

# Alberta Economy

## Indicators at a Glance

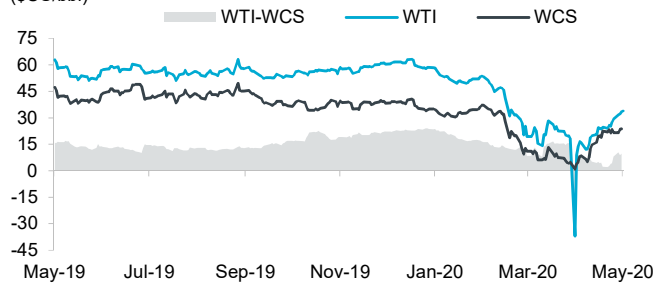
### New: Oil Prices

WTI increased US\$6.36 per barrel on the week and closed at US\$33.92 on Thursday. The WTI-WCS differential closed at US\$9.60 per barrel, wider than US\$8.25 a week ago.

#### OIL PRICES

Daily prices

(\$US/bbl)



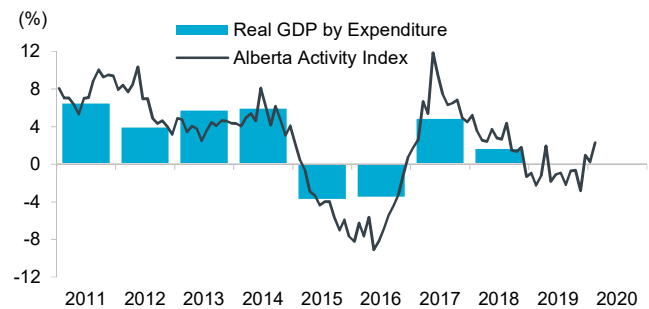
Source: US Energy Information Administration, CME Group, Kent Group Limited

### Economic Activity

The Alberta Activity Index rose 0.6% month-over-month (m/m) in February and was 1.9% higher than a year ago. Alberta's real GDP by expenditure grew by 1.6% in 2018 following 4.8% growth in 2017.

#### ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

### Labour Market

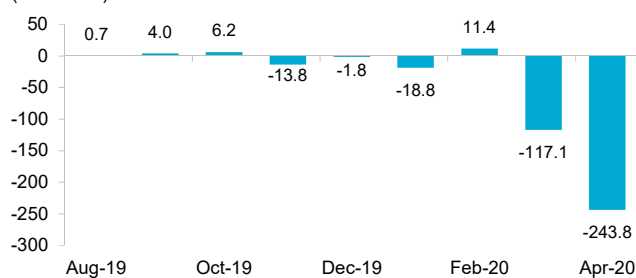
Employment dropped by 243,800 in April. Compared to a year ago employment was down by 381,900. The next release is June 5, 2020.

Alberta's unemployment rate jumped up from 8.7% in March to 13.4% in April. It was up 6.7 percentage points from a year ago.

#### LABOUR MARKET

Monthly change in employment

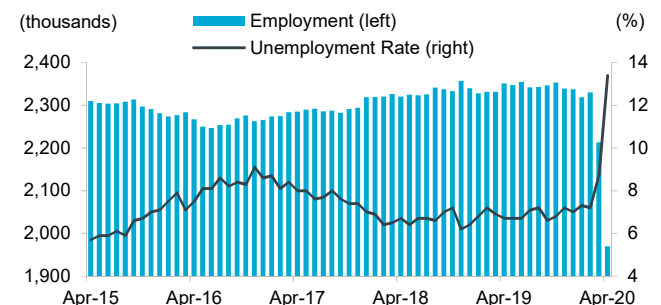
(thousands)



Source: Statistics Canada

#### LABOUR MARKET

Employment and unemployment rate



Source: Statistics Canada

	WTI - West Texas Intermediate (US\$/bbl)	WTI-WCS Differential (US\$/bbl)	Henry Hub (US\$/MMBtu)	AECO-C (C\$/GJ)	Exchange Rate (US¢/C\$)
May 21, 2020	33.92	9.60	1.71	1.93	71.76
Fiscal Year-To-Date	20.88	11.47	1.78	1.95	71.22

