



# 2019 Alberta labour force profiles

Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve

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Labour and Immigration, Government of Alberta

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Alberta Labour Force Profiles I Indigenous Peoples Living Off-Reserve

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

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# Overview

The 2019 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 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.

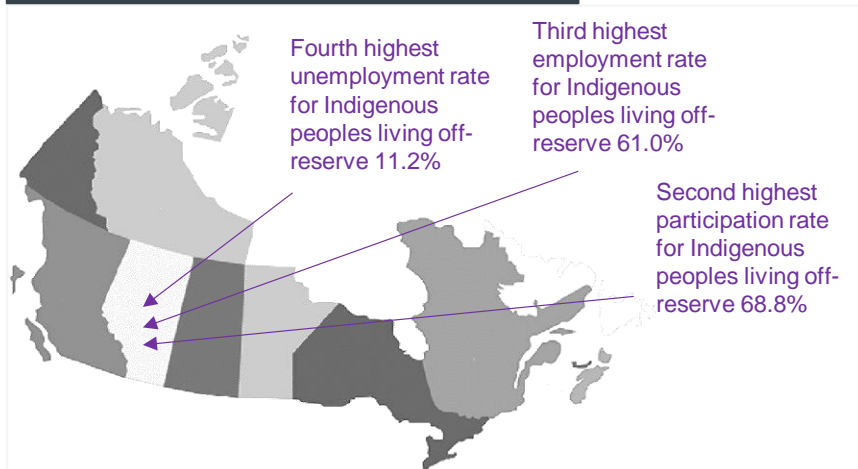
# Highlights: Indigenous Peoples Living Off-Reserve, 2019

## Population Statistics

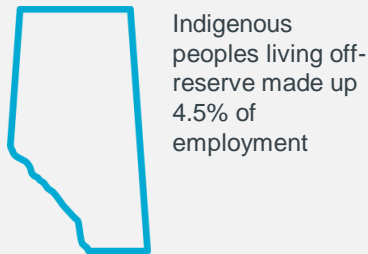
Fourth highest percentage of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in the working age population

1.	11.9%	MB
2.	9.9%	SK
3.	6.5%	NL
4.	4.9%	AB

## Labour Force Statistics

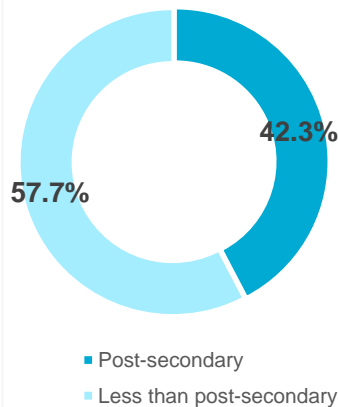


## Employment



## Education

42.3% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve who were 15 years and older have Post-secondary education



## Occupation

27.6% of employed Indigenous peoples living off-reserve were employed in Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations

## Wages

Highest Hourly Wage in Canada



Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) (Alberta)

\$28.84

Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) (Canadian)

\$25.53

## Industry

14.2% of employed Indigenous peoples living off-reserve were employed in the Construction Industry

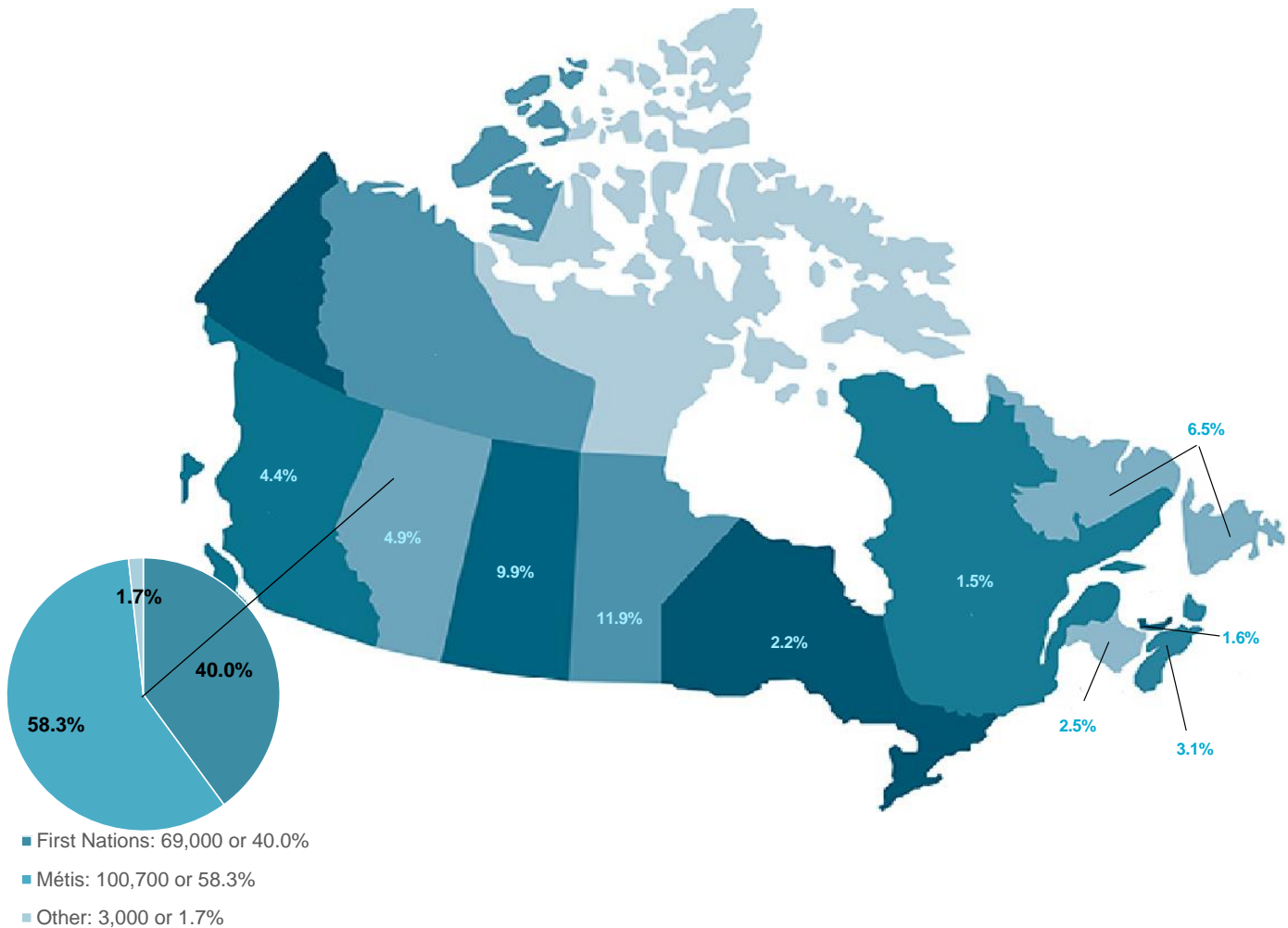
# Population Statistics

In 2019, Alberta had the fourth highest percentage of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in the working age population, at 4.9% (Table 1). Manitoba had the highest percentage at 11.9%. The overall share for Canada was 3.3%.

