

Annual
China Institute
Survey

2017

Albertans'
Views on
China

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FOREWORD

For the seventh consecutive year the China Institute at the University of Alberta (CIUA) has polled Albertans for their views on a wide range of issues related to the People's Republic of China (PRC). This study stems from CIUA's commitment to help foster a better understanding of China and its importance to Alberta and Canada.

In conducting the Survey, the CIUA continued its work with the extensive "Alberta Survey," conducted by the Population Research Laboratory of the University of Alberta. The set of questions applied in the 2017 Alberta Survey corresponds to the set used in 2011, 2013 and 2015. In addition, the CIUA examined two new topical questions. The first is centered on developing a prospective free trade agreement with China and the second on the need for students to develop skills and knowledge with regard to Asia.

Broadly speaking, the 2017 survey demonstrates that Albertans' view on China have been steadily rising, recovering from a sharp decline in 2012. In 2011, Alberta showed generally positive views on China, but in 2012, following China National Offshore Oil Corporation's (CNOOC) acquisition of the Calgary-based Nexen Energy and the negative national publicity regarding the sale, overall support for China connections dropped.

The 2017 numbers have almost recovered to the 2011 figures and are now higher than in every year in response to the statement "Alberta should welcome Chinese investment into the province." The 2017 numbers indicate that more Albertans (60%, compared to 48% in 2015) believe that the province should develop stronger ties with China. More specifically, a growing number of Albertans (79%) support the export of local goods and services into China, contrasted with 60% in 2014 and 77% in 2015. 49% of Albertans agree that China's economic strength benefits the province, while 51% support Chinese investment in the energy sector, up 8% and 9% respectively from 2015. 56% of Albertans expressed that a free trade agreement between Canada and China would benefit Alberta's economy, a notable 12% increase from 2016.

Despite the rising support for expanded trade and cooperation with China, the 2017 survey reveals that a slight majority of Albertans remain either neutral or in opposition to welcoming

Chinese investment into the province (52%). However, Albertans are much more open to Chinese investment in the energy sector (51% positive). This gradually increasing support for investment, specifically in the energy sector, comes at a time when sustained low oil prices have triggered a significant decline in foreign investment in this key sector of the provincial economy, and where some multinational energy firms have sold their stakes in the oil sands.

Considering the current difficult economic conditions in Alberta, the huge capital costs in growing the provincial economy and, on the other hand, the reality that China has the largest pool of available capital, Albertans' attitudes toward China have significant policy implications. Chinese investment could play a role in expanding job opportunities for Albertans, and could contribute to Alberta's economic diversification, including the development of high-technology growth in Alberta.

Despite the uneven views regarding China, the Alberta Survey and other surveys demonstrate that Albertans are among the most positive in Canada with respect to the importance of ties with China. Trends, particularly since 2012, show a gradual but substantial rise in positive views on China in the province. It is possible that potential challenges regarding Canada's access to US market, following the election of President Trump, may have been a factor in this shift. Against this backdrop, the CIUA will continue to chart the evolving views of Albertans and Canadians regarding China.



Gordon Houlden
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Findings of the 2017 Alberta Survey

Broadly speaking, Albertans in the newest survey view China in an increasingly more positive light. Three fifths of Albertans (60%) want to build stronger ties with the China while half of Albertans (49%) think China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta.

Majority support in key areas means there is increased space for China-Canada ties to develop, especially with relation to market diversification: four fifths (79%) of the province's respondents recognize China as an important export market for the province's goods and services, three fifths (59%) would like to see Alberta decrease its economic reliance on the United States, and three quarters (76%) would like to see Alberta's economy diversify by way of increased trade with Asia.

Belief that a **free trade agreement** between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy is strong in Alberta, with three in five (56%) of respondents viewing a Canada-China FTA as positive for the economy. Perhaps this past year's shifts in the public's awareness of a potential FTA with China have combined with concerns regarding the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the challenges facing the Alberta economy to grow support among Albertans in favour of a Canada-China FTA; in the summer of 2016, the China Institute's 2016 Alberta Survey found that only two in five (44%) of Albertans wanted the Canadian government to negotiate a FTA with China.

While support for energy exports has historically been high in Alberta, it still rose by 11% from 2015, with 76% supporting the building of the necessary midstream infrastructure to allow **energy exports to Asia**.

With regard to **Chinese investment**, 48% of respondents support Chinese investment in general, while 51% support it in the energy sector specifically, up 5% and 9% respectively from 2015. This is the highest recorded percentage of support for Chinese investment into the energy sector since we began polling in 2011.

However, it cannot be ignored that there are still substantial segments of the Albertan public who oppose Chinese investment in general (24% opposed), investment into the energy and resource sectors (22% opposed), and who doubt that a FTA with China would be of benefit to Alberta (18%).

It appears a majority of Albertans continue to understand that China plays an important role in the economic future. Continued support for Canada-China ties appears likely given two of the report's findings: three fifths (58%) of Albertans already see China as important for Albertans' future opportunities, a number we can expect to grow given the four fifths (79%) who want to encourage Albertan students to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia.

DATA AT A GLANCE

2017 Alberta Survey Data at a Glance

Note: Agree represents strongly agree and agree; disagree represents strongly disagree and disagree. Percentages are rounded values.

Statements	2017			Change from 2015	
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	49%	29%	22%	+8%	-1%
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	60%	22%	18%	+12%	-6%
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	79%	12%	9%	+2%	-2%
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	59%	12%	29%	+5%	+2%
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	76%	13%	11%	+7%	+2%
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	76%	14%	10%	+11%	-7%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	48%	28%	24%	+5%	-6%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	51%	27%	22%	+9%	-9%
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	58%	27%	15%	+7%	-7%
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	56%	26%	18%	-	-
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	79%	12%	9%	-	-

The 2017 survey's key findings show that Albertans' perceptions of China have become more favourable over the past two years.

Up 12% from 2015, Over 60% of respondents now favour stronger ties with China. 79% agree that Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia, while 58% acknowledge that China will play an increasingly significant role in future opportunities of Albertans, an increase of 7% from 2015. A large majority of respondents are in favour of diversifying the economy and see China as an important export market (79%). A plurality of respondents (49%) agree that China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta, with 56% in favour of a bilateral free trade agreement.

Over 48% of respondents welcome Chinese investment in general, and 51% in the energy sector specifically, up 5% and 9% respectively from 2015. This is the highest recorded percentage of support for Chinese investment into the energy sector since we began polling in 2011.

The majority of respondents (59%) are in favour of decreasing Alberta's reliance on the U.S. market, and 76% (a 7% rise from 2015) in favour of diversifying the economy through trade with Asia. Up 11% from 2015, 76% also agree that the province should build the necessary midstream infrastructure to allow for energy exports into China.

AVERAGE RESPONSE RATING COMPARISON

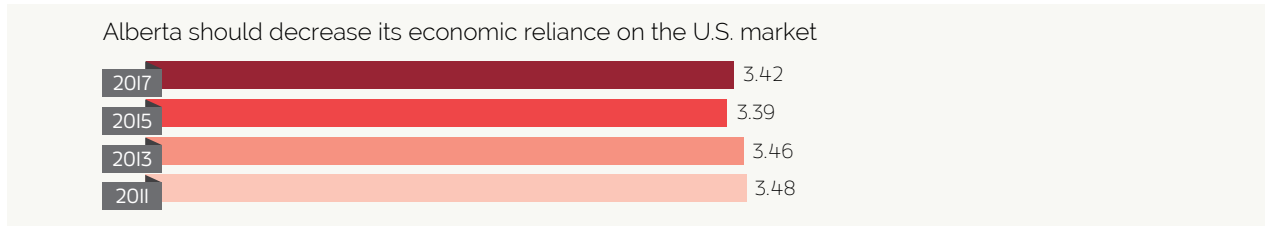
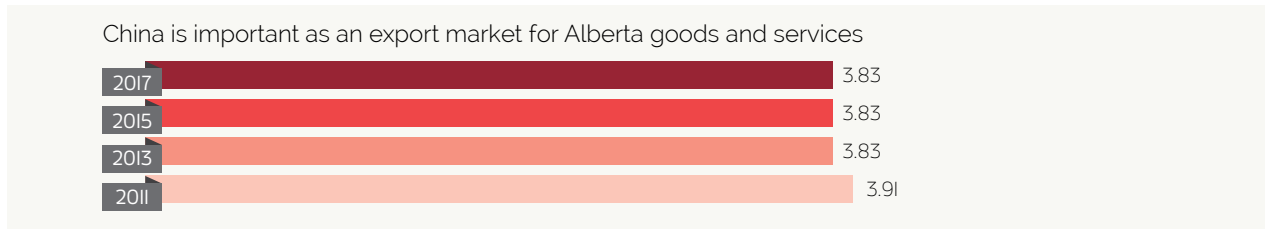
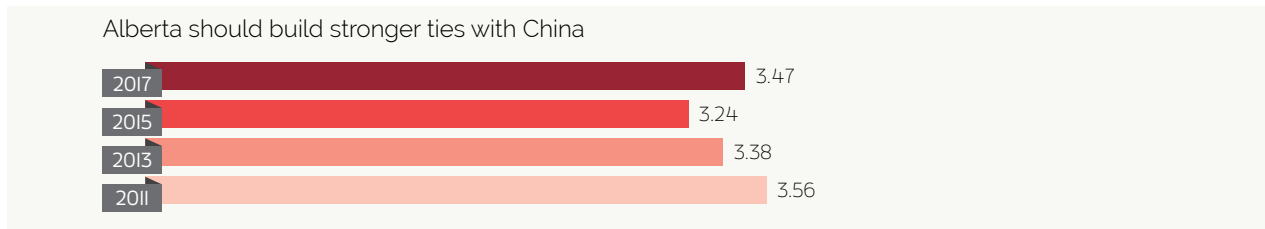
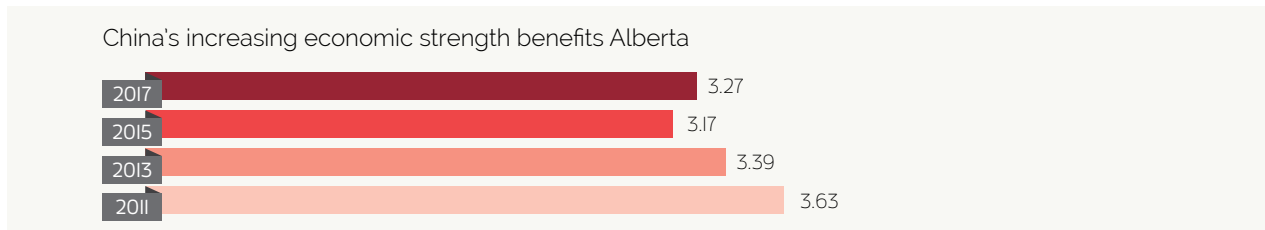
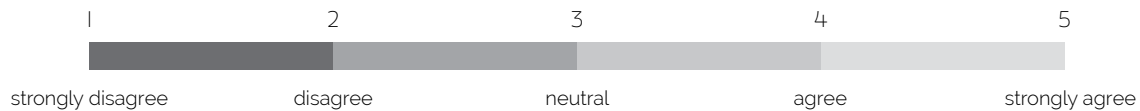
Similar to the findings of the previous year, the average values show that Albertans welcome closer economic ties with China, particularly with regard to issues of trade and investment in the energy sector. They also acknowledge the importance of developing Alberta's midstream export infrastructure, in order to facilitate expansion into the Asian market.

Generally speaking, the results of the 2017 survey show the highest averages on questions relating to energy infrastructure or market diversification, implying that the large majority of respondents tend to agree with those statements. The lowest

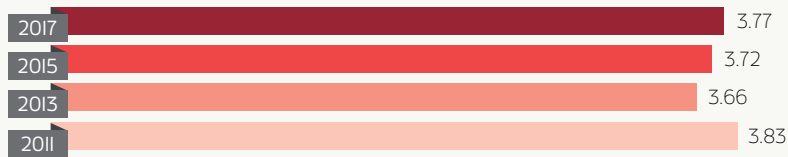
average values are on questions relating to general Chinese investments into the province. While maintaining the lowest average values, the overall percentage of those who agree with welcoming Chinese investment has been none the less linearly rising over the last three survey years. This is attributed to a general decline in the number of those who oppose Chinese investment in relation to a rise in the number of those who are neutral. Overall, the average values in 2017 have consistently risen over the years, following a considerable decline in 2013, but remain lower in comparison to 2011.

These graphs present the average values.

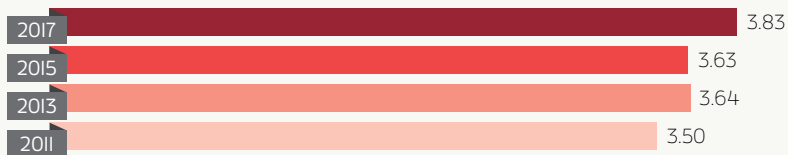
The higher the average, the closer Albertans' views are to "strongly agree"; the lower the value, the closer those views are to "strongly disagree."



