



SouthGrow
Regional Initiative

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER

Creating Opportunities in South-Central Alberta

July 11, 2018

Share this newsletter with your community.



Headline Article:

Ten resources to help you stay informed on economic development

SouthGrow Regional Initiative | Updated: July 10, 2018

For this week's newsletter we have compiled a list of ten different resources that provide useful economic tools and/or insight for southern Alberta and abroad. These resources are what we use to stay informed on Alberta's economy and we thought they could be useful for you as well. Each resource below has a brief description, either written by our staff or sampled from their organizational website. For more information, you can follow the link by clicking the post title or picture.

[Invest in Alberta - Website/Magazine](#)

Invest in Alberta highlights the hard work and innovative thinking of Economic Developers Alberta (EDA) and its members. Stories in the magazine explore new, inventive and original opportunities for investors to see significant returns. The magazine also showcases the people and organizations across the province that are making economic diversity and prosperity a reality.



INVEST *in* **ALBERTA**

Alberta Innovates - Website

Alberta Innovates is provincially funded with a mandate to deliver 21st-century solutions for the most compelling challenges facing Albertans. We do this by building on our province's research and technology development strengths in the core sectors of health, environment, energy, food and fibre, and platforms such as artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and omics.



The Owl: ATB Financial - Website/Newsletter

ATB Financial's economics team interprets the latest statistics on wages, employment, inflation, the oil and gas industry and other economic drivers in our province.



The Canadian Business Journal - Website/Magazine

The Canadian Business Journal (CBJ) - written by Canadians, for Canadians - is essential reading for Canada's top business leaders who want to stay informed of current business news, industry topics and trends. The magazine offers readers a glimpse into major Canadian industries including construction, energy, food and drink, healthcare, manufacturing and more.



Maclean's - Website/Magazine

Maclean's is Canada's premier current affairs magazine. Maclean's enlightens, engages and entertains 2.4 million readers with strong investigative reporting and exclusive stories from leading journalists in the fields of international affairs, social issues, national politics, business and culture.



Bank of Canada - Website

The Bank of Canada is the nation's central bank. Its principal role is "to promote the economic and financial welfare of Canada," as defined in the Bank of Canada Act. The Bank of Canada's website offers a wide array of useful tools, such as updated economic indicators, interest and CPI inflation rates, and news, all directly from the source.



Government of Alberta - Website/Newsletter

The Government of Alberta offers a surprising amount of useful tools on several different platforms. From its [Economic Dashboard](#), to its [Weekly Economic Briefings](#) (see in article below), there are countless ways to quickly and easily access official economic and financial resources.



Statistics Canada - Website/Database

Statistics Canada produces statistics that help Canadians better understand their country—its population, resources, economy, society and culture. In addition to conducting a Census every five years, there are about 350 active surveys on virtually all aspects of Canadian life.



The Economist - Newspaper/Website/Audio

The Economist offers authoritative insight and opinion on international news, politics, business, finance, science and technology. They publish all articles from The Economist print edition and maintain a searchable online archive that dates back June 1997. They also offer a variety of web-only content, including blogs, debates and audio/video programmes.



International Economic Development Council

- Website/Newsletter

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions.



Weekly Economic Briefing

From the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade | Week of July 2, 2018

Indicators Updated this Week

Employment

Total employment in Alberta increased by 2,000 jobs between May 2018 and June 2018. On a year-over-year basis, employment grew by 33,600 jobs or 1.5% in June. Over the same period, Canada's employment increased by 1.2% or by 214,900 jobs. Full-time employment increased 2.6% in Alberta while part-time employment decreased 3.6% on a year-over-year basis.



Unemployment Rate

In June 2018, Alberta's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5%, down from the 7.5% rate that was registered a year earlier and up from last month's 6.2% rate. The national unemployment rate was 6.0% in June, down from last June's rate of 6.5%.



Merchandise Exports

Alberta's international merchandise exports were \$10.2 billion in May 2018, 15.3% higher than the same period last year. Canadian exports increased 1.3% over the same period. In Alberta, exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products decreased (-3.6%), while all other product categories increased. Forestry products saw the largest increase at 45.2%. Energy products, which increased by 16.4%, made up 70.0% of all exports in this period.



Incorporations

In June 2018, the number of businesses incorporated in Alberta totalled 3,634, a decrease of 6.4% from the same period a year earlier. Alberta incorporations were down 7.4% to 3,271, while non-Alberta incorporations were up 4.3% from a year earlier to 363.



Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest Update	Change	Last Updated
2017	GDP yr/yr	\$304.7B	+4.9%	May 2018
Q1 2018	Population yr/yr	4.3M	+1.4%	March 2018
June 2018	Unemployment yr/yr	6.5%	-1.0%	July 2018
July 2-6, 2018	WTI Oil Price wk/wk	\$73.80	-0.6%	July 6, 2018 Closing
April 2018	Retail Trade yr/yr	\$6.8B	+2.2%	June 2018

Looking Ahead

Mon 09	Tue 10	Wed 11	Thurs 12	Fri 13
	Indicator Releases: Building Permits			

Things You Need To Know

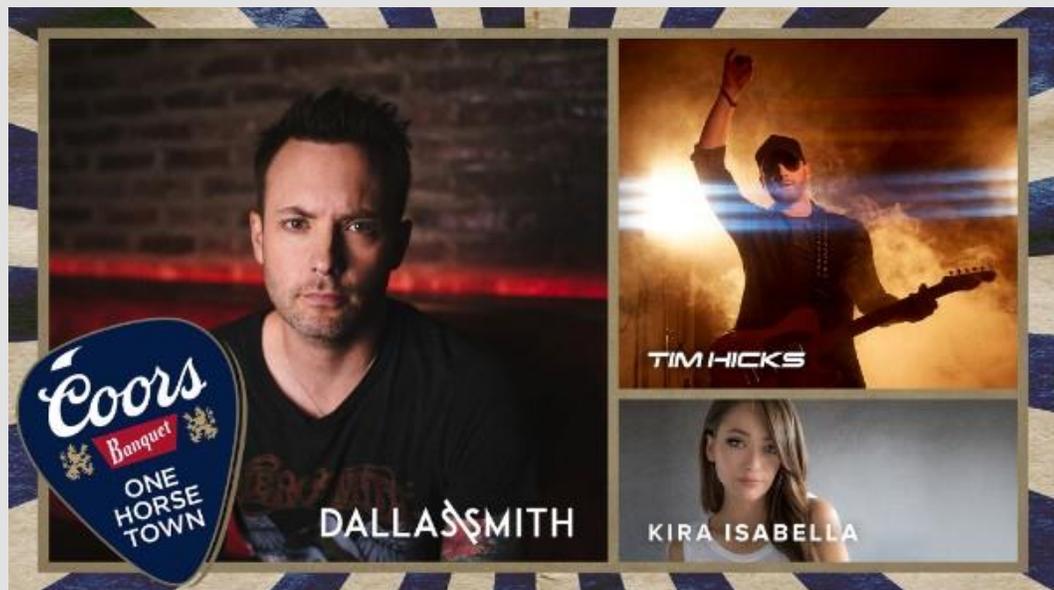
From the SouthGrow Office



Applications open for Local Food Council (until July 12)

The provincial government is looking for members to represent Alberta's billion-dollar local food industry. Applications are now open for Alberta's first ever Local Food Council. The aim of the council will be to provide recommendations on provincial programs, pilot projects or initiatives to support the continued growth and sustainability of Alberta's local food sector. The council members will represent a broad section from Alberta's local food sector across the province, including small producers and processors and those with specialized and academic knowledge and would report to the minister within the year. Members will be selected from a public

recruitment process which is now open on the Alberta public agency board opportunities [website](#). Stakeholders with an interest or knowledge of the local food sector are encouraged to apply. Applications close July 12. [Read more.](#)



Taber is one of six finalists from across Canada for the Coors Banquet 'One Horse Town'

Taber is one of six finalists from across Canada for the Coors Banquet 'One Horse Town'. We are the only town in Alberta that is a finalist, so hoping to reach out to all our in the area to support us by sharing this on social media/facebook/twitter etc. [Website link.](#)

Voting is now open and you can vote once per day (per device) from now until July 15th. The event provides 1500 tickets to people within the Town and then an additional 1500 tickets for people outside the Town, so this would be an awesome event to bring to Southern Alberta that we can all enjoy. It will feature country music stars Dallas Smith, Tim Kicks and Kira Isabella.

