



ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE PROFILES

Aged 45 and Older

2015

Alberta

Highlights

1. Population of Albertans Aged 45 and Older

- At 45.4%, Alberta had the lowest proportion of people aged 45 and older in its working age population in Canada in 2015.
- The number of Albertans aged 45 and older increased by 36% between 2005 and 2015.

2. Labour Force Statistics of Albertans Aged 45 and Older

- In 2015, 38.8% of Alberta's labour force was aged 45 and older and 39.2% of the total employed.
- At 62.4%, Albertans aged 45 and older had the highest labour force participation rate among all provinces.
- The employment rate for Albertans aged 45 and older at 59.3% was the highest in the country.
- The unemployment rate for Albertans aged 45 and older at 4.9% was lower than the provincial rate, 6% and the Canadian average of 5.6% for this age group.

3. Employment of Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Industry

- In 2015, 72.5% of Albertans aged 45 and older were employed in the Services-Producing sector.
- Of all Albertans employed in the Agricultural industry, 57.6% were aged 45 and older.

4. Employment of Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Occupation

- Sales and services, Business, finance and administration; Trades, transport and equipment operators; and Management occupations employed two-thirds of Albertans aged 45 and older.
- Higher proportions of Albertans aged 45 and older than Alberta's working age population were employed in the following occupations: Management; Business, finance and administration; Primary industry; Processing, manufacturing and utilities and Social Science, Education, Government and Religion.

5. Educational Levels of Alberta's Labour Force Aged 45 and Older

- The percentage of Alberta's labour force aged 45 and older with a university degree was 36.1% in 2015.
- The number of Albertans aged 45 and older in the labour force with a postsecondary education increased by 202,000 or 51.4% during the past decade.

1. Population of Albertans Aged 45 and Older

For the purpose of this profile, working age population (WAP) refers to people who are 15 years and older (please refer to the [Appendix](#) for definitions of labour force terms).

Alberta had the lowest proportion of people aged 45 and older in its working age population in 2015 at 45.4%, up by 2.5 percentage points from 2005 (Figure 1). Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest proportion of older workers in Canada at 58.3%, followed closely by New Brunswick at 58.2%. Alberta's proportion of people aged 45 and above is 7 percentage points below the Canadian average of 52.4%.

Figure 1

People Aged 45 and Older, Canada and Provinces, 2005 and 2015						
	2005			2015		
	15+ years	45+ years	% 45+ years	15+ years	45+ years	% 45+ years
Canada	25,754,700	12,256,000	47.6%	29,279,800	15,351,800	52.4%
Newfoundland and Labrador	426,900	214,400	50.2%	442,900	258,400	58.3%
Prince Edward Island	111,400	55,500	49.8%	120,900	68,900	57.0%
Nova Scotia	760,800	386,900	50.9%	785,500	450,900	57.4%
New Brunswick	606,400	306,500	50.5%	622,000	361,900	58.2%
Quebec	6,158,200	3,048,100	49.5%	6,843,300	3,722,100	54.4%
Ontario	10,056,400	4,659,300	46.3%	11,385,600	5,956,000	52.3%
Manitoba	885,200	413,000	46.7%	987,200	500,400	50.7%
Saskatchewan	747,800	370,300	49.5%	861,500	429,800	49.9%
Alberta	2,608,100	1,119,100	42.9%	3,353,800	1,521,900	45.4%
British Columbia	3,393,400	1,665,000	49.1%	3,877,100	2,081,500	53.7%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

The proportion of Albertans in the 45 to 54 age group was 16.8% of the working age population in 2015, down by 2.2 percentage points since 2005 (Figure 2). Those in the 55 to 64 age group accounted for 14.7% of the working age population in 2015 compared to 11.7% in 2005. Albertans aged 65 years and over accounted for 13.8% of the working age population in 2015 compared to 12.2% in 2005.

Figure 2

Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Age Group, 2005 and 2015				
	2005		2015	
	Number	% of WAP	Number	% of WAP
45 years and over	1,119,100	42.9%	1,521,900	45.4%
45-54 years	494,400	19.0%	564,200	16.8%
55-64 years	305,200	11.7%	494,400	14.7%
65+ years	319,400	12.2%	463,300	13.8%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

The working age population in Alberta increased by 28.6% between 2005 and 2015 from 2.6 million to 3.4 million (Figure 3). The growth in Alberta's working age population was 14.9 percentage points higher than the Canadian working age population growth of 13.7%.

Albertans aged 45 years and over increased by 36%, 10.7 percentage points more than Canadians of the same age group (25.3%) over the period.

Figure 3

Working Age Population (15+ years), Canada and Alberta, 2005 and 2015				
	2005	2015	Growth	% Growth
Canadians	25,754,700	29,279,800	3,525,100	13.7%
Canadians Aged 45 and Older	12,256,000	15,351,800	3,095,800	25.3%
Albertans	2,608,100	3,353,800	745,700	28.6%
Albertans Aged 45 and Older	1,119,100	1,521,900	402,800	36.0%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

The population of Albertans aged 55-64 increased by 62% over the ten-year period compared to 14.1% for the 45-54 year olds and 45.1% for those aged 65 and over (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Growth of Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Age Group, 2005 and 2015				
	2005	2015	Growth	% Growth
45+ years	1,119,100	1,521,900	402,800	36.0%
45-54 years	494,400	564,200	69,800	14.1%
55-64 years	305,200	494,400	189,200	62.0%
65+ years	319,400	463,300	143,900	45.1%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

2. Labour Force Statistics for Albertans Aged 45 and Older

In 2015, Albertans aged 45 years and older accounted for 38.8% of the provincial labour force. They also accounted for 39.2% of the total employed and 31.7% of the unemployed in Alberta (Figure 5). The 45 years and older age group had lower participation and employment rates at 62.4% and 59.3%, compared to the total labour force at 73% and 68.6% respectively. However, they had a lower unemployment rate at 4.9% compared to 6% in 2015.

