

# Alberta Economy

## Indicators at a Glance

### Economic Activity

The Alberta activity index continued to level off in September. The index remains above last year's levels, up 4.9% year-over-year (y/y). In 2016, Alberta's real GDP by expenditure fell by 3.7%, the largest drop among the provinces for the second year in a row.

### Population

Alberta's population was 4,286,134 as of July 1, 2017, an increase of 1.2% from the year prior. Canada's population grew 1.2% from a year ago.

### Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 5,486 in the second quarter of 2017. During this time, Alberta welcomed 10,400 net international migrants. However, there was a net outflow of interprovincial migrants (-4,914), the eighth consecutive quarterly decline.

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

The economy added 5,400 jobs in November, mostly in the private sector. Employment increased 1.5% y/y, reflecting employment gains in both the goods and services sectors from a year ago.

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

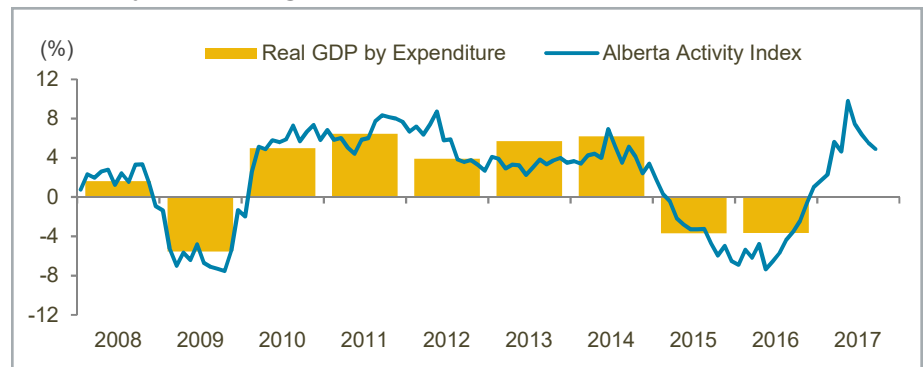
Alberta's unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points to 7.3% in November. Canada's unemployment rate declined 0.4 percentage points to 5.9%.

### Rigs Drilling

The number of active rigs in Alberta averaged 143 in October, up 32% y/y. Year-to-date, the number of active rigs has averaged 129, up 78% from 2016.

### Economic Activity

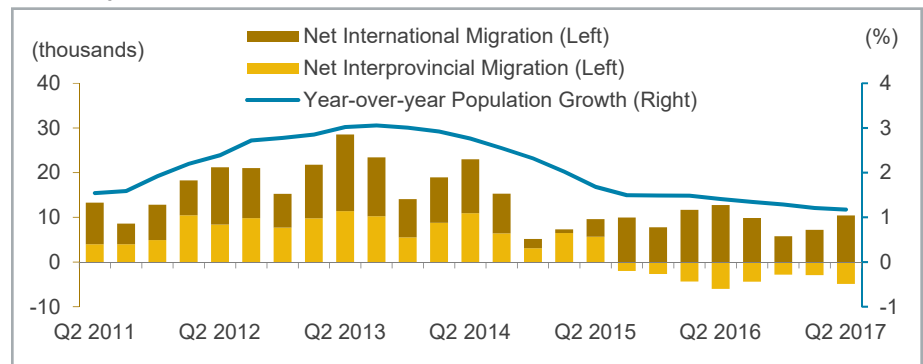
Year-over-year % change



Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

### Demographics

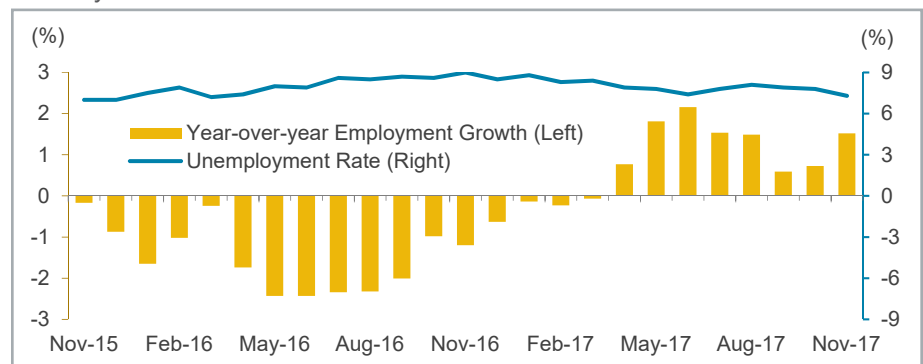
Quarterly



Source: Statistics Canada

### Labour Market

Monthly



Source: Statistics Canada

## Inflation

The Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) held firm at 1.3% y/y in October. Excluding food and energy prices, inflation ticked up 0.2 percentage points to 0.9% y/y. However, the Canadian inflation rate ticked down to 1.4% y/y.

