



2018

**Alberta labour
force profiles**

Aged 45 and older

Labour and Immigration, Government of Alberta

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For more information regarding this content visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/labour-market-information.aspx>

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Overview

The 2018 Alberta Labour Force Profile for Aged 45 and Older provides statistics and trends in the labour market for Albertans aged 45 and older. Topics include employment, unemployment, labour force participation, industry, occupation, education, and demographics. Statistics are provided for Alberta, the other nine provinces and at the national level excluding the territories. All statistics provided are 12-month averages for the year. All Statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

All data and definitions are from the [Labour Force Survey](#), Statistics Canada.

Employment Rate:

The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

Industry:

The general nature of the business carried out by the establishment for whom the respondent works (main job only). Based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information:

<https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=1181553>

Labour Force:

The labour force is the portion of the civilian, non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the survey reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week, usually containing the 15th day of the month, in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation:

The kind of work persons 15+ years 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. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the most recent job held within the previous year. Based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC) 2016. For more information: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=314243>

Participation Rate:

The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. This measure represents the proportion of the said population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population:

Persons 15 years and older. 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 approximately 2% of the population aged 15 and over.

Average Hourly Wage:

Based on hourly wage before taxes and other deductions, and include tips and commissions. Only persons who are an employee are included in the average.

Highlights: Aged 45 and Older in Alberta, 2018

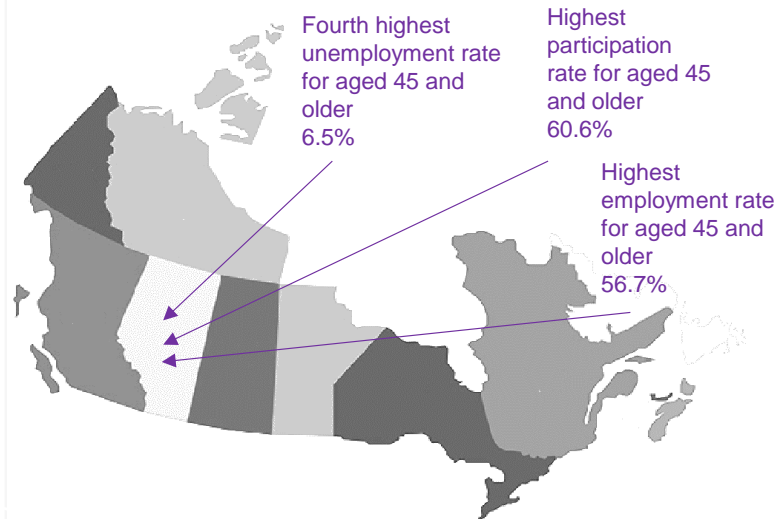
Population Statistics

Lowest percentage of people aged 45 and older in the working age population among the 10 provinces

46.5%

Between 2008-18 Alberta's population of workers aged 45 and older grew by 28.7% or 360,600

Labour Force Statistics



Industry

73.8% of Albertans aged 45 and older were employed in the Services-Producing sector.

62.6% of all Albertans employed in the Agricultural Industry were aged 45 and older.

Education

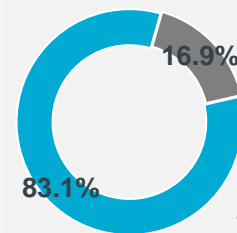
The number of Albertans aged 45 and older in the labour force with post-secondary education increased by 165,500 or 35.1% from 2008 to 2018.

In Alberta 27.2% of workers aged 45 and older have a university degree, less than the provincial average at 29.1%.

Employment



Albertans aged 45 and older made up 39.3% of employed Albertans



83.1% of Albertans aged 45 and older were employed full-time

Occupation

18.8% of Albertans aged 45 and older were employed in Sales and service occupations.

55.3% of all Albertans employed in Management occupations were aged 45 and older.

