



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER

Creating Opportunities in South-Central Alberta

November 14, 2018



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Featured

Let us Write Your Grant!

SouthGrow provides grant reports and writing services for member communities.
Watch for the Monthly Grant Report coming to your email-inbox soon!

LET'S GROW.

The Southgrow Regional Initiative is building capacity in the region. Working together, we have partnered with Factor 5 to reduce the cost of award-winning economic development expertise and services

- » Grant Identification (free)
- » Economic Development Priority + Funding Alignment (free)
- » Kick-off Consultation (free)
- » Grant Writing (preferred rate)
- » Project Design (preferred rate)
- » Project Management (preferred rate)

To schedule a free consultation contact Eric at (578-578-8496) or ericburton@factor5group.com



SouthGrow
Regional Initiative

FACTOR
5
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Let your Voice be Heard



As part of its latest [market study](#), the Competition Bureau wants to better understand the competitive dynamics of the Canadian broadband (high-speed) internet services sector. But to do that, we need your

help!

The Bureau wants to hear your thoughts about high-speed internet services. By filling out this short 2-minute online survey, you will help guide the Bureau's work and ensure it is tackling the issues that matter most to Canadians.

How much information you provide is up to you. To learn how we safeguard your information, please read our [Privacy Statement](#).

Weekly Economic Update

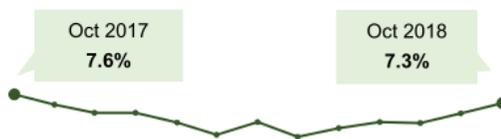
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 Economic Development
and Trade

For the week of ...
[Full PDF Download](#)

Indicators Updated this Week

Indicator

-0.3% 7.3%

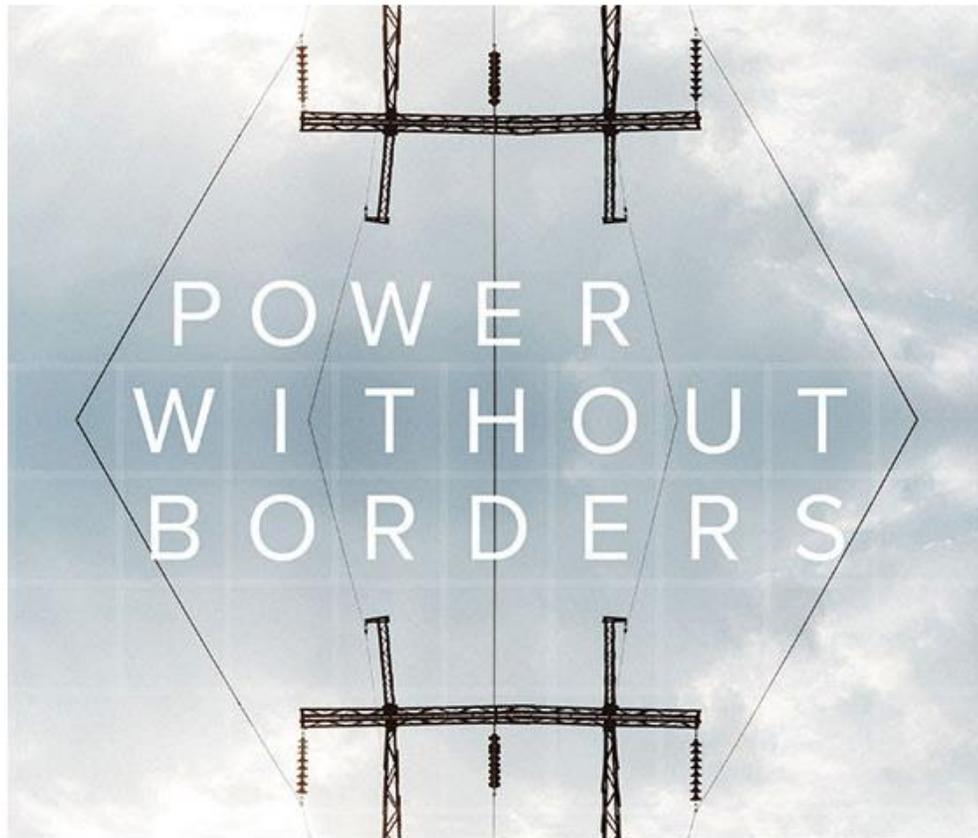


In October 2018, Alberta's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.3%, down from the 7.6% rate that was registered a year earlier and up slightly from last month's 7.0% rate. The national unemployment rate was 5.8% in October, down from last October's rate of 6.2%.

