ALBERTA ADVANTAGE



STRENGTHENING TODAY, Securing Tornorrow

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Alberta Advantage

Alberta's vision is "A vibrant and prosperous province where Albertans enjoy a superior quality of life and are confident about the future for themselves and their children."

The Government of Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Plan sets out four strategic opportunities or "pillars" to achieve this long-term vision – Unleashing Innovation, Leading in Learning, Competing in a Global Market Place and Making Alberta the Best Place to Live, Work and Visit.

The Alberta Advantage illustrates, using widely accepted performance indicators, that Alberta is leading the way in these areas and is progressing toward its vision by capitalizing on the exciting opportunities that are available...

- a strong and vibrant economy
- · a young, skilled and productive workforce
- affordable living costs
- a strong commitment to innovation and knowledge-based progress
- a highly entrepreneurial and competitive business community
- a business-friendly province committed to responsible regulation
- the lowest overall tax load of any province in Canada, including no retail sales tax
- a modern and efficient infrastructure
- an abundance of natural resources
- a beautiful natural environment
- a fiscally responsible provincial government

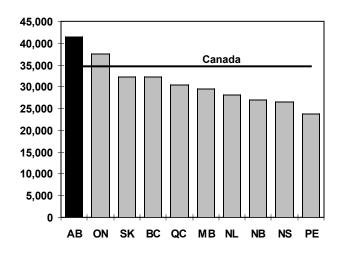
The Alberta Advantage is organized around the following categories: the economy, people, taxes, operating costs, quality of life and sound financial management. It shows that Alberta is "the place to be."

The Economy strong and diversified

Over the past decade, Alberta's economic performance has been exceptional, leading the nation in nearly all economic indicators. Our province's prosperity enables its residents and businesses to be confident about the future. Alberta is creating an environment and infrastructure that enables knowledge and technology to build upon our traditional economic strengths and create new opportunities.

REAL GDP PER CAPITA

2001-2005 Annual Average (dollars per capita)*

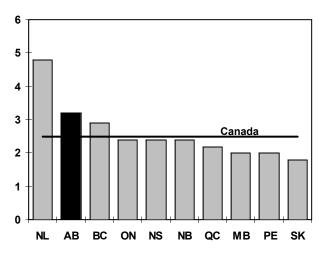


* 2005 GDP estimated for provinces.

Source: Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and the Conference Board of Canada

- Alberta has the highest real gross domestic product per capita among provinces.
- Since 2001, Alberta's real gross domestic product per capita has averaged 10.8 per cent higher than second place Ontario.

REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH 2001-2005 Average Annual Growth in GDP (per cent)*



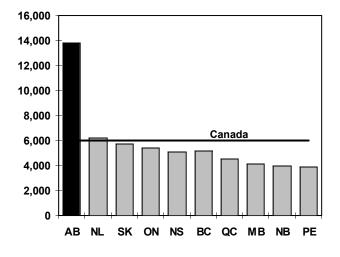
* 2005 GDP estimated for provinces.

 $\ensuremath{\textit{Source:}}$ Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and the Conference Board of Canada

- Alberta's economic growth rate was the second highest in Canada over the past five years.
- In 2005, Alberta's real output grew by an estimated 4.3 per cent.

INVESTMENT PER CAPITA

2001-2005 Annual Average (dollars per capita)*

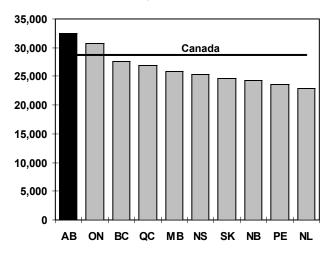


^{* 2005} preliminary actual. **Source:** Statistics Canada

- Alberta continues to be far ahead in total private sector investment per person, as it has been for decades.
- Over the past five years, Alberta's investment per capita has been more than double that of the next highest province, Newfoundland and Labrador.

PERSONAL INCOME

2000-2004 Annual Average (dollars per capita)

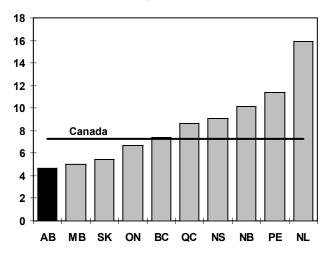


Source: Statistics Canada

- Over the five years ending in 2004 (the most recent data available), Albertans enjoyed the highest personal income per capita.
- In 2004, Alberta had the highest personal income per capita among provinces at \$35,005, 15.4 per cent above the national average.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

2001-2005 Annual Average (per cent)

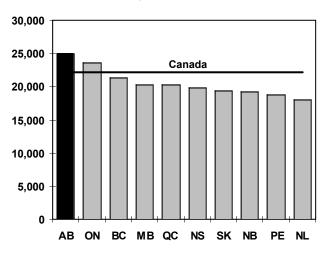


Source: Statistics Canada

- Over the past five years, Alberta's average unemployment rate of 4.7 per cent was lowest among the provinces, well below the national average of 7.3 per cent.
- In 2005, Alberta's unemployment rate of 3.9 per cent was the lowest in Canada.