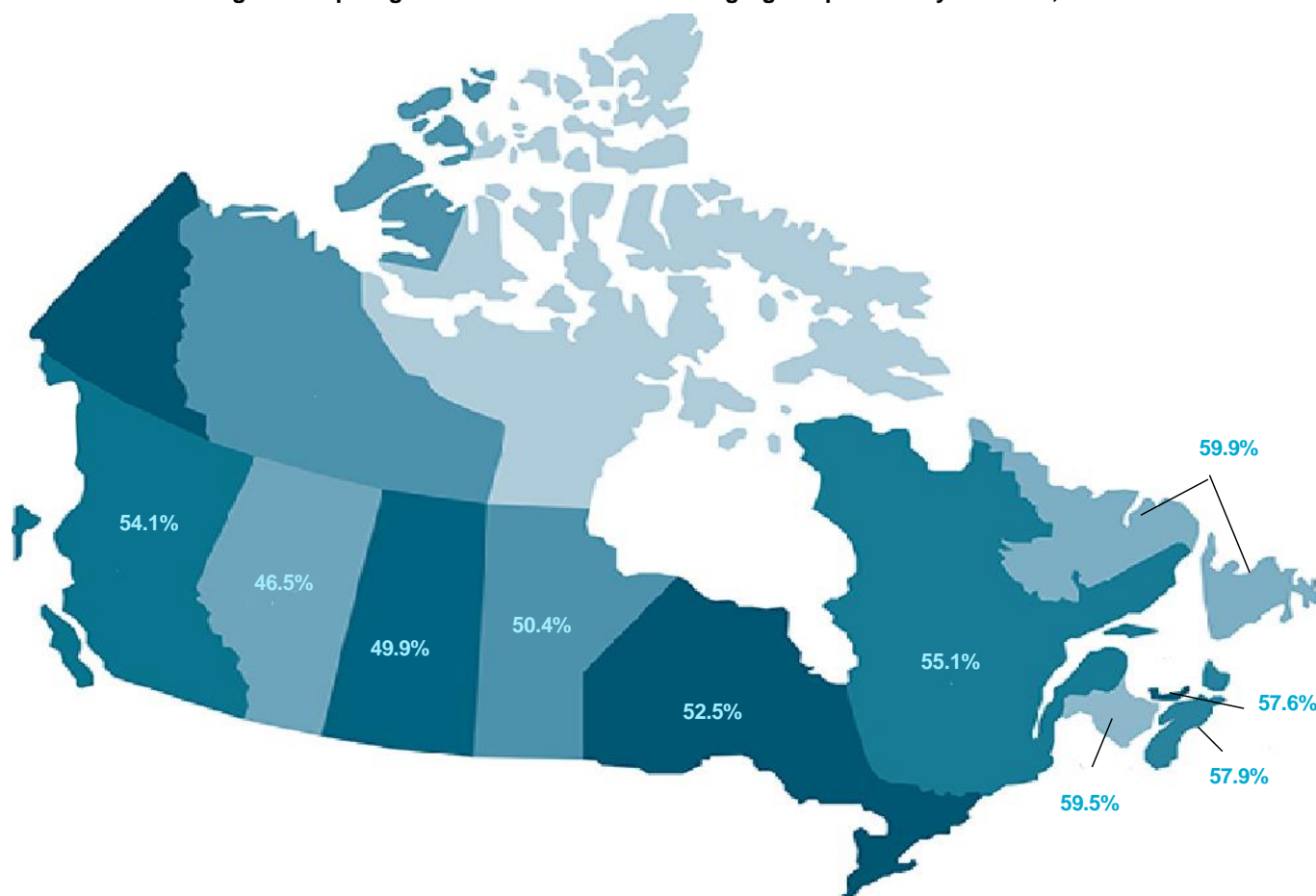
Population Statistics

In 2018, 46.5% of Albertans in the working aged population (aged 15 and older) were aged 45 and older. This was an increase from 44.0% in 2008, but was the lowest proportion in Canada (Table 1). Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest proportion at 59.9%

Table 1
People aged 45 and older, Canada and the provinces, 2008 and 2018

	2008			2018		
	15+ years	45+ years	% 45+ years	15+ years	45+ years	% 45+ years
Canada	26,824,400	13,330,900	49.7%	30,290,400	16,030,000	52.9%
Newfoundland and Labrador	428,000	228,200	53.3%	443,600	265,600	59.9%
Prince Edward Island	113,400	60,100	53.0%	125,600	72,300	57.6%
Nova Scotia	767,500	411,800	53.7%	798,800	462,500	57.9%
New Brunswick	610,400	326,100	53.4%	627,400	373,500	59.5%
Quebec	6,382,300	3,296,600	51.7%	6,985,900	3,850,400	55.1%
Ontario	10,445,800	5,097,800	48.8%	11,897,600	6,250,000	52.5%
Manitoba	907,000	456,000	50.3%	1,024,900	516,300	50.4%
Saskatchewan	771,500	393,600	51.0%	884,400	441,300	49.9%
Alberta	2,850,400	1,254,600	44.0%	3,470,400	1,615,200	46.5%
British Columbia	3,548,100	1,806,200	50.9%	4,031,800	2,182,900	54.1%

Percentage of People aged 45 and older in the Working Age Population by Province, 2018



Albertans aged 45 to 54 accounted for 15.9% of the working age population in 2018, down from 19.3% in 2008 (Table 2). Those aged 55 to 64 years were 15.4% of Alberta's working age population in 2018 compared to 12.5% in 2008. Albertans aged 65 years and over accounted for 15.3% of working age population in 2018 compared to 12.2% in 2008.

Table 2
Albertans aged 45 and older, by age group, 2008 and 2018

	2008		2018	
	Number	Share	Number	Share
15 years and over	2,850,400	100.0%	3,470,400	100.0%
45 years and over	1,254,600	44.0%	1,615,200	46.5%
45-54 years	549,600	19.3%	550,200	15.9%
55-64 years	356,400	12.5%	535,600	15.4%
65+ years	348,600	12.2%	529,400	15.3%

In 2008, the working age population in Alberta was approximately 2.9 million (Table 3). By 2018, it had increased by 21.8% to approximately 3.5 million. In the last 10 years, Canadians aged 45 and older increased by 20.2%, or approximately 2.7 million people. Albertans aged 45 years and over accounted for 10.4% of the total Canadian increase within this age group.

The growth rate of Albertans aged 45 and older was 8.5 percentage points higher than the growth rate of Canadians aged 45 and older. During the past 10 years, Albertans aged 45 and older increased by 28.7%, compared to Canada's 20.2%. However, Alberta's working age population increased by 21.8% over this period compared to the increase of 12.9% for Canada's working age population over the same period.

The population of Albertans aged 55-64 increased by 50.3% over the 10 year period compared to 0.1% for the 45-54 year olds and 51.9% for those aged 65 and over (Table 4).

