



# 2022 Alberta Labour Force Profiles: Women

Published by Jobs, Economy and Trade, Government of Alberta

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This publication is available online at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2292-6615>

2022 Alberta Labour Force Profiles, Women | Jobs, Economy and Trade

© 2024 Government of Alberta | February 5, 2024 | ISBN 978-1-4601-5946-0 | ISSN 2292-6615



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## Introduction

This 2022 Alberta Labour Force Profile provides statistics and trends in the labour market for women in Alberta. Topics include population (15 years and over), labour force participation, employment, and unemployment, demographics, industry and occupation. Statistics provided are 12-month averages for the year.

### Definitions:

**Target Population:** The non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over. Excluded from the survey's coverage are persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the institutionalized population, and households in extremely remote areas with very low population density. These groups together represent an exclusion of less than two per cent of the Canadian population aged 15 and over.

**Labour Force:** Civilian, non-institutionalized persons 15 years of age and over who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed.

**Participation Rate:** Number of employed and unemployed people as a percentage of the population aged 15 and older

**Employment Rate:** Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. The employment rate for a particular group (for example, one defined by age, sex, marital status or province) is the number employed in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

**Unemployment Rate:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (for example, one defined by age, sex or marital status) is the number of unemployed persons in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that same group.

**Industry:** General nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only), based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). If a person did not have a job during the survey reference week, the information is collected for the last job held, provided the person worked within the previous twelve months.

**Occupation:** The kind of work persons 15 years of age and over were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job, based on the 2021 National Occupational Classification (NOC). If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relate to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

### Note on the data:

Numbers and percentages may not add up exactly to their totals due to rounding by Statistics Canada.

Data and definitions provided are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. Data collected on sex has been used as an estimate for women and men in this profile.

# Highlights

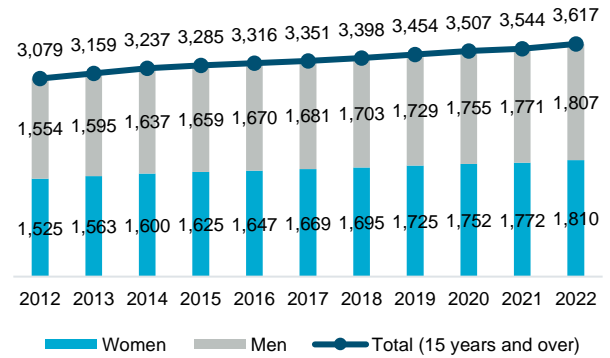
- In 2022, there were 1,810,000 women in Alberta, accounting for half of Alberta's population aged 15 years and over.
- Proportion of women aged 55 years and over increased by 5.5 percentage points since 2012.
- More than half of women in Alberta have completed a post-secondary education. The proportion of women with a university degree has been 3.6 percentage points greater than men over the past 10 years on average.
- Women made up 47.1 per cent of Alberta's labour force and total employment, with a participation rate of 65.6 per cent and an employment rate of 61.8 per cent. In 2022, both the participation rate and employment rate of the core working aged women reached the highest point over the past 10 years, at more than 80 per cent.
- Women experienced the same unemployment rate as men at 5.8 per cent; their participation rate and employment rate were about eight percentage points lower than men. The gaps in the participation rate and employment rate have been reduced by about four percentage points since 2012.
- Women in Alberta with a higher education attainment were more likely to participate in the labour market and be employed than those with lower education attainment levels.
- The industries where women made up the highest share of employment were: health care and social assistance; educational services; accommodation and food services; and finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing.
- The occupations where women made up more than 50 per cent of employment were: health; business, finance and administration; education, law and social, community and government services; art, culture, recreation and sport; and sales and service.

# Population Statistics

Over the past 10 years, the number of women aged 15 years and over in Alberta has trended upward and become greater than the number of men in 2021 and 2022.

In 2022, there were 1,810,000 women aged 15 years and over in Alberta, 285,500 (18.7 per cent) more than 2012.

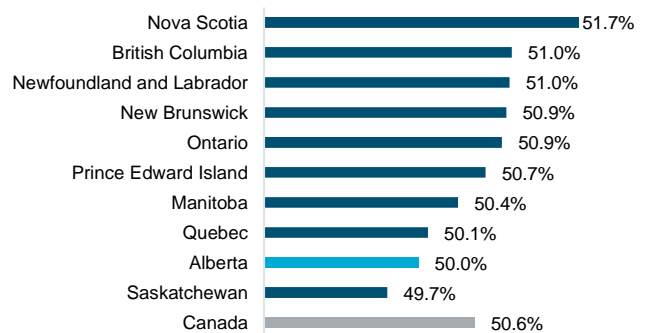
**FIGURE 1. ALBERTA POPULATION BY SEX, 2012-2022**  
(thousands of persons)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

In 2022, women made up half of Alberta's population with a share of 50.0 per cent, lower than the shares in other provinces.

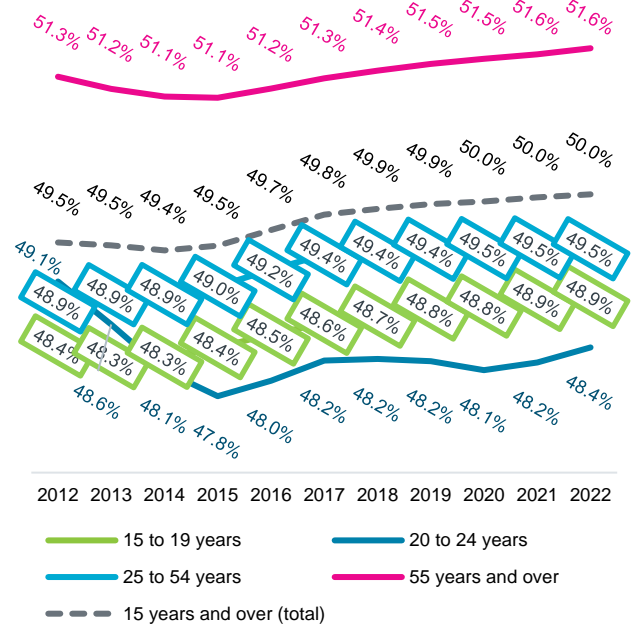
**FIGURE 2. WOMEN AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL POPULATION, BY PROVINCE, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

Women made up more than 51 per cent of all Albertans aged 55 years and over since 2012 and close to 50 per cent within other age groups.

