



ALBERTA'S BUDGET DEFICIT: WHY SPENDING IS TO BLAME

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Contrary to the claim that falling oil prices are to blame for Alberta's poor economic situation, program spending is, in reality, a key reason why Alberta is running its seventh deficit in eight years. The study *Alberta's Budget Deficit: Why Spending is to Blame* argues that Alberta could have had a \$4.4 billion surplus this year had program spending not outpaced the rate of inflation, population growth, and economic growth. Instead, program spending increased by 98.3%

from 2004/05-2014/15 leaving the province with a deficit of \$5.9 billion for the 2015/16 fiscal year. [C](#)

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