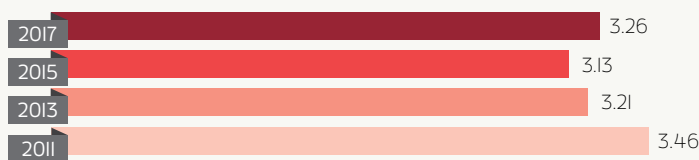
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia



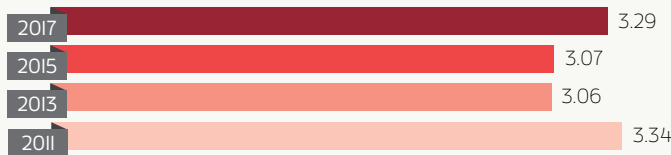
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia



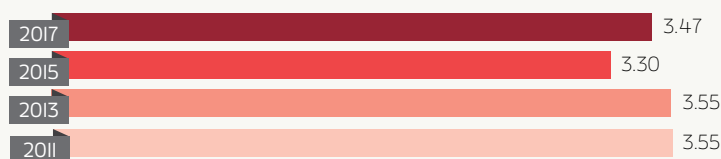
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province



Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province



China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans



A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy



The Canadian government should negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with China



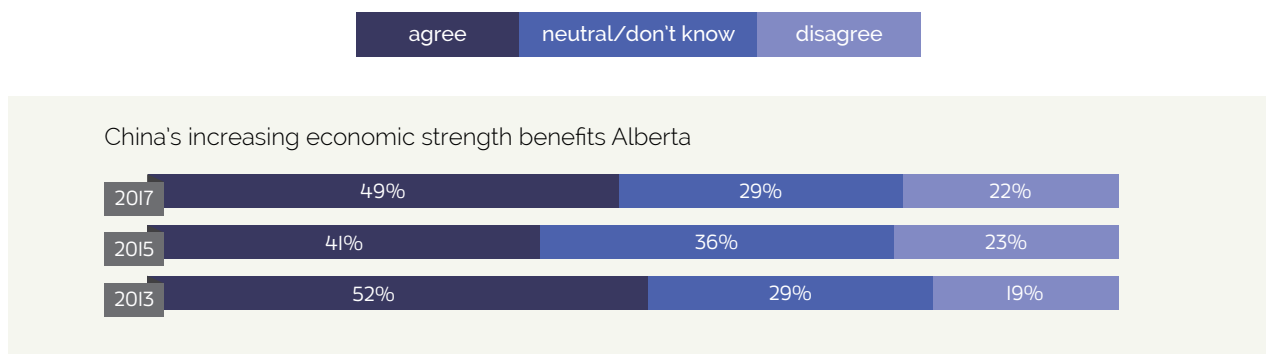
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia



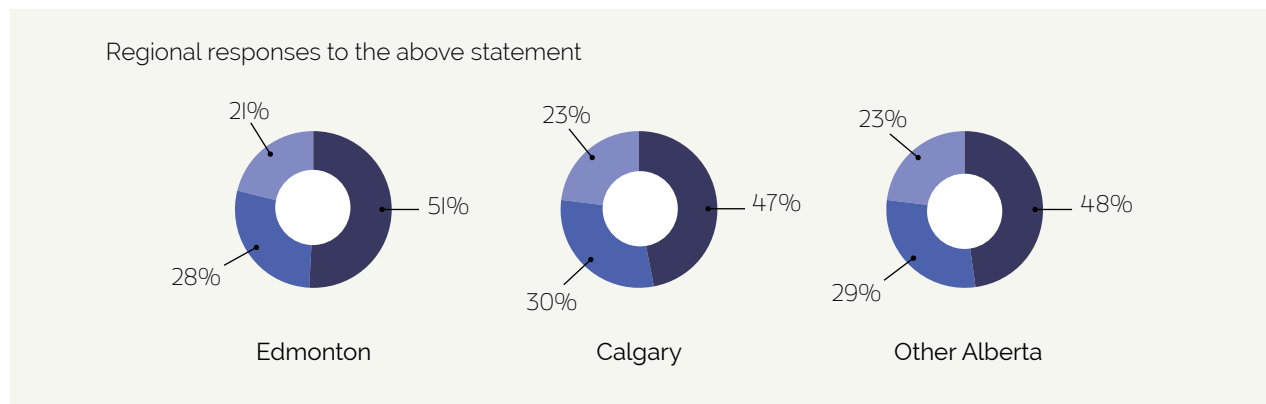
SECTION ONE

Albertans' Views on China

Key Finding: Most Albertans support closer ties with China.



Up 8% from 2015, 49% of survey respondents agree that China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta. Contrasted to 2013, the percentage of those who disagree increased by 3%.



Residents of Edmonton are more supportive of this statement, 4% higher than Calgary and 3% more than the rest of Alberta.

When breaking down the sample by education groups, respondents who have completed post-secondary education agree (52%) more than those who have a high school education or less (48-50%).

Alberta should build stronger ties with China



60% of respondents agree that Alberta should build stronger ties with China, up 12% from 2015.

Support for increasing ties with China is highest in Edmonton at 62%, followed by Calgary at 59% and the rest of Alberta at 58%.

There is a broad agreement with this statement across education groups, ranging from 57-63%.

The percentage of those who agree rises by age group, with 55% of the 18-25 age group in agreement, followed by 56% of ages 26-35, 58% of 36-45, 63% of 46-65 and 64% of those aged 66+.

China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans



Up 7% from 2015, 58% of respondents agree that China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans.

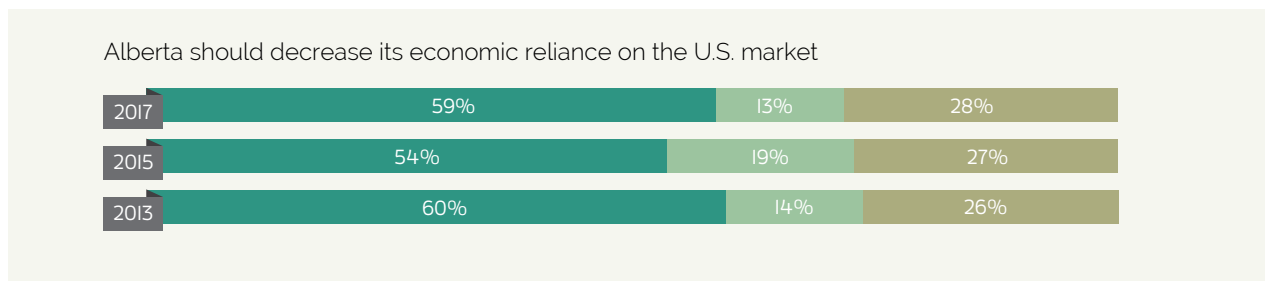
The majority of respondents across the province agree with this statement. Edmonton leads with 59% agreeing, followed by Calgary with 58% and the rest of Alberta at 56%.

The percentage of those who agree with this statement rises, with higher education levels, with 48% of those with less than high school, 52% with completed high school, and 56% with a post-secondary education.

SECTION TWO

Alberta-Asia Economic Relations

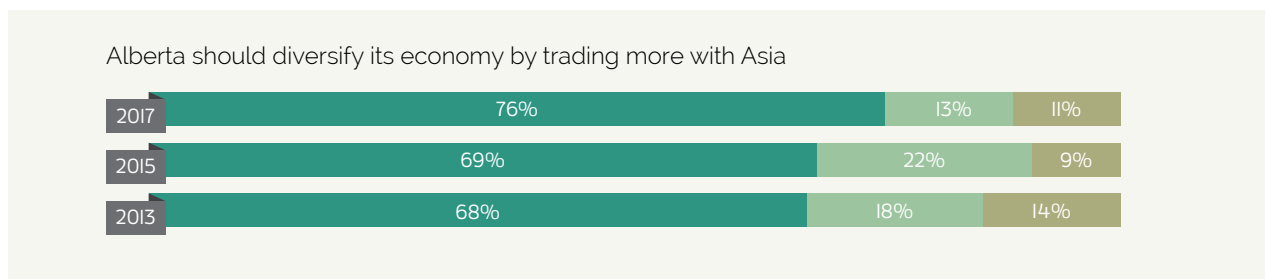
Key Finding: Most Albertans support both a decrease in reliance on the U.S. market and an increase in diversification through trade with Asia.



Up 5% from 2015, 59% of survey respondents agree that Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market with opposition to this statement increasing by 1%, and a 6% decline in neutrality.

Agreement is the highest among respondents outside of Edmonton and Calgary at 61%, followed by Calgary at 60% and Edmonton at 58%.

Only 31% of respondents with less than a high school education agree with this statement. This is contrasted with 56% of those with completed high school and 61% with a post-secondary education.

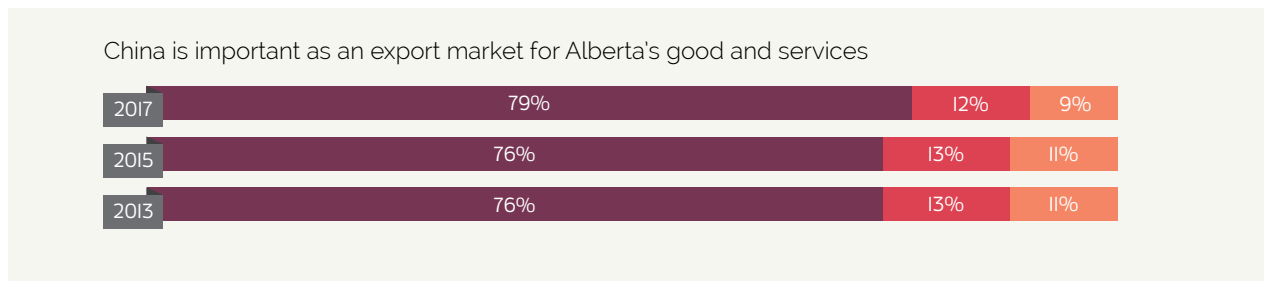


With regard to whether or not Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia, over two thirds (69%) responded as pro-diversification, remaining in the 68% to 72% range of agreement seen over the past six years. Neutrality on this issue has decreased since 2013, with 11% disagreeing, higher than the disagreement in 2015, but lower than 2013.

SECTION THREE

Alberta-China Economic Relations

Key Finding: Most Albertans view China as an important market for the export of Albertan goods and services.

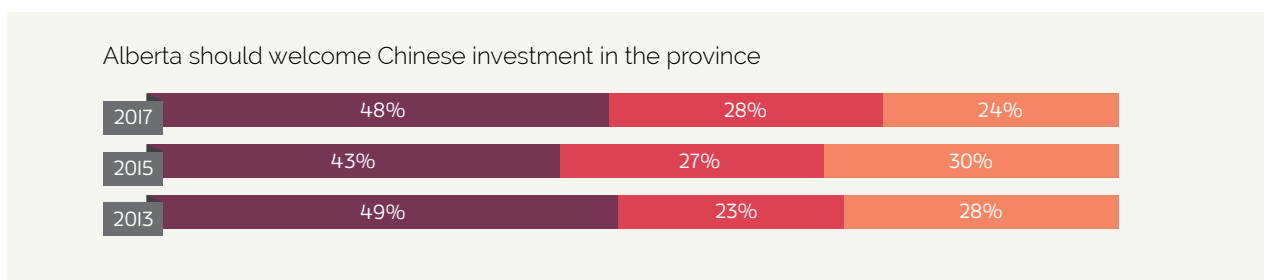


Trending upwards since 2013, 79% of survey respondents agree China is important as an export market for Albertan goods and services.

82% of respondents outside of Edmonton and Calgary agree with this statement, followed by Edmonton at 78% and Calgary at 77%.

87% of respondents in the 66+ age group agree with this statement, in comparison to 73-79% across all other age groups.

The majority of respondents across education groups agree (ranging from 74-81%) with this statement.

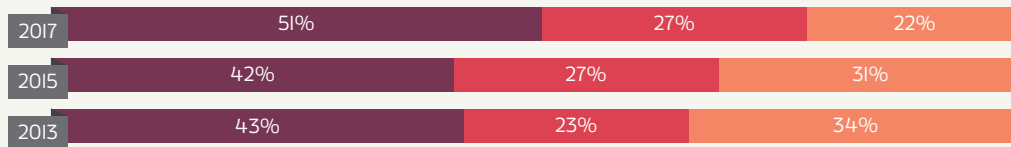


48% of survey respondents agree Alberta should welcome Chinese investment into the province. This is up by nearly 5% from 2015, contrasting with a decline in opposition by 6%.

