



**Saskatoon
& Region**
Home Builders'
Association, Inc.

SASKATCHEWAN

#11, 3012 Louise Street
Saskatoon, SK Canada S7J 3L8
Phone: 306.955.5188
Fax: 306.373.3735
Toll Free: 1.888.955.5188
info@saskatoonhomebuilders.com
www.saskatoonhomebuilders.com

January 10, 2012

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saskatoon Region Starts 3,000 for 2011 *....city has a record breaking year*

Saskatoon—The Saskatoon region ended 2011 with 25 percent more housing starts than 2010, at 2,994 starts. The multi-unit starts remained strong throughout the year, as demand for condominiums and townhouses continues to grow. Single family homes maintained at a high level as well, with 116 starts in December 2011 alone.

Saskatoon maintained this pace despite global challenges due to the strong economic performance, low unemployment and high business confidence throughout 2011 and the population growth over the year shows that people have noticed the change. Predictions for 2011 indicated that the city's housing market would moderate and that economic headwinds from outside of the country would impact on the provincial economy. However, with a population gain of over 6,000 people in 2011 and a record-breaking level of building permits allocated, the growth in Saskatoon shows no sign of slowing, and small business confidence remains the highest in Canada.

As we head into 2012, Saskatoon is predicted to maintain their level of growth, although some are predicting a moderation again in the housing market. However, with the continued influx of residents from other provinces, the residential construction industry should continue to maintain the current level of activity.

Alan Thomarat, President & CEO of the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association suggests, "The forecasts for 2011 fell far short of predicting what a great year the province would have. We can look forward to continued growth and expansion in our province, and the new employment and business opportunities that result will have this province leading economic development for the upcoming year and beyond."

Building Confidence and Communities



With residential construction activity anticipated to increase through 2012, the skilled labour market will continue to dominate the policy issues faced by all sectors of the economy not just the builders and contractors throughout the province. Efforts to provide education and training in skilled trades for the underemployed and unemployed in the province must be continued in order to mitigate the impact of the heightened activity compounded by the looming retirements of the 'baby boomers'.

“Our Association is doing its part to help our members and the industry find the skilled workers it needs,” says Thomarat. “Education and training coupled with better programs to help skilled immigrants move to Saskatchewan and get their training recognized will be vitally important to all industries. We will continue to work with our partners to ensure that education and training services remain a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan.”

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.

-30-

For more information, please contact:
Alan H.J. Thomarat, President & Chief Executive Officer
Saskatoon & Region Home Builders’ Association
Phone: (306) 955-5188
Toll Free: 1-888-955-5188

**Preliminary Housing Starts in Saskatchewan
December 2011**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Regina CMA	79	58	36.2	85	83	2.4	164	141	16.3
Regina City	67	49	36.7	85	83	2.4	152	132	15.2
Surrounding Area	12	9	33.3	0	0	--	12	9	33.3
Saskatoon CMA	116	116	0.0	36	83	-56.6	152	199	-23.6
Saskatoon City	89	67	32.8	34	79	-57.0	123	146	-15.8
Surrounding Area	27	49	-44.9	2	4	-50.0	29	53	-45.3
Total*	195	174	12.1	121	166	-27.1	316	340	-7.1

*Total consists of Regina CMA and Saskatoon CMA

October to December (Q4) 2011

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Estevan CA	7	14	-50.0	0	85	--	7	99	-92.9
Lloydminster CA	82	53	54.7	39	20	95.0	121	73	65.8
Lloydminster, SK	15	13	15.4	39	20	95.0	54	33	63.6
Lloydminster, AB	61	40	52.5	0	0	--	61	40	52.5
Moose Jaw CA	19	16	18.8	15	36	-58.3	34	52	-34.6
Battlefords CA	17	17	0.0	23	34	-32.4	40	51	-21.6
Prince Albert CA	22	32	-31.3	22	4	--	44	36	22.2
Swift Current CA	21	12	75.0	16	0	--	37	12	--
Yorkton CA	7	12	-41.7	24	4	--	31	16	93.8
Total*	108	116	-6.9	139	183	-24.0	247	299	-17.4

January to December 2011

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Regina CMA	958	708	35.3	736	639	15.2	1,694	1,347	25.8
Regina City	790	549	43.9	736	637	15.5	1,526	1,186	28.7
Surrounding Area	168	159	5.7	0	2	--	168	161	4.3
Saskatoon CMA	1,608	1,638	-1.8	1,386	743	86.5	2,994	2,381	25.7
Saskatoon City	1,168	1,117	4.6	1,279	701	82.5	2,447	1,818	34.6
Surrounding Area	440	521	-15.5	107	42	--	547	563	-2.8
Estevan CA	45	48	-6.3	133	131	1.5	178	179	-0.6
Lloydminster CA	274	195	40.5	155	58	--	429	99	--
Lloydminster, SK	195	60	--	8	32	-75.0	203	92	--
Lloydminster, AB	274	135	--	155	26	--	429	161	--
Moose Jaw CA	76	68	11.8	15	52	-71.2	91	120	-24.2
Battlefords CA	51	57	-10.5	63	50	26.0	114	107	6.5
Prince Albert CA	110	123	-10.6	41	57	-28.1	151	180	-16.1
Swift Current CA	49	50	-2.0	84	24	--	133	74	79.7
Yorkton CA	40	48	-16.7	56	34	64.7	96	82	17.1
Total*	3,132	2,800	11.9	2,522	1,762	43.1	5,654	4,562	23.9

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

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

*Total consists of selected centres with a population of 10,000 or more