

Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services Open Data

Income Support (IS)

Program Overview

Income Support (IS) provides financial benefits to individuals and families in Alberta who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs, including food, clothing, and shelter.

The data presents households receiving support payments for a specific month and presents the average monthly caseload from December 2005 to the present. A household could consist of one or more members and the composition of the caseload is made up of single individuals, lone-parent families, couples with children and couples without children.

Income Support open data was first published in May 2015 and is presented as a portion of the entire Alberta population. The data describes the actual average volume each month as well as by fiscal year. The data is updated in the third week of the month and includes the following measures:

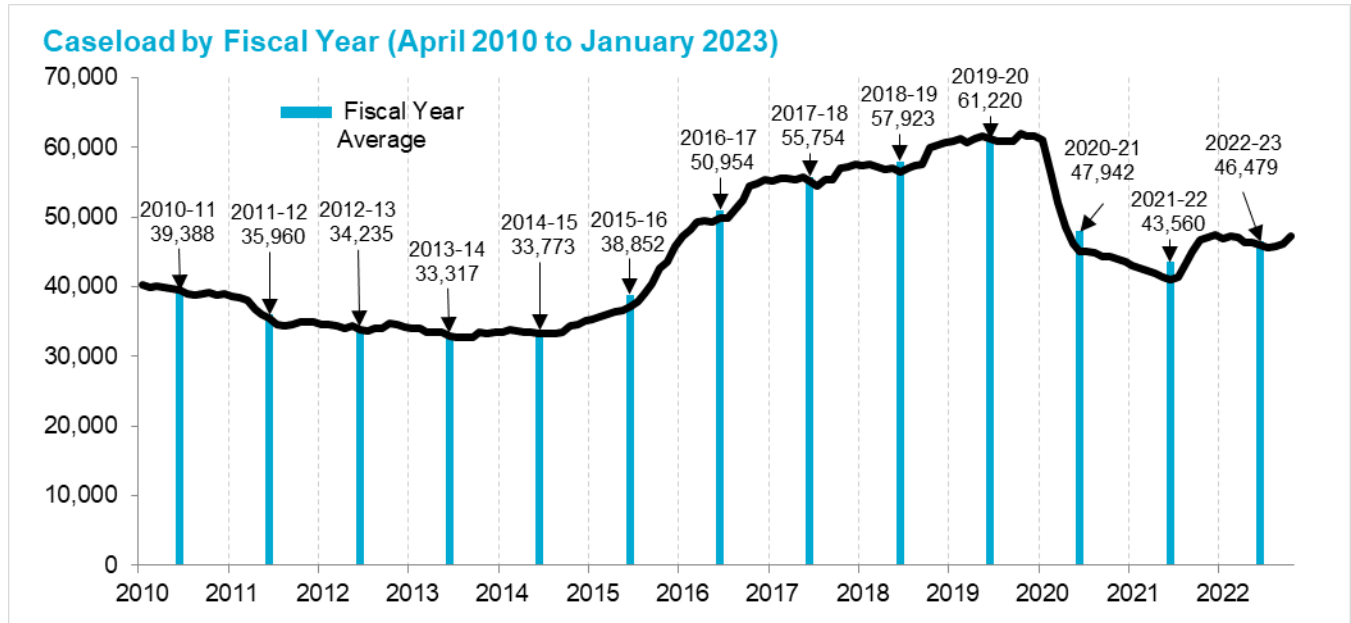
- [Caseload by Fiscal Year](#)
- [Caseload by Client Type](#)
- [Caseload by Family Composition](#)
- [Caseload by SCSS Region](#)
- [Caseload by Age Group](#), and
- [Caseload by Client Gender](#)

Data Summary for January 2023

Caseload by Fiscal Year (April 2010 to January 2023) [\[back to top\]](#)

The Income Support Caseload¹ for January 2023 was 47,316; an increase of 2.5% from the previous month.

- From January 2022 to January 2023, the Income Support Caseload showed an increase of 1.4%.



