

## City Profile

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



# Saskatoon: Real Growth. Real Opportunities

*Saskatoon was the fastest growing Canadian city in 2013 with 6.5% GDP growth and 3.9% population growth, providing opportunities in many industries*

## Fast facts

### Saskatoon overview

Saskatoon is the fastest growing, youngest city in Canada (StatsCan). Saskatchewan accounts for 40% of Canada's arable land and is home to 30% of Canada's agriculture-biotechnology, making Saskatoon an international leader in agriculture production and crop development. Saskatoon is also home to some of the world's largest mining companies including BHP Billiton, a leading global resource company.

### Sector Strength

Saskatoon boasts many thriving sectors, including manufacturing, life sciences & biotechnology, mining & energy, and construction. Saskatoon houses the only light synchrotron in Canada which is embedded at Innovation Place, a university-related science and technology park.

### Why Canada

Overall business costs in Canada are the lowest in the G-7 and 7.2% lower than the U.S., according to KPMG's 2014 Competitive Alternatives Reprt. KPMG's focus on Tax 2014 also places Canada as the most tax competitive country in the G-7. Canada is first in the G-20 to make itself a tariff-free zone for manufacturers by decreasing, since 2010, tariffs on machinery, equipment and industrial inputs to reach zero by 2015.

## Saskatoon Overview

Situated in Western Canada with a population of 239,000, Saskatoon is the largest city in the Province of Saskatchewan. This commercial centre and region serves over 300,000 people, and it has one of the most diversified economies in the country, producing outstanding products and services that are in demand throughout the world.

The Saskatoon region is centrally located within the province to serve a booming oil and gas, mining and agricultural industrial base. This prime location is the reason that Saskatoon leads the nation in economic growth among the nation's largest urban centres at 6.5% in 2013.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, the Saskatoon region has one of the most diversified economies in Canada. Saskatoon's sector strength consists of a blend of traditional sectors including manufacturing, mining & energy, construction and innovative sector including life sciences & biotechnology. Together they provide a solid base for growth in the region.

## Why Saskatoon

Saskatoon offers businesses all the benefits of being part of an economic powerhouse. Saskatoon has the highest average GDP economic growth in Canada, coupled with one of Canada's lowest rates of unemployment (3.9%). Most notably, Saskatoon has one of Canada's lowest corporate income tax rates for manufacturers and processors – as low as 10% for qualifying companies and royalty rates are among the lowest in Canada.

Saskatoon is business friendly with the lowest business tax rates in Canada. Strong economic growth is evident with Saskatoon being #1 in Canada for economic growth, #2 in Job Growth (11,100 jobs created in 2013) and #1 in Population Growth. A stable government has helped Saskatoon have a AAA/Stable Credit Rating and be one of the "Most Open" municipalities in Canada.

With a solid infrastructure, natural resources, research and development facilities, and a well educated workforce. The Saskatoon region and Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authorities (SREDA) are continually creating exciting opportunities for business and individuals.

[more...](#)

## Saskatoon economic indicators

Indicator	2012	2013
GDP Value	15,443 M	16,445 M
GDP growth	4.5%	6.5%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	4.1%
Saskatoon Population	239,000	

Source: The Conference Board of Canada



## Sector Strength

### Manufacturing

Saskatoon has created a successfully diverse manufacturing sector by creating products specifically adapted for a local need and then exported internationally to other niche markets. Our local manufactures have pioneered many new innovative products – everything from satellite communications technology, dry-land farming equipment, to robotic mining equipment. The tremendous growth in the manufacturing sector has been driven by a booming resource sector, both here in Saskatchewan and in western Canada. Along with strong local demand, the value of manufacturing shipments from Saskatchewan in 2013 totaled \$15.2B, an increase of 6.8% compared to 2012.

### Life Sciences & Biotechnology

Saskatoon is home to 30% of Canada's Ag-Biotech industry. The Saskatoon Region biotechnology and life sciences cluster is recognized as a leading Canadian centre for research and development in biotechnology. The University of Saskatchewan and Innovation Place are home to world renowned institutions like the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac), the Canadian Light Source Inc. (CLS), and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Saskatoon Research Centre. The Innovation Place research park houses 130 technology companies which employ more than 3,300 people within the 19 buildings throughout the park. Some of the largest agriculture companies present in Saskatoon include Du Pont Pioneer, Monsanto, BASF Canada, Bayer CropScience.

### Mining & Energy

Saskatchewan has almost two-thirds of the world's recoverable potash reserves and is the world's second largest exporter of uranium. Province wide, the industry is planning \$20 billion in mine expansions over the next 20 years. Saskatchewan's value of mineral production was \$7.2 billion in sales in 2013. Saskatchewan is Canada's second largest oil-producer among all American states and Canadian provinces. Oil production last year set a new record of 177.9 million barrels, or 487,400 barrels per day. Saskatchewan is also the third largest producer of natural gas in Canada.

### Construction

A significant amount of construction investment continued to spur growth in the region, with over \$1 billion invested in the past year. Following a record year in 2012, the number of housing starts returned to the 2011 levels with housing starts at 2,980 units in 2013. Commercial construction remained high, with \$97M invested in new construction and \$68M on improvements. Of the total projected capital investment in Saskatchewan for 2014, \$11.9 billion will be in non-residential construction and \$3.6 billion is for residential construction (Statistics Canada).

## Future plans

- Throughout the Province of Saskatchewan, there is projected to be \$71.8 billion spent in private sector projects and \$28.2 billion spent on public sector projects by 2020.
- SaskTel will be investing approximately \$322 million in overall capital expenditures in 2014, with approximately \$183 million dollars being allocated towards its core Saskatchewan network.
- The City of Saskatoon 2014 budget includes \$381.1 million for capital projects in the city.



Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority

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