



**Saskatoon  
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Home Builders'  
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December 8, 2011

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Home Construction 30 percent Higher** *....Saskatoon on track to start 3,000 homes in 2011*

**Saskatoon**—Residential construction in the Saskatoon region for November 2011 remained strong with a 25 percent increase in single family starts in November 2011 over 2010, and a 22 percent increase in multi-unit starts. Saskatoon's multi-unit starts continue to outperform the brisk pace set in 2010 and the year-to-date multi-family starts for 2011 are double those of 2010.

Saskatoon continues to be one of the national leaders in the growth rate in construction activity, employment growth and population in-migration. The recent Throne Speech delivered by Lieutenant Governor Barnhart was well received as a plan for continued growth and industry investment in our City, which will bring improved employment opportunities and new residents to keep the Saskatoon Region vibrant and growing. The residential construction industry, in collaboration with other industry and government partners, continues to build more attainable and appropriate housing options for home buyers and renters in the community.

Saskatoon is facing competition from its prairie neighbours, as both Winnipeg and Calgary are seeing increases in their housing starts as well. As construction and industry activity in Alberta and Manitoba regain lost ground, there will be increased pressure on Saskatoon and on all of Saskatchewan to keep our skilled tradespeople and businesses here.

Now is the time to ensure that we remain competitive in our industries by reducing the regulatory and taxation burdens on our businesses and on the home building industry. Rising housing costs are decisive factors for those seeking opportunities to open businesses and start new careers. In order to keep the Saskatoon Region on track, we must remain competitive and committed to building a 'Saskatoon Advantage'. Our business community is driving economic

*Building Confidence and Communities*



activity, leading the way in innovation and attracting a skilled workforce paving the way for a sustainable foundation for the future.

“Saskatoon is in a strong position to build on our past achievements and continue to build the critical capacity to keep pace with the demand for a variety of new housing choices” says Alan Thomarat, CEO of the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders’ Association. “We do not want to risk going back to an era where children are moving away to seek opportunities in other cities and provinces and businesses choose other markets for investment or expansion. We must realize and appreciate the many benefits of growth that we are only starting to enjoy and continue to build for the many people wanting to call Saskatchewan home.”

As the voice of the residential construction industry, the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders’ Association is committed to a housing strategy that provides quality, affordability and choice in housing in all communities throughout the Saskatoon region and the Province.

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**Preliminary Housing Starts in Saskatchewan  
November 2011**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Regina CMA	97	60	61.7	19	130	-85.4	116	190	-38.9
Regina City	78	46	69.6	19	130	-85.4	97	176	-44.9
Surrounding Area	19	14	35.7	0	0	--	19	14	35.7
Saskatoon CMA	130	104	25.0	185	152	21.7	315	256	23.0
Saskatoon City	94	77	22.1	138	152	-9.2	232	229	1.3
Surrounding Area	36	27	33.3	47	0	--	83	27	--
<b>Total*</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>-27.7</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>-3.4</b>

Source: Market Analysis Centre, C.M.H.C.

-- % change equals or exceeds +/- 100%

\*Total consists of Regina CMA and Saskatoon CMA

**January to November 2011**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Regina CMA	879	650	35.2	651	556	17.1	1,530	1,206	26.9
Regina City	723	500	44.6	651	554	17.5	1,374	1,054	30.4
Surrounding Area	156	150	4.0	0	2	--	156	152	2.6
Saskatoon CMA	1,492	1,522	-2.0	1,350	660	--	2,842	2,182	30.2
Saskatoon City	1,079	1,050	2.8	1,245	622	--	2,324	1,672	39.0
Surrounding Area	413	472	-12.5	105	38	--	518	510	1.6
<b>Total*</b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>1,216</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>4,372</b>	<b>3,388</b>	<b>29.0</b>

Source: Market Analysis Centre, C.M.H.C.

-- % change equals or exceeds +/- 100%

\*Total consists of Regina CMA and Saskatoon CMA