

# Alberta Economy

## Indicators at a Glance

### Economic Activity

The Alberta Activity Index (AAX) was up 2.3% year-over-year (y/y) in April, as five of the nine indicators were up y/y. Alberta's real GDP by industry grew by 4.9% in 2017, the largest gain among the provinces.

### Population

Alberta's population was 4,334,025 as of April 1, 2018, an increase of 1.4% from the year prior. Canada's population also grew 1.4% from a year ago.

### Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 8,500 in the first quarter of 2018. During this time, Alberta welcomed 6,638 net international migrants. The province also recorded a net inflow of interprovincial migrants (+1,862) for the third quarter in a row after eight quarters of outflows.

### Employment<sup>1</sup>

The economy added 2,000 jobs in June as gains in private sector were partially offset by a pullback in the public sector and self-employment. Employment rose 1.5% y/y, reflecting employment gains in the goods sector (+5.6% y/y).

### Unemployment Rate<sup>1</sup>

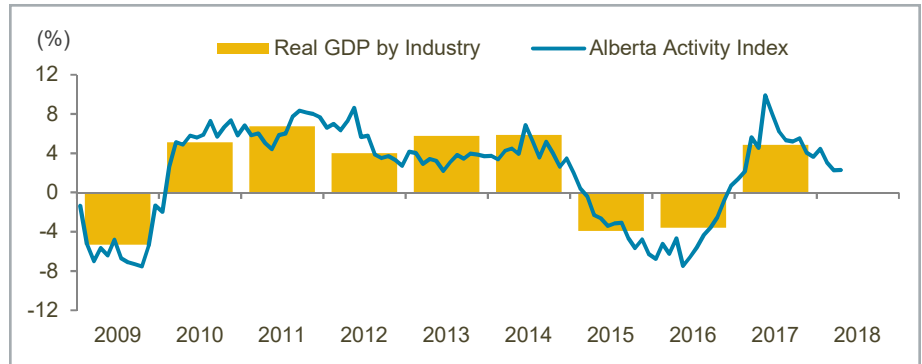
Alberta's unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 6.5% in June. Canada's unemployment rate ticked up 0.2 percentage points to 6.0%.

### Rigs Drilling

The number of active rigs in Alberta averaged 106 in June, up 21% y/y. The average rig utilization rate was 25%, up 4.9 percentage points from a year ago.

### Economic Activity

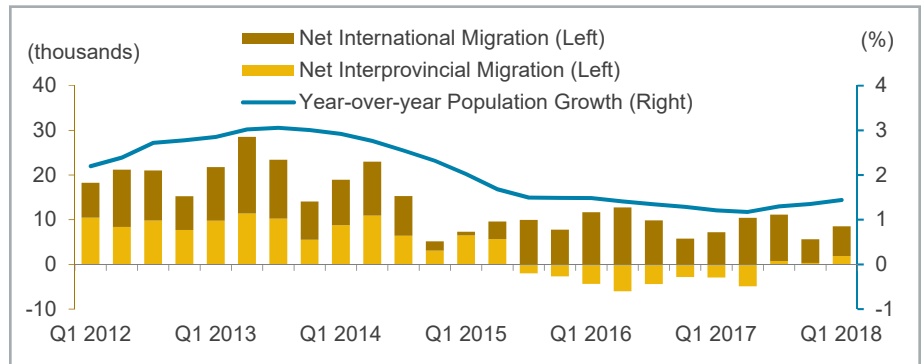
Year-over-year % change



Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

### Demographics

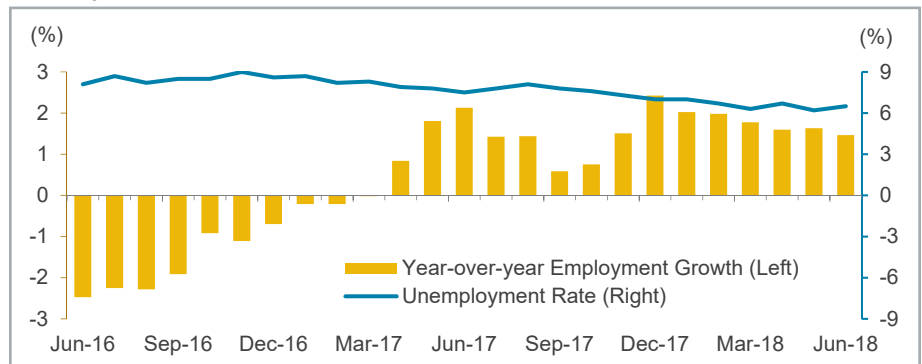
Quarterly



Source: Statistics Canada

### Labour Market

Monthly



Source: Statistics Canada

### Inflation

The inflation rate in Alberta accelerated to 2.6% y/y in May, slightly above the national average. Inflation excluding food and energy was 1.4% y/y.

