



# 2022 Alberta Labour Force Profiles: Indigenous Peoples Living off Reserve

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# Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Highlights 2022.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Population statistics .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Labour force statistics.....</b>	<b>11</b>
• Overview	11
• Participation	12
• Employment	16
• Unemployment rate	23

# Introduction

The 2022 Alberta Labour Force Profile examines the labour market statistics and trends for Indigenous peoples living off reserve in Alberta. Topics include working age population, labour force participation, employment, unemployment, demographics, industry and occupation. Statistics provided are 12-month averages for the year.

## Definitions:

**Indigenous peoples:** Persons who reported having an Indigenous identity, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit), or those who reported more than one identity. Excluded from the *Labour Force Survey* are persons living on reserves and other Indigenous settlements in the provinces.

**Target population:** The non-institutionalized population 15 years of age and over. Excluded from the survey's coverage are persons living on reserves and other Indigenous settlements in the province, 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 less than two per cent of the Canadian population aged 15 and over.

**Labour force:** Civilian, non-institutionalized persons 15 years of age and older who were employed or unemployed during the reference week.

**Participation rate:** Number of employed and unemployed people as a percentage of the population aged 15 and older.

**Employment rate:** Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and older. The employment rate for a particular group (for example, one defined by age, sex, marital status, or province) is the number employed in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

**Unemployment rate:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (for example, one defined by age, sex, or marital status) is the number of unemployed persons in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that same group.

**Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and Census Agglomeration (CA):** A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core).

A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000.

To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core, as measured by commuting flows derived from previous place of work census data. The boundaries of CMAs and CAs are based on the 2011 Standard Geographical Classification.

**Industry:** General nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only), based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). If a person did not have a job during the survey reference week, the information is collected for the last job held, provided the person worked within the previous twelve months.

**Occupation:** The kind of work persons 15 years of age and older 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 and based on the 2021 National Occupational Classification (NOC). If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relate to the previous job if that job was held in the past year.

## Note on the data:

Numbers and percentages may not add up exactly to their totals due to rounding by Statistics Canada.

Data and definitions provided are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

## Highlights 2022

- In 2022, there were 202,600 Indigenous peoples living off reserve aged 15 years and over in Alberta, accounting for 5.6 per cent of all Albertans and 16.4 per cent of all Indigenous peoples off reserve in Canada (the third largest in size among provinces) within the same age range. This is an increase of 50 per cent from 2012.
- Indigenous peoples living off reserve have been more active in the labour market in 2022 with both the participation rate (72.4 per cent) and the employment rate (66.2 per cent) reaching their highest level over the past 10 years and the unemployment rate (8.6 per cent) at its lowest level over the same period.
- Alberta had the highest participation rate and employment rate for Indigenous peoples living off reserve among provinces.
- Indigenous peoples living off reserve accounted for 5.8 per cent of the total labour force and 5.7 per cent of all employed workers in Alberta (up from 4.2 per cent and 3.9 per cent in 2012, respectively).
- The proportion of Indigenous peoples living off reserve attaining higher education has increased. In 2022, persons with a post-secondary certificate or diploma accounted for the greatest proportion of this population at 35.5 per cent, while persons with less than a high school education accounted for the greatest proportion in 2012 (32.3 per cent).
- There was a greater proportion (49.3 per cent) of female Indigenous persons living off reserve who attained post-secondary or above education compared to males (44.2 per cent). However, participation rates and employment rates for females with higher education were more than 10 percentage points lower than males.
- The unemployment rate for female Indigenous peoples living off reserve was 9.3 per cent while it was lower at 8.0 per cent for males.
- The industries that hired the most Indigenous peoples living off reserve were wholesale and retail trade; construction; and health care and social assistance.
- The top occupations for Indigenous peoples living off reserve were sales and service; trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations; and business, finance and administration.

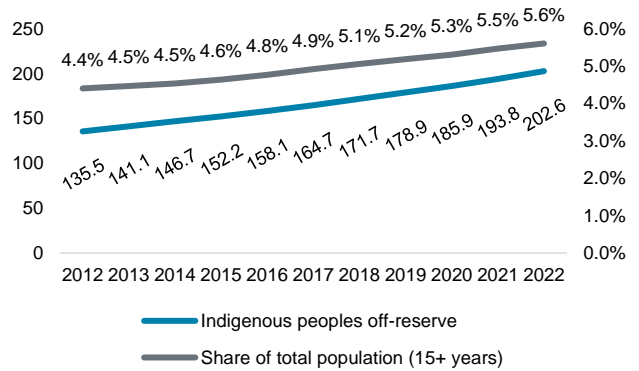
# Population statistics

In 2022, the population of Indigenous peoples living off reserve aged 15 years and over was 202,600, a growth of 50 per cent from 2012.

The share of Indigenous peoples living off reserve in Alberta's population increased by 1.2 percentage points from 4.4 per cent in 2012 to 5.6 per cent in 2022.

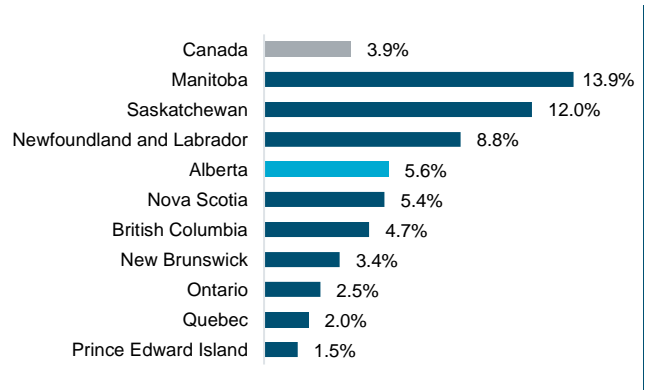
This share of 5.6 per cent in 2022 was higher than the national share (3.9 per cent) (Figure 2), following only Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador.

