

# 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey

*A Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey  
34 Selected Alberta Communities*

September, 2010

Survey Results  
Methodology and Analysis

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Conducted and Reported by:

**Government of Alberta** ■  
Finance and Enterprise

# Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	2
Table 1: 2010 Alberta Population by Community.....	2
2.0 BACKGROUND .....	3
2.1 Spatial Price Indices.....	3
3.0 METHODOLOGY.....	4
3.1 Purpose of Survey.....	4
3.2 Survey Design & Content.....	4
3.3 Special Pricing Procedures .....	5
3.4 Weighting Factors.....	6
3.5 Index Construction.....	6
3.6 Data Collection .....	7
3.7 Data Processing .....	8
3.8 Guarantee of Confidentiality.....	8
3.9 Cautionary Notes .....	8
4.0 ANALYSIS OF EDMONTON BASED COMPARISONS.....	9
4.1 All Commodity Indices.....	9
4.2 All Food Indices .....	9
4.3 All Non-Food Indices.....	9
4.4 Sub-Component Commodity Category Indices.....	10
4.5 Weight Distribution Analysis .....	10
5.0 APPENDIX.....	11
Table 2: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Commodity Indices .....	11
Table 3: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Food Indices .....	12
Table 4: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Non-Food Indices.....	13
Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Sub-Component Commodity Category Indices .....	14
Figure 1: Map, All Commodity Indices by Location .....	18
Figure 2: Map, All Food Indices by Location .....	19
Figure 3: Map, All Non-Food Indices by Location.....	20
Figure 4: Percent Distribution of Weights by Category .....	21
Table 6: Categories and Items Surveyed .....	22

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In June, 2010 Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Budget and Fiscal Planning conducted a Spatial Price Survey on behalf of Alberta Education. This report presents the detailed survey findings for 34 selected Alberta communities with Edmonton designated as the reference base (i.e., Edmonton=100.0).

Recent cycles of the Alberta Spatial Price survey were conducted in:

- September, 2007 - 34 communities;
- April, 2005 - 36 communities;
- June, 2003 - 34 communities; and
- April, 2001 - 10 communities.

The following sections of this report introduce the concept of spatial price indices; describe how the indices relate to the data presented; detail the survey design and methodology employed; and provide an analysis of the Edmonton-based comparisons for the 34 selected communities.

A detailed list of food and non-food categories is presented at the conclusion of this report in Table 6.

For perspective and reference purposes, the most current population statistics for each survey location are provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: 2010 Alberta Population by Community**

COMMUNITY	POPULATION	COMMUNITY	POPULATION
Athabasca	2,734	Jasper <sup>†</sup>	4,745
Barrhead	4,209	Lethbridge	85,492
Brooks	13,581	Lloydminster	17,402
Calgary	1,065,455	Medicine Hat	61,097
Camrose	16,543	Olds	7,248
Canmore	12,226	Peace River	6,315
Cold Lake	13,924	Pincher Creek	3,712
Drayton Valley	6,893	Ponoka	6,576
Drumheller	7,932	Red Deer	89,891
Edmonton	782,439	Rocky Mountain House	7,231
Fort McMurray*	63,676	Slave Lake	7,031
Grande Cache	3,783	St. Paul	5,441
Grande Prairie	50,227	Stettler	5,843
Hanna	2,847	Taber	7,821
High Level	3,887	Vegreville	5,834
High Prairie	2,836	Wainwright	5,775
High River	11,346	Whitcourt	9,202
Hinton	9,825	<b>Total Population Coverage</b>	<b>2,411,019</b>

Source: "2009 Official Population List", Alberta Municipal Affairs, Municipal Services Branch

\* Figure represents the urban service area (Fort McMurray) of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, with shadow population = 1,087.

† Figure represents the Municipality of Jasper with shadow population = 510.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

This section provides a brief background describing the “aggregate” or “complex” spatial price index employed in this survey.

### 2.1 SPATIAL PRICE INDICES

A price index is a ratio of two numbers: a comparative price and the base price to which it is compared. Indices are tools to measure the differences in one price relative to the other and may be constructed to measure price differences for individual commodities, for a basket of goods, or for selected groupings of commodities. An index that measures differences in individual commodities is referred to as a “price relative” or a “simple price index” whereas an index that measures differences between a group or basket of goods generally represents an “aggregate” or “complex” price index.

The value of the base is generally established at 100.0 with all other prices expressed in terms of this base. An index with a value greater than 100.0 indicates that prices are higher than the base price or vice versa and allows for comparison and interpretation of results in percentage terms. For example, an index of 120.0 indicates a twenty-percent difference between the base point and the index value inferring that prices are twenty percent higher than the reference base. An index of 90.0 would signify prices are ten percent lower.

There are several different types of price measurement instruments available to create a price index. The price index produced for this publication is a **spatial price index**, which is location-based and compares the prices of one or more commodities between various locations at a **specific point in time**.

A spatial price index may be used to:

1. Compare one reference location and one or more communities.
2. Measure price differences between any two communities within a selected group of communities.

For the purpose of this survey, the 2010 Spatial Price Survey only provides a price comparison between one reference location (Edmonton) and a selected community (34 selected communities are included in this survey).

It should be noted that this type of spatial index does not measure price movements over time (a temporal price index) but rather provides only a measure of price differences between communities. As part of this methodology, comparability between the reference community and a selected location requires that price levels within the survey communities be collected at a specific point in time in order to remove any time-related biases.

The final results generated for this publication are presented as aggregate or complex price indices.

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 PURPOSE OF SURVEY

The purpose of the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is to measure price differences between selected Alberta communities and Edmonton for a specific basket of goods and services at a specific point in time. The price differentials are measured through the construction of spatial price indices for the selected survey communities.

#### 3.2 SURVEY DESIGN & CONTENT

The following steps were used to construct a spatial price index:

1. The survey communities are chosen;
2. A basket of goods and services to be surveyed must be selected; and
3. The prices of these goods and services must be collected during a specified time period in each community.

For the 2010 survey, the sponsor selected 34 Alberta communities with Edmonton designated as the reference location or base (Edmonton=100).

The goods and services used for this survey are similar to the survey items used by Statistics Canada to construct monthly Consumer Price Indices for Alberta cities. A total of 293 goods and services form a subset of Statistic Canada's basket of survey items and were selected based on the following criteria:

- 1) The items comprise those goods and services perceived to be regularly purchased by Alberta consumers (based on the Survey of Household Spending) living in cities, and medium/small-sized towns.

- 2) The items are judged to be available in most of the selected communities to allow price comparability.

Each item is associated with a retail price such that a sum of money must be paid by a consumer in order to purchase a specific quantity and quality of a good or service.

With the survey locations and a basket of goods and services selected, a pricing period is then established. To minimize time-related biases, prices in all municipalities were collected during a two-week period from June 21 to July 2, 2010 with the exception of St. Paul, where due to administrative problems data were collected in early August, 2010.

To ensure accuracy and consistency in the pricing of the 293-item basket of goods and services, it was essential that all the items be carefully matched across all communities. In order to facilitate this process, pricers were provided with specification sheets containing a detailed description of each article to be priced, including brand name, quantity and size. Survey personnel were asked to price the specified item.

If the specified brand was not available, pricers were asked to price a close substitute and record details such as size and style number; and also provide a detailed description of the item. This substitute item was then priced in Edmonton or a reasonably comparable substitute's price was used, to ensure comparability between the two communities. In this manner, item consistency was assured between Edmonton and each community but could differ among the 34 selected communities for some commodity and service items. If a reasonable substitute was unavailable in some communities, these articles were excluded from the survey list for those particular centres.

