



# Alberta labour market review

2023 annual review



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## Overview

The 2023 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review provides statistics and trends on Alberta's labour market. Topics include employment, unemployment, migration, industry, occupation, education, Indigenous people living off-reserve and demographics. Statistics are provided for Alberta's seven economic regions, the 10 provinces and at the national level.

Population and demographic information is from Statistics Canada's Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. For more information, please see: Statistics Canada. [Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex](#)

Interprovincial migration is from Statistics Canada's Estimates of the components of interprovincial migration, quarterly. For more information, please see: Statistics Canada. [Table 17-10-0020-01 Estimates of the components of interprovincial migration, quarterly](#)

International migration is from Statistics Canada's Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly. For more information, please see: Statistics Canada. [Table 17-10-0040-01 Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly](#)

Temporary foreign workers is from Government of Canada. [Temporary Residents: Temporary Foreign Worker Program \(TFWP\) and International Mobility Program \(IMP\) Work Permit Holders – Monthly IRCC Updates - Canada - Temporary Foreign Worker Program work permit holders by province/territory of intended destination, program and year in which permit\(s\) became effective](#)

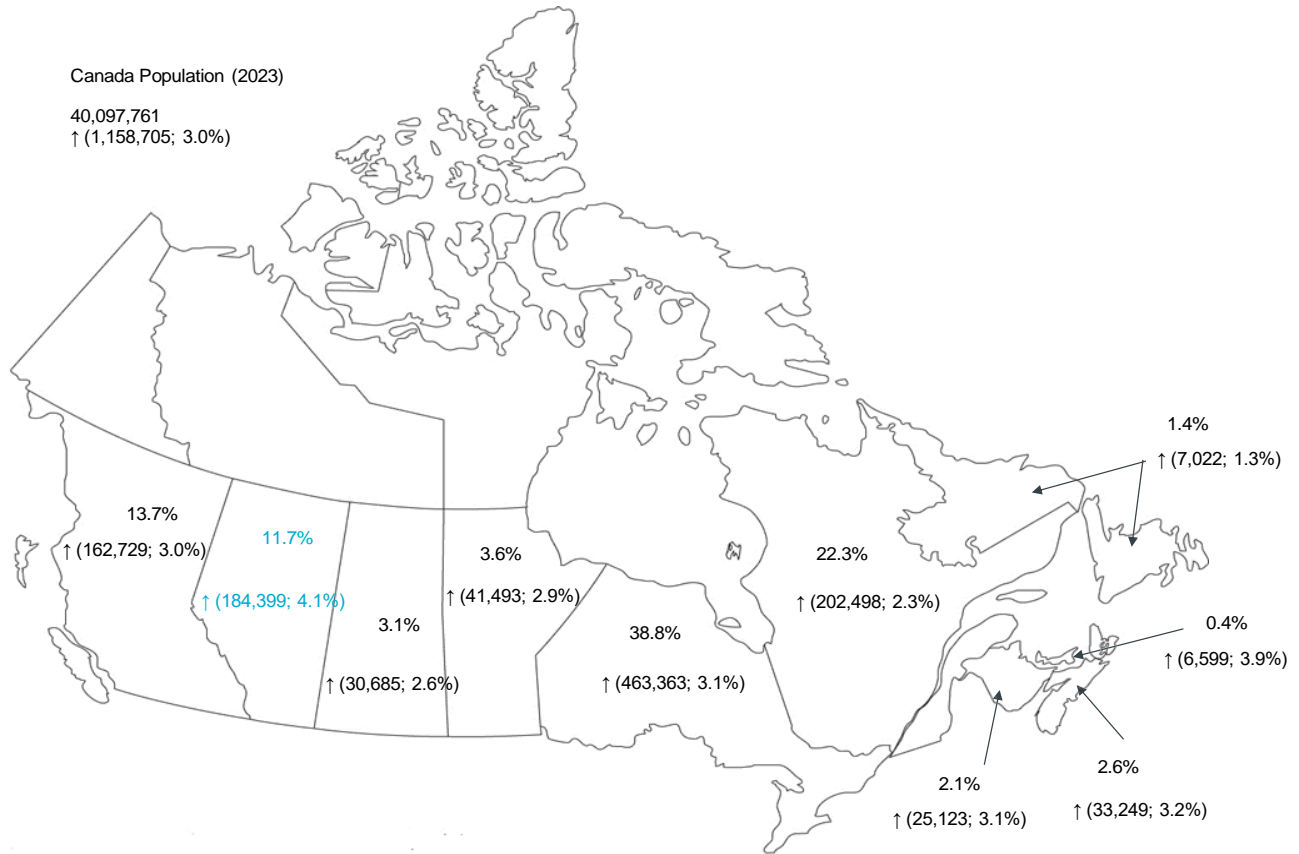
Information about employment, unemployment, occupation, industry and education is from Statistics Canada's Labour Force survey, for methodology and definitions please see [Guide to the Labour Force Survey](#)

Occupation is based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC) 2021. For more information, please see: [National Occupational Classification \(NOC\) 2021 Version 1.0 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

Industry is based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada 2017. For more information, please see: [North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\) Canada 2017 Version 1.0 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

# Population

**FIGURE 1: SHARE OF THE CANADIAN POPULATION BY PROVINCE, 2023 (CHANGES FROM 2022)**



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex

**TABLE 1: POPULATION, 2013 - 2023**

Year	Canada	Alberta
2013	35,080,992	3,978,532
2014	35,434,066	4,081,271
2015	35,704,498	4,150,147
2016	36,110,803	4,195,427
2017	36,545,075	4,237,310
2018	37,072,620	4,292,556
2019	37,618,495	4,355,377
2020	38,028,638	4,407,495
2021	38,239,864	4,431,531
2022	38,939,056	4,510,891
2023	40,097,761	4,695,290

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex

**Facts:**

Alberta's population increased by 614,019 from 2014 to 2023, and its share of the Canadian population increased by 0.2 percentage points to 11.7 per cent in 2023.

In 2023, Alberta's 10-year population growth rate of 15.0 per cent was higher than the national level of 13.2 per cent.