**Table 1**  
Number and Percentage of Indigenous Peoples Living Off-Reserve by Province, 2019

	Population	Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)	Indigenous Peoples Share
Canada	30,739,200	1,006,500	3.3%
Newfoundland and Labrador	440,600	28,600	6.5%
Prince Edward Island	128,600	2,100	1.6%
Nova Scotia	807,200	25,100	3.1%
New Brunswick	631,400	16,100	2.5%
Quebec	7,051,500	106,900	1.5%
Ontario	12,129,600	264,800	2.2%
Manitoba	1,037,500	123,200	11.9%
Saskatchewan	889,800	88,300	9.9%
Alberta	3,525,700	172,700	4.9%
British Columbia	4,097,300	178,600	4.4%

Percentage of Indigenous Peoples Off-Reserve in the Working Age Population by Province, 2019



In 2019, the working age population of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was 172,700 (Table 2). The proportion of Indigenous peoples living off reserve in Alberta between the ages of 15 and 24 years was 22.5%, while 57.5% were between 25 and 54 years old. For all of Alberta, 14.4% of the population was 15 to 24 years old and 54.2% was 25 to 54 years old.

**Table 2**  
**Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Age Group, Alberta, 2019**

	All Indigenous Peoples		First Nation		Métis		Other	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
15+ years	172,700	100.0%	69,000	100.0%	100,700	100.0%	3,000	100.0%
15 - 24 years	38,800	22.5%	17,300	25.1%	20,700	20.6%	*	*
25 -54 years	99,300	57.5%	40,900	59.3%	56,700	56.3%	1,700	56.7%
55 + years	34,600	20.0%	10,700	15.5%	23,300	23.1%	*	*

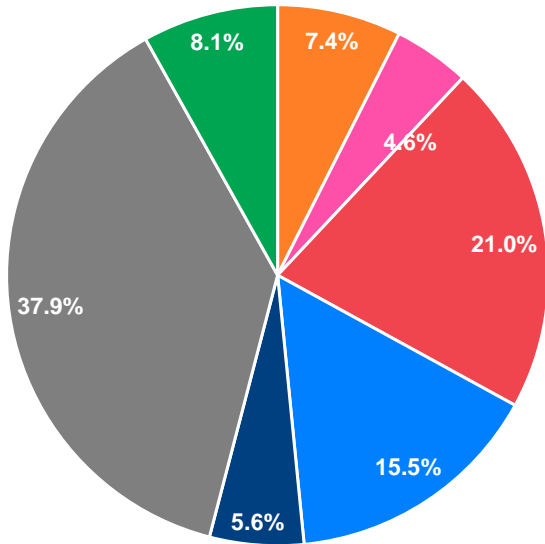


In 2019, the Edmonton economic region had the highest off-reserve Indigenous working age population at 37.9%, followed by Calgary at 21.0% (Table 3). The Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River economic region has the third largest off-reserve Indigenous working age population in Alberta. In total, these three regions accounted for 74.3% of all Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta. The Camrose - Drumheller economic region had the lowest Indigenous working age population at 4.6% in 2019.

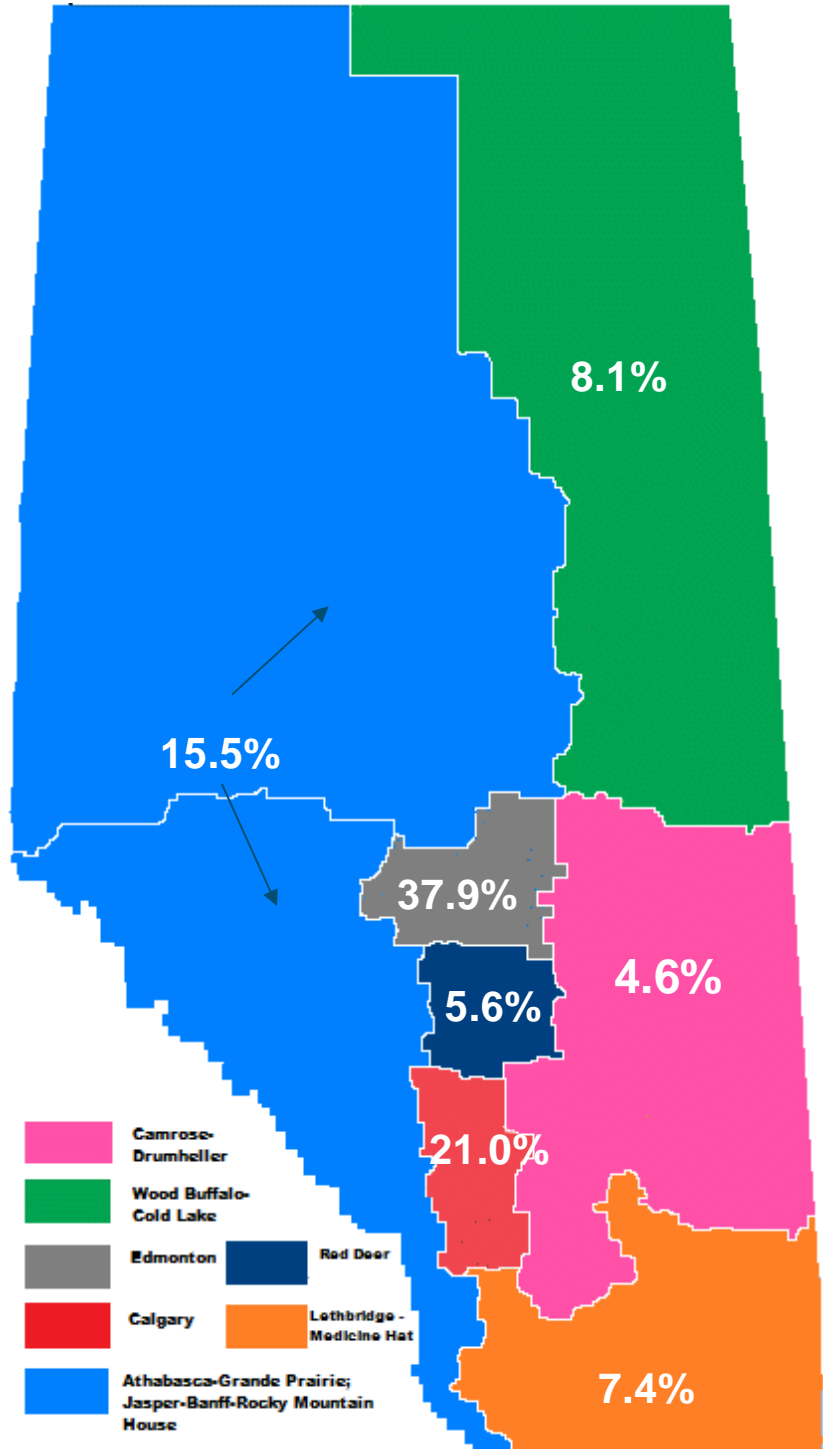
**Table 3**  
**Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) in the Working Age Population by Economic Region, Alberta, 2019**

	All Indigenous Peoples		First Nation		Métis	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat	12,800	7.4%	6,800	9.9%	5,900	5.9%
Camrose - Drumheller	7,900	4.6%	*	*	5,900	5.9%
Calgary	36,300	21.0%	15,100	21.9%	20,700	20.6%
Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River	26,700	15.5%	9,200	13.3%	17,200	17.1%
Red Deer	9,700	5.6%	2,600	3.8%	6,900	6.9%
Edmonton	65,400	37.9%	27,200	39.4%	36,700	36.4%
Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake	14,000	8.1%	6,300	9.1%	7,400	7.3%
Total	172,700	100.0%	69,000	100.0%	100,700	100.0%

**Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Economic Region, Alberta, 2019**



- Lethbridge - Medicine Hat: 12,800 or 7.4%
- Camrose - Drumheller: 7,900 or 4.6%
- Calgary: 36,300 or 21.0%
- Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River: 26,700 or 15.5%
- Red Deer: 9,700 or 5.6%
- Edmonton: 65,400 or 37.9%
- Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake: 14,000 or 8.1%



In 2019, the proportion of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in rural areas was 13.7%. This was higher than the provincial average of 10.0% by 3.7 percentage points (Table 4). Over two thirds or 67.7% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve live in urban cores.

