

Business Environment



Top location for business

Priorities

- 01.** Build a globally and digitally connected city.
- 02.** Champion efficient and effective policies that support business practices.
- 03.** Be a place where businesses are encouraged to test and use technology and data to start, grow and thrive.




Data sources are available in the Uplink 2024 progress report. Access the [full report here](#).

Business Environment impact

Total passenger volume at Calgary International Airport stood at



A substantial increase from 14.5 million in the same period of 2022, marking the second strongest recovery of any Canadian airport at 103 per cent.

42%  of business leaders surveyed in external markets have considered expanding to Calgary.

52%  of top talent in external markets have considered relocating to the city.

Calgary's downtown office space had an average vacancy rate of



Stories from the Community

Advancing innovation: Living Labs

The City of Calgary's Living Labs project has become a hub for testing aerial drone technology.

Starting from just a single test by SAIT researchers a few years ago, the program's drone-testing sites have developed into a global magnet that now attracts the likes of NASA and Lockheed Martin. Leveraging this success, the testing sites now provide **125 acres of land** for companies and educational institutions seeking airspace to test drones. Demand has grown from **83 days of use in 2020 to 151 days in 2023**.



Photo credit: SAIT

Supporting business to thrive in Calgary

The city continues to support businesses through key programs:

- The Trade Accelerator Program (TAP) Alberta **graduated 99 participants**, including Naturemary, which secured a multi-year distribution deal in the United States and expanded internationally into India, Kenya and China.
- The City's Digital Service Squad has aided **over 1,000 clients since 2022**.
- The Business Approvals department streamlined processes, resulting in a **21 per cent decrease** in time to opening for new businesses.
- **A specialized Film Friendly team** is being established to facilitate incoming production companies, bolstered by film-friendly policies and a favorable tax credit environment.



Through land and air: Connecting Calgary

Calgary is even more connected to the world than ever before with:

- The completion of the ring road,
- **A \$615 million investment** to upgrade Deerfoot Trail,
- The merger of Canadian Pacific Railway and Kansas City Southern Railway Co. as the continent's only railway network stretching from Canada to Mexico; and
- Expanded airline routes connecting passengers to even more destinations from Calgary.



Photo credit: Colin Way