

# Alberta Employment Outlook Report

This report highlights some occupational outlooks that have either improved or been adversely affected in 2020.

While the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were the primary factor contributing to the appearance of occupations on this list, other dynamics may have been involved in some cases.

Occupations were included in this report based upon an analysis of Labour Force Survey and administrative data (employment insurance claims and job postings), as well as qualitative analysis of labour market events and occupational research.

Each occupational narrative includes the following:

- Job Description,
- COVID-19 observation (as applicable),
- Employment change statement,
- Listing of primary industries, and
- Qualitative remark(s).

Given the changing nature of the economy and labour market, these outlooks/trends are not long-term.

## Impacted Occupations

### **0631 Restaurant and food service managers**

- Restaurant and food service managers plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate the operations of restaurants, bars, cafeterias and other food and beverage services. They are employed in food and beverage service establishments, or they may be self-employed.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for restaurant and food service managers to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 20% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Restaurant and food service managers work in the following industry:
  - accommodation and food services.
- In the short-term, continuing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines will lead to a slow recovery for the accommodation and food services industry as a whole, which will likely result in a slow return of restaurant and foodservice manager jobs.
- The longer the restrictions and guidelines are in place, the more strain is put on food establishments, which could lead to permanent closures and job loss.

### **1411 General office support workers**

- General office support workers prepare correspondence, reports, statements and other material, operate office equipment, answer telephones, verify, record and process forms and documents such as contracts and requisitions and perform general clerical duties according to established procedures. They are employed in offices throughout the public and private sectors.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for general office support workers to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 4.1% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.

- General office support workers work in the following industries:
  - health care and social assistance
  - public administration
  - professional, scientific, and tech Services.
- Because of the pandemic many office workers shifted to telework in March and continued to work remotely throughout 2020. This trend is expected to carry on longer term, which will prolong downward pressure on the demand for general office support workers.

#### **1414 Receptionists**

- Receptionists greet people arriving at offices, hospitals and other establishments, direct visitors to appropriate person or service, answer and forward telephone calls, take messages, schedule appointments and perform other clerical duties. They are employed by hospitals, medical and dental offices and other offices throughout the public and private sectors. Telephone operators are included in this group.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for receptionists to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 20% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Receptionists work in the following industries:
  - health care and social assistance
  - other services (except public administration)
  - professional, scientific and technical services.
- Receptionists work in a broad range of industries. The majority of businesses, including non-essential medical clinics, dental offices, and schools were deemed non-essential and ordered to temporarily close in spring 2020.
- The customer-facing nature of many jobs in this occupation means employment is closely linked to provincial health measures that limit in-person businesses.

#### **2131 Civil engineers**

- Civil engineers plan, design, develop and manage projects for the construction or repair of buildings, earth structures, powerhouses, roads, airports, railways, rapid transit facilities, bridges, tunnels, canals, dams, ports and coastal installations and systems related to highway and transportation services, water distribution and sanitation. Civil engineers may also specialize in foundation analysis, building and structural inspection, surveying, geomatics and municipal planning. They are employed by engineering consulting companies, in all levels of government, by construction firms and in many other industries, or they may be self-employed.
- Employment for this occupation was 4% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Civil engineers work in the following industries:
  - professional, scientific and technical services
  - public administration
  - construction.
- This occupation works closely with the non-residential construction industry. Activity in non-residential construction has weakened significantly over the last four years in Alberta, and is not expected to pick up in the near term.

#### **4011 University professors and lecturers**

- University professors and lecturers teach courses to undergraduate and graduate students and conduct research at universities. University professors who are heads of departments are included in this unit group.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for university professors and lecturers to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 29% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- University professors and lecturers work in the following industry:
  - educational services.
- Before COVID-19 took hold of the economy, many post-secondary institutions announced they were issuing layoffs and not filling vacant positions in response to funding cuts from the Government of Alberta in their 2019 and 2020 Budgets. It is expected that more layoffs will come in the 2021-2022 school year.

#### **4413 Elementary and secondary school teacher assistants**

- Elementary and secondary school teacher assistants support students, and assist teachers and counsellors with teaching and non-instructional tasks. They assist in areas of personal care, teaching and behaviour management under the supervision of teachers or other childcare professionals. They are employed in public and private elementary, secondary and special needs schools and treatment centres.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for elementary and secondary school teacher assistants to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 19% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Elementary and secondary school teacher assistants work in the following industry:
  - educational services.
- In March and April, thousands of teacher assistants and other support staff were laid off when school moved online and approximately \$128 million was diverted from the education budget to help deal with the COVID-19 crisis. By the time the new school year rolled around in September, many were not hired back as school boards issued permanent layoffs to help deal with budget shortfalls.

