



## **QUICK FACTS**

### **Location**

Saskatoon is centrally located in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada, in townships 36 and 37, range 5 and township 36, range 6, west of the third meridian (Latitude 52.24 North, Longitude 106.67 West). The city lies 780 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg, a little over 520 kilometres southeast of Edmonton, and just over 300 kilometres north of the U.S. border.

Saskatoon is situated on the banks of the south Saskatchewan river which is crossed by seven bridges within the city limits. the altitude of Saskatoon is 481.5 meters above sea level. The city covers an area of 176 sq. kilometres which includes over 120 hectares of riverbank parklands.

### **Environment**

Saskatoon is one of the sunniest cities in Canada, receiving an average of 2,381 hours annually. Saskatoon experiences four distinct seasons with temperatures ranging from 30°C (86f) on the warmest summer days to -30°C (-22f) on the coldest winter days. The average annual precipitation level is 347.2mm.

Saskatoon was rated the number one city in Canada for air and water quality by Chatelaine magazine.

### **Time Zone**

Saskatoon uses the Central Standard Time zone year round.

### **Economy**

Saskatchewan grows half of the entire quantity of Canada's major export crops: wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed and canola. Saskatoon is at the heart of this market, providing a variety of services and products to the farm sector. Mining is also an important part of the economy. The Saskatoon region is the world's largest exporter of uranium, and nearly two-thirds of the world's recoverable potash reserves are located in the Saskatoon region.





Value added food processing is one of the fastest growing industries in Saskatoon, which is considered the agriculture biotechnology capital of Canada. Saskatoon was named “one of the best cities in Canada for knowledge based businesses” by the Globe and Mail in 1995.

## **Population**

Saskatoon is Saskatchewan’s largest city with an estimated population of 209,400 and growing (as of December 31, 2008).

## **History**

The Saskatoon area has been inhabited for some 6,000 years; however, it was not until the summer of 1883 that the first settlers began to arrive and subsequently in 1903 that the town charter was obtained. “Saskatoon” is derived from ‘mis-sask-quah-toomina’, the Cree Indian name for a local indigenous berry. Saskatoon was incorporated as a city on May 26, 1906, and celebrated its 100th birthday in 2006.

## **Education**

With access to excellent k-12 schools, technical schools and the University of Saskatchewan, many educational opportunities are available.

The University of Saskatchewan is the only university in Canada to house all five health science colleges and a major teaching hospital on the same campus. Some of the first experiments undertaken aboard the space shuttle were a result of research conducted at the University of Saskatchewan. Innovation Place, located on the university grounds, is one of the most successful university related research parks in North America.

## **Attractions and Events**

Saskatoon is a four season destination with much to offer visitors. History comes alive at many exceptional museums such as the Western Development Museum and its popular Mainstreet Boomtown 1910. Six thousand years of habitation can be explored at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Many festivals and special events are celebrated annually. From the ethnic celebrations of Folkfest and Vesna, to the renowned Saskatchewan Jazz Festival, to the innovative Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival and the popular Saskatoon Exhibition, the good times are guaranteed.





# The Conference Board of Canada

# Saskatoon Economic Outlook: Highlights

- Notwithstanding softer economic activity, job growth remained vibrant in Saskatoon in 2009.
- Even though personal disposable income continued to grow and interest rates remained low, housing starts tumbled in 2009, a sign that the global recession took its toll on consumer confidence.
- The fundamentals are just too sound for the Saskatoon economy not to rebound in 2010, and real GDP growth is expected to reach 3.3 per cent next year, following a decline of 0.3 per cent in 2009.



