# Alberta economy

# Indicators at a glance

# **New: Oil Prices**

WTI increased \$1.97 over the week and closed at US\$78.16 on Thursday. The WTI-WCS differential closed at US\$12.25 per barrel, narrower than a week ago.

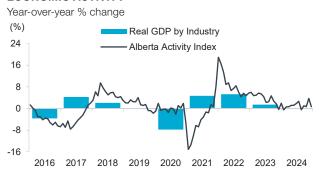
#### **OIL PRICES** Daily prices (\$US/bbl) WTI-WCS -wcs WTI 105 90 75 60 45 30 15 0 Aug-23 Nov-23 Feb-24 May-24 Aug-24

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

# **Economic Activity**

The Alberta Activity Index decreased in May (-0.7% month-over-month) but was up 0.7% 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

## **Labour Market**

Employment decreased by 600 in July. Compared to a year ago, it was up by 54,000. The next release is on September 06, 2024.

Alberta's unemployment rate was 7.1% in July, unchanged from June, and was up 1.1 percentage points from a year ago.

### LABOUR MARKET

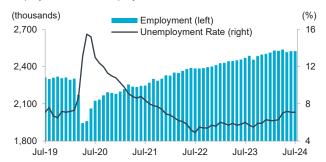
Monthly change in employment



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\$)
August 15, 2024	78.16	12.25	2.20	0.83	72.91
Fiscal Year-To-Date	80.10	13.32	2.27	1.06	73.01



# **New: Manufacturing Shipments**

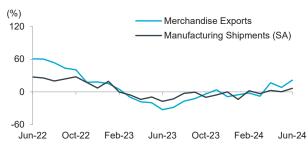
Manufacturing shipments decreased 2.5% m/m to \$8.4 billion in June. They were up 6.5% from a year ago.

# **Merchandise Exports**

Alberta goods exports decreased 3.2% m/m in June to \$15.7 billion. They were up 21% from a year ago.

#### MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS AND GOODS EXPORTS

Year-over-year % change



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics;

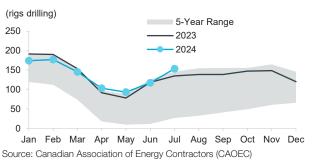
SA - Seasonally Adjusted

# **Rigs Drilling**

The number of rigs drilling in Alberta averaged 153 in July, up 14% from a year ago.

#### **RIGS DRILLING**

Number of rigs drilling and five-year seasonal range



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

Wholesale trade decreased 1.0% m/m to \$9.1 billion in June. Compared to a year ago, sales were up 6.2%.

## **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.

# **New: Housing Starts**

Alberta housing starts increased 19% m/m in July to 50,592 units (SAAR). They were up 29% from a year ago.

# **New:** Resale Housing

The number of home sales in the resale market declined 0.2% m/m to 6,935 units in July, and was down 0.7% 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 1.2% to \$1,334 in May. They were up 3.7% year-over-year.

## Inflation

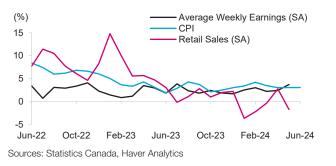
The consumer price index in Alberta increased 3.0% y/y in June, unchanged from 3.0% y/y in May.

### **Retail Sales**

Alberta's retail sales decreased 2.5% m/m to \$8.5 billion in May. Compared to a year ago, sales were down 1.8%.

# RETAIL SALES, CONSUMER PRICES, AND EARNINGS

Year-over-year % change

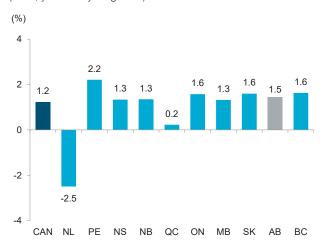


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For current analysis of the Alberta Economy please see the <a href="Weekly Economic Review">Weekly Economic Review</a>



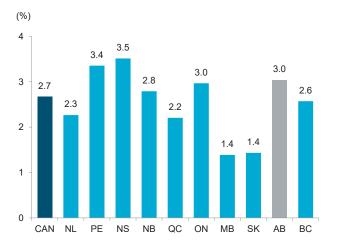
#### **REAL GDP BY INDUSTRY**

(2023, year-over-year growth)



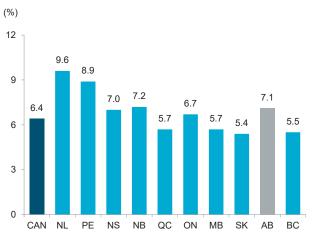
#### **CPI INFLATION**

(June 2024, year-over-year growth)



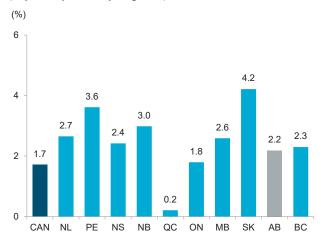
## **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

(July 2024)



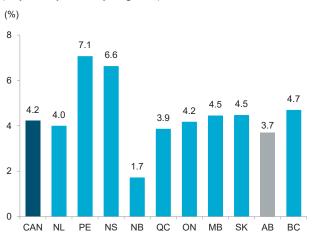
## **EMPLOYMENT**

(July 2024, year-over-year growth)