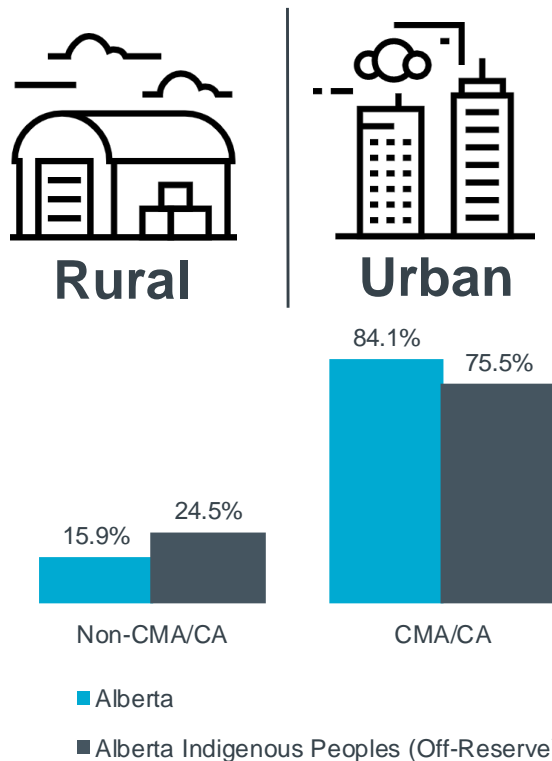
**Table 4**  
**Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Urban/Rural, Alberta, 2019**

	Alberta	Share	Indigenous People (Off-Reserve)	Share	Indigenous Share of Population
CMA/CA	2,963,700	84.1%	130,400	75.5%	4.4%
Urban core	2,784,800	79.0%	116,900	67.7%	4.2%
Urban fringe	37,000	1.0%	5,300	3.1%	14.3%
Rural fringe	141,900	4.0%	8,300	4.8%	5.8%
Non-CMA/CA	562,000	15.9%	42,300	24.5%	7.5%
Small town	208,800	5.9%	18,500	10.7%	8.9%
Rural	353,200	10.0%	23,700	13.7%	6.7%
Total	3,525,700	100.0%	172,700	100.0%	4.9%

At 80.9%, First Nations are more likely to live in or near urban areas (CMA/CA) compared to Métis at 71.5% (Table 5).

**Table 5**  
**Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Urban/Rural and Identity, Alberta, 2019**

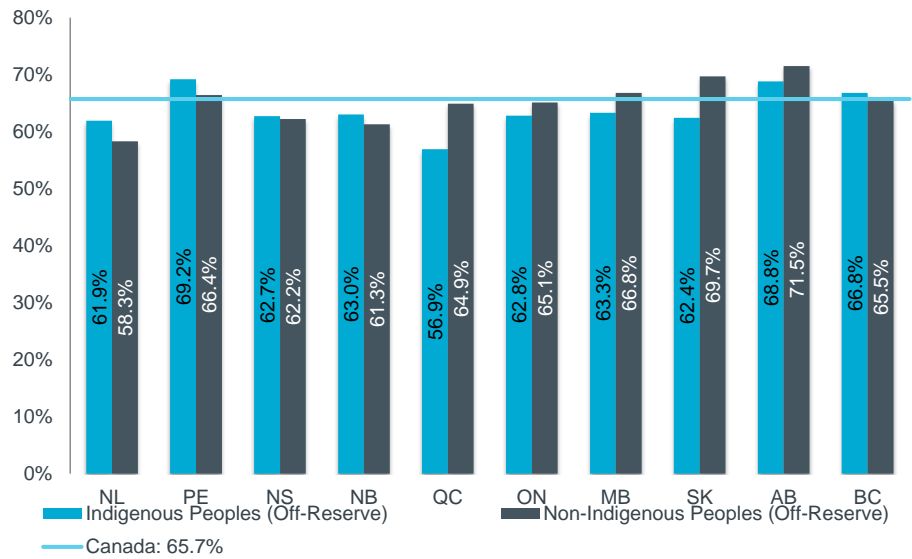
	Indigenous People (Off-Reserve)		First Nation		Métis	
	Share	Share	Share	Share	Share	Share
CMA/CA	130,400	75.5%	55,800	80.9%	72,000	71.5%
Non-CMA/CA	42,300	24.5%	13,200	19.1%	28,600	28.4%
Total	172,700	100.0%	69,000	100.0%	100,700	100.0%



# Labour Force Statistics

In 2019, the participation rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was 68.8% (Figure 1). This was the second highest among Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in all provinces. This rate was 3.1 percentage points higher than the national participation rate of 65.7%, and 4.9 percentage points higher than the Canadian average of 63.9% for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve.

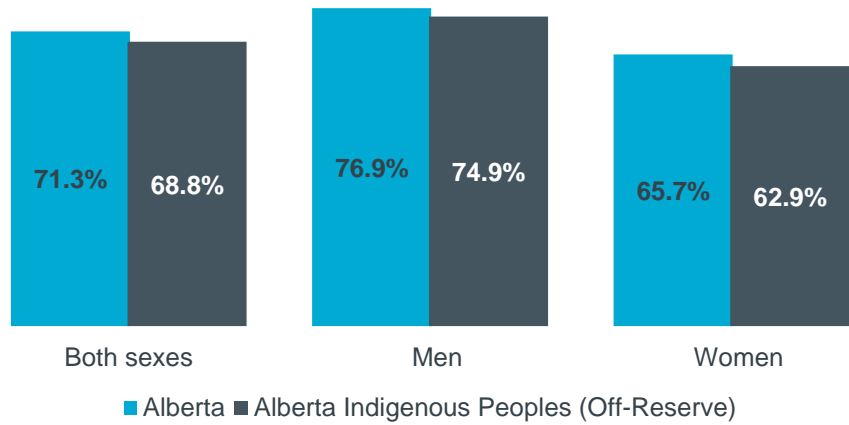
**Figure 1**  
Participation Rate for Canada and Provinces, 2019



In 2019, the participation rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve was 68.8% (Figure 2). This is 2.5 percentage points lower than the provincial average.

The participation rate for Indigenous men was 74.9%, higher than that of Indigenous women at 62.9%. Both rates are lower than the corresponding provincial averages of 76.9% for men and 65.7% for women.

