



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

Creating Opportunities in South-Central Alberta

DECEMBER 11, 2018



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Featured

Plant Proteins: An Overview of the Opportunity

By Peter Casurella



Plant Proteins is a hot topic right now in the economic development community, and Southern Alberta is at the centre of the excitement. Put simply, there is a real market opportunity for bold business people to start, grow, or expand a business into this space and burst onto the international scene. The market opportunity is broad in its scope and there's a lot of ways to take advantage of it. We've put together a short explainer for our communities to better understand the opportunity and what your community can do to help your business community take advantage of it.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Weekly Economic Briefing

Brought to you by

For the week of **December 3, 2018**

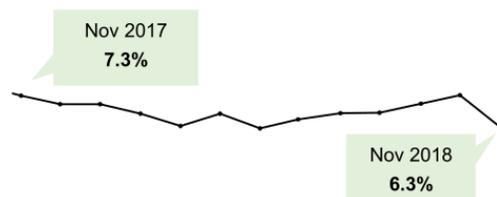


[Full Document](#)

Indicators Updated this Week

Unemployment Rate

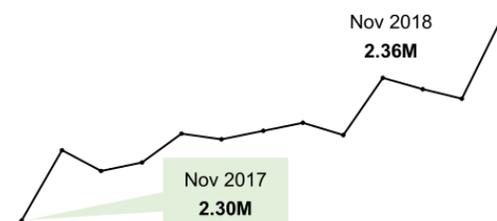
-1.0% 6.3%



In November 2018 Alberta's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3%, down from the 7.3% rate that was registered a year earlier and down from last month's 7.3% rate. The national unemployment rate was 5.6% in November, down from last November's rate of 5.9%.

Employment

+2.6% 2.36M



Total employment in Alberta increased by 23,700 jobs between October 2018 and November 2018. On a year-over-year basis, employment grew by 58,900 jobs or 2.6% in November. Over the same period, Canada's employment increased by 1.2% or by 218,800 jobs. Full-time employment increased by 4.2% in Alberta, while part-time employment decreased by 4.9% on a year-over-year basis.

Merchandise Exports

+28.3% \$10.8B



Alberta's international merchandise exports were \$10.8 billion in October 2018, 28.3% higher than the same period last year. Canadian exports increased 13.1% over the same period. In Alberta, all export categories increased except Farm, fishing and intermediate food products. Exports of industrial machinery increased 57.7% year-over-year, the most of any product category.

Oil Production

+17.8% \$18.1M m³



Oil production in Alberta was 18.05 million cubic metres in October 2018, up 17.8% compared to October 2017.

Non-conventional (or oil sands) production constituted 83.4% of all oil production in Alberta in October 2018. Production of non-conventional oil was up 18.3% while conventional oil production increased by 15.1% on a year-over-year basis.

Natural Gas Production

+0.0% 9.1B m³



In October 2018, marketable natural gas production reached 9.1 billion cubic metres, a negligible increase from October 2017's production level.

Active Drilling Rigs

-6.3% 134



The average number of active drilling rigs in November 2018 was 134, decreasing by 9 (-6.3%) from November 2017. The number of inactive rigs decreased 5.6% from 288 to 272 over the same period.

Incorporations

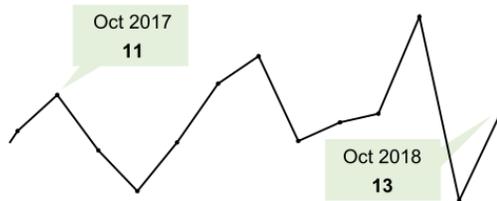
+6.3% 3,445



In November 2018, the number of businesses incorporated in Alberta totalled 3,445, an increase of 6.3% from the same period a year earlier. Alberta incorporations were up 5.8% to 3,073, while non-Alberta incorporations increased 11.0% from a year earlier to 372.

Bankruptcies

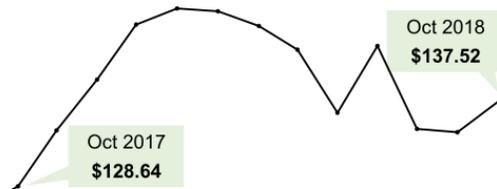
+18.2% 13



Alberta business bankruptcies increased 18.2% from 11 in October 2017 to 13 in October 2018. Consumer bankruptcies in Alberta decreased by 0.7% from 450 in October 2017, to 447 in October 2018.

Cattle Price

+6.9% \$137.52 (\$/hundredweight)



Cattle prices in Alberta increased by 6.9% in October 2018 compared to the same time period a year earlier, to \$137.52 per hundredweight, the highest price in Canada. Calve prices increased by 1.0% year-over-year in October 2018 to \$180.35. Hog prices increased by 12.3% in October 2018 compared to the same period a year earlier, to \$72.93.

