



2006

Alberta Facts

CONTENTS

Demographics	2	Transportation	12
Population	2	Annual Passenger Traffic	12
Selected Age Groups	2	Railways	12
Urban & Rural Distribution of Population	2	Light Rail Networks	13
Population of Alberta Cities	3	Highways & Roads	13
Population of Specialized Municipalities	3	Vehicle Registration	13
Annual Migration	3	Telecommunications & Technology	14
Families by Type	3	Telephones in Households	14
		Internet Use	14
Health & Education	4	Tourism	15
Health-Care Facilities, Providers	4	Tourism Receipts	15
Staffed Beds in Health-Care Facilities	4	Overnight Visitors to Alberta	15
Vital Statistics	4	Culture	16
Life Expectancy	4	National Parks	16
Educational Institutions	5	Parks & Protected Areas	16
Post-Secondary Educational Institutions	5	Geography	17
		Climate	17
Economics	6		
Gross Domestic Product	6		
International Exports	7		
Value of Top Commodities Exported	7		
Labour Force Participation by Educational Attainment	7		
Labour Force Activity	8		
Consumer Price Index	8		
Retail Sales	9		
Households	9		
Dwelling Starts, All Areas	9		
Value of Construction	9		
Private & Public Investment	10		
Personal Income	10		
Farm Cash Receipts	10		
Manufacturing Shipments	11		
Mineral Production	11		



GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Alberta became a province of Canada on September 1, 1905. Legislative authority is granted to the Legislative Assembly, which currently has 83 elected members. The Lieutenant Governor and the Assembly make up the Legislature - the body responsible for making laws in the province. The Progressive Conservative party, led by Honourable Ralph Klein, forms the present government.

Standings, as of March 2006, according to parties:

	Seats
Progressive Conservative	61
Liberal (Official Opposition)	16
New Democrat	4
Alliance	1
Independent	1

Government Finance - 2004/2005 (Actual)

	\$Millions
Budgetary Revenue	29,328
Budgetary Expenditure	24,153
Net Revenue	5,175

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population - July 1

	2003	2004	2005
Alberta	3,159,620	3,204,780	3,256,816
Annual Growth Rate (%)	1.39	1.43	1.62

In 2005, Alberta's population density was 5.1 persons per square kilometre. Approximately 10.1% of Canada's population resides in Alberta.

Selected Age Groups - May 15, 2001

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-14	316,240	301,345	617,585
15-24	223,770	214,320	438,090
25-44	475,920	472,825	948,740
45-64	334,095	327,885	661,990
65+	136,560	171,840	308,395
TOTAL	1,486,585	1,488,220	2,974,805

Urban and Rural Distribution of Population (%)

	1996	2001
Urban	79.5	80.9
Rural	20.5	19.1

Population of Alberta Cities - May 15, 2001

Airdrie	20,382
Calgary	878,866
Camrose	14,854
Cold Lake	11,520
Edmonton	666,104
Fort Saskatchewan	13,121
Grande Prairie	36,983
Leduc	15,032
Lethbridge	67,374
Lloydminster (Alberta portion)	13,148
Medicine Hat	51,249
Red Deer	67,707
Spruce Grove	15,983
St. Albert	53,081
Wetaskiwin	11,154

Population of Specialized Municipalities - May 15, 2001

Strathcona County	71,986
Wood Buffalo	41,466

Annual Migration (p)

	2003	2004	2005
Net International	10,881	11,482	14,377
Net Interprovincial	10,254	10,993	41,707
TOTAL	21,135	22,475	56,084

Families by Type (No.)

	1996	2001
Couple (married & common-law)	625,080	694,765
Lone-Parent	92,480	116,525
TOTAL	717,560	811,285

HEALTH & EDUCATION

Health-Care Facilities, Providers - 2005

General/Family Physicians	4,437
Specialist Physicians	2,859
Dentists/Oral Surgeons	216
Optometrists	367

Staffed Beds in Health-Care Facilities - March 2005

Acute Care	6,320
Sub-Acute Care	503
Long Term	12,520

Number of Hospitals, Health-Care Centres, and Nursing Homes	354
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Vital Statistics - 2004

