



2007

Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

Employment Unemployment Economic Regions Migration
Aboriginal People Industries Occupations Education Demographics



Employment

ALBERTA'S HOT ECONOMY CONTINUES TO PRODUCE HIGH EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN 2007

The number of employed Albertans in 2007 increased by 88,775, higher than the 2006 growth of 86,240.

The economy also contributed to significant job creation in 2007; 78,986 full-time and 9,789 part-time positions were created for a total of 88,775 new jobs.

With only about 10% of Canada's working age population, Alberta created 23.2% of the nation's new jobs. Ontario, with about 39% of Canada's working age population, created 26.5% of new jobs in Canada. (See *Figure 1*)

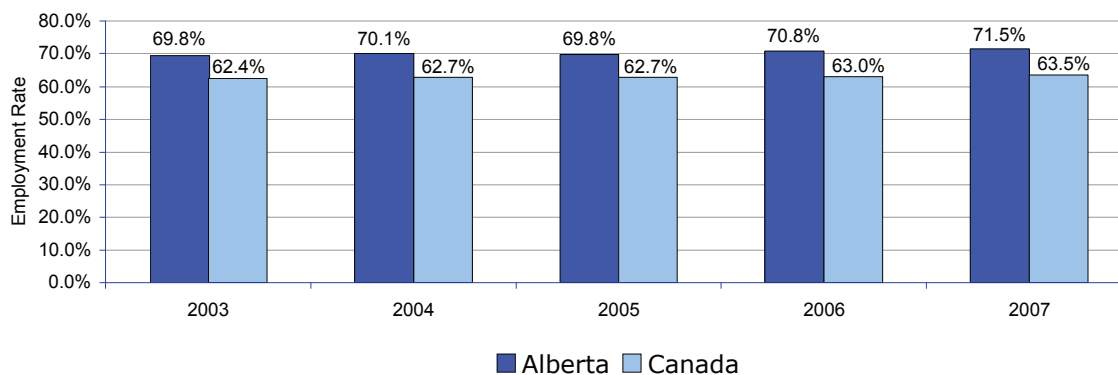
Provincial and National Employment, 2007

Province	Employment	Employment Change	% of nationwide employment change
Alberta	1,959,445	88,775	23.2%
British Columbia	2,266,341	70,890	18.6%
Manitoba	596,477	9,487	2.5%
New Brunswick	362,820	7,409	1.9%
Newfoundland and Labrador	217,149	1,498	0.4%
Nova Scotia	447,599	5,774	1.5%
Ontario	6,593,778	101,066	26.5%
Prince Edward Island	69,340	735	0.2%
Québec	3,851,713	86,269	22.6%
Saskatchewan	501,757	10,181	2.7%
Canada	16,866,419	382,083	

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 1

Alberta and Canada Employment Rates¹, 2003 - 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 2

ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT GROWTH DOUBLES NATIONAL AVERAGE



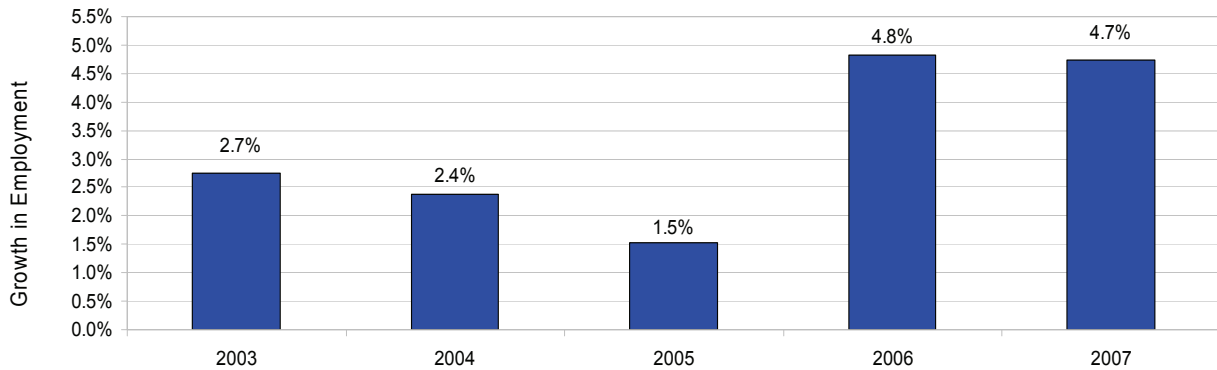
Alberta's employment rate – the percentage of the working age population (15+ years) that is employed – was the highest in Canada. In 2007, Alberta's employment rate was 71.5% compared to the national rate of 63.5%. (See *Figure 2*)