# Biggest Job Gains by Sector

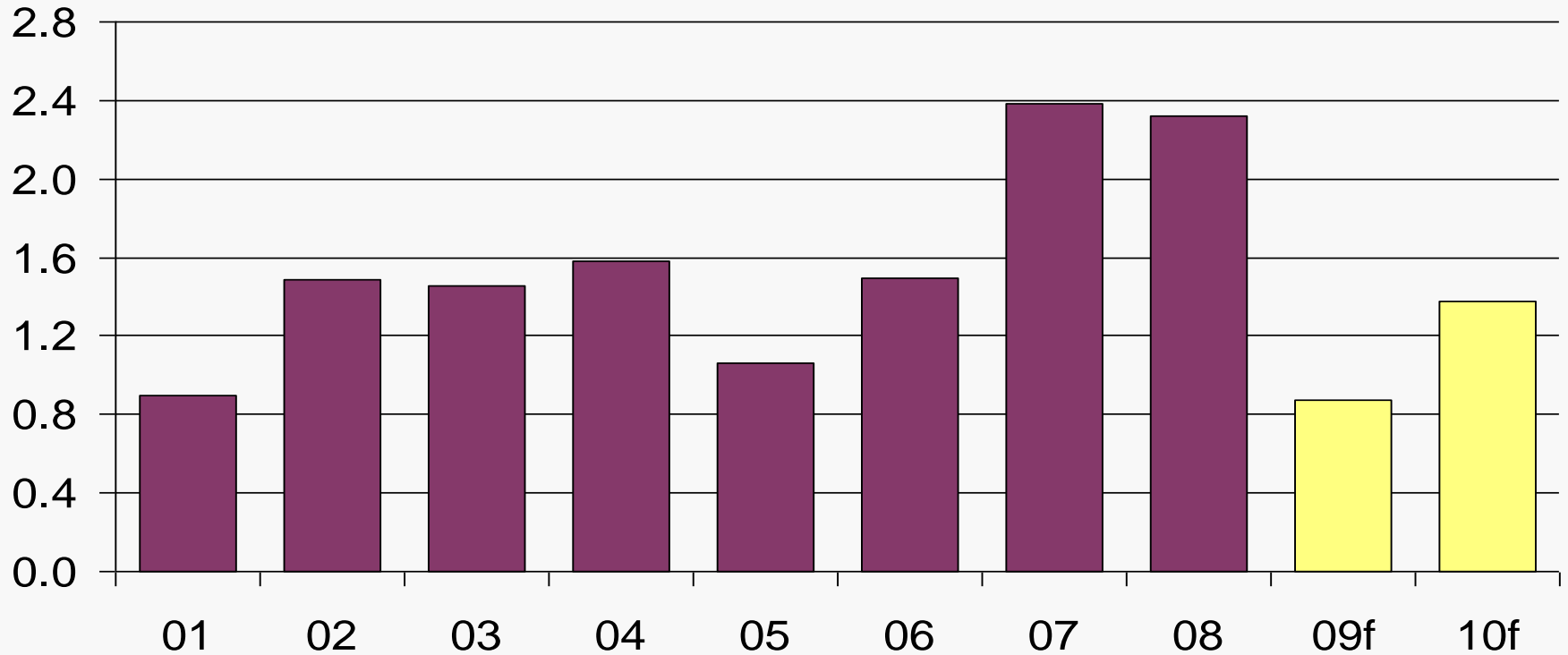
October 2009 – October 2008

- Construction
- Real Estate
- Other Educational Services
- Municipal Public Administration
- Wholesale Trade
- Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Retail Trade
- Chemical Manufacturing



# Housing Starts (000s)

(Saskatoon 2001-2010)

