



Alberta's Economy is a Construction Economy Too



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If asked to picture “the Alberta economy,” the image that would no doubt come to mind for a lot of people would be a pumpjack, a mine, or something else energy related. And that makes good sense – but Alberta’s economy is also very

much a construction-driven economy.

One in ten workers in the province relies on diverse types of construction activity for their livelihoods, and the industry is among

the top three contributors to provincial GDP. The profile of the workforce is changing, including the growing participation of women, as a greater diversity of people are drawn to the good earnings and solid outlook the sector offers.

The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association – Western Canada’s largest construction association – is thrilled to be expanding its operations within Alberta in 2023. We know first-hand that this province’s open shop construction contractors and employees are among Canada’s best and brightest entrepreneurs, and most talented skilled workers. They deserve greater

attention and advocacy, and ICBA Alberta intends to provide just that.

This introductory issue of the *Alberta Construction Monitor* provides a statistical snapshot of Alberta’s construction industry. We look forward to helping build this industry going forward, and to providing Alberta construction contractors with focused advocacy, group benefits, training, and other services to support business growth.

We’re excited about the future, but with the World Bank ranking Canada #64 in the time it takes to approve a construction project, we have a lot of work to do.

One in Ten Alberta Jobs are in Construction

More than 230,000 Albertans work in construction, and collectively they represent one of the largest single contributors to the province’s GDP. Construction employs more people than any other goods-producing sector in the province, including natural resources, and only a handful of services-producing sectors have a bigger jobs impact.

Top Five Sectors for Employment in Alberta

People Employed

Wholesale and Retail Trade – 358,700

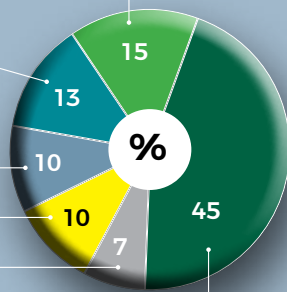
Health Care and Social Assistance – 308,900

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services – 241,200

Construction Sector – 234,600

Educational Services – 168,500

All Other Sectors – 1,097,100



Construction contributes **8%** of Alberta’s GDP

3rd LARGEST contributor among all sectors

Source: StatsCan Labour Force Survey, released February 10, 2022, Table 6 (December 2022 data) and Table 36-10-0400-01 (2021 data)

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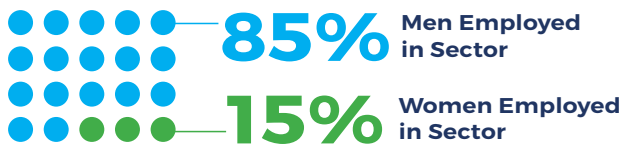
Snapshot of Alberta’s Construction Sector | The Alberta Construction Outlook

A Wider-Lens Snapshot of Alberta's Construction Sector

Women are making significant strides within the Alberta construction sector, and 14% of employed Indigenous people in the province have construction jobs.¹ With significant retirements pending, there are great opportunities for more Albertans to train up and work in the sector, and enjoy the amazing opportunities it offers. Overwhelmingly, Alberta construction workers have chosen open-shop and merit-based labour models.



Construction Sector Demographics



Year-Over-Year Female Employment Growth: **18%**

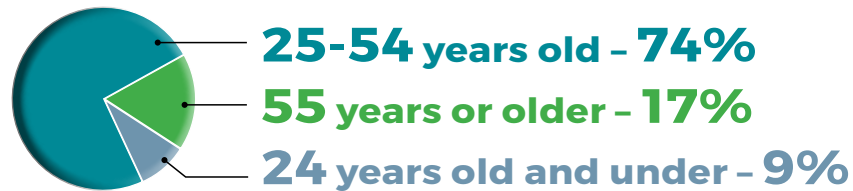
Source: BuildForce Canada: Alberta Construction Industry Key Indicators; accessed February 24, 2023.



Indigenous People as % of Alberta's Population: **6.5%**
 Alberta Population Growth Coming from Immigration: **57%**

Source: Alberta Construction Safety Assn.: Alberta's Construction Demographics; accessed February 24, 2023.

Construction Employment by Age



Source: StatsCan Table: 14-10-0023-01 (2022 data)

By 2027 the Alberta Construction Industry Will Need...

There are certification "supply risks" for several key construction trades, meaning certifications required exceed projected apprenticeship completions.

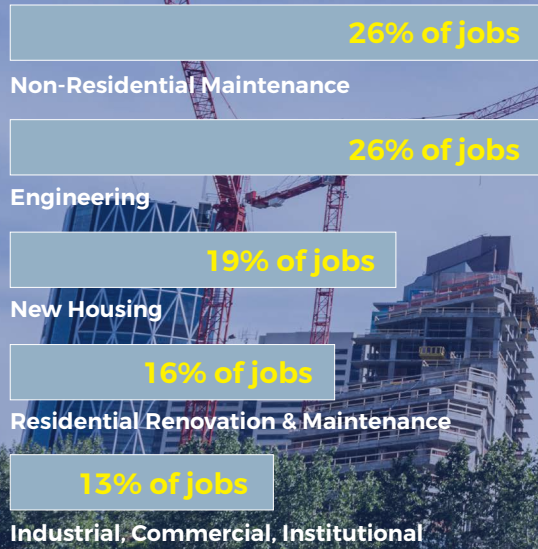
... To replace **22,650** retiring workers

