

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: EMP13-1

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Branch monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

This Update presents annual 2008 to 2012 estimates of employment in Alberta's agri-food industries (agriculture industries and food and beverage manufacturing industries).

The source of the data is Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey which generates detailed information on labour market conditions. Employed workers (aged 15 years and over) consist of two categories: employees (work for a private business or for the government or public) and the self-employed (working owners of businesses, farms or professional practices). Employment estimates also refer to unpaid family labour and include both full-time and part-time employment.

Note: Industry estimates are based on the general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the survey respondent works (main job only).

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Economics and Competitiveness Division, Statistics and Data Development Branch.

Employment in Alberta Agri-Food Industries, 2012

Key Messages

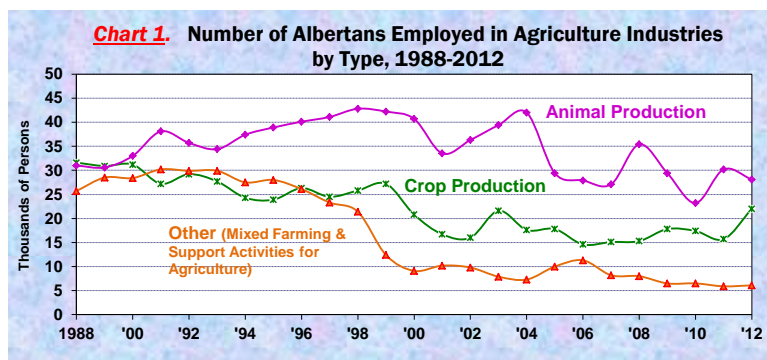
- For the second consecutive year, Alberta led the nation in employment growth, up 3.8 per cent in 2011 and a further 2.7 per cent in 2012 to total 2,149,600 persons.
- In 2012, Alberta reported the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 4.6 per cent, a four-year low.
- The province's agri-food industries employed 75,900 Albertans in 2012 accounting for 3.5 per cent of the total workforce. Agriculture industries employed 56,200 and the remaining 19,700 were employed in food and beverage manufacturing industries.
- Following a gain of 4.4 per cent in 2011, employment in Alberta's agri-food industries rose 3.7 per cent in 2012 to 75,900. The improvement in 2012 was entirely due to a gain of 8.5 per cent in workers employed in agriculture industries. Jobs grew the fastest in crop production industries at 40.1 per cent to 22,000. The most notable gain was in oilseed and grain farming at 71.6 per cent to 12,700, the highest level since 1999.
- While employment was up in crop production industries, jobs fell 7.0 per cent in animal production industries to 28,100 in 2012. The gap between crop and animal production employment has narrowed to its smallest level since the early 1990's.
- In 2012, employment in Alberta's food and beverage manufacturing industries totaled 19,700, down 7.9 per cent from 2011.

Employment in Alberta Agri-Food Industries, 2012

Agri-Food Statistics
Update: EMP13-1

In 2012, Alberta's **agri-food industries** employed 75,900 workers or 3.5 per cent of total employment (2,149,600). The sector ranked fourteenth largest among the province's eighteen major industries. Retail trade was the largest at (239,900 or 11.2 per cent), followed by health care and social assistance (228,600 or 10.6 per cent) and construction (226,600 or 10.5 per cent). **Agriculture industries** represented 2.6 per cent (56,200) of total employment. The majority of workers were concentrated in animal production (28,100 or 50.0 per cent) with those in cattle ranching and farming accounting for the largest proportion (17,100). The remaining workers were in crop production (22,000 or 39.1 per cent), mixed farming (3,800 or 6.8 per cent) and support activities for agriculture (2,200 or 3.9 per cent). **Food and beverage manufacturing industries** employed the second largest number of Albertans in the manufacturing sector (tied with machinery industries). At 19,700, processing workers accounted for 14.2 per cent of total manufacturing workers (138,500). Food processing is dominated by meat products industries which employed 38.2 per cent (6,800) of total food processing workers (17,800).