Wheat Price

-2.0% \$245.94 (\$/metric tonne)

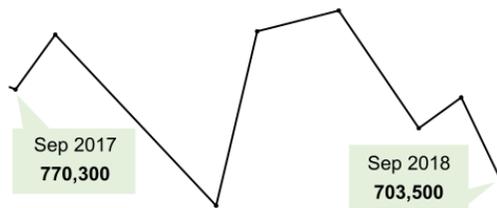


In October 2018, Alberta non-durum wheat prices, which include the weighted average prices of milling and other wheat excluding durum, were \$245.94/metric tonne, 2.0% lower than prices in October 2017.

Durum wheat prices in October 2018 were \$243.87/metric tonne, 19.7% lower than October 2017.

Lumber Production

-8.7% 703,500 m³



Lumber production in Alberta was down 8.7% year-over-year in September 2018 to 703,500 cubic metres. Alberta lumber shipments decreased 4.1% to 725,300 cubic metres in September 2018 compared to September 2017. Nationally, lumber shipments decreased by 6.0% to 5.4 million cubic metres when compared with the same period.

News Highlights

- [OPEC backs 6-month oil production cut package.](#)
- [OPEC could make Canadian oil price crisis even worse.](#)
- [U of A researchers hope to detect Alzheimer's with saliva test.](#)
- [Edmonton okay despite oil cutbacks, says city chief economist.](#)
- [Large Southern Alberta land claim wraps up in Federal Court.](#)
- [Alberta Finance Minister to unveil Calgary Digital Dollars.](#)
- [Premier at Ministers meeting; wants to add energy to the agenda.](#)
- [Alberta cuts oil production to reduce the oil differential.](#)
- [Edmonton start-up creates new credit service for cannabis purchasers.](#)
- [Calgary company Rigstar Communications in expansion mode.](#)
- [Canada will feel Alberta's oil price shock, but not as much as in 2015.](#)
- [Alberta prevented 'very big' knock-on effect with cuts: Cenovus CEO.](#)

Major Projects

- [Calgary's \\$245M New Central Library one of Architectural Digest's 'libraries of the future'.](#)
- [Tentative approval for \\$300M Edmonton's Lewis Farms recreation centre.](#)
- [First oil for CNRL's Kirby North project expected by the end of 2019.](#)
- [TransCanada can resume some pre-construction work on \\$8B Keystone XL, judge rules.](#)
- [\\$1.5B Cascade Power Project now waiting for environmental approval.](#)
- [Michichi solar project underway near Drumheller.](#)
- [Industrial Heartland expecting major PDP news.](#)

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Lastest Update	Change	Last Update
2017	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$327.4B	+4.6%	Nov 2018
Q3 2018	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.3M	+1.5%	Sep 2018
Nov 2018	Unemployment <i>yr/yr</i>	6.3%	-1.0%	Dec 2018
Dec 3 - 7, 2018	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	\$52.61	+3.7%	Dec 7, 2018 Closing
Sep 2018	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.9B	+3.0%	Nov 2018

Looking Ahead

Mon 10	Tue 11	Wed 12	Thu 13	Fri 14
Indicator Releases: Building Permits				

Things You Need To Know



China Brief | [Edition 014](#)

In this edition: In this edition: it's all Huawei all the time. Huawei's CFO is arrested in Vancouver, and the debate over banning Huawei's 5G tech in Canada rages on. Check out this, and more, in this latest edition. [Read more...](#)



Apply Now for the Alberta Municipal Solar Program

The **Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC)** is pleased to announce an extension of funding and updates to the [Alberta Municipal Solar Program \(AMSP\)](#). Thanks to additional funding from the Government of Alberta, municipalities who have not yet had a chance to participate in this exciting program can still apply.

Highlights of the updated AMSP:

- The maximum eligible rebate per project has increased from 25 percent to 30 percent of eligible expenses.
- A first-time applicant bonus rebate of \$0.25/watt is available to municipalities that have not previously participated in the AMSP for their first project.
- AMSP funding is available on a first come, first served basis and municipalities are eligible to submit multiple applications.

Any municipality that has already received an incentive through the AMSP for a completed project or has signed an AMSP Implementation Funding Agreement for a project under construction is not eligible for the first-time applicant bonus.

Visit the [Municipal Climate Change Action Centre \(MCCAC\) website](#) for more information on the AMSP and updated program terms and conditions.d operational requirements. To register for the webinar, [please visit this link](#).