**FIGURE 1. POPULATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LIVING OFF RESERVE, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(thousands of persons; percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

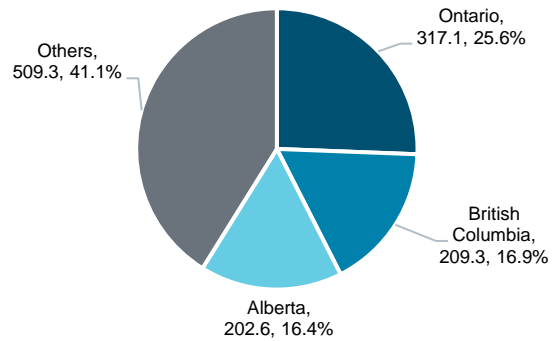
**FIGURE 2. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LIVING OFF RESERVE AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL POPULATION, BY PROVINCE, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, Alberta accounted for the third largest proportion of all Indigenous peoples off reserve in Canada (16.4 per cent), following Ontario and British Columbia.

**FIGURE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE IN CANADA BY PROVINCE, 2022**  
(thousands of persons; percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

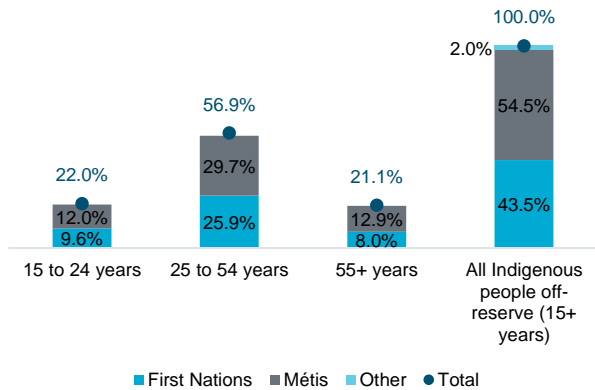
Of the 202,600 Indigenous peoples off reserve in Alberta in 2022:

- Métis accounted for 54.5 per cent (110,500); and
- First Nations accounted for 43.5 per cent (88,100).

By age group, the population of core working age group (25 to 54 years) was 115,300, accounting for 56.9 per cent of all Indigenous peoples off reserve in 2022 in Alberta.

- The proportions for youth and people aged 55 years and older were close at 22.0 per cent (44,600) and 21.1 per cent (42,800), respectively.

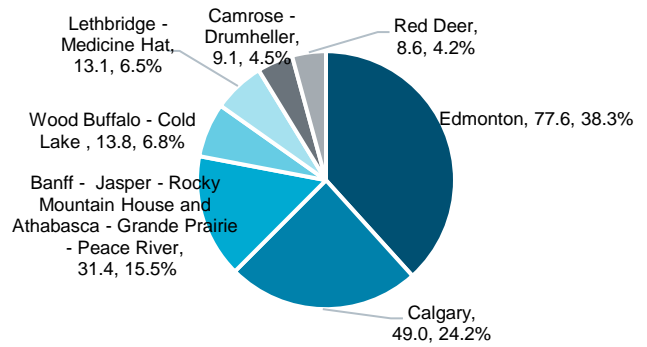
**FIGURE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

The Edmonton and Calgary economic regions accounted for more than 60 per cent (126,600) of all Indigenous peoples off reserve in Alberta in 2022.

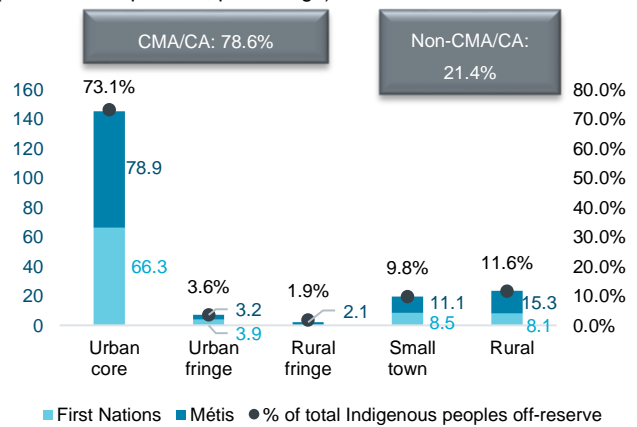
**FIGURE 5. DISTRIBUTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY ECONOMIC REGION, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(thousands of persons; percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, most of the Indigenous peoples off reserve in Alberta lived in the urban core area (73.1 per cent), including 66,300 First Nations and 78,900 Métis.

**FIGURE 6. DISTRIBUTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY URBAN/RURAL, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(thousands of persons; percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada



The proportion of Indigenous peoples off reserve attaining higher education increased from 2012 to 2022.

People with a post-secondary certificate or diploma accounted for the greatest proportion of all Indigenous peoples off reserve at 35.5 per cent in 2022; while people with less than high school education accounted for the greatest proportion in 2012 (32.2 per cent).

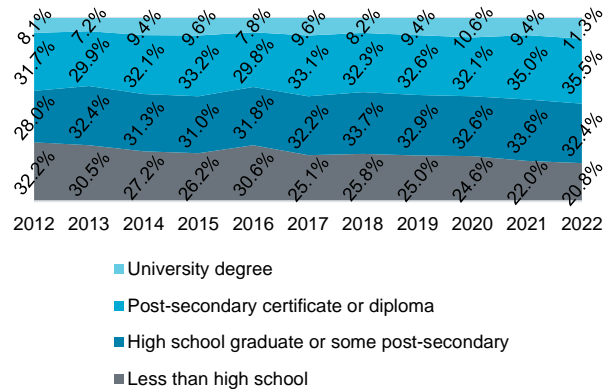
- Indigenous peoples were 3.4 percentage points more likely to hold a post-secondary certificate or diploma than non-Indigenous peoples (Figure 8).

Between 2012 and 2022, the share for Indigenous peoples off reserve with a university degree increased by 3.2 percentage points (from 8.1 per cent to 11.3 per cent).

- The share of non-Indigenous peoples with a university degree was 27.8 per cent in 2022, an increase of 7.1 percentage points from 2012 (Figure 8).

