



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER



Creating Opportunities in South-Central Alberta

July 31, 2018



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Headline Article:

Magrath School's Ag. Education Program Takes Off

SouthGrow Regional Initiative | July 31, 2018

Video accessed from CTV CALGARY... A PART OF THE CTV NEWS VIDEO NETWORK

The Town of Magrath has a long history of local leadership when it comes to agriculture. From its formative years as one of the earliest centres of agricultural production in southern Alberta, Magrath has been punching above its weight. Now, a partnership between the Westwinds School District, the Town of Magrath, and several local producers, is leading the way once again with the launch of their new Ag Education Program. With special training for teachers, the program aims to bring agricultural literacy, and an exposure to agricultural career options, into the classroom with the aim of inspiring young people to develop careers in the booming ag-sector of Southern Alberta.

Wade Alston, CAO of the Town of Magrath, told SouthGrow that enrollment is strong. He envisions a program that can be rolled out across the SouthGrow region to other schools, and hopes to see a close partnership develop with agricultural business programs at the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College to encourage continuing post-secondary education for program grads. [Learn more.](#)

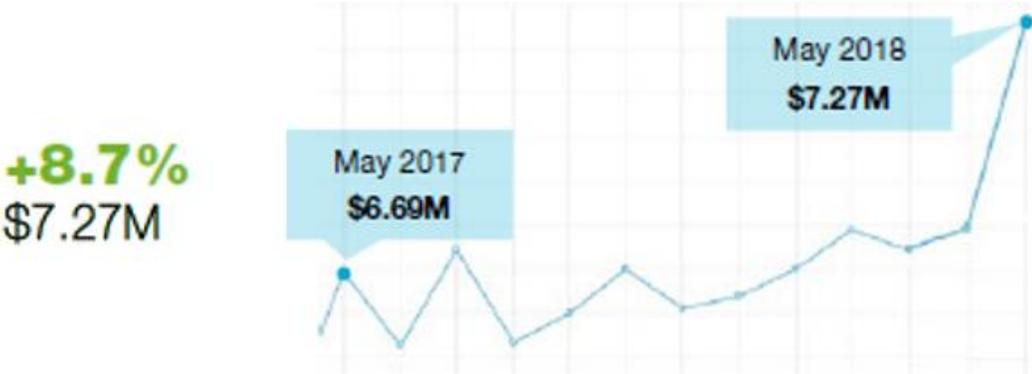
Weekly Economic Update

From the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade | Week of July 23, 2018

Indicators Updated this Week

Wholesale Trade

In May 2018, the value of Alberta wholesale sales increased by 8.7% to \$7.27M compared to May 2017. Nationally, wholesale trade increased 4.7% over the same period.



Average Weekly Earnings

In May 2018, average weekly earnings in Alberta were \$1,129, up 1.9% from the same period in 2017. Nationally, average weekly earnings were \$994 in May, up 2.8% from the same period last year. Alberta's average wage of \$1,129 was well ahead of the next province, Newfoundland and Labrador, at \$1,046.



Markets & Currencies

International markets

🕒 At last close

DJIA	25,306.83	- 144.23 - 0.57%
S&P 500	2,802.60	- 16.22 - 0.58%
FTSE 100	7,700.85	- 0.46 - 0.01%
DAX	12,798.20	- 62.20 - 0.49%
Nikkei 225	22,553.72	8.88 - 0.04%
Hang Seng	28,583.01	- 150.12 - 0.53%
Crude Oil (WTI)	69.76	0.33 0.47%
Gold	1,217.70	- 3.20 - 0.26%

Exchange rates

🕒 Last updated: 09:50 (GMT)

EUR → USD	1.1724	< 0.001 0.350%
GBP → USD	1.3155	< 0.001 0.243%
USD → JPY	111.4790	0.417 0.374%
AUD → USD	0.7421	< 0.001 -0.296%
USD → CAD	1.3043	< 0.001 0.146%
USD → CHF	0.9878	< 0.001 - 0.456%
EUR → GBP	0.8912	< 0.001 0.112%

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest Update	Change	Last Updated
2017	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$304.7B	4.90%	May-18
Q1 2018	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.3M	1.40%	Mar-18
Jun-18	Unemployment <i>yr/yr</i>	6.50%	-1.00%	Jul-18
July 23-27, 2018	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	\$69.04	-2.00%	Jul-27 (Closing)
May-18	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$7.0B	3.70%	Jul-18

Looking Ahead

Mon 30	Tue 31	Wed 1	Thu 2	Fri 3
				Indicator Releases: Merchandise exports

Things You Need To Know

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FUNDAMENTALS

Project Management Training in Drayton Valley

Drayton Valley is excited to announce that it will be offering two project management courses at the CETC this upcoming fall. The first course is called 'Project Management Fundamentals' beginning on September 20th. This is an introductory course that gives participants the basic principles and tools to increase productivity and to manage more efficiently. Starting on November 19th is 'PMP: Certification Prep.' This 4-day training will satisfy 35 contact hours required to sit for the PMP exam.

These courses can be supported by the Canada-Alberta Job Grant. If you are interested, make sure to check out:

<http://www.albertacanada.com/employers/train/jobgrant.aspx> to complete an application for funding.

Contact kkotyk@draytonvalley.ca to register.



