



2017 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

Employment ■ **Unemployment** ■ **Economic Regions**

Migration ■ **Indigenous People** ■ **Industries**

Occupations ■ **Education** ■ **Demographics**

Employment

Employment grew by 1.0% in Alberta

In 2017, employment in Alberta was 23,100 higher than in 2016. The province's total employment rose to 2,286,900 in 2017, a 1.0% increase from the level in 2016.

Alberta's annual growth rate of employment was below the national average at 1.9% in 2017 (See Figure 1). Nationally, employment in Canada rose by 336,500 in 2017.

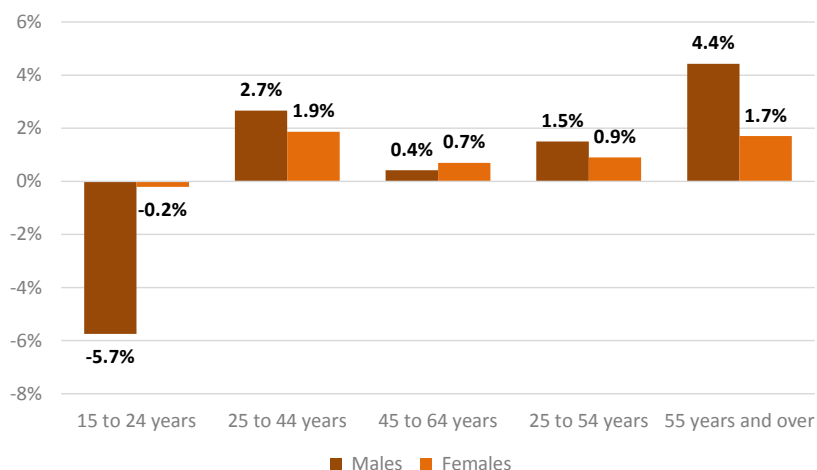
Employment for men in Alberta rose by 1.1% or 14,100, and for women, it rose by 0.9% or 9,200 in 2017. The per cent change in employment for those men aged 55 years and over was markedly higher than all other groups (See Figure 2).

In 2017, full time employment in Alberta increased by 23,500 or 1.3% and part-time employment decreased by 400 or 0.1%. Albertans aged 15 to 24 saw a decrease in full-time employment of 11,100 or 6.2%, and an increase in part-time employment of 1,700 or 1.4%.

Figure 1
Provincial and National Employment, 2017

Province	Employment	Change from 2016	Per cent change
Alberta	2,286,900	23,100	1.0%
Canada	18,416,400	336,500	1.9%
Newfoundland and Labrador	224,100	-8,500	-3.7%
Prince Edward Island	73,700	2,200	3.1%
Nova Scotia	449,000	2,800	0.6%
New Brunswick	352,900	1,400	0.4%
Quebec	4,223,300	90,200	2.2%
Ontario	7,128,000	128,400	1.8%
Manitoba	644,100	10,500	1.7%
Saskatchewan	567,600	-900	-0.2%
British Columbia	2,466,800	87,300	3.7%

Figure 2
Per Cent Change in Employment, 2016-2017



Source: Statistics Canada; Labour Force Survey

Employment rate in Alberta was the highest in Canada

Employment in Alberta rose after falling in 2016 (See Figure 3). Annual average employment fell by 37,300 in 2016 and rose by 23,100 in 2017 (See Figure 4).

The employment rates for women and men in Alberta were 61.4% and 71.9% respectively, the highest among all provinces in 2017. The national employment rate was 57.9% for women and 65.4% for men.

In 2017, Alberta's employment rate of 66.7% continued to be the highest among all provinces. The Canadian employment rate was 61.6%. Alberta's rate of 66.7% was 0.1 percentage points higher than the year before (See Figure 5).

