



Alberta Labour Force Profiles

Women
2010

Government
of Alberta ■

Alberta ■

Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, the population is defined as women 15+ years.

1. Working Age Population of Women in Alberta

- The number of women in Alberta's working age population grew by 26.6% between 2000 and 2010.
- Of Alberta's working age population, 49.0% were women in 2010, the lowest among the provinces.

2. Labour Force Statistics of Women in Alberta

- At 6.2%, women in Alberta had the third lowest unemployment rate of all Canadian women, after Saskatchewan's 4.8% and Manitoba's 5.0%.
- In 2010, women in Alberta had the highest participation rate of all women in Canada, at 66.7%.
- Alberta women had the highest employment rate, at 62.6%, of all women in Canada in 2010.

3. Employment of Women in Alberta by Industry

- Women accounted for 82.7% of those employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance industries in Alberta in 2010.
- Between 2000 and 2010, the Construction industry had the highest employment growth rate for women at 68.0%.

4. Employment of Women in Alberta by Occupation

- Just over 58.0% of all employed women in Alberta worked in two occupational groups: Business, finance and administrative, 28.1%; and Sales and services, 30.6%.
- Women accounted for 80.5% of those employed in Health occupations, the highest proportion of women in any occupational group.
- The two occupational groups that saw a large percentage increase in the employment of women between 2000 and 2010 were Health occupations, up 57.9%; and Occupations in social sciences, education, government service and religion, up 49.2%.

5. Educational Attainment of Employed Women in Alberta

- The number of employed women in Alberta with university degrees increased by 81.0% from 2000 to 2010; while those with post-secondary certificates or diplomas increased by 33.4% for the same period.

6. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Women in Alberta

- The number of women employed full-time and part-time rose 30.8% and 20.8% respectively between 2000 and 2010.
- In the past ten years, the largest percentage increases in full-time employment were women in the 45 to 64 years and the 65 years and over age groups: 65.4% and 284.6% respectively.

7. Average Hourly Wage of Women in Canada

- Alberta women received the highest average hourly wage of \$22.10 in Canada.
- In 2010, the average hourly wage for women in Alberta was \$1.36 more per hour than the overall average wage for women in Canada of \$20.74.

8. Average Hourly Wage of Women in Alberta by Industry

- In 2010, the average hourly wage of women in Alberta was \$5.59 lower than that of men.
- Agriculture was the industry where the difference in the average hourly wage between men and women was the lowest, at \$0.71; and Professional Scientific & Technical Services, the highest, at \$10.20.

9. Average Hourly Wage of Women in Alberta by Occupation

- Women in Management occupations had the highest average hourly wage of \$33.73 in 2010.
- The average hourly wage of women in Management occupations also had the largest increase from \$19.04 in 2000 to \$33.73 in 2010.

10. Average Hourly Wage of Women in Alberta by Age Group

- The average hourly wage of women in Alberta, at \$22.10, was lower than for men, at \$27.69.
- Women's average wage was lower than men's across all age groups, and the wage difference increases with age.
- On average, the average hourly wage of women 25 to 54 years of age was \$6.22 lower than men in the same age group.

1. Working Age Population of Women in Alberta

For the purpose of this labour force profile, working age population (or WAP) refers to people who are 15 years and older (please refer to the [Appendix](#) for definitions of labour force terms).

Figure 1 shows the number and percentage of working age women by Canada and province in 2010. Alberta had the lowest percentage of women in the working age population, at 49.0%, while Nova Scotia had the highest percentage at 52.3%. The overall Canadian average was 50.7%.

Figure 1

Number and Percentage of Women by Province, 2010			
	Population (15+ years)	Women (15+ years)	% of Women
Canada	27,658,500	14,033,600	50.7%
Newfoundland and Labrador	428,100	219,600	51.3%
Prince Edward Island	117,000	60,200	51.5%
Nova Scotia	777,000	406,000	52.3%
New Brunswick	616,800	318,300	51.6%
Quebec	6,507,200	3,294,000	50.6%
Ontario	10,790,600	5,514,600	51.1%
Manitoba	941,000	476,900	50.7%
Saskatchewan	790,900	399,500	50.5%
Alberta	2,960,900	1,451,300	49.0%
British Columbia	3,729,100	1,893,300	50.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of women in Alberta's WAP grew by 304,500 or 26.6% which exceeded the Canadian women's WAP growth rate by 12.0 percentage points (Figure 2). Alberta's WAP grew by 28.3% over the same period.

Figure 2

Working Age Population (15+ years), 2000 and 2010				
	2000	2010	Growth	% Growth
Canadians	24,089,700	27,658,500	3,568,800	14.8%
Women in Canada	12,249,800	14,033,600	1,783,800	14.6%
Albertans	2,306,900	2,960,900	654,000	28.3%
Women in Alberta	1,146,800	1,451,300	304,500	26.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

2. Labour Force Statistics of Women in Alberta

Women made up 44.9% of Alberta's labour force and 45.1% of those employed in 2010 (Figure 3). Furthermore, women accounted for 42.6% of Alberta's unemployed. The unemployment rate of 6.2% for women was 0.6 percentage points lower than the unemployment rate for men and 0.3 percentage points lower than the unemployment rate for Albertans.

