



Facts on Alberta

Living and Doing Business in Alberta

FACTS ON ALBERTA

LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS IN ALBERTA





PROVINCIAL POPULATION:	3,873,745 as of July 1, 2012
AREA:	Over 661,000 square kilometres
MAJOR CITIES POPULATION:	<i>Edmonton metropolitan area</i> – 1,196,300 (2011) <i>Calgary metropolitan area</i> – 1,265,100 (2011)
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:	\$263.5 billion (2010, current dollars) \$189.9 billion (2010, chained 2002 dollars)
REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH: (chained 2002 dollars)	2011: 5.2% (estimate) 2010: 3.3% 2009: -4.5%
ECONOMIC BASE:	<i>Traditional</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Oil and Gas♦ Petrochemicals♦ Primary Agriculture♦ Food and Beverage Processing♦ Tourism♦ Industrial Machinery and Fabricated Metals <hr/> <i>Emerging</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals♦ Nanotechnology♦ Software Development♦ Electronics and Microelectronics♦ Environmental Technologies
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT:	\$88.7 billion (2011)
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:	5.5% (2011) 6.5% (2010) 6.6% (2009)
GOVERNMENT:	The Alberta government's strategy combines natural advantages with a positive business climate that encourages investment and growth. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ A low tax regime;♦ Streamlined regulations;♦ A strong fiscal framework; and♦ A modern infrastructure of transportation, utilities, education and health.

This report is based on information and sources considered to be reliable at time of publication.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALBERTA - FRESH OPPORTUNITIES	1
• Business	1
• Lifestyle.	1
ECONOMY.....	2
• Alberta Economic Results.....	2
• Economic Well-Being.....	3
• Economic Structure.	5
• Alberta Economic Indicators	6
PRODUCTIVITY.....	7
TAXATION.....	10
• Personal Income Taxes.....	11
• Interprovincial Tax and Health Care Premium Comparison.....	13
• Corporate Taxation.....	14
• Research and Development Tax Credits	16
• Municipal Taxation.	17
REAL ESTATE.....	18
• Non-Residential Real Estate	18
• Residential Housing	21
LABOUR FORCE	23
• Employment.....	23
• Skilled Labour	26
• Wages and Salaries.....	26
• Employment Standards	28
INVENTORY OF MAJOR ALBERTA PROJECTS.....	30
TRANSPORTATION	31
• Railways.....	31
• Highways	32
• Air Service	32
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION	33
• Alberta Universities and Technical Institutes	34
• University of Alberta	34
• University of Calgary	35
• Grant MacEwan University.....	36
• Athabasca University.....	36
• Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT).....	37
• Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)	37
• University of Lethbridge	38
• Mount Royal University	38
• Public and Private Colleges	39
• Educational Support	40
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY.....	42
• Research Funding at Universities	43
• World Class Research Infrastructure	43

ALBERTA - FRESH OPPORTUNITIES

Business

Alberta has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources that have formed the foundation of its thriving economy. The Alberta government has built on this foundation by engineering an economic plan and creating a positive business climate that encourages investment, fosters diversification and allows businesses to compete successfully around the globe. The result is one of the most vibrant and competitive economies in the world. Overall, Alberta's globally competitive business climate consists of:

- a diverse and strong economy;
- a young, skilled and productive workforce;
- a strong commitment to innovation and knowledge-based progress;
- a highly entrepreneurial and competitive business community;
- a business-friendly province committed to responsible regulation;
- the lowest overall tax load of any province in Canada, including no provincial sales tax;
- a modern and efficient infrastructure;
- an abundance of natural resources; and
- a fiscally responsible provincial government.

Lifestyle

Each year, thousands of people move to Alberta, drawn by personal or business opportunities and the exceptional standard of living. Alberta is a prosperous province, where residents share a rich natural environment and enjoy outstanding opportunities in recreation, arts and culture. In particular, Alberta offers:

- safe, modern cities and charming small towns and villages;
- cultural diversity;
- accessible education and health care;
- recreation and leisure opportunities;
- music, dance, film, literature, theatre and visual arts experiences;
- sporting events, fairs and rodeos;
- internationally recognized museums, national parks and world heritage sites; and
- clean, beautiful, natural environment.

ECONOMY

In 2011, Alberta's economy expanded by 5.2%, the highest provincial growth rate. Over the long term a well trained workforce, investment in machinery and equipment, productivity enhancing innovations and an increasingly diversified economy will contribute to Alberta's economy again leading the nation in economic growth.

Alberta Economic Results

- Over the last two decades (1991 – 2011), Alberta had the highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate in Canada, at 3.4% per year. In 2011, Alberta's economy grew by an estimated 5.2%. Most private sector forecasters expect the province to continue to lead the country in economic growth over the long term.
- Alberta's exports of goods increased by 18% between 2010 and 2011 to an estimated \$93 billion. This increase was mainly the result of rising commodity prices (for items such as crude oil and agricultural commodities) and higher volumes in exports.
- Alberta's manufacturing shipments increased 18% from 2010 to 2011 (from \$60.1 billion to \$70.9 billion).
- The province consistently has the highest investment per capita among provinces. In 2011, Alberta investment per capita was \$23,461, more than double the national average. A total of \$88.7 billion was invested in 2011, more than twice the amount invested in 2001.
- Average annual employment in the province in 2011 increased by 77,500 over 2010. Between 2001 and 2011, employment increased by an average of 46,350 per year.
- Alberta's average unemployment rate in 2011 was the third lowest in Canada at 5.5%.

Interprovincial Indicators

Province	2011 Population (000s)	Unemployment Rate 2011 (%)	2010 GDP (\$ millions)		Real Economic Growth (%, at 2002 Prices)			
			Current \$	Constant \$*	2001-2011	2009	2010	2011**
Newfoundland and Labrador	511	12.7	28,192	19,475	3.2	-9.0	6.1	2.8
Prince Edward Island	146	11.3	5,010	4,302	2.1	0.2	2.6	1.1
Nova Scotia	945	8.8	36,352	29,693	1.4	0.0	1.9	0.3
New Brunswick	755	9.5	29,448	24,370	1.8	-0.4	3.1	0.1
Quebec	7,980	7.8	319,348	271,109	1.7	-0.7	2.5	1.7
Ontario	13,373	7.8	612,494	520,670	1.5	-3.2	3.0	2.0
Manitoba	1,251	5.4	54,257	43,453	2.1	-0.3	2.4	1.1
Saskatchewan	1,058	5.0	63,557	41,424	2.4	-3.8	4.0	4.8
Alberta	3,779	5.5	263,537	189,940	2.7	-4.5	3.3	5.2
British Columbia	4,573	7.5	203,147	165,792	2.6	-2.1	3.0	2.9
Canada	34,483	7.4	1,624,608	1,316,622	1.9	-2.8	3.2	2.5

Notes:

*2010 GDP in chained 2002 dollars.

**Statistics Canada estimates for GDP at basic prices (by industry)

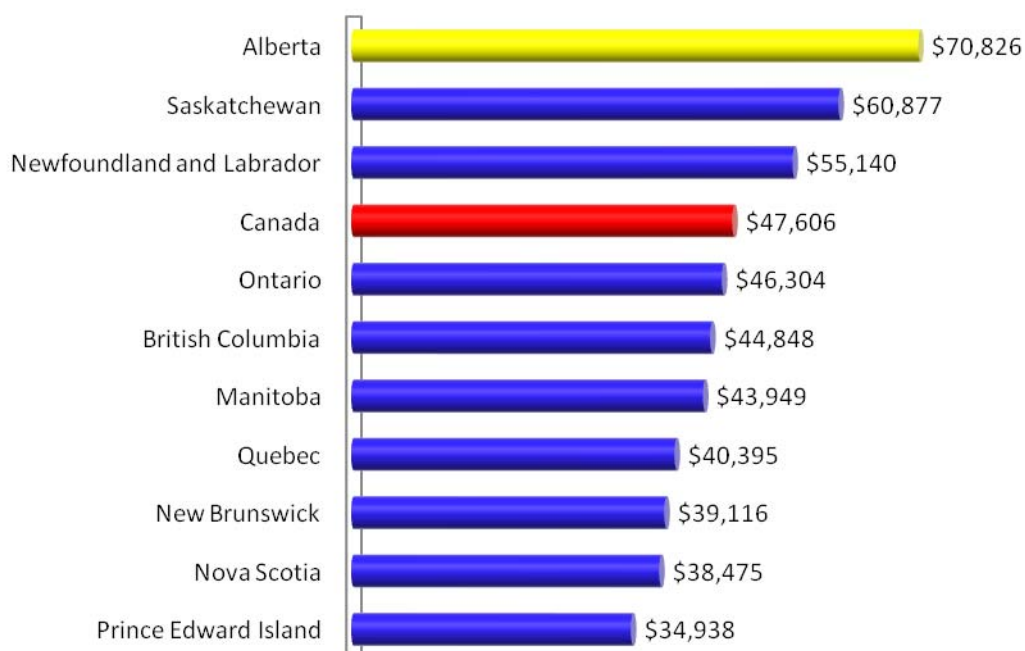
Sources: Statistics Canada

Economic Well-Being

Alberta boasts a high standard of living. The standard of living of Albertans, as measured in GDP per capita, has grown consistently since 2000, outperforming the rest of Canada. In 2010, it was the highest of all provinces – 49% above the Canadian average.

Standard of Living by Province, 2010

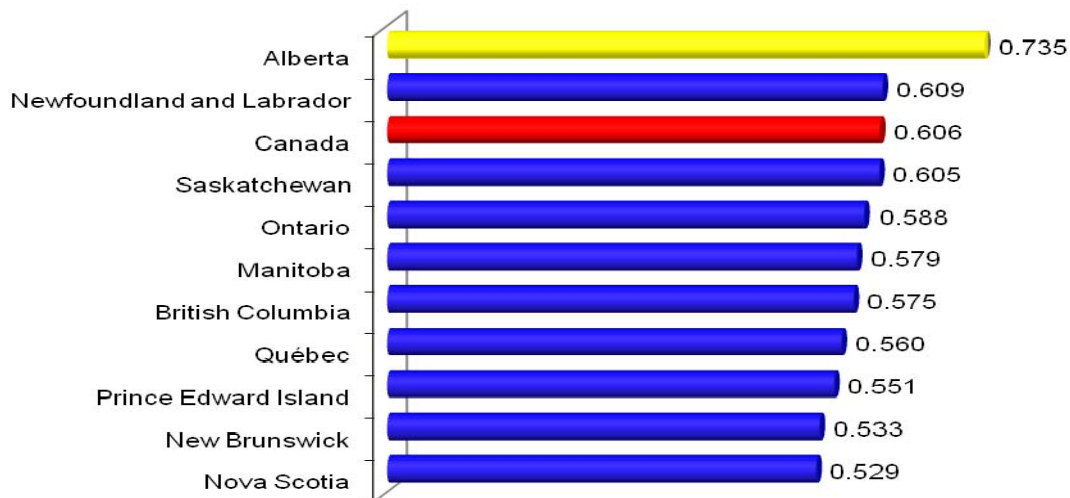
(GDP per Capita)



Note: Current dollar GDP
Source: Statistics Canada

In 2011, Alberta maintained the top spot in the nation with an index of 0.73 out of a possible score of 1.00. The index value for Alberta is 21% higher than the Canadian average.

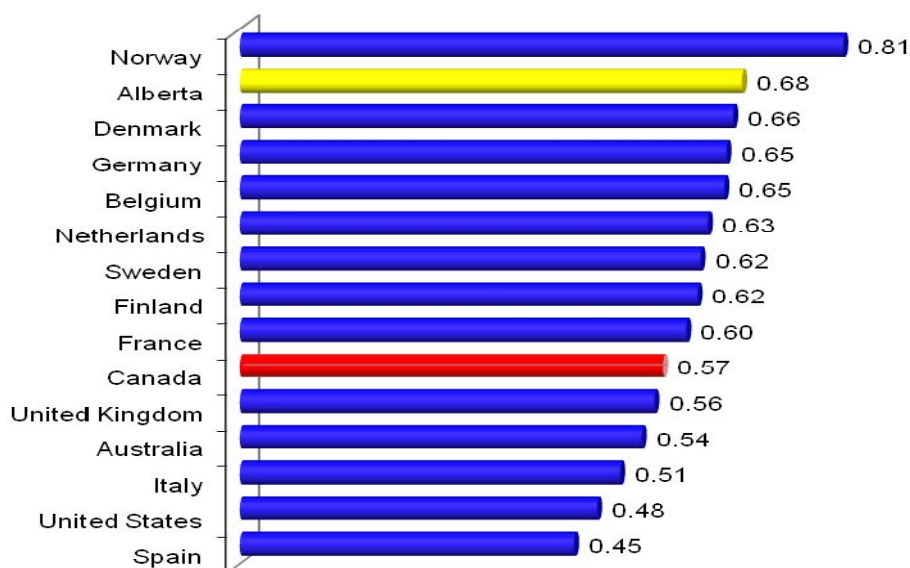
Index of Economic Well-Being by Province, 2011



Note: Measures consumption flows, wealth stocks, income distribution, and economic security.
Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

The province's strong performance in economic well-being indicators was also evident in international comparisons. In 2010, Alberta ranked second compared to 14 OECD nations in an international comparison of economic well-being.

