rose from 480 to 1,475, tripling in just four years. Drug-related offenses were much less prevalent in Swift Current than in the province before 2008, but were much more prevalent thereafter.

Swift Current is one of the major cities with a high median age, but it has attracted a relatively large proportion of immigrants, has a high proportion of its residents with post-secondary education, has a low proportion of individuals living in low-income households, and its residents have a median income slightly above the provincial figure. It has the appearance of an older, stable, and well-off community. It also experiences crime rates among the lowest of the ten cities. However, the rate of drug-related offenses in Swift Current has been on the rise, and is much higher than the provincial rate.

4.7 North Battleford

North Battleford is located in the western-central region of Saskatchewan, about 120 km east of the Alberta border, and 145 km northwest of Saskatoon. It is the seventh largest city in the province, and serves as a regional service centre and economic hub. The city has a diversified economy with industrial, transportation, and major grain handling companies servicing the agricultural community.

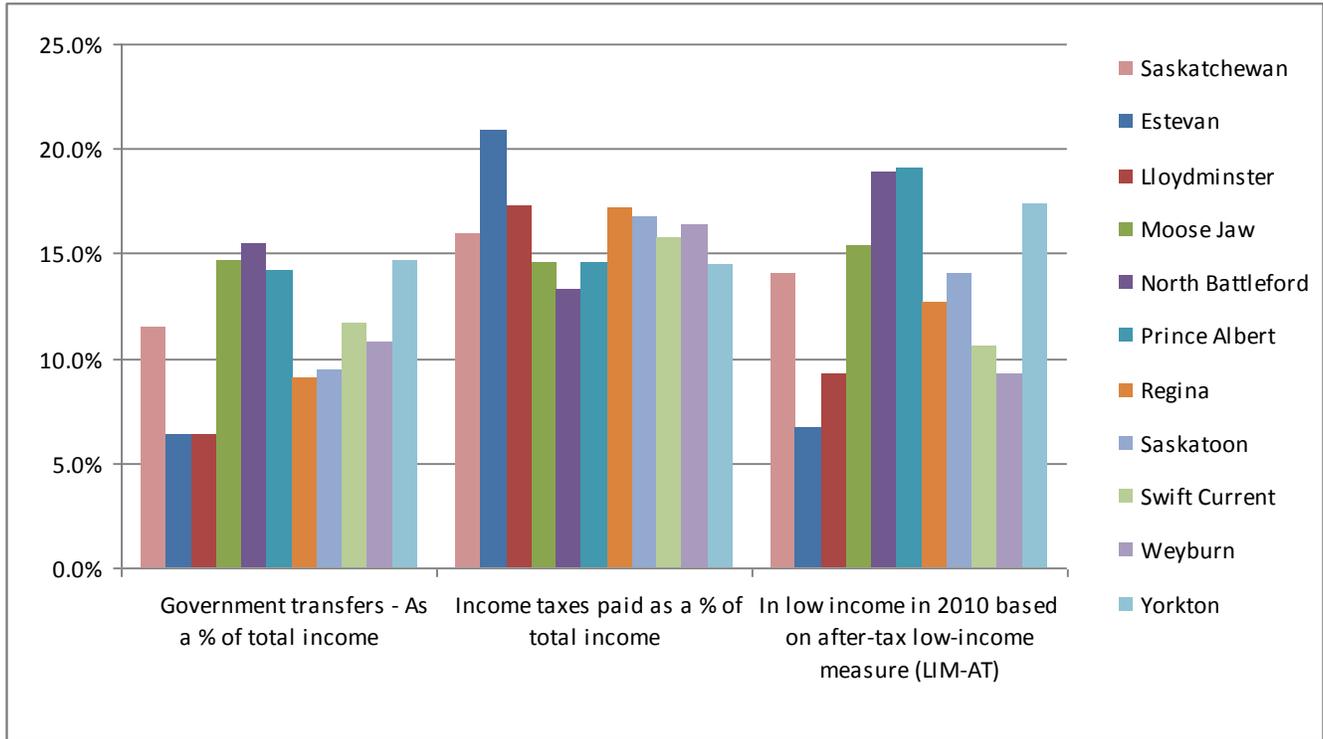
North Battleford experienced population decline during the decade from 1996 to 2006, from 14,051 residents to 13,190. Thereafter, the city shared in the changing economic climate of the province, with a five percent increase in the population over 2006-2011. Much of that increase was concentrated among young workers, aged 25 to 44, and resulted in a decline in the median age from 37.6 in 2006 to 36.9 in 2011.

North Battleford has one of the highest proportions of aboriginal residents of the major cities, at 24%, second only to Prince Albert. It also has one of the highest proportions of its population less than 15 years of age. At the same time, it has a relatively low proportion of people between the ages of 15 and 24, more comparable to the more mature cities of Yorkton, Swift Current, Moose Jaw and Weyburn. This may be indicative of a large segment of that age cohort moving on to other regions of the province where employment creation is rapid (e.g. in Lloydminster) and where there are more opportunities to pursue post-secondary education (e.g. in Saskatoon). However, even with continued loss of residents between the ages of 20 and 24 during the strong economic period of 2006-11, many young workers in the 25-44 age cohort moved into North Battleford to pursue employment opportunities.

Educational indicators show that North Battleford has a high proportion of residents with post-secondary degrees, at 48.1% of the working-age population, the fourth-highest rate of the ten cities. However, the city also has the second highest proportion of residents without a high school diploma, at 28.1%, after Yorkton. Of those that complete high school, a strong majority have continued on to complete post-secondary degrees, be they trade certificates, college diplomas, or university degrees. With the lowest proportion of its residents holding just a high school diploma of the major cities, there has been a hollowing out of the middle in educational terms, since there are large segments of the population with very low or high levels of education, and this may result in a hollowing out of low- to medium-income earners.

North Battleford had a relatively low median income in 2010, at \$28,300, lowest of the ten major cities, and lower than the provincial median income of \$31,400. Residents had the highest proportion of total income from government transfers (16%), the lowest proportion of income taxes paid (13%), and the second-highest proportion of residents deemed in low-income households (19%), of the ten major cities, as shown in **Figure 25**.

Figure 25: Selected Indicators for Saskatchewan and its Major Cities, 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Note that the horizontal (left to right) ordering of cities follows alphabetically after the province, similar to the vertical legend.

The city did experience improvement over the last fifteen years, with the median income growing by 4% per year from 1995 to 2010 in nominal terms, and by 1.7% in real terms. Median household income grew at an average annual rate of 5% over 2005-2010 in nominal terms, and at a rate of 2.3% in real terms. As a result of these improvements, the proportion of the population in low-income fell from 25% in 1995, to 19% in 2010, and the proportion of the population spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs decreased from 37% in 1995 to 23% in 2010.

North Battleford contracts with the RCMP to provide police services for the city. The municipal RCMP detachment deals with the highest crime rates among the major cities of Saskatchewan, and has experienced a high degree of staff variability, especially in recent years. From 1995 to 2003, the size of the police force varied on an annual basis by no more than three officers, between a low of 22 to a high of 28. After 2003, the detachment faced some strong instability in numbers. In 2004, the force added 8 officers on net, but then lost five the following year, and then lost an additional four the next, to have 24 officers in 2007. In 2008, the detachment increased in size by seven, lost one officer the next year, added six officers in 2010, lost eight in 2011, and then added six more to reach a total 34

officers in 2012. As a result, the number of police officers per 100,000 residents varied widely, from a low of 153 to a high of 260 over the 1995 to 2012 period, as shown in **Figure 26**, Panel A. In 2012, the North Battleford RCMP detachment had 243 officers per 100,000 residents.

North Battleford has been dealing with the highest crime rates in Saskatchewan for most of the major categories of crime. The rate of total violent criminal code violations in North Battleford, illustrated in Figure 26, Panel B, rose from 1,000 per 100,000 residents in the early 1980s, to 2,000 in the early 1990s, and hit 3,000 by 1997. In 1998, the rate more than doubled in one year to 6,356, and then continued to rise to its peak of 11,526 in 2003, more than three times the second-highest rate of the ten major cities that year. The rate has since dropped to an average of 6,321 over the 2006 to 2012 period, but was still more than double the rate of its northern neighbors, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, and Yorkton.

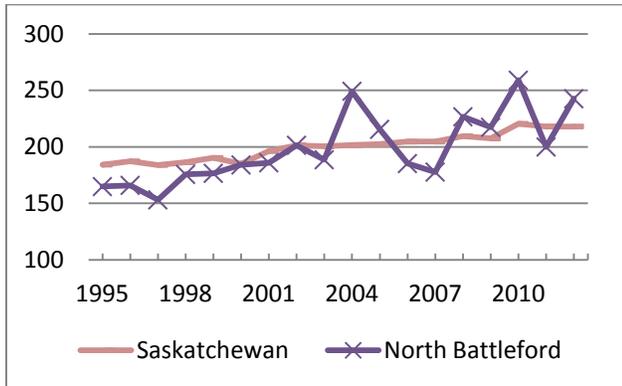
The rate of Sexual Assault 1 is presented in Panel C. The rate exhibited a general increase from about 200 violations per 100,000 residents from 1995 to 1999, and then a jump to approximately 300 from 2000 to 2004. Since 2005, the rate has averaged 170. The rate of Total Assault 2 is depicted in Panel D and exhibits a long-term upwards trend from 89 in 1995 to 935 in 2012. This rate increased more than nine-fold, while the provincial rate grew only sixty percent. Panel E presents the time pattern for Total Assault 1. This rate rose from 1,676 in 1995 to a peak of 5,070 in 2003, and has since retreated to an average of 3,140, triple the provincial rate, with no discernible trend since 2006.

North Battleford experiences the highest property crime rate of the major cities in Saskatchewan. The rate of total property crime rose from 10,090 in 1995 to a peak of 24,597 in 2003. The rate exceeded 23,000 until 2007, and then exhibited a slight decline and hovered around 20,000 until 2012, at a rate three times higher than the provincial rate. These rates are illustrated in Panel F, while the rates for the major subcategories of property crime, Breaking and Entering, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Fraud, are shown in Panels G, H and I respectively. The rate of Breaking and Entering has been highly variable, jumping in the range of 2,100 to 3,200 from 1996 to 2002, then rising above 3,300 from 2003 to 2005. From the peak of 3,929 in 2004, the rate has declined to 1,263 in 2012, and hasn't exceeded 2,000 since 2007. The rate of motor vehicle theft appears to follow a hump-shaped pattern, generally rising from 474 in 1995 to a peak of 1,531 in 2003, and then declining to an average of 890 since 2008. The rate of fraud in North Battleford appears to exhibit a downward trend since 1995, falling from a high of 1,308 in 1997 to a low of 469 in 2008. This rate is also quite volatile, and has fluctuated widely between 450 and 950 since 1998.

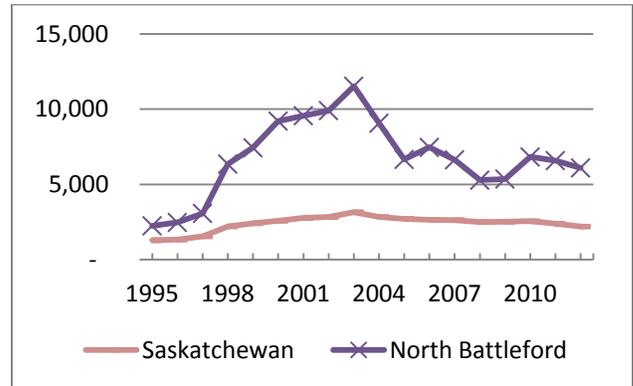
The rates of drug-related offenses per 100,000 residents for North Battleford and for the province are shown in Panel J. The rate for North Battleford climbed from 254 in 1995 to 842 in 2002, and dipped to a low of 347 in 2007 before climbing quickly to 2,562 in 2012. This recent increase has been much more dramatic than the rise in the provincial rate which rose from 687 in 2009, to 1,031 in 2012.

