



CREATING OPPORTUNITES

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Headline News:

Economic Developers of Alberta & Partners Promote Upcoming International Economic Development Week (May 7 - May 12)

To commemorate International Economic Development Week from May 7 -12, EDA, along with 9 other partners across Canada and the U.S., have collaborated to create a [video](#) and corresponding [website](#) designed to illustrate the importance of communities investing in economic development.



Why Invest In Economic Development?

From Economic Developers of Alberta (EDA) & their partners.



EDA announces they will holding their own video contest.

In the next few days, EDA will be inviting members and social media followers to engage in a Twitter contest where participants create their own 30 second “selfie-style” video shot on their phones describing why they think economic developers have an important job in their community. ***The winner of this Twitter contest will receive a free EDA membership for one year!*** The winning video will be judged on having a clear and passionate message.

To enter the contest, please Tweet your video @edaalberta #EDW2018.

[Read more here...](#)

Your Economic Briefing

From the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

WEEKLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING

Indicators Updated this Week

GDP

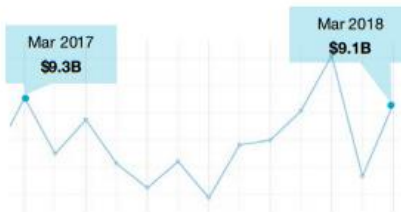
+4.9%
\$304.7B



Alberta's GDP at basic prices increased 4.9% in 2017 to \$304.7 billion, the largest increase in Canada, ending two consecutive years of decreases. British Columbia saw the second greatest increase in GDP during 2017 at 3.9%, followed by Prince Edward Island (3.1%). Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction lead all industries, growing 13.3%, followed by utilities (10.1%) and wholesale trade (10.1%). Manufacturing also saw a large increase at 8.1%. Management of companies and enterprises was the only sector to experience any significant decline (-5.4%). Construction, information and warehousing, and administrative support all saw decreases of less than 1%.

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS

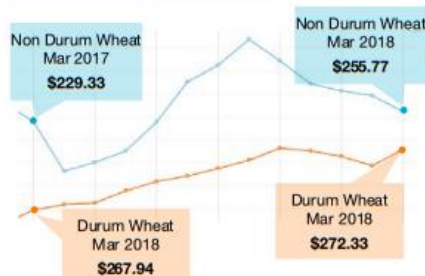
-1.4%
\$9.1B



Alberta's international merchandise exports were \$9.1 billion in March 2018, 1.4% lower than the same period last year. Canadian exports decreased 1.2% over the same period. In Alberta, exports of consumer goods (-6.6%), energy products (-3.0%) and farm, fishing, and intermediate food products (-2.5%) decreased, while all other product categories increased, with basic & industrial products seeing the largest growth at 7.2%. Energy products made up 67.7% of all exports in this period.

WHEAT PRICES

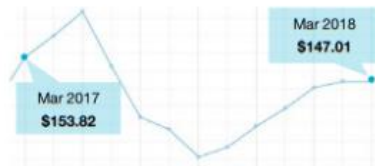
+11.5%
\$255.77
(\$/metric tonne)



In March 2018, Alberta non-durum wheat prices, which include the weighted average prices of milling and other wheat excluding durum, were \$255.77/metric tonne, 11.5% higher than prices in March 2017. In March 2018, Durum wheat prices were \$272.33/metric tonne, 1.6% higher than March 2017.

LIVESTOCK PRICES

-4.4%
\$147.01
(\$/hundredweight)



Cattle prices in Alberta decreased 4.4% in March 2018 compared to the same time period a year earlier, to \$147.01 per hundredweight, the highest price in Canada. Hog prices decreased 12.5% in March 2018 compared to the same period a year earlier, to \$70.01.

BUSINESS BANKRUPTCIES

+11.1%
10



Alberta business bankruptcies increased 11.1% from 9 in February 2017 to 10 in February 2018. Nationally, business bankruptcies increased 11.4% to 255 in February 2018 compared to the same month last year. Consumer bankruptcies in Alberta decreased 9.9% from 426 in February 2017, to 384 in February 2018.

OIL PRODUCTION

+12.0%
17.1M m³



Oil production in Alberta was 17.0 million cubic metres in March 2018, up 12.0% compared to March 2017. Non-conventional (or oil sands) production constituted 83.9% of all oil production in Alberta in March 2018. Production of non-conventional oil was up 12.1% while conventional oil production increased 11.6% on a year-over-year basis.

NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

+2.5%
9.5B m³



In March 2018, marketable natural gas production increased by 2.5% compared to March 2017 to 9.5 billion cubic metres.

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest Update	Change	Last Updated
2017	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$304.7B	+4.9%	May 2018
Q1 2018	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.3M	+1.4%	March 2018
Mar 2018	Unemployment <i>yr/yr</i>	6.3%	-2.0%	April 2018
Apr 30-May 4, 2018	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	\$69.82	+2.5%	May 5, 2018 closing
Feb 2018	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.7B	+0.7%	April 2018

Looking Ahead

Mon 7	Tue 8	Wed 9	Thu 10	Fri 11
				Indicator Releases: Unemployment rate, Employment

Things you Need to Know

From the SouthGrow Office

Community and Regional Economic Support Program


(CARES)

Update on CARES Program

On April 9th, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Deron Bilous, announced the 62 recipients of the latest Community and Regional Economic Support program (CARES).

What's more, he also announced that the program will be extended for at least two more intakes. These intakes will be in June 2018 and October 2018 respectively. So get your people together and start planning for your next impactful economic development project now.

[Learn more...](#)



You are invited to join us for an event.

MAY Learning from the Netherlands:
30 Waste Management & Bio Energy

Hosted by:

Economic Development Lethbridge

Alberta South West

SouthGrow Regional Initiative

Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership (SAAEP)

Regional Innovation Network of Southern Alberta (RINSA)

*"The Netherlands and
Canada: innovative,
creative and reliable
partners."*

Upcoming SouthGrow Event

We welcome Maarten den Ouden, Trade Officer from the Consulate General of the Netherlands who will talk about the challenges facing agricultural regions in the Netherlands during the 1990s and outline the steps taken to drive improved sustainability and create a successful economic model. Mr. den Ouden will share examples of regional strategies and resulting successes, failures and lessons learned. A question and answer session will be followed by a light lunch and

networking opportunity.

[Register Here...](#)



RMA Post-Secondary Scholarship Program

The 2018 application term is now open and closes August 31, 2018. In recognition of the importance of an educated population to the future well-being of rural communities, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) established the RMA Scholarship Program in 1995. The RMA Scholarship Program is designed to encourage young rural Albertans to pursue further education, and thereby enhance the ability of these young people to make meaningful contributions to their communities in subsequent years. A scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is presented to one successful applicant from each of the five districts.

[Learn more...](#)

Stories That We're Following

Government Affairs

University of Lethbridge's newest building nearly complete [Read more...](#)

Ottawa confirms it will intervene in B.C.'s case to block Trans Mountain pipeline. [Read more...](#)

Oilpatch leaders wait desperately to ship more crude by rail with pipelines maxed out. [Read more...](#)

New federal analysis reaffirms carbon pricing significantly reduces carbon pollution while

maintaining a strong economy. [Read more...](#)

A liability iceberg in Alberta exposed by the Redwater legal case. [Read more...](#)

Economic Affairs

Canada's economy rebounds on broad gains; economists eye July rate hike. [Read more...](#)

Alberta total potato production reached a record just over two million pounds in 2017. [Read more...](#)

Group Sugar beet growers and Lantic Sugar signed a two-year contract extension last week. [Read more...](#)

New head of regional economic development group plans to 'hunt as a pack'. [Read more](#)

ATB Entrepreneur Centre opens in Grande Prairie. [Read more...](#)

Ground broken for Cornerstone Place in Pincher Creek. [Read more...](#)

Social Affairs

Research project aims to launch oilpatch professionals on fresh career paths. [Read more...](#)

Ideas

Yedlin: Calgary ready to be disrupted, with Richard Branson leading the way. [Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

May 8 | Business Model Canvas & Value Proposition Design (Tecconnect)

You have a business idea - now what? The Business Model Canvas was designed for entrepreneurs who are looking to develop new or existing business models. This interactive workshop will show you how to use the Value Proposition Design - a tool that will help you with creating a compelling and attractive product or service, and apply it to the Canvas. Together, these visual charts help to describe, design, challenge and pivot your business model so that you can enter into your market more effectively

[Learn more...](#)

May 10 | Social Savvy Summit (Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce & Community Futures)

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Community Futures is excited to launch the Social Savvy Summit and Digital Media Expo May 10, 2018. An exciting half day conference will help you take your social media and technology skills to the next level with exciting keynote presentations and breakout sessions including Social Media Basics, Web Design and SEO for 2018, Blog Writing and Influencer Marketing, and Virtual Reality for Business! PLUS Storytelling with Social Media from Lane Anderson of London Road Media and an exciting keynote address from John Weigelt – National Technology Officer for Microsoft Canada!

