

LIFESTYLE

Alberta has a diverse arts and culture community with numerous community and ethnic organizations that provide festivals, events and attractions for Albertans and out-of-province visitors. Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta's two major cities, have vigorous live theatre and visual arts scenes, as well as symphony, opera and ballet.

Throughout the province, community-led festivals bring music, dance, film, literature, theatre and the visual arts to Albertans of all ages. In 2007, over 27,000 arts events took place in the province, including 64 community-based arts festivals, performances by 10 major performing arts companies (opera, ballet, symphonies and theatre companies) and 130 community performing arts organizations. Total attendance at arts events reached 11 million spectators.

Alberta is home to five of Canada's 14 United Nations World Heritage Sites, areas designated by UNESCO as offering exceptional universal value to humanity.

INNOVATION

Alberta has undertaken a nine-step Action Plan that will provide a supportive environment for companies to grow and become successful in world markets.

Effective January 1, 2009, Alberta's provincial Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit is worth 10 per cent of a company's eligible expenditures up to \$4 million.

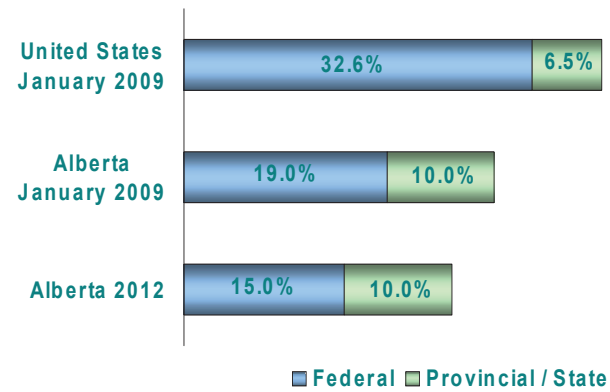
The Government of Alberta has also established the \$100 million Alberta Enterprise Corporation to attract and strengthen venture capital investments in Alberta. This corporation will invest in a range of venture funds, which in turn will invest in promising companies. In addition to these actions, the government is implementing a number of coordinated initiatives to help build technology companies and products in Alberta.

COMPETITIVE TAX ENVIRONMENT

The Alberta government's low-tax and fiscal responsibility policies create long-term economic benefits for Albertans. Alberta's international competitiveness and fiscal stewardship form a solid foundation upon which the Government of Alberta's value-added strategy will accelerate the on-going diversification of the province's economy.

With recent tax changes, Alberta has one of the most competitive business tax environments in North America. The Government of Alberta reduced its general corporate income tax rate to 10% in 2006. The combined federal/provincial corporate income tax rate is 29% in 2009. The Government of Canada is also reducing the general corporate income tax rate from 19% in 2009 to 15% in 2012. The new income tax rates combined with the fact that Alberta has no provincial capital taxes, no payroll taxes, no sales tax, and has a publicly funded health care insurance system makes Alberta's tax environment very competitive.

Comparison of Corporate Income Taxes



*6.5% represents the average effective top general state corporate income tax rate.
 U.S. rates known as of January 2009.
 Sources: Alberta Finance and Enterprise; Tax Foundation



Alberta Economic Quick Facts

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ALBERTA - FRESH OPPORTUNITIES

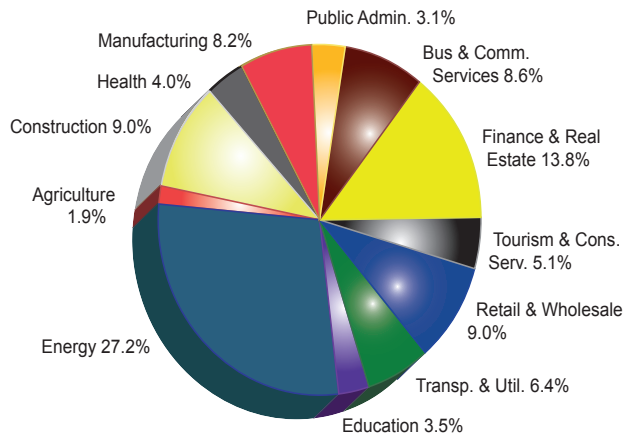
Alberta is blessed with an abundance of natural advantages that form the foundation of its thriving economy. The Alberta government has built on this foundation by fostering a positive business climate based on low taxation that attracts investment, creates diversity, and encourages Alberta businesses to compete successfully around the globe.

This foundation includes:

- a strong and diversified economy,
- a globally competitive business tax environment,
- an efficient and modern infrastructure,
- strategic access to the North American free trade market and to North Asian markets,
- political stability and low taxes,
- a young, skilled and productive workforce,
- the lowest overall personal taxes in Canada,
- a fiscally responsible government with no net debt,
- a government that understands and works closely with business, and
- safe communities with a superior quality of life and diverse cultures.