Index of Economic Well-Being – International Comparison, 2010



Note: Measures consumption flows, wealth stocks, income distribution, and economic security.
Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

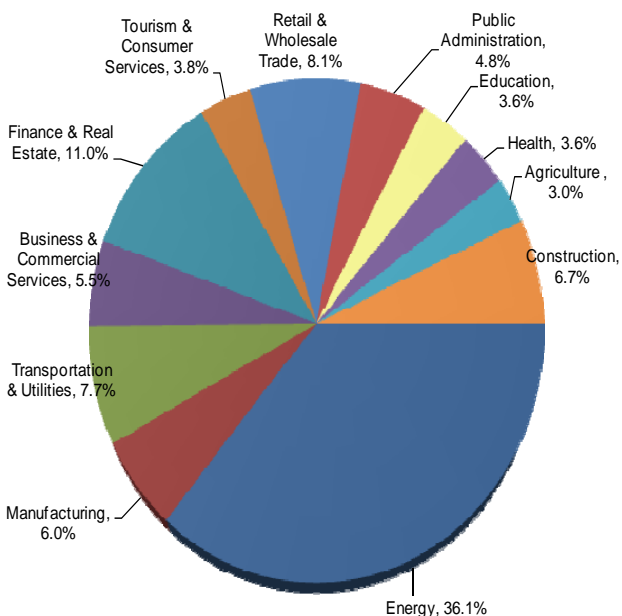
Economic Structure

Energy remains the key driver of Alberta's economy, accounting for about one-quarter of the province's GDP in 2011. However, compared to 1985, energy's contribution to GDP has declined from 36.1% to 27.6% in 2011, a result of the growth in other sectors of the economy.

The four non-energy sectors that registered the strongest expansion from 1985 to 2011 were: finance and real estate (11.0% to 14.1%); business and commercial services (5.5% to 9.5%); construction (6.7% to 8.6%); and tourism and consumer services (3.8% to 4.7%). The combined contribution of these four sectors grew from 27.0% in 1985 to 36.9% in 2011.

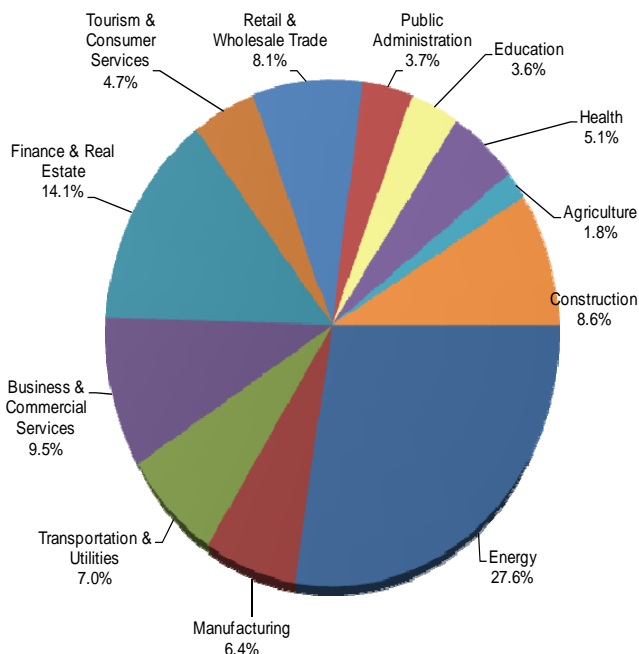
Distribution of GDP – 1985

Total GDP at Market Prices: \$66.8 Billion



Distribution of GDP – 2011

Total GDP at Market Prices: \$286.6 Billion



Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, and Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education

Alberta Economic Indicators

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change '09-'10 '10-'11	
Demographics:							
Population ('000's), as of July 1	3,512.7	3,591.4	3,670.7	3,720.9	3,779.4	1.4%	1.6%
Net international migration (July 1 through June 30)	29,874	34,402	36,462	21,783	14,093	-40.3%	-35.3%
Net inter-provincial migration (July 1 through June 30)	33,809	15,317	13,184	(3,271)	13,660	-124.8%	n/a
Labour Force:							
Employment ('000's)	1,991.3	2,053.7	2,025.2	2,016.6	2,094.1	-0.4%	3.8%
Employment Growth ('000's)	74.8	62.4	(28.5)	(8.6)	77.5		
Full Time ('000's)	1,675.1	1,721.2	1,663.3	1,661.0	1,736.0	-0.1%	4.5%
Part Time ('000's)	316.2	332.4	361.8	355.6	358.2	-1.7%	0.7%
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.5	3.6	6.6	6.5	5.5		
Employment Insurance beneficiaries (#)	16,838	17,702	56,556	49,778	34,563	-12.0%	-30.6%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$, incl. overtime)	872.61	924.36	950.10	993.40	1,038.76	4.6%	4.6%
Wages and salaries (\$ millions)	106,654	115,487	110,348	116,271	126,113	5.4%	8.5%
Gross Domestic Product:							
Gross Domestic Product, nominal (\$millions)	255,787	288,700	240,697	263,537		9.5%	
Gross Domestic Product, chained 2002\$ (millions)	184,008	185,668	177,376	183,251		3.3%	
Real GDP growth (%)	1.7	0.9	-4.5	3.3	5.2		
Construction:							
Capital investment, construction and M&E (\$ millions)	83,933	89,744	65,695	81,343	88,667	23.8%	9.0%
Capital investment per capita (\$)	23,894	24,989	17,897	21,861	23,461	22.1%	7.3%
Capital investment, construction (\$ millions)	59,768	65,155	44,707	61,026	69,737	36.5%	14.3%
Capital investment, M&E (\$ millions)	24,165	24,589	20,988	20,316	18,930	-3.2%	-6.8%
Building permits (\$millions)	15,730	13,141	11,277	11,425	12,707	1.3%	11.2%
Housing starts in all areas (number)	48,336	29,164	20,298	27,088	25,704	33.5%	-5.1%
Consumer Spending and Income:							
Retail trade (\$million)	61,487	61,614	56,478	59,856	64,028	6.0%	7.0%
Personal income per capita (\$)	45,592	48,350	45,889	47,565		3.7%	
Personal disposable income (\$million)	122,060	134,085	133,037	140,967		6.0%	
Personal disposable income per capita (\$)	34,748	37,335	36,243	37,885		4.5%	
New car sales (number)	257,050	238,413	186,768	204,537	224,147	9.5%	9.6%
MLS, units sold	70,954	56,045	57,543	49,723	53,756	-13.6%	8.1%
MLS, average price (\$)	357,483	353,748	341,818	352,301	353,394	3.1%	0.3%
Consumer Price Index (2002=100)	117.9	121.6	121.5	122.7	125.7	1.0%	2.4%
Consumer bankruptcies (number)	4,768	6,066	9,986	8,150	7,029	-18.4%	-13.8%
International and Inter-Provincial Trade:							
International exports - goods (\$millions)	81,559	110,248	69,846	78,653	93,046	12.6%	18.3%
International exports - goods & services (\$millions)	89,650	118,759	77,962	88,074		13.0%	
Business Entry & Exit:							
Incorporations (number)	48,791	43,515	35,143	39,126	41,323	11.3%	5.6%
Business bankruptcies (number)	449	447	405	378	264	-6.7%	-30.2%
Energy:							
Crude oil production ('000 m3)	107,974	107,388	111,775	119,559	129,851	7.0%	8.6%
Natural gas gross production (million m3)	165,587	157,664	146,632	139,420	133,422	-4.9%	-4.3%
Wells drilled - completion basis (number)	14,453	15,346	6,699	9,493	10,605	41.7%	11.7%
Number of active drilling rigs (average #)	241	236	128	207	286	61.7%	38.2%
Manufacturing:							
Manufacturing shipments (\$millions)	65,731	70,146	53,951	60,074	70,920	11.3%	18.1%
Wholesale:							
Wholesale trade (\$millions)	60,587	66,361	56,057	60,848	69,973	8.5%	15.0%
Agriculture:							
Farm cash receipts (\$millions)	8,659	10,159	9,351	9,002	10,461	-3.7%	16.2%

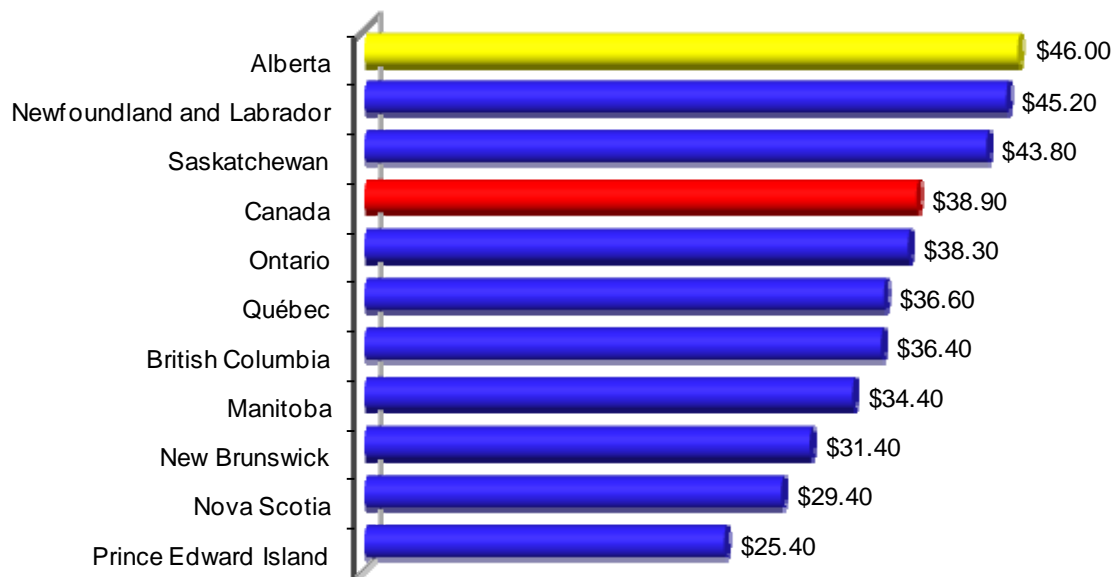
Sources: Industry Canada, Service Alberta, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canadian Real Estate Association, Statistics Canada, Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education, Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors.

Productivity

Productivity measures the efficiency with which resources are employed in the production process. It is the most important source of long-term economic growth and increased standard of living as it addresses the overall performance of a company or economy through achieving greater resource allocation, human resource efficiency, increased innovation, technology diffusion and capital investment.

Productivity is an essential component to the success and health of every company in Alberta and the overall standard of living of Albertans. Alberta has a favourable environment that supports productivity: low taxes, a well-developed innovation system, a skilled labour force, and a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. In 2011, labour productivity – measured as the ratio of output (GDP) to labour inputs (hours worked) – in Alberta's business sector was higher than that of any other province. Total value added (or GDP) per hour in Alberta was 18% higher than the Canadian average.

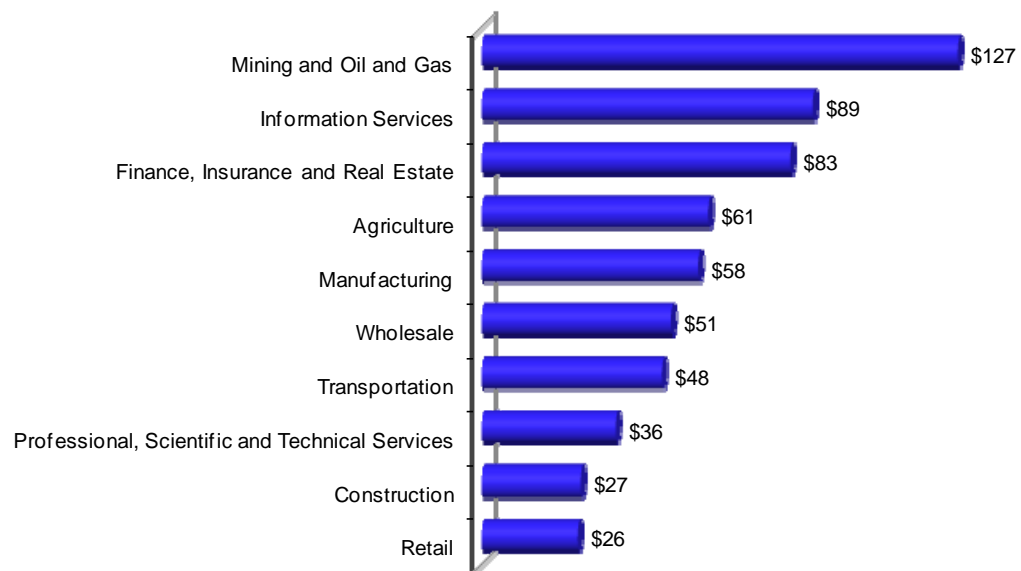
Labour Productivity by Province – Business Sector, 2011
(real GDP per hour worked)



Note: GDP at basic prices in chained 2002 dollars
Source: Statistics Canada

The mining and oil and gas, information services, finance and insurance and agriculture sectors continued to have the highest labour productivity in Alberta in 2011.

