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# STATE OF THE CITIES REPORT

Summary of Statistics for **Swift Current**  
Prepared March 2014

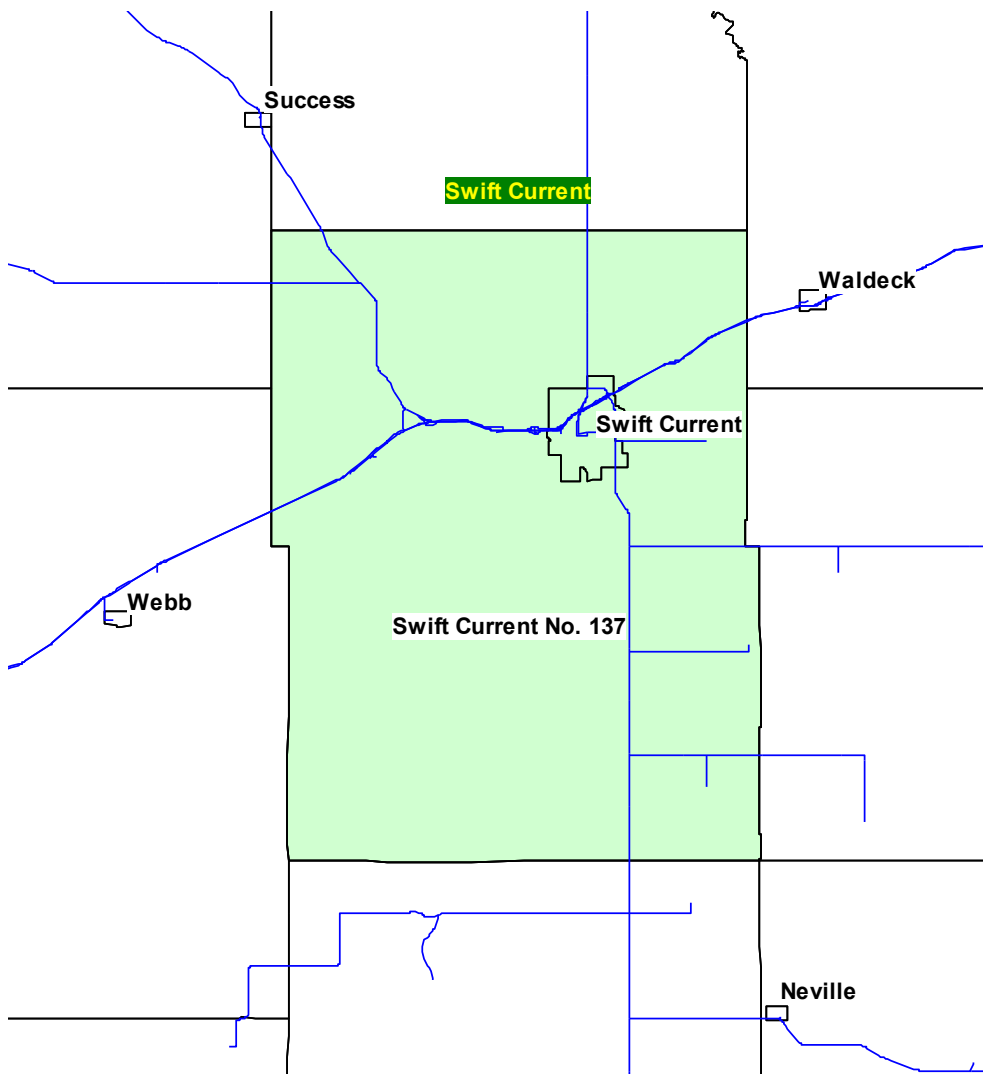
## BACKGROUND AND NOTES

- This is a summary of findings from the *State of Saskatchewan Cities* report prepared by the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy the Regina Regional Opportunities Commission, the Saskatoon Regional Development Authority, and The Institute of Certified Management Consultants of Saskatchewan.
- The *State of the Saskatchewan Cities* report was a component in a larger project commissioned by the Saskatchewan chapter of Certified Management Consultants that resulted in the report *The Role of Urban Communities in Sustaining Saskatchewan's Growth*.
- The "cities" examined in the report are the eight largest urban areas in the province and include the population in the surrounding "bedroom" communities (CMAs or CAs).
 

Regina CMA	Saskatoon CMA	Moose Jaw CA
Prince Albert CA	Yorkton CA	North Battleford CA
Estevan CA	Swift Current CA	
- This package provides statistical information specific to Swift Current. The statistics chosen are only a small portion of those in the report. Readers are encouraged to read the entire report for a more comprehensive look.