Figure 26: Policing and Crime Rates in North Battleford, per 100,000 residents

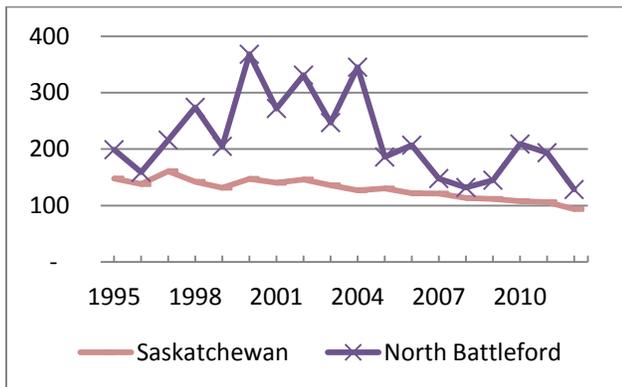
Panel A: Number of Police Officers (rate)



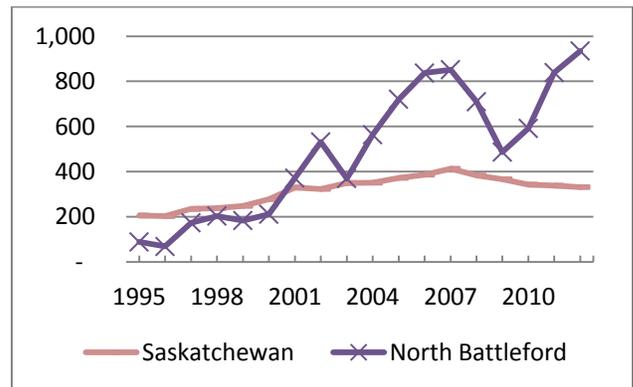
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



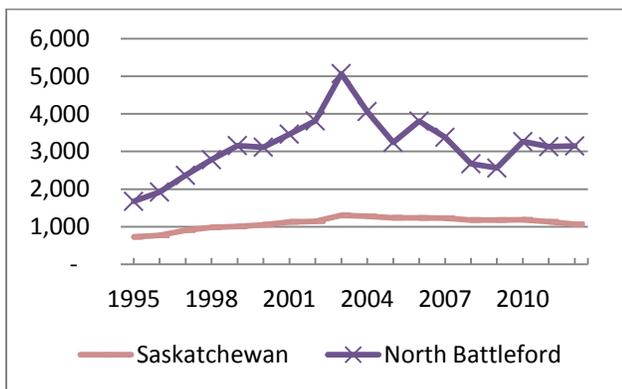
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

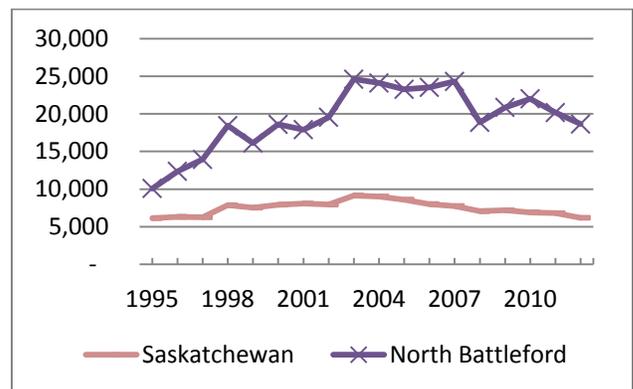
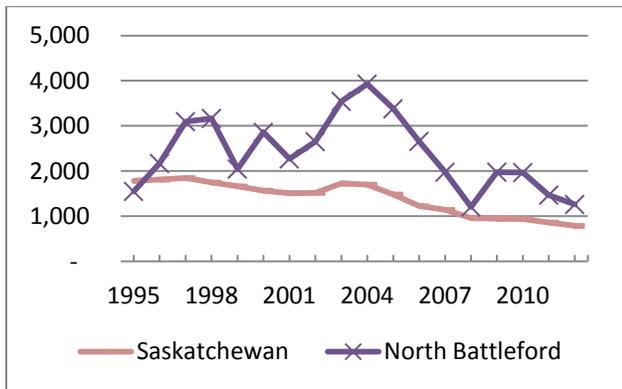
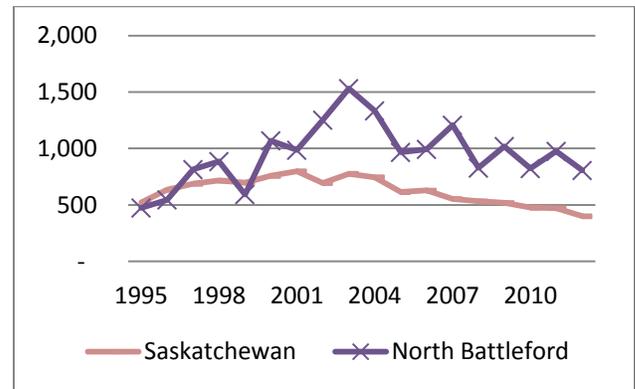


Figure 26 (Concluded)

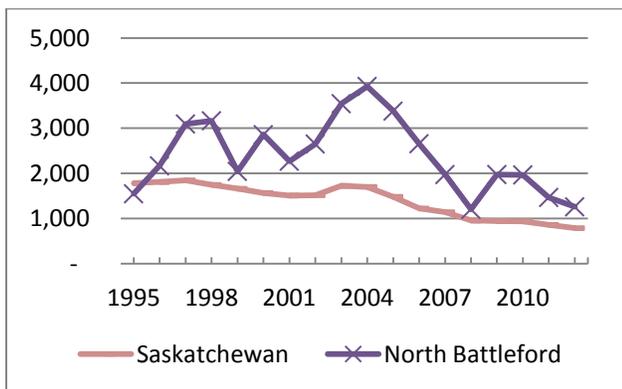
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



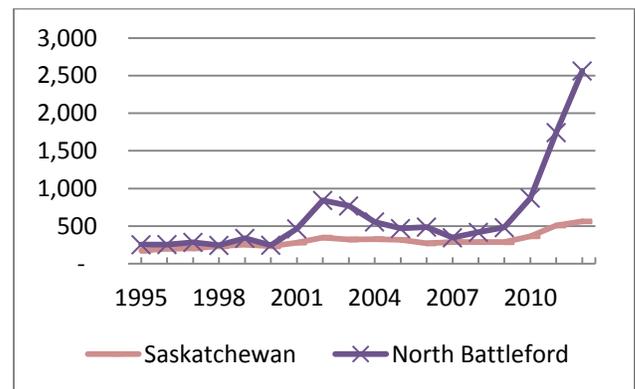
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Breaking and Entering



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0079

North Battleford is a community dealing with the highest rates of police-reported crime among the ten major cities of the province. Violent crime and property crimes rates are about twice as high as those of the other high crime rate cities of Prince Albert, Yorkton and Lloydminster. North Battleford has one of the largest police forces in terms of the number of officers per 100,000 residents, however, the force has experienced some wide variation in numbers recently. The RCMP detachment serves a community with the lowest median household income, with one of the highest rates of poverty, and with a high proportion of aboriginal peoples who tend to be disadvantaged with a younger, less-educated population, with higher unemployment rates than the non-aboriginal population; these socio-economic characteristics are frequently associated with higher crime rates in the literature. And yet, North Battleford does not differ substantially from Prince Albert and Yorkton in these characteristics, whereas it does differ substantially from these two cities in rates of police-reported crime.

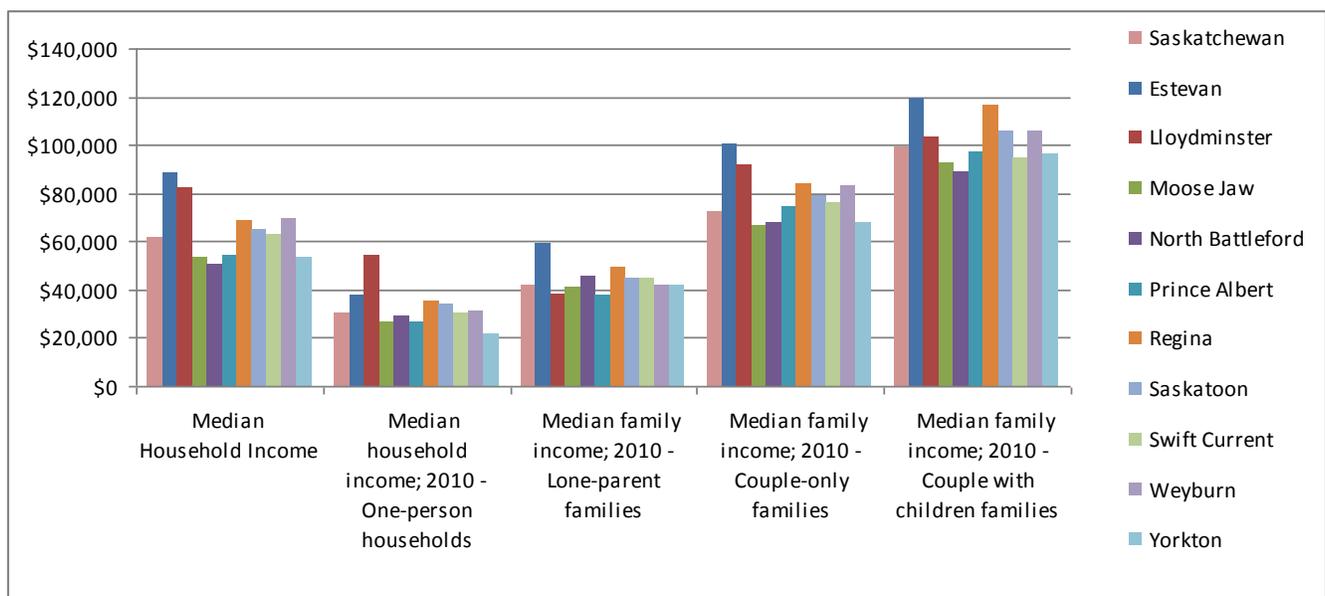
4.8 Estevan

Estevan, the eighth largest city in Saskatchewan, is located in the southeast of the province. It is situated 16 km north of the border Saskatchewan shares with North Dakota, and 130 km west of the provincial border it shares with Manitoba. The “Energy City” is located close to the Souris river, with coalfields, coal processing facilities, and the coal-fired Boundary Dam and Shand power plants, and benefits from oil and gas production in the Bakken siltstone and sandstone formation. Estevan is also a centre for local agricultural production and community services, and a regional hub for trade.

After a decade of population decline between the 1996 and 2006 censuses, the city experienced a tremendous reversal of fortune, with surging energy prices, investment and development. From 2006 to 2011, the population grew by 9.6%, to 11,055 residents. The majority of this increase was due to a massive influx of workers, of males and females between the ages of 20 and 55 flowing in to meet the demand for labour.