PERSONAL DISPOSABLE INCOME

2000-2004 Annual Average (dollars per capita)*

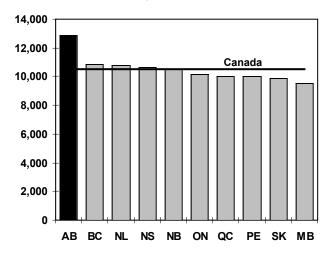


 Personal income less income and payroll taxes and other current transfers to government.
 Source: Statistics Canada

- Over the five years ending in 2004 (the most recent data available), Alberta was ahead of all other provinces in personal disposable income per capita. At \$26,961, Alberta's 2004 personal disposable income per capita was 15.3 per cent above the national average.
- With no general retail sales tax in Alberta, our disposable income advantage translates into even greater purchasing power.

RETAIL SALES PER CAPITA

2001-2005 Annual Average (dollars per capita)

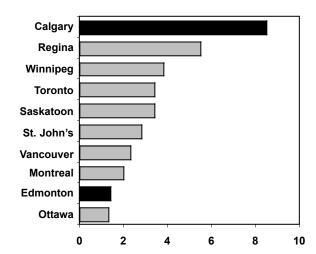


Source: Statistics Canada

- Alberta continues to lead all provinces in retail sales per capita.
- Over the past five years, Alberta's retail sales per capita has been approximately 20 per cent above the national average.

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

2004 (number of head offices per 100,000 population)*

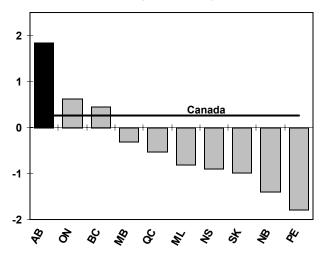


* Top 800 companies incorporated in Canada based on revenue. Head office counts current as of June 2005 publication date of National Post Business: FP 500 Source: National Post Business, Statistics Canada and Calgary Economic Development

 Calgary has approximately 8.5 head offices for every 100,000 persons. This rate by far exceeds all other cities in Canada.

BUSINESS GROWTH

2001-2005 Annual Average (per cent growth in # of firms)*



 * Businesses include all incorporated and unincorporated firms, except self-employed individuals and single person firms.
 Source: Statistics Canada

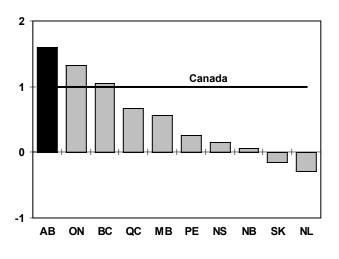
- Over the past five years, Alberta's average business growth has been the highest of any province in Canada.
- In 2005, the number of businesses in Alberta increased by 0.4 per cent, the third strongest growth among provinces.

The People young, highly trained and productive

In today's knowledge-based economy, the people of Alberta are our province's most important resource. Albertans are highly skilled and productive, and are among the most educated in the world. They are the foundation of our thriving and vibrant economy.

POPULATION

2001-2005 Average Annual Growth (per cent)*

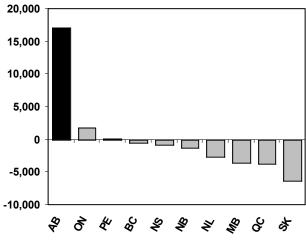


* Annual population based on 3rd quarter (July 1) estimates. Source: Statistics Canada

- Over the past five years, Alberta's population has grown the fastest among provinces.
- In 2005, Alberta's population growth of 1.6 per cent also led the provinces.

NET INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION

2001-2005 Annual Average (net number of interprovincial migrants)*

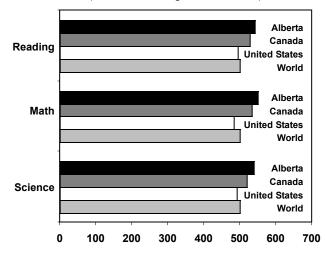


* July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2005. *Source:* Statistics Canada

- Alberta has the highest number of interprovincial migrants in Canada.
- From July 2004 to June 2005, a net of 16,615 migrants came to Alberta from other provinces. The only other province to experience positive net interprovincial migration during this time was British Columbia at 7,456.

PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS AGED 15

2003 Results (scaled to average score of 500)

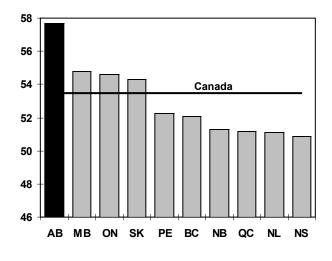


Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- In 2003, the performance of students aged 15 in Alberta was significantly above the Canadian, United States and international averages in reading, mathematics and science. (2006 data will be available next year)
- Out of 41 countries and Canada's provinces, Alberta scored second highest in mathematics and reading and fourth highest in science.

SHARE OF POPULATION UNDER 40

2001-2005 Annual Average (per cent of total population)

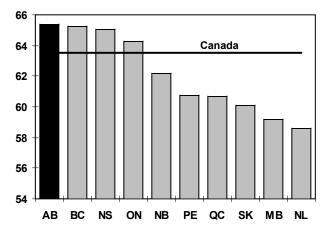


Source: Statistics Canada

- Alberta has the youngest population among provinces.
- In 2005, about 57 per cent of Albertans were under the age of 40.

POPULATION AGED 25-64 WITH POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

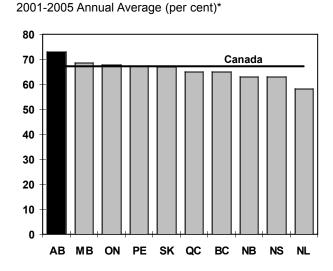
2001-2005 Annual Average (per cent of total population)*



* Includes some post-secondary and completed post-secondary certificates, diplomas, and university degrees.
Source: Statistics Canada

PARTICIPATION RATE

- · Alberta has the best educated workforce in Canada.
- Approximately 65 per cent of Albertans aged 25 to 64 have post-secondary education.

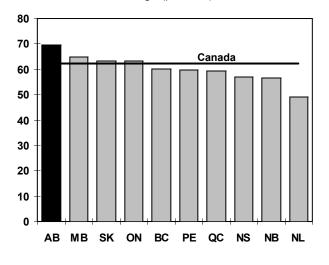


* The participation rate is the total of those aged 15 and over, who are employed or looking for work, divided by the population aged 15 and over. Source: Statistics Canada

 Alberta has the highest labour force participation rate in Canada, 4.4 percentage points higher than second place Manitoba.

EMPLOYMENT TO POPULATION RATIO

2000-2004 Annual Average (per cent)*

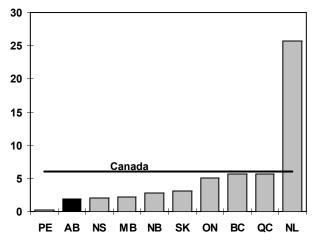


* The employment to population ratio is the total of those employed divided by the population aged 15 and over.
Source: Statistics Canada

- Compared to other provinces, more Albertans are working relative to the size of our working age population.
- Alberta is 4.4 percentage points above second place Manitoba.

LABOUR RECORD

2000-2004 Annual Average (person days lost due to disputes per 10,000 person days worked)

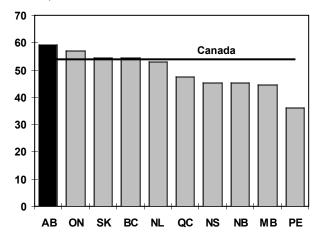


Source: Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada

- In terms of person days lost due to labour disputes, Alberta's 5-year average record is better than all other provinces except Prince Edward Island.
- Newfoundland and Labrador had a public labour dispute in 2004 that distorted its five year average.

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

2001-2005 Annual Average (dollars of real GDP per hour worked)*

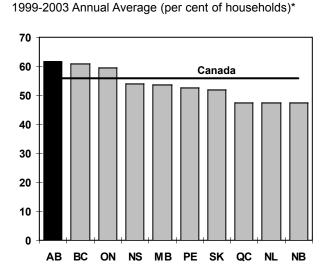


* 2005 GDP estimated for provinces

INTERNET USE

Source: Statistics Canada, Alberta Finance and the Conference Board of Canada

 Albertans are the most productive workers in Canada, as measured by real GDP dollars produced per hour worked.