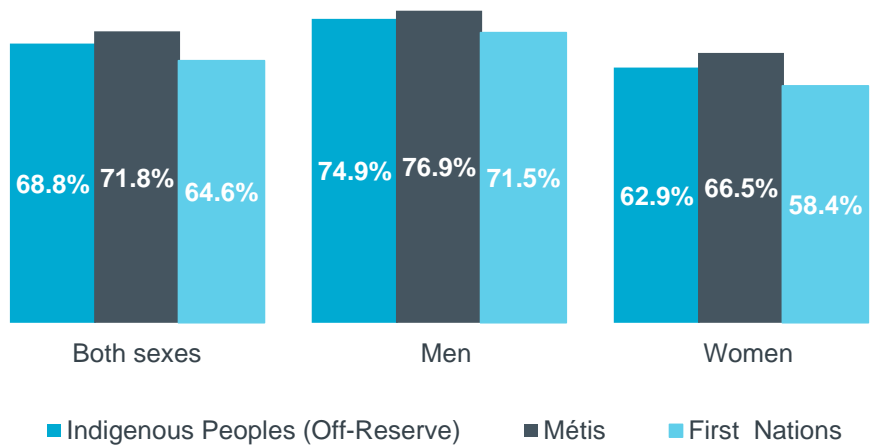
**Figure 2**  
Participation Rate by Sex, 2019



The average participation rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was 68.8% in 2019. Métis people had a higher participation rate, at 71.8%, compared to First Nations, at 64.6% (Figure 3).

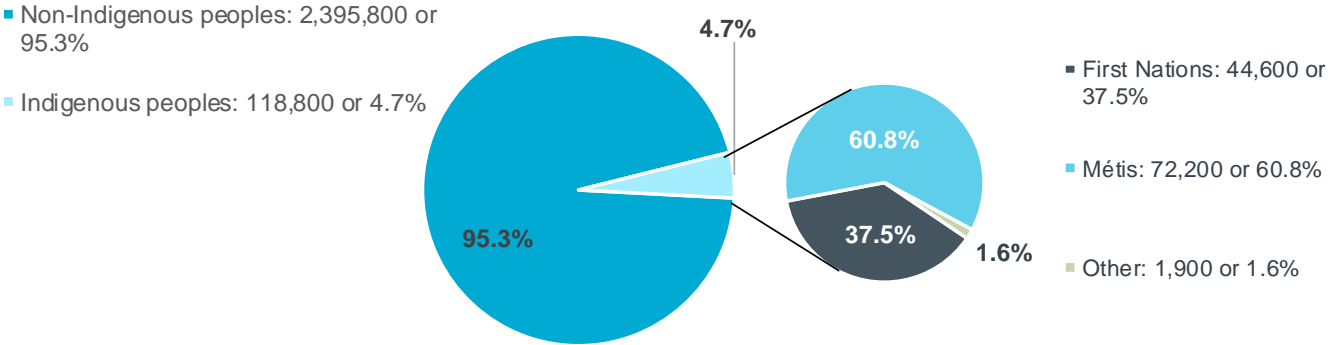
Among Indigenous men, Métis had a higher participation rate, at 76.9% compared to First Nations men, at 71.5%. For women, Métis had a higher participation rate at 66.5% compared to First Nations women at 58.4%.

**Figure 3**  
Participation Rate by Identity and Gender, 2019



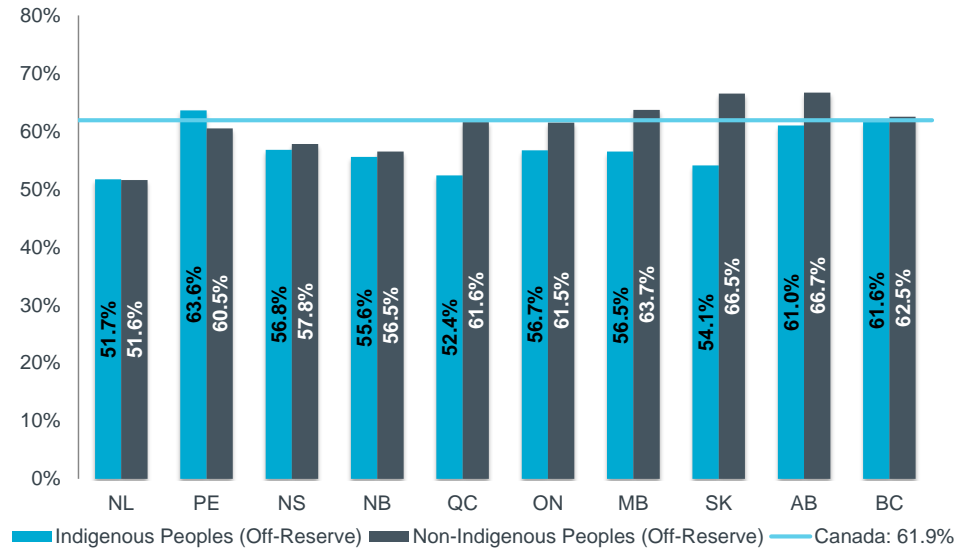
In 2019, Indigenous peoples living off-reserve made up 4.7% of the labour force in Alberta (Figure 4). Among them 44,600 or 37.5% were First Nations, and 72,200 or 60.8% were Métis.

**Figure 4**  
**Labour Force by Identity, 2019**



The employment rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was 61.0%, the third highest among all Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in the 10 provinces (Figure 5). This rate was 0.9 percentage points lower than the Canadian employment rate of 61.9%, and 3.5 percentage points above the national average for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve of 57.5%.

**Figure 5**  
**Employment Rate for Canada and Provinces, 2019**

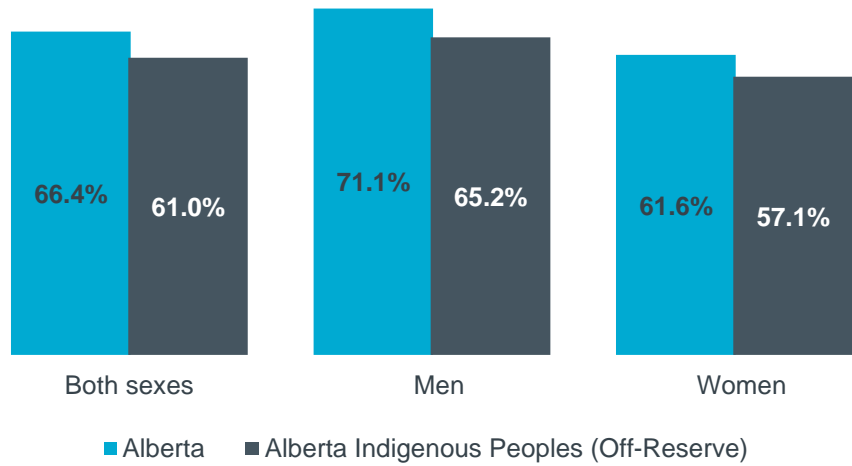




The provincial employment rate for those 15 years and over was 66.4% in 2019. This was 5.4 percentage points higher than the rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in the same age group, which was 61.0% (Figure 6).

The employment rate for all men was 71.1%. This was 5.9 percentage points higher than the employment rate for Indigenous men which was 65.2%. The employment rate for all women and Indigenous women living off-reserve was 61.6% and 57.1% respectively.

