



Industry  
Profiles  
2018

Agricultural  
Industry

# OVERVIEW

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The Agricultural industry<sup>1</sup> in Alberta includes a variety of establishments or services:

- Crop production: farms, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries and other places that grow crops seeds (excluding forestry products);
- Animal production and aquaculture: ranches, farms, feedlots and other places that raise animals, produce animal products or fatten animals;
- Fishing, hunting, and trapping activities: catching fish and other wild animals;
- Agricultural support services for crop production and animal production.

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<sup>1</sup> North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 groups 111, 112, 114, 1151 and 1152, not including support activities for forestry 1153.

# SECTION A

## BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

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### 1. 2017 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

	Alberta	Agricultural Industry
Employment	2,286,900	52,100
Employment Share	N/A	2.3%
Unemployment	194,700	N/A
Unemployment rate	7.8%	N/A

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 Statistics<sup>2</sup> website or Statistics Canada<sup>3</sup>.

### 2. Industry's Growth

- The Agricultural industry accounted for 2.3% of total employment in Alberta in 2017.
- Employment in this industry is expected to increase at an average rate of 0.4% from 2017 to 2021<sup>4</sup>.
- The industry is expected to account for 2.2% of total employment in Alberta in 2018.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

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

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

### 3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada’s National Economic Accounts, the Agricultural industry accounted for approximately 1.4%<sup>6</sup> of Alberta’s Gross Domestic Product in 2016, up from 1.3% in 2006. Its contribution to Alberta’s total employment declined from 2.5% in 2007 to 2.3% in 2017.

Total employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2017 was 2.6% higher than its level in 2016. Over the last 10 years, employment increase by 2,300 from 2007, a 2.3% increase. There were 52,100 employed in the industry in 2017, of whom 82.1% were full time and 17.7% were part time.

Table 2

Characteristic	Alberta	Agriculture
Median Retirement Age (years)	65.4	N/A
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	36.7	45.4
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	6.1%	6.3%
Average Job Tenure (months)	91.4	218.7
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	25.0%	N/A
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	17.8%	N/A

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.

<sup>6</sup> This is for North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 code 11: Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting which includes support activities for forestry 1153.

## 4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Business in Agriculture	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	675,100	35.4%	10,900	69.0%
20 to 99 employees	669,900	35.2%	4,400	27.8%
100 to 500 employees	342,000	18.0%	N/A	N/A
More than 500 employees	217,600	11.4%	N/A	N/A

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

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

Note: N/A denotes data not available due to the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

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

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### 1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the Agricultural industry include:

- farm worker;
- dairy producer;
- greenhouse operator;
- animal care attendant; and
- beekeeper.

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 Profiles<sup>7</sup> website.

### 2. Demographics: Gender and Age

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

- women employed: 14,900 people, or 28.6%
- men employed: 37,100 people, or 71.2%

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 Agriculture	
	Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	293,800	12.8%	8,600	16.5%
25-54 years	1,554,900	68.0%	23,900	45.9%
55 years and over	438,200	19.2%	19,500	37.4%

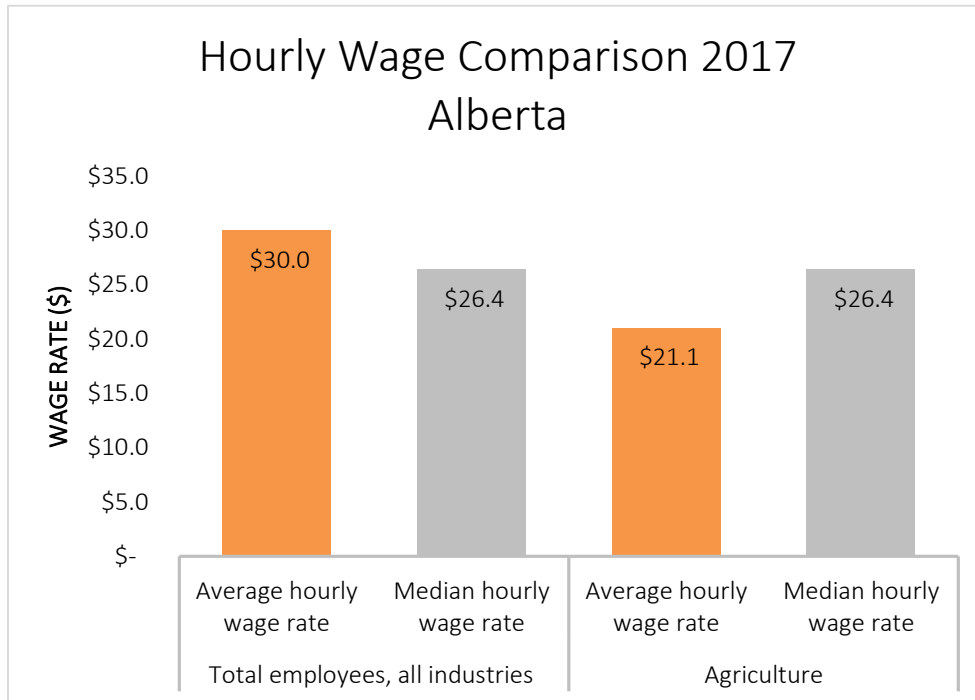
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2017

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

<sup>7</sup> 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	
General farm worker	\$17.60	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$42,802
Farmer and farm manager (dairy producer)	\$24.03	\$27.96	\$33.23	\$73,866
Farm supervisor and specialized livestock worker (swine technician)	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$47,628

Data Source: 2017 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the *2017 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the WAGEinfo<sup>8</sup> website. For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the Agricultural industry, visit the ALIS<sup>9</sup> website.

<sup>8</sup> See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo>

<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>



# SECTION C

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Links to Industry Associations

- Alberta Agricultural Economics Association  
(<http://aaea.ualberta.ca>)
- Alberta Barley Commission  
(<http://www.albertabarley.com>)
- Alberta Chicken Producers  
(<http://www.chicken.ab.ca>)
- Alberta Milk Producers  
(<http://www.albertamilk.com>)
- Agriculture and Food Council  
(<http://www.agfoodcouncil.com>)
- Alberta Pork  
(<http://www.albertapork.com>)
- Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association  
(<http://www.albertafarmfresh.com>)
- G3 Canada Limited  
(<http://www.g3.ca>)

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

In Edmonton: 780.422.4266

Long distance: 1.800.661.3753

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