

# 2010 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

Employment • Unemployment • Economic Regions  
Migration • Aboriginal People • Industries  
Occupations • Education • Demographics

Government of Alberta ■

# Employment

## Employment decreased by less than one per cent in Alberta

After a drop of 28,500 in employment in 2009, Alberta's employment in 2010 declined by 0.4% or 8,600. (See Figure 1) The two million people employed in 2010 exceeded the 2007 total employment of 1.9 million.

In 2010, part-time employment declined more than full-time. Full-time employment decreased by 2,300, which was 0.1% below the 2009 level; while part-time employment fell by 1.7%, or 6,200. Female employment was 0.8% lower than a year ago while male employment was 0.1% lower.

Alberta's 72.9% participation rate<sup>1</sup>, remained the highest in the country in 2010. The 78.7% participation rates for Alberta men and 66.7% for women were also the highest in Canada.

While Alberta's employment rate of 68.1% was 1.3 percentage points below the 2009 rate, it remained the highest in the country, a position the province has held since 1976. The national employment rate was 61.6% in 2010. (See Figure 2)

The employment rates for Alberta men and women were 73.4% and 62.6% respectively,

which were also highest among men and women in the ten provinces. Nationally, the employment rate was 65.4% for men and 57.9% for women.

In 2010, Alberta's employment rates fell for all age groups except for 20 to 24 year-olds which saw a 0.2 percentage point increase. The rate for the 25 to 29 year old group remained unchanged. Employment rates fell for those aged 15 to 29 years and those aged 60 to 64 years by more than three percentage points.

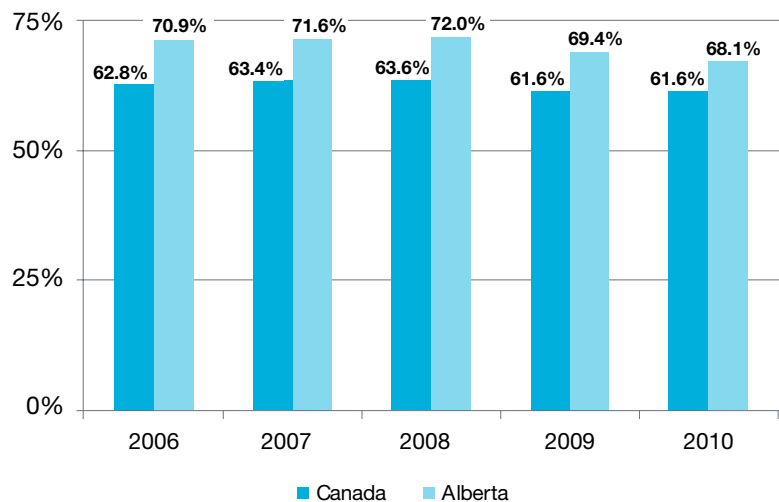
The 90% employment rate for men aged 35 to 39 years continued to be the highest in the province. The Canadian employment rate for the same group was 86.1%. Among Alberta women, those aged 45 to 49 years had the highest employment rate at 80.9%, compared to 79.1% for Canadian women in the same age group.