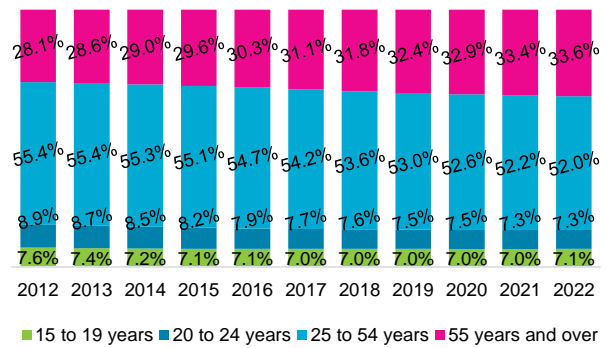
**FIGURE 3. WOMEN AS A PROPORTION OF ALBERTA'S POPULATION, BY AGE GROUP, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2022, women aged 55 years and over accounted for 33.6 per cent of all women in Alberta, which was 5.5 percentage points greater than 2012.

**FIGURE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN IN ALBERTA, BY AGE GROUP, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

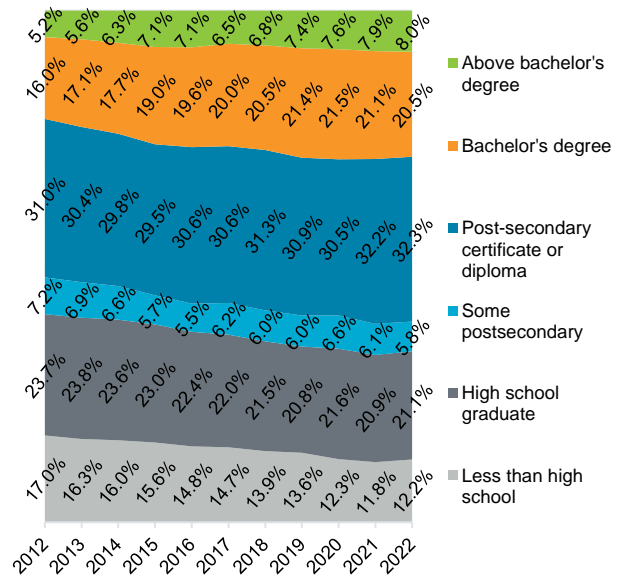
On average, 30.8 per cent of women in Alberta had a post-secondary certificate or diploma over the past 10 years.

- For men, it was 32.8 per cent.

In 2022, 28.5 per cent of women in Alberta had a university degree (bachelor's and above), up 7.4 percentage points compared to 2012.

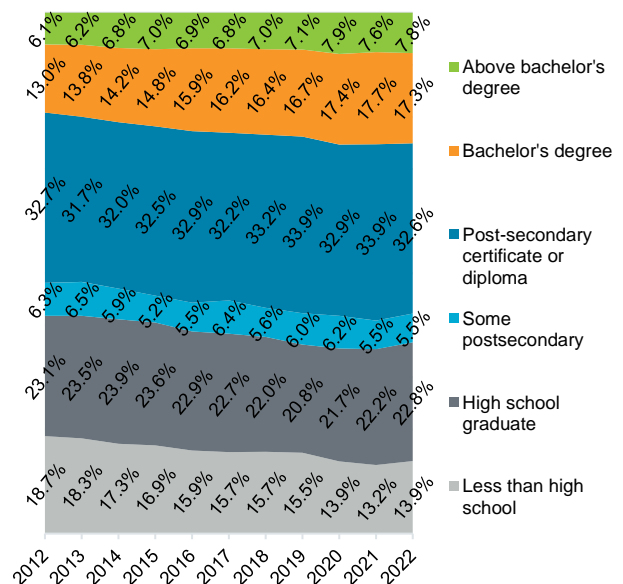
- For men, it was 25.1 per cent, up 5.9 percentage points compared to 2012.
- Between 2012 and 2022, the proportion of women with a university degree has been 3.6 percentage points greater than men, on average.

**FIGURE 5. DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

**FIGURE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF MEN BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)



# Labour Force Statistics

## Overview

In 2022, with a population of 1,810,000, women made up half of Alberta's total population, while they made up 47.1 per cent of the labour force and total employment in Alberta.

Women's shares in the labour force and employment have increased by 1.8 percentage points from 2012 (45.3 per cent).

Women had the same unemployment rate as men in 2022, at 5.8 per cent.

Women's share of Albertans who were not in the labour force in 2022 decreased by 4.5 percentage points to 56.9 per cent, from 61.5 per cent in 2012.

**TABLE 1. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF WORKING AGE ALBERTANS, BY SEX**  
(persons; percentage)

	Women	Men	Women's Share	
	2022	2022	2022	2012
Population (15+ years old)	1,810,000	1,806,600	50.0%	49.5%
Labour Force	1,187,200	1,335,400	47.1%	45.3%
Participation Rate	65.6%	73.9%		
Employment	1,118,100	1,258,000	47.1%	45.3%
Employment Rate	61.8%	69.6%		
Unemployment	69,100	77,300	47.2%	45.1%
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.8%		
Not in Labour Force	622,800	471,200	56.9%	61.5%

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

## Participation

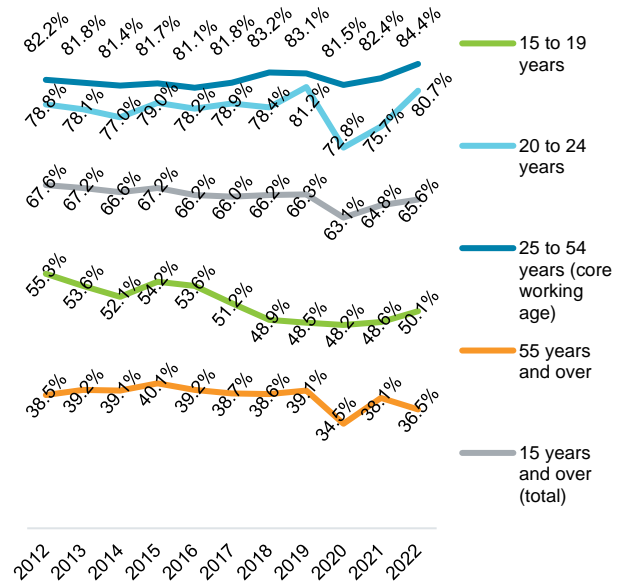
In 2022, the labour force participation rate for women in Alberta was 65.6 per cent, 8.3 percentage points lower than men (Figure 8).

- The participation rates for both women and men were lower than 2019 and 2022.

The gap in the overall participation rate between women and men has narrowed from 12.5 percentage points in 2012 to 8.3 percentage points in 2022.