	No.	Rate*
Births	40,271	12.6
Deaths	17,452	5.4
Marriages	18,453	5.8

*Per 1,000 population

Life Expectancy (At birth) - 2003

	(Years)	
	Alberta	Canada
Male	77.5	77.4
Female	82.2	82.4
Both Sexes	79.9	79.9

Educational Institutions (Grades 1-12) - 2004/2005

	Full-Time Enrolment	No.
Public Schools	383,433	1,400
Separate Schools	120,946	342
Francophone Schools	3,402	28
Charter Schools	5,130	13
Private Schools	23,337	168
Other Schools	10,713	n/a
TOTAL	546,961	1,951

Post-Secondary Educational Institutions - 2006

	No.
Universities	4
Technical Institutes	2
Public Colleges	14
Private University Colleges	8
Banff Centre for Continuing Education	1
Community Consortia	4
TOTAL	33

ECONOMICS

Gross Domestic Product

	(\$Millions)		
At Market Prices:	2003	2004	2005
In Current Dollars	171,175	187,152	215,858
Annual Growth Rate (%)	13.5	9.3	15.3
In Chained (1997) Dollars	130,256	135,837	141,992
Annual Growth Rate (%)	3.1	4.3	4.5

By Industry At Basic Prices (Chained (1997) dollars):

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	3,017	3,356	3,522
Mining, Oil, & Gas	20,725	21,425	21,270
Utilities	2,686	2,678	2,740
Construction	10,371	10,912	12,652
Manufacturing	12,006	12,924	14,022
Wholesale Trade	6,320	6,790	7,626
Retail Trade	6,482	6,847	7,489
Transportation & Warehousing	7,208	7,596	8,083
Information & Culture	4,103	4,204	4,408
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	21,676	22,654	23,716
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	6,229	6,474	6,605
Administrative Support, Waste Management	2,401	2,503	2,598
Education	4,858	4,932	5,095
Health Care & Social Assistance	5,622	5,694	5,786
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	863	870	855
Accommodation & Food Service	3,005	3,072	3,170
Public Administration	5,329	5,391	5,573
Other Services	3,091	3,216	3,298

International Exports

Alberta's international merchandise exports rose to \$79.2 billion in 2005, an increase of 18.5% from 2004. The largest export markets were the United States, China, Japan, South Korea, and Mexico. These five nations accounted for more than 95% of Alberta's exports to other countries.

Value of Top Commodities Exported

	(\$Thousands) 2005
Natural Gas	30,120,453
Crude Petroleum Oil	24,584,872
Polymers of Ethylene	1,498,985
Beef Products	1,274,811
Propane	1,265,642
Ethylene glycol	1,194,494
Polyethylene	866,483

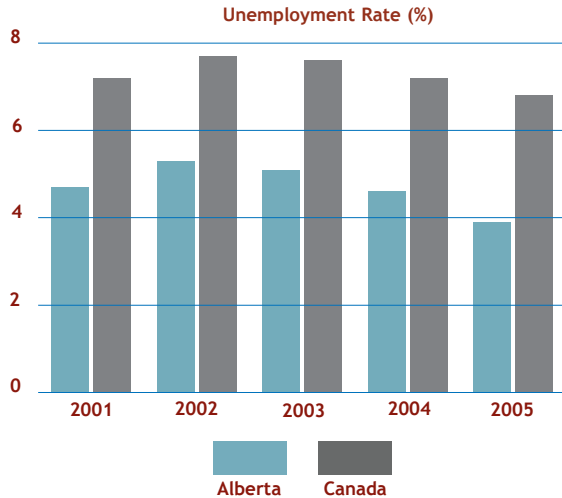
These top seven commodities comprise about 77% of the total value of commodities exported out of Alberta.

Labour Force Participation by Educational Attainment

	(Thousands) 2005
Less than Secondary School	266.3
High School Diploma	431.6
Some Post-Secondary	169.4
Post-Secondary Certificate/Diploma	612.1
Bachelor's Degree	277.4
Above Bachelor's Degree	100.7
TOTAL	1,857.5

Labour Force Activity

	2004	2005
Labour Force ('000)	1842.4	1857.5
Employed ('000)	1757.5	1784.4
Unemployed ('000)	85.0	73.1
Participation Rate (%)	73.5	72.7
Employment Rate (%)	70.1	69.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	3.9



Consumer Price Index

	(1992 = 100)		
	2003	2004	2005
Alberta	129.7	131.5	134.3
Annual Change (%)	4.4	1.4	2.1
Canada	122.3	124.6	127.3
Annual Change (%)	2.8	1.9	2.2

Retail Sales (Annual)

	(\$Millions)	(\$Per Capita)
2003	39,317.8	12,444
2004	43,371.6	13,533
2005	48,632.9	14,933

Households (No.)

