



Alberta Public Administration Industry Profile

2021 and 2022

Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

Alberta 

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Overview

The 2021 and 2022 Industry Profile for the Public Administration Industry provides statistics and trends in the labour market for the public administration sector in Alberta. Topics include employment, unemployment, number of businesses, occupation, wages and demographics. All statistics provided are 12-month averages for the year. The statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey and the Alberta Wage and Salary Survey.

The public administration¹ industry in Alberta includes federal, provincial and local government services such as:

- defence services;
- police, judicial, correctional and other protective services;
- labour, employment and immigration services;
- foreign affairs and international assistance;
- fire-fighting services; and
- regulatory services.

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

¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2017 major group 91.

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	103,200	108,200
Employment share	N/A	N/A	4.6%	4.6%
Unemployment	211,400	146,500	2,700	2,600
Unemployment rate	8.6%	5.8%	2.5%	2.3%
Labour force	2,471,000	2,522,600	105,900	110,800
Share of labour force	N/A	N/A	4.3%	4.4%

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

Note: N/A denotes not applicable. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employed persons in this industry by total employment in Alberta. Share of labour force is obtained by dividing the number in the labour force for this industry by the total labour force in Alberta.

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

Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts,² the public administration industry accounted for 5.2% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021, an increase from 4.3% in 2011. Between 2012 and 2022, this industry's contribution to Alberta's employment rose from 4.4% to 4.6%.

Total employment in the public administration industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people 15 years and over) in 2022 was 4.8% higher than its level in 2021. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry rose by 12,100, a 12.6% increase. There were 108,200 people employed in the industry in 2022, of whom 94.5% were full-time and 5.5% were part-time.

TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	Alberta		Industry	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Median retirement age (years)	64.5	65.2	65.5	65.3
Average number of hours worked per week	36.4	36.4	37.0	36.1
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	5.8%	6.0%	5.5%	5.1%
Average job tenure (months)	97.2	93.3	129.0	126.5
Employees under union coverage (%)	21.6%	20.4%	70.1%	63.0%
Employees working overtime per week (%)	17.1%	16.8%	18.4%	18.9%

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).

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.

² See Statistics Canada. [Table 36-10-0400-01](#) Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories, percentage share. Alberta Public Administration 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%	20,800	20.2%
20 to 99 employees	683,400	35.7%	32,100	31.1%
100 to 500 employees	347,400	18.1%	30,100	29.2%
More than 500 employees	223,400	11.7%	20,200	19.6%

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%	19,500	18.0%
20 to 99 employees	700,900	34.6%	26,900	24.9%
100 to 500 employees	389,500	19.2%	34,400	31.8%
More than 500 employees	264,800	13.1%	27,300	25.2%

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)

Employee 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%	324	45.6%
20 to 99 employees	16,765	9.8%	229	32.2%
100 to 500 employees	2,847	1.7%	129	18.1%
More than 500 employees	334	0.2%	29	4.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register, Table: [33-10-0493-01](#).

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

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

Employee 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%	334	45.8%
20 to 99 employees	17,735	10.2%	234	32.1%
100 to 500 employees	2,991	1.7%	133	18.2%
More than 500 employees	360	0.2%	29	4.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register, 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 locations by employment size ranges.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the public administration industry include:

- correctional officer;
- firefighter;
- occupational health and safety inspector;
- customs inspector; and
- judge.

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 public administration industry with above average forecasted growth³ between 2023 and 2025 include:

- land surveyors;
- translators, terminologists and interpreters; and
- natural and applied science policy researchers, consultants and program officers.

Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2022, workers in the public administration industry are:

- slightly more likely to be female than the general workforce; and
- more likely to be of core working age 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%	55,000	53.3%
Females	1,050,400	46.5%	48,200	46.7%

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%	57,000	52.7%
Females	1,118,100	47.1%	51,200	47.3%

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%	3,700	3.6%
25 to 54 years	1,525,500	67.5%	78,700	76.3%
55 years and over	453,400	20.1%	20,900	20.3%

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%	6,000	5.5%
25 to 54 years	1,611,400	67.8%	81,400	75.2%
55 years and over	454,600	19.1%	20,700	19.1%

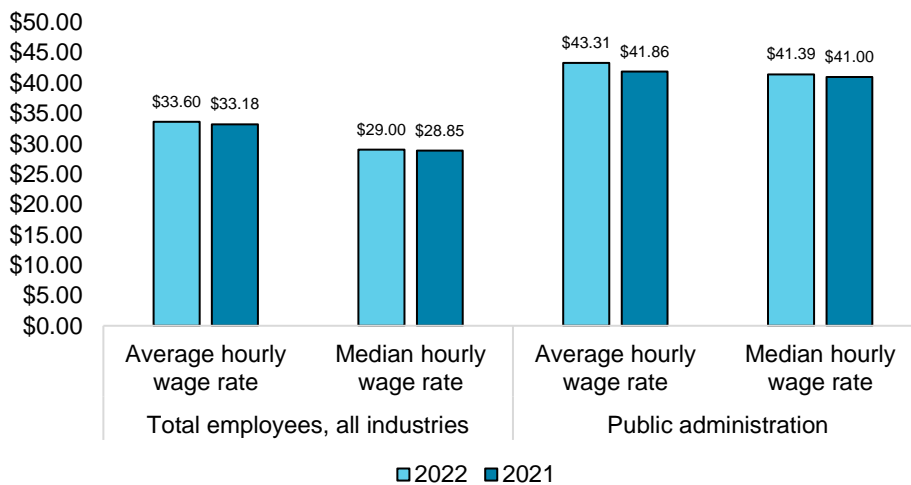
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

* 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

Occupation	Employment in Alberta			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Urban and land use planners	\$42.80	\$56.23	\$59.05	\$100,319
Social workers	\$40.10	\$51.93	\$51.93	\$93,936
Economists and economic policy researchers and analysts	\$38.67	\$48.87	\$50.69	\$89,698
Police officers (except commissioned)	\$53.52	\$53.52	\$55.13	\$105,938
Firefighters	\$47.98	\$47.98	\$47.98	\$93,429

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 public administration industry, visit the [ALIS website](#).

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Industry Associations

- [Alberta Union of Provincial Employees](#)
- [Canadian Union of Public Employees – Alberta](#)
- [Calgary Police Association](#)
- [Edmonton Police Association](#)
- [Calgary Firefighters Association](#)
- [Edmonton Firefighters Association](#)