



# INDUSTRY PROFILES

**Construction  
Industry**

**2015**

*Alberta*

## Overview:

The [Construction industry](#)<sup>1</sup> in Alberta includes establishments that:

- construct, repair or renovate residential buildings (i.e. houses, apartment buildings, condominiums);
- construct, repair or renovate business and commercial buildings (i.e. office towers, shops, malls);
- construct, repair or renovate industrial buildings (i.e. oil refineries, petrochemical plants, power plants);
- perform engineering works (i.e. highways, bridges, pipelines); and
- subdivide and develop land.

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<sup>1</sup> North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 major group 23

## Section A: Business Environment

### 1. 2013 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

	Alberta	Construction Industry
Number of employed	2,274,600	256,400
Employment Share	N/A	11.3%
Number of unemployed	111,700	13,800
Unemployment rate	4.7%	5.1%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2015

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 the [Labour Force Statistics](#)<sup>2</sup> or [Statistics Canada](#)<sup>3</sup> websites.

### 2. Industry's Growth

- The Construction industry accounted for 11.3% of total employment in Alberta in 2014.
- Employment in this industry is expected to grow at an average rate of -1.0% from 2015 to 2019<sup>4</sup>.
- The industry is expected to account for 10.8% of total employment in Alberta in 2015.

For more information, see the [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\)](#)<sup>5</sup> website for descriptions of industries.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-force-statistics-and-annual-reviews.html>

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

<sup>4</sup> Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2015 – 2019, Industry Employment Outlook

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

### 3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Construction industry accounted for approximately 10.8% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2014, up from 7.7% in 2004. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment increased from 9.1% in 2004 to 11.3% in 2014.

Total employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2014 was 5.1% higher than its level in 2013. Over the last 10 years, employment increased by 95,300 from 2004, a 59.2% increase. There were 256,400 employed in the industry in 2014, of whom 94.1% were full time and 5.9% were part time.

Table 2

Characteristic	Alberta	Construction
Median Retirement Age (years)	62.4	62.9
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	37.5	42.5
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	5.7%	3.2%
Average Job Tenure (months)	88.2	75.4
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	83.1%	73.4%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	19.4%	25.6%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-078 and 282-0084, 2015, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)

Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders in Alberta is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in Alberta by total employment in Alberta. The percentage of multiple jobholders in the industry is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in the industry by total employment in the industry. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

According to *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2013-2023*<sup>6</sup>, employment growth in the following occupations: Plumbers, pipefitters and gas fitters; Carpenters and cabinetmakers; Masonry and plastering trades; Electrical trades; Heavy equipment operators; Crane operators, drillers and blasters; and Other construction trades, is expected to be above Alberta's average rate for all occupations of 1.6%.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://work.alberta.ca/labour/occupational-demand-and-supply-forecast.html>.

#### 4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Construction	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	696,900	36.9%	82,700	43.9%
20 to 99 employees	674,500	35.7%	64,900	34.5%
100 to 500 employees	334,100	17.7%	30,400	16.1%
Over 500 employees	185,200	9.8%	10,400	5.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM 282-0076, 2015

\* 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.

## Section B: Human Resources Profile

### 1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the Construction industry include:

- bricklayer;
- carpenter;
- electrician;
- roofer; and
- steam fitter-pipe fitter.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on educational and skill requirements, visit the [Alberta Occupational Profiles](#)<sup>7</sup> website.

### 2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Construction industry in 2014 was as follows:

- women employed: 37,800 people, or 14.7%
- men employed: 218,500 people, or 85.2%

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 44.8 % and men made up 55.2% of total employment (for all industries).

