



SouthGrow
Regional Initiative

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER

Creating Opportunities in South-Central Alberta

November 6, 2018

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Featured

High-Speed Internet Services Survey

The Competition Bureau needs your help to better understand the competitive dynamics of the Canadian broadband (high-speed) internet services sector.

Date modified: 2018-10-17



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](#).

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Weekly Economic Update

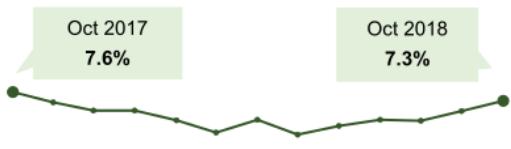
Brought to you by
 Alberta Economic Development and Trade

For the week of Oct. 29
[Full PDF Download](#)

Indicators Updated this Week

Unemployment Rate

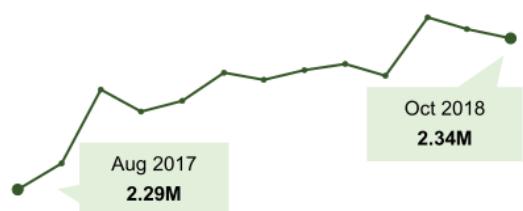
-0.3% 7.3%



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%.

Employment

+1.8% 2.34M



Total employment in Alberta decreased by 2,700 jobs between September 2018 and October 2018. On a year-over-year basis, employment grew by 42,300 jobs or 1.8% in October. Over the same period, Canada's employment increased by 1.1% or by 205,900 jobs. Full-time employment increased by 1.6% in Alberta. Part-time employment increased by 2.9% on a year-over-year basis.

Merchandise Exports

+30.3% \$9.7B

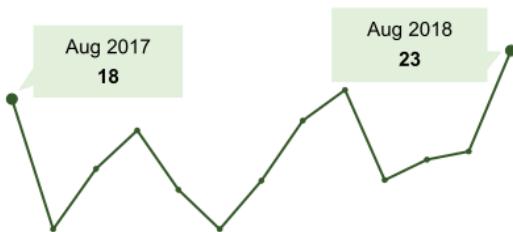


Alberta's international merchandise exports were \$9.7 billion in September 2018, 30.3% higher than the same period last year. Canadian exports increased 12.4% over the same period.

In Alberta, all export categories increased, with exports of energy products, which made up 70.6% of exports, increasing by 37.3%.

Bankruptcies

+27.8% 23



Alberta business bankruptcies increased 27.8% from 18 in August 2017 to 23 in August 2018. Consumer bankruptcies in Alberta decreased by 6.0% from 450 in August 2017, to 423 in August 2018.

Grain Deliveries

-28.0% 992.6k T (thousand tonnes)



Grain deliveries in Alberta decreased 28.0% between September 2017 and September 2018, to 992.6 thousand tonnes. Canadian grain deliveries decreased 6.6% over the same time period.

In Alberta, non-durum wheat, which made up 65.3% of grain deliveries, increased 8.3%, while canola, which made up 19.1% of grain deliveries, decreased 71.3%. Rye (-54.5%) and flaxseed (-16.7%) also saw decreases.

News Highlights

- [David Staples: Edmonton leading way in artificial intelligence research.](#)
- [Higher oil prices and production gains drive operating earnings beat at Suncor.](#)
- [RSM Canada expands to include three new Alberta offices.](#)
- [Amid shortage, Alberta vainly scrambles nationwide to secure more cannabis supplies.](#)
- [Edmonton bus company launching northern Alberta routes.](#)
- [Oilsands companies pull back on production as 'crisis' hits sector.](#)
- [Canadian Natural charges rivals frustrating pipeline efficiency moves for profit.](#)
- [Calgary Chamber of Commerce calls Olympic bid a 'good deal' for business.](#)

- [Varcoe: Looming tax shift could be extra scary for Calgary businesses.](#)
- [Varcoe: Big deal for Encana; Canada's biggest producer urges province to regulate oil output.](#)
- [Canadian crude-by-rail exports rise to new record of 229,544 barrels per day in August.](#)
- [Alberta launches methane emissions reduction program for small, medium oil and gas producers.](#)
- [Edmonton development group explains hub strategy, tech plan ahead of shareholders meeting.](#)

Major Projects

- [Alberta commits \\$1.04 billion to Edmonton's west Valley Line LRT expansion.](#)
- [\\$245M New Central Library in Calgary now 'free and open to everyone'.](#)
- [Construction begins on new \\$24.5M Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail.](#)
- [\\$53.5M Bow River Bridge in Cochrane proceeds on budget and on schedule.](#)
- [Cannabis industry planting roots in Trochu with new greenhouse.](#)
- [YWCA secures funding for \\$9M affordable housing project in Banff.](#)
- [Province selects new contractor for \\$763M Grande Prairie regional hospital.](#)
- [New \\$11.5M Crestview Lodge hosts official grand opening.](#)
- [New \\$19M transit terminal in Lethbridge on target to open spring 2019.](#)
- [G3 Canada announces second Alberta grain elevator.](#)