Figure 3
Alberta Annual Average Employment, 2013-2017

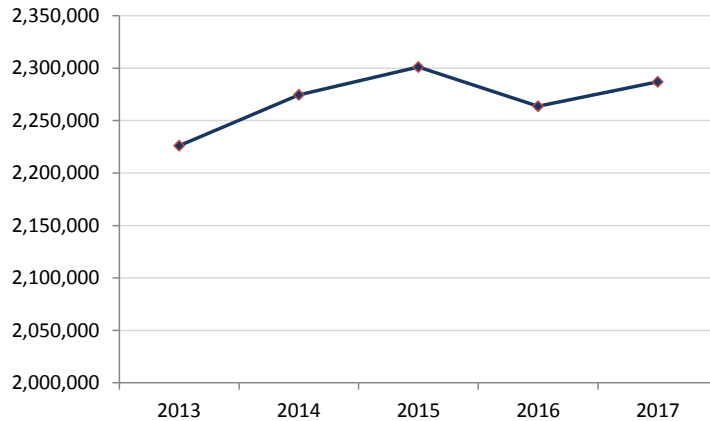


Figure 4
Alberta Annual Average Growth in Employment, 2013-2017

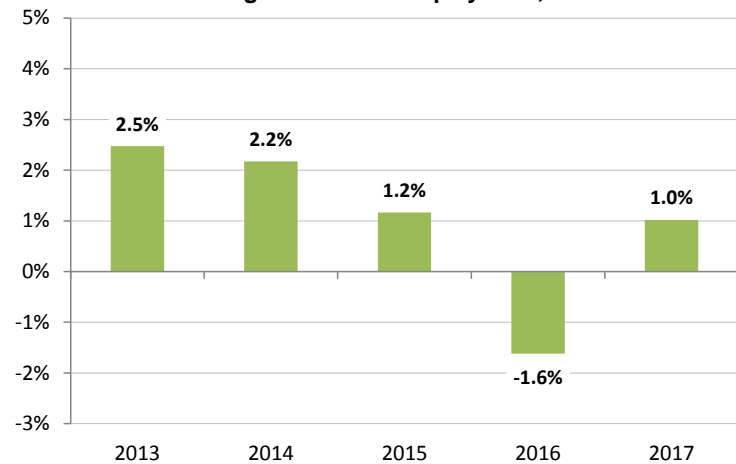
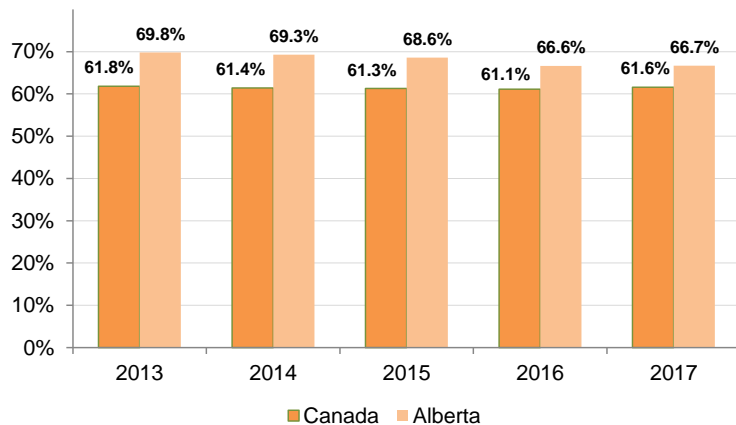


Figure 5
Alberta and Canada Employment Rates, 2013-2017



Source: Statistics Canada; Labour Force Survey

Unemployment

Alberta had the sixth lowest unemployment rate in the country

Alberta's unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 7.8%, from 8.1% in 2017 (See Figure 6). This was the sixth lowest among the 10 provinces (See Figure 7). The unemployment rate for Alberta men decreased to 8.3% from 8.9% in 2016, while the unemployment rate for Alberta women was unchanged at 7.3% from 2016.

The number of unemployed people in Alberta decreased by 6,100 between 2016 and 2017. Unemployment for women increased by 1,500 and for men, decreased by 7,500 in 2017, compared to the year before.