**FIGURE 7. DISTRIBUTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**

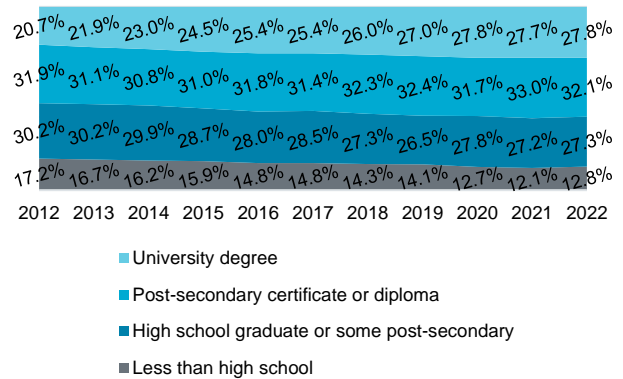
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

**FIGURE 8. DISTRIBUTION OF NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**

(percentage)

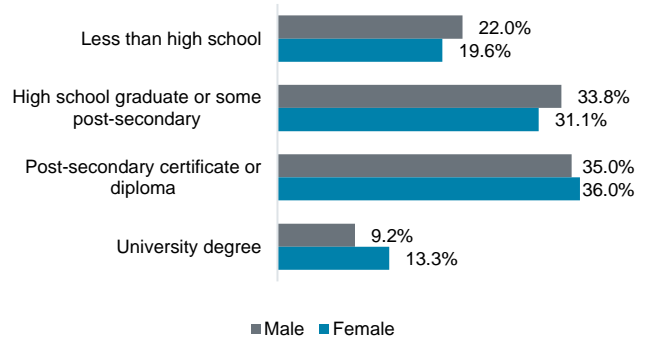


Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, a greater proportion of female Indigenous peoples off reserve (49.3 per cent) had a post-secondary or above education compared to males (44.2 per cent).

- The proportion of females with a university degree (13.3 per cent) was 4.1 percentage points greater than the proportion of males (9.2 per cent).
- The proportions with a post-secondary certificate or diploma were close at 36.0 per cent for females and 35.0 per cent for males.

**FIGURE 9. DISTRIBUTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY SEX AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

# Labour force statistics

## Overview

Indigenous peoples off reserve were more engaged in the labour market in 2022 as compared to 2012.

- Both the participation rate and employment rate were at the peak of the 10-year period while the unemployment rate was at the lowest point (Figure 10).

**TABLE 1. ALBERTANS' LABOUR FORCE STATUS, BY INDIGENOUS STATUS**

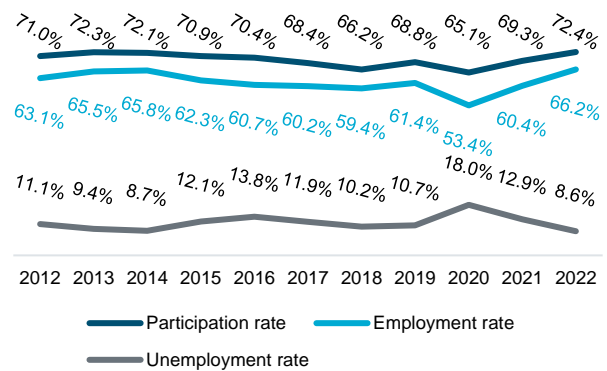
(persons; percentage)

	Indigenous Peoples Off Reserve	Non-Indigenous Peoples Off Reserve	Indigenous Share (of All Albertans Aged 15+ Years)	
	2022	2022	2022	2012
Population	202,600	3,414,000	5.6%	4.4%
Labour Force	146,800	2,370,900	5.8%	4.2%
Participation Rate	72.4%	69.4%		
Employment	134,100	2,234,700	5.7%	3.9%
Employment Rate	66.2%	65.5%		
Unemployment	12,700	136,200	8.5%	10.0%
Unemployment Rate	8.6%	5.7%		
Not in Labour Force	55,900	1,043,000	5.1%	4.9%

Source: Statistics Canada

**FIGURE 10. PARTICIPATION RATE, EMPLOYMENT RATE, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**

(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

## Participation

In 2022, the participation rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve was 72.4 per cent, the peak between 2012 and 2022. This represents 146,800 Indigenous peoples participating in the labour force.

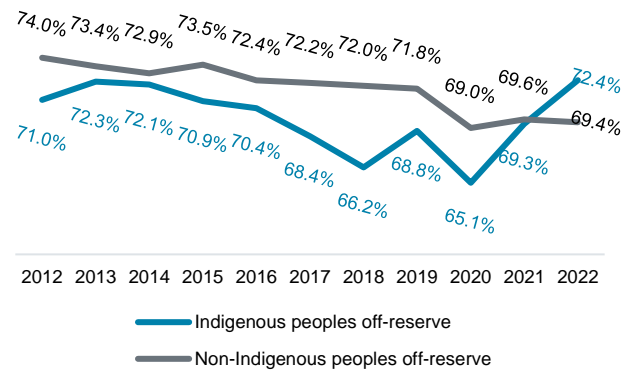
- It exceeded the participation rate for non-Indigenous peoples (69.4 per cent) for the first time over the 10-year period.

Métis people contributed significantly to the increased labour force participation among Indigenous peoples.

- The participation rate of the Métis reached a 10-year high at 75.3 per cent in 2022 (Figure 12).

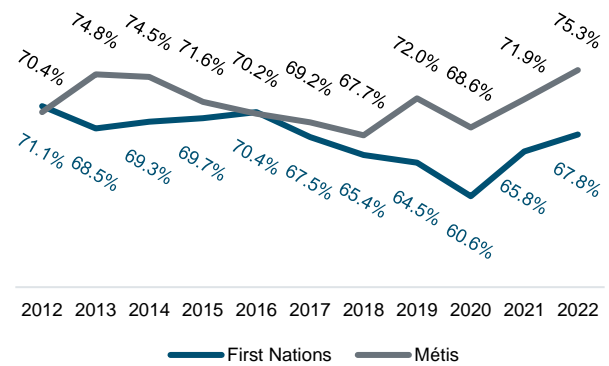
In 2022, Métis accounted for 56.7 per cent (83,200) of all Indigenous peoples off reserve in the labour market. First Nations accounted for 40.7 per cent (59,700).