Estevan had the second largest labour force participation and employment rates in 2011, at 76% and 71% respectively. Its residents also had the highest median household income of the major cities of the province, as depicted in **Figure 27**. Consistent with high incomes, households in Estevan had the lowest rate of poverty, at 6.7% as indicated by the percentage of households deemed with low after-tax incomes, and paid the highest proportion of their incomes in taxes, at 20.9%, of the major cities. While shelter costs in Estevan were among the highest of the cities in the province, high incomes translated to a low proportion, at 15%, of those spending 30% or more of household income on shelter.

Figure 27: Median Incomes of the Major Cities, 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Note that the horizontal (left to right) ordering of cities follows alphabetically after the province, similar to the vertical legend.

The massive inflow of workers, and rise in incomes, coincided with an increase in educational attainment, with 42% of the population holding post-secondary certification in 2011, an increase from 31% in 2006, but a low level compared to the province-wide rate of 53% in 2011. It did, however, have the largest proportion of its working-age population with apprenticeships or trades certificates, at 16.7%.

Estevan has very low rates of immigrant and First Nations peoples. Only 5.3% of Estevan residents were of First Nations origins in 2011, much less than the provincial rate of 16.0%. While 7.4% of the Saskatchewan population was of immigrant origin, only 4.9% of Estevan residents in 2011 were immigrants. These low rates are comparable to those of its small southern peers, like Weyburn and Moose Jaw.

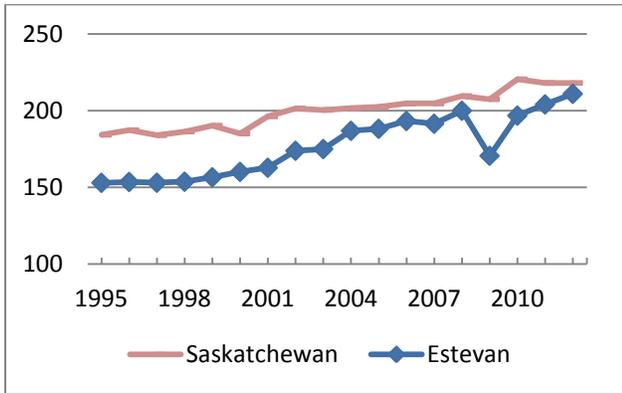
As of 2012, Estevan's municipal police force included 23 officers, 4 of which were female, and had 9 additional civilian personnel. The number of officers held constant at 17 officers from 1995 to 2001, and then climbed with 5 additions over 2002-2008. The force declined by 3 to 18 in 2009, but then added three officers in 2010, and two more by 2012. In 1995, the number of police officers was 153 per 100,000 residents. With increased staffing over the years, that rate reached a high of 211 in 2012, for the third highest average rate behind Prince Albert and North Battleford. **Figure 28**, Panel A presents the annual rate from 1995 to 2012 for Estevan and the province. Estevan's police force has grown with the rise in the rate of violent crime, second-highest among the major cities in 2012, and with the rise in drug offenses, fourth-highest among the major cities in 2012.

The rate of total violent criminal code violations, shown in Panel B of Figure 28, rose over the 1995 to 2003 period in a fashion similar to that of the province, albeit at lower levels. However, while the provincial rate exhibits a downward trend since 2003, the rate for Estevan has been increasing since 2005, from 1,455 in 2005, to 3,035 in 2012, when the rate was only exceeded by that of North Battleford among the major cities of Saskatchewan.

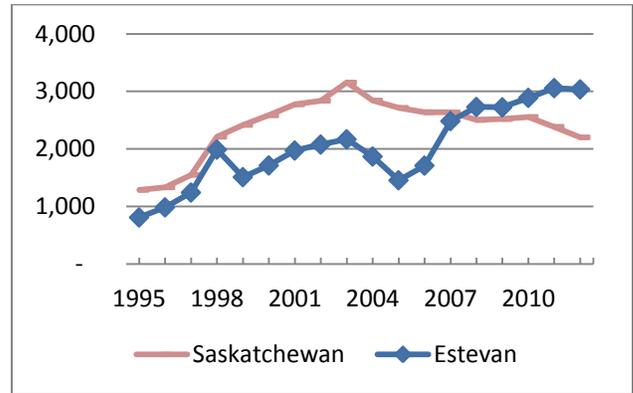
The rate of Sexual Assault 1 for Estevan is variable over the study period, for the most part ranging between 50 and 150 violations per 100,000 residents, and with outliers in the late 1990s, 2006, and in 2012. The rate of Total Assault 2 for Estevan exhibited a drastic upsurge from 69 in 2004 to 249 in 2007, and an equally drastic drop, to 66 in 2009. It has since averaged 105 violations per 100,000 residents. The rate of Total Assault 1 shows no trend between 1995 and 2005, ranging from 495 to 840. Since 2005, however, the rate has increased, from 495 in 2005, to 1,330 in 2012, and the rate for Estevan has just recently surpassed the rate for the province.

Figure 28: Policing and Crime Rates in Estevan, per 100,000 residents

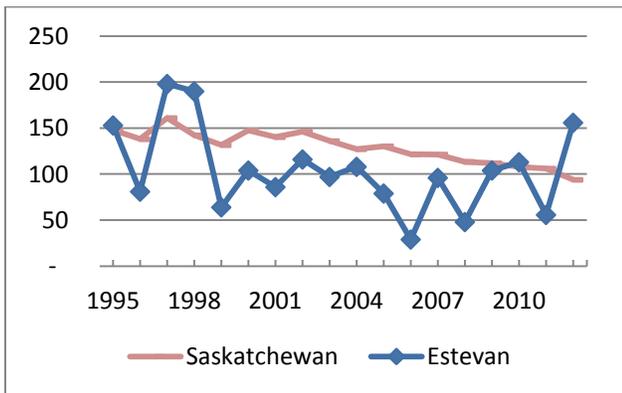
Panel A: Number of Police Officers (rate)



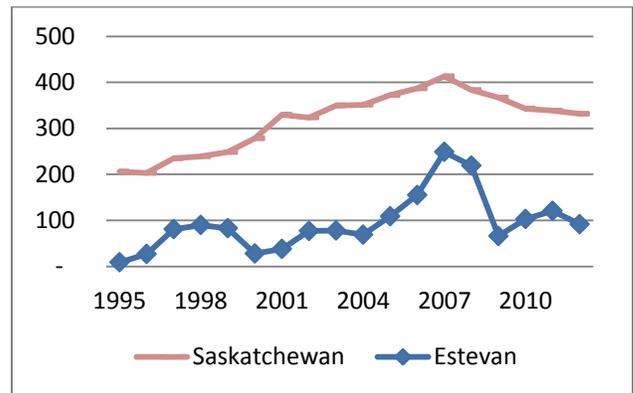
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



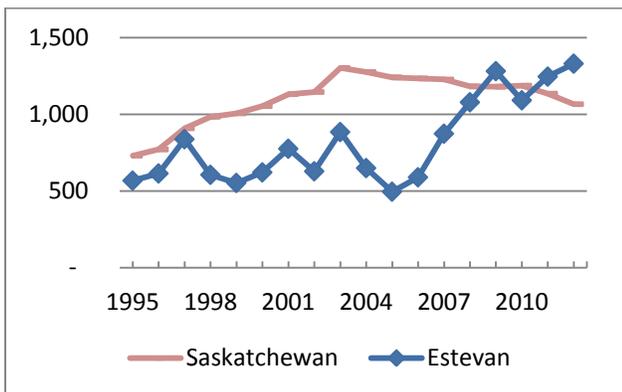
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

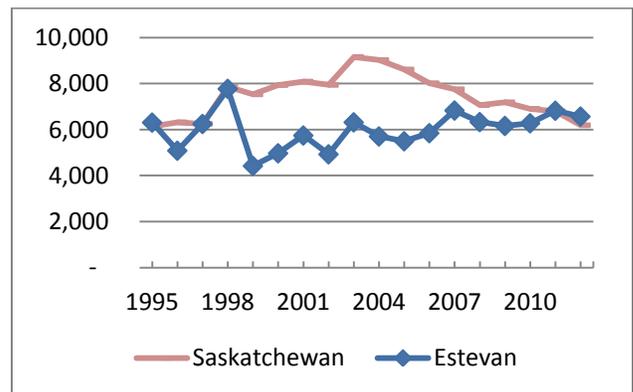
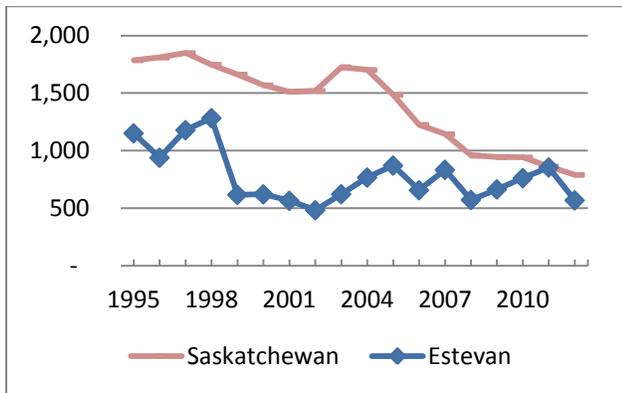
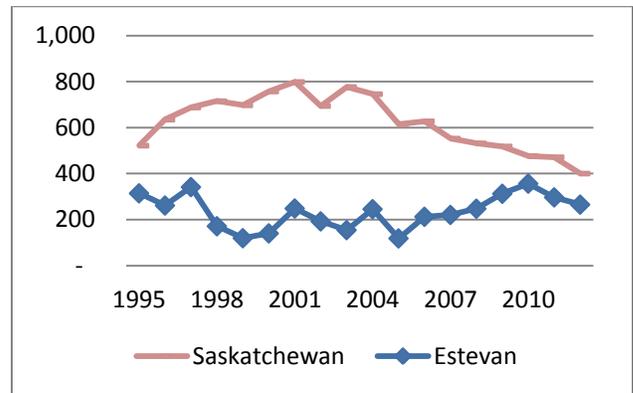


Figure 28 (Concluded)

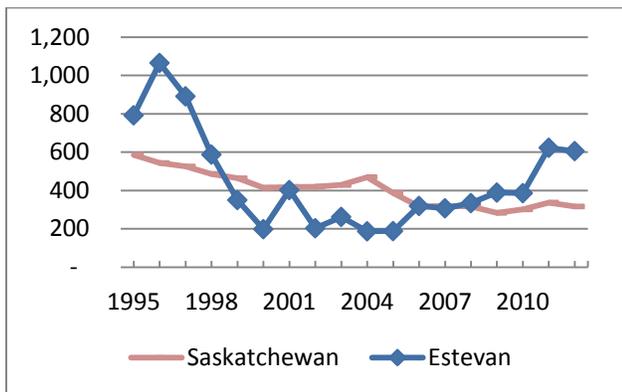
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



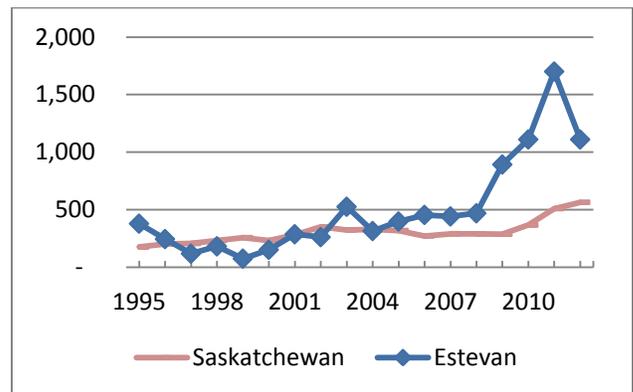
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0079

The time patterns for specified rates of property crime are illustrated in Panels F through I. Total property crimes in Estevan appear to have been rising over the study period, from an average of 5,725 from 1995 to 2005, to an average of 6,400 over 2006-2012. The rate of breaking and entering in Estevan, after falling from above 1,000 in the late 1990s, seems to be relatively stable, averaging 680 since 2000. This is in contrast to the continual decline in the provincial rate over the period. The rate of motor vehicle theft for Estevan appears to exhibit a pattern that is opposite to the provincial pattern. The Estevan rate appears to fall during the first half of the study period while the rate for the province rises, as shown in Panel H. The rate of motor vehicle theft then appears to fluctuate after 2003, when the provincial rate begins to decline. The average rate of motor vehicle theft over the study period was 235 for Estevan, and 624 for Saskatchewan. Estevan had a steep drop in the rate of fraud violations, from 1,065 in 1996, to 198 in 2000. From 2002 to 2005, the rate was stable around 200, and then

began a slow increase to 386 in 2010, and then to 605 by 2012, and has surpassed the provincial rate since 2008.

