What is Calgary’s Vital Signs?

Calgary’s Vital Signs is an annual community check-up conducted by The Calgary Foundation that measures the vitality of our community, identifies trends and assigns grades in areas critical to quality of life.

Detailed Indicators and Sources are available at thecalgaryfoundation.org

We’re good, but how can we be great?

It takes everyone working together.

The Calgary Foundation understands that it takes the efforts of everyone to build a VITAL community...no one person, organization or level of government can work alone to address community needs. We know what “good” looks like thanks to the collective voices of over 1000 Calgarians who took the 2012 Vital Signs survey... identifying things to celebrate and things to improve. Calgary’s Vital Signs Report inspires Calgarians to discuss the issues, define what “great” looks like, make connections and take action.

Report Highlights

Getting Around........... C
We received positive feedback on Calgary’s extensive bike paths and designated bike lanes, completion of road construction projects, increased transit service and the West LRT expansion. We also heard concerns about transit overcrowding, long commute times, and road safety.

Arts & Culture............. B
Calgarians commented on our vibrant arts and culture scene including the number, diversity and accessibility of festivals and cultural activities. Citizens were honoured that Calgary was named a Cultural Capital of Canada in 2012.

Work....................... B+
Respondents remarked on the abundance of job opportunities and the low unemployment rate. Growing income disparity, including lack of living wage and the increased number of working poor were areas of concern for citizens.

Financial Well Being....... B-
Favourable comments on a robust and diversified economy, and efforts to reduce homelessness. We also heard concerns about the rising cost of living, children living in poverty, and increased reliance on social services.

Safety....................... B
Calgarians feel public safety has improved due to lower crime rates and reduced gang activity. Calgary Police Service was commended for its excellent service, high visibility and community police programs.

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How happy are we?

In recognition of the growing global research related to happiness and well-being as a powerful and meaningful motivator, The Calgary Foundation continues to monitor the collective well-being of citizens in this year’s Report. Research suggests that a happier society may be a more helpful society which contributes to building a vibrant and strong community.

95% describe themselves as happy, same as last year
79% are satisfied with the work/life balance
89% report they are surrounded by loving family/companions/friends
71% rated their physical sense of well-being as high
78% see their mental well-being as high
59% feel they can ask neighbors for help
57% participate actively in their community of interest
73% feel optimistic about Calgary being a good place to raise children and for next generation to also make Calgary their home.
Here's Where Opinion Meets Fact.

Calgary's Vital Signs takes the pulse of our city... We ask you for your opinions and then we juxtapose those with factual data, which provides a peek at how perception meets reality. The report highlights citizen concerns, and identifies trends and priorities that are used by local institutions, community organizations, and businesses in developing strategies to collectively strengthen our community.

As a community leader, The Calgary Foundation uses the Report to inform our work in grantmaking and facilitating donors' charitable needs, as highlighted in the Donations at Work sections.

How we rank on the world stage

In the Global Prosperity race, we're in 4th. Just ahead of T.O.

The 2012 Global Escrow on Prosperity ranks the livability and economic performance of 24 global metropolitan areas based on 33 indicators in two domains — economic performance and labour attractiveness.

But, we knew this, right?

Calgary scored top marks in a 2012 public opinion survey on the livability of cities. 90% of respondents felt Calgary is a livable city where people can find a good job (89%), start a business (75%), and is a city that embraces innovation (73%). 87% of respondents are satisfied with their quality of life scoring higher than Montreal (75%), Toronto (80%) and Vancouver (82%).

We are fifth in the world

The Economist's 2012 Livability Ranking tracks 140 global cities on livability indicators such as stability, health care, culture, environment, education and infrastructure.

Our Winning Water

Calgary placed first in the water category of the 2011 Green City Index, a project of the Economist Intelligence Unit, which compares the performance of 24 global metropolitan areas based on 33 indicators in two domains — economic performance and labour attractiveness.

Aboriginal cultural activities available in communities (2009)

Percent of urban Aboriginal respondents claiming "A lot":

- Toronto 50
- Vancouver 49
- Halifax 34
- Edmonton 32
- Ottawa 32
- Winnipeg 31
- Saskatoon 25
- Montreal 23
- Regina 22
- Calgary 21

Was anyone bored in 2011?

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

106 community-based events
22 festivals
41 street fairs
13 city-wide street events
81 runs, walks & cycling events

Strength of Aboriginal culture (2009)

42% of Calgary Aboriginal peoples felt that Aboriginal culture had become stronger in the past five years. Optimum about the direction of Aboriginal culture was expressed in Vancouver and Toronto (both 70%).

