

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: EMP12-01

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 2007 to 2011 estimates of employment in Alberta's agri-food industries (agriculture 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)

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**Government  
of Alberta** ■

## Employment in Alberta Agri-Food Industries, 2011

### Key Messages

- In 2008, employment in Alberta peaked at 2,053,700 persons. In 2009 and 2010, recessionary effects resulted in lower levels and the province lost 37,100 jobs. However, in 2011, the labour market recovered with an increase of 3.8 per cent over 2010 (up 77,500 jobs). This was the largest annual gain among the provinces.
- Following two consecutive annual declines, employment in Alberta's agri-food industries increased 4.6 per cent to total 73,200 persons in 2011.
- The improvement in 2011 was entirely due to a gain of 10.0 per cent in workers employed in agriculture industries. In contrast, employment in food and beverage manufacturing industries dropped 6.6 per cent.
- At 51,800 in 2011, employment in the province's agriculture industries was dominated by animal production workers at 30,200 (58.3 per cent of the total). Cattle ranching and farming production employed 18,800 workers and 11,400 were employed in other animal production. Albertans employed in crop production totalled 15,700 (30.3 per cent). The remaining were in mixed farming at 4,000 (7.7 per cent) and support activities for agriculture at 1,900 (3.7 per cent).
- Food and beverage manufacturing industries remains the largest manufacturing employer in Alberta at 21,400 or 15.1 per cent of total manufacturing employment (141,400).

May 25, 2012

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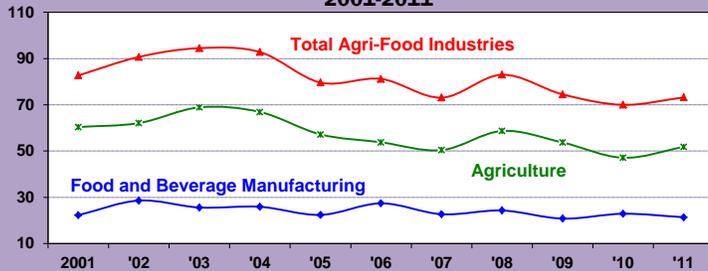
# Employment in Alberta Agri-Food Industries, 2011

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In 2011, Alberta's **agri-food industries** employed 73,200 workers or 3.5 per cent of total employment (2,094,100). The sector ranked sixteenth largest among the province's eighteen major industries. Retail trade was the largest at (231,400), followed by health care and social assistance (224,900) and construction (210,800). **Agriculture industries** represented 2.5 per cent (51,800) of provincial employment. The majority of workers were concentrated in animal production (30,200 or 58.3 per cent) with those in cattle ranching and farming accounting for the largest proportion (18,800). The remaining workers were in crop production (15,700 or 30.3 per cent), mixed farming (4,000 or 7.7 per cent) and support activities for agriculture (1,900 or 3.7 per cent). **Food and beverage manufacturing industries** employed the largest number of Albertans in the manufacturing sector. At 21,400, processing workers accounted for 15.1 per cent of total manufacturing workers (141,400). Food processing is dominated by meat products industries which employed nearly 48.0 per cent (9,400) of food processing workers.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Share of Agriculture 2011	2009	2010	2011	Five-Year Comparison 2011/2007	
	Number of Persons Employed						% Change			% Change	Chg. in No.
<b>All Alberta Industries</b>	<b>1,991,300</b>	<b>2,053,700</b>	<b>2,025,200</b>	<b>2,016,600</b>	<b>2,094,100</b>					<b>5.2</b>	<b>102,800</b>
<b>Total Agri-Food Industries (A+B)</b>	<b>73,100</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>74,500</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>73,200</b>		<b>-10.2</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Agriculture Industries (A)</b>	<b>50,400</b>	<b>58,700</b>	<b>53,700</b>	<b>47,100</b>	<b>51,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-8.5</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1,400</b>
- 15 to 24 Years of Age	5,900	7,200	4,800	4,100	5,800	11.2	-33.3	-14.6	41.5	-1.7	-100
- 25 to 54 Years of Age	28,100	30,200	26,000	23,500	26,200	50.6	-13.9	-9.6	11.5	-6.8	-1,900
- 55 Years and Over	16,400	21,300	22,900	19,500	19,800	38.2	7.5	-14.8	1.5	20.7	3,400
- Male	34,400	42,600	39,100	32,800	35,600	68.7	-8.2	-16.1	8.5	3.5	1,200
- Female	16,000	16,000	14,700	14,300	16,200	31.3	-8.1	-2.7	13.3	1.3	200
- Rural Areas	38,400	44,900	41,200	37,000	43,000	83.0	-8.2	-10.2	16.2	12.0	4,600
- Population Centres (1)	12,000	13,700	12,600	10,100	8,800	17.0	-8.0	-19.8	-12.9	-26.7	-3,200
- Full-Time (30 hours and more/week)	42,700	48,900	45,000	37,800	42,800	82.6	-8.0	-16.0	13.2	0.2	100
- Part-Time (less than 30 hours/week)	7,700	9,700	8,800	9,300	9,100	17.6	-9.3	5.7	-2.2	18.2	1,400
- Animal Production	27,100	35,400	29,400	23,200	30,200	58.3	-16.9	-21.1	30.2	11.4	3,100
- Cattle Ranching and Farming	18,600	24,800	19,600	16,200	18,800	36.3	-21.0	-17.3	16.0	1.1	200
- Crop Production	15,100	15,300	17,800	17,400	15,700	30.3	16.3	-2.2	-9.8	4.0	600
- Mixed Farming	6,300	4,900	4,600	4,700	4,000	7.7	-6.1	2.2	-14.9	-36.5	-2,300
- Support Activities for Agriculture	1,900	3,100	1,900	1,800	1,900	3.7	-38.7	-5.3	5.6	0.0	0
<b>Food and Beverage Manufacturing (B)</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>20,800</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>21,400</b>		<b>-14.4</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>-1,300</b>
- Food Industries	20,100	21,300	18,800	20,800	19,600		-11.7	10.6	-5.8	-2.5	-500
- Meat Products Industries	9,000	9,100	8,900	9,200	9,400		-2.2	3.4	2.2	4.4	400
- Bakeries and Tortilla Industries	3,700	3,500	3,500	3,900	2,700		0.0	11.4	-30.8	-27.0	-1,000
- All Other Food Industries	7,400	8,700	6,400	7,700	7,500		-26.4	20.3	-2.6	1.4	100
- Beverage Industries	2,600	3,000	2,000	2,100	1,800		-33.3	5.0	-14.3	-30.8	-800

