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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, 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.

Lethbridge – Statistics

The number of low-wage workers is significantly above the provincial average.

- There are 7200 people earning less than \$12/hour, or 17.8% out of the 40,500 employed people in Lethbridge. This is significantly higher than the provincial average of 13.9%.
- 3800 earned less than \$10/hour and 14,100 earned less than \$15/hour.

5700 (67%) of these employees earning less than \$12/hour are in their prime earning years

- 1500 (21%) are between 20 – 24 years of age, 1800 (25%) are between the ages of 25 – 45, and 2100 (21%) are over the age of 45.

The majority (4,800 = 66.7%) of low-wage workers in Lethbridge are women.