The unemployment rate for Alberta youth increased from 13.1% to 13.2% in 2017, tied for fourth highest with Prince Edward Island. In 2017, Alberta's female youth unemployment rate of 10.0% was lower than the male youth rate at 16.1%.

Figure 6
Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2013-2017

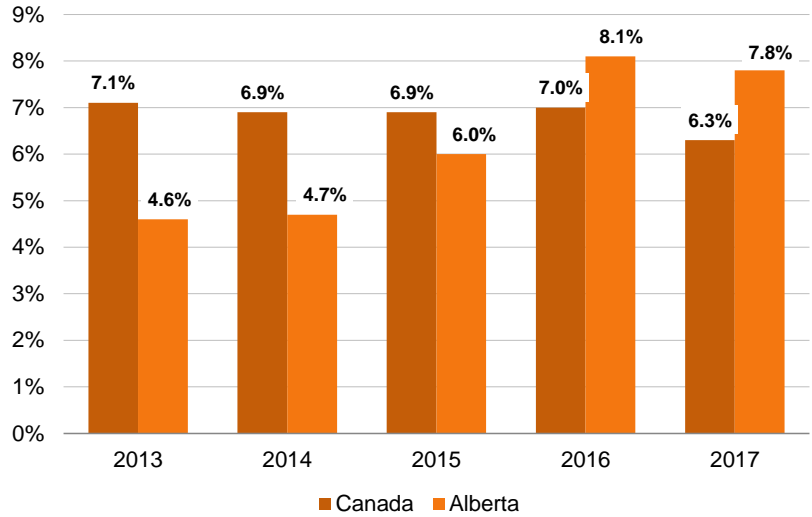
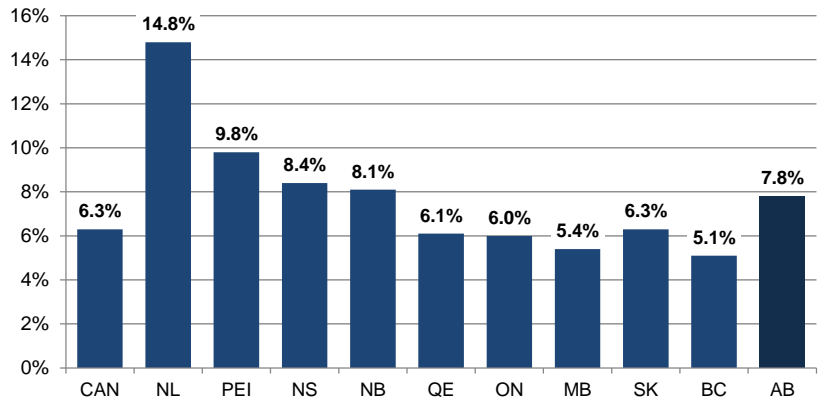


Figure 7
Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada; Labour Force Survey

Economic Regions

The unemployment rate fell in five of the seven economic regions

The unemployment rate fell in Red Deer economic region by 1.7 percentage points, the largest decrease of the seven regions (See Figure 8, 9).

At 5.7%, the unemployment rate in the Red Deer region was the lowest among the seven regions in 2017 (See Figure 8, 9). The Calgary region had the highest unemployment rate at 8.4%, followed by the Edmonton region at 8.1%. In 2017, the unemployment rate increased the most in the Edmonton region, by 0.7 percentage points (See Figure 8, 9).

Figure 8
Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary Economic Regions, Unemployment Rates in 2013-2017

