

Entrepreneurial energy means we're big on small business. Calgary boasts Canada's highest small business population per capita.

Calgary Small Businesses: Fact Sheet

Calgary small businesses account for 95 per cent of all businesses – they are a driving force within the city's business community. Small business owners have the advantage over larger corporations in that their size gives them the flexibility to adapt quickly in terms of aligning resources. They are able to be innovative with products and implement processes and efficiencies. These advantages, married with their general passion for their business and ability to enjoy the advantage of customer focus sets them apart from larger corporations.

Business Establishments

Of Calgary's total business establishments (54,586) in 2013, small businesses (businesses with less than 50 employees) accounted for 95.0 per cent. Over the past decade, the number of small businesses has steadily increased to 51,845 in 2013 from 42,299 in 2004, a growth of 22.6 per cent.

A breakdown of small businesses by employee size range demonstrates that the smallest segment (1-4 employees) is, in fact, the fastest growing over the past decade at a rate of 36.9 per cent.

Small Businesses by Employee Size 2004-2013 Calgary Census Metropolitan Area											
Employee Size Range	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-Year (2004-2013) Total Growth Rate
1-4 Employees	24,621	25,369	26,218	28,848	29,282	30,252	29,897	29,948	30,598	33,709	36.9%
5-9 Employees	7,703	7,770	7,936	8,167	8,105	8,083	7,943	7,919	8,069	8,533	10.8%
10-19 Employees	5,791	5,659	5,921	5,161	5,233	5,121	5,136	5,267	5,392	5,561	-4.0%
20-49 Employees	4,184	4,203	4,592	3,632	3,493	3,498	3,394	3,518	3,785	4,042	-3.4%
Total (<50 Employees)	42,299	43,001	44,667	45,808	46,113	46,954	46,370	46,652	47,844	51,845	22.6%

Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Business Patterns.

The dominant industries that made up Calgary's small business sector in 2013 were:

- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services – 12,695 businesses (24.5 per cent of total share)
- Construction – 6,579 businesses (12.7 per cent of total share)
- Retail Trade – 4,559 businesses (8.8 per cent of total share).

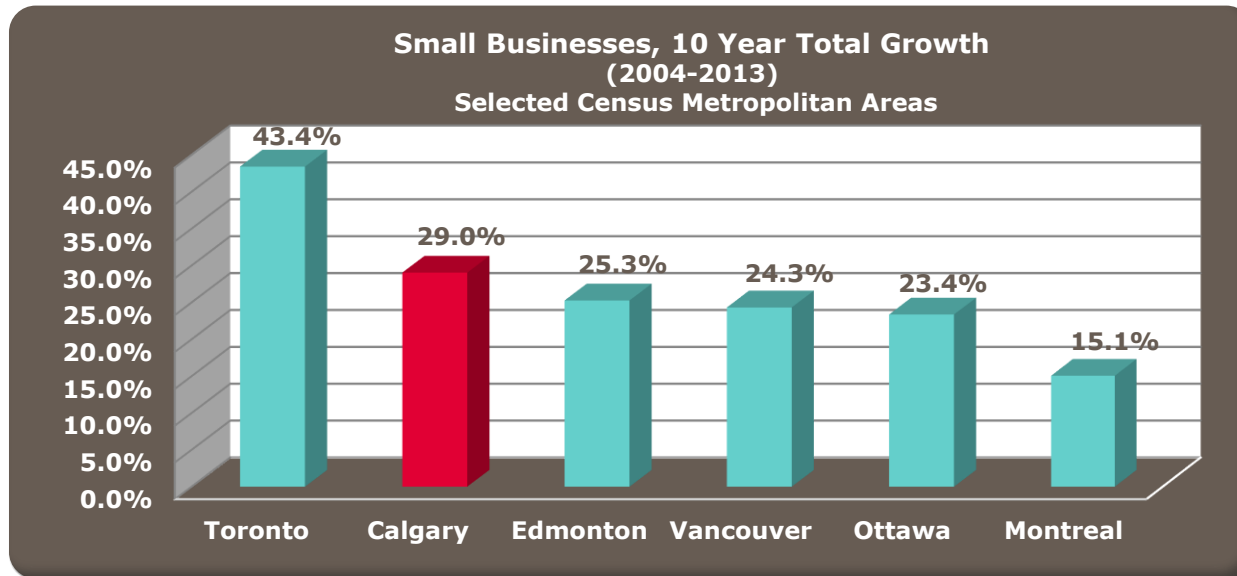
**Small businesses by industry and employee size
2013**

