

# Alberta Locations

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LIBRARY **LETHBRIDGE**

As of October, 1986

### Overview

Population 60,310

Distance From Major Centres 212.5 km (132 miles) south of Calgary  
504 km (313 miles) south of Edmonton

Connecting Highway(s) #3, #4, #5

Railway(s) Canadian Pacific

Major Economic Base Agriculture products processing, Farm machinery,  
Manufacturing, Metal fabricating

### Economic Development Contacts

Municipal D.S. O'Connell, Economic Development Manager  
City Hall, 910 - 4 Avenue South  
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6  
Tel: (403) 320-3910

Alberta Economic Development  
and Trade Regional Office

Ron Wegner, Business Development  
Representative  
249 Provincial Building, 200 - 5 Avenue South  
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4C7  
Tel: (403) 381-5414

*Information contained in this profile is as current as possible. However, where appropriate, preference is given to published data from standard sources over current, unpublished data. Source list available on request.*

 **THE ALBERTA  
ADVANTAGE**

LETHBRIDGE

**Location**

County/District County of Lethbridge #26  
 Census Division #2  
 Elevation 907 metres (2,983 feet)  
 Latitude/Longitude 49°42'/112°47'

**Climate****Temperature**

*Seasonal Averages* — *January* -10.6°C (12.9°F)  
 — *April* 4.8°C (40.6°F)  
 — *July* 18.0°C (64.4°F)  
 — *October* 7.1°C (44.8°F)

Annual Precipitation 413.2 mm (16.3 in.)

*Rain* 270.1 mm (10.6 in.)

*Snow* 163.5 cm (64.4 in.)

Frost Free Days 116

Hours Sunshine/Year 2,370

**Population**

	Community	County/District	40 km Radius
1966	37,186	9,506	N/A
1971	41,217	9,648	N/A
1976	46,752	10,262	N/A
1981	54,624	9,243	20,560
Current Estimate	60,310	8,185	N/A

LETHBRIDGE

**Population Breakdown****As of:** 1986

Age	Males	Females	Total
0-14	6,517	6,333	12,850
15-19	2,145	2,213	4,358
20-24	3,420	3,366	6,786
25-44	9,259	9,362	18,621
45-64	4,849	5,284	10,133
65 +	3,219	4,343	7,562

**Labour Force****As of:** 1981

	Male	Female
Population	20,075	21,545
Employed	15,430	11,270
Unemployed	4,645	10,275
Participation Rate	76.86	52.30
Unemployment Rate	3.85	6.21

**Wage Rates***Prevailing Provincial (Hourly) Minimum Scales*

## Full-Time Workers:

18 Years and Older	\$3.80
Under 18 Years	\$3.65
Part-Time Students:	\$3.30

*Detailed Salary and Wage Rates for Selected Areas Available Upon Request*

LETHBRIDGE

**Major Employers**

Name of Company	Business Activity	Number of Employees
Regional Hospital	Hospital	800
University of Lethbridge	Education Institute	600
Lethbridge Community College	Education Institute	280
St. Michael's Hospital	Hospital	257
Canbra Foods	Vegetable Oil Processing	230
Novatel	Cellular mobile radios	170
Woodwards	Department Store	166
Sears	Department Store	160
Sicks (Molsons) Brewery	Brewery	160
Kawneer Canada	Aluminum Extrusions	150
Canadian Dressed Meats	Meat Packing	150
Lllydale	Poultry Products	130
Amalgamated Beverages	Soft Drinks	125
Eatons	Department Store	120
Regency Homes	Prefab Buildings	120
Canada Packers	Meat Packing	100
Ducan Industries	Furniture Manufacturing	100
Lethbridge Herald	Printing (newspaper)	100
Dresser Clark	Compressors and turbines	93
Triple E Homes Ltd.	Manufactured Housing	85
York Farms	Frozen Vegetables	80
Alpha Milk Company	Dairy products	73
Catelli Ltd.	Pasta processing	65
Ellison Milling	Flour and feed mill	65
Palliser Distilling	Distilled beverages	58
Palm Dairies	Dairy Products	55
Lethbridge Iron Works	Iron Castings	55
Scamper Canada	Recreational vehicles	50
Empress Foods	Vegetable Processing	35