50% of Edmonton-based respondents agree with this statement, followed by those outside of the two largest cities at 48% and Calgary at 46%.

50% of respondents in both the less than high school and post-secondary education categories agree with this statement, contrasted with 38% of respondents who completed high school.

Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province

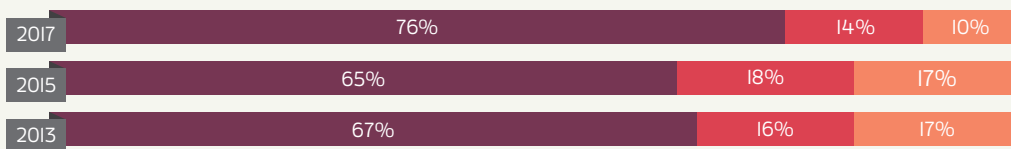


Up 9% from 2015, 51% of survey respondents agree Alberta should welcome Chinese investment into energy and other resource sectors of the province.

55% of Edmonton-based respondents agree with this statement, contrasted with 52% in Calgary, and 46% in the rest of the province.

48-50% of respondents across the three education groups agree with this statement.

Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia



76% of survey respondents agree that Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia. This is up 11% from 2015, contrasted with a decline in opposition by 7%.

77% of respondents in Calgary and the rest of Alberta agree with this statement, compared with 73% in Edmonton.

The majority of respondents across education groups agree with this statement. The percentage of support rises, from 70% of those with less than high school, 76% with high school completed, and 78% with post-secondary education.

A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy



56% of survey respondents agree a free trade agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy, contrasted with 26% neutral and 18% disagree.

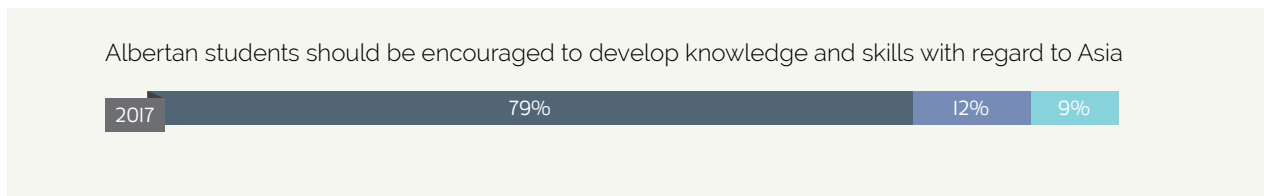
60% of survey respondents outside of the two largest cities agree with this statement, compared with 57% in Edmonton and 52% in Calgary.

The percentage of survey respondents who agree with this statement declines by education level, from 61%-62% of those with high school completed or less to 56% with a post-secondary education.

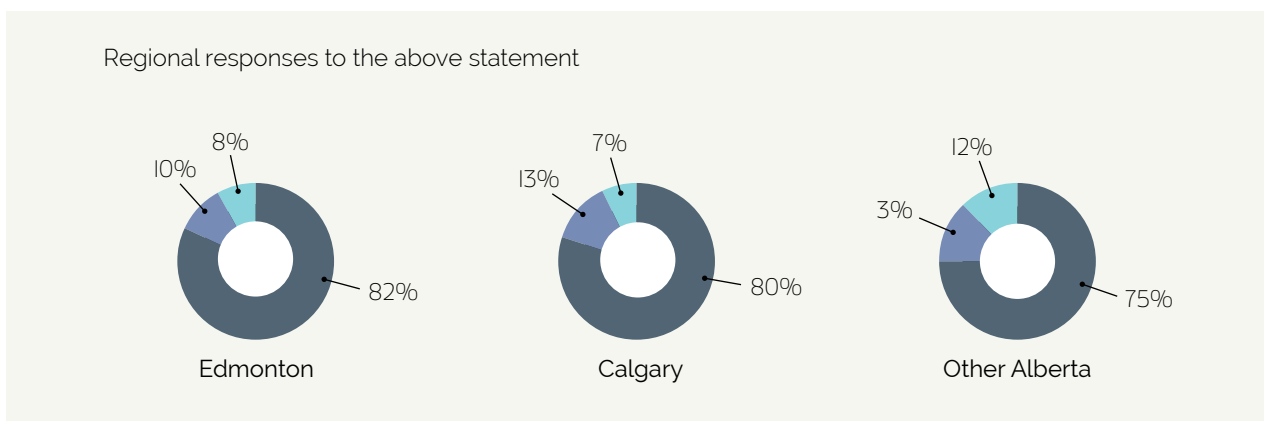
SECTION FOUR

Albertan Students

Key Finding: Most Albertans agree that students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia.



The majority of respondents (79%) agree Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regards to Asia.



The percentage of those who agree with this statement is greatest in Edmonton at 82%, followed by Calgary at 80% and the rest of Alberta at 75%.

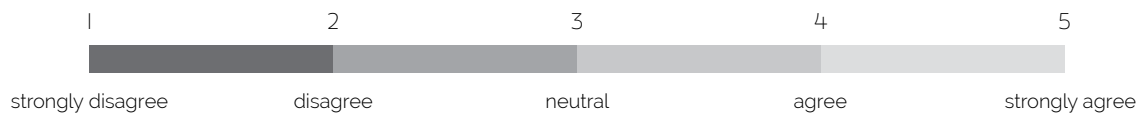
The percentage of those who agree with this statement is lower among respondents with less than a high school education at 65%, compared to 77% of those with completed high school and 81% with post-secondary education.

SECTION FIVE

Regional Differences

A comparison of the average values of responses by location shows that Edmontonian respondents, generally speaking, have a more favorable perception towards China than the rest of the province.

Generally speaking, Albertans support increased economic collaboration with China. They favour decreased reliance on the US market and are open toward Chinese investment, particularly in the energy sector.



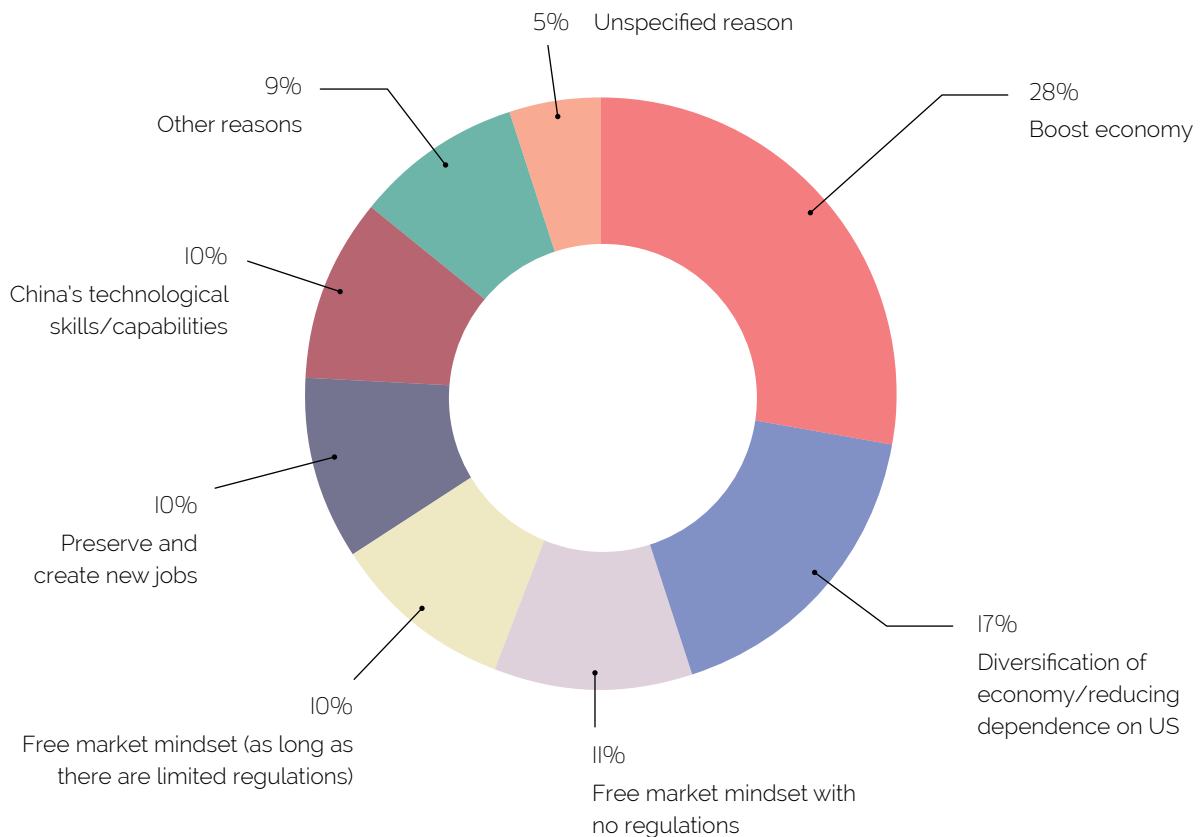
Statements	Edmonton	Calgary	Other Alberta
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	3.31	3.24	3.26
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	3.51	3.45	3.44
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	3.84	3.81	3.85
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	3.43	3.41	3.43
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	3.85	3.77	3.69
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	3.77	3.85	3.87
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	3.30	3.25	3.24
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	3.30	3.35	3.21
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	3.47	3.47	3.46
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	3.41	3.31	3.48
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	3.88	3.84	3.69

SECTION SIX

Reasons for Supporting or Opposing Chinese Investment in the Province

In this section of the survey, the respondents were asked to provide specific reasons for their views on China; specifically, whether Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province. The responses have been sorted and categorized. A portion of the responses have also been directly quoted in order to provide a sample of the types of survey responses received.

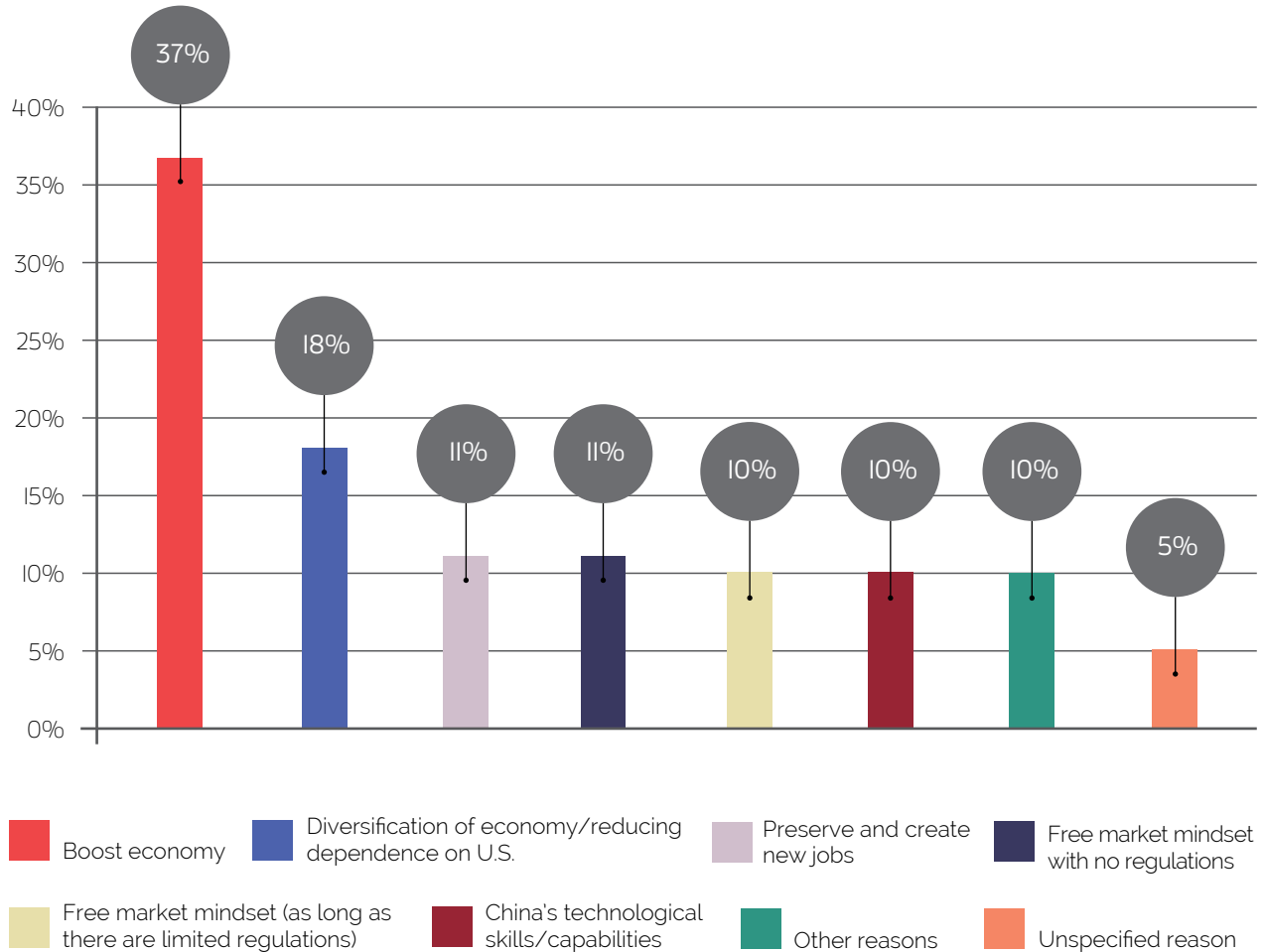
In Support of Chinese Investment Primary Reason Behind Support



Over one-quarter (28%) who agree that Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province do so primarily because they believe it will boost the economy, while nearly one-fifth (17%) do so because they support diversifying the economy and/or reducing economic dependence on the United States. Another 11% support the welcoming of Chinese investment due to the

respondents' support for free market principles, with another 10% also voicing support out of free market principles, but adding regulatory caveats in their responses. A further 10% link their support to how Chinese investment could help preserve and create jobs, and another 10% are supportive due to benefits they see stemming from China's technological skills and capabilities.

