



Alberta Health Care and Social Assistance Industry Profile

2021 and 2022

Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

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Overview

The 2021 and 2022 Industry Profile for the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry provides statistics and trends in the labour market for the health care and social assistance sector in Alberta. Topics include employment, unemployment, number of businesses, occupation, wages and demographics. The statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey and the Alberta Wage and Salary Survey.

The health care and social assistance industry¹ in Alberta includes establishments and services such as:

- hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities and out-patient care centres;
- offices of health practitioners (e.g., dentists, doctors, optometrists and chiropractors);
- medical and diagnostic laboratories;
- home health care services;
- ambulance services;
- social assistance services (e.g., for children, youth, the elderly and families);
- community food, housing, emergency and relief services;
- vocational rehabilitation services; and
- daycare services.

For more information, please see [Statistics Canada North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\) Canada 2022](#) for industry descriptions.

¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2022 major group 62.

Section A: Business Environment

Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

TABLE 1: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

	Alberta		Industry	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Employment	2,259,600	2,376,100	306,300	309,100
Employment share	N/A	N/A	12.6%	12.5%
Unemployment	211,400	146,500	5,000	6,200
Unemployment rate	8.6%	5.8%	1.6%	2.0%
Labour force	2,471,000	2,522,600	311,300	315,300
Share of labour force	N/A	N/A	13.6%	13.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

Note: N/A denotes not applicable. Employment share was obtained by dividing the employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to [Alberta Labour Force Statistics](#) or [Statistics Canada](#).

Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts,² the health care and social assistance industry accounted for approximately 6.7% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021, an increase from 5.1% observed in 2011. Between 2012 and 2022, this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment increased from 10.8% to 13.0%.

Total employment in the health care and social assistance industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people aged 15 years and over) in 2022 was 0.9% higher than its level in 2021. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry increased by 74,900 (up 32.0% compared to 2012). In 2022, there were 309,100 people employed in this industry, of whom 77.0% were full-time and 23.1% were part-time.

TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	Alberta		Industry	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Median retirement age (years)	64.5	65.2	62.8	65.2
Average number of hours worked per week	36.4	36.4	33.8	33.2
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	5.8%	6.0%	8.4%	9.4%
Average job tenure (months)	97.2	93.3	103.7	102.5
Employees under union coverage	21.6%	20.4%	45.2%	44.7%
Employees working overtime per week	17.1%	16.8%	14.0%	13.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Tables: [14-10-0037-01](#); [14-10-0044-01](#); [14-10-0055-01](#); [14-10-0070-01](#); [14-10-0076-01](#); and custom tabulation (median retirement age).

Note: N/A denotes not available. The percentage of multiple job holders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple job holders by total employment. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

² See Statistics Canada. [Table 36-10-0400-01](#) Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories, percentage share. Alberta Health Care and Social Assistance Industry Profile, 2021 and 2022 | Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

Size of Businesses by Industry

TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT BY ESTABLISHMENT SIZE (2021)

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Number of Employees	Share of Total*	Number of Employees	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	660,900	34.5%	76,000	33.1%
20 to 99 employees	683,400	35.7%	89,500	34.6%
100 to 500 employees	347,400	18.1%	59,900	19.2%
More than 500 employees	223,400	11.7%	46,100	13.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0068-01](#).

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT BY ESTABLISHMENT SIZE (2022)

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Number of Employees	Share of Total*	Number of Employees	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	670,300	33.1%	79,500	29.0%
20 to 99 employees	700,900	34.6%	78,500	28.6%
100 to 500 employees	389,500	19.2%	61,400	22.4%
More than 500 employees	264,800	13.1%	55,200	20.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0068-01](#).

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

TABLE 5: CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNTS, WITH EMPLOYEES (2021)

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Business Counts	Share of Total*	Business Counts	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	150,320	88.3%	13,773	87.6%
20 to 99 employees	16,765	9.8%	1,494	9.5%
100 to 500 employees	2,847	1.7%	421	2.7%
More than 500 employees	334	0.2%	38	0.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [33-10-0493-01](#).

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

TABLE 6: CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNTS, WITH EMPLOYEES (2022)

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Business Counts	Share of Total*	Business Counts	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	152,355	87.8%	14,344	87.1%
20 to 99 employees	17,735	10.2%	1,667	10.1%
100 to 500 employees	2,991	1.7%	426	2.6%
More than 500 employees	360	0.2%	35	0.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [33-10-0661-01](#).

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Employment by establishment size is based on the Labour Force Survey and provides the number of employees by establishment size. Canadian business counts are compiled from the Business Register and comprise of active business establishments by employment size ranges.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the health care and social assistance industry include:

- chiropractor;
- emergency medical technician;
- registered nurse; and
- child and youth care worker.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the [Alberta Occupational Profiles](#) webpage.

Occupational Growth

Some occupations in the health care and social assistance industry with above average forecasted growth³ between 2023 and 2025 include:

- inspectors in public and environmental health and occupational health and safety;
- veterinarians; and
- animal health technologists and veterinary technicians.

Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2022, workers in the health care and social assistance industry were:

- more likely to be female than the general workforce; and
- younger than the workforce as a whole.

TABLE 7: EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER, 2021

Gender	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total*
Males	1,209,200	53.5%	55,200	18.0%
Females	1,050,400	46.5%	251,100	82.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

TABLE 8: EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER, 2022

Gender	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total*
Males	1,258,000	52.9%	56,300	18.2%
Females	1,118,100	47.1%	252,800	81.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

³ <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/albertas-occupational-outlook>

TABLE 9: EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP, 2021

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total*
15 to 24 years	280,800	12.4%	25,000	8.2%
25 to 54 years	1,525,500	67.5%	225,300	73.6%
55 years and over	453,400	20.1%	56,000	18.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

TABLE 10: EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP, 2022

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total*
15 to 24 years	310,200	13.1%	22,400	7.2%
25 to 54 years	1,611,400	67.8%	233,700	75.6%
55 years and over	454,600	19.1%	53,000	17.1%

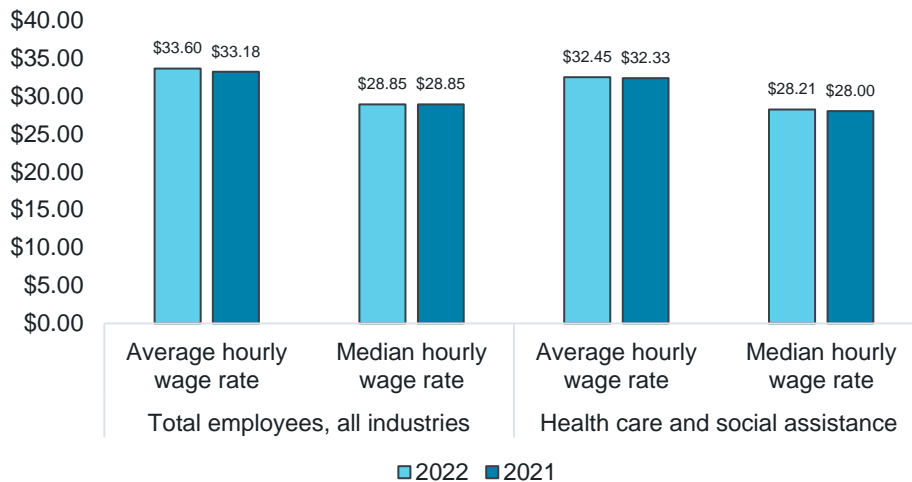
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Wages and Salaries

CHART 1

Alberta Hourly Wage Rate Comparison 2021-2022



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0064-01](#).

Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is the wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

TABLE 11: WAGE AND SALARY BY OCCUPATION, 2021

Occupations	Employment in Alberta			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Physiotherapists	\$35.79	\$44.64	\$49.85	\$78,280
Dental hygienists and dental therapists	\$46.23	\$56.06	\$66.37	\$83,356
Respiratory therapists, clinical perfusionists and cardiopulmonary technologists	\$35.75	\$43.09	\$48.44	\$72,944

Source: 2021 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey (AWSS). The AWSS is conducted once every two years.

More information on wages and salaries is available [online](#). For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the health care and social assistance industry, visit the [ALIS website](#).

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Industry Associations

- [Alberta Health](#)
- [Alberta Health Services](#)
- [Alberta Association of Optometrists](#)
- [College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta](#)
- [Alberta Continuing Care Association](#)
- [Alberta Medical Association](#)
- [Canadian Union of Public Employees](#)
- [Alberta Union of Public Employees](#)
- [Health Sciences Association of Alberta](#)
- [United Nurses of Alberta](#)