
Alberta Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry Profile 2024

Jobs, Economy and Trade

Alberta 

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Overview

The 2024 Industry Profile for the Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry provides statistics and trends in the labour market for the mining and oil and gas extraction 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 mining and oil and gas extraction¹ industry in Alberta includes companies that extract naturally occurring minerals, such as:

- exploring for crude petroleum and natural gas;
- drilling, completing and equipping wells;
- operating separators, emulsion breakers, desilting equipment and field gathering lines for crude petroleum;
- mining for coal, metal ore, liquids and non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying; and
- other activities in the preparation of oil and gas up to the point of shipment from the producing property.

For more information, please see [Statistics Canada North American Industry Classifications System \(NAICS\) Canada 2022](#) for descriptions of industries.

¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2017 major group 21.

Section A: Business Environment

Employment, Unemployment and Labour Force Characteristics

TABLE 1: LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS (2024)

	All Industries	Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction
Employment	2,518,900	150,200
Employment share	N/A	6.0%
Unemployment	189,400	5,500
Unemployment rate	7.0%	3.5%
Labour force	2,708,400	155,700
Share of labour force	N/A	5.7%

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 [Labour Force Statistics](#) or [Statistics Canada](#).

Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to the most recent Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts,² the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry accounted for 25.0% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023, an increase from 23.8% in 2013. Between 2014 and 2024, this industry's contribution to Alberta's employment declined from 7.6% to 6.0%.

Over the last 10 years, employment in the mining and oil and gas extraction industry fell by 21,900, a 12.7% decrease. There were 150,200 people employed in the industry in 2024, with 97.1% working full-time and 2.9% part-time. Total employment in this industry (which includes the total number of employees and self-employed people 15 years and over) in 2024 was 13.5% higher than its level in 2023.

TABLE 2: LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS (2024)

Characteristic	All Industries	Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction*
Median retirement age (years)	65.5	64.5
Average number of hours worked per week	36.5	46.1
Multiple job holders (share of total employment)	5.6%	x
Average job tenure (months)	92.4	93.2
Share of employees under union coverage	23.4%	11.2%
Share of employees working overtime per week	19.9%	28.8%

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).

* Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction is grouped with Forestry, Fishing, and Logging with Support Activities due to sample size.

Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders 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. x means suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.

² See Statistics Canada. [Table 36-10-0400-01](#) Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories, percentage share. Alberta Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction Industry Profile, 2024 | Jobs, Economy and Trade

Size of Businesses by Industry

TABLE 3: EMPLOYMENT BY ESTABLISHMENT SIZE (2024)

Establishment Size	All Industries		Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction**	
	Number of Employees	Share of Total*	Number of Employees	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	703,600	32.4%	25,200	17.5%
20 to 99 employees	762,700	35.1%	42,500	29.5%
100 to 500 employees	441,800	20.3%	41,400	28.7%
More than 500 employees	266,100	12.2%	35,100	24.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0068-01](#).

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

** Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction is grouped with Forestry, Fishing, and Logging with Support Activities due to sample size.

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. 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 (2024)

Employee Size	All Industries		Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	
	Business Counts	Share of Total*	Business Counts	Share of Total*
Less than 20 employees	155,315	87.5%	5,723	95.4%
20 to 99 employees	18,789	10.6%	251	4.2%
100 to 500 employees	3,103	1.7%	23	0.4%
More than 500 employees	375	0.2%	1	0.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register, Table: [33-10-0764-01](#).

* 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 locations by employment size ranges.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the mining and oil and gas extraction industry include:

- mining engineer;
- drilling and service rig manager;
- petroleum engineer; and
- drilling rig leasehand/floorhand.

For a complete list of occupations related to this industry, including information on education and skill requirements, visit the [Alberta Occupational Profiles](#).

For forecasts on occupational demand, labour supply, and growth projections, refer to [Alberta's occupational outlook](#).

Demographics: Gender and Age

In 2024, workers in the mining and oil and gas extraction industry are:

- more likely to be male than the general workforce; and
- more likely to fall within the core working age (25 to 54 years old).