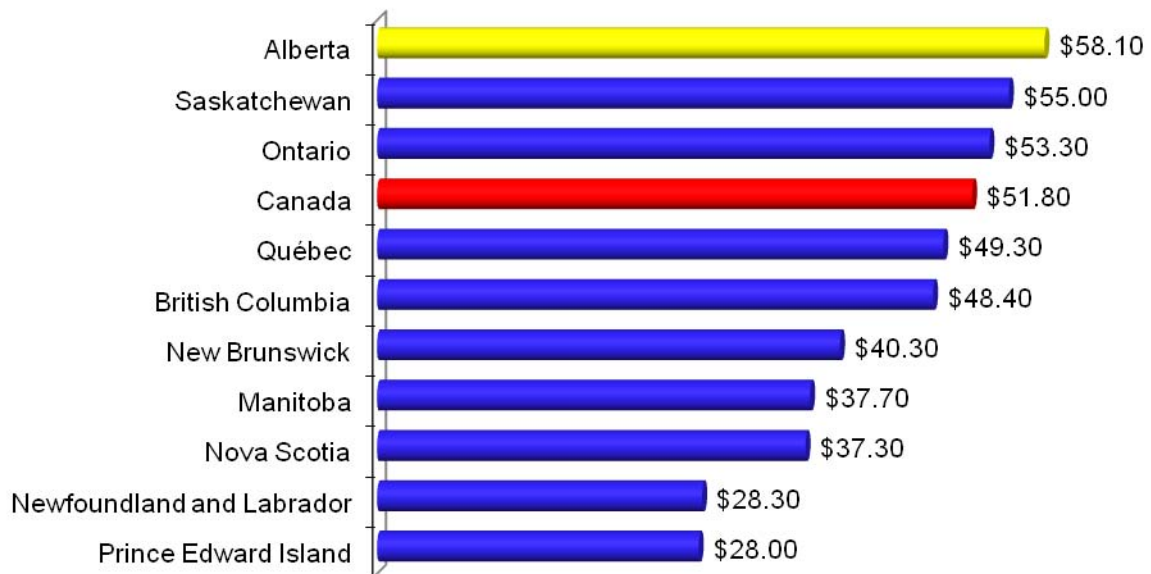
Labour Productivity by Industry in Alberta, 2011
(real GDP per hour worked)



Note: GDP at basic prices in chained 2002 dollars
Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta's manufacturing sector had the highest productivity of all provinces, partly because of its highly productive chemical, machinery and food processing industries. In 2011, the total value added per hour in Alberta exceeded the Canadian average by 12%.

Manufacturing Sector Labour Productivity by Province, 2011
(real GDP per hour worked)



Note: GDP at basic prices in 2002 chained dollars
Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta has a commitment to creating a supportive environment for companies in the province to improve their productivity and become successful in world markets. For example, Alberta's provincial scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) tax credit is worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures up to \$4 million, for a maximum credit of \$400,000.

Alberta Competitiveness Act

Improving competitiveness is part of the Government of Alberta's clear plan for strong economic recovery. The government has committed to ensuring the province's industries are competitive and able to attract investment to provide jobs and sustain prosperity. Introduced and passed during the spring 2010 sitting of the Legislature, the *Alberta Competitiveness Act* is a means to bring government, industry and Albertans together. The goal is to develop a shared strategy that will measure the province's overall competitiveness and identify where action needs to be taken to improve competitiveness.

Taxation

Albertans have the lowest overall personal taxes in Canada

- Alberta's personal tax advantage results from a low single rate tax system, including the highest basic and spousal exemptions in the country, no general sales tax, the lowest gasoline tax rate, and no health care premiums.

Alberta businesses have the lowest overall business taxes in Canada

- Alberta's business tax advantage results from low corporate income tax rates, no capital tax, no general sales tax, no payroll tax, and the lowest gasoline tax among the provinces.

Major Provincial Tax Rates, 2012

		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Corporate Income Tax											
General Rate	(%)	10.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	11 ⁽¹⁾	11.9	10.0	16.0	16.0	14.0
Mfg. & Proc. Rate	(%)	10.0	10.0	10.0	12.0	10.0	11.9	10.0	16.0	16.0	5.0
Small Business											
Rate	(%)	0.0	3.0	2.0	0.0	4.5	8.0	4.5	4.0	1.0	4.0
Threshold	(\$'000)	500	500	500	400	500	500	500	400	500	500
Capital Tax											
General	(max %)	-	-	-					0 ⁽²⁾	-	-
Financial Institutions	(max %)		-	3.25	3.0		0.25 ⁽³⁾	3.0	4.0	5.0	4.0
Health Care Premiums											
Indiv./ family (max)	(\$)	64/128 ⁽⁴⁾	-	-	-	300 ⁽⁵⁾	200	-	-	-	-
Employer Payroll Tax	(max %)	-	-	-	2.15	1.95	4.26 ⁽⁶⁾	-	-	-	2.00
Provincial Sales Tax	(%)	7.0	-	5.0	7.0	8.0	9.5 ⁽⁷⁾	8.0	10.0	10.0 ⁽⁷⁾	8.0
Fuel Tax											
Gasoline	(¢/litre)	21.2 ^(8,9)	9.0	15.0	11.5	14.7 ⁽⁹⁾	18.2 ^(8,9)	13.6 ⁽⁹⁾	15.5 ⁽⁹⁾	15.8 ⁽¹⁰⁾	16.5 ⁽⁹⁾
Tobacco Tax	(\$/ctn)	37.00 ⁽⁹⁾	40.00	42.00 ⁽⁹⁾	41.00	24.70 ⁽⁹⁾	21.80	34.00 ⁽⁹⁾	43.04 ⁽⁹⁾	50.80	38.00 ⁽⁹⁾
Hotel Room Tax ¹¹	(%)	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-

Notes:

1. Ontario's corporate income tax rate was reduced from 11.5% to 11.0% on July 1, 2012.
2. Nova Scotia reduced its Large Corporations Tax from 0.05% to zero per cent on July 1, 2012.
3. Quebec levies 0.25% compensation tax on the paid-up capital of financial institutions
4. BC health care premiums are paid monthly.
5. Ontario annual health premium per individual is prorated based on taxable income (TI). TI under \$20,000 premium is nil. TI of \$20.0K to \$25.0K premium is 6% of income > \$20.0K; TI \$25.0K to \$36.0K premium is \$300; TI \$36.0K to \$38.5K premium \$300 + 6% of income > \$36.0K; TI \$38.5K to \$48.0K premium \$450; TI \$48.0K to \$48.6K \$450 + 25% of income > \$48.0K; TI \$48.6K to \$72.0K premium is \$600; TI \$72.0K to \$72.6K premium \$600 + 25% income over \$72.0K; TI \$72.6K to \$200.0K premium is \$750; TI \$200.0K to \$200.6K \$750 + 25% of income over \$200.0K; TI \$200.6K or more premium is \$900.
6. Quebec levies a compensation tax of up to 3.9% on salaries and wages paid by financial institutions that is not included in this rate..
7. These provinces apply their retail sales tax on the retail price of the good inclusive of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
8. An additional 9 cents/litre is imposed in the greater Vancouver area, and 3.5 cents/litre in Victoria. This rate includes the carbon tax on gasoline. Quebec increased its fuel tax from 1.2 cents/litre to 18.2 cents/litre effective April 1, 2012.
9. These provinces apply their retail sales tax or the provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) on the retail price of the good inclusive of the particular excise tax. In BC, gasoline is subject to HST but receives immediate point of sale rebate for the provincial portion of the HST.
10. This rate is based on 7.1 cents/litre base rate and 10.7% of the average wholesale price. The rate is calculated on a monthly basis with the total tax capped t 15.8 cents/litre.
11. Alberta is the only province that charges a tourism levy. This revenue is dedicated to tourism marketing and development. With the exception of Ontario, provinces/municipalities charge Destination Marketing Fees to fund tourism marketing. All provinces charge PST and/or GST on rooms.

Notes: PEI plans to introduce HST of 14.0% effective April 1, 2013.

BC plans to change its HST back to PST and GST effective April 1, 2013.

Sources: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Tax Facts and Figures 2012; Alberta Treasury Board and Finance; Hotel Association of Canada

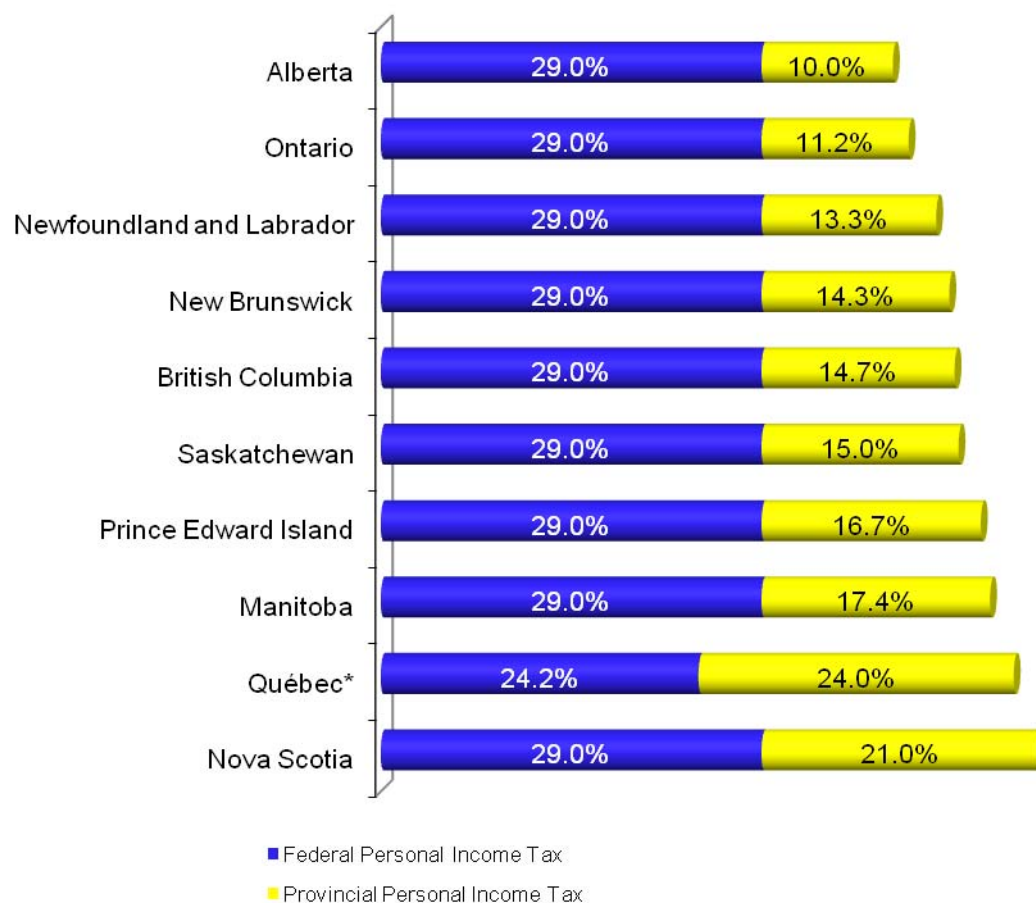
Personal Income Taxes

Alberta's low personal income taxes allow people to spend or invest more of their own money according to their wishes. Alberta's low top marginal tax rate rewards the efforts of Albertans and attracts skilled workers from around the world, further fuelling an already dynamic economy.

Alberta indexes its personal income tax system to offset inflation, protecting taxpayers. For the 2012 tax year, an additional \$305 was added to the basic, spousal and eligible dependant amounts, raising them to \$17,282, up from \$16,977 in 2011.

The annual indexing of the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit began in July 2006. The maximum benefits as of July 2012 are: \$715 for one child; \$1,365 for two children; \$1,755 for three children; and \$1,885 for four or more children. The income level at which the credit starts to phase out is \$34,897.

Top Marginal Effective Personal Income Tax Rates – May 2012



*Federal rates that apply in Quebec have been reduced by the 16.5% "Quebec abatement".

Note: Includes Surtaxes

Source: Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, *Budget 2012*

Albertans benefit from not having to pay a general provincial sales tax. This particularly helps Albertans with lower incomes.