Note: All regions report that the primary factor for reduced Income Support caseloads for December 2020 to October 2021 is due to Albertans accessing the federal government's Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

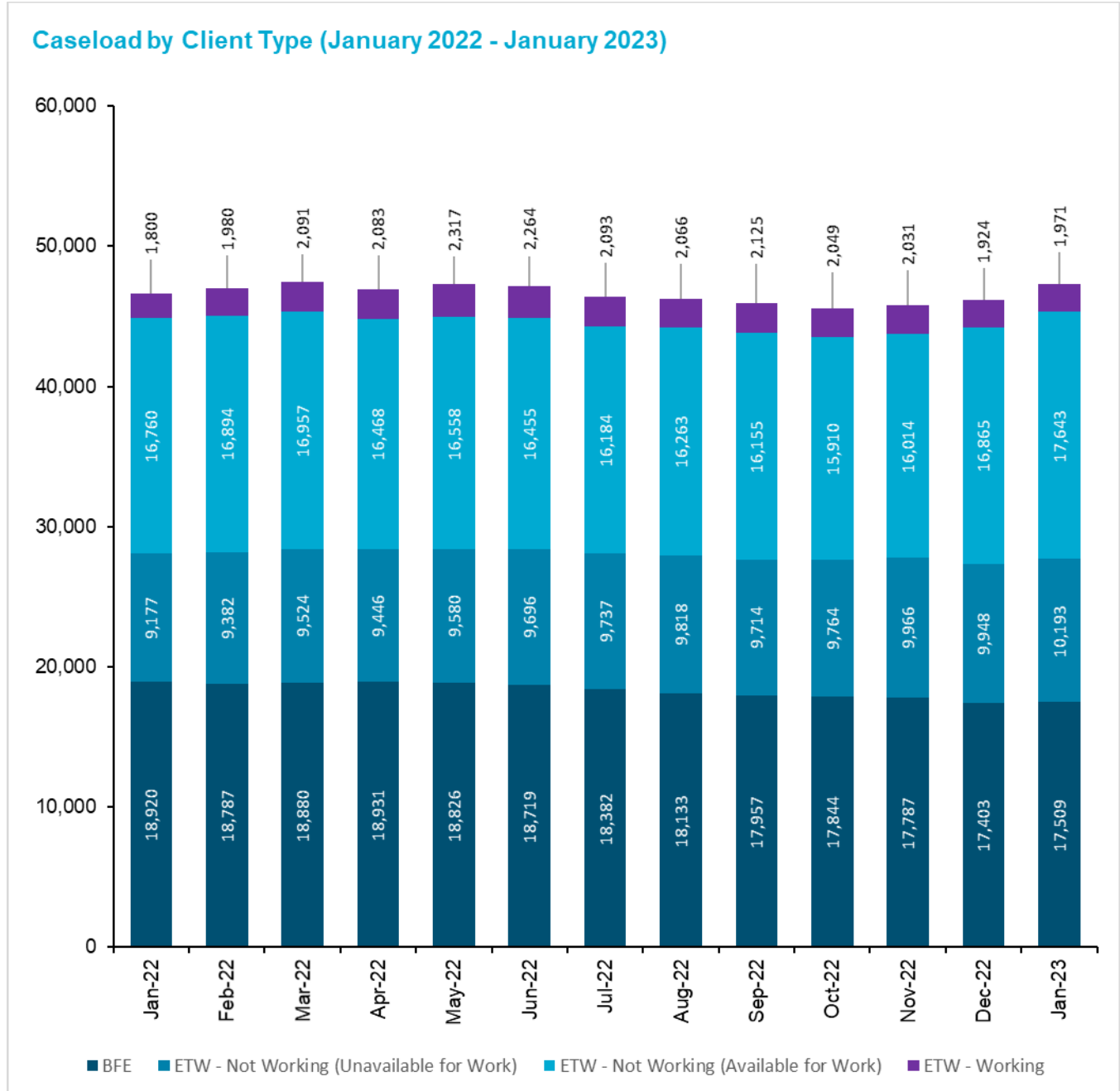
Source: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services

¹ A caseload is the number of households categorized as Expected to Work (ETW) or as having Barriers to Full Employment (BFE) during a specific reporting period. A household comprises one or more family members. People who need upgrading or training so they can get a job (Learners) December also receive Income Support but they are not included in this dataset.

Caseload by Client Type (January 2023) [\[back to top\]](#)

The caseload by Client Type for January 2023 showed Albertans who were Expected to Work (ETW) represented 63.0% of the total IS caseload of 47,316, while Barriers to Full Employment (BFE) represented 37.0%.

