

Check out what has been happening in Saskatoon Silver Springs and throughout the Province!



Provincial Point of View

January 24, 2014

REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Our government is preparing for next provincial budget. As we look forward to what 2014 could hold for our economy, it's predicted that resource revenue will be down slightly. While this isn't great news, we will continue to work with business to promote Saskatchewan as a great place to do business. With the next budget in mind, our government will continue to invest in key areas while maintaining our commitment to spend tax dollars responsibly while growing our province.

As you will see in this week's newsletter below, wholesale and manufacturing numbers show that Saskatchewan's economy is strong, diverse and growing.

In November 2013, our wholesale activity had the highest percentage growth in the country and the highest for the month of November in our history. In real terms, this means our seasonally-adjusted basis as wholesale trade increased to more than \$2 billion for the month of November. November year-over-year wholesale trade increased by 16.8 per cent (seasonally-adjusted) compared to 2012, which ranks Saskatchewan first in percentage growth among the provinces for this category.

Growth is also seen in our manufacturing sector, which is among the national leaders according the Statistics Canada. Last November sales topped \$1.4 billion (seasonally-adjusted), that's a four percent increase just from the month before and a 19.6 percent increase year-over-year. This means Saskatchewan ranked second in percentage growth among the provinces. The manufacturing sector is showing diversified growth that employs more than 27,000 people in highly skilled jobs throughout Saskatchewan. The most noteworthy growth can be found in the food sector with an increase of 21.4 percent year-over-year; fabricated metal, machinery and equipment both increased by 8.5 percent. It's interesting to note, every dollar manufacturing produces creates approximately \$3.15 in economic activity.

This economic activity is a major reason we saw nearly 20,000 new residents and more than 18,000 new jobs created in Saskatchewan. With this news, our government is working harder than ever to ensure we have the skilled labour force to meet existing and future labour market needs. This is why we set the goal of adding 60,000 more people to our workforce by 2020. To meet this goal, we are investing in post-secondary students to provide training that will prepare them to find a career and build their future right here in Saskatchewan. To find out more about post-secondary education opportunities please visit <http://ae.gov.sk.ca>.

NOVEMBER'S WHOLESALE TRADE HIGHEST EVER FOR SASKATCHEWAN



Saskatchewan's growth in wholesale activity for November 2013 was the highest percentage growth in Canada and was also the highest record of trade value for the month of November in Saskatchewan's history.

Saskatchewan ranked number one in month-to-month percentage change among the provinces on a seasonally-adjusted basis as wholesale trade increased by 1.7 per cent in November 2013, compared to October 2013, to more than \$2 billion.

"Saskatchewan's economy benefits from vigorous performance in a variety of sectors, and

dynamic wholesale trade growth is just one of the signposts of this activity,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “It reflects positively on our province and on an economy that is thriving and benefiting our people and businesses.”

Year-over-year, November 2013 wholesale trade increased by 16.8 per cent (seasonally-adjusted) compared to November 2012, which ranks Saskatchewan first in percentage growth among the provinces for this category.

[November's Wholesale Trade Highest Ever for Saskatchewan](#)

Redwing Zone G Blades Night



March 1st



Please mark March 1st on your calendar and get ready to cheer on the Blades!

This is a friendly reminder that the Redwing Zone and the Saskatoon Blades will partner up to raise money for the Quinn Stevenson Memorial Athletic & Spirit Scholarship. Money will be raised through ticket sales.

In addition, the Blades have agreed to donate their take of that night's 50/50 to the fund. For the first time ever the Saskatoon Blades will partner with an outside organization and will be donating their half of the 50/50 pot and donate it to the Quinn Stevenson Athletic & Spirit Scholarship! The Blades and Redwings have set a fundraising goal for this evening of \$7,500 for the Scholarship Fund. The Quinn Stevenson Memorial Hockey Day showed that we love to get together and have some fun, cheer and can raise money while we are at it!

For more information you can visit www.saskatoonredwings.ca.

RETAIL SALES UP, EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DOWN

Saskatchewan shoppers and retailers were busy in November 2013 as retail sales climbed both annually and on a month-over-month basis.

Statistics Canada reported today that retail sales were up 1.0 per cent in November 2013 over October, the third month-over-month increase of the last four months. Saskatchewan had the second highest percentage increase among the provinces. Nationally, sales were up 0.6 per cent over the same period.

At the same time, another report on Employment Insurance (EI) released today highlighted that for the month of November 2013, Saskatchewan had the largest decrease in the nation of regular EI beneficiaries (13.9 per cent) compared to November 2012 (and the second largest decrease compared to October 2013).

In Saskatchewan, 1.2 per cent of the working-age population (15+) received EI benefits in November 2013 compared to 1.8 per cent nationally. Saskatchewan had the second lowest number of EI beneficiaries as a percentage of the working-age population, behind Alberta at 0.9 per cent.