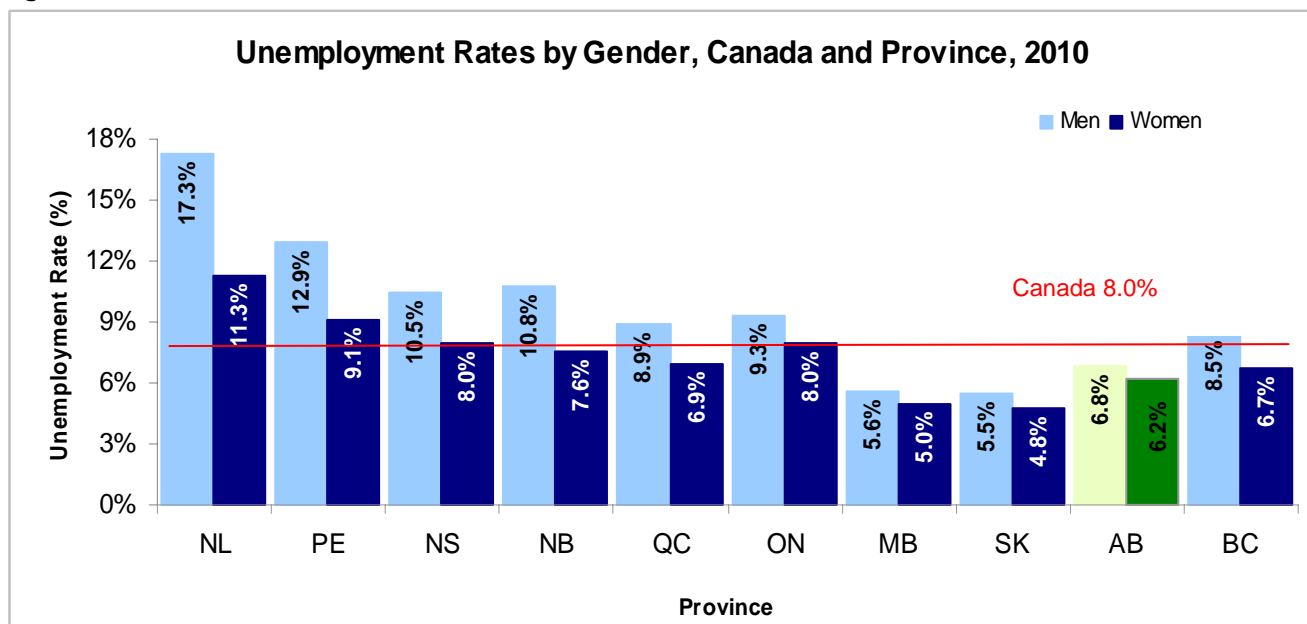
Figure 3

Labour Force Statistics by Gender, Alberta 2010				
	Women (15+ years)	Men (15+ years)	Albertans (15+ years)	% of Women Among Albertans (15+ years)
Working Age Population	1,451,300	1,509,600	2,960,900	49.0%
Labour Force	968,600	1,188,800	2,157,300	44.9%
Employed	908,500	1,108,100	2,016,600	45.1%
Unemployed	60,000	80,700	140,700	42.6%
Participation Rate	66.7%	78.7%	72.9%	
Employment Rate	62.6%	73.4%	68.1%	
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.8%	6.5%	

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

In 2010, Canada's average unemployment rate was 8.0% (Figure 4). The average unemployment rates for both women and men in Alberta were below the Canadian average. The average unemployment rate for women in Alberta was the third lowest of all the provinces, after Saskatchewan, at 4.8%, and Manitoba, at 5.0%.

Figure 4

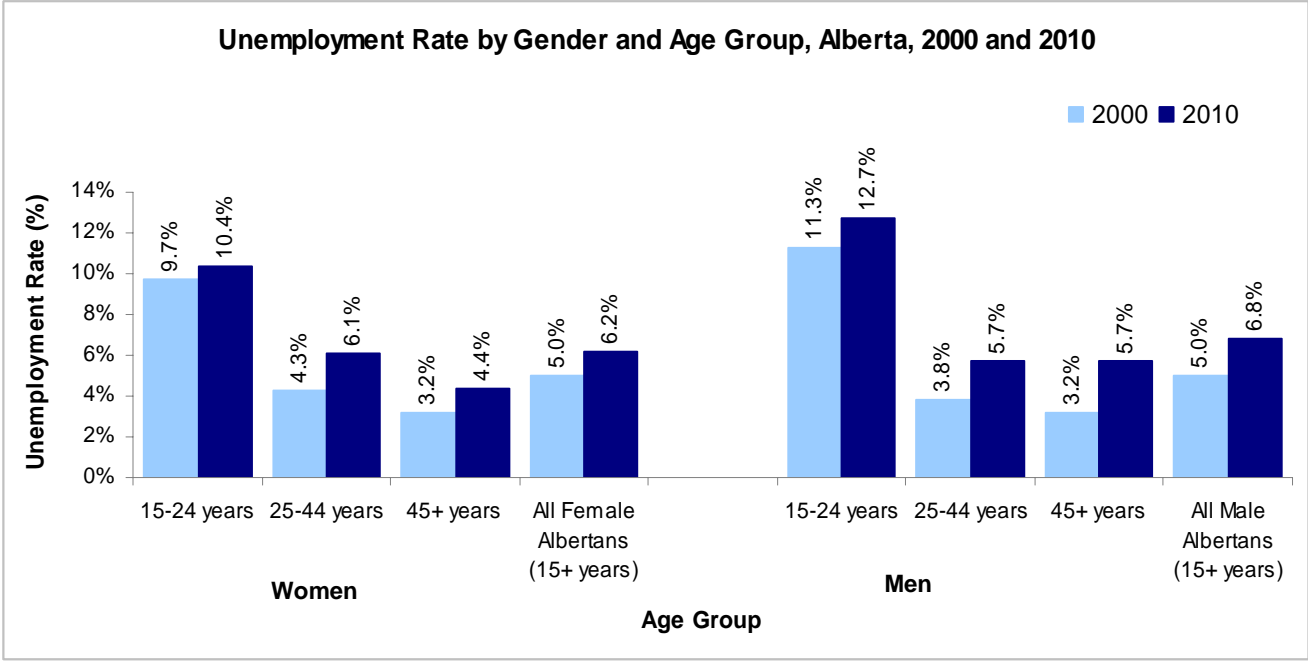


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Figure 5 displays the unemployment rate by gender and age group for Albertans between 2000 and 2010. The unemployment rates in all age groups rose between 2000 and 2010. The greatest increase of 2.5 percentage points was recorded for men aged 45 years and above.

In 2010, the unemployment rates for women were tied or below those for men in all age groups except for the 25 to 44 age group where the unemployment rate was 0.4 percentage points greater than the unemployment rate for men. The largest difference in unemployment rates between men and women occurred in the 15 to 24 age group, where the unemployment rate for women was 2.3 percentage points lower than the men's rate.