In the last year, there were 1,959,445 Albertans and 16,866,419 Canadians employed.

Alberta's employment increased by 4.7%, while Canada's increased by 2.3% from 2006 to 2007. From 2003 to 2007, the number of people employed in Alberta increased from 1,716,660 to 1,959,445, for an average annual increase of 60,696. The largest year-to-year increase occurred between 2006 and 2007.

(See *Figure 3 and 4*)

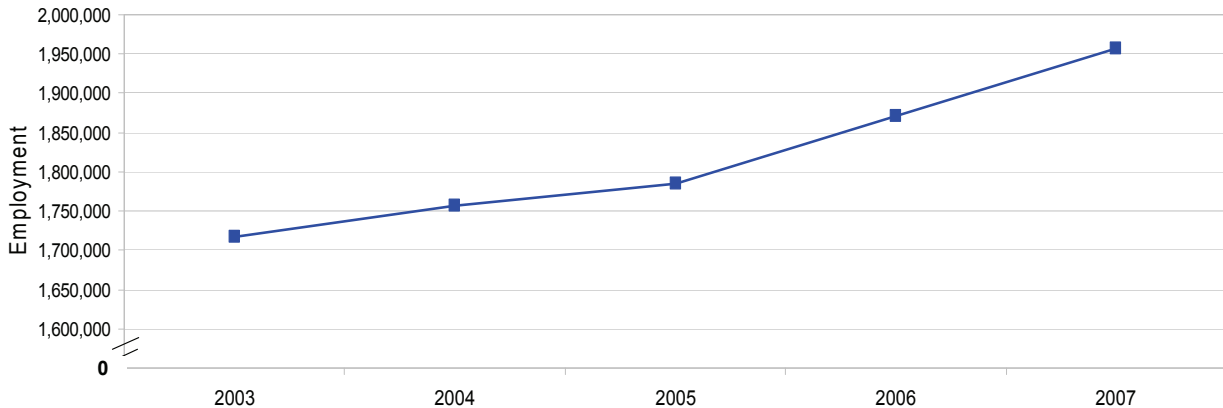
Alberta Annual Average Growth in Employment, 2003 - 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 3

Alberta Annual Average Employment, 2003 - 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 4

NOTE: The slanted lines are used to represent a discontinuity in the employment numbers and to display the finer details of the differences between the first and last data points.



Unemployment

ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

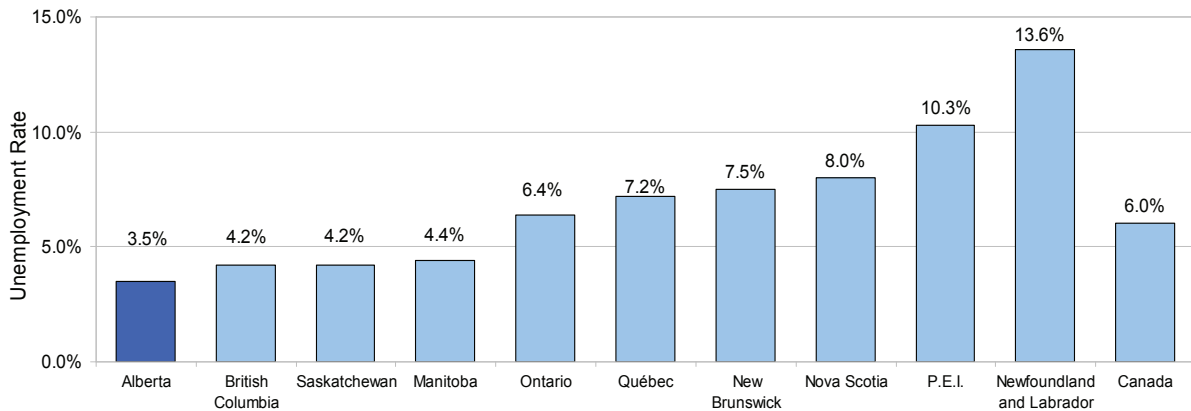
Alberta enjoyed Canada's lowest unemployment rate² of 3.5%, followed by Saskatchewan and British Columbia at 4.2%. The national average unemployment rate was 6.0%. (See Figure 5)

