



**Saskatoon  
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Home Builders'  
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# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Saskatoon Starts Show Balance in Supply** *....single family construction increases in August*

**Saskatoon**—Saskatoon's single family housing starts made up the majority of housing start gains for the city while the surrounding region continued to show gains in multi-family unit starts for the first eight months of 2011. The month of August showed a 35 percent increase in single family units in the Saskatoon region. Year-to-date numbers for Saskatoon for all housing types showed an over 26 percent increase with the city posting an almost 39 percent gain in overall housing starts from 2010. Housing starts for single family units gained over multi-family unit starts after successive months of significant strength in multi-family unit construction.

Saskatoon continues to lead the province in population growth and is a national leader in employment numbers. Small and medium sized business optimism is well above the national average with most businesses forecasting growth for the rest of 2011 and into 2012. The city also posted strong employment numbers for August with a drop in the unemployment rate to 5.1 percent, well below the national average which rose in August to 7.3 percent. Residential construction continues to expand in response to increased demand for housing, as international and interprovincial immigrants are moving to the city to fill demand for new services, opening new businesses and hiring new employees.

“The residential construction industry has, over the course of 2011, contributed to the overall sense of business and industry optimism.” says Alan Thomarat, CEO of the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association. “New construction in the region provides jobs for thousands of residents and attracts the majority of new residents from both inside and outside the province. By providing new, high quality homes and well planned, community-oriented neighbourhoods, Saskatoon has increasingly become a destination city for entrepreneurs and companies attracted to the positive atmosphere and skilled labour force. New and innovative

*Building Confidence and Communities*



solutions to housing and infrastructure issues, as well as investments in research and development and industry leading technology have attracted attention from around the country and the world. Saskatoon is an economic and academic bright spot in uncertain economic times.”

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 overall.

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**Preliminary Housing Starts in Saskatchewan  
August 2011**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Regina CMA	99	61	62.3	15	76	-80.3	114	137	-16.8
Regina City	78	42	85.7	15	76	-80.3	93	118	-21.2
Surrounding Area	21	19	10.5	0	0	--	21	19	10.5
Saskatoon CMA	221	175	26.3	54	190	-71.6	275	365	-24.7
Saskatoon City	176	125	40.8	40	175	-77.1	216	300	-28.0
Surrounding Area	45	50	-10.0	14	15	-6.7	59	65	-9.2
<b>Total*</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>-74.1</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>-22.5</b>

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

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

\*Total consists of Regina CMA and Saskatoon CMA

**January to August 2011**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Regina CMA	610	474	28.7	351	311	12.9	961	785	22.4
Regina City	493	368	34.0	351	311	12.9	844	679	24.3
Surrounding Area	117	106	10.4	0	0	--	117	106	10.4
Saskatoon CMA	1,107	1,153	-4.0	867	411	--	1,974	1,564	26.2
Saskatoon City	804	799	0.6	825	373	--	1,629	1,172	39.0
Surrounding Area	303	354	-14.4	42	38	10.5	345	392	-12.0
<b>Total*</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>24.9</b>

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

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

\*Total consists of Regina CMA and Saskatoon CMA