# Demographics

**TABLE 2: POPULATION BY AGE GROUP, 2023**

Canada, 2023			Age	Alberta, 2023		
4.7%		1,881,497	0 to 4 years	257,860		5.5%
5.3%		2,122,845	5 to 9 years	293,057		6.2%
5.5%		2,187,154	10 to 14 years	294,497		6.3%
5.6%		2,233,251	15 to 19 years	282,281		6.0%
6.5%		2,616,655	20 to 24 years	292,461		6.2%
7.3%		2,907,754	25 to 29 years	325,433		6.9%
7.4%		2,976,658	30 to 34 years	368,300		7.8%
7.0%		2,808,843	35 to 39 years	379,503		8.1%
6.7%		2,674,762	40 to 44 years	355,125		7.6%
6.1%		2,456,827	45 to 49 years	305,294		6.5%
6.1%		2,430,257	50 to 54 years	281,760		6.0%
6.4%		2,550,386	55 to 59 years	270,616		5.8%
6.7%		2,682,564	60 to 64 years	282,150		6.0%
5.9%		2,381,063	65 to 69 years	245,869		5.2%
4.8%		1,912,789	70 to 74 years	180,208		3.8%
3.6%		1,459,513	75 to 79 years	127,684		2.7%
2.3%		918,411	80 to 84 years	77,675		1.7%
2.2%		896,532	85 plus	75,517		1.6%
100.0%		40,097,761	Total	4,695,290		100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex

**TABLE 3: MEDIAN AGE BY PROVINCE, 2023**

Canada	40.6
Manitoba	37.5
Alberta	38.1
Saskatchewan	38.4
Ontario	40.0
British Columbia	41.1
Prince Edward Island	41.9
Quebec	42.6
Nova Scotia	43.8
New Brunswick	45.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	48.0












Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex

**Facts:**

In 2023, Alberta had the second lowest median age (38.1 years) among the provinces.

# Employment

**TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT BY PROVINCE, 2022, 2023**

Province	Employment in 2023	Employment in 2022	Change from 2022	Percentage Change from 2022	
Alberta	2,461,100	2,376,100	85,000	3.6%	
Canada	20,170,900	19,693,000	477,900	2.4%	
Newfoundland and Labrador	236,700	232,500	4,200	1.8%	
Prince Edward Island	89,000	84,200	4,800	5.7%	
Nova Scotia	497,800	484,900	12,900	2.7%	
New Brunswick	386,500	373,500	13,000	3.5%	
Quebec	4,506,400	4,403,100	103,300	2.3%	
Ontario	7,914,800	7,731,600	183,200	2.4%	
Manitoba	694,600	677,500	17,100	2.5%	
Saskatchewan	592,200	581,500	10,700	1.8%	
British Columbia	2,791,800	2,747,900	43,900	1.6%	

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

## Facts:

In 2023, the number of employed Albertans increased to 2,461,100. This is a 3.6 per cent increase relative to 2022.

**TABLE 5: CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT BY SEX AND AGE GROUP, 2023**

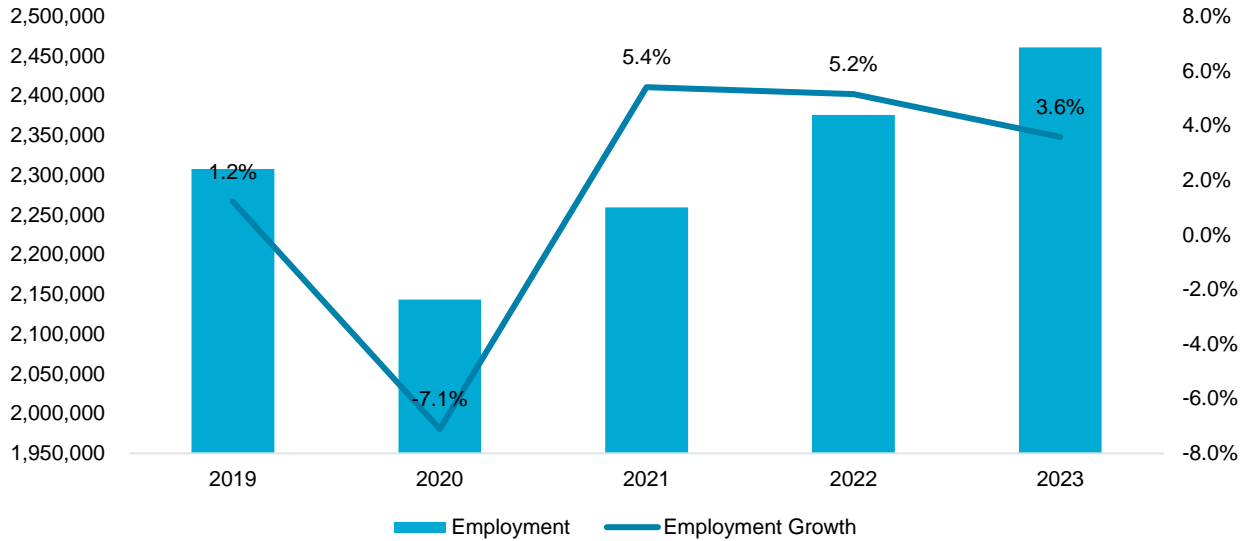
	Males	Females
15 years and over	4.2%	2.9%
15 to 24 years	0.4%	1.5%
25 to 44 years	4.1%	4.9%
45 to 64 years	3.7%	0.0%
25 to 54 years	4.0%	2.9%
55 years and over	7.2%	3.8%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

## Facts:

Employment increased in 2023 across all age groups for males relative to the previous year.