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

Average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta grew by 0.8% m/m in September to \$1,142. Earnings increased 2.3% y/y as earnings increased in both the goods and service sectors.

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

Alberta retail sales grew 0.3% m/m to \$6.7 billion in September. Retail sales are up 7.6% y/y, the tenth consecutive month of year-over-year gains.

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

Alberta housing starts increased 16% m/m in November to 33,955 units (annualized). Housing starts were up 35% y/y, as multi-family starts jumped 75% y/y, while single-family starts held steady (-1.1% y/y).

## NEW: New Housing Price Index

Alberta's New Housing Price Index (NHPI) increased 0.4% y/y in October as the price of land (+0.6% y/y) and the house-only component (+0.3% y/y) were up.

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

Alberta building permits fell 25% m/m (-51% y/y) in October to \$992 million. Both residential (-14% m/m) and non-residential permits (-37% m/m) were down from the previous month.

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally adjusted

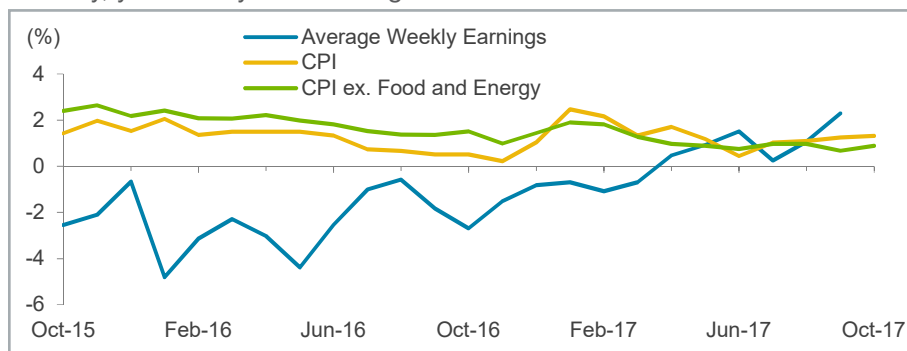
## Contact

[Bijon Brown](#)

780.643.1876

## Inflation and Earnings

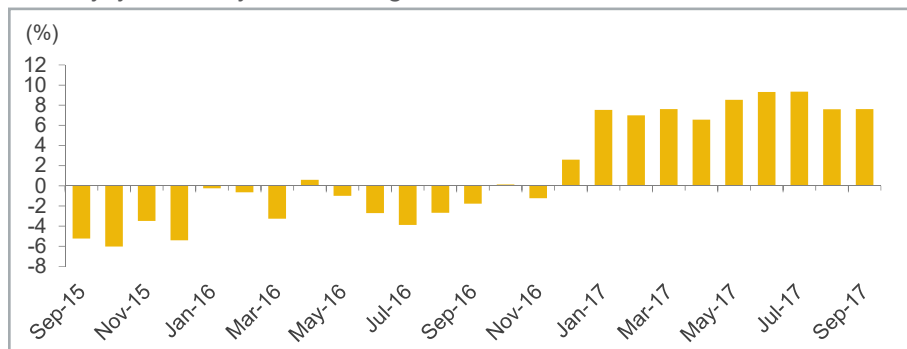
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