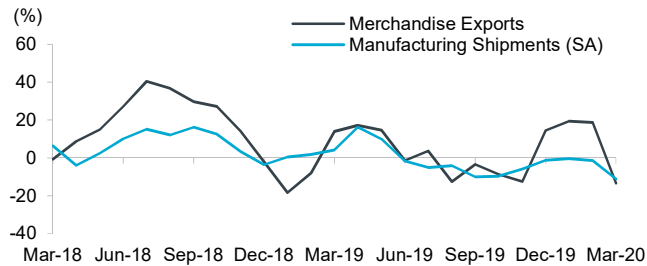
## Business Output

Manufacturing shipments decreased 6.6% m/m to \$5.8 billion in March. Compared to a year ago, they were down 11%.

Alberta goods exports rose 2.1% m/m in March, to total \$9.1 billion. On a year-over-year (y/y) basis, they were down 13%.

### MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS AND GOODS EXPORTS

Year-over-year % change



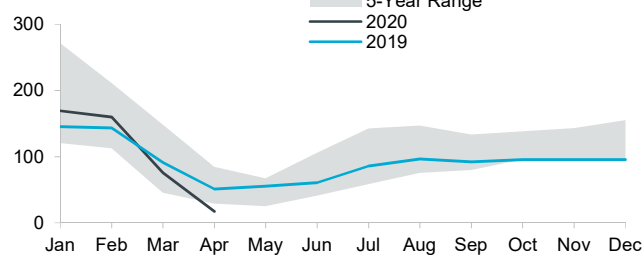
Source: Statistics Canada, SA - Seasonally Adjusted

## Rigs Drilling

The number of rigs drilling in Alberta averaged 17 in April, 66% lower than a year ago.

### RIGS DRILLING

Number of rigs drilling and five-year seasonal range (rigs drilling)



Source: Canadian Association of Oil Well Drilling Contractors (CAODC)

## Average Weekly Earnings

Average weekly earnings in Alberta decreased 0.4% m/m in February to \$1,182, but remained up 3.6% from a year ago.

## Population Growth

Alberta's population was 4,413,146 as of January 1, 2020, an increase of 1.8% from the year prior. During the last 12 months, Alberta welcomed 43,673 net international migrants and 6,928 net interprovincial migrants.

## New: Inflation

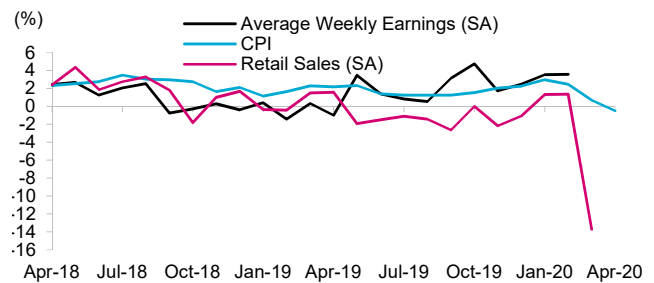
The consumer price index in Alberta declined 0.5% y/y in April, after 0.7% gain in the previous month.

## New: Retail Sales

Alberta retail sales fell 13% m/m to \$5.9 billion in March. Compared to a year ago, sales were down 14%.

### RETAIL SALES, CONSUMER PRICES, AND EARNINGS

Year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

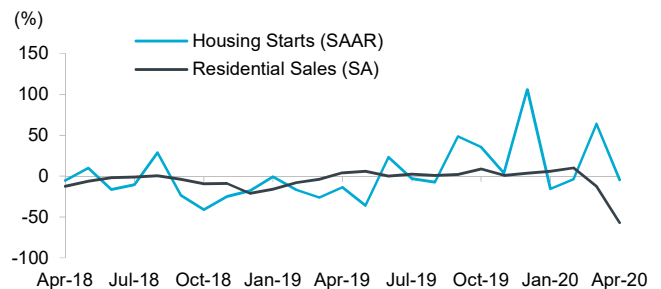
## Housing Market

Alberta housing starts dropped 25% m/m in April to 24,619 units (SAAR). They were down 4.7% y/y.