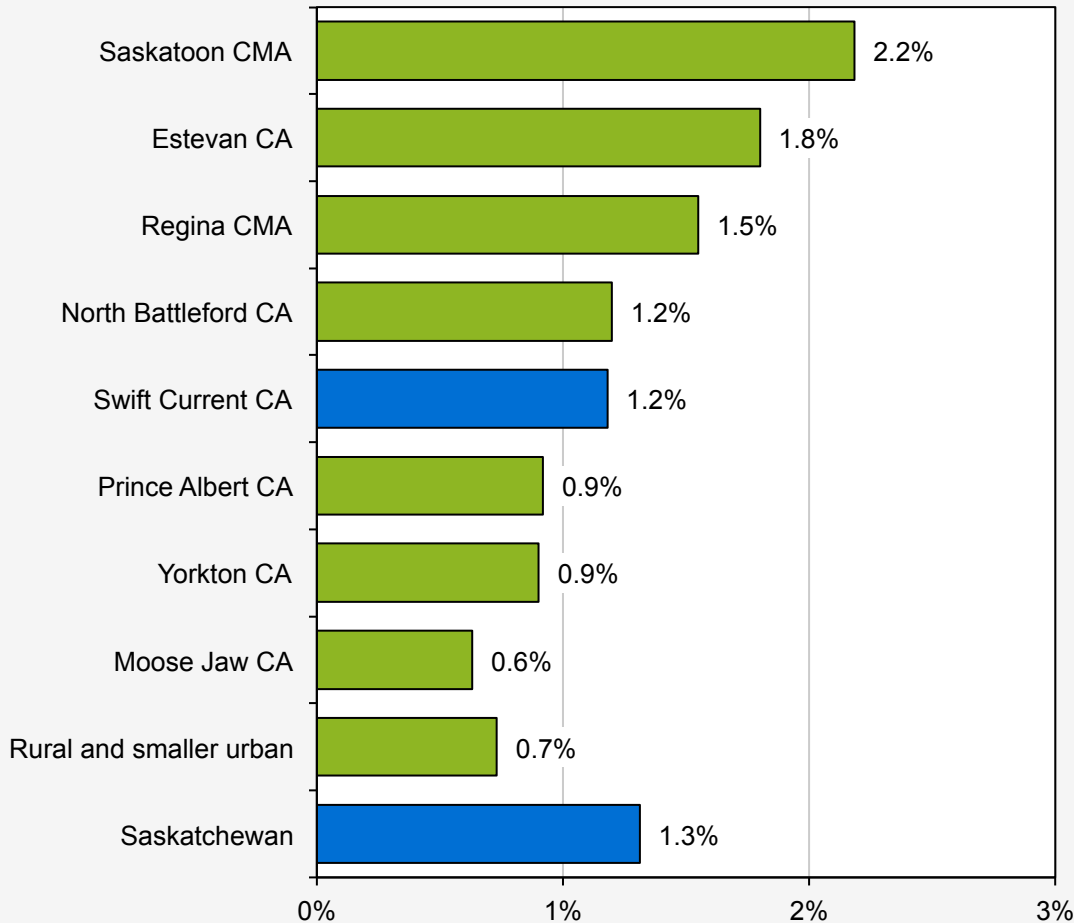
# METROPOLITAN AREA



- With only some exceptions, the analysis in the report provides information about residents in the metropolitan areas – called Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) or Census Agglomerations (CAs) – that include the major urban centre.
- As well as the city proper, these “commuter-sheds” include the surrounding RMs and the bedroom communities that are economically integrated with the city.
- The Swift Current metropolitan area includes the city proper and the surrounding RM. It does not include residents of Waldeck.

# DEMOGRAPHICS (POPULATION GROWTH)

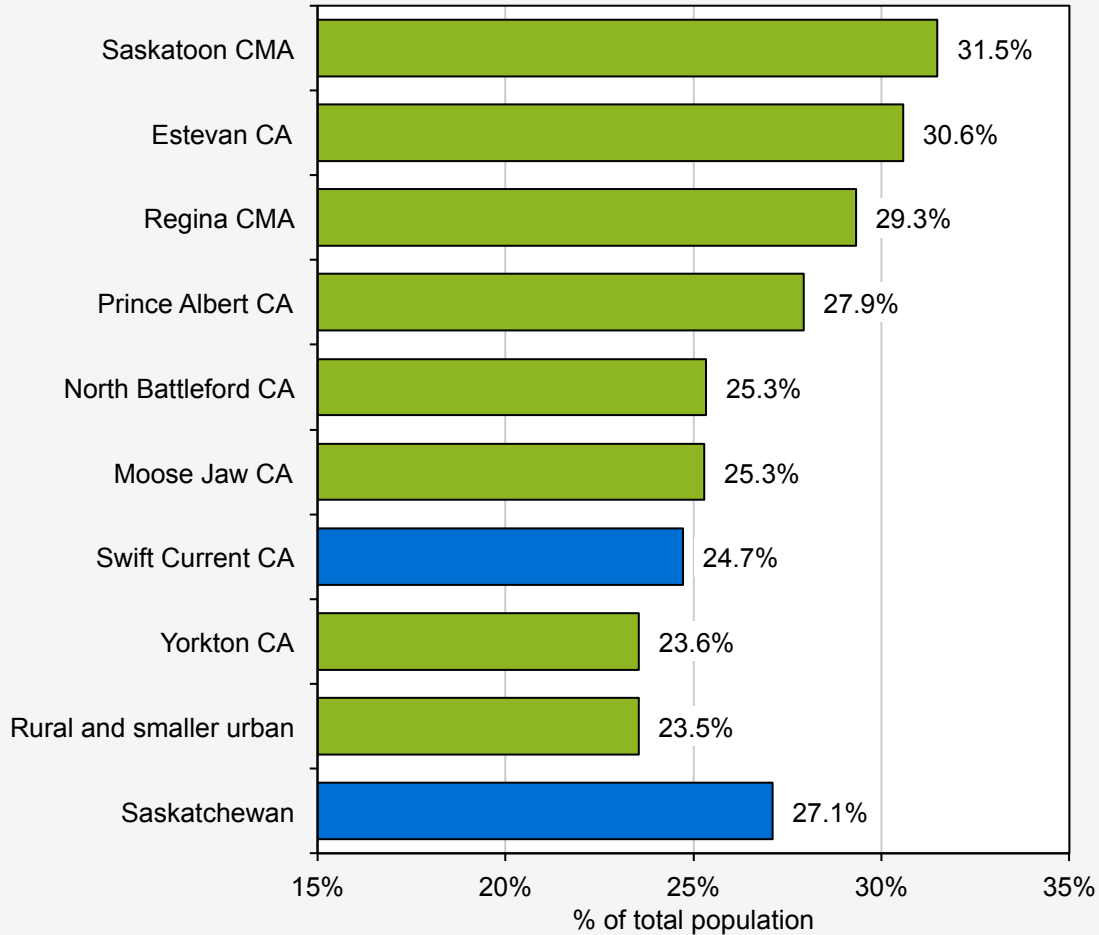
**Average Annual Increase in Population, Saskatchewan's Largest Urban Centres, 2006 to 2011**



- From 2006 to 2011, the population in each of the eight large urban centres in Saskatchewan grew.
- The highest rate of growth was in Saskatoon; the lowest in Moose Jaw.
- Swift Current ranked 5<sup>th</sup> among the cities in terms of growth over the period.
- Much of the city's growth occurred in the surrounding metropolitan area. In fact, Swift Current's metropolitan area was the fastest growing of the eight urban centres.

