

Market Watch

S&P/TSX 15,393.95 -48.73	S&P 500 2,677.67 -36.16	DOW 24,608.98 -420.22	NASDAQ 7,180.56 -92.45	DOLLAR 77.81¢US -0.26¢	OIL per barrel US\$60.99 -\$0.65	GOLD US\$1,305.20 -\$12.70
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Canada posts 1.7% annual growth in fourth quarter

The Canadian Press
OTTAWA
The Canadian economy expanded at an annual pace of 1.7 per cent in the final months of 2017 as the more rapid growth seen earlier in the year faded further away, Statistics Canada reported Friday.
The agency's latest numbers for real gross domestic product showed the economy grew three per cent for all of 2017 — a much-stronger pace compared with 2016 when growth was 1.4 per cent.
Growth in the fourth quarter was driven by a 2.3 per cent increase in business investment compared with the third quarter, and a 0.5 per cent quarter-over-quarter rise in household spending, the report said.
Overall, the fourth-quarter came

in higher than the third quarter, which was revised down to an annualized rate of 1.5 per cent from 1.7 per cent.
Even with the slowdown, National Bank of Canada senior economist Krishen Rangasamy described the end of 2017 as a decent hand off to 2018.
"With growth like this, you can expect a sharp moderation, which is what we had in the second half of the year," said Rangasamy, who's predicting 2.6 per cent growth this year.
"The outlook for 2018 is still positive."
Other analysts were less optimistic about the months ahead.
BMO chief economist Douglas Porter said the solid contents behind the fourth-quarter report, such as the figures for business investment

and housing, gave it a "somewhat rosier glow."
"The main message, though, is that the exciting growth from the middle of 2016 up until the middle of 2017 is now truly in the past, and the economy is back to the drudgery of slogging out something closer to potential of around two per cent," Porter wrote in a note to clients.
For 2017 as a whole, Statistics Canada said household spending easily made the biggest contribution to growth, followed by inventory and business investment. Exports also grew for the second-straight year with gains in both goods and services.
"Much of this growth was attributable to the first two quarters of 2017, with deceleration observed toward the end of year," the report said.

The benefits of going global

The U.S. market was one of the best performing markets last year, and Canadian stocks lagged on a global basis. Global diversification is one of the "golden rules" when it comes to investing. With Canadian investors' bias towards Canadian stocks, many investors that did not have exposure outside of Canada missed a significant year of growth in the equity markets.
The global economy is grouped into 11 economic sectors. Those sectors are financials, industrials, energy, consumer staples, consumer discretionary, materials, technology, health care, telecommunications, utilities and real estate. Canada's stock market is concentrated in just a few economic sectors — primarily, the financial, materials and energy sectors. Just as you can diversify by geographic area, you can also diversify by industry sector to reduce risk. Therefore, when you forgo global stocks in your portfolio, you not only forgo the risk-reduction benefits offered by global diversification — you also forgo the risk-reduction benefits offered by sector diversification.
Buy investing in companies that have operations all over the globe you increase your chance of riding out economic downturns in one geographical area. If a company is only doing business in Canada and we enter into a recession then it will affect that Canadian focused company substantially. If on the other hand you invest in a company that has operations all over the globe, a recession in Europe will affect European operations and not necessarily other parts of their global operations or overall profits. Companies that are only Canadian based, and do business only in Canada, can only sell to a small population compared to the population of the planet.
Up until 2005, the foreign content rule limited RSP accounts to invest only 30 per cent in global investments. With the elimination of the rule, you now have more flexibility in choosing the investments that can best help you achieve your retirement goals. The Canada Pension Plan has changed its investment approach as well. In 2006 it held about 33 per cent of its assets in Canadian Equities compared to now where the CPP has just over 8 per cent in Canadian Equities, both public and private.
Canada only represents 3 per cent of the investment opportunities available worldwide. That means the vast majority of investment opportunities are beyond Canada's borders, in places like the U.S., Europe and Asia. In addition, with Canadian markets strongly weighted in just a few sectors, you may not necessarily be able to find quality companies in certain sectors, if you want to diversify by sector to reduce risk. By going global, you can choose from a larger pool of quality investments in a wider range of sectors.
Several international markets have historically performed better than Canada over the longer term. By taking advantage of the growth potential offered by global markets, you can enhance your portfolio's return potential. Increasing your portfolio's return by even one or two percentage points can have a dramatic impact on your post-retirement income.



