

SASKATOON PRICE APPRECIATION MODERATING FOR MOST HOUSING TYPES IN SECOND QUARTER

New sales boost condo prices while detached house prices are relatively flat

SASKATOON, July 9, 2014 - The Royal LePage House Price Survey and Market Survey Forecast released showed moderate growth for most housing types surveyed.

The average price of standard condominiums in Saskatoon saw the largest growth, with an increase of 2.9 per cent to \$261,333. Meanwhile, detached bungalows increased 1.6 per cent to \$375,000 while standard two storey homes rose 1.3 per cent to 399,250.

"We saw the strongest price increase this quarter in the condo segment, in large part due to the higher percentage of new unit sales," said Norm Fisher, sales manager, Royal LePage Saskatoon. "Detached bungalows saw a slight increase in average price due to a lack of units available, while standard two-storey homes saw modest increases because of the surplus supply, which is the highest we have seen since 2009.

According to Fisher, prices are more stable due to a combination of factors that includes a slowdown in immigration, which had been fueling the Saskatoon market, and the slowing potash sector.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2014, Fisher forecasts the continuation of stronger than normal demand for housing while increased residential inventory levels keep prices from rising further.

"We have now passed the typical spring rush, which is traditionally followed by a period of slow but steady declines in unit sale numbers as we approach year end, so average prices are likely to be on par with 2013 prices by the end of the year."

Nationally, with the harsh winter now a fading memory, the average price of a home in Canada increased between 3.9 and 5.2 per cent in the second quarter of 2014. According to Royal LePage, price increases were posted across housing types, with detached bungalows seeing the highest year-over-year gains, rising 5.2 per cent to an average price of \$406,454. Meanwhile,

standard two-storey homes rose 5.1 per cent year-over-year to \$440,972, while standard condominiums posted gains of 3.9 per cent to \$258,501.

"Chronic supply shortages are driving price spikes in Canada's major cities, masking otherwise moderate home price appreciation nationally," said Phil Soper, president and chief executive of Royal LePage. "While a widening affordability gap in Canada's largest urban centres is characterizing the national market Canadians read about daily, year-over-year house price increases in most regions of the country are presently tracking below the historical average."

Looking ahead at the remainder of 2014, Royal LePage is projecting that the national average house price will increase at 5.1% per cent for the full-year.

"Compared to other major forecasts, our year-beginning national outlook predicted a higher level of 2014 average price appreciation, yet supply constraints in a handful of our largest cities necessitate a revision upwards," noted Soper. "Looking ahead to 2015, we expect house prices to track more closely to the rate of general economic growth. That is, we see price increases in Canada's largest cities moderating, just as our smaller city markets should see a lift."

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About the Royal LePage House Price Survey

The Royal LePage House Price Survey is the largest, most comprehensive study of its kind in Canada, with information on seven types of housing in over 250 neighbourhoods from coast to coast. This release references an abbreviated version of the survey which highlights house price trends for the three most common types of housing in Canada in 90 communities across the country. A complete database of past and present surveys is available on the Royal LePage website at www.royalpage.ca. Current figures will be updated following the complete tabulation of the data for the second quarter of 2014. A printable version of the second quarter 2014 survey will be available online on August 6, 2014. Housing values in the Royal LePage House Price Survey are Royal LePage opinions of fair market value in each location, based on local data and market knowledge provided by Royal LePage residential real estate experts.

About Royal LePage

Serving Canadians since 1913, Royal LePage is the country's leading provider of services to real estate brokerages, with a network of over 15,000 real estate professionals in over 600 locations nationwide. Royal LePage is the only Canadian real estate company to have its own charitable foundation, the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation, dedicated to supporting women's and children's shelters and educational programs aimed at ending domestic violence. Royal LePage is a Brookfield Real Estate Services Inc. company, a TSX-listed corporation trading under the symbol TSX:BRE.

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