Of the ETW caseload, 6.6% were working, 59.2% were looking for work (Available for Work) and 34.2% were unable to work (Unavailable for Work).



Source: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services

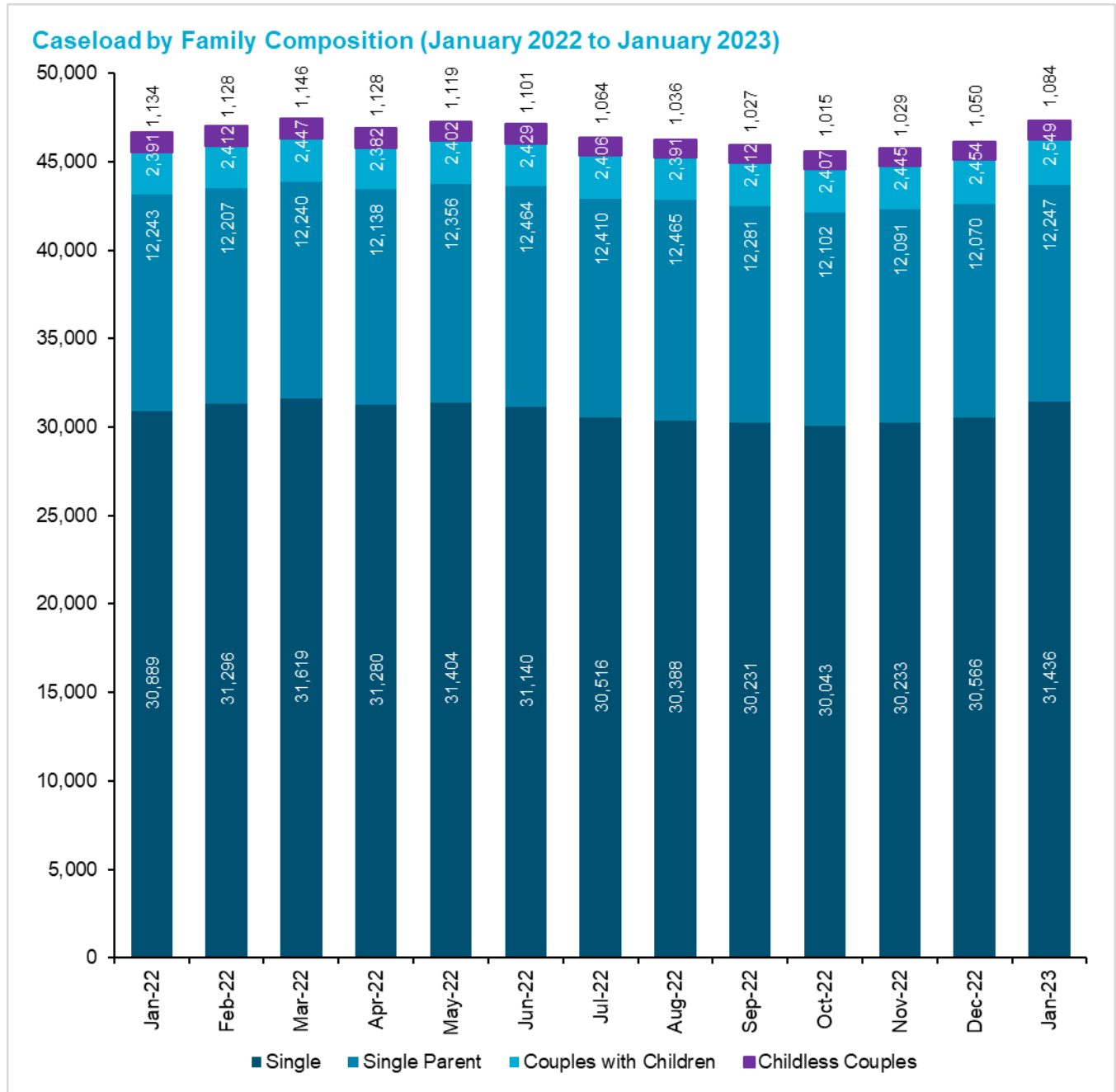
For program information: <https://www.alberta.ca/income-support.aspx>

Updated: March 2023



Caseload by Family Composition (January 2022 to January 2023) [\[back to top\]](#)

Caseload by Family Composition for January 2023 showed the highest proportion of caseloads to be composed of single individuals (66.4%), followed by single-parent families (25.9%), couples with children (5.4%), and childless couples (2.3%).