**Figure 6**  
**Employment Rate by Sex, 2019**

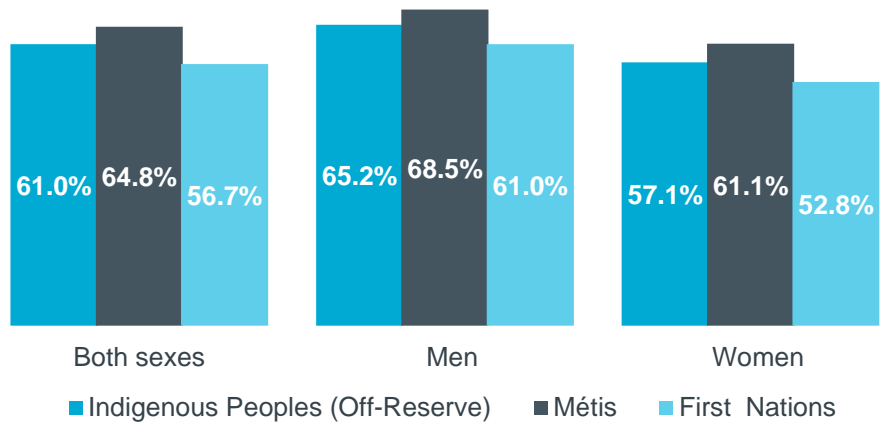


The average employment rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was 61.0% in 2019. Métis people had a higher employment rate, at 64.8%, compared to First Nations, at 56.7% (Figure 7).

Indigenous men had a higher employment rate, at 65.2% than their female counterparts, at 57.1% in 2019.

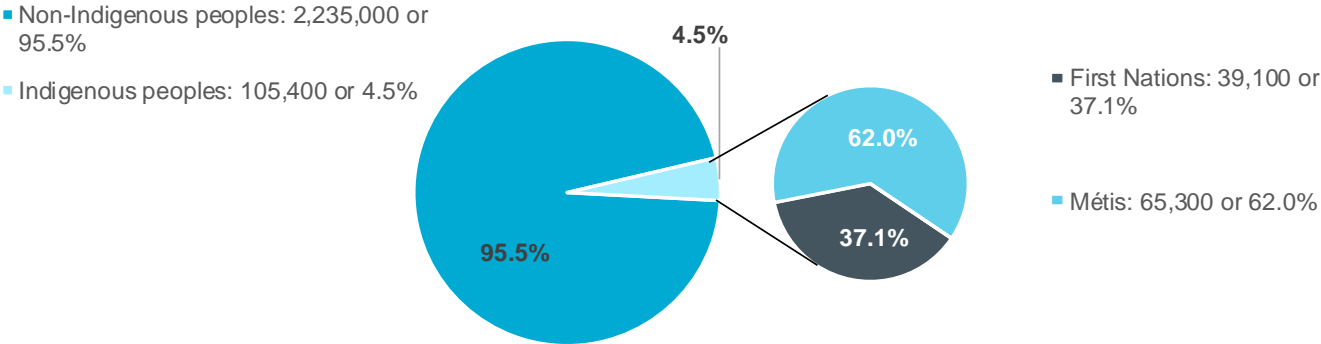
Among Indigenous men, First Nations had a lower employment rate, at 61.0% compared to Métis men, at 68.5%. Métis women had a higher employment rate at 61.1% compared to First Nations women at 52.8%.

**Figure 7**  
Employment Rate by Identity and Gender, 2019



In 2019, Indigenous peoples living off-reserve made up 4.5% of employment in Alberta (Figure 8). Among them 39,100 or 37.1% were First Nations, and 65,300 or 62.0% were Métis.

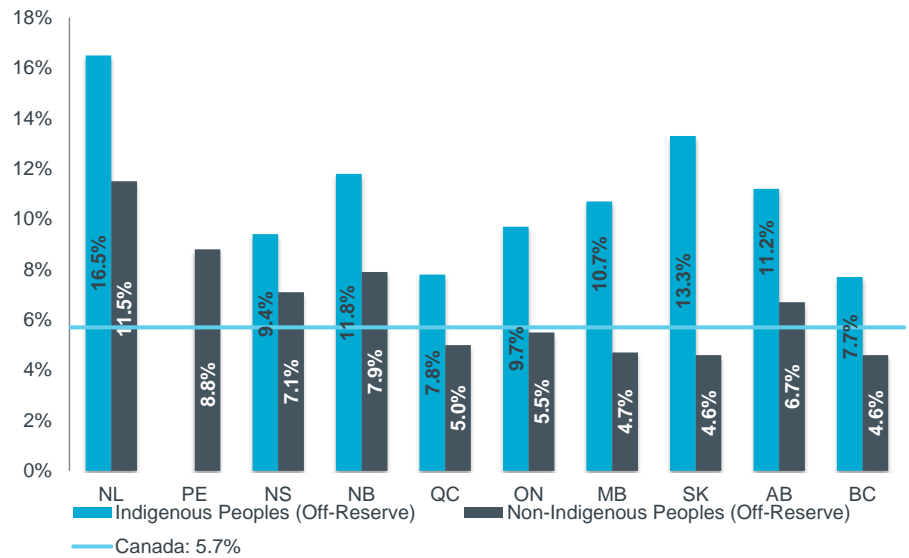
**Figure 8**  
Employment by Identity, 2019



*Note: insufficient data to report on Inuit or multiple identities*

The unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was 11.2%. This rate was higher than the Canadian average of 5.7% (Figure 9). Alberta's unemployment rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve was the fourth highest rate among the 10 provinces in 2019 (Figure 9). The Canadian rate for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve was 10.2%

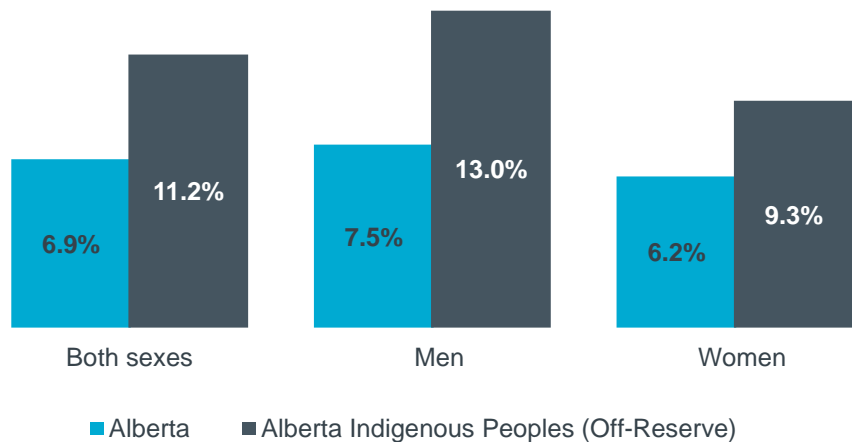
**Figure 9**  
Unemployment Rates for Canada and Provinces, 2019