# DEMOGRAPHICS (NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS)

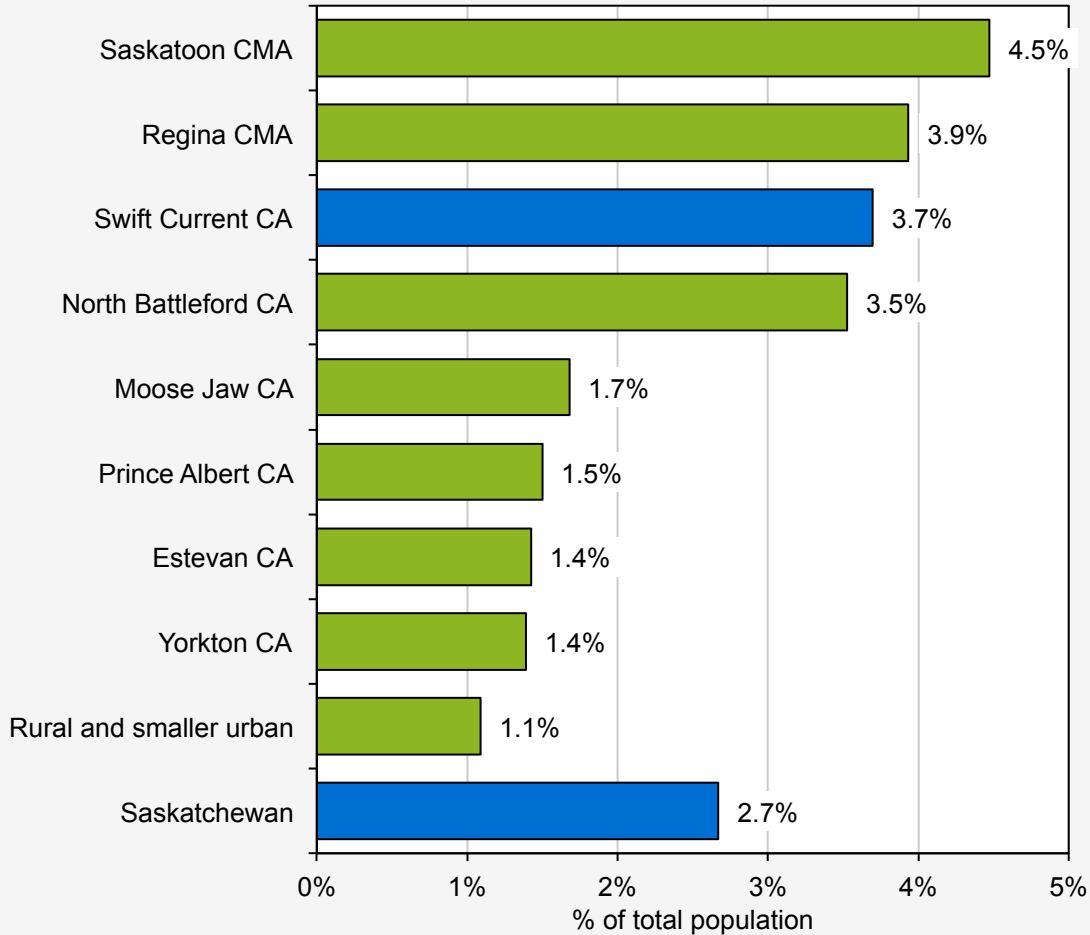
Young Adults (15 to 34 years) as a Percentage of the Population, 2011



- Compared with rural areas, cities, particularly Regina and Saskatoon, have a disproportionately large share of young adults.
- Swift Current has a relatively low number of young adults compared with other cities. It also has a relatively low number of children. (These population groups often go hand-in-hand.)
- At the other end of the age scale Swift Current has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportion of seniors among the eight large urban centres.

# DEMOGRAPHICS (RECENT IMMIGRANTS)

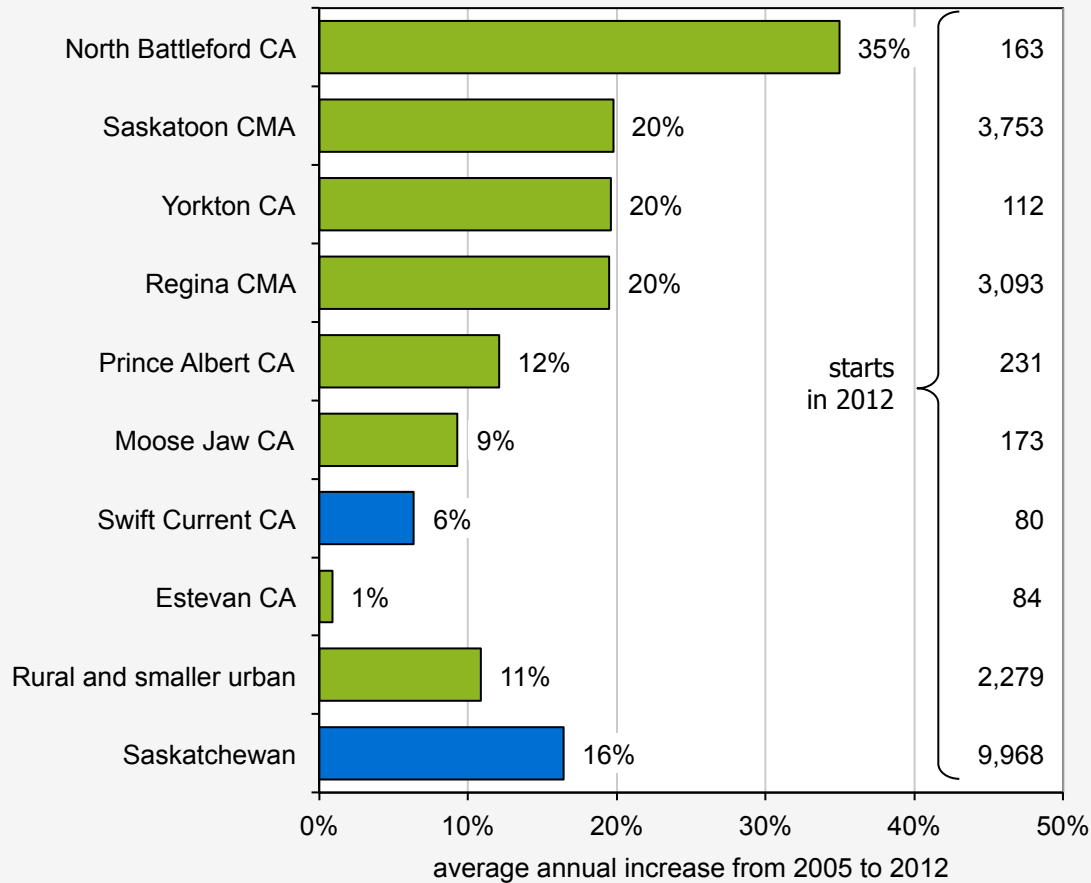
**Recent Immigrants (in Canada less than five years) as a Percentage of the Population, 2011**