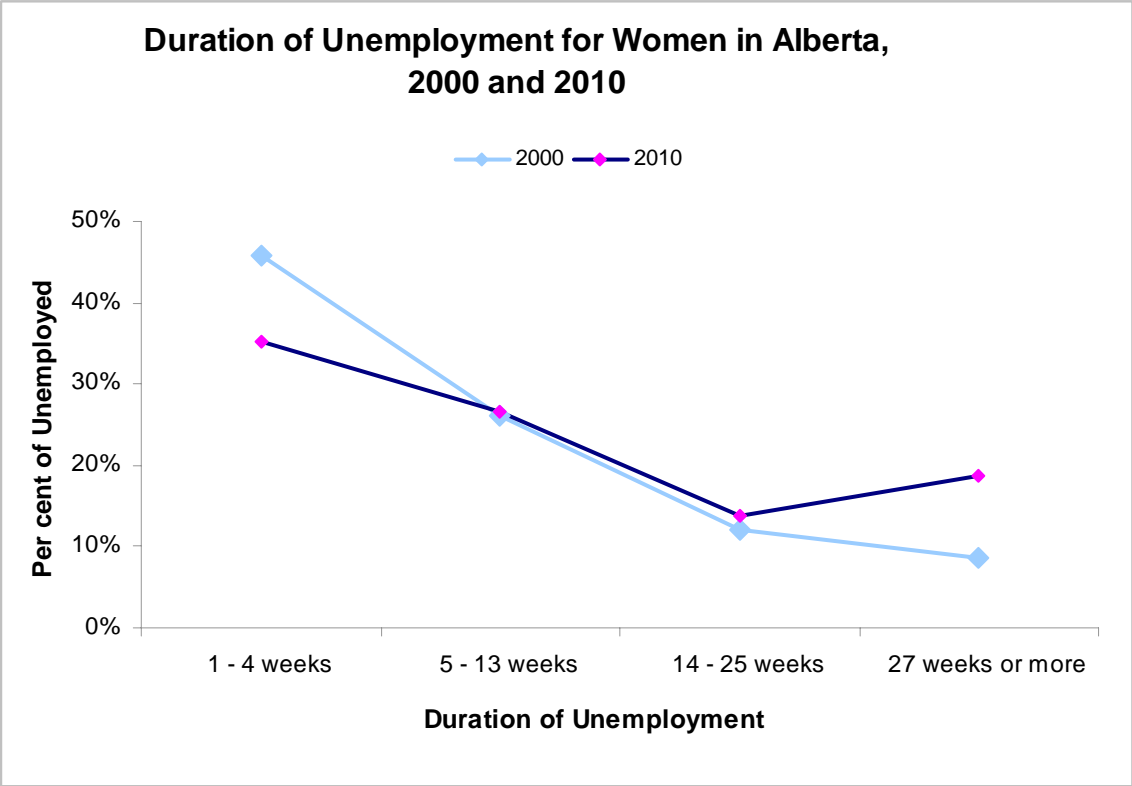
Figure 5



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Figure 6 shows the duration of unemployment for women between 2000 and 2010. The average duration of unemployment for women in Alberta increased from 12.1 weeks in 2000 to 16.8 weeks in 2010. In 2010, 35.3% of women had unemployment duration of between one and four weeks compared to 45.7% ten years ago. Women experienced increases in the duration of unemployment. The largest increase in the duration of unemployment occurred in the more than twenty seven weeks of unemployment which increased by 10.1 percentage points from 2000.

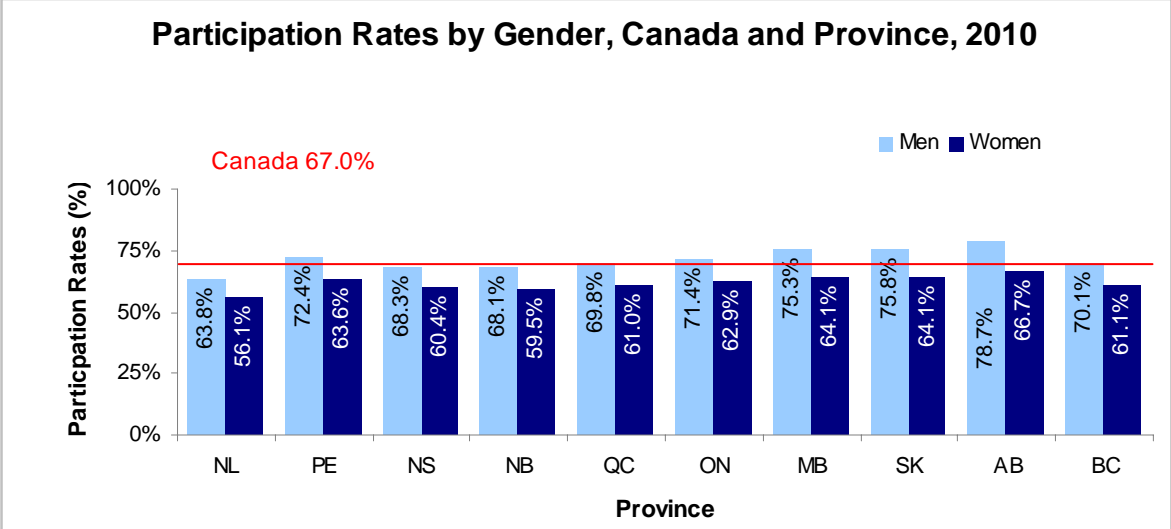
Figure 6



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Figure 7 shows the participation rates by gender in Canada and in each province. In 2010, the participation rate of women in Alberta was 66.7%, the highest among all provinces. This rate was 4.3 percentage points higher than the Canadian female average participation rate of 62.4%. The participation rates of women were lower than that of men in all provinces, with the largest difference of 12.0 percentage points occurring in Alberta.

Figure 7

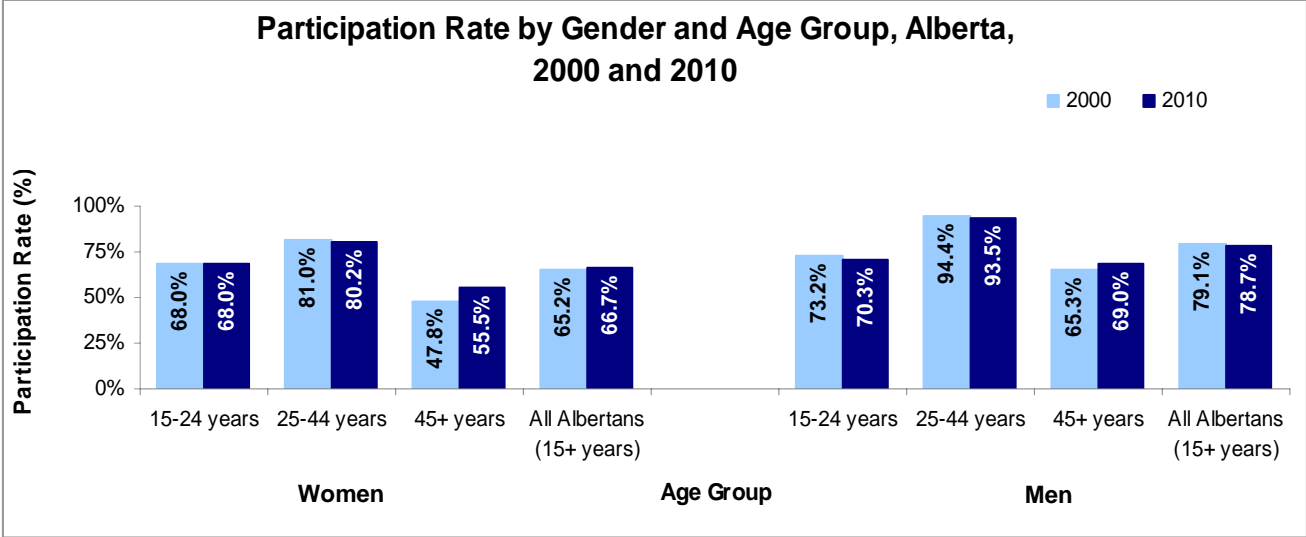


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Figure 8 displays the participation rates by gender and age group in Alberta between 2000 and 2010. The largest increase in the participation rate for both men and women was for those aged 45 years and over, rising 3.7 and 7.7 percentage points respectively.