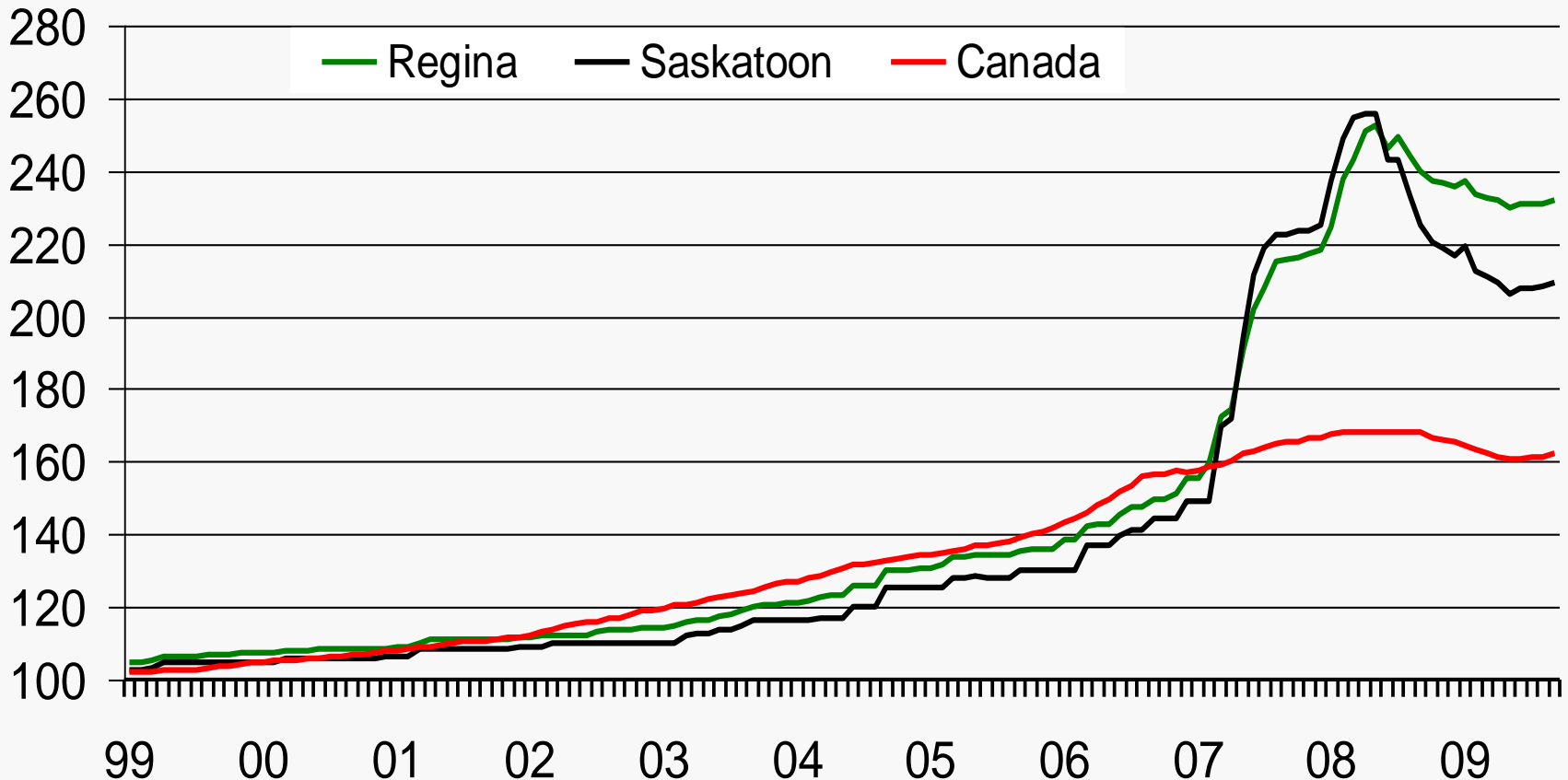


Sources: Conference Board of Canada; CMHC.



# New Housing Price Index

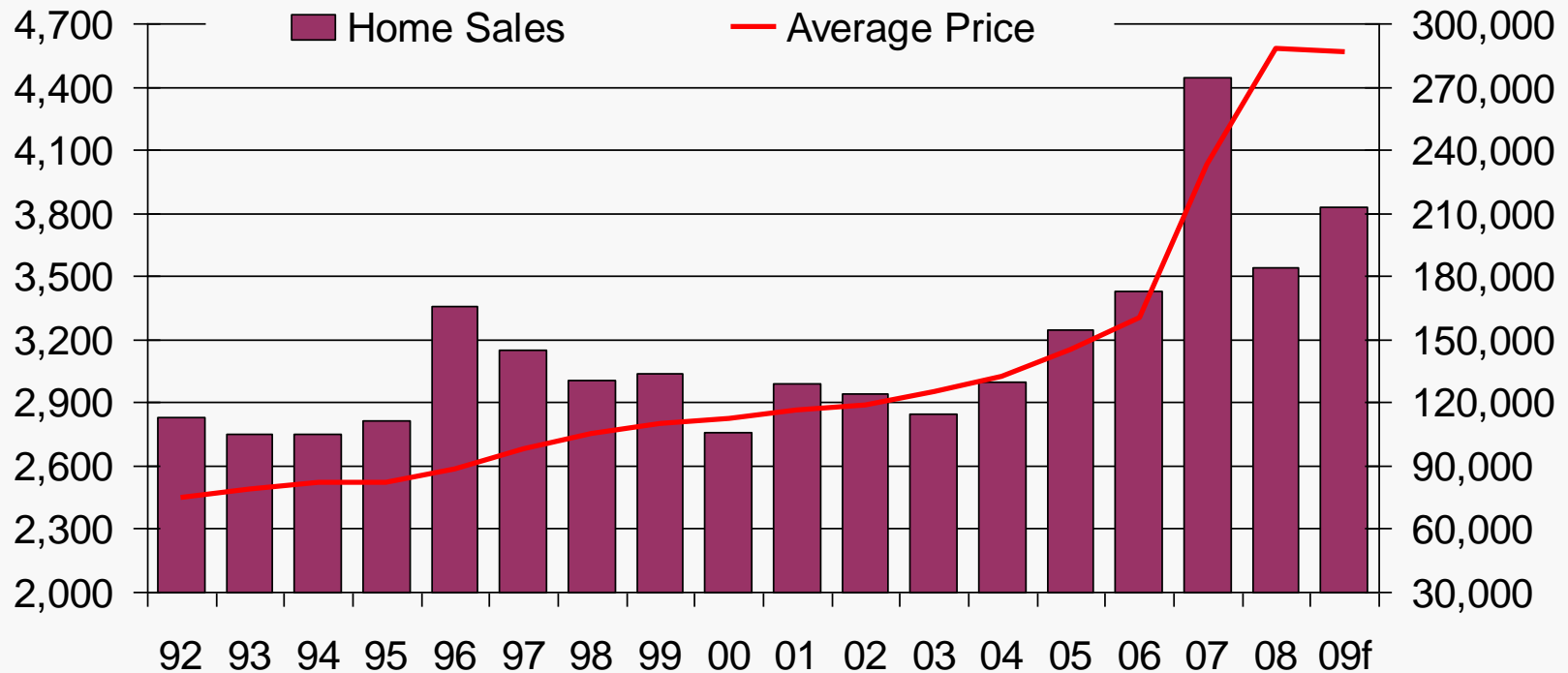
Regina & Saskatoon (1999-2009)



Source: Statistics Canada.