- In terms of diversity, Swift Current has one of the highest proportions of recent immigrants – the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest, in fact, after Saskatoon and Regina.
- The city also has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest proportion of persons who are members of a visible minority group.
- The city has the lowest proportion of people reporting an Aboriginal identity.

# HOUSING (NEW HOUSING STARTS)

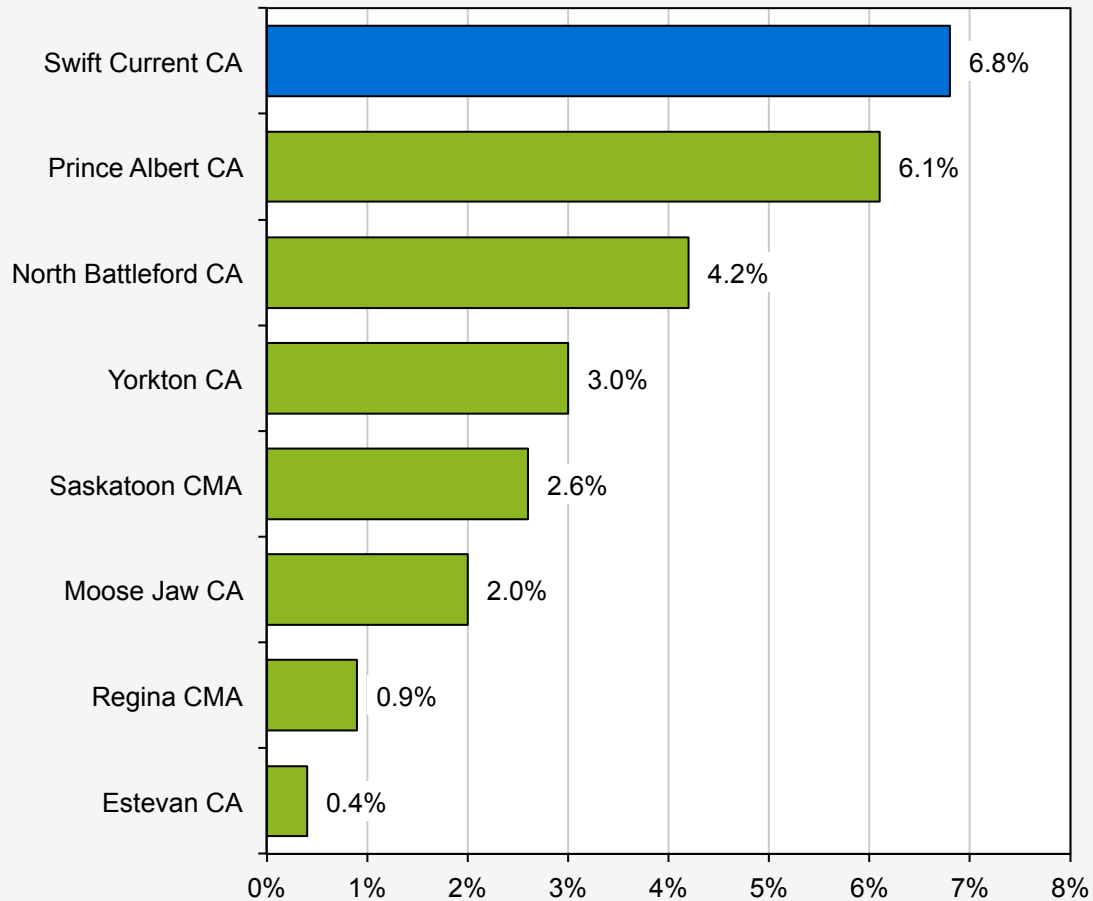
**Average Annual Increase in New Housing Starts, 2005 to 2012**



- In absolute terms, Regina and Saskatoon dominate the activity in the new housing market.
- In percentage terms, Swift Current ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> last for the increase in the number of new starts from 2005 to 2012.
- The number of starts increased by 6% per year compared with 16% for the province as a whole.
- Swift Current has a relatively low proportion of dwellings that are single-detached houses. The number of persons per dwelling is also low compared with other cities.

# HOUSING (VACANCY RATES)

Vacancy Rates (privately initiated apartment buildings with at least three units), October 2012