Between 2000 and 2010, the participation rates for women aged 15 to 24 years remained the same while men in the same age group recorded a decrease of 2.9 percentage points. Overall, the participation rate for women in Alberta increased 1.5 percentage points while the participation rate for men decreased by 0.4 percentage points.

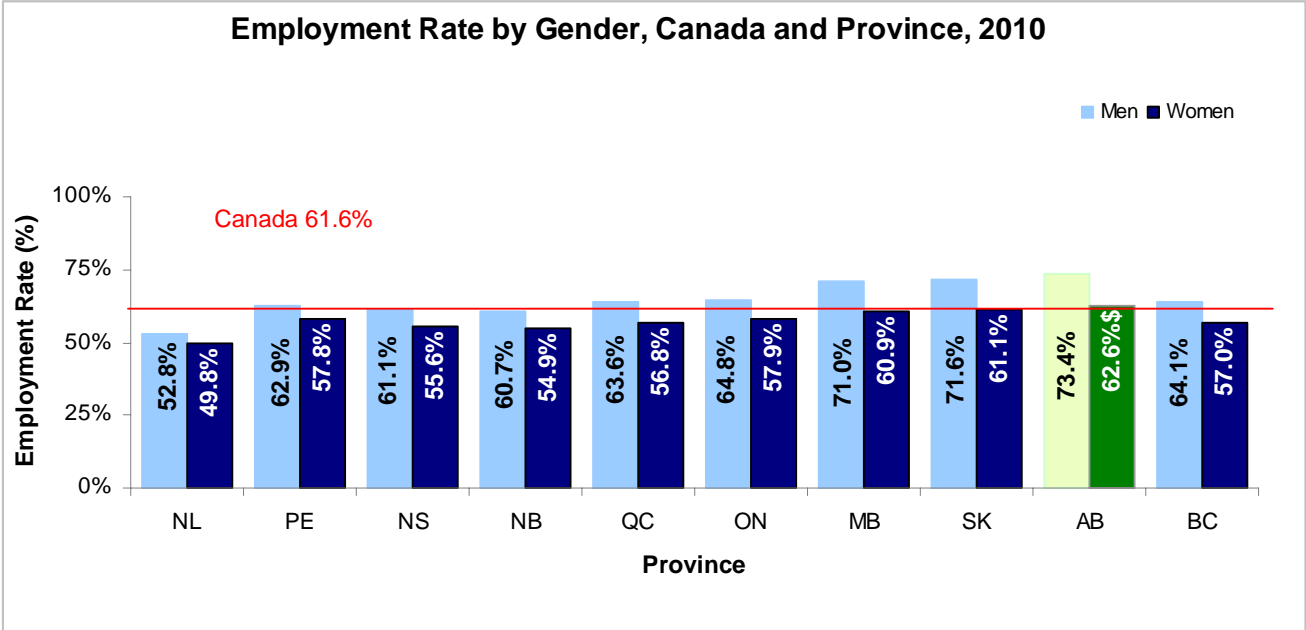
Figure 8



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Figure 9 illustrates the differences in the employment rate by gender in Canada and by province in 2010. The employment rate for women in Alberta was 62.6%, the highest of all the provinces. This rate was 4.7 percentage points above the rate of 57.9% for Canadian women.

Figure 9

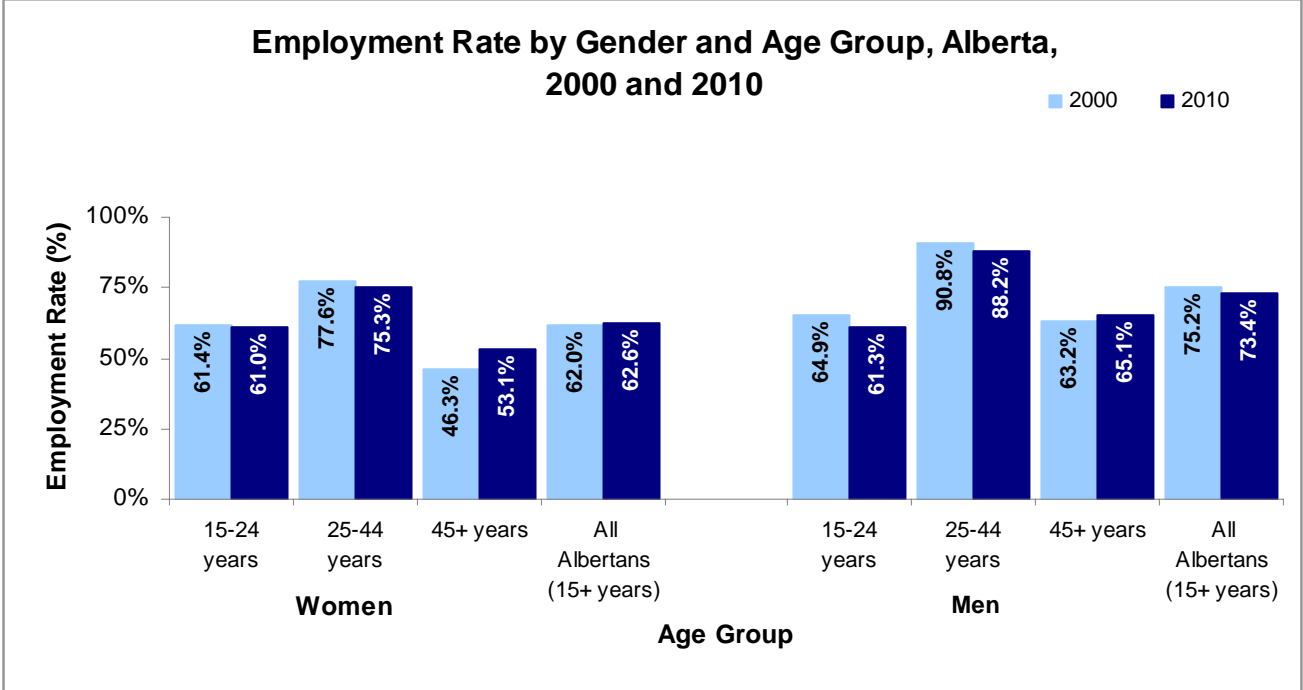


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Figure 10 shows Alberta's employment rate by gender and age group in 2000 and 2010. The employment rates for both men and women were the highest for the 25 to 44 years old age group in both 2000 and 2010. Women aged 15 and above saw a 0.6 percentage point increase in their employment rate in the last 10 years.

