



Alberta Accommodation and Food Services Industry Profile 2023

Jobs, Economy and Trade



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Overview

The 2023 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 breakfasts, accommodations, 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.
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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	132,400
Employment share	N/A	5.4%
Unemployment	154,100	8,700
Unemployment rate	5.9%	6.2%
Labour force	2,615,200	141,000
Share of labour force	N/A	5.4%

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 1.8% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022, a decrease from 2.0% observed in 2012. Between 2013 and 2023, this industry's contribution to Alberta's total employment declined from 6.3% 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 2023 was 3.0% higher than its level in 2022. Over the last 10 years, employment in this industry decreased by 7,800 (down 5.6% compared to 2013). In 2023, there were 132,400 people employed in the accommodation and food services industry engaged in full-time employment (57.9%) and part-time employment (42.1%).

TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS, 2023

Characteristic	Alberta	Industry
Median retirement age (years)	64.8	N/A
Average number of hours worked per week	36.6	28.9
Multiple job holders (% of total employment)	6.0%	6.7%
Average job tenure (months)	94.9	44.7
Employees under union coverage	21.4%	2.1%
Employees working overtime per week	15.9%	7.3%

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.

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, 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%	60,100	48.0%
20 to 99 employees	728,300	34.5%	57,800	46.2%
100 to 500 employees	425,000	20.1%	4,800	3.8%
More than 500 employees	286,900	13.6%	2,500	2.0%

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.

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%	6,901	69.8%
20 to 99 employees	18,319	10.4%	2,809	28.4%
100 to 500 employees	3,159	1.8%	165	1.7%
More than 500 employees	362	0.2%	7	0.1%

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

* 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 2024 and 2026 include:

- accommodation, travel, tourism and related services supervisors;
- accommodation service managers;
- food service supervisors; and
- food and beverage servers.

Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2023, 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 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%	50,900	38.4%
Females	1,150,300	46.7%	81,500	61.6%

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

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

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%	57,200	43.2%
25 to 54 years	1,667,700	67.8%	63,000	47.6%
55 years and over	480,400	19.5%	12,200	9.2%

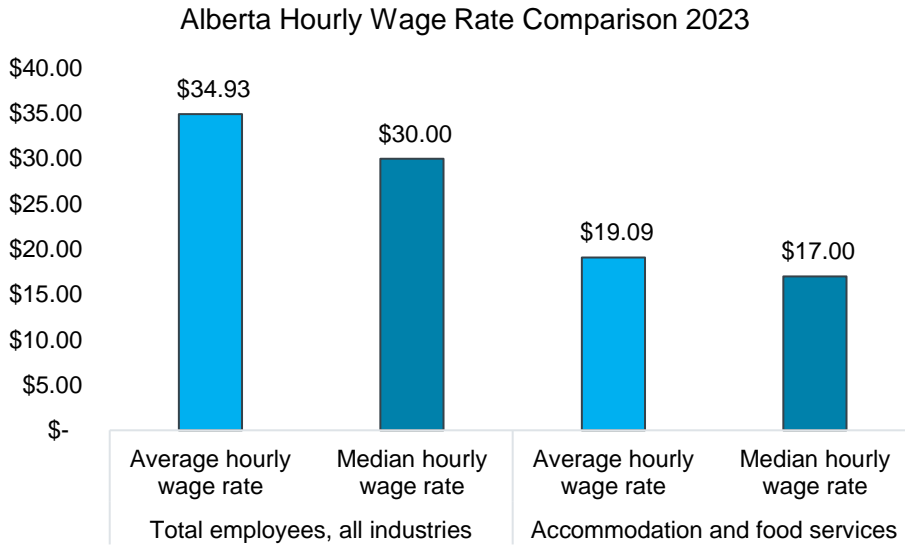
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0023-01](#).

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

³ <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/albertas-occupational-outlook>

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.

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	
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](#)

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.