**FIGURE 11. PARTICIPATION RATE BY INDIGENOUS STATUS, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

**FIGURE 12. PARTICIPATION RATES OF INDIGENOUS GROUPS, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

Among age groups, the core working group of Indigenous peoples off reserve (aged 25 to 54 years) had the highest participation rate between 2012 and 2022, ranging from 77.4 per cent (2018) to 85.6 per cent (2022).

- For non-Indigenous peoples (Figure 14), the participation rate of core working group has been stable between 87.2 per cent (2020) and 89.0 per cent (2018). It was 88.9 per cent in 2022.

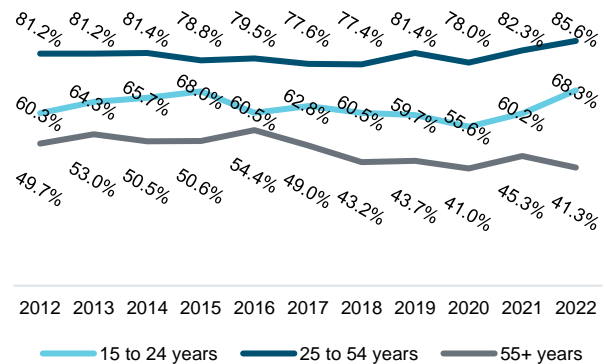
The youth participation rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve was also at the 10-year peak (68.3 per cent) in 2022.

- This was 3.8 percentage points greater than the youth participation rate for non-Indigenous peoples (64.5 per cent).

For the group aged 55 years and older, the 2022 participation rates for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples off reserve decreased from 2021 to around 41 per cent.

**FIGURE 13. PARTICIPATION RATES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**

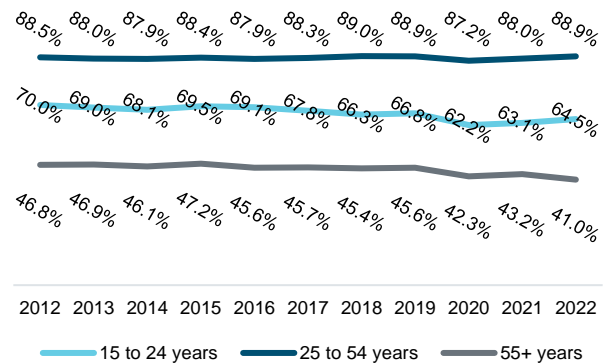
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

**FIGURE 14. PARTICIPATION RATES OF NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**

(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

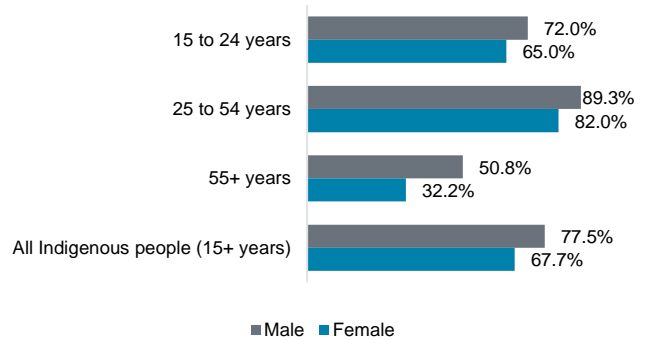
By sex, the 2022 participation rate was 77.5 per cent for male Indigenous peoples off reserve while it was 67.7 per cent for females.

- The biggest difference between the two groups was among those aged 55 years and over. The participation rate for females was 32.2 per cent, 18.6 percentage points lower than the rate for males.

In 2022, male Indigenous peoples off reserve with a higher level of educational attainment had a higher labour force participation rate. Those with a university degree had a participation rate of 91.9 per cent.

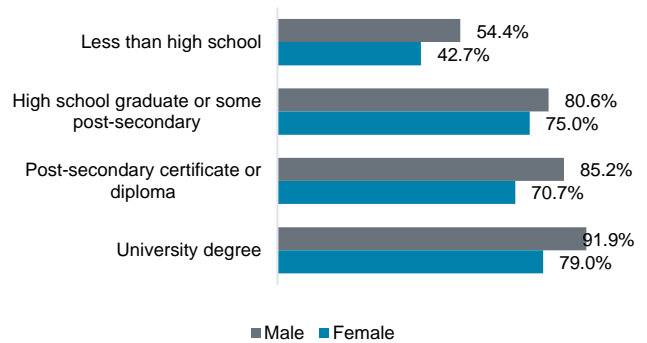
The highest participation rate for female Indigenous peoples off reserve was also among those with a university degree. However, the participation rate for female Indigenous peoples off reserve with high school or some post-secondary education was 4.3 percentage points higher than those with a post-secondary certificate or diploma in 2022.

**FIGURE 15. PARTICIPATION RATES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2022** (percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

**FIGURE 16. PARTICIPATION RATE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY EDUCATION AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2022** (percentage)

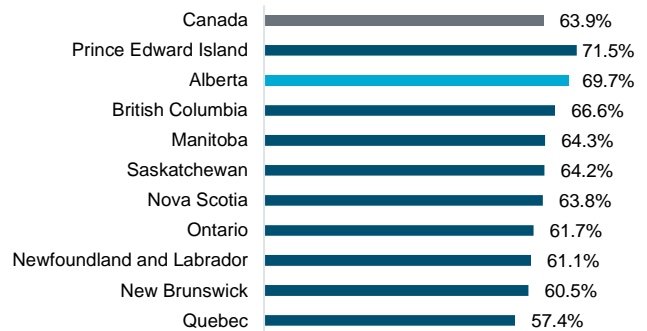


Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, Alberta had the highest participation rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve among all provinces (72.4 per cent). The rate for Canada was 66.2 per cent.

When averaging labour force participation rates over 2012-2022, Alberta ranked the second highest at 69.7, only behind Prince Edward Island. The average for Canada was 63.9 per cent.

