Market Watch

S&P/TSX	S&P 500	DOW	NASDAQ	DOLLAR	OIL per barrel	GOLD
36,513.80	7,718.60	53,414.25	26,506.99	72.25¢US	US$91.48	US$4,476.60
-119.32	-29.11	-271.86	-77.07	-0.27¢	+$0.18	-$63.30

Tariffs have some mom-and-pop manufacturers considering move to U.S.

CP PHOTO ADRIAN WYLD
Francois Bruneau, president DFC Woodworks Inc., and vice-president Dina Elatawi are seen outside their factory, which makes Adirondack chairs, in Kemptville, Ont., about 50 km south of Ottawa, on Thursday.

BRETT BUNDALE
The Canadian Press

An Ontario-based Muskoka chair maker hit hard by U.S. tariffs is considering moving the bulk of its manufacturing to the United States, while keeping chairs for the domestic market made in Canada.

DFC Woodworks Inc. has been making outdoor wooden patio furniture including Muskoka chairs — also called Adirondack chairs — since 1955.

The Kemptville, Ont., company exports about 70 per cent of its furniture to the United States, but those goods are now subject to a steep 50 per cent U.S. duty.

The family-run business is now saddled with a hefty tariff bill and a looming decision about whether to keep absorbing the costs, raise prices and risk U.S. sales falling to zero, or move the majority of its manufacturing south of the border, DFC Woodworks president François Bruneau said in an interview.

"It's damned if we do, damned if we don't," he said. "If we raise prices, it will make us non-competitive and sales will go down. If we don't, the tariffs will sink us."

The Muskoka chair maker's dilemma illustrates the challenges facing many Canadian small- and medium-sized enterprises, said Fen Hampson, international affairs professor at Carleton University.

"There are lots of small mom-and-pop operations, very small businesses, and they are highly dependent on the U.S. market," Hampson said. "If a large portion of their production is exported to the U.S., a big tariff could put them out of business."

Smaller manufacturers may lack the financial resources, diversified markets and specialized trade expertise that allow larger corporations to weather a trade war, he said.

DFC Woodworks, which operates under brand names The Best Adirondack Chair Co. and The Best Muskoka Chair Co., makes all its outdoor patio furniture — including swings, bar sets, dining tables and rocking chairs — in Ontario using B.C. western red cedar and eastern select pine.

It's now reluctantly contemplating downsizing its Canadian operation and moving manufacturing for U.S. customers to southeastern U.S.

"It's a difficult decision," Bruneau said. "We did some preliminary explorations in North Carolina."

He adds: "It's not something we take lightly. It's just the economics are difficult and getting worse."

Tariffs on the company's furniture exports to the U.S. will cost DFC Woodworks about $75,000 on existing orders over the next eight weeks — costs that Bruneau said he cannot pass on to customers.

Dennis Darby, chief executive of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, said the latest tariffs pose a distinct challenge for Canadian exporters because they apply exclusively to goods from Canada.

"It might be harder than you think to pass on that tariff because somebody can undercut you from another country," he said.

"It actually makes it easier for countries like China to sell their goods into the U.S. because the Canadian goods are being tariffed at 50 per cent."

Moreover, a long history of free trade between Canada and the United States has led many Canadian manufacturers to ship goods directly to U.S. customers, Darby said.

That has become a problem because when a Canadian company is the importer of record under an existing shipping arrangement with a U.S. customer, it must pay the tariff to U.S. customs before the goods are released, he said.

Tariffs also tend to be harder for smaller exporters to absorb because they often lack the negotiating clout to persuade U.S. customers to share the tariff cost or the market power to raise prices, Darby said.

It leaves smaller companies that are dependent on U.S. sales with few options, he said.

A June survey by the trade organization found that if tariffs persisted above competitive thresholds, about 43 per cent of manufacturers would be forced to shift production, investment or sourcing to the United States.

"It's very hard to make up 50, 60, 70 per cent of your demand domestically," Darby said.

DFC Woodworks vice-president Dina Elatawi, who is married to Bruneau, said the buy Canadian movement has boosted the company's domestic sales over the last two years.

"It's helped us stay abreast," she said. "We're so happy that Canadians are supporting us and rallying behind us."

However, the federal government could do more to support small businesses, Elatawi said.

"The financial compensations that they're doing for businesses to help us through this hard time, none of them really relate to us because we're either too small or we don't have the money to match dollar for dollar," she said. "We're really in a pickle."

DFC Woodworks has diversified in recent years, growing sales to Europe with plans to export to Japan, Elatawi said.

"We are trying to diversify," she said. "But the United States is our biggest market."

Moving manufacturing for U.S. sales to North Carolina would require sourcing wood from Oregon and Washington, Bruneau said.

While furniture sold to Canadian customers would continue to be manufactured in Ontario using Canadian wood, the change would mean downsizing the Kemptville operation.

"It would definitely have a devastating effect for the Canadian side here, since the majority of our manufacturing is for U.S. sales," Elatawi said. "We might have to do some layoffs and have a smaller shop."

She added: "We've never in our lives ever, ever contemplated that this could happen. I feel so sad."

PUBLIC NOTICES

Medicine Hat

8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.......403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.......403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.......403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.......403.526.2828

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED AUGUST 27 TO SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

What's Happening IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?