All Reasons Behind Support



As this portion of the survey allowed for open-ended responses, many respondents touched upon multiple categories in their responses, meaning multiple categories per person can be tallied. When it comes to all stated reasons for support, nearly two-fifths (37%) want Alberta to welcome Chinese investment out of a desire to boost the economy, and nearly one-fifth (18%) out of a desire to diversify the economy and/or reduce economic dependence on US

markets. Preserving and creating jobs was a reason for 11% of respondents, with the same share linking welcoming Chinese investment to their free market principles, without regulation, and a slightly lower (10%) adding regulations while still citing their free market ideals as a factor for support. Lastly, 10% welcome Chinese investment due to perceived benefits from China's technological skills and capabilities.

Select Reasons Behind Support

Boost economy

"Alberta economy needs an investment this time not only from China but also from other countries."

"Alberta should welcome all investment in the province from everywhere, not just Asia. We have a high need for resources to keep the economy going."

"Any investment in Alberta at this time, with the economy being so bad, would be beneficial. The more money for the province, the better."

Diversification of economy/reducing dependence on U.S.

"Alberta needs a different type of market, not just the oil so we can trade more goods and services with Asia as well."

"Alberta should look at other countries for investment other than the U.S. If China is interested, we should give them a try."

"Canada needs to decrease its American economy dependence."

"China is a growing market for energy. Alberta should reduce its dependence on the USA."

Free market mindset

"I believe investment is important and where it comes from does not really matter as much."

"I believe that the more imports and investment that can be welcomed to Alberta is good regardless of where it is coming from. There is nothing against China."

"I don't believe in protectionism."

Free market mindset (as long as there are regulations in place)

"Any investment is good for the province as long as it is properly regulated."

"As long as it's not a take over on local businesses, it should be okay. I think we should allow investments and trade with all countries. This is advantageous for both parties. I'm far left and pretty liberal."

"Chinese investment in the province is welcomed if the profit is not taken and our labour law is followed."

Preserve and create jobs

"Bring more money and more jobs to Alberta."

"Creates industry to create jobs in different places here in Alberta. Investment from different places is very acceptable to create jobs."

"Creates more jobs."

China's technological skills/capabilities

"China has a strong economy. They are probably extremely educated in the economic situation in their country. This means they should be able to benefit the Alberta economy by giving us ideas on how to improve the developing industries in our province."

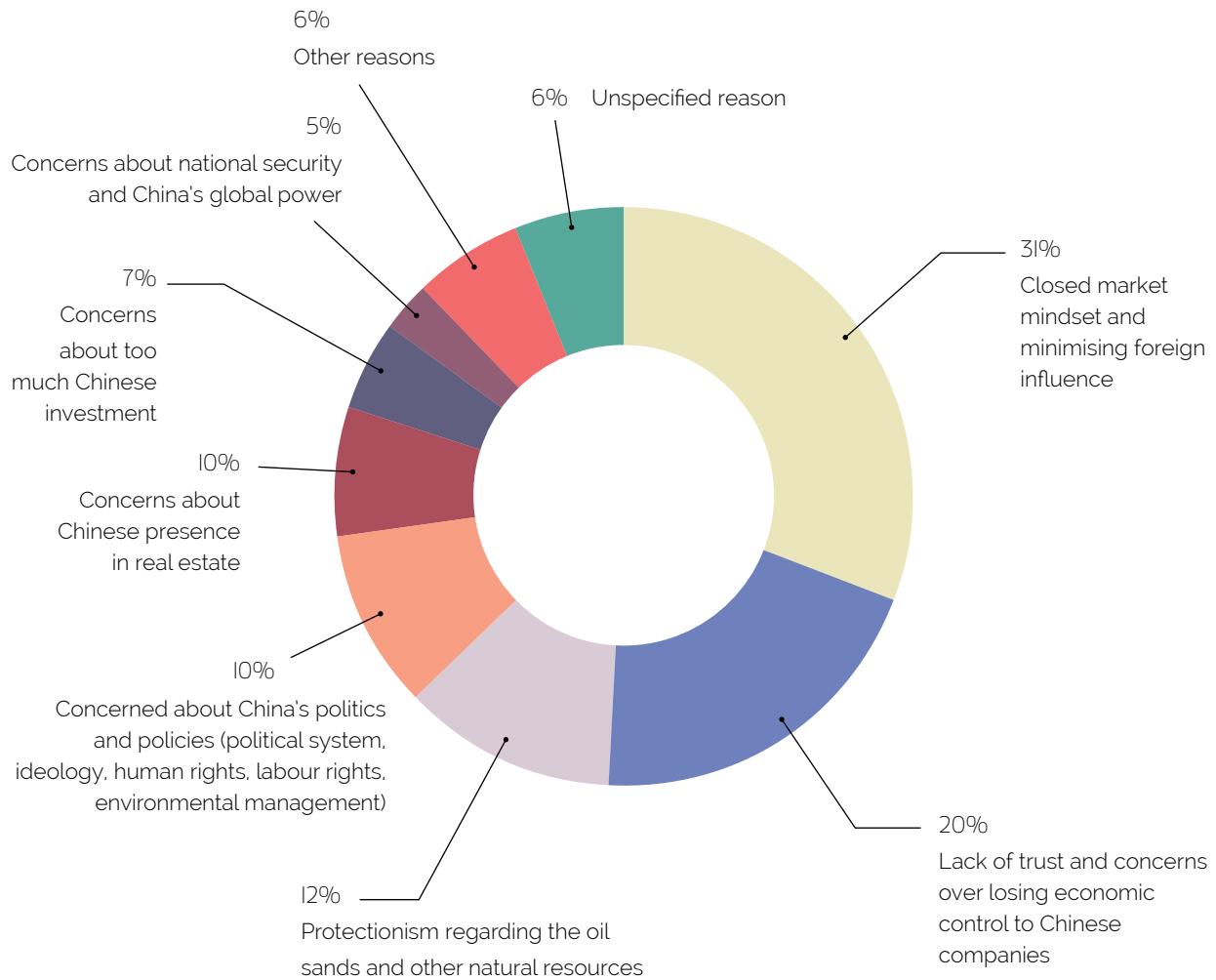
"China is a major country and they have the ability to make a lot of investment in Alberta and Alberta could use the investment."

"China is well developed and equipped in technology."

"Chinese have lots of innovation that Canadian companies don't have. The more diversified the companies are the better products they will produce."

Opposition to Chinese Investment

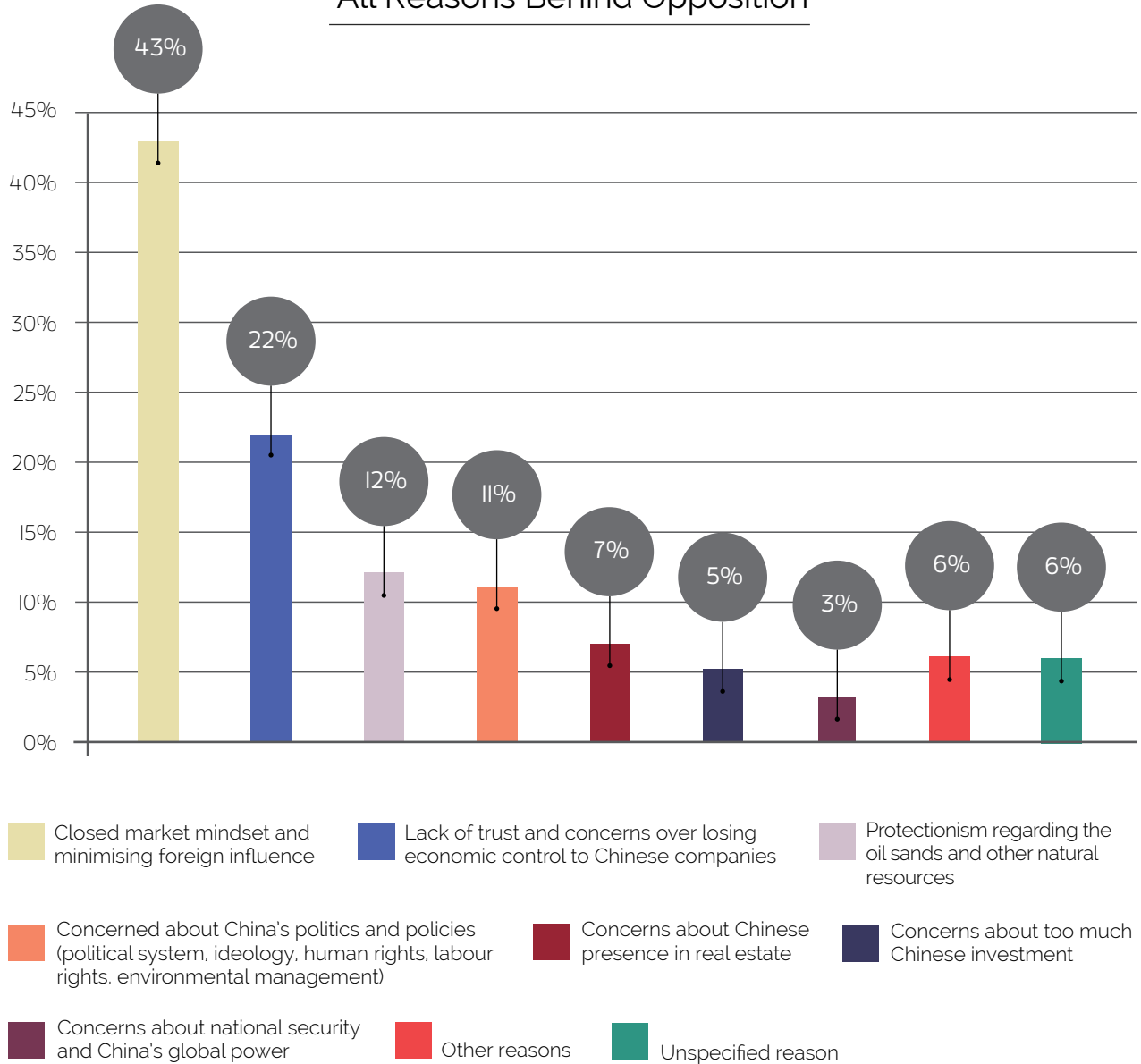
Primary Reason Behind Opposition



Of respondents who disagree with the idea of Alberta welcoming Chinese investment in the province, nearly one-third (31%) do so due to protectionist desires to reduce the openness of the Canadian market and/or to reduce foreign influence within it. Fully one-fifth (20%) cite concerns over

Chinese companies as the reason behind their opposition to Chinese investment, while 12% are concerned about investment in the natural resources sector, 10% about China's politics and policies, and 10% about Chinese investment in the Canadian real estate sector.

All Reasons Behind Opposition



Double-counting all stated reasons for opposition uncovers that over two-fifths (43%) of respondents have market protectionist comments as a basis for their opposition to Chinese investment in Alberta, and over one-fifth (22%) raise their lack of trust of

and concerns about Chinese companies. Concern about Chinese investment in resource sectors is raised by 12% of respondents; China's politics and policies raise concern for 11%, and 7% are concerned about Chinese investment in Canadian real estate.

Select Reasons Behind Opposition

Market protectionism

"Canadians shouldn't be left with nothing. Foreigners are beginning to occupy and overrun our little towns."

"I believe in investing within the nation, rather than abroad."

"I think it is unwise to ever beholden to any country, not just China. We should be able to manage our economy independently. I don't want to owe money to any other country."

Lack of trust of and concerns over losing economic control to Chinese companies

"China already controls a lot of our economy (businesses), oil and gas companies and large sectors of our land. It binds us to do what they want, not necessarily what we want."

"I don't want Alberta to be taken over by Chinese companies as they have a lot of investment here already."