**FIGURE 2: EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH RATE, 2019 - 2023**



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

**TABLE 6: EMPLOYMENT RATE BY PROVINCE, 2023**

Canada	62.1%
Alberta	65.5%
Saskatchewan	64.1%
Manitoba	63.8%
Quebec	62.1%
Ontario	61.8%
British Columbia	61.8%
Prince Edward Island	61.5%
Nova Scotia	57.6%
New Brunswick	56.6%
Newfoundland and Labrador	52.0%

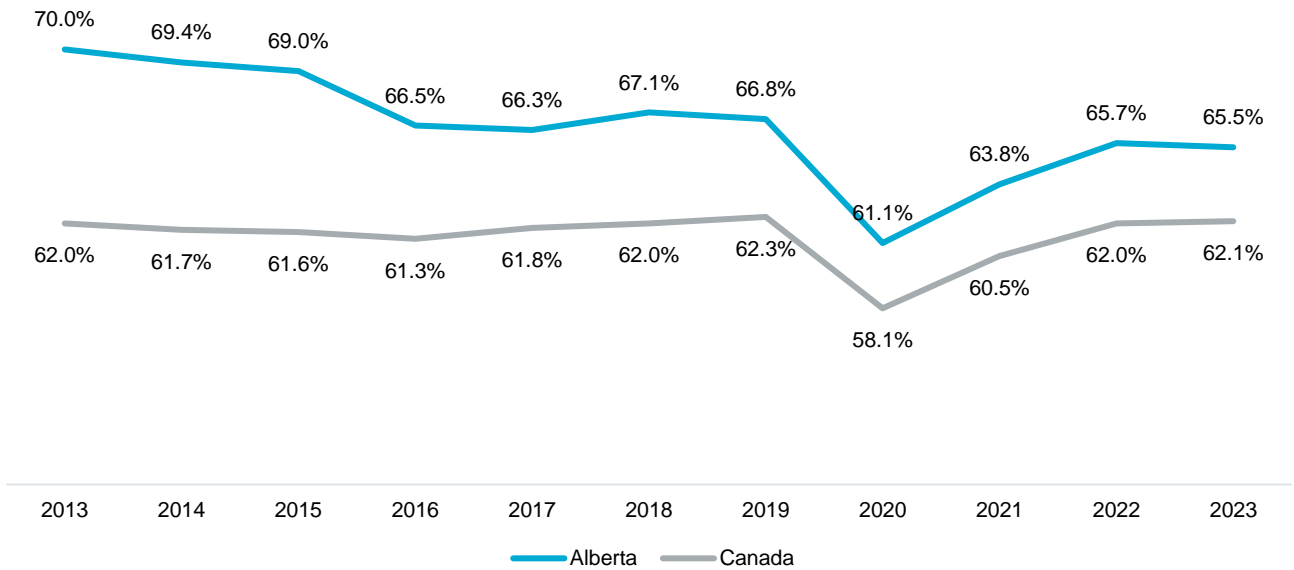
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

**Facts:**

In 2023, Alberta had the highest employment rate among the provinces.



**FIGURE 3: EMPLOYMENT RATE, 2013 – 2023**  
(per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

**Facts:**

After reaching 70.4 per cent in 2012, Alberta’s employment rate trended downwards reaching a low of 61.1 per cent in 2020. The employment rate rebounded to 65.5 per cent in 2023. Despite this trend, Alberta’s employment rate remains consistently above the national level.

**TABLE 7: EMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX AND AGE GROUP, 2023**

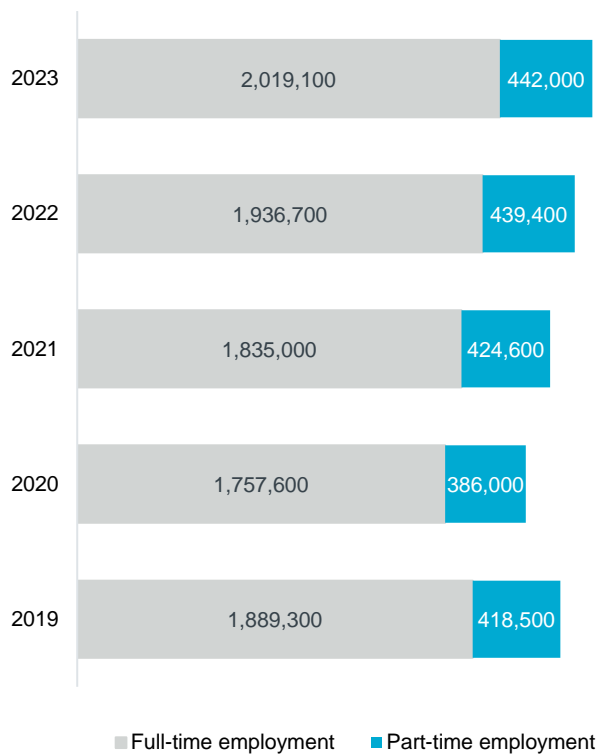
	Males	Females
15 years and over	69.9%	61.2%
15 to 24 years	54.3%	57.2%
25 to 44 years	88.8%	80.0%
45 to 64 years	81.5%	70.7%
65 years and over	22.0%	13.4%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

**Facts:**

The employment rates for males were higher than for females for age groups above 25 years in 2023.

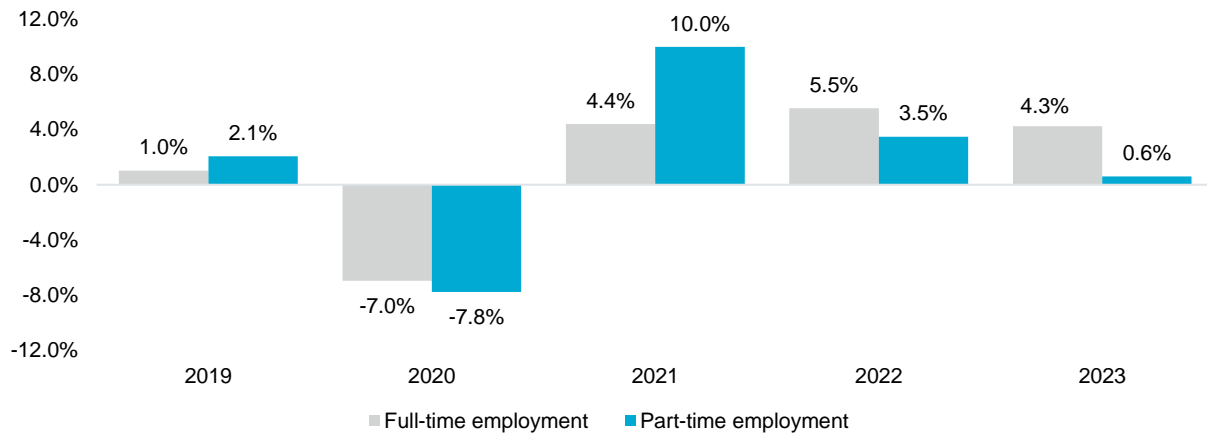
**FIGURE 4: FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT, 2019 - 2023**



**Facts:**  
Full-time employment accounted for more than 80 per cent of total employment in Alberta.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