Figure 5

Labour Force Statistics of Albertans Aged 45 and Older, 2015			
	Albertans (15+ Years)	Albertans (45+ years)	Proportion of Albertans Aged 45 and Older
Working Age Population	3,353,800	1,521,900	45.4%
Labour Force	2,449,200	949,700	38.8%
Employment	2,301,100	902,800	39.2%
Unemployment	148,000	46,900	31.7%
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	4.9%	---
Participation Rate	73.0%	62.4%	---
Employment Rate	68.6%	59.3%	---

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

Albertans aged 65 years and over had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.3% (Figure 6), but they had the lowest participation and employment rates at 20.1% and 19.4% when compared to those aged 45-54 years and 55-64 years. The 45 to 54 age group had the highest participation and employment rates at 88.6 and 84% respectively, compared to the working age population participation and employment rates of 73% and 68.6%, respectively (Figures 5, 6).

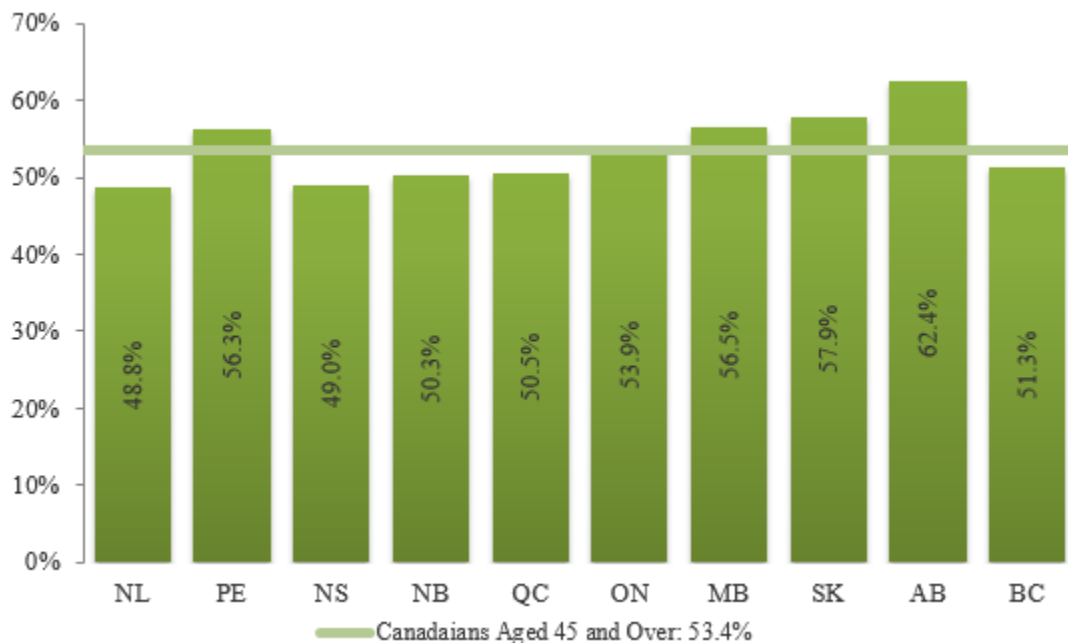
Figure 6

Labour Force Characteristics of Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Age Group, 2015				
	45+ years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
Working Age Population	1,521,900	564,200	494,400	463,300
Labour Force	949,700	500,000	356,600	93,100
Employment	902,800	473,700	339,100	90,000
Unemployment	46,900	26,300	17,500	3,100
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.3%	4.9%	3.3%
Participation rate	62.4%	88.6%	72.1%	20.1%
Employment rate	59.3%	84.0%	68.6%	19.4%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

Albertans aged 45 and older had the highest participation rate in Canada at 62.4% in 2015 (Figure 7). This was 9 percentage points higher than the national average.

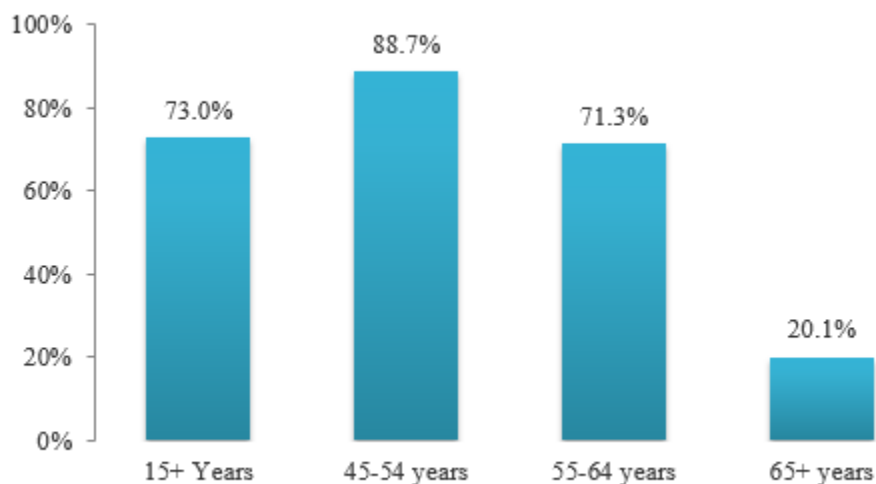
Figure 7
Participation Rate of People Aged 45 and Older by Province, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

The participation rate of Albertans aged 45-54 at 88.7%, was the highest among the three age groups and was 15.7 percentage points higher than the provincial rate of 73% in 2015 (Figure 8).