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest Update	Change	Last Update
2017	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$304.7B	+4.9%	May 2018
Q3 2018	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.3M	+1.5%	Sep 2018
Oct 2018	Unemployment <i>yr/yr</i>	7.3%	-0.3%	Nov 2018
Oct 29 - Nov 2, 2018	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	\$63.14	-6.7%	Nov 2, 2018 Closing
Aug 2018	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.9B	+3.2%	Oct 2018

Things You Need To Know



REPORT | Power without Borders: Moving towards an integrated Western grid

Canada's energy future will require changes to the ways Canadians produce and use energy to reduce emissions. A more integrated electricity grid between the Western provinces makes more sense than ever. It can help reduce GHG emissions and keep the lights on in homes and businesses in an affordable and reliable way.

On Nov. 6, the Canada West Foundation released Power without Borders: Moving towards an integrated Western grid.

Political and energy leaders who have tried - and failed - in the past to encourage a more interconnected electricity grid in the Western provinces know all too well the hurdles that must be overcome. But the business case for an integrated grid is changing. Costs for technologies such as wind and solar electricity generation are falling. By creating a geographically larger grid, cheap wind and solar generation can flow across borders where and when it's available and displace more expensive options. When the wind dies down, more flexible hydroelectricity can flow to fill the gap.

The report recommends that:

The Western provinces pursue a more integrated grid as a key tool to produce the abundant, reliable, affordable clean energy needed for their energy future.

It also recommends the Western provinces take a number of incremental steps, including:

- Participate in energy imbalance markets (EIMs)
- Strengthen regional transmission planning
- Build new transmission infrastructure when and where it makes sense
- Put electricity on the interprovincial trade agenda

[Full Report](#)

Stories to Follow



Government

[Alberta auditor flags faulty management of \\$1B Supernet contracts](#)

CBC News | Nov. 7, 2018 | News

Service Alberta did not properly manage and monitor the \$1 billion in contracts the government signed with private companies to build the Supernet, Alberta's auditor general has found in his latest report. Problems with the contracts extended over 17 years ...

[Penalties proposed for those ignoring evacuation orders in Alberta](#)

Global News | Nov. 7, 2018 | News

The Alberta government is looking at bringing in a stiff penalty for people who fail to heed an evacuation order during a natural disaster. Chief of Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) Tom Sampson said a proposed maximum \$10,000 fine and up to one year in ...

[Alberta increasing solar rebates as the green energy industry grows 500% since 2015](#)

Global News | Nov. 12, 2018 | News

Alberta has seen a huge uptick in demand for solar energy, so the province is increasing rebates for both homeowners and non-profits, as well as putting more money towards solar energy programs. On Monday, the Alberta government announced it is increasing funding ...

Economy & Markets

[Housing starts dip to near ten-year low](#)

ATB: The Owl | Nov. 9, 2018 | Research & Analysis

Earlier this week, The Owl looked at how building permits are pointing toward slower construction activity in 2019. One need not peer into the future to see the effects of softening conditions. Other indicators suggest the building slowdown is already upon us.

[Pre-booked corn pushing barley and wheat out of Alberta feedlots](#)

The Western Producer | Nov. 8, 2018 | News

Cattle in “feedlot alley” in Lethbridge, Alta. won't be seeing corn leave their diets any time soon, according to one feed grain buyer. “The marketplace booked up a fair bit of corn in advance of it, so through September, December and even out into March. So that's all ...