Table 4

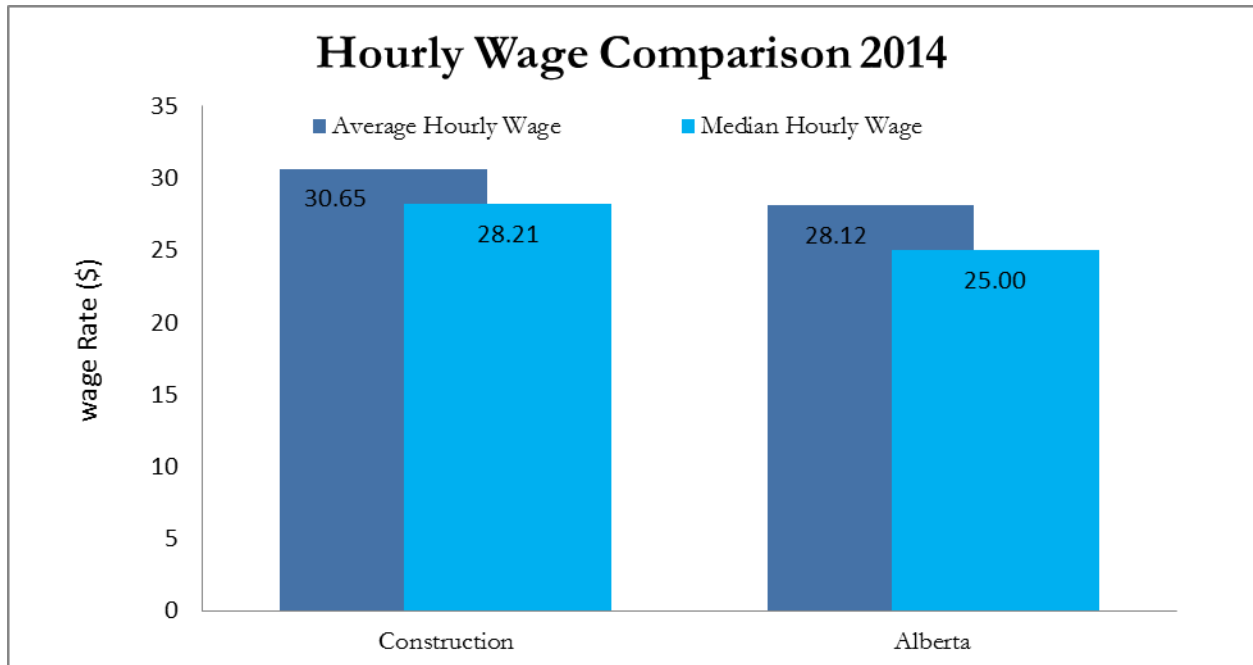
Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Construction	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	354,100	14.8%	38,100	14.1%
25-54 years	1,605,000	67.3%	189,600	70.2%
55 years and over	427,200	17.9%	42,400	15.7%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM 282-0008, 2015

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo>

### 3. Wages and Salaries

Chart 1



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2015  
 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.

Table 5

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Welders and related machine operator	\$ 31.76	\$ 36.90	\$ 42.38	\$ 91,393
Electrician	\$ 27.55	\$ 35.13	\$ 41.62	\$ 77,725
Carpenter	\$ 28.03	\$ 32.53	\$ 37.64	\$ 72,190
Steamfitter-Pipefitter	\$ 28.23	\$ 33.40	\$ 40.90	\$ 76,296

Data Source: 2013 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

## Section C: Additional Information

For more information on the *2013 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the [WAGEinfo](#)<sup>8</sup> website. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education requirements for specific occupations in the Construction industry, visit the [ALIS](#)<sup>9</sup> website.

### Links to Industry Associations

- Alberta Construction Association  
(<http://albertaconstruction.net>)
- Alberta Construction Safety Association  
(<http://www.acsa-safety.org>)
- Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association  
(<http://www.arhca.ab.ca>)
- Calgary Construction Association  
(<http://www.cca.cc>)
- Calgary Region Home Builders Association  
(<http://www.chbacalgary.com>)
- Canadian Home Builders' Association - Alberta  
(<http://chbaalberta.ca>)
- Construction Owners Association of Alberta  
(<http://www.coaa.ab.ca>)
- Construction Sector Council  
(<http://www.csc-ca.org>)
- Edmonton Construction Association  
(<http://www.edmca.com>)
- Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta  
(<http://www.ecaa.ab.ca>)
- Merit Contractors Association  
(<http://www.meritalberta.com>)

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<sup>8</sup> See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo>

<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>



Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- 2014 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Packages
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

[www.work.alberta.ca/labour.html](http://www.work.alberta.ca/labour.html) (see Labour Market Information)

In Edmonton: 780.422.4266

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