



# 2023 Alberta Labour Force Profiles: Age 45 and Older

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## Introduction

This 2023 Alberta Labour Force Profile provides statistics and trends in the labour market for people aged 45 and older in Alberta. Topics include population, labour force participation, employment, and unemployment, demographics, industry and occupation. Statistics provided are 12-month averages for the year.

### Definitions:

**Target population:** The non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over. Excluded from the survey's coverage are persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the institutionalized population, and households in extremely remote areas with very low population density. These groups together represent an exclusion of less than two per cent of the Canadian population aged 15 and over.

**Labour force:** Civilian, non-institutionalized persons 15 years of age and over who were employed or unemployed during the reference week.

**Participation rate:** Number of employed and unemployed people as a percentage of the population aged 15 and older.

**Employment rate:** Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The employment rate for a particular group (for example, one defined by age, sex, marital status or province) is the number employed in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

**Unemployment rate:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (for example, one defined by age, sex or marital status) is the number of unemployed persons in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that same group.

**Industry:** General nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only), based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). If a person did not have a job during the survey reference week, the information is collected for the last job held, provided the person worked within the previous 12 months.

**Occupation:** The kind of work persons 15 years of age and over were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job, based on the 2021 National Occupational Classification (NOC). If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relate to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

### Note on the data:

Numbers and percentages may not add up exactly to their totals due to rounding by Statistics Canada.

Data and definitions provided are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.



## Highlights 2023

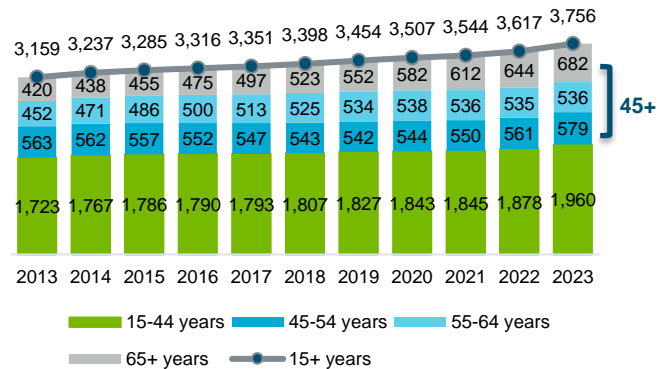
- In 2023, there were 1,796,000 people aged 45 and over in Alberta, accounting for 47.8 per cent of all Albertans aged 15 and older. This was an increase of 25.2 per cent compared to 2013.
- The increase in population aged 45 and older in the past 10 years was driven by the increase in those aged 55 and over. The fastest growth was in the group aged 65 and over, the size of which increased by 62.2 per cent since 2013 at an annual average growth rate of 5.0 per cent.
- The population aged 45 and over has grown the fastest in Alberta among provinces over the past 10 years. However, the share of this group in the overall provincial population was lower in Alberta compared to other provinces.
- People aged 45 and over made up 38.7 per cent of Alberta's labour force and 39.3 per cent of all employed Albertans in 2023.
- The participation rate and employment rate for Albertans aged 45 to 54 dropped by approximately two percentage points compared to 2022, while the rates for other older workers were up one to two percentage points.
- The unemployment rate for Albertans aged 45 and over was 4.4 per cent in 2023, 2.4 percentage points lower than the rate for the younger group aged 15 to 44 (6.8 per cent).
- The industries where workers aged 45 and over made up the greatest proportion of employment were agriculture (57.7 per cent), manufacturing (48.1 per cent) and transportation and warehousing (47.8 per cent).
- The occupations where workers aged 45 and over made up the greatest proportion of employment were management (55.9 per cent), manufacturing and utilities (49.7 per cent) and business, finance and administration (42.8 per cent).

# Population statistics

In 2023, there were 1,796,000 people aged 45 and older in Alberta, accounting for 47.8 per cent of all Albertans aged 15 and older.