**Figure 1**  
Provincial  
and National  
Employment, 2010

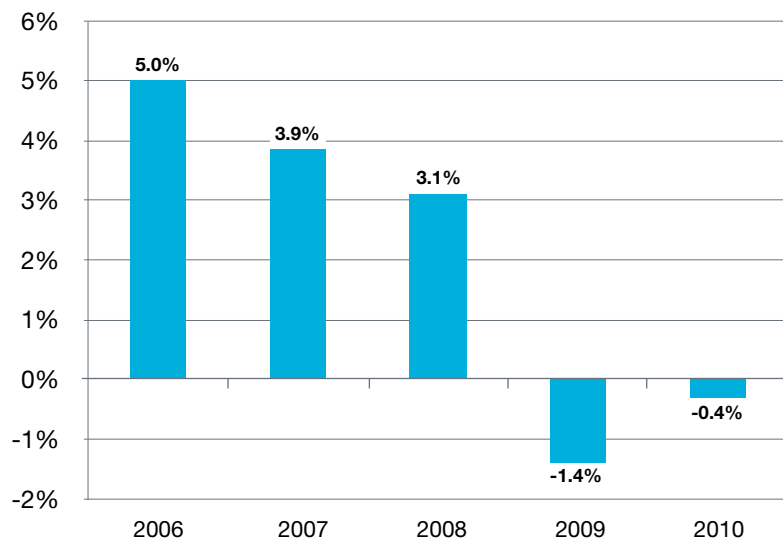
Province	Employment	Change from 2009	Per Cent Change
Alberta	2,016,600	-8,600	-0.4%
British Columbia	2,256,500	38,600	1.7%
Manitoba	619,800	11,500	1.9%
Saskatchewan	524,300	4,800	0.9%
New Brunswick	356,100	-3,400	-1.4%
Newfoundland and Labrador	219,400	7,100	2.0%
Prince Edward Island	70,600	2,000	2.8%
Nova Scotia	452,500	1,100	0.2%
Quebec	3,915,100	66,700	2.5%
Ontario	6,610,000	108,000	1.6%
Canada	17,041,000	227,900	1.3%

## Alberta's employment rate is higher than Canada's

**Figure 2**  
Alberta and Canada Employment Rates<sup>2</sup>, 2006-2010



**Figure 3**  
Alberta Annual Average Growth in Employment, 2006-2010



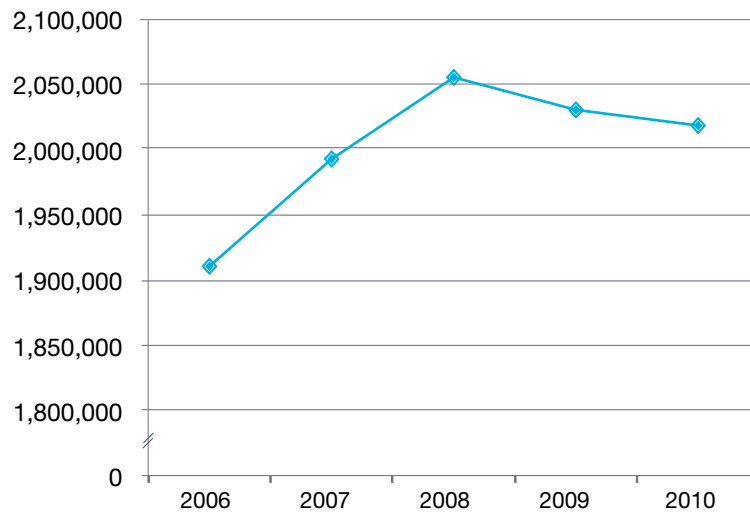
Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

<sup>1</sup>The participation rate measures the number of people employed and unemployed out of the working age population (15+ years).

<sup>2</sup>The employment rate measures the number of people employed out of the working age population (15+ years).

**Note:** The slanted double line is used to represent a discontinuity in the employment numbers to display the finer details of the differences between the data points shown in the chart.

**Figure 4**  
Alberta Annual Average Employment, 2006-2010



# Unemployment

## Alberta had the third lowest unemployment rate in Canada

Between 2009 and 2010, Alberta's unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 6.5%, the third lowest unemployment rate among provinces, following Saskatchewan at 5.2% and Manitoba at 5.4%. (See Figure 5) Newfoundland saw the biggest decline of 1.1 percentage points. New Brunswick had the biggest increase of 0.5 percentage points.

