2017 Alberta Labour Force Profiles

Indigenous People Living Off-Reserve

Highlights

Population Statistics

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

1. 11.5% MB
2. 9.7% SK
3. 6.2% NL
4. 4.9% AB

Labour Force Statistics

Fourth highest unemployment rate for Indigenous people living off-reserve 12.0%
Third highest participation rate for Indigenous people living off-reserve 68.7%
Third highest employment rate for Indigenous people living off-reserve 60.5%

Employment

Indigenous people living off-reserve made up 4.4% of employment

Wages

Highest hourly wage in Canada

Canadian Indigenous People (Off-Reserve) $24.05
Alberta Indigenous People (Off-Reserve) $28.31

Education

43.3% of Indigenous people living off-reserve who were 15 years and older have Post-secondary education

Occupation

25.3% of employed Indigenous people living off-reserve were employed in Sales and service occupations

Industry

14.6% of employed Indigenous people living off-reserve were employed in the Construction industry
In 2017, Alberta had the fourth highest percentage of Indigenous people living off-reserve in the working age population, at 4.9%, while Manitoba had the highest percentage at 11.5% (Table 1). The overall share for Canada was 3.2%.

In 2017, the working age population of Indigenous people living off-reserve in Alberta was 168,000 (Table 2). The proportion of Indigenous people off reserve in Alberta between the ages of 15 and 24 years was 21.5%; while 57.4% were between 25 and 54 years. The corresponding proportions for all of Alberta was 14.9% and 55.2%, respectively.
The Edmonton economic region in 2017 had the highest off-reserve Indigenous population at 39.2%, followed by Calgary at 20.8% (Table 3). The Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athbasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River economic region has the third largest off-reserve indigenous population in Alberta. In total, these three regions accounted for 76.3% of all Indigenous People off-reserve in Alberta. The Red Deer economic region had the lowest Indigenous working age population at only 5.1% in 2017.

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lethbridge - Medicine Hat</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camrose - Drumheller</td>
<td>9,400</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>15,300</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House and Athbasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River</td>
<td>27,400</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>10,200</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>16,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Deer</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>65,800</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>25,300</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>39,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake</td>
<td>12,600</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>5,100</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>7,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>168,000</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>67,300</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>97,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Insufficient data
In 2017, the proportion of Indigenous people living off-reserve in rural areas was 16.1%, this was higher than the provincial average at 10.8% by 5.2 percentage points (Table 4). Over two thirds or 69.3% of Indigenous People living off-reserve live in urban cores.

At 76.8%, First Nations are more likely to live in or near urban areas compared to Métis at 71.5% (Table 5).
In 2017, the participation rate for Indigenous People off-reserve in Alberta was 68.7%, the third highest among Indigenous People off-reserve in all provinces (Figure 1). This rate was 3.0 percentage points higher than the National participation rate at 65.7%, and 4.3 percentage points higher than the Canadian average for Indigenous People off-reserve at 64.4%.

Indigenous People off-reserve in Alberta had the third highest participation rate in the country.

In 2017, the participation rate for Indigenous people living off-reserve was 68.7% (Figure 2). This is 3.6 percentage points lower than the provincial average.

The participation rate for the Indigenous men is higher at 74.1% compared to that of Indigenous women at 63.6%. Both rates are lower compared to the corresponding provincial averages of 78.3% for men and 66.2% for women.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
The average participation rate for Alberta Indigenous people living off-reserve was 68.7% in 2017. Métis people had a higher participation rate, at 69.1%, compared to First Nations, at 68.1% (Figure 3).

Among Indigenous men, Métis had a higher participation rate, at 75.2% compared to First Nations men, at 72.4%. For women, Métis had lower participation rate at 63.2% compared to First Nations women at 64.1%.

In 2017, Indigenous People off-reserve made up 4.7% of the labour force in Alberta (Figure 4). Among them 45,800 or 39.7% were First Nations, 67,400 or 58.4% were Métis and 2,200 or 1.9% were Inuit or multiple identities.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
The employment rate for Indigenous People off-reserve in Alberta was 60.5%, the third highest among all Indigenous People off-reserve in the 10 provinces (Figure 5). This rate was 1.1 percentage points lower than the Canadian employment rate of 61.6%, and 3.4 percentage points above the national average for Indigenous People off-reserve at 57.1%.

Indigenous People off-reserve in Alberta had the third highest employment rate in the country.

The provincial employment rate for those 15 years and over, at 66.6% in 2017, was 6.1 percentage points higher than the rate for Indigenous people living off-reserve in the same age group, at 60.5% (Figure 6).

The 71.8% employment rate for all men was 7.2 percentage points higher than the employment rate for Indigenous men at 64.6%. The employment rate for all women and Indigenous women living off-reserve was 61.3% and 56.6% respectively.
The average employment rate for Alberta Indigenous people living off-reserve was 60.5% in 2017. Métis people had a higher employment rate, at 62.3%, compared to First Nations, at 57.7% (Figure 7).

Indigenous men had a higher employment rate, at 64.6% than their female counterparts, at 56.6% in 2017.

Among Indigenous men, First Nations had a lower employment rate, at 61.0% compared to Métis men, at 66.9%. For women, Métis had higher employment rate at 57.9% compared to First Nations women at 54.8%.

