



Alberta Labour Force Profiles

Youth
2010

Government
of Alberta ■

Alberta ■

Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, youth are defined as persons aged 15 to 24 years.

1. Alberta Youth Population Statistics

- Among the provinces, Alberta tied Manitoba with the second highest proportion of youth in its working age population (WAP) at 17.4%, after Saskatchewan's rate of 17.5%.
- The Alberta youth population grew by 18.2% between 2000 and 2010.

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

- Alberta youth had the third lowest unemployment rate at 11.6% in the country behind Saskatchewan's and Manitoba's youth unemployment rates of 9.4% and 11.1% respectively.
- Alberta youth had the highest participation rate in Canada at 69.2%.
- Alberta's youth employment rate of 61.2% was the second highest among the provinces behind Saskatchewan's 61.8%.

3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

- Alberta's Services-producing sector employed nearly 78.3% of all working youth.
- In 2010, Alberta youth accounted for 38.0% of those employed in the Accommodation and Food Services industry.

4. Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

- 73.7% of employed youth had obtained a high school graduation, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, a university degree, and some post-secondary education.
- Of employed youths, more females at 74.9% had attained high school graduation or above than males at 72.7%.

5. Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

- The proportion of youth employed in part-time positions was more than double their share of the working age population.
- Almost half of female youth worked part-time.

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

- The average hourly wage paid to youth was \$9.67 less than the average hourly wage paid to all Albertans.
- The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education than the wage paid to female youth.

1. Alberta Youth Population Statistics

Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.¹

Figure 1 shows the number and proportion of youth in the working age population of Canada and province in 2010. Alberta and Manitoba had the second highest percentages, at 17.4%, of youth within their working age populations (WAP), behind Saskatchewan's 17.5%. Alberta's percentage of youth in the working age population exceeded the national percentage by 1.3 percentage points.

Figure 1

Number and Per cent of Youth, Canada and Provinces, 2010			
	Working Age Population (15+ years)	Youth (15-24 years)	% Youth in Working Age Population
Canada	27,658,500	4,460,400	16.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	428,100	62,100	14.5%
Prince Edward Island	117,000	19,500	16.7%
Nova Scotia	777,000	120,800	15.5%
New Brunswick	616,800	91,900	14.9%
Quebec	6,507,200	979,500	15.1%
Ontario	10,790,600	1,779,200	16.5%
Manitoba	941,000	163,800	17.4%
Saskatchewan	790,900	138,100	17.5%
Alberta	2,960,900	514,100	17.4%
British Columbia	3,729,100	591,400	15.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

As Figure 2 shows, Alberta's youth population grew by 18.2%, or 79,100 people, between 2000 and 2010. This growth rate exceeded the growth rate of the Canadian youth as a whole by 8.6 percentage points, but lower than the growth rate of the working age population of Alberta by 10.1 percentage points over the same period.

Figure 2

Growth of Youth and Working Age Population, 2000 and 2010				
	2000	2010	Growth	% Growth
Canadians	24,089,700	27,658,500	3,568,800	14.8%
Youth in Canada	4,067,900	4,460,400	392,500	9.6%
Albertans	2,306,900	2,960,900	654,000	28.3%
Youth in Alberta	435,000	514,100	79,100	18.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

¹ Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE. For more information, please visit: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=71-543-GIE&lang=eng>

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

As shown in Figure 3, youth made up 16.5% of the labour force and 15.6% of those employed in Alberta in 2010.

Youth accounted for almost a third, or 29.3%, of the unemployed in Alberta in 2010. Their unemployment rate was 11.6%, down from 12.2% in 2009, and 5.1 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate for all Albertans. The youth participation and employment rates were lower than those of Albertans by 3.7 and 6.9 percentage points, respectively.

