

Dynamic & Diversified A Place for Business



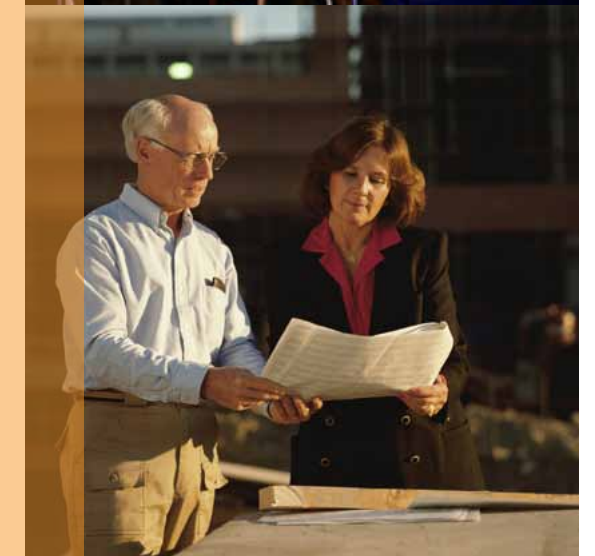
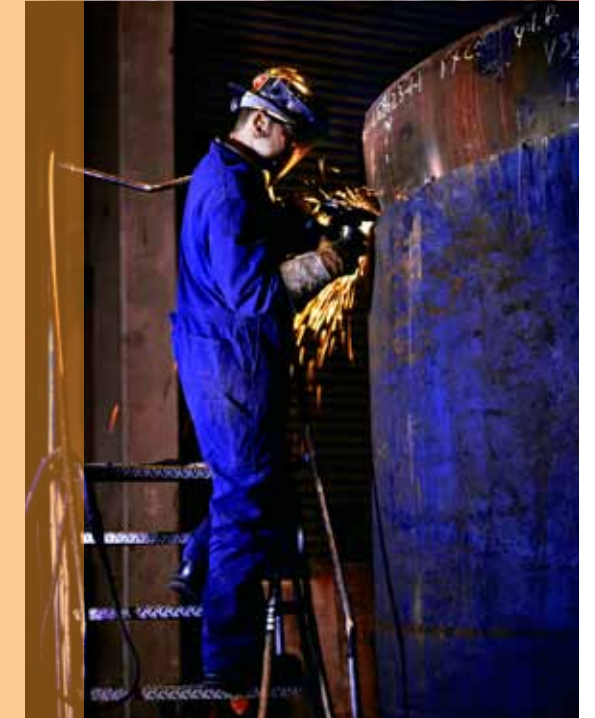
You might know it for its robust energy sector, but Alberta has another, equally dynamic, side to it. World-leading innovations in information and communications technologies, life sciences, aerospace and green building products are made here every day. It's a business climate that thrives on human energy and ingenuity, ideas and innovation, collaboration and accountability – and it makes Alberta one of the best investment opportunities in Canada.

Alberta has set the stage for business by taking a balanced, realistic approach to ensure long-term prosperity and success. While the foundation of its economic wellbeing is rooted in oil and gas, Alberta has made it a priority to diversify its economy, investing in key, knowledge-based industries that are critical to the global economy. This is a place where business succeeds.

//Thriving Economy

Alberta had the highest economic growth rate among Canadian provinces at 3.3% per year over the last 20 years, and is poised to lead economic growth by 2011.

- Alberta consistently has the highest investment per capita in Canada. At \$18,024 in 2009, it was almost double the Canadian average of \$9,174 per capita. Total investment in Alberta for the same year was \$66 billion.





- Alberta exported \$69.1 billion in commodities to 189 countries in 2009, representing an increase of 8.4% from five years ago.
- Alberta has a rapidly growing manufacturing base with shipments worth \$55.1 billion in 2009.
- Alberta has the second largest petroleum reserves in the world, after Saudi Arabia, and total crude oil and equivalent production is expected to reach 3.1 million barrels per day by 2018.
- Alberta produced 68% of Canada's crude oil and 81% of its natural gas in 2009.



