



2018

**Alberta labour
force profiles**

Indigenous Peoples
off-reserve

Labour and Immigration, Government of Alberta

February 2021

Alberta Labour Force Profiles I Indigenous Peoples Living Off-Reserve

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Email: lbr.lfsanalyst@gov.ab.ca

For more information regarding this content visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/labour-market-information.aspx>

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Overview

The 2018 Alberta Labour Force Profile for Indigenous Peoples Off-Reserve provides statistics and trends in the labour market for Alberta Indigenous Peoples Off-Reserve. Topics include employment, unemployment, labour force participation, industry, occupation, education, wages and demographics. Statistics are provided for Alberta, the other nine provinces and at the national level excluding the territories. All statistics provided are 12-month averages for the year. All Statistics are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

All data and definitions are from the [Labour Force Survey](#), Statistics Canada.

Aboriginal identity:

Persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, for example, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit. This is based on the individual's own perception of his/her Aboriginal identity, similar to the concept used with the Census. "Aboriginal identity" is not to be confused with "Aboriginal ancestry", another concept measured by the Census, but not with the Labour Force Survey.

Industry:

The general nature of the business carried out by the establishment for whom the respondent works (main job only). Based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=1181553>

Labour Force:

The labour force is the portion of the civilian, non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the survey reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week, usually containing the 15th day of the month, in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation:

The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the most recent job held within the previous year. Based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC) 2016. For more information: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3VD.pl?Function=getVD&TVD=314243>

Employment Rate:

The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over.

Participation Rate:

The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. This measure represents the proportion of the said population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population:

Persons 15 years and older. Excluded from the survey's coverage are: persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the institutionalized population, and households in extremely remote areas with very low population density. These groups together represent an exclusion of approximately 2% of the population aged 15 and over.

Average Hourly Wage:

Based on hourly wage before taxes and other deductions, and include tips and commissions. Only persons who are an employee are included in the average.

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and Census Agglomeration (CA)

Area consisting of one or more neighboring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. A census agglomeration must have an urban core population of at least 10,000. For more information, please see <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/93-600-x/2010000/definitions-eng.htm>

Note on the data:

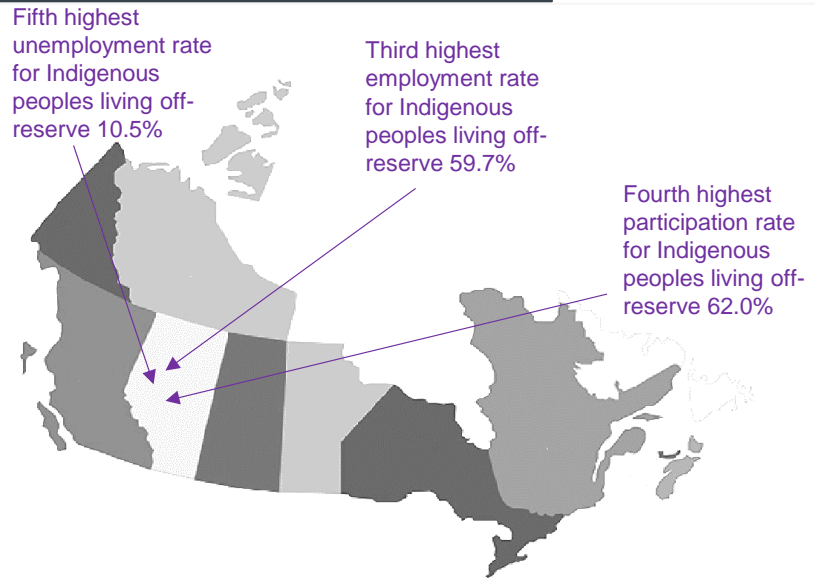
Numbers and percentiles may not add up exactly to their totals due the rounding that Statistics Canada performs on their data before they release it.

Highlights: Indigenous Peoples Living Off-Reserve, 2018

Population Statistics

Fourth highest percentage of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in the working age population	1.	11.7%	MB
	2.	9.7%	SK
	3.	6.3%	NL
	4.	4.9%	AB

Labour Force Statistics



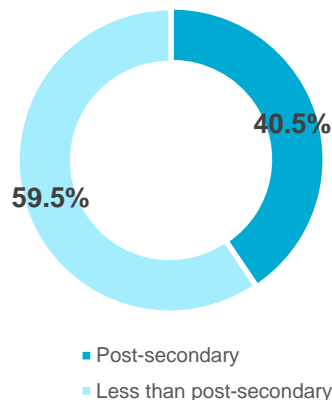
Employment



Indigenous peoples living off-reserve made up 4.4% of employment

Education

40.5% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve who were 15 years and older have Post-secondary education



Occupation

27.7% of employed Indigenous peoples living off-reserve were employed in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations

Industry

16.8% of employed Indigenous peoples living off-reserve were employed in the Construction Industry

Wages

Highest Hourly Wage in Canada



Alberta Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)

\$27.84



Canadian Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)

