

# Market Watch

<b>S&amp;P/TSX</b> 18,861.36 -217.28	<b>S&amp;P 500</b> 3,785.38 -33.45	<b>DOW</b> 30,775.43 -253.88	<b>NASDAQ</b> 11,028.74 -149.15	<b>DOLLAR</b> 77.60¢US -0.05¢	<b>OIL per barrel</b> US\$105.76 -\$4.02	<b>GOLD</b> US\$1,807.30 -\$10.20
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## Statistics Canada says economy grew 0.3 per cent in April, but contracted in May

The Canadian Press

Economic growth slowed in April and Statistics Canada said Thursday its early estimate for May pointed to a contraction for the month amid weakness in the resource, manufacturing and construction sectors.

The agency said growth in April was led by the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction sector and client-facing industries as real gross domestic product advanced 0.3 per cent for the month compared with a 0.7 per cent gain in March.

However, its early estimate for May indicated a contraction of 0.2 per cent for the month. The official reading for the month is expected on July 29.

Stephen Brown, senior Canada economist at Capital Economics, said the preliminary estimate for May came as a shock, but added that it appeared to have been partly due to temporary factors.

"Amid elevated commodity prices and cuts to supply elsewhere, we would be surprised if activity in the mining, oil and gas sector failed to bounce back in June," Brown wrote

in a report.

"Likewise, as there are now signs that global product shortages are easing, manufacturing activity should also rebound over the coming months."

The reading on the economy comes ahead of the Bank of Canada's next interest rate decision set for July 13. Economists widely expect the central bank to raise its key interest target with many expecting a super-sized increase of three-quarters of a percentage point.

The central bank is trying to bring inflation, which hit 7.7 per cent in May, back under control.

RBC economist Claire Fan said despite the surprise decline for May, the economy is still running firmly above long-run capacity limits, evident by the low unemployment rates.

"And inflation remains uncomfortably high at levels well above the central bank's target," Fan wrote in a report.

However, Fan said RBC expects growth to slow more significantly as the year progresses, pointing to high inflation and rising borrowing costs



biting more into households' spending power.

For April, Statistics Canada said the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction sector grew by 3.3 per cent, as oil and gas extraction gained 3.9 per cent.

Oilsands extraction rose 5.6 per cent, the largest monthly increase since September 2020, while oil and gas extraction excluding the oilsands grew 1.6 per cent.

The accommodation and food services sector added 4.6 per cent, as food services and drinking places grew 3.5 per cent to top pre-pandemic levels. Accommodation services rose 7.2 per cent.

The arts, entertainment and recreation sector rose 7.0 per cent, but was still 12 per cent below its February 2020 level.

The real estate sector contracted 0.8 per cent in April as activity at the offices of real estate agents and brokers dropped 15.0 per cent, the largest contraction since April 2020.

## WestJet 'proactively' removed flights from Pearson, anticipating summer travel snarls

The Canadian Press

As the Canadian travel industry continues to struggle with an unprecedented rebound in demand, WestJet Airlines Ltd. is flying 32 per cent fewer flights in and out of Toronto Pearson International Airport in July than it did pre-pandemic.

CEO Alexis von Hoensbroech said the Calgary-based WestJet made a series of proactive schedule reductions between March and May in anticipation of the logistical problems that have led to the long lineups, snarled connections and cancelled flights experienced by travellers at Canadian airports in recent weeks.

"I don't think there is another airline that serves Toronto that has reduced its schedule as much as we have," von Hoensbroech said in an interview Thursday. "We have been quite proactive and thoughtful in dealing with our flight plans."

As Canada's largest airport, Toronto Pearson has been the epicentre of the travel-related woes affecting this country's air passengers since the lifting of COVID-related public health restrictions began. Airlines and airports that reduced staffing levels drastically when air travel ground to a near-halt at the start of the pandemic have found themselves unprepared for this spring's dramatic resurgence in demand.