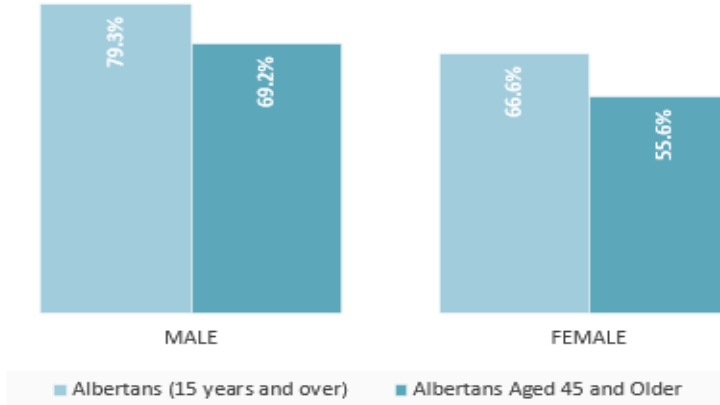
Figure 8
Participation Rate by Age Group in Alberta, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

For both genders, Albertans aged 45 and older had lower participation rates than their provincial counterparts (Figure 9). Alberta women aged 45 and older had a participation rate of 55.6%, which was 11 percentage points below the rate for provincial females while men aged 45 and older had a participation rate of 69.2% compared to the provincial male rate of 79.3%.

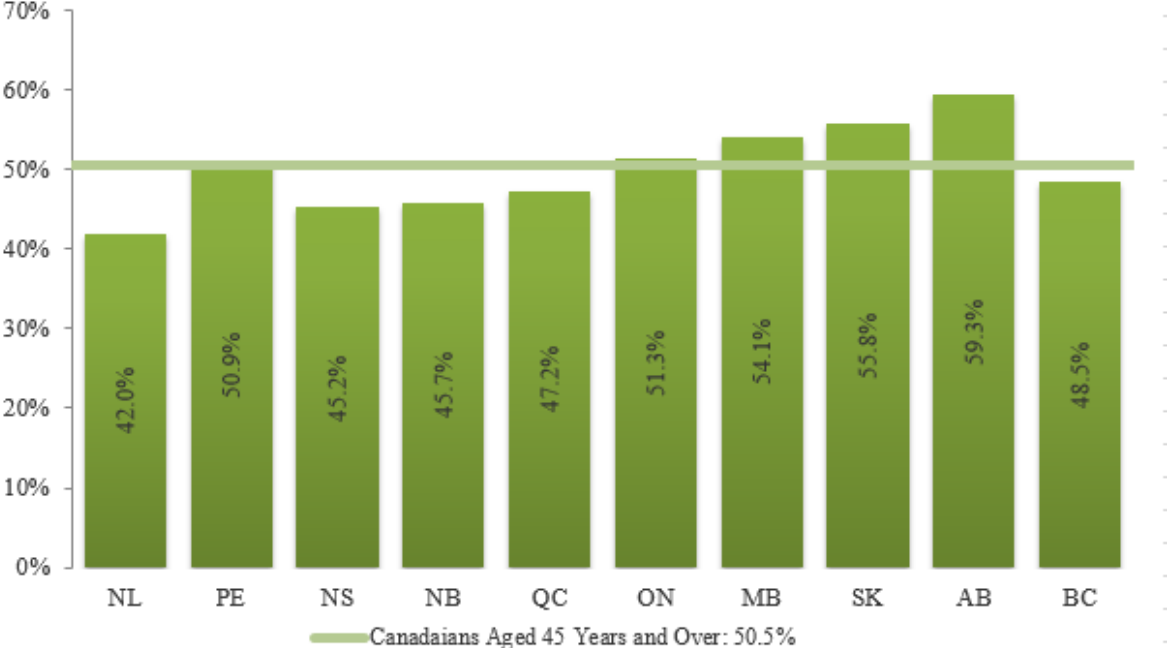
Figure 9
Participation Rate by Gender, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

In 2015, Albertans aged 45 years and older had the highest employment rate compared to the same age group across all 10 provinces at 59.3% (Figure 10). This was 8.8 percentage points higher than the Canadian average for people aged 45 and older. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest employment rate for this age group at 42%.

