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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, 2012.

Alberta – Statistics

Approximately one out of every four workers earns less than \$15/hour

- There are 418,900 Albertans earning less than \$15/hour, out of a total number of employed Albertans of 1,763,000. In other words, 23.8% of employed Albertans (just under one out of every four workers) are making less than \$15/hour.
- 285,600 (16.2%) Alberta workers earn less than \$13/hour.

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

- 77.9% of workers earning less than \$15/hour are over the age of 20.
- 19.9% are between the ages of 20 – 24, 35.4% are between the ages of 25 – 44, and 25.6% are older than 45 years of age).

The majority of low-wage workers are women

- 254,700 (or 60.8%) of the 418,900 people earning less than \$15/hour are women.

Medicine Hat – Statistics

The number of low-wage workers in Medicine Hat is the highest of all Alberta's seven major cities.

- 9,100 people earn less than \$15/hour, or 33.7% of the 27,000 employed people in Medicine Hat. This is the highest percentage of low-wage workers in Alberta's seven major cities.
- 7,000 (76.9%) earn less than \$13/hour.

7,500 (81.7%) of these employees earning less than \$15/hour are in their prime earning years.

- 1,300 (14.3%) are between 20 – 24 years of age, 3,500 (38.5%) are between the ages of 25 – 44, and 2,700 (29.7%) are over the age of 45.

The majority (5,600 = 61.5%) of low-wage workers in Medicine Hat are women.