### Average Weekly Earnings<sup>1</sup>

Average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta decreased 0.2% m/m in April to \$1,153. Earnings have improved 2.4% y/y driven by gains in both the goods and services sectors.

### Retail Sales<sup>1</sup>

Alberta retail sales edged up 0.2% m/m to \$6.8 billion in April. Retail sales were up 2.2% y/y, the seventeenth consecutive month of year-over-year gains.

### NEW: Housing Starts<sup>1</sup>

Alberta housing starts dropped 27% m/m in June to 26,137 units (annualized) and pulled back 16% y/y. The annual decrease was driven by declines in both single family (-19% y/y) and multi-family (-12% y/y) starts.

### NEW: New Housing Price Index

In May, Alberta's New Housing Price Index (NHPI) edged down 0.1% y/y. The house-only component fell 0.6% y/y while land prices were up 0.7% y/y.

### NEW: Building Permits<sup>1</sup>

Alberta building permits dipped 3.9% y/y in May to \$1.2 billion, due to a decrease in non-residential permits (-20% y/y) which overshadowed an increase in residential permits (+6.9% y/y).

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally adjusted

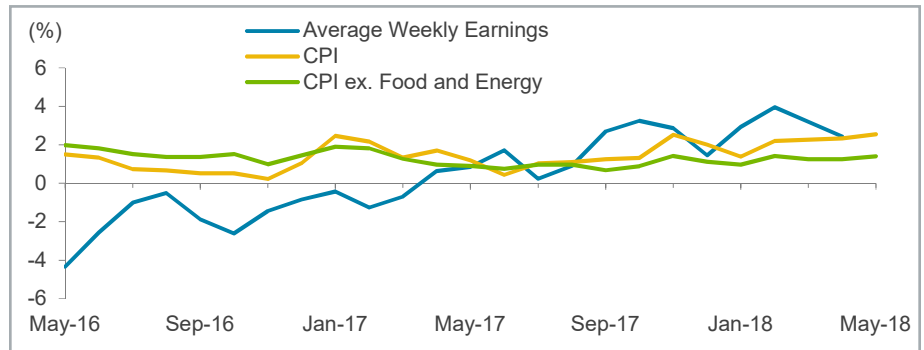
### Contact

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### Inflation and Earnings

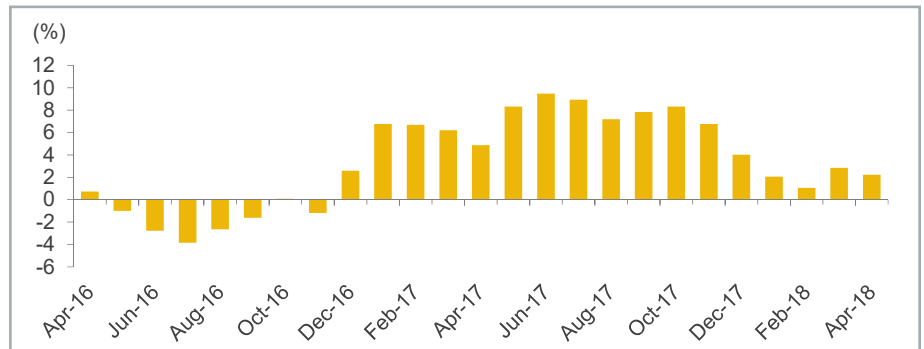
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

