



Creating opportunities in South-Central Alberta



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Featured

Roundtable with CRTC Regional Commissioner - November 5th.

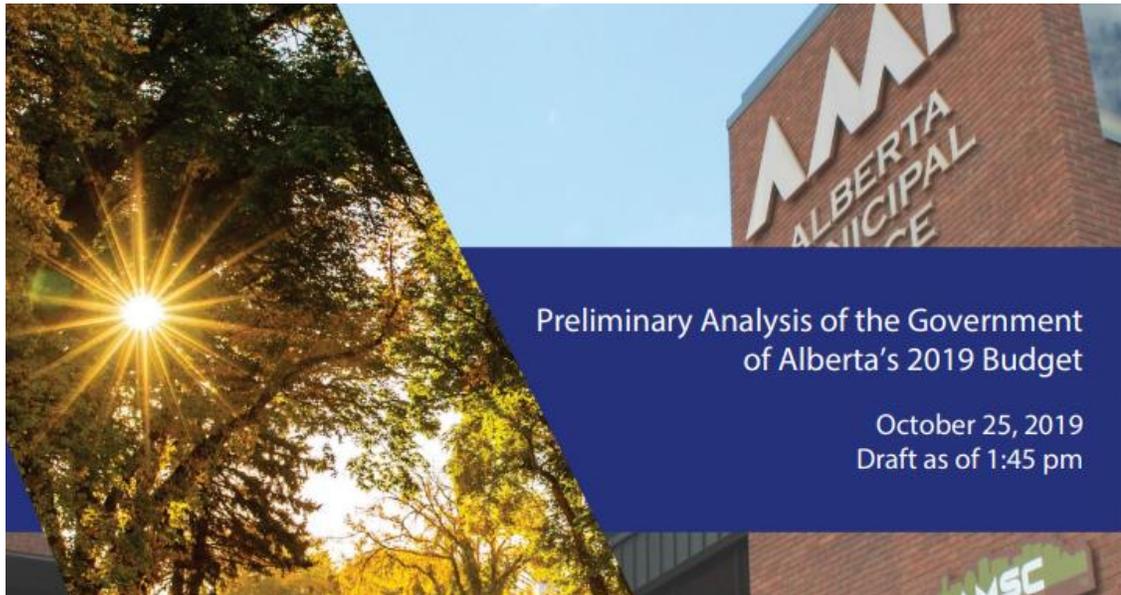
Tomorrow, November 5th, the regional commissioner of the CRTC is coming through the region to talk with stakeholders about any issues that impact their mandate. If you have concerns or questions about broadband, privacy legislation, security, internet, telecommunications or more, please do come and join us.

[RSVP HERE to attend.](#)

Meeting time and location: November 5th, 3:00 pm. Culver City Room, Lethbridge City Hall.

Preliminary Analysis of the Government of Alberta's 2019 Budget

By AUMA & AMSC | Report



Published: October 25, 2019

Introduction AUMA expected a budget of restraint, and that is what the province delivered. At the same time, Minister Toews' budget speech emphasized the priorities laid out in the UCP platform:

- Getting Albertans back to work
- Making life better for Albertans
- Standing up for Alberta

While the budget advances many UCP commitments, a great deal of work remains to establish the provincial- municipal partnership required to restore the Alberta advantage.

AUMA and its members are up to the challenges presented by the current period of fiscal restraint. However, many of the cuts made in this budget compromise municipalities' ability to support and execute the goals laid out by our provincial government. Municipalities are key to achieving real change for communities where Albertans live, work, and thrive, but the funding allocated, and costs downloaded to municipalities in this budget mean that the tools, strategies and resources for success may be out of reach. (For example, while the province reduces its budget by 2.8 per cent over the next four years, it has proposed reducing our infrastructure funding by almost 10 times that amount.)

The following document includes AUMA's preliminary analysis of Budget 2019 and how it relates to municipal priorities and the financial future of Alberta communities. In addition, it summarizes the province's fiscal outlook and includes highlights of ministry business plans that most impact our

communities.

Priorities for Alberta's Municipal Governments

AUMA and our members have been calling on the province to recognize that strong communities build Alberta. We have highlighted priority items that require partnership between municipalities and the province to address. These include:

Adequate, predictable, and sustainable infrastructure funding

AUMA was pleased that the UCP platform acknowledged that “municipalities need a positive partnership with the provincial government and long-range planning to meet their community planning.” We also appreciate that Budget 2019 indicates the province will legislate a new Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) linked to provincial revenue.