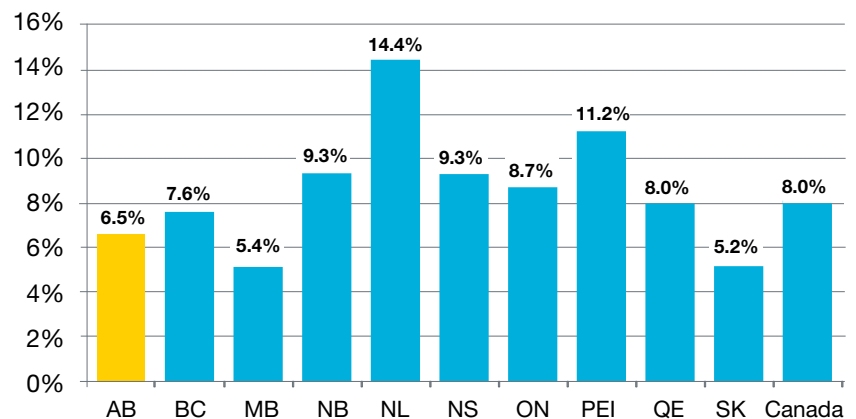
The national unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 8.0%. In 2010, the unemployment rates fell from 2009 for all provinces except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

Alberta's 2010 unemployment rate was lower than the Canadian rate (see Figure 6), a position the province held since 1989.

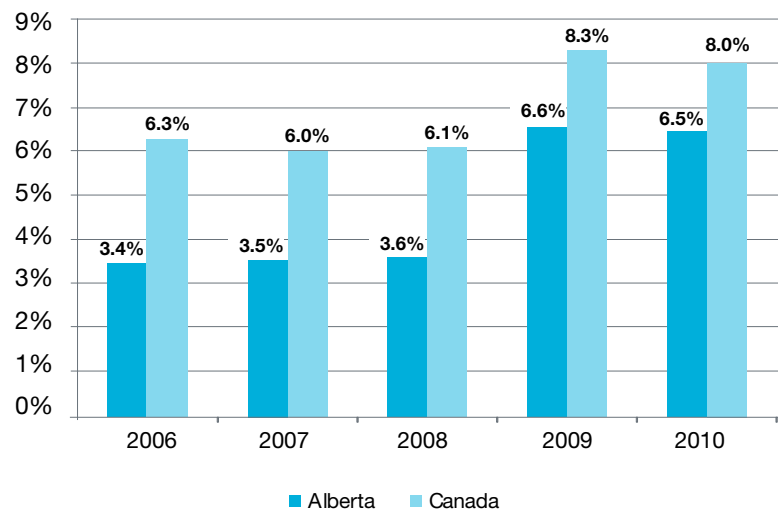
The unemployment rate for Alberta men fell from 7.2% in 2009 to 6.8% in 2010. For women, the unemployment rate rose to 6.2% from 5.8%.

The unemployment rate for young workers between the age of 15 and 24 years dropped by 0.6 percentage points to 11.6%; the third lowest unemployment rate in Canada, after Saskatchewan at 9.4%, and Manitoba at 11.1%. Nevertheless, the 69.2% participation rate for young Albertans remained the highest of this age group in the country.

**Figure 5**  
Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2010



**Figure 6**  
Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2006-2010



Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

# Economic Regions

**Unemployment declined or remained unchanged in all but three economic regions**

Unemployment in 2010 went down from 2009 in four economic regions: Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River, Red Deer, Edmonton, and Camrose-Drumheller; and remained unchanged in Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House. Three regions saw increases in unemployment of less than 2,000: Lethbridge-Medicine Hat, Calgary, and Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake.

Although unemployment declined between 2009 and 2010 in four economic regions, employment rose in two regions: Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake by 3,500 and Camrose-Drumheller by 500.