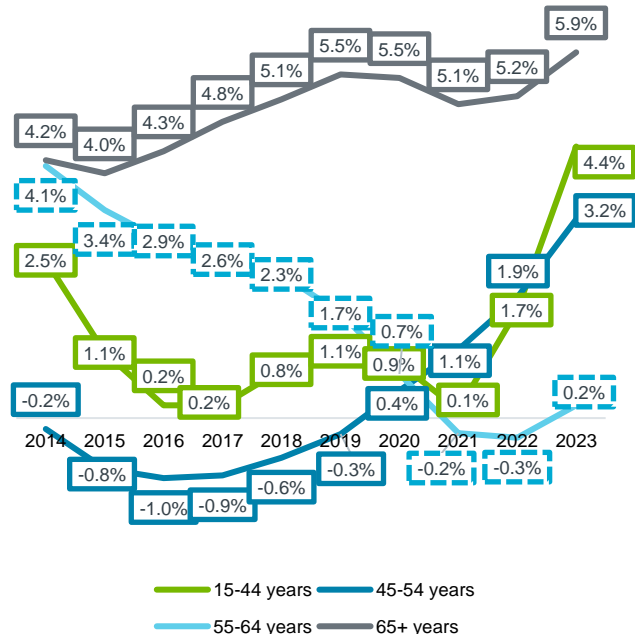
- The population aged 45 and older has increased by 361,000 (25.2 per cent) since 2013, at an average annual growth rate of 2.3 per cent (Figure 2); while the younger population aged 15 to 44 increased by 237,000 (13.7 per cent), at an average annual growth rate of 1.3 per cent.
- The population aged 65 and older has increased by 62.2 per cent (261,000) since 2013 and the population aged 55 to 64 (closing to retirement) was up 18.5 per cent (84,000).
  - The population aged 65 and older has grown at a rate of more than five per cent each year since 2018, the fastest of all groups. The annual growth rate reached the highest at 5.9 per cent in 2023.

**FIGURE 1. ALBERTA POPULATION BY AGE GROUP, 2013-2023**  
(thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 2. ALBERTA POPULATION ANNUAL GROWTH RATE BY AGE GROUP, 2013-2023**  
(percentage)

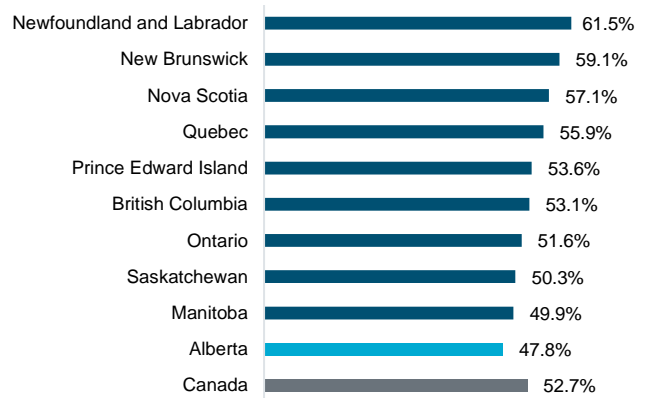


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

With people aged 45 and over making up 47.8 per cent of all aged 15 and over, Alberta had the youngest population among provinces in 2023.

- People aged 45 and over made up 52.7 per cent of Canada's population aged 15 and over.

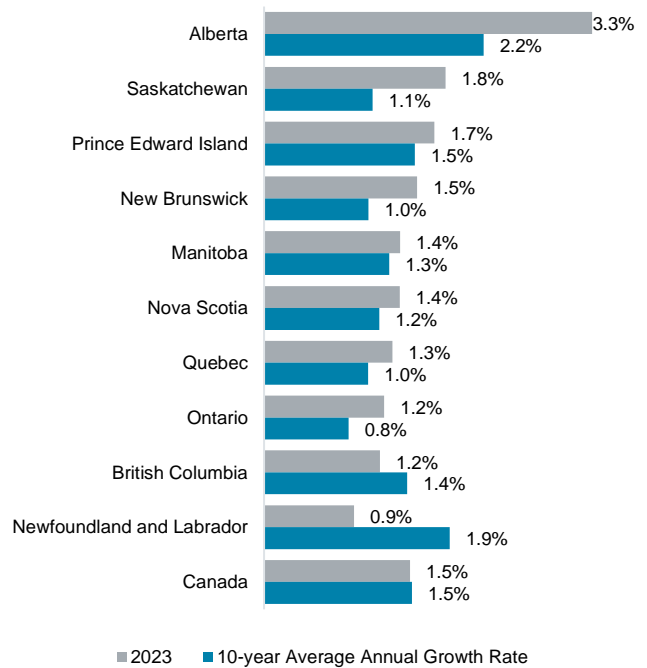
**FIGURE 3 SHARE OF PEOPLE AGED 45 AND OVER IN TOTAL POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER, BY PROVINCE, 2023**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

Compared to other provinces, Albertans aged 45 and over made up a smaller proportion of the total population but their size has grown at a much faster rate in 2023 and over the past 10 years on average.

