# Alberta review & outlook

49<sup>th</sup> Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference April 23-24, 2015

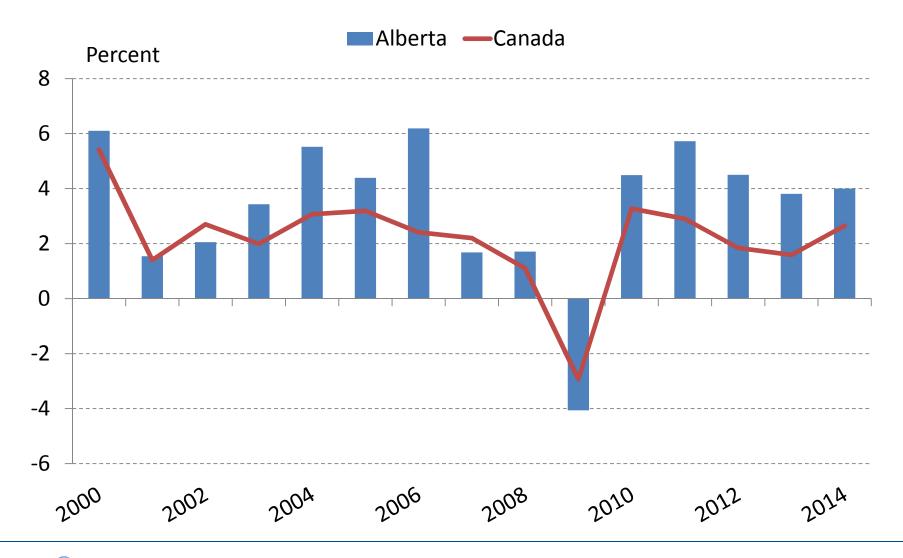
> Chris Lawless Chief Economist BC Investment management Corporation

### Overview

- Unexpected oil price plunge
- Large negative terms of trade shock for Canada and Alberta
- Will reduce corporate and labour income
- Capital investment cut 25-35%
- Economic impacts seem to be 'frontloaded'
- Large fiscal impact



