

First-time buyers expected to boost real estate market

BY CASSANDRA KYLE, THE STARPHOENIX APRIL 6, 2011



Saskatoon real estate

Photograph by: Gord Waldner, Star Phoenix

First-time homebuyers are expected to play a significant role in the health of Saskatoon's housing market this year, a new report says.

A strong local economy will lead to better-than-expected residential market growth in 2011 and first-time buyers are a large part of the push behind home sales in the city, Re/Max said in its First-Time Buyers Report 2011.

The real estate firm says higher inventory levels in the condo market will help first-time buyers, including couples and singles, find an opportunity to buy. So far this year, one in five home sales in Saskatoon have been under the \$200,000 mark -41 per cent of which have been a condo apartment or townhouse.

Other first-time buyers are looking in the \$300,000 range, choosing post-war homes in areas such as Nutana, Avalon and Exhibition.

"While affordability is a growing concern, most purchasers have incomes that easily support their housing choices," Re/Max wrote in its report.