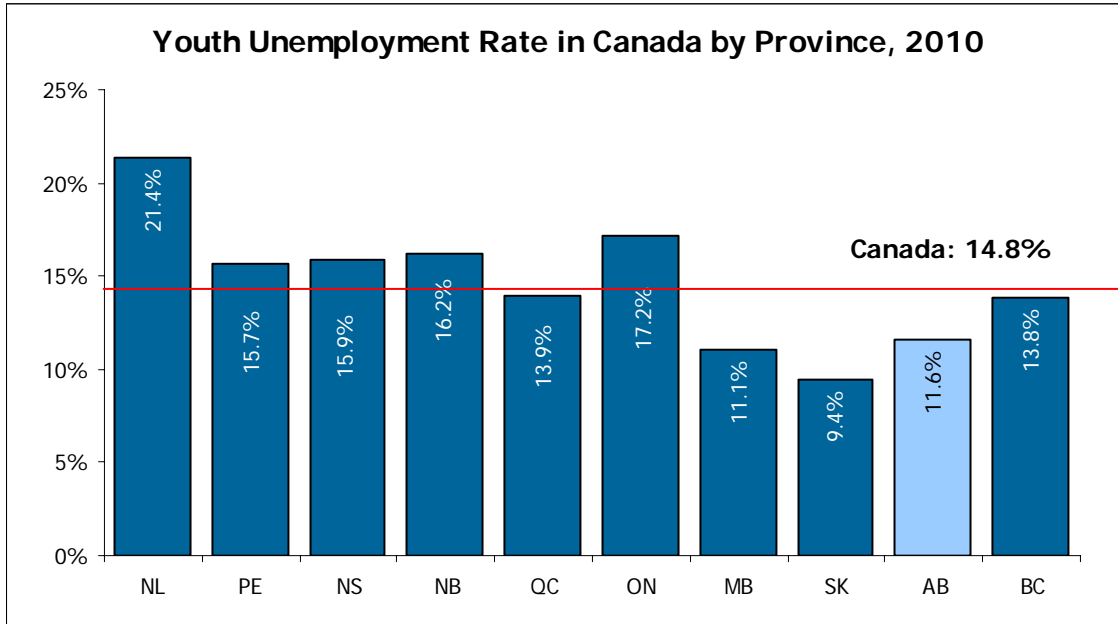
Figure 3

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics, 2010			
	Youth (15-24 years)	Albertans (15+ years)	% of Albertans (15-24 years)
Working Age Population	514,100	2,960,900	17.4%
Labour Force	355,800	2,157,300	16.5%
Employment	314,500	2,016,600	15.6%
Unemployment	41,200	140,700	29.3%
Unemployment Rate	11.6%	6.5%	
Participation Rate	69.2%	72.9%	
Employment Rate	61.2%	68.1%	

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 4 shows the youth unemployment rate by Canada and province in 2010. Alberta's youth unemployment rate of 11.6% was the third lowest among the provinces following Saskatchewan's 9.4% and Manitoba's 11.1%; and was 3.2 percentage points lower than the Canadian average of 14.8%.