	(Thousands)
2001	1,116
2002	1,140
2003	1,163

Dwelling Starts, All Areas (No.)

	2003	2004	2005
Single-Detached	21,918	22,487	26,684
Semi-Detached	2,567	2,916	3,012
Row	2,859	2,401	2,951
Apartment & Other	8,827	8,466	8,200
TOTAL	36,171	36,270	40,847

Value of Construction

	(\$Millions)		
	2003	2004	2005
Residential Construction	4,241	4,864	6,048
Non-Residential Construction	2,427	2,463	4,139
TOTAL	6,667	7,327	10,187

Private and Public Investment

	(\$Millions)		
	2002	2003	2004
Capital Expenditures	42,643.6	44,743.9	50,807.7
Repair Expenditures	6,301.7	6,869.5	7,313.7
TOTAL	48,945.3	51,613.4	58,121.4

Personal Income

	2003	2004	2005
Total Income (\$Millions)	105,217	112,190	121,574
Per Capita (\$)	33,301	35,007	37,329

Farm Cash Receipts

	(\$Millions)		
	2002	2003	2004
Total Crops	2,136.6	1,980.0	2,604.2
Wheat (incl. Durum Wheat)	592.9	589.8	701.8
Barley	148.0	141.6	154.1
Canola	543.3	624.4	771.4
Other	852.4	624.2	976.8
Total Livestock & Products	5,086.8	3,712.9	3,978.8
Cattle & Calves	3,836.0	2,476.8	2,559.8
Hogs	465.4	456.2	613.0
Dairy Products	366.8	384.7	383.0
Other	418.6	395.2	423.1
Total Direct Payments	1,038.9	1,362.0	1,433.3
TOTAL	8,262.4	7,055.0	8,016.3

Manufacturing Shipments

	(\$Millions)		
	2003	2004	2005
Petroleum & Coal Products	8,257.4	10,017.9	12,758.0
Chemical	8,284.8	9,645.3	10,550.2
Food	7,976.4	9,087.3	8,673.2
Machinery	3,307.8	4,062.2	5,347.3
Fabricated Metal Product	3,409.8	4,134.6	4,605.2
Wood Product	2,931.5	3,752.6	3,532.3
Primary Metal	1,812.1	2,137.0	2,518.4
Non-metallic Mineral Product	1,556.4	1,694.9	2,048.3
Paper	1,787.8	1,783.8	1,811.4
Computer & Electronic Product	1,523.0	1,471.0	1,714.8
Other	4,990.8	5,087.7	5,660.4
TOTAL	45,837.9	52,874.3	59,219.3

Mineral Production - 2004 (p)*

	(\$Thousands)	%
Sulphur	259,530	47
Sand & Gravel	228,107	41
Peat	29,828	5
Salt	22,064	4
Quartz	9,373	2
Other	7,263	1
TOTAL	556,165	100

*Excludes fuels (oil, gas, and coal), as data was not available.



TRANSPORTATION

Alberta is currently served by Air Canada/Jazz, Air North, Air Transat, Alaska Airlines, America West Airlines, American Airlines, Belair Airlines, Canadian North, Canjet, Central Mountain Air, Condor, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines, Excel Airways, First Air, Frontier Airlines, Harmony Airways, Horizon Air, Integra Air, Martinair, Lufthansa, Monarch, My Travel, Northwest Airlines, Northwestern Air, Peace Air, QuikAir, SkyService, Thomas Cook, United Airlines, WestJet, and Zoom. These airlines serve major Alberta cities, providing regular scheduled flights to points in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Annual Passenger Traffic

	(Thousands)		
	2003	2004	% Change
Edmonton Airports	3,515,632	3,911,045	11.2
Calgary Airports	8,240,242	8,712,061	5.7

Railways - 2003

Alberta's two main railway systems, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railway, have a combined railway line length of 7,184 kilometres. The system is used to transport, among other things, bulk commodities such as wheat and other grains, coal, sulphur, petrochemicals, and timber products.

Light Rail Networks - 2006

Edmonton's LRT travels 12.9 kilometres while Calgary's LRT operates on 35.7 kilometres of track.

Highways and Roads - 2005

In 2005, there were 30,800 kilometres of provincial highways and 153,500 kilometres of local roads in Alberta.

Vehicle Registration - top 5 cities as of March 31

	2003	2004	2005
Calgary	675,020	684,401	702,311
Edmonton	456,439	458,799	470,839
Red Deer	58,001	60,816	64,225
Lethbridge	55,520	56,393	57,687
Medicine Hat	44,392	45,575	47,225
TOTAL ALBERTA	2,341,679	2,379,910	2,459,926

TELECOMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

Telephones in Households

	2001	2002	2003
Fixed Telephones	1,095,912	1,119,480	1,102,524
% of households	98.2	98.2	94.8
Cellular Phones	637,236	694,260	778,047
% of households	57.1	60.9	66.9

Internet Use (%)

Location	2001	2002	2003
Home	51.8	53.7	58.2
Work	38.3	38	41.8
School/Library/Other	37.7	39.8	40.3
Any Location	65.3	64.3	68.8

In 2003, 72.1% of households in Alberta had computers, the second-highest percentage in Canada (at 72.6%, B.C. had the highest percentage). Across the nation, Alberta has the third-highest proportion of households that regularly use the Internet at home.

TOURISM

Alberta's diverse landscapes and special events attract a significant number of tourists each year. The National Parks in Jasper and Banff alone draw millions of visitors annually from all over Canada, the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Tourism Receipts

	(\$Millions) (e)		
	2002	2003	2004
Albertans	2,889	2,089	2,326
Other Canadians	1,192	1,001	1,154
U.S. Visitors	656	675	764
Overseas Visitors	711	569	714
TOTAL	5,448	4,334	4,958

Overnight Visitors to Alberta

	(Thousands)		
	2002	2003	2004
U.S. Visitors	1,073	962	1,026
International Visitors	773	613	768



Culture

Alberta is known for its many annual festivals. Edmonton is recognized as Festival City for its variety of festivals, including Heritage Days, a celebration of multiculturalism held every August, and the Fringe Festival, a 10-day theatre and performing arts event. Calgary also hosts an assortment of celebrations, but is best known for the Calgary Stampede, held every July. Visitors to the Stampede enjoy a live rodeo, parade, carnivals, and music festivals of all types, including rock, folk, country, and jazz.

National Parks

The five national parks in Alberta total 58,843 square kilometres, the largest area of any province in Canada.

	Square Km.
Banff	6,641
Elk Island	194
Jasper	10,878
Waterton Lakes	505
Wood Buffalo	35,625

Parks and Protected Areas

	No.	Hectares
Provincial Parks	69	212,434.9
Wildland Parks	32	1,732,958.3
Willmore Wilderness Park	1	459,671.0
Provincial Recreation Areas	248	80,457.2
Ecological Reserves	16	29,444.4
Wilderness Areas	3	100,988.8
Natural Areas	149	132,382.6
Heritage Rangelands	1	7,760.4
TOTAL	519	2,756,097.7

GEOGRAPHY

Situated between 49 and 60 degrees north latitude, and 110 and 120 degrees west longitude, Alberta covers an area of 661,848 square kilometres, making it the fourth-largest province in Canada. Land accounts for 97% of the province's total area, with the remainder being made up of several large bodies of water and numerous small lakes, rivers, and streams. The province's general geographical areas are prairies, forests, parkland (mixed forests and plains), and the mountain region.

Climate

Alberta's climate is characterized by low humidity and considerable contrasts between areas and seasons. Edmonton and Calgary experience an average high temperature of approximately 23°C during the month of July, while the average low for the month of January is approximately -16°C. Annual precipitation varies across the province, averaging between 300 and 500 millimetres. Albertans enjoy a great number of sunny days throughout every season.

p - Preliminary

e - Estimate

No. - Number

Components may not add to total, due to rounding.

NOTE: Data are current as of May 2006.

www.finance.gov.ab.ca

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