[A long-term perspective on household income](#)

ATB: The Owl | Nov. 8, 2018 | Research & Analysis

We tend to view economic indicators month to month, considering only the short-term fluctuations and trends. But backing up and considering a much longer time horizon can often yield interesting perspectives. This is especially true of household income ...

[Prairie wheat bids down with US futures](#)

Alberta Express | Nov. 9, 2018 | News

CNS Canada – Wheat bids in Western Canada were lower for the week ended Nov. 8, following the lead of dropping United States futures markets. Average Canada Western Red Spring (13.5% CWRS) wheat prices were down slightly, falling by less than a dollar to C\$2 ...

Communities

[Deadline for scholarship fast approaching for agricultural students](#)

Prairie Post | Nov. 9, 2018 | News

On Sept. 11, an announcement was made about a \$10,000 scholarship award being offered by the Lethbridge Exhibition Park and the Rotary Club of Lethbridge East for top agricultural students. “The scholarship is to further recognize the importance of ...

[Filmmaker shares little-known story of German PoWs in southern Alberta](#)

Global News | Nov. 11, 2018 | News

A Canadian filmmaker is highlighting the story of German prisoners of war who were kept in southern Alberta during the Second World War. Secret Alberta: PoWs on the Prairies tells the story of German PoWs housed in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat during the ...

[Partnership between Viterra and Canadian Foodgrains Bank to help less fortunate around the world](#)

Lethbridge News Now | Nov. 6, 2018 | News

Viterra and Canadian Foodgrains Bank celebrated the second year of their partnership on Tuesday, Nov. 6, which saw over 300 acres seeded earlier this year that will benefit hungry people in parts of the developing world. A release states the project builds on ...

[City of Lethbridge releases online questionnaire about social issues](#)

Global News | Nov. 7, 2018 | News

The City of Lethbridge is asking for help in developing a strategic plan surrounding social issues in the community. The city released an online questionnaire Wednesday in an effort to gain insight on social needs in Lethbridge. The community social development is ...

[L'Arche looking to bring people together as they build profile in Lethbridge](#)

Lethbridge News Now | Nov. 12, 2018 | News

In the backroom of the L'Arche Association office on the north side of Lethbridge, there's a large collage on the wall with the words "You are precious" written above a multi-coloured High Level Bridge and "L'Arche Lethbridge." The collage was created by L'Arche ...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

[City-based researcher recognized for efforts](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Nov. 13, 2018 | News

Lethbridge resident Dr. Daren Heyland received an honorary membership from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for his dedication and contribution to building a larger evidence base for nutritional research for seriously ill patients, as well as his international collaborations ...

[Lethbridge to create green burial space at cemetery](#)

Global News | Nov. 8, 2018 | News

The City of Lethbridge will soon offer a new, environmentally friendly way to lay your loved ones to rest. Space has been put aside at Royal View Memorial Cemetery for green burials. For the city's cemetery foreman, the concept is the old meeting the new ...

Events



Nov. 20 - 22 | RMA Fall 2018 Convention

Host: [Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#)

Time: TBA

Location: [Shaw Conference Centre - Edmonton](#)

RMA is looking forward to welcoming our elected officials and administrators at this year's fall convention, which will take place November 20-22, 2018 at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton. New in 2018, the convention will take place on the Assembly Level and shuttles will transport you from the hotels directly to the doors on this level. We look forward to a strong agenda including our AGM, plenaries, the Ministerial Forum, and a number of diverse workshops.

Accommodations: Our partner hotels are now accepting bookings for November, so please take a moment to ensure all your rooms booked. It is important to note that Grey Cup 2018 is being hosted in Edmonton during the same timeframe, and therefore we advise that you book your rooms as soon as possible. Click [here](#) for more information on

our hotels.

