

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
Jan 01, 2022 to Mar 31, 2022

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended March 31, 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of March 2022** there were **10965** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects a **decrease of 188 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 99 from the same period in 2021**.
- During the **first quarter** of 2022, a decrease of 99 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register decrease by 89.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 227 on the General Register, and a decrease of 128 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 129 physicians during the first quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 317 physicians. Please refer to Report 4 for further explanation on the inflows and outflows that occurred during this quarter.
- **Definition of General Register:** contains the names of all physicians and osteopaths who are responsible and accountable for their medical practice, without supervision by another physician or the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta.
- **Definition of Provisional Register:** contains the names of physicians and osteopaths who do not meet the criteria for the General Register but are in a process that once successfully completed, will qualify for the General Register.

Gender:

- Over the last quarter, there was a **net decrease of 140 males** and a **net decrease of 55 females**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net decrease of **4 males** and an increase of **89 females**.

Specialists / Non-Specialists:

- CPSA follows the national specialty associations in recognizing Family Medicine as a specialty. The vast majority of Alberta family physicians in general practice are classified as specialists in Family Medicine.
- There is a separate, smaller category – less than 15% of fully registered physicians in Alberta – called Non-Specialists. This group includes any physician who has not completed the requirements to qualify as a specialist in Family Medicine or any other specialty – surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics, etc. (It does not mean “general practitioners” as opposed to specialists.)

- Over the **last quarter**, there was a **net increase of 111 specialists (increase of 10 Family Medicine Specialists/decrease of 121 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 77 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **238 specialists (185 Family Medicine Specialists/53 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **139 non-specialists** (report 1).
- Report 3 (Changes of Physician Resources by Specialty) outlines changes in numbers for each specialty over the past year. For information pertinent to all specialties please refer to Report 3.
- For a physician to be registered as a specialist in either family medicine or a specialty practice, the physician must provide evidence they have equivalent postgraduate training (PGT) and certification as that required by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). Physicians who don't have their Canadian credentials are eligible for the provisional register and must have sponsorship for a clinical position and to pass a practice readiness assessment to ensure they have the knowledge, skills and competency to practice medicine safely in Alberta.
- Physicians who don't meet the requirements to be registered as a specialist on the provisional register may be eligible as a non-specialist if they have completed at least 36 months of discipline-specific PGT and have specialty certification recognized by another jurisdiction.

Location by Region:

- Please refer to Report 2 for changes in physician resources by zone.

Report 1

Summary of Changes in Physician Resources Report For the Period 01 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022

	Current Period	Last Period	# Change	% Change	Same Prd Last Year	# Change	% Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:							
General Register	10450	10549	-99	-0.9	10223	227	2.2
Provisional Register Conditional	515	604	-89	-14.7	643	-128	-19.9
Total in Alberta	10965	11153	-188	-1.7	10866	99	0.9
Sex:							
Female	4586	4641	-55	-1.2	4497	89	2
Male	6365	6505	-140	-2.2	6369	-4	-0.1
Specialists/Non-Specialists:							
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5644	5765	-121	-2.1	5591	53	0.9
Specialist - Family Medicine	3993	3983	10	0.3	3808	185	4.9
Non-Specialist	1328	1405	-77	-5.5	1467	-139	-9.5
Location:							
Airdrie	75	77	-2	-2.6	71	4	5.6
Brooks	21	21			22	-1	-4.5
Calgary	4506	4571	-65	-1.4	4454	52	1.2
Camrose	47	49	-2	-4.1	50	-3	-6
Drumheller	19	19			20	-1	-5
Edmonton	3644	3705	-61	-1.6	3595	49	1.4
Fort McMurray	91	94	-3	-3.2	90	1	1.1
Fort Saskatchewan	29	31	-2	-6.5	33	-4	-12.1
Grande Prairie	138	144	-6	-4.2	140	-2	-1.4
Leduc	52	57	-5	-8.8	47	5	10.6
Lethbridge	276	289	-13	-4.5	293	-17	-5.8
Lloydminster	43	44	-1	-2.3	47	-4	-8.5
Medicine Hat	178	183	-5	-2.7	187	-9	-4.8
Red Deer	295	298	-3	-1	294	1	0.3
Sherwood Park	131	138	-7	-5.1	137	-6	-4.4
Spruce Grove	67	66	1	1.5	56	11	19.6
St. Albert	178	177	1	0.6	172	6	3.5
Wetaskiwin	45	44	1	2.3	43	2	4.7
Other Locations	1130	1146	-16	-1.4	1115	15	1.3
Place of Graduation:							
U OF A	2770	2808	-38	-1.4	2739	31	1.1
U OF C	1645	1674	-29	-1.7	1619	26	1.6
Other Canadian	2838	2906	-68	-2.3	2829	9	0.3
U.S.A.	92	98	-6	-6.1	94	-2	-2.1
Other Locations	3620	3667	-47	-1.3	3585	35	1
Other Categories of Licensure:							
General Register, out-of-province	580	616	-36	-5.8	508	72	14.2
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1658	1669	-11	-0.7	1604	54	3.4
Student Register	1127	1121	6	0.5	1132	-5	-0.4
Total, All Registers	14330	14559	-229	-1.6	14110	220	1.6
Retired, out-of-province							
Retired, in-province	142	137	5	3.6	137	5	3.6
Retired, in-province	1585	1452	133	9.2	1416	169	11.9
Total Retired	1727	1589	138	8.7	1553	174	11.2