### Retail Sales

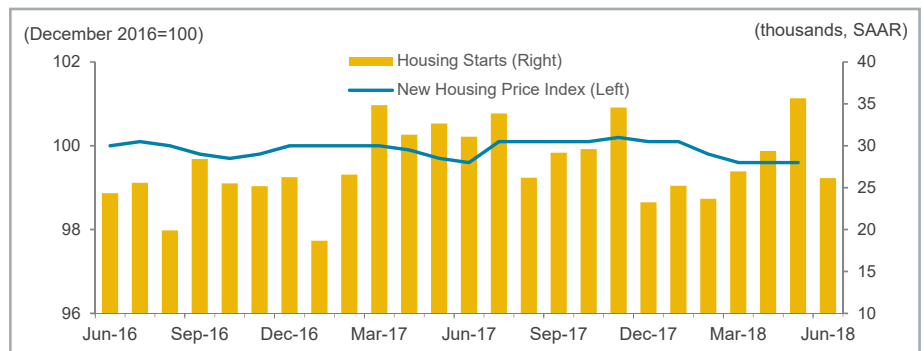
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

### Housing Market

Monthly



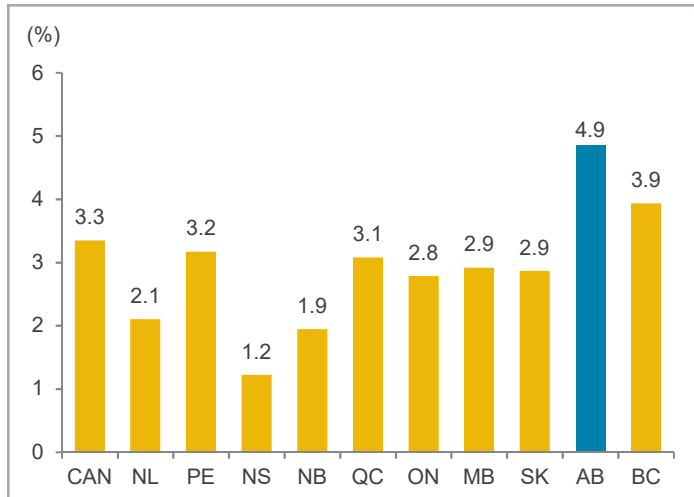
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

	Canadian Dollar (US¢/\$CAN)	WTI Oil (\$US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price (\$¢/GJ)
<b>Latest (July 12, 2018)</b>	75.95	70.33	2.80	1.26 (Apr)
<b>Fiscal year-to-date</b>	77.32	68.47	2.83	1.26

Please see the [Weekly Economic Review](#) for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

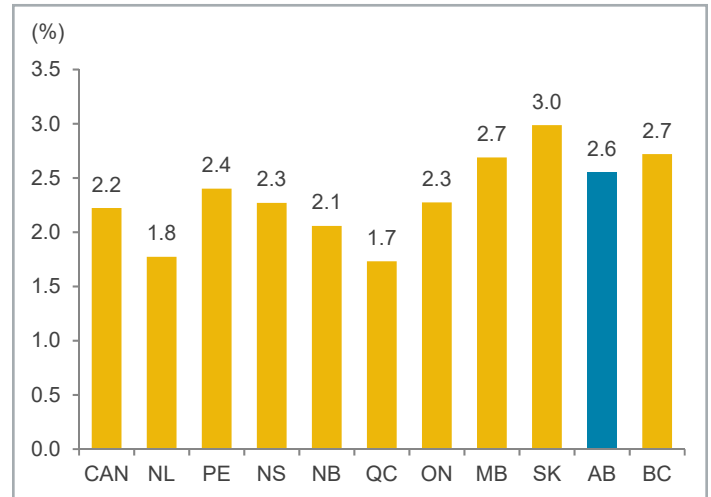
### Real GDP by Industry

(2017, year-over-year growth)



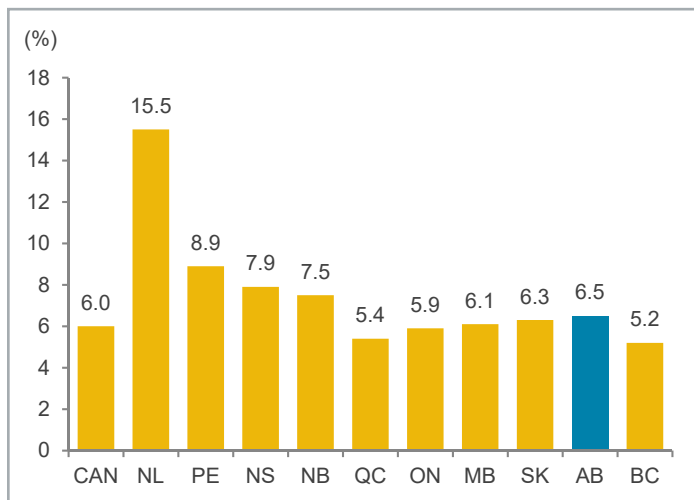
### CPI Inflation

(May 2018, year-over-year growth)