The number of home sales in the resale market fell 48% m/m to 1,909 units in April and were down 57% y/y.

### HOUSING STARTS AND HOME RESALES

Year-over-year % change



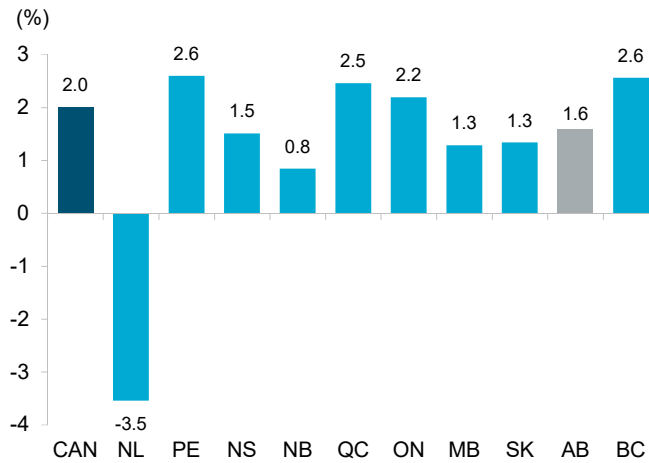
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Real Estate Association, SAAR -Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

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For current analysis of the Alberta Economy please see the [Weekly Economic Review](#)

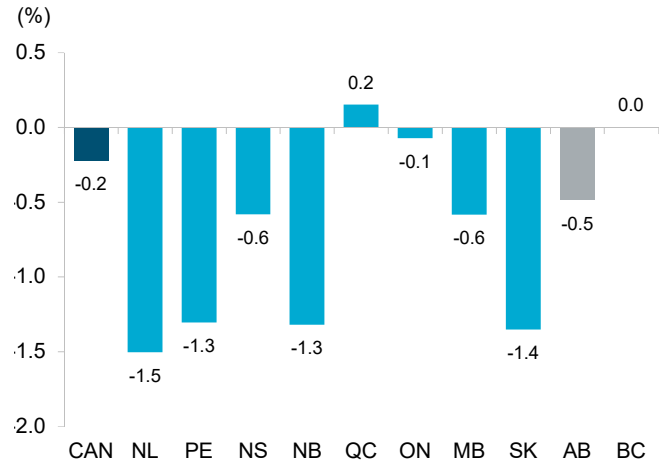
### REAL GDP BY EXPENDITURE

(2018, year-over-year growth)



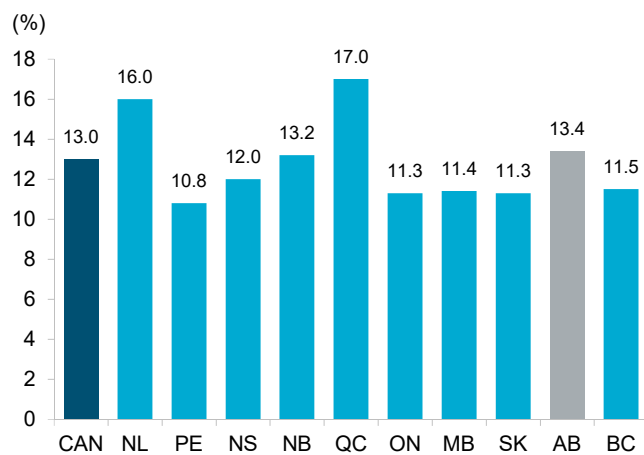
### CPI INFLATION

(April 2020, year-over-year growth)