* Households with at least one regular user in any location (home, work, school, public library).
Source: Statistics Canada

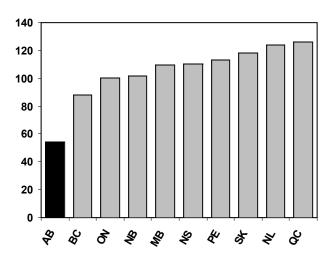
- Albertans are the most "connected" when it comes to Internet technology, which improves access to information, education, health and commerce services.
- · Canada is the most connected country in the world.

The Lowest Tax Load LEAVING MORE DOLLARS IN THE POCKETS OF ALBERTANS

Alberta is open for business with the lowest overall corporate and personal taxes in Canada. Albertans benefit from a competitive personal income tax system, the lowest tax on gasoline among provinces, no general retail sales taxes and among the lowest property taxes in Canada. Alberta businesses benefit from having among the lowest corporate income taxes in Canada and no general payroll or capital taxes.

TOTAL PROVINCIAL TAX LOAD

2005-06 (per cent of the Canadian average)*



* Actual taxes divided by theroretical taxes at national average tax rates.
 Source: Equalization payments, 2005-06, 2nd estimate, Finance Canada and Alberta Finance.

 Alberta has by far the lowest combined provincial and municipal tax burden among the provinces, at 54.8 per cent of the national average.

2006 (per cent)*

RETAIL SALES TAX RATES 2006 (per cent)*

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* Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006. *Source:* Alberta Finance

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· Alberta has no provincial retail sales tax.

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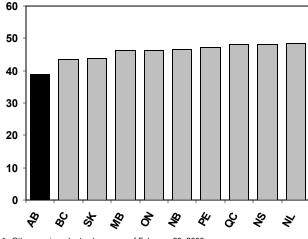
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COMBINED TOP MARGINAL PERSONAL INCOME TAX RATES

2006 (per cent)*



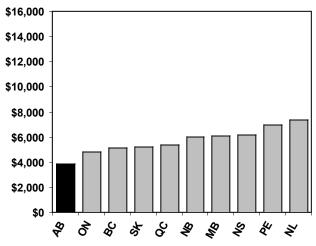
* Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006 Source: Alberta Finance

- Alberta has the lowest top marginal personal income tax rate among the provinces at 39 per cent – 29 per cent federal and 10 per cent provincial.
- In Alberta, top income earners keep 61 per cent of their last dollar earned.

FAMILY EARNING \$60,000

Taxes and Health Care Insurance Premiums

2006 (Two-income family with two children)*



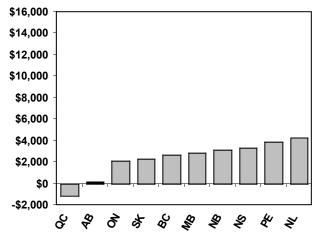
^{*} Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006 **Source:** Alberta Finance

 In Alberta, a typical two-income family earning \$60,000 pays \$3,862, approximately 35 per cent less in combined taxes and health care insurance premiums than the average of the other provinces.

FAMILY EARNING \$30,000

Taxes and Health Care Insurance Premiums

2006 (One-income family with two children)*

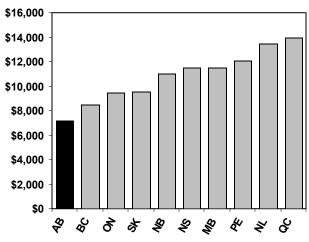


* Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006. *Source:* Alberta Finance

- This graph, and the following two, compare provincial income, sales, payroll, fuel and tobacco taxes, and health care insurance premiums payable by a family.
- In Alberta, a typical one-income family earning \$30,000 pays only \$160, approximately 94 per cent less than the average of the other provinces.

FAMILY EARNING \$100,000

Taxes and Health Care Insurance Premiums 2006 (Two-income family with two children)*



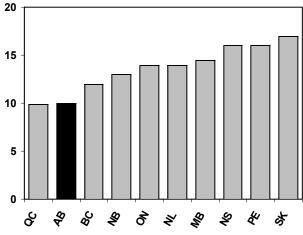
* Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006. *Source:* Alberta Finance

 In Alberta, a typical two-income family earning \$100,000 pays \$7,150, approximately 36 per cent less in combined taxes and health care insurance premiums than the average of the other provinces.

