

# Alberta Economy

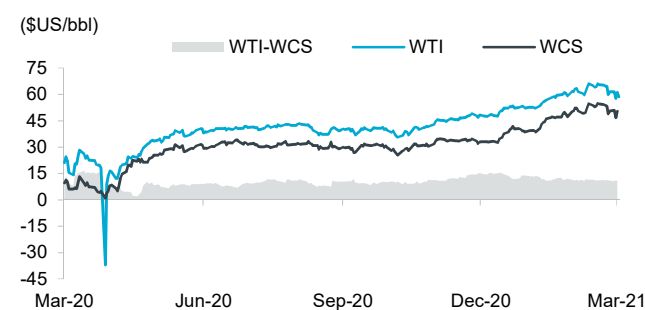
## Indicators at a Glance

### New: Oil Prices

WTI decreased US\$1.44 per barrel on the week and closed at US\$58.56 on Thursday. The WTI-WCS differential closed at US\$10.55 per barrel, wider than US\$10.35 per barrel a week ago.

#### OIL PRICES

Daily prices



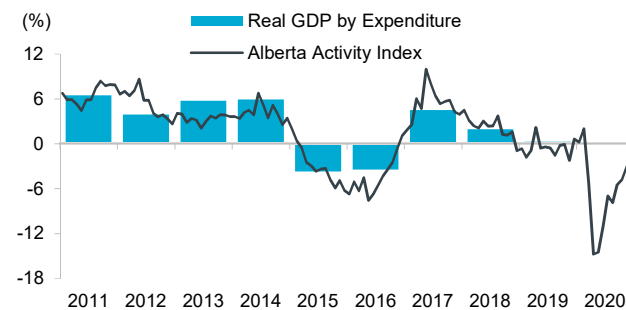
Sources: US Energy Information Administration, CME Group, Kent Group Limited, Haver Analytics

### Economic Activity

The Alberta Activity Index increased 1.0% month-over-month (m/m) in December, but remained down 2.7% from a year ago. Alberta's real GDP by expenditure increased by 0.1% in 2019, following 1.9% growth in 2018.

#### ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Year-over-year % change



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

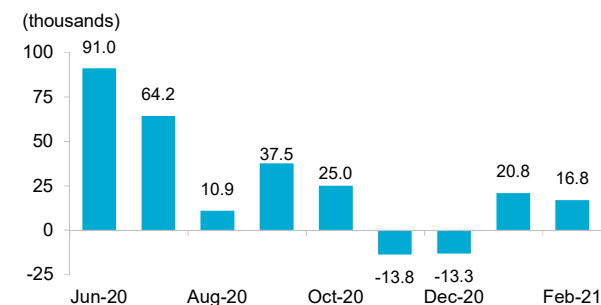
### Labour Market

Employment grew by 16,800 in February. Compared to a year ago, employment was down by 71,000. The next release is on April 9, 2021.

Alberta's unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage point to 9.9% in February. This was 2.4 percentage points higher than a year ago.

#### LABOUR MARKET

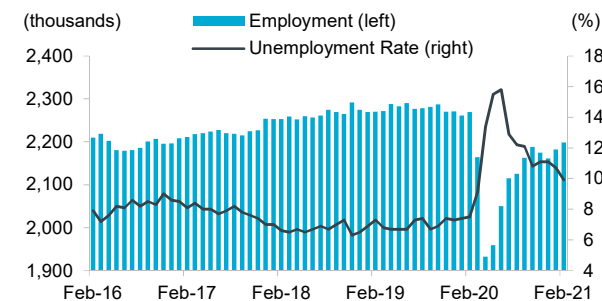
Monthly change in employment



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

#### LABOUR MARKET

Employment and unemployment rate



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

	WTI - West Texas Intermediate (US\$/bbl)	WTI-WCS Differential (US\$/bbl)	Henry Hub (US\$/MMBtu)	AECO-C (C\$/GJ)	Exchange Rate (US¢/C\$)
March 25, 2021	58.56	10.55	2.57	2.58	79.33
Fiscal Year-To-Date	42.02	10.58	2.33	2.38	75.69