Scan code to view development notices online (updated weekly)

RESIDENTIAL

143 3 STREET NE - Residential Accessory Structure (Deck) Refused

1955 20 STREET SE - Residential Accessory Building (Carport Addition)

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

340 A MAPLE AVENUE SE - Change Of Use To Personal Services (Tattoo Parlor)

210 1111 KINGSWAY AVENUE SE - Change Of Use To Office Minor

602 13 STREET SE - Change Of Use To Vehicle Body/Paint

HOME BUSINESS

71 SANDFORD CRESCENT SE - Home Business Minor - Service (Guitar Repairs).

1126 YUILL STREET SE - Home Business Minor - Janitorial Service.

42 CAIRNEY CRESCENT SE - Home Business Minor - Roofing/Siding Contractor.

60 SIERRA DRIVE SW - Home Business Minor - Mortgage Administrative Consultant.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty one (21) days of this publication. Forms available from: City Clerk Dept., 3rd Floor, City Hall or City website: www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. For more information, contact Planning and Development Services, 2nd Floor, City Hall. Ph. (403) 529-8374.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE COLLECTION CHANGES

There will be no residential waste collection on **Monday, September 7, 2026**, due to the **Labour Day** statutory holiday.

Waste collection zones will advance as follows:

DATE	COLLECTION ZONE
Monday, September 7	**NO COLLECTION**
Tuesday, September 8	Zone 3
Wednesday, September 9	Zone 4
Thursday, September 10	Zone 5
Friday, September 11	Zone 1
Monday, September 14	Zone 2

Download the Recycle Coach App, refer to medicinehat.ca/collectionschedule or contact Environmental Utilities at 403-529-8176 for more information.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE CART TIPS

Load it: Dispose of acceptable items only. Contaminated carts or items left outside of the carts will not be collected. Please no batteries, pressurized tanks or other harmful or hazardous materials.

Time it: Set each cart out before 7:00 a.m. on collection day and bring back onto private property within 24 hours of collection.

Park it: Set cart(s) at the curb/lane with the arrows pointing to the driving lane.

Space it: If you can comfortably walk around each cart, then you have left enough room for the trucks to collect.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY HOURS OF OPERATION

The City of Medicine Hat Waste Management Facility will be closed on **Monday, September 7, 2026**, for the **Labour Day** statutory holiday. The facility will re-open the following business day.

Hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday through Saturday
  8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Closed on Sunday

Refer to medicinehat.ca/landfill or contact Environmental Utilities at 403-529-8176 for more information.

GAS, ELECTRIC, WIND ENERGY RATES SET FOR SEPTEMBER

Medicine Hat - The City of Medicine Hat has set its September energy commodity rates.

Natural Gas – all customers

The September natural gas default rate is $1.250 per gigajoule (GJ), down from the previous month of $1.537 per GJ.

The rate is based on the weighted average cost of the City's natural gas purchases for the month of consumption, plus $0.07/GJ to recover transactional costs and a small rate of return, in accordance with the Gas Utility Bylaw 2489.

Electricity – Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting

The calculated electricity rate for July, August and September 2026 is $0.0447/kWh which, under the Electric Utility Bylaw 2244, defaults to the minimum $0.07000/kWh for Residential, Farm, Small and Medium Commercial, Unmetered Services and Rental Lighting customers.

The rate is based on a 12-month, volume weighted forecast as per the ICE-NGX wholesale electricity energy market, not to exceed a maximum of 11 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) or go below a minimum rate of seven cents per kWh, and is recalculated on the first business day of January, April, July, and October.

Electricity - Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting Customers

The current default electricity rate for Large Commercial, Industrial and Street Lighting customers is $0.12025 per kilowatt hour.

The rate is based on the average of the rates for owners whose regulated rate tariffs are approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission under section 103(2) of the Electric Utilities Act for that calendar month as posted by the Alberta Utilities Commission on its internet page under Rate of Last Resort (ROLR) Regulation.

Under the new ROLR Regulation, this fixed rate is expected to remain in place until December 31, 2026.

Rate of Last Resort	Rate per kWh
Direct Energy Regulated Services	$0.12020
ENMAX Energy Corporation	$0.12060
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (Edmonton)	$0.12010
EPCOR Energy Alberta GP (outside Edmonton)	$0.12010
City of Medicine Hat Rate (based on the average)	**$0.12025**

Going Green Charge

Customers also have a "Going Green" surcharge on their bill. This surcharge is for renewable energy purchased for residential, farm, small and medium commercial customers.

The Going Green surcharge is calculated monthly to recover costs incurred to purchase renewable energy.

The Going Green surcharge for September is $0.0043 per kilowatt hour.

For more details about energy rates, visit medicinehat.ca/energyplans.

For further information, please contact: media@medicinehat.ca

FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS & WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Environmental Utilities maintenance crews perform regular, routine maintenance to uphold the waterworks system infrastructure and water quality by annually inspecting fire hydrants and flushing water mains.

During these operations, there may be some discolouration in the water which is **not** harmful to consume and will dissipate when flushing is complete.

It is important to note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry, and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discolouration persist over three hours, turn on a cold-water faucet or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing information on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca/water or contact Environmental Utilities at 403-529-8176.

www.medicinehat.ca