



Alberta Accommodation and Food Services Industry Profile 2021 and 2022

Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

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Email: lbr.lfsanalyst@gov.ab.ca

In Edmonton: 780.422.4266

Long distance: 1.800.661.3753

This publication is available online at <https://www.alberta.ca/job-market-trends-profiles.aspx>

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Overview

The 2021 and 2022 Industry Profile for the Accommodation and Food Services Industry provides statistics and trends in the labour market for the accommodation and food 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 accommodation and food services industry¹ in Alberta includes establishments that:

- provide short-term lodging and complementary services (e.g., hotels, motor hotels, resorts, motels, bed and breakfast; accommodation, housekeeping cottages and cabins, recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds and hunting and fishing camps); and
- prepare customer meals, snacks and beverages for immediate consumption on or off the premises.

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 72.

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	112,300	128,500
Employment share	N/A	N/A	5.0%	5.4%
Unemployment	211,400	146,500	11,500	5,900
Unemployment rate	8.6%	5.8%	9.3%	4.4%
Labour force	2,471,000	2,522,600	123,800	134,500
Share of labour force	N/A	N/A	5.0%	5.3%

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 [Alberta Labour Force Statistics](#) or [Statistics Canada](#).

Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts,² the accommodation and food services industry accounted for 1.57% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021, a decrease from 1.93% observed in 2011. Between 2012 and 2022, this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment declined from 6.7% to 5.4%.

Total employment for the accommodation and food services industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people aged 15 years and over) in 2022 was 14.4% higher than its level in 2021. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry decreased by 17,400 (down 11.9% compared to 2012). In 2022, there were 128,500 people employed in the Accommodation and Food Services industry engaged in full-time employment (57.7%) and part-time employment (42.3%).

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	27.6	29.2
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	5.8%	6.0%	8.5%	6.8%
Average job tenure (months)	97.2	93.3	51.4	47.3
Employees under union coverage	21.6%	20.4%	x	2.6%
Employees working overtime per week	17.1%	16.8%	5.9%	8.2%

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. X denotes that data is suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.

² See Statistics Canada. [Table 36-10-0400-01](#) Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories, percentage share. Alberta Accommodation and Food Services 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%	57,500	55.2%
20 to 99 employees	683,400	35.7%	42,700	41.0%
100 to 500 employees	347,400	18.1%	2,700	2.6%
More than 500 employees	223,400	11.7%	x	N/A

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. x denotes that the data was suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.

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%	66,400	56.0%
20 to 99 employees	700,900	34.6%	46,100	38.9%
100 to 500 employees	389,500	19.2%	4,400	3.7%
More than 500 employees	264,800	13.1%	1,600	1.4%

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 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%	6,804	71.8%
20 to 99 employees	16,765	9.8%	2,528	26.7%
100 to 500 employees	2,847	1.7%	138	1.5%
More than 500 employees	334	0.2%	8	0.1%

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

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

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%	6,884	70.4%
20 to 99 employees	17,735	10.2%	2,719	27.8%
100 to 500 employees	2,991	1.7%	171	1.7%
More than 500 employees	360	0.2%	7	0.1%

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

* 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 establishments by employment size ranges.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the accommodation and food services industry include:

- bartender;
- chef;
- hotel and motel desk clerk;
- restaurant manager;
- housekeeping attendant; and
- food service supervisor.

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 accommodation and food services industry with above average forecasted growth³ between 2023 and 2025 include:

- accommodation, travel, tourism and related services supervisors;
- food service supervisors;
- food and beverage servers; and
- fish and seafood plant workers.

Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2022, workers in the accommodation and food services industry were:

- more likely to be female 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%	45,300	40.3%
Females	1,050,400	46.5%	66,900	59.6%

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

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

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%	53,600	41.7%
Females	1,118,100	47.1%	74,900	58.3%

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>

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%	47,800	42.6%
25 to 54 years	1,525,500	67.5%	56,900	50.7%
55 years and over	453,400	20.1%	7,600	6.8%

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

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

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%	57,600	44.8%
25 to 54 years	1,611,400	67.8%	57,700	44.9%
55 years and over	454,600	19.1%	13,200	10.3%

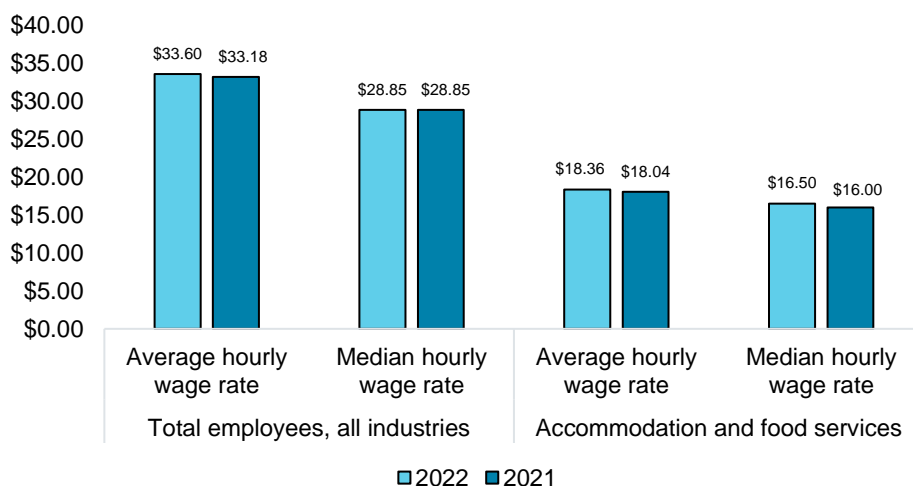
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

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

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.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

TABLE 11: WAGE AND SALARY BY OCCUPATION, 2021

Occupations	Employment in Alberta			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Restaurant and food service managers	\$20.86	\$25.13	\$32.88	\$51,150
Hotel front desk clerks	\$15.96	\$16.97	\$18.35	\$29,285
Chefs	\$24.66	\$26.76	\$28.46	\$52,454
Bartenders	\$15.28	\$15.78	\$16.98	\$19,469

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 accommodation and food services industry, visit the [ALIS website](#).

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Industry Associations

- [Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association](#)
- [Restaurants Canada](#)
- [Canadian Association of Food Service Professionals](#)
- [Hotel Association of Canada](#)
- [Canadian Professional Bartenders Association](#)