#### **Real GDP growth**





Source: Statistics Canada, bcIMC estimates

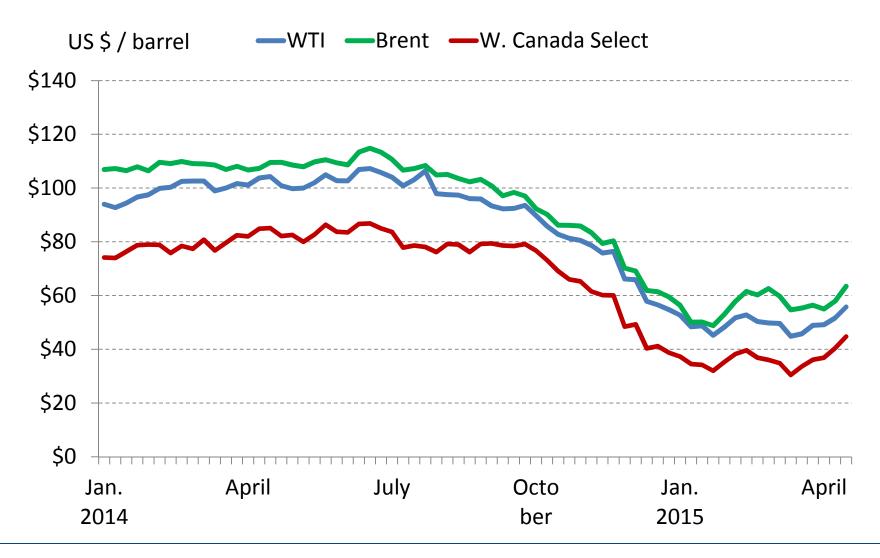
### Curveballs







# Oil prices

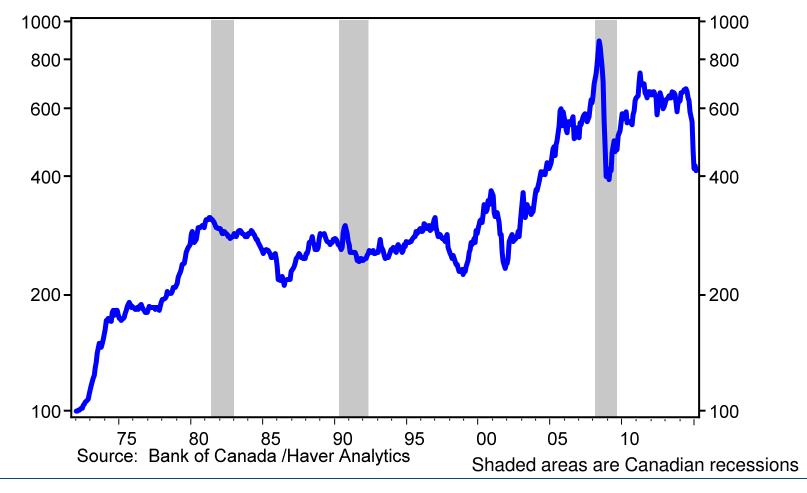




#### **Canadian commodity prices**

Chain Fisher Bank of Canada Commodity Price Index

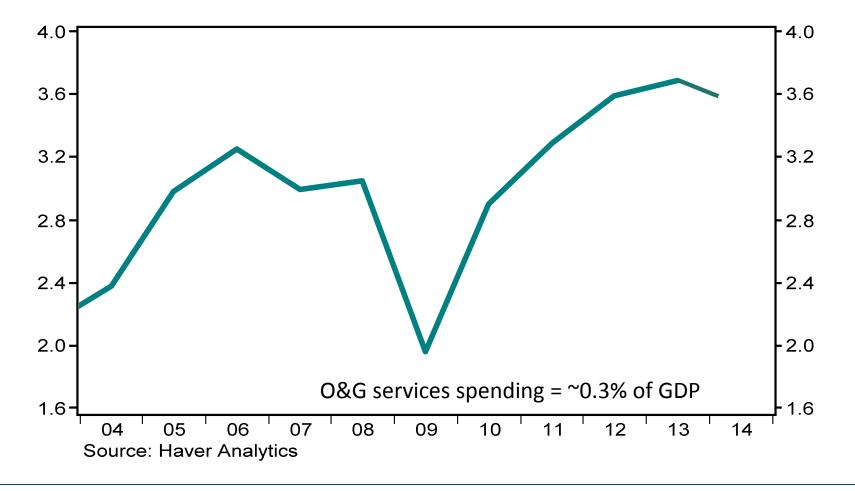
NSA, Jan-72=100





#### Canadian oil & gas investment

Oil & gas capital spending - % of GDP

