

# Living in Alberta

UK Health Edition



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Whether you want to live in a quiet country town or vibrant cosmopolitan city, you can find the right fit in Alberta. Enjoy safe communities, excellent public education and world-class health care while living in a province with the lowest personal taxes and an exceptional quality of life.



## Cost of Living

In an international survey comparing the cost of living in cities around the world, London ranked #16 as the most expensive city in which to live, while Calgary, Alberta ranked much lower on the list at #89.

*Source: Mercer Human Resource Consulting Cost of Living Survey for 2009*



## Entertainment

Bottle of wine	£8.20	(€9.50)
Bowling	£3.40	(€4.00)
Movie admission	£6.80	(€7.90)
Museum entrance	£5.40	(€6.30)
Nightclub entrance	£2.70	(€3.20) upwards
Pint of beer	£2.90	(€2.40)
Theatre ticket	£34.00	(€39.60) upwards



## Transportation

Alberta's road systems are extensive. To operate a car, truck or van you need a driver's license, insurance and registration on your vehicle. Similar to the UK, Canada also uses the metric system to represent speed limits.

In major cities buses and light rail transit run frequently. A monthly pass for unlimited access to the public transportation system will cost approximately £42.70 (€49.80). You are then eligible for a tax credit of 15 per cent of the spent costs at the end of each year.

Both the Edmonton and Calgary international airports offer direct non-stop flights to many UK destinations.



## Weather

Alberta is Canada's sunniest province with more than 2,000 hours of sunshine each year with four distinct seasons.

### Average Summer Temperature Ranges

(June to August)

15° C to 23° C (60° F to 73° F)

### Average Winter Temperature Ranges

(November to February)

-8° C to -25° C (18° F to -13° F)

Despite the cold, Alberta winters are usually dry, the sun is often shining, and the days are spectacularly bright.

*Source: Study in Alberta*



## Quality of Living

Calgary, Alberta ranked #26 out of the top 50 cities with the highest quality of life. London ranked #38 and Birmingham and Glasgow were jointly ranked at #56.

*Source: Mercer Human Resource Consulting Quality of Living Survey for 2009*




## Child Care

Average childcare cost for a daycare in Alberta for a month is the following.

£606 (€706) for infants

*Source: Vibrant Communities Calgary Cost of Living Fact Sheet, June 2009*



## Housing



Real estate in Alberta remains affordable, which makes owning your own home a reality, no matter what stage you are at in life.

### Average rent per month for a two-bedroom apartment as of April 2009

Calgary	£601	(€700)
Edmonton	£575	(€670)
Grand Prairie	£527	(€613)
Lethbridge	£448	(€522)
Medicine Hat	£375	(€436)
Red Deer	£466	(€543)

Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing corporation

### Average price of a residential unit as of April 2009

Calgary	£202,182	(€235,439)
Edmonton	£169,626	(€197,528)
Grande Prairie	£153,974	(€179,301)
Lethbridge	£129,951	(€151,326)
Medicine Hat	£136,310	(€158,731)
Red Deer	£144,028	(€167,719)

Source: Housing Bulletin Monthly Report Based on April 2009

## Health Care



Most people living and working in Alberta get universal access to hospital and medical services under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). AHCIP is free and is covered by the government of Alberta. Most temporary foreign workers and their families are also eligible.

## Wages



### Physicians

Family Physicians*	£122,450	(€ 142,591)
Specialists*	£194,084	(€ 226,009)

\* In Alberta physicians are paid on a fee for service basis and the salary will vary.

In Alberta physicians are eligible for reimbursement of their medical malpractice costs through the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CPMA). Annual fees are low.

Source: Alberta Health and Wellness

### Nursing

Salaries for nurses vary depending on the employer, the nurse's hours, educational qualifications, experience and responsibilities. All nursing wages are hourly except where otherwise indicated. Wages and salaries do not include overtime hours, benefits, profit shares, bonuses and other forms of compensation.

