

WORK CENTRAL AB

Salary Guides

What Common Occupations Pay in Alberta

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Central Alberta Salary Guides

Knowing typical wage ranges helps you evaluate job offers, plan a career change, or negotiate compensation with confidence. This guide summarizes approximate 2026 Alberta wage data for common occupations - actual pay varies by employer, experience, certification, and specific location within the region.

1. How to Read These Figures

- Figures below are approximate annual ranges in Canadian dollars for full-time work, based on recent Alberta wage data.
- Actual pay depends heavily on experience, certification, employer, and whether a role is unionized.
- For the most precise, occupation-specific data, use Job Bank's Wage Report tool, which provides Alberta-specific wage percentiles by occupation.

2. Sample Occupation Wage Ranges (Alberta, 2026)

Occupation	Approx. Annual Range
Registered Nurse	\$62,000 - \$100,000+
Licensed Electrician (Journeyman)	\$73,000 - \$95,000+
Commercial Truck Driver (Class 1)	\$55,000 - \$80,000
Accountant	\$60,000 - \$95,000
Customer Service / Retail	\$35,000 - \$50,000
Personal Support Worker	\$40,000 - \$55,000
Software Developer	\$75,000 - \$120,000

Skilled trades are increasingly competitive with many white-collar roles - experienced journeypersons in trades like electrical or plumbing regularly earn \$85,000-\$110,000 in Alberta, often with significantly less student debt than a comparable university path.

3. Factors That Move Your Pay Within a Range

- **Experience and seniority** - the single biggest factor in most occupations.
- **Certification and credentials** - Red Seal endorsement, CPA designation, or specialized certifications typically command premium pay.
- **Union representation** - unionized roles often sit at the higher end of a given range, with structured wage progression.
- **Sector** - the same occupation can pay differently across industries (e.g., an electrician in industrial construction vs. residential work).

4. Using Salary Data to Negotiate

Research your specific occupation and experience level before any salary conversation - see our Salary Negotiation guide for how to use this data effectively in an offer discussion. Avoid relying solely on national averages, since regional Alberta wages can differ meaningfully from figures quoted for other provinces.

5. Where to Find More Detailed Data

Official Wage Data Sources

Job Bank Wage Report - occupation-specific wage percentiles by Alberta region.

Alberta Wage and Salary Survey (ALIS) - extensive, government-conducted wage analysis by occupation.

Alberta.ca Labour Market Information - forecasts and current wage trends provincewide.

6. Connecting Salary Data to Career Planning

- Compare potential earnings against local cost of living, not just the raw salary number (see our Cost of Living guide).
- Consider the full training investment and timeline required to reach higher-paying tiers within an occupation.
- Revisit wage data periodically - Alberta's labour market shifts, and last year's figures may not reflect current conditions.

7. Frequently Asked Questions

Common Questions

Are these figures before or after tax? All figures shown are gross (pre-tax) annual amounts - see our Tax Information guide for how to estimate take-home pay.

Do salaries in smaller Central Alberta communities differ from Red Deer? Generally similar for the same role and employer type, though very large employers concentrated in Red Deer may offer somewhat higher averages.

How current is this wage data? Based on recent 2026 sources, but wage data shifts - always check Job Bank's Wage Report for the most current, occupation-specific figures before relying on exact numbers.

Salary Guides Checklist

- ✓ Looked up current Alberta-specific wage data for your occupation
- ✓ Considered how certification or union status might affect your pay range

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- ✓ Reviewed our Salary Negotiation guide before your next compensation conversation
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Explore More at Work Central AB

See our High-Demand Occupations and Skilled Trades Careers guides for more on where regional demand and pay intersect. Visit workcentralab.ca/resources.