

Full-Time Employee Count

The City does not have the full-time, Canada-wide employee count of each business operating within the non-residential properties of Calgary. This would be an entirely new undertaking for The City.

Existing Data – Business Licensing

Business Licensing is responsible for licensing and regulating business owners who operate in Calgary and ensures that they comply with the applicable legislation and bylaws.

Business licences are issued throughout the year and information is recorded when a business opens, closes or moves their location, or renews a licence. This information includes, but is not limited to: the business name, location, and licence status. The business licensing process, and the integrity of the data, is largely reliant on businesses self-reporting their information to The City.

Not all businesses are required to have a municipal business licence to operate. These fall into two categories: business activities that are out of scope for bylaw purposes and businesses that fall under other regulatory or oversight bodies. Currently, there are eleven bylaws that set out business licence requirements; a list of the bylaws and examples of businesses that do not require a City licence are included in Attachment 5. Administration notes that many office occupants, such as regulated professionals, do not require business licences.

There are existing concerns about the degradation of Business Licensing's data since the consolidation of business tax. Business assessment and tax administration played a valuable role in the upkeep and accuracy of business data. If a business moved or closed, they had to advise The City in order to terminate the business tax for their former space. Businesses – particularly those that do not require licences – now lack incentive to advise The City when they close or move locations.

Assuming that business licence status and/or business name and location is required for initiating the administration of SBSC, the data held by Business Licensing is likely not reliable in its current state. Existing data would require significant updating. Efforts would also be required to obtain previously unreported data, namely from businesses that do not require a business licence to operate.

Existing Data – Property Assessment

Prior to business tax consolidation, Property Assessment kept record of each business's location in Calgary for the purposes of administering business assessment. Property Assessment obtained much of its business information from Business Licensing and the Assessment Request for Information process. Once business tax was consolidated, Property Assessment discontinued maintaining those records with the exception of businesses located in Business Improvement Areas (BIAs). Much like the business data held by Business Licensing, there are concerns about the degradation in quality of business location data held by Property Assessment.

Property Assessment does not record business licence status, nor are the current technological systems integrated such that they share that information.

Property Assessment does have accurate property data in terms of the physical sizes of buildings and spaces within buildings. This data is obtained and maintained through the annual ARFI program as well as inspections and customer interactions.