Number of Albertans Employed in Agri-Food Industries (Thousands), 2001-2011



## Agri-food Employment Higher in 2011

- In 2011, Alberta's agri-food industries employed 73,200 workers or 3.5 per cent of the province's total employed labour force (2,094,100). Following two consecutive annual declines, employment rose 4.6 per cent in 2011. This increase was entirely attributable to higher employment in agriculture jobs.

- After losses of 5,000 jobs in 2009 and 6,600 jobs in 2010, **agriculture** employment recovered in 2011 with a gain of 4,700 jobs (up 10.0 per cent). Workers in animal production industries jumped just over 30.0 per cent to total 30,200. In contrast, crop production employment fell 9.8 per cent to 15,700. Alberta's overall increase was the only improvement in western Canada and was greater than gains in Ontario (8.9 per cent) and Quebec (6.3 per cent). Following five consecutive annual declines, agriculture employment for Canada rose 1.6 per cent in 2011 to 305,600.

- After reaching a record 28,600 in 2002, employment levels in **food and beverage manufacturing** industries fluctuated during successive years. While agriculture jobs improved in 2011, employment in processing industries fell 6.6 per cent to 21,400. Employment in meat products industries rose to 9,400, the highest level since 2006 (13,800). However, this gain was offset by declines in other food industries and beverages.

## Alberta's Labour Market Improves in 2011

Despite global uncertainty, Alberta's economy expanded by an estimated 3.5 per cent in 2011. Output returned to pre-recession levels and peaks were reported in retail sales, average weekly earnings and in-migration. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.5 per cent, the third lowest in Canada. Following declines during the recession of 2008-2010, total employment recovered in 2011 with a 3.8 per cent gain, the largest among the provinces. The majority of industries reported job increases led by wholesale trade, manufacturing, professional services and oil and gas industries. Alberta agricultural producers experienced a positive year as demand, prices and profitability levels rose for both the crop and livestock sectors. Farm cash receipts reached a record \$10.5 billion in 2011, an increase of 16.3 per cent over 2010.

(1) Population centres (formerly referred to as "urban areas") are defined as areas with a population of at least 1,000 and a density of 400 or more people per square kilometre. Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey Chg. - change No. - number Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.