**FIGURE 5: PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT, 2019 - 2023 (per cent)**

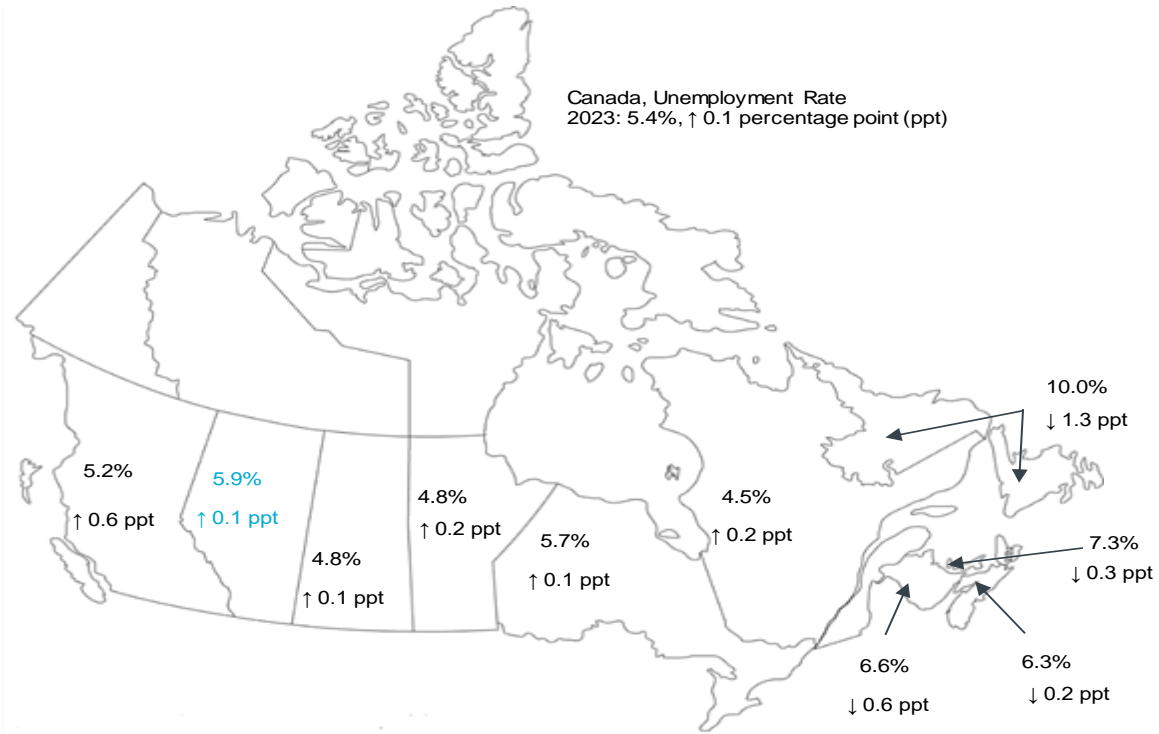


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

**Facts:**  
Both full-time and part-time employment declined by more than 7.0 per cent in 2020, but increased in consecutive years after.

# Unemployment

FIGURE 6: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY PROVINCE, 2023 (CHANGES IN PERCENTAGE POINTS (PPT) FROM 2022)



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

TABLE 8: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY PROVINCE, 2023

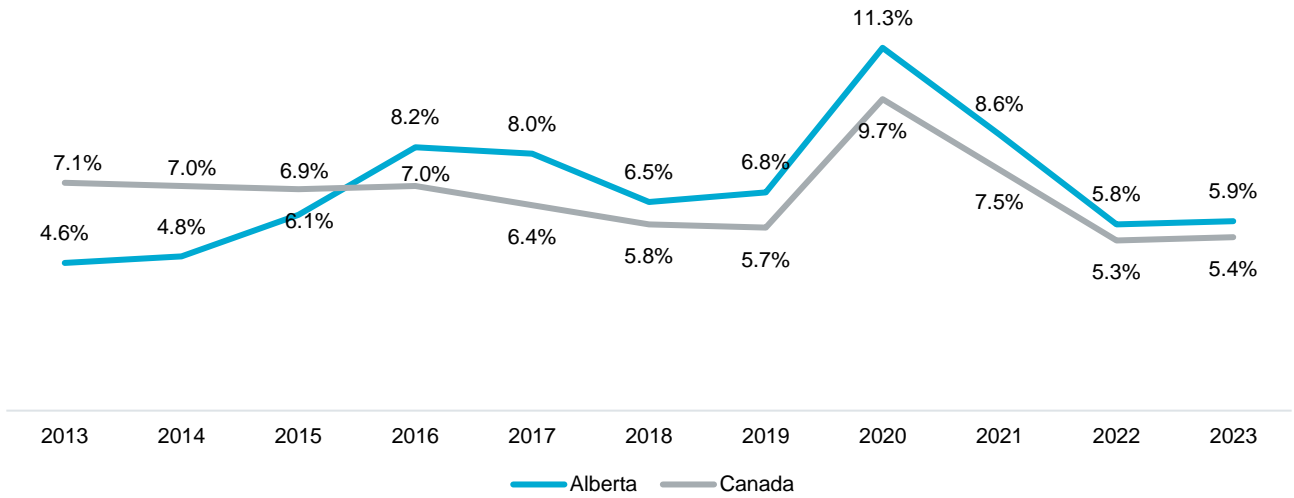
Canada	5.4%
Quebec	4.5%
Manitoba	4.8%
Saskatchewan	4.8%
British Columbia	5.2%
Ontario	5.7%
Alberta	5.9%
Nova Scotia	6.3%
New Brunswick	6.6%
Prince Edward Island	7.3%
Newfoundland and Labrador	10.0%

**Facts:**

In 2023, Alberta's unemployment rate was the fifth highest among provinces.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