Table 3
Working age population (15+ years), Canada and Alberta, 2008 and 2018

	2008	2018	Growth	% Growth
Canadians	26,824,400	30,290,400	3,466,000	12.9%
Canadians Aged 45 and Older	13,330,900	16,030,000	2,699,100	20.2%
Albertans	2,850,400	3,470,400	620,000	21.8%
Albertans Aged 45 and Older	1,254,600	1,615,200	360,600	28.7%

Table 4
Growth of Albertans aged 45 and older by detailed age group, 2008 and 2018

	2008	2018	Growth	% Growth
45+ years	1,254,600	1,615,200	360,600	28.7%
45-54 years	549,600	550,200	600	0.1%
55-64 years	356,400	535,600	179,200	50.3%
65+ years	348,600	529,400	180,800	51.9%

Labour Force Statistics

In 2018, Albertans aged 45 years and older accounted for 39.2% of the provincial labour force and 38.6% of those who were unemployed (Table 5).

Table 5

Labour force statistics of Albertans aged 45 and older, Alberta, 2018

	Albertans (15+ Years)	Albertans (45+ years)	Proportion of Albertans Aged 45 and Older
Working Age Population	3,470,400	1,615,200	46.5%
Labour Force	2,494,800	978,600	39.2%
Employment	2,330,700	915,300	39.3%
Unemployment	164,100	63,300	38.6%
Unemployment Rate	6.6%	6.5%	---
Participation Rate	71.9%	60.6%	---
Employment Rate	67.2%	56.7%	---

Albertans 45 years and older made up

39.2%

of labour force

in Alberta

39.3%

of employed

38.6%

of unemployed

In 2018, Albertans aged 65 years and over had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.7% (Table 6). However, they had the lowest participation and employment rates when compared to those aged 45-54 years and 55-64 years.

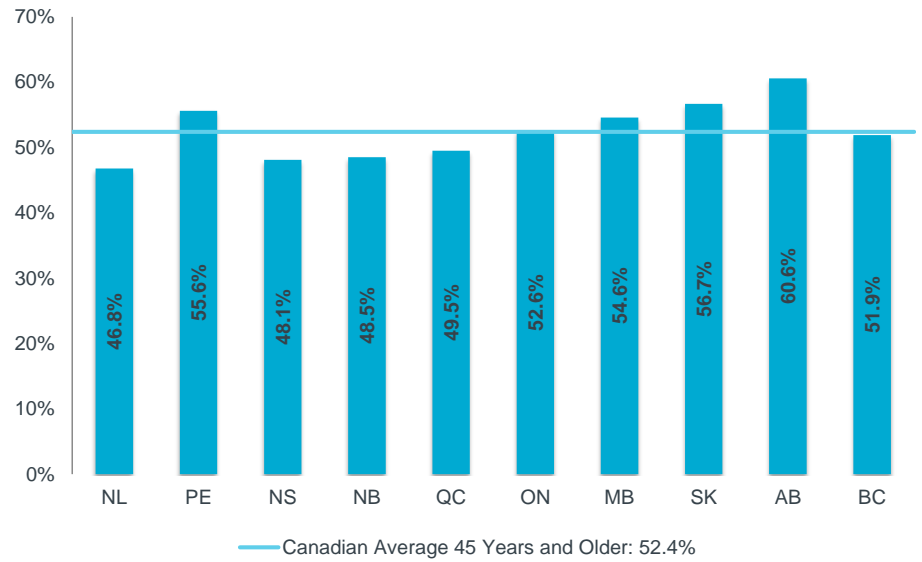
Table 6

Labour force characteristics of Albertans aged 45 and older by age group, 2018

	45+ years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
Working Age Population	1,615,200	550,200	535,600	529,400
Labour Force	978,600	488,700	386,400	103,400
Employment	915,300	457,500	359,300	98,500
Unemployment	63,300	31,200	27,200	4,900
Unemployment rate	6.5%	6.4%	7.0%	4.7%
Participation rate	60.6%	88.8%	72.1%	19.5%
Employment rate	56.7%	83.2%	67.1%	18.6%

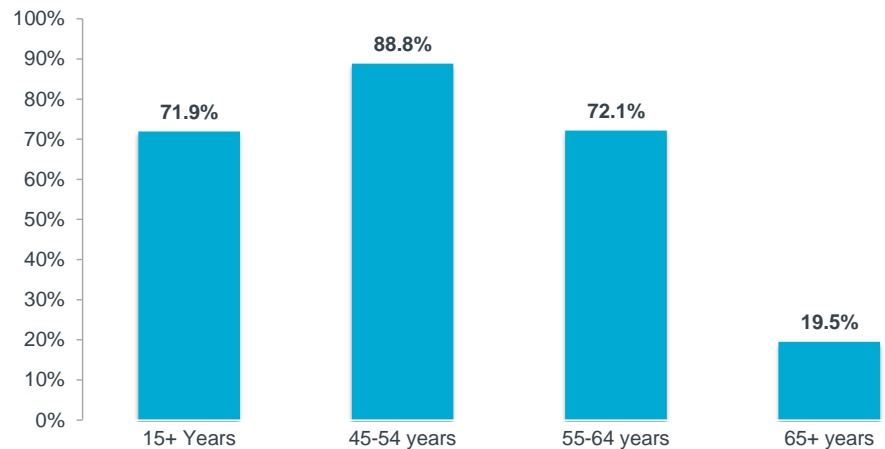
Albertans aged 45 and older had the highest participation rate in Canada at 60.6% (Figure 1). This was 8.2 percentage points higher than the rate for Canadians aged 45 and older.