"I just think that the more we let China take over our companies and our land, the more they have to gain out of it than we do. I think we should keep out some of their companies and keep our companies in Alberta. I think we should not let them invest."

Protectionism regarding the oil sands and other natural resources

"I don't believe in foreign government investment in natural resources."

"The Chinese own too much in Alberta (Husky/Oil Sands) and Canada. I believe if Alberta wants investors they should be from local investors. We should be able to invest in our province."

"They already own much of the oil and gas industry here. If you have too much investment, you end up with inflated prices for those already living here with housing and the value of all the hotels owned by Asians right now has only increased rental rates."

"We should be owning the resources. If we need investors, we should be looking to our own Albertans. We should be manufacturing in our province and producing our own finished products. Industries are being shut down because everything is being exported."

Concerned about China's politics and policies (political system, ideology, human rights, labour rights, environmental management)

"China's human rights and carbon pollution is first in the world. If we build any relation with China, it means we agree with their policy regarding mentioned issues."

"I do not trust them at all. It's a communist country. Human rights issue and they keep money in the houses in Canada. I will not make any deal with China."

"Simply because their environmental standards are so poor and that they do not mix with our standards. They have lower standards for air pollution and water pollution. If they were to have more business and influence here it could lead to environmental problems."

Concerns about Chinese presence in Canadian real estate

"They are buying up Banff and that should be locally owned."

"A lot of investment particularly in BC is creating very high prices for properties."

"By purchasing homes, they just take up property and raise the market. They ruined housing in Vancouver. They purchase property but don't live in Vancouver."

Concerns about too much Chinese investment

"We have enough investment from China already."

"Chinese have too much investment already in the province."

"I think we have enough investment from China."

Concerns about national security and China's global power







"I think that the Chinese have a tendency to interfere in a country's internal affairs and they tend to try to control them."

"My perception is that they take over the world. Slowly going everywhere."

SECTION SEVEN

Breakdown of Average Response Values Differences across Provincial Political Affiliation



Statements	 Alberta Liberal	 Alberta NDP	 Alberta Party	 Green Party of Alberta	 PC/Tory	 Wildrose Party	Other
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	3.25	3.33	3.45	3.13	3.26	3.26	3.32
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	3.61	3.67	3.38	3.01	3.45	3.35	3.46
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	3.76	3.92	4.09	3.24	3.81	3.94	3.84
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	3.61	3.83	3.32	2.84	3.34	3.34	3.37
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	3.93	3.96	3.75	3.45	3.78	3.73	3.66
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia	3.74	3.57	4.13	2.91	3.96	4.16	3.75
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	3.33	3.27	3.34	2.80	3.29	3.16	3.30
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	2.47	3.18	3.05	2.80	3.37	3.26	3.30
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	3.46	3.60	3.46	2.91	3.46	3.56	3.38
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	3.58	3.32	2.66	2.94	3.48	3.33	3.46
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	3.91	3.94	3.93	3.76	3.78	3.73	3.74

Note: "Other" represents respondents who fit into the category of "Would not vote/Do not know/Undecided"

Respondents, regardless of provincial political preferences, think that Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia, and that Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia. Regardless of their political preferences, respondents tend towards more skepticism both when it comes to the province welcoming Chinese investment in the province, and in terms of if China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta, with Green, Liberal, Progressive Conservative, and Wildrose Party supporters the more skeptical for the latter.

Respondents who identify as NDP voters are more in favour of increased cooperation with China, with an average value of 3.67,

followed by Liberal at 3.61, PC/Tory at 3.45, Alberta Party at 3.38, Wildrose Alliance at 3.35 and the Green Party at 3.01.

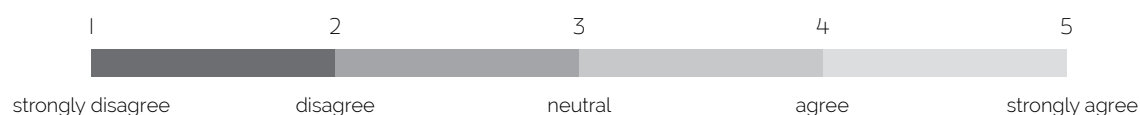
Respondents, regardless of their political affiliation, generally acknowledge that China is important as an export market for Alberta goods and services.

Wildrose and Alberta Party voters are less open towards Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province, with an average response values at 3.05 and 2.80 respectively. They also tend oppose a Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China more than supporters of other parties.

Differences in Education Level

Openness towards China changes with education level. Respondents with less than a high school education are less supportive of China. Respondents with post-secondary education tend to have more positive opinions on China.

Interestingly, respondents with advanced degrees (such as masters, doctorate, law etc.) are more critical of these statements in comparison to those with post-secondary education.

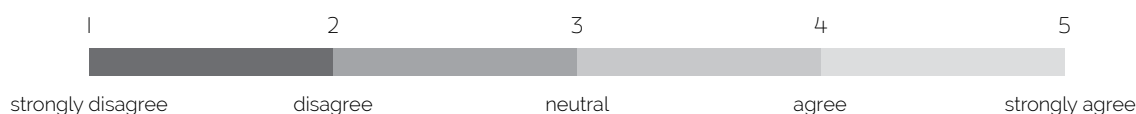


Statements	Less than High School	High School Complete	Post-Secondary
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	3.15	3.34	3.31
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	3.47	3.43	3.49
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	3.71	3.86	3.85
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	2.89	3.30	3.46
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	3.48	3.67	3.83
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	3.69	3.90	3.94
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	3.27	3.18	3.29
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	3.40	3.32	3.28
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	3.50	3.51	3.61
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	3.71	3.68	3.59
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	3.52	3.84	3.90

Age Groups

Respondents in the 66+ age group tend to be more open to China, with younger age brackets tending to have more mixed views. Notably, the 36-45 age group is the least likely to view China's increasing economic strength as beneficial to Alberta, and is skeptical about Chinese investment and a free trade agreement between Canada and China.

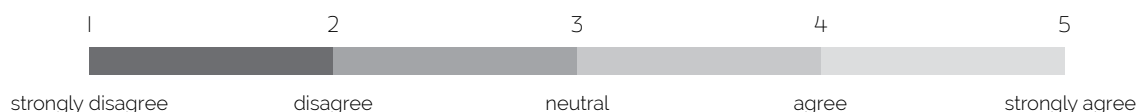
Also of note, the age group of 18-25 holds relatively low levels of agreement that China's increasing economic strength would benefit Alberta, but this group is more supportive of Chinese investment than older Albertans.



Statements	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-65	66+
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	3.27	3.34	3.20	3.22	3.42
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	3.53	3.41	3.40	3.50	3.50
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	3.80	3.87	3.67	3.84	3.98
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	3.46	3.51	3.47	3.41	3.29
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	3.66	3.87	3.71	3.81	3.73
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	3.55	3.87	3.71	3.92	3.93
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	3.46	3.28	3.25	3.20	3.25
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	3.55	3.31	3.30	3.22	3.21
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	3.52	3.49	3.38	3.48	3.51
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	3.42	3.42	3.29	3.40	3.54
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	3.81	3.78	3.78	3.78	3.90

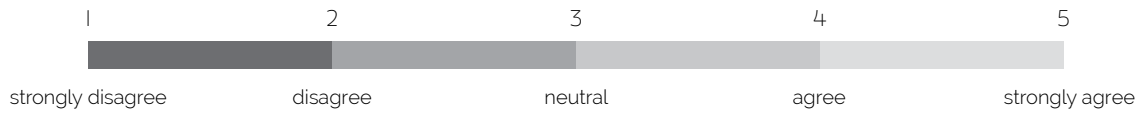
Peoples' Views Based on Income

The average values across income brackets indicate that respondents across all brackets tend to see China as an important export market for Alberta's goods and services, and want Albertan students to be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia. Households bringing in over \$80,000 a year are the most likely to support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia.

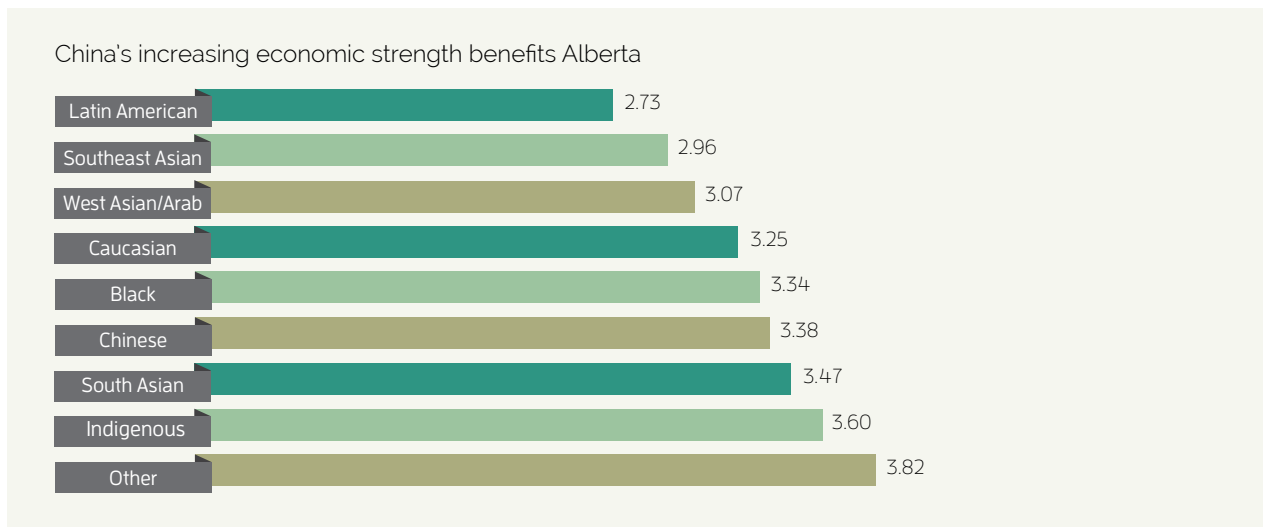


Statements	\$0- \$29,999	\$30,000- \$59,999	\$60,000- \$79,999	\$80,000- \$124,999	\$125,000+
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	3.29	3.24	3.43	3.30	3.21
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	3.55	3.31	3.58	3.54	3.51
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	3.90	3.85	3.90	3.78	3.88
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	3.39	3.39	3.54	3.44	3.48
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	3.74	3.72	3.73	3.87	3.87
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	3.74	3.78	3.83	3.89	3.94
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	3.33	3.23	3.36	3.24	3.30
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	3.25	3.30	3.33	3.32	3.31
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	3.45	3.46	3.48	3.46	3.53
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	3.49	3.43	3.45	3.36	3.41
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	3.77	3.81	3.89	3.77	3.83

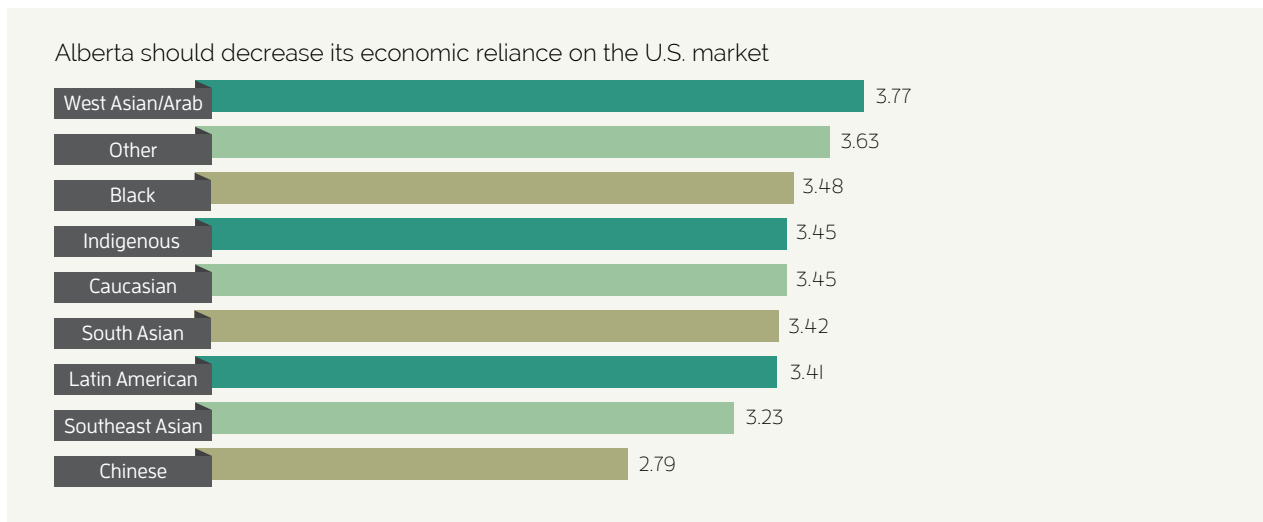
Peoples' Views Based on Ethnic Background



Responding to the question on whether China's increasing economic strength benefits the province, Albertans self-identifying as Indigenous or selecting "other" have the highest average agreement level. However, Albertans who self-identify as Latin American or Southeast Asian are less likely to agree that China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta.