PROVINCIAL GENERAL CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATES

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2006 (per cent)*

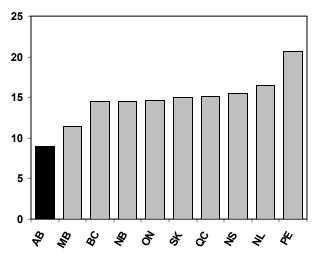


* Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006. SK, ON and NL have a lower corporate income tax rate for manufacturing and processing industries. Source: Alberta Finance

- Alberta has the second lowest general corporate income tax rate in Canada at 10 per cent.
- Alberta businesses also benefit from no general sales tax, capital tax or payroll tax.

GASOLINE TAX RATES

2006 (cents per litre)*

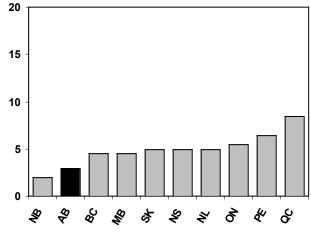


* Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006. For NB, NS, QC and NL, provincial sales tax is levied on top of fuel tax. PE has a 11.5 cent base rate and a 10.7 per cent ad valorem tax.
Source: Alberta Finance

 At 9.0 cents per litre, Alberta has the lowest gasoline tax rate among provinces, 2.5 cents per litre below Manitoba, the second lowest province.

PROVINCIAL SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATES

2006 (per cent)*

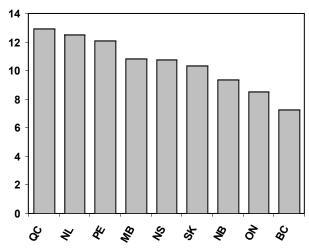


* Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006. **Source:** Alberta Finance

• Alberta's small business corporate income tax rate of 3 per cent is the second lowest in Canada.

ALBERTA'S TAX ADVANTAGE

2006 (billions of dollars)*

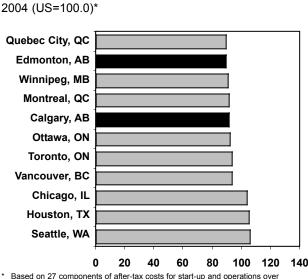


* Other provinces' rates known as of February 23, 2006. **Source:** Alberta Finance

- This graph shows the total additional provincial taxes that individuals and businesses would pay if Alberta had the same tax systems as other provinces. The comparison also includes government revenues from health care insurance premiums and alcohol.
- Albertans would pay almost \$7.2 billion more if we had British Columbia's tax system and \$12.9 billion more if we had Quebec's tax system.

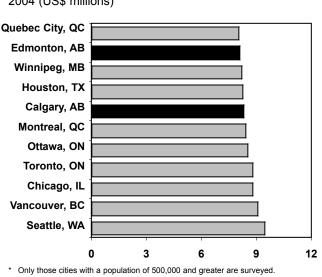
Low Operating Costs FOR BUSINESSES AND HOUSEHOLDS

When it comes to the cost of living and doing business, the province of Alberta is an attractive place to be. Alberta's favourable business environment encourages investment and allows companies and industries to compete and succeed. Our low taxes, skilled workforce and modern infrastructure provide additional outstanding advantages.



10 years. Only those cities with a population of 500,000 and greater are surveyed. **Source:** KPMG

- Based on KPMG's study of business costs, Edmonton has the second lowest total costs among the major Canadian cities and all American cities.
- An Edmonton business would have an overall 11 per cent cost advantage over the average U.S. city.



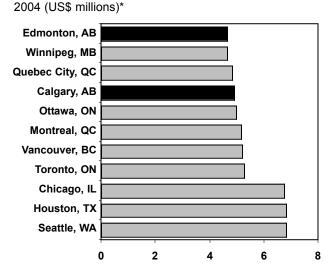
INITIAL INVESTMENT COSTS 2004 (US\$ millions)*

Only those cities with a population of 500,000 and greater are surveyed.
 Source: KPMG

 Edmonton and Calgary are competitive among major cities for lowest initial investment costs, which consist of land acquisition and building construction costs.

BUSINESS COSTS INDEX

ANNUAL LABOUR COSTS

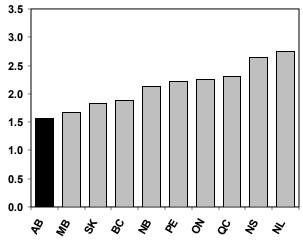


* Only those cities with a population of 500,000 and greater are surveyed. Source: KPMG

 Labour costs, a major component of location-sensitive business costs, are lowest in Edmonton among major North American cities.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUMS

2006 (dollars per \$100 of gross payroll)*

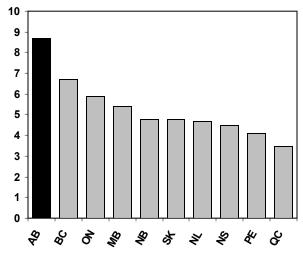


* Provisional average assessment rates. Industry composition and administrative costs vary across provinces in rate calculations.Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

 Alberta's average WCB premium rate is the lowest among provinces.

