



Alberta Public Administration Industry Profile 2023

Jobs, Economy and Trade



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Overview

The 2023 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.
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Section A: Business Environment

Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

TABLE 1: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS, 2023

	Alberta	Industry
Employment	2,461,100	114,000
Employment share	N/A	4.6%
Unemployment	154,100	1,900
Unemployment rate	5.9%	1.6%
Labour force	2,615,200	115,900
Share of labour force	N/A	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 5.0% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022, an increase from 4.5% in 2012. Between 2013 and 2023, this industry's contribution to Alberta's remained unchanged at 4.6%.

Total employment in the public administration industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people 15 years and over) in 2023 was 4.3% higher than its level in 2022. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry rose by 18,000, an 18.8% increase. There were 114,000 people employed in the industry in 2023, of whom 94.9% were full-time and 5.1% were part-time.

TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS, 2023

Characteristic	Alberta	Industry
Median retirement age (years)	64.8	59.7
Average number of hours worked per week	36.6	37.4
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	6.0%	5.5%
Average job tenure (months)	94.9	124
Employees under union coverage (%)	21.4%	70.4%
Employees working overtime per week (%)	15.9%	21.0%

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, 2023 | Jobs, Economy and Trade

Size of Businesses by Industry

TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT BY ESTABLISHMENT SIZE, 2023

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Number of Employees	Share of Total*	Number of Employees	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	671,700	31.8%	17,800	15.6%
20 to 99 employees	728,300	34.5%	34,700	30.4%
100 to 500 employees	425,000	20.1%	36,300	31.8%
More than 500 employees	286,900	13.6%	25,200	22.1%

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: CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNTS, WITH EMPLOYEES, 2023

Employee Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Industry	
	Business Counts	Share of Total*	Business Counts	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	153,543	87.5%	374	49.0%
20 to 99 employees	18,319	10.4%	196	25.7%
100 to 500 employees	3,159	1.8%	170	22.3%
More than 500 employees	362	0.2%	24	3.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register, Table: [33-10-0806-01](#).

* 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 2024 and 2026 include:

- land surveyors;
- translators, terminologists and interpreters; and
- health policy researchers, consultants and program officers.

Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2023, workers in the public administration industry are:

- 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 5: EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER, 2023

Gender	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total
Males	1,310,800	53.3%	59,200	51.9%
Females	1,150,300	46.7%	54,800	48.1%

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

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

TABLE 6: EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP, 2023

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Industry	
	Number	Share of Total	Number	Share of Total
15 to 24 years	313,000	12.7%	4,700	4.1%
25 to 54 years	1,667,700	67.8%	87,900	77.1%
55 years and over	480,400	19.5%	21,400	18.8%

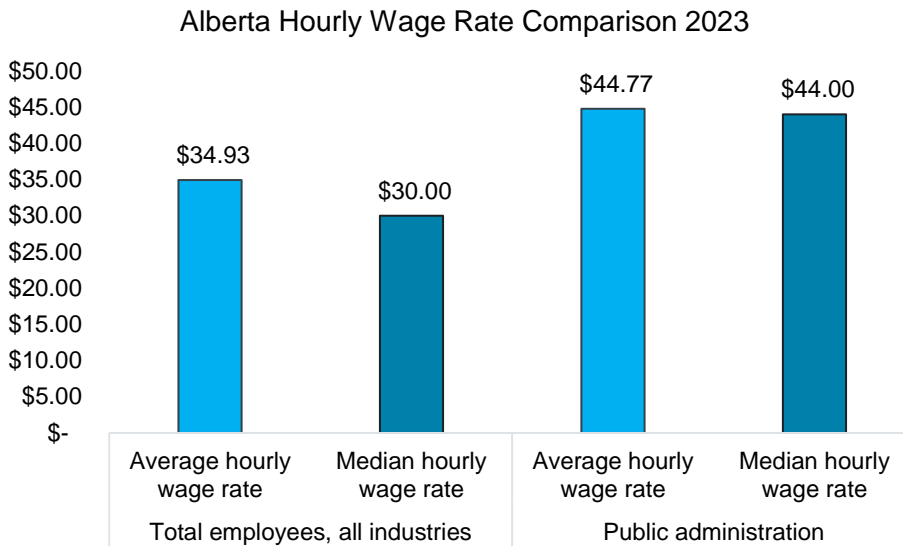
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

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

³ <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/albertas-occupational-outlook>

Wages and Salaries

CHART 1



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 7: 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](#)

For More Information

We at Alberta Jobs, Economy and Trade are committed to providing ongoing labour market information and insights.

We encourage readers to visit our website for the latest updates on Alberta's labour market outlook and to provide feedback on this report. You can find us at: <https://www.alberta.ca/labour-market-information> or contact us at JET.LFSAnalyst@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for your interest in Alberta's Industry Profiles.