Alberta Environment & Parks Annual Report 2017-2018 Now Available

The annual report of the ministry of Environment and Parks contains the minister's accountability statement, the audited consolidated financial statements of the ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results as set out in the ministry business plan, which was published as part of the previous year's budget. The report also includes financial statements for the entities making up the ministry and for which the minister is responsible. [Read more & download report.](#)



Agriculture Entrepreneur in Residence (AgENT) Program

We are looking for industry partners to bring our students real-world challenges and act as mentors as they work to find innovative solutions.

Lethbridge College student-entrepreneurs are ready and eager to find solutions to the challenges you are facing in your business or industry.

As an industry partner in AgENT, you will guide student-entrepreneurs as they innovate and problem solve. The student-entrepreneurs will work under your mentorship throughout the academic year.

At the end of the year, the student-entrepreneurs will participate in a competition, where they will pitch their solutions in a quest to win prizes and see their solutions funded. [Learn more & sign-up.](#)

Stories We're Following

Government Affairs

Bell wins contract to assume all operations of Alberta SuperNet

CBC News | July 3, 2018 | The Canadian Press

Bell Canada has won a multi-year contract to operate Alberta SuperNet, the government-led broadband initiative. Alberta SuperNet was created by the provincial government to provide broadband connectivity to public institutions such as ...

Sask. sets new targets for livestock receipts by 2025

The Western Producer | July 5, 2018 | By Karen Briere

The Saskatchewan government just raised the bar for livestock producers and that's a good thing. The province is now targeting livestock cash receipts of \$2.5 billion by 2025 in its updated growth plan

War horse rides into sunset: Alberta NDP's Brian Mason retiring from politics

The National Post | July 4, 2018 | By Dean Bennett, The Canadian Press

Brian Mason, the current war horse of Alberta politics, is riding off into the sunset, saying it's time to go after almost 30 years in public life.

Economic Affairs

Private sector driving Alberta's job creation

The Owl: ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team | July 9, 2018

Alberta's labour market has been growing in 2018, albeit at a pace that some may find frustrating. According to Statistics Canada, the province added 33,600 new positions over the last twelve months, a gain of 1.5 per cent. Full-time employment is up ...

Lethbridge housing starts see 10 per cent decline in first half of 2018

Lethbridge News Now | July 10, 2018 | By Geoff Smith

A decline in June housing starts saw the Lethbridge area end the first half of 2018 down overall, compared to 2017. During the month, the Lethbridge census metropolitan area (CMA) saw 33 new single-family homes started, down from 41 ...

Employment stable in June

The Owl: ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team | July 6, 2018

Alberta saw the creation of some 2,000 new jobs in June, adding to the nearly 3,000

positions created in May. That's modest growth, to be sure, but it continues to suggest that Alberta's economy is moving in the right direction.

[Canadian dollar hovers near three-week high as oil prices rise](#)

The Globe & Mail | July 4, 2018 | By Fergal Smith, Reuters

The Canadian dollar steadied against its U.S. counterpart on Wednesday while holding near its strongest level in nearly three weeks, as oil prices rose and investors braced for a potential interest rate hike next week from the Bank of Canada ...

[Reclassification deadline less than a month away](#)

The Western Producer | July 5, 2018 | By Brian Cross

Got some old crop CWRS wheat in your grain bins? If you do, then you might want to think about moving it soon — especially if it's one of the low-gluten CWRS varieties that are scheduled for reclassification Aug. 1.

[There is a catch with the rye](#)

The Western Producer | July 5, 2018 | By Michael Raine

Dry fall fields and solid stocks kept rye prices bottled up at a time when the crop needed to go in the prairie ground last year. The result is that the margin between rye and other cereals, such as barley and wheat, is narrowed for 2018

Social Affairs

[Costco takes stand on insecticides](#)

The Western Producer | July 5, 2018 | By Robert Arnason

Costco is saying no to neonics. The grocery store chain, with more than 600 stores in the United States and Canada, said in May that it wants producers of fruits, vegetables and garden plants to stop using neonicotinoids, a class of insecticides commonly ...

[49th annual Southern Alberta Summer Games get underway in Taber](#)

Global News | July 5, 2018

The 49th Southern Alberta Summer Games are officially underway in the town of Taber. Opening ceremonies took place on Wednesday night, welcoming more than 2,400 athletes. For one family, the enthusiasm has been passed down between ...

