

OVERVIEW

Alberta residents enjoy high personal incomes plus the lowest income taxes and sales taxes in Canada. In fact, Alberta is the only province with no provincial sales tax. Affordable housing and excellent government-funded health care and education keep the basic cost of living in Edmonton relatively low.

HOUSING

Average Resale Home Prices, By City

City	Price
Montreal	223,947
Edmonton	256,489
Ottawa	253,560
Calgary	357,831
Toronto	341,959
Vancouver	517,775

Source: Canadian Real Estate Association, July 2006

Average Residential Selling Price, City of Edmonton

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
124,203	133,441	150,258	165,541	179,610	193,934

Source: Edmonton Real Estate Board, 2006

Single House Starts, Edmonton CMA

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
4,072	4,959	6,800	6,391	6,614	7,623	6,900 ¹

¹CMHC Forecast

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2006

Average Rent (\$ Dollars) - October 2005

City	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms
Montreal	562	616
Edmonton	608	732
Calgary	666	808
Ottawa	762	920
Vancouver	788	1,004
Toronto	888	1,052

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, October 2005

Edmonton Ranks No.1 in Cost of Living Comparisons

Edmonton's cost of living is among the lowest at all salary levels according to a North American survey that compared the total cost of living for employees at three different salary levels.

The table below shows the family income required in each city to maintain the standard of living associated with three income scenarios.

Cost of Living for Select North American Cities

CITY	INCOME LEVEL		
	\$60,000	\$80,000	\$100,000
Edmonton	\$61,830	\$81,142	\$99,902
Calgary	\$62,818	\$82,109	\$105,317
Ottawa	\$63,168	\$84,102	\$104,699
Phoenix	\$66,523	\$88,306	\$107,644
Montreal	\$68,167	\$92,594	\$113,884
Vancouver	\$69,009	\$90,927	\$112,647
Minneapolis	\$70,961	\$93,624	\$113,927
Toronto	\$74,114	\$96,439	\$122,627
Seattle	\$73,723	\$98,441	\$118,048
Boston	\$84,896	\$112,115	\$133,384
San Jose	\$101,077	\$144,029	\$164,435

Sources: MMK Consulting and Runzheimer Canada
Prepared for Alberta Economic Development, "A Comparison of Personal Taxes and Cost of Living in Alberta, Canada and the United States"
April 2003 (\$CDN converted from \$US at 0.6432).