The employment rate for women was lower than that for men across all age groups. The greatest differences occurred in the 25 to 44 years old age group where the rate for women was 12.9 percentage points lower than that for men in 2010.

Figure 10



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

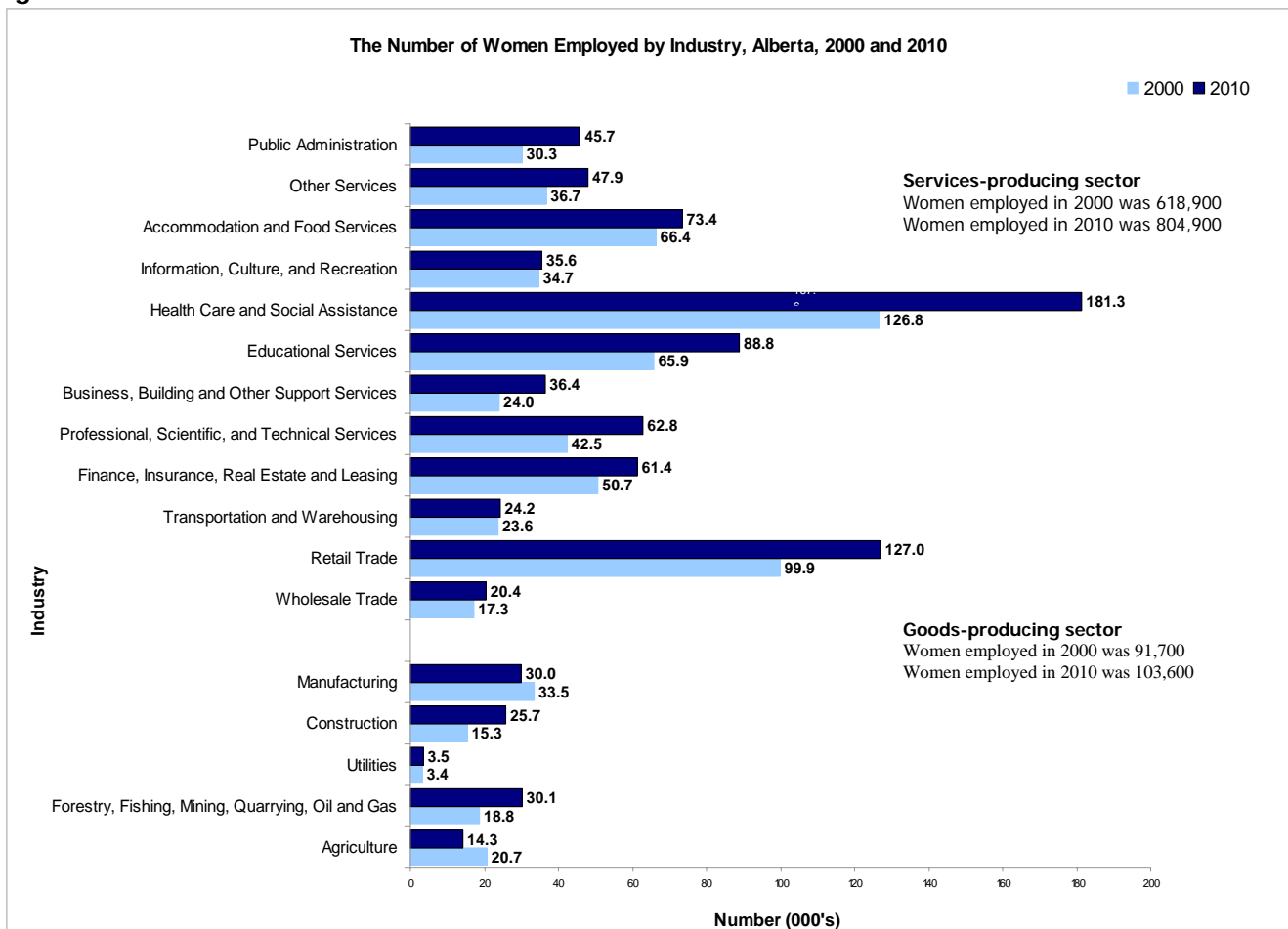
3. Employment of Women in Alberta by Industry

The distribution of women’s employment by industry in Alberta for 2000 and 2010 is shown in Figure 11. The number of women employed in the Services-producing sector in 2010 was 804,900, more than seven times the number in the Goods-producing sector of 103,600.

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry employed the largest number of women in 2010, at 181,300, or 20.0% of all women employed in Alberta. This was followed by the Retail Trade industry which employed 127,000, or 14.0% of all employed women in Alberta. The industry employing the least number of women in Alberta in 2010 was the Utilities industry, at 3,500.

All but two industries experienced a percentage increase in the number of women employed with the greatest percentage change in Construction at 68.0% followed by Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas at 60.1%. Agriculture and Manufacturing showed decreases in the percentages of women employed over the 10 year period. More women than men were employed in the following industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Educational Services; Accommodation and Food Services; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing; Retail Trade; and Public Administration.

Figure 11



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

4. Employment of Women in Alberta by Occupation

Figure 12 shows the number of women employed in various occupations in Alberta in 2000 and 2010. Over the ten-year period, the number of women employed increased across all occupations except in occupations unique to primary industry.¹

The occupations with the largest percentage gains in employment for Alberta women over the past ten years were Health occupations, up 57.9%; Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, up by 54.2%; and Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion, up 49.2%.

Two categories experienced a decline in the number of women employed from 2000 to 2010. The first was in the number of women employed in occupations unique to primary industry which declined by 17.1%; followed by women in Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities which declined by 5.9%.

In 2010, women comprised 80.5% of the people employed in the Health occupations. This was the highest proportion across all occupations. Women in Business, finance and administrative occupations came second at 72.0%. The occupation with the smallest proportion of women employed was Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, at 7.0%.