In 2017, Indigenous People off-reserve made up 4.4% of employment in Alberta (Figure 8). Among them 38,900 or 38.3% were First Nations, 60,800 or 59.8% were Métis and 2,000 or 2.0% where Inuit or multiple identities.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
The unemployment rate for Alberta Indigenous People off-reserve, at 12.0%, was higher than the Canadian average at 6.4% (Figure 9). In Alberta, the unemployment rate for Indigenous People off-reserve was the fourth highest rate among the 10 provinces in 2017 (Figure 9).

Indigenous men and women had higher unemployment rates than the provincial average (Figure 10). The unemployment rate for Indigenous men was 12.8% compared to the provincial rate for men at 8.3% or a 4.5 percentage point difference. Meanwhile, Indigenous women had an unemployment rate of 11.1% compared to 7.4% for Alberta women or a 3.7 percentage point difference.

Note: Insufficient data for Prince Edward Island
Among Indigenous people living off-reserve in Alberta, First Nations had the highest unemployment rate in 2017 at 15.2%, which was 5.3 percentage points higher than the rate for Métis (Figure 11). Similarly, men and women unemployment rates among First Nations were highest among Indigenous peoples at 15.8% and 14.6%, respectively.

The unemployment rate for Métis men and women was lower by 4.7 percentage points and 6.2 percentage points, compared to their First Nations counterparts.

In 2017, Indigenous People off-reserve made up 7.1% of unemployment in Alberta (Figure 12).

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
In 2017, 71.9% of employed Alberta Indigenous people living off-reserve were in the Services-Producing Sector, and 28.1% were in the Goods-Producing Sector (Table 6).

Over a third of employed Indigenous people living off-reserve in Alberta worked in three industries: Construction, 14.6%; Health Care and Social Assistance, 11.9%; and Retail Trade, 10.3%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goods-Producing Sector</td>
<td>28,600</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas</td>
<td>8,600</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>14,800</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services-Producing Sector</td>
<td>73,000</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Warehousing</td>
<td>6,100</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, Scientific and Technical Services</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of Companies and Administrative and Other Support Services</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, Culture and Recreation</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>5,300</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total employed</strong></td>
<td>101,600</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Insufficient data

Goods-Producing Sector: 577,800 employed Albertans
- Non-Indigenous: 549,100 or 95.0%
- Indigenous: 28,600 or 4.9%

Services-Producing Sector: 1,706,200 employed Albertans
- Non-Indigenous: 1,633,300 or 95.7%
- Indigenous: 73,000 or 4.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
In 2017, 62.8% of Indigenous people living off-reserve in Alberta were employed in three occupational groups: Sales and service, 25.3%; Trades, transport and equipment operators and related, 22.8%; and Business, finance and administrative, 14.7%. At the provincial level, 56.2% 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 5.1 percentage points below that of Indigenous people (off-reserve).

In 2017, Indigenous people living off-reserve accounted for 4.4% of employment in Alberta. Among the 10 occupation group’s, Natural resources, agriculture and related production had proportion of employment from Indigenous people living off-reserve at 6.8% (Figure 13).
In 2017, 43.3% of the Indigenous living off-reserve in Alberta completed a post-secondary education; 33.6% attained post-secondary certificates or diplomas; and another 9.7% had university degrees (Figure 14).

The percentage of Alberta Indigenous people living off-reserve who had less than a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment was 24.5%. The provincial average was 14.8%.

Between 2003 and 2017 the proportion of Indigenous people living off-reserve in Alberta that completed a post-secondary education increased from 34.2% to 43.3% (Figure 15). For the entire province it increased from 46.1% to 56.6.
In 2017, there were 5,600 First Nation’s youth who were students, this represents 35.4% of all First Nation’s youth (Figure 16). For Métis there 8,400 students, representing 42.6% of Métis youth. The provincial average was 46.0%.

Since 2003 the proportion of youth Indigenous people living off-reserve attending school has been trending upwards and approaching the provincial average (Figure 17).
In 2017, the average hourly wage for **Indigenous people living off-reserve in Alberta** at $28.31 was $4.26 higher than national Indigenous average hourly rate of $24.05 (Table 8).

Indigenous people living off-reserve in Alberta had the **highest** average hourly wage in the country.

### Average Hourly Wage in 2017, Canada and Provinces  
*Table 8*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Provincial Average</th>
<th>Indigenous People (Off-Reserve)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>$26.15</td>
<td>$24.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfoundland and Labrador</td>
<td>$24.90</td>
<td>$24.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>$21.76</td>
<td>$22.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>$23.37</td>
<td>$21.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>$22.38</td>
<td>$19.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>$24.93</td>
<td>$22.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>$26.42</td>
<td>$23.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>$24.15</td>
<td>$22.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>$26.82</td>
<td>$24.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$28.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>$25.70</td>
<td>$23.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average Hourly Wage by Sex and Identity, Alberta, 2017  
*Figure 18*

- **Indigenous People (Off-Reserve)**
- **Métis**
- **First Nations**

Among Alberta Indigenous men, Métis had the highest average hourly wage at $31.37 (Fig 18). For Women, First Nations had the highest average hourly wage at $26.19.

*Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey*
For those with less than high school on average Alberta Indigenous People off-reserve earned $2.28 more than the provincial average (Figure 19).

In 2017, the highest paying industry for Alberta Indigenous People off-reserve was Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas (Figure 20).
All of the following definitions are from the Guide to 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 LFS.

**Industry:**
The general nature of the business carried out by the establishment for whom the respondent works (main job only).

**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 previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

**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.

**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 said population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

**Working Age Population:**
Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and regular members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

**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.

**Note on the data:**
Numbers and percentiles may not add up exactly to their totals due the rounding that Statistics Canada preforms on their data before they release it.