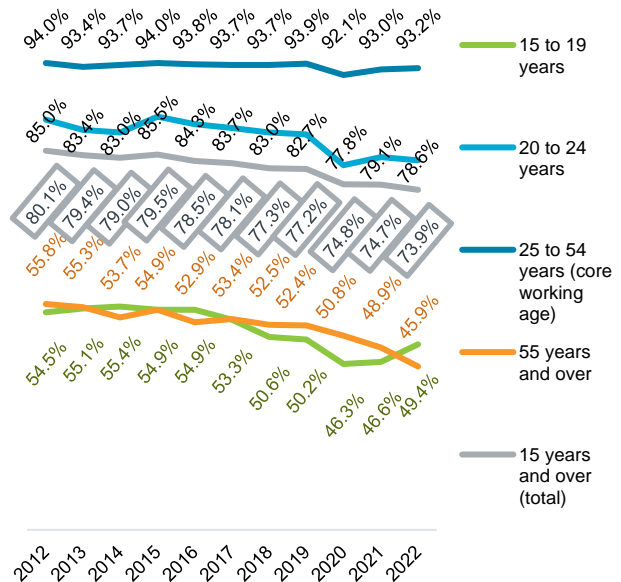
- In 2022, the participation rates for youth aged 15 to 24 years were higher among women, while rates for other age groups were higher among men.

**FIGURE 7. WOMEN PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 8. MEN PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



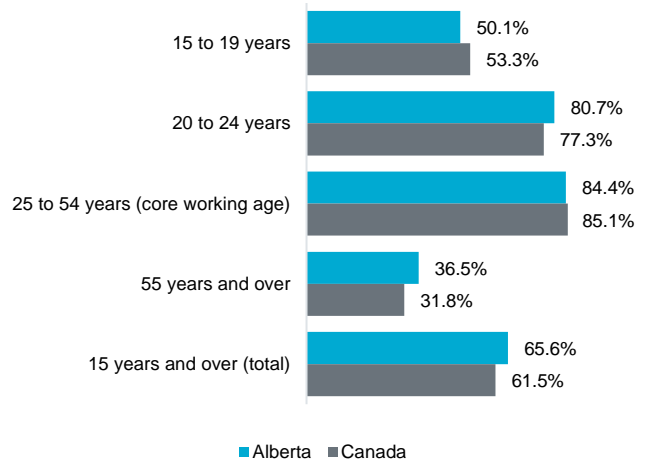
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2022, the participation rate for women at 65.6 per cent for Alberta was 4.1 percentage points higher than the rate for Canada (61.5 per cent).

- The 10-year average for Alberta was 66.1 per cent (Figure 10), 4.6 percentage points higher than the average for Canada (61.5 per cent).

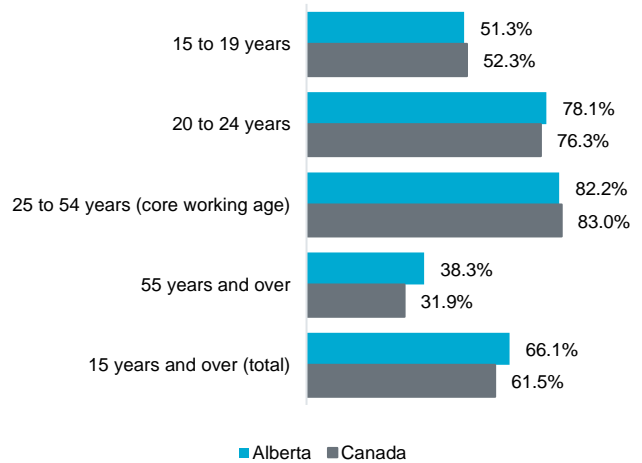
While the participation rate for women aged 55 years and over has been lower than other age groups, it was higher than the rate for the same age group in Canada, based on the 2022 results and the 10-year averages.

**FIGURE 9. WOMEN PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 10. WOMEN PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2012-2022 AVERAGE**  
(percentage)



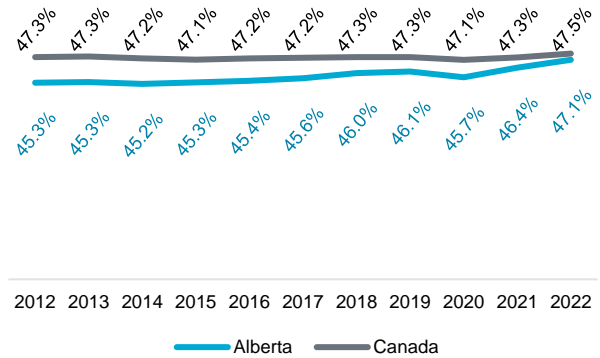
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2022, women made up 47.1 per cent of Alberta's labour force, up 1.8 percentage points from 2012.

- Women in the core working age made up 31.5 per cent of the labour force in Alberta in 2022 (Figure 12), which was slightly higher than the percentage across Canada (30.9 per cent).

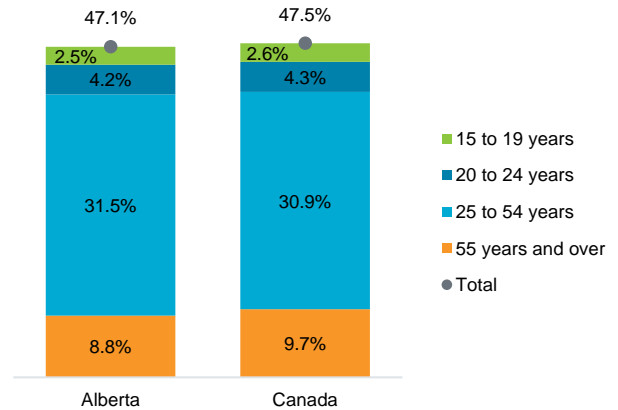
The gap in women's share of the labour force between Alberta and Canada has gradually narrowed over the past 10 years.

**FIGURE 11. WOMEN AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL LABOUR FORCE, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 12. WOMEN AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL LABOUR FORCE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

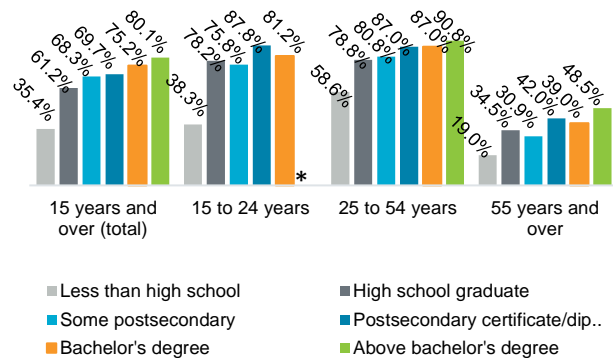
In 2022, a higher educational attainment was likely to be associated with a higher participation rate for Alberta women, while this same association did not hold true for men.

- The participation rate for men who were high school graduates was 4.7 percentage points higher than those with some postsecondary education.
- The participation rate for men with a bachelor's degree was 2.8 percentage points higher than those with an educational attainment above a bachelor's degree.