Figure 12

Women Employed by Occupation Alberta, 2000 and 2010			
	2000	2010	% Growth
Management occupations	52,300	56,800	8.6%
Business, finance and administrative occupations	209,600	255,000	21.7%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	21,200	26,700	25.9%
Health occupations	62,200	98,200	57.9%
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	73,200	109,200	49.2%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	21,400	27,700	29.4%
Sales and services occupations	218,500	278,200	27.3%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	16,900	26,100	54.4%
Occupations unique to primary industry	21,700	18,000	-17.1%
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	13,500	12,700	-5.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

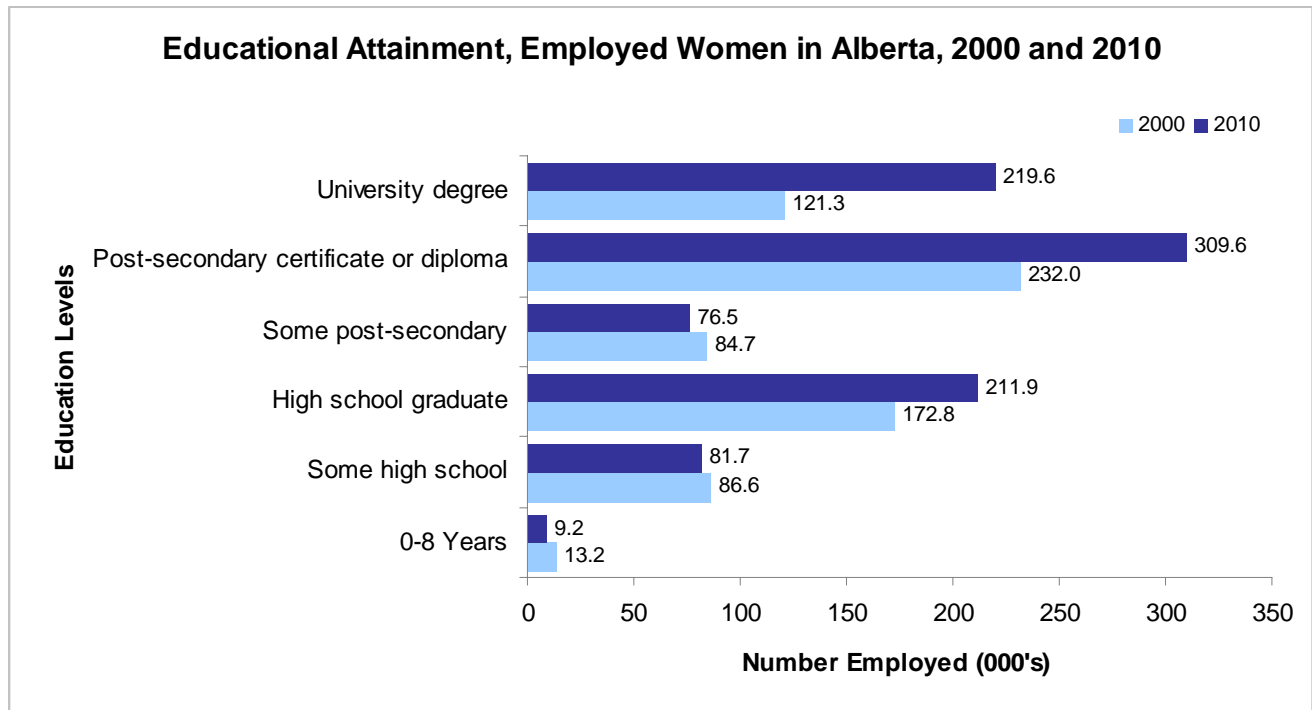
¹ Includes occupations such as farmers; agricultural services contractors; landscaping and grounds maintenance labourers, contractors, managers; silviculture and forestry workers, underground mine service and support workers; oil and gas well drilling workers and services operators, and servicing and related workers; aquaculture and marine harvest labourers; mine labourers etc.

5. Educational Attainment of Employed Women in Alberta

Figure 13 illustrates the number of employed women in Alberta by education levels in 2000 and 2010. More employed women in 2010 had attained higher levels of post secondary of education than those employed in 2000.

The proportion of employed women without High school graduation decreased by 4.0 percentage points and the proportion of employed women with a University degree rose from 17.1% to 24.2% from 2000 to 2010.

Figure 13



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Figure 14 displays the highest level of educational attainment for employed Albertans (15+ years) by gender in 2010. More than half of employed Albertans had attained a post-secondary certificate, diploma or a university degree. Of these, 45.3% were women. The proportion of employed women who had a university degree was 24.2% compared to 21.5% for men.

The proportion of employed women who graduated from high school was 23.3% compared to men at 21.7%. Of employed men, 13.3% had not completed high school, compared to 10.0% of women.

Figure 14

Educational Attainment of Employed Albertans by Gender (15+ years), 2010					
	Albertans	Men		Women	
		Number	%	Number	%
0 - 8 years	1.6%	22,400	2.0%	9,200	1.0%
Some high school	10.2%	124,900	11.3%	81,700	9.0%
High school graduate	22.4%	240,600	21.7%	211,900	23.3%
Some post-secondary	7.8%	81,100	7.3%	76,500	8.4%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	35.2%	401,000	36.2%	309,600	34.1%
University degree	22.7%	238,200	21.5%	219,600	24.2%
Total	100.0%	1,108,100	100.0%	908,500	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

6. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Women in Alberta

Figure 15 shows the percentage change between 2000 and 2010 of the number of women who were employed full-time and part-time by various age groups. Full-time employment for women grew by 30.8% while part-time employment grew by 20.8% between 2000 and 2010.

More women were employed full-time than part-time in 2010 across all age groups except for the 65 years and over age group. However, the percentage growth in full-time employment was highest among women age 65 and over, at 284.6%, followed by those 45 to 64 years of age, at 65.4%. Employment growth in part-time employment was also highest among women 65 years and older, at 140.4%, but declined for women aged 25 to 44 years by 1.1% between 2000 and 2010.

The age group with the largest increase in the number employed between 2000 and 2010 was the 45 to 64 years of age, whose full-time employment increased by 101,300 and part-time employment by 25,600.