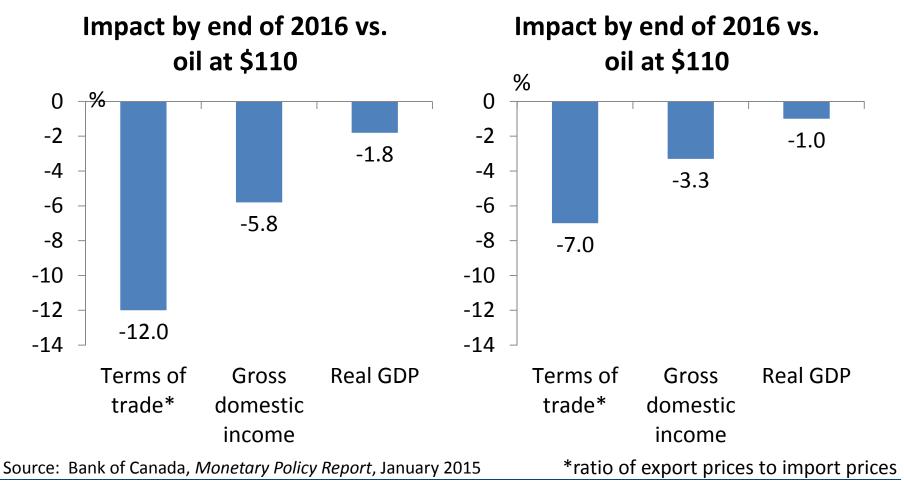




## Net impact of lower oil prices negative

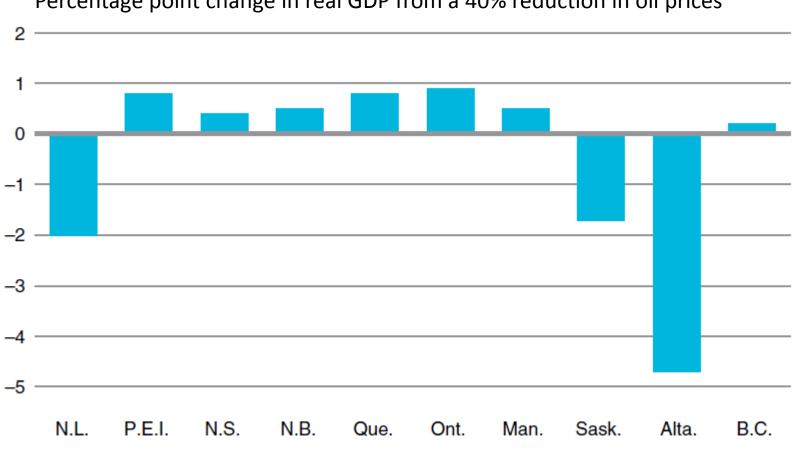
If oil averages \$50...

#### If oil averages \$70...





### Real GDP by province – oil shock impact in 2015



Percentage point change in real GDP from a 40% reduction in oil prices

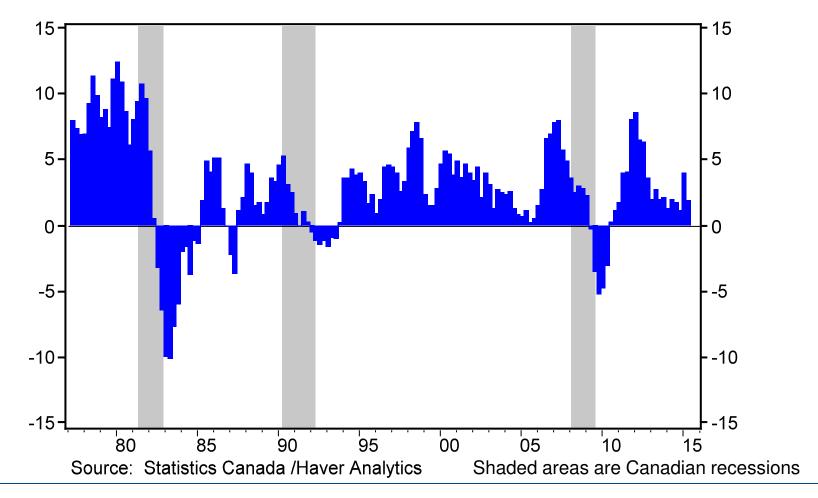
Source: The Conference Board of Canada.