### 3.3 SPECIAL PRICING PROCEDURES

Certain goods and services could not be directly priced in the field through retail or service outlets because they were either not readily found or were difficult to price due to the complex nature of the commodity or service. The commodities or services that required special procedures included such items as monthly housing payments, rental costs, property taxes, property and vehicle insurance, and utilities such as natural gas, electricity, water, garbage disposal, and sewage charges.

Calculating monthly housing payments and mortgage interest costs for each community required several steps. Housing prices were first collected in each community for several styles of single detached residential dwellings. Secondary data sources for housing prices came from real estate house listings that were sold in the 3 month period prior to the Spatial Price Survey reference period. In addition, other sources such as Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs, Royal LePage's, *Survey of Canadian House Prices*, and local real estate boards or agencies provided and/or confirmed housing prices in each community. Several home details such as age of dwelling, residential location, square footage of home, lot size, special amenities, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, as well as other characteristics were taken into consideration in determining comparability when pricing a similar home in Edmonton.

A survey of the average mortgage down payment and mortgage rates for a one, three and five-year term as of June, 2010 was conducted. The mortgage rates were blended to calculate an average mortgage interest rate of 4.59 per cent as of June, 2010. Individual community mortgage rates ranged between a low of 4.38% and 4.76%, with the Edmonton base at 4.56%. This rate was then applied in combination with a ten percent (10%) down

payment and 25-year amortization period to determine mortgage payment cost (interest and principal) for each community.

Average monthly rental costs for each location were obtained through Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs, *Apartment Vacancy & Rental Cost Survey*, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) *Rental Market Report* and the Municipality of Wood Buffalo, *Labour Market Information* data.

To derive the average monthly property tax bill in each survey community for June, 2010, local/municipal government offices provided residential mill rates for each community. Residential mill rates were applied to the calculated average housing price for each community to derive an average monthly tax bill.

In order to calculate the utilities costs, monthly natural gas, electricity, water, sewage, and garbage disposal charges per household in each of the surveyed communities was obtained local/municipal government offices and/or suppliers of each utility. To this, average monthly household consumption figures were applied by multiplying the applicable rates to derive typical household costs in each community. Utility suppliers provided delivery charges, consumption charges, administration or billing charges, municipal franchise fees, rebates and riders that were applied to each location, where applicable.

### 3.4 WEIGHTING FACTORS

Price indices may be calculated as weighted or not weighted. The disadvantage of “unweighted” price indices is that their relative importance to the consumer is not taken into consideration, therefore equal weight or “importance” is assigned to all goods and their prices. By assigning equal weight to various goods, a distortion of the index can be created. For example, a change in the price of milk would not carry the same significance to a consumer as would a change in the price of meat. If these goods were given equal weight, the resulting change in the overall index would not be accurately measured in terms of their actual consumer impact.

In order to avoid this problem, weights have been assigned to all goods and services priced in the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey. Assigning a weight to each survey item serves to: 1) ensure that goods or services reflect their relative importance to the consumer, 2) correctly calculate a spatial price index, and 3) avoid exerting undue influence on the spatial indices creating a distortion on the true magnitude of the overall price difference between communities.

The 2010 Alberta Spatial Price survey uses a subset of the Statistics Canada basket that determines monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Edmonton and Calgary. The weights used for this subset basket are derived from Statistics Canada’s *Survey of Household Spending*.

The Statistics Canada basket is based on the expenditures of a target population in a certain reference period, i.e. 2005. As such, the basket for the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is weighted according to 2005 basket (at the April 2007 CPI expenditure prices) weights for Alberta and accounts for 82.8 percent of the weighted CPI basket. A

normalized weighting distribution for the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey basket of goods and services is presented in Figure 4 located in the Appendices. The chart indicates that the weighting pattern used for each aggregate index in the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is relatively consistent with the 2005 CPI basket of goods and services’ weight distribution.<sup>‡</sup>

### 3.5 INDEX CONSTRUCTION

For the purpose of this survey, an aggregate price index was generated using prices observed for 293 commodities in each of the 34 communities. Table 6 in the Appendices outlines the basket of goods and services used to generate the Edmonton-based indices. Several items listed in Statistics Canada’s CPI basket were excluded due to the lack of availability or comparability of these items in some survey locations. For each survey community, a total of twenty aggregates are produced which include three aggregate and seventeen sub-aggregate indices. The indices are provided in Tables 2 through 5 found in the Appendices.

The aggregate indices constructed for each survey community include:

1. An all-commodity index (up to 293 items);
2. A food index (up to 109 items);
3. A non-food index (up to 184 items); and
4. A commodity category-specific index (up to 38 items per each individual category).

Seventeen category-specific indices (sub-component indices) form subsets of the aggregate Food and Non-Food indices. These 17 sub-categories are allocated to the two major groupings as follows:

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<sup>‡</sup> Results for the ‘Recreation, Education & Reading’ category provide reduced comparability to provincial expenditure patterns, due to temporal and seasonal considerations.

## All Food Indices:

- Dairy Products
- Fats and Oils
- Cereals and Breads
- Processed Fruits and Vegetables
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Meat, Fish, Poultry and Substitutes
- Frozen and Packaged Food
- Restaurant Meals

## All Non-Food Indices:

- Personal Care Products
- Household Supplies
- Household Services
- Household Equipment
- Recreation and Leisure
- Transportation
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Utilities

More complex indices are needed to capture, in a single value, several commodities per location. The most common method of simultaneously comparing several prices between different communities is to compare their averages. For example, suppose prices have been observed for three specific goods in two communities where Location A serves as the base community and Location B is the comparative community. The price of good 1 in Location A is denoted as  $P_{A1}$ , and in Location B as  $P_{B1}$ . The price ratio for good 1 would therefore be  $(P_{B1}/P_{A1})$ ; for good 2:  $(P_{B2}/P_{A2})$ ; and for good 3:  $(P_{B3}/P_{A3})$ .

To construct an aggregate price index that compares the average of the price ratios between communities, the price ratios are summed and then divided by the number of entries in the sum. To derive an aggregate index value, the average price index of the three commodities is multiplied by 100. In mathematical terms, the construction of this aggregate price index is as follows:

**Aggregate Price Index =**

$$\frac{[(P_{B1}/P_{A1})+(P_{B2}/P_{A2})+(P_{B3}/P_{A3})]}{\text{Number of Ratios}} \times 100$$

An aggregate price index of 145.0 implies that the prices of the selected goods in Location B are 45 per cent higher than in Location A. Conversely, a price index of 97.0 indicates that prices are 3 per cent lower in Location B than in Location A.

Price ratios are constructed and compare each community with Edmonton. These ratios are then weighted and summed to calculate the various indices. Specifically, the process in deriving the index calculations for the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey is as follows:

**Step 1: Ratio of Prices**

$$\frac{\text{Average Price of Item in Community A}}{\text{Average Price of Item in Edmonton}}$$

**Step 2: Weighted Ratio:**

$$\text{Ratio of Price} \times \text{Item Weight}$$

**Step 3: Category Index:**

$$\frac{\sum (\text{Weighted Ratio for a Category})}{\sum (\text{Item Weights for a Category})} \times 100$$

**3.6 DATA COLLECTION**

Employees of Alberta Finance and Enterprise collected “survey items” through personal visits to retail and service establishments in each survey community. “Non-survey” or secondary data items were collected in-office or through contract specialists. This included such commodity or service items as insurance, mortgage interest rates, housing prices, utilities, etc. In total, more than 45,000 prices or related pieces of information were collected for the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey.



