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Most new jobs in Sask. held by temporary foreign workers

65% of jobs created between 2008 and 2011 filled by non-Canadians

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Tim Hortons franchises across Saskatchewan are among the businesses that rely on temporary foreign workers. (J.P. Moczulski/Reuters)

Saskatchewan may be creating thousands of new jobs, but most are held by migrant workers.

That's the conclusion of a recent study by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC).

It said in Saskatchewan between 2008 and 2011, 65 per cent of 'net new jobs created' were actually held by temporary foreign workers.

CLC president Ken Georgetti said he wants those workers "placed in the permanent immigration stream, not exploited in temporary migration schemes."

Saskatchewan continues to enjoy one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada. Last month, four per cent of people in this province were unemployed. Nationally, April's unemployment rate was 7.2 per cent.

"We want to keep this momentum going," said Kent Smith-Windsor, the executive director of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce in a news release today.

The Chamber said businesses in Saskatoon created 700 new jobs in April. It did not specify what types of jobs those were.

It said it's set an "aggressive target" of creating 8,000 jobs each year in Saskatoon, "to create sufficient employment opportunities for our educated young people".

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