INVESTMENT CLIMATE

2006 (score out of 10)

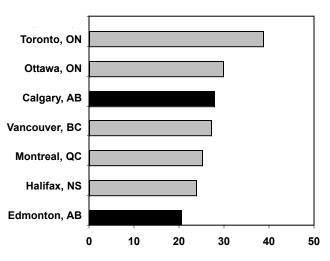


Source: Fraser Institute, Canadian Investment Climate Report, 2006.

- Based on the Fraser Institute's 2006 Provincial Investment Climate Report, Alberta emerged with the best investment climate in the country.
- The Alberta government's policies encourage a positive investment climate.

OFFICE OCCUPANCY COSTS

2005 (dollars per square foot)*



* Occupancy costs include average net rental rates, taxes and operating costs for typical "Central Class A" offices. Source: Cushman & Wakefield LePage

- Edmonton has the lowest overall office occupancy costs among major Canadian cities.
- Calgary has lower occupancy costs than Toronto and Ottawa.

GASOLINE PRICES

2005 Average (cents per litre)*

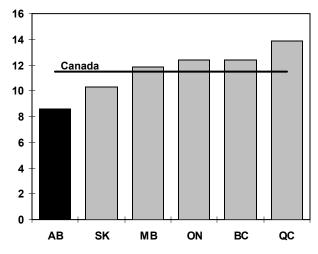
Edmonton, AB Calgary, AB Toronto, ON Winnipeg, MB Regina, SK Charlottetown, PE Montreal, QC Vancouver, BC Halifax, NS Saint John, NB St. John's, NL 95 100 105 75 80 85 90

* Regular unleaded gasoline at self-service stations, taxes included. **Source:** Statistics Canada

 Calgary and Edmonton continue to have the lowest gasoline prices in Canada, a trend that has been observed for the last fifteen years.

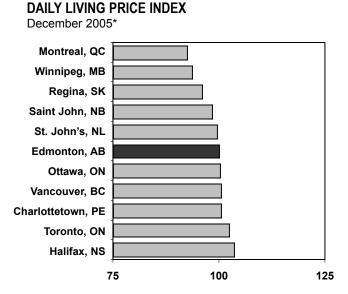
NATURAL GAS RATES

2005 Average (dollars/GJ)*



* January to June only. Calculated as sales revenue divided by sales volume. **Source:** Statistics Canada

 Albertans enjoyed the lowest residential natural gas rates in Canada during the first six months of 2005 (the most recent data available).

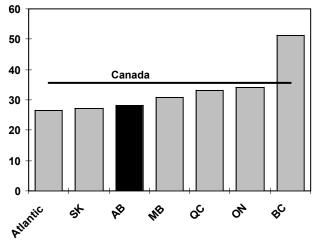


* Converted to index of Edmonton = 100. No data available for Calgary. **Source:** Statistics Canada

 Even with Alberta's booming economy, Edmonton's daily cost of living continues to remain competive when compared to other major urban centres in the country.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

2005,Q3 (home ownership costs as a per cent of pre-tax household income)*

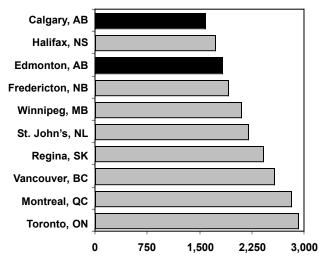


 $^{\star}~$ Home ownership costs include mortgage payments, utilities, and property taxes. $\pmb{Source:}~$ Royal Bank of Canada

Alberta remains competitive among the provinces and regions.

NET HOME PROPERTY TAXES

2005 (dollars)*

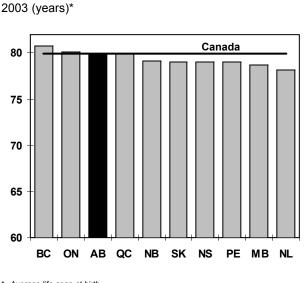


 Includes municipal, regional and school taxes, net of homeowner grants or credits for a single family house.
 Source: The City of Edmonton

 Among major cities, Calgary and Edmonton rank first and third, respectively, when it comes to lowest property taxes for a typical single family home.