Personal Taxable Income Brackets and Rates by Province – 2012

	Basic Amount	Basic Brackets and Rates (rates apply starting at the brackets shown)					Surtax thresholds and Rates**
Alberta	\$17,282	\$0 10%					N/A
British Columbia	\$11,354	\$0 5.06%	\$37,014 7.70%	\$74,029 10.50%	\$84,994 12.29%	\$103,206 14.70%	
Manitoba	\$8,684	\$0 10.80%	\$31,001 12.75%	\$67,001 17.40%			
New Brunswick	\$9,203	\$0 9.10%	\$38,191 12.10%	\$76,381 12.40%	\$124,179 14.30%		
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$8,237	\$0 7.70%	\$32,894 12.50%	\$65,786 13.30%			n/a nil
Northwest Territories	\$13,280	\$0 5.90%	\$38,680 8.60%	\$77,361 12.20%	\$125,771 14.05%		N/A
Nova Scotia	\$8,481	\$0 8.79%	\$29,591 14.95%	\$59,181 16.67%	\$93,001 17.50%	\$150,001 21.00%	n/a n/a
Nunavut*	\$12,211	\$0 4.00%	\$40,722 7.00%	\$81,443 9.00%	\$132,407 11.50%		N/A
Ontario	\$9,405	\$0 5.05%	\$39,021 9.15%	\$78,044 11.16%			\$4,213 (\$68,719), 20% \$5,392 (\$80,963), 36%
Prince Edward Island	\$7,708	\$0 9.80%	\$31,985 13.80%	\$63,970 16.70%			\$12,500 (\$98,145) 10.00%
Quebec*	\$10,925	\$0 16.00%	\$40,101 20.00%	\$80,201 24.00%			N/A
Saskatchewan	\$14,942	\$0 11.00%	\$42,066 13.00%	\$120,186 15.00%			

*In Quebec, the federal component of tax is reduced by the 16.5% abatement of basic federal tax.

**Surtax rates apply to provincial tax above surtax thresholds. Figures in brackets are the taxable income levels that correspond to the thresholds, assuming only the basic personal credit is claimed.

Sources: KPMG; *TaxTips* Website (www.taxtips.ca/marginaltaxrates.htm).

Interprovincial Tax and Health Care Premium Comparison

Alberta's overall personal taxes are the lowest in Canada in 2012. For example, a two-income family with two children, earning an income of \$100,000 per year, pays \$6,327 less in taxes in Alberta than in Nova Scotia and \$3,404 less than residents of Ontario.

Albertans also benefit from the elimination of personal health care premiums which came into effect on January 1, 2009. Eliminating premiums in their entirety means that Alberta's tax system is even more competitive and equitable. The elimination results in significant savings – about \$1 billion – for individual Albertans and Alberta businesses each year. This is roughly equal to a 12% reduction in personal income taxes.

Employment Income of \$200,000 – Two-Income Family with Two Children (\$) – 2012

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial Income Tax	11,563	13,617	16,105	20,819	14,029	22,464	16,971	21,895	21,272	17,582
Provincial Sales Tax	5,034		3,329	3,474	4,678	5,119	4,860	5,587	4,998	5,442
Health Care Premium	1,152				1,013	300				
Payroll Tax				1,523	1,785	4,014				587
Fuel Tax	928	405	675	518	662	808	612	698	711	743
Total Provincial Tax	18,677	14,022	20,109	26,334	22,167	32,705	22,443	28,180	26,981	24,354

Employment Income of \$100,000 – Two Income Family with Two Children (\$) – 2012

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial Income Tax	3,586	5,005	5,016	7,534	3,945	7,074	6,505	7,864	7,835	6,423
Provincial Sales Tax	2,780		1,881	1,966	2,635	2,680	2,706	3,175	2,828	3,049
Health Care Premium	1,152				680	300				
Payroll Tax				761	892	2,007				294
Fuel Tax	928	405	675	518	662	808	612	698	711	743
Total Provincial Tax	8,446	5,410	7,572	10,779	8,814	12,869	9,823	11,737	11,374	10,509

Employment Income of \$75,000 – One-Income Family with Two Children (\$) – 2012

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial Income Tax	3,098	3,128	3,248	5,711	3,677	3,886	5,368	7,007	6,683	5,677
Provincial Sales Tax	2,165		1,497	1,552	2,053	2,041	2,118	2,458	2,201	2,369
Health Care Premium	1,152				450	300				
Payroll Tax				571	669	1,505				220
Fuel Tax	618	270	450	345	441	539	408	465	474	495
Total Provincial Tax	7,033	3,398	5,195	8,179	7,290	8,271	7,894	9,930	9,358	8,761

Employment Income of \$35,000 – One-Income Family with Two Children (\$) - 2012

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEU	NL
Provincial Income Tax	581	(1,337)	(537)	963	(1,000)	(3,453)	903	1,824	1,938	1,474
Provincial Sales Tax	823		993	1,034	677	1,291	1,404	1,638	1,453	1,555
Health Care Premium	461				225	300				
Payroll Tax				266	312	703				103
Fuel Tax	618	270	450	345	441	539	408	465	474	495
Total Provincial Tax	2,483	(1,067)	906	2,608	655	(620)	2,715	3,927	3,865	3,627

Notes:

Calculations are based on other provinces' tax parameters known as of January 24, 2012.

Assumptions:

- In provinces that impose payroll taxes, 75% is assumed to be borne by employees and 25% by employers. The same 75/25 split is assumed for the net health care insurance premiums.
- Fuel tax is based on estimated consumption of 3,000 litres per year for one-income families and 4,500 litres for two-income families.
- RRSP/RPP contributions of \$0, \$6,000, \$9,700 and \$22,970 are included in the calculation of personal income tax for the \$35,000, \$75,000, \$100,000 and \$200,000 families, respectively.
- For two-income families, income and RRSP/RPP contributions are split 60/40 between the two spouses.
- The children in each family are assumed to be 6 and 12 years old.

Source: Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, *Budget 2012*

Corporate Taxation

Alberta provides an attractive tax environment for business. Alberta's low taxes on capital investment are a key factor in encouraging businesses to invest in new technologies and machinery, increasing innovation and boosting productivity. Ultimately this results in a higher standard of living for all Albertans. In addition, Alberta has no provincial capital or payroll taxes, which are common in many other provinces and U.S. states.

Provincial Corporate Income Tax Rates – pro-rated for December 31, 2011

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
General (%)	10.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	11.9	10.0	16.0	16.0	14.0
Mfg. & Processing (%)	10.0	10.0	10.0	12.0	10.0	11.9	10.0	16.0	16.0	5.0
Small Business (%)	0.0	3.0	2.0	0.0	4.5	8.0	4.5	4.0	1.0	4.0

Source: Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, *Budget 2012*

Federal Corporate Tax Rates – 2012

(in currency of country)

Federal Corporate Tax Rates (in currency of country)	Canada 2012	United States 2012
Corporate Income Tax (%) ^a		
Top General Statutory Rate	15.0	35.0
Manufacturing Rate	15.0	31.9
Small Business	11.0	34.0
Combined Effective (Cdn. Federal +AB & US Federal + State Avg.)	25.0	39.2
General Sales Tax (%) ^b	5.0	-
Social Security ^c	4.95 % (max. \$2,306 on max. contributory earnings of \$46,600)	6.2% (max. \$6,826 on max. contributory earnings of \$110,100)
Employment Insurance/ Unemployment Tax (employer premiums) ^d	1.78% (max. \$840 on max. insurable earnings of \$45,900)	6.2% (\$434 on taxable wage limit of \$7,000)
Medicare	-	1.45%

Notes:

- a) Canada: Federal small business rate is currently being applied to taxable income up to C\$400,000. United States: The small business rate is the effective federal rate on taxable income of US\$335,000 approximating the Canadian federal small business threshold. Combined effective rate shows the basic federal and a weighted average state corporate marginal income tax rate.
- b) This refundable value-added tax has no net cost once input tax credits (refunds) have been claimed.
- c) Represents Canada Pension Plan and U.S. Social Security. In Canada, employee and employer contribution rates were 4.95% of the employee pensionable earnings to a maximum contribution to the plan of \$2,218. Individuals who earn less than \$3,500 annually do not need to contribute to the plan. The tax exempt amount for U.S. Social Security is \$13,560 per year.
- d) Canada: All rates shown are maximum rates paid by employers at 1.4 times the employee premium and are levied at the federal level only. United States: Employers who pay the state unemployment tax receive an offset credit of up to 5.4% regardless of the rate of taxes they pay the state. Therefore, the net FUTA tax rate can be as low as 0.8%, for a maximum federal tax of \$56.00 per employee, per year. State law determines individual state unemployment insurance tax rates.
For the 2011 calendar year the employee's share of US unemployment tax has been reduced to 4.2%.

Sources: PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *Tax Facts and Figures 2012*; Canada Revenue Agency, Federation of Tax Administrators.

Research and Development Tax Credits

Federal Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program

The Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program is a federal tax incentive program to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct research and development (R&D) in Canada that will lead to new, improved or technologically advanced products or processes. The SR&ED Program is the largest single source of federal government support for industrial research and development.

Generally, a Canadian-controlled private corporation (CCPC) can earn an investment tax credit (ITC) of 35% up to the first \$3 million of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada, and 20% on any excess amount. Other Canadian corporations, proprietorships, partnerships, and trusts can earn an ITC of 20% of qualified expenditures for SR&ED carried out in Canada.

Normally, a CCPC with a taxable income in the immediately preceding year that does not exceed the qualifying income limit may receive a portion of the ITC earned as a refund, after applying these tax credits against taxes payable. The ITC earned by a Canadian corporation that is not a CCPC is non-refundable, but may be used to reduce any taxes payable. The ITC earned by a proprietorship or certain trusts may be partially refunded after applying these tax credits against taxes payable.

To qualify for the SR&ED Program, work must advance the understanding of scientific relations or technologies, address scientific or technological uncertainty, and incorporate a systematic investigation by qualified personnel.

Work that qualifies for SR&ED tax credits includes:

- experimental development to achieve technological advancement to create new materials, devices, products, or processes, or to improve existing ones;
- applied research to advance scientific knowledge with a specific practical application in view;
- basic research to advance scientific knowledge without a specific practical application in view; and
- support work in engineering, design, operations research, mathematical analysis, computer programming, data collection, testing, or psychological research, but only if the work is commensurate with, and directly supports, the eligible experimental development, or applied or basic research.

For further information please see www.cra-arc.gc.ca/txcrdt/sred-rsde/menu-eng.html

Alberta Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program

The Alberta Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit is a key action in the provincial strategy to build a next generation economy in Alberta through technological innovation and the development of value-added sectors. It benefits businesses conducting research and development that will lead to new, improved or technologically advanced products or processes.

The Alberta SR&ED tax credit is over and above the federal SR&ED credit, helping to further the research and development investments made by Alberta companies. The credit is for all expenditures incurred after December 31, 2008 which are also eligible for the federal credit. The Alberta SR&ED tax credit is worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures up to \$4 million, for a maximum credit of \$400,000. It will be refundable for all companies.

For further information see

<http://eae.alberta.ca/economic-development/technology/support/taxcredit.aspx>.

Municipal Taxation

In Alberta, the assessment of residential property for the purposes of municipal and education taxation is based on market value as set out in the *Municipal Government Act* and Regulations. There are two levies against assessable property in the province: the Municipal Levy, used to fund municipal services, and the Alberta Education Levy, collected on behalf of the provincial government to help fund education.

All business occupants in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton are assessed for business taxation. Business tax is calculated based on the assessed value of the space occupied by the business, multiplied by the annual tax rate as set by each city council. For 2012, the business tax rate for Calgary is 8.09%.

Edmonton no longer has a business mill rate. Instead the City of Edmonton has developed a Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ) tax assessment. A BRZ tax assessment is a value placed on any space occupied or used by a person for the purpose of operating a business that is situated in a BRZ. The assessment is for taxation purposes only and does not reflect the profitability of a business.

To find out more about the BRZs see

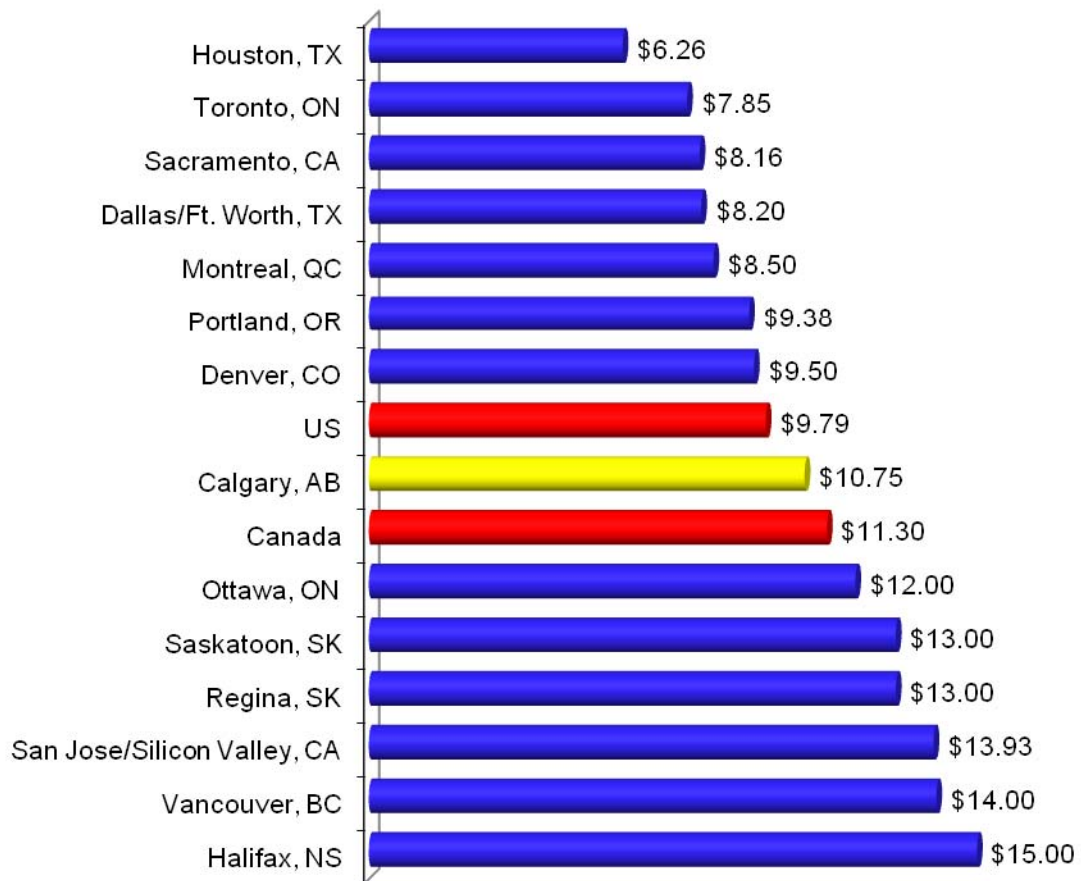
www.edmonton.ca/business_economy/documents/BRZ_assessment_tax_info_2012.pdf

Real Estate

Non-Residential Real Estate

Alberta offers industrial real estate that is well serviced and meets a variety of needs. Smaller municipalities, such as Lethbridge and Red Deer, have facilities and land with rates that are competitive with larger centres.

