ENSF 692 Final Project Report Spring 2025

By: Peter Osaade, Edmund Yu Group #3

Date: June 22, 2025

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Research Questions	3
Major Findings	3
Data Sources	3
Data Quality and Processing	4
Derived Metrics	4
Program Execution Instructions	4
System Requirements	4
Repository Setup and Installation	4
Program Outputs	5
Research Findings and Analysis	5
Question 1: Fastest-Growing City Sectors	5
Question 2: Premium Property Markets	5
Question 3: Inner-City vs Suburban Development Patterns	7
Program Execution Screenshots	3
Figure 1: Clean Dataset Module Output	8
Figure 2: Calgary Housing Analysis Program Invalid Community Name Error Handling	9
Figure 3: Calgary Housing Analysis Program Invalid Year Error Handling 10	D
Figure 4,5,6: Calgary Housing Analysis Program Successful User Input and Community Profile, Analysis Output, Program Completion and File Export	1
References	3

Executive Summary

This report analyzes Calgary's housing and demographic trends using 2,024 records from three City of Calgary open datasets spanning 2016-2017. The analysis period was constrained to these years due to assessment data availability as complete median property valuations were only accessible in this timeframe. Our analysis addresses three critical urban planning questions that help city planners understand where Calgary is growing and where housing pressures are emerging.

Research Questions

- 1. Which city sectors are growing fastest?
 - a. To identify where infrastructure investment is needed
- 2. Which sectors have the highest property values?
 - a. To understand Calgary's premium real estate markets
- 3. How do inner-city and suburban areas grow differently?
 - a. To understand Calgary's urban development pattern.

Major Findings

- Southeast sector leads city growth with +3.5% population increase, demonstrating the strongest demographic momentum
- West sector commands Calgary's highest property values at \$523,021 average assessment, despite smaller population
- Continued suburban sprawl pattern as suburban areas grow (+2.1%) while inner-city communities experience population decline (-0.5%)

Data Sources

We merged three City of Calgary open datasets [1] – [3]:

- 1. Civic Census by Community and Dwelling Structure
 - a) Provides population counts, dwelling types, and vacancy data across all Calgary communities
- 2. Assessments by Community
 - a) Contains median residential property valuations that reflect market conditions and investment patterns
- 3. Communities by Ward

a) Geographic classification system linking communities to wards, sectors, and development characteristics

Time Period: Analysis focused on 2016-2017 as these were the only years with complete assessment data across all three datasets.

Data Quality and Processing

- Scale
 - o 2,577 community-year observations covering 248 distinct Calgary communities.
- Completeness
 - o 78.5% usable data (2,024 valid records for analysis).
- Data Integrity
 - Merged three datasets using community names as primary keys.
- Missing Values
 - o 8% of records missing sector classification, primarily industrial areas.

Derived Metrics

Metric	Purpose	Interpretation	
VACANCY_RATE	Housing market	<3% indicates tight market, >7%	
	health	suggests oversupply	
ASSESSMENT_PER_PERSON	Per-capita wealth	Property value per resident, shows	
	indicator	community affluence	
GROWTH_MOMENTUM	Demographic	Year-over-year population change shows	
	trajectory	community vitality	

Program Execution Instructions

System Requirements

This analysis program requires Python 3.7 or higher with the following packages installed

- 1. pandas (data manipulation and analysis)
- 2. matplotlib (visualization generation)
- 3. openpyxl (Excel file handling)

Repository Setup and Installation

1. Clone the GitHub repository

- 2. Navigate to the project directory
- 3. Install required packages using the provided requirements file:

pip install -r requirements.txt

Alternatively, install packages manually:

pip install pandas matplotlib openpyxl

Program Outputs

Upon successful execution, the program generates:

- Console output displaying comprehensive data analysis and research findings
- calgary_housing_research_analysis.png
- Four-panel research visualization
- calgary housing complete analysis.xlsx
- Multi-sheet Excel file with complete dataset and analysis results

Optional: Clean Dataset Generation The repository includes pre-cleaned datasets for immediate analysis. To regenerate the cleaned dataset from raw data (optional): python clean dataset.py

Research Findings and Analysis

Question 1: Fastest-Growing City Sectors

Methodology: Combined population and housing data by Calgary's geographic sectors, calculated year-over-year growth rates, and checked whether housing supply matches population growth patterns.

Results (descending population growth):

Sector	Population Growth	Market Assessment	
Southeast	+3.5%	Fastest growth sector	
North	+2.1%	Strong growth	
Northeast	+1.8%	Moderate growth	
Centre	+0.8%	Slow growth	
South	+0.7%	Moderate growth	
West	-0.1%	Stable	
Northwest	-1.1%	Population decline	
East	-1.3%	Population decline	

Insight: Southeast Calgary shows the strongest population growth (+3.5%), followed by North (+2.1%) and Northeast (+1.8%) sectors, creating clear growth momentum in Calgary's eastern regions. In contrast, three sectors experienced population losses, with East (-1.3%) and Northwest (-1.1%) showing the steepest declines, while West remained relatively stable (-0.1%). This pattern reveals a distinct east-west divide in Calgary's demographic trends, with eastern sectors driving city expansion while western and northwestern areas face population challenges.