Women's participation rates for all educational attainment groups were lower relative to men. The greatest gaps were among people with less than high school education and those who were high school graduates (15.3 and 14.5 percentage points, respectively).

- For youth aged 15 to 24 years, the participation rates were higher among women, except for those with less than high school education (2.8 percentage points lower than men) and people with an above bachelor's degree (no data available).

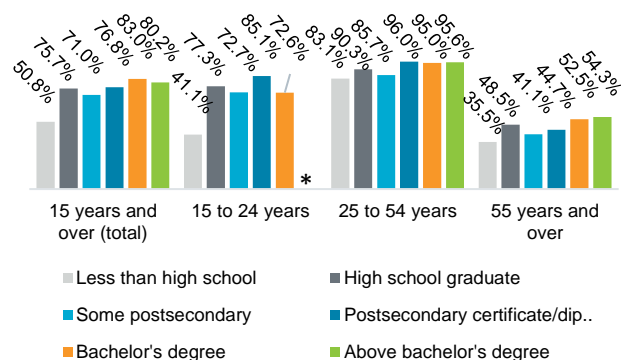
**FIGURE 13. WOMEN PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

Note: \* suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

**FIGURE 14. MEN PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

Note: \* suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

## Employment

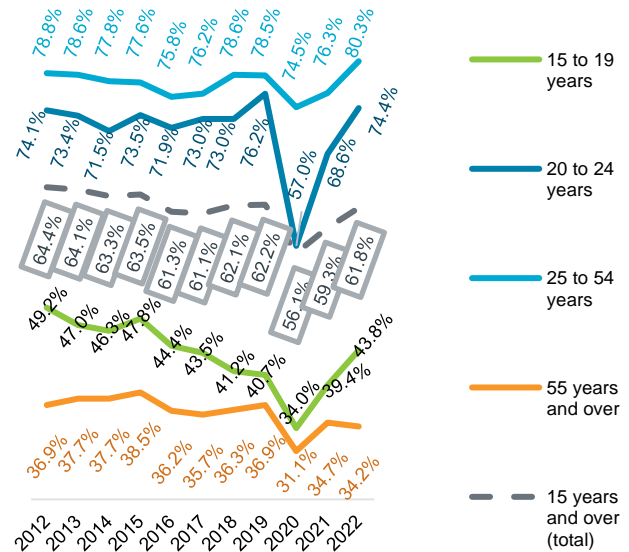
In 2022, the employment rate for women in Alberta was 61.8 per cent, 7.8 percentage points lower than men (Figure 16).

- This employment rate for women was only 0.4 percentage points lower than the rate in 2019; while for men, the rate was 1.8 percentage points lower in 2022 (compared to 2019).
  - Among both men and women, only those aged 15 to 19 years old and aged 25 to 54 years old have surpassed their 2019 employment rates.
- Compared to 2012, the employment rate for women in 2022 was 2.6 percentage points lower, while it was 6.7 percentage points lower for men.
  - While the employment rates among all age groups for men in 2022 were lower than 2012, the rates for women aged 20 to 54 years surpassed their rates in 2012.

Over the past 10 years, the gap in the overall employment rate between women and men was reduced from a high of 12 percentage points (2014) to 7.8 percentage points in 2022.

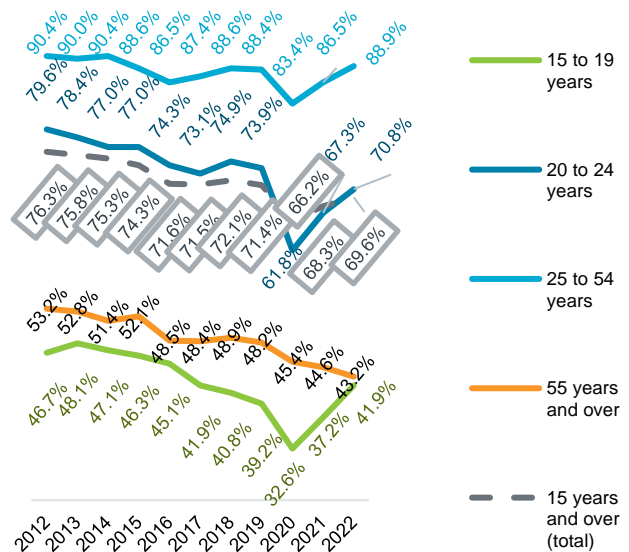
- In 2022, the employment rates for youth aged 15 to 24 years were higher among women (1.9 to 3.6 percentage points) than men while rates for other age groups were higher among men (8.6 to 9.0 percentage points).

**FIGURE 15. WOMEN EMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 16. MEN EMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

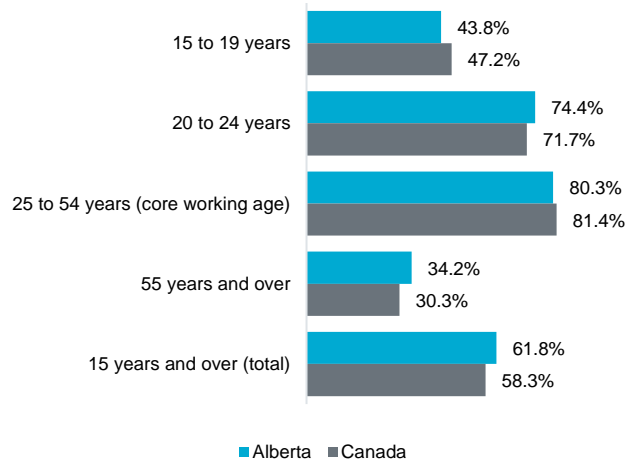
In 2022, the employment rate among Albertan women was 61.8 per cent, 3.5 percentage points higher than the rate among all Canadian women (58.3 per cent).

- The 10-year average for Alberta was 61.7 per cent (Figure 18), 4.3 percentage points higher than the average for Canada (57.5 per cent).

Both the 2022 and the 10-year average employment rates for women aged 55 and over were higher in Alberta than in Canada.

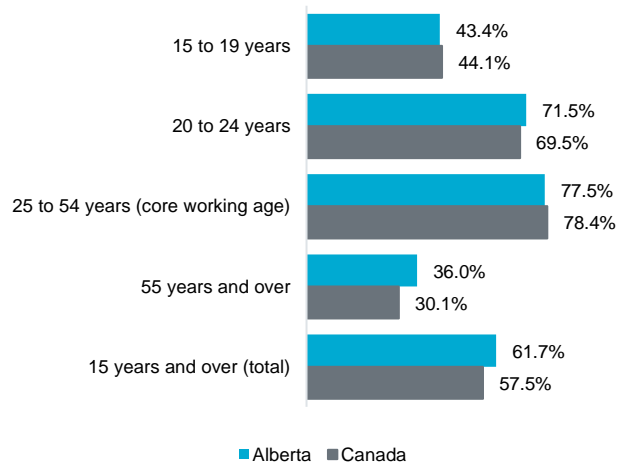
- In contrast, while the employment rate for women of core working age has been the highest among age groups in Alberta, it was about one percentage point lower than the national rate.

