

# Weekly Wage Rate

# Alberta GPI

## Noteworthy:

- Average weekly wage rates were \$446 (1998\$) in 1961.
- Average weekly wage rates in 2003 amounted to \$751 (1998\$).
- Average weekly wage rates rose 68% between 1961 and 2003.
- More people in Alberta have jobs than in any other province.
- More women are employed in Alberta than in any other province.
- Ninety-eight percent of Alberta's labour force was employed in 1966, declining to approximately 95% by 2003.
- Provincial GDP and provincial weekly wage rates followed a similar pattern from 1961 to 2003. They both increased substantially since 1961.
- The total annual value of weekly wages (i.e., the annual sum of wages and salaries) in Alberta in 2003 was \$62 billion. That is equal to a full 49% of 2003 GDP.

## Weekly Wages in Alberta: How Much?

The figure below shows average weekly wage rates for Alberta (salaries included), from 1961 to 2003 (1998\$).

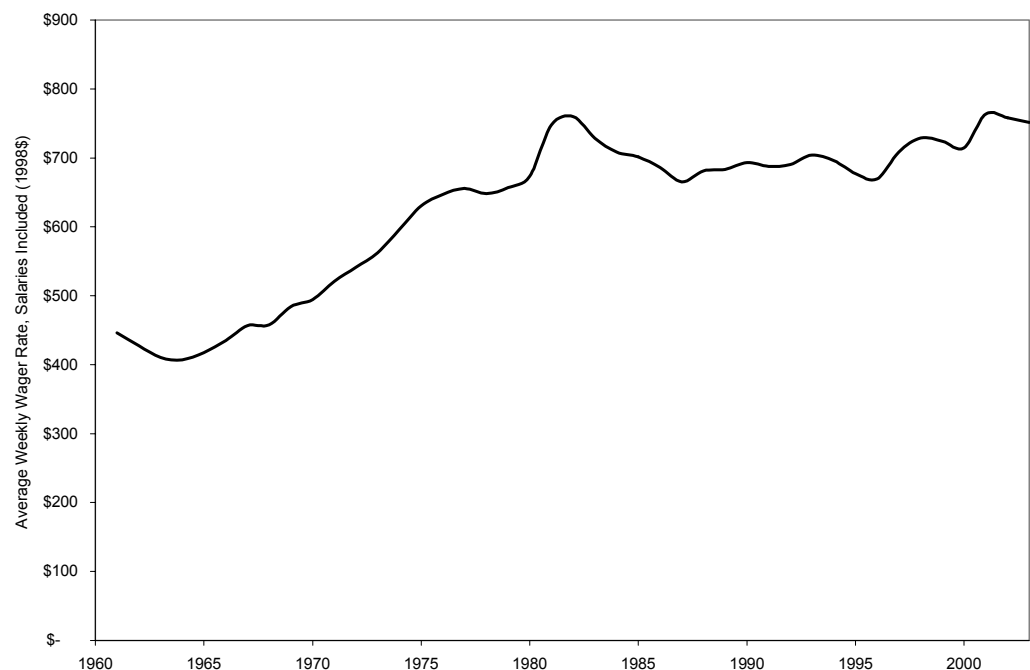
As the figure indicates, average weekly wage rates increased between 1961 and 2003. Average weekly wage rates were \$446 (1998\$) in 1961; by 2003, they had risen to \$751 (1998\$)—an increase of 68%.

The figure also shows that wage rates have been relatively stable in Alberta since the early 1980s.

The total annual value of weekly wages (salaries included) in Alberta was equal to 39% of GDP in 1961. By 1982, the total annual value of weekly wages in Alberta was equal to 66%, and by 2003 the total

annual value of weekly wages was equal to 49% of GDP. Thus the economic value of paid work relative to GDP in 2003 was higher than it was in 1961, but still less than it was in 1982.

### Real Weekly Wage Rates in Alberta, 1961 to 2003 (1998\$)



Source: Statistics Canada, personal communication and CANSIM data retrieval.

