

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Media Release  
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### **Chamber Releases New Growth Strategy Indicator Updates**

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Growth Strategy has projected that by 2030 the population of our province is going to be 1.5 million. Achieving this target and the 20 others identified in the Strategy will enhance the quality of life and the range of goods and services enjoyed by Saskatchewan residents.

“Everyone needs to be onside to make the Growth Strategy a reality,” said Steve McLellan, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO. “The current success Saskatchewan is experiencing is partially due to good strategic actions but our task is not complete.

This is a mid-year report card on the Growth Strategy targets, and an annual report on these targets will happen in October.

According to the recently released Growth Strategy Report Card, private sector investment is currently below the targeted level.

“Without increasing private investment we cannot grow the GDP,” continued McLellan. “GDP growth increases employment, wages, the availability of goods and services and ensures an overall increase in our standard of living.”

“We need five times the current amount of private sector investment in Saskatchewan by 2030,” said Dave Dutchak, Chair of the Chamber’s Growth Strategy Task Force. “Growth in private sector investment is important because it is a leading indicator of future economic growth and confidence for Saskatchewan.”

Other issues identified in the key indicators included raising the number of post secondary graduates in the workforce. While increasing, this number must grow in order to meet the needs of a demanding workplace. As many as 70 percent of future jobs will require some type of post secondary training and we do not have the training capacity or the proper number of trained people in place.

One very positive outcome is housing starts which have increased over the past year to meet demand. The housing situation in Saskatchewan is now at a more appropriate level in terms of both price and supply. The key indicator for housing starts is well above target.

“Even in a world economic storm, Saskatchewan continues to show positive growth. However, we need to keep an eye on the future and ensure that the growth continues, and does so in many areas, sector-wise and geographically. We need balanced growth, and must ensure we have the capacities to embrace growth or else the future will be more challenging than need be,” McLellan concluded.

*The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of our members from throughout the province by advocating for expanded opportunities and regulatory simplification. The Chamber launched a Growth Strategy in October of 2007 to encourage and help facilitate strategic growth, it can be found at [www.saskchamber.com](http://www.saskchamber.com).*

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