Perhaps surprisingly, Albertans who self-identify as Chinese tend to be more cautious when it comes to reducing Alberta's economic reliance on the United States as a market. At the opposite end, Albertans who self-identify as West Asian, Arab, or selected "other" have the highest average levels of support for decreasing the province's economic reliance on the United States.



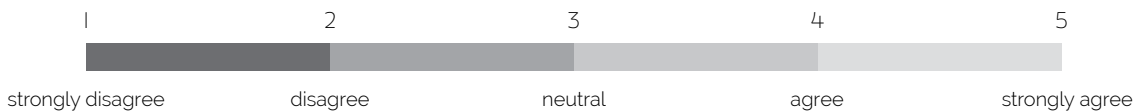
SECTION EIGHT

Profile Analysis of Selected Questions

1. Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province.

The highest average level of support for Alberta welcoming Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province can be found among Calgarians, supporters of the federal Liberal or Conservative parties or the provincial Liberal Party, among Albertans who did not complete high school, or those with post-secondary education. These highest average supporters are also younger (18-25 years-old) or in households making between \$60,000 and \$80,000 a year, born outside Canada, or who self-identify as Black.

Conversely, the lowest average level of support is found within Albertans living outside of both Edmonton and Calgary, supporting the federal or provincial Green parties, or with post-secondary education, or are older (66+) or in households making less than \$30,000 a year. Additionally, those born in Canada or who self-identify as Indigenous also have the lowest levels of support.



Area of the Province

Calgarians are the most welcoming of Chinese investment into Alberta's energy and other resource sectors, while Albertans outside of the province's two largest cities are the least likely.



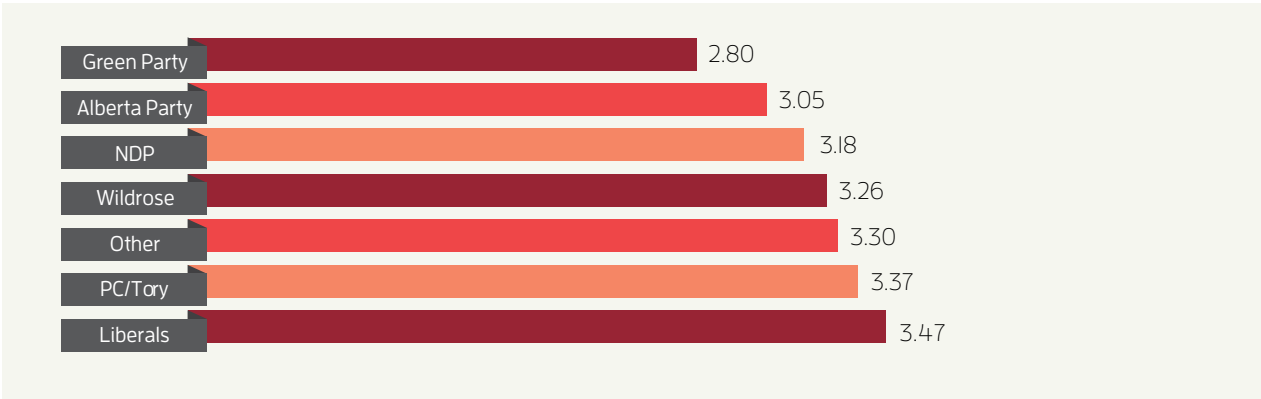
Federal Political Preferences

Supporters of the Liberal or Conservative parties are the biggest supporters of Alberta welcoming Chinese investment into its energy and resource sectors, whereas supporters of the Green and New Democratic parties are the least supportive.



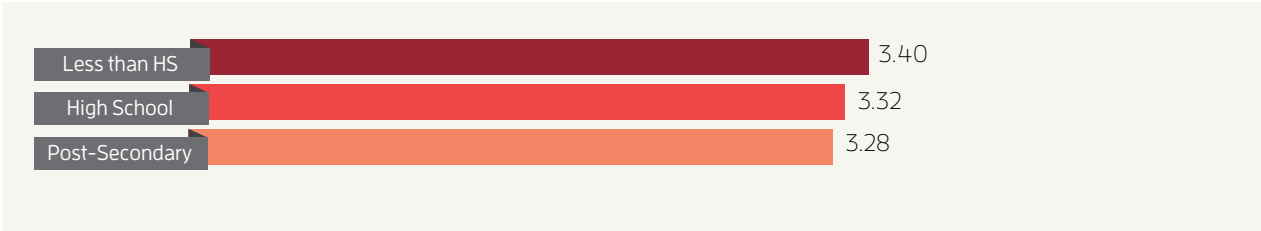
Provincial Political Preferences

Supporters of the Liberal Party have the highest average support for Chinese investment in Alberta’s energy and resources, while supporters of the Green Party have the lowest.



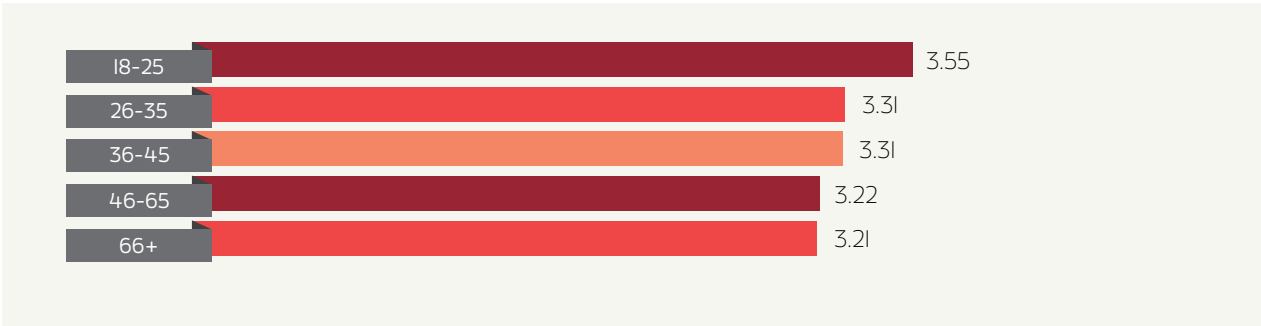
Education

With respect to education, the highest average support for Chinese investment in energy and other resources is found among Albertans who did not complete high school.



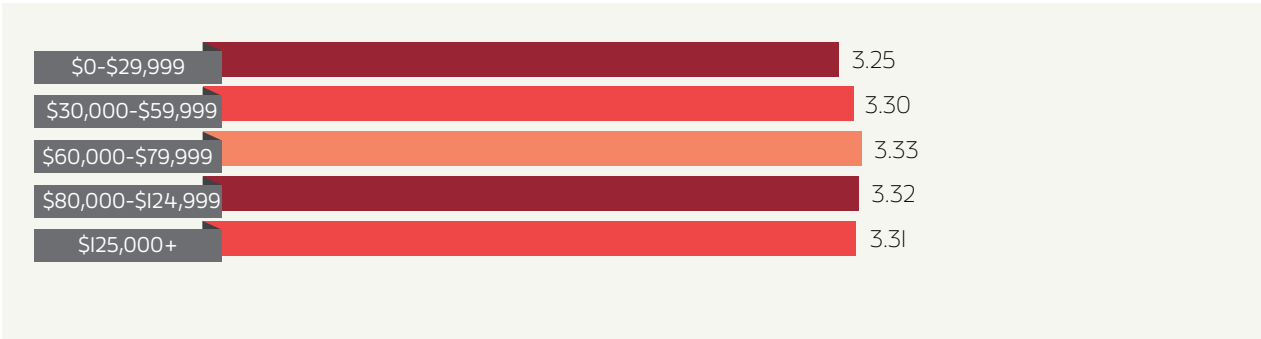
Age Groups

The youngest age group is also by far the most pro-Chinese investment in Alberta energy and resources.



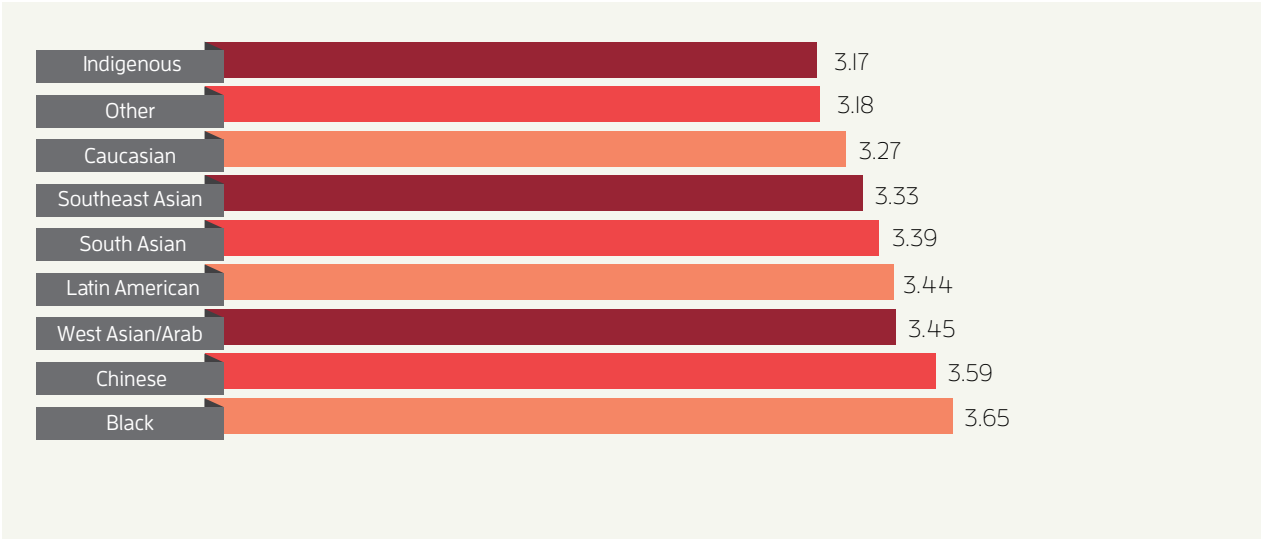
Household Income

Household income appears to have little impact on support, with slightly higher average levels of support for Chinese investment coming from households with the highest income brackets in the province.



Ethnic Background

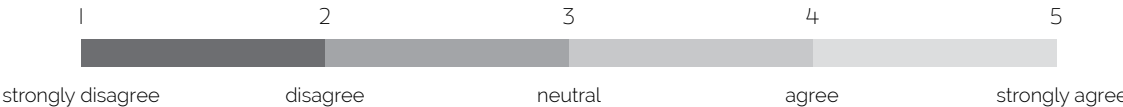
Albertans self-identifying as Black or Chinese have the highest average support for welcoming Chinese investment into Alberta’s energy and other resource sectors, while those self-identifying as Aboriginal or from other backgrounds have the lowest average support.



2. A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy.

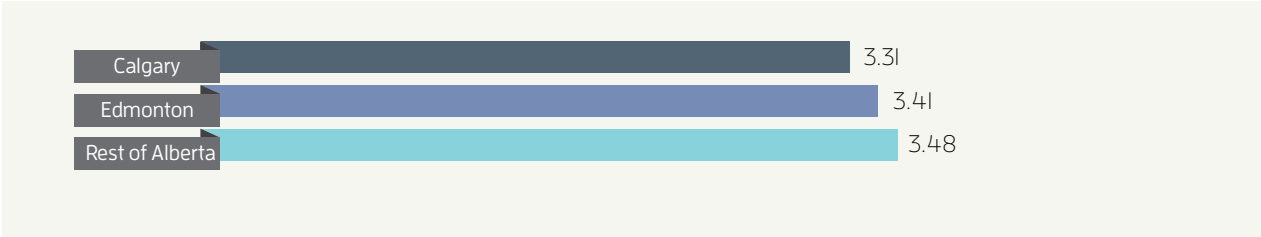
Among Albertans, the highest levels of belief that a free trade agreement (FTA) between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy are typically found among those outside of Edmonton and Calgary, supporters of the federal or provincial Liberal parties, who have not completed high school, who are older (66 years-old and older), or who are from a household making less than \$30,000 a year. Further, this highest level is found among those born outside of Canada, or those who self-identify as West Asian and/or Arab.

The highest levels of skepticism when it comes to potential economic benefits of a Canada-China FTA for Alberta are typically found among Calgarians, supporters of the federal Green Party or provincial Alberta Party, persons with post-secondary education, those between the ages of 36-45, or from a household making between \$80,000 and \$125,000 a year. Further, the most skeptical are those born in Canada, or who self-identify as Aboriginal.