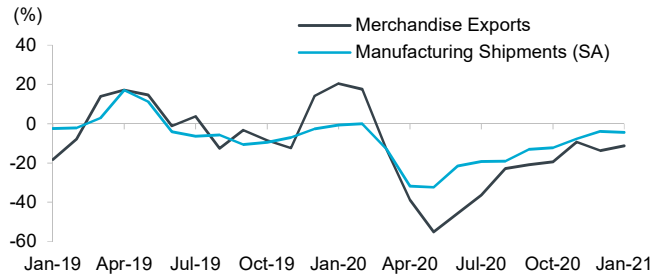
## Business Output

Manufacturing shipments increased 2.9% m/m to \$5.9 billion in January. Compared to a year ago, they were down 4.4%.

Alberta goods exports decreased 0.7% m/m in January, to \$8.7 billion. Year-over-year (y/y), they were 11% lower.

### MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS AND GOODS EXPORTS

Year-over-year % change



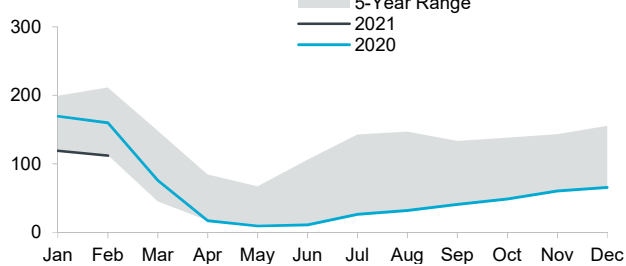
Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics; SA - Seasonally Adjusted

## Rigs Drilling

The number of rigs drilling in Alberta averaged 112 in February, 30% lower than a year ago.

### RIGS DRILLING

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



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

## Average Weekly Earnings

Average weekly earnings in Alberta increased 0.4% m/m in December to \$1,200, up 2.4% from a year ago.

## Population Growth

Alberta's population was 4,436,258 as of January 1, 2020, an increase of 0.8% from the year prior. During the last 12 months, Alberta welcomed 13,697 net international migrants and saw a net outflow of 2,152 interprovincial migrants.

## Inflation

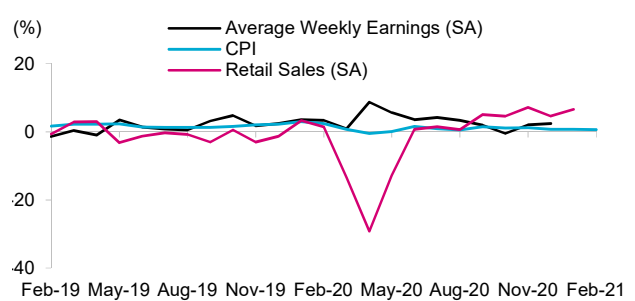
The consumer price index in Alberta increased 0.6% y/y in February, down from 0.8% y/y in the previous month.

## Retail Sales

Alberta retail sales increased 2.5% m/m to \$7.2 billion in January. Compared to a year ago, sales were up 6.5%.

### RETAIL SALES, CONSUMER PRICES, AND EARNINGS

Year-over-year % change



Sources: Statistics Canada, Haver Analytics

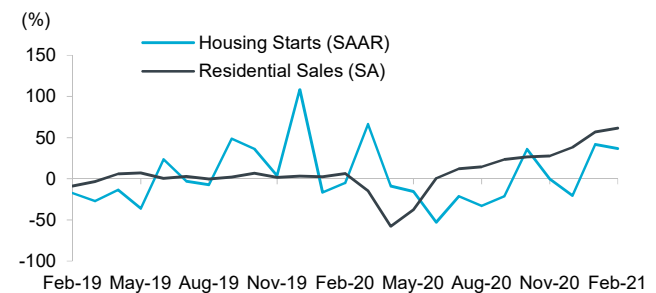
## Housing Market

Alberta housing starts decreased 13% m/m in February to 25,813 units (SAAR). They soared 37% y/y.