The rate of drug-related offenses in Estevan was consistently lower than the rate for the province from 1995 to 2008. The rate for Estevan started to rise in 1999, at 74 violations per 100,000 residents, to a peak of 1,700 in 2011, and then retreated to 1,110 in 2012.

Estevan is the city with the largest rate of population growth between the last two census surveys, at over twenty percent. Workers have surged into the region to service the Energy City, and have held the highest median household income, and the lowest rate of poverty, of the ten major cities in the province. While the city benefits from relatively low rates of property crime, the city police force has been recently dealing with elevated rates of minor assaults and drug-related crime.

4.9 Weyburn

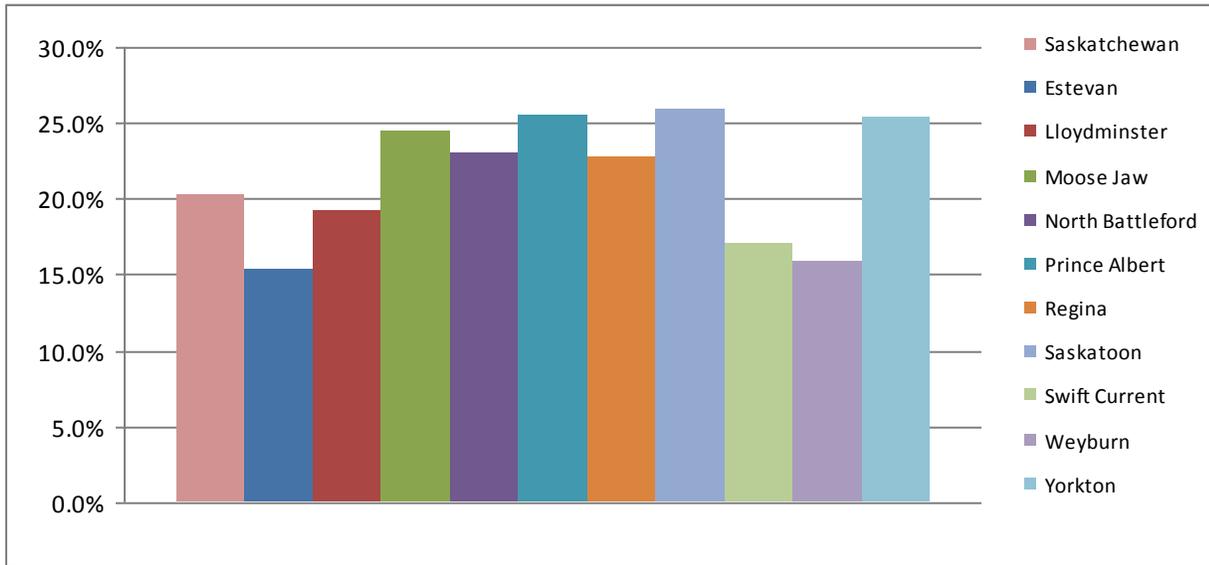
Weyburn is a major city in the southeast of the province, with thriving agricultural and oil sectors. “The opportunity city” is located between Regina and Estevan, 75 km north of the US border. Weyburn also sits on the Bakken oil shale deposit, and there are many active wells in the region. Weyburn benefits from the surrounding rich agricultural plains and hosts large grain handling facilities. As a regional centre, it also services industrial manufacturing, trade, health, and education sectors.

The population of Weyburn declined by 300 and was getting older, in the decade leading up to 2006, when the population size was 9,430. Young adults, especially those between the ages of 20 and 24, were moving out to pursue opportunities elsewhere. The relative size of the older working age (45-64) cohort grew, and the median age grew to 42 years of age by 2006. With increased economic prospects since 2006, many young workers between the ages of 20 and 34 moved into the city, the number of children rose, the population grew by 11% to 10,485, and the median age fell by a year to 41 by 2011. However, Weyburn may still be considered one of the older major cities in the province. In addition, people of aboriginal descent make up a small proportion of the population, only 3.4%, the lowest rate of the major cities, and Weyburn has the second lowest proportion of immigrants to the total population, at 4.3%.

The proportion of the working-age population with post-secondary degrees increased from 36.7% in 1996, to 44.0% in 2011. There was a marked increase in high school completion, trades certificates, and university degrees held by residents over the period. Still, in comparison to its peers, Weyburn residents had the third lowest rate of post-secondary completion of the major cities.

Labour force participation rates increased from 62.6% in 1996 to 67.1% in 2011. Weyburn did experience some difficulties from 2006 to 2011 as the unemployment rate rose from 6.3% in 2006 to 6.7%, suggesting that population growth outpaced employment growth. Residents did enjoy the third highest median income of the major cities, at \$36,000 in 2010 behind Estevan and Lloydminster, and also experienced low rates of poverty. Only 9.2% of residents were deemed to live in low income households, and only 15.8% of households spent more than 30% of their incomes on shelter costs, in both cases second lowest only to residents of Estevan, its close neighbor (see **Figure 29** below).

Figure 29: Proportion of Households Spending more than 30% of their Incomes on Shelter Costs, 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Note that the horizontal (left to right) ordering of cities follows alphabetically after the province, similar to the vertical legend.

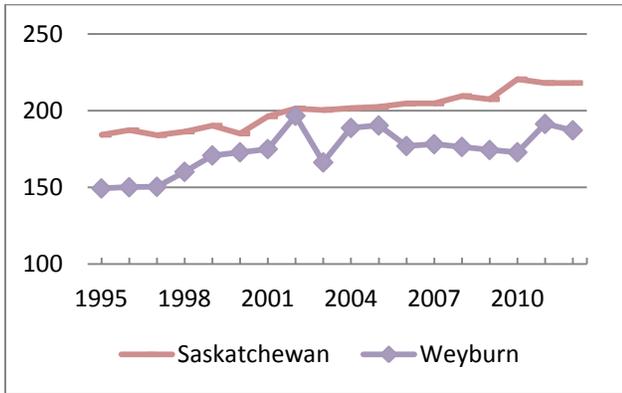
The Weyburn police force included 16 male and 3 female police officers , and 7 additional civilian personnel in 2012. The force had grown by 4 officers and 2 civilian staff since 1995, and the number of police officers grew from 149 per 100,000 residents in 1995 to 187 in 2012. **Figure 30**, Panel A presents the annual rate of police officers per 100,000 residents from 1995 to 2012. This force monitors a city with violent and property crime rates in the bottom half of the ten major cities, and with the fourth-lowest rate of drug-related offenses in 2012.

The rate of total violent criminal code violations exhibited a large upward swing during the late 1990s, from 1,254 per 100,000 residents in 1995, to 2,591 in 1998, and swung back and forth between 1,800 and 2,600 for four years, before stabilizing around 2,000 up to 2007. The rate has since risen to 2,630 in 2012, slightly above the average rate of 2,500 from 2008 to 2012, as shown in Figure 30, Panel B.

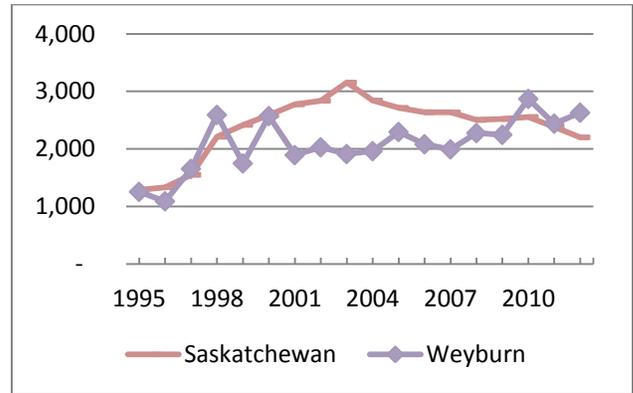
The rate of Sexual Assault 1 for Weyburn, in Panel C, does not follow any smooth pattern, exhibiting volatility due to its low population size. The rate varies from a low of 21 per 100,000 residents in 2003 to a high of 135 in 2008. Given the population size varied between 9,400 and 10,500 residents between the 1996 and 2011 censuses, the city had 2 violations in 2003, and 13 in 2008, and the rate has been too small and variable to display any trend.

Figure 30: Policing and Crime Rates in Weyburn, per 100,000 residents

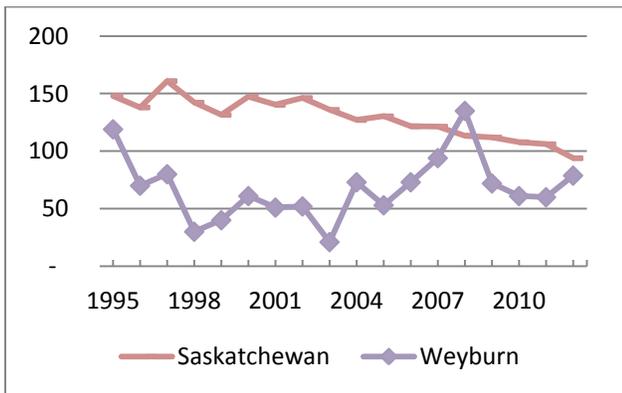
Panel A: Number of Police Officers (rate)



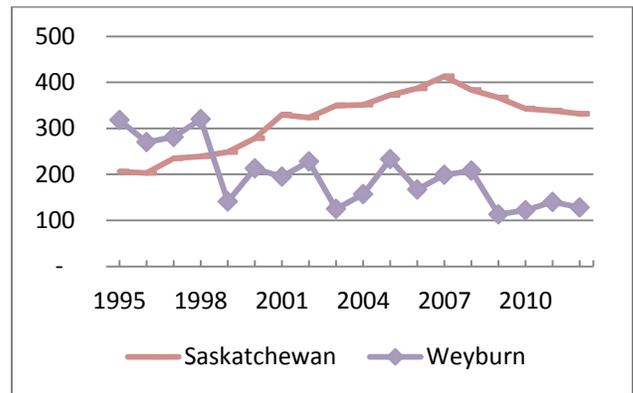
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