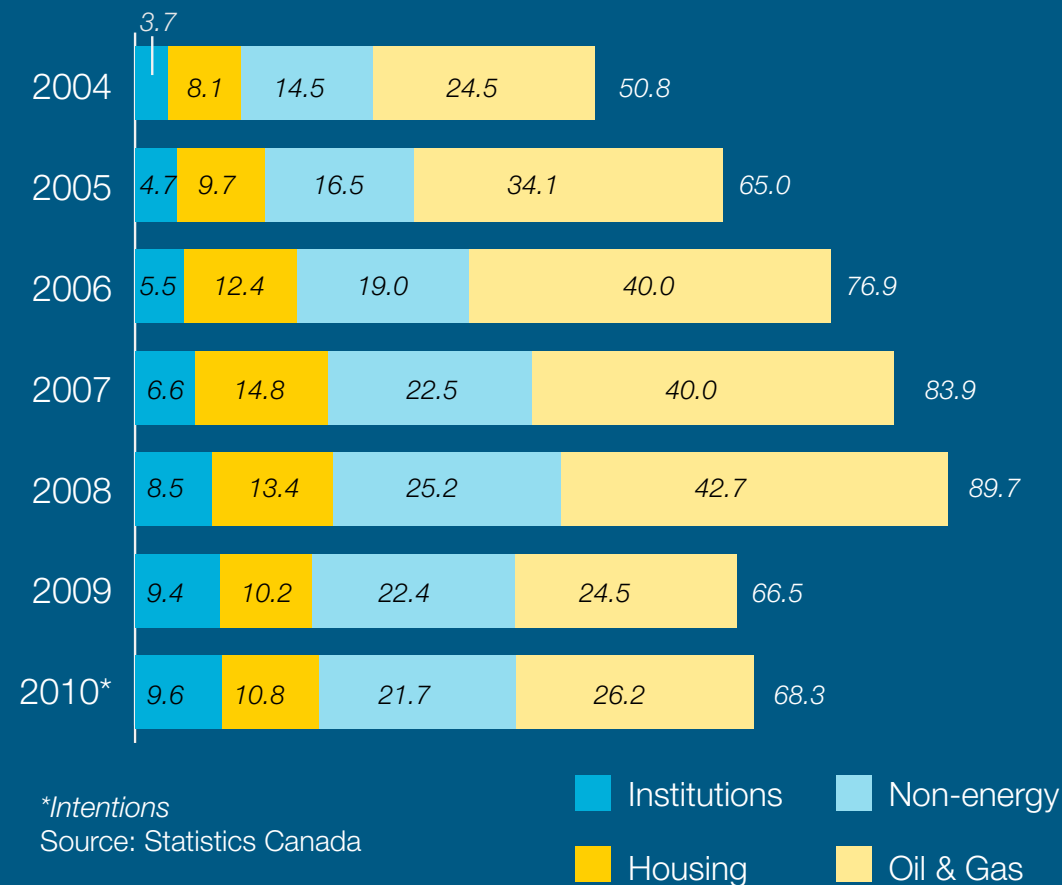
//An Innovative and Diversified Industry Base

Alberta's robust energy industry has helped to build a strong foundation for a diversified and sustainable economy that enables long-term business growth and stimulates innovation in the field of advanced technologies.

- Alberta consistently has among the highest research and development (R&D) expenditures per capita in Canada.
- In order to attract, retain and grow knowledge-intensive companies, Alberta introduced a provincial Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit in 2009. It is worth 10% of a company's eligible expenditures, up to \$4 million, for a maximum credit of \$400,000.
- The Alberta Enterprise Corporation will invest \$100 million to strengthen venture capital investment in Alberta and encourage the growth of new, innovative companies.
- The *Alberta Innovates* program creates an ecosystem for innovation – from basic research to technology commercialization, entrepreneurship and business start-up – in the areas of bio-solutions, energy and environment, health, technology and research and innovation.
- In 2009, Alberta's information and communication technologies companies generated \$8.3 billion in revenue and employed 59,700 Albertans.
- Alberta's research industry has made world-renowned medical breakthroughs in the areas of diabetes treatment, nanotechnology, robotic surgery, cardiology and neurobiology.
- The green building technologies sector in Alberta is emerging as a global leader, with a number of green communities and over 90 green-certified projects currently underway or completed.