After reaching the peak in 2009, all four regions in northern Alberta recorded declines in unemployment rates in 2010: from 0.1 percentage points in Edmonton and Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake; 1.0 percentage point in

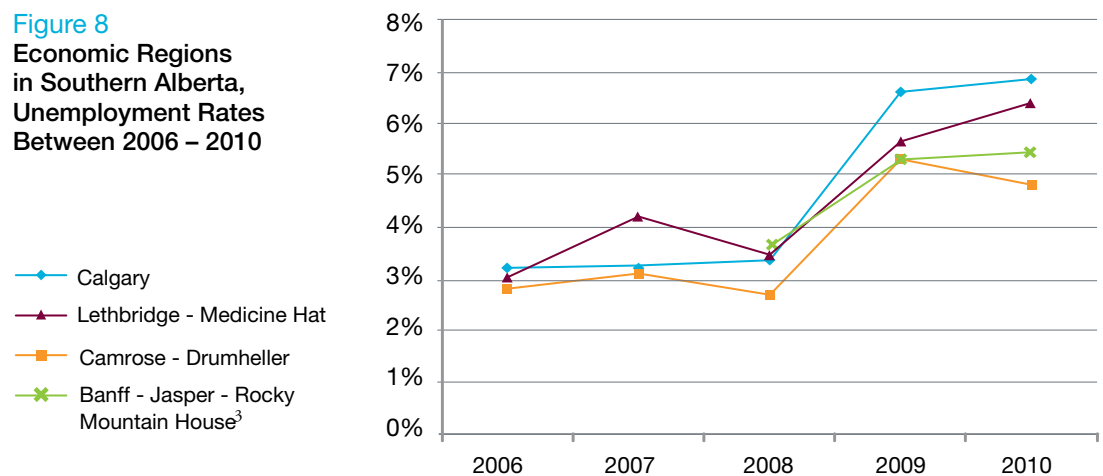
Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River; to 1.2 percentage points in Red Deer. (See Figure 7) In southern Alberta, three of the four regions had higher unemployment rates in 2010 than in 2009. Unemployment rates increased in Calgary, Lethbridge-Medicine Hat and Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House. However, the unemployment rate fell for Camrose-Drumheller. (See Figure 8)

In 2010, the unemployment rates were below the provincial rate of 6.5% in five regions: Camrose-Drumheller, at 4.8%; Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House, at 5.4%; Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake, at 5.0%; Red Deer, at 6.2%; and Lethbridge-Medicine Hat, at 6.4%. Three regions had unemployment rates above the provincial average: Calgary, 6.9%; Edmonton, 6.7%; and Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River, 6.8%.

**Figure 7**  
Economic Regions in Northern Alberta, Unemployment Rates Between 2006 – 2010



**Figure 8**  
Economic Regions in Southern Alberta, Unemployment Rates Between 2006 – 2010



Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

<sup>3</sup>The unemployment rates in 2006 and 2007 for Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House were not released due to insufficient data.

# Migration

## International migration continued to increase while interprovincial migration fell

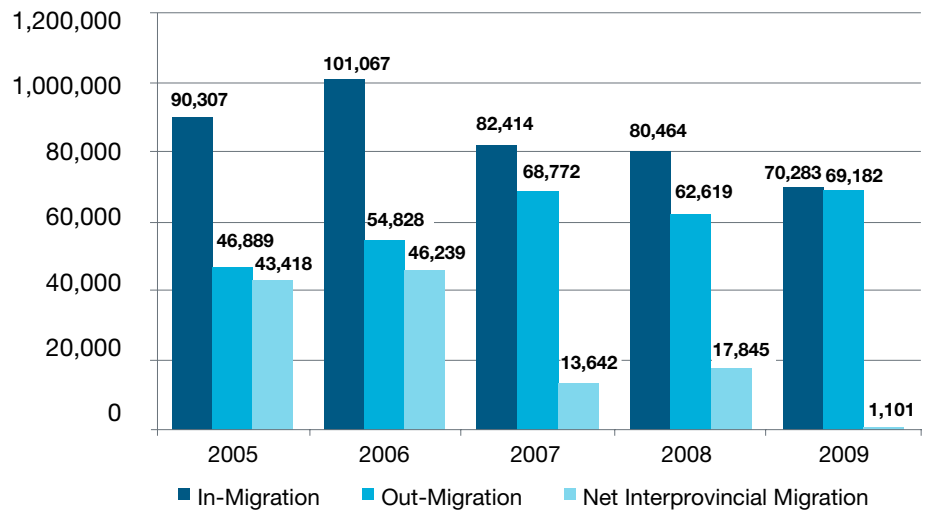
Interprovincial and international migration to Alberta resulted in a net gain of 19,706 people in 2009<sup>4</sup>, fewer than the 33,830 net gain in 2008.