## Retail Sales

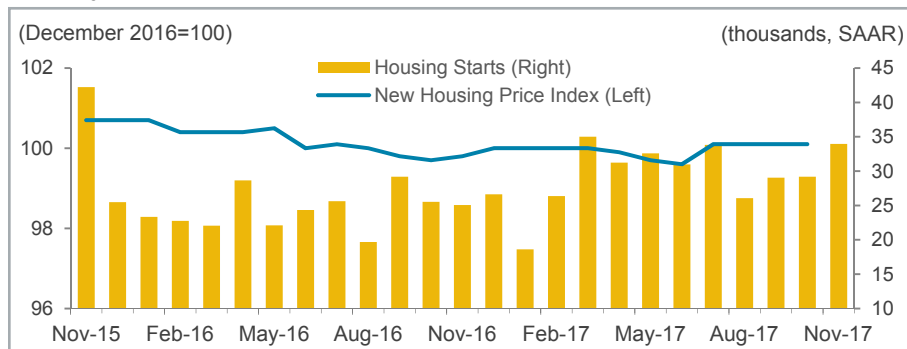
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

## Housing Market

Monthly



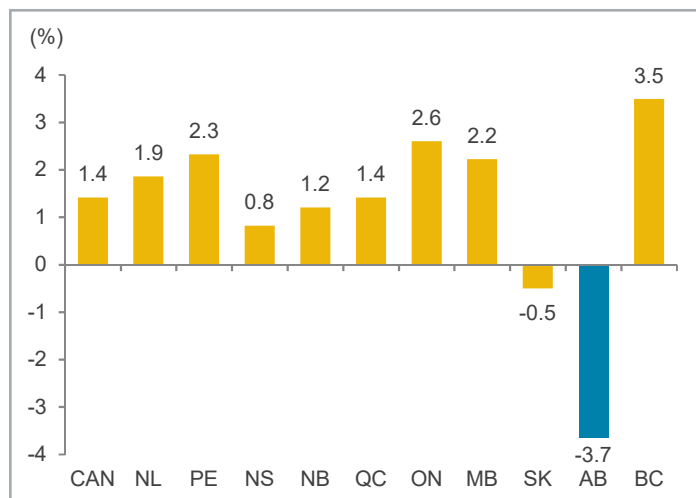
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

	Canadian Dollar (US\$/CAN)	WTI Oil (\$US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas (\$US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price (\$C/GJ)
Latest (December 14, 2017)	78.09	57.04	2.68	1.20 (September)
Fiscal year-to-date	77.56	50.10	3.02	1.99

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

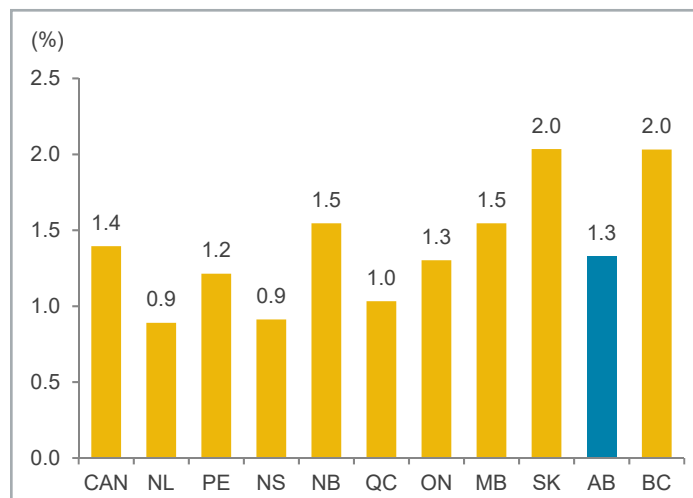
### Real GDP by Expenditure

(2016, year-over-year growth)



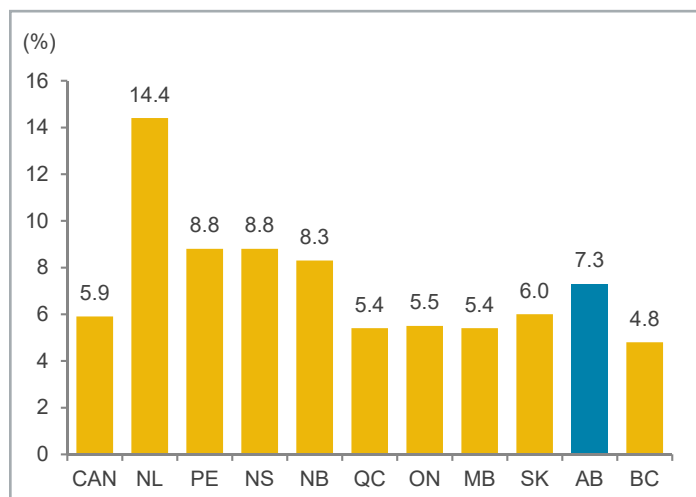
### CPI Inflation

(October 2017, year-over-year growth)