The number of home sales in the resale market surged 5.3% m/m to 7,049 units in February, and they were up 62% y/y.

### HOUSING STARTS AND HOME RESALES

Year-over-year % change



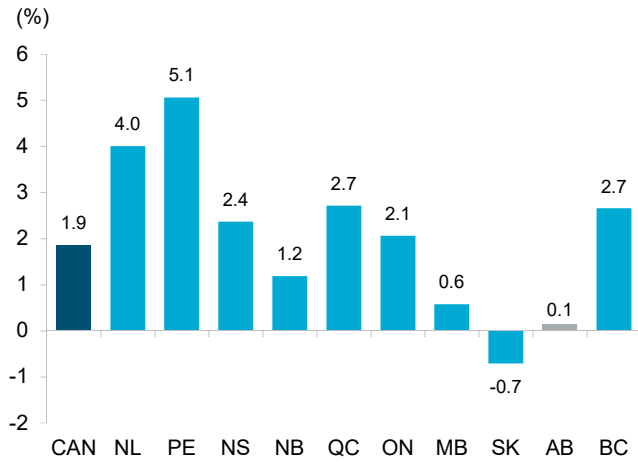
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Real Estate Association, Haver Analytics; SAAR - Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

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

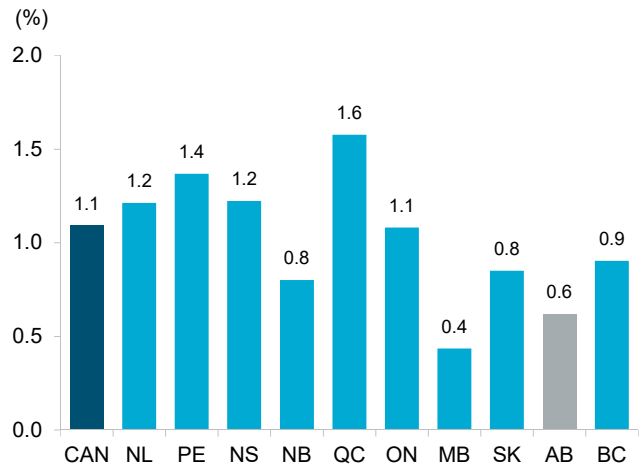
### REAL GDP BY EXPENDITURE

(2019, year-over-year growth)



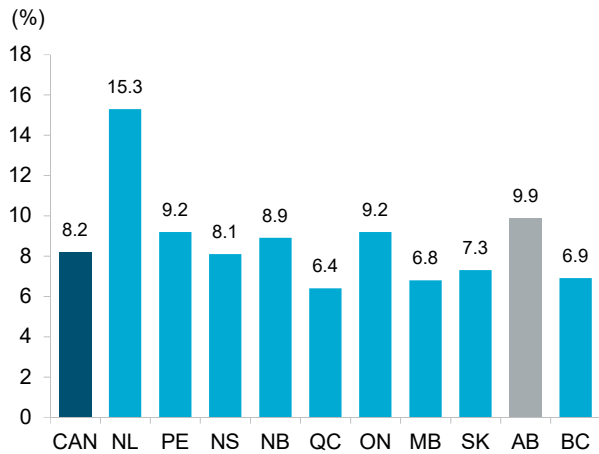
### CPI INFLATION

(February 2021, year-over-year growth)