LETHBRIDGE

**Retail and Service Trade Statistics****As of:** 1984*Statistical Area Covered* City of Lethbridge

	<i>Total Trade</i>	<i>Retail</i>	<i>Service</i>
Outlets	833	573	260
Employees			
<i>Full-Time</i>	4,490	2,969	1,521
<i>Part-Time</i>	3,682	2,155	1,527
Payroll (\$000)	105,230	78,407	26,823
Receipts (\$000)	745,836	640,456	105,380

Major Services Available

Four enclosed malls, Largest Agricultural Research Facility in Canada, Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute.

**Manufacturing Statistics****As of:** 1983*Statistical Area Covered* City of Lethbridge

Establishments	74 (95 total)	
Employees		
<i>Male</i>	2,009	
<i>Female</i>	653	
<i>Total</i>	2,662	
Payroll (\$000)	60,532	
Cost of Materials/Supplies (\$000)	523,426	
Value of Shipments (\$000)	679,973	

LETHBRIDGE

**Transportation**

Connecting Highways  
(Load Limits) #3, #4, #5

Truck Transport 13 trucking companies with major national/international affiliations serve Lethbridge and area

*Available Warehouse and Terminal Facilities* Yes

Railways Canadian Pacific

*Available Warehouse and Terminal Facilities* Yes

*Pick-up and Delivery* Yes (CP Express)

*Spur Trackage* Yes

**Air Services**

*Local Airport* Lethbridge Airport

*All Weather Facilities* Yes

*Longest Runway* 1,950 metres (6,414 feet)

*Carriers (scheduled/charter)* Time Air-daily flights to Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Kelowna, Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, Peace River, Rainbow Lake

*Nearest Commercial Services* Lethbridge Airport

*Nearest Air Freight Facilities* Time Air-Lethbridge

**Bus Services**

*Local* Yes

*Intercommunity* Regularly scheduled

**Utilities***Contact the Following for Service Rates and Details***Electric Power**

City of Lethbridge Utilities  
 910 - 4 Avenue South  
 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6  
 Tel: (403) 320-3976

**Natural Gas**

Canadian Western Natural Gas Company  
 410 Stafford Drive North  
 Lethbridge, Alberta  
 T1H 2A9  
 Tel: (403) 327-4551

**Telephone**

Alberta Government Telephones  
 808-4 Avenue South  
 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P2  
 Tel: (403) 329-5911

**Water Supply****Source of Water**

Oldman River

**Reservoir Capacity — Treated Water** 77,350,000 l (17,000,000 gals.)

**Pumping Capacity** 159,250,000 l per day (35,000,000 gals. per day)

**Average Line Pressure** 385 kPa (55 p.s.i.)

**Average Daily Consumption** 50,000,000 l per day (11,000,000 gals. per day)

**Restrictions** None

**Water Analysis (milligrams per litre)**

<i>Data Source</i>	Alberta Environment		<i>Date</i>	September, 1985	
<i>Total Dis. Solids</i>	222.8	<i>Cl</i>	4.8	<i>SO<sub>4</sub></i>	76.0
<i>Total Hardness</i>	170.9	<i>F</i>	0.97	<i>NO<sub>3</sub>/NO<sub>2</sub></i>	0.1
<i>Total Alkalinity</i>	110.9	<i>Fe</i>	0.03	<i>NO<sub>2</sub></i>	0.05
<i>pH</i>	7.7	<i>Mg</i>	13.0	<i>HCO<sub>3</sub></i>	135.2
		<i>K</i>	1.8	<i>CO<sub>3</sub></i>	0.0
		<i>Na</i>	14.0	<i>Ca</i>	47.0

**Utilities** (cont'd.)

LETHBRIDGE

**Sewage**

Type of Treatment      Activated sludge, secondary treatment

Provision for Disposal of Chemicals      None

**Industrial Fuels Available**

Coal:    Regional                  Oil:    Local                  Propane:    Local

