

Alberta Utilities Industry Profile

2018 and 2019

Alberta Labour and Immigration

Alberta Utilities Industry Profile, 2018 and 2019

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Overview

The Utilities industry¹ in Alberta includes:

- electric power generation, transmission and distribution;
- natural gas distribution;
- water, sewer and irrigation systems.

For more information, see [Statistics Canada North American Industry Classifications System \(NAICS\) Canada 2017](#) for descriptions of industries.

¹ NAICS 2017 major group 22

Section A: Business Environment

1. Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates (2018 and 2019)

Table 1

		Alberta	Utilities Industry
Employment	2019	2,343,000	23,700
	2018	2,330,700	23,400
Employment Share	2019	N/A	1.0%
	2018	N/A	1.0%
Unemployment	2019	173,200	N/A
	2018	164,100	N/A
Unemployment rate	2019	6.9%	N/A
	2018	6.6%	N/A

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0023-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0008), 2019. Note: N/A denotes not-applicable. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta.

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

2. Industry Growth

- The Utilities industry accounted for 1.0% of total employment in Alberta in 2019, unchanged from 2018.
- Employment in this industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 0.8% from 2019 to 2023².
- The industry is expected to account for 1.0% of total employment in Alberta in 2020, unchanged from 2019.
- The outlook for the above projections was completed prior to the economic decline associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore may not capture current economic conditions in the short term. However, the projections are expected to be reflective of long-term expectations of employment trends.

² Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2019-2023, Industry Employment Outlook

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Utilities industry accounted for approximately 1.4% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2018, down from 1.6% in 2008. In 2019, the GDP share was 1.4%, a 0.1 percentage point decrease from 2009. Between 2008 and 2018, this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment increased from 0.9% to 1.0%, and between 2009 and 2019, it remained steady at 1.0%.

Total employment in the Utilities industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2019 was 1.3% higher than its level in 2018. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry increased by 4,300 from 2009, a 22.2% increase. There were 23,700 people employed in the industry in 2019, of which 99.6% were full time.

In the short-term, employment growth in the Utilities industry is not expected to be impacted, as the broader economy is being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2

Characteristic		Alberta	Utilities
Median Retirement Age (years)	2019	65.4	N/A
	2018	64.9	61.8
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	2019	36.1	38.1
	2018	37.1	39.0
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	2019	6.2%	N/A
	2018	6.3%	N/A
Average Job Tenure (months)	2019	92.8	122.3
	2018	92.4	118.8
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	2019	24.6%	53.6%
	2018	24.5%	44.8%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	2019	23.0%	24.0%
	2018	22.7%	31.7%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 14-10-0037-01 (formerly: CANSIM 282-0022), 14-10-0044-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0031), 14-10-0055-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0042), 14-10-0070-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0078) and 14-10-0076-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0084), 2019, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)

Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders 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.

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size		Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Utilities	
		Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	2019	650,100	32.8%	4,500	19.0%
	2018	656,500	34.0%	3,900	16.8%
20 to 99 employees	2019	736,200	37.2%	5,400	22.8%
	2018	711,600	36.9%	5,800	25.0%
100 to 500 employees	2019	370,900	18.7%	8,200	34.6%
	2018	362,400	18.8%	8,400	36.2%
More than 500 employees	2019	223,200	11.3%	5,600	23.6%
	2018	198,900	10.3%	5,100	22.0%

Data Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 14-10-0068-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0076), 2019

* 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

Establishment Size		Businesses with employees in Alberta		Businesses with employees in Utilities	
		Number of Businesses	%	Number of Businesses	%
Less than 20 employees	2019	154,090	87.9%	220	66.3%
	2018	153,855	87.7%	242	71.6%
20 to 99 employees	2019	18,014	10.3%	83	25.0%
	2018	18,123	10.3%	69	20.4%
100 to 499 employees	2019	2,949	1.7%	21	6.3%
	2018	3,000	1.7%	22	6.5%
500+ employees	2019	332	0.2%	8	2.4%
	2018	368	0.2%	5	1.5%
Total	2019	175,385	100%	332	100%
	2018	175,346	100%	338	100%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Business Counts, CANSIM Tables: 33-10-0105-01 (2018) and 33-10-0222-01 (2019)