For items directly surveyed, staff was hired from each of the local communities, where possible, to conduct the pricing. To ensure a representative sample of prices, survey personnel were required to collect four prices per survey item (where available) in each community. Pricers were asked to disregard special or sale prices on items and to record only regular prices without GST to improve data reliability and confidence.

### 3.7 DATA PROCESSING

Data analysis was performed using SAS statistical software. Extensive data editing and analysis procedures were performed using Excel software to identify outliers and ensure item consistency between the base location (Edmonton) and the other survey communities.

### 3.8 GUARANTEE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The survey was conducted in accordance with the Office of Statistics and Information Act (OSIA) of Alberta, Chapter O-5.5 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, whereby confidentiality of all information collected is fully guaranteed under this Act.

### 3.9 CAUTIONARY NOTES

When using the indices provided in the 2010 Spatial Price Survey publication, the following caveats and limitations should be noted by the user:

1. The purpose of this survey is to produce spatial price indices that compare price levels in selected communities to those in Edmonton at a specific point in time. As the items surveyed and their relative weights can and will vary between survey cycles, extreme caution should be used in making direct comparisons between the indices constructed for the 2010 Spatial Price Survey and previous cycles of this survey.
2. The expenditure weights of the 293 item basket of goods and services are based on the weighting pattern data for Alberta obtained from Statistic Canada's *Survey of Household Spending*. Since expenditure weighting patterns are unavailable for other survey communities, they are assumed to be the same as those used for Alberta. It is probable that in communities outside Edmonton, consumption and expenditure weighting patterns differ through the influence of local factors such as customs, tastes, incomes and product availability.
3. The 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey does not produce cost-of-living indices for the 34 selected communities. The present methodology employed does not incorporate many of the variables or methodologies necessary to construct such an index.

A cost-of-living index requires complete information about a population's tastes and consuming habits and measures price changes that are experienced by consumers in maintaining a constant standard of living. In this situation, consumers would normally switch between products as the price relationship of goods changes and may choose the cheaper of the interchangeable products. This "substitution effect" is not accounted for in a price differential survey such as the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey which utilizes a fixed basket of goods and services to derive the price indices.

4. Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities. As such, communities with lower capture rates for items and their associated weights should be used with appropriate caution when making comparisons.

## 4.0 ANALYSIS OF EDMONTON BASED COMPARISONS

The results of the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey are presented in Tables 2 to 5 and Figures 1 to 3 (Figures located in Appendices). For all indices, Edmonton prices serve as the reference base with each Edmonton index assigned a value of 100.0. All other indices reflect community prices relative to this base index. For example, communities with an index of 100.0 for any component category or for the total basket of goods and services experience prices equivalent to those in Edmonton. Indices of less than 100.0 indicate community prices were lower than the base community while centres with indices greater than 100.0 recorded prices higher than in Edmonton. As a note, the number of items priced and the weighting patterns can vary between commodity categories for each community surveyed due to lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.

### 4.1 ALL COMMODITY INDICES

Table 2 and Figure 1 present the aggregate **All-Commodity Indices** for each community. Included in Table 2 are the overall weighting patterns for each community and the number of items surveyed.

The All-Commodity index for 2010 indicated that the lowest overall price differential between Edmonton and a survey community was recorded for Lloydminster at 93.7, followed by Wainwright and Camrose at 94.2 and 94.3, respectively.

The three highest All-Commodities indices were reported for Canmore, Fort McMurray, and Jasper at 111.9, 111.7 and 106.5, respectively. The main contributing factor for all three top index scores was the high sub-aggregate indices for Shelter. Overall, only four additional communities posted an index scores above the Edmonton base (=100), Calgary, Grande Prairie, High Prairie and Rocky Mountain House.

### 4.2 ALL FOOD INDICES

The overall **Food Indices** are provided in Table 3 and Figure 2. The indices range from a low of 95.8 for Whitecourt to a high of 110.0 for Canmore. More than half (20 of 34) of the communities survey had a food price index score above the Edmonton base. Individual food sub-component indices ranged from a low of 87.1 for “Restaurant Meals” in High Prairie and Grande Prairie to a high of 115.6 in Barrhead for “Fresh Fruits and Vegetables”.

### 4.3 ALL NON-FOOD INDICES

Table 4 and Figure 3 present the **Non-Food Indices** for each community. When compared to Edmonton, Fort McMurray reported the highest Non-Food indices at 113.0, followed closely by Canmore at 112.4. In total, only five communities posted Non-Food indices above the Edmonton base.

As with past surveys, the higher Non-Food indices may be attributed to the significant influence exerted by the shelter component in

the spatial price survey. While the shelter category accurately reflects the cost of housing in each community for similar structures (type, size, age, number bedrooms and bathrooms, etc.), some highly subjective qualitative aspects such as physical location and neighborhood may not be fully accounted for in determining the real estate values in each of the survey communities. For this reason, caution must be exercised in generalizing trends for individual commodity categories based on the overall aggregate index score for the Non-Food component.

#### 4.4 SUB-COMPONENT COMMODITY CATEGORY INDICES

Table 5 provides a breakdown of both the Food and Non-Food components into their seventeen **Sub-Component Commodity Category Indices**.

Analysis of the 17 sub-components shows that the highest individual index score for the survey was recorded for the Shelter component in Fort McMurray (139.4). This was followed by Canmore, Shelter at 121.2 and Personal Care Products at 115.7.

The lowest individual sub-component index scores of the survey were posted for Hanna with a Shelter score of 77.7 followed by St. Paul with an 84.3 for Household Services and Grande Prairie/High Prairie at 87.1 for Restaurant Meals.

In looking at calculated average index scores across all 34 communities for sub-components, the highest “average” index scores were for Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Dairy, and Fresh Fruits & Vegetables at 104.9, 104.5 and 104.4, respectively. The lowest “average” scores were for Shelter, Household Services and Clothing at 91.7, 94.1 and 96.2, respectively.

#### 4.5 WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Figure 4 in the Appendices illustrates the overall distribution of weights for the 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey compared to those used by Statistics Canada for the Consumer Price Index. The Alberta survey contains approximately 60% of its total survey weight in the food, shelter, and transportation categories. This closely aligns to the Statistics Canada CPI weighting pattern of 57% for these same major categories.

When looking at the overall individual weighting pattern attained for each community based on the 293 possible survey items in the survey basket, the 2010 Spatial Price Survey communities ranged from the maximum 82.8 weight for 2010 survey to a low of 71.7 for Jasper. In all but two communities the total index weighting pattern achieved was over 80, or approximately 97% of the useable survey weights.

For the Food category the maximum weight of 14.5 was achieved in all communities (when rounded). The lowest number of food items priced for any community was 107 out of 109 possible commodity items captured by the survey.

The Non-Food category weights achieved by individual communities ranged between the maximum high of 68.2 (100%) to a low of 56.7 in Jasper which represents 83% of the available weights for this category. All but two communities achieved 97% or greater weight coverage for the Non-Food category.

Overall, the weighting pattern achieved in each community was highly successful for all survey categories. As such, the 2010 Spatial Price Survey provides adequate coverage across all respective commodity and service groups to ensure the results are both reliable and representative.