Technology/R&D Space – Triple Net Rent* Per Square Foot – March 2012**



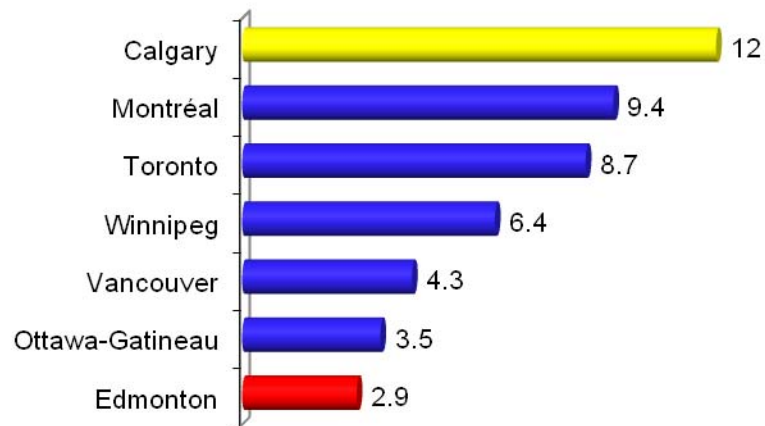
* Triple Net Rent includes rent (annual) payable to the landlord and does not include additional expenses such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, janitorial and utilities.

** Values in Canadian / US dollars

Source: Colliers International, *North America Industrial Real Estate Highlights*, First Quarter 2012

Calgary is home to the highest concentration of corporate head office employment and the highest number of head offices per capita in Canada. Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, is the location of most of the provincial and federal government offices.

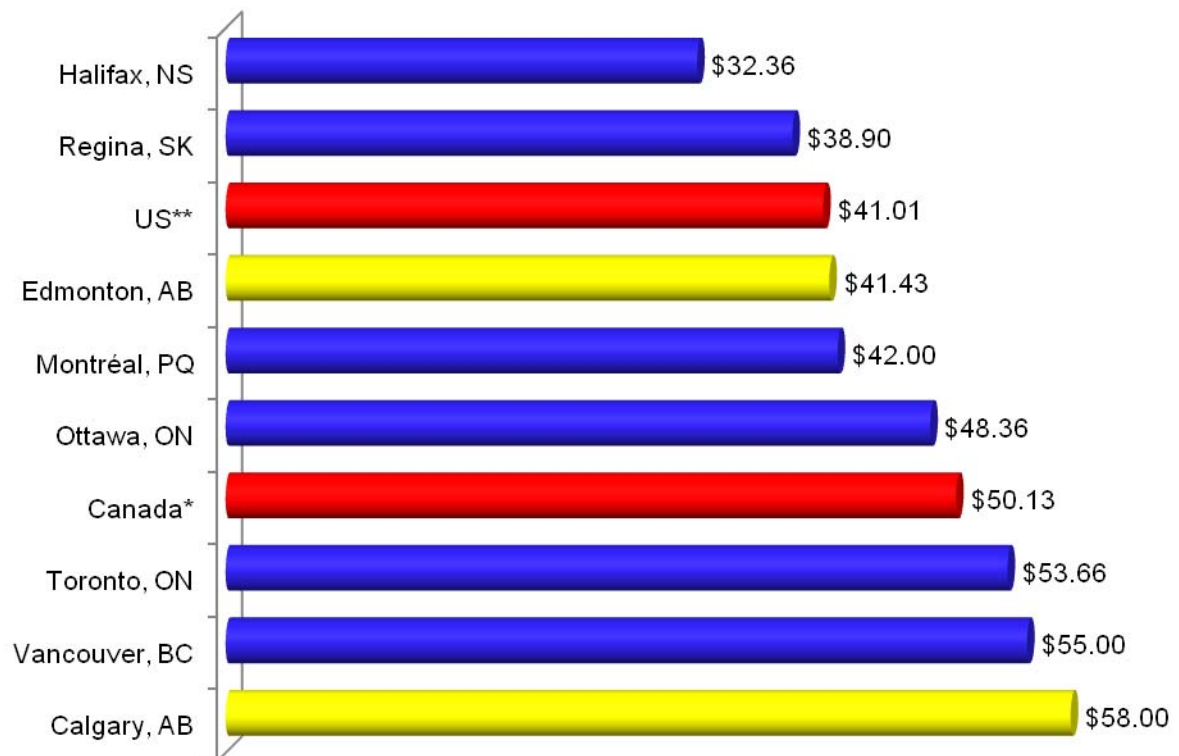
Head Office Employment per Capita (000's), 2010



Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register, *Head Office Employment in Canada*, 2010

Edmonton's office rental rates are competitive when compared to other major metropolitan areas in North America. With several office towers being completed in 2011 and 2012, the office vacancy rate in Calgary has increased and rents have decreased slightly. The Canadian marketplace is set to benefit from recent job gains and a commodity sector that continues to post robust growth.

Downtown Class 'A' Office Space, Average Annual Quoted Rent Per Square Foot, 2012



Notes:

* weighted average

** weighted average in Canadian dollars

Source: Colliers International, *North America Office Real Estate Highlights*, First Quarter 2012

Residential Housing

RBC Financial Group's housing affordability index measures the proportion of median pre-tax household income required to service the cost of mortgage payments, property taxes and utilities for a home. As of the first quarter of 2012, Alberta home affordability remained attractive. First quarter 2012 resale's were up 11.5% year-over-year, and April showed further substantial gain. As Alberta continues to lead the country in economic growth this year, RBC expects brisk housing activity to persist.

Home Ownership: Provincial Affordability Comparisons **Percentage of household income taken up by ownership costs** *(A lower affordability index value indicates increased affordability)*

	Detached Bungalow	Standard Two-Storey	Standard Condominium
Canada*	43.1	48.7	28.8
British Columbia	68.6	73.4	35.0
Alberta	32.2	35.3	20.2
Saskatchewan	37.5	39.8	25.4
Manitoba	35.9	38.4	22.2
Ontario	43.5	49.6	30.0
Quebec	34.8	42.4	27.9
Atlantic Canada	32.7	38.0	26.8

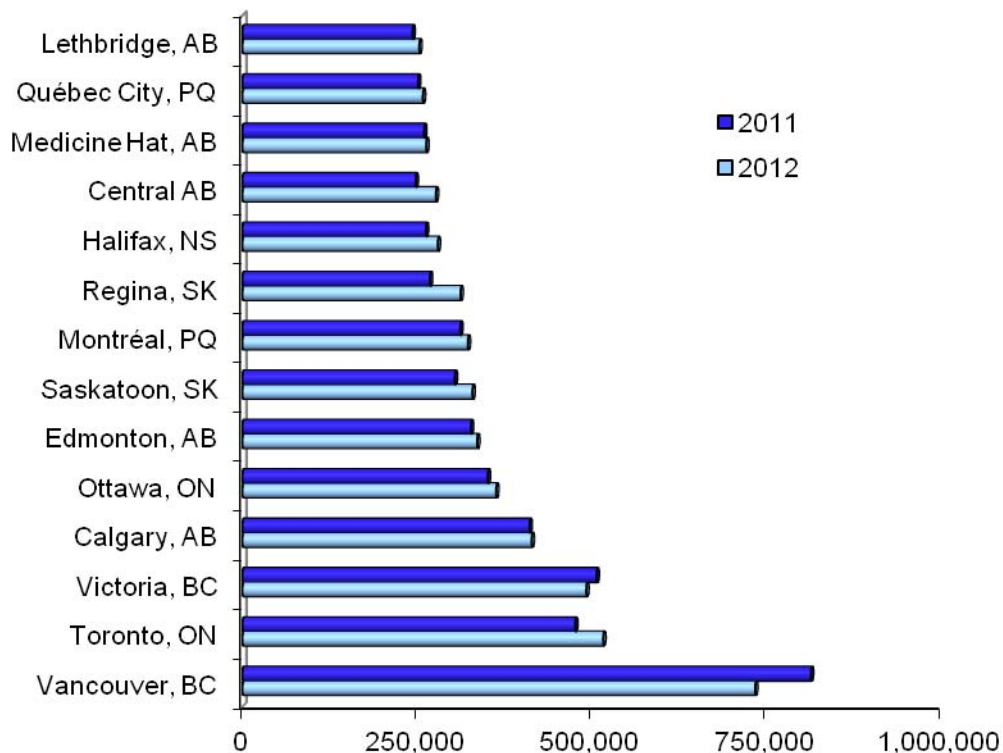
*Population weighted average

Source: RBC Financial Group, *Housing Trends and Affordability, First Quarter 2012*

Housing Prices

Average residential prices in Edmonton and Calgary increased slightly from April 2011 to April 2012. As a result, housing prices in Edmonton and Calgary remain competitive in comparison to other large urban centres in Canada. The average MLS prices for residences in Calgary and Edmonton as of August 2011 are respectively 44% and 54% less than the cost of residences in Vancouver. Prices in Alberta's other urban centres, with the exception of Fort McMurray, are comparable to other cities across Canada.

Average MLS Residential Prices for April 2011 and 2012



Source: Canadian Real Estate Association

LABOUR FORCE

Employment

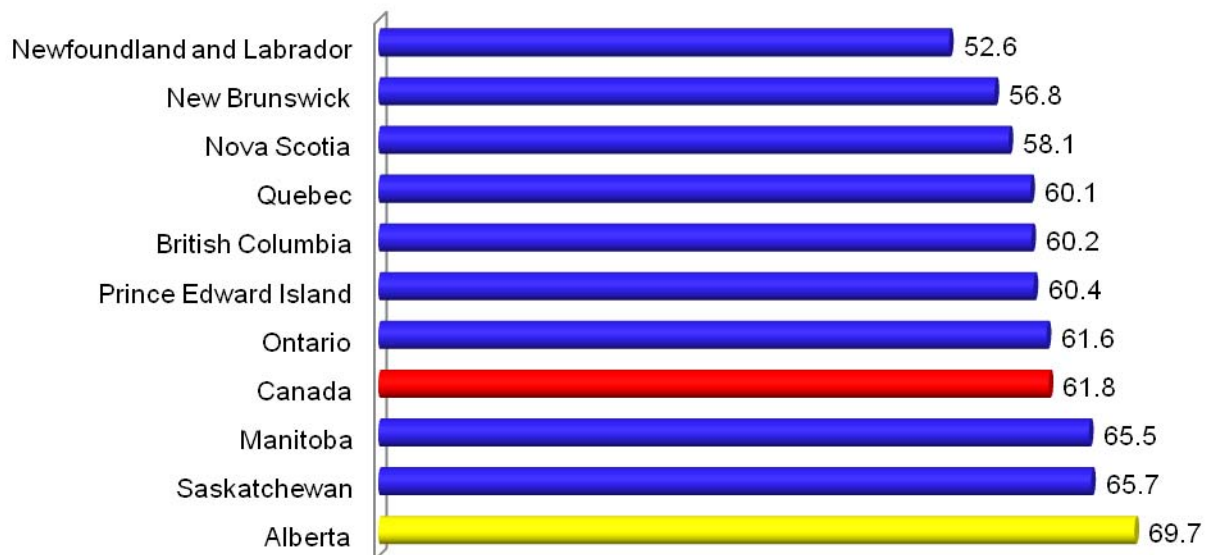
In 2011, Alberta had the highest labour force participation rate among the provinces at 73.7%, higher than the national average of 66.8%. At the same time, Alberta also had the highest employment rate at 69.7% and the third lowest unemployment rate among all provinces at 5.5%.

Between 2010 and 2011 the number of people employed in Alberta increased by 3.8% or by 77,500. The previous decade has seen the number of people employed in the province of Alberta grow by 463,500.

