

Alberta Awaits newsletter
Spring 2012



Alberta needs you

Labour shortages expected
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Hit the trails!

Something for everyone
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Renting a home in Alberta

Average vacancy and rental rates
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Owning your own home

An investment in your future
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Alberta Immigrant
Nominee Program

AINP

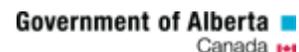
Are you
eligible?

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Alberta Awaits
Alberta Human Services, Immigration Division
5th floor, Commerce Place, 10155 102 St
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 0T6
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Alberta needs you

Labour forecast

According to the Government of Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook 2012-2021, Alberta expects 606,000 new jobs to be created over the next 10 years, but predicts only 492,000 workers will be available to fill them.

By 2021

Are you a certified tradesperson, engineer or physician? By 2021, Alberta will be short 114,000 workers, especially in:

- Health care – Alberta needs rural doctors, nursing staff and other health-care workers
- Trades – particularly in the areas of oil and gas, and construction
- Engineering
- Financial services
- Retail management
- Restaurant and tourism

Current opportunities

From 2012 to 2015, Alberta expects to have job opportunities in:

- Carpentry
- Trades contracting and supervision
- Construction and transportation management
- Food and beverage services
- Electrical trades
- Restaurant and hotel management
- Heavy equipment operation
- Audit, accounting and investment
- Finance and insurance administration

Are you ready?

Visit the [Working in Alberta](#) section of the Immigrate to Alberta website to find out what you need so you can work in your occupation in Alberta.

More information

For detailed information on predicted job opportunities in Alberta, please see Alberta's [Labour Market Forecasts](#).

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Hit the trails!

Cycling and mountain biking in Alberta

Biking is fun for the whole family. It can be a simple way to explore your new neighbourhood, a healthy, low-cost way to get to work or school, or a thrilling way to experience Alberta's varied landscape.

Here are just some of the province's trail systems for you to discover:

- [The City of Calgary's network of trails](#) has over 707 km (439 mi) of pathways and 355 km (221 mi) of on-street signed bicycle routes. Learn about the news and events of one of the [local cycling groups](#).
- [Edmonton's Capital City Trail System](#) has 60 km (100 mi) of multi-use trails, 100 km (62 mi) of shared pathways, 105 km (65 mi) of street bike routes and an expanding network of cyclist-only lanes. An enthusiastic [local biking community](#) regularly schedules events for riders, and racers can test their endurance on an indoor track at the [Argyll Velodrome](#).
- Just east of Edmonton, the [Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Recreation Area](#) has 26 trails available for biking. You might see wildlife such as beavers, deer, elk, and moose.
- Fort McMurray has more than 120 kilometres of maintained trails called the [Birchwood Trails](#). You might meet wildlife on the trail, even bears. To learn what to do if you come across a bear, visit [Alberta's BearSmart](#) program website. The [Fort McMurray Bicycling Club](#) has more information about cycling in the area.
- Do you know what a coulee is? Find out on one of Lethbridge's ruggedly beautiful trails. Discover the [hiking and biking trails in Lethbridge](#).
- Red Deer has many kilometres of [paved bike trails](#) as well as trails in natural areas around the city, including [Red Deer Mountain Bike Park](#)
- For a full, searchable list of all the trails in Alberta, visit www.trailpeak.com.

Adventure!

If adventure is what you're after, Alberta has it! Check out these links to get an idea of what's possible:

- [Cycling and mountain biking in Alberta – Travel Alberta](#)
- [Cycling the Banff-Jasper Icefields Parkway through the Rocky Mountains](#)
- [Mountain biking and orienteering at Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park](#)
- [Lift-assisted downhill mountain biking and terrain park at Nitehawk near Grande Prairie](#)

There are thousands of trails to explore in Alberta's many park and trail systems, and different types of terrain to discover. Whether it's the Rockies, grasslands, prairie, boreal forest or the urban landscape, there is something for everyone.

