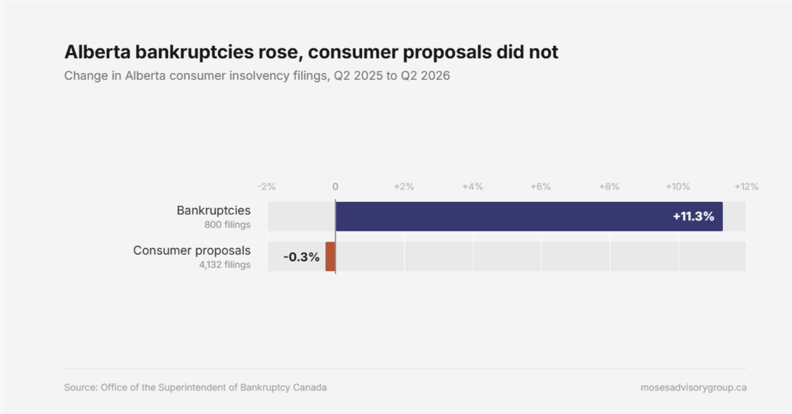
Alberta Consumer Bankruptcies Jump 11% in Q2 as Consumer Proposals Stay Flat

Federal insolvency data suggests Albertans are running out of room for a consumer proposal.



Alberta consumer bankruptcies rose 11.3 percent year over year in Q2 2026 while consumer proposals fell 0.3 percent. Source: Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA, August 25, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Bankruptcies in Alberta rose 11.3 percent in the second quarter of 2026 compared with a year earlier, while consumer proposals were flat, according to figures published by the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy.

The figures suggest a growing number of Alberta households no longer have the monthly income a consumer proposal requires.

Alberta recorded 4,932 consumer insolvencies in the second quarter, up 1.4 percent year over year, a far milder increase than the national figure of 6.9 percent and well behind Ontario at 10.2 percent and British Columbia at 10.9 percent. Across the 12 months to 30 June, 19,018 Albertans filed for insolvency, or roughly 52 people every day.

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>
> *Robert Johnson, CPA, CA, CIRP, Licensed Insolvency Trustee*

Within that broadly stable total, the composition changed. Alberta consumer bankruptcies rose to 800, an increase of 11.3 percent on the year and 7.8 percent on the previous quarter. Consumer proposals, at 4,132, were down 0.3 percent year over year.

"High non-mortgage debt, reduced refinancing options, rising rents and costs outpacing wages are increasing financial strain across Alberta. A consumer proposal only works when there is income left to fund a payment. When that margin disappears, bankruptcy is what is left," said Robert Johnson, CPA, CA, CIRP, a Licensed Insolvency Trustee with Moses Advisory Group in Edmonton.

Consumer proposals accounted for 83.8 percent of Alberta's consumer insolvencies in the quarter, among the highest share of any province and well above the national 77.1 percent.

Edmonton runs against the national trend

Edmonton was the only major Alberta centre to record a decline in filings. The region logged 1,553 consumer insolvencies in the second quarter, down 3.0 percent year over year, and its 12-month total fell 6.3 percent to 5,956. Calgary rose 1.7 percent over the same period, to 1,413.

The same shift toward bankruptcy appears in the Edmonton figures. Bankruptcies in the region rose 2.5 percent year over year while proposals fell 4.0 percent. Elsewhere in the province, the picture was uneven: filings fell sharply in Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake (down 19.5 percent) and Lethbridge-Medicine Hat (down 16.1 percent), but rose in Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River (up 7.9 percent) and Red Deer (up 7.1 percent).

Business filings rose faster in Alberta than nationally

Alberta businesses recorded 99 insolvencies in the quarter, an increase of 35.6 percent year over year, at a time when national business insolvencies were nearly unchanged at 0.2 percent. Business bankruptcies in the province rose 70.3 percent. Quarterly business figures are volatile at this scale, and the steadier 12-month total shows a more modest increase of 5.2 percent, to 322 filings.

"When bankruptcies rise and consumer proposals stay flat, it usually means people are arriving in a deeper financial position where they cannot commit to three to five years of structured repayments in a consumer proposal. At that point, bankruptcy is the only filing that clears the debt," said Johnson.

About the data

Figures are from the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, Insolvency Statistics in Canada, Second Quarter of 2026, published August 2026. A full breakdown of the Alberta insolvency statistics, including regional detail and quarterly trends, is available online.

Note: 816 Alberta filings in the quarter were not assigned to a named economic region by the OSB, so regional totals understate activity.

About Moses Advisory Group

Moses Advisory Group Inc. is a Licensed Insolvency Trustee firm based in Edmonton, serving clients across Alberta, Ontario, British Columbia, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Licensed Insolvency Trustees are the only professionals in Canada authorized to file consumer proposals and bankruptcies, and are regulated by the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy.

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