Figure 15

Number of Women Employed Full-time and Part-time by Age Group, Alberta, 2000 and 2010					
	2000		2010		% Growth in the Number Employed
	Employed	(15+ years) % of All Women	Employed	(15+ years) % of All Women	
15+ years	710,700		908,500		27.8%
Full-Time	500,500	70.4%	654,600	72.1%	30.8%
Part-Time	210,200	29.6%	253,900	27.9%	20.8%
15-24 years	129,400	18.2%	151,500	16.7%	17.1%
Full-Time	69,900	9.8%	79,400	8.7%	13.6%
Part-Time	59,500	8.4%	72,100	7.9%	21.2%
25-44 years	366,600	51.6%	401,600	44.2%	9.5%
Full-Time	272,900	38.4%	308,900	34.0%	13.2%
Part-Time	93,700	13.2%	92,700	10.2%	-1.1%
45-64 years	207,200	29.2%	334,100	36.8%	61.2%
Full-Time	155,000	21.8%	256,300	28.2%	65.4%
Part-Time	52,200	7.3%	77,800	8.6%	49.0%
65+ years	7,300	1.0%	21,300	2.3%	191.8%
Full Time	2,600	0.4%	10,000	1.1%	284.6%
Part-Time	4,700	0.7%	11,300	1.2%	140.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

7. Average Hourly Wage² of Women in Canada

Figure 16 shows the average hourly wage of employed women in Canada in 2010. Women in Alberta had the highest average hourly wage of \$22.10 in Canada. The Alberta average hourly wage for women was \$1.36 more per hour than the overall Canadian average hourly rate of \$20.74.

Figure 16

Average Hourly Wage of Women in Canada in 2010	
	Average Hourly Wage
Canada	\$20.74
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$19.21
Prince Edward Island	\$18.57
Nova Scotia	\$18.75
New Brunswick	\$17.85
Quebec	\$19.78
Ontario	\$21.48
Manitoba	\$19.33
Saskatchewan	\$20.60
Alberta	\$22.10
British Columbia	\$20.65

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

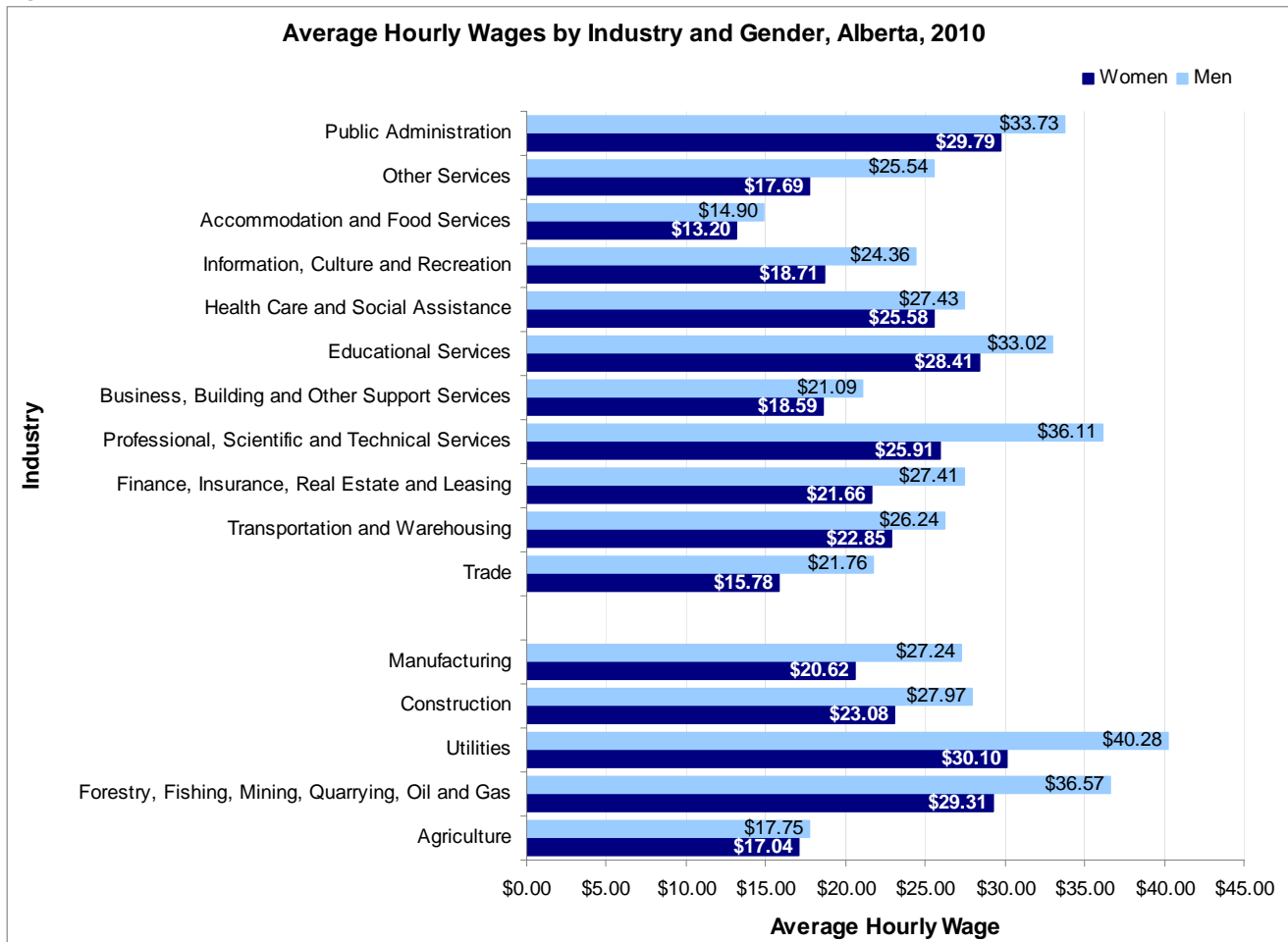
² Weekly and hourly wage rates are calculated in conjunction with usual paid work hours per week.

8. Average Hourly Wage of Women in Alberta by Industry

Figure 17 shows average hourly wages for men and women received in Alberta by industry in 2010. The average hourly wage of all Albertans was \$25.05. The average hourly wage women received was \$22.10. The average hourly wage for men was \$5.59 more than women.

Of all the industry groups, Utilities had the highest average hourly wage for women, at \$30.10 in 2010. Both men and women in the Accommodation and Food Services industries had the lowest average hourly wages, at \$14.90 and \$13.20, respectively. The greatest difference between men's and women's average hourly wages occurred in the Professional, Scientific & Technical Services industries where women were paid, on average, \$10.20 less per hour than men. The smallest difference between men's and women's average hourly wages occurred in the Agriculture industry where women were paid, on average, \$0.71 less per hour than men.