Alberta's labour market has improved significantly in 2012. As of September 2012 Alberta's unemployment rate had declined to 4.4%, while its participation and employment rates remained steady at 73.1% and 69.8%, respectively.

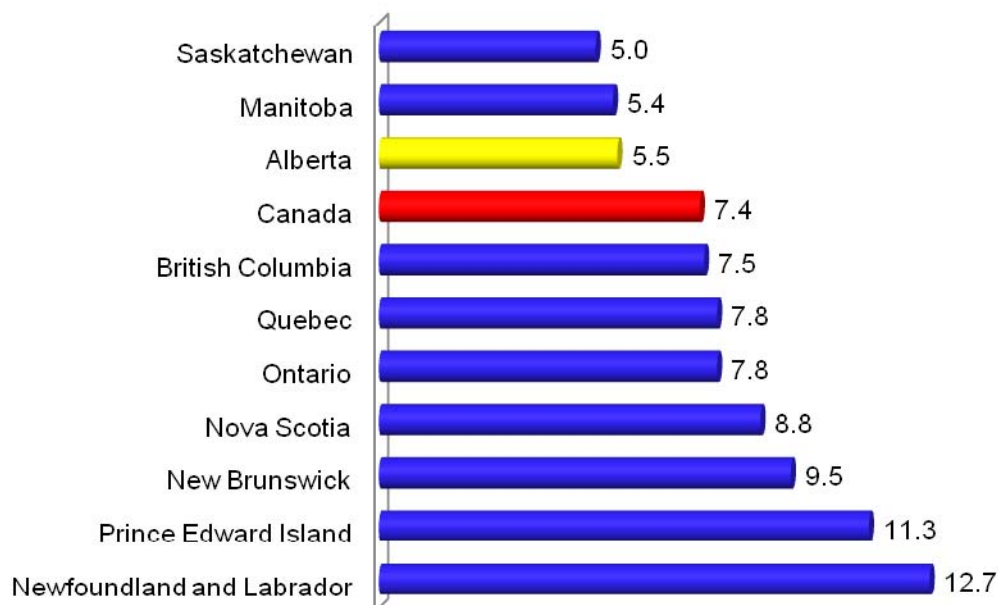
Between September 2011 and September 2012, total employment increased by 1.8% or by 37,400. The sectors with the largest employment gains were mining and oil and gas (up 24,700) and construction (up 21,100).

Employment Rates – 2011 (%)



Source: Statistics Canada

Unemployment Rates – 2011 (%)



Source: Statistics Canada

Employment by Industry – 2011

Employment by Occupation - 2011

Industry	'000	Occupation	'000
Agriculture and Forestry	55.3	Management occupations	156.6
Mining, oil and gas	151.1	Business, finance and administrative occupations	376.1
Utilities	16.3	Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	172.8
Construction	210.8	Health occupations	124.8
Manufacturing	141.4	Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	156.3
Trade	333.1	Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	47.7
Transportation and warehousing	107.3	Sales and service occupations	488.3
Fin., insurance, real estate and leasing	100.1	Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	389.7
Professional, scientific and tech. services	163.5	Occupations unique to primary industry	112.5
Business, bldg. & other support services	73.2	Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	69.4
Educational services	127.4		
Health care and social assistance	224.9		
Information, culture and recreation	78.8		
Accommodation and food services	130.8		
Other services	105.1		
Public administration	84.8		
All industries	2094.1	All occupations	2094.1

Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta's overall unionization is estimated at 23.2%, which is the lowest in Canada. The highest rates of unionization are in the public sector (public administration, education, health and utilities). The unionization rate in the private sector is 11.4%.

According to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the estimated number of hours lost to labour disputes in Canada in 2011 averaged about 1.3 hours per employed worker (excludes self employed), compared to 1.0 hours per employed worker nationally.

Estimated Union Coverage – 2011

Sector	Total Employees ('000)	Unionized Employees ('000)	Percent Union Members
Agriculture	12.5		0.0%
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	139.8	14.3	10.2%
Utilities	16.2	6.5	40.1%
Construction	152.6	30.2	19.8%
Manufacturing	133.9	25.3	18.9%
Trade	297.1	28.5	9.6%
Transportation and warehousing	85.7	23.5	27.4%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	79.7	5.0	6.3%
Professional, scientific and technical services	107.2	5.0	4.7%
Business, building and other support services	53.9	4.1	7.6%
Educational services	121.1	81.5	67.3%
Health care and social assistance	197.6	102.5	51.9%
Information, culture and recreation	67.5	16.5	24.4%
Accommodation and food services	119.3	3.4	2.8%
Other services	73.3	6.1	8.3%
Public administration	84.8	52.4	61.8%
<i>Public sector</i>	<i>351.5</i>	<i>246.3</i>	<i>70.1%</i>
<i>Private sector</i>	<i>1390.8</i>	<i>158.5</i>	<i>11.4%</i>
All Industries	1742.4	404.8	23.2%

Note: Excludes self-employed
Source: Statistics Canada

Skilled Labour

In 2011, 63.4% of the Alberta labour force, 25 years of age and older, reported holding a university degree, post-secondary diploma or certificate. This is slightly below the Canadian average of 66.4%.

Educational Attainment of Labour Force (25 years and older), Annual Averages, 2011

Educational Level	NL	PE	NS	NB	PQ	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	CA
0 - 8 years	4.4%	3.6%	2.1%	3.7%	3.6%	1.7%	2.4%	2.4%	1.7%	1.2%	2.2%
Some high school	8.9%	10.4%	8.9%	8.8%	7.8%	5.8%	9.2%	9.0%	7.9%	5.4%	6.9%
High school graduate	15.3%	18.4%	16.4%	21.2%	14.7%	19.5%	22.9%	23.4%	21.2%	20.0%	18.8%
Some post-secondary education	4.4%	5.6%	6.3%	5.3%	4.7%	5.4%	7.7%	7.1%	5.9%	8.1%	5.8%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	47.4%	39.2%	39.5%	40.0%	42.7%	35.7%	33.8%	36.7%	38.0%	35.7%	37.9%
University degree	19.6%	22.8%	26.8%	21.1%	26.5%	32.0%	24.0%	21.4%	25.4%	29.5%	28.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Historical Review 2011*

Wages and Salaries

Alberta wage and salary rates are competitive with the rest of Canada. Relative to the U.S., Alberta and the rest of Canada provide a cost advantage because of publicly funded health care.

General Minimum Wage Rate 2012

BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PEI	NL
\$10.25	\$9.40	\$9.50	\$10.00	\$10.25	\$9.90	\$10.00	\$10.15	\$10.00	\$10.00

Source: Canada Online Website (www.canadaonline.com/od/labourstandards/a/minimum-wage-in-canada.htm), May 2012

Alberta's minimum wage rose to \$9.75 on September 1, 2012. This does not include those persons who serve liquor and receive tips. Their minimum wage remains at \$9.40.

The *2011 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey* examined more than 200,000 full-time and part-time employees and covers over 400 occupations. It can be used to find information on wages and salaries for full-time and part-time employees in Alberta by occupation, geographic area and industry group. The complete survey can be found online at www.alis.gov.ab.ca.

2011 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey – Select Occupation by Industry

Occupation by Industry	Overall Average Hourly Wage
Accommodation and Food Services Industry (Including Tourism)	
Cooks	\$14.20
Food and Beverage Servers	\$9.75
Agriculture Industry	
General Farm Workers	\$16.42
Labourers in Food, Beverage and Tobacco Processing	\$13.94
Business, Building, and Other Support Services Industry	
Receptionists and Switchboard Operators	\$18.20
Residential and Commercial Installers and Servicers	\$26.15
Construction Industry	
Electricians (Except Industrial and Power System)	\$34.42
Plumbers	\$33.62
Construction Trades Helpers and Labourers	\$21.55
Educational Services Industry	
Secondary School Teachers	\$37.46
Elementary School and Kindergarten Teachers	\$36.12
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing Industry	
Financial Auditors and Accountants	\$34.28
Insurance Agents and Brokers	\$29.13
Customer Service Representatives - Financial Services	\$16.08
Health Care and Social Assistance Industry	
Pharmacists	\$50.16
Registered Nurses (Nurse Practitioner)	\$40.20
Physiotherapists	\$40.94
Manufacturing Industry	
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineers	\$39.05
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry	
Welders and Related Machine Operators	\$32.25
Heavy Equipment Operators (Except Crane)	\$27.91
Steamfitters and Pipefitters	\$35.80
Oil and Gas Well Drilling Workers and Services Operators	\$32.17
Other Services (Repair, Personal and Related) Industry	
Automotive Service Technicians	\$29.99
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry	
Mechanical Engineers	\$47.60
Computer Programmers	\$36.70
Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	\$36.23
Technical Writer	\$35.27
Lawyers and Quebec Notaries	\$53.73

Continued ...

Occupation by Industry	Overall Average Hourly Wage
Public Administration Industry	
Social Workers	\$37.32
Retail Trade Industry	
Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks	\$14.30
Cashiers	\$11.86
Transportation and Warehousing Industry	
Shippers and Receivers	\$18.51
Truck Drivers	\$25.69
Wholesale Trade Industry	
Technical Sales Specialists	\$32.38
Purchasing and Inventory Clerks	\$21.44

Source: Alberta Human Services

The Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has taken major steps over the past several years to improve operations and reduce accident claims. Alberta's 2012 average premium rate of \$1.22 per \$100 of insurable earnings remains the lowest in Canada, considerably lower than the next lowest rate of Manitoba, where the average premium charged is \$1.50.

Workers Compensation Board Premiums – 2012

Assessment Rates* Per \$100 Payroll

BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PE	NL
\$1.54	\$1.22	\$1.60	\$1.50	\$2.40	\$2.13	\$1.70	\$2.65	\$1.99	\$2.75

*Provisional rates.

Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

Employment Standards

The majority of employees in the province are covered by the *Alberta Employment Standards Code*, which establishes minimum employment standards for employers and employees. The code stipulates minimum standards in areas such as:

1. Hours of work, payment of earnings and overtime pay

- In general, the maximum workday is 12 hours long.
- An employer must allow employees one day of rest for each week of work. Employees cannot be required to work more than 24 consecutive days unless the period is followed by at least four consecutive days of rest.
- Employees must be paid at least once a month and no later than 10 consecutive days after the end of each pay period.
- Time worked in excess of eight hours in a day or 44 hours in a week is considered overtime. Overtime is paid at a rate of at least 1.5 times the employee's regular wage.

Employers and employees may enter into a written overtime agreement. With the agreement, instead of overtime pay, employees receive time off with regular pay equal to the number of overtime hours worked.

2. Vacation and vacation pay

- Entitlement to two weeks after each of the first four years of employment with pay
- Entitlement to three weeks after five consecutive years of employment

3. Minimum wage rate

- \$9.40 per hour, effective September 1, 2011. The minimum wage for liquor servers will be \$9.05 effective September 1, 2011.

4. General holidays

- In Alberta, the following are statutory holidays: New Year's Day; Alberta Family Day; Good Friday; Victoria Day; Canada Day; Labour Day; Thanksgiving Day; Remembrance Day; Christmas Day; and any other day designated as a general holiday by an employer.

5. Minimum termination notice requirements that employers must give

- one week for employment of more than three months, but less than two years
- two weeks for employment of two years or more, but less than four years
- four weeks for employment of four years or more, but less than six years
- five weeks for employment of six years or more, but less than eight years
- six weeks for employment of eight years or more, but less than 10 years
- eight weeks for employment of 10 years or more
- OR the wages the employee would have earned for the applicable period of notice

6. Maternity and Parental Leave

- A birth mother will be able to take up to 52 consecutive weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave from employment made up of 15 weeks maternity leave and 37 weeks of parental leave.
- Fathers and/or adoptive parents are also eligible for 37 consecutive weeks of unpaid, job-protected parental leave. Adoptive parents can take parental leave regardless of the age of the adopted child.
- Parental leave may be taken entirely by one parent or shared between two parents, but the total combined leave cannot exceed 37 weeks.

For additional information on Alberta employment standards go to <http://humanservices.alberta.ca/working-in-alberta/1224.html>

Inventory of Major Alberta Projects

As of June 2012, the value of Alberta's major construction projects totalled \$193.5 billion. The Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake region accounted for 58% of that figure, followed by the Calgary region at 11% and the Edmonton region at 11%. The oil sands and infrastructure sectors represent the largest share of investments.

