Alberta Forestry Industry Profile

2018 and 2019

Alberta Labour and Immigration

Alberta

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Overview

The Forestry and Logging with Support Activities industry[1] in Alberta includes establishments that:

- produce seedlings in specialized nurseries and gathering forest products such as gums, barks, and balsam needles;
- grow or harvest timber on a long production cycle (10 years or more);
- provide related support services.

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

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[1] NAICS 2017 major group 113 and 1153

Section A: Business Environment

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

Table 1

		Alberta	Forestry and Logging with Support Activities Industry
Employment	2019	2,343,000	3,600
	2018	2,330,700	5,700
Employment Share	2019	N/A	0.2%
	2018	N/A	0.2%
Unemployment	2019	173,200	N/A
	2018	164,100	N/A
Unemployment rate	2019	6.9%	N/A
	2018	6.6%	N/A

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0023-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0008), 2019
Note: 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 Forestry and Logging Support Activities industry accounted for 0.2% of total employment in Alberta in 2019, unchanged from 2018.
- Employment in this industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 1.2% from 2019 to 2023[2].
- The industry is expected to account for 0.2% of total employment in Alberta in 2020.
- The outlook for the above projections was completed prior to the economic shocks 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.

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[2] Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2019 – 2023, Industry Employment Outlook

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Forestry and Logging with Support Activities industry accounted for approximately 0.2% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018 and 2019, unchanged from 2008 and 2009. Between 2008 and 2018, this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment remained steady at 0.2%, and between 2009 and 2019 it also remained steady at 0.2%.

Total employment in the Forestry and Logging with Support Activities industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2019 was 36.8% lower than its level in 2018. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry increased by 500 from 2009, a 16.1% increase. There were 3,600 people employed in the industry in 2019, of whom 3,300 were full-time.

In the short-term, employment growth in the Forestry and Logging with Support Activities industry is expected to shrink in 2020, as the broader economy is being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2

Characteristic		Alberta	Forestry, Fishing, Mining and Oil and Gas*
Median Retirement Age (years)	2019	65.4	58.3
	2018	64.9	60.0
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	2019	36.1	44.8
	2018	37.1	45.4
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	2019	6.2%	3.2%
	2018	6.3%	3.6%
Average Job Tenure (months)	2019	92.8	84.0
	2018	92.4	78.4
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	2019	24.6%	11.7%
	2018	24.5%	10.8%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	2019	23.0%	35.4%
	2018	22.7%	36.4%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 14-10-0037-01, 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)
* Forestry and Logging with Support Activities is grouped with Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas due to sample size.
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 Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas*	
		Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	2019	650,100	32.8%	24,000	18.2%
	2018	656,500	34.0%	28,700	21.0%
20 to 99 employees	2019	736,200	37.2%	36,700	27.8%
	2018	711,600	36.9%	42,500	31.1%
100 to 500 employees	2019	370,900	18.7%	29,300	22.2%
	2018	362,400	18.8%	30,300	22.1%
More than 500 employees	2019	223,200	11.3%	41,900	31.8%
	2018	198,900	10.3%	35,200	25.7%

Data Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 14-10-0068-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0076), 2019
* Numbers and percentages refer to Fishing, Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction, and Forestry and Logging with Support Activities. These are grouped together for establishment size.
** 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 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting*	
		Number of Businesses	%	Number of Businesses	%
Less than 20 employees	2019	154,090	87.9%	5,831	95.5%
	2018	153,855	87.7%	5,737	95.6%
20 to 99 employees	2019	18,014	10.3%	255	4.2%
	2018	18,123	10.3%	243	4.1%
100 to 499 employees	2019	2,949	1.7%	19	0.3%
	2018	3,000	1.7%	19	0.3%
500+ employees	2019	332	0.2%	1	0.0%
	2018	368	0.2%	1	0.0%
Total	2019	175,385	100%	6,106	100%
	2018	175,346	100%	6,000	100%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Business Counts, CANSIM Tables: 33-10-0105-01 (2018) and 33-10-0222-01 (2019)
*Available data aggregated for NAICS code 11
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupation Information

Some examples of occupations in the Forestry and Logging with Support Activities industry include:

- forest technologist and technician;
- forester;
- logging equipment operator;
- conservation officer;
- park warden.

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 Forestry and Logging with Support Activities industry in 2019 was as follows:

- women employed: 900 people, or 25.0%, a decrease from 26.3% in 2018
- men employed: 2,700 people, or 75.0%,. an increase from 73.7% 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.
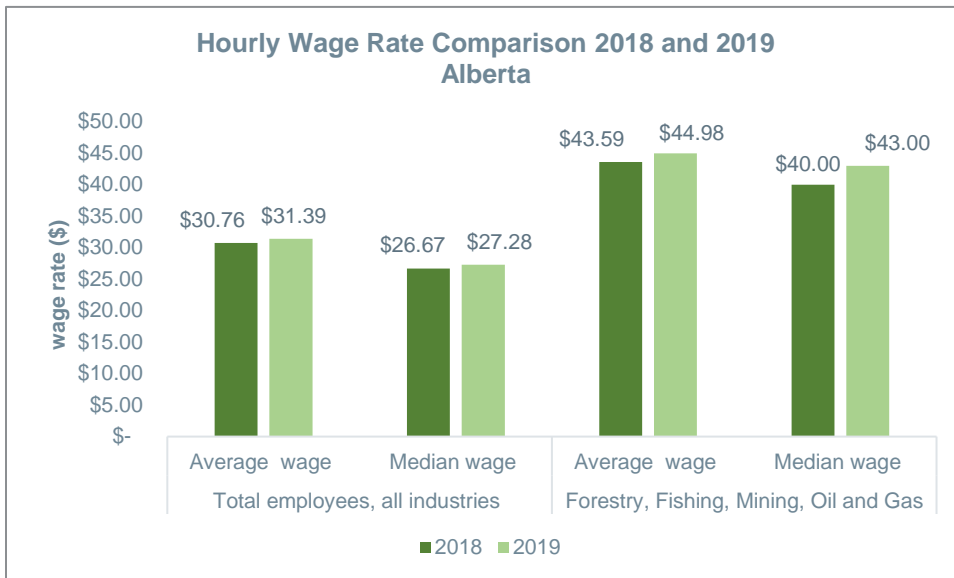
Table 5

Age Characteristics		Employment in Alberta		Employment in Forestry and Logging with Support Activities	
		Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	2019	285,700	12.2%	N/A	N/A
	2018	285,800	12.3%	900	15.8%
25-54 years	2019	1,590,500	67.9%	2,600	72.2%
	2018	1,587,200	68.1%	3,300	57.9%
55 years and over	2019	466,900	19.9%	N/A	N/A
	2018	457,800	19.6%	1,500	26.3%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0023-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0008), 2019
*Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

3. Wage and Salaries

Chart 1

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0064-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0072), 2019
*Forestry and logging is grouped with fishing, mining, oil and gas because of small sample size.
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.

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4. Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 6

Occupation		Median Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
		Starting	Overall	Top	
Truck driver	2019	$27.50	$30.00	$31.00	$75,426
	2017	$25.00	$28.00	$30.00	$74,684
Logging machinery operator	2019	$22.00	$26.60	$34.00	$50,228
	2017	$25.00	$28.00	$30.00	$66,548

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 Forestry and Logging with Support Activities industry, visit the ALIS website.

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Industry Associations

- Alberta Forest Products Association
  (http://albertaforestproducts.ca/)
- College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists
  (https://capft.ca/)