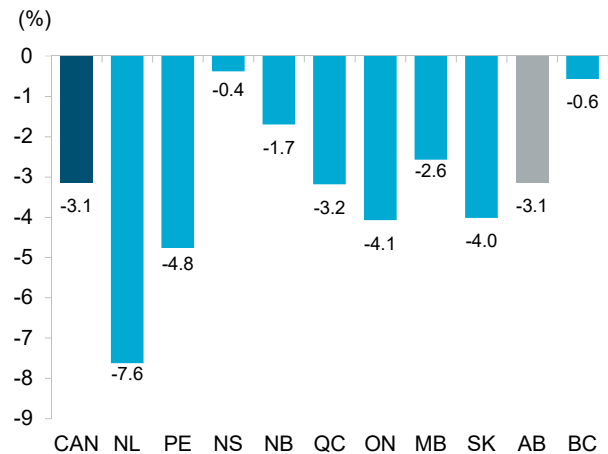
### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(February 2021)



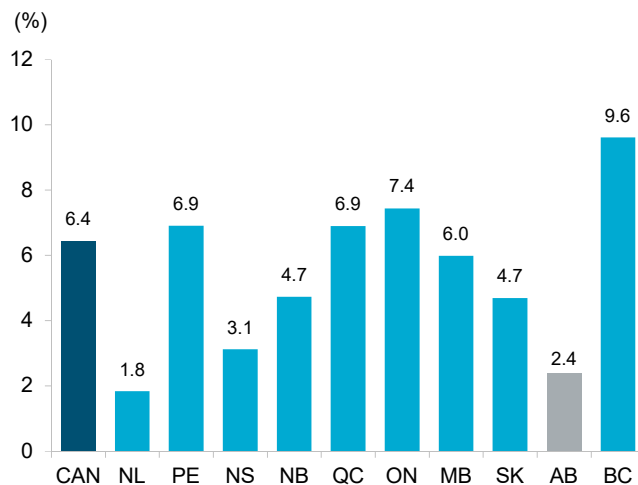
### EMPLOYMENT

(February 2021, year-over-year growth)



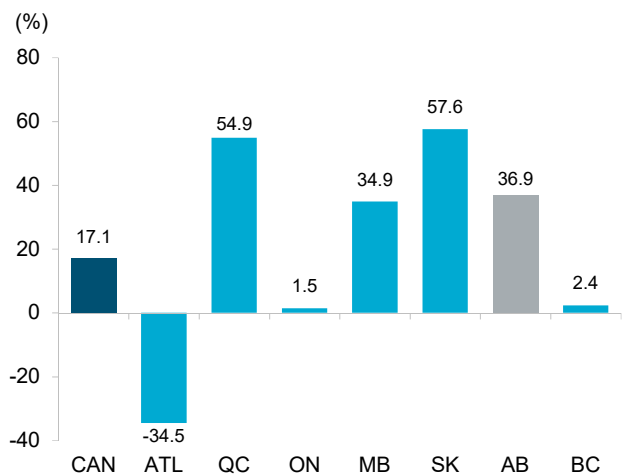
### AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

(December 2020, year-over-year growth)