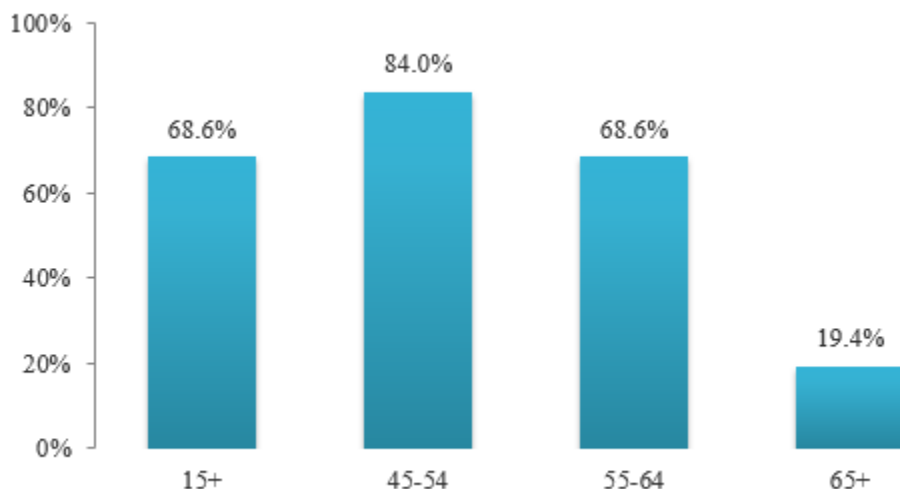
Figure 10
Employment Rate of People Aged 45 and Older by Province, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

The employment rate of Albertans aged 45-54 years of 84% was the highest among the 4 age groups in Figure 11.

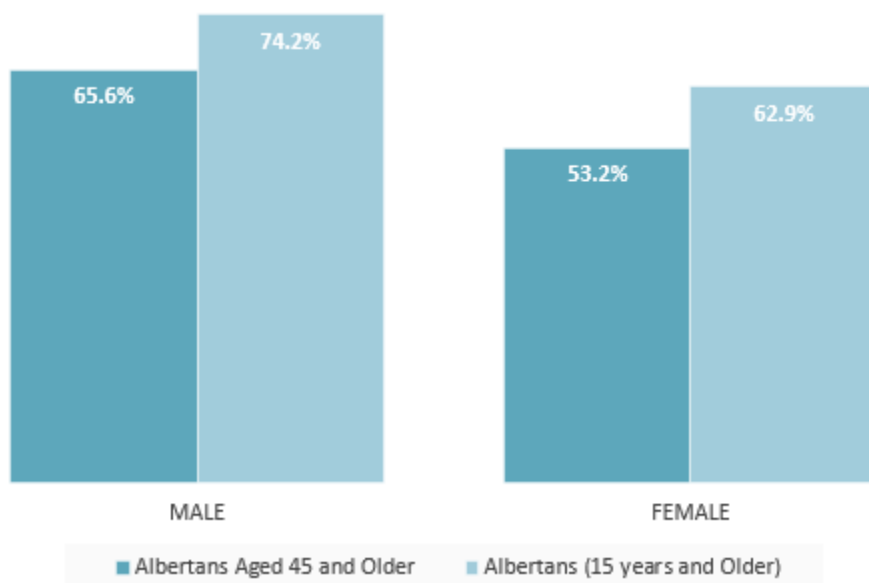
Figure 11
Employment Rate by Age Group, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

The employment rate for women aged 45 and older was 12.4 percentage points lower than their male counterparts and 9.7 percentage points lower than the provincial rate of 62.9% for females (Figure 12).

Figure 12
Employment Rate by Gender, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

In 2015, there were more people in full-time employment in the 45 years and older age group at 84.2% compared to the total working age population by 1.2 percentage points. The proportion of full-time was highest among the 45-54 age group at 88.6.

For part-time employment, those aged 65 years and older had the highest percentage of 38.7%, more than twice the percentage for the working age population in Alberta at 17%. Part-time employment of people 45 years and older was 15.8% in 2015 (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Full-time/Part-time Employment by Age Group in Alberta, 2015					
	Total Employment	Full-time		Part-time	
		Number	%	Number	%
15+	2,301,100	1,910,800	83.0%	390,300	17.0%
45+ years	902,800	760,500	84.2%	142,300	15.8%
45-54 years	473,700	419,900	88.6%	53,800	11.4%
55-64 years	339,100	285,400	84.2%	53,800	15.9%
65+ years	90,000	55,200	61.3%	34,800	38.7%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding

Albertans aged 45 and older had a higher proportion of full-time employment than Albertans aged 15 years and over (Figure 14). The share of Alberta males aged 45 and older in full-time employment was 91.2% compared to 75.7% for females for the same age group. There were more females part-time in part-time employment for both 45 years and older and 15 years and older age groups in 2015.