\$24.57

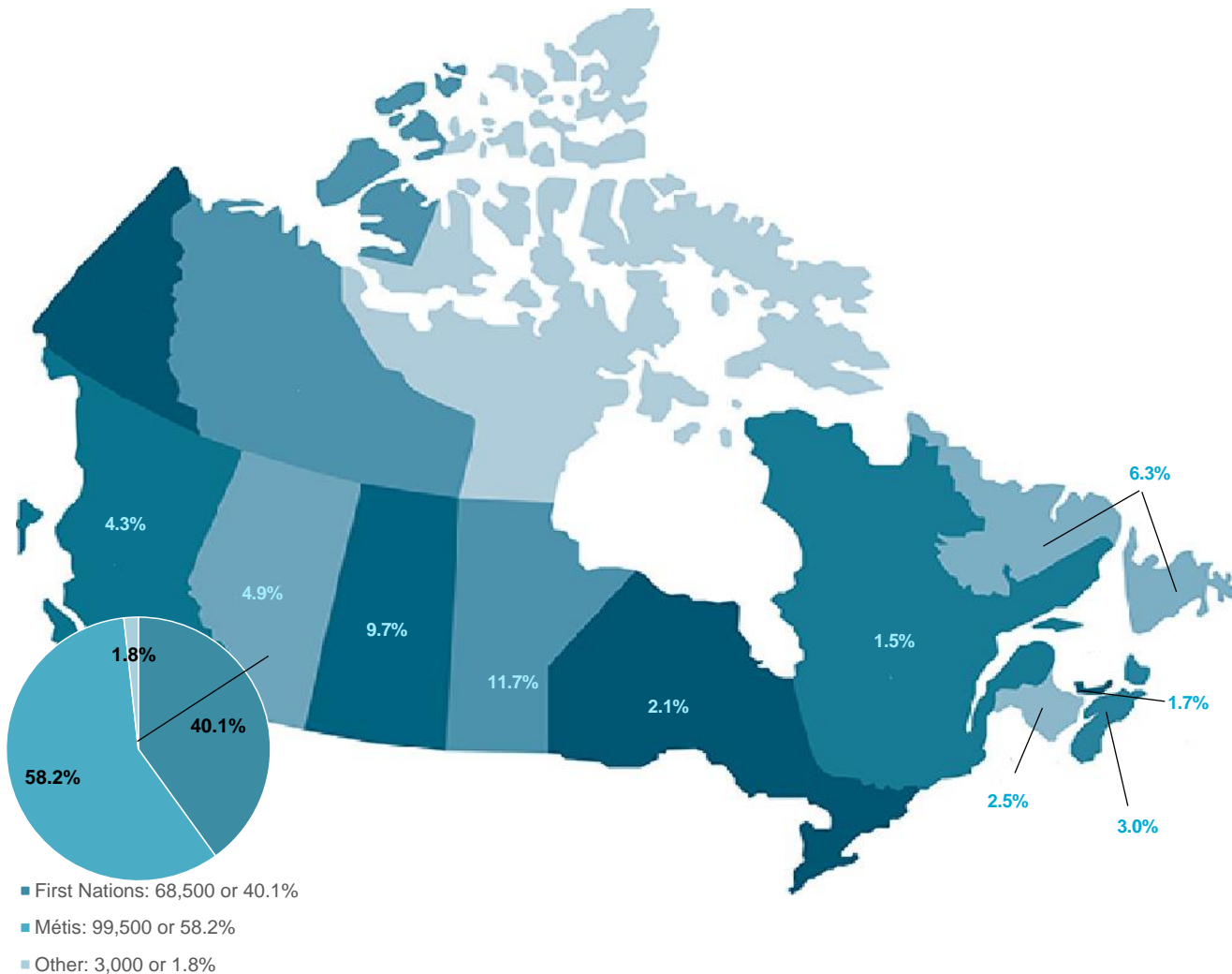
Population Statistics

In 2018, Alberta had the fourth highest percentage in Canada of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in the working age population, at 4.9%, while Manitoba had the highest percentage at 11.7% (Table 1). The overall share for Canada was 3.2%

Table 1
Number and Percentage of Indigenous Peoples Living Off-Reserve by Province, 2018

	Population	Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)	Indigenous Peoples Share
Canada	30,290,600	977,200	3.2%
Newfoundland and Labrador	443,600	28,000	6.3%
Prince Edward Island	125,600	2,100	1.7%
Nova Scotia	798,800	24,300	3.0%
New Brunswick	627,400	15,600	2.5%
Quebec	6,986,000	103,700	1.5%
Ontario	11,897,700	254,900	2.1%
Manitoba	1,025,000	119,900	11.7%
Saskatchewan	884,400	86,200	9.7%
Alberta	3,470,400	171,000	4.9%
British Columbia	4,031,800	171,500	4.3%

Percentage of Indigenous Peoples Off-Reserve in the Working Age Population by Province, 2018



In 2018, the working age population of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was 171,000 (Table 2). The proportion of Indigenous peoples off-reserve in Alberta between the ages of 15 and 24 years was 23.0%, while 56.2% were between 25 and 54 years. The corresponding proportions for all of Alberta were 14.6% and 54.7%, respectively.

Table 2
Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Age Group, Alberta, 2018

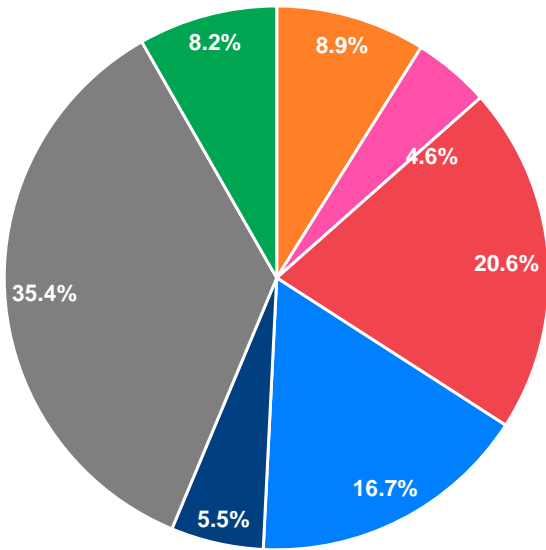
	All Indigenous Peoples		First Nation		Métis		Other	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
15+ years	171,000	100.0%	68,500	100.0%	99,500	100.0%	3,000	100.0%
15 - 24 years	39,400	23.0%	17,400	25.4%	20,900	21.0%	*	*
25 -54 years	96,100	56.2%	38,000	55.5%	56,300	56.6%	*	*
55 + years	35,500	20.8%	13,100	19.1%	22,300	22.4%	*	*

In 2018, the Edmonton economic region had the highest off-reserve Indigenous population, 15 years and older, at 35.4%, followed by Calgary at 20.6% (Table 3). The Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River economic region has the third largest off-reserve Indigenous population in Alberta. In total, these three regions accounted for 72.7% of all Indigenous peoples off-reserve in Alberta. The Camrose - Drumheller economic region had the lowest Indigenous working age population at 4.6% in 2018.

Table 3
Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Economic Region, Alberta, 2018

	All Indigenous Peoples		First Nation		Métis	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	15,200	8.9%	10,200	14.9%	4,900	4.9%
Camrose - Drumheller	7,800	4.6%	3,500	5.1%	4,100	4.1%
Calgary	35,300	20.6%	14,700	21.5%	19,800	19.9%
Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River	28,500	16.7%	9,400	13.7%	18,900	19.0%
Red Deer	9,400	5.5%	4,000	5.8%	5,000	5.0%
Edmonton	60,600	35.4%	20,500	29.9%	39,000	39.2%
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	14,100	8.2%	6,100	8.9%	7,800	7.8%
Total	171,000	100.0%	68,500	100.0%	99,500	100.0%

Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Economic Region, Alberta, 2018