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	% Share of Agriculture 2012	2010	2011	2012	Five-Year Comparison 2012/2008	
	Number of Persons Employed						% Change			% Change	Chg. in No.
All Alberta Industries	2,053,700	2,025,200	2,016,600	2,094,100	2,149,600		-0.4	3.8	2.7	4.7	95,900
Total Agri-Food Industries (A+B)	83,000	74,500	70,100	73,200	75,900		-5.9	4.4	3.7	-8.6	-7,100
Agriculture Industries (A)	58,700	53,700	47,100	51,800	56,200	100.0	-12.3	10.0	8.5	-4.3	-2,500
- 15 to 24 Years of Age	7,200	4,800	4,100	5,800	5,800	10.3	-14.6	41.5	0.0	-19.4	-1,400
- 25 to 54 Years of Age	30,200	26,000	23,500	26,200	28,400	50.5	-9.6	11.5	8.4	-6.0	-1,800
- 55 Years and Over	21,300	22,900	19,500	19,800	22,000	39.1	-14.8	1.5	11.1	3.3	700
- Male	42,600	39,100	32,800	35,600	39,100	69.6	-16.1	8.5	9.8	-8.2	-3,500
- Female	16,000	14,700	14,300	16,200	17,100	30.4	-2.7	13.3	5.6	6.9	1,100
- Rural Areas	44,900	41,200	37,000	43,000	42,300	75.3	-10.2	16.2	-1.6	-5.8	-2,600
- Population Centres (Urban Areas)	13,700	12,600	10,100	8,800	13,800	24.6	-19.8	-12.9	56.8	0.7	100
- Full-Time (30 hours and more/week)	48,900	45,000	37,800	42,800	45,600	81.1	-16.0	13.2	6.5	-6.7	-3,300
- Part-Time (less than 30 hours/week)	9,700	8,800	9,300	9,100	10,600	18.9	5.7	-2.2	16.5	9.3	900
- Animal Production Industries	35,400	29,400	23,200	30,200	28,100	50.0	-21.1	30.2	-7.0	-20.6	-7,300
- Cattle Ranching and Farming	24,800	19,600	16,200	18,800	17,100	30.4	-17.3	16.0	-9.0	-31.0	-7,700
- Crop Production Industries	15,300	17,800	17,400	15,700	22,000	39.1	-2.2	-9.8	40.1	43.8	6,700
- Oilseed and Grain Farming	8,600	9,600	11,300	7,400	12,700	22.6	17.7	-34.5	71.6	47.7	4,100
- Mixed Farming	4,900	4,600	4,700	4,000	3,800	6.8	2.2	-14.9	-5.0	-22.4	-1,100
- Support Activities for Agriculture	3,000	1,900	1,800	1,900	2,200	3.9	-5.3	5.6	15.8	-26.7	-800
Food and Beverage Manufacturing (B)	24,300	20,800	23,000	21,400	19,700		10.6	-7.0	-7.9	-18.9	-4,600
- Food Industries	21,300	18,800	20,800	19,600	17,800		10.6	-5.8	-9.2	-16.4	-3,500
- Meat Products Industries	9,100	8,900	9,200	9,400	6,800		3.4	2.2	-27.7	-25.3	-2,300
- All Other Food Industries	12,200	9,900	11,600	10,200	11,000		17.2	-12.1	7.8	-9.8	-1,200
- Beverage Industries	3,000	2,000	2,100	1,800	1,900		5.0	-14.3	5.6	-36.7	-1,100



Alberta Leads All Provinces in Employment Growth

For the second consecutive year, Alberta led the nation in employment growth, up 3.8 per cent in 2011 and up 2.7 per cent in 2012. These gains were supported by continued strong population growth, particularly in-migration. The unemployment rate dropped to a four-year low of 4.6 per cent, the lowest in Canada. Alberta's economy grew by 5.1 per cent in 2012, the highest growth rate in the nation. The expansion was broadly based with annual sales increases in retail, manufacturing and wholesale sectors. Average weekly earnings were the highest in the nation. Alberta posted the lowest inflation rate (tied with B.C. at 1.1 per cent), despite having a tight labour market and robust housing activity. Crude oil production reached record levels and investment activity in the energy sector was higher. The majority of industries reported annual job increases led by utilities (up 27.0 per cent) oil and gas industries (up 14.8 per cent). Alberta's largest employment sector of retail sales, gained 3.7 per cent more jobs, the same rate as agri-food industries.

Large Increase in Alberta Crop Production Jobs

- Employment in Alberta's agri-food industries grew for the second consecutive year in 2012, up 3.7 per cent to 75,900. This increase was attributable to **higher employment in agriculture industries** at 56,200. After a combined loss of 11,600 jobs in 2009 and 2010, agriculture employment recovered in 2011 and 2012 with gains of 10.0 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively. The province's agricultural producers experienced a positive year as demand, prices and profitability levels rose especially in the crop sector. Crop farm market receipts for 2012 are forecast to increase 19.2 per cent, compared to a 6.6 per cent gain for livestock receipts (1). Following two consecutive declines, workers in crop production rose 40.1 per cent to 22,000, the highest level since 1999. Employment in oilseed and grain farming rose from 7,400 to 12,700, a 71.6 per cent gain. While the crop sector reported impressive job growth, employment in animal production dropped 7.0 per cent to 28,100. As shown in **Chart 1**, the gap between crop and animal production employment has narrowed to its smallest level since the early 1990's. The cattle ranching sector experienced six years of declining cattle and calf inventories from 2006 to 2011. However, as of January 1, 2012, the herd size increased 0.9 per cent over 2011 and gained a further 2.2 per cent as of January 1, 2013. Factors impacting inventories were relatively strong cattle prices, favourable pasture conditions and increasing feed costs mainly due to the severe 2012 U.S. drought.

- Following a decline of 7.0 per cent in 2011, **jobs in food and beverage manufacturing fell** another 7.9 per cent in 2012 to 19,700, the lowest level since 2000. The decrease was mainly attributable to job losses in meat products industries.

(1) Percentages (2012/2011) are based on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 2012 Farm Income Forecasts released in February, 2013.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey Chg. - change No. - number Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Statistics and Data Development Branch

e-mail: ann.stankiewicz@gov.ab.ca Phone: (780) 422-3099