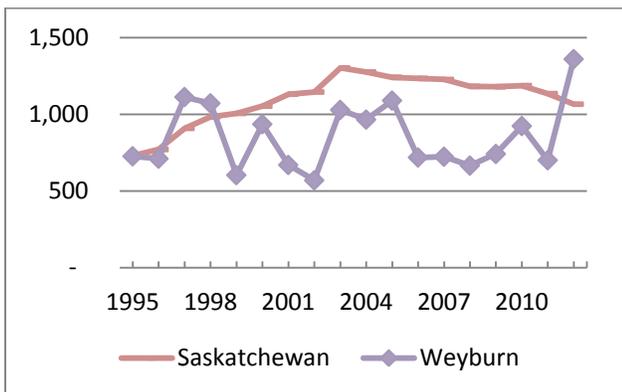
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

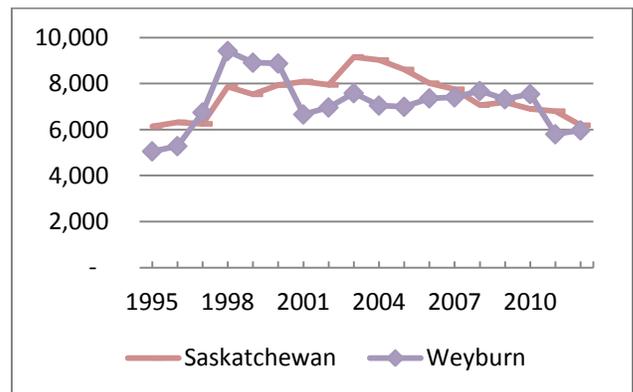
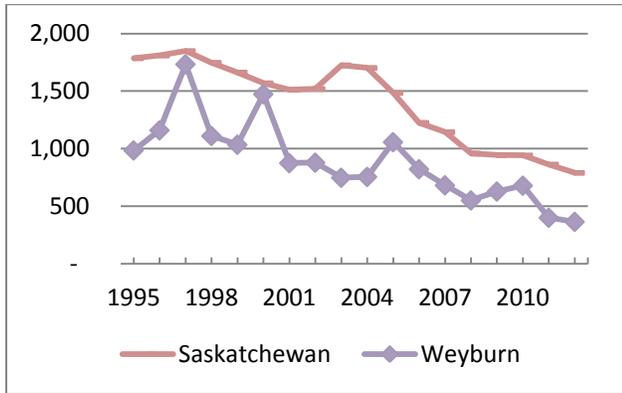
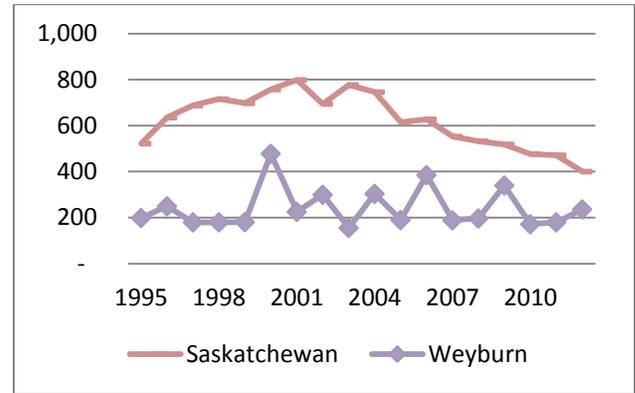


Figure 30 (Concluded)

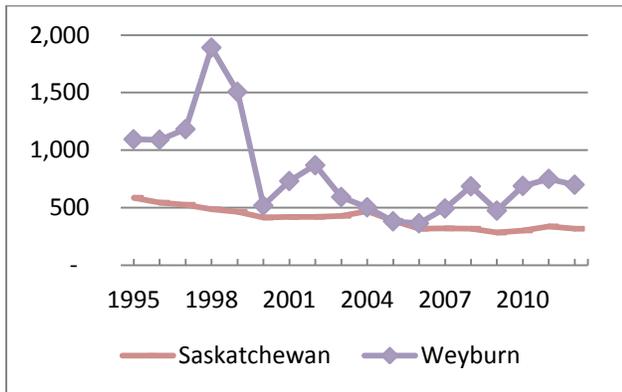
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



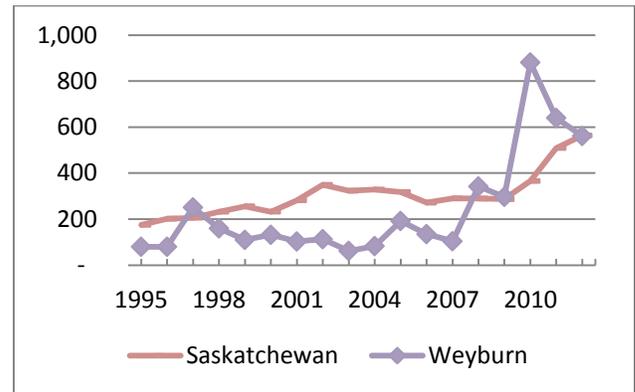
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0079

The rate of Total Assault 2 in Panel D is also quite variable and entails very low numbers. It does appear that the rate has exhibited a general long-run decline over the study period, from 318 in 1995 to 128 in 2012, although the bulk of the general decline in the rate occurred around 1998-99. The rate of Total Assault 1 for Weyburn, in Panel E does not exhibit any discernible trend, remaining in a large range from 500 to 1,200, with an elevated rate of 1,359 in 2012.

The rate of property crime in Weyburn grew quickly, from 5,054 in 1995 to 9,415 in 1998, and remained high for two more years. From 2001 to 2010, the rate averaged 7,250 with a range of 6,650 to 7,680, then the rate dropped to 5,800 in 2011, and increased marginally to 5,970 in 2012. The rate of breaking and entering in Weyburn exhibited a general decline along with the province, as shown in Panel F. The rate for Weyburn was 985 in 1995, and began a slow decline to 364 in 2012, with elevated outliers in 1997, 2000 and 2005 disturbing the descent. The rate of motor vehicle theft for Weyburn

averaged 240 for the period from 1995 to 2012, with no apparent trend. A high of 478 was recorded in 2000, and the rate for 2012 was 236, close to the average rate. The rate of Fraud, in Panel H, was relatively stable from 2000 to 2012, averaging 600 violations per 100,000 residents. The rate for Weyburn before 2000 exceeded 1,000.

The rate of drug offenses in Weyburn averaged 123 from 1995 to 2007, with a low of 63 (6 incidents) in 2003. The high of 881 was attained in 2010, and the rate fell back to 561 in 2012. The gap between the rate in Weyburn and the rate for the province was greatest in the early 2000s, when the Weyburn rate declined and the provincial rate increased. In 2012, the rate in Weyburn was forty-five percent lower than the rate of 1,031 for the province.

Weyburn has grown and developed quickly since 2006, although not as fast as its closest city neighbor, Estevan, and the other fast-growing oil city of Lloydminster. It also has an older population, and a higher unemployment rate, than Estevan, Lloydminster, and several other major cities. Weyburn has the third-highest median income, and the third-lowest poverty rate of the ten major cities, again bested only by Estevan and Lloydminster. However, it does not share the high rates of drug-related offenses with Estevan, and does not share the high rates of violent crime and property crime with Lloydminster. Weyburn appears to be a well-off, older but growing community, with a medium-sized police force and low crime rates.

4.10 Lloydminster

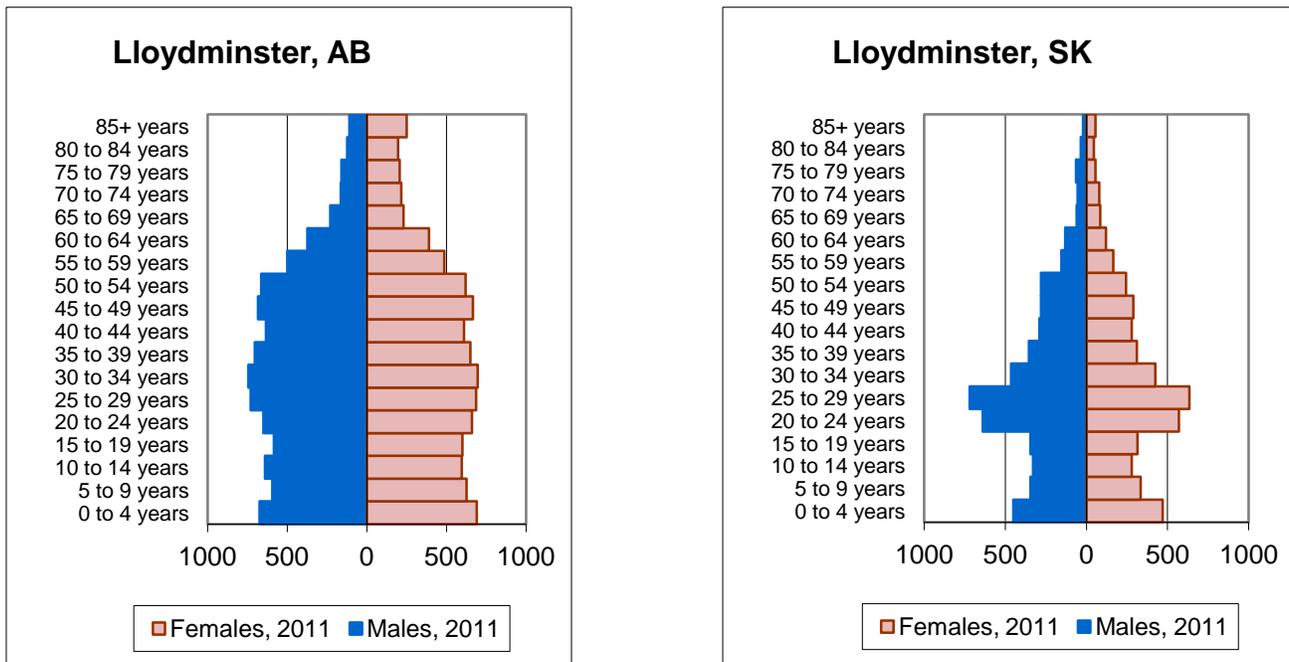
Lloydminster is “Canada’s border city”, with territory in both Saskatchewan and Alberta, about 500 km north of the US border, and on the Yellowhead Highway, 250 km east of Edmonton, and 280 km northwest of Saskatoon. Although situated in two provinces, a single administrative system has been in place since 1930, and in 1958, Lloydminster simultaneously became the tenth city in both of the neighboring provinces.

Lloydminster is another prairie city benefitting from the resource price boom. The agricultural and energy sectors play a major role in the city’s development. The largest employer is Husky Energy, with its heavy oil upgrading, asphalt refinery, and ethanol processing facilities. The city also has vibrant retail and service sectors to support the agriculture and energy sectors, and the fast-growing population. Lloydminster has a favourable business climate, with no business tax, and an agreement with the province of Saskatchewan for an exemption of that province’s provincial sales tax. In 2008, Lloydminster was identified as one of the best cities for small business in Canada by the Financial Post, and in 2010 as the second-best city in Canada for entrepreneurs by the Canadian Federation of Business (Lloydminster Economic Development 2013).