# Resale Housing Market (1992-2009)

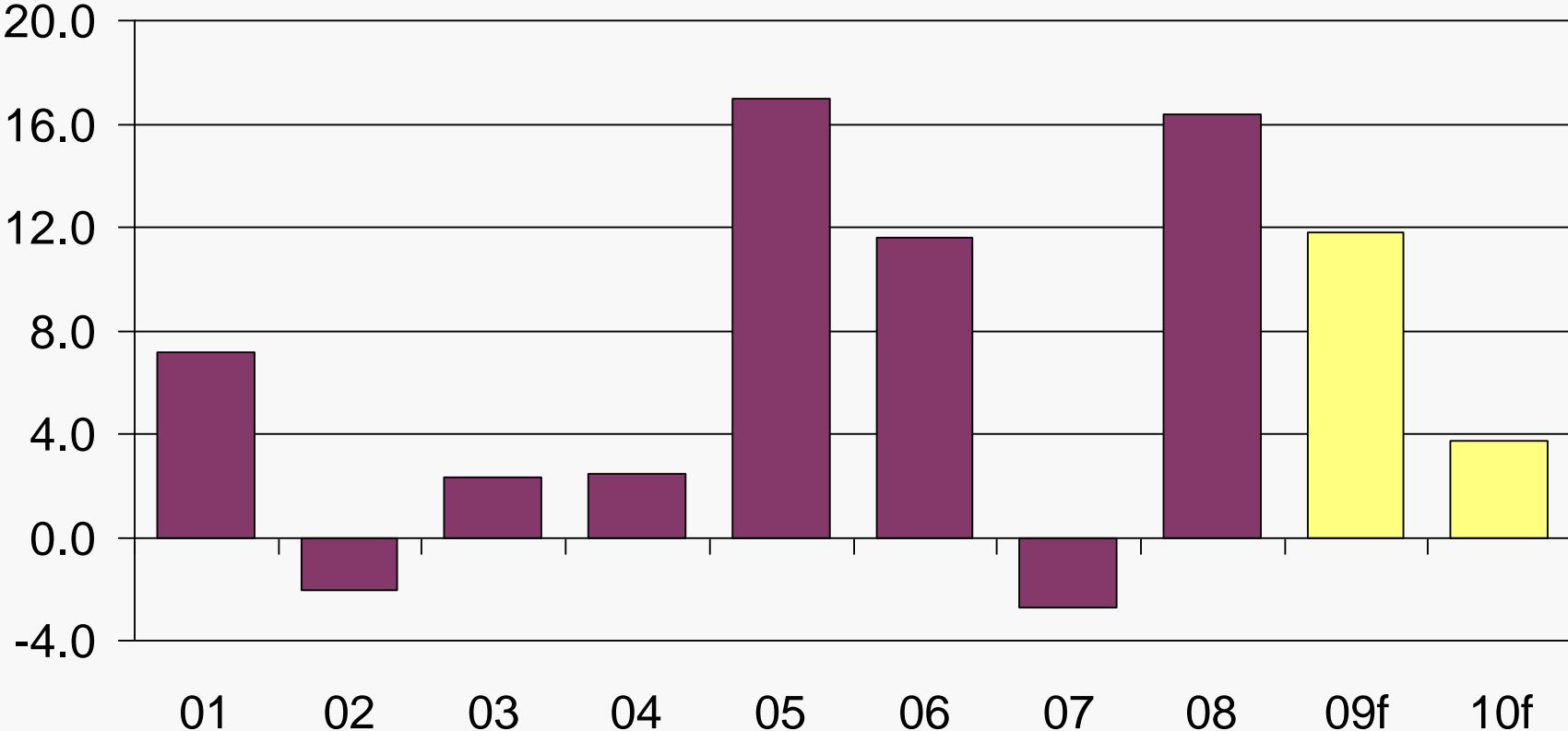


Source: Canadian Real Estate Association.