Key Economic Indicators

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

Looking Ahead

Mon 5	Tue 6	Wed 7	Thu 8	Fri 9
	Indicator Releases: Building Permits			

Things You Need To Know





Success in the Making: Stories of partnerships between Indigenous communities & natural resource firms

About the Success in the Making project

Success in the Making: Stories of partnerships between Indigenous communities & natural resource firms is a partnership between the Canada West Foundation; Name to Place, a First Nations-owned research firm that specializes in community-based research and programming design; and Medicine Rope Strategies, an Indigenous-owned consulting firm that builds engagement strategies and relationships between natural resources companies and Indigenous communities. The project is intended to foster a deeper understanding of the complex relationships between Indigenous communities, resource companies and government decision-makers.

Success in the Making will tell stories like that of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) in Northern Saskatchewan, who own and operate Kitsaki Management LP, a for-profit economic development company. LLRIB also partnered with Cameco officially in 2017 by signing a collaboration agreement.

Today's success stories hold valuable lessons for others who want to build relationships in which both parties' values and economic aspirations are acknowledged and aligned.

The project includes:

- Case studies: "Deep-dive" case studies in communities across Western Canada that allow us to delve into the specifics of what made their partnerships work. These case studies draw on the perspectives of community leaders, elders, youth, women and businesses.
- Interviews with industry: Interviews with representatives from natural resource companies who were involved with the case study projects to understand the factors they believed were critical in creating a successful approach.

- Reporting: Individual community reports as well as a final report upon completion of Success in the Making.
- Outreach and knowledge transfer: Opportunities to collaborate in discussions about how to use the research information. This includes presentations, op-eds, media outreach, etc.

For [more information](#), please contact:

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The 'Just in Time' Plan: CPTPP guide for small businesses in western Canada

Canada's major new trade pact, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), is unequivocal good news for the West and all of Canada. The 11-member trade bloc around the Pacific Rim comes just in time for Canadian small-and medium-sized business to take advantage of key Asian markets, diversify trade and reduce reliance on a United States that has grown more difficult and unpredictable.

In a new guide released today, capping four years of research on the agreement, the Canada West Foundation demonstrates how smaller Canadian businesses can take advantage of the huge opportunities in the CPTPP.

According to [The 'Just in Time' Plan: CPTPP guide for small businesses in Western Canada](#), there are two critical factors for businesses to grasp about the deal:

- With the U.S. no longer part of the pact, Canadian firms will not have to face their usual competitors; in tariffs alone, the deal makes available \$428 million of potential savings and gives cost advantage to take market share from companies that are not part of the agreement, like U.S. competitors.
- The agreement provides benefits that go well beyond tariff cuts for cattle and canola to make trade easier for smaller businesses, including easing the process of getting goods through customs, making it easier to move staff to and from Canada and better protecting business transactions, intellectual property and copyright.

The CPTPP also gives Canadian businesses one set of rules to trade across the entire set of markets that make up the pact - operating like a larger, more dynamic version of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA, now United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA). This allows companies to accumulate inputs from any member of the agreement to make products alone or with companies in other member countries to sell anywhere inside the agreement.

...

Carlo Dade, Director, Trade & Investment Centre, Canada West Foundation

Naomi Christensen, Senior Policy Analyst, Canada West Foundation

READ: [The 'Just in Time' Plan: CPTPP Guide for small businesses in Western Canada](#)

Stories to Follow



Government

[Alberta government signs historic agreement to protect Indigenous rights in Castle parks](#)

Global News | Nov. 2, 2018 | News

The Alberta government has signed an agreement with the Piikani Nation in an effort to protect Indigenous rights in the Castle region of southwest part of the province. On Friday, the government announced that both parties have signed "co-operative management ...

[Strengthening local democracy](#)

Government of Alberta | Nov. 5, 2018 | Press Release

An Act to Renew Local Democracy in Alberta would make several much-needed updates to the existing act that governs elections for municipalities, school boards, Métis Settlements and irrigation districts. After hearing direct feedback from Albertans, the province is proposing ...

Government of Canada announces judicial appointments in the province of Alberta

Department of Justice Canada | Nov. 5, 2018 | Press Release

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, today announced the following appointments under the new judicial application process introduced on October 20, 2016. The new process emphasizes transparency, merit, and ...

Canada's new large-emitter pricing system might defeat the carbon tax's own purpose

Maclean's | Nov. 5, 2018 | Opinion

On Oct. 23, the federal government rolled out its plan to tax carbon emissions on non-complying provinces and return the lion's share of the revenue to households. Reaction was swift, and much ink was spilled praising, analyzing, and reviling the plan. Receiving far less ...