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022

Code	Health Region	<u>Current Period</u>			<u>Same Period Last Year</u>			#Change	%Change
		Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total	Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total		
1Z1	South Zone	485	83	568	483	116	599	-31	-5.2
2Z2	Calgary Zone	4500	421	4921	4413	453	4866	55	1.1
3Z3	Central Zone	527	225	752	513	239	752	0	0
4Z4	Edmonton Zone	3765	413	4178	3657	457	4114	64	1.6
5Z5	North Zone	350	185	535	327	201	528	7	1.3
	Totals	9627	1327	10954	9393	1466	10859	95	0.9

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Addiction Medicine	1				1		1
Adolescent Medicine	1						1
Anatomical Pathology	155	8		3	15	-10	145
Anesthesiology	433	35		11	26	-2	431
CAC (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)			1				1
Cardiac Surgery	20				1	-1	19
Cardiology	178	11	7	4	16	-2	176
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	8				1	-1	7
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	30	1	4		1	4	34
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	25	1	1		1	1	26
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	3		1		1		3
Community Medicine	20				1	-1	19
Critical Care Medicine	134	3	7		4	6	140
Dermatology	74	7			3	4	78
Developmental Pediatrics	5						5
Diagnostic Radiology	400	29		3	18	8	408
Emergency Medicine	210	13	1	2	6	6	216
Endocrinology & Metabolism	64	1	7		2	6	70
Family Medicine	3544	223	110	53	120	160	3704
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	6		2			2	8
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	15		2			2	17
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	202	5	13	2	6	10	212
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	1		3			3	4
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	17	1	1	1		1	18
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	1	1	1			2	3
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	15	1	1		2		15
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	7	1	4			5	12
Forensic Pathology	3	2				2	5
Forensic Psychiatry	14		2			2	16
Gastroenterology	117	3	2	3	2		117
General Internal Medicine	12	2	4			6	18

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022 :

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
General Surgery	180	16		4	9	3	183
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	24		2		1	1	25
Geriatric Psychiatry	13				1	-1	12
Gynecologic Oncology	3	1				1	4
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	11			1		-1	10
Hematological Pathology	18	1	1	1		1	19
Hematology	49	1	3		3	1	50
Infectious Diseases	69		1		2	-1	68
Internal Medicine	433	62	1	7	61	-5	428
Interventional Radiology	1		2			2	3
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	11						11
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	21		1		2	-1	20
Medical Microbiology	26	1	4	1	1	3	29
Medical Oncology	61	2		1	3	-2	59
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	47	4	1		2	3	50
Nephrology	96	4	1		3	2	98
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	164	17		1	2	14	178
Neuropathology	10			1		-1	9
Neuroradiology	4		1		1		4
Neurosurgery	40				2	-2	38
Nuclear Medicine	28		1	1			28
Obstetrics & Gynecology	250	17	1	7	15	-4	246
Occupational Medicine	18				1	-1	17
Ophthalmology	141	9		3	8	-2	139
Orthopedic Surgery	198	10		5	5		198
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	75	3		2	3	-2	73
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	5		2		1	1	6
Pathology, General	54	3			1	2	56
Pediatric Cardiology	18						18

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty
For the Period 01 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022 :

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	17		2			2	19
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8						8
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	9	1				1	10
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	12						12
Pediatric Radiology	1			1			
Pediatric Respiriology	6				1	-1	5
Pediatric Surgery	10		1			1	11
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	440	22		4	29	-11	429
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	99	8		2	3	3	102
Plastic Surgery	70	6		1	1	4	74
Psychiatry	571	37		9	26	2	573
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	28	7	1		2	6	34
Radiation Oncology	59	4			1	3	62
Respirology	120	1	8		6	3	123
Rheumatology	61	5	4		3	6	67
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14						14
Urology	61	3			6	-3	58
Vascular Surgery	18				1	-1	17
Total, Specialist	9399	593	212	134	433	238	9637
Total, Non-Specialist	1467	61	3	15	188	-139	1328
Total, Overall	10866	654	215	149	621	99	10965