“Saskatchewan’s robust economy is benefitting both businesses and consumers,” Boyd said. “Job opportunities have never been greater and we are fortunate to have the means to spend more of our earnings which in turn contributes to a stronger, growing economy.”

[Retail Sales Up, Employment Insurance Down](#)

SASKATCHEWAN'S HAYLEY WICKENHEISER NAMED CANADIAN FLAG-BEARER



Congratulations to Hayley Wickenheiser who was named the Canadian flag-bearer for the Sochi Olympics. Wickenheiser is Canada's biggest women's hockey star and will be making her fifth Olympic appearance.

The Honourable Don McMorris, will be travelling to Sochi to watch his son, Mark McMorris compete. We wish Mark and all of the other Saskatchewan athletes a safe trip.

We will all be watching and cheering as our outstanding athletes compete at the Sochi Games that will be held February 7 - 23.

SASKATCHEWAN EXPANDING ACCESS TO FLU VACCINE

A large segment of Saskatchewan's population will again have access to influenza immunizations, following the arrival of a shipment of FluMist vaccine.

As of January 22, Saskatchewan is expanding availability of vaccine to all people between two and 59 years of age who are eligible to receive FluMist. The province has received a shipment of 107,000 doses of FluMist nasal vaccine, confirmed it is in good order, and begun the process of distributing it to health regions.

Saskatchewan's remaining supplies of injectable vaccine are being reserved for infants, pregnant women and persons with compromised immune systems. Injectable vaccine will also now be made available to residents 60 and over, supplies permitting. More injectable vaccine is expected in early February, and will be used for persons who are unable to get vaccinated with FluMist.

"We encourage Saskatchewan people to be vaccinated to protect themselves from illness due to

influenza,” Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer Denise Werker said. “Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.”

FluMist contains the same influenza strains as other flu vaccines used in the northern hemisphere this influenza season, including the H1N1 strain. It is licensed for use in Canada for people from two to 59 years of age.

It is not recommended for children under two, pregnant women and people who are immune-compromised. FluMist is also not recommended for health care workers who provide care to patients with severe immune-compromised conditions who require hospitalization in a protective environment.

Residents can check health region websites or call HealthLine 811 to find out when and where vaccinations will be available locally. Health regions will offer vaccinations by appointment or on a drop-in basis, depending on operational needs.

[Saskatchewan Expanding Access to Flu Vaccine](#)

DID YOU KNOW...

... Saskatchewan created more than 18,000 jobs in 2013, the highest created in a one year period since the survey started in 1976.

... There are 196 separate, legally designated park lands located throughout Saskatchewan.

... Every dollar manufacturing produces creates approximately \$3.15 in economic activity in Saskatchewan.

... Between 1900 and 1920, Tug of War was an Olympic event.

JUST THE LINKS

January 20, 2014 - [2014 Operating and Capital Grants Approved for Saskatchewan Transportation Company](#)

January 20, 2014 - [Public Health Advisory on Measles Issued by Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region](#)

January 21, 2014 - [Saskatchewan's Manufacturing Sector Keeps Pace in November](#)

January 22, 2014 - [Governments Invest More Than \\$4 Million into Livestock and Forage Research](#)

January 23, 2014 - [Health Regions Boost Capacity to Handle Surgical Demand](#)

January 23, 2014 - [Public Health Advisory on Measles Expanded](#)

COMING EVENTS

Potash Corp WinterShine Festival

Date: January 25 - February 2

Where: Saskatoon's Farmers Market at River Landing

When: Mon - Fri 4 pm - 8 pm; Sat 12 pm - 8 pm; Sun 10 am - 8 pm

Canada Cup III & Canadian Junior Long Track Speed Skating Championship

Date: January 24 - 26

Where: Clarence Downey Speedskating Oval

When: All day

Silverspring Community Association Meeting

Date: January 28

Where: Mother Teresa School

When: 8 pm

Smarter Science Better Building Open House

Date: January 28

Where: Western Development Museum

When: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Heritage Festival of Saskatoon

Date: February 2

Where: Western Development Museum

When: 12 pm - 5 pm

5th Annual Chef's Gala and Showcase

Date: February 15

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 5:30 pm

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**“You live but once;
you might as well be amusing.”**

~ Coco Chanel

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KEEP IN TOUCH

I appreciate the many opportunities to make a positive difference in my constituency. Your phone calls, letters, and emails make a big difference in keeping me informed on the issues that matter to you.

If you would like me to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

***"From a Provincial Point of View"* is a weekly message from Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs. Your opinions are important and your letters, emails, and phone calls on any issues relating to the provincial government are welcomed.**

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