

# Provincial Economic Outlook for Oct. 25, 2024

A Publication of BMO Capital Markets Economic Research • Douglas Porter, CFA, Chief Economist, BMO Financial Group

|   | Canada           | British Columbia | Alberta       | Saskatchewan  | Manitoba      | Ontario        | Quebec         | New Brunswick | Nova Scotia   | P.E.I.       | Nfld & Labrador |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>Real GDP Growth</b><br>(y/y % chng)      |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |                |               |               |              |                 |
| 2022  | 3.8              | 3.8              | 5.0           | 6.0           | 3.3           | 3.9            | 2.5            | 1.1           | 2.9           | 2.9          | -1.7            |
| 2023 (prov. est.)                           | 1.2              | 1.6              | 1.5           | 1.6           | 1.3           | 1.4            | 0.2            | 1.3           | 1.3           | 2.2          | -2.5            |
| 2024  | <b>1.1</b>       | <b>1.2</b>       | <b>1.6</b>    | <b>1.0</b>    | <b>1.0</b>    | <b>1.3</b>     | <b>1.1</b>     | <b>1.2</b>    | <b>1.3</b>    | <b>1.8</b>   | <b>2.3</b>      |
| 2025  | <b>1.8</b>       | <b>1.8</b>       | <b>1.9</b>    | <b>1.6</b>    | <b>1.5</b>    | <b>2.1</b>     | <b>1.4</b>     | <b>1.5</b>    | <b>1.6</b>    | <b>1.7</b>   | <b>2.0</b>      |
| <b>Employment Growth</b><br>(y/y % chng)    |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |                |               |               |              |                 |
| 2022  | 4.0              | 3.1              | 5.2           | 3.5           | 3.2           | 4.6            | 3.1            | 2.7           | 3.6           | 5.3          | 4.3             |
| 2023  | 2.4              | 1.6              | 3.6           | 1.8           | 2.5           | 2.4            | 2.3            | 3.4           | 2.7           | 5.7          | 1.7             |
| 2024  | <b>1.7</b>       | <b>1.9</b>       | <b>2.8</b>    | <b>2.3</b>    | <b>2.4</b>    | <b>1.6</b>     | <b>0.4</b>     | <b>3.0</b>    | <b>3.2</b>    | <b>3.7</b>   | <b>2.8</b>      |
| 2025  | <b>1.4</b>       | <b>1.0</b>       | <b>1.7</b>    | <b>1.7</b>    | <b>1.7</b>    | <b>1.8</b>     | <b>0.9</b>     | <b>1.6</b>    | <b>0.7</b>    | <b>1.2</b>   | <b>-0.3</b>     |
| <b>Unemployment Rate</b><br>(percent)       |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |                |               |               |              |                 |
| 2022  | 5.3              | 4.6              | 5.8           | 4.7           | 4.5           | 5.7            | 4.3            | 7.2           | 6.6           | 7.6          | 11.2            |
| 2023  | 5.4              | 5.2              | 5.9           | 4.8           | 4.8           | 5.7            | 4.5            | 6.6           | 6.4           | 7.4          | 9.9             |
| 2024  | <b>6.4</b>       | <b>5.7</b>       | <b>7.1</b>    | <b>5.4</b>    | <b>5.2</b>    | <b>6.9</b>     | <b>5.4</b>     | <b>7.1</b>    | <b>6.6</b>    | <b>7.8</b>   | <b>10.0</b>     |
| 2025  | <b>7.0</b>       | <b>6.4</b>       | <b>7.6</b>    | <b>5.8</b>    | <b>5.8</b>    | <b>7.4</b>     | <b>6.1</b>     | <b>7.3</b>    | <b>7.2</b>    | <b>8.3</b>   | <b>10.5</b>     |
| <b>Housing Starts</b><br>(thousands)        |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |                |               |               |              |                 |