■ Lethbridge - Medicine Hat: 15,200 or 8.9%

■ Camrose - Drumheller: 7,800 or 4.6%

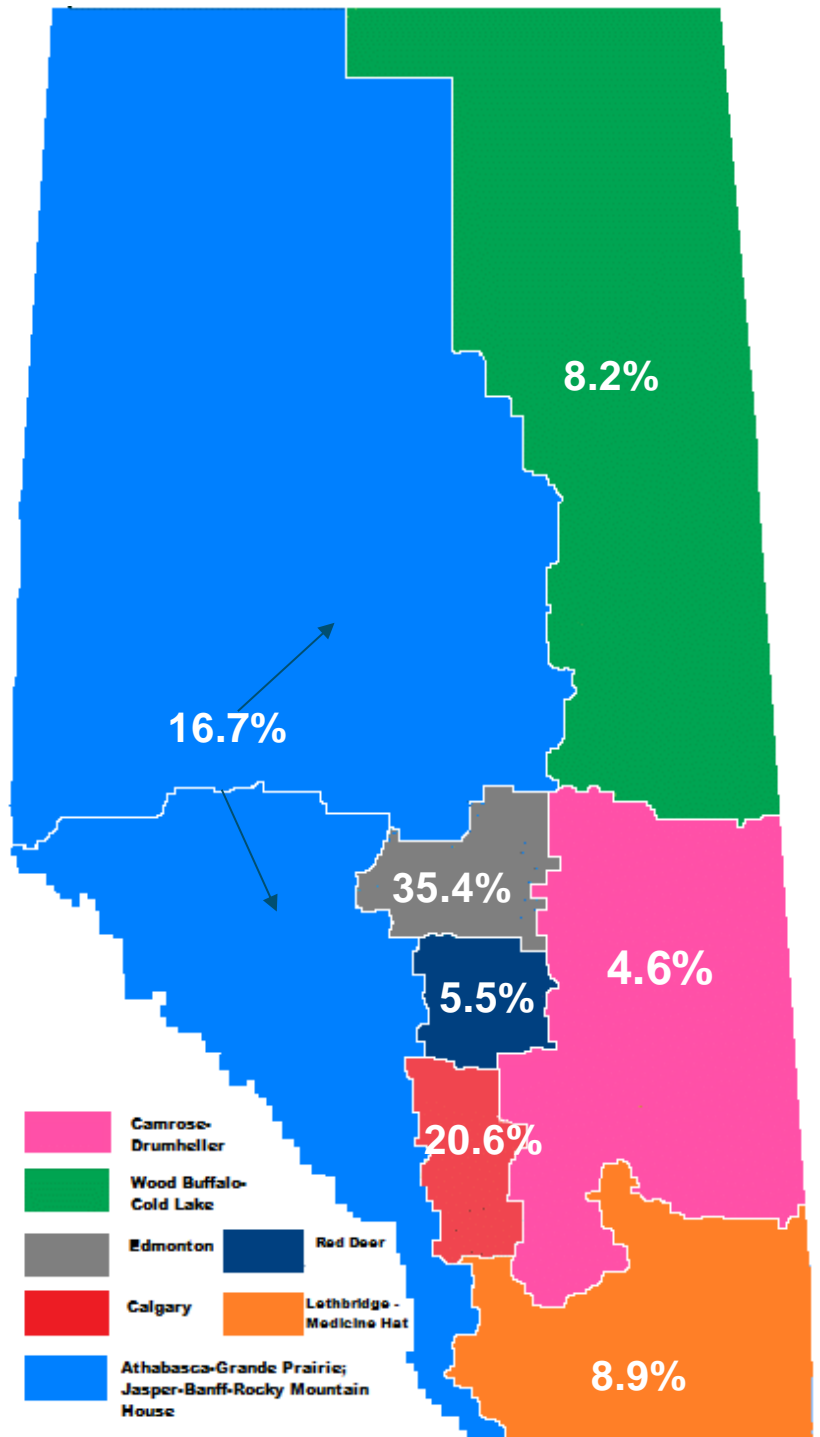
■ Calgary: 35,300 or 20.6%

■ Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River: 28,500 or 16.7%

■ Red Deer: 9,400 or 5.5%

■ Edmonton: 60,600 or 35.4%

■ Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake: 14,100 or 8.2%



In 2018, the proportion of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve, 15 years and older, in rural areas was 17.0%. This was 6.1 percentage points higher than the provincial average of 10.9% (Table 4). Almost two-thirds, or 65.4%, of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve live in urban cores.

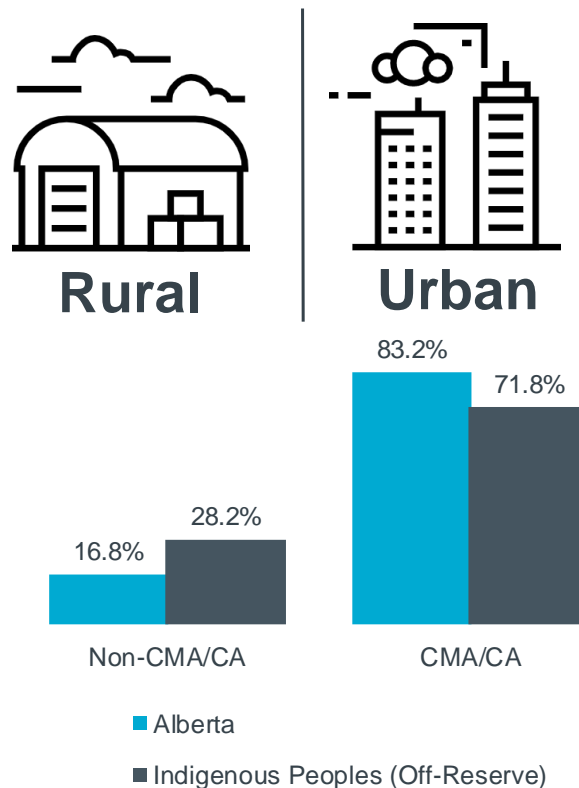
Table 4
Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Urban/Rural, Alberta, 2018

	Alberta	Share	Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)	Share	Indigenous Peoples Share of Population
CMA/CA	2,887,700	83.2%	122,700	71.8%	4.2%
Urban core	2,723,200	78.5%	111,800	65.4%	4.1%
Urban fringe	39,800	1.1%	5,900	3.5%	14.8%
Rural fringe	124,700	3.6%	5,000	2.9%	4.0%
Non-CMA/CA	582,700	16.8%	48,300	28.2%	8.3%
Small town	203,900	5.9%	19,200	11.2%	9.4%
Rural	378,800	10.9%	29,100	17.0%	7.7%
Total	3,470,400	100.0%	171,000	100.0%	4.9%

At 73.9%, First Nations are more likely to live in or near urban areas (CMA/CA) compared to Métis at 70.1% (Table 5).

Table 5
Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Urban/Rural and Identity, Alberta, 2018

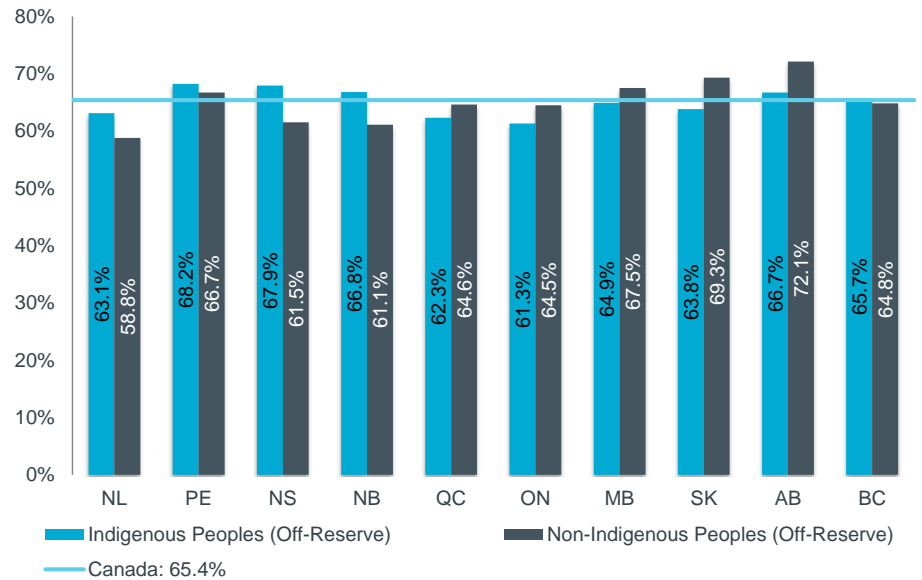
	Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)	Share	First Nation	Share	Métis	Share
CMA/CA	122,700	71.8%	50,600	73.9%	69,700	70.1%
Non-CMA/CA	48,300	28.2%	17,900	26.1%	29,800	29.9%
Total	171,000	100.0%	68,500	100.0%	99,500	100.0%



Labour Force Statistics

In 2018, the participation rate for Indigenous peoples off-reserve in Alberta was fourth highest among Indigenous peoples off-reserve in all 10 provinces at 66.7%. (Figure 1). This rate was 2.6 percentage points higher than the Canadian average of 64.1% for Indigenous peoples off-reserve, and 1.3 percentage points higher than the overall national participation rate of 65.4%.