**Other Municipal Services****Garbage***Method/Frequency of Collection**Industrial*      6 days/week depending on need*Commercial*      6 days/week depending on need*Residential*      Weekly*Solid Waste Disposal*      Yes

Fire Protection      City of Lethbridge Fire Department

Police Protection      City of Lethbridge Police Department

Other Services      Community Services, Engineering Services

**Municipal Finance**Mill Rates (*Year*)      1985*Industrial/Commercial*      36.593*Residential*      24.825

Per Capita Debt      909

*Year of Last General Assessment*      1979

Latest Total Assessment      986,296,994

Equalized Assessment Per Capita      7,156 (1986)

Basis of Assessment; *Land at 65% of market value. Industrial buildings at 65% of present day replacement costs. Equipment at 65% of present day replacement cost (15% on new equipment).*



**Business Properties**

LETHBRIDGE

As of October, 1986, the City of Lethbridge has a total of 78.4 ha. (193.66 acres) of serviced industrial land available for development. The breakdown of lot sizes are as follows:

9 lots under .4 hectares (1 acre)
27 lots .4 - 1.2 hectares (1-3 acres)
17 lots 1.2 - 2 hectares (3-5 acres)
<u>9</u> lots over 2 hectares (5 acres)
62 lots

Prices on industrial land vary from \$50,000 to \$65,000 per acre (\$123,500 to \$160,500 per hectare) depending on the amount of land purchased. Prices for purchases of over 4 hectares (10 acres) can be negotiated with City Council.

Prime commercial land is available for development in the Centresite Project.

Various commercial and industrial buildings are available in a variety of locations and sizes. A major industrial property owned by General Foods is available for purchase. This 13,640 square metres (146,800 sq. ft.) facility is located on 33.28 acres (13.5 hectares). The building contains 8,922 square metres (96,000 sq. ft.) of warehouse space plus 4720 square metres (50,800 sq. ft.) of processing and office area.

LETHBRIDGE

**Building Permits**

	<i>Value (\$000)</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i># Permits</i>
Residential	13,060	12.0	624
Commercial	8,535	7.8	202
Industrial	794	.7	8
Institutional	86,429	79.5	50
Total	108,818	99.9	884

As of: 1985

**Housing**

## Residential Lots — Availability

*Single Detached Homes* Ample Supply*Mobile Home Lots* None3-Bdrm., 1200 Sq. Ft. Bungalow — *Sample**Average Cost (incl. land)* \$84,900 (June, 1986)*Average Taxes* \$850

## Rental Accommodation

*Apartments* 6,628 (April, 1986)*Vacancy Rate* 5.8%**Medical**

Hospitals/No. Beds	3 Active/500	Health Units	Yes
No. Doctors	82	No. Dentists	35
No. Surgeons	26	Optometrists	12
Medical Clinics	6	No. Chiropractors	16
Ambulance Service	Lethbridge Fire Department	Nursing Homes	Yes
		Senior Citizens Lodge	Yes

LETHBRIDGE

**Education**

## Schools

<i>Day Care/Nursery</i>	16
<i>Elementary</i>	17
<i>Junior High</i>	5
<i>High School</i>	3
<i>Vocational</i>	3
<i>Other</i>	2

## Additional Programs

French Immersion program available, 3 private (religious) schools, Post secondary education: University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge Community College.

**Financial Institutions**

Banks (7)  
 Finance Companies (4)  
 Trust Companies (7)  
 Credit Unions (5)

**Communications**

Newspapers	Lethbridge Herald (daily)
Radio Stations	1 FM, 2 AM Stations
Television Channels	3 local channels, 6 cable channels

## Tourist/Accommodation Facilities

### Hotels/Motels

Hotels (10)  
Motels (7)

### Meeting Facilities

ET Rancho  
Leth Lodge Hotel  
Sandman Inn

Lethbridge Sportsplex  
Exhibition Pavilion & Grandstand  
Park Plaza

Parks and Campgrounds — *See Alberta Accommodation Guide For Details*

## Recreational Facilities

Bowman Arts Centre	Major Parks (3)
Yates Memorial Centre	Sir Alexander Galt Museum
Southern Alberta Art Gallery	Canada Games Sportsplex
Little League Baseball complexes (3)	Curling Rink
Indoor Artificial Ice Arenas (4)	Public Library
25 metre Indoor Pools (2)	Nikka Yakko Japanese Gardens
Outdoor Heated Pools (2)	Golf Courses (3)