### Alberta employment growth

Private Sector Employees

% Change - Year to Year

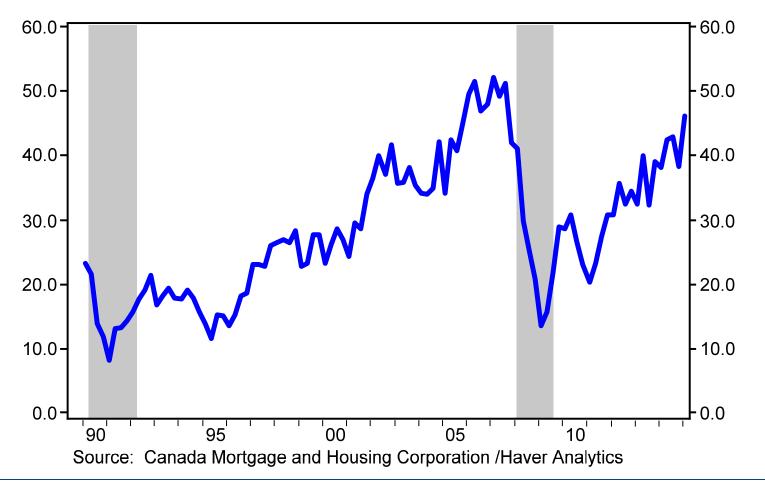




#### Alberta housing starts

Alberta Housing Starts: All Areas

Quaretrly. SAAR, Thous.Units

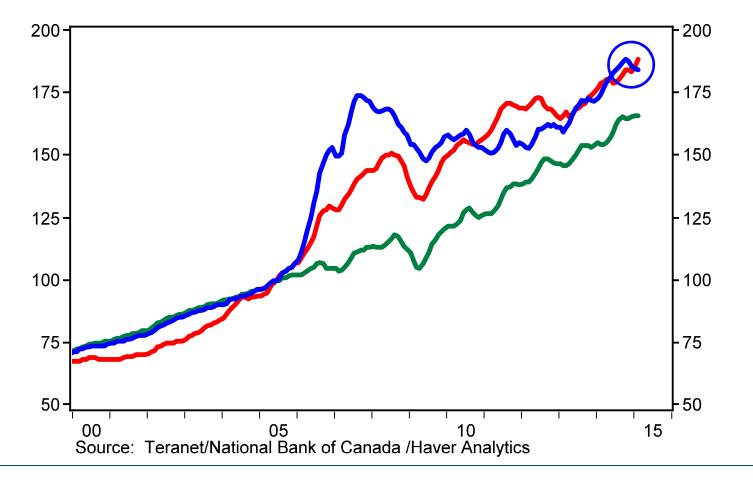




Shaded areas are Canadian recessions

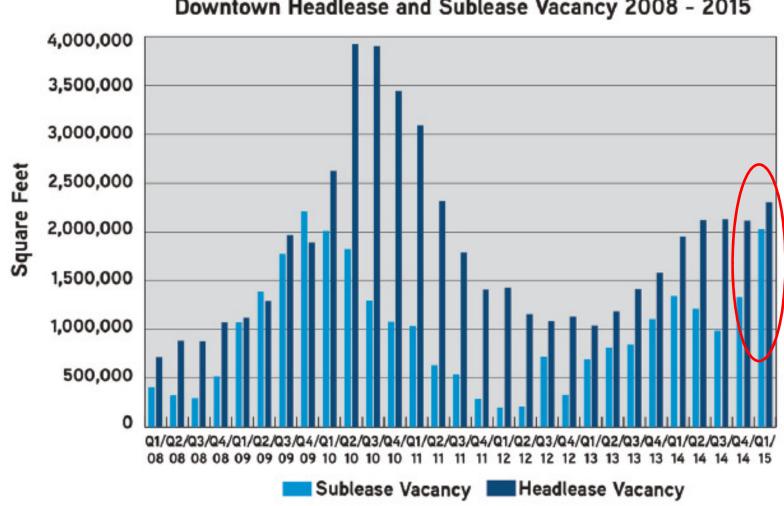
#### House prices

Calgary, Alberta: House Price Index (NSA, Jun-05=100) Vancouver, British Columbia: House Price Index (NSA, Jun-05=100) Toronto, Ontario: House Price Index (NSA, Jun-05=100)