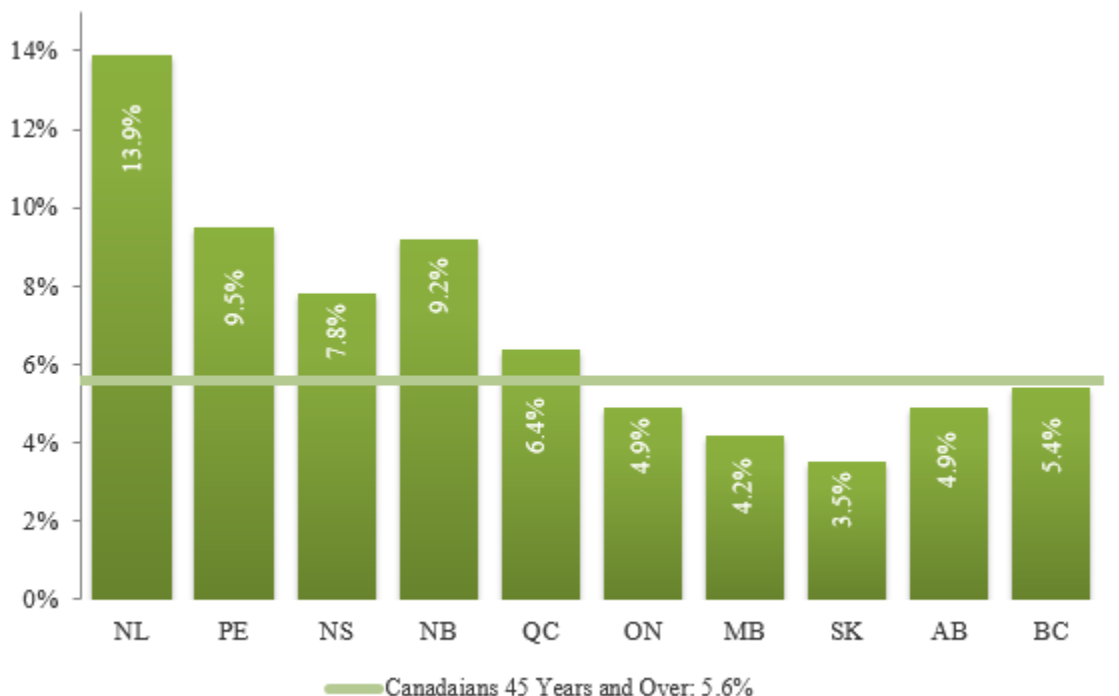
Figure 14

Full-time/Part-time Employment by Gender, Alberta, 2015				
	Albertans (45+ years)		Albertans (15+ Years)	
	Employment	Proportion	Employment	Proportion
Both	902,800	100.0%	2,301,100	100.0%
Full-time	760,500	84.2%	1,910,800	83.0%
Part-time	142,300	15.8%	390,300	17.0%
Male	498,000	100.0%	1,262,500	100.0%
Full-time	454,200	91.2%	1,142,900	90.5%
Part-time	43,700	8.8%	119,500	9.5%
Female	404,800	100.0%	1,038,700	100.0%
Full-time	306,300	75.7%	767,800	73.9%
Part-time	98,500	24.3%	270,800	26.1%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

The unemployment rate of Albertans aged 45 and older was 4.9% in 2015. This was lower than the Canadian rate by 0.7 percentage points (Figure 15).

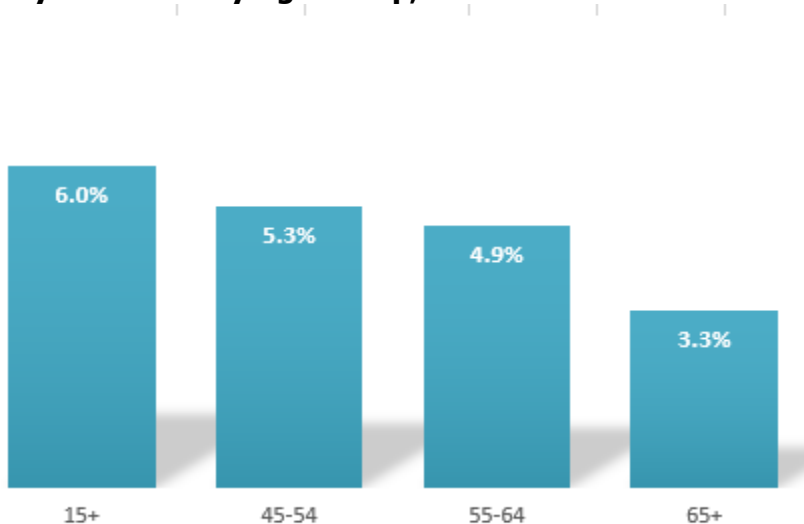
Figure 15
Unemployment Rate of People Aged 45 and Older by Province, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

The lowest unemployment rate for mature workers was for the age group 65 and older at 3.3%, followed by the 55-64 age group at 4.9% and the 45-54 age group at 5.3%. Overall, Albertans aged 45 and older had a lower unemployment rate than the provincial working age population in 2015 (Figure 16).

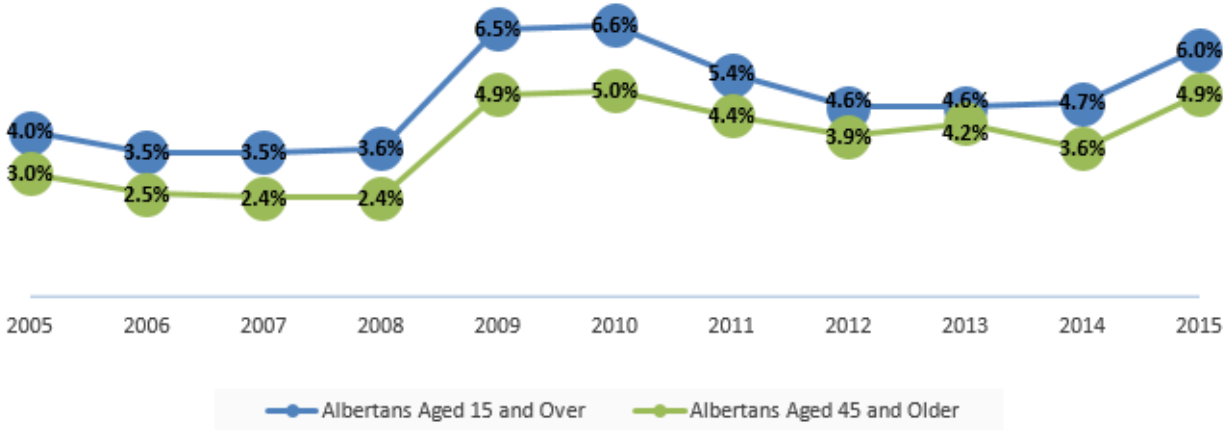
Figure 16
Unemployment Rate by Age Group, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour force survey estimates, 2015.