The number of interprovincial migrants to Alberta reached its peak in 2006 and has since slowed down, except for a temporary rise in 2008. Between 2008 and 2009, the number of net interprovincial migrants coming to Alberta fell 93.8%. The number of interprovincial migrations to Alberta in 2009 almost balanced the number of outgoing migrants. (See Figure

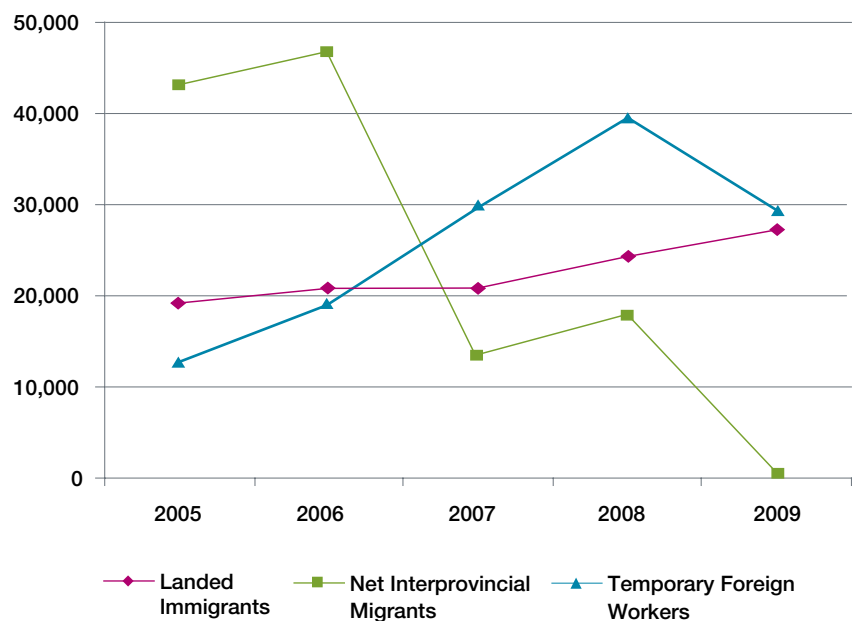
9) More than half of the interprovincial migrants came from Ontario and British Columbia.

On the international front, more than 27,000 immigrants landed in 2009; 2,700 more than the year before. The number of temporary foreign workers who came to work in Alberta fell 26.8% in 2009, from 39,088 in 2008 to 28,610 in 2009. (See Figure 10)

**Figure 9**  
Alberta  
Interprovincial  
Migration,  
2005-2009  
Source: Statistics  
Canada



**Figure 10**  
Alberta Landed  
Immigrants, Net  
Interprovincial  
Migrants, and  
Temporary  
Foreign Workers<sup>5</sup>,  
2005-2009  
Source: Statistics  
Canada. Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada



<sup>4</sup>The 2010 annual statistics were not available when this publication was prepared.

<sup>5</sup>The total number of temporary foreign workers is the sum of initial entries to Alberta during the year.

# Aboriginal People

## Employment rose for Alberta's Aboriginal people

After a drop in 2009, employment for Alberta's Aboriginal people increased 5.1% in 2010. Total employment for Aboriginal people rose from 70,000 in 2009 to 73,600 in 2010. Over 80% of the employment gains came from full-time employment. Alberta is one of three provinces where employment for Aboriginal people increased in 2010. Employment for Aboriginal people rose 12.7% in Nova Scotia, 0.5% in Saskatchewan and 5.1% in Alberta, between 2009 and 2010.

