

BACKGROUND

Background

- The main purpose of this report is to assess Kelowna’s strengths and weaknesses in attracting labour and business investment.
- The report benchmarks Kelowna against 16 other global cities on 24 indicators grouped into two categories: Economic and Social.
- The indicators and comparator cities were chosen, in part, to reflect Kelowna’s status as one of Canada’s fastest growing mid-sized cities and a driver of the provincial economy.

Ranking Methodology

- This study uses a report card-style ranking of A–B–C–D to assess the performance of cities for each indicator and each category.
- The Working Group assigned a grade level by calculating the difference between the top and bottom performer of each indicator and dividing the figure by four.
- A city received a scorecard ranking of “A” on a given indicator if its score was in the top quartile, a “B” if its score was in the second quartile, a “C” if its score was in the third quartile, and a “D” if its score was in the bottom quartile. It was difficult to collect data on all 24 indicators for every city, largely because of data incomparability. As a result, there is a range in the number of cities included for each of the indicators.

Economic Indicators

The significance of each indicator is outlined in the Scorecard, alongside its significance, prior to displaying the comparative charts.

- Real GDP per capita
- High Tech Employment Share
- Inbound airplane seats per capita
- Office Rents
- Unemployment rate
- Labour Force Participation Rate
- Retail Sales
- Office Space Vacancy Rate
- Hotel Occupancy Rate
- Self-employment rate
- Disposable Income
- Building Permits per capita

Working Group Partners

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Kelowna Chamber of Commerce | UBC Okanagan Faculty of Management**

KELOWNA ECONOMIC SCORECARD 2019

Social Indicators

- Air Quality
- Commuting Time
- Housing affordability
- Population 25-to-34 years-old
- Population with at least a post-secondary degree/diploma
- Cultural occupations
- Homicide rate
- Police-Reported Crime Rate
- Health Care Access
- Immigrant population
- Non-visible minorities
- Income inequality

Results by Indicator

Overall, Kelowna came in 10th out of 17 cities. Kelowna scored better on the Economic indicators (6th) than on the Social indicators (14th).

At the top end of the scorecard, Kelowna received three A grades (income inequality, self-employed in labour force, and total value of building permits per capita).

At the bottom end, Kelowna received five D grades (proportion of population with at least a post-secondary degree-diploma; non-visible minorities as a percentage of population; real GDP per capita; high tech employment share; and disposable income per capita). The three highest scoring cities overall were Boulder, Colorado; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Victoria, British Columbia.

Next Steps

- Share results broadly with community organizations, decision makers, economic development organizations and elected officials.
- Engage in discussion on the learnings on the exercise of researching and producing the Economic Scorecard.
- Track learnings from other community leaders and organizations
- Establish a framework for the 2022 Economic Scorecard

For the full Scorecard Report

www.kelownachamber.org/scorecard

Full Scorecard and information about the project will be housed on the Chamber website after February 11.

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