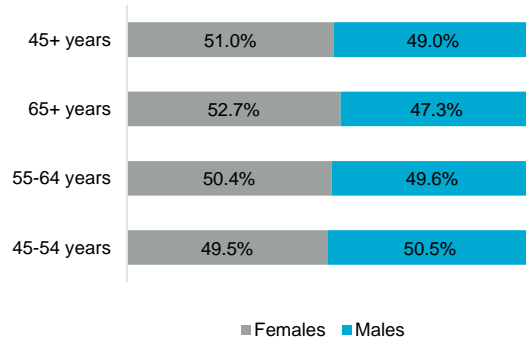
**FIGURE 4. ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF POPULATION AGED 45 AND OVER, BY PROVINCE**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2023, 51.0 per cent of Albertans aged 45 and over were female.

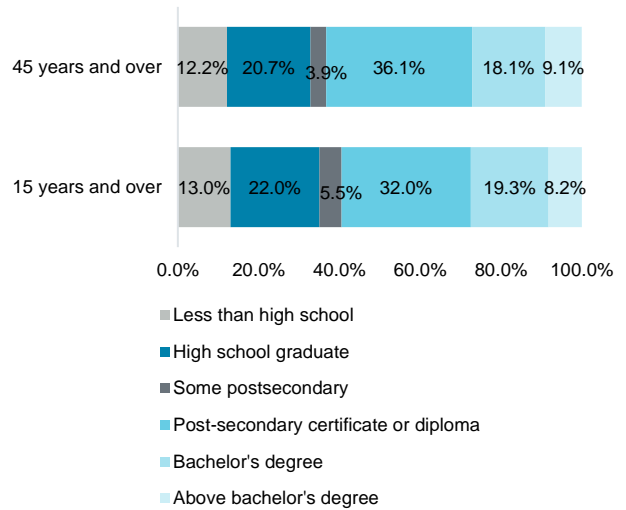
**FIGURE 5. POPULATION AGED 45 AND OVER BY AGE AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2023**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

More than 60 per cent of Albertans aged 45 and over had a post-secondary certificate/diploma or higher educational attainment in 2023.

**FIGURE 6. POPULATION AGED 45 AND OVER BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)



# Labour force statistics

## Overview

In 2023, of the 1,796,000 people aged 45 and over, 1,013,000 participated in the labour force with 968,000 people employed and 45,000 persons unemployed.

- Individuals aged 45 and over represented 38.7 per cent of Alberta's labour force.
- While the participation rates and employment rates for people aged 45 to 64 exceeded the rates for Alberta's overall population; the rates for people aged 65 and over were 18.3 and 17.5 per cent, respectively.
- The unemployment rate for people aged 45 and over was 4.4 per cent, below the rate of 5.9 per cent for all Albertans.
  - The lowest unemployment rate was among people aged 45 and 54 (4.0 per cent) while the highest rate was among people aged 55 to 64 (4.9 per cent).

**TABLE 1. LABOUR FORCE STATUS, ALBERTA, 2023**  
(thousands of persons)

Age Group	Population	Labour Force	Employment	Unemployment
<b>15+</b>	<b>3,756</b>	<b>2,615</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>154</b>
15-44	1,960	1,603	1,493	109
<b>45+</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>45</b>
45-54	579	508	488	20
55-64	536	380	361	19
65+	682	125	119	6

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**TABLE 2. LABOUR FORCE STATUS, ALBERTA 2023**  
(percentage)

Age Group	Participation Rate	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate
<b>15+</b>	<b>69.6%</b>	<b>65.5%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
15-44	81.8%	76.2%	6.8%
<b>45+</b>	<b>56.4%</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
45-54	87.7%	84.2%	4.0%
55-64	70.9%	67.5%	4.9%
65+	18.3%	17.5%	4.8%

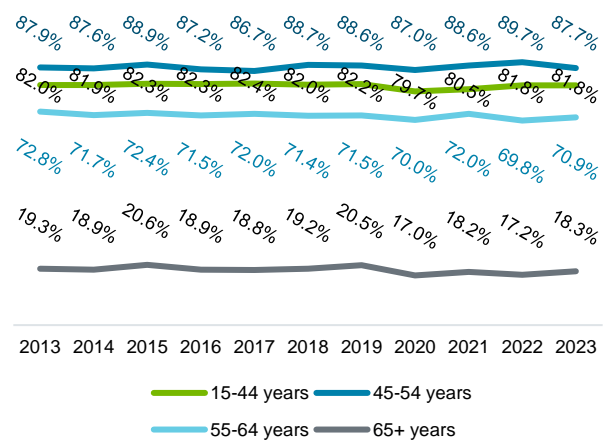
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

## Participation

In 2023, the participation rate for Albertans aged 45 years and over was 56.4 per cent, 0.3 percentage points lower than 2022 and 6.7 percentage points lower than 2013.