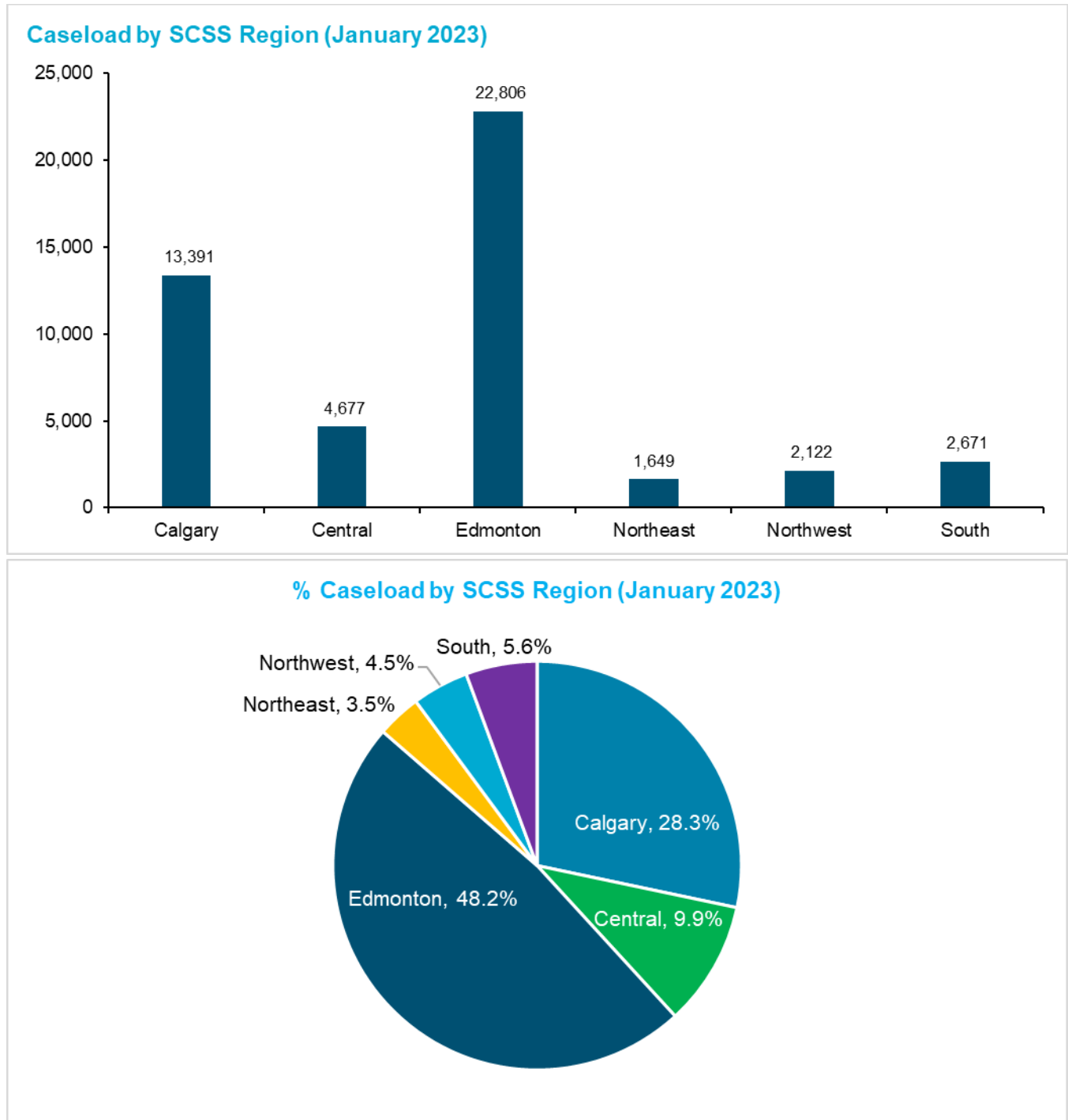


Source: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services

Caseload by SCSS Region (January 2023) [\[back to top\]](#)

In January 2023, the Edmonton region saw the highest proportion of caseloads (48.2%), followed by Calgary (28.3%), Central (9.9%), South (5.6%), Northwest (4.5%), and Northeast (3.5%).