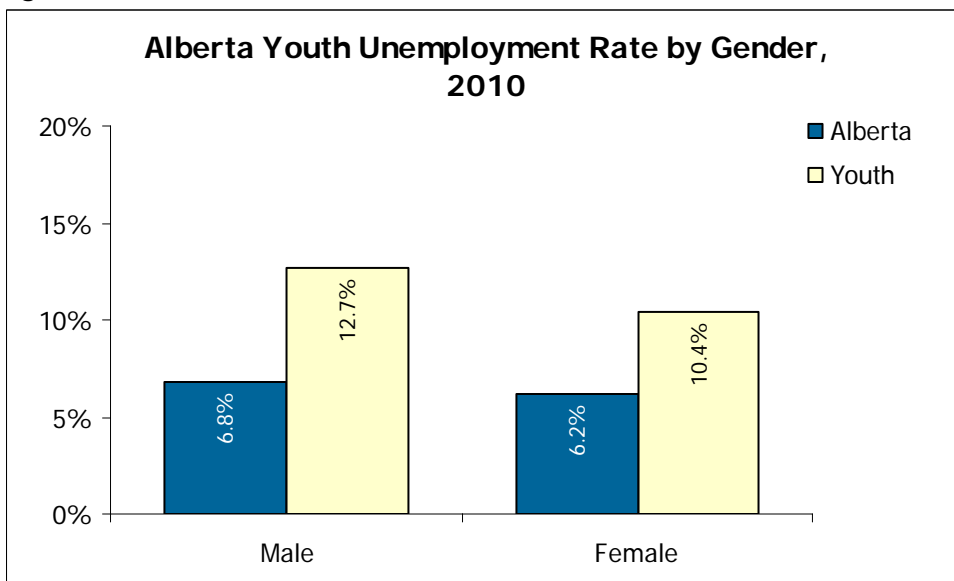
Figure 4



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 5 shows that the unemployment rates for both male and female youth were higher than for Albertans in 2010. Overall, females had lower unemployment rates than males. The unemployment rate for male youth was higher than that for female youth by 2.3 percentage points.

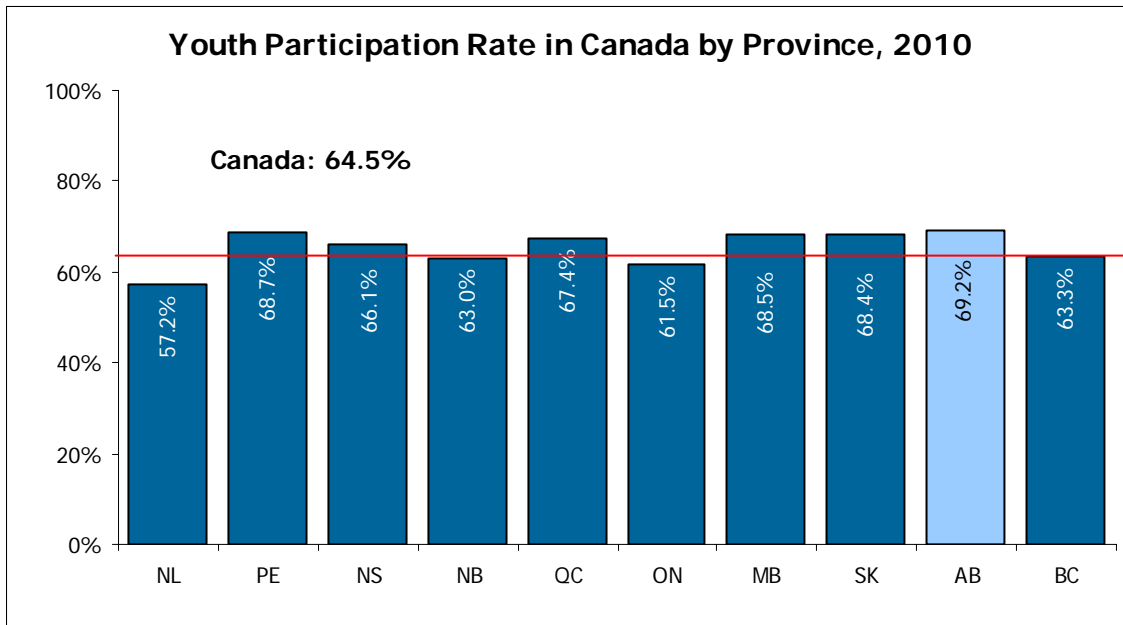
Figure 5



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 6 shows the youth participation rate by Canada and province. In 2010, Alberta's youth participation rate of 69.2% was the highest among the provinces. This was 4.7 percentage points higher than the Canadian average of 64.5%.