- The rate for workers aged 45 to 54 was 87.7, down 2.0 percentage points from the previous year.
- It was 70.9 per cent among workers aged 55 to 64 and 18.3 per cent among those 65 years and over, about one percentage point higher than 2022 for both groups.

**FIGURE 7. PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2013-2023**  
(percentage)

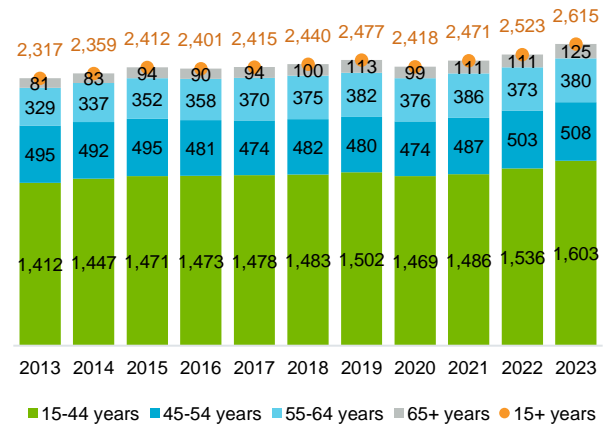


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

People aged 45 and over made up 38.7 to 39.9 per cent of Alberta's labour force over the past 10 years.

- The share in 2023 was 38.7 per cent, down 0.4 percentage points from 2022 due to a smaller proportion of older workers aged 45 to 64 in the labour force.

**FIGURE 8. LABOUR FORCE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2013-2023**  
(thousands of persons)

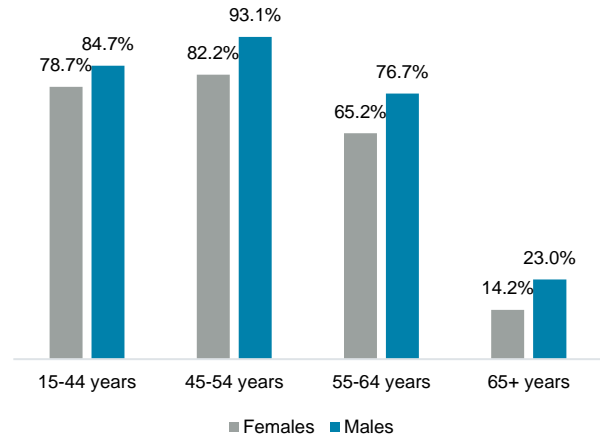


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2023, the overall participation rate for female Albertans aged 45 and over was 50.5 per cent while the rate was 62.5 per cent for males of the same age range.

- For people aged 45 to 54 who were within the core working age, the participation rate was 93.1 per cent for males, 11.0 percentage points higher than the rate of 82.2 per cent for females.
- For people aged 55 to 64, the participation rate was 76.7 per cent for males, 11.4 percentage points higher than the rate of 65.2 per cent for females.
- For people aged 65 and over, many of whom might have retired, the participation rate was 23.0 per cent for males and 14.2 per cent for females.

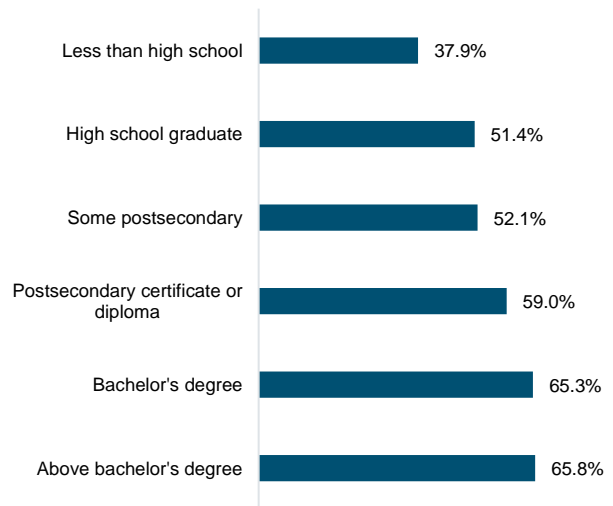
**FIGURE 9. PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2023**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2023, the participation rate was higher among older people who had higher educational attainment. The rate for those with a university degree was up to 65 per cent while those with less than high school education was 37.9 per cent.

