



# Alberta Forestry Industry Profile 2021 and 2022

Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

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**Contents**

<b>Overview .....</b>	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
<b>Section A: Business Environment.....</b>	<b>5</b>
• Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics	5
• Facts, Trends and Outlook	5
• Size of Businesses by Industry	6
<b>Section B: Human Resources Profile.....</b>	<b>8</b>
• Occupational Information	8
• Demographics: Gender and Age	8
• Wages and Salaries	9
• Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations	10
<b>Section C: Additional Information .....</b>	<b>11</b>
• Links to Industry Associations	11

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## Overview

The 2021 and 2022 Industry Profile for the Forestry Industry provides statistics and trends in the labour market for the forestry and logging and support activities for logging 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 forestry industry<sup>1</sup> in Alberta includes establishments that:

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2022 major group 113.  
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# 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	2,200	5,300
Employment share	N/A	N/A	0.1%	0.2%
Unemployment	211,400	146,500	x	x
Unemployment rate	8.6%	5.8%	x	x
Labour force	2,471,000	2,522,600	2,400	5,700
Share of labour force	N/A	N/A	0.1%	0.2%

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

Note: N/A denotes not applicable, and x means suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*. Employment share was obtained by dividing the employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta. Industry data is representative of forestry and logging and support activities for forestry.

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

### Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts,<sup>2</sup> the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry accounted for approximately 1.89% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021, an increase from 1.68% observed in 2011. Between 2012 and 2022, this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment declined from 8.0% to 5.8%.

Total employment in the forestry industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people aged 15 years and over) in 2022 was 3,100 higher than its level in 2021. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry increased by 1,400 (up 35.9% compared to 2012). In 2022, there were 5,300 people employed in this industry, all of whom were full-time workers.

**TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS**

Characteristic	Alberta		Industry	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Median retirement age (years)	64.5	65.2	N/A	N/A
Average number of hours worked per week	36.4	36.4	45.5	46.9
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	5.8%	6.0%	2.5%	2.3%
Average job tenure (months)	97.2	93.3	95.2	93.8
Employees under union coverage	21.6%	20.4%	6.9%	7.1%
Employees working overtime per week	17.1%	16.8%	28.1%	28.8%

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).

Note: N/A denotes not available. The percentage of multiple job holders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple job holders 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. Industry data is representative of forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas - industries are grouped due to sample size.

<sup>2</sup> See Statistics Canada. [Table 36-10-0400-01](#) Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories, percentage share. Alberta Forestry 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%	23,100	17.8%
20 to 99 employees	683,400	35.7%	38,900	30.0%
100 to 500 employees	347,400	18.1%	24,800	19.1%
More than 500 employees	223,400	11.7%	42,800	33.0%

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. Industry data is representative of forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas.

**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%	25,500	20.5%
20 to 99 employees	700,900	34.6%	37,700	30.4%
100 to 500 employees	389,500	19.2%	23,900	19.3%
More than 500 employees	264,800	13.1%	37,000	29.8%

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. Industry data is representative of forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas - industries are grouped due to sample size.

**TABLE 5: CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNTS, WITH EMPLOYEES (2021)**

Establishment 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%	5,764	95.0%
20 to 99 employees	16,765	9.8%	284	4.7%
100 to 500 employees	2,847	1.7%	18	0.3%
More than 500 employees	334	0.2%	..	..

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [33-10-0493-01](#).

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

.. not available for a specific reference period.

Note: Industry data is representative of agriculture forestry, fishing and hunting - industries are grouped due to sample size.

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

Establishment 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%	5,776	95.3%
20 to 99 employees	17,735	10.2%	263	4.3%
100 to 500 employees	2,991	1.7%	22	0.4%
More than 500 employees	360	0.2%	1	0.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [33-10-0661-01](#).

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

Note: Industry data is representative of agriculture forestry, fishing and hunting - industries are grouped due to sample size.

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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 establishments by employment size ranges.

## Section B: Human Resources Profile

### Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the forestry industry include:

- forest technologist and technician;
- forester;
- logging equipment operator;
- conservation officer; and
- 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](#) webpage.

### Occupational Growth

Some occupations in the forestry industry with above average forecasted growth<sup>3</sup> between 2023 and 2025 include:

- harvesting, landscaping and natural resources labourers; and
- landscaping and grounds maintenance labourers.

### Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2022, workers in the forestry industry were as follows:

- more likely to be male than the general workforce; and
- younger 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%	1,800	81.8%
Females	1,050,400	46.5%	x	x

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

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

Note: x means suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*. Industry data is representative of forestry and logging and support activities for forestry.

**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%	5,100	96.2%
Females	1,118,100	47.1%	x	x

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

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

Note: x means suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*. Industry data is representative of forestry and logging and support activities for forestry.

<sup>3</sup> <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%	x	x
25 to 54 years	1,525,500	67.5%	x	x
55 years and over	453,400	20.1%	x	x

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

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

Note: x means suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.

**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%	2,100	39.6%
25 to 54 years	1,611,400	67.8%	2,800	52.8%
55 years and over	454,600	19.1%	x	x

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

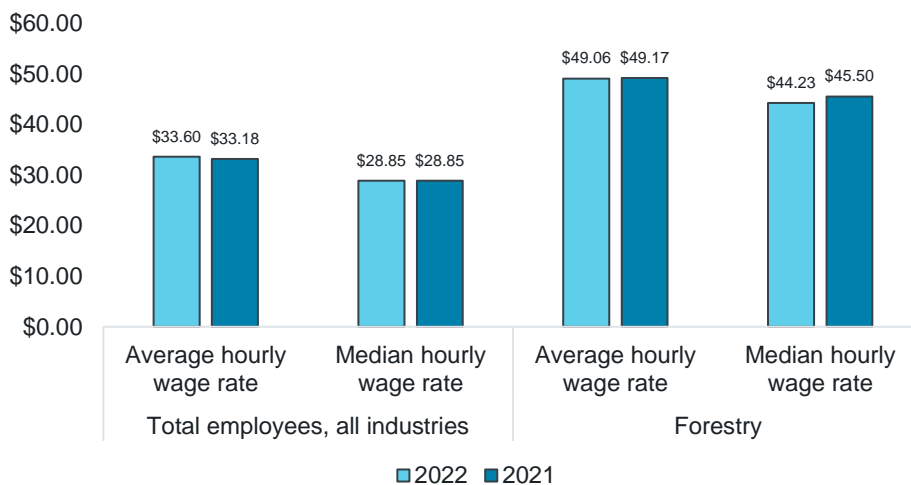
\* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: x means suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*. Industry data is representative of forestry and logging and support activities for forestry.

## 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. Industry data is representative of forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas - industries are grouped due to sample size.

## Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

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TABLE 11: WAGE AND SALARY BY OCCUPATION, 2021

Occupations	Employment in Alberta			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Transport truck drivers	\$25.28	\$28.79	\$32.74	\$64,892
Logging machinery operators	\$27.57	\$33.85	\$40.41	\$64,912

Source: 2021 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey (AWSS). The AWSS is conducted once every two years.

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More information on wages and salaries is available [online](#). For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the manufacturing industry, visit the [ALIS website](#).

## Section C: Additional Information

### Links to Industry Associations

- [Alberta Forest Products Association](#)
- [College of Alberta Professional Forest Management Professionals](#)