Figure 17



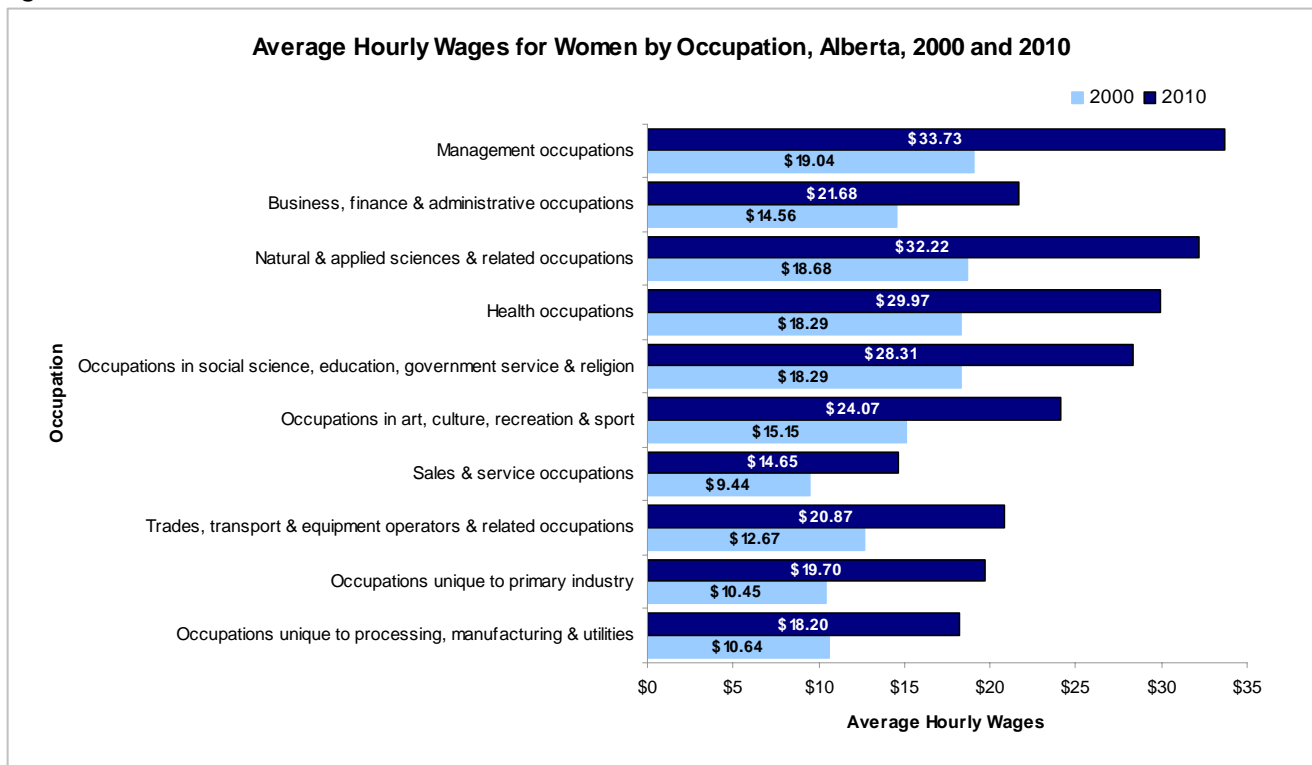
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

9. Average Hourly Wage of Women in Alberta by Occupation

Figure 18 shows the average hourly wages women received in Alberta by occupation in 2000 and 2010. Average hourly wages for women increased across all occupations over the ten years. The three occupations with the largest average hourly wage increase were: Management occupations, up by \$14.69; Natural & applied sciences & related occupations, up by \$13.54; and Health occupations, up by \$11.68. The occupation with the smallest increase in the average hourly wage for women over the ten years was Sales and service occupations which rose \$5.21.

Women in Management occupations received the highest average hourly wage in 2010, at \$33.73, while those employed in the Sales and service occupations received the lowest, at \$14.65.

Figure 18



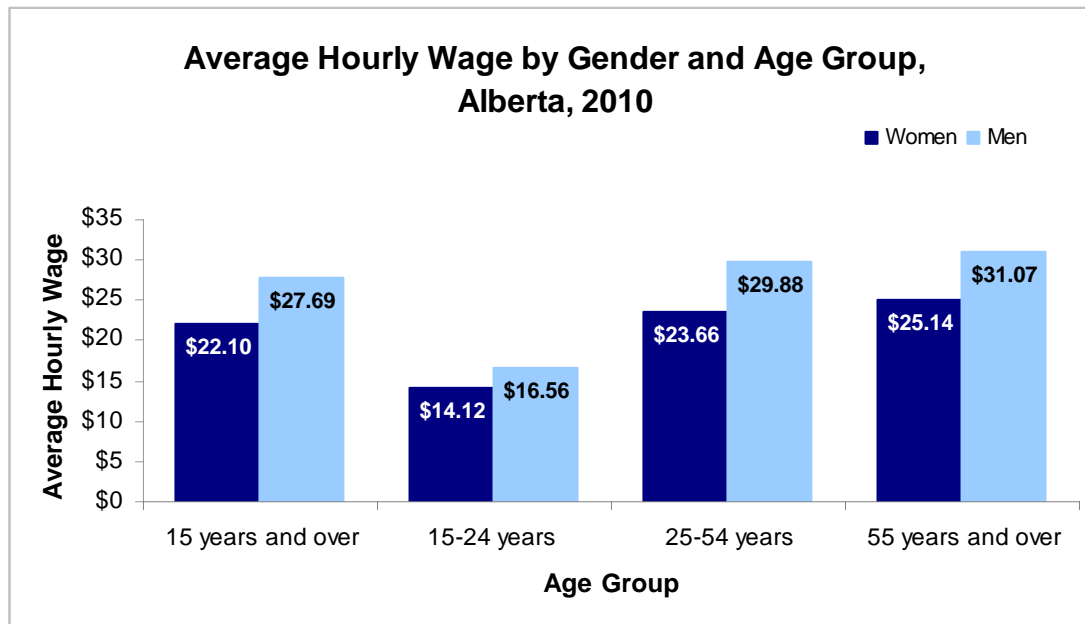
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

10. Average Hourly Wage of Women in Alberta by Age Group

Figure 19 shows the average hourly wage of employed Albertans by age group. Young men and women between the ages of 15 and 24 received the lowest average hourly wages. This was also the age group with the lowest difference in average hourly wages between men and women, of \$2.44. There was a wage difference of \$6.22 for workers 25 to 54 years of age, and \$5.93 for workers 55 years of age and over.

Women aged 55 years and over had the highest average hourly wage, at \$25.14. The average hourly wage for all Albertans was \$25.05 in 2010.

Figure 19



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review 2010

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the establishment for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is the portion of the civilian, non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the survey reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week, usually containing the 15th day of the month, in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years 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. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the most recent job held within the previous year.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. This measure represents the proportion of the said population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Women: For the purpose of this report, women refer to females 15+ years.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and regular members of the Canadian Armed Forces.