**FIGURE 10. PARTICIPATION RATE OF POPULATION AGED 45 AND OVER BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2023**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

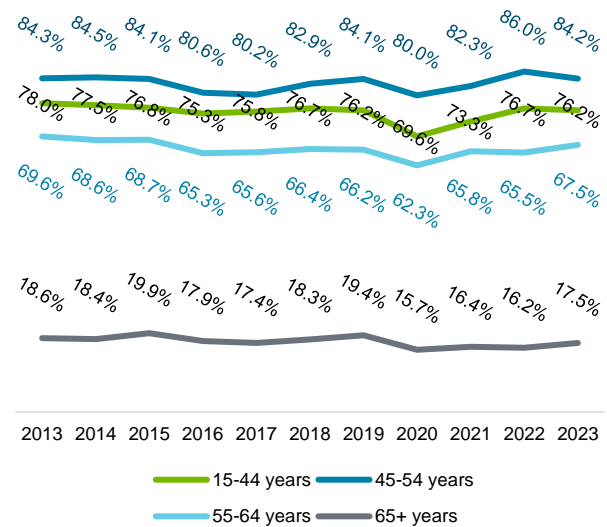
## Employment

In 2023, the employment rate for Albertans aged 45 and over was unchanged from 2022 but down by 6.5 percentage points from 2013.

The employment rate remained the highest among older workers aged 45 to 54 which was, however, 1.8 percentage points lower than 2022.

The employment rates for the other groups of older workers increased by one to two percentage points as compared to 2022.

**FIGURE 11. EMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2013-2023**  
(percentage)

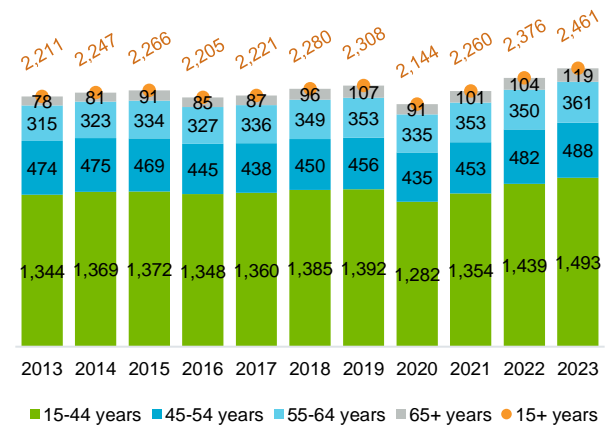


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

People aged 45 and over made up 38.8 to 40.2 per cent of all employed Albertans over the past 10 years.

- In 2023, the share for individuals aged 45 and over of all employed Albertans was 39.3 per cent, 0.1 percentage point smaller than 2022 (39.4 per cent) while 0.1 percentage point greater than 2013 (39.2 per cent).
  - The share for people aged 45 to 54 out of all employed Albertans was 19.8 per cent, down 0.5 percentage points from 2022.
  - The share for people aged 55 to 64 was 14.7 per cent, unchanged from from 2022.

**FIGURE 12. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED ALBERTANS BY AGE GROUP, 2013-2023**  
(thousands of persons)

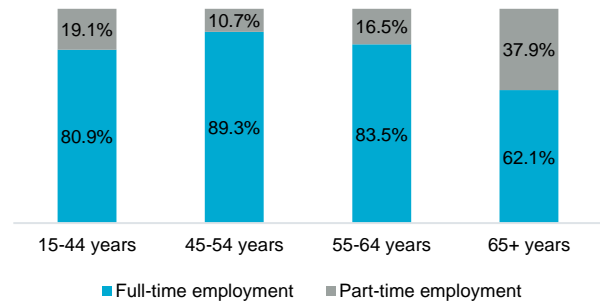


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2023, more than 80 per cent of employed Albertans aged 45 to 64 worked full-time.

- For Albertans aged 65 and over who were employed, 62.1 per cent worked full-time.

**FIGURE 13. FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT PROPORTIONS BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2023**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2023, more than half of employed Albertans aged 45 and over worked in:

- wholesale and retail trade (14.4 per cent);
- health care and social assistance (12.9 per cent);
- professional, scientific and technical services (9.7 per cent);
- construction (8.4 per cent); or
- educational services (7.3 per cent).