**FIGURE 17. PARTICIPATION RATE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY PROVINCE, 2012-2022 AVERAGE**  
(percentage)

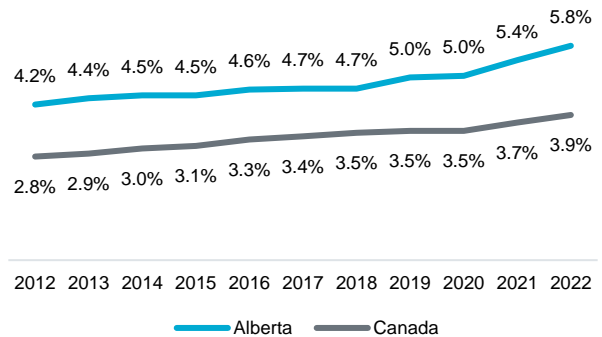


Source: Statistics Canada

In Alberta, the share of Indigenous peoples off reserve in the total labour force has increased from 4.2 per cent in 2012 to 5.8 per cent in 2022.

For Canada, the share increased from 2.8 per cent to 3.9 per cent between 2012 and 2022.

**FIGURE 18. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE, SHARE OF TOTAL LABOUR FORCE, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

## Employment

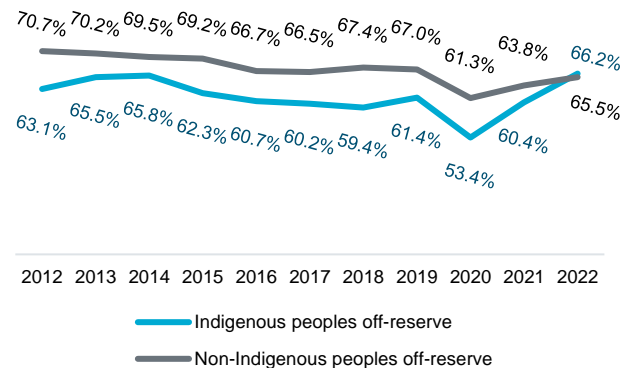
Like the participation rate, the 2022 employment rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve was the highest in the last 10 years at 66.2 per cent, representing 134,100 employed Indigenous peoples.

- It was slightly higher than the employment rate for non-Indigenous peoples (65.5 per cent), for the first time over the 10-year period.

The 2022 employment rates for Métis and First Nations were 69.6 per cent and 60.6 per cent, respectively.

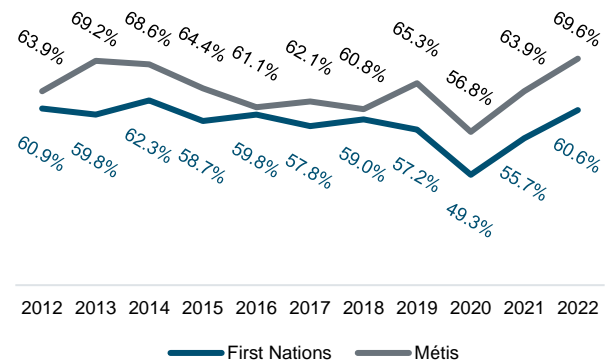
- For Métis, it was 5.7 percentage points higher than the 2012 rate (63.9 per cent).
- For First Nations, it was close to the 2012 rate (60.9 per cent).

**FIGURE 19. EMPLOYMENT RATE BY INDIGENOUS STATUS, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

**FIGURE 20. EMPLOYMENT RATES OF INDIGENOUS GROUPS, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada



In 2022, the employment rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve aged 25 to 54 years was 79.8 per cent, up six percentage points from 2012 (73.8 per cent).

- For non-Indigenous peoples off reserve, it was 84.7 per cent in 2022, down 0.6 percentage points from 2012 (Figure 22).

The youth employment rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve was 57.2 per cent in 2022, up nine percentage points from 2012 (48.2 per cent).

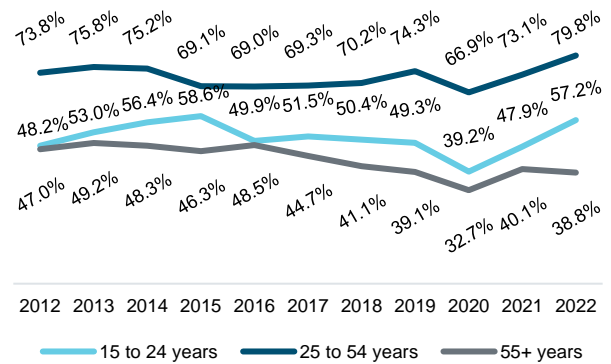
- The youth employment rate for non-Indigenous peoples off reserve was 57.7 per cent in 2022, down 6.7 percentage points from 2012 (64.4 per cent).

For people aged 55 years and over, the employment rate decreased from 47.0 per cent to 38.8 per cent between 2012 and 2022 for Indigenous peoples.

- For non-Indigenous peoples, it decreased from 44.8 per cent to 38.6 per cent.

**FIGURE 21. EMPLOYMENT RATES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**

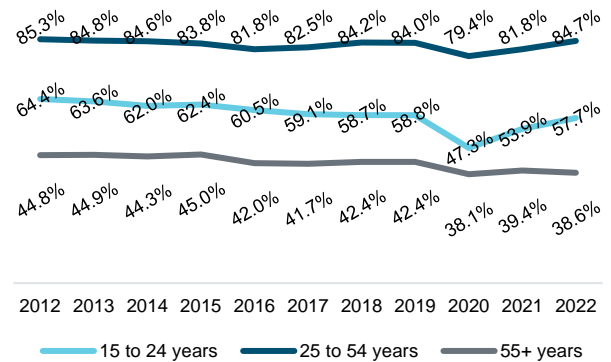
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

**FIGURE 22. EMPLOYMENT RATES OF NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**

(percentage)

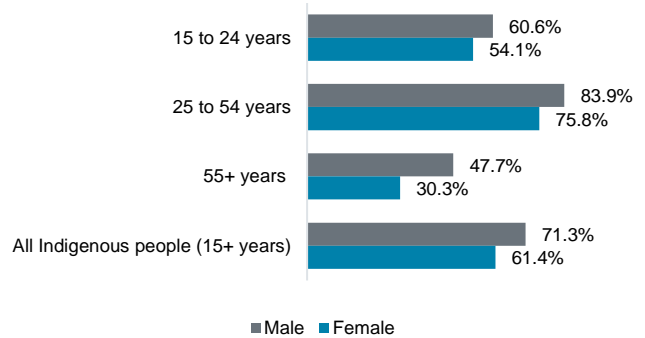


Source: Statistics Canada

The 2022 employment rate was 71.3 per cent for male Indigenous peoples off reserve and 61.4 per cent for females.