Figure 1
Participation rate of people aged 45 and older by province, 2018



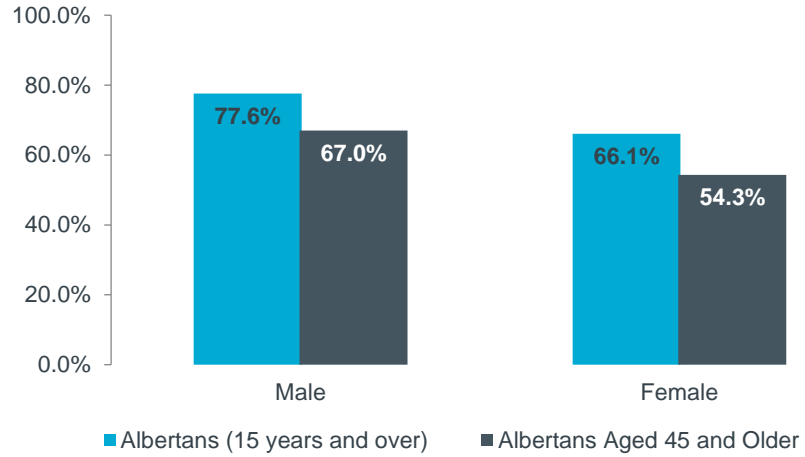
The participation rate of Albertans aged 45-54 was 88.8%. This was the highest among the three age groups over 45 years old, and 16.9 percentage points higher than the provincial rate of 71.9% (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Participation rate by Age group, Alberta, 2018



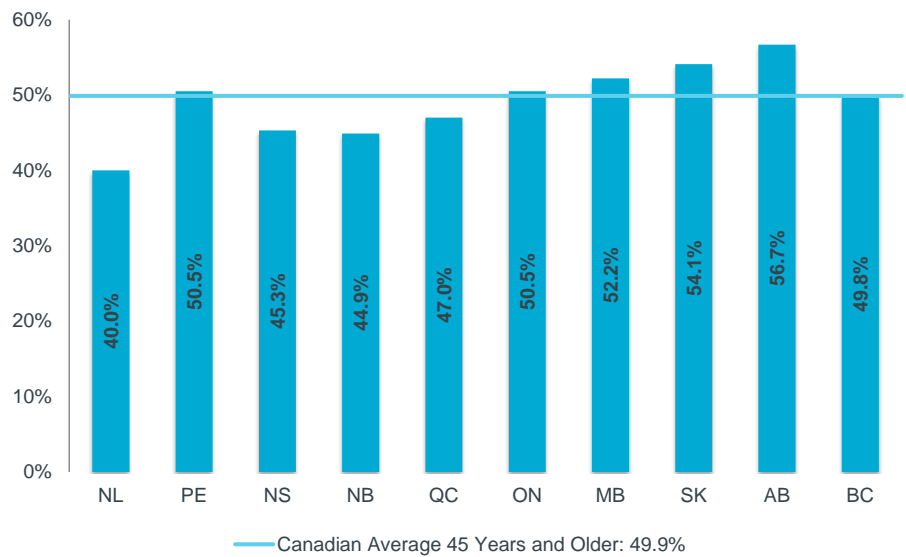
For both males and females, Albertans aged 45 and older had a lower participation rate than the provincial average (Figure 3). Females aged 45 and older had a participation rate of 54.3%, which was 12.7 percentage points below the rate for males aged 45 and older.

Figure 3
Participation rate by sex



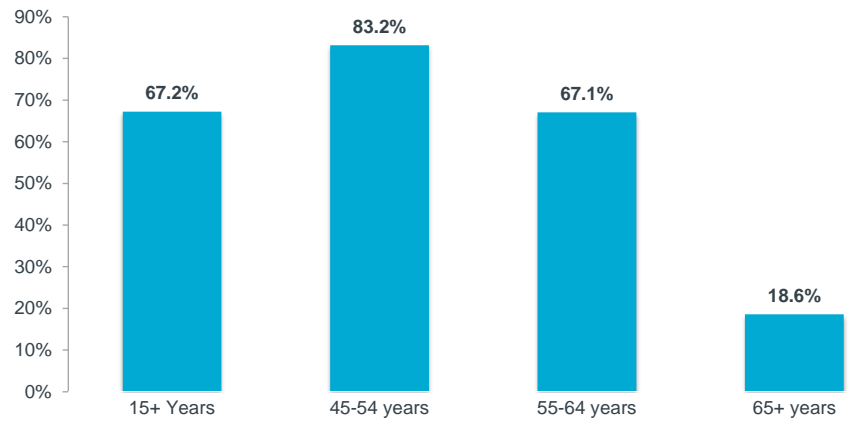
In 2018, Albertans aged 45 years and older had the highest employment rate among all provinces at 56.7% (Figure 4). This was 6.8 percentage points higher than the Canadian average for people aged 45 and older.

