

October 3, 2012 / For Immediate Release

Small Business Week celebrations offer something for everyone

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Airdrie’s dynamic small businesses will be celebrated through events, workshops and awards during Small Business Week, October 15-20.

Airdrie is home to almost 1,700 licensed Airdrie-based businesses. Of that, 99 per cent have fewer than 100 employees (consistent with the Canadian percentage). A further 86 per cent of Airdrie businesses have less than 10 employees.

We have a very strong and generous small business community in Airdrie," says Mayor Peter Brown. "They are key to the local economy providing not only employment, but volunteerism and support to our many community events and organizations."

Airdrie’s business community continues to see growth, particularly in the home-based business sector. More than 58 per cent of local businesses operate from home.

Airdrie Economic Development is a key organizer of Small Business Week events in Airdrie and according to Leona Esau, Economic Development Officer, there is something for all business types and sizes.

“We see this week as an opportunity to recognize outstanding Airdrie businesses through the Winning Edge Awards and to educate them about the resources available to help them succeed locally and provincially,” says Esau. She cites the Productivity 101 workshop happening October 18 as an example of one of many quality learning opportunities during Small Business Week.

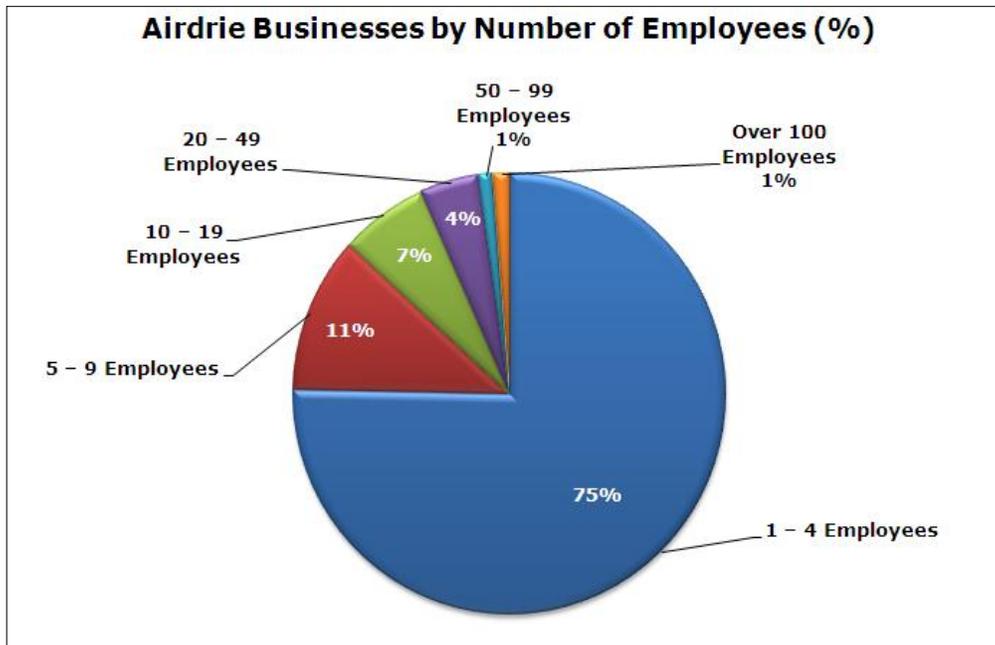
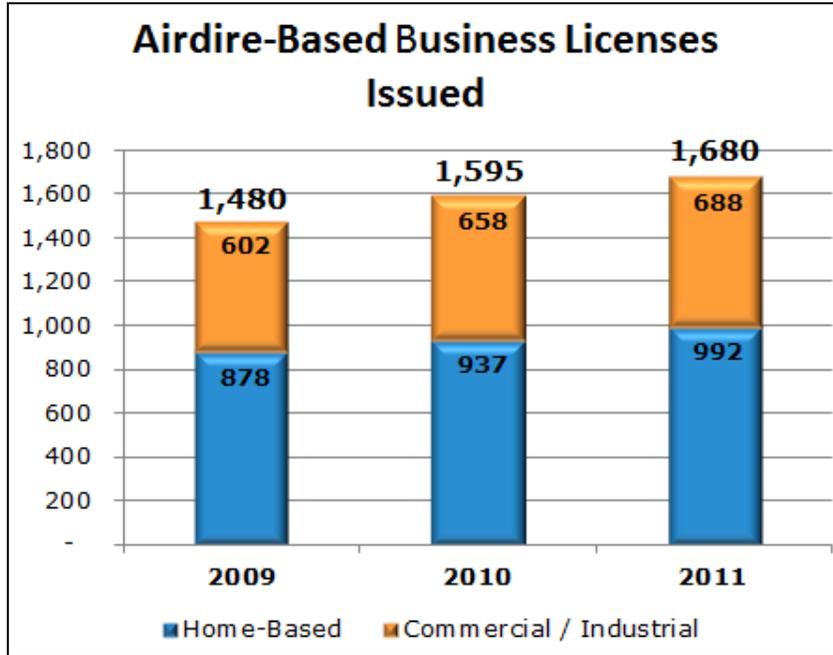
Airdrie Economic Development is a member of the Airdrie Business Resource Partnership, organizer of Small Business Week. For a full list of events taking place during small business week see the attached event schedule or visit www.abrponline.com. To learn more about business in Airdrie, visit www.airdrienow.ca.