Alberta Major Construction Projects*

Region Investment (\$ 000,000)	June	
	2011	2012
1) Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	\$105,197.7	\$112,461.5
2) Athabasca - Grande Prairie	\$9,697.8	\$13,452.6
3) Edmonton Region	\$20,380.9	\$20,706.2
4) Red Deer Region	\$1,653.8	\$1,844.7
5) Banff - Jasper	\$1,366.7	\$1,481.2
6) Calgary Region	\$24,899.5	\$20,801.8
7) Camrose - Drumheller	\$2,971.0	\$2,983.1
8) Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	\$3,487.1	\$2,620.8
9) Other**	\$18,545.4	\$17,137.4
Total	\$188,199.9	\$193,489.1



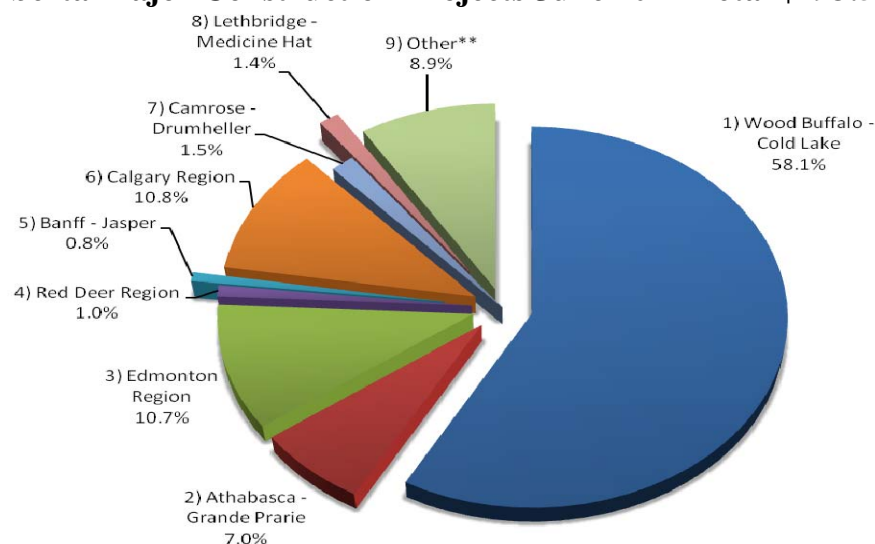
Notes:

* Includes projects valued at \$5 million or greater that are planned, underway, or have been recently completed.

** Other includes projects that cannot be allocated to a specific region, e.g., pipelines, highways, etc.

Source: Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education, *Inventory of Major Alberta Projects*, June 2012

Alberta Major Construction Projects June 2012 Total \$193.5 billion



Source: Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education

Transportation

Alberta's transportation infrastructure plays a critical role in the province's economy. The province's strength as a major exporter of primary commodities and manufactured products to the global marketplace is supported by a highly efficient and competitive transportation and logistics system.

Alberta has emerged as the western North America warehouse and distribution hub for Canada and the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. With direct connections to two of North America's largest highway trade corridors (CANAMEX and the Trans-Canada Highway), quick and efficient access to other provinces in Canada, and the southern U.S. and Mexican markets is available.



Distances to Major Markets
(kilometres)

<u>Canada</u>	<u>Edmonton</u>	<u>Calgary</u>
Montreal	3,551	3,582
Regina	780	758
Saskatoon	523	610
Toronto	3,356	3,387
Vancouver	1,189	957
Winnipeg	1,295	1,326
<u>United</u>	<u>Edmonton</u>	<u>Calgary</u>
Chicago	2,610	2,553
Dallas	3,175	2,991
Denver	2,045	1,765
Detroit	3,035	2,978
Los Angeles	2,745	2,460
Minneapolis	2,228	1,920
Portland	1,521	1,252
San Francisco	2,380	2,111
Seattle	1,298	1,067

Source: Household Goods Carrier's Bureau - Mileage Guide

Railways

Two transcontinental railway companies, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), service Alberta. Both companies provide highly efficient and competitive service in the movement of export commodities such as petrochemicals, forest products, grain, coal, fertilizers and sulphur to major ports, and throughout the U.S. and Mexico. A modern network of intermodal terminals is strategically located at Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Dryden,

Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Montreal, Moncton and Halifax for movement of containerized cargo to the United States and international markets.

Highways

Alberta has more than 30,800 km of provincial highways that form an extensive network throughout the province. More than 27,000 km are paved and 3,800 km are gravelled. Alberta's provincial highway network connects Alberta to the North American highway system and provincial highways in the province have good pavement conditions.

Alberta is enhancing its section of the Canada, America and Mexico (CANAMEX) corridor, which links the three countries and stretches about 6,000 km from Anchorage, Alaska to Mexico City, Mexico. The goals of the CANAMEX corridor are to improve access for the north-south flow of goods and people; increase transport productivity and reduce transport costs; promote a seamless and efficient inter-modal transport system; and reduce administration and enforcement costs through harmonized regulations.

Air Service

Alberta has a network of 85 international, regional, and paved community airports. The province is home to several air taxi, commuter, airline and special flight operations. Alberta also has ambulance, forest fire suppression, agriculture crop spraying, aerial mapping and remote sensing, corporate aviation, recreational flying and flying education services.

Both Calgary and Edmonton feature world-class international airports providing Alberta with some of the best national and international connections in Canada. These airports have 24-hour cargo services, modern cargo terminals and U.S. pre-clearance facilities. They are used by major international airlines and provide direct passenger and cargo services to many North American and international destinations. They are also the major gateways to northern Canada.

Calgary International Airport, which serves as a hub for air traffic in the prairies, has the largest civil aviation runway in Canada measuring 3,863 metres. In 2011 it was Canada's fourth-busiest airport by passenger volume, handling 12.8 million passengers. Calgary International Airport's passenger growth over the past five years is 13.7%. Calgary International Airport is the only Canadian airport strategically located on the crossroads of the TransCanada (east-west) and CANAMEX (north-south) Highways.

The Edmonton International Airport is Canada's most northerly 24-hour international airport. It is Canada's fifth busiest airport with movement of 6.3 million passengers in 2011. From 2006 to 2011 Edmonton International's passenger growth was 20.4%. The Edmonton International Airport is the second-largest airport in Canada measured by landmass, comprising an area of over 7,000 acres. Strategically located, Edmonton International Airport is conveniently situated adjacent to the major highway linking Edmonton and Calgary.

Post-Secondary Education

Alberta's post-secondary system has 26 publicly-funded institutions, including universities, technical institutes and public colleges. In 2010-2011 Alberta's universities had 156,500 full- and part-time students. Close to 270,000 full- and part-time students were enrolled in the public post-secondary education system. In addition, Alberta has around 70,400 registered apprentices in 50 trades.

Enrolment in Publicly Funded Post-Secondary Institutions: 2010-2011

	Full Time Students	Part Time Students	Total Students ¹	Full Load Equivalents (FLEs) ²
University of Alberta (including Augustana)	36,912	5,076	41,988	34,534
University of Calgary	28,382	4,848	33,230	26,859
University of Lethbridge	8,159	1,147	9,306	7,050
Athabasca University	5,201	33,736	38,937	7,892
Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions	78,522	42,686	121,208	76,355
Grant MacEwan University	13,305	5,838	19,143	11,742
Mount Royal University	11,983	3,984	15,967	9,994
Baccalaureate and Applied Studies Institutions	25,285	9,797	35,082	21,736
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)	22,232	5,639	27,871	13,493
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)	17,121	8,479	25,600	11,861
Polytechnical Institutions	39,318	14,084	53,402	25,354
Bow Valley College	3,478	5,352	8,830	4,492
Grande Prairie Regional College	3,047	753	3,800	2,014
Keyano College	2,092	840	2,932	1,415
Lakeland College	3,330	4,595	7,925	2,250
Lethbridge College	4,888	1,624	6,512	3,972
Medicine Hat College	3,125	2,283	5,408	2,547
NorQuest College	4,777	2,667	7,444	4,515
Northern Lakes College	1,203	549	1,752	1,088
Olds College	1,481	947	2,428	1,258
Portage College	1,178	2,407	3,585	990
Red Deer College	5,917	1,114	7,031	3,941
Comprehensive Community Institutions	34,212	22,546	56,758	28,483
Ambrose University College	447	134	581	371
Canadian University College	457	110	567	410
Concordia University College of Alberta	1,509	265	1,774	1,301
St. Mary's University College	511	116	627	404
The King's University College	634	83	717	557
Independent Academic Institutions	3,558	700	4,258	3,043
Alberta College of Art and Design	1,153	161	1,314	1,003
The Banff Centre ³	3,724	n/a	3,724	553
Specialized Arts and Culture Institutions				
TOTAL	184,905	85,088	269,993	156,528

Notes:

- 1 This is the total unduplicated headcount and may not equal the sum of the institutional totals as a learner can attend more than one institution.
- 2 An FLE (full-load equivalent) represents one learner taking a full course load for a standard year of study. FLEs allow for comparisons across program types
3. Enrolments for the Banff Centre are not reported through the Learner Enrolment Reporting System. The FLE and headcounts are the enrolments in the Banff Centre's Arts programs. All enrolments are full-time. The Banff Centre also offers programming that is not considered credit instruction; however, the institution is publicly funded

Source: Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, *Facts and Figures*, 2011.

Alberta Universities and Technical Institutes



University
of
Alberta

The University of Alberta (U of A) is one of Canada's top teaching and research universities, with an international reputation for excellence across the humanities, sciences, creative arts, engineering and health sciences. With more than 39,300 students and 14,500 faculty and staff, the university offers close to 400 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in 18 faculties on five campuses.

The U of A is the largest research institution in the province and ranks among the top Canadian universities in annual sponsored research funding. In 2010/2011, the U of A generated more than \$536 million in research revenue (including clinical trials and related research).

The university's research funding has more than tripled in the past decade. The University of Alberta ranks second among Canadian universities in annual sponsored research funding, including clinical trials and related research funding. A significant achievement includes securing four of 19 Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERCs), more than any other university. The value of each CERC award is \$10 million over seven years. Forty-four Tier 1 Canada Research Chairs and 51 Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs have been awarded to the institution since 2000; the value of these awards is currently \$13.7 million annually.

Full-Time Equivalent Enrolment* By Faculty, 2010-2011

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences	1,935
Arts	7,122
Augustana	942
Business	2,757
Education	4,266
Engineering	5,740
Law	542
Medicine and Dentistry	2,602
Native Studies	129
Nursing	1,685
Open Studies	693
Physical Education and Recreation	1,198
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	653
Rehabilitation Medicine	845
Faculté Saint-Jean	572
Science	7,948
<i>Undergraduate Studies total</i>	<i>32,687</i>
<i>Graduate Studies total</i>	<i>7,207</i>
Total	39,893

*The full-year FTE enrolment count uses Fall and Spring/Summer seasonal headcounts. Part-time graduate student counts are divided by 3, part-time undergraduate counts by 4. Each fall full-time student is counted as 1.0.

In 2010/2011 fiscal year, TEC Edmonton helped create 18 companies, four which were created directly from U of A research. Also reported were:

- 86 inventions,
- 19 patents, and
- 23 licenses / options to use technologies

For Further Information:

Marketing and Communications
University Relations
6th Floor, General Services Building
University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6G 2H1
Phone: 780-492-2325
Website: www.ualberta.ca

Source: University of Alberta, *University of Alberta Data Book*, March 2011



The University of Calgary (U of C), founded in 1945, is home to scholars in 19 faculties (offering more than 100 academic programs) and 30 research institutes and centres, 4,000 academic and support staff, and more than 24,400 full-time undergraduate and graduate students in 2008-2009.

As one of Canada's top research-intensive universities, the U of C's secured \$281 million in sponsored research funding revenues in 2010/2011. Since 2006 the U of C has been ranked in the top 10 of Canada's research universities and continues to increase research funding revenue. In 2009 the U of C actively participated in 12 Networks of Centres of Excellence, an innovative national approach to research and development designed to develop Canada's economy and improve the Canadian way of life.

There were 35 new chairs added in 2009/2010. Government and industry jointly support more than 135 endowed chairs in total at the University of Calgary, with an allocation of \$5.29 million.

Full-Time Students by Faculty 2009-2010

Collaborative Degree	21
Combined Degree students*	634
Communication & Culture	1,375
Education	812
Fine Arts	394
Haskayne School of Business	2,430
Humanities	1,000
Kinesiology	617
Law	283
Medicine	1,579
Open Studies	946
Nursing	964
Schulich School of Engineering	2,785
Science	3,994
Social Sciences	3,268
Social Work	369
<i>Undergraduate Studies total</i>	<i>21,534</i>
<i>Graduate Studies total</i>	<i>1,076</i>
Total	22,610

*Combined degree students are registered in degree programs in two or more faculties.

Source: University of Calgary, *Fact Book 2009-2010*, February 2011

The U of C is a leader in collaborative research relationships and partnerships with academia, government, private and non-profit organizations.

- Companies spun-off from research and innovation at the university are valued at more than half a billion dollars.
- The U of C is among the top four universities in Canada in revenue generated from licensing activity.

For Further Information:

Communications Office
Administration 113
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4
Phone: 403-220- 2920
Website: www.ucalgary.ca



For 40 years, MacEwan University has been providing education for a changing world.

Since we opened our doors in 1971, we have evolved from a community college – to a college – to one of Alberta’s most unique universities. We’re innovative. We value teaching and learning. We are focused on undergraduate education. And we’re unwavering in our quest to inspire and challenge.

MacEwan University is focused on our students – providing them with choice and opportunities for success with a dynamic mix of seven undergraduate programs, two applied degrees, more than 50 certificate and diploma programs and three degree-transfer programs. The university’s four faculties and schools offer programming in fine arts and communications; health and community studies; liberal arts and science; and business.

MacEwan currently has four campuses in Edmonton, with plans underway to consolidate all of our programs at the downtown location in a single sustainable campus.