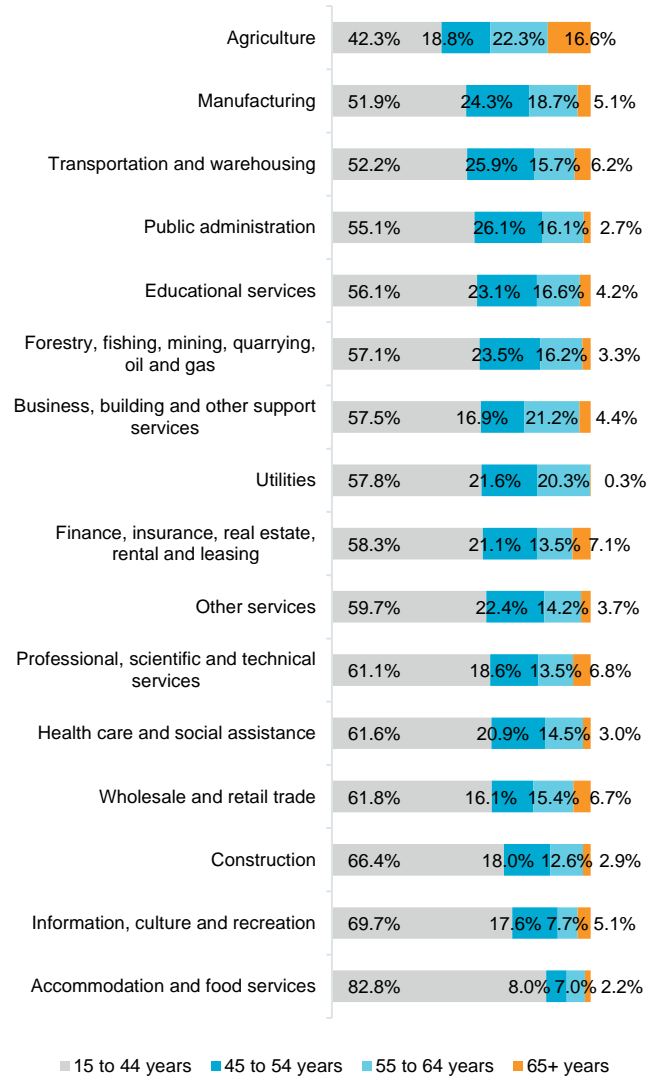
**FIGURE 14. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED ALBERTANS AGED 45 AND OVER BY INDUSTRY, 2023**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Public Use Microdata File](#)

In 2023, Albertans aged 45 and over made up the greatest proportion of employed people in agriculture (57.7 per cent), followed by manufacturing (48.1 per cent) and transportation and warehousing (47.8 per cent).

**FIGURE 15. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED ALBERTANS BY INDUSTRY AND AGE GROUP, 2023**  
(percentage)



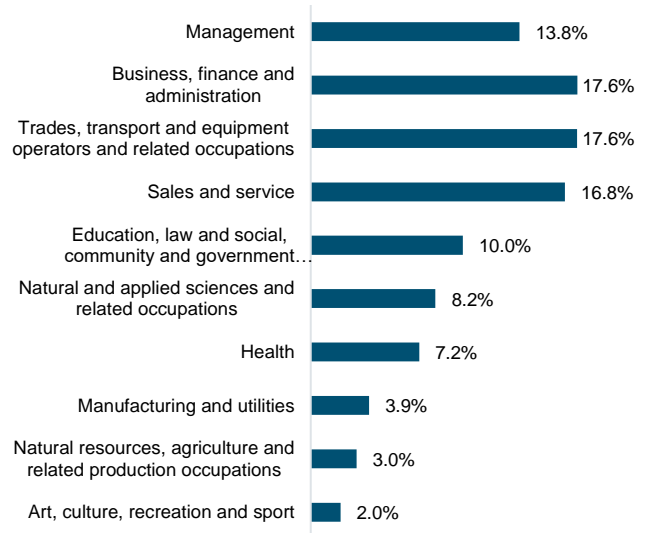
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Public Use Microdata File](#)

In 2023, 13.8 per cent of employed Albertans aged 45 and over were in management occupations.

The following non-management occupation groups accounted for more than 60 per cent of Albertans aged 45 and over who were employed:

- business, finance and administration (17.6 per cent);
- trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (17.6 per cent);
- sales and service (16.8 per cent); and
- education, law and social, community and government services (10.0 per cent).