## Organizations

YMCA  
YWCA  
Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra  
Lethbridge Musical Theatre  
Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce  
Lethbridge Construction Association  
Rehabilitation Society of Southwest Alberta

For a complete listing of fraternal organizations and clubs, contact:  
Information Lethbridge, Yates Centre, Tel: (403) 329-0636

**Regional Resources**

LETHBRIDGE

Resources Available Locally

Agriculture, oil, natural gas, coal

**Products**

Vegetable oil, margarine, animal feed, farm machinery, pumps and compressors, vegetables (frozen and canned), juice, aluminum extrusions, cellular mobile radios, beef and poultry products, beer, distilled beverages, soft drinks, fabricated metal products, iron castings, mobile homes, pre-manufactured housing, boats.

**Brief History**

The present location of the City of Lethbridge was once the site of the last great Indian battle in North America which involved the Blackfoot and Cree tribes before the settlement of the area by Whites. The area also was the location of a notorious whisky trading fort called "Fort Whoop-up".

Nicholas Sheran discovered coal on the banks of the Oldman River directly west of the present site of the City of Lethbridge. The coal industry in the region flourished through the late 1870s and again after 1882 coal was being extracted in fair quantity. A narrow gauge railway line was built from Dunsmore on the Canadian Pacific mainline and completed in 1885. Through the efforts of Alexander Galt, the Northwest Coal and Navigation Company was formed with William Lethbridge as President and Elliot Galt as General Manager.

The area was called "Coalbanks" and also "Steepbanks" before being named "Lethbridge" on October 15, 1885, after William Lethbridge. In 1891, it was incorporated into a town and in 1906 it became a city.

The City is developed on the plains above the River Valley south of the Transcontinental Rail Line and its crossing of the Oldman River via the High Level Bridge built in 1908. The structure still is the longest and highest bridge of its type in the world. Residential development occurred to the south and east of the Central Business District and also north of the tracks around the coal mines. Commercial development has spread north, east and south of the Central Business District following the road system. Industrial development happened in the northeast away from and downwind from the residential areas. Residential development of the west side of the Oldman River Valley started in the early 1970s and presently there are 12,000 people residing there. The University being located on the west side spurred development of this area.

**Government****Municipal Office**

City Hall  
 910 - 4 Avenue South  
 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6  
 Tel: (403) 320-3000

**Council** Mayor David Carpenter & 8 Councillors

**Administration Contact** Bob Bartlett, City Manager  
 3rd Floor, 817-4th Avenue South  
 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P3  
 Tel: (403) 320-3900

**Planning Authority**

Felix Michna  
 Planning Director  
 Tel: (403) 320-3920

**Member of Parliament**

Blaine Thacker  
 200, 220 - 4 Street South  
 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4J7  
 Tel: (403) 320-2692

**Member of Legislative Assembly**

John Gogo, Lethbridge-West	Honourable Dick Johnston, -Lethbridge East
513 Legislature Building	224 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6	Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6
Tel: (403) 427-1813	Tel: (403) 427-8809

**Provincial/Federal Services**

**Provincial** All major departments have local offices. For specific information call Government Inquiry Rite Operator at:  
 Tel: (403) 381-5151

**Federal** Agriculture Canada - Research Station, Canadian Grain Commission, Food Production & Inspection Branch; Canada Farm Labour Pool; Canada Employment & Immigration; Environment Canada - Weather Office; Health & Welfare Canada; Indian Affairs & Northern Development; Labour Canada; Post Office; Customs & Excise, Transport-Canada-Lethbridge Airport; PFRA; Veterans Land Administration.

**Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

**Edmonton Offices** 17th Floor, 10025 Jasper Avenue  
 Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3Z3

Telephone: (403) 427-5267

Telex: 037-3651