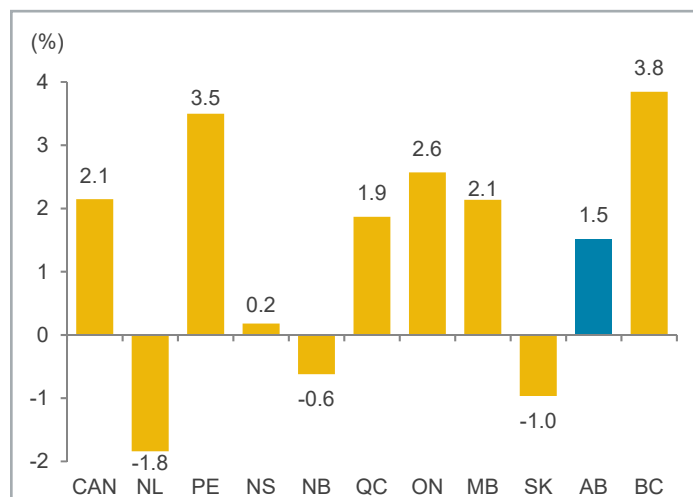
### Unemployment Rate

(November 2017)



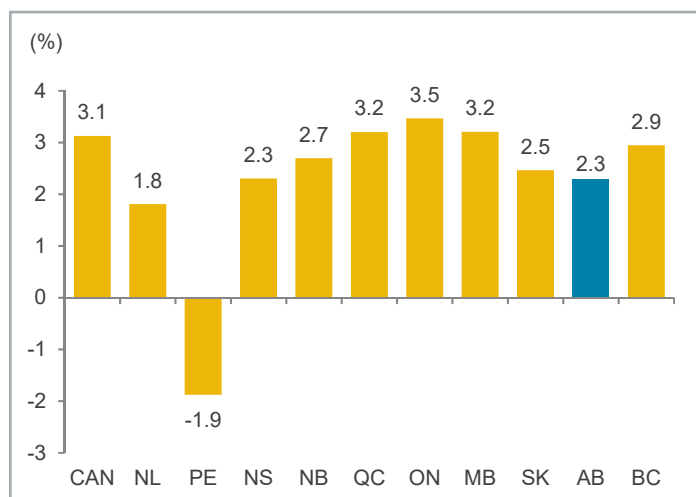
### Employment

(November 2017, year-over-year growth)



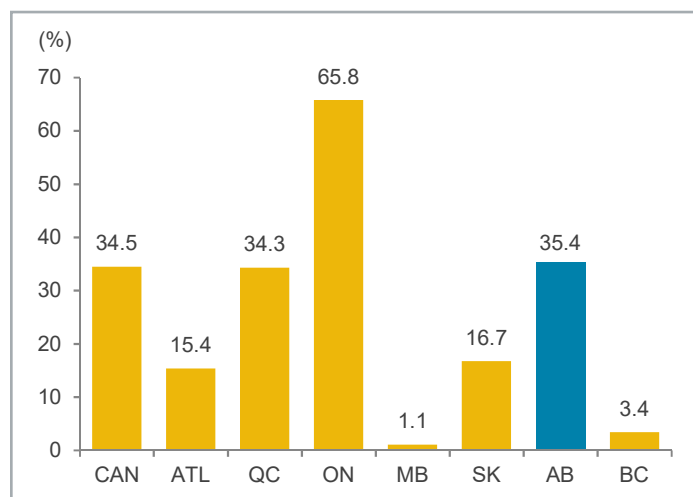
### Average Weekly Earnings

(September 2017, year-over-year growth)