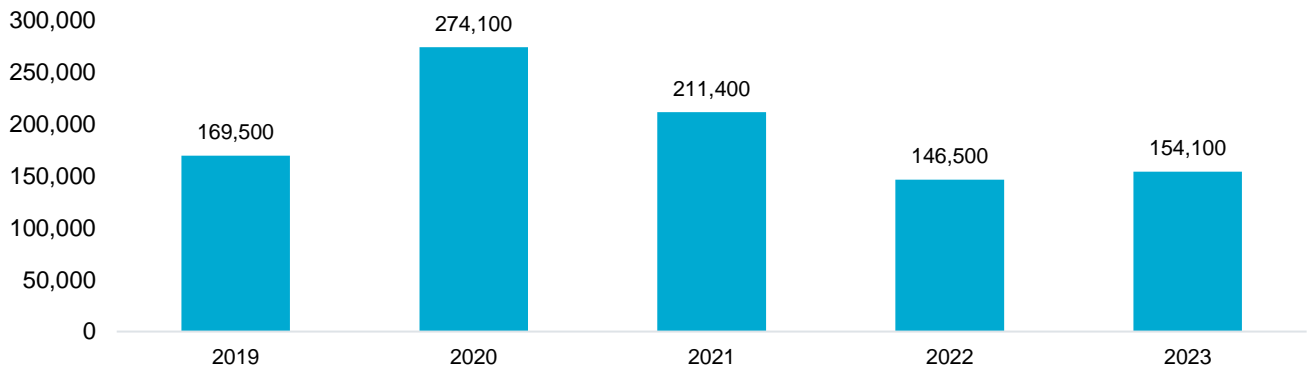
**FIGURE 7: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2013 – 2023**  
(per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

**Facts:**  
Largely to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alberta's unemployment rate increased to 11.3 per cent in 2020, but has since declined to 5.9 per cent in 2023. The province's rate has been above the national level since 2016.

**FIGURE 8: UNEMPLOYMENT, 2019 - 2023**



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual

**Facts:**  
The number of unemployed Albertans has declined since 2020 and reached an average of 154,100 in 2023.

# Economic Region

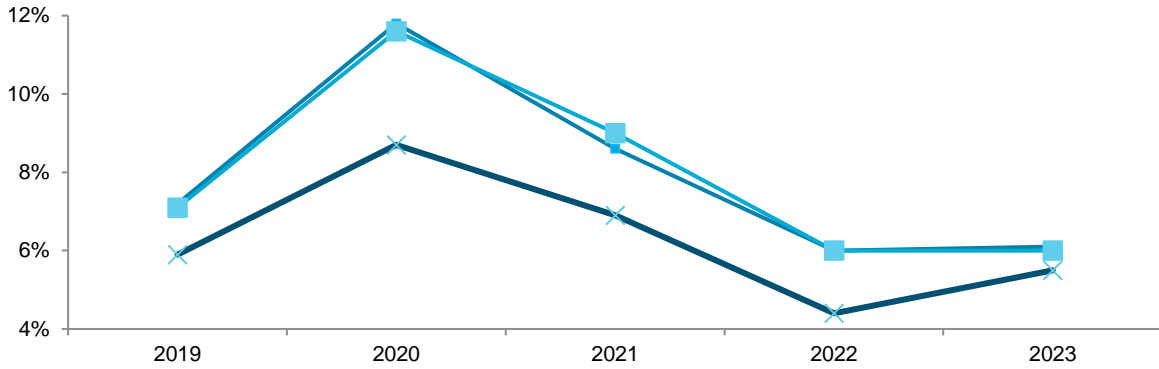
**TABLE 9: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS BY ECONOMIC REGION, 2023**

	<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Unemployment</b>
Lethbridge-Medicine Hat	163,700	154,700	9,000
Camrose-Drumheller	108,300	103,500	4,800
Calgary	1,018,500	957,700	60,900
Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca- Grande Prairie-Peace River	202,100	191,500	10,600
Red Deer	119,600	111,100	8,400
Edmonton	922,200	865,700	56,500
Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake	80,700	76,800	4,000
Alberta	2,615,200	2,461,100	154,100

	<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>Participation Rate</b>	<b>Employment Rate</b>
Lethbridge-Medicine Hat	5.5%	65.5%	61.9%
Camrose-Drumheller	4.4%	65.2%	62.3%
Calgary	6.0%	70.5%	66.3%
Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca- Grande Prairie-Peace River	5.2%	70.8%	67.1%
Red Deer	7.0%	64.6%	60.0%
Edmonton	6.1%	70.0%	65.7%
Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake	5.0%	74.7%	71.0%
Alberta	5.9%	69.6%	65.5%

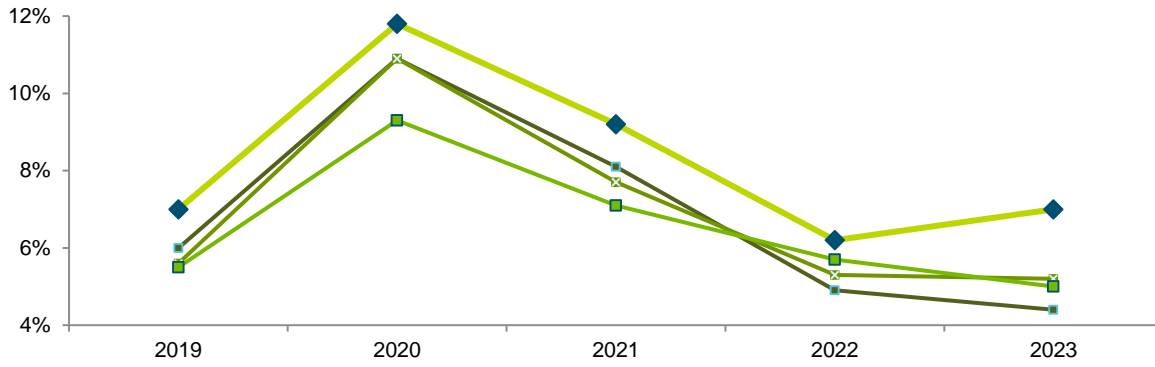
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0393-01 Labour force characteristics, annual

