



Canadian
Home Builders'
Association

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@chbasaskatchewan.com
www.chbasaskatchewan.com

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Activity Remains Strong *....shortage in skilled trades will be of increasing concern*

Saskatoon – Residential construction in both Saskatoon and Regina regions for October 2011 remained strong with 1,000 more units started year to date for 2011 over 2010, a 34 percent increase. The Regina region's start activity has been gaining ground steadily over 2011, with 274 total starts in October compared to only 95 starts in October last year. Saskatoon's multi-unit starts continue to significantly outperform starts in 2010 and single family unit starts are keeping pace as well. The multi-unit starts in the two largest cities should bring some relief to the rental market, which remains low for both centres.

The re-election of the Saskatchewan Party with a strong majority has given the party a new mandate for the next four years. The province continues to lead the country in economic and population growth, and the provincial government needs to work hard to put in place policies that will address the concerns facing Saskatchewan today. Growth in the residential construction industry has put pressure on the skilled labour market and with the imminent retirement of close to 70 percent of skilled tradespeople, increasing training in trades is essential.

The Government of Saskatchewan has partnered with the Canadian Home Builders' Association – Saskatchewan over the past few years to offer essential skills training to help those looking for quality careers in the residential construction industry. The Association offers

Building Homes, Building Communities, Building the Province



programs to improve skills in carpentry and blueprint reading, but also in basic skills, such as document reading and comprehension. These are skills that workers today require to find quality careers in any industry. Over the next four years, the Association believes that the government should focus on increasing training opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed so that they have the skills to take on new opportunities.

“Saskatchewan is facing a labour market shortage in a time when we can least afford to see reductions in any skilled trades,” says Alan Thomarat, CEO of the Canadian Home Builders’ Association—Saskatchewan. “With new home construction reaching record numbers across the province, builders and developers are under pressure to find quality workers that will build the best homes for our residents.”

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

**Preliminary Housing Starts in Saskatchewan
October 2011**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Regina CMA	92	59	55.9	182	36	--	274	95	--
Regina City	90	44	--	182	34	--	272	78	--
Surrounding Area	2	15	-86.7	0	2	--	2	17	-88.2
Saskatoon CMA	123	121	1.7	173	50	--	296	171	73.1
Saskatoon City	77	88	-12.5	165	50	--	242	138	75.4
Surrounding Area	46	33	39.4	8	0	--	54	33	63.6
Total*	215	180	19.4	355	86	--	570	266	--

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

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

*Total consists of Regina CMA and Saskatoon CMA

January to October 2011

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%	2011	2010	%
Regina CMA	782	590	32.5	632	426	48.4	1,414	1,016	39.2
Regina City	645	454	42.1	632	424	49.1	1,277	878	45.4
Surrounding Area	137	136	0.7	0	2	--	137	138	-0.7
Saskatoon CMA	1,362	1,418	-3.9	1,165	508	--	2,527	1,926	31.2
Saskatoon City	985	973	1.2	1,107	470	--	2,092	1,443	45.0
Surrounding Area	377	445	-15.3	58	38	52.6	435	483	-9.9
Total*	2,144	2,008	6.8	1,797	934	92.4	3,941	2,942	34.0

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

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

*Total consists of Regina CMA and Saskatoon CMA