Regrettably, when it is introduced in 2022-23 the LGFF's base amount will be 30 per cent less than 2017 funding levels. In addition, this base funding is only going a half the rate of revenue growth. In addition, the intent of establishing a positive partnership is undermined by the province tearing up the City Charter Fiscal Framework Act. This is a broken election platform promise.

[Read more.](#)

Multiple job holders in Alberta

By TB Financial's Economics & Research Team | ATB Economics | Research



Published: Oct 29, 2019

For most of us, one job is enough to handle. But for some, preference or necessity drives the need to take on more than one job at a time.

There were 146,900 moonlighters in Alberta last year. This works out to 6.3 per cent of all workers in the province. The proportion of multiple job holders has not changed much in 30 years with 5.8 per cent of workers in this category in 1987.

Nationally, the average is 5.7 per cent, with Newfoundland and Labrador at the low end of the spectrum (3.9 per cent) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan at the high end (7.6 per cent).

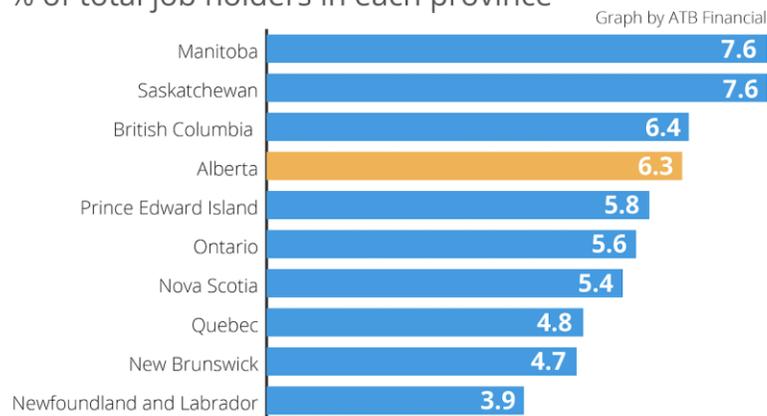
Information, culture and recreation workers are the most likely to moonlight, with 10.5 per cent of workers in this sector reporting they have more than one job. Health care and social assistance workers are in second place at 9.7 per cent, followed by accommodation and food services workers in third spot at 9.0 per cent.

Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and oil and gas workers are the least likely to moonlight with just 3.6 per cent of workers in this sector holding down multiple jobs.

Women are more likely than men to be working multiple jobs. Eight per cent of female workers moonlight compared to 4.9 per cent for males. Age also makes a difference, with 6.6 per cent of workers in the 15 to 24 and 25 to 54 age ranges moonlighting compared 5.1 per cent among those 55 years and over.

Multiple job holders by province, 2018

% of total job holders in each province



Source: Statistics Canada Table 14-10-0044-01

Alberta's inflation rate holds steady

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team | ATB Economics | Research



Alberta's inflation rate held steady at 1.3 per cent in September compared to 1.9 per cent nationally. British Columbia posted the highest year-over-year change in prices among the provinces at 2.4 per cent. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest rate at 0.5 per cent.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 1.4 per cent in the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)

and by 1.1 per cent in the Calgary CMA.

When highly volatile gasoline prices are excluded, Alberta's inflation rate in September was 2.3 per cent and closer to the national average of 2.4 per cent.

Gasoline prices in Alberta were down 21.1 per cent on a year-over-year basis in September compared to an average drop of 10.0 per cent for the country as a whole. The drop in gas prices pushed down the cost of operating a passenger vehicle in Alberta by 5.5 per cent while the cost of public transit rose by 1.5 per cent.

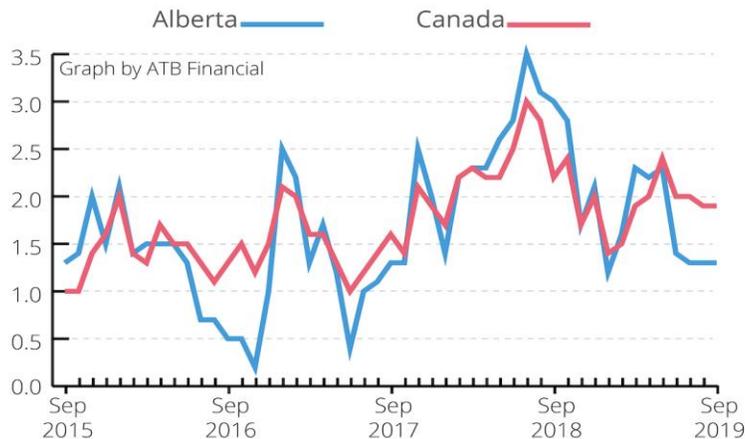
Food prices in Alberta were up 3.9 per cent in September compared to a year earlier led by rises in the cost of vegetables (11.7 per cent) and meat (6.7 per cent). The price of food purchased from stores was up by 4.2 per cent compared to 3.3 per cent for eating out.