Figure 4
Employment rate of people aged 45 and older by province, 2018



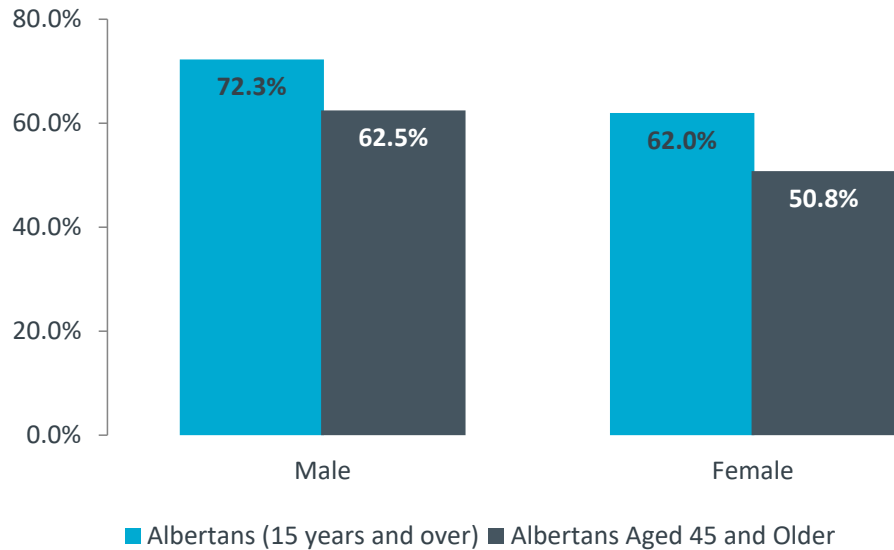
In 2018, the employment rate of Albertans aged 45-54 years at 83.2% was the highest among the three age groups 45 years and older and was 16.0 percentage points higher than the provincial rate at 67.2% (Figure 5).

Figure 5
Employment rate by age group, 2018



The employment rate of females aged 45 and older was 11.7 percentage points lower than their male counterparts and 16.4 percentage points lower than the provincial rate of 67.2% (Figure 6).

Figure 6
Employment rate by sex, Alberta, 2018



In 2018, the proportion of full-time employment was highest among those aged 45-54. The proportion of part-time employment among those aged 65 years and older was 38.2%, more than double the provincial level of 17.8% (Table 7).

Table 7
Full-time/part-time employment by age group in Alberta, 2018

	Total Employment	Full-time		Part-time	
		Number	%	Number	%
15+	2,330,700	1,916,300	82.2%	414,400	17.8%
45+ years	915,300	760,200	83.1%	155,100	16.9%
45-54 years	457,500	403,000	88.1%	54,600	11.9%
55-64 years	359,300	296,400	82.5%	62,900	17.5%
65+ years	98,500	60,900	61.8%	37,600	38.2%

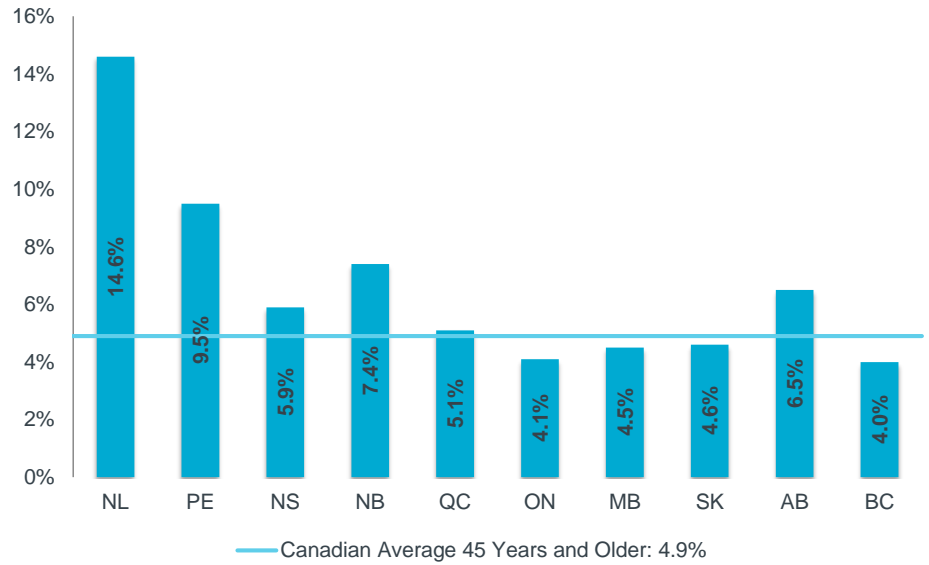
Albertans aged 45 and older had a higher proportion of full-time employment than Albertans aged 15 years and over (Table 8). The share of Alberta males aged 45 and older in full-time employment was 89.4% compared to 75.3% for females aged 45 and older.

Table 8
Full-time/part-time employment by sex, Alberta, 2018

	Albertans (45+ years)		Albertans (15+ Years)	
	Employment	Proportion	Employment	Proportion
Both Genders	915,300	100.0%	2,330,700	100.0%
Full-time	760,200	83.1%	1,916,300	82.2%
Part-time	155,100	16.9%	414,400	17.8%
Male	503,000	100.0%	1,264,600	100.0%
Full-time	449,800	89.4%	1,131,000	89.4%
Part-time	53,200	10.6%	133,600	10.6%
Female	412,300	100.0%	1,066,100	100.0%
Full-time	310,400	75.3%	785,300	73.7%
Part-time	101,900	24.7%	280,800	26.3%