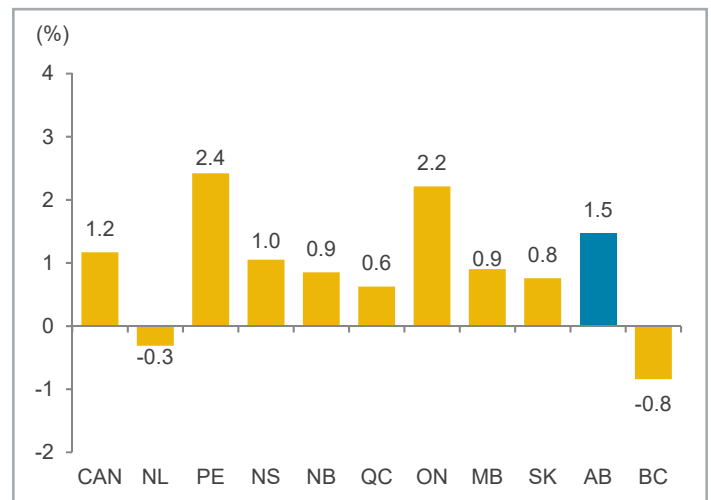
### Unemployment Rate

(June 2018)



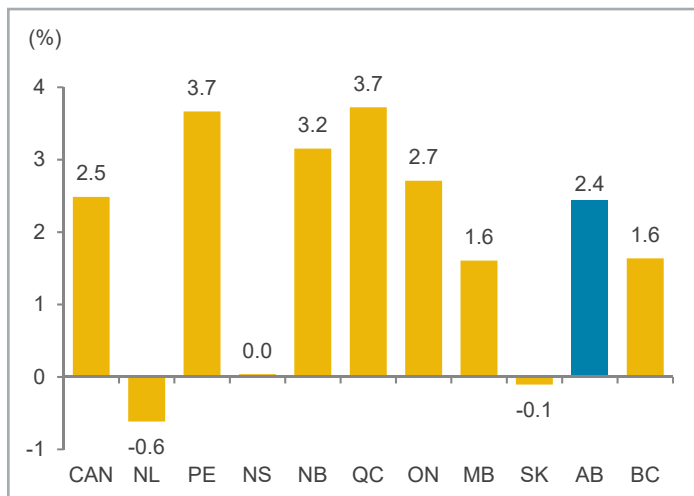
### Employment

(June 2018, year-over-year growth)



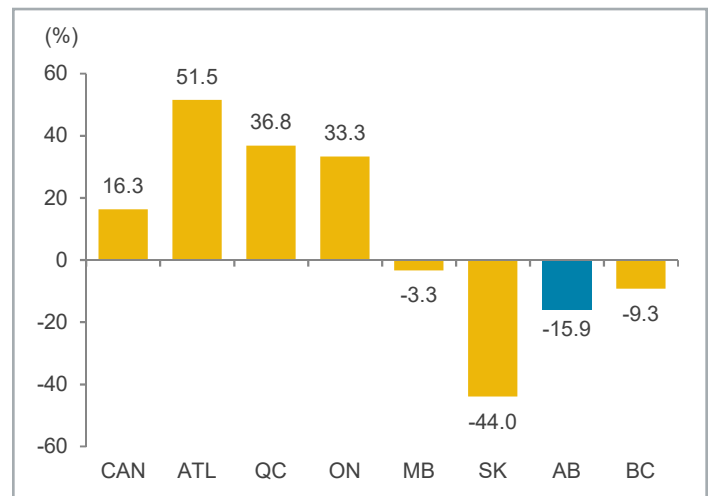
### Average Weekly Earnings

(April 2018, year-over-year growth)



