# Alberta economy

# Indicators at a glance

## **New: Oil Prices**

WTI increased \$2.14 over the week and closed at US\$83.88 on Thursday. The WTI-WCS differential closed at US\$14.60 per barrel, wider than a week ago.

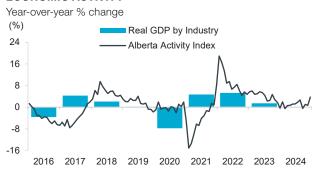
#### **OIL PRICES** Daily prices (\$US/bbl) WTI-WCS - WCS WTI 105 90 75 60 45 30 15 0 Jul-23 Oct-23 Jul-24 Jan-24 Apr-24

Sources: US Energy Information Administration, CME Group, Kent Group Limited, Haver Analytics

# **Economic Activity**

The Alberta Activity Index advanced in April (+2.7% month-over-month), and was up 3.8% from a year ago. Alberta's real GDP by industry increased by 1.5% in 2023, following 5.3% growth in 2022.

#### **ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**



Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, Haver Analytics

### **New:** Labour Market

Employment increased by 8,100 in June. Compared to a year ago, it was up by 67,100. The next release is on August 09, 2024.

Alberta's unemployment rate was 7.1% in June, down 0.1 percentage points from May, and was up 1.3 percentage points from a year ago.

### LABOUR MARKET

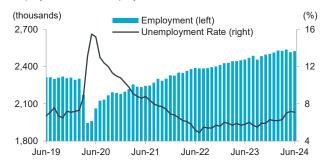
Monthly change in employment



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

### LABOUR MARKET

Employment and unemployment rate



	WTI - West Texas Intermediate (US\$/bbl)	WTI-WCS Differential (US\$/bbl)	Henry Hub (US\$/MMBtu)	AECO-C (C\$/GJ)	Exchange Rate (US¢/C\$)
July 04, 2024	83.88	14.60	2.42	0.63	73.46
Fiscal Year-To-Date	80.78	13.65	2.32	1.11	73.09



# **Manufacturing Shipments**

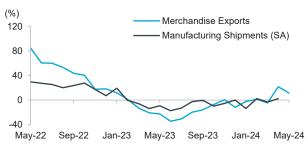
Manufacturing shipments increased 2.5% m/m to \$8.6 billion in April. They were up 2.4% from a year ago.

# **New: Merchandise Exports**

Alberta goods exports increased 0.3% m/m in May to \$16.1 billion. They were up 12% from a year ago.

#### MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS AND GOODS EXPORTS

Year-over-year % change



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics;

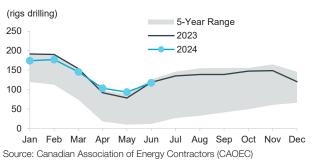
SA - Seasonally Adjusted

# **New: Rigs Drilling**

The number of rigs drilling in Alberta averaged 117 in June, down 1.1% from a year ago.

#### **RIGS DRILLING**

Number of rigs drilling and five-year seasonal range



### Wholesale Trade<sup>3</sup>

Wholesale trade increased 6.2% m/m to \$9.4 billion in April. Compared to a year ago, sales were up 2.0%.

# **Population Growth**

Alberta's population was 4,849,906 as of April 1, 2024, an increase of 4.4% from the year prior. During the last 12 months, Alberta welcomed 134,513 net international migrants and saw a net inflow of 53,415 interprovincial migrants.

# **Housing Starts**

Alberta housing starts rose 4.8% m/m in May to 48,185 units (SAAR). They were up 32% from a year ago.

## **Resale Housing**

The number of home sales in the resale market increased 2.5% m/m to 6,898 units in May, up 6.7% y/y.

#### HOUSING STARTS AND HOME SALES

Year-over-year % change



Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Real Estate Association, Haver Analytics; SAAR - Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

# **Average Weekly Earnings**

Average weekly earnings in Alberta rose 1.5% to \$1,318 in April. They were up 2.4% year-over-year.

