



ALBERTA

Alberta has established a competitive economic framework that allows citizens, investors, and markets to flourish. Albertans are committed to innovation and recognize that it is vital to the province's success in the global marketplace.

Alberta's open and positive business environment consists of:

- a low overall tax regime
- no provincial sales tax (the only province in Canada without one)
- well-established educational, research, and development infrastructure
- a fiscally responsible government with no debt
- political and financial stability (the only Canadian province with a triple-A credit rating)
- a highly skilled and productive workforce
- a great quality of life and Canada's highest average household income
- research and development spending among the highest per capita in Canada
- a long-standing history of foresight and taking risks to pursue technological innovation

As a result, over the past 10 years, Alberta has had the strongest economy in Canada, with an average real rate of growth of 3.7 per cent per year.

Building strong technology sectors

The Alberta government is focused on research and development as well as providing support to develop innovative technology and processes for world markets. This support helps ensure that the world-class research conducted in the province is developed to its full potential within the province.

Alberta is one of the world's most progressive centres of innovation and the province is now home to a number of leading technology clusters, including:

- Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals
- Microsystems and Nanotechnology
- Wireless Technologies
- Software and Digital Media

Alberta Advanced Education and Technology

Alberta Advanced Education and Technology is responsible for strengthening the province's knowledge-based economy and enhancing Albertans' quality of life through a province-wide culture of knowledge, skills development, and innovation.

The ministry ensures that the province's high-quality learning environment, including an effective apprenticeship and industry training system, is affordable, accessible, and the source of a highly skilled workforce.

Through leadership and strategic investments, the ministry also nurtures an innovation system consisting of world-class research capacity and technology commercialization support designed to accelerate growth and productivity in value-added sectors within four priority areas: energy, information and communications technology, life sciences and nanotechnology.

Five research institutes within the ministry of Advanced Education and Technology serve as a resource to government and industry by coordinating funding and promoting activity in priority areas;

- [Alberta Life Sciences Institute](#)
- [Alberta Information and Communications Technology \(ICT\) Institute](#)
- [Alberta Energy Research Institute](#)
- [Alberta Forestry Research Institute](#)
- [Alberta Agricultural Research Institute](#)

Other vital research entities affiliated with Alberta Advanced Education and Technology include:

- [Alberta Science and Research Authority](#)
- [Alberta Research Council Inc.](#)
- [Informatics Circle of Research Excellence \(iCORE\) Inc.](#)
- [Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research](#)
- [Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research](#) (operating as Alberta Ingenuity)

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