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022

Quarter	Alberta Trained	New Other	Restored	Returned To Prov	Retired To Full	Total Inflow	Left Prov	Vol Erase	Removed	Deceased	Retired	Full to Educ	Total Outflow	Net Change
Total for the Four Most Recent	196	332	51	65	10	654	149	97	104	4	201	0	555	99
Quarter 1 2022	26	71	15	15	2	129	32	67	86	0	132	0	317	-188
Quarter 4 2021	26	59	13	40	4	142	90	16	9	0	41	0	156	-14
Quarter 3 2021	122	146	12	6	0	286	20	3	5	1	17	0	46	240
Quarter 2 2021	22	56	11	4	4	97	7	11	4	3	11	0	36	61
Quarter 1 2021	28	54	10	5	1	98	23	128	69	3	129	0	352	-254

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022

Place of Graduation	New	Restored	Returned To Prov	Retired To Full	Inflow Total	Left Prov	Vol Erase	Removed	Deceased	Retired	Full to Educ	Outflow Total	Net Change	New Cert	Total Change
Non-Specialists															

Alberta U OF A					0		2	1		9		12	-12		-12
Alberta U OF C					0			1		3		4	-4	-1	-5
British Columbia					0										
Manitoba					0					2		2	-2		-2
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0			1		1		2	-2		-2
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0					1		1	-1		-1
Foreign	14	3	2		19		5	8		17		30	-11	-44	-55
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	14	3	2		19		7	11		33		51	-32	-45	-77
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	15	5	1		21	5	10	9		23		47	-26	8	-18
Alberta U OF C	11		1		12	9	5	10		13		37	-25	4	-21
British Columbia	4		1		5	3	6	5		3		17	-12	3	-9
Manitoba	1				1	2	4	4		1		11	-10		-10
Newfoundland	2				2	1	1	1		1		4	-2		-2
Nova Scotia	4	1	1		6		3	2		2		7	-1	1	
Ontario	15	2	2	1	20	4	10	13		16		43	-23	3	-20
Quebec	5	2	1		8	1	4	5		5		15	-7		-7
Saskatchewan	1				1		4	2		3		9	-8	5	-3
Foreign	25	2	6	1	34	7	13	21		29		70	-36	45	9
USA					0			3		3		6	-6		-6
Total, Specialists	83	12	13	2	110	32	60	75		99		266	-156	69	-87
Total, Overall	97	15	15	2	129	32	67	86		132		317	-188	24	-164

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources Report Methodology

REPORT 1- SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN PHYSICIAN RESOURCES

This report provides an overall count of the number of physicians who are registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta by taking into account all categories of licensure.

'Current Quarter to Last Quarter' and 'Current Quarter to Same Quarter Last Year' comparisons, which are further broken down by number and percent, provide a clear outline of the changes in Physician Resources.

Distribution by gender, specialty, location and place of graduation are also included. A similar breakdown is not offered in respect of: 1) physicians on the General Register who reside out-of-province, 2) physicians on the Education Register, and 3) retired physicians.

Limitations:

Counts: The numbers reflect the physicians who maintained an active license within the applicable quarter; it cannot be interpreted as those who are actively practicing.

Location: The location counts are based on the physician's practice location, where available. Otherwise the physician's home address is used for location purposes.

Definitions:

Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:

General Register: contains the names of all physicians and osteopaths who are responsible and accountable for their medical practice, without supervision by another physician or the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta.

Provisional Register: contains the names of physicians and osteopaths who do not meet the criteria for the General Register but are in a process that once successfully completed, will qualify for the General Register.

Limited Practice Register: contains the names of physicians and osteopaths who are restricted to limited practice activities under the supervision of another physician, and are not the most responsible physician in the care of patients.

Courtesy Register: physicians on the Courtesy Register involved primarily in research (but with a defined clinical component), or teaching. Very few physicians are offered this form of licensure.

Other Categories of Licensure:

Emergency Register: physicians and osteopaths who are practicing medicine in Alberta on a temporary basis during a medical emergency or crisis

Telemedicine Register: physicians and osteopaths located outside Alberta who are practicing telemedicine pertaining to patients in Alberta.

Student Register: those undergraduates enrolled in a faculty of medicine in Alberta or enrolled in another medical school who are undertaking undergraduate medical education at a university in Alberta

Retired (In/Out of Province): Physicians who have retired from the practice of medicine in Alberta. Note: Retired status is not a form of licensure.

Understanding Report 1:

Col. 1: "Current Quarter" represents the tally at the end of the quarter.

Col. 2-4: "Last Quarter" reflects the numbers at the end of the previous quarter, "# Change" is the net change between the two quarters represented, and "% Change" is the same measure, in percent. Please refer to Report 4 for the sources of this change.