#### **5254 Program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport and fitness**

- Program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport and fitness lead and instruct groups and individuals in recreational, sports, fitness or athletic programs. They are employed by community centres, sports and fitness clubs, outdoor centres, resorts, recreational facilities, health care facilities, retirement homes, correctional institutions, government departments, private businesses, tourism associations and similar establishments.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport and fitness to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 55% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport and fitness work in the following industries:
  - arts, entertainment and recreation

- educational services
- health care and social assistance.
- In the short-term, continuing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines will lead to a slow recovery for the arts, entertainment and recreation industry as a whole, which will likely result in a slow return of program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport and fitness jobs. The longer the restrictions and guidelines are in place, the more strain is put on recreation, sport and fitness centres, which could lead to permanent job loss.

### **6311 Food service supervisors**

- Food service supervisors supervise, direct and co-ordinate the activities of workers who prepare, portion and serve food. They are employed by hospitals and other health care establishments and by cafeterias, catering companies and other food service establishments.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for food service supervisors to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 15% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Food service supervisors work in the following industry:
  - accommodation and food services.
- In the short-term, continuing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines will lead to a slow recovery for the accommodation and food services industry as a whole, which will likely result in a slow return of food and beverage server jobs.
- The longer the restrictions and guidelines are in place the more strain is put on food establishments, which could lead to permanent closures and job loss.

### **6315 Cleaning supervisors**

- Cleaning supervisors supervise and co-ordinate the activities of workers in the following unit groups: Light Duty Cleaners (6731), Specialized Cleaners (6732), and Janitors, Caretakers and Building Superintendents (6733). They are employed by hospitals and other health care institutions, hotels, motels, schools and other educational institutions, commercial and industrial establishments, home and office cleaning establishments and by various specialized cleaning companies.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. Employment for cleaning supervisors in Alberta did not initially decline but has been affected overall.
- Employment for this occupation was 2% higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. However, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Cleaning supervisors work in the following industry:
  - accommodation and food services.
  - administrative and support, waste management and remediation services.
- COVID-19 highlighted the importance of cleaning and sanitizing high touch surfaces in health care, grocery stores, offices and beyond. As such, demand for cleaning supervisors increased early in the pandemic. However, as many employees moved to remote work offices were left empty, reducing the need for cleaning supervisors throughout the year.

### **6321 Chefs**

- Chefs plan and direct food preparation and cooking activities and who prepare and cook meals and specialty foods. They are employed in restaurants, hotels, hospitals and other health care institutions, central food commissaries, clubs and similar establishments, and on ships.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for chefs to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 29% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Chefs work in the following industry:
  - accommodation and food services.
- In the short-term, continuing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines will lead to a slow recovery for the accommodation and food services industry as a whole, which will likely result in a slow return of chef jobs.
- The longer the restrictions and guidelines are in place the more strain is put on food establishments, which could lead to permanent closures and job loss.

### **6322 Cooks**

- Cooks prepare and cook a wide variety of foods. They are employed in restaurants, hotels, hospitals and other health care institutions, central food commissaries, educational institutions and other establishments. Cooks are also employed aboard ships and at construction and logging campsites.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for cooks to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 44% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Cooks work in the following industries:
  - accommodation and food services
  - health care and social assistance.
- In the short-term, continuing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines will lead to a slow recovery for the accommodation and food services industry as a whole, which will likely result in a slow return of chef jobs.
- The longer the restrictions and guidelines are in place the more strain is put on food establishments, which could lead to permanent closures and job loss.

### **6341 Hairstylists and barbers**

- Hairstylists and barbers cut and style hair and perform related services. They are employed in hairstyling or hairdressing salons, barbershops, vocational schools, health care establishments and theatre, film and television establishments.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for hairstylists and barbers to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 82% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Hairstylists and barbers work in the following industry:
  - other services (except public administration).

- Those employed in this occupation work in close proximity to their clients. The high risk of exposure has negatively impacted service volumes and hours worked in this occupation.

### **6421 Retail salespersons**

- Retail salespersons sell, rent or lease a range of technical and non-technical goods and services directly to consumers. They are employed by stores and other retail businesses, as well as wholesale businesses that sell on a retail basis to the public.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for retail salespersons to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 59% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Retail salespersons work in the following industries:
  - retail trade
  - wholesale trade.
- Nonessential retail stores closed for about six weeks in the spring, displacing thousands of workers. Once stores were allowed to open in May, they had to abide by strict rules and capacity restrictions. Although retail sales rebounded to pre-pandemic levels by September, employment was slower to recover.