## Calgary office market



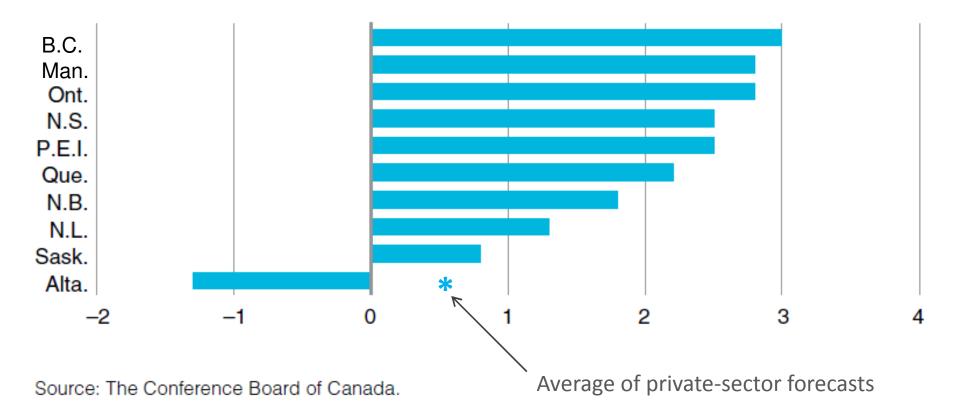
Downtown Headlease and Sublease Vacancy 2008 - 2015



Source: Colliers International, Calgary Downtown Office Market Report, Q1 2015

# Regional 're-balancing' – 2015 forecast

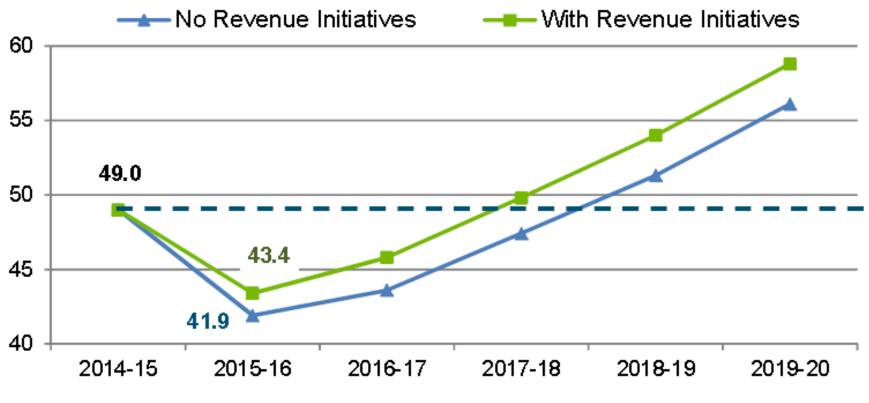
Real GDP growth (per cent)





# Alberta's revenue challenge

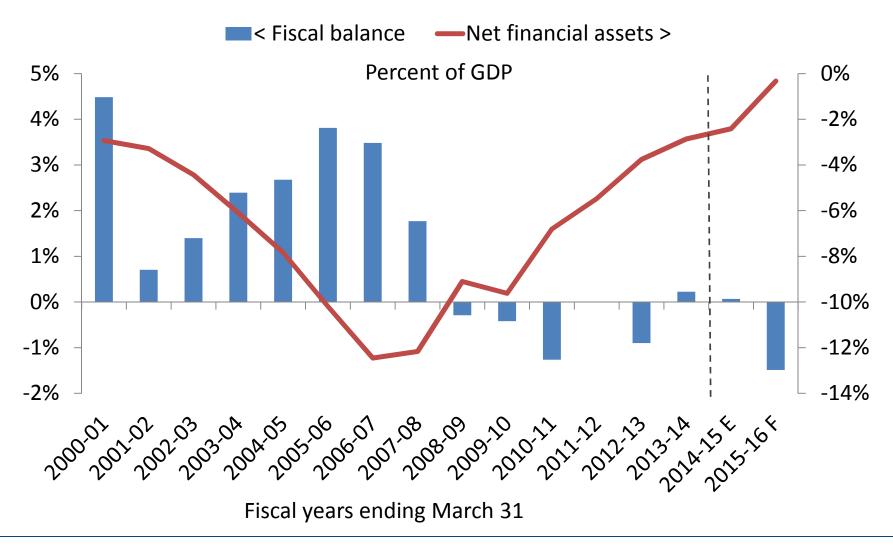
(billions of dollars)



Source: Alberta Treasury Board and Finance



### Alberta's fiscal position





Sources: Finance Canada, 2014 Fiscal Reference Tables and Alberta 2015 Budget