More than half of Alberta's Aboriginal people worked in Edmonton and Calgary. Another 22.1% worked in the Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River and Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake regions. (See Figure 11)

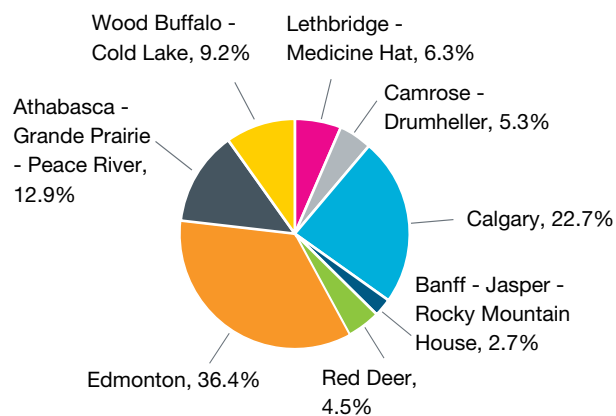
The employment rate for Aboriginal people was also higher in 2010 increasing from 59.3% in 2009 to 60.9% in 2010. (See Figure

12) The employment rate for Aboriginal people in Alberta is highest among the ten provinces.

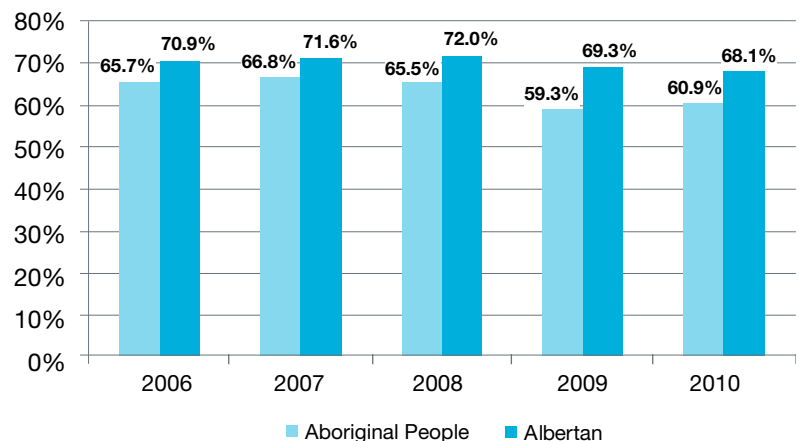
At 70.6%, Alberta's participation rate for Aboriginal people was the highest among all other Aboriginal people in Canada in 2010. The Canadian average participation rate for Aboriginal people was 62.6%.

More than two-thirds of employed Aboriginal people in Alberta worked in the following industries: Construction, 13.7%; Health Care and Social Assistance, 10.3%; Retail Trade, 10.0%; Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction, 9.9%; Accommodation and Food Services, 8.3%; and Transportation and Warehousing, 7.1%.

**Figure 11**  
Alberta  
Aboriginal  
People Living  
Off-Reserve,  
Employment  
by Economic  
Region, 2010



**Figure 12**  
Alberta Aboriginal  
People Living  
Off-Reserve,  
Employment  
Rates, 2006-2010



Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

# Industries

## Employment rose in the Goods-Producing Industries

The Goods-Producing Industries led the growth in employment in 2010 with an increase of 3,000 people while employment in the Services-Producing Industries decreased by 11,500 people.

Six industries recorded employment gains in 2010 in comparison with 2009. Two industries, Health Care and Social Assistance and Construction, led the growth with increases in employment of 17,300 and 10,600 respectively. Employment increases in excess of 1,000 occurred in Business, Building and Other Support Services, and in Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction. (See Figure 13) There were

also smaller increases in employment recorded in Manufacturing and in Forestry and Logging with Support Activities.

For five straight years, Health Care and Social Assistance, at 2.0%, has recorded unemployment rates of less than 3%, indicative of a skill shortage.

The four industries with the highest unemployment rates in 2010 were Business, Building and Other Support Services, 8.3%; Construction, 7.7%; Accommodation and Food Services, 6.6%; and Information, Culture and Recreation, 6.4%.