Calgary Census Metropolitan Area

Industry	1-4 Employees	5-9 Employees	10-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	Total	% Distributi on
Total	33,709	8,533	5,561	4,042	51,845	
% of Total	65.0%	16.5%	10.7%	7.8%	100.0%	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	276	49	23	16	364	0.7%
Mining, Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	834	195	141	179	1,349	2.6%
Utilities	40	16	13	13	82	0.2%
Construction	4,568	1,023	587	401	6,579	12.7%
Manufacturing	611	339	275	285	1,510	2.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,136	548	467	337	2,488	4.8%
Retail Trade	1,776	1398	858	527	4,559	8.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,417	215	138	123	1,893	3.7%
Information and Cultural Industries	289	79	60	52	480	0.9%
Finance and Insurance	1,137	289	205	163	1,794	3.5%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,072	291	168	97	2,628	5.1%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	10,909	910	497	379	12,695	24.5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	461	101	73	93	728	1.4%
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	1,503	522	305	211	2,541	4.9%
Educational Services	358	94	83	57	592	1.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,363	739	471	223	3,796	7.3%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	216	69	55	68	408	0.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	774	752	691	601	2,818	5.4%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,955	898	441	204	4,498	8.7%
Public Administration	14	6	10	13	43	0.1%

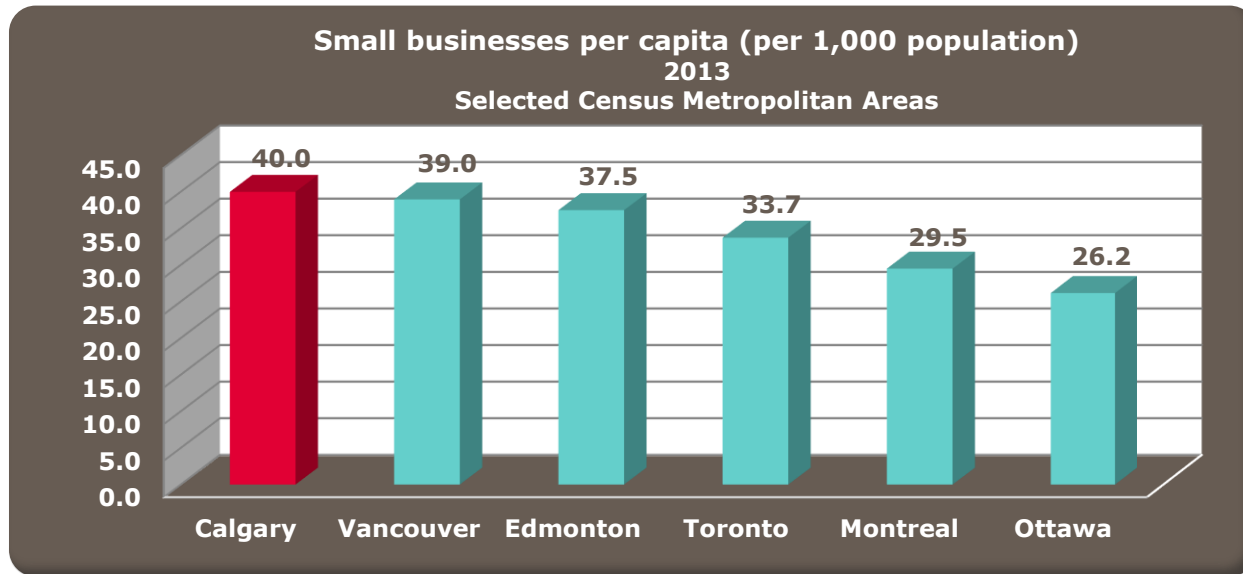
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Business Patterns

Among Canada's major Census Metropolitan Areas, Calgary ranked second for small business growth over the 2004 to 2013 period, at a rate of 29.0 per cent.