- Among age groups, males had higher employment rates than females.

**FIGURE 23. EMPLOYMENT RATES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2022** (percentage)

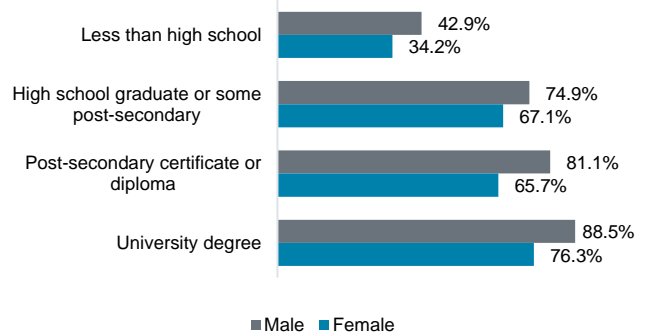


Source: Statistics Canada

For both female and male Indigenous peoples off reserve, the employment rate was the highest for those with a university degree and lowest for people whose highest educational attainment was less than high school.

- The difference in employment rates between females and males was up to 15.4 percentage points for those with a university degree and 12.2 percentage points for those with a post-secondary certificate or diploma.

**FIGURE 24. EMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY EDUCATION AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2022** (percentage)

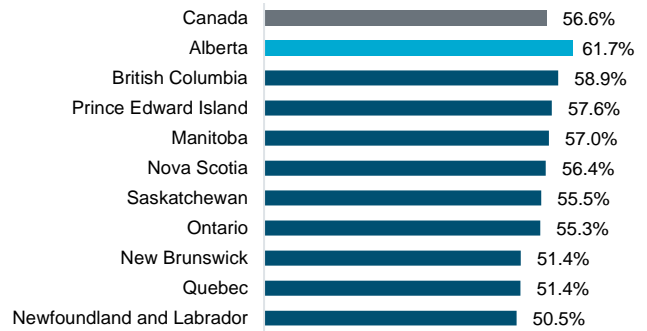


Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, Alberta had the highest employment rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve among provinces at 66.2 per cent. The employment rate of Canada was 60.9 per cent.

- The 10-year average was 61.7 per cent in Alberta, the highest of all provinces. The average for Canada was 56.6 per cent.

**FIGURE 25. EMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY PROVINCE, 2012-2022 AVERAGE**  
(percentage)

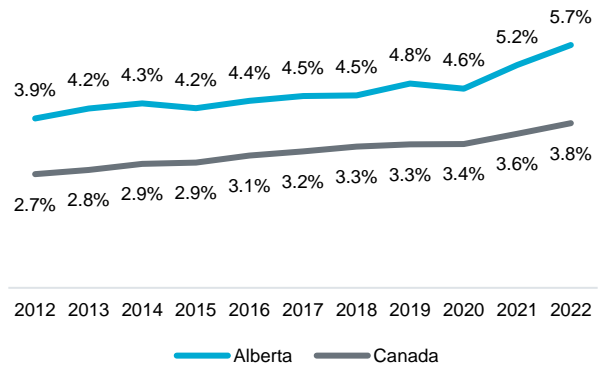


Source: Statistics Canada

Between 2012 and 2022, Indigenous peoples off reserve accounted for 3.9 per cent to 5.7 per cent of the total employment in Alberta.

- Indigenous peoples off reserve accounted for 2.7 per cent to 3.8 per cent of the total employment in Canada.

**FIGURE 26. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE, SHARE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT, ALBERTA VS. CANADA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)

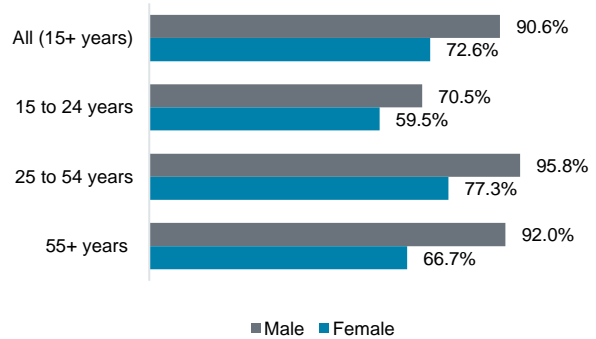


Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, 90.6 per cent of employed male Indigenous persons were working full-time, 18 percentage points higher than the proportion of female Indigenous peoples working full-time (72.6 per cent).

- The largest gap in full-time employment between female and male Indigenous peoples was among people aged 55 years and over. In this age group, 66.7 per cent of working women were employed full time compared to 92.0 per cent of men.