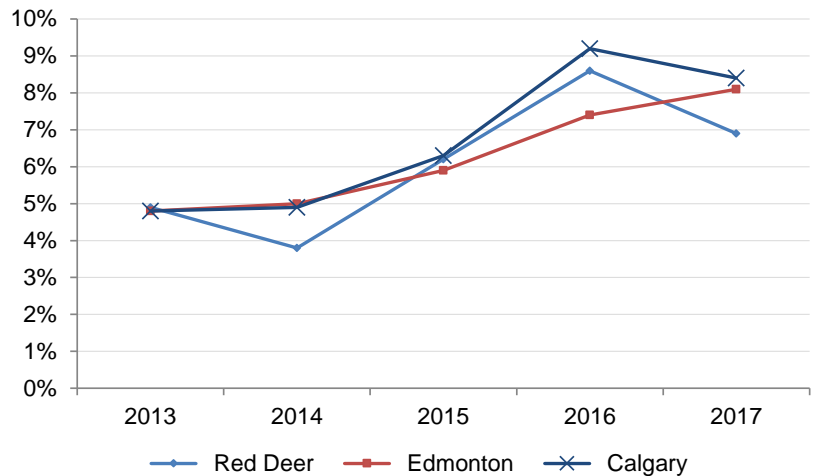
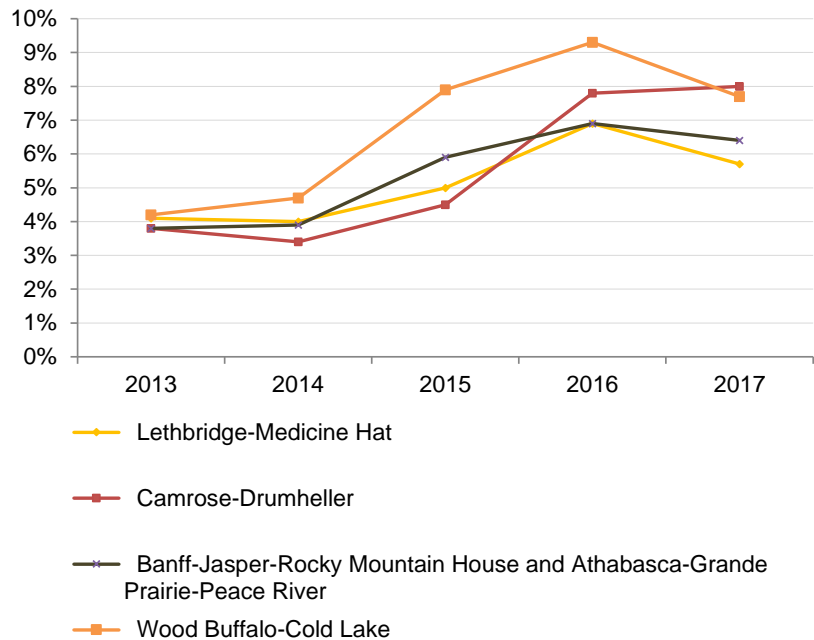


Figure 9
Economic Regions for the Rest of Alberta, Unemployment Rates in 2013-2017



Source: Statistics Canada; Labour Force Survey

Migration

Out-migration from Alberta outnumbered in-migration in 2016

In 2016, Alberta saw a fall in the number of interprovincial in-migrants, temporary foreign workers and a rise in the number of landed immigrants compared to the year before. The net interprovincial migration to Alberta from other provinces was negative 17,675 in 2016 (See Figure 10).

The number of immigrants who landed in Alberta in 2016 was 1,993 higher than the year before (See Figure 11). In 2016 there were negative 17,675 net provincial migrants and 49,214 landed immigrants. In 2017, there were 10,100 temporary foreign workers who came to Alberta.

