



# Alberta Utilities Industry Profile 2023

Jobs, Economy and Trade



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## Overview

The 2023 Industry Profile for the Utilities Industry provides statistics and trends in the labour market for the utilities sector in Alberta. Topics include employment, unemployment, number of businesses, occupation, wages and demographics. All statistics provided are 12-month averages for the year. The statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey and the Alberta Wage and Salary Survey.

The utilities<sup>1</sup> industry in Alberta is comprised of establishments that:

- generate, transmit, control and distribute electric power;
- distribute natural gas;
- treat and distribute water;
- operate sewer systems and sewage treatment facilities; and
- provide related services.

For more information, please see [Statistics Canada North American Industry Classifications System \(NAICS\) Canada 2022](#) for descriptions of industries.

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<sup>1</sup> North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2017 major group 22.  
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# Section A: Business Environment

## Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

TABLE 1: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS, 2023

	Alberta	Industry
Employment	2,461,100	20,100
Employment share	N/A	0.8%
Unemployment	154,100	N/A
Unemployment rate	5.9%	N/A
Labour force	2,615,200	20,500
Share of labour force	N/A	0.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

Note: N/A denotes not applicable. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employed persons in this industry by total employment in Alberta. Share of labour force is obtained by dividing the number in the labour force for this industry by the total labour force in Alberta.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to [Labour Force Statistics](#) or [Statistics Canada](#).

## Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts,<sup>2</sup> the utilities industry accounted for 1.8% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022, an increase from 1.5% in 2012. Between 2013 and 2023, this industry's contribution to Alberta's employment rose from 0.7% to 0.8%.

Total employment in the utilities industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people 15 years and over) in 2023 was unchanged from its level in 2021. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry rose by 4,900, a 32.2% increase. There were 20,100 people employed in the industry in 2023, of whom 97.5% were full-time and 2.5% were part-time.

TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS, 2023

Characteristic	Alberta	Industry
Median retirement age (years)	64.8	N/A
Average number of hours worked per week	36.6	39.6
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	6.0%	N/A
Average job tenure (months)	94.9	94.9
Employees under union coverage (%)	21.4%	33.3%
Employees working overtime per week (%)	15.9%	23.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Tables: [14-10-0037-01](#); [14-10-0044-01](#); [14-10-0055-01](#); [14-10-0070-01](#); [14-10-0076-01](#); and custom tabulation (median retirement age).

Note: N/A denotes not available. The percentage of multiple job holders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple job holders by total employment. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

<sup>2</sup> See Statistics Canada. [Table 36-10-0400-01](#) Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories, percentage share. Alberta Utilities Industry Profile, 2023 Jobs, Economy and Trade

## Size of Businesses by Industry

**TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT BY ESTABLISHMENT SIZE, 2023**

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Number of Employees	Share of Total*	Number of Employees	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	671,700	31.8%	2,400	12.0%
20 to 99 employees	728,300	34.5%	5,600	28.0%
100 to 500 employees	425,000	20.1%	6,700	33.5%
More than 500 employees	286,900	13.6%	5,200	26.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0068-01](#).

\* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

**TABLE 4: CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNTS, WITH EMPLOYEES, 2023**

Employee Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Business Counts	Share of Total*	Business Counts	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	153,543	87.5%	199	65.7%
20 to 99 employees	18,319	10.4%	82	27.1%
100 to 500 employees	3,159	1.8%	16	5.3%
More than 500 employees	362	0.2%	6	2.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Business register, Table: [33-10-0806-01](#).

\* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Employment by establishment size is based on the Labour Force Survey and provides the number of employees by establishment size. Canadian business counts are compiled from the Business Register and comprise of active business locations by employment size ranges.

## Section B: Human Resources Profile

### Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the utilities industry include:

- gas utility operator;
- utility clerk;
- water and wastewater treatment plant operator;
- power lineman; and
- power system electrician.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the [Alberta Occupational Profiles webpage](#).