**FIGURE 27. FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)

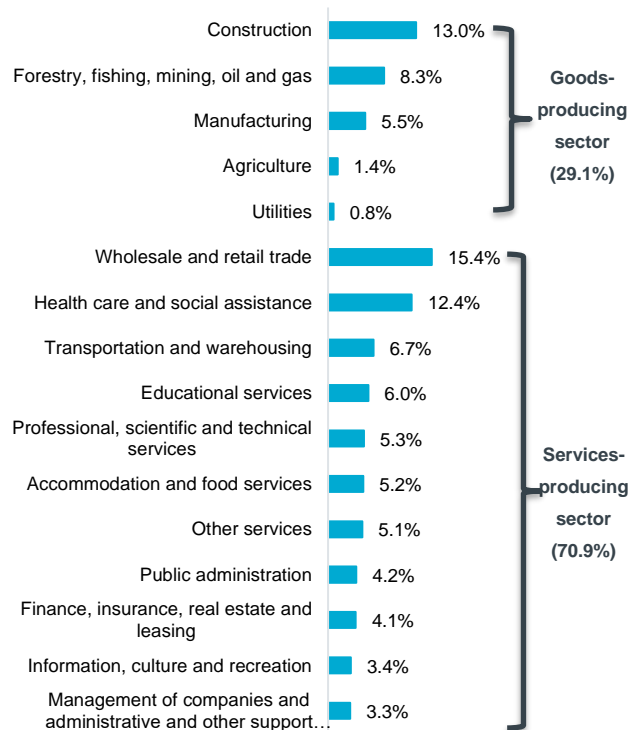


Source: Statistics Canada

Of all employed Indigenous peoples off reserve in 2022, 70.9 per cent worked in the services-producing sector and 29.1 per cent in the goods-producing sector. The top industries were:

- wholesale and retail trade (15.4 per cent);
- construction (13.0 per cent); and
- health care and social assistance (12.4 per cent).

**FIGURE 28. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY INDUSTRY, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)

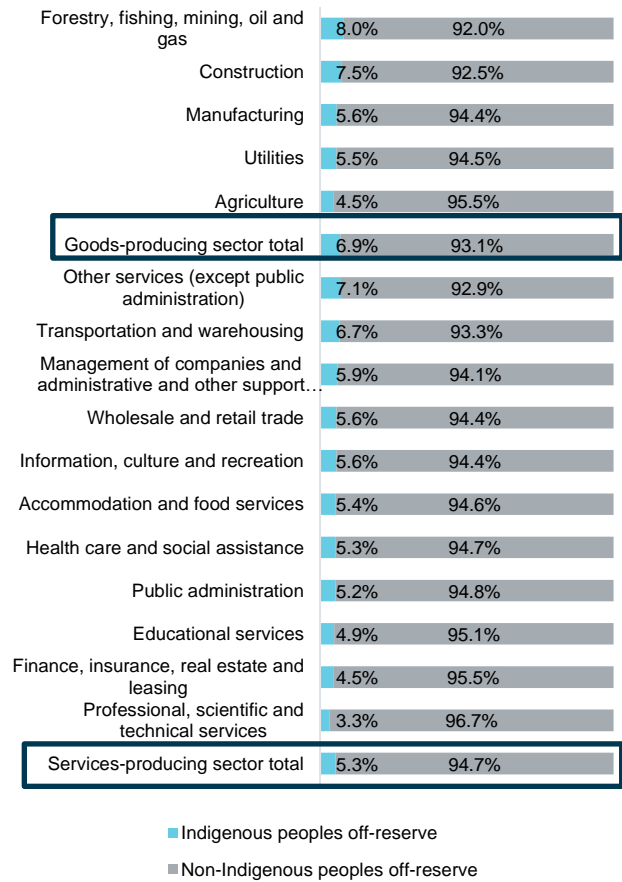


Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, Indigenous peoples accounted for 6.9 per cent of all employed Albertans in the goods-producing sector and 5.3 per cent in the services-producing sector.

The share for Indigenous peoples of total employed Albertans by industry ranged from 3.3 per cent (professional, scientific and technical services) to 8.0 per cent (forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas).

**FIGURE 29. DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDIGENOUS STATUS IN EACH INDUSTRY, ALBERTA, 2022 (percentage)**

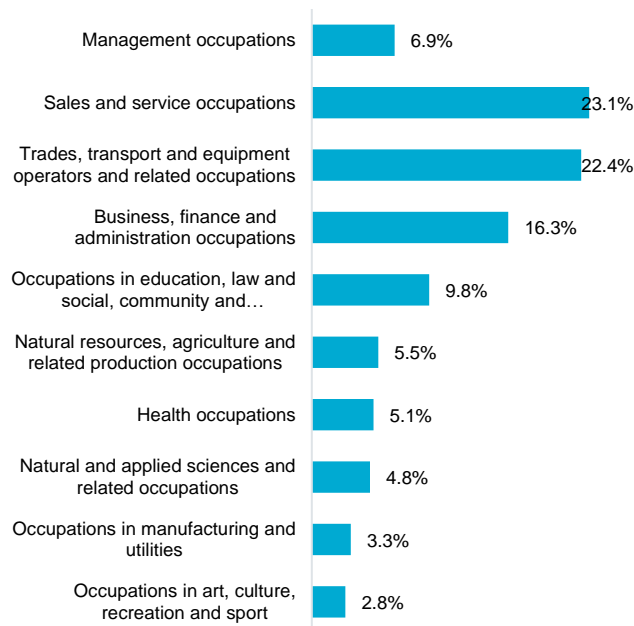


Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, the occupations that accounted for the greatest proportion of all employed Indigenous peoples off reserve were:

- sales and service occupations (23.1 per cent);
- trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (22.4 per cent); and
- business, finance and administration occupations (16.3 per cent).

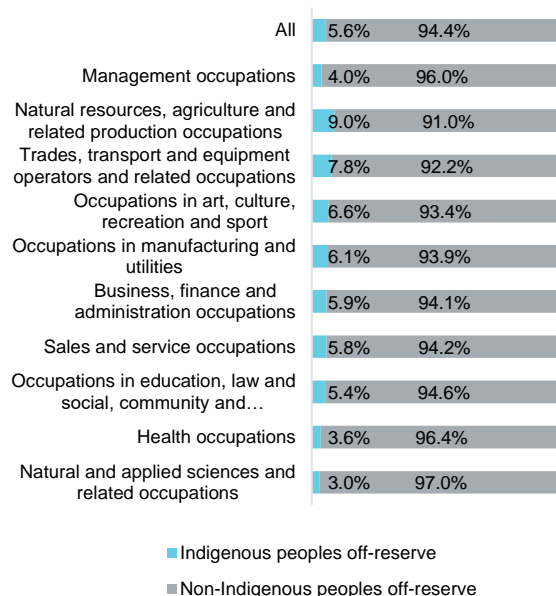
**FIGURE 30. DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY OCCUPATION, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

Of all employed workers within each occupation, the share for Indigenous peoples off reserve ranged from 3.0 per cent (natural and applied sciences and related occupations) to 9.0 per cent (natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations).