## 5.0 APPENDIX

**Table 2: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Commodity Indices**

Number of Items Surveyed, Weighting Patterns, and Aggregate Indices  
Selected Alberta Communities  
June, 2010

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF ITEMS SURVEYED*	WEIGHTING PATTERN*	ALL COMMODITY INDICES
Edmonton	293	82.8	100.0
Athabasca	286	80.8	97.7
Barrhead	290	82.4	97.5
Brooks	291	82.5	95.8
Calgary	293	82.8	100.1
Camrose	292	82.5	94.3
Canmore	277	80.6	111.9
Cold Lake	288	82.0	97.0
Drayton Valley	285	81.3	97.4
Drumheller	285	81.6	97.6
Fort McMurray	291	82.7	111.7
Grande Cache	269	73.0	96.9
Grande Prairie	292	82.5	101.1
Hanna	279	80.8	97.9
High Level	286	81.7	99.6
High Prairie	282	82.5	101.1
High River	284	81.6	96.5
Hinton	286	81.8	97.3
Jasper	261	71.1	106.5
Lethbridge	292	82.8	95.9
Lloydminster	291	82.8	93.7
Medicine Hat	293	82.8	95.7
Olds	289	82.1	97.8
Peace River	285	81.2	96.7
Pincher Creek	279	80.8	98.2
Ponoka	283	81.7	95.6
Red Deer	291	82.8	98.6
Rocky Mountain House	283	80.0	100.1
Slave Lake	286	82.0	99.0
St. Paul	288	82.0	97.2
Stettler	292	82.5	96.5
Taber	287	81.6	97.3
Vegreville	287	82.2	95.1
Wainwright	288	82.3	94.2
Whitecourt	283	81.7	96.1

\* Note:

- Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.
- Weights may not add due to rounding.

**Table 3: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Food Indices**

Number of Food Items Surveyed, Weighting Patterns, and Aggregate Indices  
Selected Alberta Communities  
June, 2010

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF ITEMS SURVEYED*	WEIGHTING PATTERN*	FOOD INDICES
Edmonton	109	14.5	100.0
Athabasca	109	14.5	100.8
Barrhead	109	14.5	103.3
Brooks	109	14.5	102.5
Calgary	109	14.5	101.5
Camrose	109	14.5	97.8
Canmore	109	14.5	110.0
Cold Lake	109	14.5	98.9
Drayton Valley	109	14.5	98.6
Drumheller	109	14.5	101.7
Fort McMurray	109	14.5	105.3
Grande Cache	107	14.5	101.8
Grande Prairie	109	14.5	102.6
Hanna	109	14.5	102.8
High Level	109	14.5	105.8
High Prairie	109	14.5	102.6
High River	107	14.5	97.3
Hinton	109	14.5	104.3
Jasper	108	14.5	106.2
Lethbridge	109	14.5	96.1
Lloydminster	109	14.5	100.7
Medicine Hat	109	14.5	96.1
Olds	109	14.5	98.9
Peace River	109	14.5	101.1
Pincher Creek	109	14.5	100.0
Ponoka	109	14.5	98.7
Red Deer	108	14.5	100.5
Rocky Mountain House	109	14.5	105.2
Slave Lake	107	14.5	97.7
St. Paul	109	14.5	102.0
Stettler	109	14.5	96.4
Taber	109	14.5	102.8
Vegreville	109	14.5	96.4
Wainwright	109	14.5	96.4
Whitecourt	109	14.5	95.8

\* Note:

- Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.
- Weights may not add due to rounding.

**Table 4: Edmonton Based Comparisons, All Non-Food Indices**

Number of Non-Food Items Surveyed, Weighting Patterns, and Aggregate Indices  
Selected Alberta Communities  
June, 2010

COMMUNITY	NUMBER OF ITEMS SURVEYED*	WEIGHTING PATTERN*	NON-FOOD INDICES
Edmonton	184	68.2	100.0
Athabasca	177	66.3	97.0
Barrhead	181	67.8	96.3
Brooks	182	67.9	94.4
Calgary	184	68.2	99.9
Camrose	183	67.9	93.5
Canmore	168	66.1	112.4
Cold Lake	179	67.5	96.6
Drayton Valley	176	66.8	97.1
Drumheller	176	67.1	96.7
Fort McMurray	182	68.2	113.0
Grande Cache	162	58.5	95.7
Grande Prairie	183	67.9	100.8
Hanna	170	66.2	96.9
High Level	177	67.2	98.2
High Prairie	173	67.9	100.8
High River	177	67.1	96.4
Hinton	177	67.3	95.7
Jasper	153	56.7	106.6
Lethbridge	183	68.2	95.9
Lloydminster	183	68.2	92.2
Medicine Hat	184	68.2	95.6
Olds	180	67.6	97.5
Peace River	176	66.7	95.7
Pincher Creek	170	66.2	97.8
Ponoka	174	67.1	94.9
Red Deer	183	68.2	98.2
Rocky Mountain House	174	65.4	98.9
Slave Lake	179	67.4	99.3
St. Paul	179	67.5	96.2
Stettler	183	67.9	96.5
Taber	178	67.0	96.1
Vegreville	178	67.7	94.8
Wainwright	179	67.8	93.7
Whitecourt	174	67.1	96.2

\* Note:

- Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.
- Weights may not add due to rounding.

**Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Sub-Component Commodity Category Indices**

Number of Food Items Surveyed and Aggregate Indices  
Selected Alberta Communities  
June, 2010

COMMUNITY	DAIRY		FATS & OILS		CEREALS & BREADS		PROCESSED FRUITS & VEGETABLES	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	11	100.0	2	100.0	14	100.0	14
Athabasca	102.3	11	105.4	2	103.7	14	103.3	14
Barrhead	108.7	11	107.5	2	103.1	14	110.5	14
Brooks	108.0	11	100.0	2	102.5	14	111.1	14
Calgary	103.2	11	102.8	2	102.8	14	107.5	14
Camrose	102.2	11	99.2	2	97.8	14	102.3	14
Canmore	108.9	11	106.8	2	104.3	14	108.6	14
Cold Lake	99.7	11	98.6	2	95.1	14	100.0	14
Drayton Valley	103.8	11	95.8	2	98.9	14	101.1	14
Drumheller	107.8	11	104.1	2	104.9	14	107.5	14
Fort McMurray	110.1	11	111.8	2	104.9	14	106.5	14
Grande Cache	107.6	11	103.0	2	104.2	13	108.4	14
Grande Prairie	106.3	11	106.1	2	111.4	14	111.5	14
Hanna	109.1	11	101.6	2	102.8	14	107.1	14
High Level	102.2	11	105.2	2	101.8	14	107.7	14
High Prairie	106.3	11	106.1	2	111.4	14	111.5	14
High River	104.9	11	102.7	2	101.5	14	102.2	14
Hinton	107.6	11	99.6	2	106.7	14	110.8	14
Jasper	106.9	11	108.9	2	110.4	14	111.7	14
Lethbridge	98.6	11	98.2	2	101.0	14	101.7	14
Lloydminster	103.1	11	106.3	2	103.1	14	107.9	14
Medicine Hat	98.8	11	102.0	2	93.2	14	105.0	14
Olds	105.1	11	102.4	2	102.5	14	105.0	14
Peace River	105.1	11	98.7	2	104.5	14	102.2	14
Pincher Creek	100.4	11	100.9	2	92.3	14	102.0	14
Ponoka	99.6	11	108.5	2	100.8	14	96.8	14
Red Deer	109.0	10	97.2	2	94.9	14	99.6	14
Rocky Mtn.House	104.0	11	104.2	2	99.2	14	104.9	14
Slave Lake	102.7	11	103.7	2	97.7	13	103.0	14
St. Paul	106.1	11	110.6	2	104.4	14	109.1	14
Stettler	102.7	11	98.5	2	92.9	14	96.9	14
Taber	106.9	11	101.9	2	101.6	14	105.8	14
Vegreville	98.3	11	95.8	2	92.1	14	97.3	14
Wainwright	101.8	11	98.2	2	95.4	14	100.2	14
Whitecourt	105.7	11	90.4	2	92.2	14	99.4	14

\* Note:

- Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.
- Weights may not add due to rounding.

Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Sub-Component Commodity Category Indices cont...

Number of Food Items Surveyed and Aggregate Indices  
Selected Alberta Communities  
June, 2010

COMMUNITY	FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES		MEAT, FISH, POULTRY & SUBSTITUTES		FROZEN & PACKAGED FOODS		RESTAURANT MEALS	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	14	100.0	27	100.0	22	100.0	5
Athabasca	107.3	14	102.0	27	102.5	22	94.9	5
Barrhead	115.6	14	105.8	27	108.0	22	92.4	5
Brooks	102.7	14	106.3	27	106.7	22	94.9	5
Calgary	100.8	14	99.1	27	104.5	22	99.0	5
Camrose	104.0	14	97.8	27	104.2	22	89.7	5
Canmore	104.5	14	109.9	27	112.8	22	112.9	5
Cold Lake	100.2	14	92.1	27	101.1	22	102.1	5
Drayton Valley	110.9	14	87.7	27	98.5	22	98.4	5
Drumheller	104.0	14	102.9	27	106.6	22	93.0	5
Fort McMurray	108.5	14	103.4	27	108.1	22	101.9	5
Grande Cache	117.8	14	106.9	26	99.1	22	91.7	5
Grande Prairie	107.7	14	109.4	27	109.2	22	87.1	5
Hanna	108.8	14	103.5	27	104.5	22	96.6	5
High Level	108.9	14	105.6	27	104.1	22	108.6	5
High Prairie	107.7	14	109.4	27	109.2	22	87.1	5
High River	101.5	14	96.6	25	100.1	22	89.4	5
Hinton	109.5	14	108.2	27	107.2	22	95.8	5
Jasper	111.4	14	105.1	26	109.1	22	100.6	5
Lethbridge	96.0	14	95.8	27	99.6	22	90.4	5
Lloydminster	102.3	14	99.4	27	103.0	22	96.4	5
Medicine Hat	95.8	14	98.3	27	101.3	22	90.5	5
Olds	100.4	14	95.8	27	104.0	22	92.7	5
Peace River	102.9	14	101.2	27	103.8	22	96.1	5
Pincher Creek	102.0	14	96.9	27	103.0	22	102.0	5
Ponoka	108.0	14	97.5	27	100.8	22	94.1	5
Red Deer	103.5	14	97.7	27	99.8	22	101.0	5
Rocky Mtn.House	105.1	14	99.3	27	103.3	22	112.5	5
Slave Lake	101.4	14	93.5	26	99.5	22	95.0	5
St. Paul	101.6	14	102.0	27	106.4	22	95.7	5
Stettler	99.1	14	96.5	27	100.6	22	92.2	5
Taber	106.4	14	101.1	27	104.9	22	100.0	5
Vegreville	94.8	14	93.1	27	94.2	22	100.9	5
Wainwright	97.3	14	94.0	27	98.7	22	94.1	5
Whitecourt	101.0	14	95.0	27	100.1	22	89.9	5

\* Note:

- Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.
- Weights may not add due to rounding.



Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Sub-Component Commodity Category Indices cont...

Number of Non-Food Items Surveyed and Aggregate Indices  
Selected Alberta Communities  
June, 2010

COMMUNITY	PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS		HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES		HOUSEHOLD SERVICES		HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	21	100.0	25	100.0	18	100.0	21
Athabasca	106.6	21	104.0	25	87.9	16	102.4	21
Barrhead	107.0	21	106.1	25	95.3	18	100.7	21
Brooks	108.3	21	107.4	25	100.7	18	93.2	21
Calgary	101.3	21	106.3	25	103.3	18	98.3	21
Camrose	101.4	21	99.6	25	86.4	18	100.4	21
Canmore	115.7	20	109.6	25	103.5	15	103.7	19
Cold Lake	96.0	21	96.5	25	85.7	16	94.6	21
Drayton Valley	96.1	21	101.8	25	101.8	16	100.8	21
Drumheller	107.1	21	104.8	25	91.9	17	97.3	20
Fort McMurray	103.5	21	107.0	25	105.9	16	103.9	21
Grande Cache	106.4	20	103.0	23	84.8	14	103.3	20
Grande Prairie	105.6	21	105.8	25	88.0	18	96.8	21
Hanna	106.6	21	110.2	24	85.0	13	101.9	21
High Level	108.1	21	111.9	25	85.3	16	95.4	21
High Prairie	105.6	21	105.8	25	88.0	15	96.8	20
High River	103.9	21	101.2	25	100.5	15	102.5	21
Hinton	103.9	21	108.2	25	99.3	16	102.3	20
Jasper	107.4	21	110.9	25	96.7	11	106.2	13
Lethbridge	98.7	21	100.9	25	98.7	18	101.7	21
Lloydminster	103.6	21	105.0	25	97.1	17	97.9	21
Medicine Hat	100.0	21	101.8	25	101.2	18	91.1	21
Olds	104.5	21	101.9	25	97.6	18	99.7	21
Peace River	106.1	21	104.2	25	89.7	13	98.6	21
Pincher Creek	101.4	21	102.1	25	98.7	16	101.7	19
Ponoka	108.8	21	105.2	25	96.8	14	101.0	21
Red Deer	99.5	21	104.7	24	99.1	18	100.1	21
Rocky Mtn.House	105.1	21	103.6	25	95.9	15	97.0	21
Slave Lake	102.6	21	102.2	25	85.0	16	98.4	21
St. Paul	106.0	21	107.2	25	84.3	18	101.1	20
Stettler	97.4	21	100.3	25	96.7	18	96.3	21
Taber	103.8	21	103.0	25	97.2	16	98.8	21
Vegreville	96.0	21	92.7	25	97.8	16	94.0	21
Wainwright	101.9	21	97.6	25	87.0	16	95.6	21
Whitecourt	91.5	21	100.4	25	87.7	15	100.8	20

\* Note:

- Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.
- Weights may not add due to rounding.

Table 5: Edmonton Based Comparisons, Sub-Component Commodity Category Indices cont...

Number of Non-Food Items Surveyed and Aggregate Indices  
Selected Alberta Communities  
June, 2010