### HOUSING STARTS

(February 2021, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



## ALBERTA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	2019	2020	2021YTD	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	-0.5	-6.2		-5.5	-4.8	-3.0	-2.7		
<b>Population<sup>1</sup></b>									
Population (thousands)	4,362	4,422	4,436		4,428			4,436	
y/y % change	1.5	1.4	0.8		1.0			0.8	
Net Interprovincial Migration	-2,032	2,183	-1,516		-223			-1,293	
Net International Migration	39,603	33,229	5,359		-352			5,711	
<b>Labour Market</b>									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,279	2,130	2,190	2,163	2,188	2,174	2,161	2,181	2,198
m/m change (thousands)				37.5	25.0	-13.8	-13.3	20.8	16.8
y/y % change	0.7	-6.6	-3.3	-5.2	-4.3	-4.2	-4.8	-3.5	-3.1
Unemployment Rate (% , SA)	7.0	11.4	10.3	12.1	10.8	11.1	11.1	10.7	9.9
Participation Rate (% , SA)	71.0	68.6	69.2	70.0	69.7	69.5	68.9	69.3	69.1
Average Weekly Earnings (\$ , SA)	1,165	1,202		1,197	1,186	1,195	1,200		
y/y % change	1.4	3.2		1.9	-0.5	2.0	2.4		
<b>Household Sector</b>									
Retail Sales (\$ millions, SA)	81,091	79,221	7,242	7,029	7,115	7,121	7,063	7,242	
y/y % change	-0.8	-2.3	6.5	5.1	4.6	7.2	4.6	6.5	
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	222	184	14	20	18	14	14	14	
y/y % change	-6.1	-17.4	-7.5	4.0	-1.7	-7.3	-0.8	-7.5	
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.8	1.1	0.7	1.5	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.6
Excluding Food & Energy	1.8	1.2	0.1	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.6	-0.4
Housing Starts (SAAR, thousands)	27.3	24.0	27.7	26.1	32.6	26.5	30.9	29.5	25.8
y/y % change	4.8	-12.1	39.4	-21.2	36.0	-0.1	-20.6	41.7	36.9
New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	-1.5	-0.9	1.1	-0.6	-0.1	0.8	0.5	0.8	1.4
Resale Home Sales (units, SA)	52,187	53,951	6,871	5,405	5,584	5,579	5,979	6,693	7,049
y/y % change	0.1	3.4	59.4	23.5	26.8	27.8	38.1	57.1	61.6
Sales to New Listing Ratio (SA)	0.49	0.56	0.74	0.60	0.61	0.62	0.66	0.73	0.74
MLS Average Resale Prices (\$ thousands, SA)	389	394	416	403	410	408	400	415	417
y/y % change	-2.8	1.4	6.6	3.9	6.1	6.2	3.1	4.7	8.5
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	5,589	3,602	254	268	319	265	276	254	
y/y % change	13.5	-35.6	-40.1	-41.9	-34.4	-44.8	-31.5	-40.1	
<b>Business Sector</b>									
Goods Exports (customs based, \$ millions)	117,202	91,396	8,731	7,419	7,854	7,736	8,789	8,731	
y/y % change	-0.4	-22.0	-11.3	-20.9	-19.4	-9.2	-13.7	-11.3	
Energy Products (\$ millions)	84,525	60,180	5,826	4,877	4,971	5,041	5,955	5,826	
y/y % change	1.3	-28.8	-21.3	-28.4	-29.3	-16.0	-22.0	-21.3	
Agricultural Products (\$ millions)	7,705	8,429	764	625	808	749	791	764	
y/y % change	-7.2	9.4	28.0	19.3	16.0	10.3	35.7	28.0	
Rigs Drilling	92	60	116	41	49	60	66	119	112
y/y % change	-30.6	-35.3	-29.8	-55.8	-48.7	-36.9	-31.5	-29.6	-30.0
Manufacturing Shipments (\$ millions, SA)	76,406	64,971	5,898	5,341	5,439	5,568	5,734	5,898	
y/y % change	-1.9	-15.0	-4.4	-13.1	-12.2	-7.7	-4.0	-4.4	
Wholesale Trade (\$ millions, SA)	80,916	77,745	6,929	6,457	6,513	6,647	6,584	6,929	
y/y % change	-1.5	-3.9	8.1	-5.4	-2.5	2.7	0.9	8.1	
Building Permits (\$ millions, SA)	11,647	10,719	1,130	852	946	1,043	913	1,130	
y/y % change	-13.5	-8.0	10.1	-18.5	-3.0	4.9	-11.1	10.1	
Residential Permits (\$ millions, SA)	6,999	6,820	831	586	613	707	648	831	
y/y % change	-10.0	-2.6	35.4	-8.9	1.5	17.6	2.6	35.4	
Non-Residential Permits (\$ millions, SA)	4,648	3,899	299	267	333	336	265	299	
y/y % change	-18.2	-16.1	-27.6	-33.9	-10.2	-14.4	-33.0	-27.6	
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index <sup>2</sup> (y/y % change)	2.3	0.5		0.2			0.5		

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

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

YTD (year-to-date).

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

All annual data are unadjusted.

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