**FIGURE 17. WOMEN EMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 18. WOMEN EMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2012-2022 AVERAGE**  
(percentage)



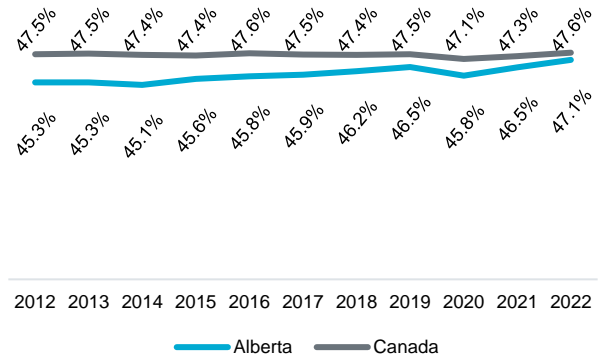
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

In 2022, women made up 47.1 per cent of employment in Alberta, up 1.8 percentage points from 2012.

- Women of core working age made up 31.8 per cent of employment in Alberta in 2022 (Figure 20), which was slightly higher than the percentage for Canada (31.2 per cent).

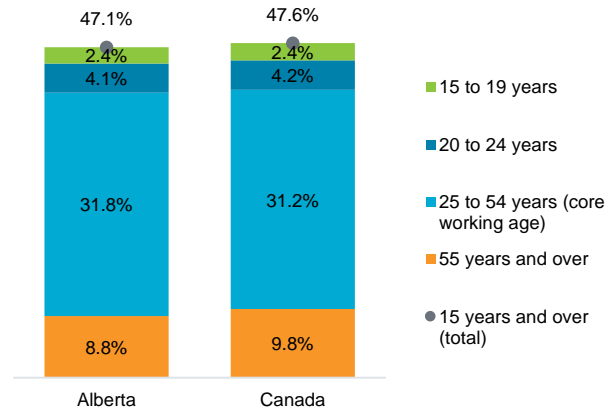
The gap in women's share of the employment between Alberta and Canada has gradually converged over the past 10 years.

**FIGURE 19. WOMEN AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 20. WOMEN AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)



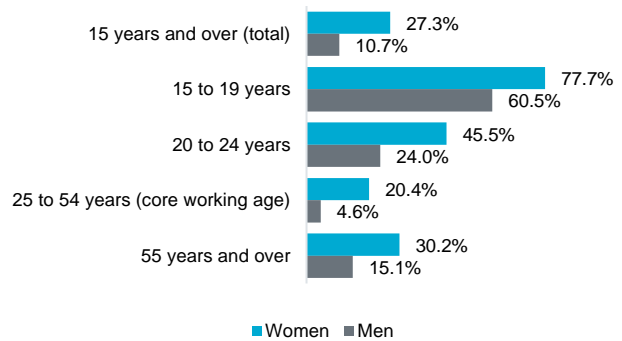
In 2022, 27.3 per cent of women in Alberta were employed in part-time jobs, 16.6 percentage points greater than men working part-time.

- The gap in part-time employment between men and women was largest among 20 to 24 years olds (21.5 percentage points) and smallest among those aged 55 years and older (15.1 percentage points).

The primary reasons for women working part-time include (Figure 22):

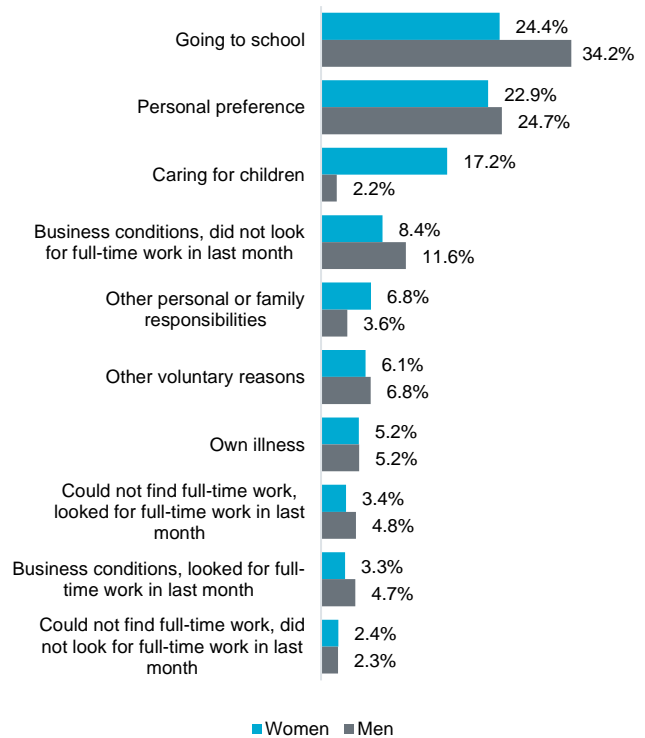
- going to school (24.4 per cent), primarily driven by youth aged 15 to 24 years;
  - This is the reason for 34.2 per cent of men working part-time.
- personal preference (22.9 per cent), more than half of the workers responding were 55 years old or over; and
  - This is the reason for 24.7 per cent of men working part-time.
- caring for children (17.2 per cent), primarily driven by core working aged women.
  - Only 2.2 per cent of men working part-time have responded caring for children as the reason.

**FIGURE 21. PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGE, WOMEN VS. MEN, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 22. DISTRIBUTION OF PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT BY REASON, WOMEN VS. MEN, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0029-01](#)

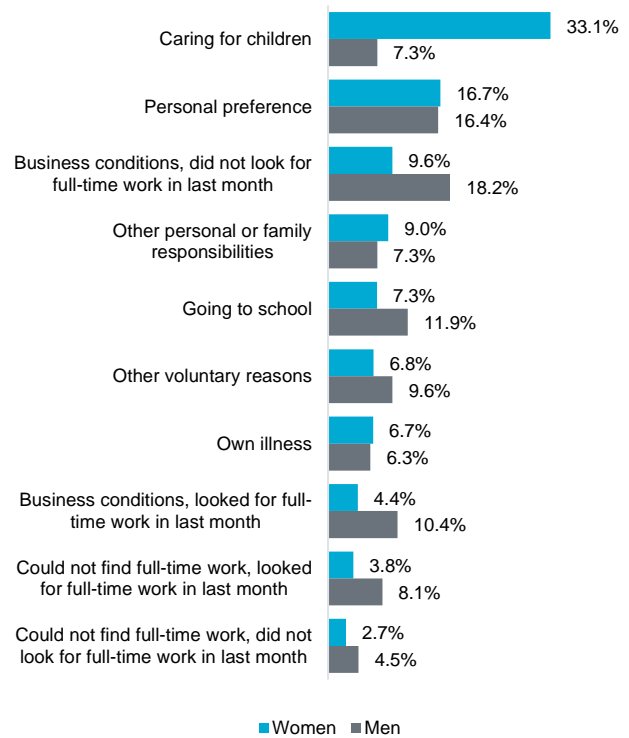
For core working aged women, 20.5 per cent of them were in part-time employment. Their top reasons for working part-time include:

- caring for children (33.1 per cent);
- personal preference (16.7 per cent), similar proportion found in men; and
- business conditions, did not look for full-time work in last month (9.6 per cent).

