Industry Profiles 2017
Utilities Industry
OVERVIEW

The Utilities industry\(^1\) in Alberta includes:

- electric power generation, transmission and distribution;
- natural gas distribution; and
- water, sewer and irrigation systems.

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2. Industry’s Growth
3. Facts, Trends and Outlook
4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

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2. Demographics: Gender and Age
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\(^1\) North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 major group 22
1. 2016 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Alberta</th>
<th>Utilities Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
<td>2,263,800</td>
<td>19,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment Share</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment</strong></td>
<td>208,800</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment rate</strong></td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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 Utilities industry accounted for 0.9% of total employment in Alberta in 2016.
- Employment in this industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 1.2% from 2016 to 2019⁴.
- The industry is expected to account for 0.8% of total employment in Alberta in 2017.

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

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³ See [http://www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)
⁵ See [http://www.alis.alberta.ca](http://www.alis.alberta.ca)
3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada’s National Economic Accounts, the Utilities industry accounted for approximately 1.4% of Alberta’s Gross Domestic Product in 2015, down from 1.6% in 2005. Its contribution to Alberta’s total employment remained steady at 0.9% from 2006 to 2016.

Total employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2016 was 2.0% lower than its level in 2015. Over the last 10 years, employment increased by 2,200 from 2006, a 12.5% increase. There were 19,800 employed in the industry in 2016, of which 97.0% were full time.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Alberta</th>
<th>Utilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Retirement Age (years)</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>59.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Number of Hours Worked per Week</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Job Tenure (months)</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>97.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees Under Union Coverage (%)</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment Size</th>
<th>Businesses in Alberta</th>
<th></th>
<th>Businesses in Utilities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Employees</td>
<td>%*</td>
<td>Number of Employees</td>
<td>%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 20 employees</td>
<td>673,000</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 99 employees</td>
<td>671,400</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 to 500 employees</td>
<td>346,900</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 500 employees</td>
<td>199,800</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.
1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations that can be found in the Utilities industry include:

- gas utility operator;
- utility clerk;
- water and wastewater treatment plant operator;
- power lineman; and
- power system electrician.

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 website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Utilities industry in 2016 was as follows:

- women employed: 6,500 people, or 32.8%
- men employed: 13,300 people, or 67.2%

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 45.5% and men made up 54.5% of total employment (for all industries).

Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Characteristics</th>
<th>Employment in Alberta</th>
<th>Employment in Utilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 years</td>
<td>303,200</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-54 years</td>
<td>1,536,000</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 years and over</td>
<td>424,600</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

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6 See [http://occinfo.alis.alberta.ca/occinfopreview](http://occinfo.alis.alberta.ca/occinfopreview)
3. Wages and Salaries

Chart 1

Hourly Wage Comparison 2016
Alberta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WAGE RATE ($)</th>
<th>Average hourly wage rate</th>
<th>Median hourly wage rate</th>
<th>Average hourly wage rate</th>
<th>Median hourly wage rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total employees, all industries</td>
<td>29.61</td>
<td>25.89</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Average Hourly Wage</th>
<th>Average Annual Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Starting</td>
<td>Overall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities manager</td>
<td>$59.89</td>
<td>$67.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterworks and gas maintenance worker</td>
<td>$29.15</td>
<td>$42.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical power line and cable workers</td>
<td>$35.39</td>
<td>$49.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: 2015 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the 2015 *Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the WAGEinfo\(^7\) website. For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the Utilities industry, visit the ALIS\(^8\) website.

\(^7\) See [http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo)

\(^8\) See [http://www.alis.alberta.ca](http://www.alis.alberta.ca)
SECTION C
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Links to Industry Associations

- Alberta Energy Regulator (http://www.aer.ca)
- Canadian Gas Association (http://www.cga.ca)
- Canadian Wind Energy Association (http://www.canwea.ca)
- Canadian Electricity Association (http://www.electricity.ca)
Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- 2016 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)
In Edmonton: 780.422.4266
Long distance: 1.800.661.3753

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