### **6511 Maîtres d'hôtel and hosts/hostesses**

- Maîtres d'hôtel and hosts/hostesses greet patrons and escort them to tables, and supervise and co-ordinate the activities of food and beverage servers. They are employed in restaurants, hotel dining rooms, private clubs, cocktail lounges and similar establishments.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. Employment for maîtres d'hôtel and hosts/hostesses in Alberta did not initially decline but has been affected overall.
- Maîtres d'hôtel and hosts/hostesses work in the following industry:
  - accommodation and food services.
- In the short-term, continuing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines will lead to a slow recovery for the accommodation and food services industry as a whole, which will likely result in a slow return of food and beverage server jobs.
- The longer the restrictions and guidelines are in place the more strain is put on food establishments, which could lead to permanent closures and job loss.

### **6512 Bartenders**

- Bartenders mix and serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. They are employed in restaurants, hotels, bars, taverns, private clubs, banquet halls and other licensed establishments. Supervisors of bartenders are included in this unit group.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. Employment for bartenders in Alberta did not initially decline but has been affected overall.
- Bartenders work in the following industry:
  - accommodation and food services.
- In the short-term, continuing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines will lead to a slow recovery for the accommodation and food services industry as a whole, which will likely result in a slow return of cook jobs.

- The longer the restrictions and guidelines are in place the more strain is put on restaurants and bars, which could lead to permanent closures and job loss.

### **6513 Food and beverage servers**

- Food and beverage servers take patrons' food and beverage orders and serve orders to patrons. They are employed in restaurants, hotels, bars, taverns, private clubs, banquet halls and similar establishments.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for food and beverage servers to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 82% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Food and beverage servers work in the following industries:
  - accommodation and food services
  - arts, entertainment and recreation.
- Restaurants and other establishments in the accommodation and food services industries were among the most impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. During the first wave of the pandemic in March and April, restaurants were permitted to remain open provided they only provided take-out or delivery service. This displaced many food and beverage servers who rely on in-person dining.
- In the short-term, continuing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines will lead to a slow recovery for the accommodation and food services industry as a whole, which will likely result in a slow return of food and beverage server jobs. The longer the restrictions and guidelines are in place the more strain is put on food establishments, which could lead to permanent closures and job loss.

### **6562 Estheticians, electrologists and related occupations**

- Estheticians, electrologists and workers in related occupations provide facial and body treatments designed to enhance an individual's physical appearance. They are employed in beauty salons, electrolysis studios, scalp treatment and hair replacement clinics and other similar establishments and in cosmetic departments of retail establishments such as pharmacies and department stores, or they may be self-employed.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for estheticians, electrologists and related occupations to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 69% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Estheticians, electrologists and related occupations work in the following industry:
  - other services (except public administration).
- Those employed in this occupation work in close proximity to their clients. The high risk of exposure has negatively impacted service volumes and hours worked in this occupation.

### **6622 Store shelf stockers, clerks and order fillers**

- Store shelf stockers, clerks and order fillers pack customers' purchases, price items, stock shelves with merchandise, and fill mail and telephone orders. They are employed in retail establishments, such as grocery, hardware and department stores, and in warehouses.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for store shelf stockers, clerks and order fillers to fall significantly in Alberta.

- Employment for this occupation was 38% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Store shelf stockers, clerks and order fillers work in the following industry:
  - retail trade.
- In the spring, non-essential businesses closed to slow the spread of COVID-19. While general merchandise and grocery stores were largely exempt from the mandatory closures they were subject to capacity restrictions and enhanced public safety measures.
- Once stores were allowed to open in May, they had to abide by strict rules and capacity restrictions. Although retail sales rebounded to pre-pandemic levels by September, employment was slower to recover.

### **8222 Contractors and supervisors, oil and gas drilling and services**

- Contractors and supervisors in oil and gas drilling and services supervise and co-ordinate the activities of workers engaged in drilling for oil or gas, operating service rigs, or providing oil and gas well services. They are employed by drilling and well service contracting companies and petroleum producing companies. Contractors may be self-employed.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions that caused employment for contractors and supervisors, oil and gas drilling and services to fall significantly in Alberta.
- Employment for this occupation was 23% lower in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended lower year-over-year.
- Contractors and supervisors, oil and gas drilling and services work in the following industry:
  - mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.
- Oil production has been weak in 2020 amid low oil prices and demand uncertainty. As a result, companies have slashed their capital spending plans and have reduced their fleet of active drilling rigs. In the first ten months of 2020, the average number of active drilling rigs in the province was down by over a third compared to the same period in 2019.

