

Alberta Accommodation and Food Services Industry Profile 2018 and 2019

Alberta Labour and Immigration

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Email: lbr.lfsanalyst@gov.ab.ca

<https://www.alberta.ca/labour-market-information.aspx>

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Overview

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 Classifications System \(NAICS\) Canada 2017](#) for descriptions of industries.

¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2012 major group 72

Section A: Business Environment

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

Table 1

		Alberta	Accommodation and Food Services Industry
Employment	2019	2,343,000	146,100
	2018	2,330,700	147,500
Employment Share	2019	N/A	6.2%
	2018	N/A	6.3%
Unemployment	2019	173,200	8,400
	2018	164,100	7,000
Unemployment rate	2019	6.9%	5.4%
	2018	6.6%	4.5%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table: 14-10-0023-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0008), 2019

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 Accommodation and Food Services industry accounted for 6.2% of total employment in Alberta in 2019, a 0.1 percentage point decline from 2018.
- Employment in this industry is expected to increase at an average rate of 1.2% from 2019 to 2023².
- The industry is expected to account for 6.3% of total employment in Alberta in 2020.
- The outlook for the above projections was completed prior to the economic decline 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.

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

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Accommodation and Food Services industry accounted for approximately 2.0% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018, unchanged from 2.0% in 2008. In 2019, the GDP share was 2.1%, a 0.1 percentage point decline from 2009. Between 2008 and 2018, this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment increased from 5.9% to 6.3%, and between 2009 and 2019 decreased 6.4% to 6.2%.

Total employment for the Accommodation and Food Services industry (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2019 was 0.9% lower than its level in 2018. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry increased by 15,800 from 2009, a 12.1% increase. There were 146,100 employed in the industry in 2019, of whom 59.5% were full time and 40.5% were part time.

In the short-term, employment growth in Accommodation and Food Services is expected to shrink in 2020, as the broader economy is being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2

Characteristic		Alberta	Accommodation and Food Services Industry *
Median Retirement Age (years)	2019	65.4	N/A
	2018	64.9	N/A
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	2019	36.1	29.9
	2018	37.1	32.0
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	2019	6.2%	8.5%
	2018	6.3%	9.0%
Average Job Tenure (months)	2019	92.8	43.6
	2018	92.4	43.6.6
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	2019	24.6%	2.0%
	2018	24.5%	3.3%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	2019	23.0%	10.7%
	2018	22.7%	10.9%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 14-10-0037-01 (formerly: CANSIM 282-0022), 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)

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 Accommodation and Food Service	
		Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	2019	650,100	32.8%	61,900	45.3%
	2018	656,500	34.0%	64,400	47.5%
20 to 99 employees	2019	736,200	37.2%	64,400	47.1%
	2018	711,600	36.9%	55,700	41.1%
100 to 500 employees	2019	370,900	18.7%	8,900	6.5%
	2018	362,400	18.8%	14,000	10.3%
More than 500 employees	2019	223,200	11.3%	1,500	1.1%
	2018	198,900	10.3%	1,500	1.1%

Data Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 14-10-0068-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0076), 2019

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 Accommodation and Food Service	
		Number of Businesses	%	Number of Businesses	%
Less than 20 employees	2019	154,090	87.9%	6,881	68.9%
	2018	153,855	87.7%	6,827	69.3%
20 to 99 employees	2019	18,014	10.3%	2,906	29.1%
	2018	18,123	10.3%	2,811	28.6%
100 to 499 employees	2019	2,949	1.7%	188	1.9%
	2018	3,000	1.7%	198	2.0%
500+ employees	2019	332	0.2%	8	0.1%
	2018	368	0.2%	9	0.1%
Total	2019	175,385	100%	9,983	100%
	2018	175,346	100%	9,845	100%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Business Counts, CANSIM Tables: 33-10-0105-01 (2018) and 33-10-0222-01 (2019)