-30-

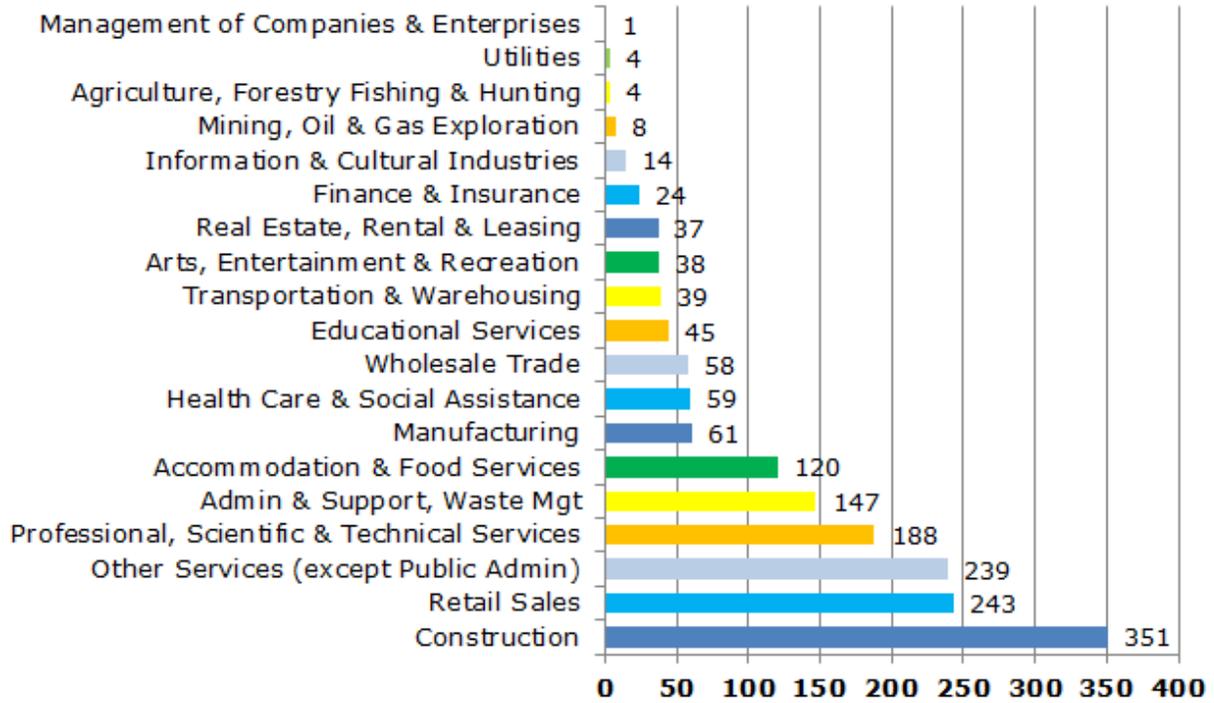
Contact:

Leona Esau
Economic Development Officer
Airdrie Economic Development
Tel: 403.948.8800 Ext. 8769
Email: Leona.Esau@airdrie.ca

Backgrounder - Airdrie Business Statistics



Airdrie-Based Business Licenses by Sector



Source: City of Airdrie Business Licensing and Economic Development

Airdrie Small Business Week Events

October 15-20, 2012

Airdrie Chamber of Commerce Small Business Week Kick-off Networking Luncheon

Attendees will enjoy a delicious buffet lunch followed by networking, in celebration of Airdrie's dynamic small business community.

Monday, October 15 • 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Woodside Golf Course • \$20 / \$25

Registration now at www.airdriechamber.ab.ca

Start Your Business Webinar

This is one of Alberta's most informative small business seminars. It's packed with valuable information to help you start off right and increase the odds of your business being successful.

Monday, October 15 • 1 - 4 p.m. • Airdrie City Hall • No Charge

Register now at www.airdrienow.ca

Connect for Success: Small Business Expo

Get ready to ask, learn and share! Meet representatives from Airdrie's business resource organizations, join in roundtables showcasing local business success stories, and get your questions answered by Airdrie experts all at one event. This expo is the place to be to make the connections your business needs to succeed.

Tuesday, October 16 • 3 - 7 p.m. (drop-in) • Cam Clark Ford • No Charge

Pre-registration is recommended, visit www.abrponline.com

Productivity 101 Workshop

Attention: Business owners & managers in manufacturing & construction

Do you want your business to be more productive?

Let Productivity Alberta experts inspire you to become more strategic in your approach to operating your business. Participants will work through the results of the Productivity Assessment Tool and walk away with your own custom 120-Day Productivity Action Plan.

Thursday, October 18 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. • Rotary Room, Genesis Place • \$75

Register now at www.airdrienow.ca

Find out what's new with the Canada Pension Plan!

A seminar for people who deal with payroll, financial planning and/or retirement planning. Learn from Service Canada how changes to the Canada Pension Plan will affect your work.

Friday, October 19 • 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. • Airdrie City Hall • \$10

Register at www.airdriechamber.ab.ca.

Winning Edge Awards 15th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, October 20 • 7 p.m. • Woodside Golf Course • \$100

Come celebrate 15 years of glory! The Winning Edge Awards gala will highlight past winners and celebrate 2012 finalists. For information and to purchase tickets, visit www.abrponline.com