## **Improved Occupations**

### **0213 Computer and information systems managers**

- Computer and information systems managers plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate the activities of organizations that analyze, design, develop, implement, operate and administer computer and telecommunications software, networks and information systems. They are employed throughout the public and private sectors.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for computer and information systems managers in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was significantly higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Computer and information systems managers work in the following industry:
  - professional, scientific and technical services.
- The tech industry in Alberta, and in particular Calgary, has grown in recent years. There are over 400 growing tech companies in Calgary, leading to some 2,000 job vacancies, software engineers and designers among them.



- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) recently opened its new School of Advanced Digital Technology, which will graduate about 1,500 trained advanced digital workers over the next five years to help ensure there is a local supply of skilled tech workers to match the emerging demand.

### **1228 Employment insurance, immigration, border services and revenue officers**

- Employment insurance, immigration, border services and revenue officers administer and enforce laws and regulations related to immigration, customs, border crossing, tax revenue, employment insurance and other government benefit services. They are employed by government agencies.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for employment insurance, immigration, border services and revenue officers in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Employment insurance, immigration, border services and revenue officers work in the following industry:
  - public administration.
- The recession caused by COVID-19 displaced thousands of workers resulting in an influx applicants for government programs including employment insurance (EI), the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), among others. This resulted in an increase in demand for employment insurance, immigration, border services and revenue officers in the province.

### **2171 Information systems analysts and consultants**

- Information systems analysts and consultants analyze and test systems requirements, develop and implement information systems development plans, policies and procedures, and provide advice on a wide range of information systems issues. They are employed in information technology consulting firms and in information technology units throughout the public and private sectors, or they may be self-employed.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for information systems analysts and consultants in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was 47% higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Information systems analysts and consultants work in the following industries:
  - professional, scientific and technical services
  - public administration
  - utilities.
- The tech industry in Alberta, and in particular Calgary, has grown in recent years. There are over 400 growing tech companies in Calgary, leading to some 2,000 job vacancies, software engineers and designers among them.
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) recently opened its new School of Advanced Digital Technology, which will graduate about 1,500 trained advanced digital workers over the next five years to help ensure there is a local supply of skilled tech workers to match the emerging demand.

### **2172 Database analysts and data administrators**

- Database analysts design, develop and administer data management solutions using database management software. Data administrators develop and implement data administration policy, standards and models. They are

employed in information technology consulting firms and in information technology units throughout the private and public sectors.

- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for database analysts and data administrators in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was significantly higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Database analysts and data administrators work in the following industry:
  - public administration.
- The recent shift towards increased technology and data usage among companies and organizations has created additional demand for this occupation. As the importance of information increases and databases become larger and more complicated the demand for database analysts and data administrators will also increase post-pandemic.

### **2173 Software engineers and designers**

- Software engineers and designers research, design, evaluate, integrate and maintain software applications, technical environments, operating systems, embedded software, information warehouses and telecommunications software. They are employed in information technology consulting firms, information technology research and development firms, and information technology units throughout the private and public sectors, or they may be self-employed.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for software engineers and designers in Alberta was not affected.
- Software engineers and designers work in the following industry:
  - professional, scientific and technical services.
- The tech industry in Alberta, and in particular Calgary, has grown in recent years. There are over 400 growing tech companies in Calgary, leading to some 2,000 job vacancies, software engineers and designers among them.
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) recently opened its new School of Advanced Digital Technology, which will graduate about 1,500 trained advanced digital workers over the next five years to help ensure there is a local supply of skilled tech workers to match the emerging demand.

### **2264 Construction inspectors**

- Construction inspectors inspect the construction and maintenance of new and existing buildings, bridges, highways and industrial construction to ensure that specifications and building codes are observed and monitor work site safety. They are employed by federal, provincial and municipal governments, construction companies, architectural and civil engineering consulting firms or they may be self-employed.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for construction inspectors in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was 24% higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Construction inspectors work in the following industries:
  - construction
  - professional
- The construction industry was deemed essential and was permitted to continue operating through the height of government imposed restrictions in the spring. Even though overall construction activity has been muted in 2020,

the residential sector, a large source of employment for construction inspectors, has been resilient and year-to-date investment to September has been the same as 2019.