**FIGURE 16. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED ALBERTANS AGED 45 AND OVER BY OCCUPATION, 2023**  
(percentage)

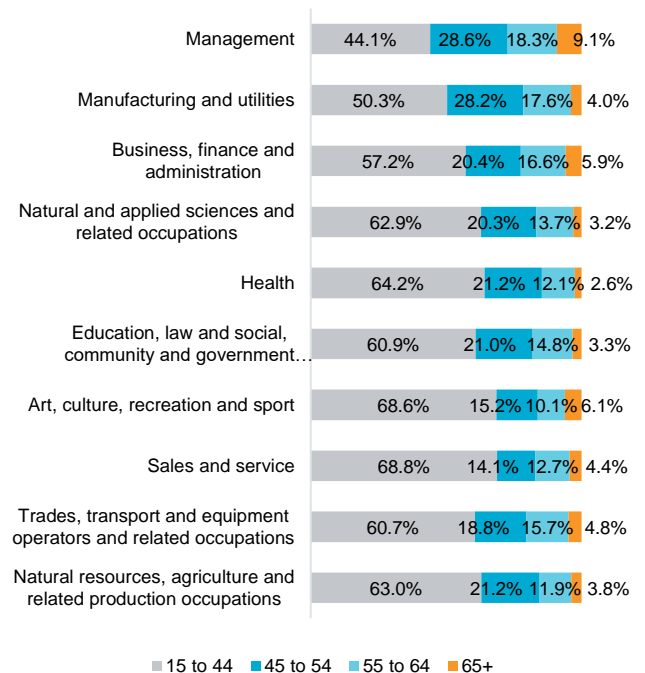


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Public Use Microdata File](#)

In 2023, 55.9 per cent of Albertans employed to management occupations were 45 years and over.

For non-management occupations, people aged 45 and over made up the greatest share in manufacturing and utilities (49.7 per cent), followed by business, finance and administration (42.8 per cent) and natural and applied sciences and related occupations (37.1 per cent).

**FIGURE 17. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED ALBERTANS BY OCCUPATION AND AGE GROUP, 2023**  
(percentage)

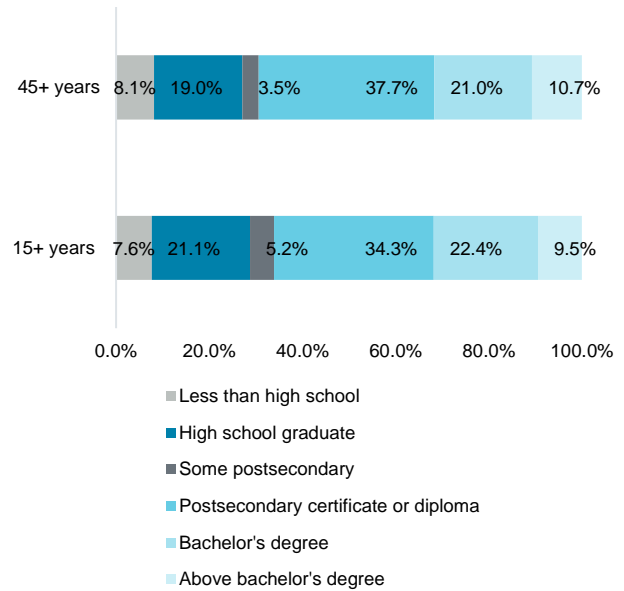


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Public Use Microdata File](#)

Among employed Albertans aged 45 and over, 69.4 per cent completed post-secondary education (post-secondary certificate/diploma or university degree) in 2023.

- This is 3.3 percentage points greater than the share among all employed Albertans aged 15 and over.

**FIGURE 18. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED ALBERTANS AGED 45 AND OVER BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2023** (percentage)

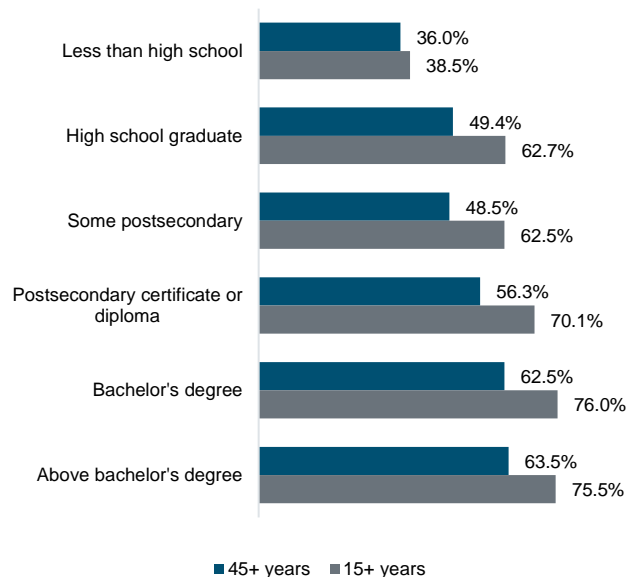


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

In 2023, among Albertans aged 45 and over, the highest employment rate was for people with an educational attainment above a bachelor's degree (65.6 per cent), followed by those with a bachelor's degree (61.5 per cent) or post-secondary certificate or diploma (57.1 per cent).