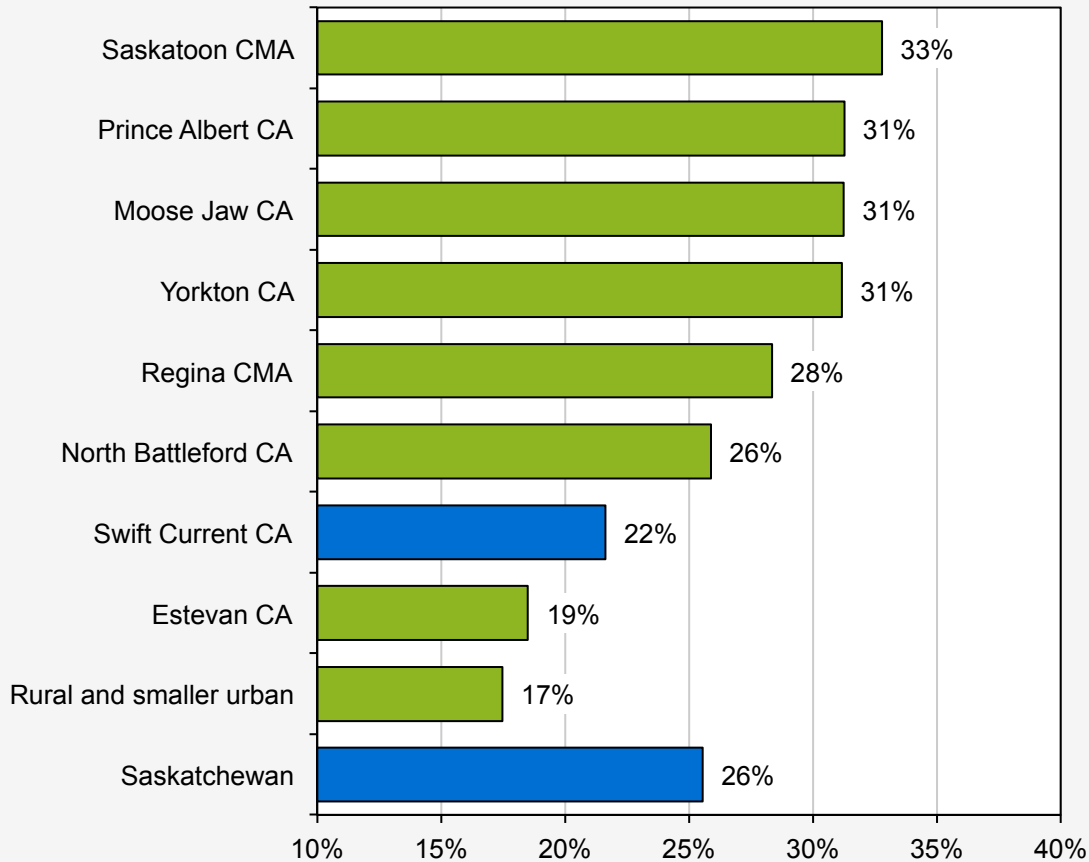


- Among the eight large centres, Swift Current had the highest vacancy rate in October 2012. Five years earlier, it had one of the lowest.
- In the same month, Swift Current reported the lowest average rents among the urban centres.



# HOUSING (AFFORDABILITY)

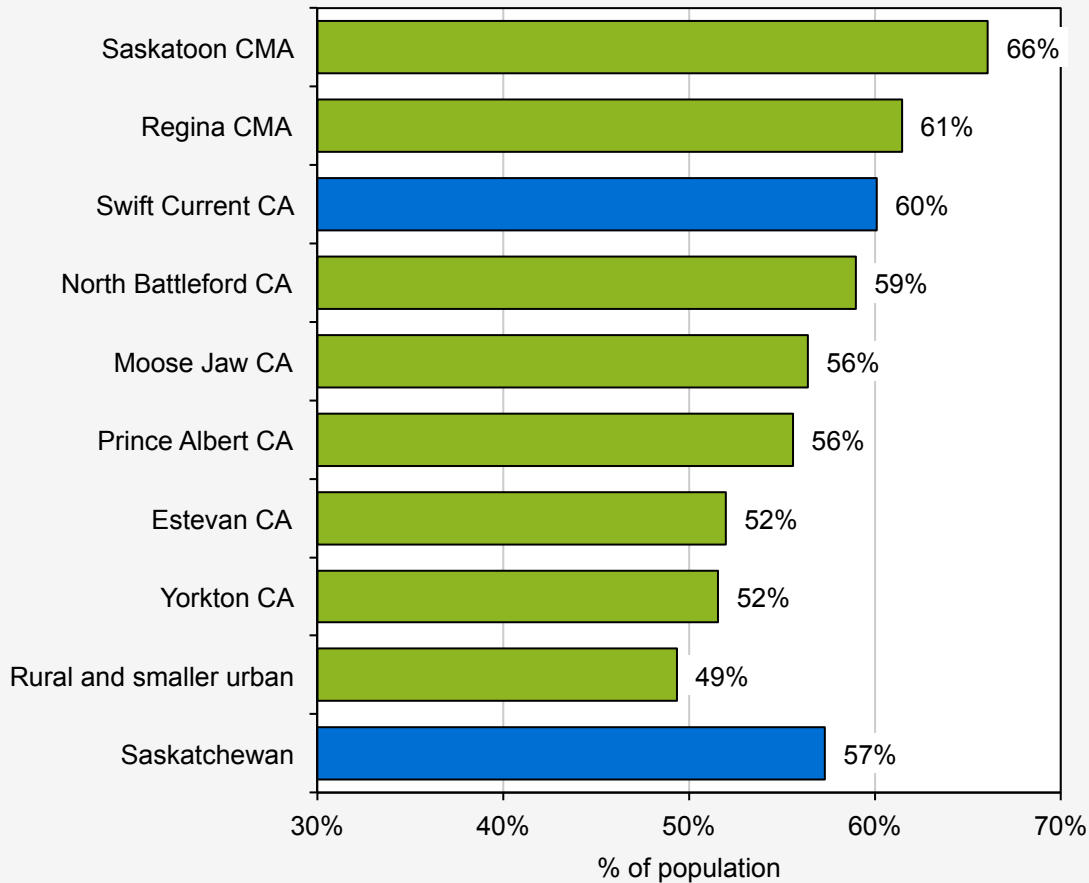
**Proportion of Dwellings Where Major Expenses (e.g. rent, mortgage, taxes) Exceed 30% of Gross Household Income, 2011**



- There are two measures of housing “quality” in the report, namely affordability and condition.
- The figure shows that Swift Current ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> best in terms of affordability in 2011.
- In terms of condition, 8% of dwellings were “in need of major repair” according to the occupant. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest proportion among the eight urban centres.