In 2007, 31 of 53 major occupational groups in the province had an unemployment rate of less

than 3.0%, which reflects skill shortages.

According to *Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook (2007 - 2017)*, Alberta may experience a labour shortage as high as 111,000 workers in the next 10 years. The labour market is expected to grow by 441,000 while 330,000 workers are expected to join the labour force.

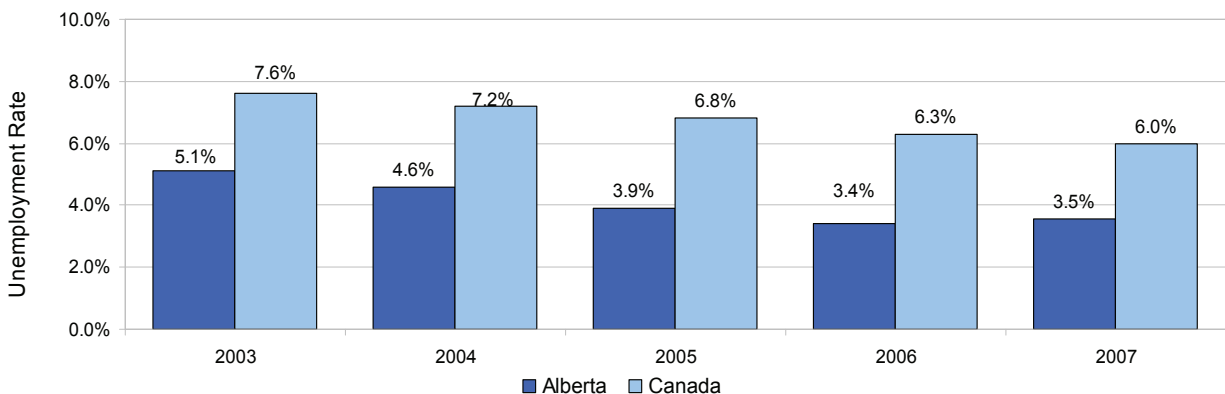
Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 5

Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2003 - 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 6

²The unemployment rate measures the number of people in the labour force who are unemployed. The labour force includes individuals who are employed or unemployed and looking for work.

