

RELEASE

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December housing starts moderate in Saskatoon, improve in Regina

Saskatoon, January 10, 2012 – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) released preliminary results of its monthly survey of residential construction today. Housing starts in the Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) totalled 152 units in December, down from 199 units a year prior. Regina's homebuilders started 164 housing units last month, up from 141 in December 2010. For all of 2011, Regina and Saskatoon both reported gains over the previous year, reaching 1,694 and 2,994 housing starts, respectively.

"Saskatchewan's expanding economy and labour market continued to attract elevated numbers of migrants into the province's centres," said Michael Fabiyi, Senior Market Analyst for CMHC, Saskatchewan. "This bolstered housing demand in 2011 and fuelled a pace of starts rarely seen across the province," he added.

Saskatoon's homebuilders started 116 single-detached units in the final month of 2011, matching production from December 2010. Despite the strong finish to the year, single-detached starts of 1,608 units in 2011 trailed 2010's production by two per cent. Meanwhile, multi-family starts, which consist of semi-detached units, rows, and apartments, totalled 36 units in December, a decline from 83 units in the prior year. Notwithstanding this reduction, multi-family starts of 1,386 units in 2011 represented a strong improvement from 743 units in 2010. "Total housing starts of 2,994 units in 2011 marked the highest annual production since 1982," noted Fabiyi.

Not to be outdone, Regina's builders broke ground on 79 single-detached homes in December, a 36 per cent increase from 58 units during the same period in 2010. For the entire year, single-detached starts amounted to 958 units, up 35 per cent from 708 units in 2010. Meanwhile, multi-family starts totalled 85 units last month, marking a slight increase from December 2010 when builders initiated 83 units. In 2011, Regina's builders started 736 multi-family units, up 15 per cent from 639 units in 2010. "Total housing starts of 1,694 units in 2011 marked the highest annual output by Regina's builders since 1983," Fabiyi added.

The heightened pace of activity was not limited to the province's two major cities, as the majority of Saskatchewan's smaller markets also recorded healthy gains in new home starts in 2011. Among the province's Census Agglomerations (CAs), Swift Current, Yorkton, Lloydminster, and the Battlefords all experienced year-over-year increases in total housing starts in 2011.

As Canada's national housing agency, CMHC draws on more than 65 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of quality, environmentally sustainable and affordable housing solutions. CMHC also provides reliable, impartial and up-to-date housing market reports, analysis and knowledge to support and assist consumers and the housing industry in making informed decisions.

For more information, visit www.cmhc.ca or call 1-800-668-2642. CMHC Market Analysis standard reports are also available free for download at www.cmhc.ca/housingmarketinformation.

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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
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