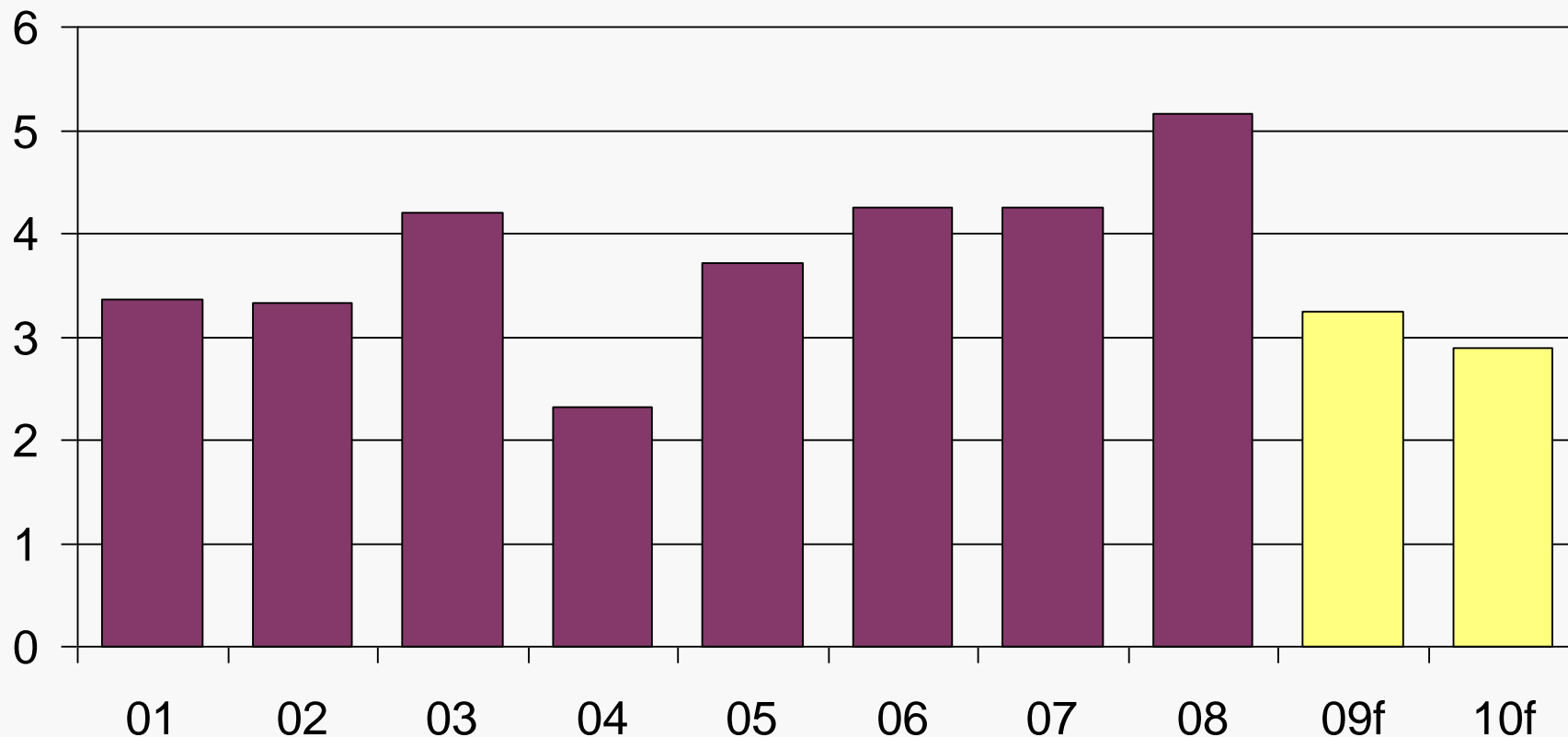
# Construction Output Growth

(Saskatoon 2001-2010)



Source: Conference Board of Canada.

# Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Output Growth (Saskatoon 2001-2010)

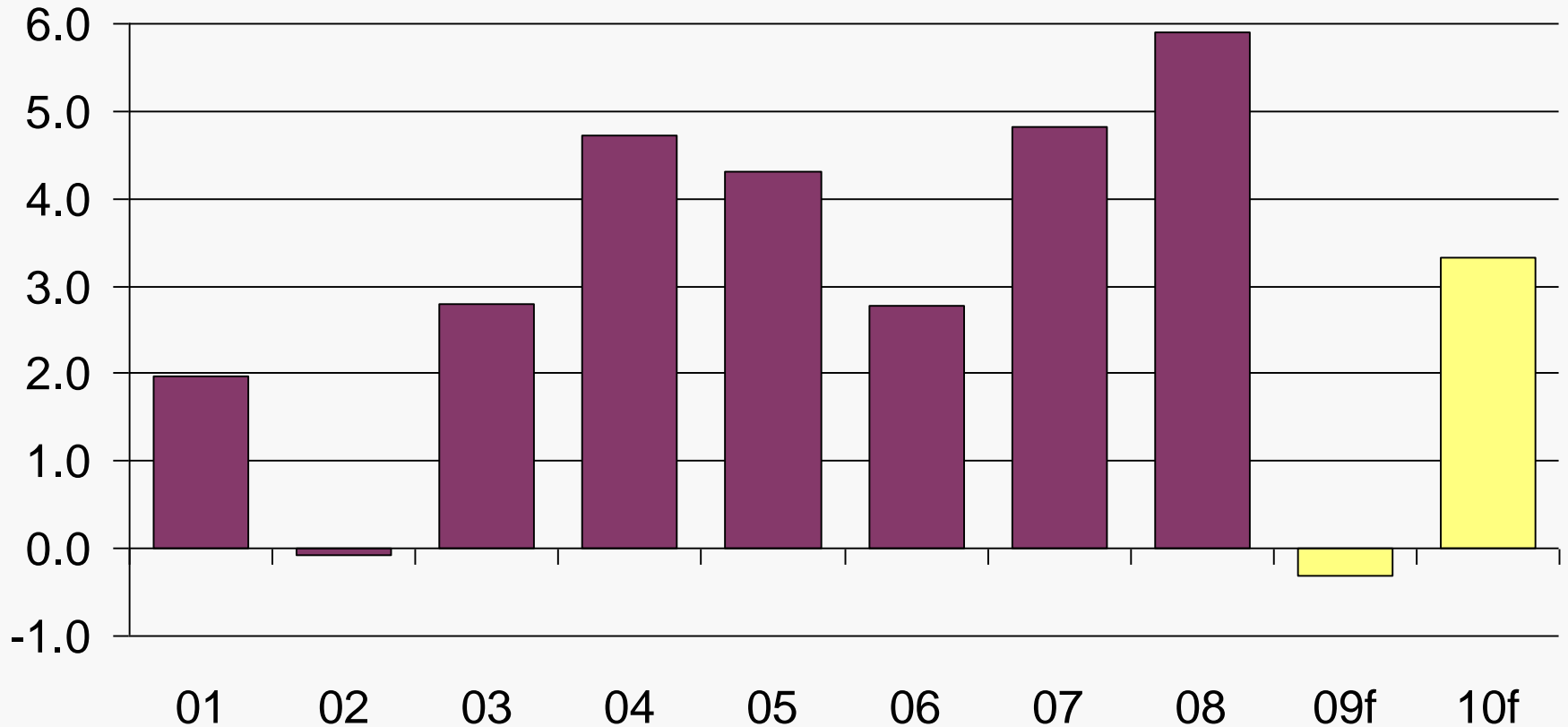


Source: Conference Board of Canada.



# Real GDP Growth

(Saskatoon 2001-2010)

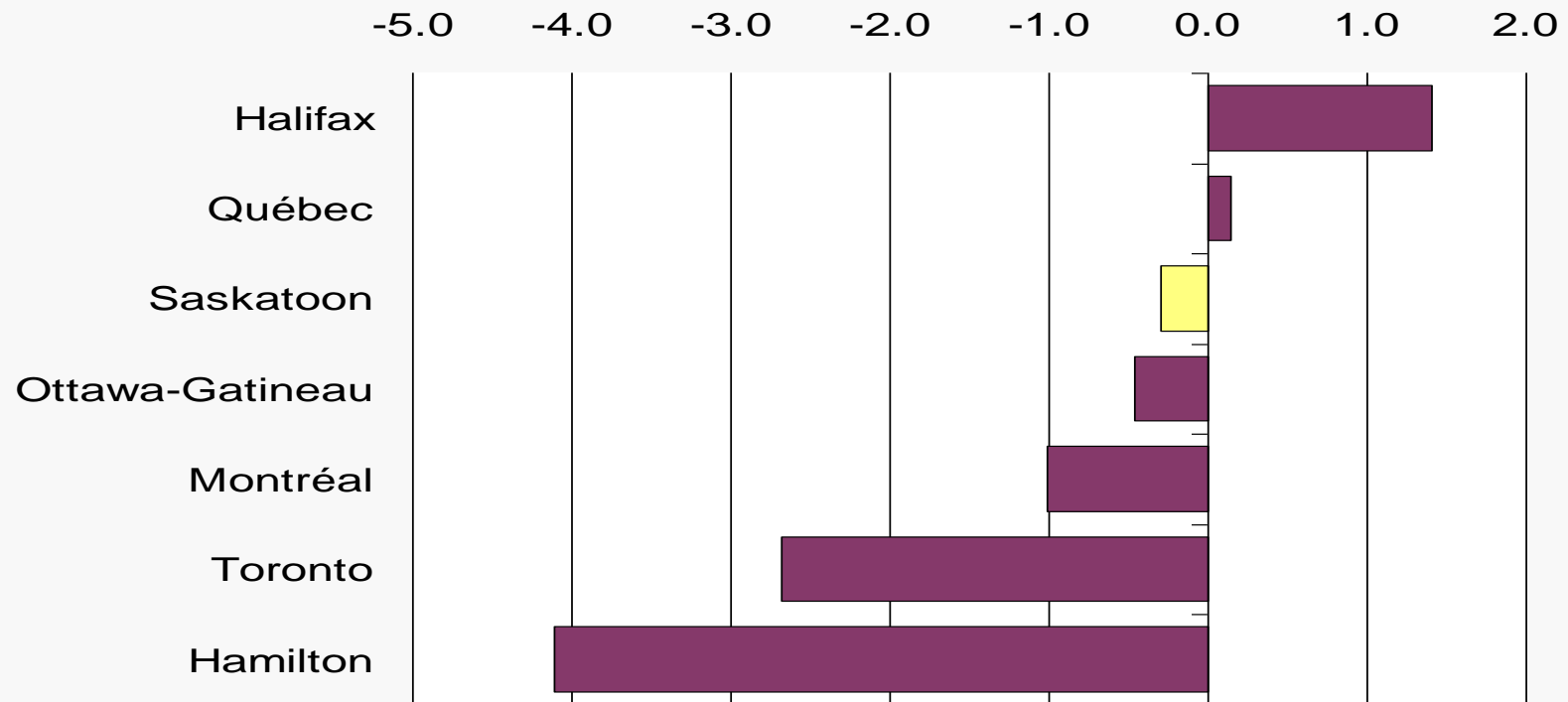


Source: Conference Board of Canada.



# Saskatoon vs. East

(Real GDP Growth, 2009)

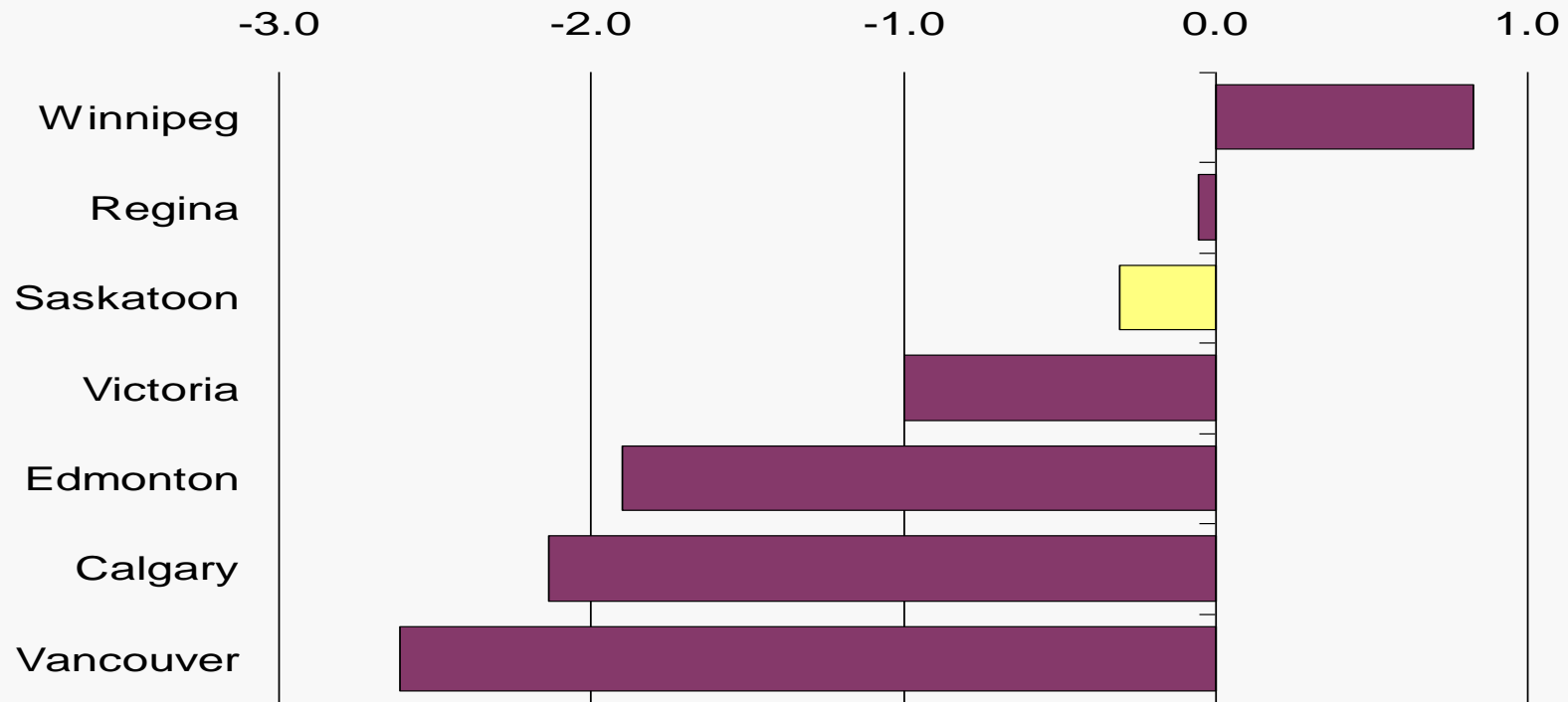


Source: The Conference Board of Canada.



# Saskatoon vs. the West

(Real GDP Growth, 2009)

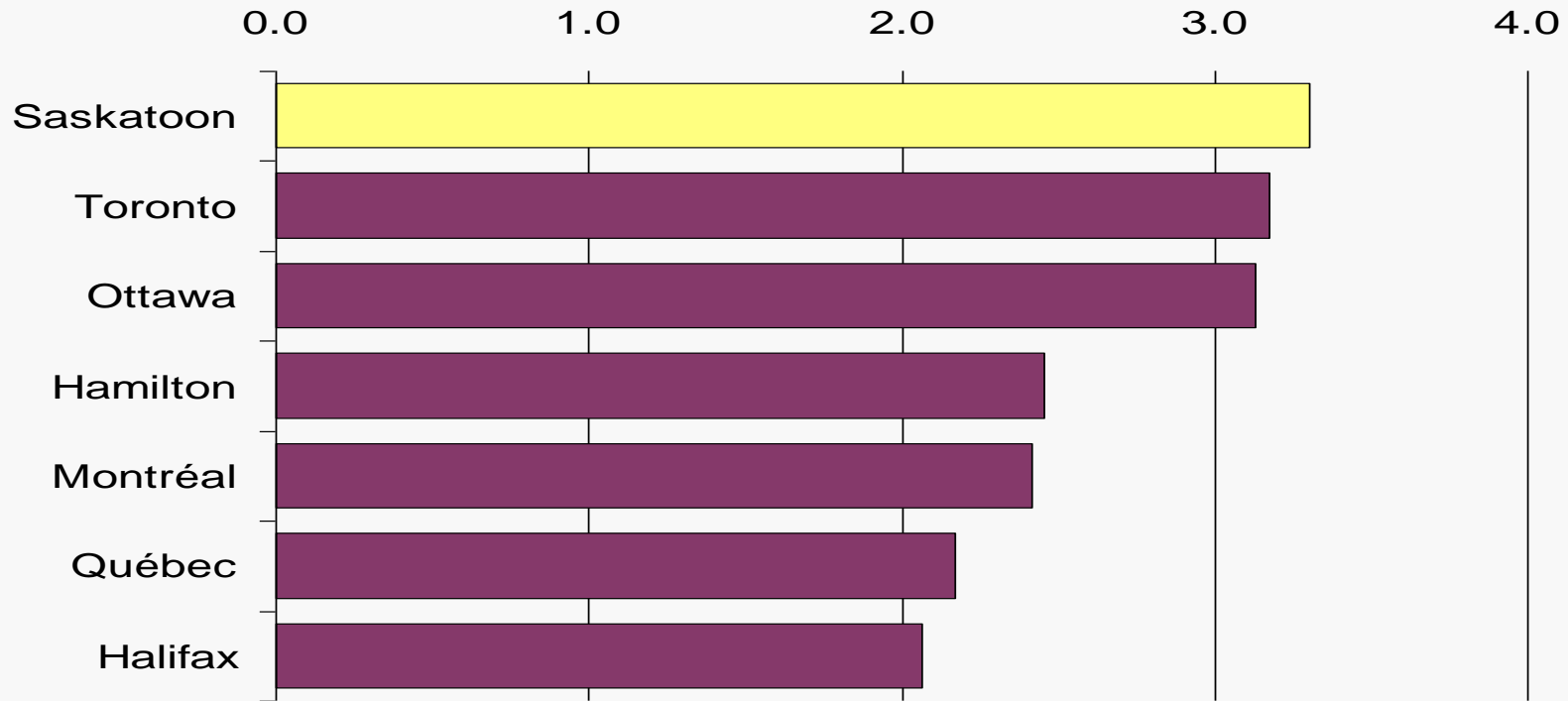


Source: The Conference Board of Canada.



# Saskatoon vs. the East

## (Real GDP Growth, 2010)

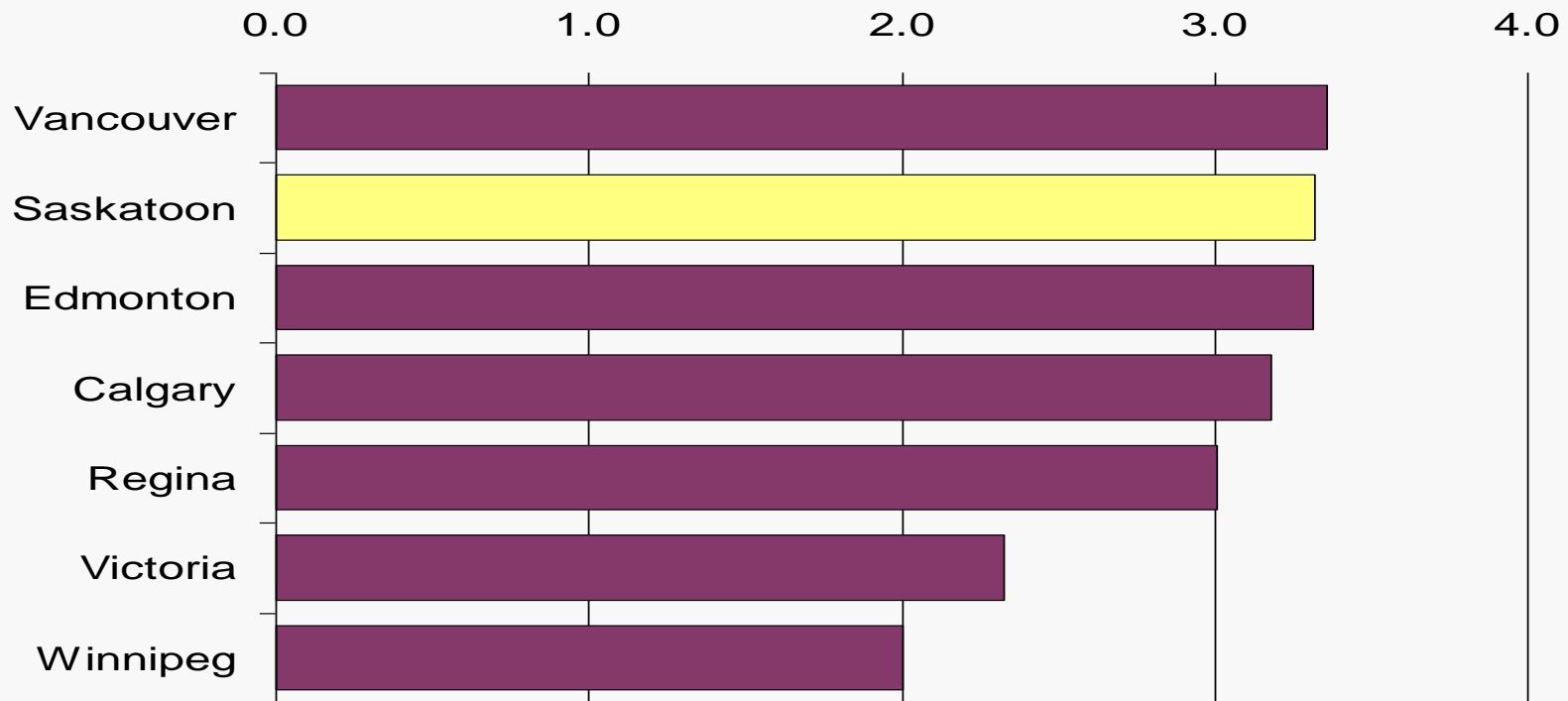


Source: The Conference Board of Canada.



# Saskatoon vs. the West

(Real GDP Growth, 2010)



Source: The Conference Board of Canada.