**FIGURE 9: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY ECONOMIC REGION, 2019 – 2023**  
(per cent)



**Census Metropolitan Area**

- Edmonton
- Calgary
- x— Lethbridge-Medicine Hat



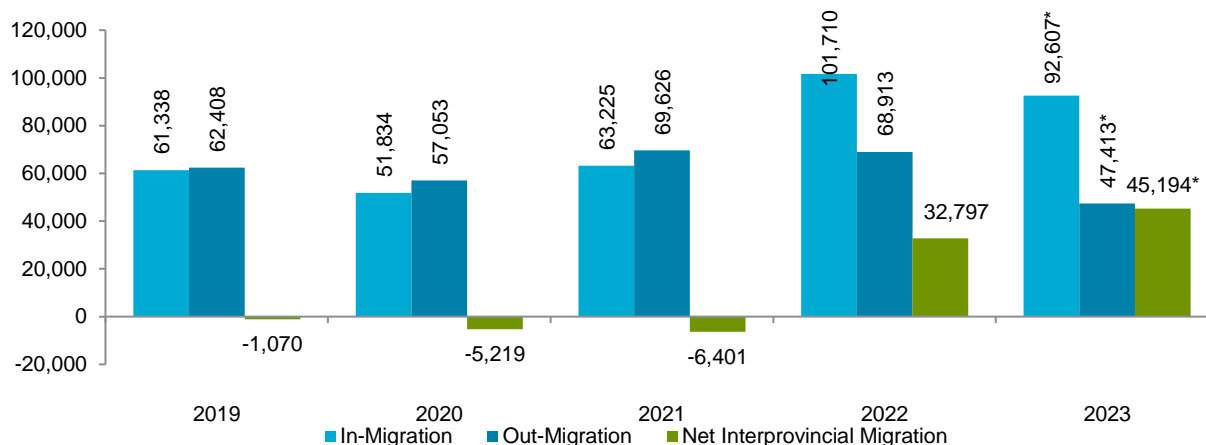
**Census Agglomeration**

- Camrose-Drumheller
- x— Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River
- Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake
- ◆— Red Deer

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0393-01 Labour force characteristics, annual

# Interprovincial Migration

FIGURE 10: INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION OF ALBERTA, 2019 - 2023



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0020-01 Estimates of the components of interprovincial migration, quarterly

\*2023 data on In-Migration, Out-Migration, and Net Interprovincial Migration based on first three quarters.

**Facts: From 2019 to 2021, more migrants left Alberta than moved into the province. Since 2022, Alberta experienced significant in-migration, resulting in positive net interprovincial migration.**

TABLE 10: INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRATION (ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS), 2023

	Migrants into Alberta from*	Migrants leaving Alberta to*	Net Migration to Alberta*
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,973	1,459	514
Prince Edward Island	822	364	458
Nova Scotia	2,787	2,057	730
New Brunswick	2,007	1,298	709
Quebec	3,837	2,003	1,834
Ontario	32,134	12,570	19,564
Manitoba	6,080	1,917	4,163
Saskatchewan	9,821	5,550	4,271
British Columbia	31,632	19,373	12,259
Yukon	420	282	138
Northwest Territories	924	412	512
Nunavut	170	128	42

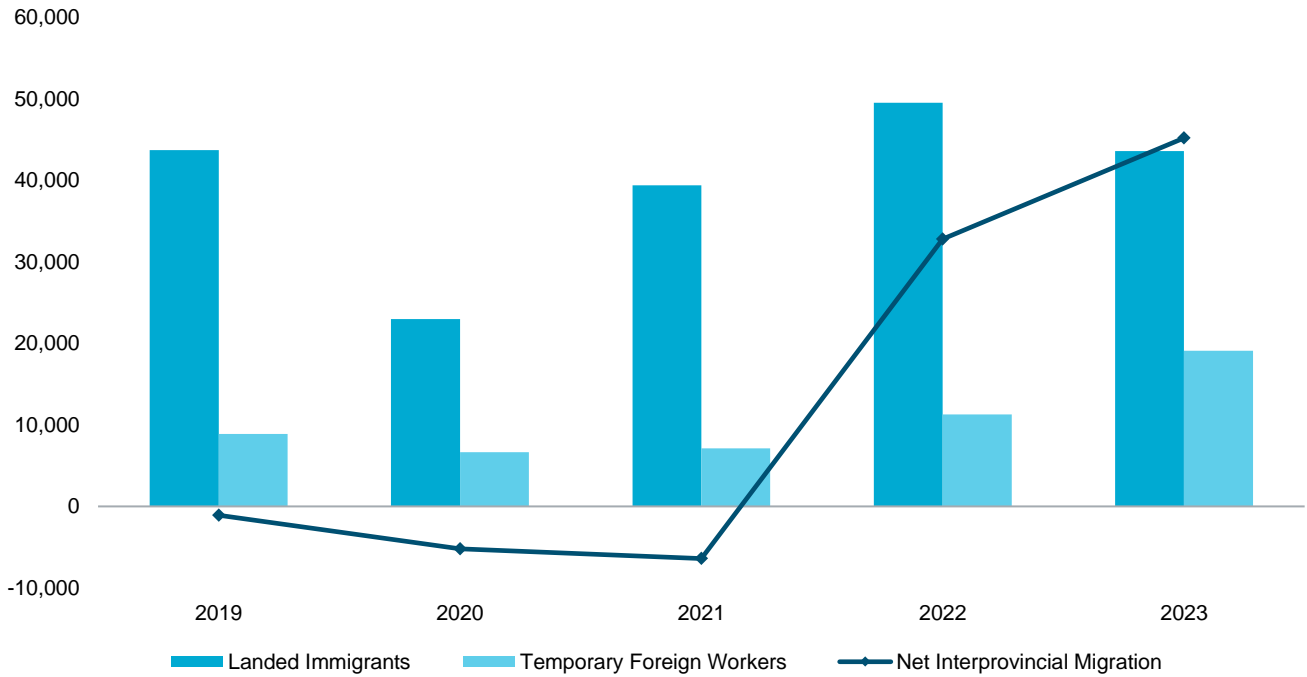
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0045-01 Estimates of interprovincial migrants by province or territory of origin and destination, quarterly

\*2023 data on Migrants into Alberta from, Migrants leaving Alberta to, and Net Migration to Alberta based on first three quarters.