Note: Insufficient data for Prince Edward Island

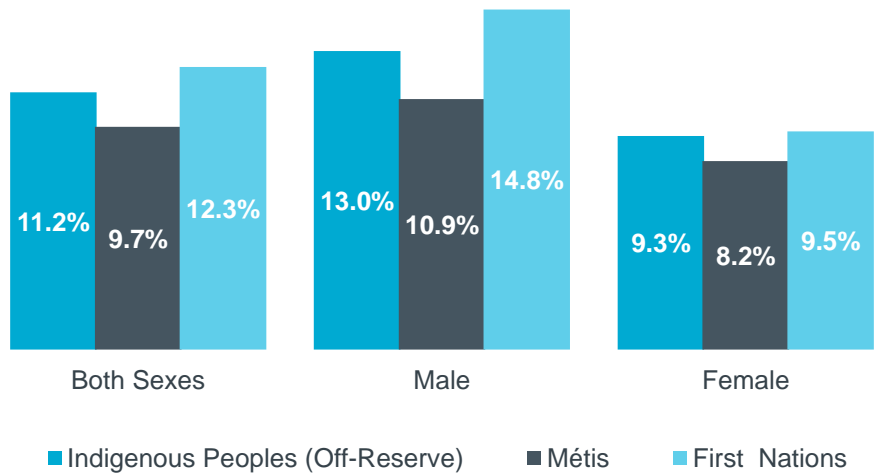
Indigenous men and women had higher unemployment rates than the provincial average (Figure 10). The unemployment rate for Indigenous men was 13.0%. This was 5.5 percentage points higher than the provincial rate for all men at 7.5%. Meanwhile, Indigenous women had an unemployment rate of 9.3%. This was 3.1 percentage points higher than the provincial rate for all women of 6.2%.

**Figure 10**  
Unemployment Rate by Sex, 2019



Among Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta, Métis had the lowest unemployment rate in 2019 at 9.7%. This was 2.6 percentage points lower than the rate for First Nations (Figure 11). Among men, the unemployment rate for First Nations was 14.8%, higher than for Métis at 10.9%.

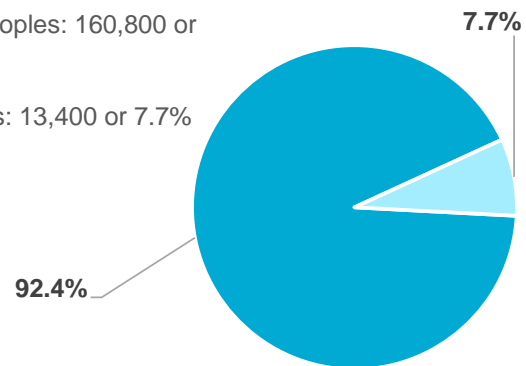
**Figure 11**  
Unemployment Rate by Identity and Sex, 2019



In 2019, Indigenous peoples living off-reserve made up 7.7% of unemployment in Alberta (Figure 12).

**Figure 12**  
Unemployment by Identity, 2019

- Non-Indigenous peoples: 160,800 or 92.4%
- Indigenous peoples: 13,400 or 7.7%



# Employment

In 2019, 70.5% of employed Indigenous peoples living off-reserve were in the services-producing sector, and 29.5% 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, 14.2%; Retail Trade, 12.2%; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 11.7%.

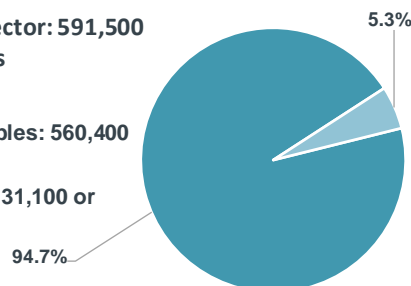
**Table 6**  
**Employment of Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) by Industry, 2019**

Industry	Employment	% of Total
<b>Goods-Producing Sector</b>		<b>29.5%</b>
Agriculture	**	**
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	10,200	9.7%
Utilities	**	**
Construction	15,000	14.2%
Manufacturing	4,700	4.5%
<b>Services-Producing Sector</b>	<b>74,300</b>	<b>70.5%</b>
Educational Services	4,800	4.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	12,300	11.7%
Public Administration	5,300	5.0%
Wholesale Trade	3,700	3.5%
Retail Trade	12,900	12.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	8,600	8.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	2,800	2.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	3,100	2.9%
Management of Companies and Administrative and Other Support Services	5,400	5.1%
Information, Culture and Recreation	3,600	3.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	5,700	5.4%
Other Services	6,000	5.7%
<b>Total employed</b>	<b>105,400</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*\* Insufficient data

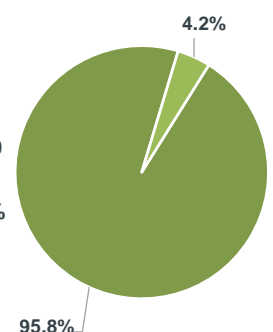
**Goods-Producing Sector: 591,500 employed Albertans of which**

- Non-Indigenous peoples: 560,400 or 94.7%
- Indigenous peoples: 31,100 or 5.3%



**Services-Producing Sector: 1,748,900 employed Albertans of which**

- Non-Indigenous peoples: 1,674,600 or 95.8%
- Indigenous peoples: 74,300 or 4.2%



In 2019, 63.6% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta were employed in three occupational groups: Trades, transport and equipment operators and related, 27.6%; Sales and service, 23.3%; and Business, finance and administrative, 12.6%. At the provincial level, 56.3% of Albertans worked in these three occupational groups combined (Table 7).

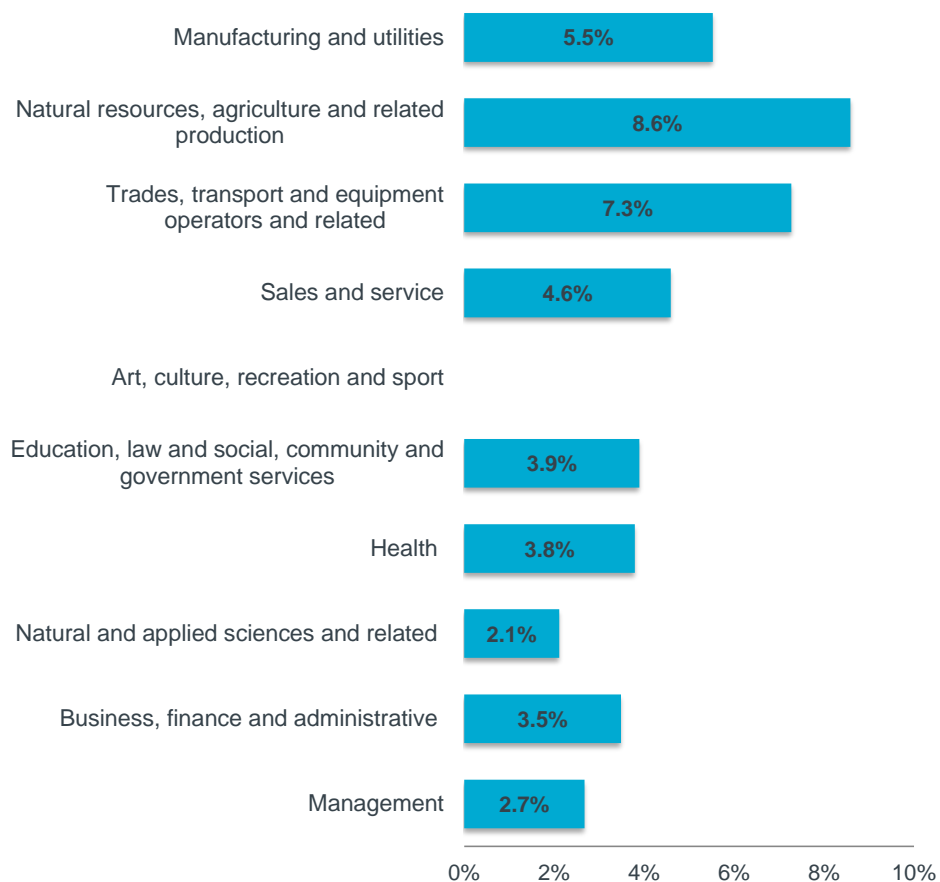
The largest difference in employment by occupational group is in the Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations where the provincial average is 10.5 percentage points below that of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve.

