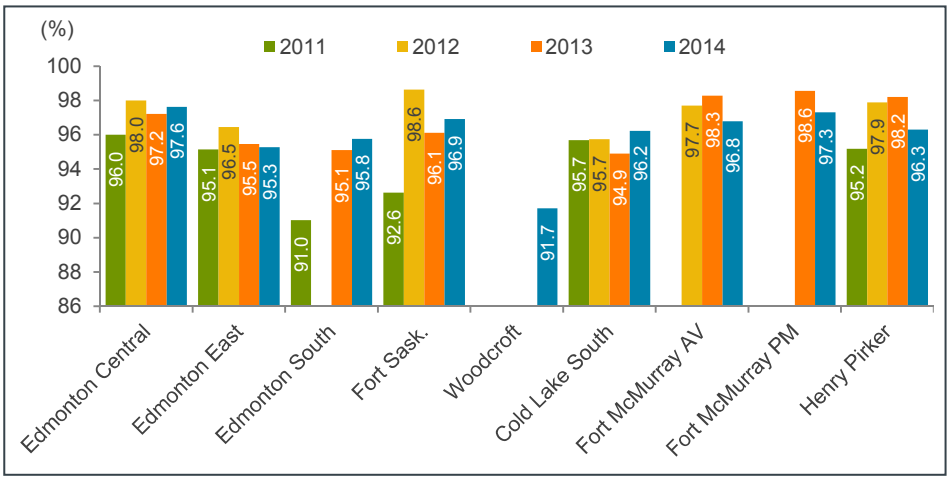
Alberta Official Statistics

Air Quality – Percentage of Good Hours, Alberta

- Ambient air quality is measured at air monitoring stations located throughout Alberta. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is one way of measuring ambient air quality. The AQI is calculated from five continuously monitored air pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3) and sulphur dioxide (SO_2). The highest measurement for any of the five pollutants determines the AQI value for that hour for that station. The higher the AQI number, the greater the level of pollution. The AQI is divided into four categories: Good, Fair, Poor, and Very Poor.

Percentage of Good Hours

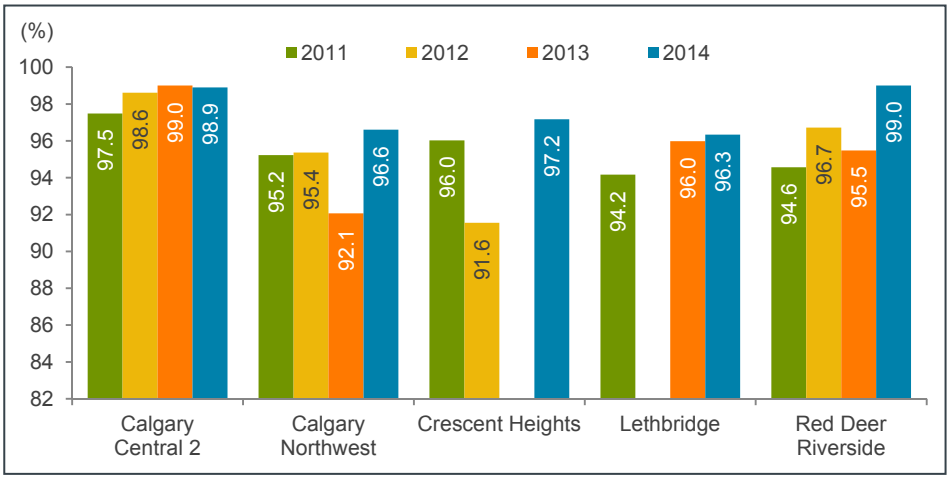
North



Source: Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Data Warehouse

Percentage of Good Hours

South



Source: Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Data Warehouse

- A "*Good*" rating, with an AQI index value ranging from 1 to 25, means the air quality has no known harmful effects to soil, water, vegetation, animals, visibility or human health.
- Year-to-year changes in the percentage of good air quality days are almost entirely accounted for by the frequency of forest fire, springtime ozone, and smog events. The winters of 2011 and 2013 were affected slightly more than 2012 and 2014 by wintertime smog events. Relative to 2013 and previous years, there were fewer springtime ozone events in 2014. Fires in northeast Alberta in 2011 and the Northwest Territories in 2014 produced large amounts of smoke, while 2012 and 2013 had less forest fire activity.
- Current Air Quality Information can be found through the Alberta Environment and Parks' *website*.