### Inflation

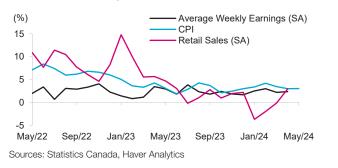
The consumer price index in Alberta increased 3.0% y/y in May, unchanged from 3.0% y/y in April.

### **Retail Sales**

Alberta's retail sales increased 3.1% m/m to \$8.7 billion in April. Compared to a year ago, sales were up 3.0%.

# RETAIL SALES, CONSUMER PRICES, AND EARNINGS

Year-over-year % change

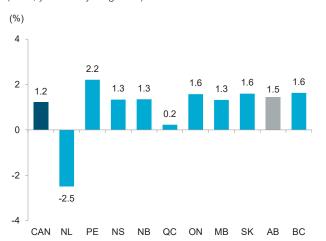


Contact Asrafuzzaman at TBF.ERFPublications@gov.ab.ca
For current analysis of the Alberta Economy please see the
Weekly Economic Review



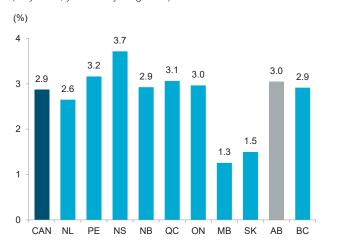
#### **REAL GDP BY INDUSTRY**

(2023, year-over-year growth)



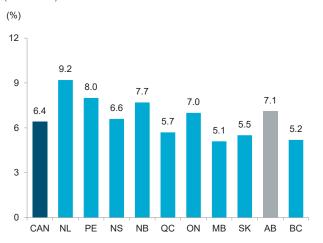
#### **CPI INFLATION**

(May 2024, year-over-year growth)



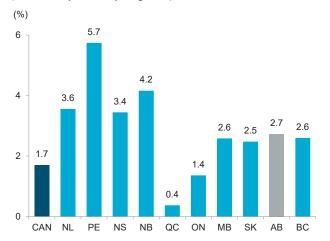
### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

(June 2024)



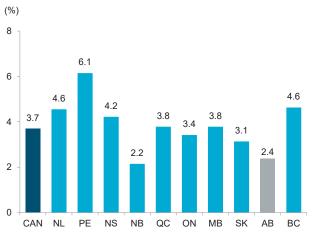
### **EMPLOYMENT**

(June 2024, year-over-year growth)



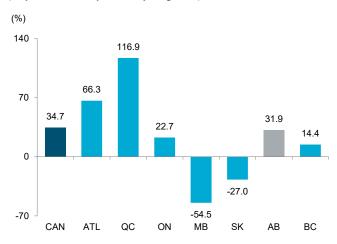
### **AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS**

(April 2024, year-over-year growth)



### **HOUSING STARTS**

(May 2024, SAAR, year-over-year growth)