Total Investment in Alberta

Capital Expenditures (\$ Billions)



- Alberta is a Canadian leader in the development of unmanned vehicle technology, offering expertise in various areas of unmanned vehicle systems development, including avionics navigation, control and global positioning systems as well as systems integration and wireless communications.
- Alberta leads the country in small business growth. From 1999 to 2009, the number of companies with less than 50 employees grew by 24%.

//Competitive Taxes

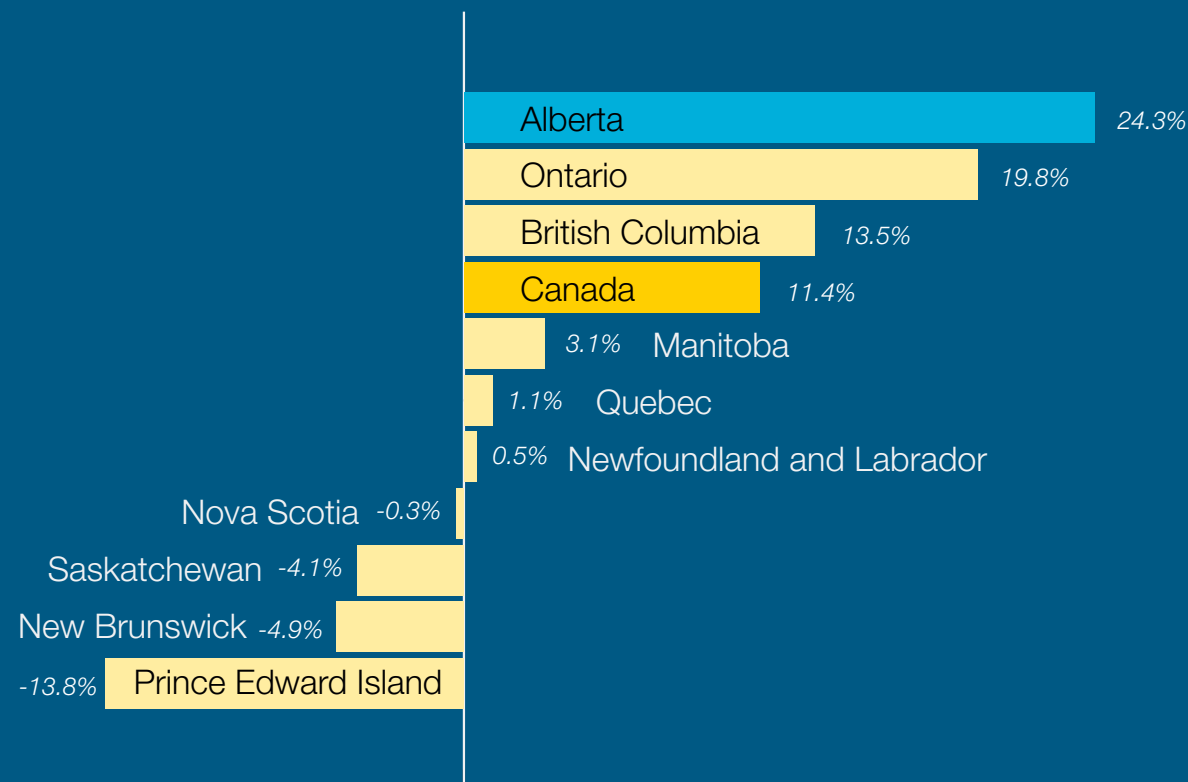
Alberta offers one of the most competitive tax environments in North America.