COMMUNITY	RECREATION & LEISURE		TRANSPORTATION		CLOTHING		SHELTER		UTILITIES	
	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items	Index	No. Of Items
Edmonton	100.0	34	100.0	19	100.0	38	100.0	5	100.0	3
Athabasca	105.1	31	98.9	17	95.5	38	88.9	5	107.8	3
Barrhead	97.2	33	102.9	17	99.8	38	83.9	5	100.6	3
Brooks	97.8	33	92.7	18	93.7	38	88.6	5	95.3	3
Calgary	98.4	34	97.2	19	97.8	38	100.3	5	104.5	3
Camrose	100.2	34	98.5	18	93.2	38	81.4	5	104.9	3
Canmore	107.9	26	115.0	17	110.0	38	121.2	5	98.7	3
Cold Lake	101.2	33	96.7	17	97.5	38	99.6	5	93.3	3
Drayton Valley	97.2	31	103.6	17	98.0	37	86.1	5	101.8	3
Drumheller	99.9	32	100.3	16	93.9	37	87.4	5	110.7	3
Fort McMurray	102.6	34	105.3	19	95.7	38	139.4	5	102.5	3
Grande Cache	104.3	29	100.2	11	95.2	37	87.7	5	103.0	3
Grande Prairie	104.5	34	111.1	18	92.4	38	93.2	5	107.3	3
Hanna	105.1	29	110.9	16	96.8	38	77.7	5	105.3	3
High Level	104.0	32	104.9	17	92.6	37	89.8	5	107.4	3
High Prairie	104.5	30	111.1	17	92.4	37	93.2	5	107.3	3
High River	97.2	32	95.3	17	96.8	38	89.3	5	106.5	3
Hinton	100.6	32	97.3	17	97.2	38	87.7	5	91.4	3
Jasper	102.4	26	103.2	12	102.3	37	115.0	5	102.6	3
Lethbridge	100.2	34	96.4	18	94.0	38	87.0	5	107.1	3
Lloydminster	95.5	34	90.9	18	100.9	38	82.0	5	97.8	3
Medicine Hat	99.0	34	107.3	19	94.9	38	82.5	5	87.5	3
Olds	99.0	32	106.7	17	94.4	38	84.4	5	104.3	3
Peace River	102.2	33	98.6	17	98.0	38	87.7	5	97.2	3
Pincher Creek	98.5	31	113.5	15	94.7	35	82.9	5	90.7	3
Ponoka	96.1	31	96.3	16	95.1	38	88.6	5	92.7	3
Red Deer	102.4	24	98.4	19	95.2	38	94.4	5	99.9	3
Rocky Mtn.House	99.1	32	103.2	14	92.0	38	96.7	5	98.1	3
Slave Lake	102.9	33	104.0	17	100.5	38	94.6	5	109.2	3
St. Paul	104.3	33	103.4	18	96.1	36	83.2	5	105.7	3
Stettler	96.2	34	100.5	18	94.5	38	87.9	5	111.0	3
Taber	97.7	33	99.4	16	95.1	38	85.2	5	109.9	3
Vegreville	94.3	32	99.6	17	92.9	38	88.1	5	101.1	3
Wainwright	104.1	33	95.9	17	94.9	38	89.2	5	86.6	3
Whitecourt	99.6	32	99.9	16	97.3	37	93.3	5	95.1	3

\* Note:

- Variations in the weighting pattern and number of items surveyed arise due to the lack of availability and comparability of certain items in some communities.
- Weights may not add due to rounding.

