LIFESTYLE
Alberta has a diverse arts and culture community, and numerous community and ethnic organizations that provide festivals, events and attractions for Albertans and out-of-province visitors. Alberta’s major cities, Calgary and Edmonton, have vigorous live music, theatre and visual arts scenes, as well as symphony, opera and ballet, while smaller cities and towns offer unique cultural experiences with an array of festivals and performing and visual arts venues.

Over 70 festivals bring music, dance, film, literature, theatre and the visual arts to Albertans throughout the province. Residents and visitors alike enjoy performances by 10 major performing arts companies, 45 professional performing arts companies and 155 performing arts organizations.

Alberta is home to five of Canada’s 15 United Nations World Heritage Sites, areas designated by UNESCO as offering exceptional universal value to humanity.

INNOVATION
Alberta’s research and innovation system and its technology commercialization support programs make Alberta an attractive place for companies to accelerate innovations into the global marketplace.

Innovation organizations, including the Alberta Innovates corporations, are working with academia and industry to develop and commercialize innovative solutions in Alberta’s priority areas of health, energy and environment, bioindustries, information and communication, and emerging technologies.

Alberta also supports its business environment through programs, such as Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credits, Industry Associates and Innovation Vouchers. The Alberta Enterprise Corporation helps connect and attract venture capital investment for innovators, entrepreneurs and companies. Information on programs and services within Alberta’s research and innovation system can be accessed through Connectica (www.connectica.ca).

COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT
In 2016, Alberta’s business sector had the highest labour productivity level in the country. The total value added per hour worked in Alberta exceeded the Canadian average by about 39 per cent.

Alberta’s long-term economic growth prospects remain strong, especially now that the 2015/2016 recession is over. Increased productivity growth will be important to optimize the economic benefits from energy investment in Alberta, and to encourage higher value added activity and industrial diversification.

The Alberta government’s low-tax and fiscal responsibility policies create long-term economic benefits for Albertans. Alberta has one of the most competitive business tax environments in North America. The combined federal/provincial corporate income tax rate is 27 per cent. The low income tax rates combined with the fact that Alberta has no provincial capital taxes, no payroll taxes, no sales tax, and has a publicly funded health care insurance system makes Alberta’s tax environment very competitive.

Comparison of Corporate Income Taxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Alberta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2017</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial / State</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*6.0% represents the average effective top general state corporate income tax rate
Sources: Alberta Economic Development and Trade and OECD.Stat
ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

- Because of weak oil and gas prices Alberta’s economy contracted by 3.8% in 2016.
- However, Alberta still leads all provinces in economic growth during the past 20 years, with an average annual GDP growth of 2.9% per year.
- The Alberta economy has emerged from its recession and all private sector forecasters are expecting Alberta’s economy to be one of the two top provinces in economic growth in 2017.
- Alberta’s per capita GDP of $78,100 (in 2015) is the highest of any state or province in North America.
- Employment declined by 37,300 in Alberta in 2016.
- However, Alberta still leads all provinces in economic growth in 2017.
- Because of weak oil and gas prices Alberta’s economy contracted by 3.8% in 2016.
- Economic Diversity
- Albertans generally pay lower total taxes than they would in any other province.
- A young, skilled and productive workforce.
- Political stability and low taxes.
- A globally competitive business tax environment.
- Alberta’s key advanced technology sectors include clean energy, information and communication technology (ICT), life sciences and nanotechnology. Revenues for Alberta’s ICT industries totaled approximately $16 billion in 2016.
- Agri-Foods
- Manufacturing shipments from the food and beverage industry were valued at $14.5 billion in 2016.
- Energy Products
- Manufacturing sales of petrochemicals and refined petroleum products reached $26 billion in 2016.
- Forest Products
- Alberta produced $5.7 billion in forest products in 2016.
- Alberta forest products include lumber, pulp, newsprint, panelboard and secondary wood products.
- Industrial Machinery and Metal Fabrication
- Alberta’s industrial machinery and metal fabrication industry generated $9 billion in revenues in 2016. More than one-quarter of shipments were exported to international markets.

KEY ECONOMIC SECTORS

- Although the Alberta economy is currently seeing slower growth because of weak oil prices, over the long run it will continue to thrive on its expanding oil sands sector and the development of supply chain manufacturing and services sectors.
- Alberta’s industrial machinery and metal fabrication industry generated $9 billion in revenues in 2016. More than one-quarter of shipments were exported to international markets.
- Total $62.7 Billion
- Value of Alberta Manufacturing Shipments 2016
- Total $62.7 Billion
- Food & Beverages
- Chemical Products
- Refined Petroleum
- Forest Products
- Primary & Fabricated Metals
- Machinery
- Construction Materials (Non-Wood)
- Other Manufacturing
- Source: Statistics Canada

ALBERTA – FRESH OPPORTUNITIES

Albertans are blessed with an abundance of natural resources that form the foundation of its economy. The Alberta government has built on this foundation by fostering a positive business climate based on low taxation that attracts investment, creates diversity, and encourages Alberta businesses to compete successfully around the globe. This foundation includes:

- A globally competitive business tax environment.
- An efficient and modern infrastructure.
- Strategic access to the North American free trade market and to North Asian markets.
- Political stability and low taxes.
- A young, skilled and productive workforce.
- Strategic Location
- Alberta is part of a western Canadian market of 11.7 million people.
- Alberta’s proximity to the western United States provides easy access to an overall market of 66 million people. This includes the 10 states westbound from Colorado to the Pacific Coast.

Economic Diversity

Alberta GDP by Industry 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Forestry</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil &amp; Gas &amp; Mining</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Insurance</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail &amp; Wholesale</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Commercial</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism &amp; Consumer Services</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Current dollar GDP at market prices. Source: Statistics Canada and Alberta Economic Development and Trade

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Cultural Diversity

(Various languages spoken in Alberta)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3,557,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>238,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese*</td>
<td>125,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urdu</td>
<td>21,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>20,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>11.7 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes all Chinese languages, such as Cantonese and Mandarin

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Regional Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Population (2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calgary CMA</td>
<td>1,469,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton CMA</td>
<td>1,392,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton CMA</td>
<td>1,392,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>4,286,134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Strategic Location

Alberta is part of a western Canadian market of 11.7 million people.

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ALBERTA, CANADA

Population: 4,286,134 (July 1, 2017)
Area: 661,000 km²