Calgary

This Snapshot is part of an information package created by The City. For more information, please visit calgary.ca/geodemographics

Fast-facts

1.4 Million

people live in Calgary census division (2015, StatsCan)

With high growth forecasts, our census division will grow by an additional

1.12 million

(Government of Alberta)

The Calgary census metropolitan area has a

real GDP of over \$131 billion

(2015 \$, Conference Board of Canada)

The Region

The city of Calgary belongs to a larger region of neighbouring communities and municipalities. While Calgary has the largest population and generates the most economic activity, the overall health of the region is dependent on how well all neighbours work together.

This Snapshot looks at how the region has been growing in order to identify both challenges and opportunities.

NOTE: there are many different ways to define the "Calgary region". This Snapshot will use several in order to present a variety of information.



Components of 2015 GDP, Calgary Region



What's in the region?

Calgary is the heart of a vast region that includes three cities, over a dozen towns, three municipal districts, and roughly 70 smaller villages and hamlets. Most of these communities work cooperatively through the Calgary Regional Partnership and have signed on to the Calgary Metropolitan Plan in order to better coordinate growth and economic development. Nearly 60% of the region's economy is produced by just three sectors: primary industry and utilities; finance, insurance and real estate; and business services.

Regional population

The latest estimates from Statistics Canada show that the region has experienced significant growth over the past fifteen years. While the city of Calgary's population has increased by roughly 40% since 2000, the population of the region outside Calgary has grown by an estimated 95%. This means that the number of people living outside of Calgary has doubled in just 15 years, as compared to the 30 years it took Calgary to double in population.

In 1985, Calgary comprised approximately 86% of the total regional population. This share has declined to 79% as of 2015. The higher proportion of people living in the region significantly affects the way services are shared between municipalities, since much of the region is serviced via Calgary's water, sewage, and transportation infrastructure.

Housing growth

As the Calgary region matures, the location of different housing types has also been changing. Previously, Calgary was home to similar proportions of the region's single-family and multifamily dwellings. During the economic boom of the mid-2000s, Calgary's share of new single-family units decreased as high growth occurred in suburban communities. To a lesser extent, the proportion of multi-family units being built in the region also increased. The main recipient of much of this growth for both unit types has been Airdrie.

In comparison to other large Canadian cities, Calgary has retained much of its regional market share. The increase from 2010-2015 signifies that more multi-family units are being built within Calgary, enough to offset single-family losses to suburban communities.

Calgary's growing suburbs will impact how services are provided by The City, as transportation infrastructure may need to be upgraded to serve our growing regional population.

Regional Population



Calgary's Share of Regional Housing Units





Proportion of Regional Housing Growth