#### **ALBERTA ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

	2022	2023	2024YTD	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	4.7	1.5	1.2	-0.4	1.0	0.6	3.8	Widy Z I	0011 2 1
Population <sup>1</sup>									
Population (thousands)	4,511	4,695	4,850	4,801			4,850		
y/y % change	1.8	4.1	4.4	4.4			4.4		
Net Interprovincial Migration	5,646	56,245	39,489	9,913			12,482		
Net International Migration	57,312	112,562	103,142	31,037			32,893		
Labour Market									
New: Employment (thousands, SA)	2,376	2,461	2,525	2,513	2,530	2,527	2,538	2,517	2,525
m/m change (thousands)				10.1	17.4	-3.2	10.6	-20.4	8.1
y/y % change	5.2	3.6	3.4	3.5	4.1	3.4	3.8	2.7	2.7
New: Unemployment Rate (%, SA)	5.8	5.9	6.7	6.2	6.2	6.3	7.0	7.2	7.1
New: Participation Rate (%, SA)	69.8	69.6	69.6	69.6	69.8	69.5	70.1	69.4	69.3
Average Weekly Earnings (\$, SA)	1,257	1,283	1,302	1,298	1,295	1,298	1,318		
y/y % change	2.5	2.1	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.2	2.4		
Household Sector									
Retail Sales (\$ millions, SA)	97,807	101,979	34,070	8,505	8,416	8,442	8,706		
y/y % change	6.9	4.3	-0.7	-3.7	-2.0	-0.1	3.0		
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	184	210	70	15	14	20	21		
y/y % change	-6.5	13.8	10.9	6.5	7.4	13.6	14.3		
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	6.4	3.3	3.4	3.4	4.2	3.5	3.0	3.0	
Excluding Food & Energy	4.7	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.6	3.0	
Housing Starts (SAAR, thousands)	36.5	36.0	45.1	42.0	49.2	40.1	46.0	48.2	
y/y % change	14.4	-1.4	52.6	54.8	62.0	51.7	68.2	31.9	
New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	12.0	1.0	1.6	0.6	1.1	1.3	2.3	2.7	
Resale Home Sales (units, SA)	85,024	77,286	34,519	6,985	6,860	7,045	6,731	6,898	
y/y % change	-1.8	-9.1	19.4	27.7	24.4	29.8	11.6	6.7	
,,			0.77		0.75		0.77		
Sales to New Listing Ratio (SA) MLS Average Resale Prices	0.68	0.70	0.77	0.78	0.75	0.82	0.77	0.73	
(\$ thousands, SA)	445	448	478	478	474	477	478	485	
y/y % change	5.3	0.8	10.1	12.5	11.7	10.9	7.4	8.1	
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	2,374	2,572	1,103	192	203	224	266	218	
y/y % change	-13.1	8.3	-1.7	-8.1	0.5	-8.2	26.1	-14.8	
Business Sector				-					
New: Goods Exports (customs based, \$ millions)	204,963	174,882	76,301	15,727	14,019	14,349	16,081	16,124	
y/y % change	48.4	-14.7	5.0	-2.3	1.4	-4.7	21.7	11.6	
New: Energy Products (\$ millions)	160,983	130,799	58,030	12,307	10,343	10,598	12,233	12,549	
y/y % change	61.3	-18.8	8.5	0.8	1.2	-2.0	31.3	15.1	
New: Agricultural Products (\$ millions)	10,611	11,928	4,890	807	1,081	988	1,119	894	
y/y % change	19.4	12.4	-12.2	-33.6	5.4	-25.5	3.0	-2.1	
New: Rigs Drilling	144	138	135	174	177	145	103	93	117
y/y % change	46.9	-4.1	-1.9	-9.8	-7.3	-5.4	13.0	18.9	-1.1
Manufacturing Shipments (\$ millions, SA)	109,877	103,984	34,081	8,344	8,796	8,366	8,575		
y/y % change	25.6	-5.4	-3.4	-13.7	2.3	-3.3	2.4		
Wholesale Trade (\$ millions, SA) <sup>3</sup>	106,065	110,735	36,369	9,014	9	9,100	8,843	9,391	
y/y % change	20.4	4.2	-5.2	-0.8	-9.9	-6.1	-6.1	2.0	
Building Permits (\$ millions, SA)	15,406	15,903	6,124	1,539	1,484	1,481	1,620		
y/y % change	6.4	3.2	27.9	31.6	18.8	15.6	48.9		
Residential Permits (\$ millions, SA)	10,440	10,372	4,367	1,068	1,119	1,044	1,137		
y/y % change	9.8	-0.7	43.9	36.2	49.9	36.8	53.1		
Non-Residential Permits (\$ millions, SA)	4,966	5,448	1,757	471	365	438	483		
y/y % change	0.1	9.7	0.3	22.3	-27.4	-15.5	39.7		
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index <sup>2</sup> (y/y % change)	10.7	4.8	3.4			3.4	30		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Population data presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30).

All annual data are unadjusted.

Sources: All data are from Statistics Canada except the Alberta Activity Index (Alberta Treasury Board and Finance), Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association or CREA), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Energy Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada). All historical data are subject to revision.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton.

 $<sup>^3\,\</sup>mbox{Wholesale}$  trade (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and excluding oilseed and grain)

<sup>&</sup>quot;SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate.