

# Did You Know?

## Fact Sheet - City of Edmonton



### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Edmonton is Alberta's capital city and Canada's fifth largest city.
- Edmonton is the northernmost city in North America with a population of over 1 million.
- Edmonton is one of Canada's sunniest cities, with an average 2,299 hours of sunshine per year.
- Edmonton has the highest per capita area of parkland of any Canadian city.
- Edmonton's river valley forms the longest stretch of connected urban parkland in North America.
- Edmonton is among Canada's fastest growing cities, with a population that grew by 7.39% between 2012 and 2014.
- Edmonton is one of the youngest of Canada's major cities, with 40% of its population between the ages of 20 and 44 (5% more than the national average).
- Nearly 20% of Edmonton residents are foreign-born.
- Edmonton is home to Canada's second-largest and currently fastest growing urban Aboriginal population.

### ECONOMIC PROFILE

- Edmonton was ranked #1 among North American cities for 'Best Economic Potential' by the Financial Times' FDI Magazine in 2007.
- Edmonton's real GDP growth rate in 2012 was 5.1%, the highest rate among Canada's ten largest metropolitan centres.
- Edmonton has the lowest unemployment rate among Canada's six largest cities, standing at 4.4% as of April 2013.
- Edmonton has the lowest property taxes of any major Canadian city.

- Edmonton is the closest major city by rail to the Port of Prince Rupert Container Terminal, North America's fastest growing seaport and the closest North American container port to East Asia.
- Edmonton is a major hub along the Ports to Plains corridor, which connects the Port of Prince Rupert through the Canadian prairies and the midwestern US to the Texas Gulf Coast.
- Edmonton provides immediate access to the major road arteries such as the CANAMEX corridor and Alaska highways, and is the nexus of the northern Alberta highway system.
- Edmonton International Airport is Canada's fastest growing major airport over the past 10 years, with non-stop connections to around 60 destinations across North America, the Caribbean and Europe.
- Edmonton is served by Canada's two Class-1 rail services, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific (CP).

### ENERGY SECTOR

- Edmonton is the closest major urban centre to the Athabasca oil sands, the world's third-largest oil resource with 13% of global total reserves.
- 97% of Alberta's oil is located within the Edmonton service area between Red Deer and the Alberta-NWT border.
- The oil sands are expected to generate 12 million person-years of employment and \$2.2 trillion in economic activity across Canada over the next 25 years — much of it



Edmonton's famed river valley.

centred in Edmonton.

- The Edmonton region is home to three oil refineries, which together produce 22% of the country's petroleum products.
- Edmonton is the hub of the Alberta Industrial Heartland (AIH), which is home to 15 world-scale hydrocarbon processing facilities which contribute 43% of the nation's basic chemical manufacturing.
- The Nisku Business Park, located to the south of Edmonton (adjacent to Edmonton International Airport), is the largest energy-focused industrial park in Canada and the second-largest in North America.
- Edmonton inaugurated a Waste-to-Biofuels Production Facility in 2012 through a partnership between Enerkem and the City of Edmonton.
- Edmonton is the main intersection point for the Alberta Hub, an extensive pipeline system more than 373,000 kilometres in total length, which ships most feedstocks, natural gas and hydrocarbon products.

### OTHER INDUSTRIES

- The PCL Group of Companies, Canada's largest general contracting organization and the sixth largest in

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the US, is headquartered in Edmonton.

- Edmonton has a strong technology sector, and is home to the main headquarters of Stantec and BioWare, as well as offices for IBM, Telus, Shaw Communications, Intuit Canada, General Electric and Startup Edmonton.
- Edmonton is the birthplace of numerous major retail and restaurant chains, including The Brick, Katz Group, AutoCanada, Boston Pizza, Pizza 73, Planet Organic, Empire Design, Running Room, Booster Juice, Earl's, Fountain Tire and XS Cargo.

### EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Alberta's public and Catholic school systems are ranked among the highest in the world. Alberta's 15-year-olds ranked second in reading and fourth in science worldwide.
- Edmonton is home to ten post-secondary institutions, including Edmonton-based campuses for Athabasca University and the University of Lethbridge.
- The University of Alberta, which is situated in Edmonton, is consistently ranked among the top five universities in Canada and the top 100 worldwide. The U of A attracts



Edmonton skyline as seen from Gallagher park during the Folk Festival.

\$500 million a year in funded research, the second highest level in Canada.

- Edmonton is home to the University of Alberta Hospital, one of Canada's leading teaching hospitals, and is a world leader in research into diabetes, viruses, heart transplants and rehabilitation.
- The Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (AFNS) at the University of Alberta is an interdisciplinary research program specializing in sustainable

agricultural production, value-added processing, food safety and human health – the first of its kind in North America.

- Edmonton's Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) trains more apprentices than any other post-secondary school in Canada.
- Edmonton-based pharmaceutical firm CV Technologies (now owned by Afexa Life Sciences Inc.) developed the revolutionary cold/flu suppressant Cold-fX ®.
- Edmonton is home to North America's largest composting facility. The city aims to divert more than 90% of the city's household waste from landfills by the end of 2013.



One of the new Edmonton Oilers themed baggage carousel in EIA's new Canada Arrivals Hall.

### ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM

- Fort Edmonton Park, an open-air museum that celebrates the region's pioneer history, is Canada's largest living history museum.
- Edmonton's theatre district, located in the historic Old Strathcona neighbourhood, houses one of Canada's most vibrant performing arts scenes.
- The Edmonton International Fringe Festival is the largest fringe theatre festival in North America and second largest in the world after the Edinburgh Fringe.
- The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra is among North America's most successful classical music ensembles, whose players are the highest paid orchestral musicians in western Canada.
- West Edmonton Mall is the largest shopping mall in North America and was the world's largest until 2004.
- The Edmonton Folk Music Festival is one of North America's most popular folk music festivals.
- Edmonton is home to several renowned sports franchises, including the 13-time Grey Cup-winning Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League and the five-time Stanley Cup-winning Edmonton Oilers of the National Hockey League.