Shelter costs in the province were up by 1.8 per cent with rental accommodation rising 2.0 per cent, owned accommodation by 1.7 per cent, and water, fuel and electricity by 2.0 per cent.

If you do not see a chart below, you can view it at atb.com/economics

Monthly inflation rate in Canada and Alberta

Year-over-year per cent change in the Consumer Price Index



Source: Statistics Canada Table 18-10-0004-01

Weekly Economic Briefing

Brought to you by

For the week of **October 15 2019**

[Full Document Access](#)

Indicators Updated this Week

NATURAL GAS PRICES

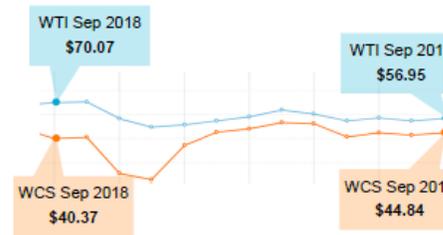
-12.8%
\$0.82
(\$CDN/GJ)



The price of natural gas in August 2019 was CDN\$0.82 per gigajoule, down 12.8% from August 2018.

WCS OIL PRICE

+11.1%
\$44.84
(\$US/bbl)



The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) price of oil, often a world reference price quoted in the media, averaged US\$56.95 a barrel in September 2019, 18.7% lower than it was a year earlier.

Western Canada Select (WCS), the price obtained for many Alberta producers of oil, averaged US\$44.84 a barrel in September 2019, 11.1% lower than it was a year earlier.

The differential of WTI over WCS was US\$12.11 in September 2019.

GRAIN DELIVERIES

-6.1%
917.2
(thousand tonnes)

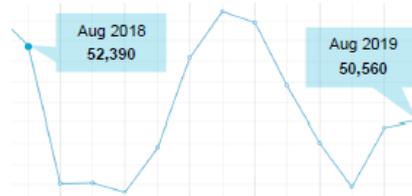


Grain deliveries in Alberta decreased by 6.1% between September 2018 and September 2019, to 0.917million tonnes. Canadian grain deliveries fell by 5.4% over the same period.

In Alberta, non-durum wheat, which made up 61.8% of grain deliveries, declined by 12.3%, while canola, which made up 24.3% of grain deliveries, rose by 22.1%.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

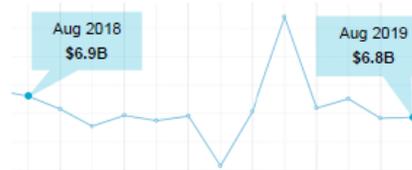
-3.5%
50,560
(recipients)



In August 2019, there were 50,560 people receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in Alberta, a decrease of 1,830 people (-3.5%) compared with August 2018. Nationally, EI beneficiaries decreased by 2.2% year-over-year.

WHOLESALE TRADE

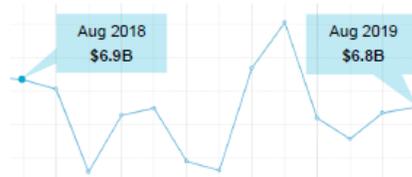
-2.2%
\$6.8B



In August 2019, the value of Alberta wholesale sales decreased by 2.2% to \$6.77 billion compared to August 2018. Nationally, wholesale trade increased 2.0% over the same time period.

RETAIL TRADE

-0.6%
\$6.8B



Alberta's retail trade value decreased by 0.6% in August 2019 compared to August 2018, to \$6.83 billion. Nationally, retail sales increased by 1.1% over the same time frame. In Alberta, miscellaneous stores (+9.9%) saw the largest increase, while gasoline stations (-14.6%) had the largest decrease.

News Highlights

- PayPal launches small business loan program in Canada. [Read more](#)
- New natural gas power plants key to reducing provincial greenhouse gas emissions. [Read more](#)
- Global poll: Canada top nation for entrepreneurs. [Read more](#)
- Edmonton airport now using drones to collect runway maintenance data. [Read more](#)

Major Projects

- Costco is building its 1st store on a First Nation. [Read more](#)
- On ice: Fort Edmonton's nordic spa cancelled. [Read more](#)
- New recreation facility opens in Peace River. [Read more](#)