- Alberta is the only province in Canada that does not have a provincial retail sales tax.
- Alberta has no provincial capital taxes, payroll taxes, or machinery and equipment taxes.
- Alberta's corporate income tax rate for general businesses is 10%, and 3% for small businesses.

- Alberta's combined federal/provincial corporate income tax rate for general business is 28%, and it is expected to decrease to 25% by 2012.
- Alberta's fuel taxes are among the lowest in Canada, at 9¢ per litre for gasoline or diesel.
- Albertans have a low personal flat tax rate of 10%, combined with the federal rate of 29%, and have the highest basic and spousal exemptions in Canada.

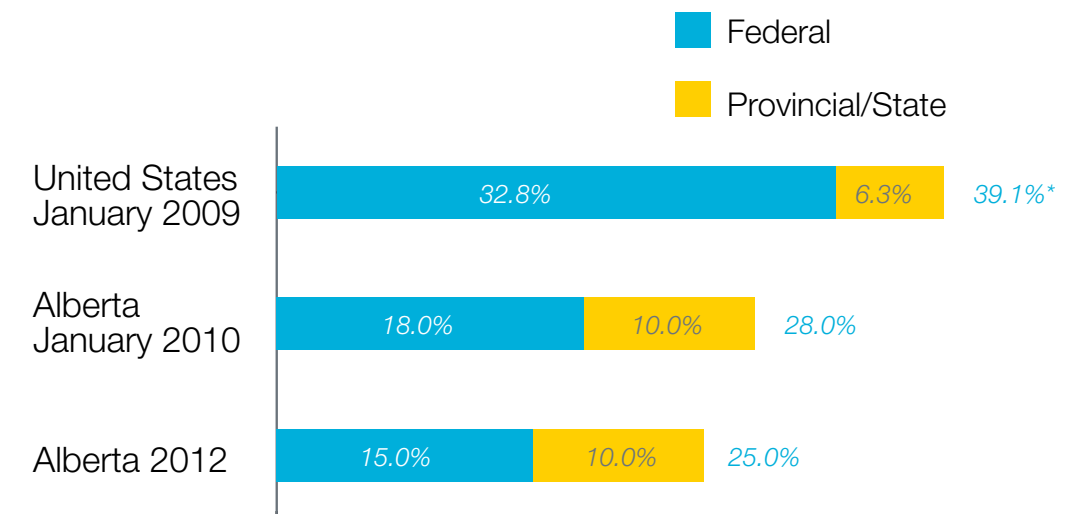
Small Business - Cornerstone of the Economy 1999-2009

Percentage Change in Small Business Establishments (Less than 50 Employees)



Source: Canadian Business Patterns, Statistics Canada

Comparison of Corporate Income Taxes



*6.3% represents the average effective top general state corporate income tax rate U.S. rates known as of January 2009
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Tax Foundation



//Strategic Location

Alberta's transportation infrastructure plays a critical role in the province's economy. Alberta'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. As a result, Alberta has emerged as the warehouse and distribution hub for Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest region of the United States.

- Alberta has direct connections to two of North America's largest highway corridors, the CANAMEX and the Trans-Canada, which allow quick access to the southern U.S., Mexican and Canadian markets.
- Alberta is the only western province offering overnight or less than 24-hour delivery service to a market of over 50

million consumers in Western Canada and the U.S. Pacific Northwest.

- Canada's transcontinental railway companies operate in Alberta, offering efficient and competitive service in the movement of export commodities to major ports throughout the United States and Mexico.
- The Calgary International Airport has the largest civil aviation runway, and is the third busiest airport by passenger volume in Canada.
- The Edmonton International Airport is the fifth busiest airport in Canada.
- In addition to these international airports, Alberta has five regional and local airports in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Peace River and Rainbow Lake.

//Strong Labour Market

Alberta's population of 3.7 million is the youngest of all Canadian provinces, with a median age of 35.6 years. Alberta's labour force consists of more than two million well educated workers.