In 2019, Indigenous peoples living off-reserve accounted for 4.5% of employment in Alberta. Among the 10 occupation groups, Natural resources, agriculture and related production had the highest proportion of employment from Indigenous peoples living off-reserve at 8.6% (Figure 13).

**Table 7**  
**Employment by Occupation, 2019**

Occupation	Albertans		Indigenous Albertans	
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total
Management	198,100	8.5%	5,300	5.0%
Business, finance and administrative	381,300	16.3%	13,300	12.6%
Natural and applied sciences and related	194,100	8.3%	4,100	3.9%
Health	176,600	7.5%	6,700	6.4%
Education, law and social, community and government services	238,800	10.2%	9,300	8.8%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	51,700	2.2%	**	**
Sales and service	535,300	22.9%	24,600	23.3%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	400,000	17.1%	29,100	27.6%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production	81,500	3.5%	7,000	6.6%
Manufacturing and utilities	83,200	3.6%	4,600	4.4%
All occupations	2,340,400	100.0%	105,400	100.0%

**Figure 13**  
**Indigenous Employment Share by Occupation, 2019**



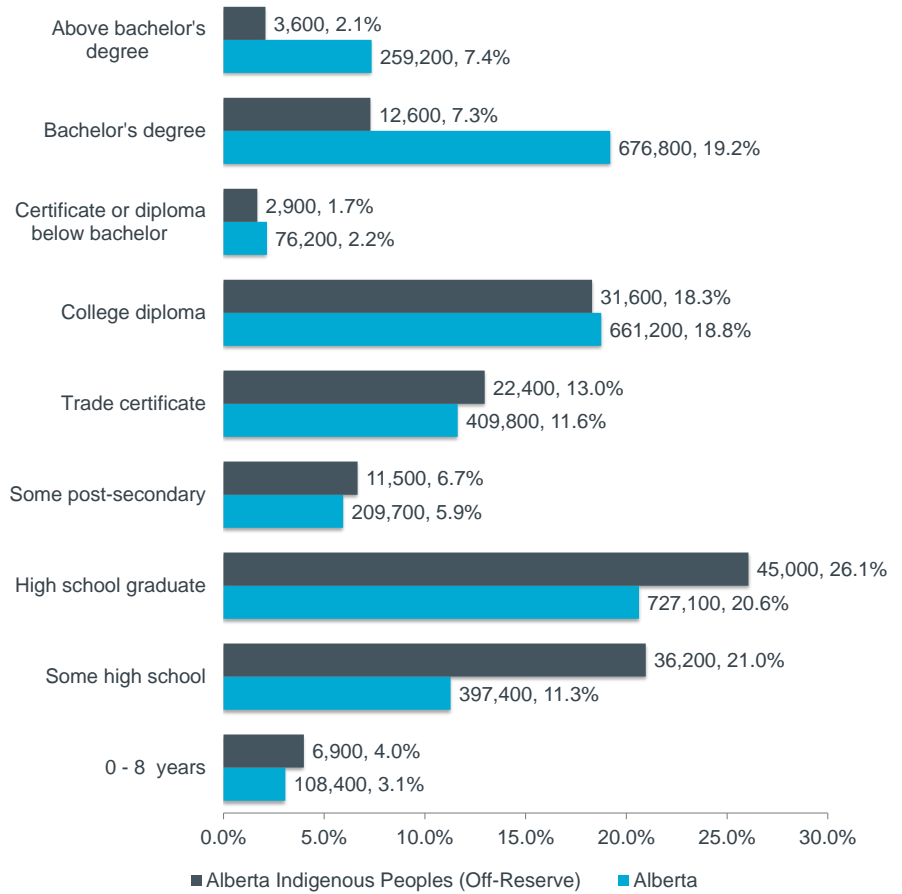
Note: Insufficient data for Art, culture, recreation and sport

# Education

In 2019, 42.3% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta completed a post-secondary education. 32.9% of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve attained post-secondary certificates or diplomas; and another 9.4% had university degrees (Figure 14).

The percentage of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve who had less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment was 25.0%. The provincial average was 14.3%.

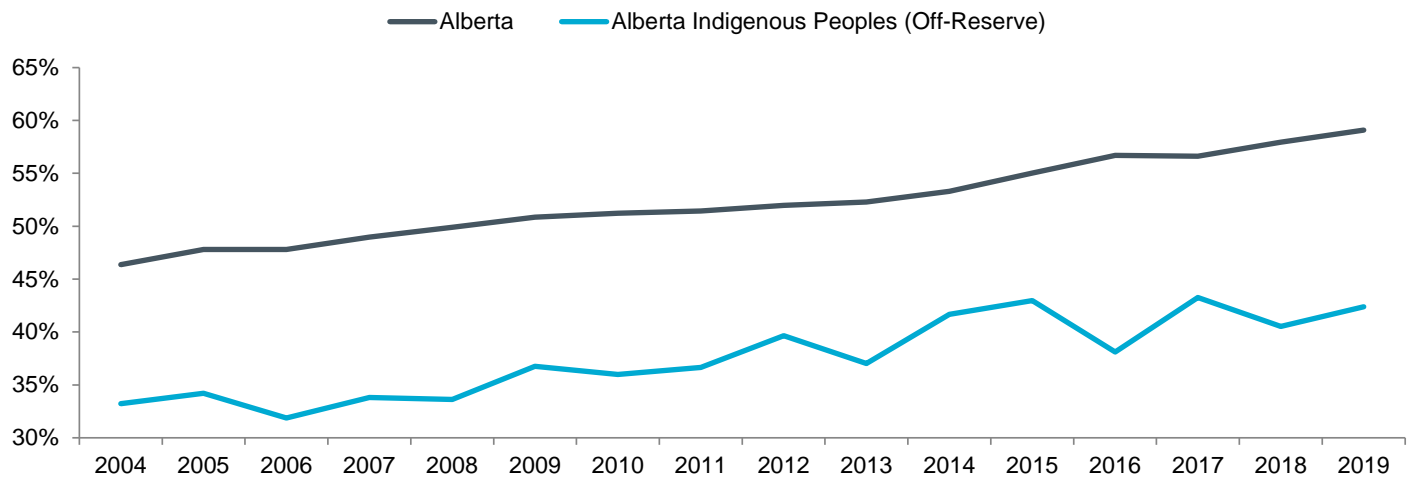
**Figure 14**  
Highest Level of Educational Attainment of Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve), 2019





Between 2004 and 2019 the proportion of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta that completed a post-secondary education increased to 42.3% from 33.2% (Figure 15). For the entire province, it increased to 59.1% from 46.4%.