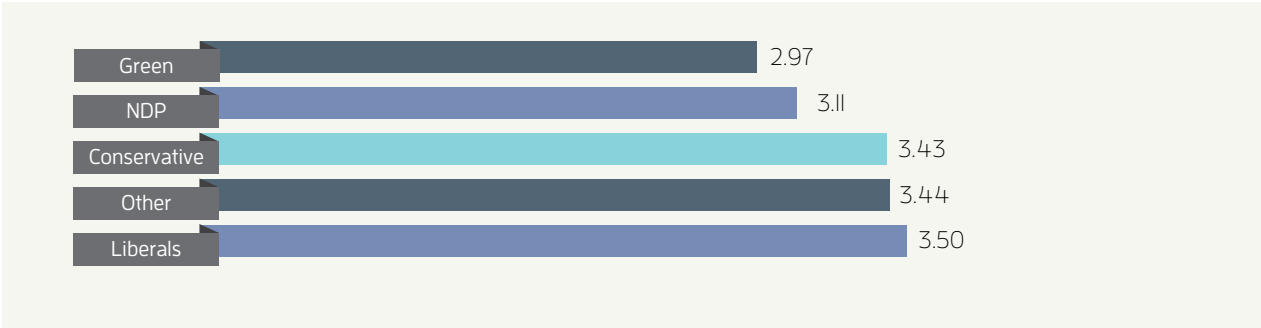
Area of the Province

Albertans outside of the province’s two largest cities are the most likely to view a free trade agreement between Canada and China as favourable to the province’s economy, whereas Calgary is the least likely.



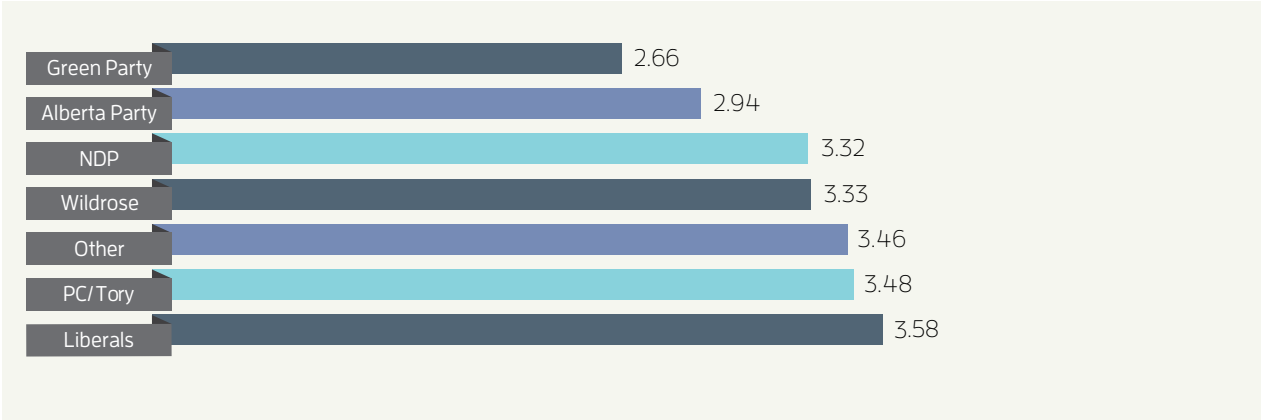
Federal Political Preferences

Supporters of the Liberal Party are the most likely to see a FTA as beneficial for Alberta’s economy, and supporters of the Green and New Democratic parties are the least likely.



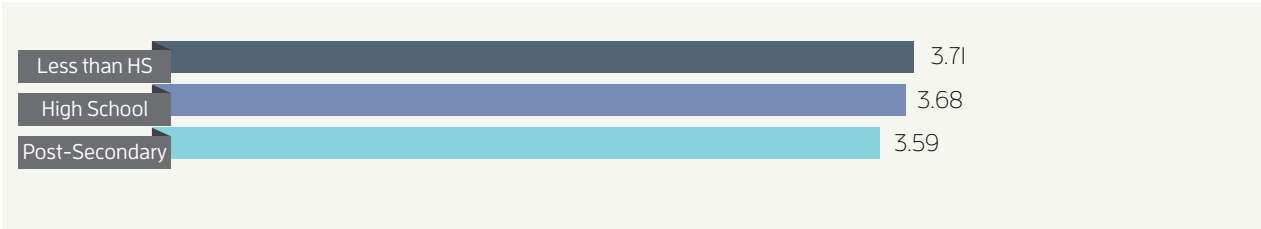
Provincial Political Preferences

Supporters of the Liberal Party are the most likely to see a FTA as economically beneficial, while supporters of the Alberta and Green parties are the least likely.



Education

Respondents who did not attend post-secondary education are the most likely to view a FTA's economic impacts favourably.



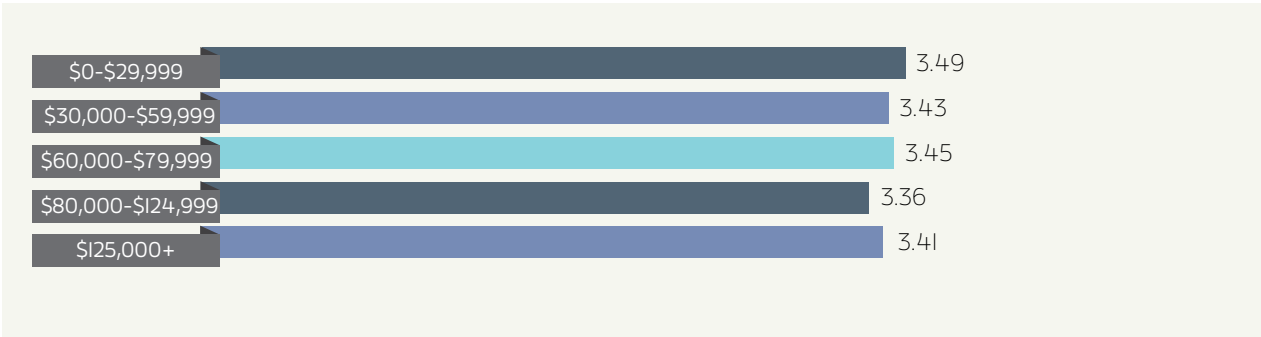
Age Groups

The oldest bracket of adults is the most receptive to the idea that a free trade agreement with China would benefit the Albertan economy, with younger adults also generally supportive.



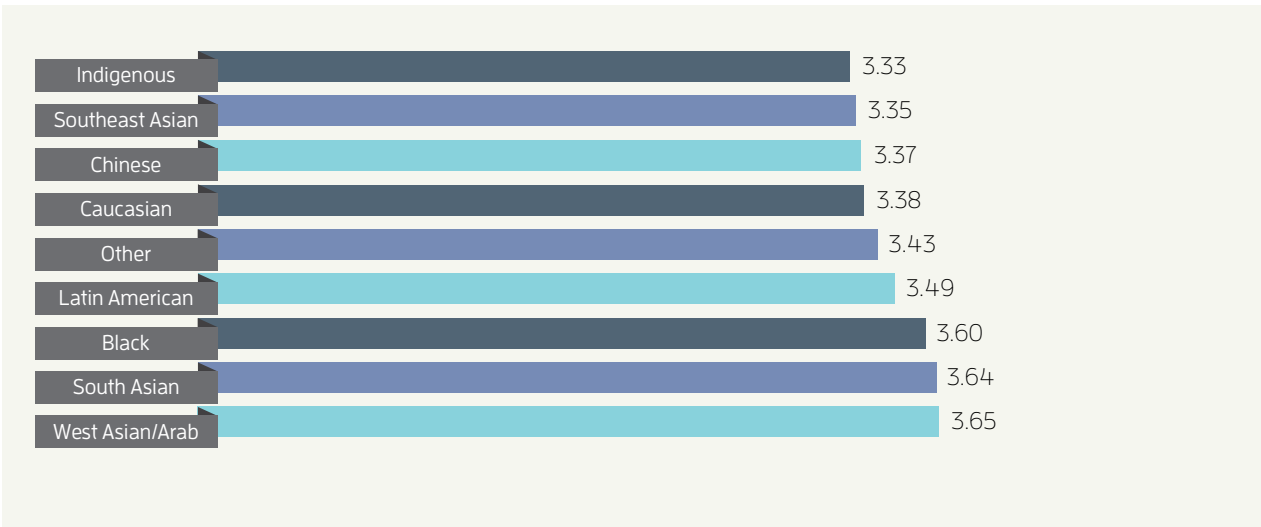
Household Income

Respondents with lower household incomes are more likely to view a free trade agreement as beneficial, although the highest income bracket also tends towards support.



Ethnic Background

Albertans who self-identify as West Asian/Arab, South Asian, Black, or Latin American are the most likely to view a FTA as economically beneficial, while those self-identifying as Indigenous or Southeast Asian are the least likely.



SECTION NINE

Subset Analysis of Selected Questions

1. Alberta should build stronger ties with China

Respondents **agreeing** with the above statement:

Statements	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	67%	20%	13%
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	89%	6%	5%
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	64%	10%	26%
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	90%	6%	4%
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	85%	9%	6%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	64%	21%	15%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	65%	20%	15%
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	73%	21%	6%
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	70%	19%	11%
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	88%	8%	4%

Within the 60% of respondents who want stronger Alberta-China ties, there is a general pattern of support towards China- and Asia-related topics. For instance, 90% agree that Alberta should diversify its economy by increasing trade with Asia, with just 4% opposed and 6% neutral. Likewise, only 4% are opposed to Albertan students developing Asia-knowledge and skills. Even so, only 64% want to see Alberta decrease its economic reliance on the U.S., while 26% disagree. Similarly, 64% of this cohort is supportive of Chinese investment in the province, with a substantial percentage, 21%, neutral on the topic. Another one fifth (21%) are neutral on the subject of if China will play a significant role in future opportunities for Albertans, but a much smaller number (6%) are neutral when it comes to viewing China as an important export market for Alberta.

Respondents comprising the plurality of this subset come from Edmonton, and have a university diploma, certificate, bachelor's degree, or professional degree. Two fifths are PC/Tory or Wildrose supporters, and one fifth is comprised of Alberta NDP Party supporters.

Respondents **disagreeing** with the above statement:

Statements	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	16%	19%	65%
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	57%	13%	30%
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	52%	11%	37%
Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia	51%	16%	33%
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	68%	11%	21%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	19%	20%	61%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	26%	18%	56%
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	36%	21%	43%
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	32%	18%	50%
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	59%	14%	27%

The 18% of respondents who oppose stronger ties with China carry similar views for other questions. Only 16% of this subset think China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta, with 65% disagreeing, and just 19% would like to see Chinese investment into the province. However, 68% still would like to see support for infrastructure to the West Coast to export energy to Asia, with 21% stating their opposition and 11% neutral on the topic. As well, 59% still think it is worthwhile for Albertan students to develop Asia-knowledge and skills. Over one in five (21%) are neutral when it comes to whether China will play a significant role in the province's future, while half of that (11%) are neutral when it comes to whether the province should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. Respondents comprising the plurality of this subset are from outside of Edmonton or Calgary, and have a post-secondary education. Half are supporters of the PC/Tory or Wildrose parties, and just 9% are supporters of the Alberta NDP.

2. Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia

Respondents **agreeing** with the above statement:

Statements	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	56%	25%	19%
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	70%	18%	12%
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	86%	9%	5%
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	64%	10%	26%
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	83%	10%	7%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	56%	25%	19%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	58%	23%	19%
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	66%	24%	10%
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	65%	22%	13%
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	85%	10%	5%

The 76% of respondents who would like to see Alberta diversify its economy by way of trading more with Asia typically have views favourable towards China and Asia in general. A full 86% of this cohort thinks China is an important export market for Alberta, with just 5% disagreeing with the idea, and 9% neutral. Additionally, only 5% of this group opposes encouraging Albertan students to learn more about Asia. This does not mean that these Albertans are wholly supportive in all areas: only 56% think China's economic strength is good for the province, with a quarter (25%) still neutral on the subject; further, 26% of these respondents oppose decreasing Alberta's economic reliance on the U.S. market. Just 56% think Alberta should welcome Chinese investment, with 25% neutral, and yet 58% think Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in its energy and resource sectors. A plurality of these respondents hails from Edmonton, and has a university diploma, certificate, bachelor's degree, or professional degree. Two fifths are PC/Tory or Wildrose supporters, and one fifth Alberta NDP supporters.