Alberta's unemployment rate at 6% in 2015 was higher by 1.3 percentage points from the previous year (Figure 17). The rate for Albertans aged 45 and older also increased 1.3 percentage points from 2014 to 4.9% in 2015. Over the last ten years, the unemployment rate for Albertans aged 45 and older has been consistently lower than the provincial rate.

Figure 17
Unemployment Rates, 2005-2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

3. Employment of Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Industry

In 2013, 72.5% of Albertans aged 45 and older were employed in the Services-Producing sector and 27.5% were employed in the Goods-Producing sector (Figure 18). For those in the Goods-Producing sector, 78% were males. For the Service-producing sector, there were more females than males, at 53.5% compared to 46.5% for men. Combined, both sectors employed more males in the 45 and older age group than females.

There were a total of 902,800 employed Albertans in the 45 and older age group out of which 404,454 were women in 2015. Within the Services-producing sector, the leading industry by employment for women in this age group was Health care and social assistance at 82.8% followed by Educational services (67.1%) and Accommodation and food services (60.9%) in the third place. For men in this age group employed in the Service-producing sector, the leading industry by employment was Transportation and warehousing (75.3%), followed by Wholesale trade (71.5%) and Professional, scientific and technical services (58.4%) in the third place.

The Goods-producing sector was dominated by men with construction as the leading industry at 85% followed closely by Utilities at 82.4%.