**Facts: British Columbia and Ontario were the top destinations for migrants leaving Alberta and the top origin provinces for migrants moving to Alberta in 2023.**

# International Migration

FIGURE 11: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, 2019 - 2023

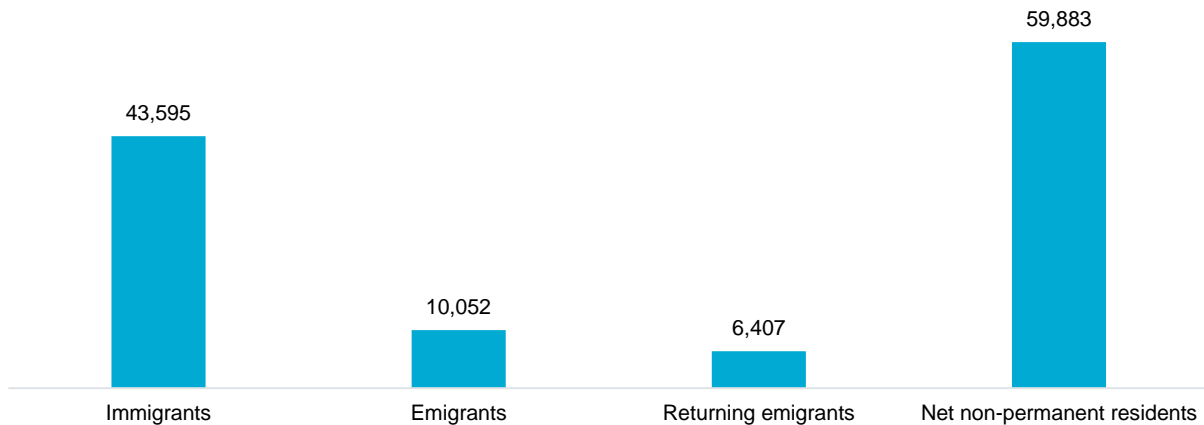


Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0040-01 Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly; Government of Canada. Temporary Residents: Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) and International Mobility Program (IMP) Work Permit Holders – Monthly IRCC Updates.

\*2023 data on Landed Immigrants and Net Interprovincial Migration based on first three quarters. 2023 data on Temporary Foreign Workers based on first eleven months.

**Facts: Landed immigrants were the largest component of international migration to Alberta.**

FIGURE 12: COMPONENTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, 2023



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0040-01 Estimates of the components of international migration, quarterly

\*2023 data on components of international migration based on first three quarters.



**TABLE 11: DESTINATIONS (ECONOMIC REGIONS) OF IMMIGRANTS, 2021/2022**

Economic Region	2021/2022	
	Number	Share
Lethbridge-Medicine Hat	2,190	4.2%
Camrose-Drumheller	794	1.5%
Calgary	25,943	49.3%
Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House	907	1.7%
Red Deer	966	1.8%
Edmonton	19,449	37.0%
Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River	1,268	2.4%
Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake	1,056	2.0%
Alberta	52,573	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0138-01 Components of population change by economic region, 2016 boundaries

**Facts: Almost half of all immigrants coming to Alberta from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 were destined to Calgary.**

# Indigenous Peoples Off-Reserve

**TABLE 12: EMPLOYMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE BY ECONOMIC REGION, 2023**

Region	Provincial Employment	Indigenous people off-reserve	Indigenous share of employment
Alberta	2,456,300	132,200	5.4%
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	154,400	8,600	5.6%
Camrose - Drumheller	103,400	6,300	6.1%
Calgary	954,900	27,700	2.9%
Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River	191,300	24,900	13.0%
Red Deer	111,100	6,400	5.8%
Edmonton	864,400	47,400	5.5%
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	76,800	10,800	14.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

## Facts:

There were 132,200 employed Indigenous peoples off-reserve in Alberta in 2023. This accounted for 5.4 per cent of total employment.

In 2023, 14.1 per cent of employed Albertans in Wood Buffalo – Cold Lake region were Indigenous people off-reserve.

**TABLE 13: SHARE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE BY REGION, 2023**

Edmonton	35.9%
Calgary	21.0%
Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River	18.8%
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	8.2%
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	6.5%
Red Deer	4.8%
Camrose - Drumheller	4.8%
Alberta	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

## Facts:

More than 50 per cent of the employed Indigenous peoples off-reserve in Alberta in 2023 were in the Edmonton and Calgary economic regions.

**TABLE 14: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OFF-RESERVE BY PROVINCE, 2023**

	All people	Indigenous people off-reserve
Quebec	4.5%	5.9%
Saskatchewan	4.9%	9.4%
Manitoba	5.0%	8.5%
British Columbia	5.2%	8.1%
Ontario	5.7%	8.3%
Alberta	6.0%	10.5%
Nova Scotia	6.4%	11.0%
New Brunswick	6.6%	*
Prince Edward Island	7.1%	*
Newfoundland and Labrador	9.9%	13.4%
Canada	5.4%	8.8%

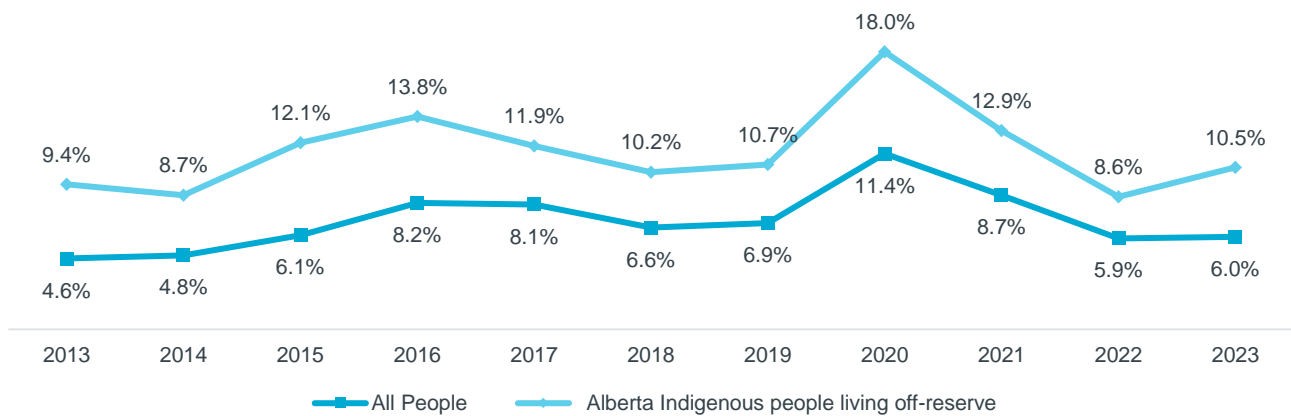
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

\* Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.

**Facts:**

In 2023, the unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples off-reserve was above the overall unemployment rate in Alberta.

**FIGURE 13: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OFF-RESERVE IN ALBERTA, 2013 – 2023**  
(per cent)



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

**Facts:**

In 2020, the unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples was 6.6 percentage points higher than the provincial unemployment rate. In 2023, it narrowed to 4.5 percentage points higher.

