

Quick Facts

2001-02 Government Annual Report

Highlights

- The budget was balanced for the eighth consecutive year.
- Debt was repaid and, including cash set aside for future debt repayment, will stand at \$5.3 billion.
- \$3 billion was provided to address infrastructure requirements.
- Total revenue in 2001-02 was \$22 billion, \$646 million lower than budgeted.
- Spending in 2001-02 was \$21.3 billion, \$601 million lower than budgeted.
- The year end cushion was \$772 million compared to the Budget 2001 estimate of \$817 million.

Economic Overview

In 2001:

- Alberta's GDP grew by an estimated 4.5 per cent, the highest growth among provinces.
- Employment grew by 2.8 per cent, or nearly 44,000 new jobs were created.
- Unemployment rate was the lowest in 20 years and averaged 4.6 per cent in 2001.
- Albertans enjoyed the highest personal disposable income. Disposable income grew by 8.1 per cent in the province, nearly double the Canadian growth.
- Alberta's population grew by 1.8 per cent, the strongest growth among provinces.

Alberta's Tax Advantage

- Albertans enjoyed the full benefit of the single rate tax plan, saving Albertans \$1.1 billion in personal income taxes.
- Basic, spousal and equivalent to spouse exemption amounts were increased to \$13,339.
- Business taxes were reduced by \$286 million.
- The capital tax on financial institutions was eliminated.
- Albertans, 16 and over, received the second \$150 installment of Alberta's Energy Tax Refund.
- Albertans enjoy the lowest overall tax load in the country. We have no sales tax, no payroll tax and no capital tax.

Priority Spending

- Including capital expenditure, health and education accounted for 61 per cent of total expense in 2001-02.
- Health spending increased by \$862 million, or 14.5 per cent over last year, to \$6.8 billion.
- About \$500 million was provided for construction and upgrading of health facilities and equipment.
- Funding was provided for the recruitment of physicians and 37 new residency positions in a rural family medicine training program were established.
- Increased funding for MRIs.
- Including capital grants, education spending increased by \$1.075 billion or 21.4 per cent over last year to \$6.1 billion.
- Operating grants were increased for basic and post secondary education.
- A major upgrading and expansion of education facilities took place in 2001-02. Nearly \$1 billion was provided for the construction and modernization of schools, an increase of \$748 million over the previous year.
- The increased capital funding will allow the construction of 18 new schools and upgrading and expansion of approximately 90 other schools in the province.
- 1,300 new entry spaces in health, business, teacher education, and information technology and 3,800 new apprenticeship spaces.
- Funding was provided to attract and retain high quality faculty in medicine, computer science, engineering and business.
- Social services spending increased by \$154 million or 8.6 per cent over last year to \$1.9 billion.
- Nearly \$500 million was provided in emergency agriculture assistance.
- Healthy Aging Partnership Initiative assisted the development of seniors' supportive housing projects.
- \$500 million in energy cost assistance was provided to Albertans and Alberta businesses.
- Debt servicing costs were \$206 million lower than the previous year as a result of debt repayment.