### Housing Starts

(June 2018, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



# Alberta Economic Indicators

	2016	2017	2018YTD	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	-4.5	5.1	3.0	4.4	3.1	2.3	2.3		
<b>Population<sup>1</sup></b>									
Population (thousands)	4,236	4,286	4,334	4,319			4,334		
y/y % change	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4			1.4		
Net Interprovincial Migration	-15,108	-15,131	2,907	302			1,862		
Net International Migration	42,102	33,210	22,298	5,297			6,638		
<b>Labour Market</b>									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,264	2,287	2,322	2,315	2,317	2,325	2,323	2,326	2,328
m/m change (thousands)				-5.9	2.3	8.3	-1.8	2.9	2.0
y/y % change	-1.6	1.0	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5
Unemployment Rate (% , SA)	8.1	7.8	6.6	7.0	6.7	6.3	6.7	6.2	6.5
Participation Rate (% , SA)	72.5	72.4	71.9	72.2	71.9	71.9	72.0	71.6	71.8
Average Weekly Earnings (\$ , SA)	1,119	1,130	1,152	1,145	1,154	1,155	1,153		
y/y % change	-2.4	1.0	3.1	2.9	4.0	3.2	2.4		
<b>Household Sector</b>									
Retail Sales (\$ million, SA)	74,997	80,318	27,029	6,736	6,726	6,777	6,790		
y/y % change	-1.1	7.1	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.8	2.2		
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	224	249	75	16	15	21	22		
y/y % change	-7.6	11.3	-3.5	7.5	-8.3	-5.9	-4.8		
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.1	1.6	2.1	1.4	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.6	
Excluding Food & Energy	1.7	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	
<b>NEW</b> Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	24.5	29.5	27.8	25.2	23.7	26.9	29.4	35.7	26.1
y/y % change	-34.2	20.1	-4.6	35.1	-10.8	-22.7	-6.2	9.3	-15.9
<b>NEW</b> New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	-0.5	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1	
Resale Home Sales	54,848	57,219	22,264	5,003	4,512	4,265	4,209	4,275	
y/y % change	-7.6	4.3	-7.1	3.9	-11.1	-11.1	-11.9	-5.1	
Sales to New Listing Ratio	0.50	0.50	0.45	0.54	0.49	0.43	0.41	0.38	
MLS Average Resale Prices (\$ thousands)	397	398	389	395	396	387	384	384	
y/y % change	0.3	0.4	-2.5	-0.9	0.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.2	
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	5,427	5,008	1,601	383	384	429	405		
y/y % change	26.8	-7.7	-7.3	-2.0	-9.9	-14.9	-0.5		
<b>Business Sector</b>									
Goods Exports (customs based,\$ million)	79,213	100,167	46,591	10,045	8,119	9,210	8,996	10,222	
y/y % change	-14.3	26.5	8.3	18.2	-0.5	-0.7	9.1	15.3	
Energy Products (\$ million)	51,594	69,526	32,701	7,436	5,783	6,267	6,063	7,152	
y/y% change	-17.5	34.8	8.1	20.7	-3.7	-1.7	9.2	16.4	
Agricultural Products (\$ million)	6,284	7,316	3,140	667	451	664	673	686	
y/y % change	-2.9	16.4	-0.9	6.2	-14.7	-3.7	9.8	-3.6	
Rigs Drilling	79	131	134	197	211	142	80	67	106
y/y% change	-34.0	66.0	4.6	-0.9	12.4	-4.0	-5.3	9.1	21.2
Manufacturing Shipments (\$ million, SA)	62,597	70,940	24,121	6,157	6,077	6,106	5,781		
y/y% change	-8.1	13.3	4.5	9.8	6.4	4.3	-2.4		
Wholesale Trade (\$ million, SA)	71,442	78,032	27,002	6,697	6,783	6,738	6,783		
y/y% change	-9.8	9.2	8.0	10.0	9.8	5.5	6.8		
<b>NEW</b> Building Permits (\$ million, SA)	14,200	14,245	6,042	1,106	1,261	1,278	1,190	1,207	
y/y% change	-15.2	0.3	2.7	-12.2	11.9	6.7	14.0	-3.9	
<b>NEW</b> Residential Permits (\$ million, SA)	7,930	8,400	3,895	689	839	836	720	811	
y/y % change	-19.7	5.9	12.8	7.0	25.2	19.2	6.2	6.9	
<b>NEW</b> Non-Residential Permits (\$ million, SA)	6,270	5,845	2,147	417	422	442	470	396	
y/y% change	-8.8	-6.8	-11.7	-32.4	-7.5	-11.0	28.6	-20.3	
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index <sup>2</sup> (y/y % change)	-2.8	1.0	1.3			1.3			

<sup>1</sup> Population data presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30).  
The current census year 2017.

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

**YTD** YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR"  
denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate. All annual data is  
unadjusted.

**Sources:** All data is 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