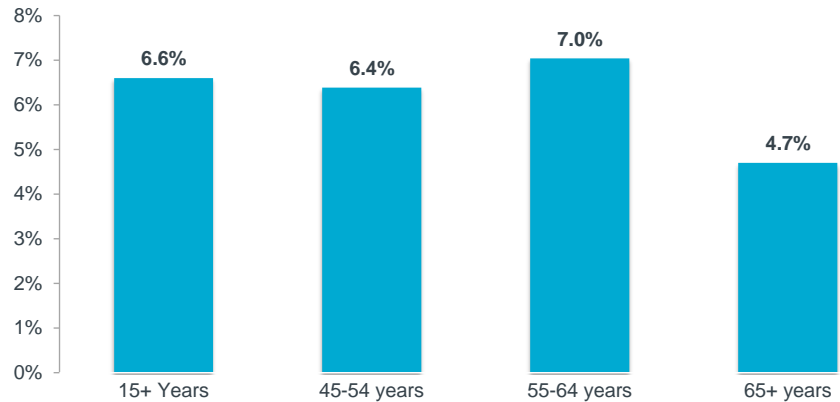
The unemployment rate of Albertans aged 45 and older was 6.5% in 2018. This was the fourth highest in Canada (Figure 7).

Figure 7
Unemployment rate of people aged 45 and older by province, 2018



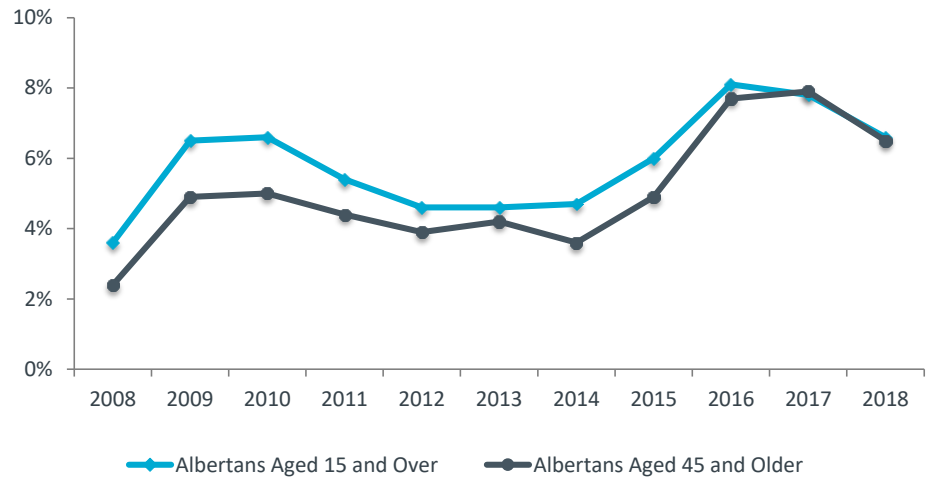
In 2018, the unemployment rates for Albertans aged 45-54, and 65 years and older were lower than the provincial rate of 6.6% (Figure 8). The unemployment rate for Albertans aged 55-64 was 0.4 percentage points higher than the provincial rate.

Figure 8
Unemployment rate by age group, 2018



In 2018, Alberta's unemployment rate was 6.6%, a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from the previous year (Figure 9). The unemployment rate for Albertans aged 45 and older decreased to 6.5% in 2018, 1.4 percentage points lower than in 2017. Over nine of the last 10 years, the unemployment rate for Albertans aged 45 and older was consistently lower than the provincial rate - the exception was in 2017.

Figure 9
Unemployment rates, Alberta, 2008 to 2018



Industry

Males accounted for 77.5% of Albertans aged 45 and older who were employed in the Goods-Producing sector while females accounted for 22.5%. In the Services-Producing sector, the male share of employed people aged 45 and older was 46.9% while 53.1% were female (table 9).

Of the 412,300 employed female Albertans aged 45 and older, 58.5% were employed in the following five main industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Retail Trade; Educational Services; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; and Business, Building and Other Support Services.

