



Alberta Utilities Industry Profile 2021 and 2022

Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

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Contents

Overview	4
Section A: Business Environment.....	5
• Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates	5
• Industry Growth	5
• Facts, Trends and Outlook	5
• Size of Businesses by Industry	6
Section B: Human Resources Profile.....	7
• Occupational Information	8
• Demographics: Gender and Age	8
• Wages and Salaries	9
• Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations	10
Section C: Additional Information	10
• Links to Industry Associations	11

Overview

The 2022 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 utilities¹ 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.

¹ 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

	Alberta		Industry	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Employment	2,259,600	2,376,100	18,600	20,100
Employment share	N/A	N/A	0.8%	0.8%
Unemployment	211,400	146,500	N/A	N/A
Unemployment rate	8.6%	5.8%	N/A	N/A
Labour force	2,471,000	2,522,600	18,800	20,500
Share of labour force	N/A	N/A	0.8%	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,² the utilities industry accounted for 1.52% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021, a decrease from 1.53% in 2011. Between 2012 and 2022, 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 2022 was 8.1% higher than 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 2022, of whom 97.5% were full-time and 2.5% were part-time.

TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	Alberta		Industry	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Median retirement age (years)	64.5	65.2	N/A	N/A
Average number of hours worked per week	36.4	36.4	39.8	39.5
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	5.8%	6.0%	N/A	N/A
Average job tenure (months)	97.2	93.3	117.7	109.5
Employees under union coverage (%)	21.6%	20.4%	32.8%	50.2%
Employees working overtime per week (%)	17.1%	16.8%	32.8%	22.4%

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.

² 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, 2021 and 2022 | Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

Size of Businesses by Industry

TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT BY ESTABLISHMENT SIZE (2021)

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Number of Employees	Share of Total*	Number of Employees	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	660,900	34.5%	3,200	17.2%
20 to 99 employees	683,400	35.7%	5,900	31.7%
100 to 500 employees	347,400	18.1%	6,000	32.3%
More than 500 employees	223,400	11.7%	3,500	18.8%

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: EMPLOYMENT BY ESTABLISHMENT SIZE (2022)

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Number of Employees	Share of Total*	Number of Employees	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	670,300	33.1%	2,700	13.4%
20 to 99 employees	700,900	34.6%	6,200	30.8%
100 to 500 employees	389,500	19.2%	5,600	27.9%
More than 500 employees	264,800	13.1%	5,500	27.4%

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 5: CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNTS, WITH EMPLOYEES (2021)

Employee Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Business Counts	Share of Total*	Business Counts	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	150,320	88.3%	209	65.7%
20 to 99 employees	16,765	9.8%	84	26.4%
100 to 500 employees	2,847	1.7%	19	6.0%
More than 500 employees	334	0.2%	6	1.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [33-10-0493-01](#).

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

TABLE 6: CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNTS, WITH EMPLOYEES (2022)

Employee Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Business Counts	Share of Total*	Business Counts	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	152,355	87.8%	203	65.9%
20 to 99 employees	17,735	10.2%	80	26.0%
100 to 500 employees	2,991	1.7%	19	6.2%
More than 500 employees	360	0.2%	6	1.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [33-10-0661-01](#).

* 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 growth³ between 2023 and 2025 include:

- industrial electricians;
- waterworks and gas maintenance workers; and
- power engineers and power systems operators.

Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2022, 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 7: EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER, 2021

Gender	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total
Males	1,209,200	53.5%	11,300	60.8%
Females	1,050,400	46.5%	7,300	39.2%

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

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

TABLE 8: EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER, 2022

Gender	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total
Males	1,258,000	52.9%	13,600	67.7%
Females	1,118,100	47.1%	6,500	32.3%

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

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

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

TABLE 9: EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP, 2021

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total
15 to 24 years	280,800	12.4%	N/A	N/A
25 to 54 years	1,525,500	67.5%	14,500	78.0%
55 years and over	453,400	20.1%	3,500	18.8%

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

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

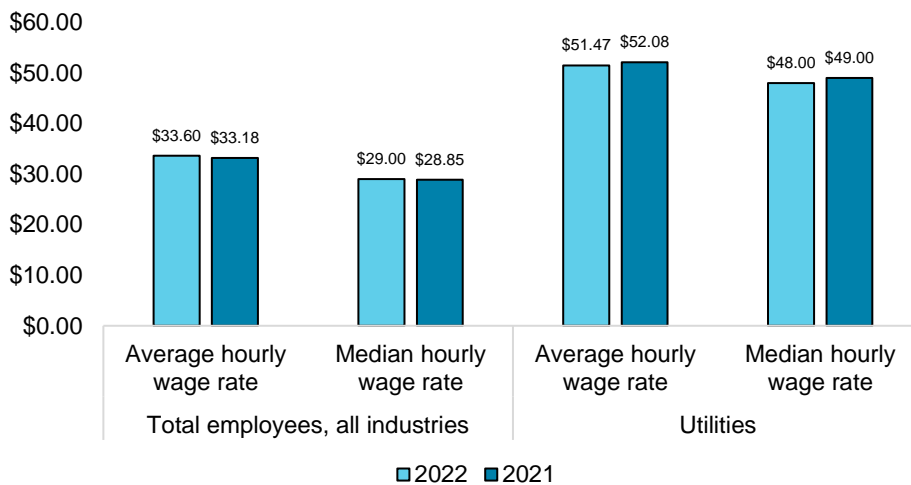
TABLE 10: EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP, 2022

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total
15 to 24 years	310,200	13.1%	1,700	8.5%
25 to 54 years	1,611,400	67.8%	16,400	81.6%
55 years and over	454,600	19.1%	2,100	10.4%

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

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

Wages and Salaries

CHART 1**Alberta Hourly Wage Rate Comparison 2021 - 2022**

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](#)
- [Canadian Electricity Association](#)