



Industry Profiles 2018

Wholesale Trade
Industry

OVERVIEW

The Wholesale Trade industry¹ in Alberta includes wholesale distributors, agents and brokers of goods such as:

- farm products;
- petroleum products;
- food, beverage and tobacco products;
- personal and household goods;
- motor vehicles and parts;
- building materials and supplies; and
- machinery and equipment.

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¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 major group 41

SECTION A

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

1. 2017 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

	Alberta	Wholesale Trade Industry
Employment	2,286,900	93,400
Employment Share	N/A	4.1%
Unemployment	194,700	3,200
Unemployment rate	7.8%	3.3%

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 Wholesale Trade industry accounted for 4.1% of total employment in Alberta in 2017.
- Employment in this industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 1.6% from 2017 to 2021⁴.
- The industry is expected to account for 3.7% 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 Wholesale Trade industry accounted for approximately 4.1%⁶ of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2016, down from 4.5% in 2006. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment rose from 4.0% in 2007 to 4.1% in 2017.

Total employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2017 was 11.6% higher than its level in 2016. Over the last 10 years, employment increased by 12,800 from 2007, a 13.7% increase. There were 93,400 employed in the industry in 2017, of whom 93.7% were full time and 6.3% were part time.

Table 2

Characteristic	Alberta	Trade*
Median Retirement Age (years)	65.4	66.9
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	36.7	33.8
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	6.1%	5.7%
Average Job Tenure (months)	91.4	77.5
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	25.0%	11.8%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	17.8%	14.7%

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)

* Both Wholesale and Retail Trade are included.

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.

⁶ This is for North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007.

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Trade*	
	Number of Employees	%**	Number of Employees	%**
Less than 20 employees	675,100	35.4%	129,800	41.8%
20 to 99 employees	669,900	35.2%	118,300	38.1%
100 to 500 employees	342,000	18.0%	53,700	17.3%
More than 500 employees	217,600	11.4%	8,500	2.7%

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

* Both Wholesale and Retail Trade are included.

** 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 Wholesale Trade industry include:

- shipper and receiver;
- technical sales representative;
- truck driver;
- direct distributor; and
- auctioneer.

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 Profiles⁷ website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

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

- women employed: 22,300 people, or 23.9%
- men employed: 71,100 people, or 76.1%

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 Wholesale Trade	
	Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	293,800	12.8%	7,400	7.9%
25-54 years	1,554,900	68.0%	64,100	68.6%
55 years and over	438,200	19.2%	22,000	23.6%

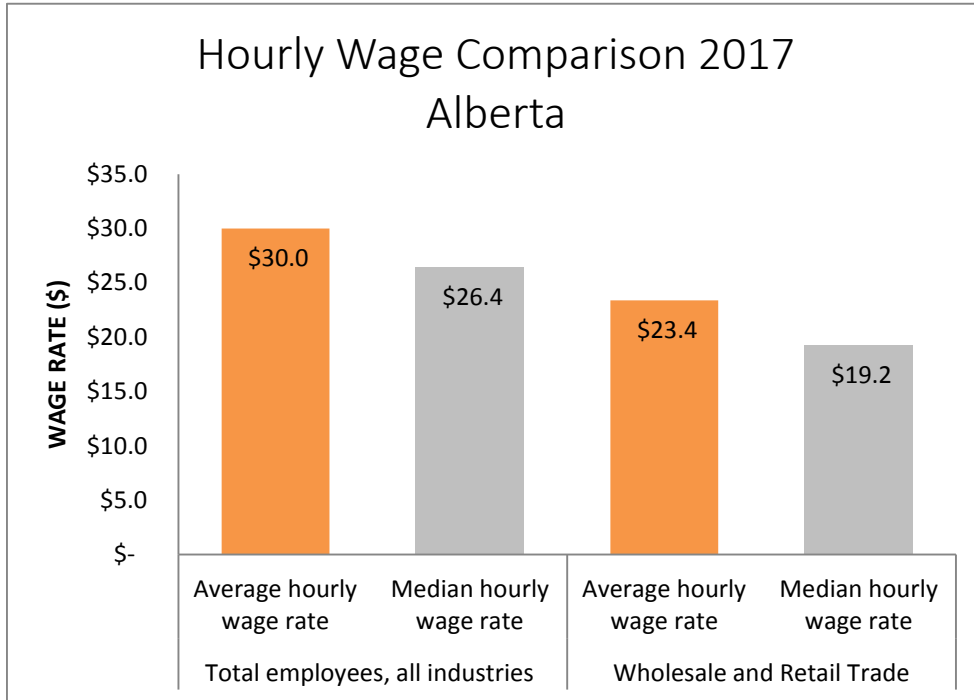
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2017

*Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

⁷ 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	
Sales representative	\$22.77	\$27.83	\$36.06	\$63,832
Purchasing agent and officer	\$21.63	\$28.85	\$34.75	\$57,146
Truck driver	\$26.77	\$30.00	\$31.50	\$60,469
Shipper and receiver	\$17.02	\$19.80	\$27.00	\$45,454

Data Source: 2017 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the *2017 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the WAGEinfo⁸ website. For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the Wholesale Trade industry, visit the ALIS⁹ website.

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

⁹ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

SECTION C

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Links to Industry Associations

- Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters
(<http://www.iecanada.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)

In Edmonton: 780.422.4266

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