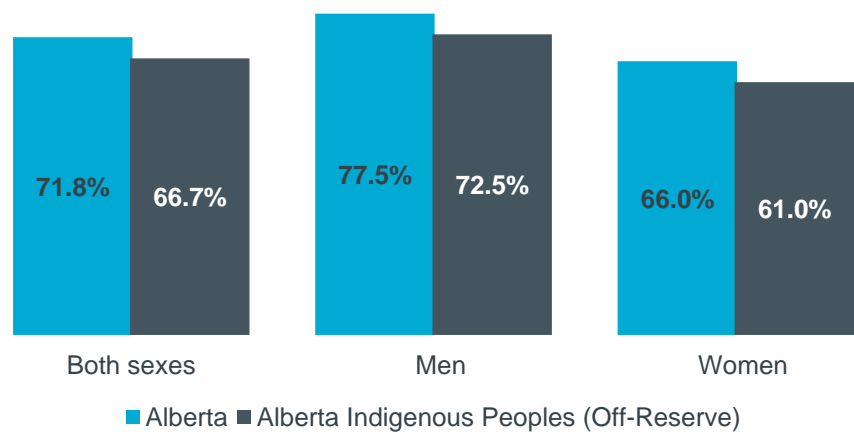
Figure 1
Participation Rate for Canada and Provinces, 2018



In 2018, the participation rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve was 66.7% (Figure 2). This was 5.1 percentage points lower than the provincial average of 71.8%.

The participation rate for Indigenous men was higher at 72.5% compared to that of Indigenous women at 61.0%. Both rates are lower compared to the corresponding provincial averages of 77.5% for men and 66.0% for women.

Figure 2
Participation Rate by Sex, 2018



The average participation rate for Alberta Indigenous peoples living off-reserve was 66.7% in 2018. Métis people had a higher participation rate at 68.4%, compared to First Nations at 65.5% (Figure 3).

Among Indigenous men, Métis had a higher participation rate at 74.1% compared to First Nations men at 71.0%. For women, Métis had higher participation rate at 62.7% compared to First Nations women at 60.6%.

In 2018, Indigenous peoples off-reserve made up 4.6% of the labour force in Alberta (Figure 4). Among them 44,900 or 39.4% were First Nations, and 68,100 or 59.7% were Métis.

Figure 3
Participation Rate by Identity and Gender, 2018

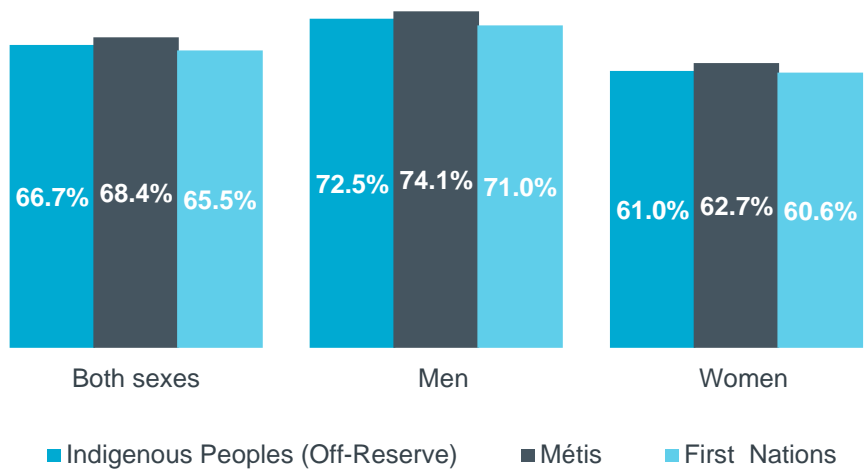
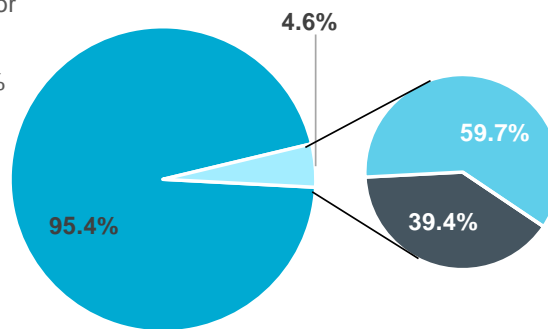


Figure 4
Labour Force by Identity, 2018

- Non-Indigenous peoples: 2,377,700 or 95.4%
- Indigenous peoples: 114,000 or 4.6%

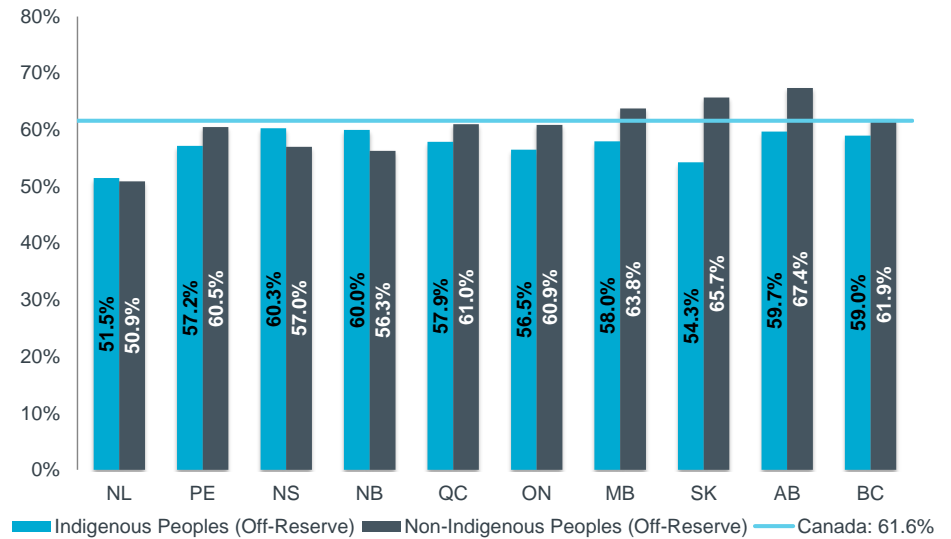


- First Nations: 44,900 or 39.4%
- Métis: 68,100 or 59.7%

Note: insufficient data to report on Inuit or multiple identities

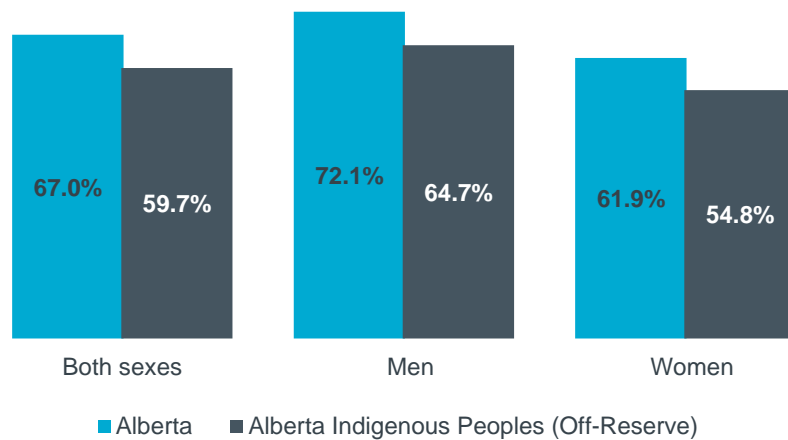
The employment rate for Indigenous peoples off-reserve in Alberta was the third highest among all Indigenous peoples off-reserve in the 10 provinces at 59.7% (Figure 5). This rate was 1.9 percentage points lower than the Canadian employment rate of 61.6%, and 2.1 percentage points above the national average for Indigenous peoples off-reserve of 57.6%.

Figure 5
Employment Rate for Canada and Provinces, 2018



The provincial employment rate for those 15 years and over, was 67.0% in 2018. This was 7.3 percentage points higher than the 59.7% rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in the same age group (Figure 6).