Economic Regions

MOST REGIONS IN ALBERTA EXPERIENCED UNPRECEDENTED EMPLOYMENT GROWTH



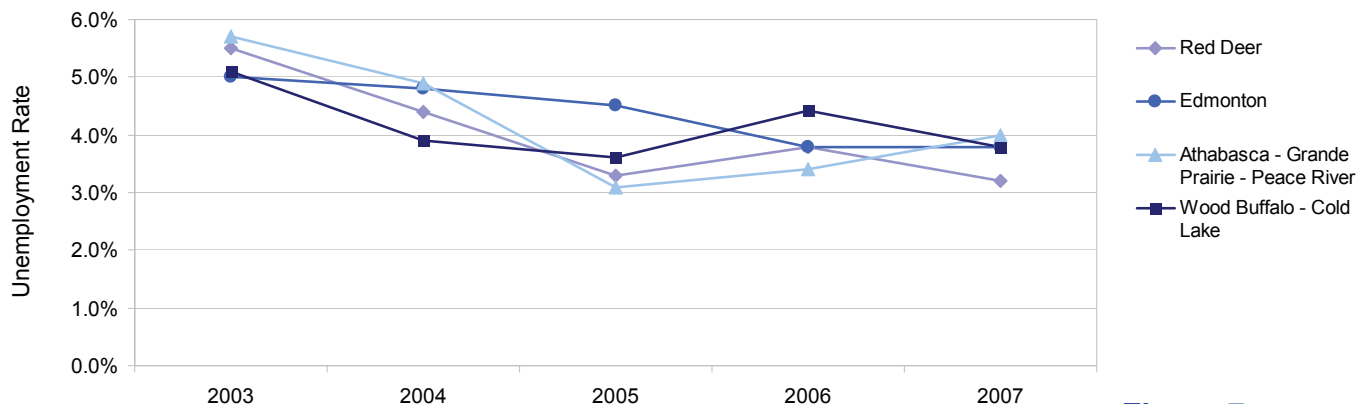
The Edmonton economic region led employment growth with 38,700 additional jobs in 2007. The Calgary economic region added the next highest number of jobs at 31,200.

The Red Deer and Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake economic regions saw the largest drop in unemployment with a decline of 0.6% between 2006 and 2007.

The Camrose-Drumheller, Red Deer, and Calgary economic regions had the lowest unemployment rates at 3.2% in 2007.

In 2007, the unemployment rate was 3.8% in the Edmonton economic region and 3.2% in the Calgary economic region. (See *Figure 7 and 8*)

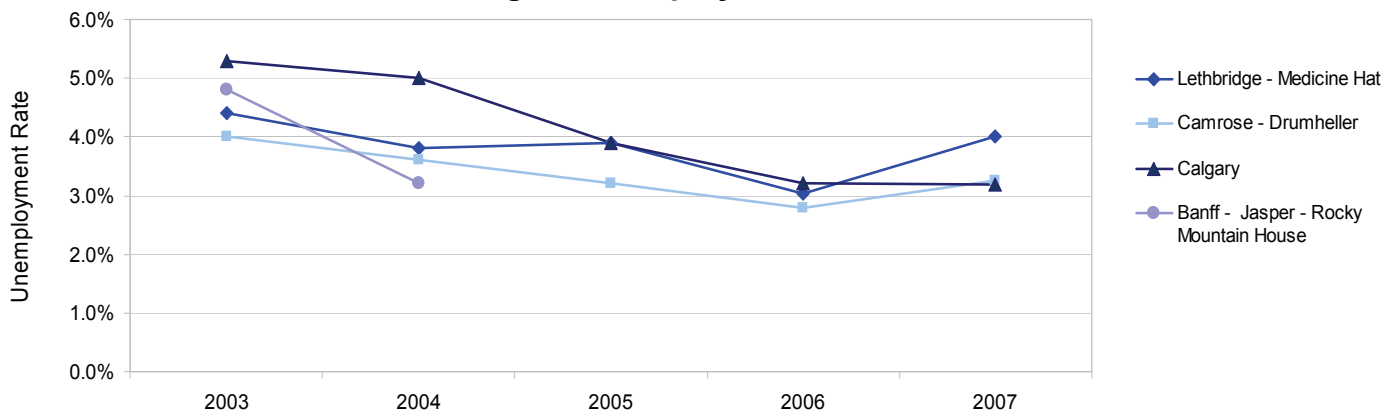
Northern Economic Region Unemployment Rates in Alberta, 2003 - 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 7

Southern Economic Region Unemployment Rates in Alberta, 2003 - 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 8

NOTE: In 2005, 2006, and 2007, the Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House economic region's unemployment rates were not released due to insufficient data.