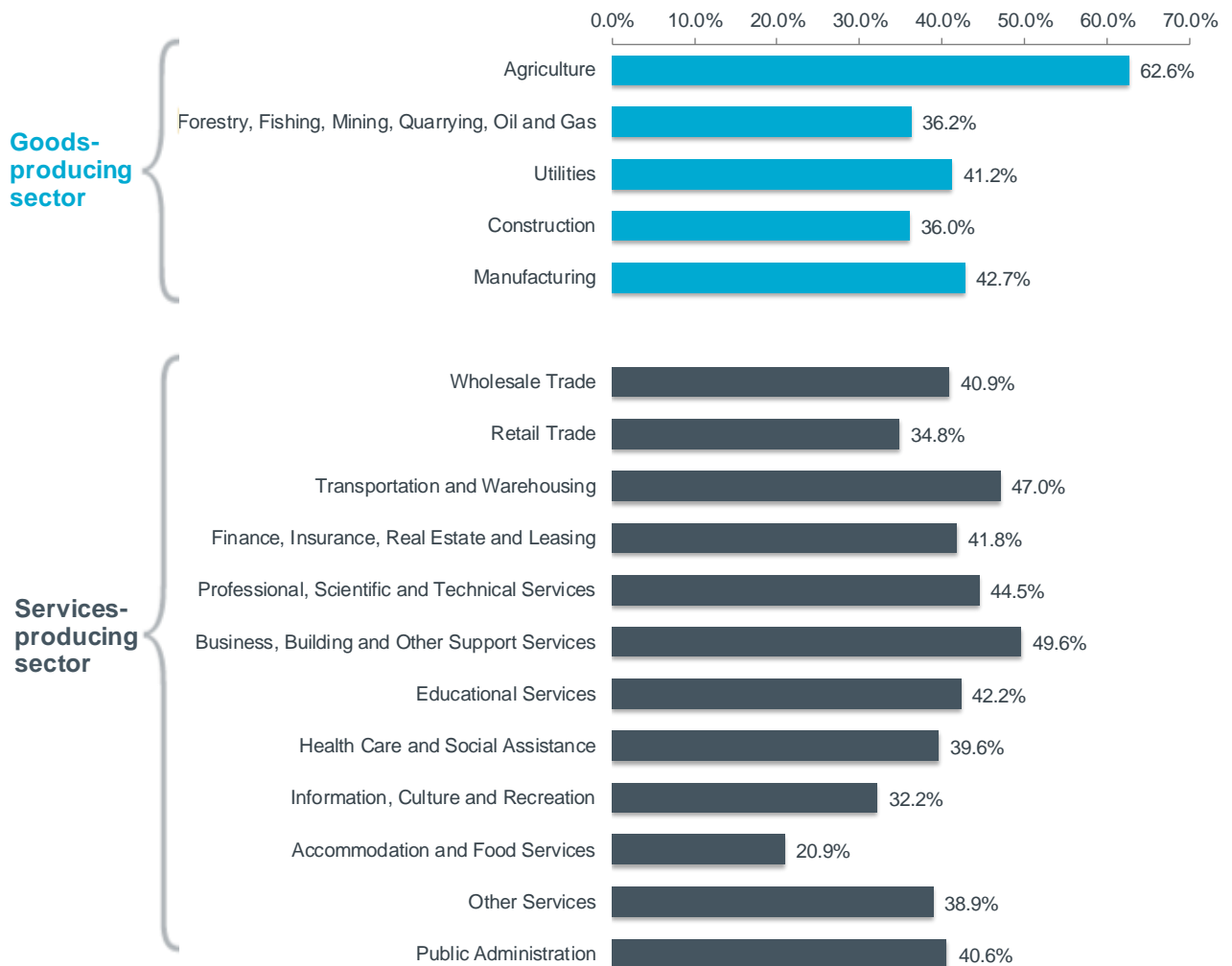
The following five industries employed 50.3% of male Albertans aged 45 and older: Construction; Transportation and Warehousing; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Manufacturing; and Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas.

Table 9
Employment of Albertans aged 45 and older by industry and sex, Alberta, 2018

Industry	Albertans (45+ years)	Male (45+ years)	Female (45+ years)
Goods-producing sector	239,900	77.5%	22.5%
Agriculture	30,900	70.9%	29.1%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas	55,500	74.2%	25.8%
Utilities	9,600	73.0%	27.0%
Construction	88,600	83.7%	16.3%
Manufacturing	55,400	75.4%	24.6%
Services-producing sector	675,300	46.9%	53.1%
Wholesale Trade	35,300	74.1%	25.9%
Retail Trade	86,100	44.0%	56.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	65,300	76.7%	23.3%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	44,100	52.3%	47.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	80,500	57.1%	42.9%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	42,700	50.1%	49.9%
Educational Services	66,400	28.7%	71.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	110,300	18.5%	81.5%
Information, Culture and Recreation	25,000	46.9%	53.1%
Accommodation and Food Services	30,900	43.3%	56.7%
Other Services	44,200	54.0%	46.0%
Public Administration	44,500	53.9%	46.1%
Total	915,300	55.0%	45.0%

In 2018, the Agricultural industry had the highest proportion of Albertans aged 45 and older, at 62.6%, followed by Business, Building and Other Support Services, at 49.6% (Figure 10). Accommodation and Food Services had the lowest percentage of Albertans aged 45 and older, at 20.9%, followed by Information, Culture and Recreation, at 32.2%.

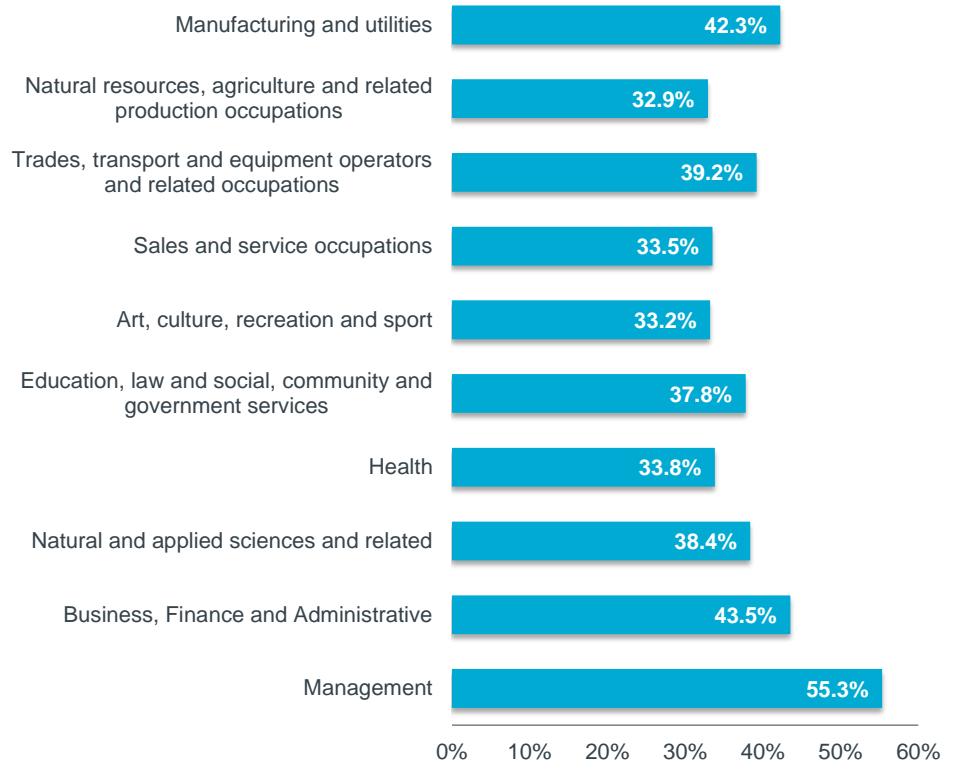
Figure 10
Share of total employment by industry, Alberta, 2018



Occupation

In 2018, Management had the highest percentage of employed people aged 45 and older, at 55.3%. Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations had the lowest at 32.9% (Figure 11).

Figure 11
Share of total employment by occupation, Alberta, 2018



The following occupations had a higher proportion of employed Albertans aged 45 and older than Albertans 15-44 years old: Management; Business, finance and administrative; and Manufacturing and utilities (Table 10).

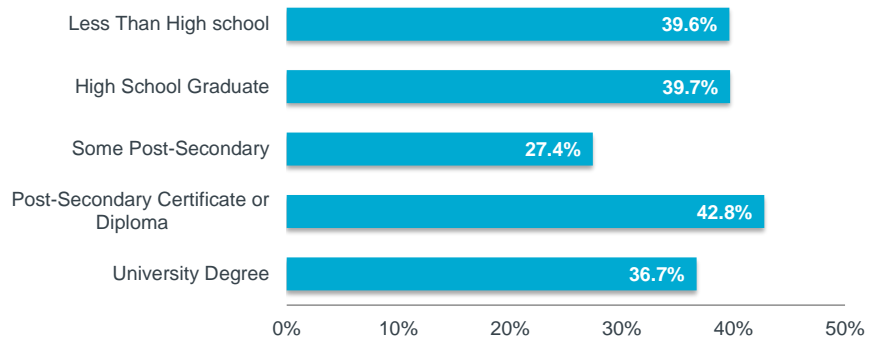
Table 10
Employment distribution by age group in Alberta, 2018

Occupation	Albertans 45+		Albertans 15-44	
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total
Management	120,800	13.2%	97,400	6.9%
Business, Finance and Administrative	163,900	17.9%	212,600	15.0%
Natural and applied sciences and related	73,200	8.0%	117,500	8.3%
Health	57,600	6.3%	112,700	8.0%
Education, law and social, community and government services	92,400	10.1%	152,200	10.8%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	17,100	1.9%	34,400	2.4%
Sales and service occupations	171,900	18.8%	340,700	24.1%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	156,700	17.1%	243,100	17.2%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	30,100	3.3%	61,400	4.3%
Manufacturing and utilities	31,700	3.5%	43,300	3.1%
All occupations	915,300	100.0%	1,415,400	100.0%

Education

In 2018, Albertans aged 45 and older accounted for 39.6% of Albertans who had less than high school as their highest educational attainment (Figure 12). They also accounted for 42.8% and 36.7% of Albertans with a post-secondary certificate or diploma and university degree, respectively. Overall, 27.2% of Albertans aged 45 and older had a university degree, less than the provincial share at 29.1%.

Figure 12
Percentage of Albertans 45 and older by education level, 2018



Between 2008 and 2018, the number of Albertans aged 45 and older in the labour force that had completed high school as their highest level of education attained increased by 21.9% compared to 10.7% for Albertans 15 and older (Table 11). Similarly, the number of people aged 45 and older in the labour force that have a university degree increased by 54.0% compared to an increase of 59.1% for Albertans 15 and older.

Table 11
Albertans in the labour force by education level, 2008 and 2018

Educational level	Albertans (15+ years)			Albertans (45+ years)		
	2008	2018	Change	2008	2018	Change
Less Than High school	300,200	223,800	-76,400	105,700	88,700	-17,000
High School Graduate	490,200	542,700	52,500	176,800	215,500	38,700
Some Post-Secondary	182,000	135,000	-47,000	48,500	37,000	-11,500
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	701,800	867,900	166,100	299,100	371,200	72,100
University Degree	455,800	725,400	269,600	172,900	266,300	93,400

Among Albertans 45 years and older, those with a university degree had the lowest unemployment rate in 2018 at 5.8%, followed by those with high school diploma at 5.9% in 2018 (Table 12).

Table 12
Unemployment rate by education level, 2008 and 2018,

Educational Level	2008		2018	
	Albertans (15+ years)	Albertans (45+ years)	Albertans (15+ years)	Albertans (45+ years)
Less Than High school	7.7%	*	13.2%	7.7%
High School Graduate	3.4%	2.3%	6.3%	5.9%
Some Post-Secondary	3.7%	*	8.3%	6.8%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	2.6%	2.3%	6.0%	7.0%
University Degree	2.5%	2.1%	5.1%	5.8%