Planning Implications: Calgary should prioritize Southeast sector for faster approval processes and infrastructure planning to prevent housing shortages in the city's fastest-growing area. The strong growth areas in the Southeast, North, and Northeast sectors requires coordinated infrastructure investment, particularly in transportation and utilities, to support continued expansion. While declining sectors (East, Northwest) present opportunities for targeted revitalization efforts and policy interventions to reverse population losses and prevent neighborhood decline. The city's eastern growth momentum suggests shifting development pressure away from traditional western communities toward emerging suburban areas.

Question 2: Premium Property Markets

Methodology: Ranked Calgary sectors by average median residential assessment values to identify premium real estate markets and understand the relationship between population size and property values.

Results (descending avg assessment):

Sector	Avg Assessment	Total Population	Market Position	
WEST	\$523,021	247,641	Premium market	
SOUTH	\$484,939	451,152	High value/high-density	
CENTRE	\$484,502	388,762	Urban premium	
NORTHWEST	\$478,838	350,289	Upper-middle market	
NORTH	\$412,251	386,927	Middle market	
SOUTHEAST	\$395,150	259,419	Growing market	
NORTHEAST	\$328,668	355,228	Affordable/high-density	
EAST	\$265,728	115,726	Most affordable sector	

Insight: Calgary's property market shows clear divisions three distinct market levels emerge with premium sectors (West, South, Centre) exceeding \$480,000, middle-tier markets ranging \$395,000-\$479,000, and affordable sectors below \$330,000. The relationship between population density and property values proves more complex than expected, while West sector follows the typical low-density premium pattern, South sector successfully combines high property values (\$485,000) with high population (451,000 residents), showing Calgary's potential for high-value, high-density development.

Planning Implications: Calgary's divided market requires different policy approaches. Premium sectors need infrastructure quality preservation, growing markets require faster development approvals and strategic investment, while affordable sectors would benefit from improvement programs and better transit connections. The South sector's success combining high values with high population provides a valuable model for sustainable urban development. Policy makers should study this approach to balance premium positioning with population growth while preventing further gaps between premium and affordable sectors.

Question 3: Inner-City vs Suburban Development Patterns

Methodology: Classified Calgary communities as Inner-City or Suburban based on historical development patterns, then compared growth trajectories, investment flows, and housing market dynamics.

Results:

Area Type	Population	Median Assessment	Vacancy Rate	Development
	Growth	Growth	(2017)	Pattern
Suburban	+2.1%	+2.6%	7.8%	Continued
				expansion
Inner-City	-0.5%	-3.7%	9.0%	Population decline
Difference	+2.6pp	+6.3pp	-1.2pp	Favors suburban
				sprawl

Insight: Calgary shows clear suburban expansion patterns, with suburban areas growing in both population (+2.1%) and property values (+2.6%) while inner-city areas decline in both measures (-0.5% population, -3.7% property values). The 6.3 percentage point gap in property value growth shows significant investment flowing toward suburban development rather than inner-city renewal. Additionally, inner-city areas face higher vacancy rates (9.0%) compared to suburban areas (7.8%), indicating weaker housing demand in established neighborhoods. This pattern confirms Calgary's continued outward expansion rather than urban core strengthening.

Planning Implications: This pattern shows ongoing urban development challenges requiring targeted policy responses. The city should focus on reversing inner-city population decline through improvement programs, better transit connections, and enhanced services and facilities to make downtown living more attractive. Calgary must also manage the infrastructure costs and environmental effects of continued suburban expansion, including transportation networks, utilities, and green space preservation. Without intervention, this trend will further increase city service costs while leaving inner-city areas underutilized, creating an unsustainable development pattern.

