

Alberta Labour Force Statistics

Labour Force Statistics (LFS) are posted monthly, by Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE), on the Government of Alberta and AHRE websites. The information is obtained from Statistics Canada's monthly Labour Force Survey and typically distributed on the first Friday of every month.

The Labour Force Survey is the primary source of statistics on employment and unemployment in Canada and the provinces. It is a monthly survey involving approximately 54,000 Canadian households. The goal of the survey is to provide a detailed, current picture of the labour market across the country. Changes in employment and unemployment levels generally reflect the economic health of the economy and labour market.

In Alberta, some 5,370 households are surveyed, covering slightly over 10,000 respondents. The survey covers persons 15 years of age and older.

The Labour Force Survey also includes monthly employment and unemployment statistics on Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta.

Understanding the design of the survey assists in recognizing the limitations of the data and in interpreting statistics that it produces.

A smaller sample of people are surveyed, and the information collected is extrapolated to represent the larger population. Statistics at the provincial level are more accurate than those for smaller regions due to larger sample sizes. When analyzed by economic region and local labour market areas, the Labour Force Statistics estimates become less reliable.

The data presented in the monthly Labour Force Statistics package provide a current picture of labour market conditions in Alberta. The data are summarized annually, enabling analysis of historical trends. The analysis can be used in forecasting employment, unemployment, and occupational and industry trends. As well, it allows the comparison of labour market trends across economic regions.

Access the monthly Labour Force Statistics:

Click: www.gov.ab.ca/hre/lfstats

Call: the Communications branch of Alberta Human Resources and Employment at (780) 427-5585, toll-free by first dialing 310-0000.

For more information on details, release dates and definitions, see Statistics Canada's website www.statcan.ca/start.html