Figure 10
Alberta Interprovincial Migration, 2013-2016

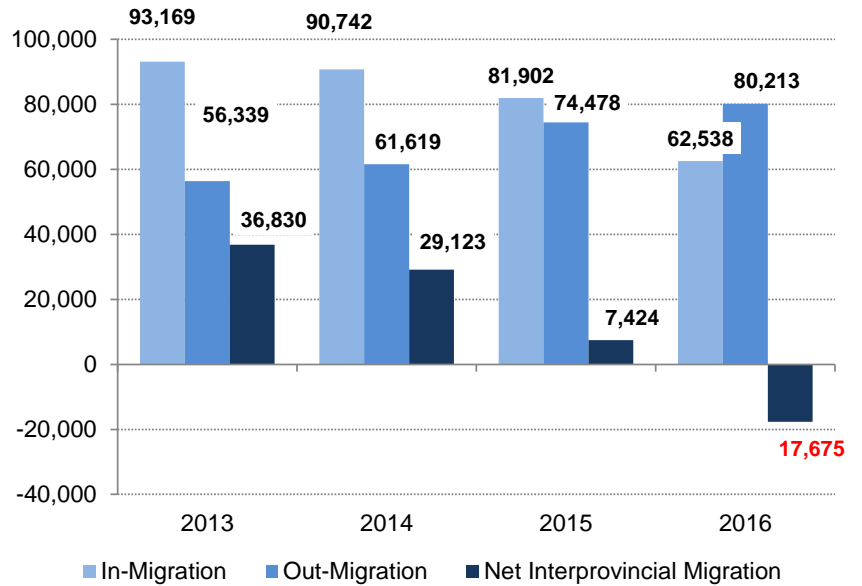
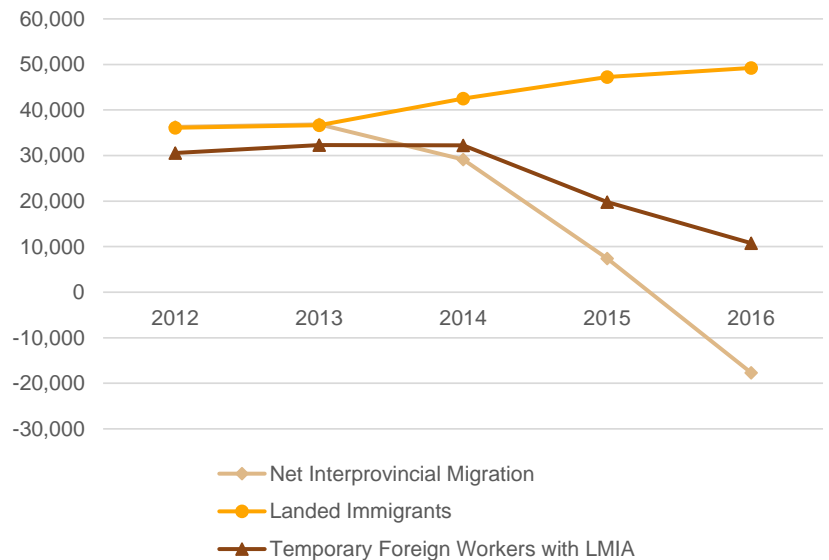


Figure 11
Alberta Landed Immigrants, Net Interprovincial Migrants and Temporary Foreign Workers, 2012-2016



Source: Statistics Canada; Citizenship and Immigration Canada
LMIA denotes Labour Market Impact Assessment

Indigenous People

Alberta's Indigenous people living off-reserve had the third highest employment rate in the country

In 2017, the employment rate for Alberta Indigenous people living off-reserve was 60.5%, the third highest employment rate of all off-reserve Indigenous People among the 10 provinces, after Prince Edward Island at 63.5% and British Columbia at 63.2%. The average employment rate for Indigenous people living off-reserve in Canada was 57.1% in 2017.

Employment for off-reserve Indigenous people in Alberta increased by 5.1% or 4,900 in 2017. This was the third largest increase among the 10 provinces.

More than 76.3% of all employed off-reserve Indigenous people worked in three economic regions in Alberta: 59.3% in Calgary and Edmonton, and 17.0% in the Banff, Jasper, Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca, Grande Prairie, Peace River region (See Figure 12).

Between 2016 and 2017, the Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River region saw the largest employment gains in Alberta for Indigenous people living off-reserve at 2,400.

Approximately 36.8% of Indigenous people living off-reserve in Alberta were employed in three industries in 2017: Construction, 14.6%; Health Care and Social Assistance, 11.9%; and Retail Trade, 10.3%.