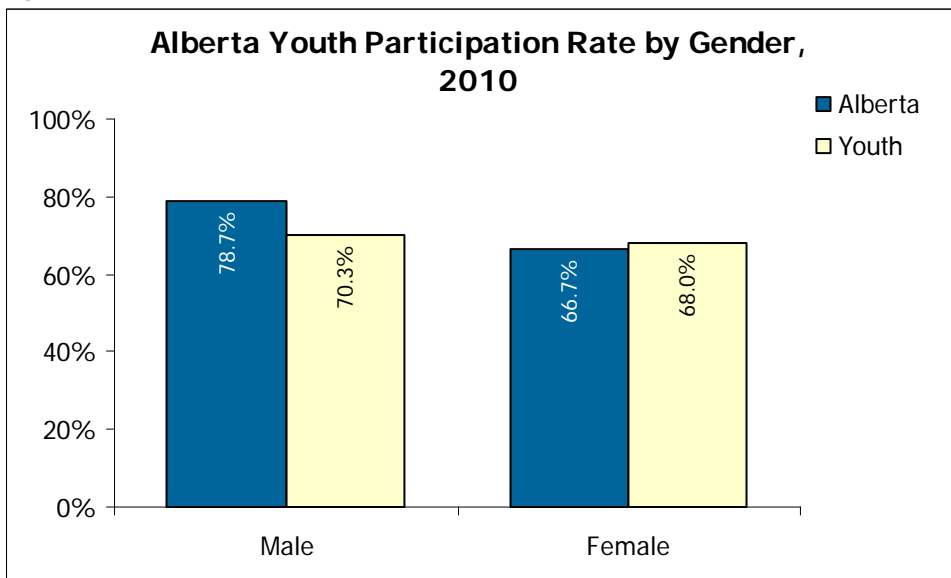
Figure 6



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 7 compares the 2010 youth participation rate by gender in Alberta. Although female youth had a higher participation rate than all females in the working age population, their rate was lower than that of male youth by 2.3 percentage points.

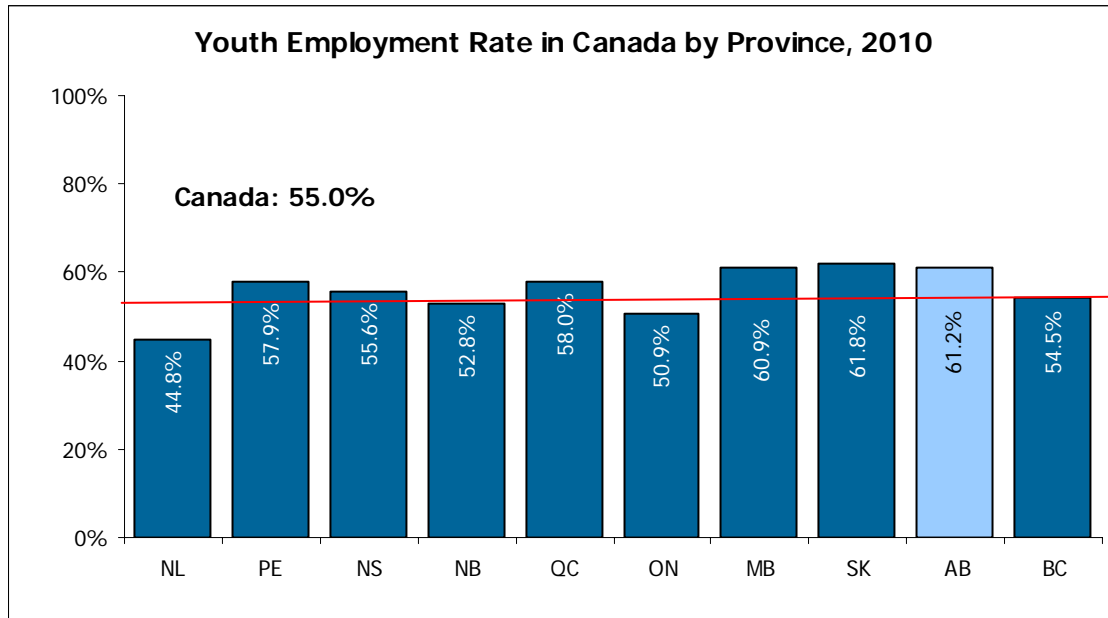
Figure 7



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 8 shows the employment rate of youth by Canada and province in 2010. Alberta's youth employment rate of 61.2% was the second highest among the provinces behind Saskatchewan's 61.8%. This rate was 6.2 percentage points above the average Canadian rate.