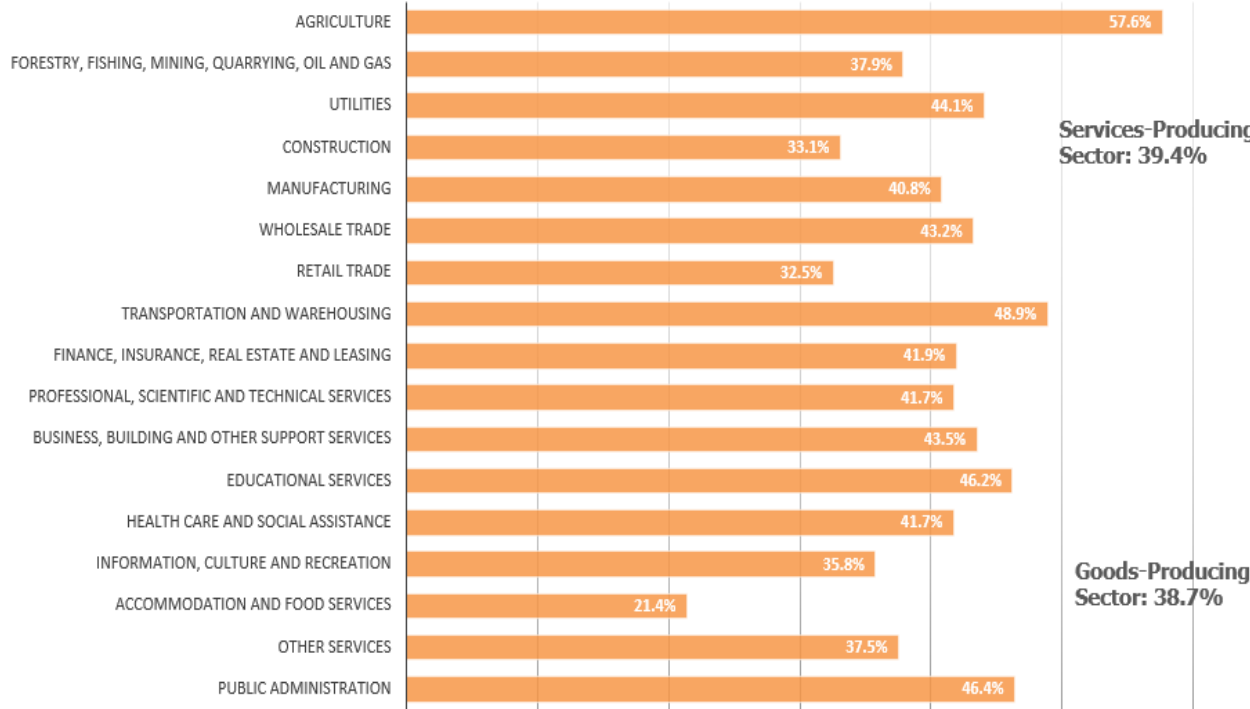
Figure 18

Employment of Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Industry and Gender, 2015			
	Albertans (45+ years)	Male (45+ years)	Female (45+ years)
Goods-producing sector	248,400	78.0%	22.0%
Agriculture	36,200	74.4%	25.6%
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	60,200	71.3%	28.7%
Utilities	8,900	82.4%	17.6%
Construction	86,000	85.0%	15.0%
Manufacturing	57,100	76.2%	23.8%
Services-producing sector	654,400	46.5%	53.5%
Wholesale trade	38,700	71.5%	28.5%
Retail trade	74,600	43.5%	56.5%
Transportation and warehousing	68,100	75.3%	24.7%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	43,400	42.7%	57.3%
Professional, scientific and technical services	72,300	58.4%	41.6%
Business, building and other support services	35,800	56.6%	43.4%
Educational services	63,800	32.9%	67.1%
Health care and social assistance	110,200	17.2%	82.8%
Information, culture and recreation	26,800	56.6%	43.4%
Accommodation and food services	32,800	39.1%	60.9%
Other services	44,100	53.4%	46.6%
Public administration	43,800	46.2%	53.8%
Total	902,800	55.2%	44.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour force survey estimates, 2015. Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding

In 2015, the Agricultural industry had the highest proportion of Albertans aged 45 and older, at 57.6%, followed by Transportation and warehousing at 48.9% and Public administration at 46.4% (Figure 19). Accommodation and Food Services had the lowest percentage of Albertans aged 45 and older, at 21.4%.

Figure 19
Share of Total Employment by Industry, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

4. Employment of Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Occupation

The top three occupational groups for Albertans aged 45 and older were Sales and services, 19.1%; Business, finance and administration, 19% and Trades, transportation and equipment operators, 18.3% (Figure 20). The occupational group which employs the least of Albertans aged 45 and older was Processing, manufacturing and utilities (3.2%). Coincidentally, Albertans aged 15 to 44 also had the highest employed Sales and services occupations (25%) and the least in occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities (2.7%).

The proportion of employed Albertans aged 45 and older were higher in Management (10.8%), Business, finance and administration (19%) and Social science, education, government and religion (7.7%) compared to employed Albertans aged 15 to 44.

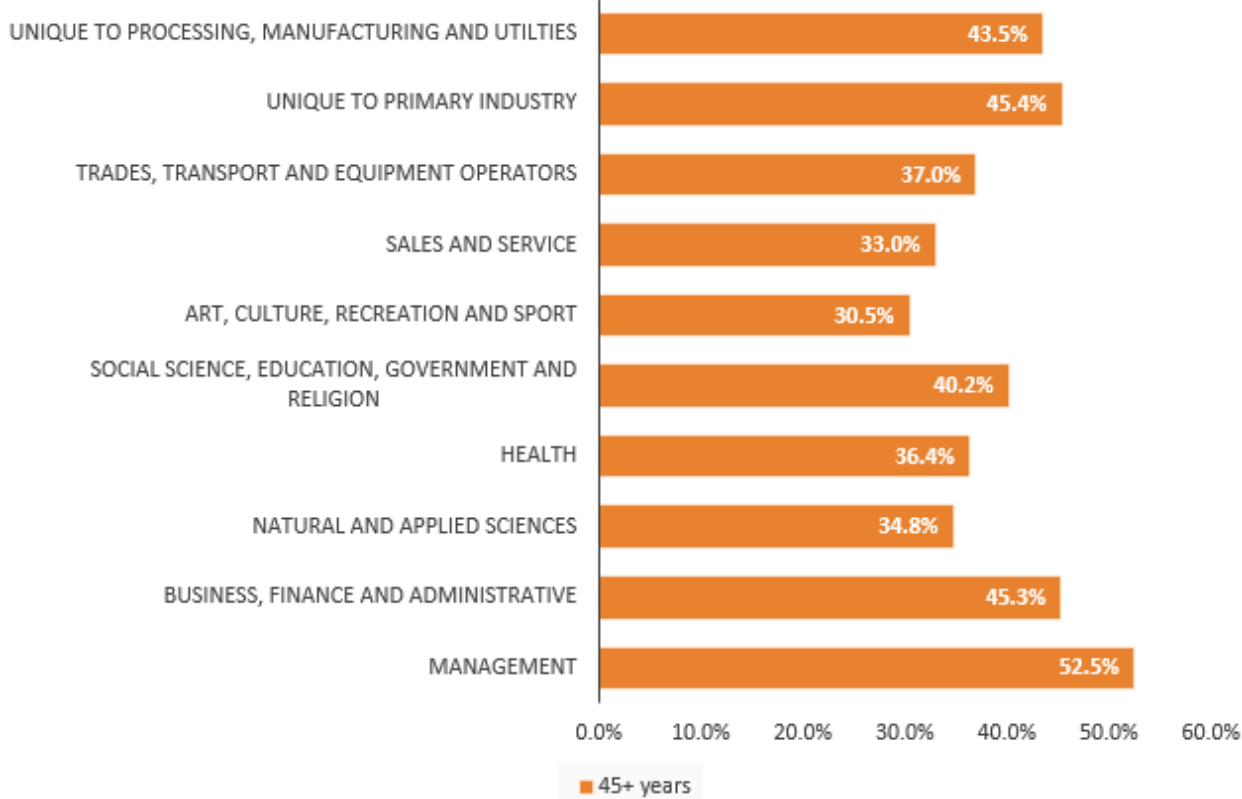
Figure 20

Distribution of Employed Albertans and Albertans Aged 45 and Older by Occupation, 2015		
Occupational Group	Albertans (15 to 44 years)	Albertans (45+ years)
Management	6.3%	10.8%
Business, finance and administration	14.8%	19.0%
Natural and applied sciences	8.9%	7.4%
Health	7.3%	6.5%
Social science, education, government and religion	7.4%	7.7%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	2.5%	1.7%
Sales and services	25.0%	19.1%
Trades, transportation and equipment operators	20.1%	18.3%
Unique to primary industry	4.9%	6.3%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	2.7%	3.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

In 2015, Management had the highest percentage of employed people aged 45 and older at 52.5%, marginally higher than 2014 by 0.2 percentage points. Art, culture, recreation and sport had the least proportion of employed Albertans aged 45 and older at 30.5% (Figure 21).