ATB boostR Program

Alberta Culture and Tourism is working with ATB BoostR to help tourism businesses in our province raise funds and gain exposure. This is a unique program and the tourism businesses that participated last year found it very beneficial. [Learn more](#) | [Video link](#)



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

From the SouthGrow Office

Government Affairs

[Province unveils rural bus routes for 4 southern Alberta communities ...](#)

CBC News | Jul 25, 2018

Alberta is getting two public transportation pilot projects that will connect Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, and Red Deer and Innisfail. Premier Rachel Notley announced the new routes in Medicine Hat Wednesday, saying they will complement four existing pilot ...

[Federal government approves first device for testing drivers' saliva for cannabis](#)

The Edmonton Journal | Jul 30, 2018

Once in use, police officers will be able to swab a driver's mouth to test for the presence of THC, the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis. Roadside saliva-testing devices were authorized by Bill C-46, a massive overhaul of Canada's impaired driving laws that ...

[Lethbridge brewery owner questions fairness of inter-provincial trade](#)

Global News | Jul 30, 2018

Kelti Baird said red tape is keeping her from sending her Ionic Irish Red Ale outside of Alberta's borders. One of the managing owners of Theoretically Brewing was born and raised in Kelowna, and wished her friends and family in her hometown could sip some ...

[Mexico, Canada insist on three-way NAFTA deal](#)

Reuters | Jul 25, 2018

Mexico City | Reuters — Canadian and Mexican officials insisted that the North American Free Trade Agreement remain a trilateral pact on Wednesday and reiterated their opposition to U.S. calls for a so-called "sunset clause" that could end the deal after five ...

Economic Affairs

[Dryland canola crops struggle in hot and dry southern Alberta conditions](#)

Global News | Jul 24, 2018

Canola crops in southern Alberta are struggling amid less than ideal conditions that have

stunted growth. It's a tough sight for producers like John McKee, who stood in a dry land canola field with plants just below his waist, saying they should be chest high ...

Japan resumes Canadian wheat purchases

Alberta Express | Jul 30, 2018

Japan has resumed purchases of Canadian wheat after testing found no genetically modified wheat in imports following the discovery of a few GM wheat plants in Alberta last summer. The decision "proves that Canada's science-based regulatory system works," ...

The mysterious case of Alberta's rogue GMO wheat: Could it happen again?

The Calgary Herald | Jul 30, 2018

Prairie farmers breathed a collective sigh of relief last week, when Japan — Canada's second-largest buyer of wheat — lifted a month-long import ban imposed in the aftermath of the discovery of a few stalks of genetically modified wheat growing in a ditch in ...

Klassen: Stronger beef demand underpins feeder market

Manitoba Co-operator | Jul 31, 2018

Compared to last week, Western Canadian yearling markets traded \$2 to \$4 higher on average while calves were relatively unchanged. It appears that yearling supplies could be down 2 per cent to 4 per cent this fall which has feedlots being more aggressive early in ...

Social Affairs

Archeologists find treasure in aftermath of Alberta fire

CBC News | Jul 30, 2018

Archeologists have found a treasure trove of artifacts laid bare after a wildfire ravaged Waterton Lakes National Park in southern Alberta. CBC's Carolyn Dunn reports.

Local food is putting down deep roots

Alberta Express | Jul 30, 2018

The year Mark Gibeau started growing heritage grains, a book called The 100-Mile Diet had just come out. Suddenly it seemed everyone was using terms such as 'local food' and 'locavore.' It was good timing on Gibeau's part, but would time be his friend? Would local ...

College helps students make the adjustment

Lethbridge Herald | Jul 30, 2018

The first weeks at college, far from a students' home, can be challenging. First-year students have to find their way around campus, start potentially difficult courses and make new friends. Some "night owls" must find ways to get to morning classes on ...

[Southern Albertans collaborate on breakthrough cancer therapies](#)

Global News | Jul 25, 2018

A life-saving discovery could be in the works after University of Lethbridge professors collaborated with fellow researchers on a study for alternative cancer therapies. “This is actually a fundamental breakthrough in our understanding of how cellular processes in ...

Big Ideas

[Sheep splurge on spurge on southern Alberta ranch](#)

Western Producer | Jul 26, 2018

LUNDBRECK, Alta. — The 65,000-acre Waldron Grazing Co-operative has 600 weed pickers. Leafy spurge, an invasive weed unpalatable to cattle, was taking over parts of the ranch so intervention was required. The weed pickers are sheep owned by the nearby ...

[Is the current cannabis craze like Tulip Mania?](#)

The Owl: ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team | Jul 31, 2018

If you were around in the 17th century, the Netherlands was the place to be. From the early 1600s to the early 1700s, the Dutch had the highest income per capita in the world ...

[It's the time of year when crop scouting pays big dividends](#)

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry | Jul 26, 2018

“It is very important to recognize that scouting after a herbicide application is vital to weed control, said Cutts. “In the majority of cases, producers will find that the chemicals have worked. However, in certain situations, field scouting may show the weeds weren't ...

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. 2 - 3 | Opportunity South Conference & Business Expo

Host: [Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce](#)

Time: [8:00 AM - 5:00 PM](#)

Location: [Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge](#)

Opportunity South Summit is back for 2018 with a can't-miss lineup of internationally acclaimed speakers including Janet Bannister, founder of Kijiji, and Kelly Lendsay, one of Canada's foremost innovators of Indigenous workplace inclusion, diversity and corporate engagements.

[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.

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, ...

[Community Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency](#)

Community Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency (2017 Canadian Version) In June 2014, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) ...

[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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