**Figure 13**  
Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Industry, 2010

Industry Group	2010 Employment	Change from 2009	Unemployment Rate
Retail Trade	231,500	-100	5.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	219,300	17,300	2.0%
Construction	206,500	10,600	7.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	150,900	-2,600	3.7%
Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction	140,200	1,400	4.0%
Educational Services	129,500	-4,700	2.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	125,200	-4,100	6.6%
Manufacturing	124,600	100	6.0%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	105,200	-6,700	3.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	104,900	-1,200	3.8%
Other Services	98,400	-3,900	4.3%
Public Administration	86,900	-3,400	*
Information, Culture and Recreation	77,000	-3,900	6.4%
Wholesale Trade	74,500	-3,100	4.6%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	72,900	4,600	8.3%
Agriculture	47,100	-6,600	*
Utilities	18,400	-2,900	*
Forestry and Logging with Support Activities	3,400	600	*

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

\*Insufficient Data



# Occupations

**Health occupations recorded the largest increase in employment and the lowest unemployment rate**

Employment increased by 15,400 in 2010 for occupations in Health; Trades, transportation and equipment operator and related; and Social sciences, education, government and religion. (See Figure 14)

Between 2009 and 2010, employment in Health occupations increased by 11,000, the largest increase among all occupations while the Natural and applied sciences and related occupations had the largest decline in employment, decreasing by 10,200. The other occupational groups recording employment gains were Trades, transport and equipment operator and related, up 4,100; and Social

sciences, education, government and religion, up 300.

In 2010, the largest occupational group, Sales and services, had an unemployment rate of 6.0%, and the second biggest occupational group, Trades, transportation and equipment operator and related, had 6.9%, the highest of all occupational groups.

**Figure 14**  
**Alberta**  
**Labour Force**  
**Statistics by**  
**Occupation,**  
**2010**

Occupations	2010 Employment	Change from 2009	Unemployment Rate
Sales and service	478,600	-2,700	6.0%
Trades, transportation and equipment operator and related	373,200	4,100	6.9%
Business, finance and administrative	354,400	-4,200	3.8%
Management	162,500	-600	2.7%
Social sciences, education, government and religion	157,900	300	2.2%
Natural and applied sciences and related	156,500	-10,200	3.7%
Health	122,000	11,000	1.3%
Unique to primary industry	106,700	-2,300	5.2%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	60,400	-2,900	5.9%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	44,400	-1,000	3.9%

# Education

## Over half of Alberta's labour force holds a post-secondary qualification

The portion of the labour force without a high school diploma is getting smaller. In 2006, 15.1% of the labour force had not completed high school, and the rate declined to 12.8% in 2010. (See Figure 15)

The percentage of the labour force who completed high school has declined from 23.6% in 2006 to 22.5% in 2010.

Just over a third of Alberta's labour force has attained a post-secondary certificate or diploma in 2010. This proportion has remained steady, 32.1% in 2006, then rising to 34.4% in 2009 and 34.8% in 2010.

The greatest change has been in the proportion of the labour force with university degrees. It has increased steadily from 20.8% in 2006 to 22.0% in 2010. The notable rise is in the attainment of university bachelor degrees. The percentage of Alberta's labour force with a university bachelor degree has increased from 15.0% in 2006 to 16.3% in 2010. (See Figure 15)

**Figure 15**  
**Alberta**  
**Labour Force**  
**Educational**  
**Attainment**  
**Trends,**  
**2006-2010**

Educational Level	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
0 to 8 years	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%
Some Secondary	13.3%	12.2%	12.4%	11.4%	11.1%
High School Diploma	23.6%	22.8%	23.0%	22.6%	22.5%
Some Post-Secondary	8.4%	9.5%	8.5%	8.1%	7.9%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	32.1%	33.5%	32.9%	34.4%	34.8%
University: Bachelor's Degree	15.0%	14.5%	15.5%	16.2%	16.3%
University: Graduate Degree	5.8%	5.8%	6.1%	5.8%	5.7%