[Learn more...](#)

May 15 & 16 | Energy Disruptors: Unite 2018 (Energy Disruptors & Pembina Institute)

We live in a time of exponential transformation ripe with possibilities. A time where our biggest energy challenges are our greatest opportunities. Now is the time to think differently. Now is the time to act boldly. Now is the time to UNITE. On May 15th 2018, the world's boldest energy trailblazers will collide in Calgary to redefine future energy. For the very first time, industry thought leaders from every aspect of the energy value chain will UNITE. For two full days, the Oil and Gas industry will join forces with the influencers at the forefront of energy transformation.

[Learn more...](#)

May 16 & 17 | Alberta Energy Efficiency Summit (AEEA)

The Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance (AEEA) is pleased to present the Alberta Energy Efficiency Summit on May 16 and 17, 2018. The AEEA will host this two day event, designed to offer delegates a forum to collaborate, learn, network, and receive insights into the latest trends in energy efficiency. Through this event, the AEEA strives to engage with its members and other industry stakeholders to increase and promote the conversations taking place around energy efficiency in the province.

[Learn more...](#)

May 29 | Lunch & Learn: NAFTA (Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce)

As the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations lurch from forced optimism to apprehension, small businesses in Canada need to face the possibility that the trade deal might collapse. But, now is not the time to panic. Join the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce for a discussion featuring Carlo Dade, Director of Trade & Investment Centre, Canada West Foundation. Carlo will discuss NAFTA and what businesses can do now to prepare.

[Learn more...](#)

May 30 | Learning from the Netherlands: Waste Management & Bio Energy (Economic Development Lethbridge & Partners)

We welcome Maarten den Ouden, Trade Officer from the Consulate General of the Netherlands who will talk about the challenges facing agricultural regions in the Netherlands during the 1990s and outline the steps taken to drive improved

sustainability and create a successful economic model. Mr. den Ouden will share examples of regional strategies and resulting successes, failures and lessons learned. A question and answer session will be followed by a light lunch and networking opportunity.

[Learn more...](#)

June 6, 7 & 8 | INVENTURE\$ (Alberta Innovates)

Guy Kawasaki and Arlene Dickinson have just been announced as the first two keynotes for Alberta Innovates new innovation experience, Inventure\$. This unconference, featuring 150 thought leaders, will converge on the Calgary Telus Convention Centre, June 6-8. The event brings together innovators, investors, and thought-leaders to discover and share new developments in innovation and experiential learning. It offers 16 tracks of programming that include clean energy, oil and gas, agriculture, forestry, bio-technology, construction, artificial intelligence and more.

[Learn more...](#)

June 7 | Getting your Agriculture and Food Products to Market: Trade & Logistics Workshop (Alberta Ag. & Forestry)

Join experts who will provide you with:

- Connections to logistics and supply chain experts
- Valuable information on logistics, cargo services, freight forwarding and customs brokerage considerations related to exporting products
- Expertise and information on different modes of transportation including trucking, air, and rail

- Updates on the new Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific
- Partnership (CPTPP) and market access opportunities created
- Information on market development programs and services from multiple government agencies and departments
- Information on the newly launched Canadian Agriculture Partnership grant program and learn more about application process and eligible activities.

[Learn more...](#)

June 14 | SouthGrow Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendars and watch for your invite to attend our Annual General Meeting on June 14th!

September 26 | 2018 Alberta Climate Summit (Pembina Institute)

The Alberta Climate Summit is the event for innovative thinking and knowledge sharing on energy and climate in Alberta. The event brings together 500+ thought leaders from industry, government, environmental NGOs, and community stakeholders to learn from success stories, identify opportunities and challenges, and explore solutions related to Alberta's clean energy future. The Climate Summit showcases successes underway in Alberta, informs and connects decisionmakers, and inspires participants to play an active role in Alberta's transition to a clean energy future

[Learn more...](#)

Submit Your Event for Distribution in SouthGrow's Newsletter!

Email: info@southgrow.com

Questions? Suggestions? Need Help? Got a story we should share?

Contact the SouthGrow team!

info@southgrow.com | [\(403\) 394-0615](tel:4033940615)

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