# LABOUR MARKET (EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT)

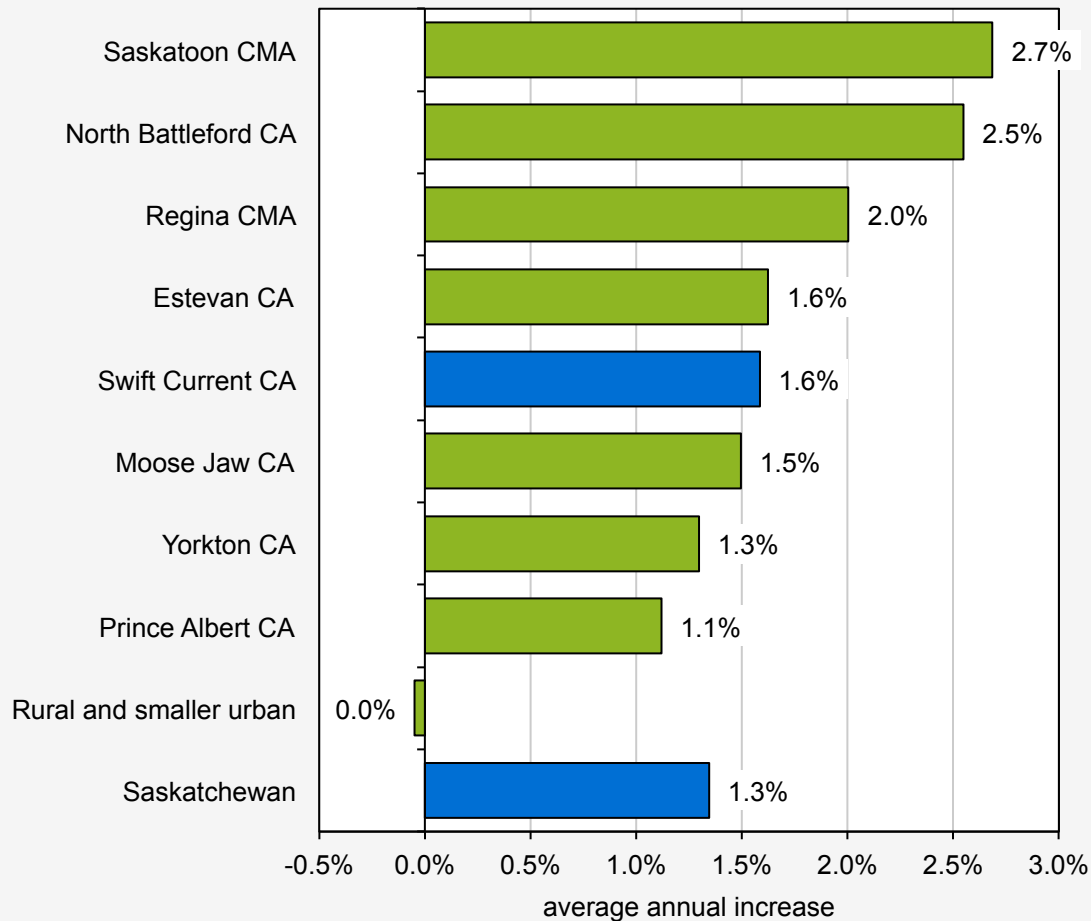
**Post-Secondary Graduates as Percentage of the Population 25 to 64 Years of Age, 2011**



- Among the eight cities, Swift Current has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest proportion of post-secondary graduates in the primary labour market age group.
- The city is also ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in terms of the proportion of the broader adult population (15 & older) who have at least completed high school.

# LABOUR MARKET (EMPLOYMENT GROWTH)

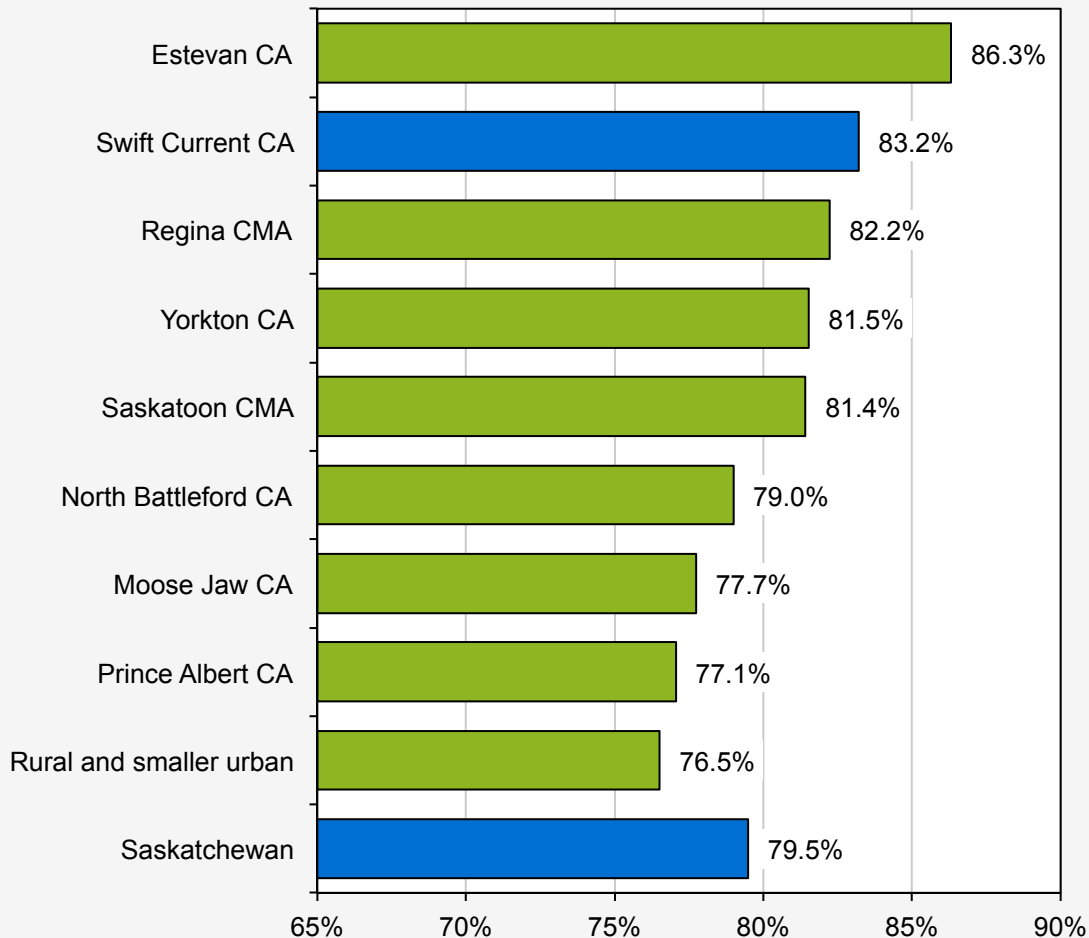
Employment Growth, 2006 to 2011



- All of the employment growth in Saskatchewan from 2006 to 2011 has occurred among residents of the eight largest urban centres.
- In percentage terms, Swift Current’s average annual growth rate of 1.6% is near the middle of the pack, 5<sup>th</sup> highest among the eight.
- This is an improvement from the earlier 2001 to 2006 period when the city had the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest employment growth rate.