Respondents **disagreeing** with the above statement:

Statements	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta	34%	20%	46%
Alberta should build stronger ties with China	25%	16%	59%
China is important as an export market for Alberta's goods and services	51%	11%	38%
Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market	41%	10%	49%
Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the West Coast for export to Asia	51%	10%	39%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province	22%	13%	65%
Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province	26%	22%	52%
China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans	39%	18%	43%
A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy	31%	12%	57%
Albertan students should be encouraged to develop knowledge and skills with regard to Asia	57%	9%	34%

The 11% of respondents who disagree that Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia are significantly more negative towards China in other areas. Within this cohort, just 25% of respondents think Alberta should build stronger ties with China, and only 22% welcome Chinese investment in the province, while 65% oppose it. However, these respondents have relatively more positive views on China being an important destination for Alberta's exports and wanting to see infrastructure built to export energy via the West Coast to Asia, with a slim majority, 51%, in support for both. Even greater levels of support exist for educating Albertan students on Asia, at 57% for and 34% opposed, with a small portion, 9%, neutral on the topic. In contrast, over one in five (22%) of these respondents are neutral when it comes to welcoming Chinese investment into Alberta's energy and resource sectors.

A plurality of this cohort is from outside of Edmonton and Calgary, and has a post-secondary education. Half of these respondents are supporters of the PC/Tory or Wildrose parties, and just 9% are supporters of the Alberta NDP.

Alberta in the National Context

The China Institute at the University of Alberta (CIUA)'s Alberta Survey is once again comparable to other surveys conducted recently, and its results both reinforce and are reinforced by many other survey results. Notably, in May 2017 the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC) released their "2017 National Opinion Poll: Canadian Views on Engagement with China," which is their first poll to focus specifically on China and part of a series of national opinion polls on Asia conducted by the organization. The CIUA Alberta Survey focuses specifically on public sentiments towards China, including investment and trade relations; the APFC Surveys typically examine the broader attitudes towards foreign investment and Canadians' views towards Asia, with a particular focus this year on engagement with China.

Canadians' Views on a Free Trade Agreement

The evolution of Canadians' views towards a potential Canada-China free trade agreement (FTA) is also interesting to note within APFC and CIUA surveys: APFC tracks support for the Canadian government entering into a FTA with China as growing from 36% support in 2014 to half (46%) in 2016 and 55% in 2017; the CIUA had a slightly lower 44% of Albertans found to support the Canadian government entering into FTA negotiations with China in 2016, and a slightly higher 58% in 2017 who believe that a FTA between the two countries would benefit the Alberta economy.

The increase in public support for a Canada-China FTA is interesting, given the Canada-China Business Council's (CCBC) "Canada China Business Survey 2016," released in April 2017, has tracked a decline in business support for a potential FTA between the countries: from 82% either "strongly" or "moderately" supporting in 2012, to 79% in 2016. However, two points should be noted: "strong" support rose from (half) 49% to two-fifths (57%) in that period, and the businesses surveyed by CCBC were both Canadian and Chinese firms either operating or considering operations in each other's countries. The CCBC survey is also in line with a June 2017 Globe and Mail survey noting 78% support for a Canada-China FTA among Canadian business executives.

Returning to public opinion, it remains to be seen whether the broad positivity captured by CIUA and APFC exists in all areas. While 63% of Canadians responding to the APFC Survey believe expanded ties will encourage needed investment in businesses, and the CIUA Survey records Albertans' support for Chinese investment in Alberta at 48% and in Alberta's energy and resource sectors at 51%, a April 2017 Nanos Research survey, "Views on free trade talks between Canada and China," found that only 11% of Canadians were "comfortable" or "somewhat comfortable" with Chinese state-owned enterprises having access to Canadian high tech and oil sand investments.

Impact of China's Economy

Nearly half (49%) of Albertans surveyed by CIUA feel that China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta, a number that is interesting to compare with the 57% of Canadians surveyed by the APFC who agreed that expanded trade with China would bring greater economic prosperity to Canada. Whether this difference arises solely due to the types of questions, whether this lower number is an Alberta phenomenon, or whether Albertans might be more inclined to view China's economic strength as beneficial if trade were expanded, are interesting possibilities to consider.

As another layer to this topic, 56% of Canadians surveyed in April 2017 by Abacus Data felt that China was doing more to grow the economy around the world than the United States.

Opportunities for Canada

Half (50%) of the APFC Survey's respondents believe that Canada should strengthen its economic relationship with China given the recent U.S. presidential election, a number in line with the CIUA Survey's three-fifths (60%) of Albertans who want Alberta to build stronger ties with China.

When APFC assessed Canadians' views of increased economic engagement with China, three-quarters (76%) agreed that there will be more opportunities for Canadian businesses and two-thirds (70%) agreed that it created future opportunities for young Canadians. In contrast, a smaller three-fifths (58%) of CIUA's respondents in Alberta agreed that China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans.

THE ALBERTA SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

The Population Research Laboratory (PRL) administered the 2017 Alberta Survey. This survey of households across the province of Alberta continues to enable academic researchers, government departments, and non-profit organizations to explore a wide range of topics in a structured research framework and environment. Sponsors' research questions are asked together with demographic questions in a telephone interview of Alberta households.

The PRL used a Random-Digit Dialling (RDD) approach for landlines to ensure that respondents had an equal chance to be contacted whether or not their household was listed in a telephone directory. The PRL has developed a database of eight-digit telephone banks covering the Edmonton and Calgary metropolitan areas, as well as the remainder of the province. By area, the identified working banks are randomly selected with replacement and a randomly generated set of two digits between 00-99 is appended to each selection. Duplicate telephone numbers were purged from the computer list. Businesses and government exchanges were excluded. Within the household, one eligible person was selected as the respondent.

The final sample of 1,205 respondents consisted of 605 females and 600 males.

This study is necessarily based on a sample of adults in Alberta rather than the total population of adults in Alberta. All of the descriptive statistics, such as means and percentages,

which are calculated using the sample data, are subject to sampling error. The sampling error is a measure of the validity of the descriptive statistics that are observed in a sample. The estimated sampling error, at the 95% confidence level, for an area sample of 1,205 households assuming a 50/50 binomial percentage distribution is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points. Survey estimates for the subsample of 400 are estimated to be within plus or minus 5.0 percentage points, at the 95% confidence level.

The sample sizes of completed interviews obtained for Metropolitan Edmonton, Metropolitan Calgary, and Other Alberta are not always proportional to the current Alberta population they are meant to represent. Therefore, statistical weights were calculated for the 2017 Alberta Survey sample data using population estimates for 2016.

The PRL accumulated data on a regular basis using the features of the CATI system and then imported into the IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 24) in order to run frequency distributions and cross-tabulations. The data were checked regularly for missing values and inconsistencies. The data cleaning process included wild code, discrepant value, and consistency checks. Each variable was reviewed and evaluated.

The PRL provided an electronic copy of the questionnaire-codebook, frequency distributions, methodology report, and SPSS data set. There are 1,205 cases in the final data set.

APPENDIX

2017 Questionnaire

Introduction 1

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling (long distance) from the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta. Have I dialed XXX-XXXX? Your phone number was randomly selected.

PRESS '1' TO CONTINUE

Hello, I am calling back from the Population Research Laboratory to continue an interview that we started previously.

Introduction 2

The Population Research Laboratory is conducting a public opinion survey on behalf of university and policy researchers on various topics, such as: health, the environment and economy. Your opinions are very important and valuable to us and the information will be used to help with decision-making in developing public policies to improve programs and services in Alberta.

(The study sponsors are the Population Research Laboratory, University of Alberta researchers, China Institute, and PolicyWise for Children & Families.)

PRESS '1' TO CONTINUE

FOIPP

I want to assure you that if you choose to participate, it is completely voluntary. If there are any questions or sections that you do not wish to answer, please point these out to me and we'll go on to the next question. If there are any questions that you wish to change your answers, please let us know before the end of the interview. However, there are a few questions in this survey where responses cannot be changed due to the need to assess initial knowledge and awareness. You have the right to end this phone call at any time.

Your information is confidential and only completed interview will be used for the indicated purposes in conformity with the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP).

(There are no risks or direct personal benefits in participating. The results of this study will be stored in a secure database and analyzed only in group format, and may be used for professional presentations and publications. The study results will be stored in a public domain database indefinitely at the University of Alberta with no personally identifiable information.)

The China Institute at the University of Alberta is interested in understanding how Albertans feel about China and our province's relationship to China. In order to understand your views, please indicate whether you 'strongly disagree', 'disagree', 'neither disagree nor agree', 'agree', or 'strongly agree' with each of the following statements.

(To be read as further information if participant asks: "This information will be used to write a report that will be shared with provincial and federal policy makers, as well as stakeholders in industries of significance to the Alberta economy.")

Questionnaire

1. China's increasing economic strength benefits Alberta.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 Refused (volunteered)

2. Alberta should build stronger ties with China.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- 0 Refused (volunteered)

3. China is important as an export market for Alberta goods and services.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- o Refused (volunteered)

4. Alberta should decrease its economic reliance on the U.S. market.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- o Refused (volunteered)

5. Alberta should diversify its economy by trading more with Asia.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- o Refused (volunteered)

6. Alberta should support the building of better infrastructure to transport energy to the west coast for export to Asia.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- o Refused (volunteered)

7. Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- o Refused (volunteered)

8. Why do you _____ (strongly disagree, disagree, agree or strongly agree) that "Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in the province."

[OPEN-ENDED] [DO NOT leave blank] [PLEASE PROBE for details]

9. Alberta should welcome Chinese investment in energy and other resource sectors of the province.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- o Refused (volunteered)

10. China will play an increasingly significant role in the future opportunities of Albertans.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- o Refused (volunteered)

11. A Free Trade Agreement between Canada and China would benefit the Albertan economy.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 8 Don't know (volunteered)
- o Refused (volunteered)

ABOUT THE CHINA INSTITUTE

The China Institute at the University of Alberta (CIUA) was established in 2005 with an endowment fund of C\$37 million from the Government of Alberta. The endowment matched the appraised value of The Mactaggart Art Collection, donated to the University of Alberta Museums by Edmonton philanthropists Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart, under an agreement by the University that the funds so obtained would be used to create a China Institute, dedicated to enhancing understanding between Canada and China.

The CIUA is focused on the study of contemporary China, including cutting-edge and policy relevant research on Chinese energy policy, politics, economy, social issues, culture and Canada-China relations.

CIUA's mission is to advance scholarship of China at the University of Alberta, to enhance and support research on China, and to promote strong academic linkages between the University of Alberta and Chinese universities.

CIUA's vision is to play a prominent role in Canada, China and internationally as a unique Canadian enterprise that stimulates outstanding China-related teaching, research initiatives and interdisciplinary collaboration. Spanning a wide range of disciplines, the Institute encourages the participation in the scholarship of China by undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, staff, and faculty from the University of Alberta and Chinese institutions.

The CIUA looks forward to developing robust partnership with its Chinese partners in research, education, and joint programs, with the broad goal of enhancing understanding of China, and its role in the modern world.

The first Director of CIUA is Professor Gordon Houlden, a specialist of Chinese and Asia Pacific affairs, who was appointed in 2008 and who commenced his second term as Director in 2014. The Deputy Director of CIUA is Ms. Jia Wang, a Peking University graduate.

The Albertans' Views on China survey arose from the China Institute's commitment to fostering a better understanding of China and its importance to Canadian society. In line with this commitment, the CIUA has surveyed Albertans for seven consecutive years on their views on a variety of matters related to China, including Chinese investment in the province. Polling 1,205 Albertans with 12 questions, and using the campus' Population Research Lab, the survey tracks the opinion of Albertans on such things as China's role in creating future economic opportunities and Chinese investment in the province.

The China Institute is saddened to note the passing of Sandy Mactaggart, a supporter, donor, and friend of the China Institute who was integral to its founding. Sandy visited the China Institute regularly, and his profoundly kind and humble spirit will remain in our memories.

ABOUT THE POPULATION RESEARCH LABORATORY

University of Alberta

The Population Research Laboratory (PRL), a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO), seeks to advance the research, education and service goals of the University of Alberta by helping academic researchers and policy makers design and implement applied social science research projects. The PRL specializes in the gathering, analysis, and presentation of data about demographic, social and public issues.

The PRL research team provides expert consultation and implementation of quantitative and qualitative research methods, project design, sample design, web-based, paper-based and telephone surveys, field site testing, data analysis and report writing. The PRL follows scientifically rigorous and transparent methods in each phase of a research project. Research Coordinators are members of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and use best practices when conducting all types of research.

The PRL has particular expertise in conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews (referred to as CATI surveys). When conducting telephone surveys, all calls are displayed as being from the “U of A PRL,” a procedure that assures recipients that the call is not from a telemarketer, and thus helps increase response rates. The PRL maintains a complement of highly skilled telephone interviewers and supervisors who are thoroughly trained in FOIPP requirements, respondent selection procedures, questionnaire instructions, and neutral probing. A subset of interviewers are specially trained to convince otherwise reluctant respondents to participate in the study, a practice that increases response rates and lowers selection bias. PRL staff monitors data collection on a daily basis to allow any necessary adjustments to the volume and timing of calls and respondent selection criteria.

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