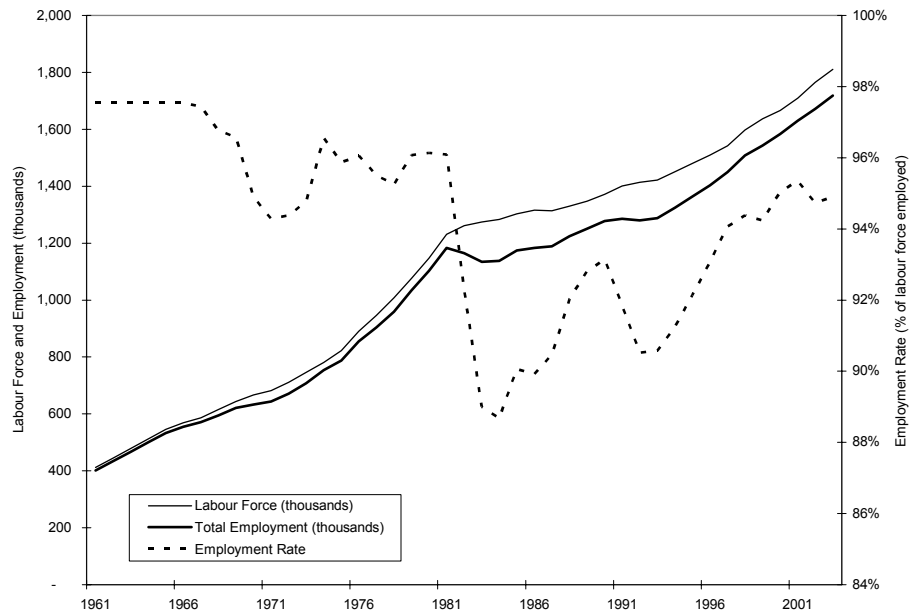
# So What?

In 2003, 68% of adult Albertans and 95% of the labour force were employed. More people in Alberta have jobs than in any other province. Over 60% of adults in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Prince Edward Island are also employed. The lowest employment rates in Canada are found in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Not only does Alberta boast the highest employment in Canada but more women are employed in Alberta than in any other province. Manitoba has the second highest employment rate for women.

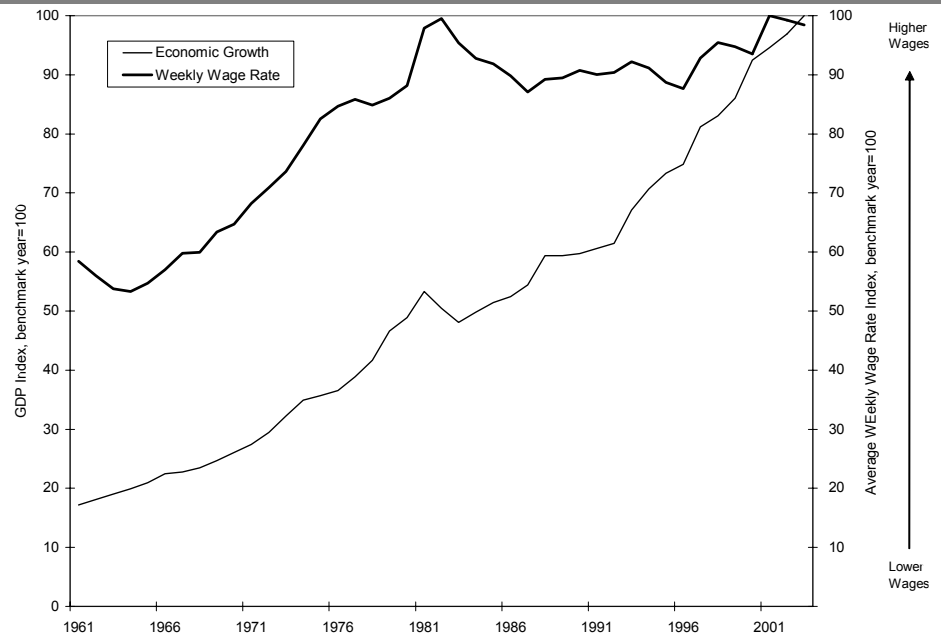
The figure at the upper right shows employment figures for Alberta from 1961 to 2003. This figure shows labour force participation in thousands, employment in thousands, and employment rate. Employment rate is defined as percent of the provincial labour force that is employed. Ninety-eight percent of Alberta's labour force was employed in 1966, declining to approximately 95% by 2003.

The figure below shows weekly wage rates in Alberta as an index, relative to GDP as an index, for the study period. For the index, we set the highest wage rate and the highest level of GDP that occurred between 1961 and 2003 equal to 100 and measured change from those benchmark years as an index over time. As the figure indicates, provincial GDP and provincial weekly wage rates have followed a similar pattern over the study period. Both have increased substantially since 1961.

## Employment in Alberta, 1961 to 2003



## Weekly Wages in Alberta as an Index, 1961 to 2003



The total annual value of weekly wages (i.e., the annual sum of wages and salaries) in Alberta in 2003 was \$62 billion. That is equal to a full 49% of 2003 GDP.

As an index, weekly wages in Alberta in 2003 ranked 98 on a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 is the highest weekly wage rate from 1961 to 2003 (see figure above).