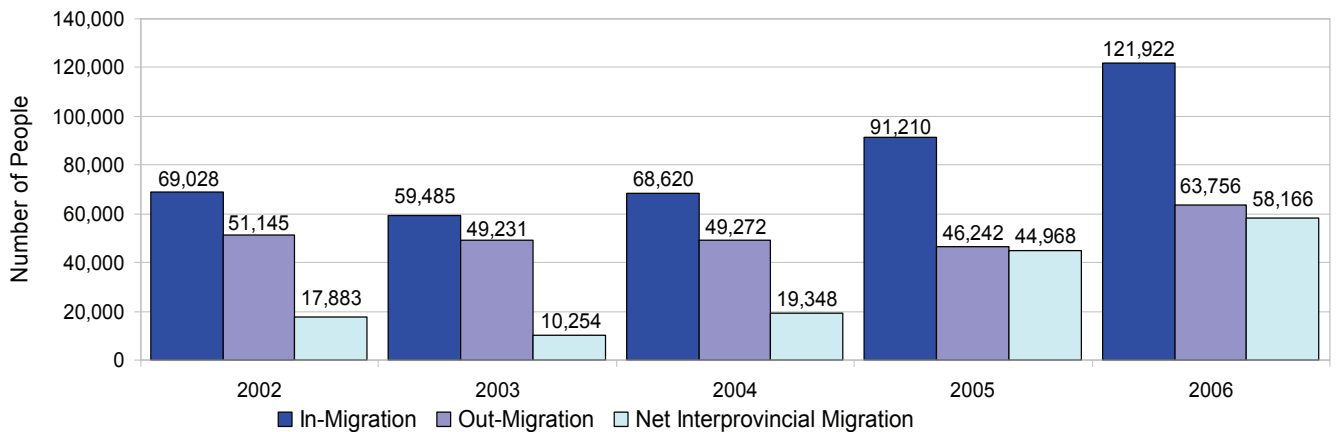
Migration

ALBERTA'S STRONG ECONOMY ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN 2006

Alberta received a net gain of 81,480 people in 2006 through migration. Of these, 58,166 were interprovincial migrants, the highest number in the past 25 years. (See Figure 9)

In 2006, Alberta received 20,717 landed immigrants. The number of landed immigrants to Alberta has been rising since 2002. (See Figure 10)

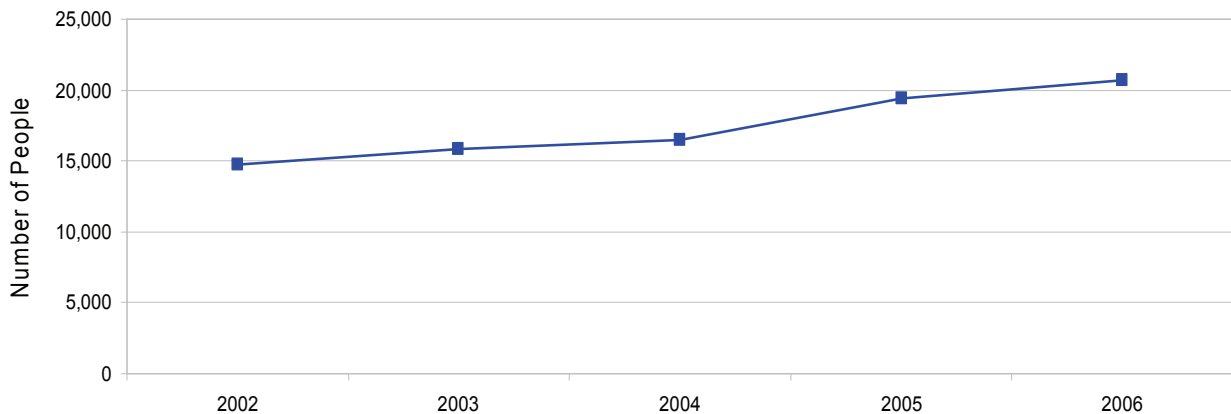
Alberta Interprovincial Migration, 2002 - 2006



