



Industry Profiles 2018

Construction
Industry

OVERVIEW

The Construction industry¹ in Alberta includes establishments that:

- construct, repair or renovate residential buildings (i.e. houses, apartment buildings, condominiums);
- construct, repair or renovate business and commercial buildings (i.e. office towers, shops, malls);
- construct, repair or renovate industrial buildings (i.e. oil refineries, petrochemical plants, power plants);
- perform engineering works (i.e. highways, bridges, pipelines); and
- subdivide and develop land.

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¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 major group 23

SECTION A

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

1. 2017 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

	Alberta	Construction Industry
Employment	2,286,900	241,000
Employment Share	N/A	10.5%
Unemployment	194,700	24,400
Unemployment rate	7.8%	9.2%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2017

Note: Note: N/A denotes not-applicable. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics² website or Statistics Canada³.

2. Industry's Growth

- The Construction industry accounted for 10.5% of total employment in Alberta in 2017.
- Employment in this industry is expected to increase at an average rate of 1.4% from 2017 to 2021⁴.
- The industry is expected to account for 10.7% of total employment in Alberta in 2018.

For more information, see the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)⁵ website for descriptions of industries.

² See <http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-force-statistics-and-annual-reviews.html>

³ See <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

⁴ Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2017 – 2021, Industry Employment Outlook

⁵ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Construction industry accounted for approximately 9.1% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2016, down from 9.7% in 2005. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment increased from 9.9% in 2007 to 10.5% in 2017.

Total employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2017 was 4.3% lower than its level in 2016. Over the last 10 years, employment increased by 42,900 from 2007, a 17.8% increase. There were 241,000 employed in the industry in 2017, of whom 93.8% were full time and 6.2% were part time.

Table 2

Characteristic	Alberta	Construction
Median Retirement Age (years)	65.4	67.8
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	36.7	42.3
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	6.1%	3.4%
Average Job Tenure (months)	91.4	75.9
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	25.0%	18.5%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	17.8%	23.4%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2017, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)

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.

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Construction	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	675,100	35.4%	70,100	39.5%
20 to 99 employees	669,900	35.2%	64,000	36.1%
100 to 500 employees	342,000	18.0%	30,300	17.1%
More than 500 employees	217,600	11.4%	13,000	7.3%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2017

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding

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. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

SECTION B

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFILE

1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the Construction industry include:

- bricklayer;
- carpenter;
- electrician;
- roofer; and
- steam fitter-pipe fitter.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles⁶ website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Construction industry in 2017 was as follows:

- women employed: 33,100 people, or 13.7%
- men employed: 207,800 people, or 86.2%

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 45.5% and men made up 54.6% of total employment (for all industries).

Table 4

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Construction	
	Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	293,800	12.8%	27,500	11.4%
25-54 years	1,554,900	68.0%	173,900	72.2%
55 years and over	438,200	19.2%	39,500	16.4%

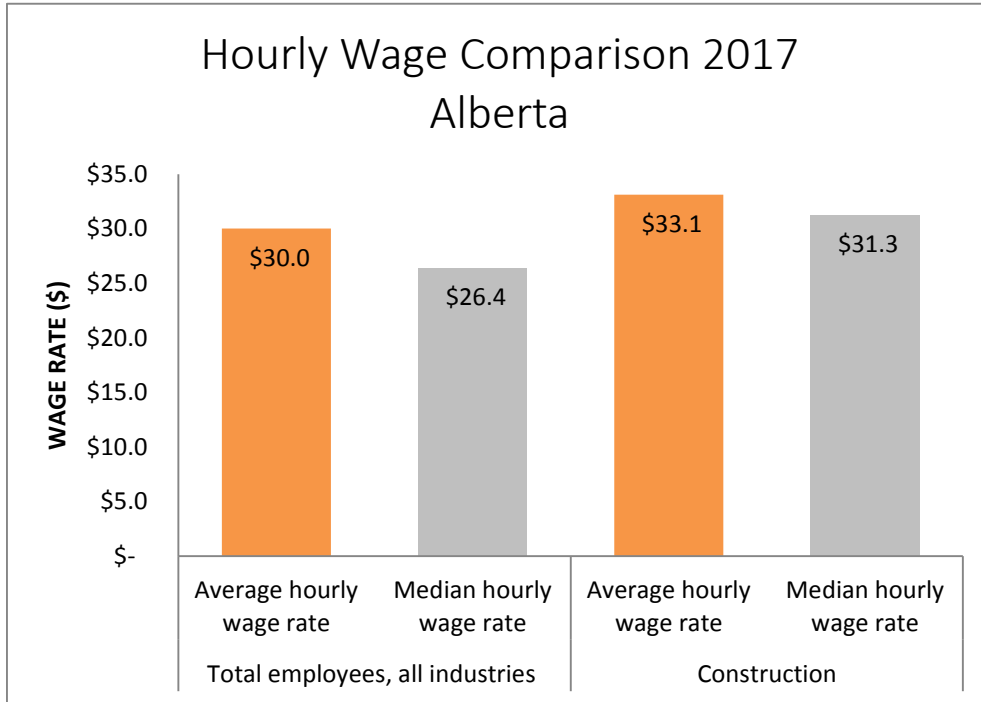
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2017

*Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

⁶ See <http://occinfo.alis.alberta.ca/occinfopreview>

3. Wages and Salaries

Chart 1



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2017

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 that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 5

Occupation	Median Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Overall	Top	
Welders and related machine operator	\$32.00	\$39.35	\$43.50	\$102,031
Electrician	\$37.00	\$38.12	\$39.50	\$76,421
Carpenter	\$31.00	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$75,480
Steamfitter-Pipefitter	\$30.00	\$35.59	\$42.00	\$72,618

Data Source: 2017 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the *2017 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the WAGEinfo⁷ website. For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the Construction industry, visit the ALIS⁸ website.

⁷ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo>

⁸ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

SECTION C

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Links to Industry Associations

- Alberta Construction Association
(<http://albertaconstruction.net>)
- Alberta Construction Safety Association
(<http://www.acsa-safety.org>)
- Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association
(<http://www.arhca.ab.ca>)
- Calgary Construction Association
(<http://www.cca.cc>)
- Calgary Region Home Builders Association
(<http://www.chbacalgary.com>)
- BILD Alberta
(<http://www.bildalberta.ca/>)
- Construction Owners Association of Alberta
(<http://www.coaa.ab.ca>)
- Build Force Canada
(<http://www.buildforce.ca/>)
- Edmonton Construction Association
(<http://www.edmca.com>)
- Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta
(<http://www.ecaa.ab.ca>)
- Merit Contractors Association
(<http://www.meritalberta.com>)

Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- 2017 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Packages
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

www.work.alberta.ca/labour.html (see Labour Market Information)

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