The population of the city of Lloydminster as of the 2011 Census was 27,800, with 18,030 residing in Alberta, and 9,770 in Saskatchewan. The population grew tremendously over the preceding five years, increasing by 13% on the Alberta side, and by 20% in Saskatchewan. Lloydminster, Alberta attracts workers of all ages, and their families. Lloydminster, Saskatchewan appears to primarily attract young workers between the ages of 20 and 29 years of age, and their newborns. The population pyramids for the two sides of the city are depicted in **Figure 31**. Correspondingly, the median age for the population residing in Saskatchewan is younger, at 27.9 years, than the median age of those residing in Alberta, at 34.5 years. And both these populations are younger than the populations of their provinces (much younger in the case of the city population in Saskatchewan): the median ages of the populations of Saskatchewan and Alberta were 38.2 and 36.5 in 2011 respectively.

The Saskatchewan side of the city received 635 new immigrants between 2006 and 2011, increasing the proportion of immigrants in the population from 2% to 9%. The Alberta side received a similar number of new immigrants, 630, and the proportion of immigrants in the population rose from 4% to 7%. Meanwhile, the aboriginal population of the city increased by 610, with the Alberta side of the city gaining 725 new aboriginal residents; the Saskatchewan side lost on net, 115 aboriginal residents. It is expected that some of the loss in Saskatchewan was the result of movement across the border into Alberta, and that movements from one side of the city to the other occur regularly, as they do in other cities. As of 2011, 11% of the population of Lloydminster residing in Saskatchewan was of aboriginal descent, while the corresponding figure for the Alberta side of the city was 9%.

Figure 31: Population Pyramids for Lloydminster, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey

Education levels of the population of Lloydminster have increased over the years, on both sides of the border. The proportion of the Alberta working-age population with a post-secondary degree or certificate rose from 42% in 1996 to 51% in 2011. On the Saskatchewan side, the proportion of the working-age population with a post-secondary certificate or degree increased from 31% in 1996 to 48% by 2011. Education levels for Alberta residents of Lloydminster have been higher than those for the more youthful Saskatchewan residents, although the gap has shrunk to just three percentage points by 2011.

There is a strong labour market in Lloydminster, with growing demand by business being met with an increasingly well-educated and youthful supply. Employment rates in the city far surpass those of other cities, at 81% amongst Saskatchewan residents, and 74% amongst Alberta residents. The most highly-identified occupations in the city were those of trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, at 21% in the distribution of all occupations for Alberta residents, and 26% for Saskatchewan residents, in 2011. The second-most highly-identified occupations are those in sales and service, at 19% for city residents in Alberta and 23% for those in Saskatchewan. These are indicative of the strong demand for skilled tradespeople in industry, and the strong demand for retail and service personnel to support industry and the growth in the population.

Households in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan enjoy median incomes among the highest of the ten major Saskatchewan cities. Median household incomes in 2010 in Lloydminster were \$82,550 on the Alberta side, and \$82,650 on the Saskatchewan side. The average household income on the Alberta side (\$114,670), however, was much higher than that on the Saskatchewan side (\$88,500), indicating a higher concentration of households at the high end of income in Alberta. This is consistent with the more mature households on the Alberta side of the city. The average household income of couples with children was \$178,620 in 2010 on the Alberta side, and was \$105,970 on the Saskatchewan side, while the difference in median incomes for that household type was \$28,000, also in favour of the Alberta side of the city.

Residents of Lloydminster enjoy high incomes, and those high incomes also lead to high housing costs. The median monthly shelter costs for Saskatchewan residents of Lloydminster in 2011 was \$1,330, and was \$1,340 for Alberta residents. These costs are the highest amongst the cities of Saskatchewan. However, it appears that most residents can afford these costs due to their high incomes. In Saskatchewan, 20.4% of households pay more than 30% of their incomes on shelter costs; on the Saskatchewan side of Lloydminster, the comparative number is 19.3%. On the Alberta side of the city, 20.5% of households pay more than 30% of their incomes on shelter costs, while the comparable figure for all Alberta residents is 23.7%.

The growth in incomes in Lloydminster has been strong since 1995. The median incomes for Alberta and Saskatchewan residents of Lloydminster have grown at average annual rates of 4.7% and 5.6% respectively over the 1995 to 2010 period. This growth has led to substantial decreases in the proportion of residents deemed in low-income households. The proportion of the population in low-income households dropped from 21.4% in 1995 to 9.2% in 2010, on the Saskatchewan side of Lloydminster, and from 11.5% in 1995 to 7.6% in 2010 amongst Alberta residents of the city.

Policing services in the city of Lloydminster are handled by the RCMP, and crime statistics are given for the city as a whole, rather than split between the two portions of the city. In 2012, the Lloydminster RCMP municipal detachment was staffed by 34 officers, of which 26 were male. This is a large increase from 22 officers for the detachment in 1995. However, the growth in the number of officers was not smooth over the time period. The force numbered 23 officers in 2002, increased by 4 officers in 2003, and another four between 2005 and 2008. In 2009, 6 more officers were added, as was one more in 2010 to reach a complement of 38, before losing 4 in 2012. With the remarkable population growth in the city, the rate of police officers per 100,000 residents only increased from 114 in 1995 to 125 in 2012, a rate exceeded by all of the major cities except Swift Current. This rate is illustrated in **Figure 32**, Panel A from 1995 to 2012. Meanwhile, the RCMP detachment in Lloydminster has been dealing with high rates of violent crime and minor assault, and high rates of property crime, compared to the other major cities of Saskatchewan. The police-reported crime rates for the major categories of crime are also depicted in Figure 32.

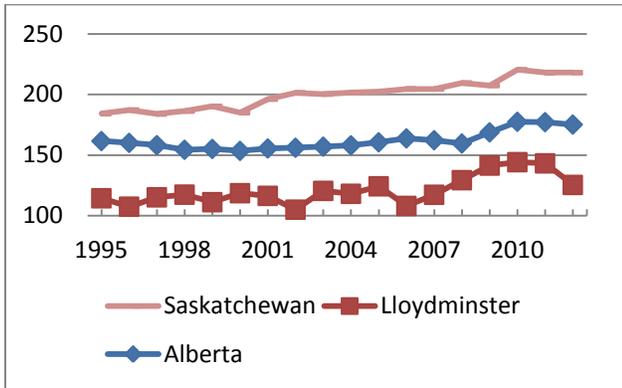
The rate of total violent criminal code violations in Lloydminster rose quickly during the latter half of the 1990s, from 1,285 per 100,000 residents in 1995, to 1,888 in 1997, and jumped to 2,808 in 1998. The rate continued to increase to a peak of 3,431 in 2003. Since 2004, the rate has averaged 2,800. The rate in Lloydminster is on average fourteen percent higher than the Saskatchewan provincial rate, and tends to follow closely the swings in the Saskatchewan rate. The rate of total violent crime in Lloydminster is much higher than, and often more than twice, the rate for the province of Alberta which shows relatively little variation around the average of 1,500 between 1998 and 2012.

The rate of Sexual Assault 1 for Lloydminster has been on an apparent long-term decline, from a high of 215 violations per 100,000 residents in 1996, to a low of 48 in 2012, as shown in Panel C. Due to the small size of the city relative to the two provinces, the rate for Lloydminster is much more volatile than the provincial rates, and for the most part, the rate for Lloydminster varies between the low rate of Alberta and the high rate of Saskatchewan. The rate of Total Assault 2 in Lloydminster exhibits a hump-shaped pattern, rising from below 100 during the late 1990s, to a peak of 320 in 2006, and then falling back to 181 in 2012. This rate for Lloydminster averaged 175 over the study period, while that for Saskatchewan averaged 320, and that for Alberta averaged 155. The rate of Total Assault 1 for Lloydminster, as shown in Panel D, does not exhibit any apparent trend, ranging from 940 to 1,490, with an average of 1,250 from 1995 to 2012. The rate for Lloydminster is often higher than the Saskatchewan rate, which in turn is much higher than the rate for Alberta. The average rate for Saskatchewan was 1,100 over the study period, while the average rate for Alberta was 670.

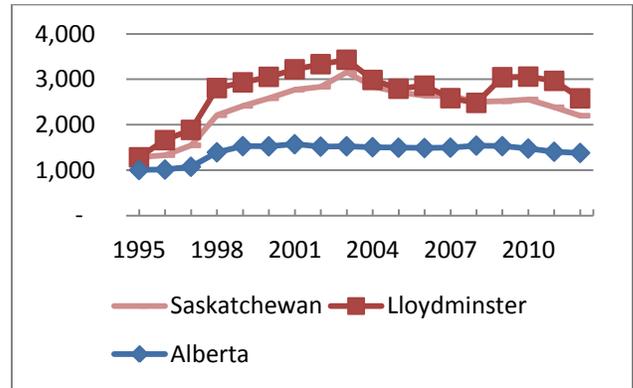
The rate of total property crime violations in Lloydminster rose from 6,658 per 100,000 residents in 1995, to a high of 11,351 in 2006, and then declined to 7,616 in 2012. The rate in Lloydminster was higher than the rate for Saskatchewan, with the exception of 1999, and was much higher than the rate for Alberta, over the study period. The peak in Lloydminster occurred three years after the peaks in the rates of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In 2012, the rate of property crime in Lloydminster was twenty-three percent higher than the rate for Saskatchewan, and seventy-seven percent higher than the rate for Alberta. The rate of breaking and entering averaged 885 violations per 100,000 residents from 1995 to 2012, with no long-term trend. In comparison, both the Saskatchewan and Alberta rates exhibit long-run declines, and by 2012, the rate for Lloydminster, at 649, was higher than the Alberta rate of 499, and lower than the Saskatchewan rate of 790. The rate of total motor vehicle theft, illustrated in Panel H, exhibits a general long-run increase from a low of 203 in 1999 to 1,011 in 2010, before falling to 594 in 2012, in line with the average of 588 for the study period. The rate of motor vehicle theft in Lloydminster has exceeded those of both Saskatchewan and Alberta since 2006. Panel I shows that the rate of fraud in Lloydminster was elevated, higher than the rates for Saskatchewan and Alberta. The rate for Lloydminster also shows little discernible trend, while those of the two neighboring provinces have been in decline since 1995. In 2012, the rate for Lloydminster was 531, while the rates for Saskatchewan and Alberta were 316 and 273 respectively.