For core working aged men, only 4.6 per cent were in part-time employment with top reasons being:

- business conditions, did not look for full-time work in last month (18.2 per cent);
- personal preference (16.4 per cent); and
- going to school (11.9 per cent).

**FIGURE 23. DISTRIBUTION OF PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT BY REASON, CORE WORKING AGED WOMEN VS. MEN, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



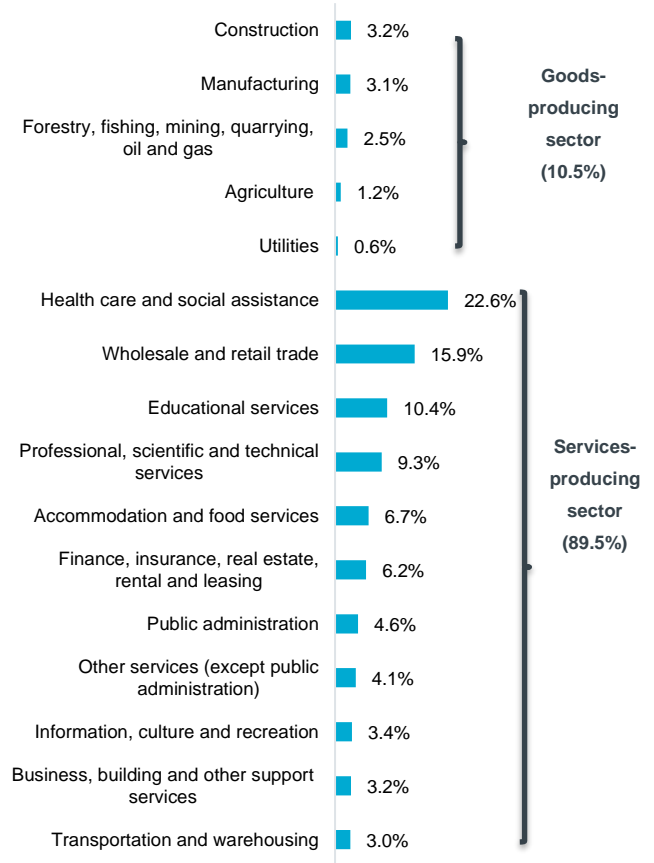
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0029-01](#)

In 2022, 89.5 per cent of women in Alberta were employed by the services-producing sector and 10.5 per cent were employed by the good-producing sector.

At the industry level, more than 50 per cent of employed women were in:

- health care and social assistance (22.6 per cent);
- wholesale and retail trade (15.9 per cent);
- educational services (10.4 per cent); or
- professional, scientific and technical services (9.3 per cent).

**FIGURE 24. DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



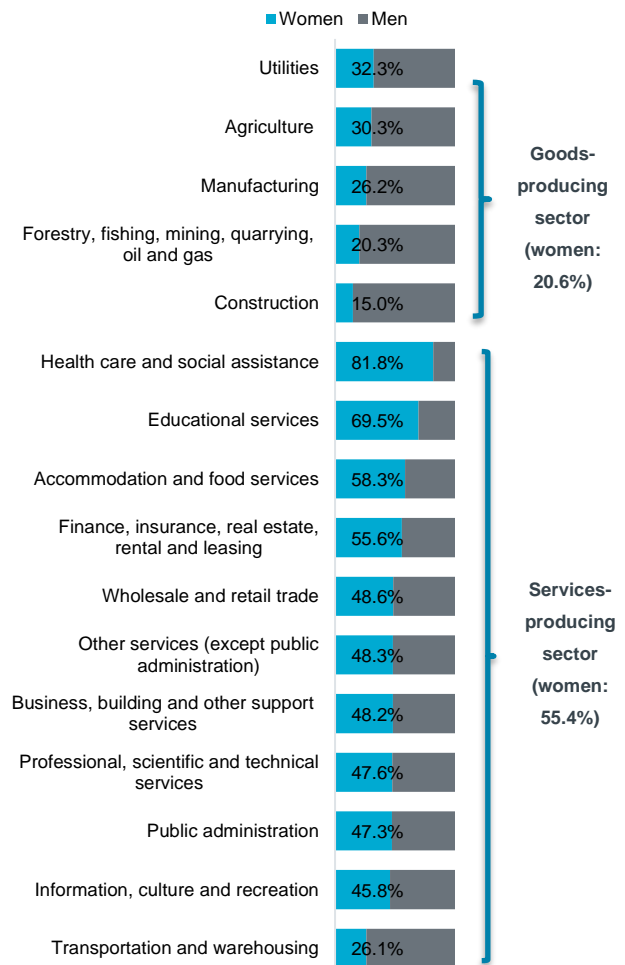
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0023-01](#)

While women made up 55.4 per cent of employment in the services-producing sector, they made up only 20.6 per cent in the goods-producing sector.

By industry, women made up the greatest proportion of employment in:

- health care and social assistance (81.8 per cent);
- educational services (69.5 per cent);
- accommodation and food services (58.3 per cent); and
- finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (55.6 per cent).

**FIGURE 25. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)

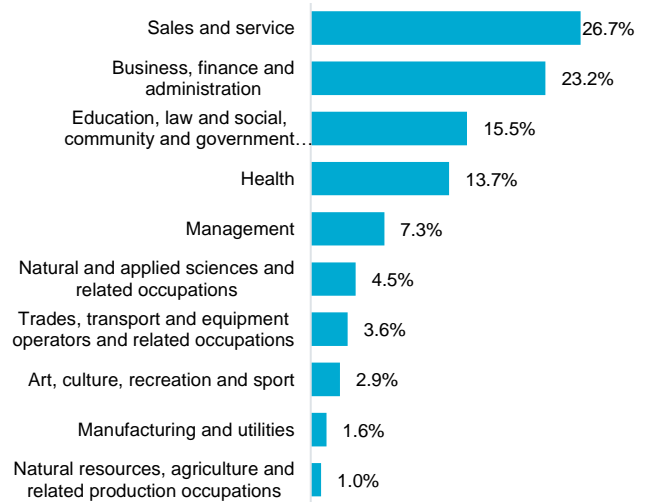


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0023-01](#)

In 2022, 79.1 per cent of women in Alberta were employed to the following occupations:

- sales and service (26.7 per cent);
- business, finance and administration (23.2 per cent);
- education, law and social, community and government services (15.5 per cent); or
- health (13.7 per cent).

**FIGURE 26. DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)

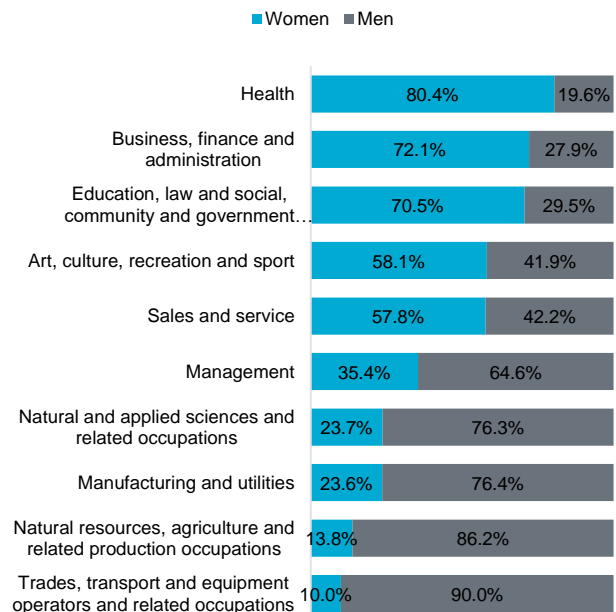


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Public Use Microdata File](#)

Occupations that women made up more than 50 per cent of employment include:

- health (80.4 per cent);
- business, finance and administration (72.1 per cent);
- education, law and social, community and government services (70.5 per cent);
- art, culture, recreation and sport (58.1 per cent);
- sales and service (57.8 per cent).

**FIGURE 27. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



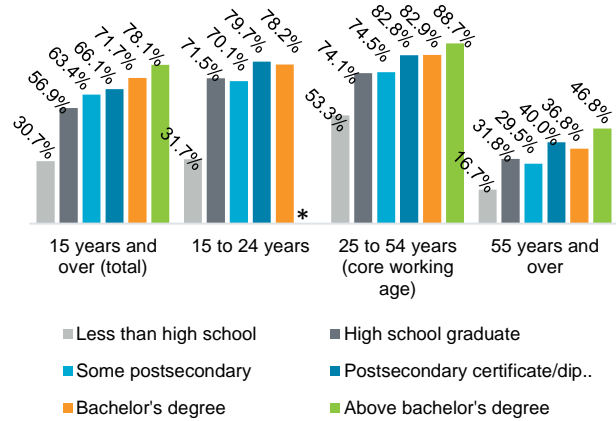
Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Public Use Microdata File](#)

Similar to the participation rate, a higher educational attainment was likely to be associated with a higher employment rate for Albertan women in 2022.

- The highest employment rate was among women with an above bachelor's degree at 78.1 per cent.

For men (Figure 29), the highest employment rate was among people with a bachelor's degree at 79.2 per cent, followed by those with an educational attainment above a bachelor's degree (76.3 per cent).

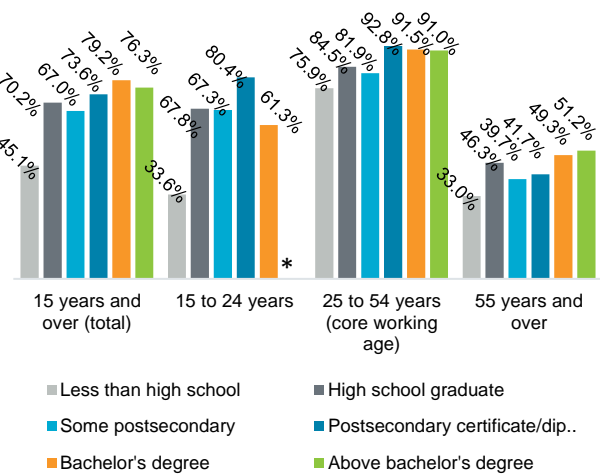
**FIGURE 28. WOMEN EMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

Note: \* suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

**FIGURE 29. MEN EMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

Note: \* suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

## Unemployment

In 2022, unemployment rate was 5.8 per cent for Albertan women, 0.3 percentage points lower than 2019 and 1.1 percentage points higher than 2012 (4.7 per cent).

- This unemployment rate was the same as the rate for men (Figure 31).
- The unemployment rate for women in Alberta has been close to or lower than the rate for men since 2015.

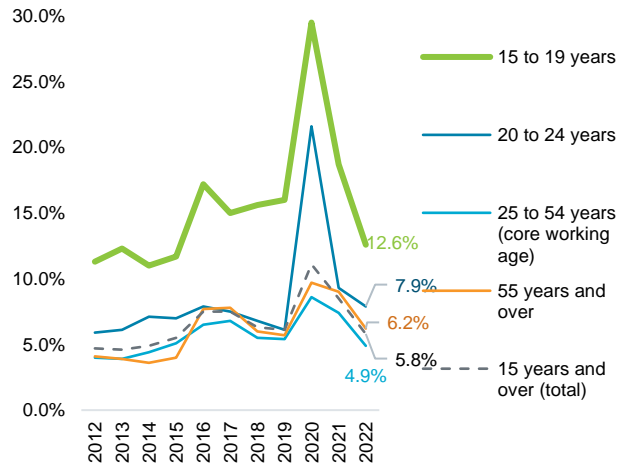
The highest unemployment rate among women was for youth aged 15 to 19 years at 12.6 per cent while the lowest was for the core working group (4.9 per cent).

- For youth aged 15 to 24 years, the unemployment rates for women were about two percentage points lower than men.
- For the groups aged 25 and over, the unemployment rates were 0.3 percentage points higher among women as compared to men.

The unemployment rates for women of different age groups have been reduced from the highs in 2020 (impacted by COVID-19).

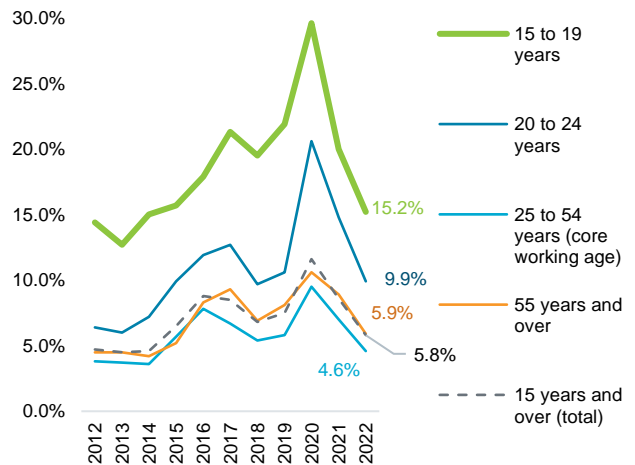
- For youth aged 15 to 19 years and the core working age group, the rates were lower than the rates in 2019.
- For the groups aged 20 to 24 years and 55 years and over, the rates remained higher than the rates in 2019.
- For men, the unemployment rates of all age groups in 2022 were lower than the rates in 2019.

**FIGURE 30. WOMEN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

**FIGURE 31. MEN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)

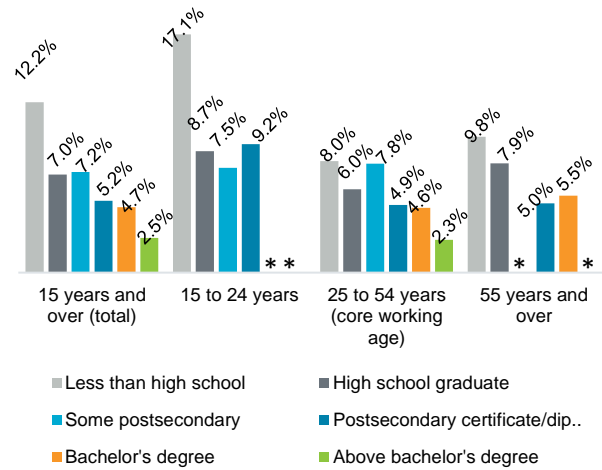


Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0327](#)

Overall, women with a higher education attainment were likely to have a lower unemployment rate.

- The lowest unemployment rate was among women with an educational attainment above a bachelor's degree at 2.5 per cent. This was 2.5 percentage points lower than men with the same educational attainment (Figure 33).
- For men, the lowest unemployment rate was among those with a post-secondary certificate or diploma at 4.2 per cent. The rate for women with the same education attainment was 5.2 per cent.

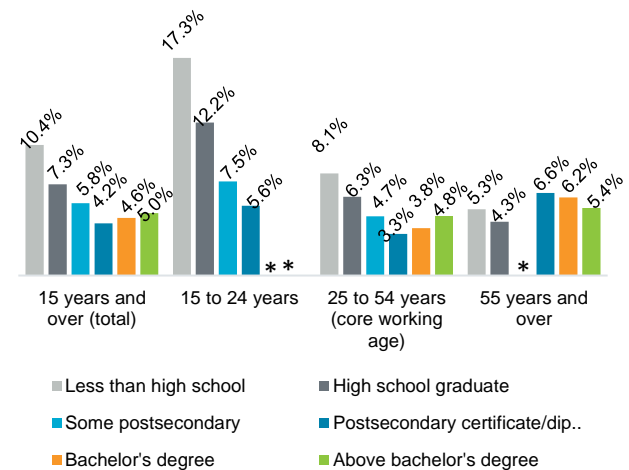
**FIGURE 32. WOMEN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

Note: \* suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

**FIGURE 33. MEN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0020](#)

Note: \* suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

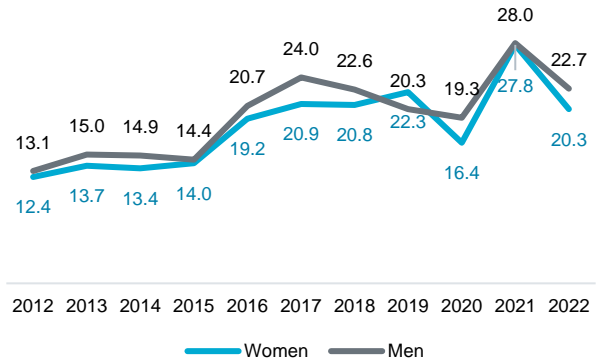


In 2022, unemployed women in Alberta were out of work for an average of 20.3 weeks, 7.9 weeks longer than in 2012.

- One to 13 weeks for more than 60 per cent of all unemployed women (Figure 35).
- 26 weeks or more for 22.7 per cent of all unemployed women, down from 36.8 per cent in 2021.

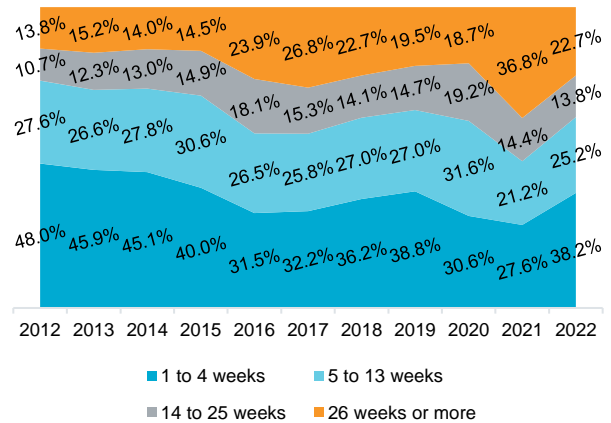
Between 2012 and 2022, the average duration of unemployment has been shorter for women compared to men, except for 2019.

**FIGURE 34. AVERAGE WEEKS UNEMPLOYED BY SEX, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(weeks)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0057-01](#)

**FIGURE 35. DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYED WOMEN BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0057-01](#)

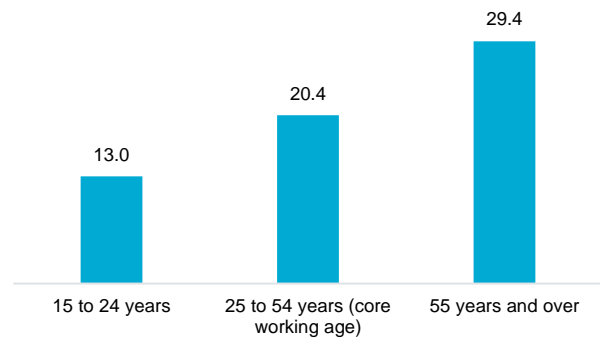
Note: People with unknown duration are excluded.

In 2022, the average duration of unemployment increased as age increased for women in Alberta.

- While women aged 15 to 24 years were unemployed for an average of 13.0 weeks, women aged 55 years and over were unemployed for an average of 29.4 weeks.

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**FIGURE 36. AVERAGE WEEKS UNEMPLOYED BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA WOMEN, 2022**  
(weeks)



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. [Table: 14-10-0057-01](#)

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