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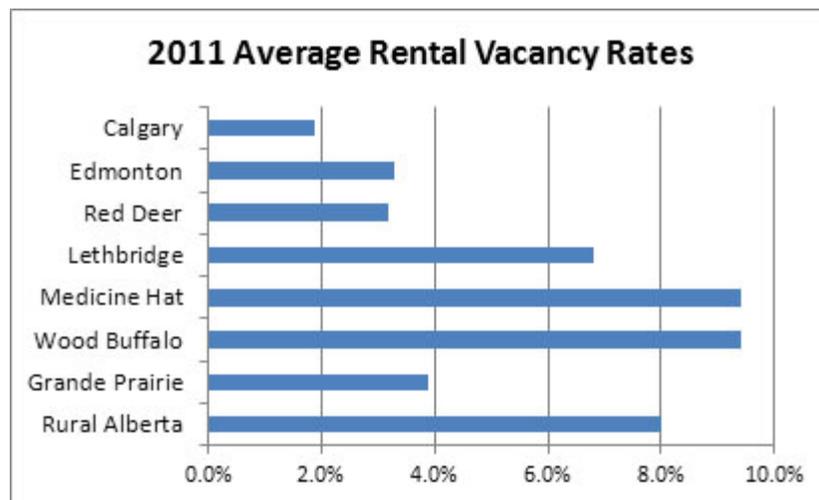
Renting a home in Alberta

Getting ready

Once you have all the [important documents](#) for you and your family to move to Alberta, you'll need a place to live. Many newcomers to Alberta find it a good idea to rent a home before arriving.

Vacancy rates

The chart below shows the average vacancy rates for rental units in Alberta by community.



Data sources: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Rental Market Survey (RMS), Rental Market Report (Alberta Highlights) and Government of Alberta Apartment Vacancy and Rental Cost Survey 2011.

Rental rates

This next chart shows the average rental rates for a two-bedroom apartment in Alberta by community.



Data sources: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Rental Market Survey (RMS), Rental Market Report (Alberta Highlights) and Government of Alberta Apartment Vacancy and Rental Cost Survey 2011.

Among Alberta cities, the average cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment ranged from a low of \$698 per month in the southern city of Medicine Hat to a high of \$2,049 per month in the northern community of Wood Buffalo.

In rural Alberta, rent ranged from less than \$500 per month in smaller towns like Bassano, Peace River, Claresholm, Fairview and Didsbury to \$2,000 per month in the tourist destination of Banff in the scenic Rocky Mountains.

More information

Some helpful links as you research the option of renting in Alberta:

- [Before you rent](#)
- [Landlord and tenant tip sheet](#)
- [Landlord and tenant rights](#)
- [Home and property insurance](#)
- [The Rent Board of Canada](#)
- [Alberta renters' hotline](#)
- [Interactive Alberta map](#)

A very useful guide for newcomers that should answer a lot of your questions is [The Newcomer's Guide to Canadian Housing](#) written by the [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#).

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Owning your own home

Decisions

Buying a home is a big decision. You'll need to know what neighbourhood you want to live in, the amount of money you can spend, the size of home you need, and what kind of home you're interested in. Some choices include a:

- single detached house
- duplex or semi-detached house
- row or townhouse
- condominium apartment

An economical choice

Living in Alberta is economical compared to other parts of the country. According to The Canadian Real Estate Association, the average price of a home is:

- \$792,000 in Vancouver
- \$454,000 in Toronto
- \$393,000 in Calgary
- \$316,000 in Edmonton

Average housing prices

The average cost of a home varies widely within the province of Alberta. For example, the average price of a house in Fort McMurray, where demand is high, is almost \$600,000. In South Central Alberta, the average cost of a home is just over \$200,000.

Generally speaking, houses in rural areas tend to cost less than houses in towns and small cities. Homes in major urban centres usually cost the most, although there is still a lot of variation from one neighbourhood to another.



Data source: Alberta Real Estate Association

Property taxes

You'll also need to budget for property taxes. How much property tax you have to pay depends on how much your property is worth. For example, you may need to pay \$2,500 per year if you own a \$500,000 home in Edmonton. Property taxes are used to fund local programs and services, such as:

- garbage collection
- water and sewer services
- road construction and maintenance
- parks and leisure facilities
- police and fire protection
- seniors' lodges
- education

Insurance and utilities

Other factors to think about include [home and property insurance costs](#) and [electricity, water, heat and communications](#).

Homes for sale

To get an idea of the types of homes on the market, and how much they cost, you can search for Alberta homes [for sale by Realtor](#), or [for sale by owner](#).

More information

For more information on home buying in Alberta you can visit the [Immigrate to Alberta website](#). Another good resource is [The Newcomer's Guide to Canadian Housing](#) written by the [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#).

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