Key Economic Indicators

Period	Indicator	Latest Update	Change	Last Updated
2018	GDP <i>yr/yr</i>	\$335.0B	+2.4%	May 2019
Q3 2019	Population <i>yr/yr</i>	4.37M	+1.6%	October 2019
Sep 2019	Unemployment Rate <i>yr/yr</i>	6.6%	-6.6%	October 2019
Oct 21 - 25, 2019	WTI Oil Price <i>wk/wk</i>	USD\$56.63	-4.6%	October 25, 2019 Closing
Jul 2019	Retail Trade <i>yr/yr</i>	\$6.8B	-0.5%	September 2019

Looking Ahead

Mon 28	Tue 29	Wed 30	Thu 31	Fri 1
			Indicator Releases: Payroll employment, earnings and hours Gross domestic product by industry	

Things You Need To Know

New Events and Series Announced!

teconnect **+ED**
EDUCATING & EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS



Rewatch "The Nuts and Bolts of Data Science for Entrepreneurs"

Tecconnect hosted a great daytime event in early October. With our new technology - you can still take advantage of the fantastic offerings that we're providing.

To watch the recording of the session "The Nuts and Bolts of Data Science for Entrepreneurs" presented by Cybera, please visit this link:

[View - The Nuts and Bolts of Data Science for Entrepreneurs - Session Recording](#)

Cybera wants to thank all those who attended *The Nuts and Bolts of Data Science for Entrepreneurs* Lunch & Learn online or in-person. They said "It was a great day and Cybera is looking forward to working more with community members in Lethbridge and Southern Alberta!"

If you'd like to find out more about programs they are offering or future events please subscribe to their newsletter through [this link](#).

Also, if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact them directly at datascience@cybera.ca.

Lastly, Cybera will be hosting the Cyber Summit in Kananaskis during the last week of October. Info for the occasion can be [viewed here](#). The theme this year is around "Accessibility." They hope to see you there!

The advertisement features a dark blue background with various icons representing business and technology, such as a lightbulb, a key, a paperclip, and a speech bubble. A woman with glasses is smiling and pointing upwards. The text "teccconnect +ED" is at the top left, with "EDUCATING & EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS" below it. The main title "Entrepreneurship 102 Developments Module" is in large white letters. A blue banner at the bottom right says "\$150 for 6 sessions".

Entrepreneurship 102 - Developments Module

This 6-week program is designed to focus on developing further understanding upon the fundamentals of your Value Proposition Design and Business Model Canvas (BMC).

In this series we'll take the work you've done so far on your business idea and strengthen it in some of the fundamental planning areas as you continue to move towards commercialization.

The weekly sessions will provide entrepreneurs with the opportunity to think on and explore the deeper connectivity of content that stems from the Business Model Canvas and fuels the structure towards an eventual business plan. The key takeaways for this course are: to understand how general planning elements can be used for future strategy development and linked back to the fundamentals of the BMC; to analyze the business and political

environments; to build a strong team and core values; to consider a strong financial plan; to explore and anticipate funding opportunities; to focus on leadership skills and community building; and to understand how there are different ways to protect your idea before you start down the road to commercialization.

While the program is designed to be continuous weekly modules, if you're looking for a quick brush-up on specific topics, you may also register for each single week course as needed.

Sessions will include:

- Introduction to Internal & External Analysis Tools & Linking the BMC and VPD to further planning developments
- How to Select Staff and Develop Your Advisor Team & HR Plan / Needs Assessment
- Understanding Financial Needs & Projections / Forecasting, Cash Flow & Market Potential
- Discover / Assess Funding Needs & Opportunities
- Leadership & Community Building Fundamentals for improved Product / Service Positioning & Visioning and Marketing & Sales Tactics
- How to Protect Your Idea the Right Way & What to Consider
- Live pitching session and culmination event!

Register for our Entrepreneurship 102 – Developments Module to learn the skills and techniques essential for strong continuous development of your business idea.

Date Range of Sessions:

November 6, 2019 – December 11, 2019

Wednesday Evenings from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (dinner included)

Series Package Cost:

\$150

Individual Sessions:

\$30

[Register today](#)



Six-Pack App

The goals of the 6-pack app series program are to:

- Provide a grounding in app creation fundamentals
- Introduce you to the process of creating apps for the App Store

There are no prerequisites to register for this series and all backgrounds and skill levels are welcome. Some exposure to computers is required, but if you can send an email or use a web browser, you're good to go.

The Six Pack App series will include some homework, for which a part of the session will be allotted, but students will need to complete their work before the next session.

To participate in the workshops, a computer (Mac or Windows) will be required. Some, but not all, of the exercises can be completed on a tablet, but this is not optimal. A limited number of computers will be available on site to be used on a first-come-first-served basis.