Figure 12
Alberta Indigenous People Living Off-Reserve, Employment by Economic Region, 2017

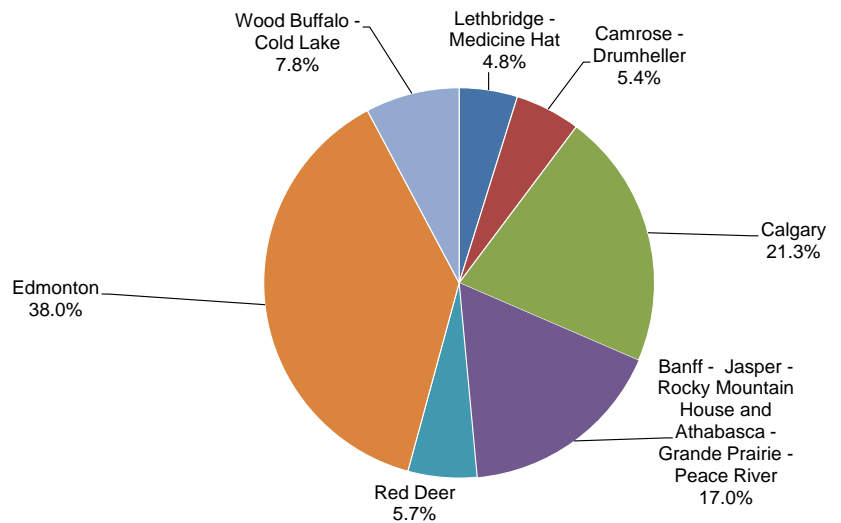
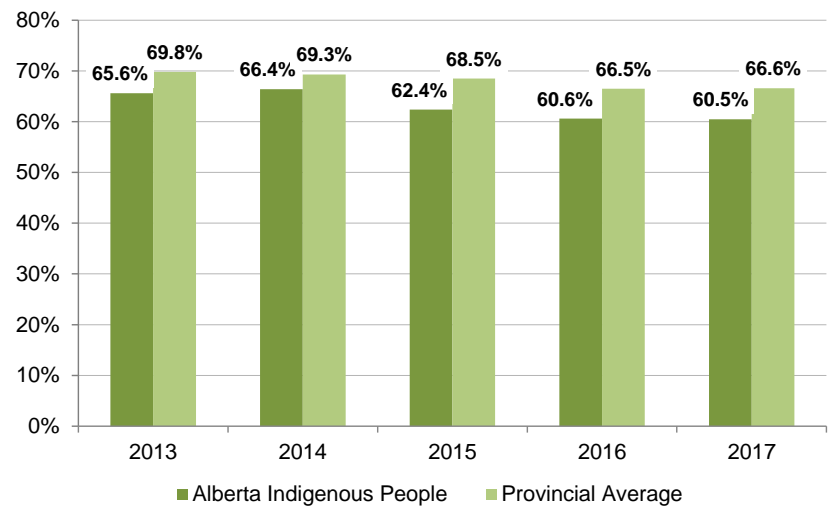


Figure 13
Alberta Indigenous People Living Off-Reserve, Employment Rates, 2013-2017



Source: Statistics Canada; Labour Force Survey

Industries

Wholesale Trade Industry had the largest gain in employment

The Wholesale Trade industry had the largest increase in employment in 2017, rising by 9,700. Transportation and Warehousing had the second largest employment increase of 8,300 (See Figure 14).

The three Industries with the largest decreases were: Construction, down 10,900; Other Services⁴, down 7,200; and Retail, down 4,800

The three industries with the lowest unemployment rate in 2017 were: Health Care and Social Assistance, 2.2%; Public Administration, 2.2%; and Wholesale Trade, 3.3%.

