

Alberta Health Care and Social Assistance Industry Profile 2018 and 2019

Alberta Labour and Immigration

Alberta Health Care and Social Assistance Industry Profile, 2018 and 2019

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Overview

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, families);
- community food, housing, emergency and relief services;
- vocational rehabilitation services;
- daycare services.

For more information, see [Statistics Canada North American Industry Classifications System \(NAICS\) Canada 2017](#) for descriptions of industries.

¹ NAICS 2017 major group 62

Section A: Business Environment

1. Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates (2018 and 2019)

Table 1

		Alberta	Health Care and Social Assistance Industry
Employment	2019	2,343,000	293,400
	2018	2,330,700	278,600
Employment Share	2019	N/A	12.5%
	2018	N/A	12.0%
Unemployment	2019	173,200	5,600
	2018	164,100	5,400
Unemployment rate	2019	6.9%	1.9%
	2018	6.6%	1.9%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0023-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0008), 2019.
 Note: Note: N/A denotes not-applicable. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta.

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

2. Industry Growth

- The Health Care and Social Assistance industry accounted for 12.5% of total employment in Alberta in 2019, a 0.5 percentage point increase from 2018.
- Employment in this industry is expected to increase at an average rate of 3.7% from 2019 to 2023².
- The industry is expected to account for 12.5% of total employment in Alberta in 2020.
- The outlook for the above projections was completed prior to the economic decline associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore may not capture current economic conditions in the short term. However, the projections are expected to be reflective of long-term expectations of employment trends.

² Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2019 – 2023, Industry Employment Outlook

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Health Care and Social Assistance industry accounted for approximately 5.5% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018, up from 5.1% in 2008. In 2019, the GDP share was 5.8%, a 0.2 percentage point increase from 2009. Between 2008 and 2018 this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment increased from 9.4% to 12.0%, and between 2009 and 2019 increased from 10.0% to 12.5%.

Total employment in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2019 was 5.3% higher than its level in 2018. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry increased by 90,000 from 2009 to 2019, a 44.2% increase. There were 293,400 people employed in the industry in 2019, of whom 75.8% were full time and 24.3% were part time.

In the short-term, employment growth in Health Care and Social Assistance is expected to remain stable in 2020, as the broader economy is being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2

Characteristic		Alberta	Health Care and Social Assistance Industry
Median Retirement Age (years)	2019	65.4	63.1
	2018	64.9	64.7
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	2019	36.1	32.7
	2018	37.1	33.9
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	2019	6.2%	9.3%
	2018	6.3%	9.7%
Average Job Tenure (months)	2019	92.8	107.3
	2018	92.4	101.1
Employees Under Union Coverage	2019	24.6%	52.2%
	2018	24.5%	54.1%
Employees Working Overtime	2019	23.0%	16.7%
	2018	22.7%	16.1%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 14-10-0037-01 (formerly: CANSIM 282-0022), 14-10-0044-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0031), 14-10-0055-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0042), 14-10-0070-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0078) and 14-10-0076-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0084), 2019, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)

Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders 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.

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size		Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Health Care and Social Assistance Industry	
		Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	2019	650,100	32.8%	72,000	28.1%
	2018	656,500	34.0%	66,800	27.3%
20 to 99 employees	2019	736,200	37.2%	86,500	33.7%
	2018	711,600	36.9%	85,400	35.0%
100 to 500 employees	2019	370,900	18.7%	48,300	18.8%
	2018	362,400	18.8%	48,400	19.8%
More than 500 employees	2019	223,200	11.3%	49,700	19.4%
	2018	198,900	10.3%	43,700	17.9%

Data Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 14-10-0068-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0076), 2019

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding

Note: N/A denotes data not available due to the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

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

Establishment Size		Businesses with employees in Alberta		Businesses with employees in Health Care and Social Assistance Industry	
		Number of Businesses	%	Number of Businesses	%
Less than 20 employees	2019	154,090	87.9%	13,100	88.3%
	2018	153,855	87.7%	12,596	88.2%
20 to 99 employees	2019	18,014	10.3%	1,477	10.0%
	2018	18,123	10.3%	1,377	9.6%
100 to 499 employees	2019	2,949	1.7%	236	1.6%
	2018	3,000	1.7%	289	2.0%
500+ employees	2019	332	0.2%	18	0.1%
	2018	368	0.2%	25	0.2%
Total	2019	175,385	100%	14,831	100%
	2018	175,346	100%	14,287	100%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Business Counts, CANSIM Tables: 33-10-0105-01 (2018) and 33-10-0222-01 (2019)