| 2022  | 263              | 46.7             | 36.4          | 4.2           | 8.1           | 96.1           | 58.2           | 4.7           | 8.5           | 1.0          | 1.5             |
| 2023  | 242              | 50.6             | 35.9          | 4.6           | 7.1           | 90.0           | 39.5           | 4.9           | 11.5          | 0.9          | 1.0             |
| 2024  | <b>245</b>       | <b>44.5</b>      | <b>46.0</b>   | <b>4.5</b>    | <b>7.0</b>    | <b>77.0</b>    | <b>45.0</b>    | <b>6.0</b>    | <b>12.5</b>   | <b>1.1</b>   | <b>1.6</b>      |
| 2025  | <b>260</b>       | <b>51.0</b>      | <b>54.0</b>   | <b>4.0</b>    | <b>6.2</b>    | <b>75.0</b>    | <b>48.0</b>    | <b>6.5</b>    | <b>13.0</b>   | <b>1.2</b>   | <b>1.0</b>      |
| <b>Consumer Price Index</b><br>(y/y % chng) |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |                |               |               |              |                 |
| 2022  | 6.8              | 6.9              | 6.5           | 6.6           | 7.9           | 6.8            | 6.7            | 7.3           | 7.5           | 8.9          | 6.4             |
| 2023  | 3.9              | 4.0              | 3.3           | 3.9           | 3.6           | 3.8            | 4.5            | 3.5           | 4.0           | 2.9          | 3.3             |
| 2024  | <b>2.4</b>       | <b>2.5</b>       | <b>2.9</b>    | <b>1.5</b>    | <b>1.1</b>    | <b>2.4</b>     | <b>2.3</b>     | <b>2.4</b>    | <b>2.5</b>    | <b>2.2</b>   | <b>2.1</b>      |
| 2025  | <b>1.8</b>       | <b>1.7</b>       | <b>2.2</b>    | <b>1.6</b>    | <b>1.7</b>    | <b>1.9</b>     | <b>1.7</b>     | <b>2.3</b>    | <b>2.1</b>    | <b>2.2</b>   | <b>2.0</b>      |
| <b>Budget Balance</b><br>(\$ mlns)          |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |                |               |               |              |                 |
| FY23/24 e                                   | -40,000          | -5,035           | 4,285         | 182           | -1,971        | -647           | -4,221         | 501           | 144           | -85          | -433            |
| % of GDP                                    | -1.4             | -1.2             | 1.0           | 0.2           | -2.2          | -0.1           | -0.7           | 1.1           | 0.3           | -0.9         | -1.1            |
| FY24/25                                     | <b>-39,800</b>   | <b>-8,979</b>    | <b>2,928</b>  | <b>-354</b>   | <b>-796</b>   | <b>-9,800</b>  | <b>-8,776</b>  | <b>-28</b>    | <b>-654</b>   | <b>-85</b>   | <b>-152</b>     |
| % of GDP                                    | <b>-1.3</b>      | <b>-2.1</b>      | <b>0.6</b>    | <b>-0.3</b>   | <b>-0.9</b>   | <b>-0.9</b>    | <b>-1.5</b>    | <b>-0.1</b>   | <b>-1.1</b>   | <b>-0.8</b>  | <b>-0.4</b>     |
| <b>Net Debt<sup>1</sup></b><br>(\$ mlns)    |                  |                  |               |               |               |                |                |               |               |              |                 |
| FY24/25                                     | <b>1,255,300</b> | <b>95,000</b>    | <b>39,700</b> | <b>16,347</b> | <b>35,421</b> | <b>439,056</b> | <b>236,659</b> | <b>12,712</b> | <b>20,217</b> | <b>3,064</b> | <b>17,800</b>   |
| % of GDP                                    | <b>41.9</b>      | <b>22.5</b>      | <b>8.7</b>    | <b>13.8</b>   | <b>38.5</b>   | <b>38.9</b>    | <b>40.1</b>    | <b>26.7</b>   | <b>34.6</b>   | <b>28.8</b>  | <b>44.0</b>     |

Bolded values represent forecasts; <sup>1</sup> federal = accumulated deficit

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