**FIGURE 31. DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDIGENOUS STATUS IN EACH OCCUPATION, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



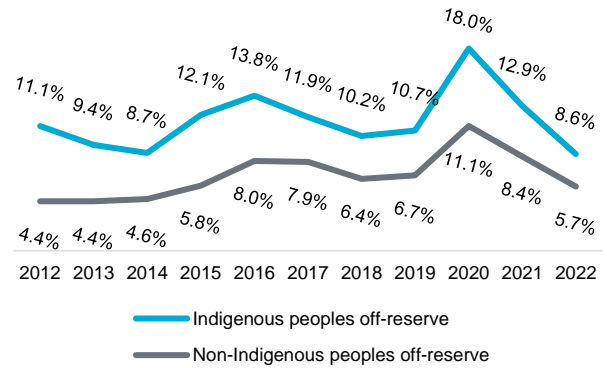
Source: Statistics Canada

## Unemployment rate

In 2022, the unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve in Alberta was 8.6 per cent, the lowest point since 2012.

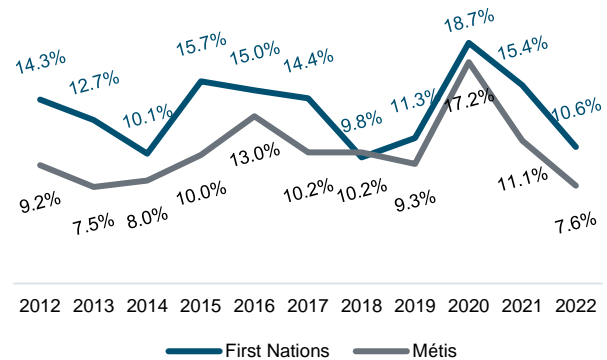
- The unemployment rate for non-Indigenous peoples was 5.7 per cent.
- The unemployment rate for Métis was 7.6 per cent while it was 10.6 per cent for First Nations (Figure 33).

**FIGURE 32. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY INDIGENOUS STATUS, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada

**FIGURE 33. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES OF INDIGENOUS GROUPS, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)

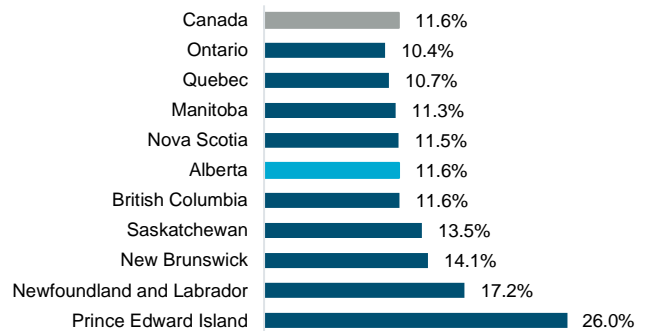


Source: Statistics Canada

In 2022, the unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve in Canada was 8.0 per cent, slightly lower than the rate in Alberta.

For the average unemployment rate between 2012 and 2022, Alberta was on par with British Columbia at the national level of 11.6 per cent.

**FIGURE 34. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY PROVINCE, 2012-2022 AVERAGE**  
(percentage)

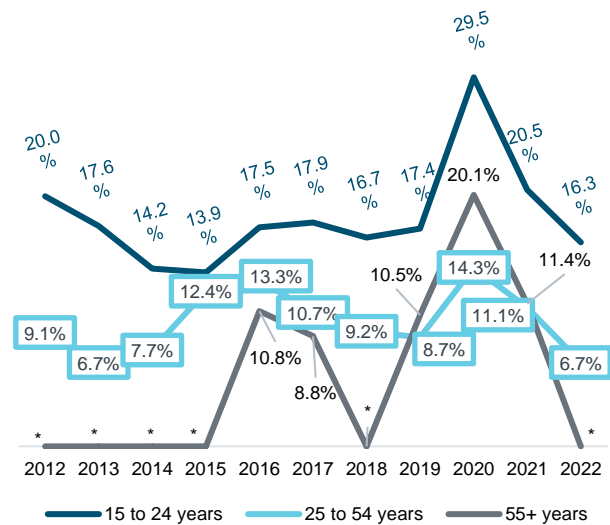


Source: Statistics Canada

The unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples of core working age was 6.7 per cent in 2022, the lowest rate over the last 10 years (tied with 2013).

The unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples off reserve aged 15 to 24 years has ranged from 13.9 per cent (2015) to 29.5 per cent (2020) in the last 10 years. The rate in 2022 was 16.3 per cent.

**FIGURE 35. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OFF RESERVE BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA, 2012-2022**  
(percentage)



\* Data has been suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

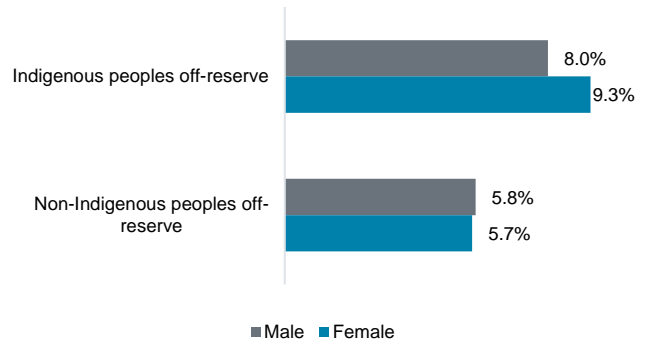
Source: Statistics Canada



In 2022, the unemployment rate for female Indigenous peoples off reserve was 9.3 per cent, 1.3 percentage points higher than males.

- For non-Indigenous peoples, the unemployment rates for females and males were similar at 5.8 per cent and 5.7 per cent, respectively.

**FIGURE 36. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY INDIGENOUS STATUS AND SEX, ALBERTA, 2022**  
(percentage)



Source: Statistics Canada