### **3011 Nursing co-ordinators and supervisors**

- Nursing co-ordinators and supervisors co-ordinate and supervise the activities of registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, licensed practical nurses and other nursing personnel in the provision of patient care. They are employed in health care institutions such as hospitals, clinics and nursing homes, and in nursing agencies.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for nursing co-ordinators and supervisors in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was significantly higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Nursing co-ordinators and supervisors work in the following industry:
  - health care and social assistance.
- COVID-19 sent shock waves through the health care system, resulting in an increase in demand for nursing co-ordinators and supervisors due to their critical role in ensuring patients are cared for. As active cases and hospitalizations grew so did the pressure on hospital staff. In some instances, retired individuals returned to work to fill vacancies.
- Mount Royal University is expanding its Bridge to Canadian Nursing program to train more international nurses as applications grow. The 10 to 14-month-long program helps international nurses obtain a Canadian licence and registration to begin practising in Alberta.

### **3131 Pharmacists**

- Community pharmacists and hospital pharmacists compound and dispense prescribed pharmaceuticals and provide consultative services to both clients and health care providers. They are employed in retail pharmacies and health center pharmacies, or they may be self-employed. Industrial pharmacists participate in the research, development, promotion and manufacture of pharmaceutical products. They are employed in pharmaceutical companies and government departments and agencies.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for pharmacists in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was 14% higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Pharmacists mainly work in the following industry:
  - retail trade.
- In recent years, community and hospital pharmacists in Alberta have taken on increased responsibilities involved in the provision of healthcare. This occupation can now provide patients with an annual care plan or medication management assessment. Pharmacists can also renew, modify, and or provide prescriptions, as well as administer vaccines and manage a patient's diabetes or smoking cessation.

### **4153 Family, marriage and other related counsellors**

- Family, marriage and other related counsellors assist individuals and groups of clients to identify, understand and overcome personal problems and achieve personal objectives. They are employed by counselling centres, social service agencies, group homes, government agencies, family therapy centres, and health care and rehabilitation facilities, or they may work in private practice.

- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for family, marriage and other related counsellors in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was 66% higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Family, marriage and other related counsellors work in the following industries:
  - health care and social assistance
  - educational services.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health of people in Alberta, resulting in an increase in demand for family, marriage and other related counsellors. Increased feelings of isolation, anxiety and uncertainty have weighed heavily on many people and may have exasperated the symptoms of those who suffer from mental health disorders. In response, some psychology and counselling offices have increased the availability of online and virtual sessions.

#### **4165 Health policy researchers, consultants and program officers**

- Health policy researchers, consultants and program officers conduct research, produce reports and administer health care policies and programs. They are employed by government departments and agencies, consulting establishments, universities, research institutes, hospitals, community agencies, educational institutions, professional associations, non-governmental organizations and international organizations.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for health policy researchers, consultants and program officers in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was 24% higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Health policy researchers, consultants and program officers work in the following industry:
  - health care and social assistance.
- COVID-19 rapidly increased the demand for health policy researchers, consultants, and program officers. Not only were they tasked with determining how to respond to the direct impacts of COVID-19 and keeping the public safe from the virus, but they also had to address the consequences that the pandemic and related restrictions have had on people's mental health and overall wellbeing.

#### **4212 Social and community service workers**

- Social and community service workers administer and implement a variety of social assistance programs and community services, and assist clients to deal with personal and social problems. They are employed by social service and government agencies, mental health agencies, group homes, shelters, substance abuse centres, school boards, correctional facilities and other establishments.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for social and community service workers in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was 21% higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Social and community service workers mainly work in the following industries:
  - health care and social assistance.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting recession impacted some of the most vulnerable populations the most. This includes those who are battling addictions, homeless or have precarious housing situations, are victims of

spousal abuse and have mental health disorders, among others. This has increased the demand for social and community service workers to help individuals and families seek help and access social and community services.

### **7205 Contractors and supervisors, other construction trades, installers, repairers and servicers**

- Contractors and supervisors of other construction trades, installers, repairers and servicers supervise and coordinate the activities of various tradespersons, installers, repairers and servicers classified in the following minor groups: Masonry and Plastering Trades (728), Other Construction Trades (729) and Other Installers, Repairers and Servicers (744). This unit group also includes prefabricated product installation and service contractors. They are employed by a wide range of establishments; places of employment are usually indicated in the unit group descriptions or they may operate their own business.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic was declared in March, resulting in health measures, travel restrictions, and other disruptions. However, employment for contractors and supervisors, other construction trades, installers, repairers and servicers in Alberta was not affected.
- Employment for this occupation was 65% higher in April 2020 compared to April 2019. Similarly, average employment levels in 2020 trended higher year-over-year.
- Contractors and supervisors, other construction trades, installers, repairers and servicers work in the following industry:
  - construction.
- The construction industry was deemed essential and was permitted to continue operating through the height of government imposed restrictions in the spring. Even though overall construction activity has been muted in 2020, the residential sector, a large source of employment for this occupation, has been resilient and year-to-date investment to September has been the same as 2019.