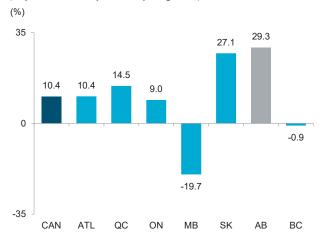
## **AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS**

(May 2024, year-over-year growth)



## **HOUSING STARTS**

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





#### **ALBERTA ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

	2022	2023	2024YTD	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	4.7	1.5	1.1	1.0	0.7	3.7	0.7	04.1.2.1	
Population <sup>1</sup>			•	1		1			
Population (thousands)	4,511	4,695	4,850			4,850			
y/y % change	1.8	4.1	4.4			4.4			
Net Interprovincial Migration	5,646	56,245	39,489			12,482			
Net International Migration	57,312	112,562	103,142			32,893			
Labour Market									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,376	2,461	2,525	2,530	2,527	2,538	2,517	2,525	2,525
m/m change (thousands)				17.4	-3.2	10.6	-20.4	8.1	-0.6
y/y % change	5.2	3.6	3.2	4.1	3.4	3.8	2.7	2.7	2.2
Unemployment Rate (%, SA)	5.8	5.9	6.7	6.2	6.3	7.0	7.2	7.1	7.1
Participation Rate (%, SA)	69.8	69.6	69.5	69.8	69.5	70.1	69.4	69.3	68.9
Average Weekly Earnings (\$, SA)	1,257	1,283	1,309	1,295	1,298	1,319	1,334		
y/y % change	2.5	2.1	2.8	3.0	2.2	2.4	3.7		
Household Sector									
Retail Sales (\$ millions, SA)	97,807	101,979	42,471	8,394	8,418	8,685	8,469		
y/y % change	6.9	4.3	-1.1	-2.2	-0.4	2.7	-1.8		
New: New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	184	210	111	14	20	21	22	19	
y/y % change	-6.5	13.8	7.6	7.4	13.6	14.3	6.7	-1.9	
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	6.4	3.3	3.3	4.2	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	
Excluding Food & Energy	4.7	3.4	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.2	
New: Housing Starts (SAAR, thousands)	36.5	36.0	45.5	49.1	39.9	45.9	48.5	42.4	50.6
y/y % change	14.4	-1.4	49.0	61.6	51.0	67.8	32.7	58.9	29.3
New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	12.0	1.0	1.9	1.1	1.3	2.3	2.7	3.2	
New: Resale Home Sales (units, SA)	85,024	77,286	48,435	6,880	7,061	6,718	6,871	6,949	6,935
y/y % change	-1.8	-9.1	13.7	24.7	30.1	11.7	6.6	3.1	-0.7
New: Sales to New Listing Ratio (SA)	0.68	0.70	0.75	0.75	0.82	0.76	0.72	0.74	0.69
New: MLS Average Resale Prices									
(\$ thousands, SA)	445	448	481	474	477	479	484	489	487
y/y % change	5.3	0.8	9.7	11.7	10.9	7.4	8.1	8.9	8.5
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	2,374	2,572	1,287	203	224	266	218	184	
y/y % change	-13.1	8.3	-2.6	0.5	-8.2	26.1	-14.8	-8.0	
Business Sector									
Goods Exports (customs based, \$ millions)	204,963	180,924	91,845	14,024	14,350	15,919	16,169	15,653	
y/y % change	48.4	-11.7	4.4	-1.9	-8.0	16.8	8.2	21.3	
Energy Products (\$ millions)	160,983	136,835	70,086	10,346	10,598	12,069	12,587	12,175	
y/y % change	61.3	-15.0	6.8	-3.2	-6.7	23.8	10.5	24.9	
Agricultural Products (\$ millions)	10,611	11,928	5,688	1,081	988	1,121	894	797	
y/y % change	19.4	12.4	-9.3	5.4	-25.5	3.1	-2.2	13.6	
Rigs Drilling	144	138	138	177	145	103	93	117	153
y/y % change	46.9	-4.1	0.2	-7.3	-5.4	13.0	18.9	-1.3	13.6
New: Manufacturing Shipments (\$ millions, SA)	109,877	103,984	51,144	8,780	8,384	8,590	8,631	8,415	
y/y % change	25.6	-5.4	-1.3	2.1	-3.1	2.6	0.3	6.5	
New: Wholesale Trade (\$ millions, SA) <sup>3</sup>	106,065	110,735	54,291	9,052	8,948	9,196	9,186	9,092	
y/y % change	20.4	4.2	-1.3	-2.5	-1.3	1.7	-3.8	6.2	
New: Building Permits (\$ millions, SA)	15,406	15,903	8,875	1,484	1,501	1,608	1,482	1,260	
y/y % change	6.4	3.2	17.2	18.8	17.2	47.8	12.4	-13.9	
New: Residential Permits (\$ millions, SA)	10,440	10,372	6,268	1,119	1,042	1,119	990	930	
y/y % change	9.8	-0.7	32.8	49.9	36.6	50.7	27.2	2.6	
New: Non-Residential Permits (\$ millions, SA)	4,966	5,448	2,608	365	459	489	493	330	
y/y % change	0.1	9.7	-8.5	-27.4	-11.4	41.5	-9.0	-40.7	
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index <sup>2</sup> (y/y % change)	10.7	4.8	4.5		4.5			4.5	

<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.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 3}$  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.