Figure 1: Map, All Commodity Indices by Location

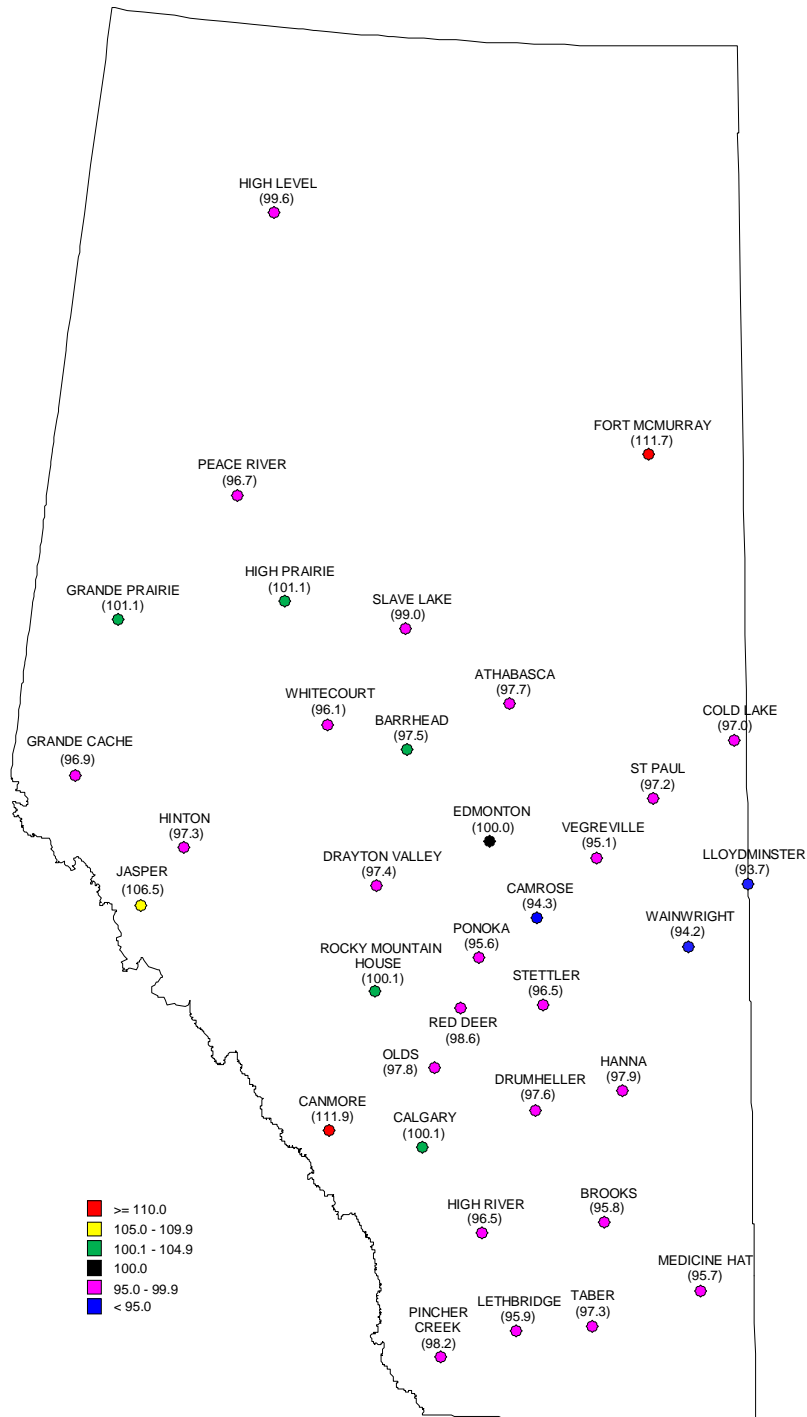


Figure 2: Map, All Food Indices by Location

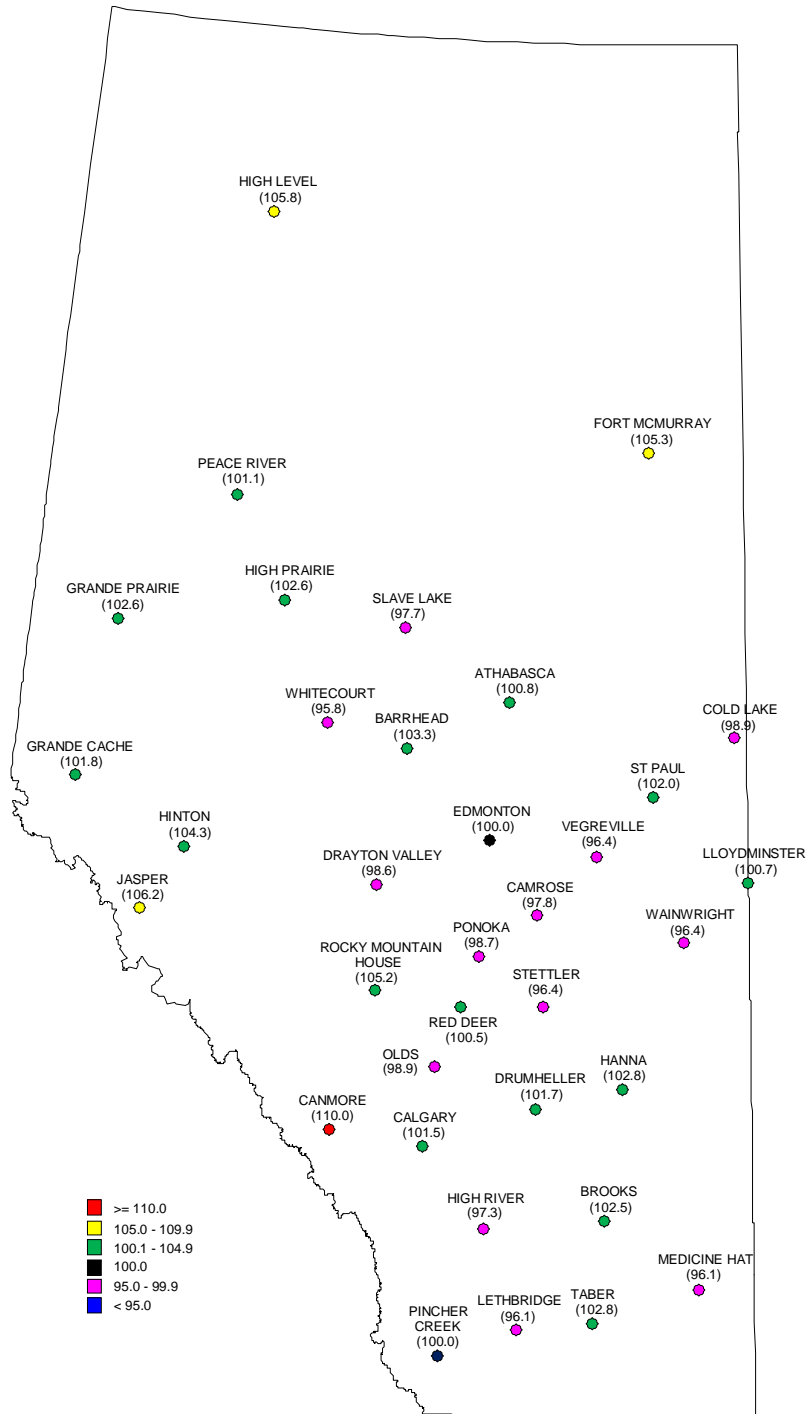


Figure 3: Map, All Non-Food Indices by Location

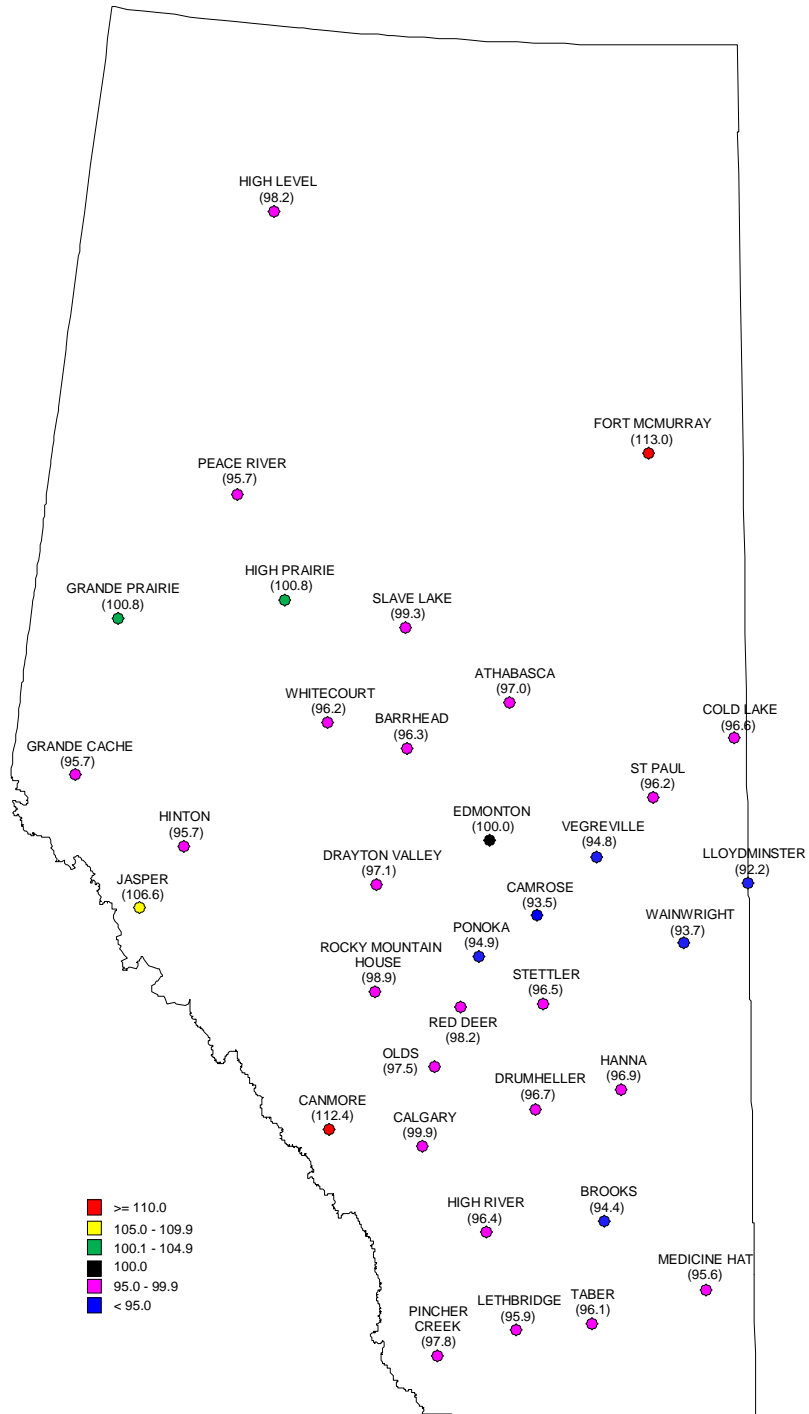


Figure 4: Percent Distribution of Weights by Category

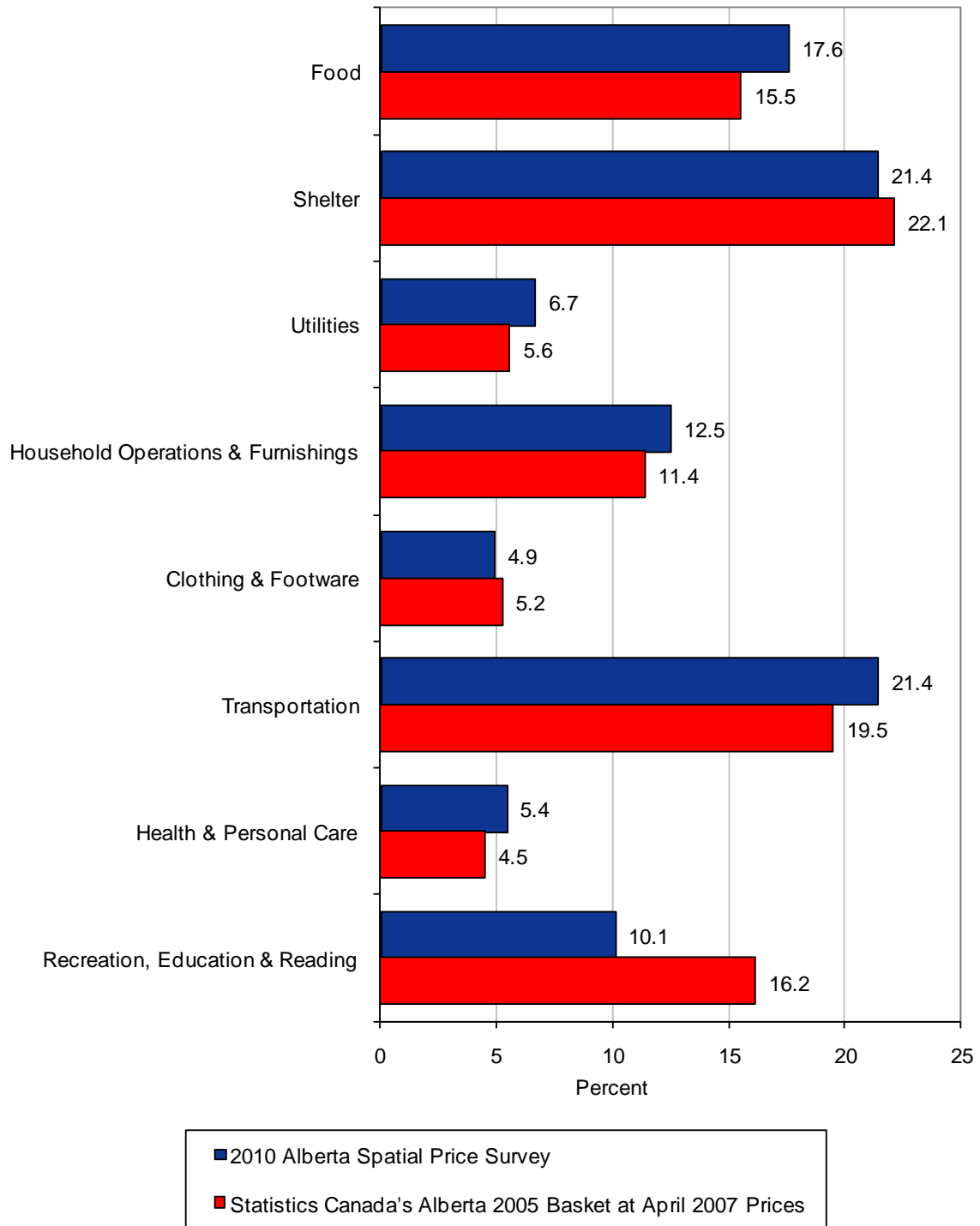


Table 6: Categories and Items Surveyed

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	CATEGORY	WEIGHT
<b>1. Dairy</b> Butter Cheese Cottage Cheese Cream Ice Cream Milk - Canned Milk - Fresh Processed Cheese Slices Yogurt	1.45	<b>5. Fresh Fruits &amp; Vegetables(cont.)</b> Grapes Green Pepper Lettuce Onions Oranges Potatoes Tomatoes	
<b>2. Fats &amp; Oils</b> Cooking Oil Margarine	0.12	<b>6. Meat, Fish, Poultry &amp; Other</b> Beef - Various Cuts Chicken - Various Cuts Eggs Fish - Frozen Fish/Seafood - Canned Luncheon Meat - Canned Luncheon Meat - Prepared Peanuts Pork – Various Cuts Turkey - Frozen	2.35
<b>3. Cereals &amp; Breads</b> Bread Buns Cold Cereal Cookies Crackers Doughnuts Flour Macaroni Muffins Rice Rolled Oats	1.73	<b>7. Frozen &amp; Packaged Foods</b> Baby Food/Formula Black Pepper Cake - Frozen Cocoa Powder Coffee Fruit Flavored Crystals Ketchup Macaroni Dinner Meat Pies - Frozen Peanut Butter Pickles Potato Chips Salad Dressing Salt Soft Drinks Soup - Canned Spaghetti Sauce Sugar Tea	2.59
<b>4. Processed Fruits &amp; Vegetables</b> Fruit - Canned Fruit Juice - Canned Fruit Juice - Frozen Fruit Juice - Packaged Jam Raisins Vegetables - Canned Vegetables - Frozen	0.67		
<b>5. Fresh Fruits &amp; Vegetables</b> Apples Bananas Broccoli Cabbage Cantaloupe Carrots Celery	1.35		

Table 6: Categories and Items Surveyed cont...

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	CATEGORY	WEIGHT
<b>8. Restaurant Meals</b> Breakfast, Restaurant Dinner, Restaurant Lunch, Restaurant Snack, Restaurant Take-Out Meal	4.29	<b>11. Household Services</b> Baby-Sitting Chiropractic Services Coin Operated Laundry Day Care Dry Cleaning Hairstyling - Women's/Men's House Cleaning Service Internet Service Telephone Services Lenses - Eyeglass/Contact Shoe Repairs Tooth Restoration Veterinary Services	6.61
<b>9. Personal Care Products</b> Analgesic - A.S.A Antiseptic Bandages Bar Soap Cleansing 'Cold' Cream Cold/Cough Remedy Contact Lens Solution Deodorant/Antiperspirant Disposable Diapers Feminine Hygiene Lipstick Men's Shaving Cream Prescription Medicine Razor Blades - Men's Shampoo Toothpaste Women's Spray Cologne	2.48	<b>12. Household Equipment</b> Bath Towel Bed Linens Comforter/Blanket Cookware Dinnerware Entertainment Center Flatware Glass Pie Plate Hand Tools Mattress & Box Spring Microwave Oven Paint Power Tools Refrigerator Shingles - Roof Small Appliances Stove Vacuum Cleaner Window Blinds	3.87
<b>10. Household Supplies</b> All-Purpose Cleaner Bleach Cut/Potted Flowers Dishwasher Detergent Dog Food Dry Cell Batteries - Alkaline Envelopes Fabric Softener Facial Tissues Food Wrap Garbage Bags Laundry Detergent Light Bulbs Dish Soap – Liquid/Powder Paper Towels Scouring Powder Sewing Thread Solid Broadcloth Table Napkins - Paper Toilet Tissue	2.14		



Table 6: Categories and Items Surveyed cont...

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	CATEGORY	WEIGHT
<b>13. Recreation &amp; Leisure</b> Beer/Liquor/Liqueur/Wine Beer/Liquor/Wine - Served Cable Television Camera – Digital/Video CD, Pre-Recorded Music CD/DVD Recordable Discs Cigarettes Colour Picture Processing DVD Player DVD, Pre-Recorded Movie Fitness Centre Sports Equipment Motion Picture Admission Movie Rental MP3 Player Newspaper Piano Lesson Television Toys	8.36	<b>15. Clothing</b> Blazer - Women's Brassiere - Women's Briefs - Boy's/Girl's/Men's/Women's Business Suit - Men's Denim Jeans - Boy's/Girl's/Men's Footwear - Boy's/Girl's/Men's/Women's Gold Wedding Band Men's Footwear Outerwear - Men's/Women's Panty Hose - Women's Shirt - Dress - Men's/ Women's Shirt - Knit - Men's Slacks - Men's/Women's Sleeper - Infant's Sleepwear – Men's/Women's Sleepwear – Boy's/Girl's Socks - Boy's/Girl's/Men's Sweater - Women's Sweat-shirt - Girl's Women's Shirt Wrist Watch - Men's/Women's	3.78
<b>14. Transportation</b> Antifreeze/Coolant Auto Insurance Automobile Paint Job Car Rental Driving Lesson Gasoline Local Transit Fee Motor Oil New Vehicle Leasing New Vehicle Purchase Oil Change & Lubrication Oil Filter Taxi Fare Wheel Alignment	17.74	<b>16. Shelter</b> Housing Costs Mortgage Interest Property Taxes Rental Costs Tenant's Insurance	17.72
		<b>17. Utilities</b> Electricity Garbage Collection Natural Gas Water & Sewage	5.51
		<b>Total - All Categories</b>	<b>82.77</b>



Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

## 2010 Alberta Spatial Price Survey

Questions and comments concerning this survey can be directed to:

Alberta Finance and Enterprise  
Budget and Fiscal Planning  
445 Terrace Building  
9515 – 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C3

**Government of Alberta** ■  
Finance and Enterprise