Figure 21
Share of Total Employment by Occupation, 2015



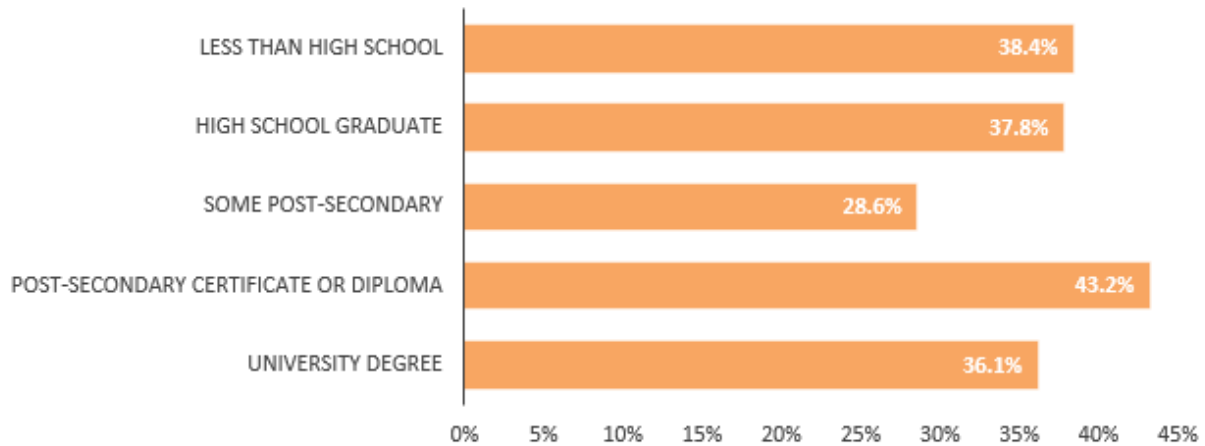
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey.

5. Educational Levels of Alberta's Labour Force Aged 45 and Older

In 2015, Albertans aged 45 and older accounted for 38.4% of Albertans in the labour force who had less than high school as their highest educational attainment (Figure 22). The proportion for 2014 was 43.7%, 5.3 percentage points lower than in 2015. Albertans aged 45 and older also accounted for 43.2% of the working age population with a post-secondary certificate or diploma and 36.1% with university degree.

Overall, 24.9% of Albertans aged 45 and older had a university degree, which is lower than the previous year by 0.9 percentage points and also below the provincial percentage by 1.8 points.

Figure 22
Percentage of Albertans Aged 45 years and Older in the Labour Force by Education Level, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour force survey estimates, 2015

Between 2005 and 2015, 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 from 153,100 to 214,000, representing an increase of 39.8% compared 28.5% for Albertans 15 and older (Figure 23).

The number of people aged 45 and older in the labour force that have a university degree increased by 67.6% over the 10-year period, compared to the increase of 69.4% for Albertans 15 and older.

Albertans aged 45 and over who had attained a post-secondary certificate or diploma as their highest level of education increased by 42.3% compared to the overall provincial increase of 33% over the same period.

Figure 23

Albertans in the Labour Force by Educational Level, 2005 and 2015						
Educational level	Albertans (15+ years)			Albertans (45+ years)		
	2005	2015	Change	2005	2015	Change
Less Than High school	271,500	270,600	-900	89,500	103,900	14,400
High School Graduate	440,300	565,900	125,600	153,100	214,000	60,900
Some Post-Secondary	173,400	128,800	-44,600	43,000	36,800	-6,200
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	623,600	829,100	205,500	251,800	358,300	106,500
University Degree	386,600	654,800	268,200	141,200	236,700	95,500

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour force survey estimates, 2015

Among Albertans 45 years and over, those with high school diploma as their highest level of education had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.2%, followed by those with university degree and post-secondary certificate or diploma at 4.9% each in 2015 (Figure 24).

Figure 24

Educational Level	2005		2015	
	Albertans (15+ years)	Albertans (45+ years)	Albertans (15+ years)	Albertans (45+ years)
Less Than High school	5.8%	*	6.5%	*
High School Graduate	4.2%	3.3%	6.2%	4.2%
Some Post-Secondary	4.2%	*	7.5%	5.7%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	3.0%	2.9%	4.8%	4.9%
University Degree	2.8%	2.5%	5.2%	4.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour force survey estimates, 2015. * Data not available

Appendix

All definitions are from the [Guide to the Labour Force Survey 2013.pdf](#), Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

Full-time Employment: Those persons who usually work 30 hours or more per week at their main or only job.

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week 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 previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Part-time Employment: Consists of all other persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Unemployment Rate: The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years, except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

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