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupation Information

Some examples of occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry include:

- chiropractor;
- emergency medical technician;
- registered nurse;
- 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](#) website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry in 2019 was as follows:

- women employed: 246,600 people, or 84.0%, an increase from 83.0% in 2018
- men employed: 46,800 people, or 16.0%, a decrease from 17.0% in 2018

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 46.1% and men made up 53.9% of total employment (for all industries) in 2019, compared to 45.7% women and 54.3% men in 2018.

Table 5

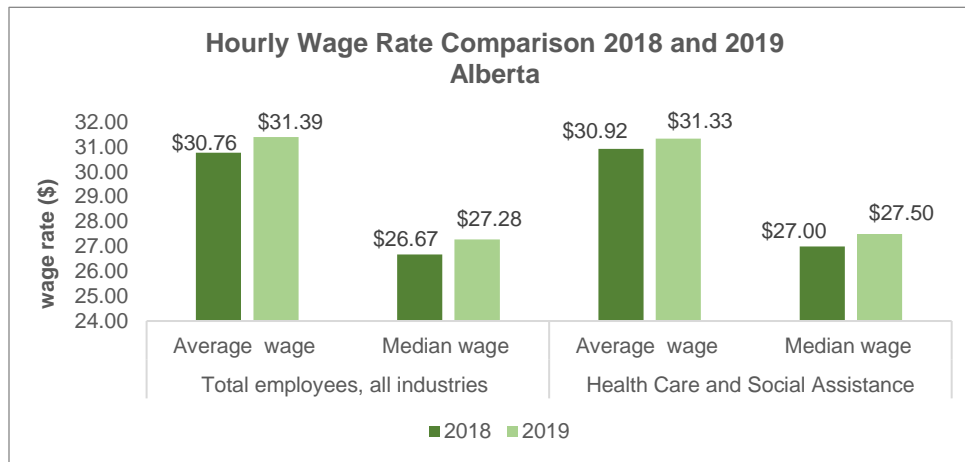
Age Characteristics		Employment in Alberta		Health Care and Social Assistance Industry	
		Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	2019	285,700	12.2%	22,800	7.8%
	2018	285,800	12.3%	21,700	7.8%
25-54 years	2019	1,590,500	67.9%	209,400	71.4%
	2018	1,587,200	68.1%	202,500	72.7%
55 years and over	2019	466,900	19.9%	61,300	20.9%
	2018	457,800	19.6%	54,400	19.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0023-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0008), 2019

*Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

3. Wage and Salaries

Chart 1



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2019

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 that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

4. Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 6

Occupation		Median Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
		Starting	Overall	Top	
Physiotherapists	2019	\$33.57	\$46.86	\$49.65	\$75,184
	2017	\$37.30	\$44.68	\$52.36	\$88,634
Dental hygienists and dental therapists	2019	\$50.00	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$86,829
	2017	\$49.97	\$52.12	\$57.69	\$84,724
Paralegal and Related occupations	2019	\$27.41	\$33.67	\$38.07	\$60,047
	2017	\$22.93	\$30.57	\$38.21	\$70,670
Cardiology technologist	2019	\$29.84	\$35.83	\$39.66	\$62,360
	2017	\$29.84	\$34.78	\$39.71	\$71,200

Data Source: 2017 & 2019 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey (AWSS). The AWSS is done once every 2 years.

Note: Due to methodological changes, a direct comparison of survey results from different years is not recommended.

For more information on the *2019 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the [WAGEinfo](#) website. 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
(<https://www.alberta.ca/health.aspx>)
- Alberta Health Services
(<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/>)
- Alberta Association of Optometrists
(<https://www.optometrists.ab.ca/>)
- College & Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta
(<https://nurses.ab.ca/>)
- Alberta Continuing Care Association
(<https://www.ab-cca.ca/>)
- Alberta Medical Association
(<https://www.albertadoctors.org/>)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
(<https://cupe.ca/>)
- Alberta Union of Public Employees
(<https://www.aupe.org/find-your-local/sectors/health-care>)
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
(<https://www.hsaa.ca/>)
- United Nurses of Alberta
(<https://www.una.ab.ca/>)