Alberta GDP by Industry 2007

Total GDP \$258.9 Billion



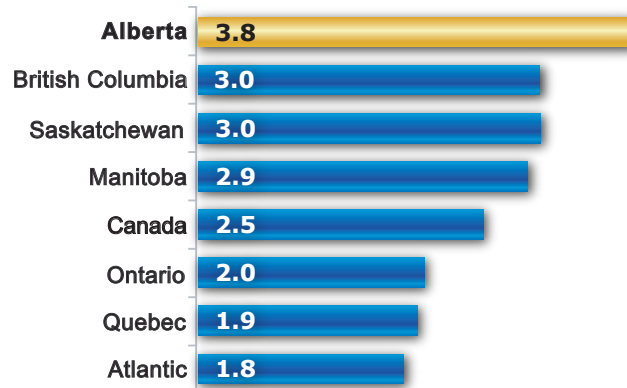
Source : Alberta Finance and Enterprise

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

According to Statistics Canada, Alberta's economy contracted by 0.2% in 2008. However, even with this decline Alberta still leads all provinces in economic growth during the past five years, with an average annual GDP growth of 3.8% per year.

Real Economic Growth 2003 - 2008

Average Annual Growth in GDP (per cent)



Source : Statistics Canada

Economic Indicators	2007	2008
Investment (million)	\$83,933	\$86,981
Investment per Capita		
Alberta	\$23,906	\$24,262
Canada	\$9,986	\$10,387
Manufacturing Shipments (million)	\$65,593	\$70,144
International Goods Exports (million)	\$81,873	\$110,090
Unemployment Rate		
Alberta	3.5%	3.6%
Canada	6.0%	5.7%
Change in Employment	88,700	53,900
Retail Sales (million)	\$61,156	\$61,014
Consumer Price Index (% change)	5.0%	3.1%
Housing Starts	48,336	29,164

KEY ECONOMIC SECTORS

Alberta's economy continues to thrive on its expanding technology, manufacturing and services sectors.

Information, Communications & Technology (ICT) Industries

Revenues for Alberta's ICT industries totaled approximately \$10.1 billion in 2007. The high-speed Alberta SuperNet provides broadband internet access to 429 communities.

Agri-foods

Manufacturing shipments from the food and beverage industry were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2008.

Energy Products

Manufacturing shipments of petrochemicals and refined petroleum products reached \$30.3 billion in 2008.

Forest Products

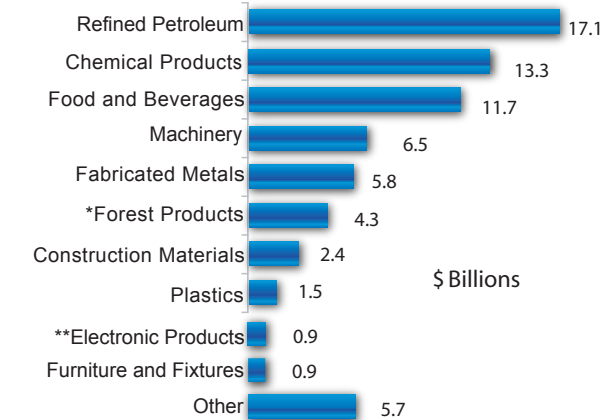
Alberta produced \$4.3 billion in forest products in 2008. Alberta forest products include lumber, pulp, newsprint, panelboard and secondary wood products.

Tourism

The tourism industry generated \$5.6 billion in revenues in 2007.

Value of Alberta Manufacturing Shipments 2008

Total: \$70.1 Billion



* Includes wood, pulp and paper industries

** Includes telecommunication equipment

Source: Statistics Canada



ALBERTA, CANADA

Population: 3,632,483 (January 1, 2009)

Area: 661,000 km²

Edmonton CMA Population: 1,081,275 (2007)

Calgary CMA Population: 1,139,126 (2007)

Population

In 2008, Alberta's population grew at a nation leading 2.1% - double the Canadian growth rate. According to Statistics Canada, this was due to a rise in the natural increase and, especially, in net international migration.

Cultural Diversity

(various languages spoken in Alberta - 2006 Census)

English	3,213,690	Ukrainian	38,165
French	225,085	Arabic	30,235
Chinese	116,505	Hindi	28,800
German	104,745	Vietnamese	26,020
Spanish	61,335	Polish	24,980
Punjabi	44,480	Cree	24,205
Tagalog	40,095	Dutch	23,130

*These numbers add up to more than the population due to multiple responses

Strategic Location

Alberta is part of a western Canadian market of 10.3 million people.

Alberta's proximity to the western United States provides easy access to an overall market of 61.1 million people. This includes the 10 states westbound from Colorado to the Pacific Coast.