Craig Elder
Financial Focus

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PUBLIC NOTICES

8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED FEBRUARY 22 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2018 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

44 SUNDOWN COURT SW (Lot 27, Block 32, Plan 0410307) DP14276. Garage.

COMMERCIAL

1789 STRACHAN ROAD SE (Lot 10,11, Block 1,2,3,4, Plan 1711518,1711628,1712050) DP14237. Motor Vehicle Gas Station, Motor Vehicle Service Station And Retail & Consumer Services.

HOME OCCUPATION

238 STRATTON WAY SE (Lot 9, Block 33, Plan 9412653) DP14236. Office Use With Storage on Site. Safety Services & Supplies.

221 SUNRISE CIRCLE SW (Lot 5, Block 13, Plan 0111061) DP14267. Office Use With Storage on Site. Painting.

1795 28 STREET SE (Lot 31, 32, Block 45, Plan 1655HS) DP14270. Customers to Attend Site. Laundry Service.

151 3 STREET NE (Lot 13, Block 1, Plan 9810196) DP14271. Office Use With Storage on Site. Delivery Service.

677 8 STREET SW (Lot 14, Block 11, Plan 4349GS) DP14272. Office Use With Storage on Site. Moving & Storage Company.

350 10 STREET SE (Lot 44, Block 16, Plan 1132M) DP14274. Office Use Only. Consultant.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty-one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, including crawl spaces.
- For sinks located against a non-insulated outside wall:
 - Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing
 - Heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.
- Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter.
- Protect unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape.
- Outside water taps and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the tap.
- Sprinkler lines and taps should be drained/blown out.
- A thin stream of water (as thick as a pencil lead) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve located next to the water meter in your home. You should leave the heat on in your home and have someone check inside your home daily while you're away.

A frozen water service, or a burst water pipe, is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take all possible precautions to prevent this happening in your home or business.

For more information, refer to www.medicinehat.ca/au or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

www.medicinehat.ca

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR MARCH

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat has set its March energy commodity rates.

Natural Gas

The March natural gas commodity rate of \$1.857 per gigajoule (GJ), down from \$2.236 per gigajoule (GJ) in February, for all customers is based on the average of the monthly gas charges set by Alberta gas distribution (pipes) owners.

(per gigajoule)	March 2018
Direct Energy Regulated Services (North and South)	\$1.733
AltaGas Utilities Inc.	\$1.981
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$1.857

Effective January 1, 2018 the City of Medicine Hat will calculate the Monthly Reference Price based on the average of the rates approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission.

Electricity

The March electricity rate of \$0.0470 per kilowatt hour, down from \$0.0488 per kilowatt hour in February, for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting, is based on the average of the rates for owners whose regulated rate tariffs are approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission under section 103(2) of the Electric Utilities Act for that calendar month as posted by the Alberta Utilities Commission on its internet page under Regulated Rate Option Regulation.

March 2018 (per kilowatt hour)	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	\$0.04597
ENMAX Energy Corporation	\$0.05110
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	\$0.04565
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	\$0.04515
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	\$0.0470

Effective January 1, 2018 the City of Medicine Hat will calculate the Monthly Reference Price based on the average of the rates using the four Regulated Rate Option providers approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission under section 103(2) of the Electric Utilities Act. This calculation aligns with the Regulated Rate Cap Regulation.

The March default electricity rate for Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting customers is based on the monthly average Alberta Power Pool price as established and published by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) plus \$0.02 per kilowatt hour. The rate for February was \$0.0513 per kilowatt hour.

The Electric Utility also offers a fixed electric commodity price for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial customers. The fixed rate for 2018 is \$0.0680 per kilowatt hour.

The Gas Utility offers a fixed natural gas commodity price for all rate class customers. The fixed rate for 2018 is \$5.80 per gigajoule (GJ).

Going Green Charge

Customers also have a "Going Green" surcharge on their bill. This surcharge is for renewable energy purchased for residential, farm, small and medium commercial customers.

The Going Green surcharge is calculated monthly to recover costs incurred to purchase renewable energy.

The Going Green surcharge for March is \$0.0050 per kilowatt hour.

For further information, please contact:

Cal Lenz
Utilities Division Commissioner
City of Medicine Hat
403.502.8756

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