



Public Interest Alberta

3rd Floor, 10512 – 122 St., Edmonton, AB, T5N 1M6 P 780.420.0471 F 780.420.0435
E pialta@telus.net W www.pialberta.org

Statistics of Low-Wage Workers in Alberta

The following statistics were purchased from Statistics Canada by Public Interest Alberta with the support of the Alberta College of Social Workers. The numbers are the latest available statistics and are the number of employed Albertans in each category for the calendar year ending March 31, 2011.

Alberta – Statistics

One out of every 8 workers earns less than \$12/hour

Someone working full time (40 hours/ week for 50 weeks in a year) at \$12/hour would make a gross salary of \$24,000/year. A living wage in most of Alberta is considered to be approximately \$12.25 /hour for a single person working full time.

- There were 234,200 Albertans earning less than \$12 hour out of a total number of employed Albertans of 1,686,000. In other words, 13.9% (just over one out of every 8 workers) is making less than \$12/hour.
- 110,500 Alberta workers earn less than \$10/hour. 421,800 (25%) earn less than \$15/hour.

The majority of low-wage workers are in their prime earning years, trying to go to post-secondary education or support themselves and their families.

- 68 % of workers earning less than \$12/hour are over the age of 20. (22.2% are between the ages of 20 – 24, 27.8% are between the ages of 25 and 45, and 18.2% are older than 45 years of age).

The majority of low-wage workers are women

- 150,600 (or 64.3%) of the 234,200 people earning less than \$12/hour were women.

Grande Prairie, Athabasca, Peace River Region – Statistics

The number of low-wage workers is slightly higher than the provincial average despite the high cost of living.

- There are 14,800 people earning less than \$12/hour, or 14.2% out of the 104,200 employed people in this region. This is higher than the provincial average of 13.9%.
- 7600 earned less than \$10/hour and 25,300 earned less than \$15/hour.

9300 (63%) of these employees earning less than \$12/hour are in their prime earning years

- 2200 (15%) are between 20 – 24 years of age, 4200 (28%) are between the ages of 25 – 45, and 2900 (20%) are over the age of 45.

The majority (9,800 = 66%) of low-wage workers in the Grande Prairie region are women.