### Occupational Growth

Some occupations in the utilities industry with above average forecasted growth<sup>3</sup> between 2024 and 2026 include:

- industrial electricians;
- telecommunications line and cable workers; and
- steamfitters, pipefitters and sprinkler system installers.

### Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2023, workers in the utilities industry are:

- more likely to be male than the general workforce; and
- more likely to be of core-working age (25 to 55 years old) than the workforce as a whole.

TABLE 5: EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER, 2023

Gender	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total
Males	1,310,800	53.3%	16,300	81.1%
Females	1,150,300	46.7%	3,800	18.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

\* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

TABLE 6: EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP, 2023

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total
15 to 24 years	313,000	12.7%	N/A	N/A
25 to 54 years	1,667,700	67.8%	14,900	74.1%
55 years and over	480,400	19.5%	4,100	20.4%

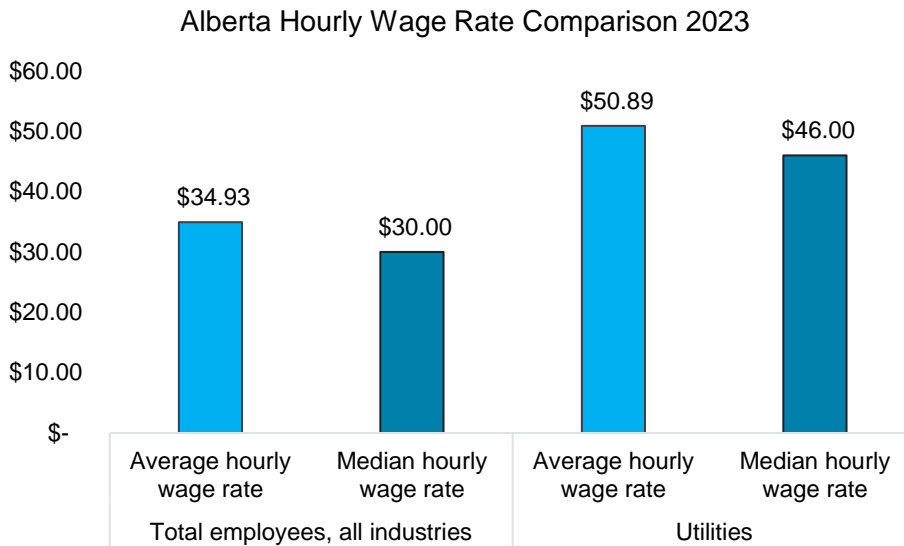
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

\* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/albertas-occupational-outlook>

## Wages and Salaries

CHART 1



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0064-01](#).

Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is the wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

## Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

TABLE 11: WAGE AND SALARY BY OCCUPATION, 2021

Occupation	Employment in Alberta			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Utilities managers	\$50.00	\$61.03	\$63.19	\$140,245
Gas fitters	\$30.00	\$40.38	\$48.18	\$85,826
Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics	\$106.59	\$117.60	\$141.30	\$85,455
Waterworks and gas maintenance workers	\$27.00	\$35.42	\$41.14	\$75,664
Water and waste treatment plant operators	\$96.54	\$107.57	\$111.11	\$83,325

Source: 2021 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey (AWSS). The AWSS is conducted once every two years.

More information on wages and salaries is available [online](#). For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the utilities industry, visit the [ALIS website](#).



## Section C: Additional Information

### Links to Industry Associations

- [Alberta Energy Regulator](#)
- [Canadian Gas Association](#)
- [Canadian Renewable Energy Association](#)
- [Electricity Canada](#)

## For More Information

We at Alberta Jobs, Economy and Trade are committed to providing ongoing labour market information and insights.

We encourage readers to visit our website for the latest updates on Alberta's labour market outlook and to provide feedback on this report. You can find us at: <https://www.alberta.ca/labour-market-information> or contact us at [JET.LFSAnalyst@gov.ab.ca](mailto:JET.LFSAnalyst@gov.ab.ca).

**Thank you for your interest in Alberta's Industry Profiles.**