

Small Business in Alberta

- Alberta leads the country in the number of small businesses per 1000 people.
- Small businesses make up 95 per cent of all businesses and 35 per cent of private sector jobs in Alberta. In 2013, there were 158,049 small businesses (i.e. less than 50 employees) in Alberta.
- Small businesses continue to choose Alberta as one of the preferred places to set up shop. From 2003 to 2013, the number of small businesses in Alberta has increased almost 19 per cent— outperforming the national growth rate of 12.1 per cent.
- Alberta's small businesses continue to be leaders in generating economic activity. They contribute over 25 per cent of the provincial GDP. In 2012, small businesses in Alberta generated more GDP per capita than almost any other Canadian province, far exceeding the national average.
- The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) rated Alberta as having the most small business-friendly tax system in the country in their 2013 Small Business Provincial Tax Index.
- Alberta continues to dominate the rankings for Canada's best place to start and grow a business, holding the top eight spots in [CFIB's Entrepreneurial Communities report](#) released in fall 2014.
- 26 per cent of small businesses in Alberta are located in rural areas.
- The [2014 Small Business, Big Impact, Alberta Small Business Profile](#) highlights the economic performance of Alberta small business and tells the story of small business in the province through case studies.
- The Government of Alberta is committed to helping small businesses improve their performance. The [Building On Our Entrepreneurial Spirit: Alberta's Small Business Strategy](#) was launched in October 2014, along with a new website, smallbusiness.alberta.ca, and a Business Advisor service to provide small businesses with service and information they need. As of late March the smallbusiness.alberta.ca website has received over 31,000 visits.
- Government is in the process of establishing small business roundtables with senior government officials to ensure small businesses' concerns are heard.
- The [2013 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor](#), an internationally recognized report, shows Alberta has:
 - the highest level of entrepreneurship in Canada (about 50 per cent above CDN average) and is ranked far above the G7 country average;
 - a high rate of female entrepreneurs (about 60 per cent above CDN average);
 - a high rate of youth entrepreneurs (about 80 per cent above CDN average);
 - a high rate of entrepreneurs using medium and high-technology (about 80 per cent above CDN average).