Additional information:

Grant MacEwan University
P.O. Box 1796
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2
Phone: 780-497-5040
Website: www.macewan.ca



Athabasca University, Canada’s Open University, has led the nation in university-level online and distance education for more than 40 years. We take education to the people, serving nearly 40,000 students in 95 countries worldwide. We offer over 800 courses in nearly 50 undergraduate and graduate degree, diploma and certificate programs.

Through the achievements of our students and the efforts of our faculty and staff, AU is focused on the future of learning and is a global leader in high quality online and distance education and research.

Like most Canadian universities, AU provides post-secondary learning opportunities for Albertans, other Canadians and for students from other countries. We are unique, however, in breaking down barriers to education by offering access to university level study to a broad range of non-traditional students: anyone 16 or over is eligible for admission consideration to undergraduate study.

Additional Information:

Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A3
Phone: 1-800-788-9041
Website: www.athabascau.ca



The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Alberta's third largest post-secondary educational institution, is one of Canada's leading polytechnics with almost 80,000 registrations in science and technology, business, health care and trades. NAIT has more than 200 credit programs leading to degrees, applied degrees, diplomas and certificates.

NAIT engages with business and industry in applied research and innovation, and provides corporate training around the world. Over 90 per cent of graduates report finding employment within nine months of graduating from full-time programs.

NAIT is one of the largest apprenticeship trainers in Canada, offering 33 apprenticeship trades, and has the capacity to train over 15,000 apprentices annually in Edmonton. As well, NAIT provides more than 1,400 continuing education courses in credit and non-credit programs. NAIT enrolled its first students – 29 communication electrician apprentices – in 1962 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Additional Information:

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
11762 – 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3H1
Phone: 1-877-333-NAIT
Website: www.nait.ca



SAIT Polytechnic delivers relevant, skill-oriented education to 70,000 registrants annually. SAIT offers two baccalaureate degrees, four applied degrees, 66 diploma and certificate programs, 32 apprenticeship trades, English language foundations, academic upgrading and 1,600 continuing education and corporate training courses. SAIT works closely with industry to ensure graduate success. The employment rate for SAIT graduates is 94 per cent.

Established in 1916, SAIT has unveiled the largest expansion in its history: the \$400 million Trades and Technology Complex, adding 740,000 square feet of inspiring learning space to the urban campus.

SAIT is a leader in applied research and innovation, providing expertise and resources to industry and real-world learning experiences to students. SAIT is a member of Polytechnics Canada.

Additional Information:

SAIT Polytechnic
1301 – 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0L4
Phone: 1-877-284-SAIT (7248)
Website: www.sait.ca



The University of Lethbridge offers more than 150 degree/program options through six faculties and schools at its campuses in Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton. With approximately 4,800 students from 66 countries, the U of L is Alberta's Destination University.

The U of L is committed to students and the student experience, small classes and the liberal arts. It is recognized as a research-intensive, comprehensive university with a focus on both undergraduate and graduate education.

The recently opened Markin Hall, home to the Faculties of Management and Health Sciences, features the Centre for Financial Market Research and Teaching (CFMRT). The CFMRT offers the Student Managed Investment Fund, a \$100,000 stake that gives students hands-on experience in managing a real-dollar portfolio of Canadian and international stocks and bonds.

Additional Information:

The University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4
Phone: 403-320-5700
Website: www.uleth.ca



Mount Royal University is Canada's oldest new undergraduate university. Established in 1910 and building on 100 years of academic excellence, Mount Royal received permission from the Government of Alberta in September, 2009 to change its name from Mount Royal College to Mount Royal University. Mount Royal's programs combine liberal and applied studies for more than 13,000 students each year, providing individual fulfillment, opportunities for further studies and employment to its graduates.

Mount Royal offers more than 60 degree, applied degree, diploma and certificate programs through seven faculties: Faculty of Arts, Bissett School of Business, Faculty of Communication Studies, Faculty of Health and Community Studies, Faculty of Science and Technology, Faculty of Teaching and Learning, and the Mount Royal University Conservatory. The Faculty of Teaching and Learning — unique in Canada — also enables faculty to conduct teaching-learning research, participate in scholarly exchanges and enrich their teaching skills.

The University is home to research-focused institutes including the Institute for Non-profit Studies, the Integrative Health Institute and the Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. A new Centre for Child Well-Being and a Criminal Justice Research Lab were both launched in 2009.

More information:

Mount Royal University
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
Calgary, Alberta T3E 6K6
Telephone: 403-440-6111
Website: www.mtroyal.ca

Public and Private Colleges

Alberta has an extensive network of public and private accredited colleges. These institutions offer academic upgrading, job readiness, apprenticeship, certificate, diploma, university transfer and applied degree programs. Alberta's 12 public colleges include:

- Alberta College of Art and Design (Calgary)
- Bow Valley College (Calgary)
- Grande Prairie Regional College (Grande Prairie)
- Keyano College (Fort McMurray)
- Lakeland College (Lloydminster, Vermilion, Sherwood Park)
- Lethbridge College (Lethbridge)
- Medicine Hat College (Medicine Hat, Brooks)
- NorQuest College (Edmonton, Stony Plain, Wetaskiwin)
- Northern Lakes College (Grouard, Slave Lake)
- Olds College (Olds)
- Portage College (St. Paul, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche)
- Red Deer College (Red Deer)

The Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) reviews all proposals for new degree programs from both public and private institutions to ensure they are of high quality before they are approved. The Council also conducts periodic evaluations of approved degree programs to ensure that quality standards continue to be met. Alberta has five private colleges accredited to grant specific academic degrees at the university level. These include:

- Ambrose University College (Calgary)
- Canadian University College (Lacombe)
- Concordia University College of Alberta (Edmonton)
- The King's University College (Edmonton)
- St. Mary's University College (Calgary)

In addition, The Banff Centre is a publicly funded institution that provides advanced continuing education opportunities in fine arts, management studies, language training and environmental training for people who already have academic credentials and/or professional experience in their discipline.

Educational Support

Alberta's education system continues to be among the best in the world and is staying at the forefront by providing students with the tools they need to achieve their potential. Investments in schools, universities, colleges and technical institutes are increasing, so they can provide high quality and affordable education.

The Alberta's per student and per capita spending on basic education continues to be among the highest in Canada. Provincial funding for K-12 in 2010/11 is \$6.3 billion. Of that, \$5.4 billion provides operating support to school boards and other educational support to manage current initiatives, giving the province the flexibility to address local education needs.

In 2011/12, the Government of Alberta provided more than \$2.2 billion for operating and capital programs for the post-secondary education system, and \$255 million to support the expansion and preservation of post-secondary facilities. In 2010/11, an additional one billion dollars was allocated to post-secondary capital projects to be supported over three years.

The Government of Alberta is committed to encouraging and rewarding the excellence of Alberta students by offering scholarships through the Achievement Scholarship program, the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, and need-based bursaries.

In 2011/2012, the Alberta government provided \$268 million in student loans and an additional \$18 million in provincial grants to support over 54,000 post-secondary students. This year, Student Aid Alberta is significantly reducing barriers to post-secondary students by relaxing eligibility criteria and improving services and supports. Parental contributions, RRSPs, and part-time earnings have been eliminated as eligibility criteria. Eligibility for loans and grants for part-time students has also been expanded.

The cost of borrowing has been reduced by eliminating interest from being charged on provincial student loans during the six-month Grace Period before repayment begins. Students with provincial loans who move to part-time studies will also continue to benefit from interest-free status – which means no interest is charged and payments are not required. To improve communications and services for students, the Government of Alberta has launched a new website, www.studentaid.alberta.ca, and implemented the Student Aid Alberta Service Centre that provides student aid recipients with quality call centre service including expanded hours and better response times.

The Government of Alberta is committed to encouraging and rewarding the excellence of Alberta Students by offering scholarships through the Achievement Scholarship program, the LAberta Heritage Scholarship Fund and need-based bursaries.

The Alberta government established the Achievement Scholarships program in 2000 to recognize the excellence of Alberta students. This program includes the Jason Lang Scholarship, the Jimmie Condon Athletic Scholarship, the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Student Scholarship and many other awards. Since inception, these scholarships have provided over \$275 million to Alberta students and continue to be offered over a decade later.

The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, which was established in 1980, was designed to stimulate the pursuit of excellence by rewarding outstanding achievement and encouraging and assisting Albertans to achieve their fullest potential. The scholarships and awards support Albertans in many areas

including academics, the arts, community involvement and athletics. Aince 1981 this fund has provided over \$520 million to nearly 300,000 recipients.

Alberta Scholarship Programs currently administers over 50 different scholarships. In 2011/2012, a total of \$70 million was awarded in scholarships to nearly 37,000 learners – more scholarship dollars than all other provinces combined.

In July 2011 the Government of Alberta created the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge Scholarship to commemorate the Royal Couple's visit to Alberta. The scholarship recognizes the exceptional achievements of post-secondary students who have overcome significant challenges in their lives. The program will award up to 25 students based on their outstanding academic performance.

In 2005, the Government of Alberta launched the Alberta Centennial Education Savings Plan (ACES) to provide an incentive for parents to begin planning and saving for their children's post-secondary education as early as possible. The plan contributes up to \$800 to the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) of every child born to Alberta residents. A grant of \$500 is available at birth, followed by grants of \$100 when the child reaches 8, 11 and 14 years of age. For further information see www.aces.alberta.ca

Research and Development Community

Alberta has an excellent science and research infrastructure (including people, knowledge, equipment, and facilities) that forms the basis for the development, adoption and commercialization of new technology, products and processes that are recognized and sold globally.

Prior to 2010 Alberta research organizations operated as individual groups. They were recently consolidated into one organization -- Alberta Innovates (www.albertainnovates.ca) -- creating five new organizations that will further build on Alberta's strengths in the health, energy and environment, technology and bio sectors.

The new organizations include:

Alberta Innovates – Bio Solutions

<http://www.bioalbertainnovates.ca/>

Alberta Innovates – Energy and Environmental Solutions; <http://www.ai-ees.ca/home/introduction>

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions;

<http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/>

Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures; <http://www.albertatechfutures.ca/>

and,

Alberta Innovates – Alberta Research and Innovation Authority

<http://www.aria/albertainnovates/home/introduction>

With its new Alberta Innovates research and innovation system and its Action Plan for Bringing Technology to Market, Alberta provides an attractive platform for companies to accelerate innovations into the global marketplace.

The Alberta Innovates agencies seek solutions in key priority areas of Health, Energy and the Environment and Bio-industries. They are supported by research and development-focused information and communications technology, life science and nanotechnology organizations, and a new Technology Futures agency dedicated to supporting company creation and growth in emerging industries and markets.

Alberta offers a supportive business climate with its Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit program, Innovation Vouchers program and the Alberta Enterprise Corporation, which will help attract venture capital investments to Alberta.

The Government of Alberta's Connector Service provides one-window access to Alberta's research and innovation community. It offers innovative businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors and business service providers a helping hand to guide them through Alberta's research and innovation system. Contact the Alberta Innovates Connector Service at 1-877-828-0444 or connector@albertainnovates.ca.

Research Funding at Alberta Universities

Alberta's research universities rank among the best in Canada in terms of sponsored research revenue, an indicator of excellence and capacity. In 2009/2010, these universities received \$818.5 million in sponsored research funding, an increase of 23.7% over the past five years. Over the past five years, they have received a total of \$3.75 billion in sponsored research funding.

Since 1999/2000, provincial government funding for university research has quadrupled, reaching \$269 million in 2009/2010, a firm indication of Alberta's commitment towards science and innovation. Over the same period, federal government research funding to Alberta research universities has more than doubled to \$294 million and the level of sponsored research funding provided to universities by non-governmental sources (primarily industry and non-profit organizations) more than doubled to \$236 million.

World-Class Research Infrastructure

Alberta researchers have access to some of the leading technology in the world. It is the research capacity established by this high quality infrastructure that attracts and retains the best researchers, those who generate new knowledge, who address pressing needs in our society, and who train the best students to take that knowledge into the workforce.

Highly trained and skilled researchers and students are critical for building, attracting and retaining successful companies to fuel Alberta's economy. Alberta is committed to ensuring its researchers have access to the equipment they need. To that end, the Alberta Science and Research Investments Program (ASRIP) committed in its last competition approximately \$43 million in support of research infrastructure in Alberta. These funds support fourteen projects with a total cost of \$188 million, including equipment to support research in high performance computing, remote sensing, nanotechnology, improved oil sands recovery, prion diseases research, genomics and other.

Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education
5th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 4L6

Telephone: 780.427.6787
Fax: 780.422.2091

Website: www.albertacanada.com

You can access the Facts on Alberta and the following related department publications on the Internet at:

<http://albertacanada.com/business/statistics/economic-highlights.aspx>

- ♦ Alberta Oil Sands Industry Quarterly Update
- ♦ Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- ♦ Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- ♦ Alberta Natural Gas Industry Quarterly Update
- ♦ Monthly Economic Review

© 2012 Government of Alberta

ISSN: 1194-5648

ISSN: 1911-2521 (pdf)

Printed in Canada