Figure 32: Policing and Crime Rates in Lloydminster, per 100,000 residents

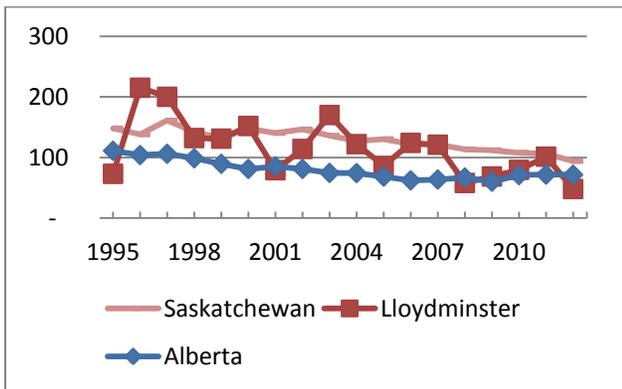
Panel A: Number of Police Officers (rate)



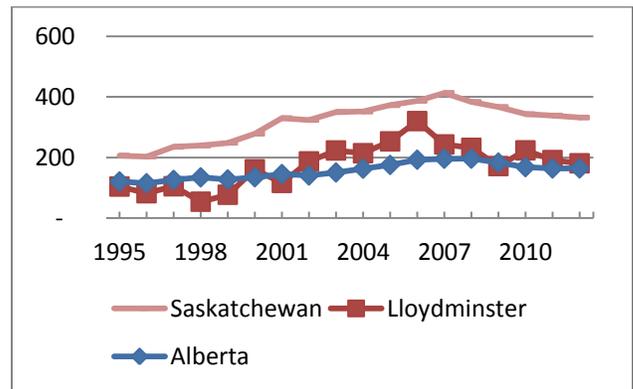
Panel B: Total Violent Criminal Code Violations



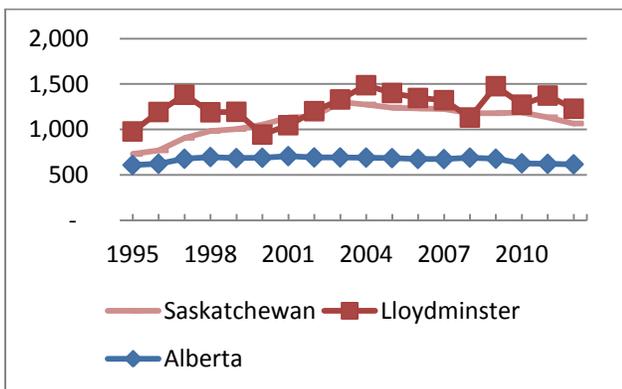
Panel C: Sexual Assault 1



Panel D: Total Assault 2



Panel E: Total Assault 1



Panel F: Total Property Crime

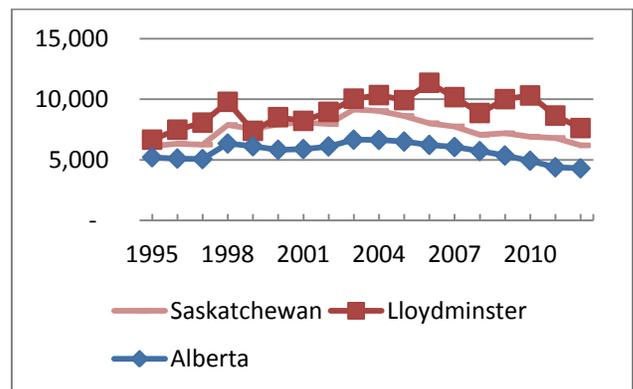
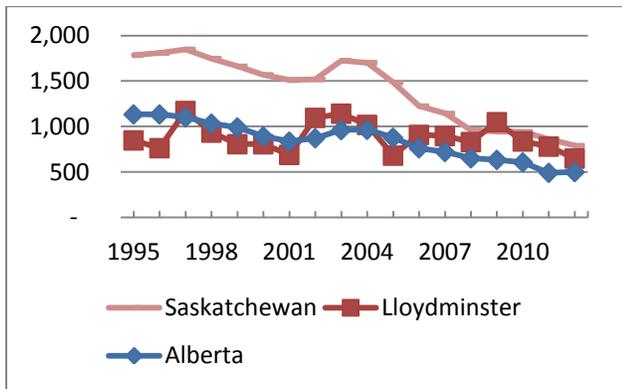
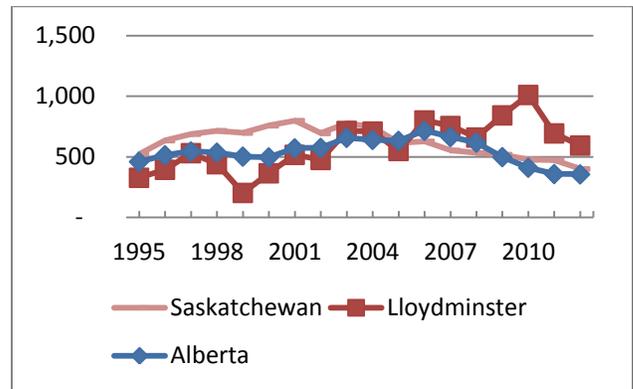


Figure 32 (Concluded)

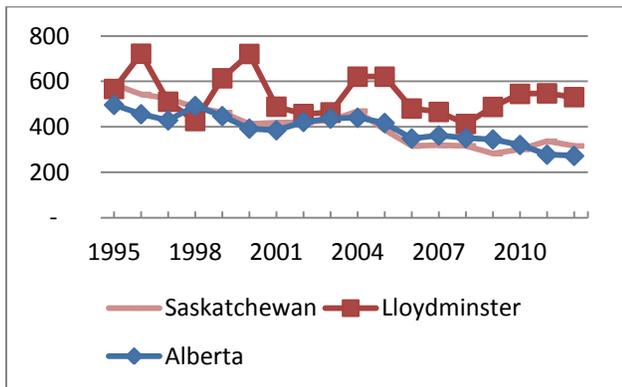
Panel G: Breaking and Entering



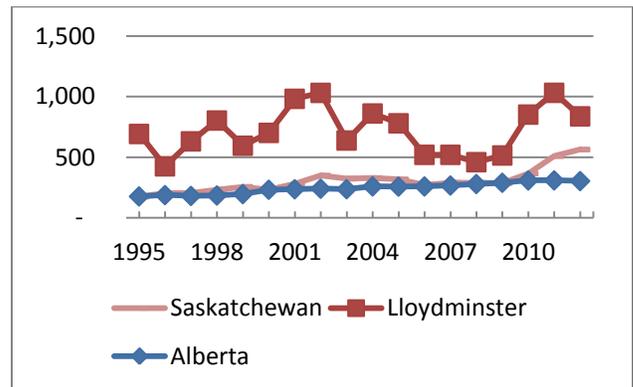
Panel H: Motor Vehicle Theft



Panel I: Total Fraud



Panel J: Drug-Related Offenses



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Tables 252-0079 and -0080

The rate of drug-related offenses for Lloydminster, presented in panel J, although highly variable, exhibits a rise from 1996 to 2001, before cycling downward to 2008, and then again upward to 2012. This cyclical pattern for Lloydminster, although with much more volatility, is similar to that experienced by the province of Saskatchewan, while the rate for the province of Alberta was quite low and stable over the period. The rate for Lloydminster ranged from 425 to 1,032, and averaged 715 from 1995 to 2012. The period average for Saskatchewan was 304, and was 245 for Alberta. The average rate of drug-related offenses in Lloydminster during the study period was more than twice that of Saskatchewan, and three times higher than the rate in Alberta.

Lloydminster is a city with a fast-growing, youthful and well-educated population, enjoying high household incomes and low rates of poverty. Lloydminster does have the disadvantage of experiencing high rates of violent and property crime, and high rates of drug-related offenses.

5. Investigating the Links Between Demographics, Economics, Policing and Crime

Much of the literature on crime patterns tends to focus on the correlation between demographic and economic factors, and crime. The most commonly cited demographic links to crime are the relative sizes of the youth, immigrant, and aboriginal populations, as well as the relative size of the population with post-secondary education. The most commonly cited economic factors are unemployment, poverty and low incomes. In this section, we will briefly examine these links to crime, using some selected summary statistics we have examined in previous sections, for the three Prairie Provinces, and for the ten largest cities in Saskatchewan

For the purposes of this review, the indicators that will be highlighted are:

I. Demographic Indicators

- a. The population size, 2011
- b. The population growth rate, 2006-2011
- c. The median age, 2011
- d. The proportion of immigrants, 2011
- e. The proportion of aboriginal peoples, 2011
- f. The proportion of the working-age population with post-secondary degrees, 2011

II. Economic Indicators

- a. The unemployment rate, 2011
- b. The median household income, 2010
- c. The proportion of individuals in low-income households, 2010

III. Crime and Policing

- a. The average number of police officers per 100,000 residents, from 2006 to 2011
- b. The average number of police-reported violent crime violations per 100,000 residents, from 2006 to 2011
- c. The average number of police-reported property crime violations per 100,000 residents, from 2006 to 2011
- d. The average number of police-reported drug offenses per 100,000 residents, from 2006 to 2011

5.1 Canada and the Prairie Provinces

The indicators for the three Prairie Provinces and the nation as a whole are presented in **Table 2**. The statistics which differ from the norm and are considered more likely to be correlated with high rates of crime are presented in red boldface (with single underline). As examples, a high proportion of individuals in low-income households, and a low proportion of individuals with post-secondary education, may each be correlated with a high rate of crime. The statistics which differ from the norm and are considered more likely to be correlated with low rates of crime are presented in black boldface. As examples, a low rate of unemployment and a high median age may be correlated with a low rate of crime.

Table 2: Summary Statistics for the Prairie Provinces and Canada

Region	Canada	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
Demographic Indicators				
Population, 2011	33,476,685	1,208,270	1,033,380	3,645,260
Population Increase, 2006-2011	5.9%	5.2%	6.7%	10.2%
Median Age, 2011	40.6	38.4	38.2	<u>36.5</u>
Proportion of Immigrants, 2011	26.3%	18.8%	7.4%	22.5%
Proportion of Aboriginal Peoples, 2011	5.6%	<u>17.0%</u>	<u>16.0%</u>	7.4%
Proportion of Working-Age Population with Post-Secondary Education, 2011	54.3%	<u>47.2%</u>	<u>47.2%</u>	54.5%
Economic Indicators				
Unemployment Rate, 2011	7.8%	6.2%	5.9%	5.8%
Median Household Income, 2010	\$61,072	\$57,299	\$61,703	\$78,632
Proportion in Low-Income Households, 2010	14.9%	<u>16.4%</u>	14.0%	10.7%
Policing indicators (2006-2011 average rates, per 100,000 residents)				
Police Officers	198	203	211	168
Total Violent Crime	1,318	<u>2,097</u>	<u>2,539</u>	1,491
Total Property Crime	4,172	<u>6,377</u>	<u>7,287</u>	5,443
Total Drug-Related Offenses	341	260	<u>564</u>	303

The provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan have substantially higher rates of violent crime and property crime than Alberta, and Canada as a whole. This was evident in the figures in Section 3, and evident in the average crime rates for the 2006 to 2011 period as indicated in Table 2. Can we find common demographic and economic characteristics that also set these two provinces apart from Alberta and the country? While Manitoba and Saskatchewan have low median ages, Alberta's is even lower and doesn't appear to have contributed to an elevated crime rate in that province. The proportion of immigrants in Manitoba is relatively close to that in the low-crime province of Alberta, and much higher than that in Saskatchewan, and so there does not appear to be any reason at this point to link immigration to crime rates in the aggregate. Manitoba and Saskatchewan do share higher proportions of aboriginal peoples and lower rates of post-secondary educational attainment, when compared to Alberta and the country.

The three Prairie Provinces all had very low unemployment rates which were much lower than the Canadian average. If we focus just on the three provinces, and ignore the country indicators, we find that Manitoba and Saskatchewan differ from Alberta by having low median household incomes, around \$60,000, while Alberta has a high median household income close to \$80,000. Manitoba and Saskatchewan also have higher rates of poverty, as indicated by higher proportions of individuals in low-income households. And yet, median incomes and poverty rates in these two provinces are similar to those for the country as a whole, while crime rates in these two provinces are considerably higher than those for the country.

We know that Manitoba and Saskatchewan have higher proportions of aboriginal peoples, lower proportions of individuals with post-secondary education, lower median incomes, and higher proportions of individuals living in low-income households, when compared to Alberta. We know that Manitoba and Saskatchewan also have higher rates of violent and property crime. But we don't know with certainty yet if and how these factors, either individually or collectively, may be contributing to high crime rates. With this in mind, we now turn our attention to the ten major cities in Saskatchewan and their comparative situations.

