

News Release



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Positive Residential and Commercial Growth in 2009

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – The City of Airdrie saw \$201 million in construction value in 2009 compared to \$184 million in 2008. Permit levels increased the second half of 2009, from the same period in 2008 with the busiest month being November 2009.

“The numbers are looking good, even with a slight slowdown in the first half of 2009,” says an optimistic Darryl Poburan, Building Inspections Team Leader, City of Airdrie. “Airdrie builders seem confident that the market is continuing to keep up a positive pace.”

The home-building industry also showed signs of improvement, with residential construction permits up from 2008 at 816 permits recorded by the end of December. Residential statistics break down includes:

- 2009: 650 houses, 67 apartments units and 99 townhouses
- 2008: 526 houses, 14 duplex homes and 28 townhouses

This number exceeded the number of homes being constructed in several similar sized Alberta communities during the same period of time.

House (Single Family Dwelling) Permits Starts - January to December 2009

<u>City/Town</u>	<u>2009 New Builds</u>	<u>Population (Approximate)</u>
Airdrie	654	38,091
Chestermere	121	12,589
Cochrane	416	15,424
Stony Plain	145	12,400
Spruce Grove	234	23,326
St Albert	300	58,501
Fort Saskatchewan	289	17,469
Grande Prairie	314	50,227
Lethbridge	687	85,492
Red Deer	497	89,891
Leduc	322	10,226

On the commercial side of the equation, Airdrie also seemed to hold its own through 2009. “The development within the city in 2009 was very positive in our mind considering what was happening globally and in the US,” says Kent Rupert, Airdrie Economic Development Team Leader.

Some of the larger value construction permits in 2009 were:

- New South East Fire Hall, 2900 Kingsview BV SE
- Sobeys Grocery Store, #100 65 Mackenzie WY SW
- New ATCO Gas Building, 84 Gateway Dr NE
- New Strip Mall (9 bays), #200 836 First AV NW
- Expansion of 29 Suites to the Super 8 Hotel
- New Shoppers Drug Mart, 836 First AV NW
- Exterior Upgrade to Towerlane Mall

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The Airdrie business license statistics showed:

	2009	2008	% change
Home-Based Entrepreneurs	878	770	14.0%
Commercial/Industrial Non-Residential <i>(Offices outside of Airdrie, doing business in Airdrie, such as consultants/ contractors)</i>	602 903	597 901	0.8% 0.2%
Total	2383	2268	5.1%

“With the huge success of our AirdrieNOW campaign and the opportunities our community has to offer business, we’re doing exceptionally well attracting the interests of businesses of all sizes” says Rupert. “We also saw continued increase in the growth of our small and home based entrepreneurs in Airdrie indicating that people still believe in the strength of the Airdrie marketplace. We believe 2010 will be another positive growth year for our business community.”

-30-

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