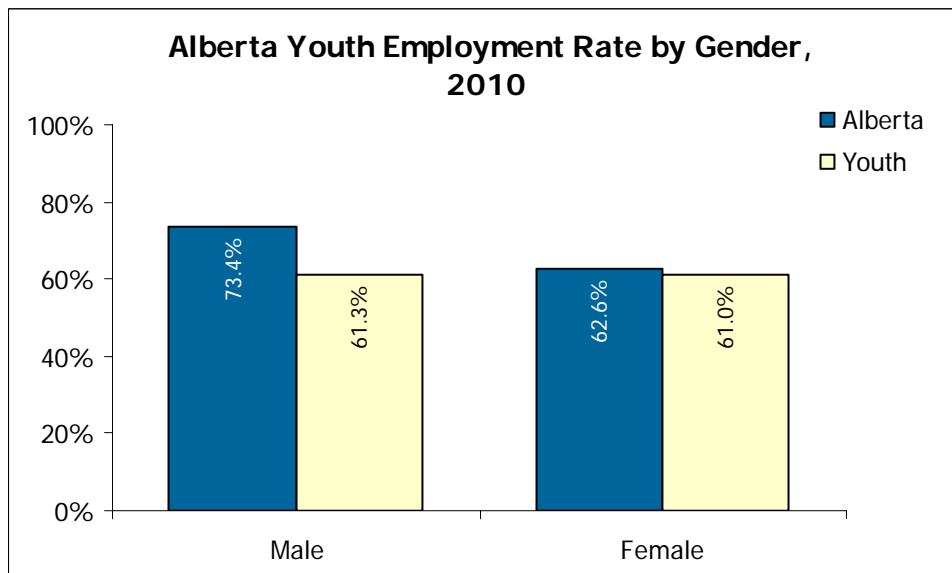
Figure 8



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 9 shows the 2010 youth employment rate by gender compared to Albertans. The employment rate for male youth was 0.3 percentage points higher than that of female youth but 12.1 percentage points lower than the rate for Alberta males.