... To onboard **21,000** new apprentices

Source: BuildForce Canada: Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward (Alberta) 2022-2027

¹ Government of Canada Job Bank, Alberta Sector Profile: Construction (2021 Data)

Alberta Construction Employment by Type of Activity



Source: BuildForce Canada; Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward (Alberta) 2022-2027

Key Construction Occupations: Annual Average Salaries in Alberta

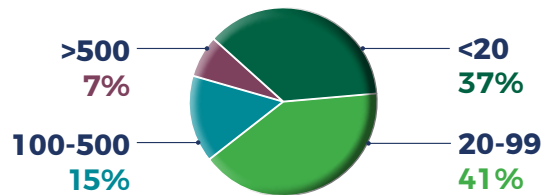
Figures do not include bonuses, benefits, profit shares, overtime pay and other compensation beyond base rates.



Source: Alberta alis; Wages & Salaries in Alberta; accessed February 24, 2023.

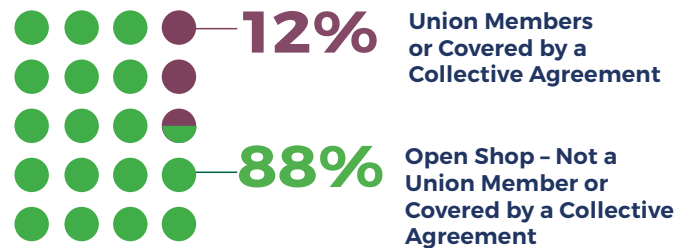
Alberta Construction Employment by Size of Employer

(number of employees)



Source: StatsCan Table: 14-10-0068-01 (2022 data)

Alberta Construction Employment by Union Status



Source: StatsCan Tables 14-10-0070-01 and 14-10-0023-01 (2022 data)

Earnings in the Alberta Construction Sector

Average Hourly Rate for Full-Time Construction Employees in Alberta:

\$36.26

7th Best Paid Among All Sectors

Outperforming:

Information, Culture & Recreation — **\$35.39**
 Health Care & Social Assistance — **\$32.99**
 Accommodation & Food Services — **\$19.15**

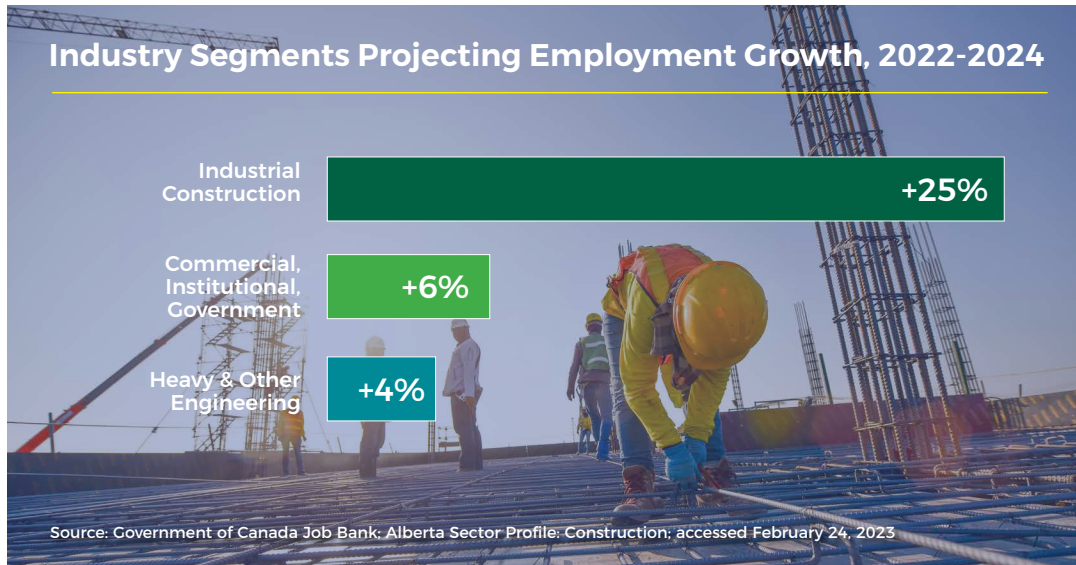
Source: StatsCan Table 14-10-0064-01 (2022 data)

The Alberta Construction Outlook

Residential construction has seen strong recent growth in Alberta, although employment in that part of the industry is projected to moderate over the next few years. Some key non-residential segments of the industry are poised to employ more people, though, based on diverse energy and other investments. The oil sands' Pathways Alliance, for example, plans to invest \$12 billion in carbon capture and storage, creating tens of thousands of jobs between 2025 and 2030.

The ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION MONITOR is an ICBA Alberta publication providing ahead-of-the-curve information and statistics on the Alberta construction industry and issues relevant to it.

ICBA Alberta advocates for fairness, opportunity, and free enterprise; and supports the success of open shop contractors and ICBA Alberta members by delivering services that enhance the competitiveness of their businesses.



Regulatory Efficiency and Affordability

Alberta's two largest cities rank at or near the top on a combined measure of progressive planning practices, low government charges, and quick housing permit approvals. That helps keep housing affordable: an Edmontonian needs an \$81,600 income to purchase an average-priced home, while a Vancouverite needs \$220,700 and a Torontonionian \$211,650. ²



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² www.ratehub.ca/blog/october-2022-income-to-afford-home-canada/ Accessed February 24, 2023