# LABOUR MARKET (EMPLOYMENT RATES)

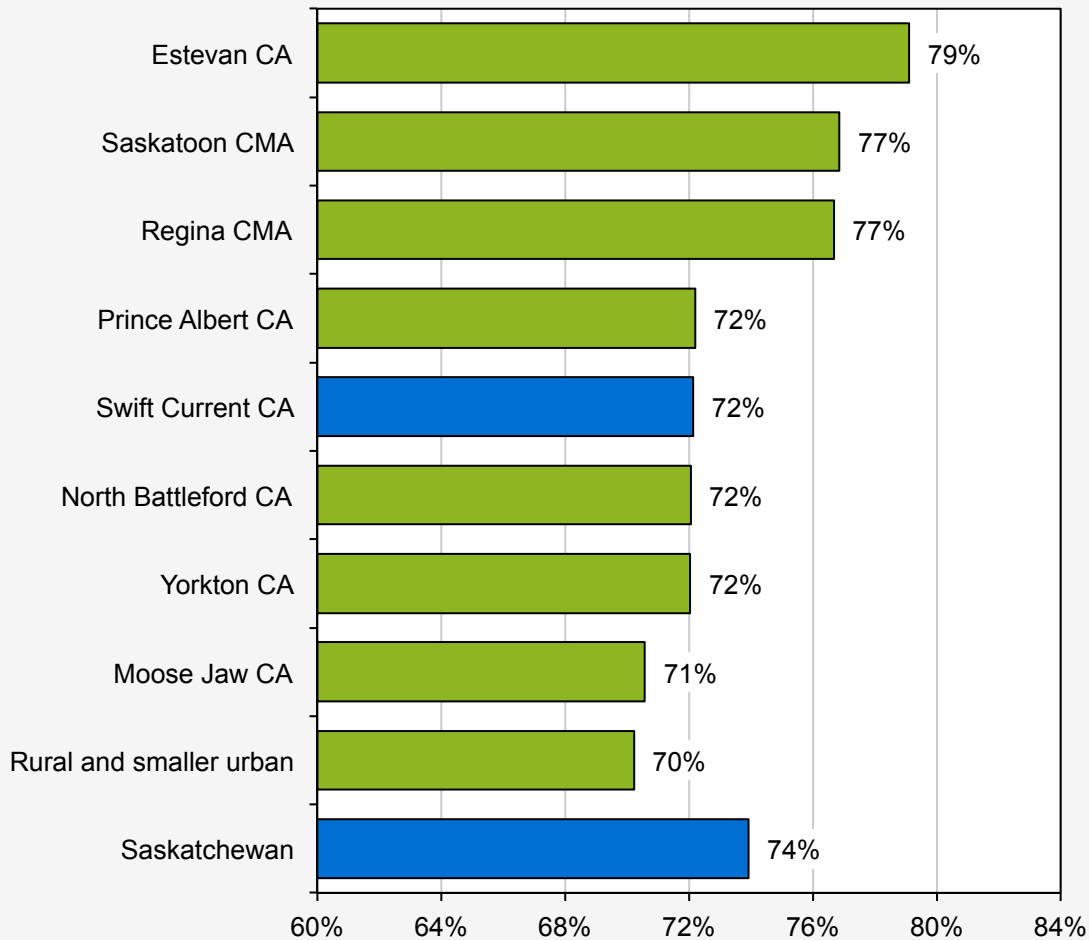
Employment Rates, Population 25 to 64 Years, 2011



- Employment rates measure the proportion of the population who have a job. High employment rates in this age group typically mean a shortage of workers (e.g. Estevan) whereas low employment rates typically mean a lack of employment opportunities (e.g. Prince Albert).
- Among the eight largest urban centres, the employment rate in the primary labour market age group (25 to 64 years) was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Swift Current.
- The ranking was the same in 2006.
- Employment rates among youth (15 to 24 years) were higher in Swift Current than in the other major urban centres.