### Housing Starts

(November 2017, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



# Alberta Economic Indicators

	2015	2016	2017YTD	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17
Alberta Activity Index (y/y % change)	-3.0	-4.4	5.3	7.4	6.4	5.5	4.9		
<b>Population<sup>1</sup></b>									
Population (thousands)	4,178	4,236	4,286		4,286				
y/y % change	1.7	1.4	1.2		1.2				
Net Interprovincial Migration	21,594	-15,108	-15,131		-4,914				
Net International Migration	15,694	42,102	33,210		10,400				
<b>Labour Market</b>									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,301	2,264	2,286	2,299	2,284	2,287	2,279	2,291	2,296
m/m change (thousands)				7.5	-14.4	2.3	-7.8	11.9	5.4
y/y % change	1.2	-1.6	0.9	2.2	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.7	1.5
Unemployment Rate (% , SA)	6.0	8.1	8.0	7.4	7.8	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.3
Participation Rate (% , SA)	73.0	72.5	72.4	72.4	72.2	72.5	72.0	72.2	71.9
Average Weekly Earnings (\$ , SA)	1,146	1,119	1,124	1,135	1,127	1,133	1,142		
y/y % change	-0.3	-2.4	0.4	1.5	0.2	1.1	2.3		
<b>Household Sector</b>									
Retail Sales (\$ million, SA)	76,019	75,110	60,453	6,793	6,753	6,705	6,727		
y/y % change	-4.0	-1.2	7.9	9.3	9.3	7.6	7.6		
<b>NEW</b> New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	242	224	213	24	22	22	23	20	
y/y % change	-12.7	-7.6	13.4	14.2	14.3	18.4	9.8	17.4	
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.4	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	
Excluding Food & Energy	2.3	1.7	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.9	
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	37.3	24.5	29.7	31.0	33.8	26.1	29.0	29.2	34.0
y/y % change	-8.1	-34.2	21.8	27.3	32.0	32.4	-0.5	14.2	35.4
<b>NEW</b> New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	0.7	-0.5	-0.2	-0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	
<b>NEW</b> Resale Home Sales	56,471	52,166	51,602	4,610	4,549	4,624	4,672	4,537	4,733
y/y % change	-21.3	-7.6	8.6	3.1	1.4	6.4	5.0	-4.5	19.1
<b>NEW</b> Sales to New Listing Ratio	0.52	0.49	0.49	0.45	0.46	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.51
<b>NEW</b> MLS Average Resale Prices (\$ thousands)	393	395	397	402	395	395	394	399	388
y/y % change	-1.9	0.4	1.1	3.2	-1.7	0.6	-1.1	1.0	-2.2
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	4,280	5,427	3,805	435	328	450	404		
y/y % change	10.9	26.8	-7.7	-8.4	-13.9	2.5	-11.8		
<b>Business Sector</b>									
Goods Exports (customs based,\$ million)	92,441	78,905	82,734	8,044	7,589	8,108	7,549	8,498	
y/y % change	-24.0	-14.6	31.0	29.1	22.9	14.6	8.1	21.1	
Energy Products (\$ million)	62,500	51,537	57,414	5,475	5,047	5,714	5,123	5,832	
y/y % change	-31.5	-17.5	41.8	35.0	27.2	18.4	8.1	25.7	
Agricultural Products (\$ million)	6,474	6,284	6,044	583	540	520	495	740	
y/y % change	0.2	-2.9	18.1	17.5	12.2	19.2	4.7	35.3	
Rigs Drilling	120	79	129	87	119	126	127	133	143
y/y % change	-52.6	-34.0	78.0	112.8	103.6	66.8	59.7	31.3	32.4
<b>NEW</b> Manufacturing Shipments (\$ million, SA)	68,178	62,703	58,684	5,966	5,796	5,858	5,775	6,018	
y/y % change	-14.3	-8.0	13.7	13.8	10.3	9.3	8.7	14.2	
Wholesale Trade (\$ million, SA)	79,380	71,765	59,018	6,559	6,801	6,669	6,709		
y/y % change	-6.3	-9.6	9.8	9.3	15.4	10.7	14.3		
Building Permits (\$ million, SA)	16,753	14,200	11,234	1,099	1,037	1,153	1,320	992	
y/y % change	-8.2	-15.2	-8.6	10.9	-8.2	5.4	11.7	-51.2	
Residential Permits (\$ million, SA)	9,876	7,930	6,845	711	666	779	695	601	
y/y % change	-8.8	-19.7	-0.3	23.9	11.3	29.8	-0.5	-56.1	
Non-Residential Permits (\$ million, SA)	6,877	6,270	4,388	388	371	373	624	391	
y/y % change	-7.4	-8.8	-19.1	-6.9	-30.2	-24.3	29.4	-40.9	
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index <sup>2</sup> (y/y % change)	-0.7	-2.8	0.2	0.7			0.9		

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

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

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

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