Figure 6
Employment Rate by Sex, 2018



The employment rate for all men was 72.1%. This was 7.4 percentage points higher than the employment rate for Indigenous men which was 64.7%. The employment rate for all women and Indigenous women living off-reserve was 61.9% and 54.8% respectively.

The average employment rate for Alberta Indigenous peoples living off-reserve was 59.7% in 2018. Métis people had a higher employment rate, at 61.1%, compared to First Nations, at 58.7% (Figure 7).

Indigenous men had a higher employment rate, at 64.7% than their female counterparts, at 54.8%.

Among Indigenous men, First Nations had a lower employment rate, at 63.0% compared to Métis men, at 66.3%. Métis women had a higher employment rate at 56.0% compared to First Nations women at 54.7%.

In 2018, Indigenous peoples off-reserve made up 4.4% of employment in Alberta (Figure 8). Among them 40,200 or 39.4% were First Nations, 60,800 or 59.6% were Métis.

Figure 7
Employment Rate by Identity and Gender, 2018

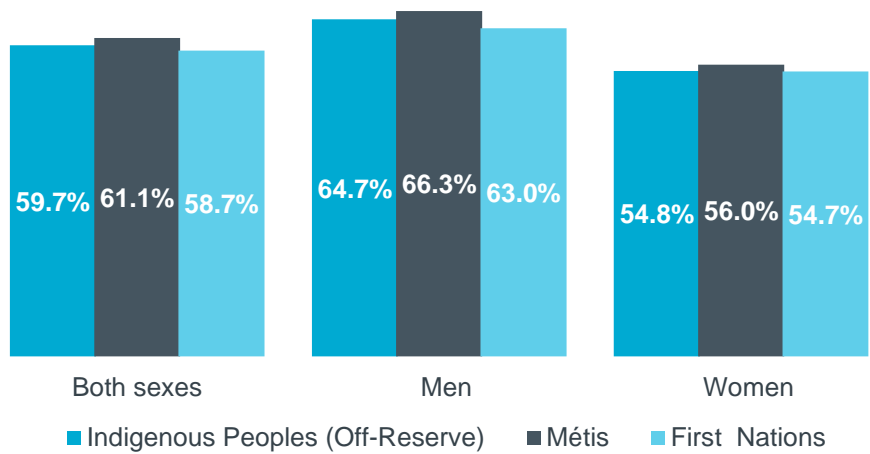
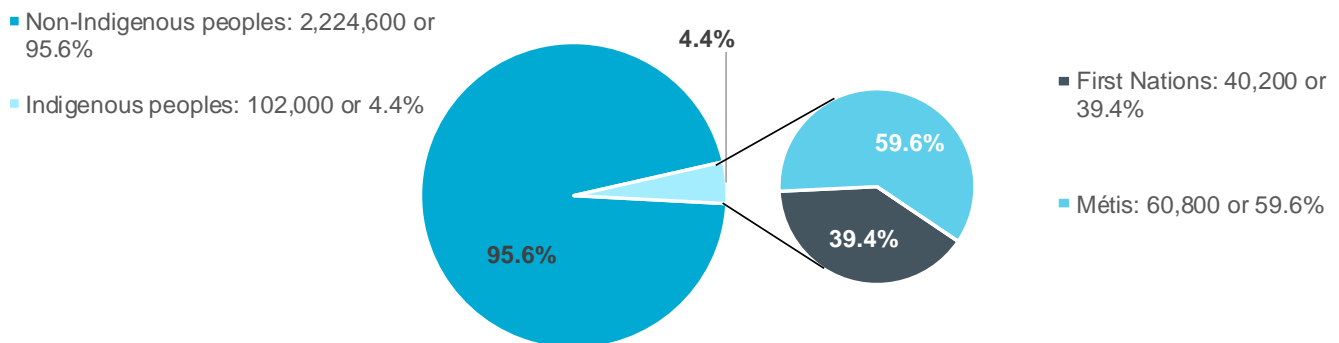


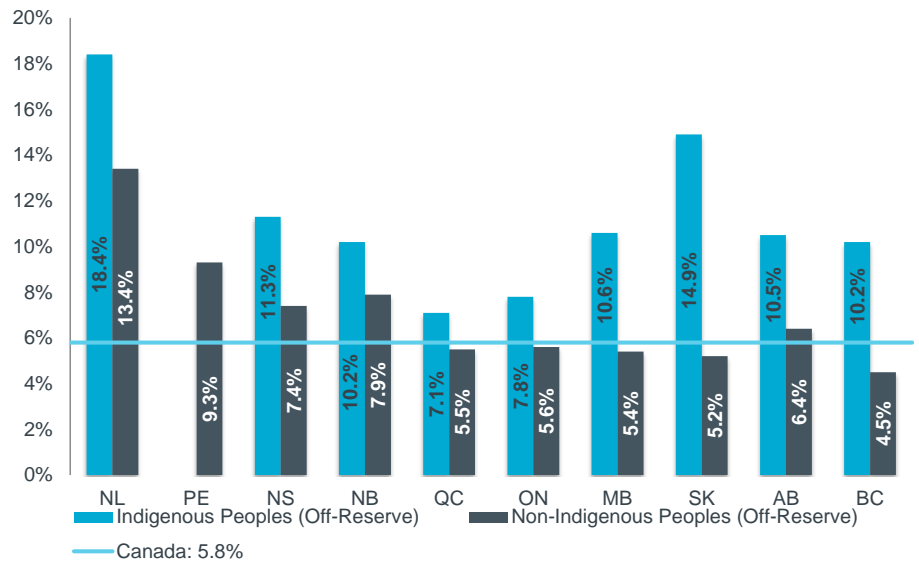
Figure 8
Employment by Identity, 2018



Note: insufficient data to report on Inuit or multiple identities

The unemployment rate for Alberta Indigenous peoples off-reserve, was 10.5%. This rate was higher than the Canadian average of 5.8% (Figure 9). Alberta's unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples off-reserve was the fifth highest rate among the 10 provinces in 2018 (Figure 9).

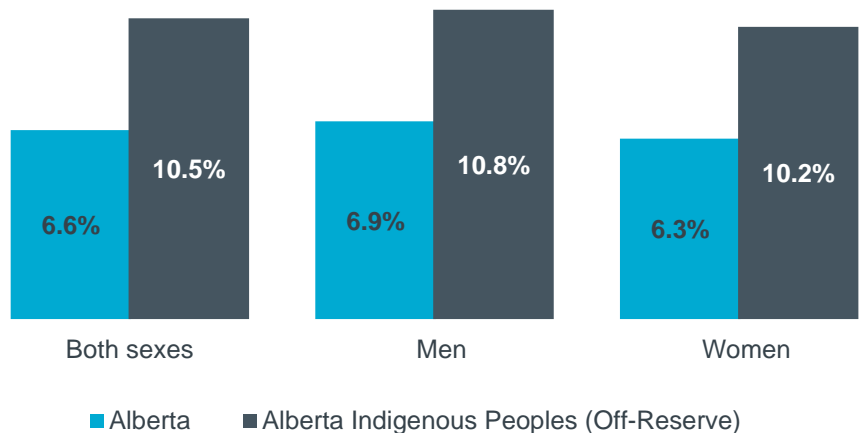
Figure 9
Unemployment Rates for Canada and Provinces, 2018