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupation Information

Some examples of occupations that can be found in the Utilities industry include:

- gas utility operator;
- utility clerk;
- water and wastewater treatment plant operator;
- power lineman;
- 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](#) website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Utilities industry in 2019 was as follows:

- women employed: 6,400 people, or 27.0%, a decrease from 28.3% in 2018
- men employed: 17,300 people, or 73.0%, an increase from 71.4% in 2018

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 46.1% and men made up 53.9% of total employment (for all industries) in 2019, compared to 45.7% women and 54.3% men in 2018.

Table 5

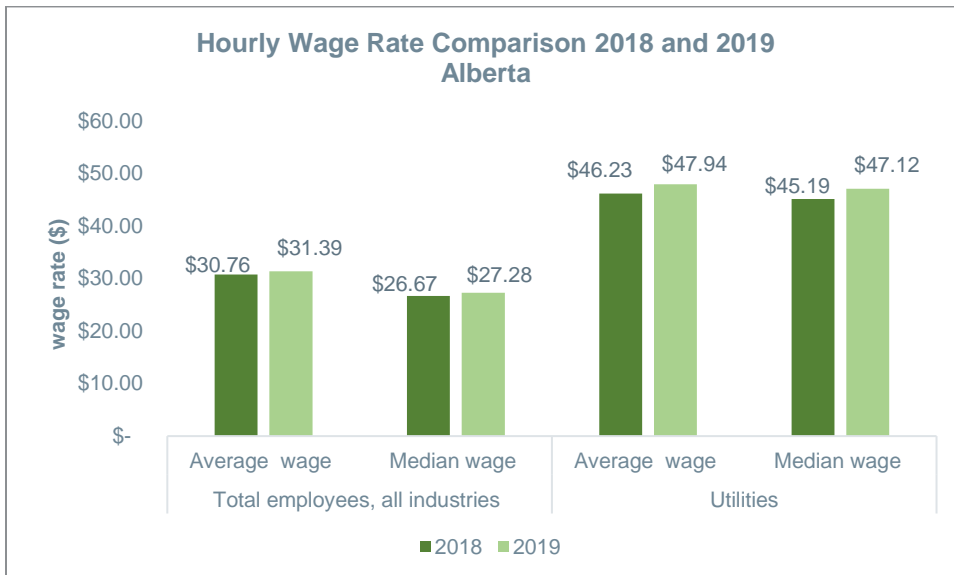
Age Characteristics		Employment in Alberta		Employment in Utilities	
		Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	2019	285,700	12.2%	N/A	N/A
	2018	285,800	12.3%	N/A	N/A
25-54 years	2019	1,590,500	67.9%	19,900	84.0%
	2018	1,587,200	68.1%	18,600	79.5%
55 years and over	2019	466,900	19.9%	2,800	11.8%
	2018	457,800	19.6%	3,800	16.2%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0023-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0008), 2019

*Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

3. Wage and Salaries

Chart 1



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0064-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0072), 2019

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 that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

4. Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 6

Occupation		Median Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
		Starting	Overall	Top	
Utilities manager	2019	\$42.25	\$46.92	\$52.88	\$105,235
	2017	\$28.85	\$53.81	\$84.13	\$112,010
Waterworks and gas maintenance worker	2019	\$25.00	\$33.12	\$39.67	\$69,963
	2017	\$27.05	\$33.22	\$39.42	\$71,082
Electrical power line and cable workers	2019	\$34.68	\$57.57	\$57.76	\$115,901
	2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Data Source: 2017 & 2019 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey (AWSS). The AWSS is done once every 2 years.

For more information on the *2019 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the [WAGEinfo](#) website. 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
(<https://www.aer.ca/>)
- Canadian Gas Association
(<https://www.cga.ca/>)
- Canadian Wind Energy Association
(<https://canwea.ca/>)
- Canadian Electricity Association
(<https://electricity.ca/>)