Stories to Follow



Government

[Alberta to hire 100 paramedics, buy 17 ambulances](#)

CTV News | Dec. 7, 2018 | News

The Alberta government is spending \$29 million dollars to hire additional paramedics, buy new ambulances and improve service for the public and frontline staff. Health Minister Sarah Hoffman made the announcement in Edmonton on Friday ...

[Alberta government providing \\$12.6M to help with Lethbridge opioid ...](#)

Global News | Dec. 8, 2018 | News

The Alberta government announced Friday that it will be funding new initiatives to help address issues that have arisen regarding the opioid crisis and substance use in the city. "Lethbridge is facing a very serious opioid crisis. It's one of the worst in Canada ...

[Alberta government to support safe withdrawal site for Blood Tribe](#)

Global News | Dec 6, 2018 | News

A new safe withdrawal management site will provide substance use treatment services for people in the Blood Tribe community. The Alberta government releasing a statement Thursday, stating that they will be providing \$2.2 million over two years for startup ...

Economy & Markets

[Unemployment rate in southern Alberta below 4 per cent](#)

Medicine Hat News | Dec. 7, 2018 | News

The unemployment rate in southern Alberta fell even further in November and now sits at 3.9 per cent in the local region, according to figures released Friday morning. That figure for the Medicine Hat-Lethbridge region is down one-and-a-half percentage points ...

[Western Canadian wheat bids rise with US futures](#)

The Western Producer | Dec. 10, 2018 | News

Wheat bids in Western Canada were up for the week ended Dec. 7, as strength in the United States futures provided support. Average Canadian Western Red Spring (13.5 percent CWRS) wheat prices were up C\$5 to C\$7, according to price quotes ...

[Klassen: Feeder market experiences softer demand](#)

Manitoba Co-operator | Dec. 11, 2018 | Research & Analysis

Compared to last week, western Canadian feeder cattle sold \$4-\$6 lower on average. Feedlot operators backed away from the markets due to stronger feed grain prices and weakness south of the border. Certain regions of the U.S. Midwest and southern ...

[Report shows meat prices will drop in 2019, but how will this affect local producers?](#)

Global News | Dec. 5, 2018 | Research & Analysis

Canada's Food Price Report, developed by researchers with the University of Guelph and Dalhousie University, predicts meat prices will decline in 2019 — the first time since the study was established nine years ago. But what could those decreases mean ...

Communities

[Town of Raymond completes seven net-zero solar installations; on track for more in 2019](#)

Lethbridge News Now | Dec. 8, 2018 | News

To kick off the Town of Raymond's annual Old-Fashioned Christmas, they celebrated the completion of seven net-zero solar installations that will help them reach 100% of their operational electricity needs through solar power in 2019. More than 1,164 solar panels ...

[Big Land Claim battle in southern Alberta wraps up in Federal Court](#)

CBC News | Dec. 7, 2018 | News

A judge in Calgary is hearing the final arguments in a long-running Indigenous land claim that affects a large swath of territory in southern Alberta. Lawyers representing the Crown and the Blood Tribe wrapped up their cases Thursday in what's become known ...

[Pesticide training for area farmers](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Dec. 10, 2018 | News

The County of Warner Ag Service Board will be holding Farmer Pesticide Certificate courses on Dec. 13 as well as on Jan. 10 and Jan. 31. According to the Board, the course is mandatory for any farmer who wishes to apply restricted chemicals to their grains ...

[Council approves budget](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Dec. 10, 2018 | News

The City of Lethbridge has a new four-year operating budget. After six days of deliberations – one additional day of finance committee discussion and amendments, and on the second attempt at council – members gave final approval in a 7-2 vote on Monday ...

[Coaldale town council approves operating budget](#)

The Sunny South News | Dec. 11, 2018 | News

During their regular Nov. 26 meeting, Coaldale town council reviewed the operating budget for 2019-2021. A municipality's operating budget is a detailed estimate of how much money it requires in order to meet ongoing financial obligations, such as providing programs ...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

[CRH surgeries a cut above the rest](#)

Lethbridge Herald | Dec. 10, 2018 | News

Not everyone looks forward to surgery. But for southern Albertans, the good news is that Chinook Regional Hospital is one of the world's safest places for an operation. It's among 83 hospitals right around the world, an international organization says ...

Events



**JAN 15, 22,
29 & FEB 5**

**Blockchain;
Increasing value within the agricultural supply
chain**

Host: [Teconnect + Economic Development Lethbridge](#)

Time: 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: [Teconnect - Lethbridge](#)

Blockchain is positioned to revolutionize the future of Agriculture.

