

# Edmonton's Business Climate Competitiveness

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**Recommendation:**

That the July 4, 2017, Sustainable Development report CR\_4256, be received for information.

**Report Summary**

The following information report has been researched and developed by Edmonton Economic and Development Corporation to evaluate the business competitiveness of Edmonton when benchmarked against other Canadian and global cities.

**Previous Council/Committee Action**

At the November 8, 2016, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration, in consultation with relevant stakeholders including Edmonton Economic Development Corporation and the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, provide a report benchmarking Edmonton's business climate competitiveness against other strategic and comparable global cities and comparable global city regions. The analysis should include the following:

- historical data showing non-residential tax increases over the previous ten year period with a comparison to other large Canadian cities
- the non-residential assessment methods used and how shifting assessment impacts business
- an analysis on the effect of these cumulative tax increases on commercial lease rates including any other known effects
- comparison of business license fees, permit fees and wait times, user fees
- comparison of incentives for business attraction and retention and the effectiveness of these incentives
- comparison of key areas of competition for the city: e.g. Health Innovation, Energy Services, Logistics, Industrial Land sales, etc.
- comparison of investment in innovation and analysis of emerging factors important to attracting increasingly cautious global capital and business investment
- comparison of Human Capital (Talent) Competitiveness: Workforce Productivity and Global Fluency
- analysis of overall economic participation, job growth and income growth.

## Report

The report on Edmonton's Business Climate Competitiveness (Attachment 1) has been developed as a response to the November 8, 2016, City Council motion that seeks the evaluation of Edmonton's business competitiveness when benchmarked against other Canadian and global cities.

As Edmonton's lead catalyst for entrepreneurship and innovation, Edmonton Economic Development Corporation has led the research, analyses and development of Edmonton's Business Competitiveness report (Attachment 1). This Edmonton Economic Development Corporation report utilizes secondary data sources to benchmark Edmonton's competitiveness to other Canadian and global cities. The report also includes:

- Parameters for business competitiveness for Edmonton
- Comparison of Edmonton with other cities on traditional site selection factors;
- Findings of Benchmarking Report
- Conclusions drawn for Edmonton on its business competitiveness

To develop the report, Administration has provided assistance to Edmonton Economic Development Corporation through leadership interactions, cross departmental meetings, and focused feedback and discussions.

## Corporate Outcomes

The report supports two corporate outcomes including: "Edmonton has a globally competitive and entrepreneurial business climate," and "Edmonton Region is a catalyst for industry and business growth " by identifying business competitiveness gaps and opportunities for Edmonton.

## Metrics, Targets and Outcomes

Edmonton Economic Development Corporation has provided the following metrics, targets and outcomes for Edmonton's Business Competitiveness report.

Metrics	Targets	Outcomes
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<p>Benchmarking study containing secondary data from KPMG Competitive Alternatives Study, which identifies metrics for new businesses potentially establishing operations into Edmonton, or other centres. Data included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Relative rankings</li> <li>○ Business' costs</li> <li>○ Economic measures</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Focus on the business competitiveness gaps and leverage opportunities</p>
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**Attachments**

1. Benchmarking Edmonton's Business Cost Competitiveness

**Others Reviewing this Report**

- T. Burge, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services