- The employment rates for Albertans aged 45 and over was lower than the rates for all Albertans aged 15 and over across educational attainment groups.

**FIGURE 19. EMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2023** (percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

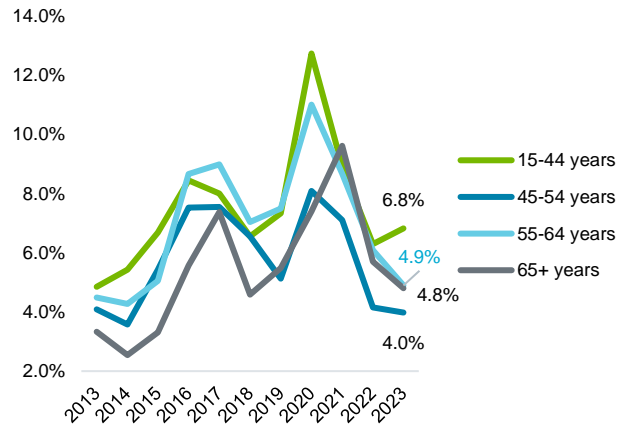


## Unemployment rate

Between 2013 and 2023, the unemployment rate for Albertans aged 45 and over ranged from 3.7 per cent (2014) to 9.2 per cent (2020). It was 4.4 per cent in 2023.

- For those aged 15 to 44, the rate has been between 4.9 per cent (2013) and 12.7 per cent (2020) over the same time period. The rate in 2023 was 6.8 per cent.

**FIGURE 20. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2013-2023**  
(percentage)

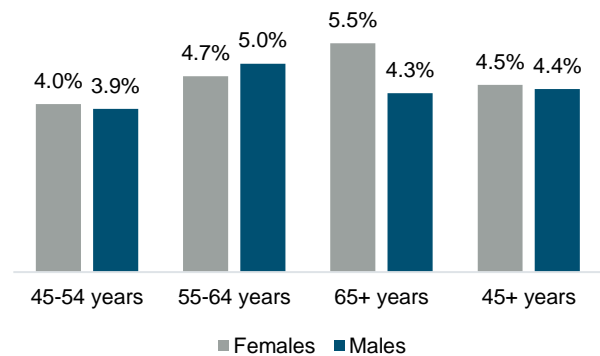


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2023, the female and male unemployment rates were close for those aged 45 and over (4.5 per cent and 4.4 per cent, respectively).

- The highest unemployment rate was among females aged 65 years and over (5.5 per cent) while the lowest rate was among males aged 45 to 54 (3.9 per cent).
- The only group of older females with a lower unemployment rate compared to males of their ages were those aged 55 to 64 (0.3 percentage points lower).

**FIGURE 21. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2023**  
(percentage)

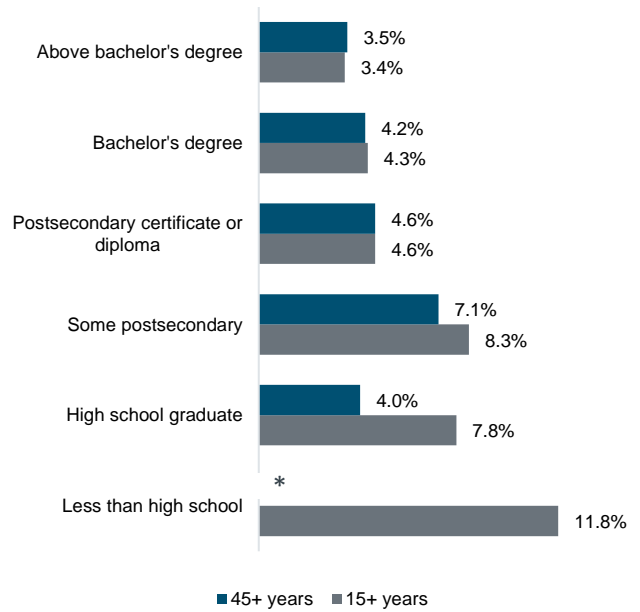


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2023, the lowest unemployment rate for Albertans aged 45 and over was among people with an educational attainment above a bachelor's degree (3.5 per cent), followed by those with a high school diploma (4.0 per cent) and people with a bachelor's degree (4.2 per cent).

- For all Albertans aged 15 and over, the unemployment rate for people with an educational attainment above a bachelor's degree was 3.4 per cent, 0.9 percentage points lower than people with a bachelor's degree.
  - It was 0.1 percentage points lower than the rate for people aged 45 and over with the same level of educational attainment.

**FIGURE 22. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2023**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

Note: \* suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

## 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 Labour Force Profiles.**