According to the 2011 Canadian Creativity Index Ranking of 20 Canadian cities, we're pretty creative!

Just not super creative.

Based on Technologies, Talent and Referrals (3% of Economic Development)

Artistic Power Rankings

Calgary 10
Vancouver 7
Montreal 5
Toronto 4
Edmonton 3
Ottawa 2
Winnipeg 1

Survey respondents indicated their city was:

Canadian Creativity

20% of Calgary's Vital Signs 2012 Survey respondents indicated they feel uncomfortable or out of place because of their religion, ethnicity, skin colour, culture, race, language, accent, gender or sexual orientation.

Of Calgarians volunteer

50.3% of Calgarians volunteer (2011)

We give. But do we give enough relative to our prosperity? (2010)

- % of tax filers who claim donations: Calgary (25.5% in 2011) 26.1%
- Provincial: 24.3%
- National: 23.4%

Median amount donated:
Calgary $390
Provincial $390
National $260

Sense of Community Belonging Lower than National Average (Survey of ages 12+ in 2010)

Calgarians (57.8%) vs. 10
- Provincial 63.8%
- National 65.8%

Tolerance and acceptance... 20% of Calgary's Vital Signs 2012 Survey respondents indicated they feel uncomfortable or out of place because of their religion, ethnicity, skin colour, culture, race, language, accent, gender or sexual orientation.

The City of Calgary & Calgary Arts Development Authority Ltd. received support for the City of Calgary Poet Laureate, an ambassador of the literary arts who reflects the life of our city through presentations of poetry.

Survey respondents said:

2 things to celebrate:

- High rate of volunteering
- Mayor's emphasis on civic engagement and using social media and diversity of community events and festivals

3 things to improve:

- Older turnout
- Awareness of community engagement opportunities
- Support of involvement of marginalized groups

Learn More at www.thecalgaryfoundation.org

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The gap is growing

The richest 5% of neighbourhoods in Calgary have an average after-tax income that is 2.9 times higher than the lowest 5%.

The inequality has been growing between 2001 and 2005, higher than any city in the top 10% of cities in Canada.

Easing access to recreation

25,076 new income Calgarians report by The City of Calgary Fee Assistance Program with substantial numbers in Calvary’s communities, aquatic and fitness facilities, leisure centres and golf courses.

The program also worked with 11 partners facilities, including admissions to Calgary Zoo 30,689, Heritage Park 3,368, Telus Centre 1,487.

Leisure Services

2005 2010

Calgary Zoo 3,457 3,968
Heritage Park 3,968 3,568
Calgary Zoo 30,689 30,366
The Miistakis Institute for the Rockies Inc.

Calgary has 80 local small-scale growers, producers and ranchers 45 meat, 21 produce, four dairy, 12 eggs.

Less Garbage Goes to Landfill

2010 goal was 80% diversion rate 2011 32% diverted from landfills 2007 20% diverted from landfills 5 year decrease of 120kg/person due to blue cart recycling/other policies.

Alberta Food Assessment & Action Centre—Food Access The City of Calgary Office of Sustainability's Calgary Food Assessment & Action Plan received a grant for researching a sustainable and resilient food system within the Calgary region.

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Edible Community Gardens

245 community gardens, community gardens, community gardens, community gardens, community gardens, community gardens, community gardens.

Tim Hortons .... 80
Subway ........ 115
Franchises with most locations:

The city of Calgary Office of Sustainability's Calgary Food Assessment & Action Plan received a grant for researching a sustainable and resilient food system within the Calgary region.
More physically active than the national average
Percent (ages 12+) who reported being physically active in their leisure time (2011)
Victoria ............. 67.8%  
Calgary ............... 59.1%  
Provincial .......... 55.4%  
National ............ 53.8%

Mental health improves
Those aged 12+ in the Calgary Health Region who rated their mental health status as excellent or very good (2011)
Calgary .......... 76.5%  
Calgary 2009 ....... 74.6%  
Provincial ...... 74.4%  
National ....... 72.6%

Hip surgery wait time better than national average
Percent of patients (aged 65+) in Calgary who underwent hip fracture surgery within 48 hours of admission:
2010-2011 ...... 44.6%  
2011-2012 ...... 46%  
Provincial ...... 83.3%  
National ...... 85%

Funds pump more cash into sports and recreation facilities
In 2011, City Council created a $255 million community investment fund to support new rec centres and lifeline upgrades to community arenas, pools and parks. Also in 2011, $27.7 million in funding was approved for 10 projects. Overall, $485 million has been committed by the City for the upgrade and expansion of existing sport facilities over six years.