Figure 9

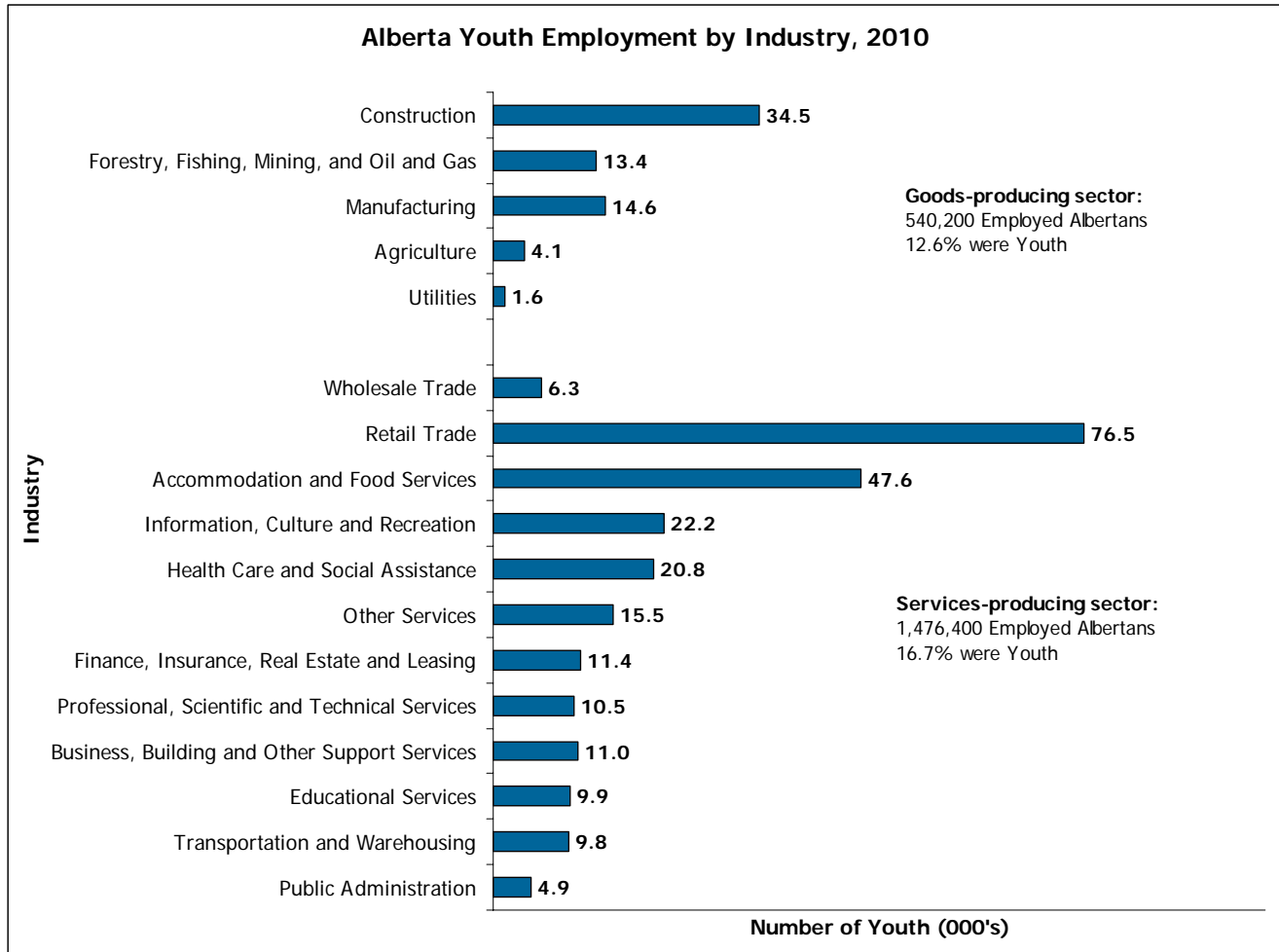


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

Figure 10 displays youth employment by industry in 2010. In that year, there were 540,200 Albertans employed in the Goods-producing sector and 1,476,400 employed in the Services-producing sector. Of those employed in the Goods-producing sector, 12.6% were youth. In the Services-producing sector, 16.7% of those employed were youth. The Services-producing sector employed 78.3% of all working youth. The three industries that employed the largest number of youth were the Retail Trade industry, 76,500; the Accommodation and Food Services industry, 47,600; and the Construction industry, 34,500.

Figure 10



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 11 shows that, 84.2% of the youth employed in the Goods-producing sector were male in 2010. Of those, 54.9% were employed in the Construction industry. Female youths however, were mostly employed in the Services-producing sector and accounted for 57.1% of the youth employed. Of those female youth employed in the Services-producing sector, 30.5% worked in Retail Trade and 20.1% in Accommodation and Food Services.

Figure 11

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry and Gender, 2010				
	Number Employed		Proportion by Gender	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Goods-producing sector	57,400	10,800	84.2%	15.8%
Construction	31,500	3,000	91.3%	8.7%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil and Gas	10,700	2,700	79.9%	20.1%
Manufacturing	10,900	3,700	74.7%	25.3%
Agriculture	3,000	1,100	73.2%	26.8%
Utilities	*N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Services-producing sector	105,700	140,600	42.9%	57.1%
Wholesale Trade	4,500	1,700	71.4%	27.0%
Retail Trade	33,600	42,900	43.9%	56.1%
Accommodation and Food Services	19,300	28,300	40.5%	59.5%
Information, Culture and Recreation	10,600	11,500	47.7%	51.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,600	17,100	17.3%	82.2%
Other Services	6,200	9,300	40.0%	60.0%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	3,600	7,800	31.6%	68.4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	4,900	5,600	46.7%	53.3%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	5,500	5,600	50.0%	50.9%
Educational Services	2,100	6,000	25.9%	74.1%
Transportation and Warehousing	8,200	1,600	83.7%	16.3%
Public Administration	2,200	2,700	44.9%	55.1%
Total	163,100	151,500	51.9%	48.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