Program Execution Screenshots

Figure 1: Clean Dataset Module Output



Figure 2: Calgary Housing Analysis Program Invalid Community Name Error Handling

```
Loading Calgary Housing and Demographics Data...
  Area Type Classification Summary:
AREA TYPE
  AREA_TYPE
Suburban 192
Inner-City 120
Name: count, dtype: int64
Sample classifications:

COMM_STRUCTURE AREA_TYPE

BUILDING OUT Suburban CRANSTON

1 1950s Inner-City PARKHILL

2 INNER CITY Inner-City CRESCENT HEIGHTS

3 2010s Suburban ROYAL OAK

4 BUILDING OUT Suburban ALPINE PARK

5 1980s/1990s Suburban ALPINE PARK

6 1950s Inner-City RUTLAND PARK

7 EMPLOYMENT Suburban NUNGLOGE

8 1980s/1990s Suburban SUNGLOGE

9 EMPLOYMENT Suburban SUNGLOGE

Dataset loaded successfully! 2577 records available.
Missing Values Summary:

COMM_CODE_y: 285 (8.0%)

CLASS: 285 (8.0%)

CLASS.CODE: 285 (8.0%)

SCCTOR: 285 (8.0%)

SCCTOR: 285 (8.0%)

SCCTOR: 285 (8.0%)

COMM_STRUCTURE: 285 (8.0%)

AREA_TYPE: 285 (8.0%)

AREA_TYPE: 285 (8.0%)

AREA_TYPE: 285 (8.0%)

Number of taxable accounts: 382 (14.8%)

Number of taxable accounts: 382 (14.8%)

VACANCY_RATE: 193 (7.5%)
Available communities (showing first 10):

- ABBEYDALE
- ACADIA
- ALBED PARK/RADISSON HEIGHTS
- ALVITH/BOHNYBROOK
- APPLEWOOD PARK
- ARBOUR LAKE
- ASPEN WOODS
- AUBURN BAY
- BANFE TARIL
... and 238 more
  Enter community name (or 'list' to see all): Fake Community
 Error: 'FAKE COMMUNITY' not found.
Tip: Try typing just the first few letters, or use 'list' to see all options
AVABIABLE communities (showing first 10):
ARBEYDALE
ACADIA
ALBERT PARK/RADISSON HEIGHTS
```

Figure 3: Calgary Housing Analysis Program Invalid Year Error Handling

```
Service Classification Security Services

Application College, Promising and Penegraphics Data ...

Lasting College, Promising and Recognized Data ...

Application College, Promising and Recognized Data ...

Lasting College, Promising and Recognized Data ...

Application College, Promising College, Promisi
```

Figure 4,5,6: Calgary Housing Analysis Program Successful User Input and Community Profile, Analysis Output, Program Completion and File Export

```
e .venv ~/UofC/ensf692/project/ensf692-project git:(main)±11 (9.795s
thon3 calgary-housing-analysis.py
 Loading Calgary Housing and Demographics Data..
 Area Type Classification Summary:
AREA_TYPE
Missing Values Summary:

COMM_CODE_y: 285 (8.8%)
CLASS: 285 (8.8%)
SECTOR: 285 (8.8%)
SECTOR: 285 (8.8%)
SECTOR: 285 (8.8%)
SCOMM_STRUCTURE: 285 (8.8%)
AREA_TYPE: 285 (8.8%)
AREA_TYPE: 285 (8.8%)
Number of taxable accounts: 382 (14.8%)
Number of taxable accounts: 382 (14.8%)
VACANCY_RATE: 193 (7.5%)
 Available communities (showing first 10):
- ABBEYDALE
       ABBEYDALE
ACADIA
ALBERT PARK/RADISSON HEIGHTS
ALTADORE
ALYTH/BONNYBROOK
APPLEWOOD PARK
ARBOUR LAKE
ASPEN WOODS
AUBURN BAY
BANFF TRAIL
... and 238 more
Enter community name (or 'list' to see all): Acadia
Enter year (2016 or 2017): 2016
 Community Profile: ACADIA (2016)
 Basic Information:
Ward: 9
Sector: SOUTH
Area Type: Inner-City
 Population & Housing:
Total Population: 10,766
Total Dwellings: 5,031
Vacant Dwellings: 239
Vacancy Rate: 4.8%
```

```
RESEARCH QUESTION 2: Where Are Property Values Highest?
Top 3 Sectors by Average Assessment:
Avg Assessment Total Population
SECTOR
WEST
SOUTH
                  523021.0
484939.0
                                          247641.0
                                           451152.0
CENTRE
                  484502.0
                                           388762.0
RESEARCH QUESTION 3: Inner-City vs Suburban Comparison
                Total Population Avg Assessment Avg Vacancy Rate
AREA_TYPE
Inner-City
Suburban
                           567317.0
675780.0
                                                459469.1
420277.6
                                                                       8.00496
5.712512
ANALYSIS SUMMARY
- Completed all required ENSF 692 analysis operations
- Answered three research questions about Calgary housing
- Generated insights for urban planning decisions
Creating Visualizations ...
Research visualization saved as 'calgary_housing_research_analysis.png'
Exporting Results ...
Complete dataset exported to 'calgary_housing_complete_analysis.xlsx'
  - Main dataset: 2577 records
- 5 sheets included: Complete Dataset, Summary Statistics, Sector Analysis, High Value Communities, Missing Values
Analysis Complete!
Files generated:

    calgary_housing_research_analysis.png - Research visualization plots
    calgary_housing_complete_analysis.xlsx - Complete dataset and analysis

Thank you for using the Calgary Housing Analysis System!
```

References

- [1] Civic Census by Community and Dwelling Structure, City of Calgary, June 2021. [Online]. Available: https://data.calgary.ca/Demographics/Civic-Census-by-Community-and-Dwelling-Structure/set9-futw
- [2] Assessments by Community, City of Calgary, June 2021. [Online]. Available: https://data.calgary.ca/Government/Assessments-by-Community/p84b-7zbi
- [3] Communities by Ward, City of Calgary, June 2021. [Online]. Available: https://data.calgary.ca/Government/Communities-by-Ward/jd78-wxjp