Col. 5-7: Makes the same comparisons as columns 2-4, except compares the current quarter to the equivalent quarter last year (i.e., Quarter 1, 2022, is compared to Quarter 1, 2021).

REPORT 2 - PHYSICIAN RESOURCES BY ZONE

This report provides net changes by Zone for those physicians fully licensed in Alberta. Broken down to reflect both specialists and non-specialists, the report compares the current quarter to the equivalent quarter last year, resulting in a net change applicable to each Zone.

Col. 1: Alberta Health Services Zone name. The 'Other' category displayed represents fully-registered physicians who are resident in Alberta but at the time of reporting an Alberta address was not available.

Col. 2-4: "Current Quarter" reflects the number of specialists and non-specialists as well as a combined total by Zone.

Col. 5-7: "Same Quarter Last Year" reflects the same information as columns 2-4, with the exception that the information displayed is for the same quarter last year.

Col. 8-9: "Changes" compares the current quarter numbers to the equivalent quarter figures last year, "# change" is the net change between the quarters represented, and "% change" is the same measure, in percent.

REPORT 3 - CHANGES IN PHYSICIAN RESOURCES BY SPECIALTY

This report provides a year to year comparison of the inflows and outflows and illustrates how the changes documented in report 4 (Summary of Inflows/Outflows) affect the composition of specialists and non-specialists. Physicians are categorized by their most recently recognized specialty.

The numbers can be affected in one of two ways: a non-specialist can become a specialist, or a specialist can obtain a new certification. In the first instance, the non-specialist category is reduced by one, and the applicable specialty is increased. In the second instance, the physician's initial specialty is reduced by one, and the new specialty is increased by one.

Limitation:

These counts do not necessarily reflect physicians' functional area of practice, or even if they have an active clinical practice.

Definitions:

Total, This Period Last Year: The count of physicians in each specialty during the same quarter last year.

Inflow – New Registration: Includes all of the new specialists/non-specialists resulting from the inflows detailed in report 4 (new, restored, returned, etc.).

Inflow – New Certification: Physicians who were registered at the beginning of the quarter and received a new certification within this quarter.

Outflow - Left Province: (see report 4).

Outflow - Other: (all other outflows as recorded in Report 4).

Net Change – The difference between the Inflows and Outflows.

Total This Period – The count of physicians in each specialty for the current quarter.

REPORT 4 - SUMMARY OF INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS

This report indicates the *sources* of change in the total number of licensed physicians in Alberta.

Report 4 also provides a quarter-to-quarter comparison of inflows and outflows, extending back to the same quarter for the previous year. This allows us to make two analyses:

- By comparing the current quarter with the same quarter for the previous year, we assess if the change is typical for that time of year.
- We can confirm that the *sum of the net changes* for the last four quarters equals the *difference* between the number of physicians in Alberta this year and the number in Alberta last year (refer to column 6 in report 1).

NOTE: The largest swings in the numbers of physicians registered occur in the first and third quarter of each year. The first quarter (actually, January 1) is when CPSA finds out how many physicians are not planning to renew their licenses. Typically, these physicians have already left the province at some point during the year, but have waited until renewal time to inform CPSA of their departure. The third quarter (actually, July 1) is when most physicians complete their postgraduate training programs and become eligible for full licenses.

Definitions:

Inflows:

New - Alberta Trained: Newly licensed physicians whose last year of training was in Alberta.

New - Other: Physicians newly licensed in Alberta, excluding the above.

Restored: Physicians whose names were re-instated on the Register. Typically, these Physicians were voluntarily erased from the General Register or temporarily registered on the Provisional Register.

Return to Province: Physicians who maintained licensure while residing out of province, and have since returned to Alberta.

Retired to Full: Physicians who were on the Retired List and have now re-entered active practice.

Total Inflow: The sum of all inflows.

Outflows:

Left Province: Physicians who have maintained their license, but relocated out of province.

Voluntarily Erase: Physicians who no longer required their Alberta licence.

Removed: Physicians who were suspended or were licensed for a limited period of time and have since been removed from the Register.

Deceased: (falls in the quarter in which we were notified, rather than the date of death).

Retired: Physicians who have retired or otherwise fully withdrawn from the practice of medicine in Alberta.

Full to Educational: Physicians who were fully-licensed, but chose not to maintain their license while they undertook additional training.

Total Outflow: The sum of all outflows

REPORT 5 - INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS BY PHYSICIANS' PLACE OF GRADUATION

This report reflects the inflows and outflows by the location physicians received their medical diplomas.

Place of graduation is broken down by non-specialist (GPs/family physicians) and specialist. The Alberta medical schools are represented individually, with the remaining Canadian medical schools represented by province. "Foreign" refers to medical schools outside Canada or the United States.

Categories: The category "New" includes both "*New - Alberta Trained*" and "*New - Other*" discussed under report 4.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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