Note: Insufficient data for Prince Edward Island

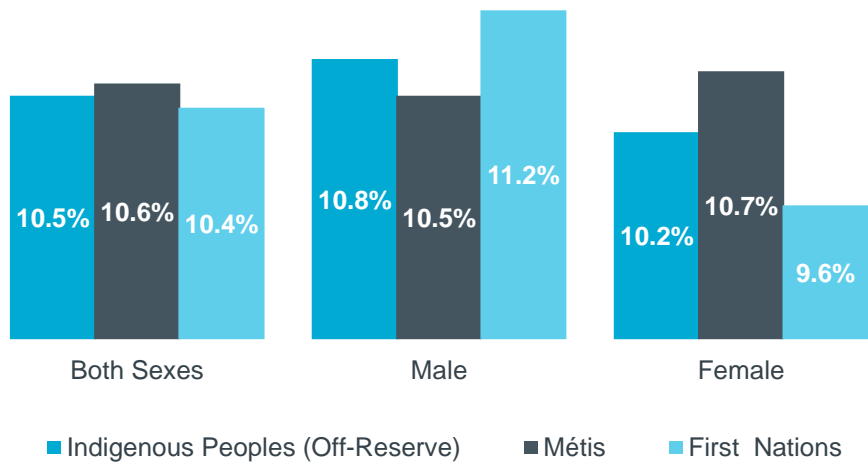
Indigenous men and women had higher unemployment rates than the provincial average (Figure 10). The unemployment rate for Indigenous men was 10.8%. This was 3.9 percentage points higher than the provincial rate for all men at 6.9%. Meanwhile, Indigenous women had an unemployment rate of 10.2%. This was 3.9 percentage points higher than the provincial rate for all women at 6.3%.

Figure 10
Unemployment Rate by Sex, 2018



Among Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta, First Nations had the lowest unemployment rate in 2018 at 10.4%, which was 0.2 percentage points lower than the rate for Métis (Figure 11). Among men, the unemployment rate for First Nations was 11.2%, higher than Métis at 10.5%.

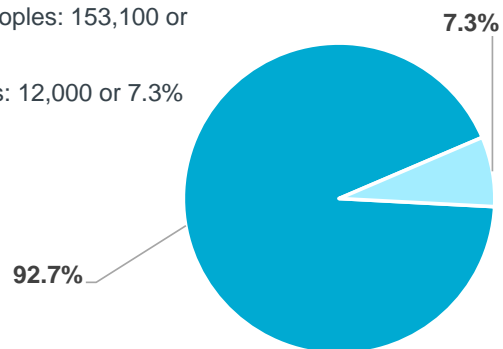
Figure 11
Unemployment Rate by Identity and Sex, 2018



In 2018, Indigenous peoples off-reserve made up 7.3% of unemployment in Alberta (Figure 12).

Figure 12
Unemployment by Identity, 2018

- Non-Indigenous peoples: 153,100 or 92.7%
- Indigenous peoples: 12,000 or 7.3%



Employment

In 2018, 68.2% of employed Alberta Indigenous peoples living off-reserve were in the Services-Producing Sector, and 31.8% were in the Goods-Producing Sector (Table 6).

Over a third of employed Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta worked in three industries: Construction, 16.8%; Retail Trade, 10.9%; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 10.3%.

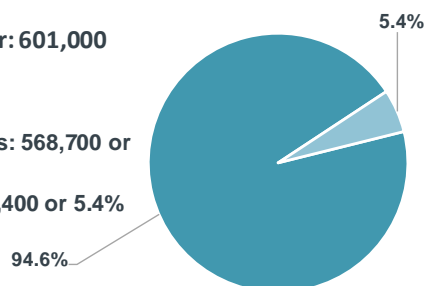
Table 6
Employment of Alberta Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Industry, 2018

Industry	Employment	% of Total
Goods-Producing Sector		
Agriculture	1,500	1.5%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	7,000	6.9%
Utilities	**	**
Construction	17,100	16.8%
Manufacturing	6,200	6.1%
Services-Producing Sector	69,600	68.2%
Educational Services	6,400	6.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	10,500	10.3%
Public Administration	6,400	6.3%
Wholesale Trade	3,200	3.1%
Retail Trade	11,100	10.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	6,500	6.4%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	3,200	3.1%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	2,500	2.5%
Management of Companies and Administrative and Other Support Services	3,800	3.7%
Information, Culture and Recreation	3,400	3.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	6,200	6.1%
Other Services	6,400	6.3%
Total employed	102,000	100.0%

** Insufficient data

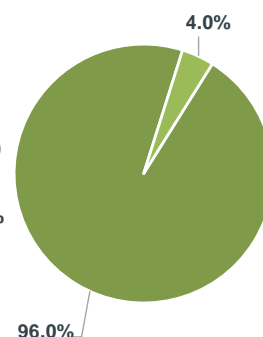
Goods-Producing Sector: 601,000
employed Albertans
of which

- Non-Indigenous peoples: 568,700 or 94.6%
- Indigenous peoples: 32,400 or 5.4%



Services-Producing Sector: 1,725,600
employed Albertans
of which

- Non-Indigenous peoples: 1,655,900 or 96.0%
- Indigenous peoples: 69,600 or 4.0%



In 2018, 64.5% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta were employed in three occupational groups: Trades, transport and equipment operators and related, 27.7%; Sales and service, 22.4%; and Business, finance and administrative, 14.4%. At the provincial level, 55.4% of Albertans worked in these three occupational groups combined (Table 7).

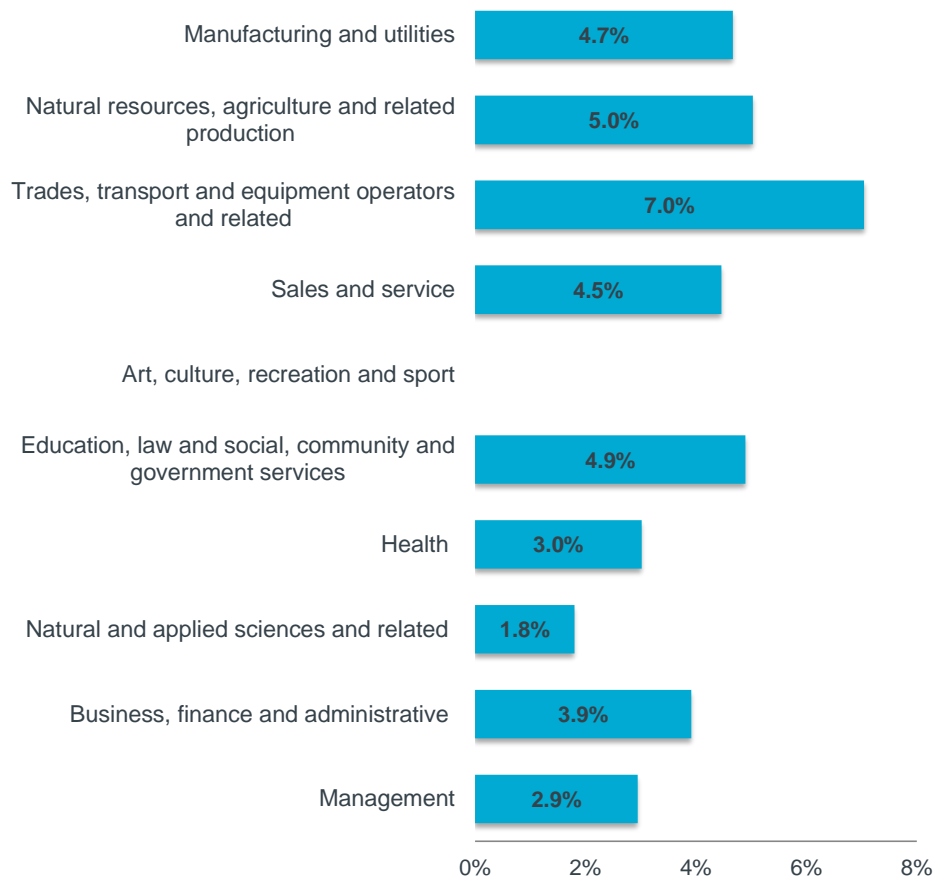
The largest difference in employment by occupational group is in the Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations where the provincial average is 10.5 percentage points below that of Indigenous peoples off-reserve.

