

Alberta's GDP expanded by 3.8 percent in 2010, after contracting by 4.8 percent a year earlier. Advances were widespread, with all goods-producing sectors and all services sectors recording increased output. Mining and oil and gas exploration, and manufacturing led on the goods side, up 4.4 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively. Strengthening energy prices led to increases in support activities for mining and oil and gas exploration. Increased output in meat products (up 22.8 percent), machinery manufacturing (up 21.2 percent), and wood products (up 14.2 percent) led the gains in manufacturing. Crop production rose sharply (14.9 percent) as the province experienced more favourable weather than its Prairie neighbours to boost agricultural output, while residential construction jumped 21.4 percent to anchor the gains in construction activity. As was the case elsewhere in Canada, the expansion of activity on the goods side was accompanied by an expansion of services activity, most notably for wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, and retail trade.

British Columbia's economy grew by 4.0-percent in 2010, after having contracted by 1.8 percent the previous year. Gains were widespread, with only one major sector—utilities—recording a decrease in output. Construction activity was up by 11.3 percent last year, as work continued on major engineering projects, in particular, electric power engineering construction, supported by a 6.3-percent increase in residential construction. Manufacturing output was up by 5.1-percent, with gains led by wood, machinery, and miscellaneous food manufacturing. In support of increased exports, production in forestry products jumped by 21.9 percent last year. Declining electric power generation was behind the decline in utilities output. Wholesale activity and transportation services picked up—truck and rail transportation services in particular—to

lead the gains in provincial services output. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games also had a positive impact on output in industries such as performing arts and spectator sports, and accommodation and food services, which expanded by relatively more than in the other provinces and territories.

The Yukon economy expanded for the seventh consecutive year in 2010, advancing 2.1 percent compared to a 3.6-percent increase a year earlier. Construction output was up by 19.0 percent, led by non-residential construction, as work began on a number of community and health services buildings. Output in the services sector was up, with gains in retail trade, public administration, and accommodation and food services.

In the Northwest Territories, GDP rose by 5.8 percent last year, after falling by 10.9 percent in 2009. Construction, principally engineering construction, and mining activity, were the main contributors. Public administration and transportation services led the gains for services output.

The Nunavut economy experienced the fastest growth of all Canadian regions, rising 14.8 percent in 2010 following a 6.2-percent decline in 2009. Increased output in mining and oil and gas exploration accounted for much of the growth last year as the opening of a new mine caused mining output to increase. At the same time, engineering construction activity declined. Heightened exploration activity also led to higher output of support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction. Non-residential construction, mainly of institutional buildings, also contributed to the overall economic advances in the territory.

## Employment

Job growth in Canada resumed in 2010 after a setback in job creation in 2009. For the year as a whole, employment rose by 1.4 percent, or 227,900 jobs. Roughly 70 percent of the