Economy & Economic Development

Unemployment in region hits 15-month low

Lethbridge News Now | Nov. 2, 2018 | News

Unemployment in the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat region has reached its lowest level since July 2017.

According to Statistics Canada and the Alberta government, the unadjusted three-month moving average unemployment rate in October was 4.1 per cent, down from 4.8 ...

Ag feeling market volatility

Lethbridge Herald | Nov. 6, 2018 | News

Farm Credit Canada chief agricultural economist J.P. Gervais says ongoing market volatility is having a noticeable impact on the Canadian agriculture industry, and what it amounts to is a net negative in exports for producers this year over last. "In the short term this volatility is ...

Alberta Chambers of Commerce pushing focus on economy prior to 2019 election

Global News | Nov. 5, 2018 | News

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce want Albertans to think about the economy leading up to the 2019 provincial election. The organization has launched the Vote Prosperity campaign, which calls on all political parties to strengthen business competitiveness, grow ...

Making Sense of Markets

Bank of Canada | Nov. 5, 2018 | Speech

Making sense of financial markets is supposed to be easy. Stock prices, bond yields and exchange rates are all expected to behave in line with economic fundamentals. We know the reality is more complicated than that. Yes, financial markets react to new information—in fact ...

Communities

M.D. council examines emergency management protocol

The Vauxhall Advance | Nov. 1, 2018 | News

With the 2018 spring local state of emergency due to overland flooding, the Municipal District of Taber council brought up a question around their emergency management plan. As the plan only includes the M.D. of Taber, Village of Barnwell and the Town of Vauxhall ...

[City taking leadership role provincially in opioid crisis, says Spearman](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Nov. 3, 2018 | News

Mayor Chris Spearman answered critics on Monday that city council is not doing enough to combat the drug crisis and to address the negative spin-offs that come along with it. Spearman pointed to the City's leadership efforts at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association ...

[First legal cannabis store in Lethbridge opens its doors](#)

Lethbridge News Now | Nov. 3, 2018 | News

More than two weeks after cannabis was legalized across the country, Lethbridge's first pot shop opened its doors Saturday morning, Nov. 3, to eagerly awaiting crowds. At least 200 people lined up at NewLeaf Cannabis on Mayor Magrath Drive, beginning at 2 a.m. so they could ...

[G3 Canada announces second Alberta elevator](#)

Alberta Farmer Express | Nov. 2, 2018 | News

G3 Canada Limited is building a second new state-of-the-art elevator in the province. G3 Carmangay will be built southwest of the southern Alberta community, on the east side of Highway No. 23 on the CP Rail line. It will have a capacity of 42,000 tonnes, be able to empty a Super-B ...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

[Vital Signs report shows significance of wind power in southwest Alberta](#)

Global News | Oct. 4, 2018 | Research & Analysis

As a university professor, Jim Byrne tries not to blow hot air. But he thinks southern Alberta is an ideal place to capitalize on the wind energy market – not only for the gusts, but also for the location. "We're not far from any of the major grid lands," Byrne said. "We can feed wind ...

[A Different Economic Development: Embracing Equity in Rural Settings](#)

NPQ: Nonprofit Quarterly | Sep. 13, 2018 | Research Analysis

Many rural communities struggle to find ways to stimulate and maintain the local economy and build community wealth. Those that succeed have moved away from more traditional approaches of economic development and have embraced a more holistic way of thinking ...

[Canadian businesses are more innovative](#)

The Owl: ATB | Nov. 5, 2018 | Research & Analysis

Blockchain technology, artificial intelligence, and 3D printing are just a few technologies set to change the business landscape in 2019. According to the latest Statistics Canada Survey of Innovation and Business Strategy (SIBS), more Canadian businesses may be using these ...

[Fast internet? An urban reality but a rural myth](#)

Alberta Farmer Express | Nov. 5, 2018 | News

It's an issue that big-city bureaucrats can't seem to wrap their heads around — an internet connection spread so thin that it's nearly unusable during peak hours. But in rural Alberta, it's an all-too-common problem. "The connection gets weaker and weaker the further you ...

Events



Nov. 8 | Milk River WCC Science Forum

Host: [Milk River Watershed Council Canada](#)

Time: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: [Milk River Civic Centre](#)

The MRWCC would like to invite you to attend their Science Forum on November 8, 2018 at the Milk River Civic Centre from 9:30am to 3:00pm. Please join us and discover some of the eye catching scientific research and monitoring projects taking place in the Milk River watershed, surrounding areas and other studies whose objectives impact the watershed ecosystem. Come and witness researchers and others experts share their findings with engaged community members and stakeholders. Lunch will be provided and there will be a registration fee to cover lunch: \$10/individual and free for students.

To register please call: 403-647-3808 or email: mary@mrwcc.ca. Registration deadline is November 5, 2018.

[Learn More & Register](#)

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!

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