Keynote Speaker: This year we are pleased to have sought-after inspirational speaker, **Amanda Lindhout** join us to deliver a life-changing, transformational keynote experience. Amanda will share her story of when she was working as a journalist in Somalia and abducted by a group of masked men along a dusty road. Amanda spent 460 days as a hostage, surviving on strategy, fortitude and hope in the face of unimaginable adversity.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Nov. 27 | Food for Thought Breakfast with Dr. David Hughes

Host: [Economic Development Lethbridge](#) & [Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta](#)

Time: 7:30 AM - 9:00 PM

Location: [Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre](#)

Economic Development Lethbridge invites you for breakfast with Dr. David Hughes and the Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta.

This is your opportunity to learn more about the future of food and how southern Alberta can capitalize on its strength in agriculture. You are also encouraged to participate in a moderated question and answer session at the end with our speakers.

Leveraging his global expertise in value added processing and food marketing, join Dr. David Hughes for this informative session on how southern Alberta can take advantage of international trends and leverage its collective strength in the agri-food sector. As demand for plant protein increases around the world, there is a growing opportunity for western Canada to add economic value to our domestic and export markets by processing a variety of crop ingredients here at home. The Canadian prairies is one of the world's largest and richest agricultural regions and has many key assets. We could do much more to add value. The 2014 study 'Towards a Western Canadian Crop Ingredient Strategy', summed it up this way:

“As a region, Western Canada exports the majority (65 per cent) of its crop and agricultural resources into global food, beverage, and personal care markets to be broken into ingredients and finished products, which are then imported back into the region.”

[Learn More & Register](#)

Feb. 27 - Mar. 1 | 2019 South Country AG Expo

Host: [Exhibition Park](#) & [Farm Credit Canada](#)

Time: 9 AM - 5 PM Daily

Location: [Exhibition Park - Lethbridge](#)

2019 [South Country Co-Op Ag Expo](#) is Western Canada's Premiere Ag Show presented by [Farm Credit Canada](#). The 3-day show also features the North American Seed Fair presented By [FortisAlberta](#). Visitors to the show can expect to find exhibitors whose product can directly affect, and improve, agricultural production.

\$7 Admission | \$5 Parking

This includes farm equipment, livestock supplies, chemicals, seeds, irrigation, producers and marketers of crops and livestock, and much more. In addition, guests can meet with exhibitors who offer new technology, brokerage services, communications, banking, and other "Tools of the Trade" exhibitors.

Over 350 indoor exhibitors from across North America will attend this annual event. Ag Expo averages over 20,000 consumers over the three-day show. Outside displays on Machinery Row will utilize over 150,000 square feet of space.

The North American Seed Fair showcases over 53 classes of Pedigreed Seed, Open Classes, and Junior Classes. Displayed on the Seed Floor of the South Pavilion, the North American Seed Fair is one of the oldest Seed Fairs in Western Canada.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Mar. 5 - 7 | 2019 Western Canada ACC Excellence Summit

Host: [Alberta Chambers of Commerce](#) & [Disney Institute](#)

Time: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Daily

Location: [Best Western Premier Hotel & Conference Centre - Calgary](#)

Discover ways to positively impact your organization and the customers you serve as you're immersed in leadership, service and employee engagement at the three-day ACC

Excellence Summit featuring Disney Institute March 5-7, 2019 at the Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, Calgary Alberta.

For nearly three decades, *Disney Institute* has helped professionals discover ways to positively impact their organizations and the customer they serve through immersion in leadership, service and employee engagement.

Throughout these courses, you will discover insights that drive Disney parks and resorts organization and gain awareness of how these insights could be adapted to strengthen your own organizational efforts.

ACC Excellence Summit featuring *Disney Institute* presenting Disney's Approach To Leadership Excellence, Disney's Approach To Employee Engagement, and Disney's Approach To Quality Service.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Employment Opportunities

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

[RMA | Rural Municipalities of Alberta](#)

[Government of Alberta](#)

Resources

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.

[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, and Private Financing](#)

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) ...

[Alberta Community Health Dashboard | Healthier Together](#)

The Alberta Community Health Dashboard from Alberta Health Services makes it easier for you to find and apply comprehensive, interactive data.

Questions? Suggestions? Have something you would like us to share? *Contact the SouthGrow team!*

info@southgrow.com | (403) 394-0615

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