Understand the basic concepts, as well as the advanced application of how Blockchain will increase value from seed to table.

This comprehensive series of workshops will provide an introduction to the fundamentals of Blockchain – the technology, characteristics and implications. The topics will include an overview of Blockchain use cases, with an emphasis on agriculture, to explore the potential and challenges associated with this emerging technology on business and supply chain management. Other emerging technologies that are likely to be interwoven into Blockchain like Artificial Intelligence, IoT and machine learning will also be discussed.

Presented by Jefferson Gardner of InBridge Inc. a multi-disciplinary technology company dedicated to the advancement of Blockchain through advisory, education, consultation, research, development and implementation.

Cost: \$175 Includes all session (breakfasts Included)

[Learn More & Register](#)

JAN 24 - 25

IEDC Elective Training Course: Entrepreneurial & Small Business Development Strategies

Host: [International Economic Development Council](#)

Time: Wed. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM | Thur. 9:00 AM - 4:45 PM

Location: [Fort Lauderdale, FL](#)

Course Highlights

- Identifying and addressing the needs of entrepreneurs
- Defining urban- vs. rural-focused entrepreneurial and small business strategies
- Managing technical assistance (e.g., economic gardening) programs
- Developing and managing business incubators
- Understanding federal and state government resources (e.g., SBDCs)
- Financing programs including microlending, venture capital, and angel networks
- Creating a technical assistance tracking system to measure job growth, etc.

[Learn More & Register](#)

JAN 30

Webinar: Future of Plant Proteins Utilization in Food and Beyond

Host: [CIFST | Canadian Institute of Food Science & Technology](#)

Time: 11:00 AM MST

Location: N/A (Webinar)

Today, consumers demand healthier, lower-cost alternatives to animal-derived or soy-based ingredients. In order to meet market demand, innovations in feedstock,

fractionation and pre- and post-processing is needed to address challenges related to nutritional value, functionality and flavour.

Please join [DR. MICHAEL NICKERSON](#) for this informative presentation as he discusses emerging opportunities in the plant protein ingredient industry.

PRESENTED BY

Dr. Michael Nickerson, Professor and Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Research Chair, University of Saskatchewan

This webinar presentation is part of a series being offered free to CIFST members in good standing for 2019. Non-members can register to participate for a fee of \$50.

[Learn More & Register](#)

JAN 30 - 31

**IEDC Core Training Course:
Real Estate Development & Reuse**

Host: [International Economic Development Council](#)

Time: Wed. 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Thur. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: [Fort Lauderdale FL, USA](#)

Course Highlights

- Housing, retail, office, industrial, hotel, and mixed-use development
- Regulatory and approval process, including zoning and permitting
- Assessing community involvement and political feasibility
- Public, private, and nonprofit financial modeling
- Understanding the pro forma operating statement structure
- Property valuation and capitalization rates
- Brownfield redevelopment phase structure and liability
- Request for qualification/proposal process

[Learn More & Register](#)

FEB 7

Business Model Canvas & Value Proposition Design

Host: [Tecconnect + Economic Development Lethbridge](#)

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: [Tecconnect - Lethbridge](#)

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.

Cost: \$20 (dinner included)

[Learn More & Register](#)

**FEB 27 -
MAR 1**

2019 South Country Co-op 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.

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.

\$7 Admission | \$5 Parking

[Learn More & Register](#)

MAR 5 - 7

2019 Western Canada Alberta Chambers of Commerce Excellence Summit

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

Time: [8:30 AM - 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](#)

APR 16

Alberta Agriculture Job Fair 2019

Host: [Alberta Ag. & Forestry](#), [Alberta Labour](#) and [Alberta Community & Social Services](#)

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: [Exhibition Park Pavilion, Lethbridge](#)

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Labour and Alberta Community and Social Services are pleased to announce our next Agriculture Job Fair 2019.

We are very excited to have a brand new venue for this year's event that includes the largest floor space to date!

With the enhanced floor space we are looking to build on previous years success by allowing exhibitors the ability to bring tools, trucks, trailers, products or anything that you feel would enhance the job seekers experience (*some limitations – no livestock permitted – run your ideas past us to see how we can make your exhibit stand out).

If you are an Ag Employer, Ag Industry representative, Community Association or partner, we would kindly encourage you to forward on the attached PDF document to any Ag related company in Southern Alberta so they may have the opportunity to attend this event and recruit directly. To keep costs low for employers, this event does not have an exhibitor fee.

We will be forwarding more information and registration forms in early 2019 however if you are interested please respond to myself or Tyler Koyata (tyler.koyata@gov.ab.ca) via email and we will be sure to mark you down!

[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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