

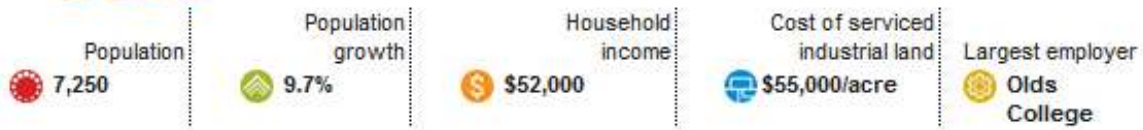
ALBERTA'S

# 10 Best Communities for Business

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### OLDS



Situated along Highway 2, the town of Olds, with a population of 7,250, easily serves more than 40,000 people in the Mountain View County area in addition to the 57,000 who drive through the community.

Among the major projects approved by the town are a school, housing development and a business banking complex, and a steadily increasing number of business licenses have been issued. Nearly 20% more business licences were issued in January 2010 than in January 2009.

Population	7,250
Population growth, 2001–2009 (%)	9.7
Population within 1–hour commuting distance	1,353,000
Household income (\$)	52,000
Average lease rate, Office (\$/square foot)	15
Average lease rate, Retail (\$/square foot)	15
Cost of serviced industrial land (\$/acre)	55,000
Average home price (\$)	280,000
Property tax for business (mill rate)	1072.92
Lowest tier business licence fee (\$)	100
Change in number of business licences issued, 2009 vs. 2008 (%)	19.5

Change in total value of commercial development permits, 2009 vs. 2008 (%)	-26
Business tax	0
Wait time for development permits (days)	45
Special incentives or business-friendly policies	BizPal will be operational in April 2010; strong working relationship between Town's Development & Approvals Branch and the Olds Institute for Community & Regional Development (OICRD) Community Economic Development Office has resulted in enhanced services to the business community. Town & OICRD-CEDO have recently completed the CAEP Community Investment Readiness Initiative (CIR) and have in place an investor-ready community profile. CIR action and marketing plans are in progress. A new look for both the Town and OICRD's websites is in progress and will be launched this year. Marketing video clips are being produced and will provide potential investors insight into why Olds should be on their radar screen. Town marketing and development staff along with CEDO and key community stakeholders are being trained in CED Training Programs - Business Retention & Expansion, and Business & Investment Attraction - this spring.
Largest employers (with number of local employees)	Olds College (439); Walmart (185); Town of Olds (104)
Major projects announced (with budget if available)	Mountain View Credit Union Business Centre (\$8 million); Holy Trinity Catholic School (\$6.7 million)
Major projects under construction (with budget if available)	Cornerstone Village (\$10.5 million); Olds Municipal Library (\$2.1 million); Mountain View Seniors Housing Project (\$15 million)
Post-secondary institution(s)	Olds College
Distance from city centre to nearest airport with scheduled service (km)	90
Special amenities (e.g. lake, ski resort, research institute)	Olds College Bell e-Learning Centre; Canadian Equine Centre; Olds Regional Hospital; Community Learning Campus; Ralph Klein Health & Wellness Centre; Olds Agricultural Society; In-Town Campground; TransCanada Theater Fine Arts and Multimedia Centre; Aquatic Centre; SportsPlex and Olds Grizzly's; Olds-Didsbury Airport only 6 km. south of town; rodeo; new 98-room Ramada with waterslide; New Cornerstone Shopping Centre; new Netook Crossing Development; access to Alberta's Supernet