# INCOME (INCOME SOURCES)

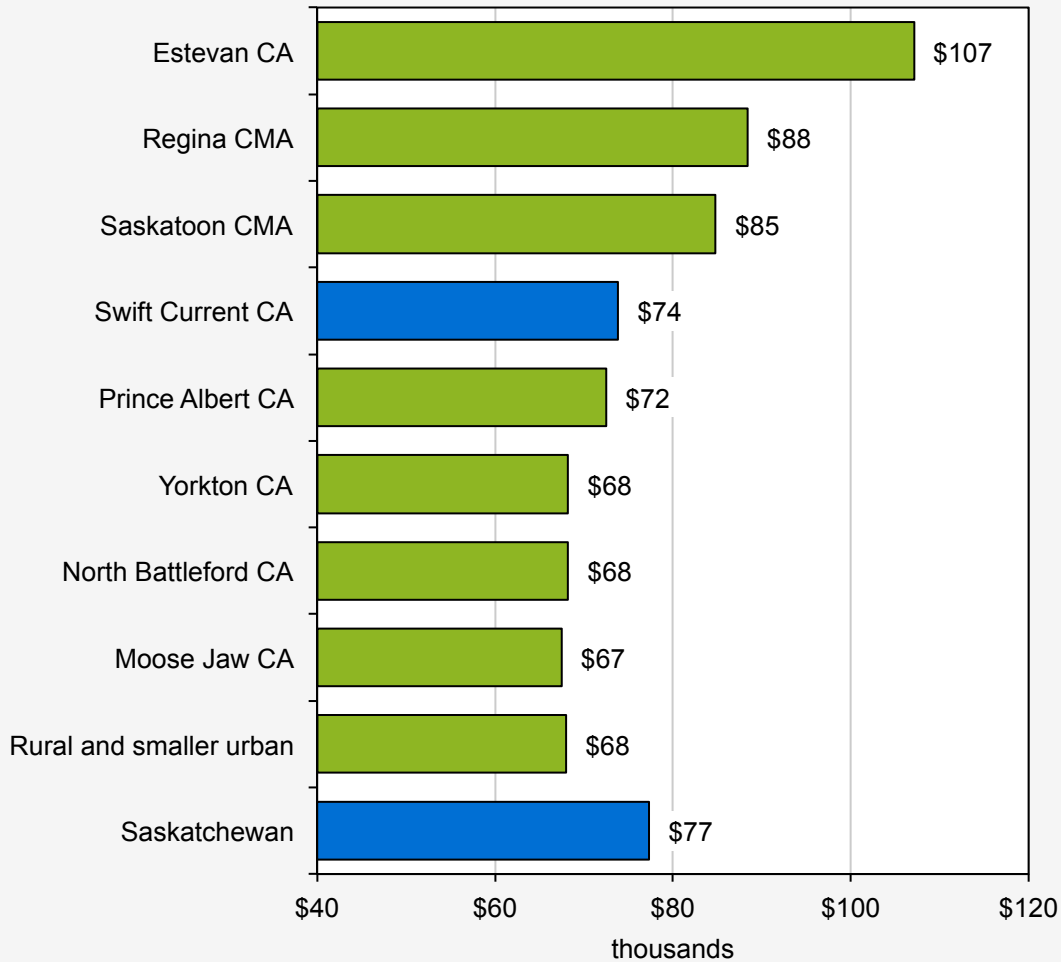
Proportion of Gross Income from Employment, 2010



- Employment accounted for 74% of personal income among Saskatchewan tax filers in 2010.
- The proportion is lower (70%) in rural and smaller urban centres where government transfers (e.g. EI, CPP, OAS, social assistance) represent a larger share.
- It is higher in urban centres (76%), particularly in Estevan, Saskatoon, and Regina.
- In Swift Current, 72% of income came from employment in 2010 which is typical among the smaller cities. The proportion from “other” sources, typically investment income, is relatively high.

# PERSONAL INCOME (AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD)

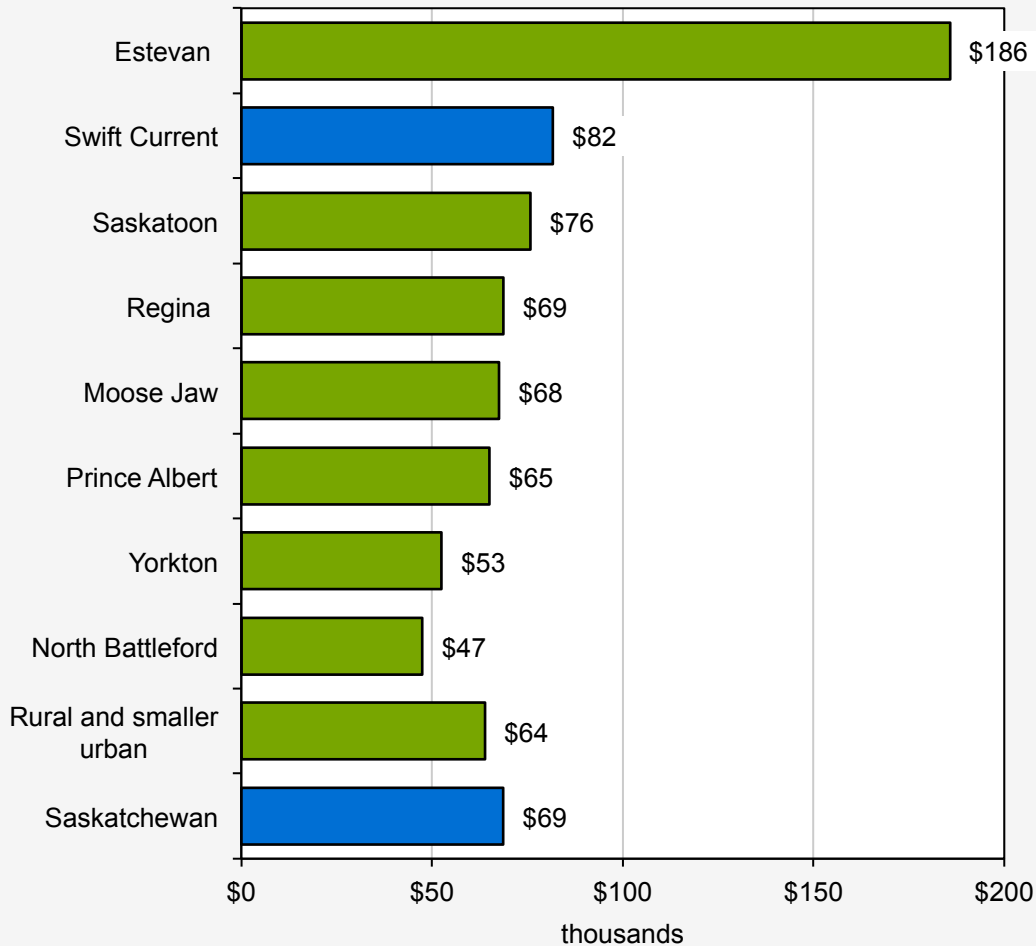
Average Gross Household Income, 2010



- Average household income in 2010 was the highest in Estevan, Regina, and Saskatoon.
- Swift Current ranks 4<sup>th</sup> among the eight largest urban centres in 2010. The ranking is the same for individual incomes and the same as in the previous census (2005).

# ECONOMY (GDP PER CAPITA)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per Capita, 2011



- The figures show contribution to the provincial Gross Domestic Product estimates at basic prices in 2011. These estimates were produced by McNair Business Developments.
- In aggregate, the GDP in the eight cities is \$39.4 billion. This is 56% of the provincial GDP of \$70.9 billion.
- On a per capita basis, the largest economic contribution is from Estevan and the smallest is from North Battleford. Swift Current ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> among the cities.