In 2018, Indigenous peoples living off-reserve accounted for 4.4% of employment in Alberta. Among the 10 occupation groups, Trades, transport and equipment operators and related had the greatest proportion of employment from Indigenous peoples living off-reserve at 7.0% (Figure 13).

Table 7
Employment by Occupation, 2018

Occupation	Albertans		Indigenous Albertans	
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total
Management	217,300	9.3%	6,400	6.3%
Business, finance and administrative	375,400	16.1%	14,700	14.4%
Natural and applied sciences and related	188,900	8.1%	3,400	3.3%
Health	169,100	7.3%	5,100	5.0%
Education, law and social, community and government services	245,000	10.5%	12,000	11.8%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	51,600	2.2%	**	**
Sales and service	511,200	22.0%	22,800	22.4%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	401,600	17.3%	28,300	27.7%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production	91,400	3.9%	4,600	4.5%
Manufacturing and utilities	75,000	3.2%	3,500	3.4%
All occupations	2,326,600	100.0%	102,000	100.0%

Figure 13
Indigenous Peoples Employment Share by Occupation, 2018



Note: Insufficient data for Art, culture, recreation and sport

Education

In 2018, 40.5% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta completed a post-secondary education. 32.4% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve attained post-secondary certificates or diplomas; and another 8.1% had university degrees (Figure 14).

The percentage of Alberta Indigenous peoples living off-reserve who had less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment was 25.3%. The provincial average was 14.6%.

Between 2003 and 2018 the proportion of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta that completed a post-secondary education increased to 40.5% from 34.2% (Figure 15). For the entire province, it increased to 57.9% from 46.1%.

Figure 14
Highest Level of Educational Attainment of Alberta Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve), 2018

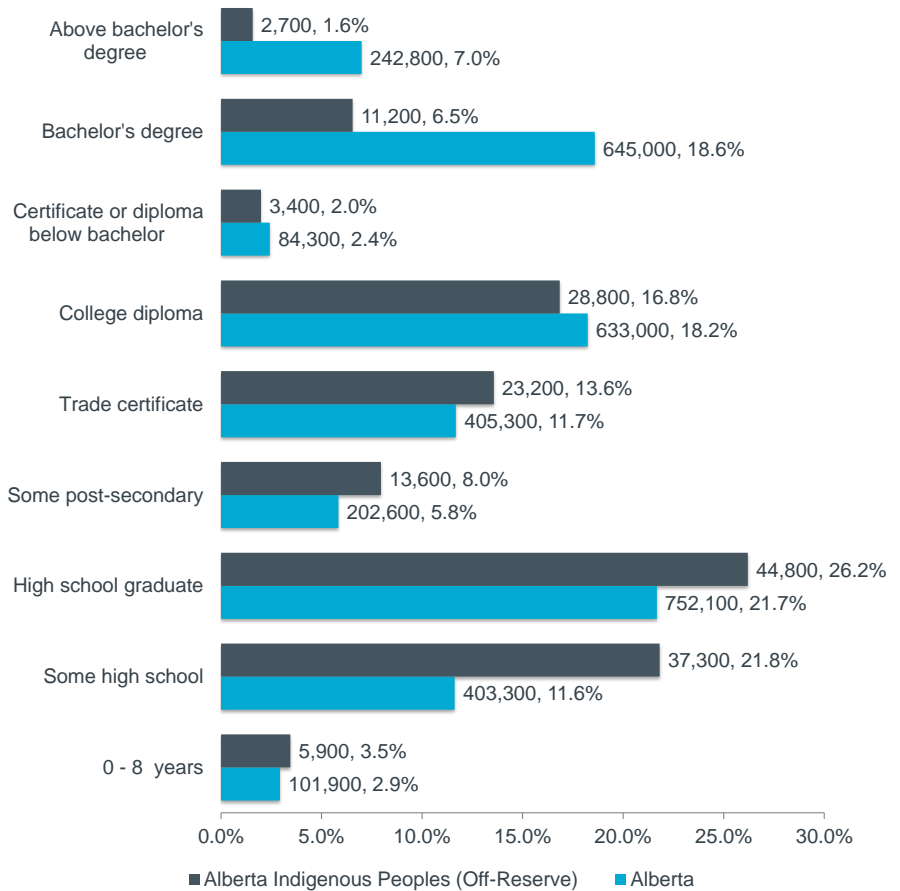
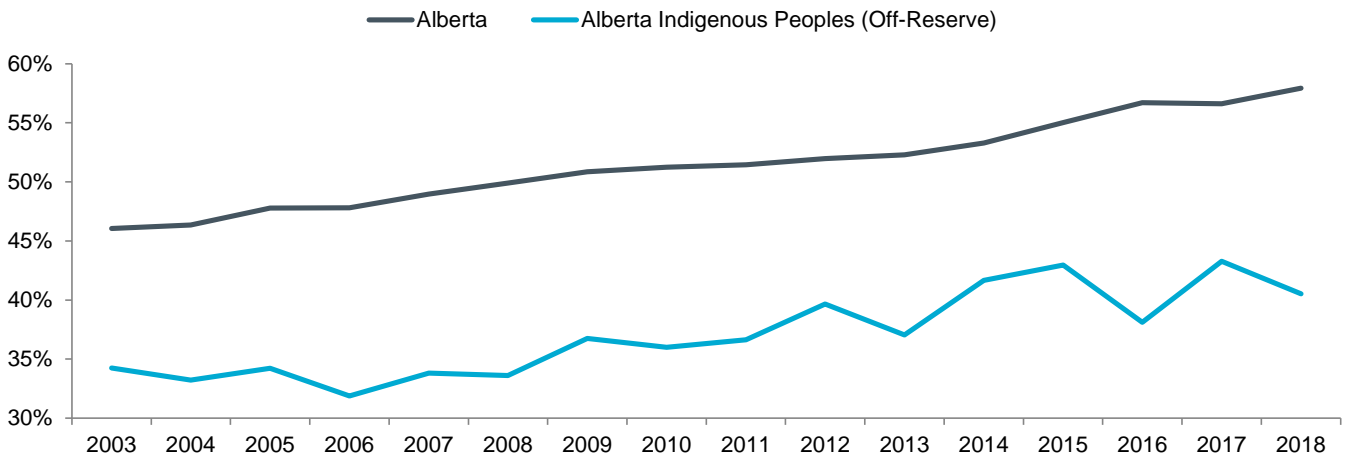
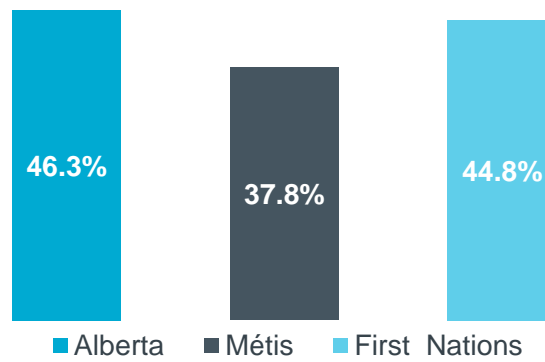