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 9

Alberta Landed Immigrants, 2002 - 2006



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Figure 10

Aboriginal People

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE LIVING OFF-RESERVE EXPERIENCED HIGH EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Employment for the off-reserve Aboriginal population rose to 65,900 in 2007, an increase of 3,100 from 2006. The largest percentage, 35.5%, was employed in the Edmonton economic region. (See *Figure 11*)

Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve Employment by Economic Region, 2007

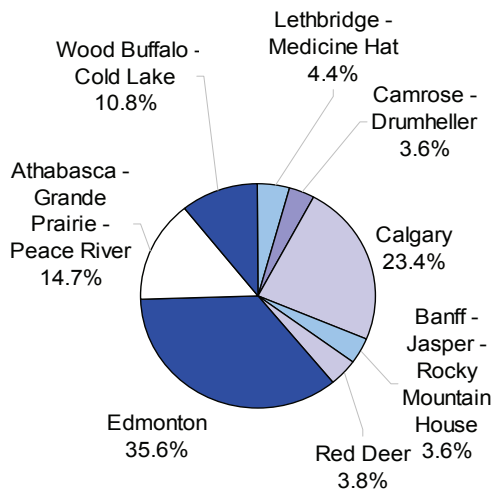
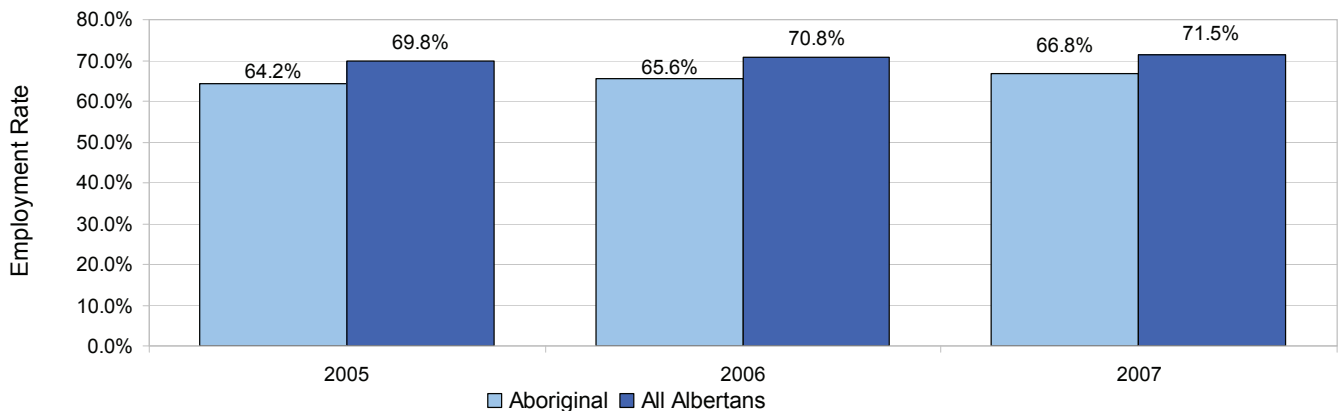


Figure 11

The employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve continued to rise in 2007. (See *Figure 12*)

Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve Employment Rates, 2005 - 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 12



Increases in employment for Aboriginal people living off-reserve were largest in Edmonton (2,800 or 13.6%), Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House (800 or 50%), and Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake (500 or 7.6%) economic regions.

Economic regions outside of Edmonton and Calgary accounted for 27,100 employed Aboriginal people living off-reserve.

The industries employing the largest number of Aboriginal people remained the same as 2006. They were Retail Trade, 9,100; Construction, 8,200; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 6,900.

The 2007 unemployment rate stood at 7.7% for the off-reserve Aboriginal people.

Industries

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH STRONGEST IN SERVICES-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES



The Services-Producing industries in Alberta experienced more job growth than the Goods-Producing industries in 2007. Employment for the former increased by 50,632 compared to 38,142 for the latter.

