

Market Watch

S&P/TSX
33,144.98
+142.28

S&P 500
6,915.61
+2.26

DOW
49,098.71
-285.30

NASDAQ
23,501.24
+65.22

DOLLAR
72.82¢US
+0.35¢

OIL per barrel
US\$61.07
+\$1.71

GOLD
US\$4,979.70
+\$66.30

PUBLIC NOTICES

8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....403.529.8260
Gas Emergency403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....403.526.2828

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JANUARY 15 TO JANUARY 21, 2026

HOME BUSINESS

81 STREET NE - Home Business Major - Moving and Storage Company.

72 SHANNON CRESCENT SE - Home Business Major - Massage Therapy.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority 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. Forms available from: City Clerk Dept., 3rd Floor, City Hall or City website: www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. For more information, contact Planning and Development Services, 2nd Floor, City Hall. Ph. (403) 529-8374.

REAL CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recycle your **real** Christmas tree now until January 30, 2026, by dropping it off at one of the following convenient drop off locations:

- 20 Northlands Way NE - Northlands Co-op Recycling Depot
- 240 Kipling Street SE - Kipling Street Recycling Depot
- 3292 Dunmore Rd SE - Southwest corner of the Medicine Hat Mall parking lot

Prior to drop off, **please remove all plastic bags, stands, tinsel and decorations.**

Please note that **artificial trees cannot be recycled** in this program nor in the blue recycling cart program. Artificial trees that can no longer be used or donated should be discarded in your grey waste cart.

Alternatively, you can take your real Christmas Tree to the Compost Facility or your unusable artificial tree to the Landfill, both located within the Waste Management Facility.

The Waste Management Facility hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday through Saturday
 - o 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Closed on Sundays and all Statutory Holidays

Download the Recycle Coach App, refer to medicinehat.ca/landfill, or contact Environmental Utilities at 403-529-8176 for more information.

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines from freezing during the cold weather months:

- 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:
 - o Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - o A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing.
 - o 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 an unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape.
- Outside water faucets and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the faucet/hose bib.
- Sprinkler lines and faucets should be drained/blown out.
- Run a stream of cold-water, with a flow of approximately 250ml per 10 seconds, continuously from one faucet.
- 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.
 - o 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/frozenwaterlines or contact Environmental Utilities at 403-529-8176.

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN SURVEY

YXH MEDICINE HAT REGIONAL AIRPORT

Help shape the future of Medicine Hat Regional Airport.

YXH is creating a 20-year Master Plan, and your voice matters. Share what the airport means to you, your priorities, and your vision for its future by completing the online survey. Participants also have the opportunity to enter for a chance to win a \$75 prepaid credit card. Survey expires on February 8th.

Learn about the project and complete the survey at medicinehat.ca/YXHplan

www.medicinehat.ca

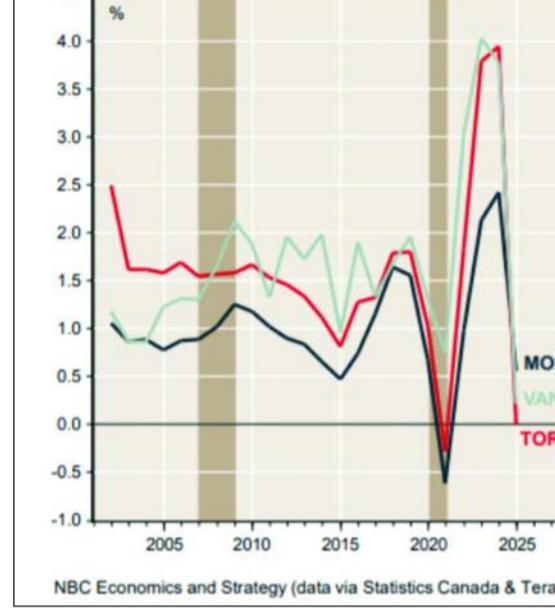
Are you or someone you know planning a celebration? Having a birthday, honouring an anniversary, congratulating a graduate or other milestone? Announce it in the Medicine Hat News

Special Occasions!

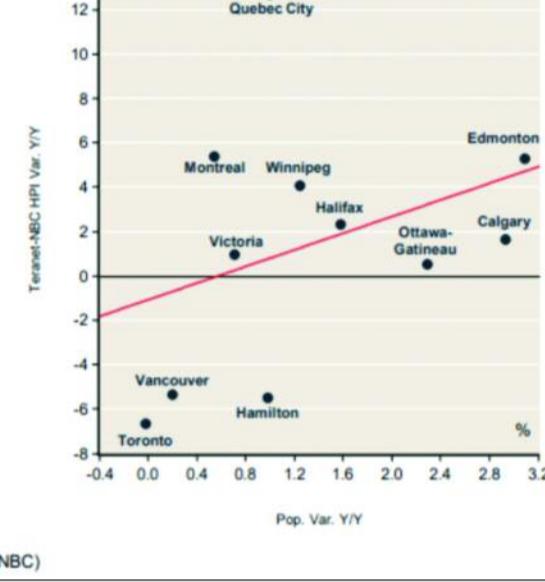
Call 403.526.7653 to book your own Special Occasion ad!