TABLE 5: EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER (2024)

Gender	All Industries		Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	
	Number	Share of Total*	Number	Share of Total*
Males	1,349,200	53.6%	115,600	77.0%
Females	1,169,700	46.4%	34,600	23.0%

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

* Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

TABLE 6: EMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP (2024)

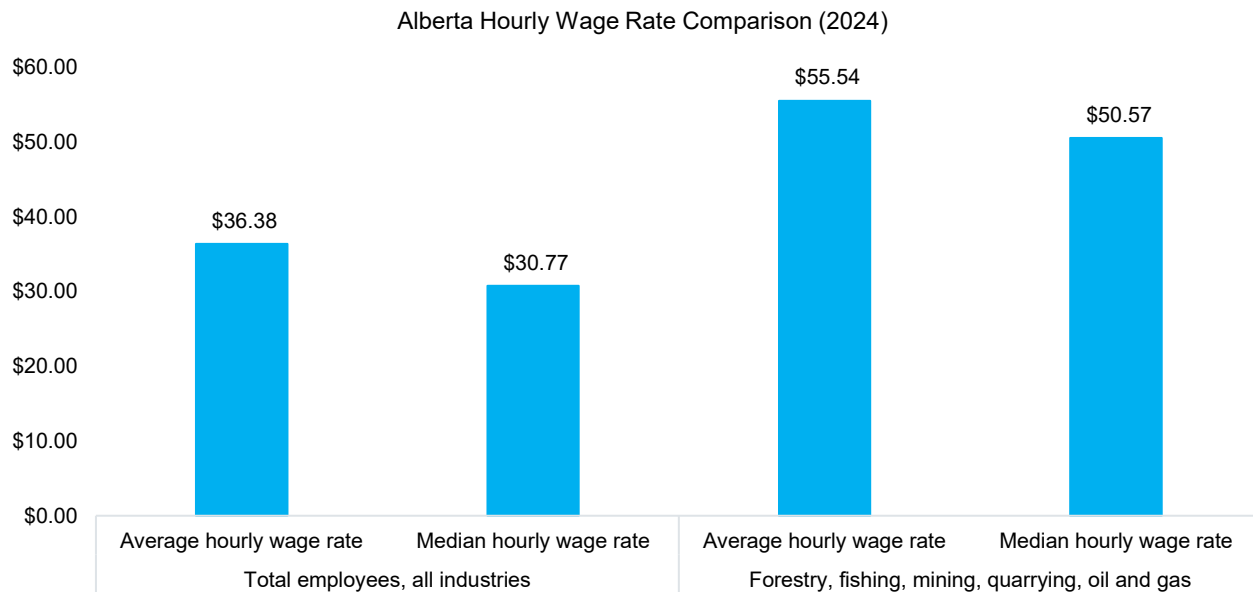
Age Characteristics	All Industries		Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	
	Number	Share of Total*	Number	Share of Total*
15 to 24 years	322,800	12.8%	8,300	5.5%
25 to 54 years	1,719,900	68.3%	115,900	77.2%
55 years and over	476,300	18.9%	26,000	17.3%

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

* Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

Wages and Salaries

CHART 1



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Table: [14-10-0064-01](#).

Note: Wages pertain to Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction, Fishing, and Forestry and Logging with Support Activities, which are grouped together for sample size reasons.

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 (2023)

Occupation	Wage in Alberta			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Petroleum engineers	\$40.87	\$40.87	\$40.87	\$85,000
Geological and mineral technologists and technicians	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$58,240
Public and environmental health and safety professionals	\$35.16	\$38.02	\$44.18	\$59,311
Contractors and supervisors, oil and gas drilling and services	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$93,600

Source: 2023 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 mining and oil and gas extraction industry, visit the [ALIS website](#).

Section C: Additional Information

Links to Industry Associations

- [Canadian Association of Energy Contractors](#)
- [Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers](#)
- [Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum](#)
- [Coal Association of Canada](#)
- [Enserva](#)
- [Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada](#)

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.