Industries that led employment gains were: Construction, 20,507; Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, 11,263; and Management, Administrative and Other Support, 11,256. (See *Figure 13*)

The top three industries with the largest percentage increase in employment between 2006 and 2007 were: Management, Administrative and Other Support, 18.0%; Forestry and Logging with Support Activities, 15.4%; and Utilities, 14.4%.

Figure 13 reports these changes, in descending order of the numbers employed.

Alberta Industry Labour Force Statistics, 2007

Industry Group	2007 Employment	Change in Employment	Unemployment Rate
Retail Trade	211,737	-196	3.6%
Construction	193,084	20,507	3.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	189,465	9,916	1.6%
Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction	146,889	11,263	2.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	146,253	4,017	1.7%
Manufacturing	142,933	5,384	2.7%
Educational Services	130,005	-388	2.8%
Accommodation and Food Service	116,766	1,916	6.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	105,745	-456	2.5%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	98,429	2,265	2.1%
Other Services	94,871	6,929	2.9%
Public Administration	80,143	-936	N/A
Wholesale Trade	78,895	8,426	2.0%
Information, Culture and Recreation	76,207	7,883	3.7%
Management, Administrative and Other Support	73,913	11,256	4.0%
Agriculture	50,449	-1,863	N/A
Utilities	19,554	2,464	N/A
Forestry and Logging with Support Activities	4,051	541	N/A

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 13

NOTE: The unemployment rates for Public Administration, Agriculture, Utilities, and Forestry and Logging with Support Activities were not released due to insufficient data.



Occupations

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT INCREASE IN TRADES, TRANSPORT AND EQUIPMENT OPERATOR AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS

The occupational groups employing the greatest number of people were Sales and Service Occupations, 441,941; Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations, 366,438; and Business, Finance and Administration Occupations, 349,858. (See Figure 14)

The occupational group in Alberta that experienced the largest increase in

employment was Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations group at 25,925. Employment gain made in this occupational group was driven by increased construction projects in the province.

The next top two employment increases were in Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations, 15,242; and in Sales and Service Occupations, 15,203.

Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Major Occupational Groups, 2007

Occupational Groups	2007 Employment	Change in Employment	Unemployment Rate
Sales and Service Occupations	441,941	15,203	4.2%
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations	366,438	25,925	3.6%
Business, Finance and Administrative Occupations	349,858	11,605	2.3%
Management Occupations	158,316	2,983	0.8%
Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations	155,140	15,242	1.9%
Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Services and Religion	145,056	1,310	2.2%
Occupations Unique to Primary Industry	115,275	5,031	2.5%
Health Occupations	105,355	3,507	1.0%
Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	70,964	-1,611	2.7%
Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	51,117	9,144	1.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 14

Education

MORE ALBERTANS IN THE LABOUR FORCE OBTAIN POST- SECONDARY ACCREDITATIONS



In 2007, 63.4% of the Alberta's labour force had a university degree, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, or some post-secondary education, up from the 61.3% in 2006.

The percentage of high school graduates in the labour force increased from 22.4% to 22.7% from 2003 to 2007.

There were, on average, 8.7% more people in Alberta's labour force with a university bachelor's degree than with a university graduate degree between 2003 and 2007. (See *Figure 15*)

Alberta Labour Force Educational Attainment Trends, 2003 - 2007

Education Level	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
0 to 8 Years	2.5%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.7%
Some Secondary	13.8%	13.7%	12.3%	13.2%	12.2%
High School Diploma	22.4%	22.9%	23.2%	23.6%	22.7%
Some Post-Secondary	10.3%	10.4%	9.1%	8.4%	9.5%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	33.1%	33.3%	33.0%	32.1%	33.6%
University: Bachelor's Degree	13.0%	12.8%	14.9%	15.0%	14.6%
University: Graduate Degree	4.9%	4.9%	5.4%	5.8%	5.7%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 15