5.2 Saskatchewan's Largest Cities

The summary statistics for the review of the ten largest cities are presented in **Table 3**, with the cities ordered by descending population size. While technically the tenth largest city in the Province of Saskatchewan with less than 10,000 residents, Lloydminster has a population of over 27,000 when the Alberta residents of the city are included. Since the crime statistics focus on the entire city regardless of the provincial border that splits it, we will treat Lloydminster as the fifth largest city. The statistics

which differ from the norm and are considered more likely to be correlated with high rates of crime are presented in red boldface (with single underline). The statistics which differ from the norm and are considered more likely to be correlated with low rates of crime are presented in black boldface. In this case, indicators which differ from the mean for the set of ten cities are highlighted (note that some average crime rates are highlighted in blue boldface as low values among the cities, but are also higher than the average rates for Canada).

Table 3: Summary Statistics for Major Saskatchewan Cities

Indicator	Saskatoon	Regina	Prince Albert	Moose Jaw	Lloydminster
Region	Central	South-Central	North-Central	South-Central	North-West
Demographic Indicators					
Population, 2011	222,185	193,100	35,130	33,275	27,800
Population Increase, 2006-2011	9.8%	7.7%	2.9%	3.6%	15.7%
Median Age, 2011	<u>35.6</u>	37.1	<u>34.7</u>	41.9	<u>32.2</u>
Proportion of Immigrants, 2011	<u>13.8%</u>	<u>12.7%</u>	5.0%	6.0%	<u>9.5%</u>
Proportion of Aboriginal Peoples, 2011	10.2%	10.2%	<u>38.9%</u>	5.3%	7.9%
Proportion of Working-Age Population with Post-Secondary Education, 2011	55.5%	51.5%	46.1%	47.7%	49.8%
Economic Indicators					
Unemployment Rate, 2011	5.7%	5.0%	<u>10.2%</u>	5.7%	4.3%
Median Household Income, 2010	\$65,524	\$69,192	<u>\$54,465</u>	<u>\$53,541</u>	\$82,580
Proportion in Low-Income Households, 2010	14.0%	12.7%	<u>19.1%</u>	15.4%	8.2%
Policing indicators					
2006-2011 average rates, per 100,000 residents					
Police Officers	185	189	222	154	131
Total Violent Crime	2,091	1,779	<u>3,011</u>	1,653	<u>2,834</u>
Total Property Crime	6,764	7,063	<u>9,461</u>	7,766	<u>9,888</u>
Total Drug-Related Offenses	331	203	283	343	<u>650</u>

Table 3: Summary Statistics for Major Saskatchewan Cities (concluded)

Indicator	Yorkton	Swift Current	North Battleford	Estevan	Weyburn
Region	Central-East	South-West	North-West	South-East	South-East
Demographic Indicators					
Population, 2011	15,665	15,500	13,885	11,055	10,485
Population Increase, 2006-2011	4.2%	3.7%	5.3%	20.4%	11.1%
Median Age, 2011	42.7	41.9	36.9	36.0	40.8
Proportion of Immigrants, 2011	4.2%	9.6%	8.3%	4.9%	4.3%
Proportion of Aboriginal Peoples, 2011	11.9%	4.1%	23.9%	5.3%	3.4%
Proportion of Working-Age Population with Post-Secondary Education, 2011	40.9%	49.6%	48.1%	42.0%	44.0%
Economic Indicators					
Unemployment Rate, 2011	5.0%	4.3%	5.9%	5.8%	6.7%
Median Household Income, 2010	\$53,344	\$62,975	\$50,560	\$88,746	\$69,304
Proportion in Low-Income Households, 2010	17.4%	10.6%	18.9%	6.7%	9.2%
Policing indicators					
2006-2011 average rates, per 100,000 residents					
Police Officers	155	114	211	193	178
Total Violent Crime	2,986	1,836	6,358	2,599	2,317
Total Property Crime	11,657	6,012	21,618	6,375	7,184
Total Drug-Related Offenses	548	841	725	844	400

Prince Albert, Lloydminster, Yorkton and North Battleford stand out as cities with elevated rates of both violent and property crime. Are there common demographic characteristics among these four high crime cities? Prince Albert and Lloydminster have low median ages, indicating youthful populations, whereas Yorkton has a high median age. Lloydminster has a high proportion of immigrants, but that is not the case for the three other cities with elevated violent and property crime rates. And Saskatoon, with a low median age and a high proportion of immigrants, does not have elevated rates of violent and property crime. Prince Albert, Yorkton and North Battleford have high proportions of aboriginal peoples, but Lloydminster does not. Of these four high crime cities, only

Yorkton has a low proportion of the population with post-secondary education, while Estevan and Weyburn, with low rates of the population with post-secondary credentials do not have similarly elevated property crime rates; however, Estevan does have a violent crime rate that is higher than the provincial average.

Turning to economic factors, only Prince Albert has an elevated unemployment rate, among the high crime cities. Prince Albert, Yorkton and North Battleford all have low median incomes, but here again, Lloydminster is an outlier, having the second highest median income, much higher than those of its high crime rate peers. Moose Jaw is an example of a city with a low median income among residents, but it does not suffer from high crime rates. Prince Albert, Yorkton, and North Battleford all have high rates of poverty as indicated by high proportions of individuals living in low-income households, whereas Lloydminster, the other high-crime city, has a low rate of poverty.

Of these four high-crime cities, North Battleford certainly stands out, with incredibly high rates of violent and property crime, about twice as high as those in Prince Albert and Yorkton. With these two cities, North Battleford shares the common characteristics of high rates of poverty, low median incomes, and high proportions of aboriginal peoples. Why then are crime rates in North Battleford so elevated relative to those in Prince Albert and Yorkton with certain similar demographic and economic characteristics?

Lloydminster also stands out among these four high crime cities. Lloydminster does not share the above-mentioned common characteristics with North Battleford, Prince Albert and Yorkton. Lloydminster may be affected by a youthful population, and a very high median income. Lloydminster also has a very high rate of population growth, with many outsiders moving into the city without any established ties to the area. With much money in their pockets during their leisure time, we might wonder if young adults in Lloydminster are pursuing less agreeable leisure pursuits. Lloydminster also has a demographic divide at the provincial border, with a much younger population on the Saskatchewan side. Does this have any influence on crime rates?

The four cities with the highest rates of drug-related offenses are Lloydminster, Swift Current, North Battleford, and Estevan. They do not all share any common demographic or economic characteristics, with the sole exception of all being smaller cities. Lloydminster and Estevan are energy cities with very high median incomes and strong population growth. North Battleford has a very low median income, but high rates of other crimes. Swift Current has an older, well-off population like Weyburn, but Weyburn has a low rate of drug-related offenses.

5.3 Sectional Summary

Violent and property crime rates in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are higher than the rates for Alberta and Canada. Saskatchewan and Manitoba have populations with lower rates of post-secondary completion and with higher proportions of aboriginal peoples than Alberta and Canada. Saskatchewan and Manitoba also have populations with lower median household incomes and with higher rates of poverty than Alberta.

Rates of violent and property crime in Saskatoon and Regina have been identified as the highest of all of the census metropolitan areas in Canada (Perreault 2013). Alarming as this may appear, these rates are much lower than those for some of the other major cities in Saskatchewan.

North Battleford, Prince Albert, and Yorkton are cities with very high rates of violent and property crime. These cities also have low median household incomes and high rates of poverty. In addition, these cities have high proportions of aboriginal peoples with the characteristics of youthfulness, lower levels of education, lower household income, and higher rates of unemployment and poverty than non-aboriginal populations.

Lloydminster is another high crime rate city, with the distinguishing features of rapid population growth and very high median income. These characteristics are also shared by Estevan, another energy city. Estevan had a higher rate of drug-related offenses, a slightly lower rate of violent crime, but a much lower rate of property crime, than Lloydminster.

At this point in time, we have been able to loosely link some demographic and economic characteristics with crime rates, by simple observation of some recent indicators. However, we don't know with certainty if and how these factors, either individually or collectively, may be affecting crime rates. We have yet to examine these links with a more rigorous empirical study over time. A robust methodology will be used to better assess these links in a later stage of this study.

6 Conclusion

This report is the first preliminary report of a larger research project. This larger research project aims to examine the socio-economic determinants of crime, identify how economic and demographic changes in Saskatchewan and its cities have influenced changes in crime rates, and to speculate how crime rates may evolve with continued resource development and the expansion of the Saskatchewan economy. This project will also attempt to identify reactive and proactive responses of police forces in the province to the changing economic, demographic, and crime patterns they face.

This first preliminary report has provided an overview of the economic and demographic changes that have occurred over the last two decades in Saskatchewan and its ten major cities, and the coinciding changes in policing and crime rates.

After two decades of slow population and economic growth, and rising crime rates, Saskatchewan shifted into a higher gear around 2006. Rising commodity prices led to an export boom, which led to increased resource exploration and development, and which subsequently translated to an investment boom in the province. As a result, Saskatchewan has experienced tremendous population growth recently: immigration flows have increased from hundreds to thousands annually; Saskatchewan became a province of net interprovincial in-migration; and with new families staying and entering the province, a mini baby boom has occurred.

Saskatchewan residents are more prosperous. Median household income in Saskatchewan has grown at an average annual rate of 5.7% from 2005 to 2010, and now exceeds that of Manitoba and Canada as a whole. The prevalence of poverty, as measured by the proportion of individuals living in low-income households, declined to 11.3% in 2011, falling below the rate for the country as a whole.

Aboriginal peoples represent 16% of the population of Saskatchewan, and have also experienced improvements in educational attainment and in household income, and yet are still disadvantaged compared to the overall population of the province. The aboriginal population is much younger, is less educated, has a higher unemployment rate, has a lower median household income, and has a higher prevalence of living in a low-income household, when compared to the wider population of the province.

Saskatchewan has experienced substantial reductions in rates of violent crime and of property crime since 2003, while economic conditions in the province improved. During this period, the number of police officers and civilian personnel increased at a rate faster than the overall population. Even with these improvements, the total crime rate in Saskatchewan is the highest of all of the Canadian Provinces. Since the 2009 world recession and the resumption of the economic boom, the province has also been dealing with a surge in drug-related offenses.

Rates of violent and property crime in Saskatoon and Regina have been identified as the highest of all of the census metropolitan areas in Canada. And crime rates are much higher in some of the other major cities in Saskatchewan. North Battleford, Prince Albert, and Yorkton have elevated rates of violent and property crime, much higher than those in Saskatoon and Regina. These three high-crime cities also have low median household incomes and high rates of poverty. In addition, these cities have high proportions of aboriginal peoples with the associated characteristics of youthfulness, low levels of formal education, low household income, high rates of unemployment, and high rates of poverty. Lloydminster and Estevan, the two fastest-growing and highest-income cities, have rates of violent crime and drug-related offenses that are higher than the provincial rates.

While we have been able to identify some common demographic and economic characteristics of provinces and cities with high crime rates, this study is far from complete. Much work remains. This study has provided a preliminary overview of demographic, economic, policing and crime trends over the last two decades. The next phase in our ongoing research project is to complete a comprehensive survey of the literature focusing on the demographic and economic links to crime. This survey will motivate the development and use of an empirical model that will examine and characterize these links and how they evolve over time. This model will then be used to speculate how crime rates may evolve with continued resource development and the expansion of the Saskatchewan economy, to assist policy-makers and police forces plan for the future.

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