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Business Patterns

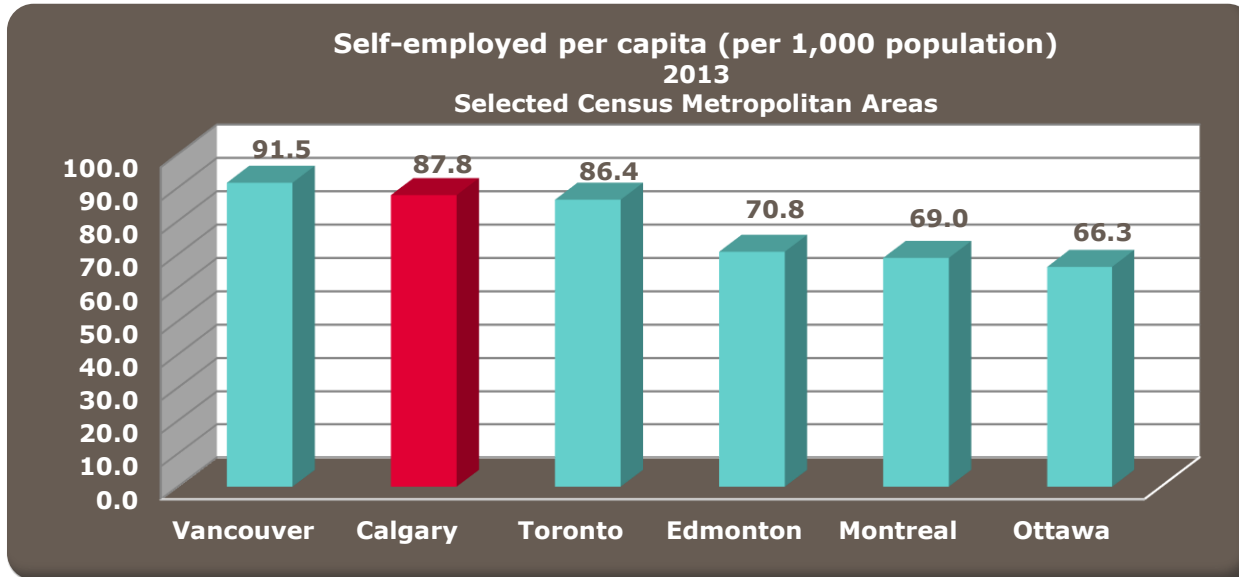
Relative to its population, Calgary had the highest number of small businesses per capita of the major cities in Canada in 2013 at a rate of 40.0 per 1,000 population.



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Business Patterns

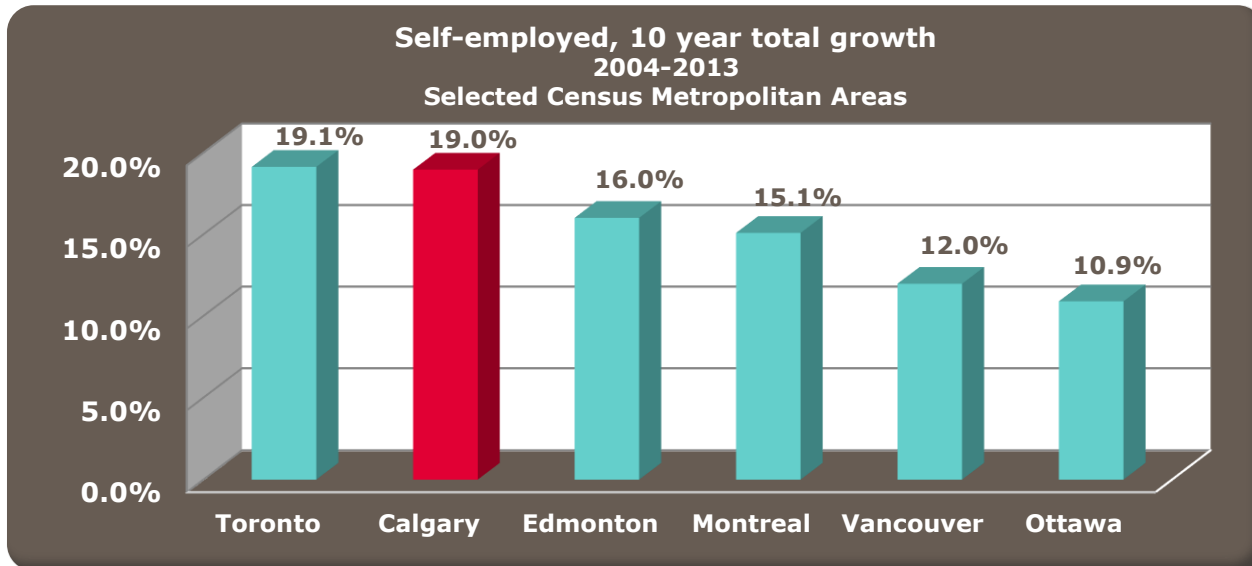
Self-Employment

In 2013, there were 119,800 self-employed Calgarians. On a per capita basis, Calgary had the second highest number of self-employed people in Canada at 87.8 per 1,000 population.