# Demographics

## Employment rose for 25-to-44-year-old Albertans

Young Albertans, between 15 and 24 years of age, had the largest decline in employment in 2010. At 314,500, employment was 3.6% below the 2009 level. (See Figure 16)

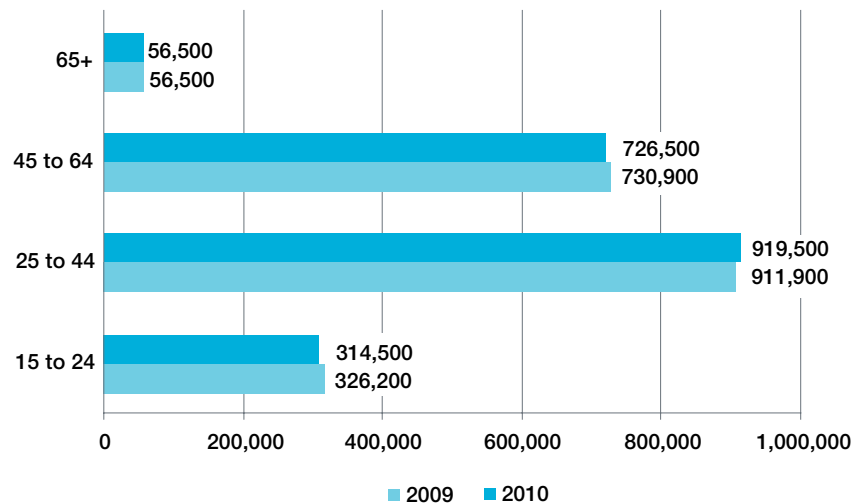
Between 2009 and 2010, employment increased by 0.8% or 7,600, for those between 25 and 44 years of age. In particular, men's employment rose 1.5% and women's employment fell by 0.05%.

The age group with no change in employment was Albertans 65 years of age and older.

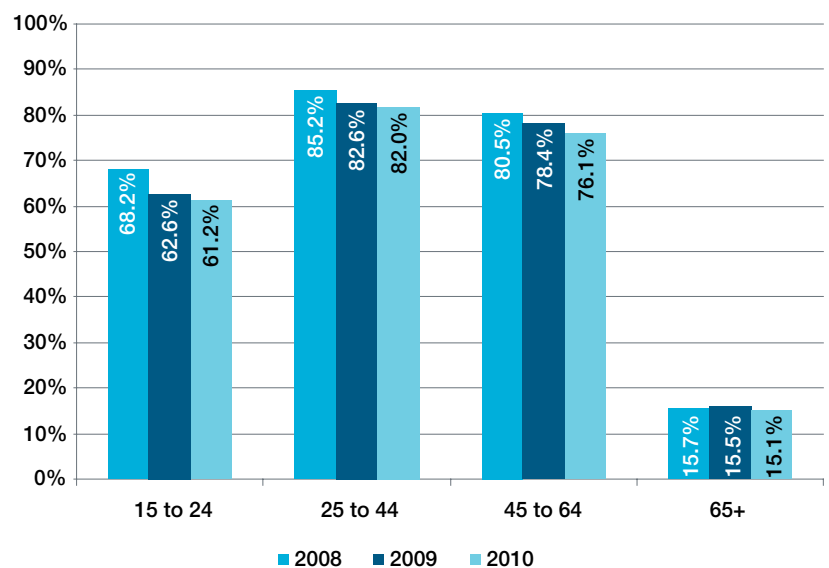
Employment rates fell across all four age groups. (See Figure 17) The largest decline in employment rates was for those between 45 and 64 years of age, 2.3 percentage points in 2010 from 2009. The 65 years of age and older group had the smallest change, decreasing 0.4 percentage points for the same period.

In 2010, 17,400 Albertans retired, 2,300 more than in 2009.

**Figure 16**  
Alberta Employment by Age Groups, 2009-2010



**Figure 17**  
Alberta Employment Rates by Age Groups, 2008-2010



Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

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Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.