North regions began separate reporting in May 2018. From December 2021, caseload changes, (a result of North Central Region collapsing into Northeast Region), means that we no longer report North Central data.



Source: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services

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Updated: March 2023



Proportion Caseload by Age Group (January 2023) [\[back to top\]](#)

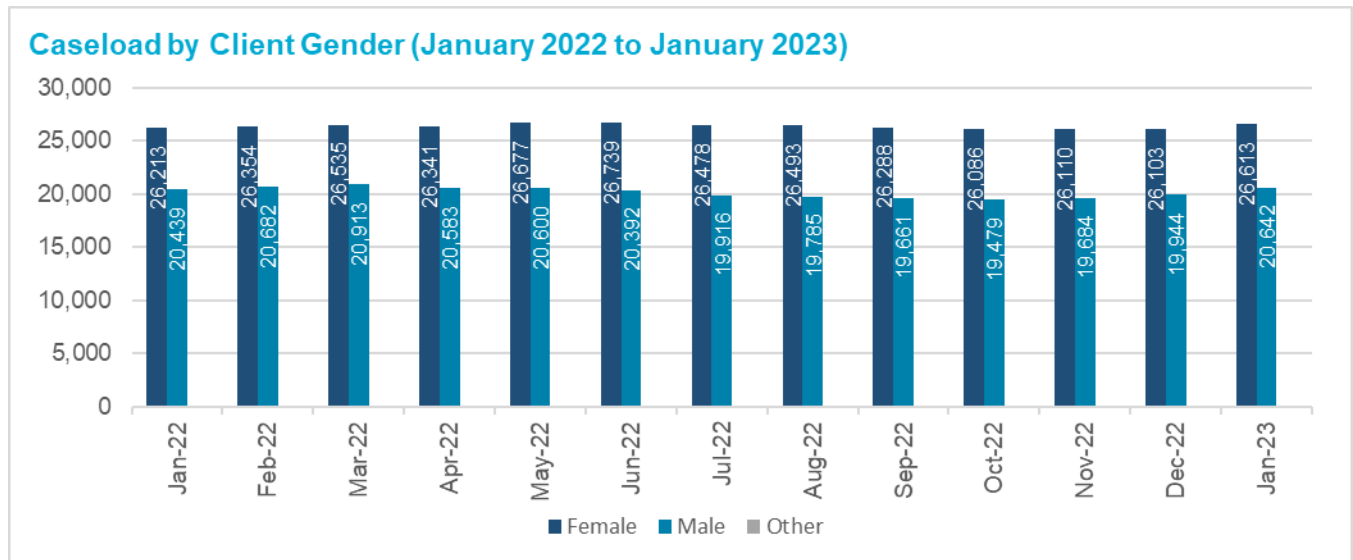
Caseload by Age Group for January 2023 showed the highest proportion of Income Support clients were aged 35-39 years: 6,244 (13.2%), 30-34 years: 6,118 (12.9%), and 40-44 years: 6,081 (12.9%).

Age of Head of Household	Cases	Proportion of Caseload	%
18 - 19	227		0.5%
20 - 24	3,173		6.7%
25 - 29	4,760		10.1%
30 - 34	6,118		12.9%
35 - 39	6,244		13.2%
40 - 44	6,081		12.9%
45 - 49	4,977		10.5%
50 - 54	4,867		10.3%
55 - 59	4,785		10.1%
60	1,000		2.1%
61	928		2.0%
62	842		1.8%
63	795		1.7%
64	714		1.5%
65+	1,804		3.8%
All Ages Total	47,316		100.0%

Source: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services

Caseload by Client Gender (January 2022 to January 2023) [\[back to top\]](#)

Client Gender for January 2023 showed the higher proportion of clients to be Female 26,613 (56.3%) followed by Male 20,642 (43.7%), and Other 61 (0.1%).



Source: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services.

For terms and definitions of specific data elements, please refer to the Income Support data dictionary.

For program information: <https://www.alberta.ca/income-support.aspx>

Updated: March 2023

