

City Profile

Calgary, Alberta



Calgary: Be Part of the Energy

Calgary is a global energy centre with the highest concentration of head offices per capita in Canada. In addition the city has been ranked the 5th most livable city in the world (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2009-2014)

Fast Facts

Calgary Overview

Located in the foothills of the majestic Rocky Mountains, Calgary is a city of entrepreneurial and innovative energy. Calgary is known as the global energy centre and one of the world's top investment destinations which is forecasted to lead all Canadian metropolitan centres with a 4.1 per cent real GDP growth in 2014.

Sector Strengths

While the energy industry is the key driver of Calgary and Alberta's economy, several other sectors have become key contributors including the financial services sector, IT, manufacturing, transportation & logistics and real estate.

Why Canada

Canada is open for business and welcomes foreign investment. Canada is the best country in the G-20 for business according to both Forbes and Bloomberg. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) ranks Canada the 2nd among the G-20 to do business over the five year period 2015-2019. Canada was the largest recipient of FDI inflows per capita in the G-20 from 2009-2013. Canada's growth in business investment has been by far the strongest in the G-7 during the recession and the recovery.

"We could have never envisioned the numerous benefits we gained through our recent mission to Calgary, but are sure glad we did! The network of contacts will provide touch points for the expansion of our business. We are now even MORE energized for our business in Alberta; business, we truly want to build with Canadians first."

- A Wisconsin based business looking to expand into Alberta

Calgary Overview

Calgary. There's an energy here that exhilarates, invigorates and motivates. A city of almost 1.4 million — the largest in the province of Alberta, Canada — Calgary is a place of big skies, big ideas and welcoming, friendly people. This city is an economic powerhouse and a place that loves new people with new talents. The city has lowest unemployment rate and the 2nd fastest growing labour force over the past 10 years.

There's a vitality here that unleashes the bold, can-do spirit of entrepreneurs and innovators, artists and athletes. Our vibrancy and spirit come alive in areas from commerce and creativity to culture and sport. The liveability of our city is second to none, with clean air and water, high incomes and employment, a low crime rate, excellent education and superb health care. Our lifestyle is active; our perspective is global.

Why Calgary

19,000 jobs were created in the Calgary CMA in 2014, 17.9% of Calgary's total.

Calgary had the highest labour force growth rate of all major Canadian cities in 2014.

Sector Strengths

Energy (oil & gas, electricity, coal, alternatives)

Energy stats that may be relevant to investment attraction:

- Oil and gas capital investment is forecasted at \$45 billion in 2013;
- Spending on maintenance, repair and operation is expected to grow to \$25 billion by 2017.

[more...](#)

Calgary Economic Indicators

Indicator	2013	2014
GDP	108,136 M	112,515 M
GDP growth	4.0 %	5.1 %
Unemployment Rate	4.8 %	5.0 %
Calgary Population	1,406,721	

Source: The Conference Board of Canada



Renewable Energy

Calgary is seen to be a leader in wind energy production across Canada. Calgary wind energy firms own or operate over 50 per cent of Canada's installed wind generation facilities. Calgary's C-Train is the first wind-powered public transit system in North America and reduces annual Co2 emissions by 26,000 tonnes. With Calgary being Canada's sunniest city with over 333 days of sunshine a year, it is an ideal location for the growth of micro-solar installations and large scale PV solar installations. Currently there are over 1200 solar systems installed in Alberta.

Financial Services Sector

Calgary is a global financial centre, accounting for more than 12% of the global M&A deal volume in Canada (*Bloomberg, Calgary Economic Development analysis, 2007-2012*). 7 of the top 10 banks in the world ranked by total assets have a presence in Calgary and Calgary ranks 33 out of 82 global cities on the Global Financial Centres Index.

Technology/Innovation

Calgary has the highest percentage of post-secondary educated citizens in Canada, as well as the largest concentration of entrepreneurs and the largest number of technology start-ups per capita in Canada. Calgary is home to many private industry, academic research centres and business incubators including the Shell Research Centre, GE Innovation Centre, Imperial Oil sands Research Centre. These centres focus on energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gas reductions, improve efficiencies and integrate renewables.

Transportation & Logistics

The Calgary Region is a distribution hub for Western Canada. Calgary lies at the crossroads of two North American major highway systems: the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway #1),

which extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and the CANAMEX Corridor, which extends from Alaska to Mexico. At the intersection of these highways lies the development of a ring-road system which will offer increased economic benefit and enhanced access to all quadrants of the city of Calgary and the entire Calgary Region. Calgary is positioned in the middle of an economic region that includes fifteen municipalities which represent 1.4 million residents over 15,000 square kilometers of varied landscape.

Agriculture/Agri-Business

Alberta is the third largest exporter of agri-food products in Canada, focused primarily on processed agricultural and food products. The Calgary region accounts for approximately 25% of the agri-business related companies in the province – and is attractive because of its central location as a distribution hub, especially to U.S markets. Calgary also boasts \$346 million market value for on-farm livestock and poultry. The region's major crops include canola, spring wheat, barley, and alfalfa.

Future Plans

Calgary's economic development plans include:

- Completion of the 10 year Economic Development Strategy for Calgary that will unify and aggregate resources of many cross sectoral community partners
- Continued support of energy literacy in support of large energy infrastructure projects like the Northern Gateway and Keystone XL Continued focus on workforce attraction particularly in the energy, health care, education and trade sectors
- Increased sector diversification particularly in creative industries, transportation and logistics and IT sectors.
- Creative industries to open a new film centre in 2016.



Calgary Economic Development

www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com

+1.403.221.7831

Twitter: @calgaryeconomic



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