Big Ideas

[Alberta will become more urban, more diverse and more grey as it grows to 6.4 million people by 2046](#)

Edmonton Journal | July 6, 2018 | By Jonny Wakefield

Alberta is expected to become more urban, more diverse — and more grey — as it adds 2.1 million people over the next three decades, according to the Alberta government's latest population projections.

Upcoming Events

Hosted by SouthGrow & Our Partners

[Sep. 26 | 2018 Alberta Climate Summit](#)

Host: [Pembina Institute](#)

Time: [8:30 AM – 5:30 PM](#)

Location: [BMO Centre | Calgary](#)

The Alberta Climate Summit brings 500+ thought leaders from industry, government, environmental NGOs, and Indigenous and rural communities together to learn about global trends with implications in Alberta, hear diverse local success stories and explore the potential in Alberta's energy evolution. The full-day event showcases a range of perspectives, opportunities for Alberta, informs and connects decision makers, and inspires participants to play an active role in the province's energy future.

[Learn More & Register](#)

[Sep. 26 - 28 | 2018 AUMA Convention & AMSC Trade Show](#)

Host: [AUMA/AMCS](#)

Time: [7:00 AM - 4:00 PM](#)

Location: [Westerner Park | Red Deer](#)

Registration is now open for the 2018 AUMA Convention and AMSC Trade Show, which takes place from September 26-28 at the Westerner Park, in Red Deer! This year's convention will include dialogue sessions with provincial Ministers, and breakout session topics such as the opioid crisis, impact of autonomous vehicles, cyber security, municipal rights-of-way, what the upcoming provincial election means for municipalities, and more.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Oct. 3 | 2019 Economic Outlook

Host: [Calgary Economic Development & ATB](#)

Time: [10:15 AM – 1:30 PM](#)

Location: [Calgary TELUS Convention Centre](#)

Confidence in the economy is rising - how will this transform your business in 2019? Join us at the 2019 Economic Outlook and hear about current economic trends and forecasts in your industry to get an edge up on 2019 planning. Learn how local, provincial, national and international economic forecasts for next year may influence your business.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Employment Opportunities

[AUMA | Association of Urban Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[RMA | Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[Government of Alberta](#)

Tech For Your SouthGrow Team

At SouthGrow's main office, we are working hard to further improve our implementation of technology and data to improve our organization and service. Here's what we are using, as well as some other tools we think would help the businesses within our communities.

What We Use

[G Suite – Gmail, Docs, Drive, Calendar and More for Business](#)

Do your best work with Google's suite of intelligent apps (formerly Google Apps). Get business email, video conferencing, online storage and file sharing.

[Google Maps Platform - Geo-location APIs](#)

Choose Google Maps Platform to create immersive location experiences and make better business decisions with accurate real-time data & dynamic imagery

[Workplace by Facebook: A Work Collaboration Tool](#)

Workplace is already the place for teams to connect and collaborate. Now get even more productive with integrations. Connect to the apps and services you ...

[Economic Dashboard - Government of Alberta](#)

Welcome to the Alberta Economic Dashboard. The dashboard compiles the Alberta economy's most important indicators for businesses in one place.

[Trello](#)

Infinitely flexible. Incredibly easy to use. Great mobile apps. It's free. Trello keeps track of everything, from the big picture to the minute details.

[Wix.com: Free Website Builder | Create a Free Website](#)

Create a free website exactly the way you want. With Wix, you get the whole package - sophisticated website builder, complete customization, reliable web ...

Other Resources

[Community \(Local\) Economic Development - Government of Alberta](#)

Tools and resources to help support local economic development. ... Alberta's communities need qualified workers and professionals to drive their local ...

[Fundingportal - Government Grants, Tax Credits ... - The Funding Portal](#)

Canada's bilingual one-window gateway to improve access to 7000+ sources of government funding and private financing for business, hospitals, universities, ...

[SAP Software & Solutions | Technology & Business Applications](#)

Get software and technology solutions from SAP, the leader in enterprise applications. Run simple with the best in cloud, analytics, mobile and IT solutions.

[xarvio Digital Farming Solutions](#)

xarvio™ Digital Farming Solutions makes you feel more confident, reduces your risks and gives you more security in all your plannings and decisions.

[Farmers Edge - Grow.More.Precisely.](#)

Empowering growers and ag professionals with data-driven solutions Farmers Edge is the best option for making data-driven decisions on the farm. We help ...

Questions? Suggestions? Have a story you would like us to share?

Contact the SouthGrow team!

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

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