



Alberta Forestry Industry Profile 2023

Jobs, Economy and Trade



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Contents

Overview	4
Section A: Business Environment.....	5
• Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics	5
• Facts, Trends and Outlook	5
• Size of Businesses by Industry	6
Section B: Human Resources Profile	7
• Occupational Information	7
• Occupational Growth	7
• Demographics: Gender and Age	7
• Wages and Salaries	8
• Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations	8
Section C: Additional Information	9
• Links to Industry Associations	9

Overview

The 2023 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 industry¹ 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.

¹ 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, 2023

	Alberta	Industry
Employment	2,461,100	3,600
Employment share	N/A	0.1%
Unemployment	154,100	x
Unemployment rate	5.9%	x
Labour force	2,615,200	4,300
Share of labour force	N/A	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,² the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry accounted for approximately 2.5% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022, an increase from 1.6% observed in 2012. Between 2013 and 2023, this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment remained constant at 0.1%.

Total employment in the forestry industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people aged 15 years and over) in 2023 was 32.1% lower than its level in 2022. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry increased by 1,100 (up 44% compared to 2013). In 2023, there were 3,600 people employed in this industry, all of whom were full-time workers.

TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS, 2023

Characteristic	Alberta	Industry
Median retirement age (years)	64.8	x
Average number of hours worked per week	36.6	46.1
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	6.0%	3.4%
Average job tenure (months)	94.9	97.7
Employees under union coverage	21.4%	9.9%
Employees working overtime per week	15.9%	25.7%

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

² 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 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%	20,600	16.4%
20 to 99 employees	728,300	34.5%	35,200	28.0%
100 to 500 employees	425,000	20.1%	30,600	24.4%
More than 500 employees	286,900	13.6%	39,100	31.2%

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

TABLE 4: CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNTS, WITH EMPLOYEES, 2023

Establishment 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%	5,734	95.3%
20 to 99 employees	18,319	10.4%	258	4.3%
100 to 500 employees	3,159	1.8%	23	0.4%
More than 500 employees	362	0.2%	1	0.0%

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

* 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.

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 growth³ between 2024 and 2026 include:

- landscape and horticulture technicians and specialists; and
- contractors and supervisors, landscaping, grounds maintenance and horticulture services.

Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2023, 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 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%	3,300	100.0%
Females	1,150,300	46.7%	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 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%	x	x
25 to 54 years	1,667,700	67.8%	2,400	66.7%
55 years and over	480,400	19.5%	x	x

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

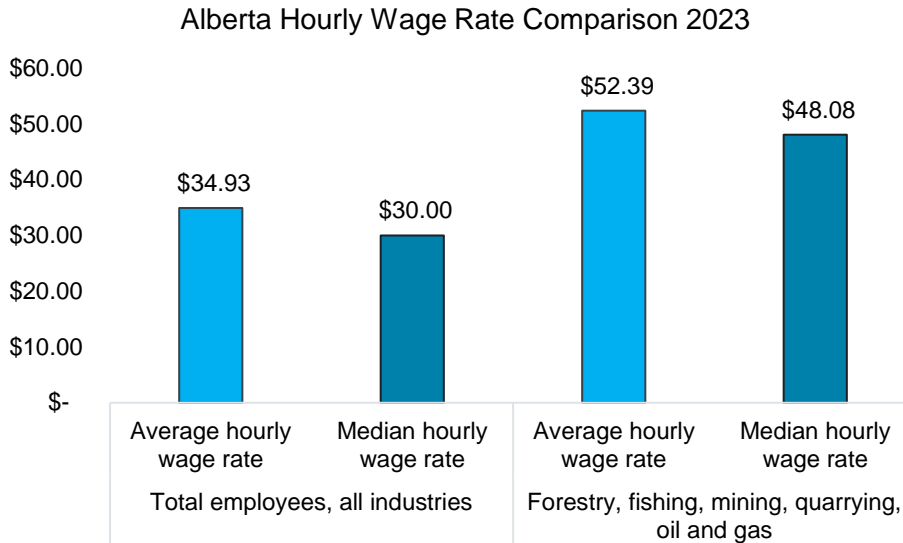
* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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.

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. 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

TABLE 7: 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.

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

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.