* N/A – insufficient data

4. Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

Figure 12 shows the highest level of education attained by employed youth and Albertans in 2010. Just over 26.0% of employed youth had less than high school compared to 11.8% of employed Albertans. In 2010, 32.8% of youth had completed high school compared to 22.4% of Albertans.

Figure 12

Youth Employment by Level of Education, 2010		
Educational Attainment	Albertans (15+ years)	Youth (15 to 24 years)
Less than high school	11.8%	26.3%
High school graduate	22.4%	32.8%
Some post-secondary	7.8%	17.3%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	35.2%	17.0%
University degree	22.7%	6.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 13 shows youth employment by gender and level of education in 2010. More female youth with some post-secondary education were employed than male youth. Of the employed youth who had a university degree, nearly 60.0% were female.

Figure 13

Youth Employment by Educational Level and Gender, 2010			
Educational Attainment	Youth (15 to 24 years)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Less than high school	82,700	54.1%	46.1%
High school graduate	103,300	55.1%	45.0%
Some post-secondary	54,300	45.9%	54.1%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	53,400	52.4%	47.6%
University degree	20,800	42.3%	58.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

5. Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

Figure 14 displays full-time and part-time employment of youth and Albertans by gender in 2010. The proportion of youth employed in part-time positions was more than double the proportion of Albertans. The proportion of female youth employed part-time in Alberta was 19.8 percentage points higher than the proportion of their male counterparts.

Figure 14

Full-time and Part-time Employment by Gender, 2010				
	Youth (15 to 24 years)		Albertans (15+ years)	
	Employed	% of total	Employed	% of total
Both Genders	314,500	100.0%	2,016,600	100.0%
Full-Time	197,100	62.7%	1,661,000	82.4%
Part-Time	117,400	37.3%	355,600	17.6%
Male	163,100	100.0%	1,108,100	100.0%
Full-Time	117,800	72.2%	1,006,400	90.8%
Part-Time	45,300	27.8%	101,700	9.2%
Female	151,500	100.0%	908,500	100.0%
Full-Time	79,400	52.4%	654,600	72.1%
Part-Time	72,100	47.6%	253,900	27.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

*Figures are subject to Statistics Canada rounding guidelines

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries²

Figure 15 shows the average hourly wages paid to Albertans and youth by educational level in 2010. Overall, youth earned less per hour than Albertans at each level of education. The average hourly wage paid to youth at all levels of education was \$9.67 less than what Albertans earned. The difference in the average hourly wage paid increased from \$5.79 for those who had less than high school to \$11.06 for those with a university degree.

Figure 15

Average Hourly Wages by Educational Level, 2010		
Educational Level	Albertans	Youth
All Education	\$25.05	\$15.38
Less than high school	\$18.00	\$12.21
High school graduate	\$21.10	\$15.15
Some post-secondary education	\$20.56	\$15.23
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	\$26.76	\$18.61
University degree	\$31.49	\$20.43

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

Figure 16 illustrates the difference in the average hourly wage paid to Alberta youth by gender in 2010. The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education than the wage paid to female youth.

Figure 16

Average Hourly Wages of Alberta Youth by Education and Gender, 2010			
Educational Level	Youth	Male	Female
All Education	\$15.38	\$16.56	\$14.12
Less than high school	\$12.21	\$13.39	\$10.82
High school graduate	\$15.15	\$16.41	\$13.64
Some post-secondary education	\$15.23	\$16.25	\$14.37
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	\$18.61	\$20.61	\$16.59
University degree	\$20.43	\$21.22	\$19.88

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review, 2010

² Weekly and hourly wage rates are calculated using usual paid work hours per week.

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Youth: Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.