



# Downtown Calgary Snapshot Q2 2021

Published August 13, 2021

## Place



### Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan is our roadmap to reinvention

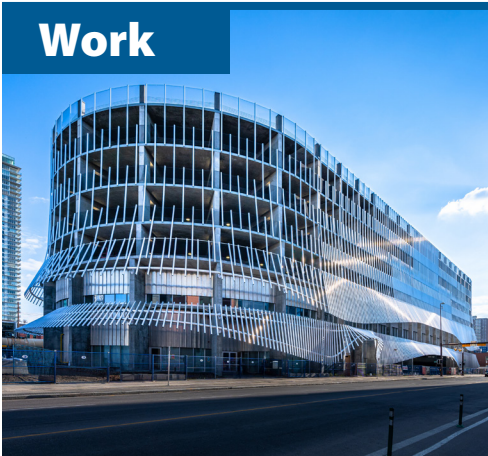
City Council approved Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan and a significant initial investment to support vibrant neighbourhoods that people want to live and work in. The Plan is The City's vision, roadmap and commitment to building a thriving, future-focused downtown. It focuses on creating vibrant neighbourhoods, establishing a green network, creating streets for people, expanding transit, and future-proofing Calgary's downtown.

### Greater Downtown Investments:

- \$45 million in financial incentives to convert office space to residential and other uses
- \$5 million in financial incentives to offset +15 Fund contributions
- \$55 million for capital projects that support vibrant neighbourhoods
- \$5 million to activate downtown public spaces
- \$10 million over four years to create a dedicated downtown team
- \$80 million for Arts Commons Transformation Phase 1

Source: The City of Calgary

## Work



### Construction wrapped on Platform Innovation Centre and Parkade

Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC), Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) and Platform Calgary celebrated the opening of an innovative new East Village parkade following two and a half years of construction. The mixed-use building combines seven storeys of parking for visitors to East Village and surrounding communities with 50,000 square feet of innovation space that will be home to Platform Calgary and partners later this year.

### Platform Innovation Centre facts:

- Includes 503 vehicle parks stalls, 6 electric vehicle chargers, and 99 bicycle spots
- Features a publicly accessible sport court on the main level
- Upper floor can be rented for corporate events and community gatherings
- 50+ tech and innovation partners will be part of the Platform Innovation Centre

Source: Calgary Municipal Land Corporation

## Live



### Downtown Ambassador program expands

Downtown Ambassadors are connecting Calgary and visitors to information on services, places and supports in the downtown. Focused on outreach, safety, cleanliness and an inclusive environment the ambassadors provide a welcoming presence downtown every day. In May, the ambassadors expanded their area of operations beyond the City Hall area, to include the length of Stephen Avenue and 7 Avenue S.W., along with 3 Street S.W. to the Bow River.

### Ambassador stats:

- 4,000+ interactions with Calgarians
- 2,500+ interactions with Calgary's vulnerable population
- 400+ check-ins with local business owners and staff

Source: Calgary Downtown Association

## Connect



### The Blox launches in the Beltline

The Beltline Business Improvement Area created "The Blox", a community of businesses, people and experiences that highlights the vibrancy and eclectic community of the Beltline. The Blox spans the Beltline from 2 Street to 9 Street and 10 Avenue to 13 Avenue. It contains some of Calgary's most beloved businesses, restaurants, shops and pubs. The initiative promotes growth and vibrancy in downtown's historic Beltline district.

### The Blox facts:

- 40+ businesses are part of The Blox
- The Blox and the Alberta University of Arts have created Beltline community bike racks to make biking easier and support vibrancy

Source: The Beltline BIA

# State of Calgary's Economy

Calgary's Downtown is the core of our city's vibrancy and economic resilience



↑ Population  
**1,323,400**



↓ Jobs  
**845,000**



↑ GDP Growth  
**3.8%**

Source: Population and GDP Growth - 2021 estimate, Spring 2021 Economic Outlook, Corporate Economics, The City of Calgary; Jobs - Average April-June 2021, Statistics Canada

## Place



↓ Construction Value  
**\$138 million**

↑ Building Permits  
**208**

↓ Downtown & Beltline Office Sales  
**\$0**

↓ Average Downtown Office Net Rental Rate  
**\$11.44/sq. ft.**

Source: Calgary Growth Strategies and Assessment, The City of Calgary; CBRE

## Work



Office Absorption Volume

↑ Downtown  
**-266,262 sq. ft.**

↓ Beltline  
**-158,714 sq. ft.**

Downtown & Beltline

↑ Office Vacancy  
**32.59%**

Downtown & Beltline Office Supply number was not available this quarter.

Source: Assessment, The City of Calgary; CBRE

## Live



Bike Score®

**50/100**  
Bike Score® for Calgary

**84/100**  
Bike Score® for Calgary Downtown

**90/100**  
Bike Score® for Beltline

Walk Score®

**39/100**  
Walk Score® for Calgary

**91/100**  
Walk Score® for Calgary Downtown

**91/100**  
Walk Score® for Beltline

Source: Bike Score®

## Connect



↓ Posts across platforms  
**2,623**

#downtownnyc

↑ Quarterly Customer Satisfaction at Downtown Ctrain Stations  
**85%**

↑ Calgary Internet Exchange (YYCIX) Q2 2021 Data Transfer Peak  
**55 GBS**

Source: Social Studio; YYCIX; Calgary Transit

# Downtown Calgary Snapshot: Glossary

## Downtown Calgary

The Bow and Elbow Rivers bind Calgary's Downtown to the north and east and 17 Avenue to the south and 14 Street to the west. It includes communities such as the Downtown Commercial Core, East Village, Beltline, Downtown West End, Eau Claire and Chinatown.

## State of Calgary's Economy

### Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth

Measure of the value of final goods and services produced by the economy within the Calgary Economic Region.

- Reporting Period: 2021 estimate
- Data Source: Statistics Canada; Stokes Economics; Spring 2021 Economic Outlook, Corporate Economics, The City of Calgary

### Jobs

Estimate of the number of employed people in the Calgary Economic Region.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: Statistics Canada; Corporate Economics, The City of Calgary

### Population

Estimate of the number of inhabitants in the city of Calgary.

- Reporting Period: 2021 estimate
- Data Source: Statistics Canada; Stokes Economics; Spring 2021 Economic Outlook, Corporate Economics, The City of Calgary

## Place

### Building Permits

Number of building permits issued.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: Calgary Growth Strategies, The City of Calgary

### Construction Value

Value of building construction permits that were issued.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: Calgary Growth Strategies, The City of Calgary

### Downtown & Beltline

#### Average Office Net Rental Rates

A weighted average of head lease rates per square foot across all building classes in a given location (such as Downtown or Beltline). This rate is exclusive of building costs such as operating costs and property taxes.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: CBRE

#### Downtown & Beltline Office Sales

Total value of office sales.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: Assessment, The City of Calgary

## Work

### Office Absorption Volume

The net change in occupied space, measured in square footage, over a specified time frame, and takes into consideration newly constructed space. Commonly it is reported from one quarter to the next (for example, from Q1 2021 to Q2 2021).

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: Assessment, The City of Calgary

### Office Supply

Total square footage of rental space in office properties, regardless of occupancy or vacancy.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: CBRE

### Office Vacancy

Percentage of unoccupied space available to rent in office properties.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: CBRE

## Live

**Walk Score**® is an online, independently calculated walkability index that scores neighbourhood walkability based on a number of metrics, including walking routes to nearby amenities, distance, population density, block length and intersection density. Scores are given out of 100.

For more information regarding the Walk Score® Methodology, please visit <https://www.walkscore.com/methodology.shtml>

- Reporting Period: Annually
- Data Source: Walk Score®

**Bike Score**® is an online, independently calculated bikeability index that measures whether an area is good for biking. A Bike Score is calculated by measuring bike infrastructure (lanes, trails, etc.), hills, destinations, road connectivity, and the number of bike commuters. Score are given out of 100.

For more information regarding the Bike Score® Methodology, please visit <https://www.walkscore.com/bike-score-methodology.shtml>

- Reporting Period: Annually
- Data Source: Bike Score®

## Connect

### #downtownYYC

Number of reported tweets using the #downtownYYC hashtag on the platform Twitter during the reporting period.

Cities across the world are recognizing the power of social media, hashtags and placemaking. This insight helps us understand where and how Calgarians connect with their downtown. This data comes from third party software program, Social Studio, and is able to track growth over time.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: Social Studio

### Calgary Internet Exchange (YYCIX) Q4 Data Transfer Peak

Represents the peak data transfer volume through the Calgary Internet Exchange during the reporting period.

For more information regarding the Calgary Internet Exchange (YYCIX), visit [yycix.ca](http://yycix.ca)

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: YYCIX

Results from the Calgary Transit Monthly Customer Experience Tracking Survey for the question "Q8AD2: How would you rate your overall satisfaction with CTrains on this trip on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is extremely dissatisfied and 10 is extremely satisfied?". The results use top-box scores (7-10 out of 10) and filtered to only include trips that use a downtown CTrain station.

- Reporting Period: Quarterly, Q2 2021
- Data Source: NRG, Monthly Customer Experience Tracking Survey, The City of Calgary & Calgary Transit