Survey respondents said:
3 THINGS TO CELEBRATE:
- Density issues to curb urban sprawl
- Range of available housing options/affordable housing
- Efforts to address homelessness

3 THINGS TO IMPROVE:
- Long wait lists
- Range of available housing options
- Affordability of public transit

Survey respondents said:
3 THINGS TO CELEBRATE:
- Efforts to address homelessness
- Building up not out - philosophy to reduce urban sprawl
- Range of available housing options/affordable housing

3 THINGS TO IMPROVE:
- Density issues to curb urban sprawl
- Affordability of rental housing
- Integrated housing options in all communities

For the first time in history, half of downtown trips made by transit (2011)
60% of trips to the downtown (during morning and rush hour) were made by transit, 39% by private automobile (as a driver or passenger), 9% walked and 2% cycled. In 1971, 22% of trips were by transit, while the automobile accounted for 72% of trips. 20% of all Calgary jobs are located downtown.

3 THINGS TO CELEBRATE:
- Bike paths and lanes
- Bus service enhancements
- Expansion of light rail transit

3 THINGS TO IMPROVE:
- Continued expansion of LRT
- Bike paths and lanes
- Bus service enhancements

So, ‘homelessness’ increased?
According to the January 2012 count, homelessness declined by 5.4% from 2008, the find recorded decrease in Calgary.

For Calgary, the delay per hour driven in peak period (5:30a.m. to 6:30p.m.) was 11 minutes, or 35 hours delay per year, for a 30 minute drive.

The most congested American cities compare travel time during non-peak periods.

THE FOUNDATION AT WORK
Woodridge Youth Action Group received funding for the upgrade and expansion of existing sport facilities over six years.

Survey respondents said:
3 THINGS TO CELEBRATE:
-密度问题抑制城市蔓延
-范围的可用住房选择/可负担住房
-努力解决无家可归

3 THINGS TO IMPROVE:
-长等待列表
-范围的可用住房选择
-公共交通的可负担性

调查受访者表示：
3 件值得庆祝的事情：
- 繁忙地区内公共健康设施的翻新
- 慈善医院及公园
- 应急医疗服务

3 件需要改进的事情：
- 访问家庭医生：
- 医疗程序的等待时间：
- 紧急医疗服务

调查受访者表示：
3 件值得庆祝的事情：
- 努力解决无家可归
- “ builds up not out” 哲学降低城市蔓延
- 可供租赁的房屋选择/ 负担得起的住房

3 件需要改进的事情：
- 密度问题抑制城市蔓延
- 租赁住房的负担能力
- 综合住房选项的整合

对于首次在历史中，一半的市中心路线由公共交通完成（2011）
60%的市中心路线（上午高峰和上下班高峰期）通过公共交通，39%由私家车（包括驾驶或乘坐），9%步行和2%骑自行车。在1971年，22%的路线是通过公共交通，而汽车在2011年占72%，2011年所有卡尔加里的工作岗位在市中心附近。

3 件值得庆祝的事情：
- 自行车路径和车道
- 公交服务的改进
- 扩展的轻轨

3 件需要改进的事情：
- 持续扩展的轻轨
- 自行车路径和车道
- 公交服务的改进

所以，“无家可归”增加了吗？
根据1月2012年的计数，无家可归人数下降了5.4%从2008年，这是所记录的下降的卡尔加里。
Calgary students excel

In 2011, Calgary Board of Education students outperformed the rest of the province in 43 of 48 measures in the annual Grade 12 exams and Grade 3, 6, and 9 achievement tests.

Post-Secondary Education Rises

- Population with university degree, post-secondary certificate or diploma
  - National Avg. ......... 52.7%
  - Calgary 2006 ......... 53.1%
  - Montreal ............. 58.0%

What are we doing for a living? (2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Average Hourly Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>$13.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>15,200</td>
<td>$21.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>59,600</td>
<td>$21.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>25,300</td>
<td>$26.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>35,100</td>
<td>$35.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>26,100</td>
<td>$30.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Services</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>$35.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>18,200</td>
<td>$22.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>$28.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>$26.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td>$22.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>$21.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>15,200</td>
<td>$13.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>$26.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation/Warehousing</td>
<td>4,100</td>
<td>$25.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>$28.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Management</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>$25.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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WE CONNECT, COLLABORATE & INSPIRE
Since 1955, The Calgary Foundation has been inspiring philanthropy by receiving charitable gifts, from people of all walks of life, to build permanent endowment funds in support of the needs of the Calgary and area community, now and forever. 