Quality of Life

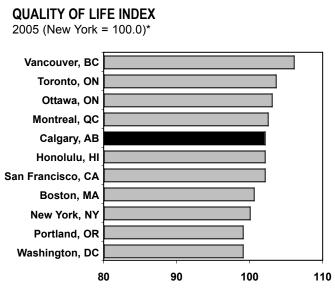
Each year, thousands of people from the rest of Canada are drawn to this province, well known for its exceptional standard of living. Alberta is a prosperous region, where residents share a rich natural environment and enjoy outstanding opportunities in recreation, arts and culture.



* Average life-span at birth. **Source:** Statistics Canada

LIFE EXPECTANCY

• In 2003, Alberta tied with Quebec for the third highest life expectancy at birth among provinces.

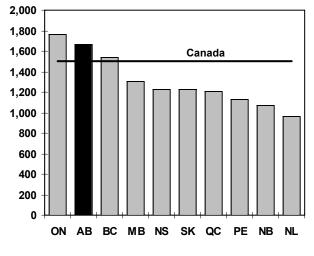


* 39 criteria based on political, social, economic, cultural, and natural environment; health; education; transportation; recreation; consumer goods; housing; and public services. Edmonton not included in survey.
Source: William M. Mercer Companies

 Based on an analysis of "Quality of Life," Calgary placed 25th out of 215 major cities in the world, tying with the highest ranked U.S. cities, Honolulu and San Francisco.

EXPENDITURE ON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2004 Average Expenditure Per Household (dollars per year)*

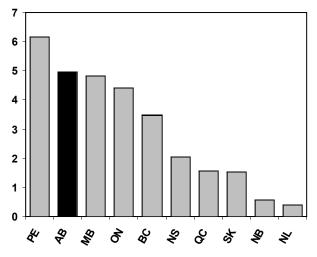


* Expenditure on recreation and entertainment. Source: Statistics Canada

With the highest average household income among provinces, Albertans are able to spend more on sports, performing arts, and other recreational and entertainment activities.

SUPPORT FOR PERFORMING ARTS

2003-04 Private Sector Donations (dollars per capita)*



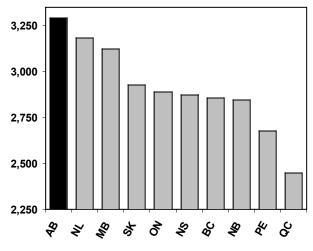
Donations from individuals and foundations as well as donations and sponsorships from corporations

Source: The Council for Business and the Arts in Canada

On a per capita basis, Alberta ranks second highest among provinces for private sector support of the performing arts, according to the most recent data.

PROVINCIAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE

2005-06 (dollars per capita)*

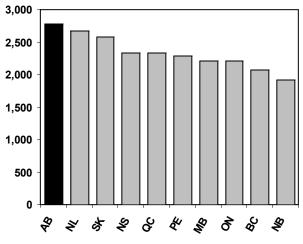


* Forecast

Source: Health Canada, CIHI and Alberta Health and Wellness

٠ In 2005-06, Alberta's health expenditures per capita are estimated the highest in Canada.

PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURE 2004-05 (dollars per capita)*



* Provincial and local government education expenditures. Source: Financial Management Systems, Statistics Canada

In 2004-05, Alberta had the highest education expenditures on a per capita basis.

The Alberta Government ACCOUNTABLE AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

The Alberta government is committed to responding to the needs of its citizens, while ensuring a balanced budget. As the only province with no accumulated debt, Alberta continues to attract international attention as the most fiscally responsible government in Canada.

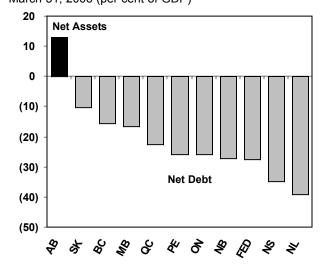
GOVERNMENT SURPLUSES (DEFICITS)

2005-06 (per cent of GDP)*

* Other governments as of February 23, 2006. Adjusted for fiscal stabilization fund transfers.
Source: Alberta Finance

- The Alberta government has a surplus of \$7.4 billion in 2005-06. Alberta is committed to "living within its means."
- Alberta has the highest surplus as a percentage of GDP in 2005-06.

GOVERNMENT NET FINANCIAL ASSETS (DEBT) March 31, 2006 (per cent of GDP)*

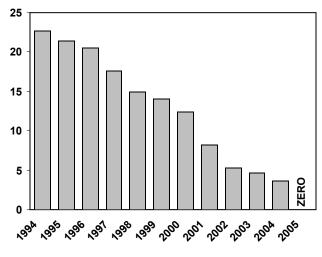


* Other governments as of February 23, 2006. On a consolidated basis where possible. Excludes pension liabilities. Source: Alberta Finance

- Alberta is the only provincial government in Canada with total financial assets that exceed total liabilities.
- At March 31, 2006, Alberta's financial assets are forecast to be \$39.7 billion. Total liabilities (excluding pension obligations) are forecast to be \$12.5 billion, resulting in net financial assets of about \$27.2 billion.

ALBERTA'S ACCUMULATED DEBT

March 31 (billions of dollars)*

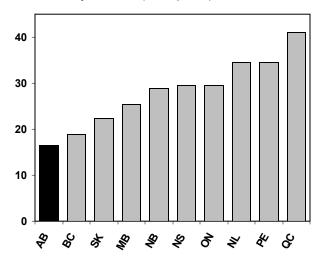


* Net of cash set aside in the Debt Retirement Account. **Source:** Alberta Finance

- Alberta's accumulated debt was eliminated as of March 31, 2005.
- This was 20 years ahead of the debt retirement schedule originally legislated in the *Fiscal Responsibility Act.*

BORROWING COSTS

As of February 23, 2006 (basis points)*

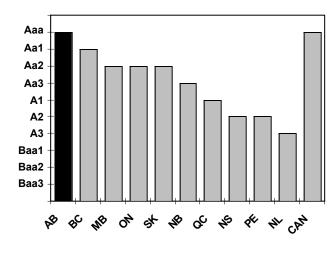


* Interest rates spread relative to 10-year Government of Canada bond rate. A basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point. Source: CIBC World Markets

- Alberta has the lowest interest rate spread relative to 10-year Government of Canada bonds of any province in Canada.
- Alberta's strong fiscal performance and top credit rating have led to lower borrowing costs for the province, its provincial corporations and agencies, and local authorities.

CREDIT RATING

As of February 23, 2006

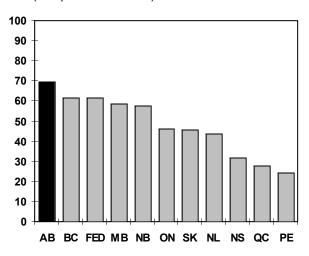


* Moody's Canadian domestic dollar debt ratings. **Source:** Moody's Investors Services

- Alberta is the top province in Canada for credit worthiness. All major rating agencies (Standard and Poor's, Moody's, and Dominion Bond Rating Service) give Alberta "Triple A," the highest possible rating.
- The high ratings reflect Alberta's strong economic performance, high income levels, low debt burden, and prudent fiscal management.

FISCAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

2006 (100-point index scale)*

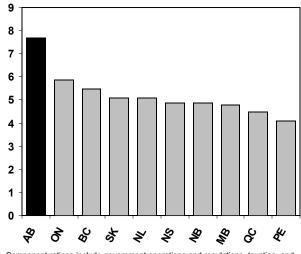


 Index includes 20 indicators of government taxation, spending, deficits and debt over the past five years (1999-00 to 2003-04).
 Source: Fraser Institute

- For the ninth consecutive year, Alberta's fiscal performance rating topped all other provinces and the federal goverment on the Fraser Institute's Fiscal Performance Index (formally the Budget Performance Index.)
- According to the index, which is based on the tax and spending behaviour of governments, Alberta's performance surpassed British Columbia's second place ranking by 8 percentage points.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX - CANADA

2003 (10-point index scale)*



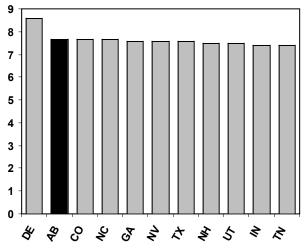
 Component ratings include government operations and regulations, taxation, and labour market regulations.

Source: Fraser Institute, 'Economic Freedom of North America', 2006 Annual Report

 The Fraser Institute's measure of economic freedom (which indicates the fostering of economic growth and prosperity through minimal government regulation and taxation) rates Alberta number one in Canada as a place to do business.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX - NORTH AMERICA

2003 (10-point index scale)*



* Component ratings include government operations and regulations, taxation, and labour market regulations.
Source: Fraser Institute, 'Economic Freedom of North America', 2006 Annual Report

 Alberta tied with Colorado and North Carolina for second place in the Fraser Institute's 2003 measure of economic freedom.