

# Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Industry Outlook

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## **Abstract**

*Saskatchewan's oil industry had a record year in 2012, with oil production reaching 172.9 million barrels (27.5 million cubic metres). Over 3,200 oil wells were drilled in 2012 and an estimated 4.7 billion dollars were invested in new exploration and development in the oil and gas industry. Sustained oil prices, coupled with improved technologies such as hydraulic fracturing techniques within horizontal wells and an attractive fiscal regime that includes drilling incentives for horizontal oil wells, continue to attract industry to Saskatchewan's oil patch. While the Viking light oil play of the west central Saskatchewan and the Bakken light oil play of southeast Saskatchewan continue to play a dominant role in Saskatchewan's oil patch, the more traditional plays such as the Mississippian of southeast Saskatchewan and Mannville of west central Saskatchewan are also seeing strong growth.*

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**Melinda Yurkowski** is currently the Assistant Chief Geologist, heading up the Petroleum Geology Branch in the Saskatchewan Geological Survey at Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy. She has worked in both the private and public sectors and has been with the Saskatchewan Government since 1998. Since 2002 she has been a Senior Research Geologist with the Saskatchewan Geological Survey where she has worked on the geology of the shallow and unconventional gas deposits of Saskatchewan. Melinda graduated from the University of Regina in 1984 with a Bachelor's Degree in Geology. She has also completed her Master of Science degree in Geology (University of Regina), which focused on the Winnipegosis pinnacle reefs of southeast Saskatchewan. Melinda's current geological project is directed towards understanding the helium deposits of Saskatchewan.