THE CALGARY FOUNDATION 2012-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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juice creative inc.
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Taylor Barrie, Communications Coordinator
Janice Francey, Kerry Longpré, THE CALGARY FOUNDATION

THERE'S A LOT MORE INFORMATION
Further details on indicators and sources can be found at thecalgaryfoundation.org

THE CALGARY FOUNDATION Fast Facts 2011-2012
• Asset base of $425 million
• In support of the needs of the Calgary and area community, now and forever.

The Calgary Foundation Fact Fast Facts 2011-2012
• $56 million in new gifts received
• Asset base of $425 million
• $39 million granted to 686 charitable organizations
• 50 new funds established

CALGARY’S VITAL SIGNS 2012 PROJECT TEAM

THE CALGARY FOUNDATION
Kerry Longpré, Project Leader Vice President, Communications
Janeen Pharesy, Communications Specialist
Taylor Barrie, Communications Coordinator
Monica Poirier, Community Engagement & Research Consultant

CREATIVE PARTNERS
Join Creative Inc.
Kyle Mclachlan Illustrations

SURVEY PARTNER
The Praxis Group

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Calgary 2012
Calgary Arts Development
Calgary Economic Development
Calgary Housing Foundation
Calgary Urban Strategies
Calgary Sustainability
Vibrant Communities Calgary

RESEARCH SOURCES
Apparent and Beck for Communities
Calgary Board of Education
Coalition for Food Bank Volunteers
Community Careers Resource Network
Community Flood Safety
Community Gardens Resource Networks
Community Police Library
Calvari
Canadian Federation of Independent Business
Canadian Institute of Health Information
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canada Revenue Agency
City of Calgary
City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services
City of Calgary Corporate Economics
City of Calgary Parks and Recreation
City of Calgary Transportation Planning
City of Calgary Waste & Recycling Services
City of Calgary Water Services
Economist
Huffington Post
RBSS
AIDS Calgary
Slow Food Calgary
Stand Up to Canada
The Economist
Toronto Board of Trade

WHO WE ARE: A snapshot of Calgary in 2012

Population
1,120,225
A 2012 censo showed Calgary had a population increase of 29,289 over 2011 representing a growth rate not seen since the boom years of 2007.

Youth 16 and under
222,570
Dr. 18.3% of Calgary's National youth 16.7%
Provincial youth 18.6%

Eligibility 65 and older
118,750
Dr. 9.8% of Calgary's National 14.0%
Provincial share 9.1%

Calgarians’ median age:
36.4yrs
National = 40.4 yrs
Provincial = 36.5 yrs

Newcomers
In 2012, Calgary placed fourth in Canada for the number of temporary foreign workers (6,780) and permanent residents (15,060) moving to our city.

Two thirds of the city's population growth was from immigration, a trend reversed from two years ago when birth made up the majority of Calgary's population increase.

WHAT WE SAID:
Calgary’s Vital Signs 2012 Survey Graders

1050 citizens added their voices to Calgary’s Vital Signs by assigning grades, choosing their top 3 priorities and adding their comments on things that are working well in each of the key issue areas.

The online survey, conducted by The Praxis Group, is based on a “self-selected” respondent population. Data is accurate + or – 3% 19 times out of 20. Most market research involves much smaller samples of around 400 and a margin of error + or – 5% 19 times out of 20 (Recently, a comparison between the results of Calgary’s Vital Signs and another survey showed negligible differences between the two methodologies.

There is a lot more information: further details on indicators and sources can be found at thecalgaryfoundation.org

80% have lived in Calgary for more than 10 years
95% have lived in Canada for more than 10 years
78% have lived in Calgary for more than 10 years

How did we find our graders?
The invitation to grade was distributed with the support of community partners representing the corporate, government and charitable sectors including:

• The Federation of Calgary Commerce. Get Engaged newsletter to all Calgary community associations
• The Centre for the Study of Living Standards to underline national research, provided additional indicator data.

Brookfield Properties: elevator screens advertised to over 21,000 building tenants

Calgary Police Services Diversity Resources Unit: postcards went to staff and community leaders

City of Calgary Twitter account: reached out to over 33,000 followers

Grader Profile

Employment by sector
36% business
22% government
35% social

Grader Age
2012
2011
0-24 9% 11%
25-44 39% 40%
45-64 45% 45%
>65 7% 9%

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We’re listening
What do you think about the results of Calgary’s Vital Signs 2012 Report? Tweet us @CalgFoundation or give us your opinion at facebook.com/thecalgaryfoundation

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What do you think about the results of Calgary’s Vital Signs 2012 Report?

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Twitter @VitalSigns
Or give your opinion at facebook.com/thecalgaryfoundation

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in a range of areas critical to quality of life. Vital Signs is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada.