



2019 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 2019 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 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 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, 2019

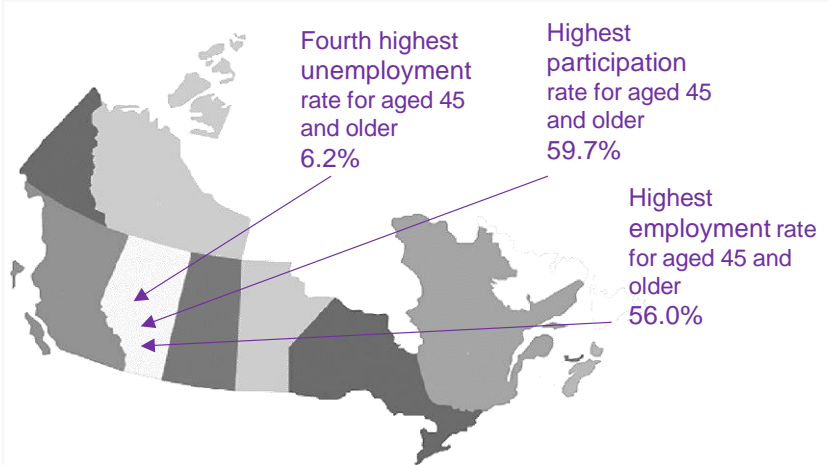
Population Statistics

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

47.0%

Between 2009-19 Alberta's population of workers aged 45 and older grew by 27.7% or 359,700

Labour Force Statistics



Industry

75.0% of Albertans aged 45 and older were employed in the Services-Producing sector.

56.2% of all Albertans employed in the Agricultural Industry were aged 45 and older.

Occupation

19.5% of Albertans aged 45 and older were employed in Sales and service occupations.

54.4% of all Albertans employed in Management occupations were aged 45 and older.

Education

The number of Albertans aged 45 and older in the labour force with post-secondary education increased by 170,200 or 34.3% from 2009 to 2019.

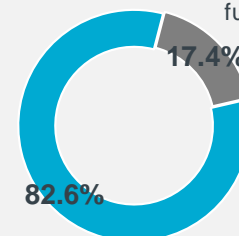
In Alberta 29.0% of workers aged 45 and older have a university degree, less than the provincial average at 30.0%.

Employment



Albertans aged 45 and older made up 39.6% of employed Albertans

82.6% of employed Albertans aged 45 and older were employed full-time



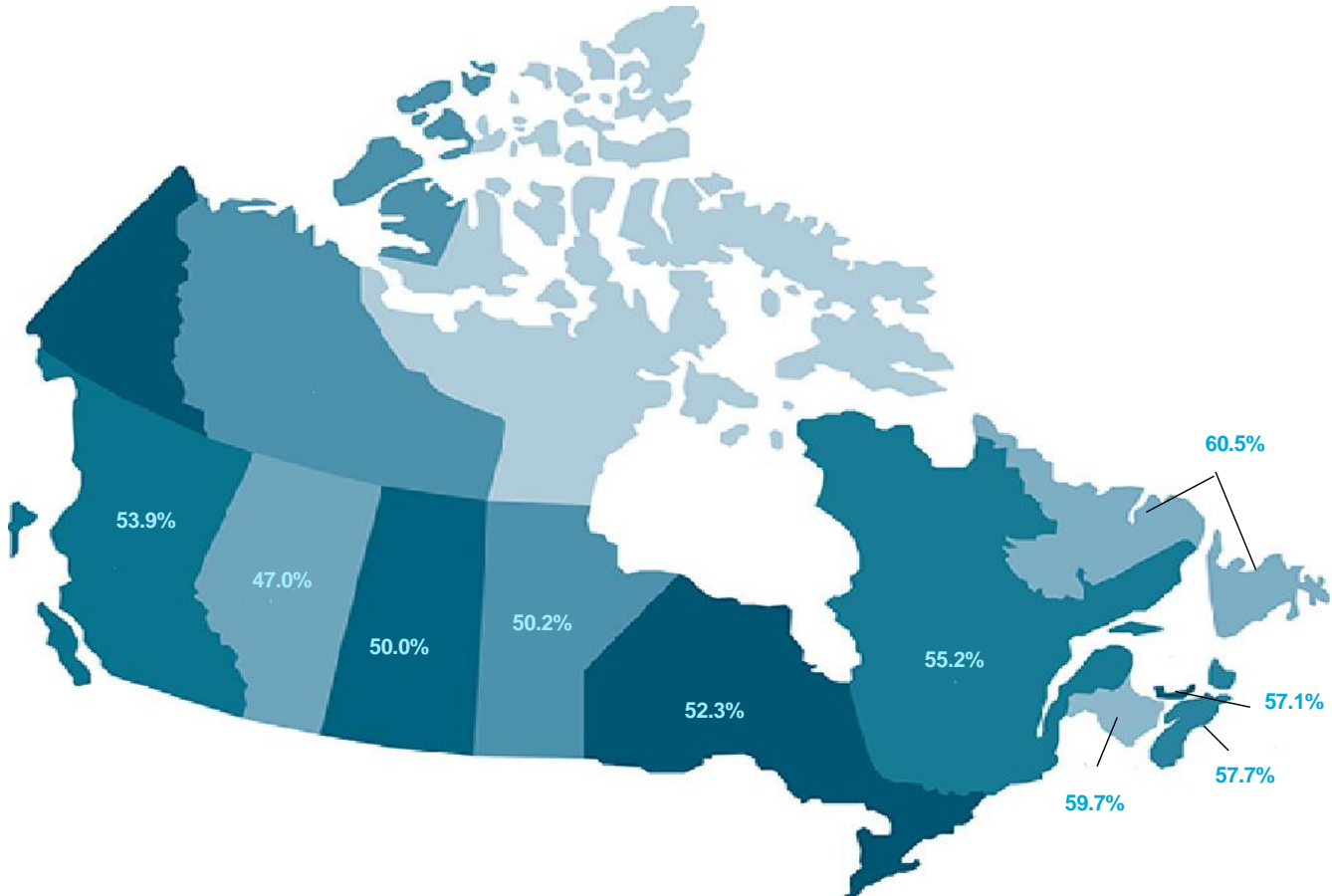
Population Statistics

In 2019, Alberta had the lowest proportion of people aged 45 and older in Canada in its working age population (aged 15 and older) at 47.0%. This was an increase from 44.4% in 2009 (Table 1). Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest proportion of people aged 45 and older in its working age population at 60.5%.

Table 1
Population for Canada and the provinces, 2009 and 2019

	2009			2019		
	15+ years	45+ years	% 45+ years	15+ years	45+ years	% 45+ years
Canada	27,202,500	13,689,100	50.3%	30,739,200	16,251,700	52.9%
Newfoundland and Labrador	432,400	233,700	54.0%	440,600	266,400	60.5%
Prince Edward Island	114,500	61,600	53.8%	128,600	73,400	57.1%
Nova Scotia	771,400	419,600	54.4%	807,200	465,800	57.7%
New Brunswick	614,000	332,800	54.2%	631,400	376,800	59.7%
Quebec	6,467,000	3,379,800	52.3%	7,051,500	3,894,800	55.2%
Ontario	10,571,000	5,247,100	49.6%	12,129,500	6,342,300	52.3%
Manitoba	917,000	463,700	50.6%	1,037,500	520,900	50.2%
Saskatchewan	785,800	402,000	51.2%	889,800	444,600	50.0%
Alberta	2,920,800	1,297,000	44.4%	3,525,700	1,656,700	47.0%
British Columbia	3,608,600	1,851,800	51.3%	4,097,300	2,210,000	53.9%

Percentage of People aged 45 and older in the Working Age Population by Province, 2019



Albertans aged 45 to 54 accounted for 15.6% of the working age population in 2019, a decrease from 19.2% in 2009 (Table 2). Those aged 55 to 64 years were 15.5% of Alberta's working age population in 2019 compared to 12.9% in 2009. Albertans aged 65 years and over accounted for 15.9% of the working age population in 2019 compared to 12.3% in 2009.

Table 2
Albertans aged 45 and older, by age group, 2009 and 2019

	2009		2019	
	Number	Share	Number	Share
15 years and over	2,920,800	100.0%	3,525,700	100.0%
45 years and over	1,297,000	44.4%	1,656,700	47.0%
45-54 years	562,200	19.2%	549,400	15.6%
55-64 years	375,800	12.9%	545,800	15.5%
65+ years	359,000	12.3%	561,500	15.9%

In 2009, the working age population in Alberta was approximately 2.9 million (Table 3). By 2019, it had increased by 20.7% to approximately 3.5 million. From 2009 to 2019, Canadians aged 45 and older increased by 18.7%, or approximately 2.6 million people. Albertans aged 45 years and over accounted for 10.2% of the total Canadian increase within this age group.

The growth rate of Albertans aged 45 and older was 9.0 percentage points higher than the growth rate of Canadians aged 45 and older. From 2009 to 2019, Albertans aged 45 and older increased by 27.7%, compared to Canada's 18.7%. However, Alberta's working age population increased by 20.7% over this period compared to the increase of 13.0% for Canada's working age population over the same period.

The population of Albertans aged 55-64 increased by 45.2% over the 10-year period compared to -2.3% for 45-54 year olds and 56.4% for those aged 65 and over (Table 4).

Table 3
Working age population (15+ years), Canada and Alberta, 2009 and 2019

	2009	2019	Growth	% Growth
Canadians	27,202,500	30,739,200	3,536,700	13.0%
Canadians Aged 45 and Older	13,689,100	16,251,700	2,562,600	18.7%
Albertans	2,920,800	3,525,700	604,900	20.7%
Albertans Aged 45 and Older	1,297,000	1,656,700	359,700	27.7%

Table 4
Growth of Albertans aged 45 and older by detailed age group, 2009 and 2019

	2009	2019	Growth	% Growth
45+ years	1,297,000	1,656,700	359,700	27.7%
45-54 years	562,200	549,400	(12,800)	-2.3%
55-64 years	375,800	545,800	170,000	45.2%
65+ years	359,000	561,500	202,500	56.4%

Labour Force Statistics

In 2019, Albertans aged 45 years and older accounted for 39.3% of the provincial labour force and 35.2% of those who were unemployed (Table 5).

Table 5
Labour force statistics of Albertans aged 45 and older, Alberta, 2019

	Albertans (15+ Years)	Albertans (45+ years)	Proportion of Albertans Aged 45 and Older
Working Age Population	3,525,700	1,656,700	47.0%
Labour Force	2,516,200	989,300	39.3%
Employment	2,343,000	928,400	39.6%
Unemployment	173,200	61,000	35.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	6.2%	---
Participation Rate	71.4%	59.7%	---
Employment Rate	66.5%	56.0%	---



In Alberta, Albertans 45 years and older made up



39.3% of the
labour force



39.6%
% of employed



35.3%
% of unemployed

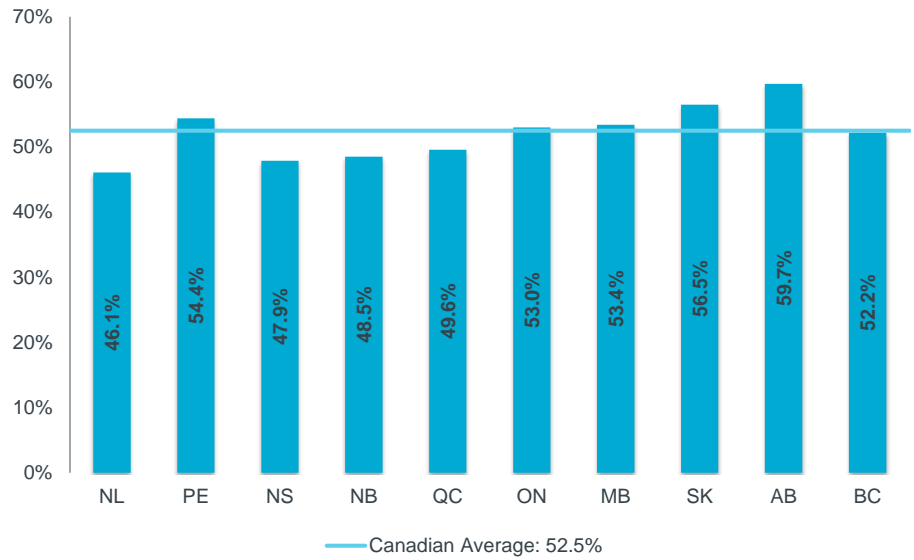
In 2019, Albertans aged 45 to 54, and 65 years and over had the lowest unemployment rates at 5.2% (Table 6).

Table 6
Labour force characteristics of Albertans aged 45 and older by age group, 2019

	45+ years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
Working Age Population	1,656,700	549,400	545,800	561,500
Labour Force	989,300	486,600	389,000	113,700
Employment	928,400	461,600	359,100	107,800
Unemployment	61,000	25,100	30,000	5,900
Unemployment rate	6.2%	5.2%	7.7%	5.2%
Participation rate	59.7%	88.6%	71.3%	20.2%
Employment rate	56.0%	84.0%	65.8%	19.2%

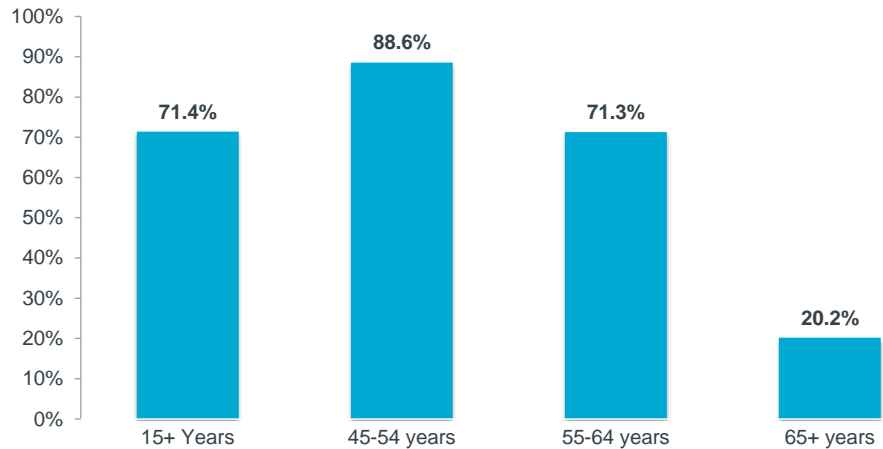
Albertans aged 45 and older had the highest participation rate of their age group in Canada at 59.7% (Figure 1). This was 7.2 percentage points higher than the rate for Canadians aged 45 and older.

Figure 1
Participation rate of people aged 45 and older by province, 2019



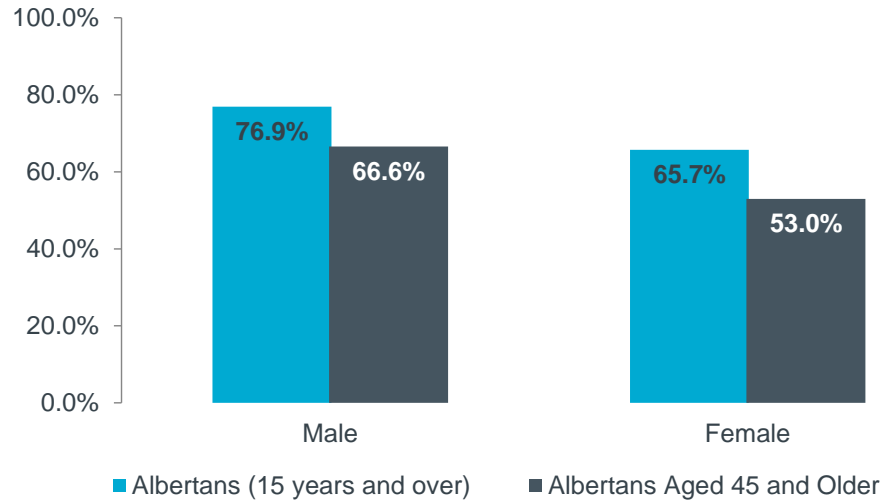
The participation rate of Albertans aged 45-54 was 88.6%, the highest among the three age groups and 17.2 percentage points higher than the provincial rate of 71.4% (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Participation rate by age group, Alberta, 2019



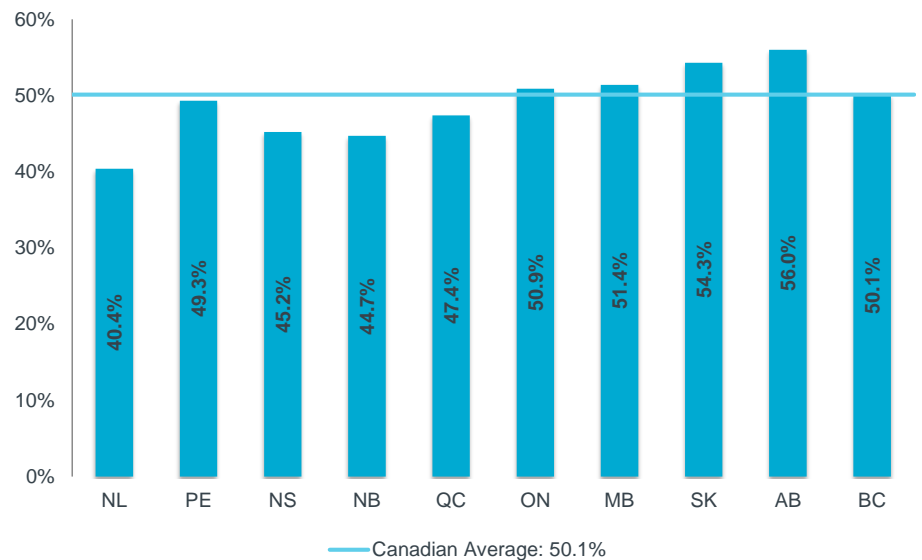
For both males and females, Albertans aged 45 and older had a lower participation rate than the provincial average (Figure 3). Females aged 45 and older had a participation rate of 53.0%, which was 13.6 percentage points below the rate for males aged 45 and older.

Figure 3
Participation rate by sex



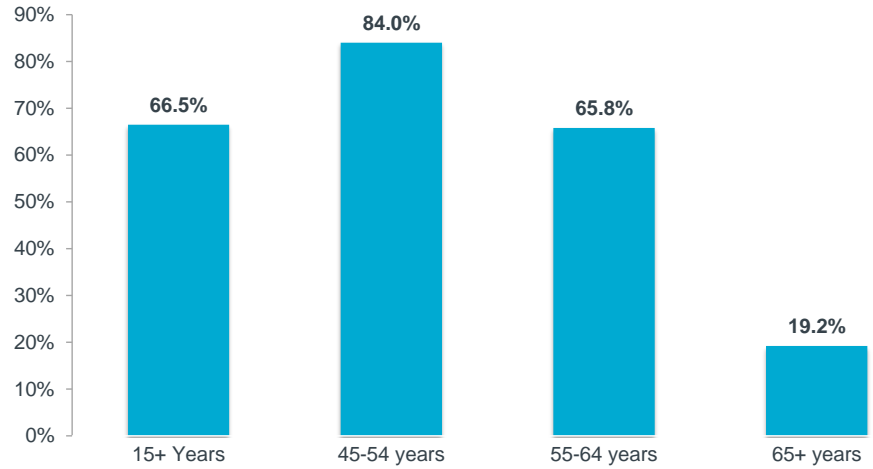
In 2019, Albertans aged 45 years and older had the highest employment rate among all provinces at 56.0% (Figure 4). This was 5.9 percentage points higher than the Canadian average for people aged 45 and older.

Figure 4
Employment rate of people aged 45 and older by province, 2019



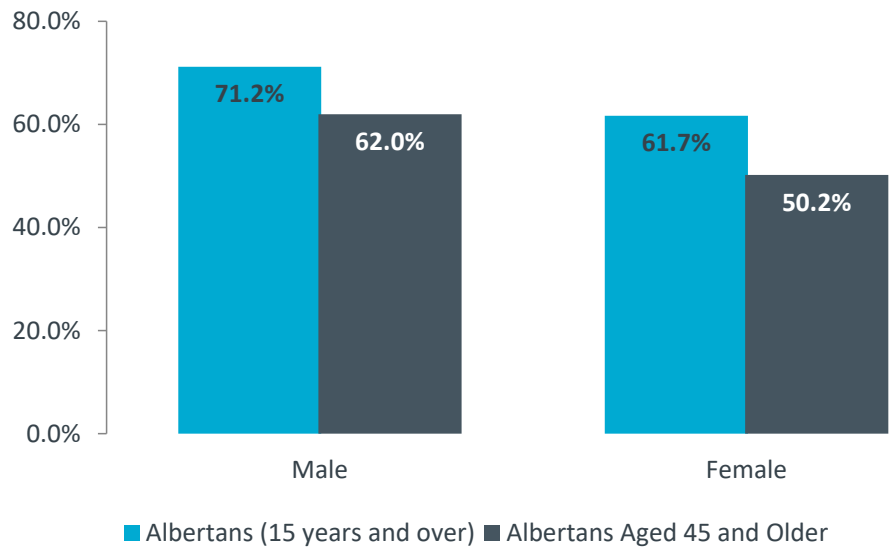
In 2019, the employment rate of Albertans aged 45-54 years was 84.0%, the highest among the three age groups and 17.5 percentage points higher than the provincial rate of 66.5% (Figure 5).

Figure 5
Employment rate by age group, 2019



The employment rate of females aged 45 and older was 11.8 percentage points lower than their male counterparts and 16.3 percentage points lower than the provincial rate of 66.5% (Figure 6).

Figure 6
Employment rate by sex, Alberta, 2019



In 2019, the proportion of full-time employment was highest among those aged 45-54, at 87.9%. The proportion of part-time employment among those aged 65 years and older was 38.5%, more than double the provincial level of 18.0% (Table 7).

Table 7
Full-time/part-time employment by age group in Alberta, 2019

	Total Employment	Full-time		Part-time	
		Number	%	Number	%
15+	2,343,000	1,920,300	82.0%	422,700	18.0%
45+ years	928,400	767,300	82.6%	161,100	17.4%
45-54 years	461,600	405,600	87.9%	55,800	12.1%
55-64 years	359,100	295,300	82.2%	63,800	17.8%
65+ years	107,800	66,300	61.5%	41,500	38.5%

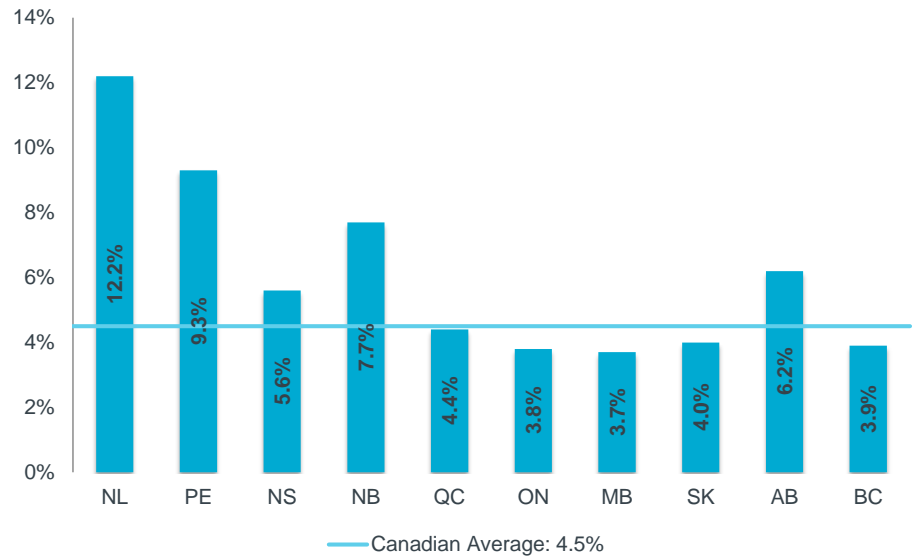
Albertans aged 45 and older had a higher proportion of full-time employment than Albertans aged 15 years and over (Table 8). The share of Alberta males aged 45 and older in full-time employment was 89.7% compared to 74.0% for females aged 45 and older.

Table 8
Full-time/part-time employment by sex, Alberta, 2019

	Albertans (45+ years)		Albertans (15+ Years)	
	Employment	Proportion	Employment	Proportion
Both Genders	928,400	100.0%	2,343,000	100.0%
Full-time	767,300	82.6%	1,920,300	82.0%
Part-time	161,100	17.4%	422,700	18.0%
Male	510,400	100.0%	1,262,200	100.0%
Full-time	457,800	89.7%	1,127,600	89.3%
Part-time	52,600	10.3%	134,600	10.7%
Female	418,000	100.0%	1,080,800	100.0%
Full-time	309,500	74.0%	792,700	73.3%
Part-time	108,600	26.0%	288,200	26.7%

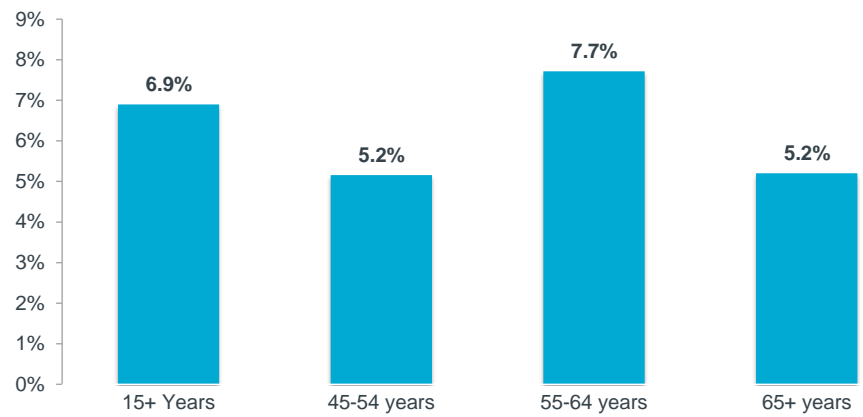
The unemployment rate of Albertans aged 45 and older was 6.2% in 2019. This was the fourth highest in Canada (Figure 7).

Figure 7
Unemployment rate of people aged 45 and older by province, 2019



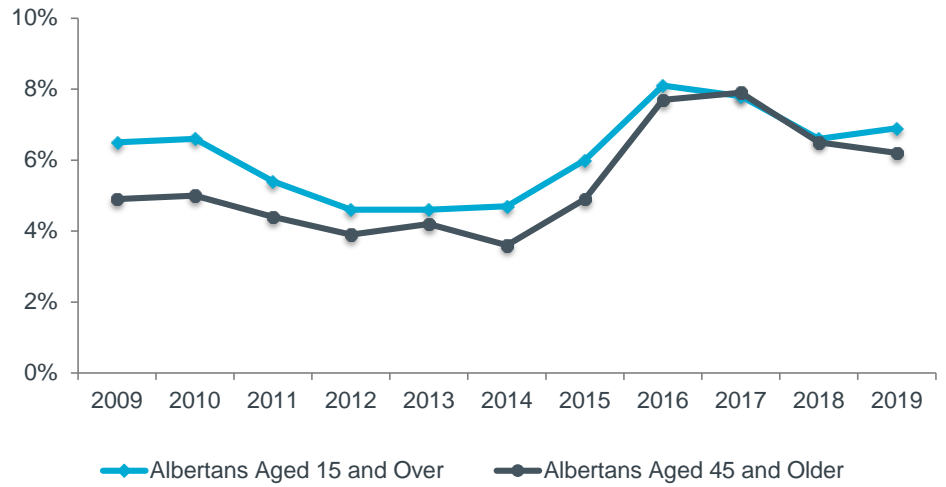
In 2019, the unemployment rates for Albertans aged 45-54, and 65 years and older were lower than the provincial rate of 6.9% (Figure 8). The unemployment rate for Albertans aged 55-64 was 0.8 percentage points higher than the provincial rate of 6.9%.

Figure 8
Unemployment rate by age group, 2019



In 2019, Alberta's unemployment rate was 6.9%, an increase of 0.3 percentage points from the previous year. (Figure 9). The unemployment rate for Albertans aged 45 and older decreased to 6.2% in 2019, 0.3 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, 2009 to 2019



Industry

Males accounted for 78.5% of Albertans aged 45 and older who were employed in the Goods-Producing sector while females accounted for 21.5%. In the Services-Producing sector, the male share of employed people aged 45 and older was 47.1% while 52.9% were female (table 9).

Of the 418,000 employed female Albertans aged 45 and older, 59.8% were employed in the following five main industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Retail Trade; Educational Services; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; and Public Administration.

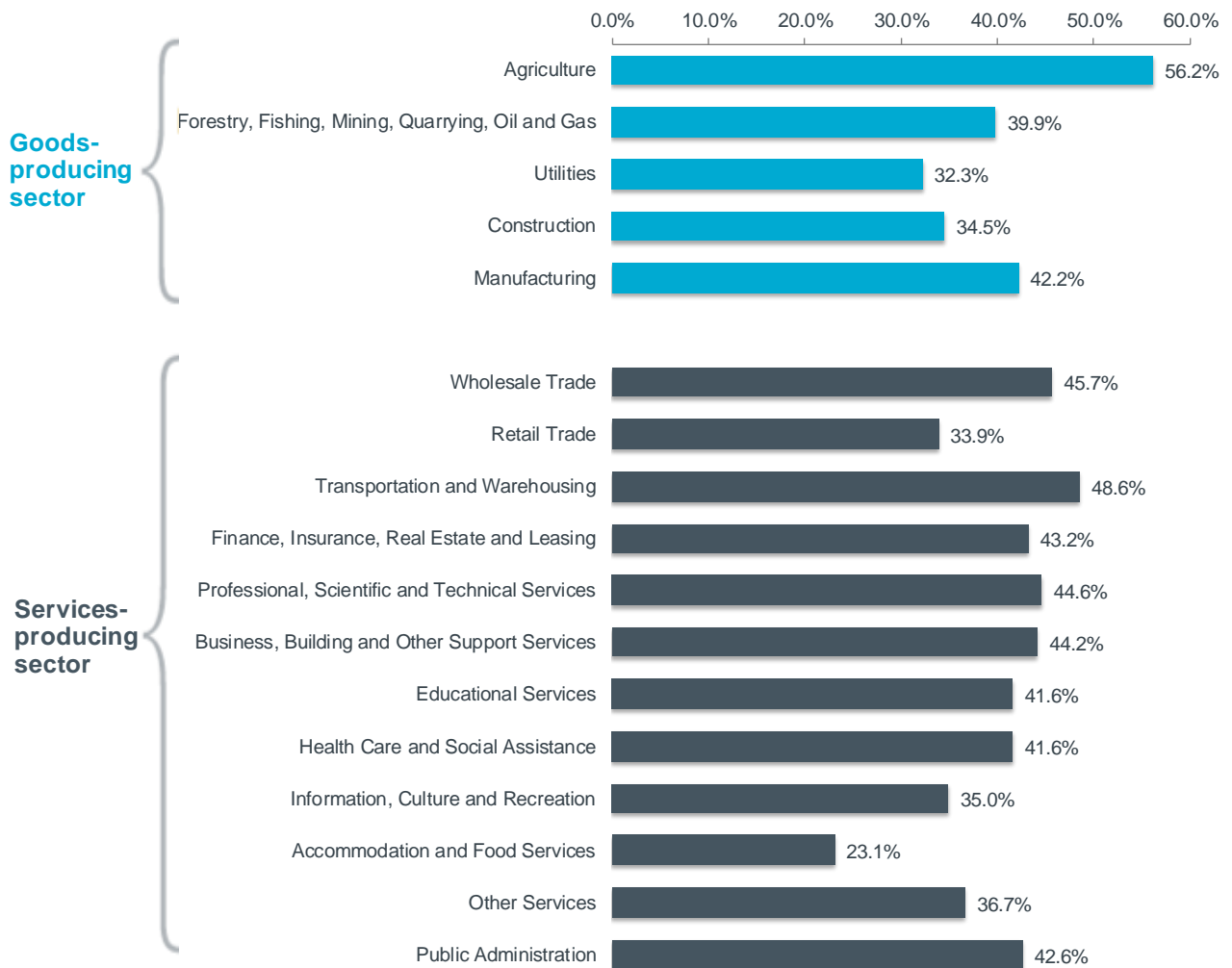
The following five industries employed 50.5% of male Albertans aged 45 and older: Construction; Transportation and Warehousing; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Manufacturing; and Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas.

Figure 9
Employment of Albertans aged 45 and older by industry and sex, Alberta, 2019

Industry	Albertans (45+ years)	Male (45+ years)	Female (45+ years)
Goods-producing sector	232,400	78.5%	21.5%
Agriculture	27,700	71.0%	29.0%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas	58,100	76.0%	24.0%
Utilities	7,600	75.1%	24.9%
Construction	81,900	82.9%	17.1%
Manufacturing	57,200	78.6%	21.4%
Services-producing sector	696,000	47.1%	52.9%
Wholesale Trade	40,000	75.4%	24.6%
Retail Trade	84,600	43.3%	56.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	66,700	76.9%	23.1%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	45,800	50.7%	49.3%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	82,500	60.2%	39.8%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	37,200	50.3%	49.7%
Educational Services	65,600	31.1%	68.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	122,300	18.8%	81.2%
Information, Culture and Recreation	26,200	55.0%	45.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	33,800	44.2%	55.8%
Other Services	42,500	50.2%	49.8%
Public Administration	49,000	49.9%	50.1%
Total	928,400	55.0%	45.0%

In 2019, the Agricultural industry had the highest proportion of Albertans aged 45 and older, at 56.2%, followed by Transportation and Warehousing, at 48.6% (Figure 10). Accommodation and Food Services had the lowest percentage of Albertans aged 45 and older, at 23.1%, followed by Utilities, at 32.3%.

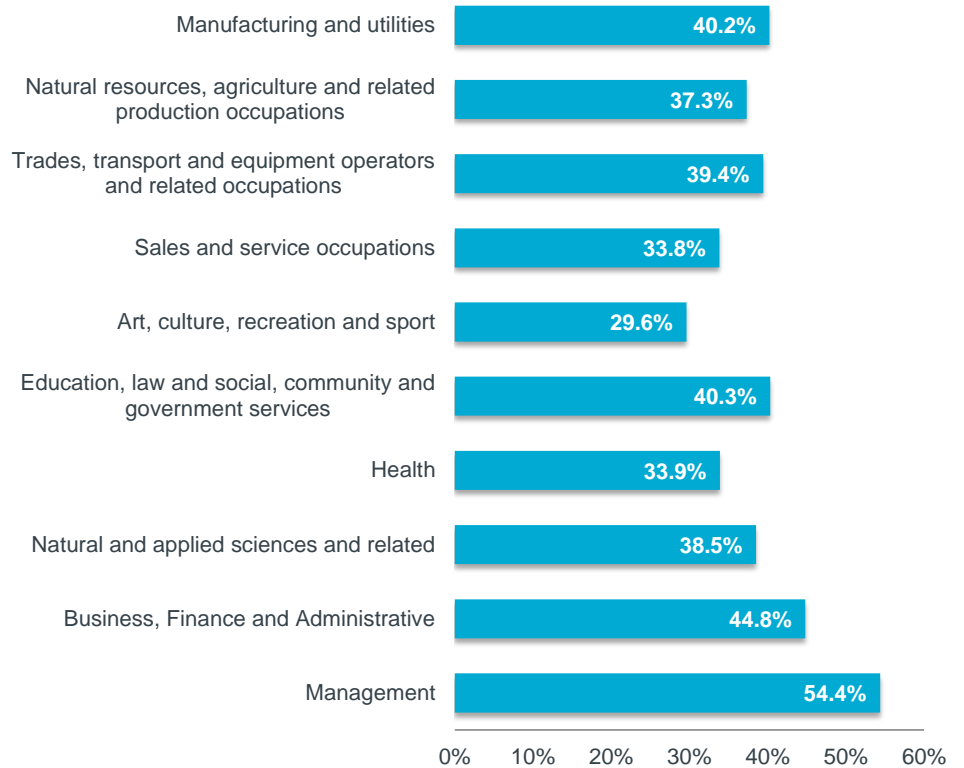
Figure 10
Share of total employment by industry, Alberta, 2019



Occupation

In 2019, Management was the occupation with the highest percentage of employed people aged 45 and older, at 54.4%. Occupations in Art, culture, recreation and sport had the lowest at 29.6% (Figure 11).

Figure 11
Share of total employment by occupation, Alberta, 2019



The following occupations had a higher proportion of employed Albertans aged 45 and older: Management; Business, finance and administrative; Education, law and social, community and government services; and Manufacturing and utilities (Table 10).

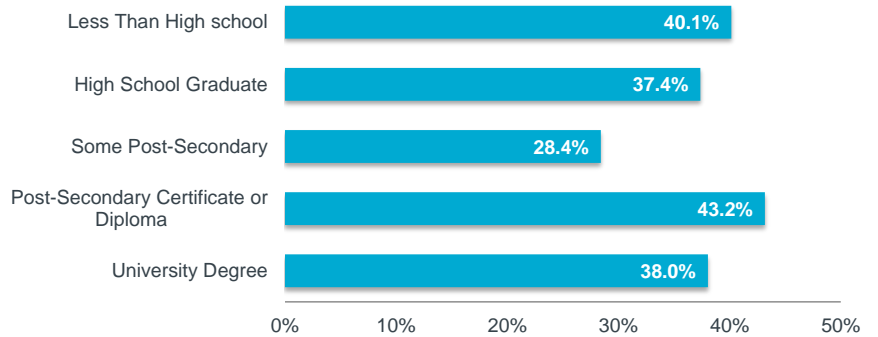
Table 10
Employment distribution by age group in Alberta, 2019

Occupation	Albertans 45+		Albertans 15-44	
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total
Management	107,900	11.6%	90,500	6.4%
Business, Finance and Administrative	171,300	18.4%	210,900	14.9%
Natural and applied sciences and related	75,200	8.1%	120,000	8.5%
Health	60,200	6.5%	117,300	8.3%
Education, law and social, community and government services	96,400	10.4%	142,600	10.1%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	15,300	1.7%	36,400	2.6%
Sales and service occupations	181,500	19.5%	355,000	25.1%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	157,200	16.9%	241,500	17.1%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	30,200	3.3%	50,800	3.6%
Manufacturing and utilities	33,400	3.6%	49,600	3.5%
All occupations	928,400	100.0%	1,414,600	100.0%

Education

In 2019, Albertans aged 45 and older accounted for 40.1% of Albertans who had less than high school as their highest educational attainment (Figure 12). They also accounted for 43.2% and 38.0% of Albertans with a post-secondary certificate or diploma, and university degree, respectively. Overall, 29.0% of Albertans aged 45 and older had a university degree, less than the provincial share of 30.0%.

Figure 12
Percentage of Albertans 45 and older in the Labour Force by education level, 2019



Between 2009 and 2019, 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 3.1% compared to 4.7% of 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 64.4% compared to an increase of 60.4% for Albertans 15 and older.

Table 11
Albertans in the labour force by education level, 2009 and 2019

Educational level	Albertans (15+ years)			Albertans (45+ years)		
	2009	2019	Change	2009	2019	Change
Less Than High school	284,500	220,200	-64,300	101,800	88,400	-13,400
High School Graduate	491,900	515,000	23,100	186,600	192,400	5,800
Some Post-Secondary	175,900	145,700	-30,200	48,400	41,400	-7,000
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	747,900	879,900	132,000	322,100	379,800	57,700
University Degree	471,000	755,400	284,400	174,800	287,300	112,500

Among Albertans 45 years and older, those with a university degree had the lowest unemployment rate in 2019 at 6.5%, followed by those with a post-secondary certificate or diploma at 6.8% in 2019 (Table 12).

Table 12
Unemployment rate by education level, 2009 and 2019,

Educational Level	2009		2019	
	Albertans (15+ years)	Albertans (45+ years)	Albertans (15+ years)	Albertans (45+ years)
Less Than High school	12.7%	*	13.8%	7.9%
High School Graduate	13.2%	14.5%	7.1%	8.1%
Some Post-Secondary	6.9%	*	4.6%	7.0%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	8.4%	9.7%	6.4%	6.8%
University Degree	5.1%	6.0%	4.8%	6.5%

* *Insufficient data*