Registered Nurse	£17.57 – £23.07	(€20.46 – €26.87)
Licensed Practical Nurse	£11.66- £15.26	(€13.58 – €17.77)
Certified Graduate Nurse and Graduate Psychiatric Nurse	£16.08- £19.64	(€18.72 – €22.88)
Shift premium	£1.36 – £2.31	(€1.58 – €2.68)
Weekend premium	£1.49	(€ 1.74)
Overtime		2 times base hourly salary

\* United Nurses of Alberta Collateral Agreement 2007-2010

### Other Health Care Positions

Physiotherapists	£17.78-£26.34	(€20.71 – €30.68)
Diagnostic Sonographer	£17.89- £ 23.11	(€20.84 – €26.92)
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist	£16.95- £21.79	(€19.74 – €25.37)
Laboratory Technologist	£15.51-£ 20.41	(€18.06 – €23.77)
Occupational Therapists	£17.78-£26.34	(€20.71 – €30.68)

Source: Alberta Health Services

## Grocery Items



Apples (per kg)	£2.40	(€2.80)
Bananas (per kg)	£1.50	(€1.80)
Bread (1 loaf or 570 grams)	£1.60	(€1.90)
Butter (454 grams)	£2.20	(€2.50)
Cashew nuts (100 grams)	£0.70	(€0.80)
Coke (2 litre)	£0.70	(€0.80)
Eggs (1 dozen-large)	£1.70	(€2.00)
Ground coffee (1 kg)	£2.90	(€3.30)
Milk (4 litre jug)	£2.50	(€2.90)
Potatoes - Russet (per kg)	£0.90	(€1.10)
Sausages (1 kg)	£4.10	(€4.80)
Tea (20 bags)	£1.60	(€1.90)
Whole chicken (per kg)	£2.40	(€2.80)

Source: Based on prevailing prices during the week of July 5/2009 in major grocery chains in Alberta. Prices could vary from location to location.



## Utilities

The utilities industry includes: electric power generation, natural gas distribution and water, sewer and irrigation systems. Whether you are renting an apartment or living in a detached house or duplex, you will most likely be responsible for paying for gas and power services.

### Typical residential natural gas and electricity costs

Natural Gas	£488 - £660/year	(€564 - €768)
	£41 - £55/month	(€47 - €64)
Electricity	£336 - £384/year	(€391 - €444)
	£28 - £32/month	(€33 - €37)

Source: Utilities Consumer Advocate



## Petrol

Alberta has the lowest petrol tax among the provinces. Petrol costs £0.45 (€0.52) per litre.

Information correct as of July 15, 2009

## Taxes



Alberta's personal tax advantage results from a low single rate tax system, including the highest basic and spousal exemptions in the country, no provincial sales tax, the lowest gasoline tax rate among the provinces and low property taxes. At 10 per cent, Alberta has the lowest top marginal tax rate on personal income among the provinces.

### Two income family of four earning £40,021 (€45,386)

Alberta Provincial tax (approximately)	£1,974	(€2,299)
Federal tax (approximately)	£5,223	(€6,082)

### Two income family of four earning £64,677 (€75,315)

Alberta Provincial tax (approximately)	£4,561	(€5,311)
Federal tax (approximately)	£11,522	(€13,418)

Source: Alberta Finance, as of July 15, 2009



## Education

Albertans are among the best educated people in North America. Alberta's post-secondary system has a total of 26 institutions, including four universities, two technical institutes, 13 public colleges and six private university colleges that receive public funding, plus the Banff Centre which is a learning centre dedicated to the arts and leadership development. Many private and religious educational institutions also serve Alberta.

The cost of attending university is well below that of the UK. For one semester at the University of Alberta you would expect to pay approximately £2,772 (€3,228) in tuition fees.

Source: Alberta Advance Education and Technology Accessed on July 15, 2009

Please note:

All currency has been converted at an exchange rate of \$1.00 CAD = £0.5435 GBP = 0.6329 EUR as of July 15, 2009



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For information, visit:  
[www.AlbertaCanada.com/healthcare](http://www.AlbertaCanada.com/healthcare)

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Published: August 2009 ISBN: 978-0-7785-8733-0