# Industry

**TABLE 15: EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY INDUSTRY, 2023**

Industry Group	2023	Change		2023	
	Employment		From 2022	Unemployment Rate	
Wholesale and retail trade	365,500	↓	-500	3.8%	
Health care and social assistance	324,400	↑	15,300	2.3%	
Professional, scientific and technical services	241,600	↑	22,700	2.7%	
Construction	241,500	↑	4,100	5.6%	
Educational services	161,700	↓	-6,400	3.1%	
Transportation and warehousing	145,800	↑	15,100	3.7%	
Manufacturing	144,700	↑	14,200	2.6%	
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	137,300	↓	-1,200	4.2%	
Accommodation and food services	132,400	↑	3,900	6.2%	
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	129,700	↑	4,700	3.0%	
Public administration	114,000	↑	5,800	1.6%	
Other services (except public administration)	99,400	↑	3,700	3.7%	
Information, culture and recreation	82,600	↑	300	5.3%	
Business, building and other support services	75,600	↑	1,900	5.5%	
Agriculture	44,700	↑	1,500	*	*
Utilities	20,100		0	*	*

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0023-01 Labour force characteristics by industry, annual (x 1,000).

\* Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.

**TABLE 16, SHARE OF EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, 2023**

Wholesale and retail trade	14.9%
Health care and social assistance	13.2%
Professional, scientific and technical services	9.8%
Construction	9.8%
Educational services	6.6%
Transportation and warehousing	5.9%
Manufacturing	5.9%
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	5.6%
Accommodation and food services	5.4%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	5.3%
Public administration	4.6%
Other services (except public administration)	4.0%
Information, culture and recreation	3.4%
Business, building and other support services	3.1%
Agriculture	1.8%
Utilities	0.8%
Total (Alberta)	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0023-01 Labour force characteristics by industry, annual (x 1,000).

**Facts:**

The wholesale and retail trade sector accounted for the largest share of employment at 14.9 per cent in 2023.

# Occupation

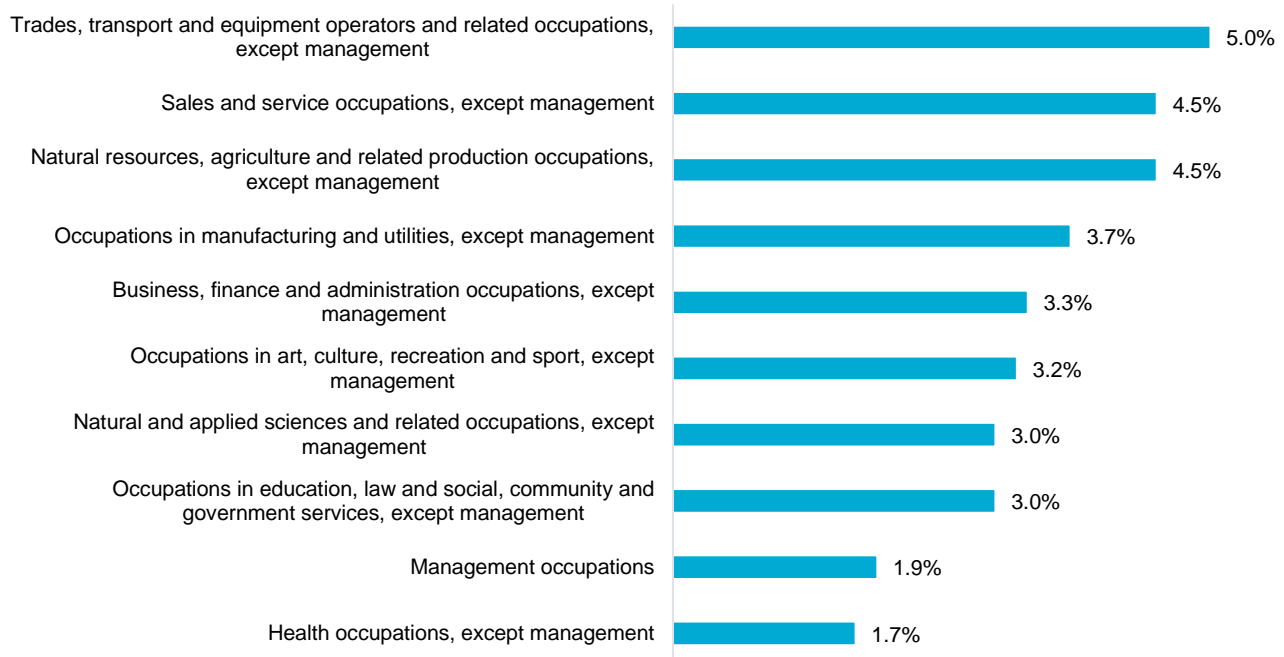
**TABLE 17, EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION, 2023**

Occupations	2023 Employment		Change from 2022
Sales and service occupations, except management	520,900	↑	3,400
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, except management	432,600	↑	23,300
Business, finance and administration occupations, except management	397,900	↑	37,400
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services, except management	248,500	↑	3,200
Management	238,300	↑	7,900
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations, except management	214,900	↑	4,900
Health occupations, except management	193,300	↑	2,700
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations, except management	79,300	↓	-3,900
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities, except management	75,000	↑	1,300
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport, except management	60,500	↑	5,000

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0416-01 Labour force characteristics by occupation, annual

**Facts: In 2023, Business, finance and administration occupations, except management experienced the largest increases in employment from the year before.**

**FIGURE 14: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY OCCUPATION, 2023**



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0416-01 Labour force characteristics by occupation, annual

**Facts:**

**Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, except management, posted the highest unemployment rates while health occupations, except management, posted the lowest unemployment rates in 2023.**

# Education

**TABLE 18: THE PROPORTION OF THE WORKFORCE BY EDUCATION LEVEL, 2023**

Highest Educational Level Attained	Year 2023
No degree, certificate or diploma	8.5%
High school diploma	21.6%
High school diploma, with some post-secondary	5.0%
Trade certificate	11.4%
College diploma	19.1%
Certificate or diploma below bachelor's degree	3.1%
Bachelor's degree	22.0%
Graduate degree	9.2%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0118-01 Labour force characteristics by educational degree, annual; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

**Facts:**  
In 2023, more than 20 per cent of the workforce had a bachelor's degree.