Figure 15
Proportion of Persons 15 years and over in Alberta that Completed a Post-Secondary Education



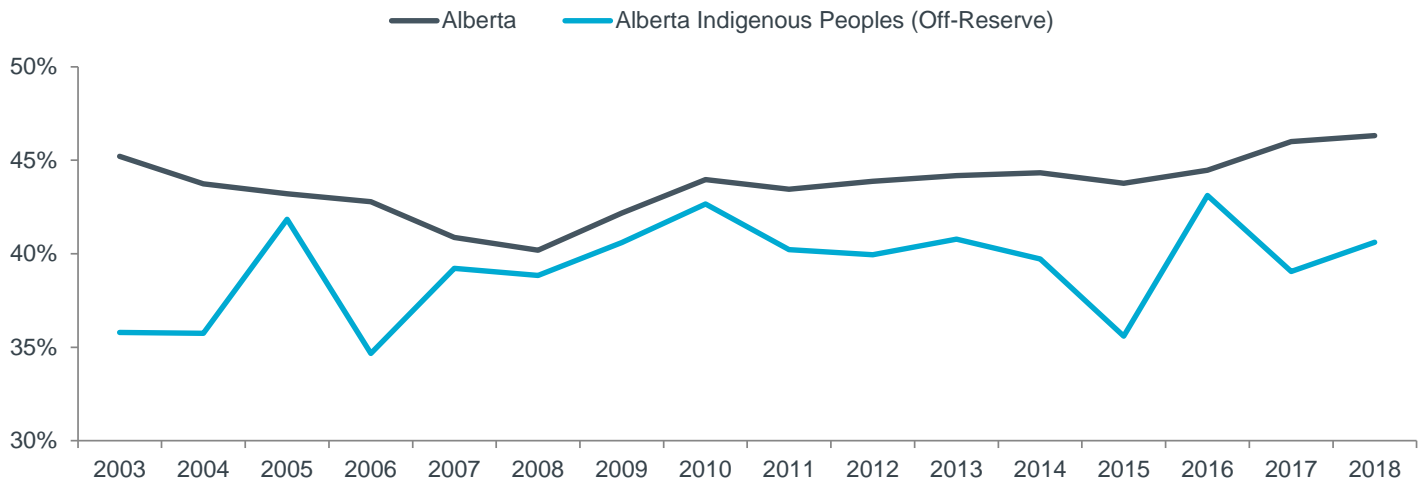
In 2018, 7,800 First Nations off-reserve youth were students, which represents 44.8% of all First Nations off-reserve youth (Figure 16). For Métis off-reserve there were 7,900 students, representing 37.8% of Métis off-reserve youth. Overall, 46.3% of youth in Alberta identified as students.

Figure 16
Proportion of Youth (15-24) in Alberta that are Students, 2018



Since 2003, the proportion of Indigenous youth living off-reserve attending school has been trending upwards and approaching the provincial average (Figure 17).

Figure 17
Proportion of Youth (15-24) in Alberta that are Students



Wages



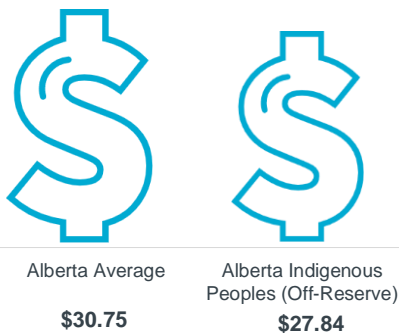
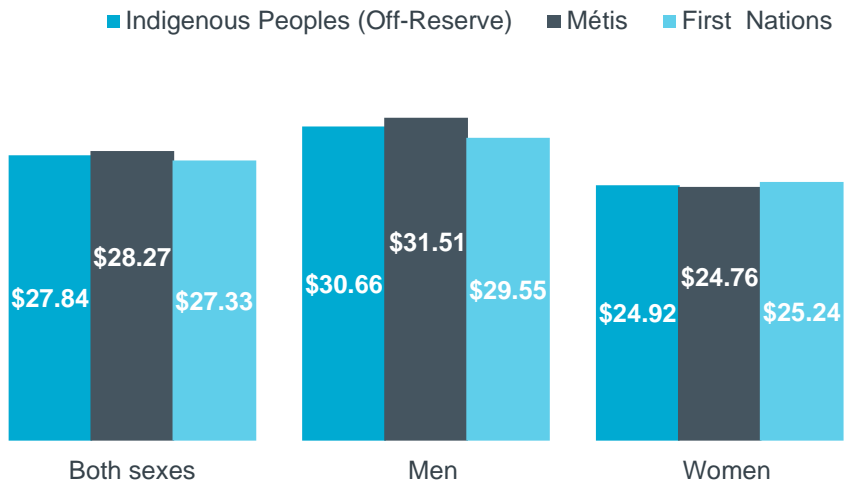
In 2018, the average hourly wage for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was \$27.84. This was \$3.27 higher than national average hourly rate of \$24.57 for Indigenous peoples off-reserve (Table 8).

Table 8
Average Hourly Wage in 2018, Canada and Provinces

Region	Provincial Average	Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)
Canada	\$26.91	\$24.57
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$25.59	\$25.06
Prince Edward Island	\$22.26	\$20.05
Nova Scotia	\$23.61	\$21.24
New Brunswick	\$22.88	\$21.14
Quebec	\$25.41	\$23.63
Ontario	\$27.35	\$24.03
Manitoba	\$24.45	\$23.26
Saskatchewan	\$27.47	\$25.07
Alberta	\$30.75	\$27.84
British Columbia	\$26.76	\$24.14

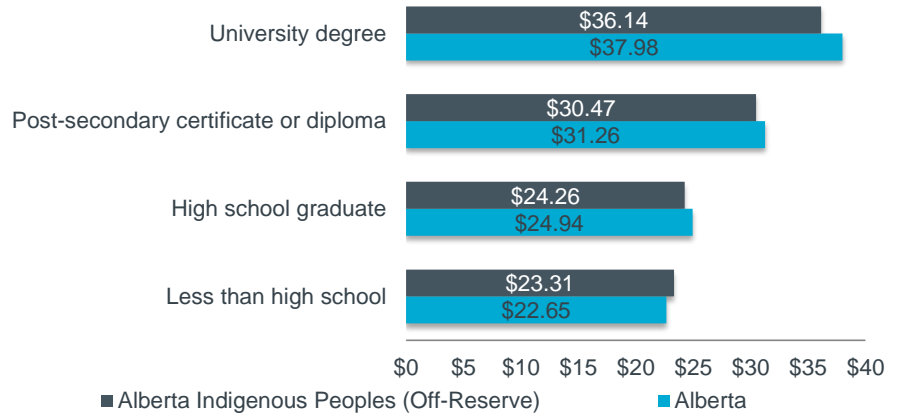
Among Alberta Indigenous men, Métis men had the highest average hourly wage at \$31.51 (Fig 18). First Nations women had the highest average hourly wage at \$25.24.

Figure 18
Average Hourly Wage by Sex and Identity, Alberta, 2018



For those with a university degree, Alberta Indigenous peoples off-reserve earned on average \$1.84 less than the overall provincial average for university degrees (Figure 19).

Figure 19
Average Hourly Wage by Education, Alberta, 2018



In 2018, the highest paying industry for Alberta Indigenous peoples off-reserve was Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas at \$36.91 per hour (Figure 20).

Figure 20
Average Hourly Wage by Industry, Alberta, 2018