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupation 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](#) website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Accommodation and Food Services industry in 2019 was as follows:

- women employed: 83,400 people, or 57.1%, a decrease from 60.1% in 2018
- men employed: 62,600 people, or 42.8%, an increase from 39.9% 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

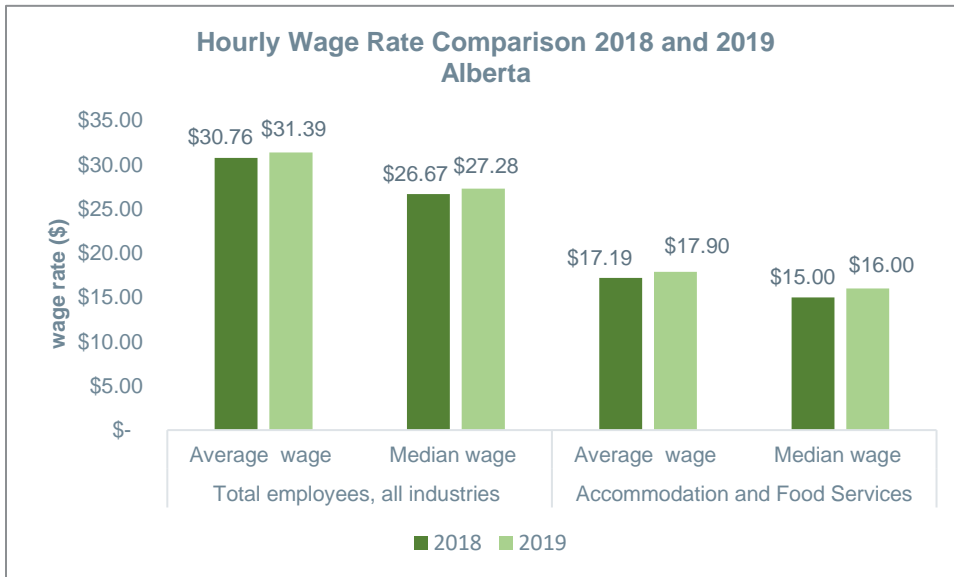
Age Characteristics		Employment in Alberta		Employment in Accommodation and Food Service	
		Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	2019	285,700	12.2%	56,900	38.9%
	2018	285,800	12.3%	57,400	38.9%
25-54 years	2019	1,590,500	67.9%	75,000	51.3%
	2018	1,587,200	68.1%	78,200	53.0%
55 years and over	2019	466,900	19.9%	14,200	9.7%
	2018	457,800	19.6%	11,900	8.1%

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 282-0072, 2019

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.

4. Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 6

Occupation		Median Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
		Starting	Overall	Top	
Restaurant and food service managers	2019	\$ 19.49	\$ 21.75	\$ 26.00	\$ 46,751
	2017	\$17.75	\$19.23	\$22.00	\$43,175
Hotel front desk clerk	2019	\$ 15.19	\$ 16.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 28,639
	2017	\$14.00	\$15.00	\$16.10	\$26,828
Chef	2019	\$ 18.75	\$ 21.63	\$ 24.26	\$ 47,314
	2017	\$18.44	\$20.30	\$22.52	\$44,692
Bartender	2019	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.25	\$ 20,917
	2017	\$12.20	\$12.20	\$12.20	\$17,975

Data Source: 2017 & 2019 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey (AWSS). The AWSS is done once every 2 years

Note: Due to methodological changes, a direct comparison of survey results from different years is not recommended.

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 Accommodation and Food Service industry, visit the [ALIS](#) website.

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Industry Associations

- Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association
(<https://www.ahla.ca/>)
- Restaurants Canada
(<https://www.restaurantscanada.org/>)
- Canadian Association of Food Service Professionals
(<https://cafp.ca/>)
- Hotel Association of Canada
(<http://www.hotelassociation.ca/>)
- Canadian Professional Bartenders Association
(<http://canadianbartenders.com/>)