Canada: Big cities lose momentum as population growth shifts gears

Annual population variation (%)



Annual change (%) in population and Teranet-NBC Home Price Index



SOURCE: NATIONAL BANK FINANCIAL

Trends in Canadian population growth, housing

Happy New Year and hope everyone enjoyed a much-needed break over the holidays! This week's chart will be interesting to readers in the Medicine Hat area as well as other smaller cities as it highlights that population growth is shifting from Canada's largest cities (Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver shown in the chart on the left) to smaller population centres.

Given population growth is a key driver of home prices (population growth and home price correlation displayed in the chart on the right), smaller population centres are experiencing stronger home price appreciation relative to larger centers like Toronto and Vancouver which are experiencing a decline in home prices after many years of double-digit percentage gains.

Canadian population data for 2025 was released by Statistics Canada last week. It clearly shows the impact of a shift in federal government immigration policy (declining non-permanent residents) with large cities experiencing a more pronounced decrease in population growth relative to the rest of the country.

Growth in metropolitan areas has slowed from 3.6% in

2024 to 1.0% in 2025. However, population growth has slowed significantly less outside major cities (from 1.4% to 0.8%). If we examine population growth in Canada's three largest cities, you will notice a significant slowdown in Toronto and Vancouver, where population growth has stalled.

Vancouver hasn't seen population growth this low in more than a quarter century and this abrupt change in immigration has led to a correction in housing prices.

In Toronto, population growth hasn't been this low since the pandemic. Also of interest, for the first time since this type of population data collection began, Montreal recorded higher population growth than Toronto and Vancouver.

Notice from the correlation chart on the right, Montreal is the only member of Canada's big three cities to enjoy an increase in home prices last year. This is logical as Montreal experienced higher population growth and has lower absolute housing prices relative to Toronto and Vancouver.

We believe the shift in the federal government's immigration policy will continue to represent a drag on Canada's housing market over coming years,



Eric Van Enk
Economics 101

with a larger impact in Canada's biggest cities which were the primary beneficiaries of Trudeau era immigration policies.

However, a counterbalancing mechanism exists with the Bank of Canada lowering short-term interest rates. We acknowledge pent-up demand for new houses, which could be released with lower interest rates and partially offset the negative impact of slower population growth.

Eric Van Enk is a wealth adviser & associate portfolio manager with National Bank Financial in Medicine Hat. He is a graduate of the University of Calgary, as well as a CFA charter holder with 20 years of financial markets experience in New York, Toronto and Calgary. He can be reached at [eric.vanenk@nbc.ca](mailto:vanenk@nbc.ca)

Almost 10,000 federal workers were told this week they may be laid off, unions say

CATHERINE MORRISON

The Canadian Press

Almost 10,000 federal public servants have received notices in the past week warning them that their jobs may be cut, say the unions representing them.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada said more than 5,000 of its members received "workforce adjustment notices" this week.

They include 1,172 workers at Global Affairs Canada, 775 workers at Transport Canada, 598 workers at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and 895 workers at Health Canada.

Notices were also issued to staff at other federal departments, including Public Safety Canada, Canadian Heritage and Immigration, and Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Workforce adjustment notices tell employees their jobs may be affected by cuts. It's not clear how many of those who received the notices will ultimately be laid off.

"Public services aren't just a budget line — they're a lifeline for communities and families," Public Service Alliance of Canada national president Sharon DeSousa said in a news release. "While the government's planned cuts may appear to save money, make no mistake, we all pay the price through slower services, longer waits and weaker programs."

The Canadian Association of Professional Employees said roughly 2,550 of its members

received notices this week, including 534 employees at Employment and Social Development Canada and 103 people at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada said more than 2,700 of its members received notices this week.

The union is warning that cuts to science-based departments will weaken Canada's ability to prevent disasters, respond to emergencies and protect public safety and the environment.

"These are not abstract programs or administrative red tape," said Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada president Sean O'Reilly. "These are the experts who prevent oil spills from becoming catastrophes, who ensure dangerous goods don't

explode on our railways, who make sure Canadians can trust weather warnings, and who protect species from extinction."

"Cutting this scientific expertise puts public safety and the environment at risk."

Ottawa is looking to cut program spending and administration costs by about \$60 billion over the next five years through its "comprehensive expenditure review."

The latest federal budget said the exercise will involve "restructuring operations and consolidating internal services." It said it also will deploy workforce adjustments and attrition to return the size of the public service to "a more sustainable level."

The government plans to cut the number of public service jobs by about 40,000 from a peak of 368,000 in 2023-24.



A person passes a Health Canada office at Tunney's Pasture, in Ottawa on Jan. 29, 2025.

CP FILE PHOTO