Figure 14
Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Industry, 2017

Industry Group	2017 Employment	Change From 2016	Unemployment Rate
Health Care and Social Assistance	274,100	4,700	2.2%
Retail Trade	241,600	-4,800	4.3%
Construction	241,000	-10,900	9.2%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	178,700	-600	3.6%
Educational Services	153,100	3,600	3.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	148,100	3,700	5.9%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas	144,800	4,900	5.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	140,100	8,300	3.6%
Manufacturing	119,200	3,700	5.5%
Other Services ⁴	115,200	-7,200	4.9%
Public Administration	102,400	5,300	2.2%
Wholesale Trade	93,400	9,700	3.3%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	80,900	1,400	10.1%
Information, Culture and Recreation	73,600	-2,700	8.2%
Finance and Insurance	64,700	-4,000	4.3%
Agriculture	52,100	1,300	*
Real Estate and Leasing	42,800	5,400	4.5%
Utilities	21,000	1,200	*

**Insufficient data*

⁴This sector comprises establishments not classified to any other sector, primarily engaged in repairing, or performing general or routine maintenance on motor vehicles, machinery, equipment, and other products to ensure that they work efficiently; providing personal care services, funeral services, laundry services, and other services to individuals, such as pet care services and photo finishing services; organizing and promoting religious activities; supporting various causes through grant-making, advocating (promoting) various social and political causes, and promoting and defending the interests of their members. Private households are also included.

Occupations

Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations had the largest employment gain

In 2017, employment rose for six of the 10 occupational groups in Alberta. Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations had the largest increase at 14,300, followed by Management occupations with an increase of 13,600 (See Figure 15).

The four occupational groups with decline in employment in 2017 were: Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, down 4,500; Art, culture, recreation and sport, down 4,100, Health, down 3,600, and Business, finance and administration, down 3,000.

Three occupational groups had unemployment rates below 3.0%: Management occupations, at 1.8%; occupations in Health, 1.8%; and Education, law and social, community and government services occupations, at 2.6%.

Figure 15
Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Occupation, 2017

Occupations	2017 Employment	Change from 2016	Unemployment Rate
Management	217,700	13,600	1.8%
Business, finance and administration	365,600	-3,000	4.1%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	183,700	5,200	4.9%
Health	160,800	-3,600	1.8%
Education, law and social, community and government services	236,700	200	2.6%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	47,800	-4,100	6.3%
Sales and service	515,500	3,500	5.6%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	403,500	-4,500	8.1%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	88,700	14,300	7.2%
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	67,000	1,600	4.6%

**Insufficient data*

Source: Statistics Canada; Labour Force Survey

Education

The proportion of Alberta's labour force with diplomas or degrees continues to rise

The proportion of Alberta's labour force who have attained a diploma, certificate or degree as highest level of education went up from 88.0% in 2013 to 90.1% in 2017 (See Figure 16).

Between 2013 and 2017, those in Alberta's labour force who had attained a high school diploma as highest level of education decreased by 3.3% or 18,500. This group comprised just under a quarter or 21.9% of Alberta's labour force in 2017.

Those in Alberta's labour force who had attained a post-secondary certificate, trade certificate, or diploma as their highest level of education rose by 50,200 or by 6.3% between 2013 and 2017. In 2017, this group made up 34.0% of Alberta's labour force. Alberta's labour force that had some post-secondary and a high school diploma as the highest level of education fell by 2,100 or 1.5% over the 2013 to 2017 period. This group made up 6.1% of the Alberta labour force in 2013, and by 2017, it was 5.7%.

In 2017, 28.5% of Alberta's labour force had a bachelor's or graduate degree as highest level of education, which is higher than in 2013 at 23.7%. Among those with a bachelor's or graduate degree, 50.7% were women in 2013. In 2017, women made up 50.8% of Alberta's labour force with a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree.

Figure 16
Alberta Labour Force Educational Attainment Trends, 2013-2017

Educational Level	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No degree, certificate or diploma	12.0%	11.7%	11.4%	10.2%	9.9%
High school diploma	24.1%	23.7%	23.1%	22.4%	21.9%
High school diploma, with some post-secondary	6.1%	5.6%	4.9%	5.0%	5.7%
Trade certificate	14.5%	13.4%	12.9%	13.2%	13.4%
College diploma	17.5%	17.6%	17.9%	18.6%	18.1%
Certificate or diploma below bachelor's degree	2.0%	2.4%	3.0%	2.7%	2.5%
Bachelor's degree	17.2%	18.0%	18.9%	20.0%	20.8%
Graduate degree	6.5%	7.6%	7.8%	7.9%	7.7%

Source: Statistics Canada; Labour Force Survey

Demographics

Employment rose for Albertans aged 25 to 44

Employment in 2017, compared to 2016, was lower for Albertans aged 15 to 24, which fell by 9,400 or 3.1% (See Figure 17). Employment rose by 25,000 or 2.3% for Albertans 25 to 44 years old.