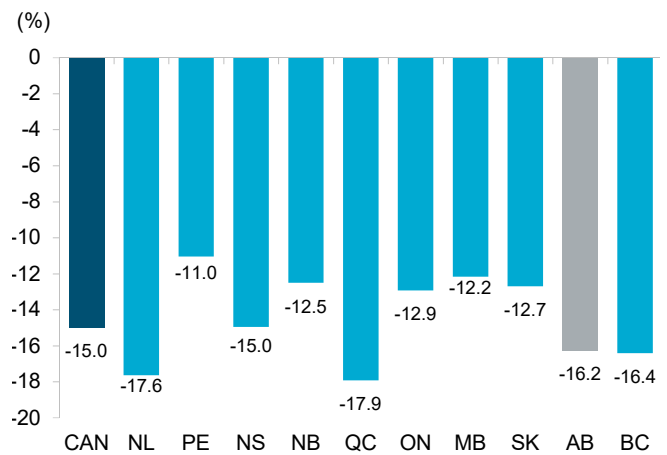
### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(April 2020)



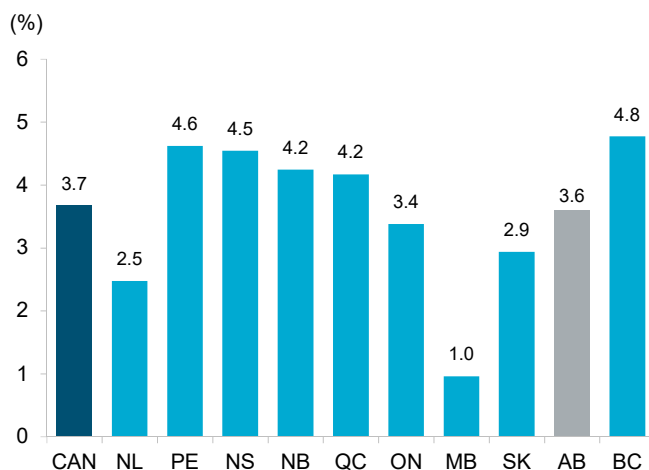
### EMPLOYMENT

(April 2020, year-over-year growth)



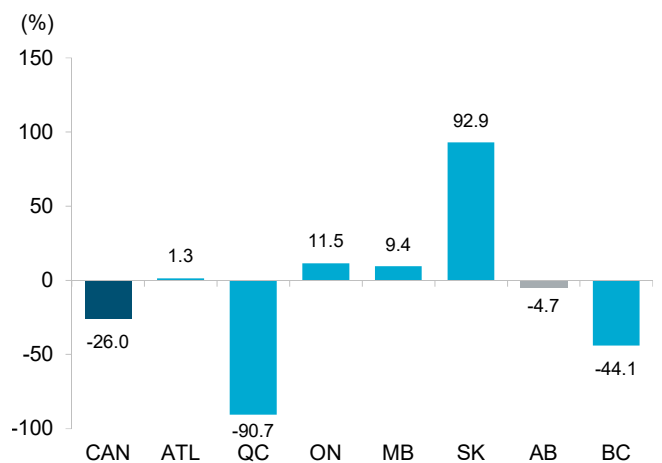
### AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

(February 2020, year-over-year growth)