WestJet, for example, which hit a pandemic low of just 4,000 employees in 2020, has built its head count back up to 10,000, but that's still nearly 30 per cent lower than the 14,000 staffers it had in 2019.

"We've hired more than 1,000 people over the last couple of months, and we are now hiring another 100 people just to deal with baggage challenges. We have increased our call centre staff by 20 per cent," von Hoensbroech said.

"We are doing whatever we can to get staff in, but we also know that across all industries, we are seeing a lack of staff. It's not just a WestJet problem, it's not just an aviation problem — it's a general economy problem."

## Compensation questions loom for Air Canada customers with cancelled flights

The Canadian Press

Consumer rights advocates are demanding Air Canada provide compensation to many of the hundreds of thousands of passengers whose summer flights it cancelled — but whether the airline plans to concede remains up in the air.

Canada's largest carrier said Wednesday night it will cut more than 15 per cent of its departures in July and August as the country's flight network sags under an overwhelming travel resurgence.

The move will see more than 9,500 flights, or 154 per day on average, dropped from the airline's schedule — already operating at just 80 per cent of pre-pandemic levels. The flights link mainly to the airline's Toronto and Montreal hubs, and run along domestic or Canada-U.S. routes. No international flights other than those to the United States were among the cull.

"This Canada Day weekend will be difficult," CEO Michael Rousseau told employees in a memo dated Thursday and obtained by *The Canadian Press*.

"I wish I could promise you that the measures we are taking will mean an easy summer ahead. While they will certainly provide some relief, it will take time and effort and we likely won't see the full benefit until the latter part of July."

Sylvie De Bellefeuille, a lawyer with Quebec-based advocacy group Option consommateurs, says many customers are "absolutely" owed compensation under Canada's passenger rights charter.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## 8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

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

### DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JUNE 23 TO JUNE 29, 2022 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

#### RESIDENTIAL

**17 COTTONWOOD PLACE SW** (Lot 8, Block 1, Plan 0312295) PLDP20220544. Existing Garage (Shed).

**18 BUTTERCUP COURT SE** (Lot 17, Block 1, Plan 7711650) PLDP20220593. Single Detached House (Retaining Wall).

#### COMMERCIAL

#### HOME OCCUPATION

**45 8 STREET SE** (Lots 11 & 12, Block 10, Plan 1132M) PLDP20220261. Office With Storage Onsite. Online Sales (Balloon Bouquets).

**108 SHEPHERD CRESCENT SE** (Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 7711135) PLDP20220480. Office With Storage On Site. Carpet/Upholstery Cleaning.

**343 RANGLANDS BOULEVARD NE** (Lot 3, Block 19, Plan 0910426) PLDP20220518. Office Use Only. Bookkeeping.

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](http://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).

[www.medicinehat.ca](http://www.medicinehat.ca)

### ASSESSMENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PACKAGES

The City of Medicine Hat Tax Assessment department has mailed out Assessment Request for Information (ARFI) packages to property owners of improved non-residential and multi-family property classes.

This process of collecting property related data is the first step towards developing the 2023 assessment roll. Collecting data annually ensures the assessment roll reflects current market information.

Completing the ARFI is an important part of the tax assessment process. Assessment values are established to allow for equitable distribution of taxes. Higher response rates will increase the statistical confidence level in the resulting assessment values. It is important for property owners to retain their ability to participate in the assessment appeal process. For property owners to be eligible to appeal their 2023 assessment, they must respond completely to an ARFI by the July 6, 2022 deadline.

As always, property owners are encouraged to contact the Assessment department directly if they have questions regarding their property assessment or if they require any assistance in completing their request for information forms.

Dated this 14th day of May, 2022.  
Sue Sterkenburg, AMAA  
Manger & City Assessor

### FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS & WATER MAIN FLUSHING

City Assets Environmental Utilities Maintenance Crews perform regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually inspecting fire hydrants and flushing water mains.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will dissipate when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on a cold-water faucet or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing information on the City's website at [www.medicinehat.ca/water](http://www.medicinehat.ca/water) or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

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