The employment rate for youth 15 to 24 years of age fell 1.1 percentage points in 2017 compared to 2016 (See Figure 18). The Alberta youth employment rate of 57.6% was 1.1 percentage points above the Canadian youth average. Alberta's youth employment rate was the fifth highest among the 10 provinces.

The employment rate for Albertans aged 25 to 44 was 82.8% in 2017, the fifth highest among the 10 provinces. At 18.2%, Albertans aged 65 years and over had the second highest employment rate among their provincial counterparts, behind Saskatchewan's 19.1%. The national employment rate for the same age group was 13.5% in 2017.

Figure 17
Alberta Employment by Age Groups, 2016-2017

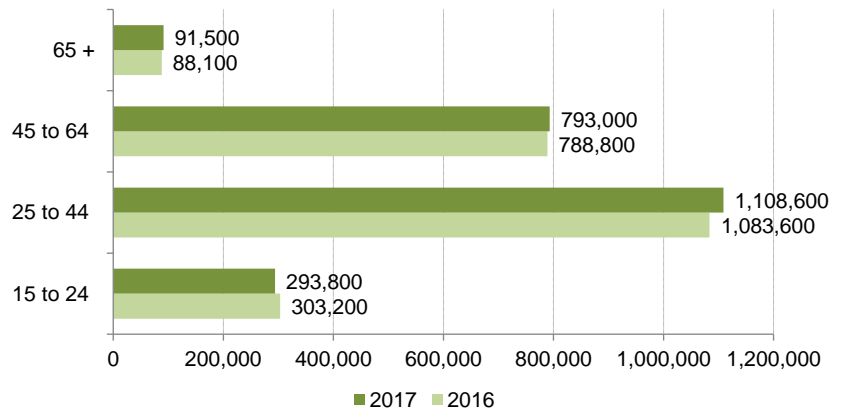
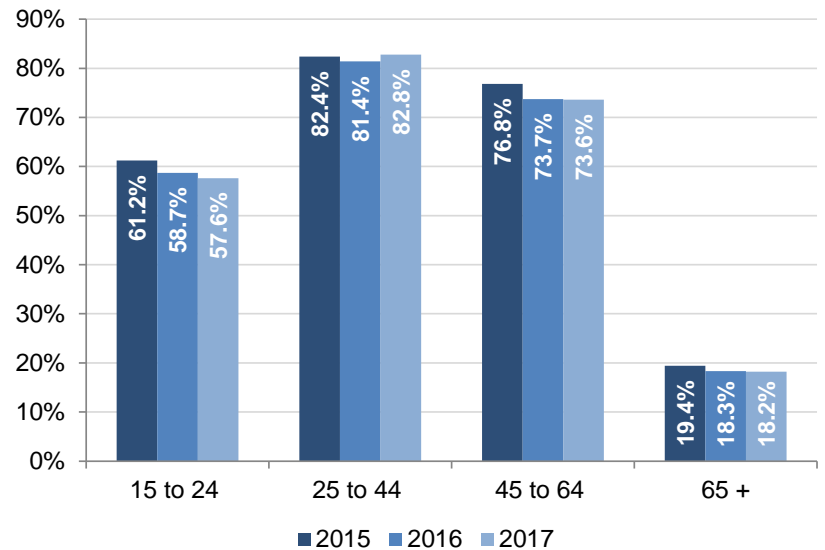


Figure 18
Alberta Employment Rates by Age Groups, 2015-2017



Source: Statistics Canada; Labour Force Survey

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