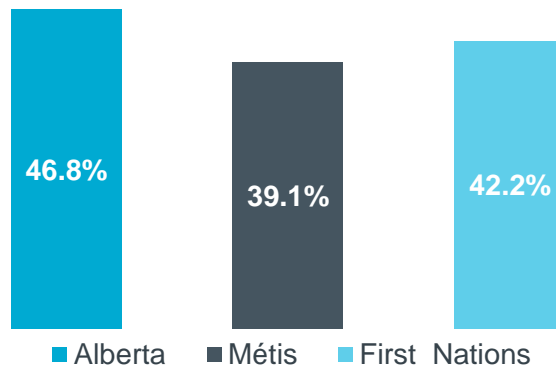
**Figure 15**  
Proportion of Persons 15 years and over in Alberta that Completed a Post-Secondary Education



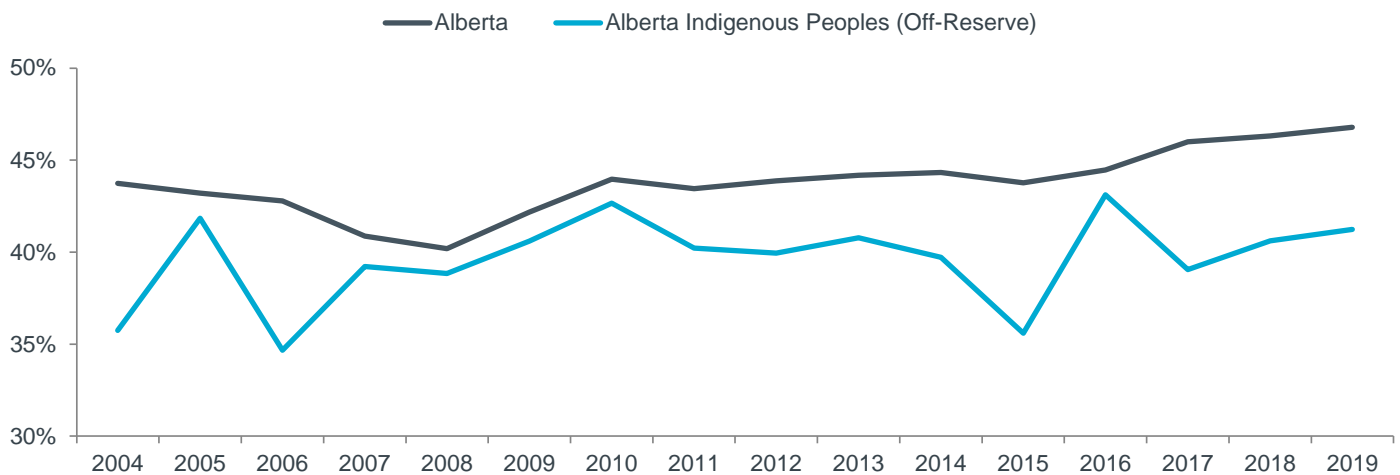
In 2019, there were 7,300 First Nations youth who were students. This represents 42.2% of all First Nations youth (Figure 16). For Métis, there were 8,100 students, representing 39.1% of Métis youth. Provincially, 46.8% of youth were students.

Since 2004 the proportion of youth Indigenous peoples living off-reserve attending school has been trending upwards and approaching the provincial average (Figure 17).

**Figure 16**  
Proportion of Youth (15-24) in Alberta that are Students, 2019



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



# Wages



Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) (Alberta) \$28.84  
 Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve) (Canadian) \$25.53

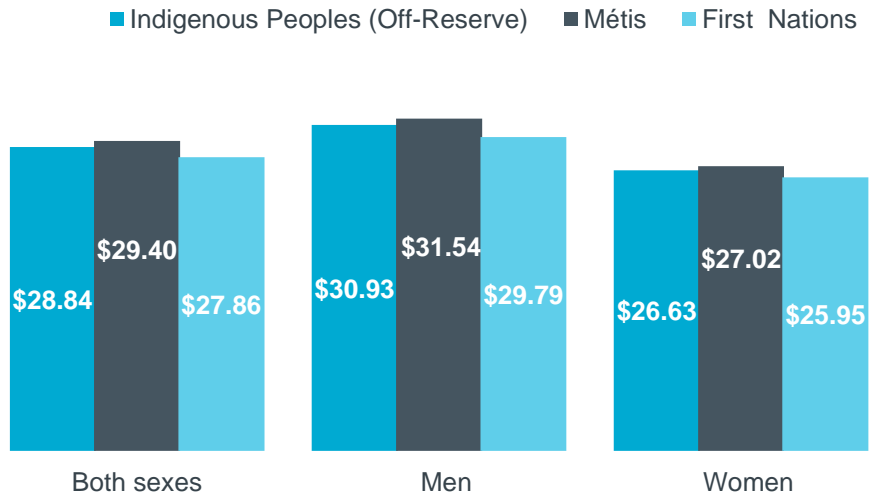
In 2019, the average hourly wage for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in Alberta was \$28.84. This was \$3.31 higher than national average hourly rate of \$25.53 for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve (Table 8).

**Table 8**  
**Average Hourly Wage in 2019, Canada and Provinces**

Region	Provincial Average	Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)
Canada	\$27.83	\$25.53
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$26.40	\$25.30
Prince Edward Island	\$22.76	\$22.70
Nova Scotia	\$23.71	\$22.05
New Brunswick	\$23.45	\$20.88
Quebec	\$26.64	\$24.08
Ontario	\$28.33	\$25.55
Manitoba	\$25.21	\$23.34
Saskatchewan	\$27.63	\$25.49
Alberta	\$31.39	\$28.84
British Columbia	\$27.64	\$25.42

Among Indigenous men, Métis had the highest average hourly wage at \$31.54 (Fig 18). For Indigenous women, Métis also had the highest average hourly wage at \$27.02.

**Figure 18**  
Average Hourly Wage by Sex and Identity, Alberta, 2019



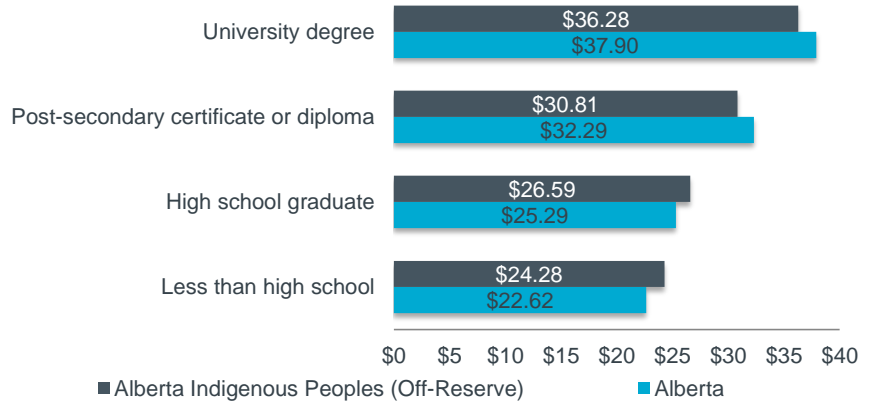
Alberta Average  
**\$31.39**



Alberta Indigenous Peoples (Off-Reserve)  
**\$28.84**

For those with a university degree, Indigenous peoples living off-reserve earned on average \$1.62 less than the provincial average (Figure 19).

**Figure 19**  
Average Hourly Wage by Education, Alberta, 2019



In 2019, the highest paying industry for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve was Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas at \$40.76 per hour (Figure 20).

**Figure 20**  
Average Hourly Wage by Industry, Alberta, 2019