### HOUSING STARTS

(April 2020, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



## ALBERTA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	2018	2019	2020YTD	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	2.1	-0.8	1.1	-2.3	0.8	0.2	1.9		
<b>Population<sup>1</sup></b>									
Population (thousands)	4,301	4,371	4,413			4,413			
y/y % change	1.3	1.6	1.8			1.8			
Net Interprovincial Migration	-3,247	5,542	4,537			2,252			
Net International Migration	32,606	37,918	24,000			9,763			
<b>Labour Market</b>									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,331	2,343	2,208	2,339	2,337	2,319	2,330	2,213	1,969
m/m change (thousands)				-13.8	-1.8	-18.8	11.4	-117.1	-243.8
y/y % change	1.9	0.5	-5.5	-0.7	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-5.1	-16.2
Unemployment Rate (% , SA)	6.6	6.9	9.2	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.2	8.7	13.4
Participation Rate (% , SA)	71.9	71.4	68.1	71.0	70.7	70.3	70.5	67.9	63.7
Average Weekly Earnings (\$ , SA)	1,149	1,165	1,185	1,171	1,172	1,187	1,182		
y/y % change	1.7	1.4	3.6	1.7	2.5	3.6	3.6		
<b>Household Sector</b>									
<b>New:</b> Retail Sales (\$ millions, SA)	81,911	81,135	19,601	6,668	6,752	6,836	6,825	5,940	
y/y % change	2.0	-0.9	-3.7	-2.2	-1.1	1.3	1.4	-13.7	
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	237	222	30	15	14	15	16		
y/y % change	-4.8	-6.1	6.5	-10.9	-5.4	4.9	8.1		
<b>New:</b> Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	2.4	1.8	1.4	2.1	2.3	3.0	2.5	0.7	-0.5
Excluding Food & Energy	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.3	1.7	2.2	2.3	1.9	1.3
Housing Starts (SAAR, thousands)	26.1	27.3	24.4	26.9	39.3	20.9	19.3	32.9	24.6
y/y % change	-11.4	4.8	7.6	3.7	106.0	-15.8	-4.0	64.1	-4.7
<b>New:</b> New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	-0.4	-1.5	-1.8	-2.3	-2.2	-2.1	-1.8	-1.7	-1.6
Resale Home Sales (units, SA)	53,290	53,156	14,697	4,402	4,419	4,464	4,638	3,686	1,909
y/y % change	-7.2	-0.3	-14.0	0.8	3.6	5.8	10.1	-12.5	-57.0
Sales to New Listing Ratio (SA)	0.45	0.49	0.50	0.49	0.48	0.49	0.51	0.48	0.53
MLS Average Resale Prices (\$ thousands, SA)	387	378	371	377	379	388	376	369	349
y/y % change	-2.6	-2.3	-1.3	-1.0	-0.1	4.1	0.3	-2.2	-7.3
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	4,925	5,589	1,206	480	403	424	385	397	
y/y % change	-1.7	13.5	-12.9	9.1	17.8	-5.8	-16.7	-16.1	
<b>Business Sector</b>									
Goods Exports (customs based, \$ millions)	117,685	117,170	27,821	8,518	10,175	9,745	8,946	9,130	
y/y % change	17.1	-0.4	6.1	-12.7	14.5	19.3	18.8	-13.3	
Energy Products (\$ millions)	83,454	84,490	20,010	5,999	7,628	7,303	6,536	6,171	
y/y % change	19.9	1.2	11.8	-12.5	26.2	36.9	27.8	-17.2	
Agricultural Products (\$ millions)	8,304	7,697	1,916	678	582	595	546	774	
y/y % change	-0.8	-7.3	-0.0	-14.5	-15.0	-3.2	-10.6	12.2	
Rigs Drilling	133	92	106	96	96	170	160	76	17
y/y % change	1.6	-30.6	-2.0	-28.4	-2.8	16.5	11.5	-16.9	-66.2
Manufacturing Shipments (\$ millions, SA)	76,833	76,189	18,294	6,019	5,984	6,271	6,216	5,808	
y/y % change	7.2	-0.8	-4.4	-6.0	-1.3	-0.4	-1.5	-11.1	
<b>New:</b> Wholesale Trade (\$ millions, SA)	82,151	81,450	19,620	6,598	6,601	6,510	6,606	6,504	
y/y % change	5.1	-0.9	-2.0	-2.7	-2.2	-4.0	2.8	-4.5	
Building Permits (\$ millions, SA)	13,459	11,647	3,020	994	1,027	1,026	1,074	920	
y/y % change	-5.5	-13.5	10.8	-6.1	-6.7	9.3	23.7	0.2	
Residential Permits (\$ millions, SA)	7,776	6,999	1,896	601	632	614	685	597	
y/y % change	-7.4	-10.0	13.1	-0.3	7.8	9.0	27.7	3.5	
Non-Residential Permits (\$ millions, SA)	5,683	4,648	1,125	393	395	412	389	323	
y/y % change	-2.8	-18.2	7.2	-13.7	-23.2	9.7	17.3	-5.2	
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index <sup>2</sup> (y/y % change)	2.3	2.3	0.8		1.2			0.8	

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

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

YTD (year-to-date).

“SA” denotes seasonally adjusted. “SAAR” denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate.

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), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada). All historical data are subject to revision.