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

During the past 10 years (2004-2013), Calgary experienced the second highest total growth in self-employment in Canada, at a rate of 19.0 per cent.



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2013, the largest group of Calgary entrepreneurs were in the 45-54 age group, followed by the 55-64 age bracket.

Number and distribution of self-employed by age cohort 2013 Selected Census Metropolitan Areas

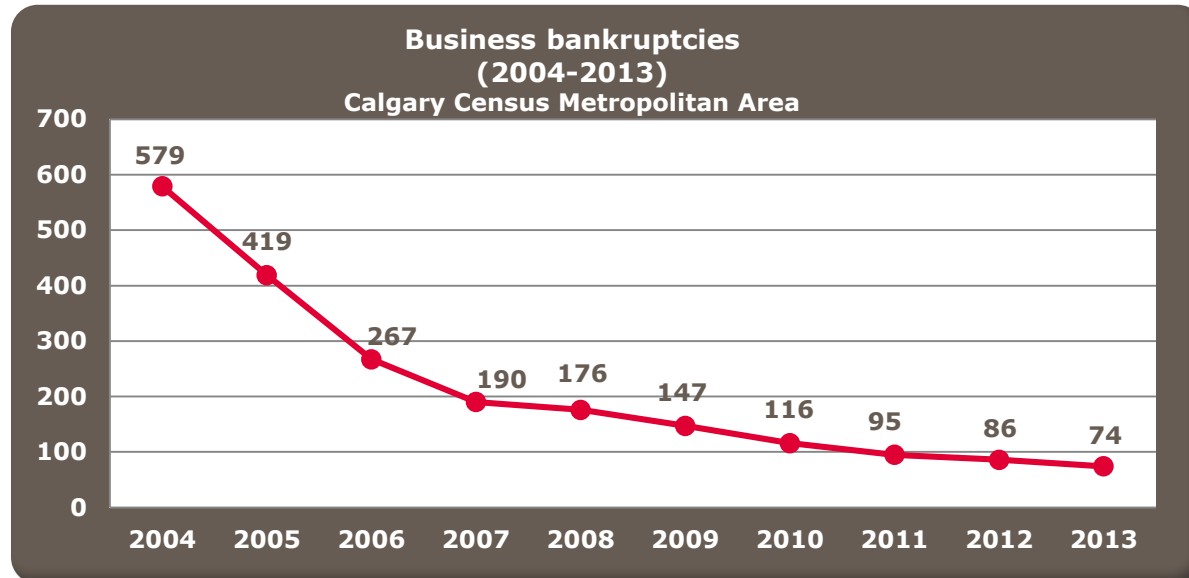
Age Cohort	Montreal		Ottawa		Toronto		Calgary		Edmonton		Vancouver	
	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share
Total	274,600	100.0%	86,500	100.0%	514,900	100.0%	119,800	100.0%	91,300	100.0%	223,500	100.0%
15-24	8,100	2.9%	3,000	3.5%	15,900	3.1%	3,200	2.7%	2,400	2.6%	4,600	2.1%
25-34	41,800	15.2%	14,300	16.5%	76,700	14.9%	16,600	13.9%	18,500	20.3%	30,500	13.6%
35-44	69,500	25.3%	19,400	22.4%	114,100	22.2%	27,100	22.6%	22,200	24.3%	49,100	22.0%
45-54	77,000	28.0%	23,700	27.4%	149,500	29.0%	34,000	28.4%	21,700	23.8%	70,000	31.3%
55-64	52,500	19.1%	18,200	21.0%	112,000	21.8%	28,600	23.9%	19,200	21.0%	48,900	21.9%
65+	25,800	9.4%	7,800	9.0%	46,700	9.1%	10,300	8.6%	7,200	7.9%	20,400	9.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Numbers may not add due to rounding).

Bankruptcies

Calgary has experienced a steady decline in business bankruptcies over the past decade (2004-2013) to 74 in 2013 from 579 in 2004, a decrease of 87.2 per cent.

Since 95.0 per cent of Calgary CMA's business establishments are small businesses, it is assumed that the majority of business bankruptcies involve small businesses.



Source: Industry Canada. Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada