



**Canadian**  
Home Builders'  
Association

**SASKATCHEWAN**

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# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Saskatchewan Housing Starts over 5,500 for 2011** *...province outperforms forecasts for construction activity*

**Saskatoon** – Housing starts in Saskatchewan for 2011 were 24 percent higher than in 2010, with almost all communities included in the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation survey ending the year with increases in residential construction. The Saskatoon region ended the year over 25 percent higher, at 2,994 starts, with the Regina region keeping pace with 1,694, over 25 percent higher than the previous year. Swift Current topped the list for year over year increase in starts at 79 percent, with Yorkton, Lloydminster, and the Battlefords all posting higher year over year construction starts. Final provincial figures which also measure the country residential and farm home construction are expected within the coming month.

Saskatchewan 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 province's housing market would moderate and that economic headwinds from outside of the country would impact on the provincial economy. However, with a new all-time high population of over 1,060,000 and record-breaking construction happening around the province, the growth in Saskatchewan shows no sign of slowing, or of the boom and bust cycle often predicted in resource-based economies.

*Building Homes, Building Communities, Building the Province*



As we head into 2012, Saskatchewan is predicted to maintain its 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 Canadian Home Builders' Association—Saskatchewan 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.”

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 Canadian Home Builders' Association—Saskatchewan is committed to a housing strategy that provides quality, affordability and choice in housing in all communities throughout Saskatchewan.

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**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
<b>Total*</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>-27.1</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>-7.1</b>

\*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
<b>Total*</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>-24.0</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>-17.4</b>

**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
<b>Total*</b>	<b>3,132</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>4,562</b>	<b>23.9</b>

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