- The province has a knowledge-based workforce, with approximately 61.6% of the population aged 25 years and older having a university degree, post-secondary diploma or certificate.
- Approximately 268,000 full and part-time students are enrolled in the public post-secondary education system in Alberta. In total, Alberta's four universities have over 118,000 students in attendance. Alberta also has over 70,000 registered apprentices in 50 trades and 9 designated occupations.
- More than 440,000 new jobs were created in Alberta between 1999 and 2009.
- In 2008, Alberta's economic productivity was the highest in Canada. Defined as GDP per hour worked, Alberta's labour productivity exceeded the Canadian average by 17%.





Doing business in Alberta: Key Investment Opportunities

Alberta is most often associated with primary resources, but there's a whole lot more to economic life and business opportunities in this province. Companies here are defining and redefining many high-tech sectors and establishing themselves as leaders. The result is a diversified range of businesses with promising investment opportunities. Here is a quick glance at some of them.

//Green Building Products and Technologies

Alberta is emerging as a leader in the green building products and technologies sector, which is driven by the growing demand for more energy efficient buildings, the desire for better indoor air quality and water conservation.

This presents exciting opportunities for manufacturers to expand their existing product lines with more energy efficient and environmentally friendly building products, and to invest in green technologies, such as solar collector panels, low-VOC coatings and resins, wind turbines, structurally insulated panels, on-demand hot water tanks, insulated concrete forms, fibre-cement products, composite building products and more. Alberta's green building technology sector has enormous potential to expand into the estimated \$12 billion green construction market in the U.S.



//Aerospace and Defence

Alberta is highly regarded for its capabilities in robotics and unmanned vehicle systems, defence electronics, aerospace geomatics and space sciences, manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul and logistics support to the military. The province's aerospace and defence companies employ over 5,000 highly skilled Albertans, with the majority of industry employees contributing engineering, technical or management expertise.



//Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Alberta's ICT sector consists of world-class companies with expertise in diverse business areas, including bioinformatics, digital content, e-learning, global positioning systems, health management systems, nanotechnology, software development, systems integration, telecommunications and wireless communications. Opportunities to grow this field are abundant and are supported by the *Alberta Innovates* program, which was designed specifically to help technical industries find solutions, develop products and move technologies to market.

//Life Sciences

Alberta's research facilities and highly skilled workforce support innovative developments in rehabilitative medicine, biomedical engineering, health informatics and nanotechnology. This province is home to many world-class medical research facilities, proven clinical testing capabilities and a dynamic, growing medical devices industry. More than 130 life sciences companies operate in Alberta.

//Environmental Products and Services

Managing the environment is both a challenge and an opportunity. Alberta's environmental industry has a well-earned international reputation for excellence in water treatment, waste management and climate change solutions. Opportunities exist in areas such as carbon capture and storage, soil remediation, energy efficiency, land reclamation, water treatment, air emissions reduction, and resource planning.

//Hydrocarbon Upgrading Sector

Alberta's oil sands contain the second largest recoverable reserves in the world after Saudi Arabia, providing abundant opportunities for resource extraction and value-added investment. The Government of Alberta encourages the development of innovative technology to access energy resources in an environmentally sensitive manner, and to maximize the value of bitumen through the development of refined petroleum products and chemicals.

//Machinery Manufacturing and Metal Fabrication

The robust Alberta energy sector has led to a multitude of opportunities for the province's metal fabrication and machinery manufacturing companies. Tens of billions of dollars are being spent in both the oil sands and conventional oil and gas sectors each year. Alberta is one of Canada's major metal manufacturing centres. The enormous size of this market and tremendous growth potential has attracted the attention of the world, and global supply chains are constantly expanding.



Invest in Alberta

Alberta is one of the most attractive places to invest in Canada and North America. Its diverse economy, competitive tax structure, and young, educated and productive workforce combine to create steady, reliable growth and exciting investment opportunities throughout the province.

*Find out more.
Contact us today at:*

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