Featured Sessions:

- Step 1 - Audience, Not Idea
- Step 2 - Designing Your MLP
- Step 3 - Creating Your Acceptance Tests
- Step 4 - Working with App Developers
- Step 5 - Deploying Your App
- Step 6 - Launching in the App Store

Date Range of Sessions:

October 29, 2019 – December 10, 2019

Tuesday Evenings from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (dinner included)

Series Package Cost:

\$150

Individual Sessions:

\$30

[Register Today](#)



teconnect **+ED**
EDUCATING & EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS

**Emerging Tech
Data Science &
Machine Learning
Part 1**

\$30 live / webinar



Emerging tech

The Value of Data Analytics.

Informed business decisions require capturing, managing and processing real-life data. In this session, participants will analyze data using the popular Tableau software.

Participants will acquire the ability to make business decisions based on real-life datasets and build a presentation around them.

Session Date:

Wednesday, October 31, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (dinner included)

Session Cost:

\$30

[Register Today](#)

Stories to Follow



Government

[Ag department hit in Alberta budget cuts](#)

Western Producer | Oct 24, 2019 | News

Finance minister Travis Toews speaks about the province's budget, will see cuts to agriculture ...

Economy & Markets

[Netherlands has many advantages as a partner for Albertans](#)

PPAA | Oct. 29, 2019 | Markets

The Netherlands, with its long history as a trade and agriculture powerhouse, has many advantages as a partner and collaborator for Albertans. The country is a trade-friendly gateway to the EU, the Dutch are masters of logistics and our large quantities of plant protein are a big draw. ...

[Prairie oats market stable, but strong](#)

Western Producer | Oct. 29, 2019 | Markets

Oats bids in Western Canada have stabilized for the time being, as the weather concerns that propped up the market at the beginning of the month are largely factored in for the time being ...

Communities

[Chestermere Lake Middle Schoolers learn about the impact waste has on water ecosystems during shoreline clean-up](#)

Chestermere Anchor City News | Oct. 28, 2019 | News

On October 25th, roughly 50 Chestermere Lake Middle School students took to the south end of Chestermere Lake to clean the shoreline of litter, garbage, plastic and foam, that has accumulated throughout the summer. Kunz is hoping that students will realize how much waste can collect near a small lake and how it breaks down ...

[Alberta farmers continue to battle weather](#)

Global News | Oct. 25, 2019 | News

It's almost November and according to the Alberta crop report, crops are only about 75 per cent harvested across the province, about eight per cent lower than the five-year average. Peace Region farmers have been hit the hardest, with about half of their crops still in the field ...

Science, Technology, & Innovation

[New cookies made with yellow peas help with weight issues](#)

PPAA | Oct. 24, 2019 | News

Calgary entrepreneur Nancy Markley is a featured speaker at our AGM, where she will outline the evolution of her company Mpowrx, and talk about the November launch in Canada of the Bellycrush

product and her approach to marketing a food product — focusing on the online world rather than retail space ...

[Renewables marketplace looking to take off in Alberta](#)

Calgary Herald | Oct. 17, 2019 | Renewable

From energy firms to tech giants and food and beverage chains, a growing number of North American companies are signing deals for green electricity and spurring excitement within Alberta's wind and solar industries. At a first-of-its-kind event in Calgary on Thursday, the members of Business Renewables Centre Canada gathered to discuss opportunities related to corporate renewable energy procurement ...

[When to Transition From Copper to Fiber](#)

Broadband Communities | Sept. 17, 2019 | Innovation

Today, the advantages of fiber make a clear case for telecoms to break with copper in many circumstances ...

Employment Opportunities



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

- Asset Management Specialist - Water Services, City of Airdrie
- Director of Operations and Infrastructure, Town of Three Hills
- Director, Public Works, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- Senior Manager, Engineering, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- Senior Manager, Environmental Services, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Didsbury
- Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services, City of Edmonton

[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.

[CED Grants & Funding Portal](#)

Find funding opportunities that support thriving communities and economic prosperity in Alberta's small cities and towns.

[Alberta Tourism Market Monitor*](#)

The monthly Alberta Tourism Market Monitor for October 2019 is now available online.

[CED Grants & Funding Portal](#)

Find funding opportunities that support thriving communities and economic prosperity in Alberta's small cities and towns.

[Events Calendar](#)

Covers nearly all events Economic Development Trade and Tourism/Agriculture and Forestry staff intend to undertake in 2019-2020.

[Economic development indicators](#)

Alberta economic dashboards, commentaries and highlights, and overviews of major projects.

[Economic development supports](#)

Alberta international offices, market access, industry information and other supports and resources.

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

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

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