Demographics

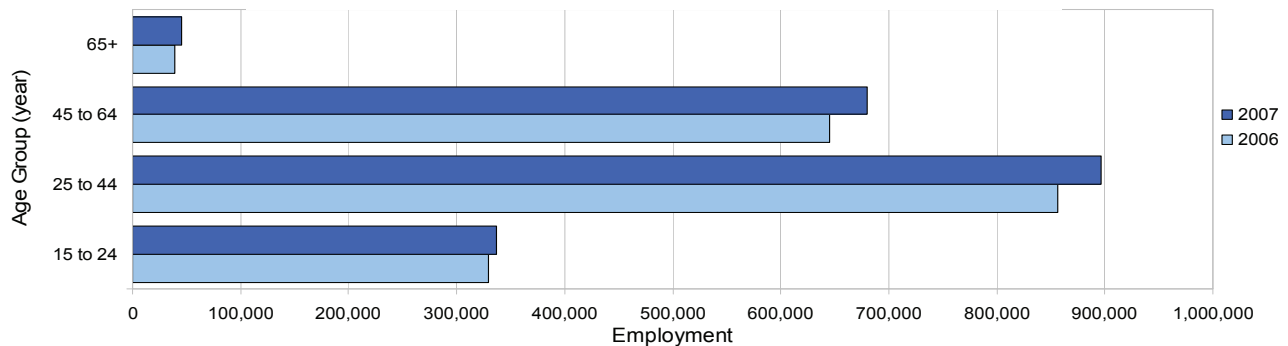
MORE ALBERTANS IN ALL AGE GROUPS WERE EMPLOYED IN 2007

Albertans between 25-44 years of age accounted for 45.7% of those employed, while people aged 45-64 years represented 34.7%. Alberta's employment rose the most within these

two groups, by 39,268 and 32,941 respectively in 2007.

There were 7,367 more people employed in the 15-24 years age category between 2006 and 2007. (See Figure 16)

Alberta Employment by Age Group, 2006 - 2007



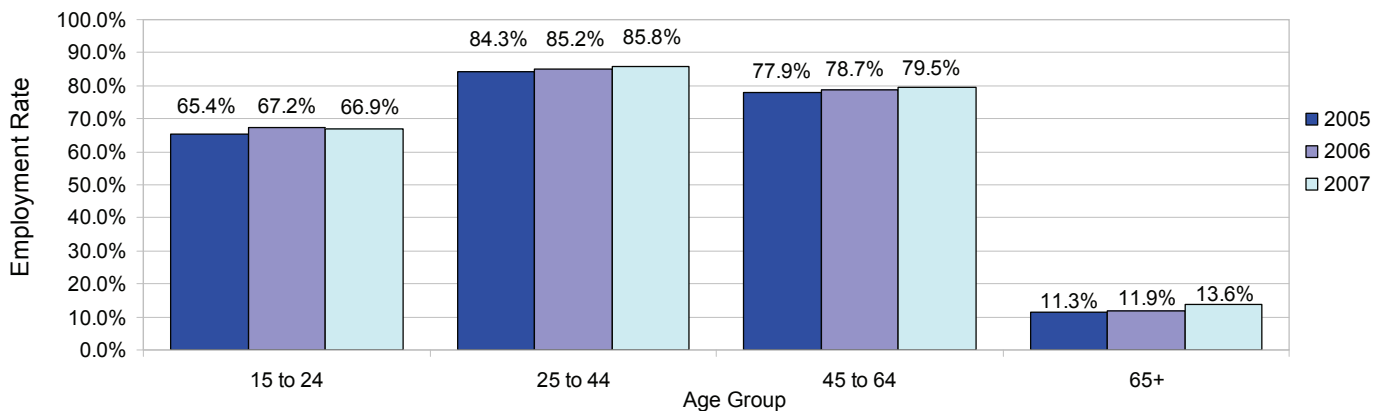
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 16

The 65+ age group experienced the largest rise in employment rates, 1.7 percentage points, between 2006 and 2007.

In 2007, approximately 15,025 Albertans retired, 4,100 more than in 2006. (See Figure 17)

Alberta Employment Rates by Age Group, 2005 - 2007



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Figure 17

2007

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