

Population and Employment Forecast

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Capital Region Board Population and Employment forecasts of record is included in the December 2009 Addendum to the Capital Region Growth Plan (Section 2: Land Use). These forecasts replace the Population and Employment forecasts included in the March 2009 Growth Plan.
- The forecasts included in the December 2009 Addendum were aligned with Government of Alberta population and economic growth assumptions as per the Minister's letter of June 11, 2009 in response to the Capital Region Growth Plan (March 2009).
- The forecast is consistent with the Alberta Finance and Enterprise Budget 2010 high scenario population forecast for Census Division 11, which is an appropriate scenario for long term planning.
- Population and employment results incorporate Land Use Principles and Policies developed by the Capital Region Board (CRB), and as well as those of the Capital Region Intermunicipal Transit Network Plan and the Housing Plan.
 - Priority Growth Areas (PGAs) absorb a larger proportion of the growth as intended by the density targets assigned to each of these areas.
 - The Cluster Country Residential Areas (CCRAs) also grow, but at a more moderate rate, as intended by the density targets assigned to each of these areas.
 - The areas outside PGAs and CCRAs are primarily agricultural areas and grow according to the land use zoning.
 - All urban municipalities, not in a PGA, are projected to experience population growth over the forecast period.

PROJECTION ASSUMPTIONS:

- The City of Edmonton's proposed six-legged LRT network will be completed by the end of the forecast period. Development of the proposed LRT stations will trigger transit oriented development, including a mixture of high density residential and employment or mixed use.
- Redevelopment of the Edmonton City Centre Airport will be completed by 2042, the further densification of the City of Edmonton's downtown and downtown fringe areas will occur, a new residential development area will proceed south of Manning Drive in Edmonton, and the new Urban Services area will go ahead in Strathcona County.

Fact Sheet: Population and Employment Forecast

- Employment growth in the major regional employment areas in the Capital Region. This includes:
 - Alberta's Industrial Heartland (including seven upgrader scale-like projects);
 - Acheson Industrial Park;
 - Nisku Industrial Park;
 - Port Alberta/Edmonton International Airport; and
 - Horse Hills in northeast Edmonton (includes one upgrader scale-like project).

RESULTS:

Table 1: Alternate Scenario Population Forecast by Municipality (Dec. 2009 Addendum, page 8)

Table 3: Alternate Scenario Population Forecast by Growth Area (Dec. 2009 Addendum, page 10)

- Over the next 35 years, the population of the Capital Region is projected to grow to over 1.7 million people.
- This growth of almost 620,000 in the Capital Region represents an average annual growth rate of 1.3% between 2009 and 2044.
- The largest proportion of the total growth is expected to be in the PGAs, by over 570,000 people over the next 35 years, represents an annual average growth rate of 1.3%.
- Each municipality in the Capital Region has been projected to experience some population growth over the 35 year forecast period.

Table 5: Alternate Scenario Employment Growth Forecast by Municipality (Dec. 2009 Addendum, page 12)

Table 7: Alternate Scenario Employment Growth Forecast by Growth Area (Dec. 2009 Addendum, page 14)

- Over the next 35 years, employment in the Capital Region is projected to grow to over 860,000 jobs. This growth of almost 250,000 in the Capital Region represents an average annual growth rate of 0.9% between 2009 and 2044.
- PGAs have the largest proportion of the total growth, growing by over 227,000 jobs over the next 35 years. This represents an annual average growth rate of 0.9%.
- Each municipality in the Capital Region has been projected to experience some employment growth over the 35 year forecast period.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Capital Region Board

Web: www.capitalregionboard.ab.ca

Phone: (780) 638-6000

Email: info@capitalregionboard.ab.ca

DISCLAIMER: This Planning Toolkit is a guide to aid understanding of the Land Use Principles and Policies of the Capital Region Growth Plan. It is not a substitute for reading and understanding the Growth Plan. For certainty, the reader is advised to refer to the Growth Plan and related legislation available through the Capital Region Board.