

# Alberta Public Administration Industry Profile

2018 and 2019

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Alberta Labour and Immigration

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- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

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# Overview

The Public Administration industry<sup>1</sup> 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;
- regulatory services.

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

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<sup>1</sup> NAICS 2017 major group 91

# Section A: Business Environment

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

**Table 1**

		Alberta	Public Administration Industry
Employment	2019	2,343,000	115,000
	2018	2,330,700	109,600
Employment Share	2019	N/A	4.9%
	2018	N/A	4.7%
Unemployment	2019	173,200	3,400
	2018	164,100	2,900
Unemployment rate	2019	6.9%	2.9%
	2018	6.6%	2.6%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0023-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0008), 2019. 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 Public Administration industry accounted for 4.9% of total employment in Alberta in 2019, a 0.2 percentage point increase from 2018.
- Employment in this industry is expected to increase at an average rate of 0.7% from 2019 to 2023<sup>2</sup>.
- The industry is expected to account for 4.7% 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.

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

### 3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent data from Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Public Administration industry accounted for approximately 4.6% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018, up from 4.3% in 2008. In 2019, the GDP share was 4.6%, a 0.3 percentage point decline from 2009. Between 2008 and 2018 its contribution to Alberta's total employment increased from 4.2% to 4.7%, and between 2009 and 2019 it also increased from 4.3% to 4.9%.

Total employment in the Public Administration industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2019 was 4.9% higher than its level in 2018. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry increased by 27,200 from 2009, a 31.0% increase. There were 115,000 people employed in the industry in 2019, of whom 95% were full time and 5% were part time.

In the short-term, employment growth in Public Administration is expected to remain relatively flat in 2020, as the broader economy is being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Table 2**

Characteristic		Alberta	Public Administration
Median Retirement Age (years)	2019	65.4	66.0
	2018	64.9	62.6
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	2019	36.1	36.7
	2018	37.1	37.2
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	2019	6.2%	5.3%
	2018	6.3%	6.0%
Average Job Tenure (months)	2019	92.8	123.7
	2018	92.4	116.6
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	2019	24.6%	63.2%
	2018	24.5%	63.3%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	2019	23.0%	25.2%
	2018	22.7%	24.0%

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 Public Administration	
		Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	2019	650,100	32.8%	16,900	14.7%
	2018	656,500	34.0%	24,000	21.9%
20 to 99 employees	2019	736,200	37.2%	40,300	35.0%
	2018	711,600	36.9%	31,000	28.3%
100 to 500 employees	2019	370,900	18.7%	35,300	30.7%
	2018	362,400	18.8%	32,600	29.7%
More than 500 employees	2019	223,200	11.3%	22,500	19.6%
	2018	198,900	10.3%	22,000	20.1%

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: 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 Public Administration	
		Number of Businesses	%	Number of Businesses	%
Less than 20 employees	2019	154,090	87.9%	335	46.7%
	2018	153,855	87.7%	333	46.0%
20 to 99 employees	2019	18,014	10.3%	224	31.2%
	2018	18,123	10.3%	223	30.8%
100 to 499 employees	2019	2,949	1.7%	131	18.3%
	2018	3,000	1.7%	136	18.8%
500+ employees	2019	332	0.2%	27	3.8%
	2018	368	0.2%	32	4.4%
Total	2019	175,385	100%	717	100%
	2018	175,346	100%	724	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 Public Administration industry include:

- correctional officer;
- firefighter;
- occupational health and safety inspector;
- customs inspector;
- 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](#) website.

## 2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Public Administration industry in 2019 was as follows:

- women employed: 57,000 people, or 49.6%, an increase from 47.6% in 2018
- men employed: 58,100 people, or 50.5%, a decrease from 52.4% 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**

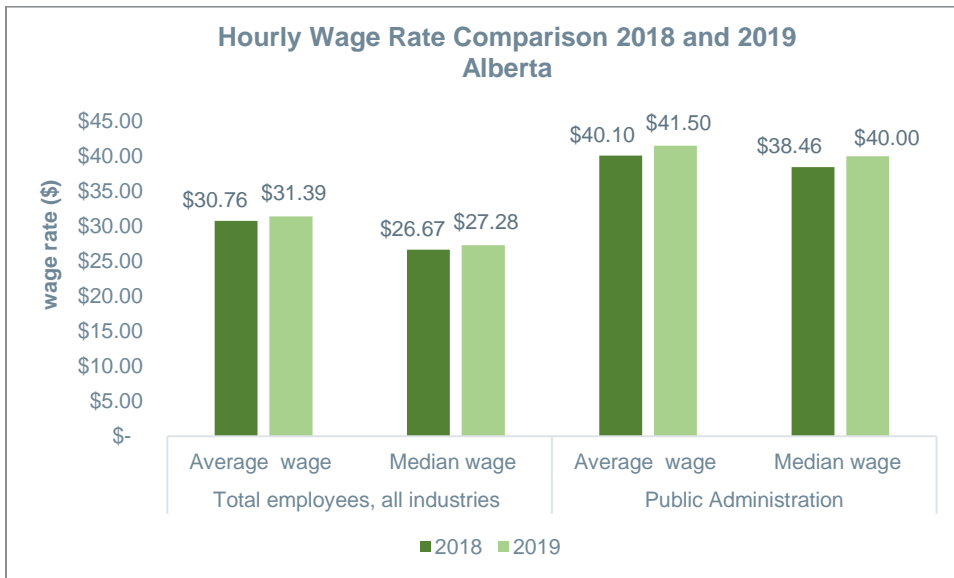
Age Characteristics		Employment in Alberta		Employment in Public Administration	
		Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	2019	285,700	12.2%	4,100	3.6%
	2018	285,800	12.3%	4,300	3.9%
25-54 years	2019	1,590,500	67.9%	88,900	77.3%
	2018	1,587,200	68.1%	86,500	78.9%
55 years and over	2019	466,900	19.9%	22,000	19.1%
	2018	457,800	19.6%	18,800	17.2%

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

\*Percentages may not add up to 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	
Economist/ economic policy researcher	2019	\$38.43	\$47.46	\$50.38	\$87,202
	2017	\$38.43	\$47.73	\$50.38	\$86,975
Firefighter	2019	\$46.36	\$46.36	\$46.36	\$83,118
	2018	\$44.80	\$46.36	\$47.14	\$92,382
Correctional service officer	2019	\$29.79	\$37.26	\$37.39	\$75,595
	2017	\$28.56	\$33.97	\$36.05	\$70,423

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

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 Public Administration industry, visit the [ALIS](#) website.

# Section C: Additional Information

## Links to Industry Associations

- Alberta Union of Provincial Employees  
(<https://www.aupe.org/>)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees – Alberta  
(<https://cupe.ca/alberta>)
- Calgary Police Association  
(<https://www.backtheblue.ca/>)
- Edmonton Police Association  
(<https://theepa.ca/>)
- Calgary Firefighters Association  
(<https://calgaryfirefighters.org/>)