

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
April 01, 2022 to June 30, 2022

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended June 30, 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of June 2022** there were **11069** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 104 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 142 from the same period in 2021**.
- During the **second quarter** of 2022, an increase of 158 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register decrease by 54.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 303 on the General Register, and a decrease of 161 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 127 physicians during the second quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 23 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 increase of 46 males** and a **net increase of 46 females**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net decrease of **14 males** and an increase of **102 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 112 specialists (increase of 56 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 56 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 8 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **285 specialists (218 Family Medicine Specialists/66 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **142 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 Apr 2022 to 30 Jun 2022

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	10608	10450	158	1.5	10305	303	2.9	
Provisional Register Conditional	461	515	-54	-10.5	622	-161	-25.9	
Total in Alberta	11069	10965	104	0.9	10927	142	1.3	
Sex:								
Female	4632	4586	46	1	4530	102	2.3	
Male	6411	6365	46	0.7	6397	14	0.2	
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5700	5644	56	1	5634	66	1.2	
Specialist - Family Medicine	4049	3993	56	1.4	3831	218	5.7	
Non-Specialist	1320	1328	-8	-0.6	1462	-142	-9.7	
Location:								
Airdrie	77	75	2	2.7	73	4	5.5	
Brooks	22	21	1	4.8	21	1	4.8	
Calgary	4555	4506	49	1.1	4486	69	1.5	
Camrose	49	47	2	4.3	50	-1	-2	
Drumheller	19	19			19			
Edmonton	3672	3644	28	0.8	3618	54	1.5	
Fort McMurray	92	91	1	1.1	91	1	1.1	
Fort Saskatchewan	30	29	1	3.4	35	-5	-14.3	
Grande Prairie	140	138	2	1.4	140			
Leduc	52	52			47	5	10.6	
Lethbridge	278	276	2	0.7	292	-14	-4.8	
Lloydminster	43	43			45	-2	-4.4	
Medicine Hat	179	178	1	0.6	186	-7	-3.8	
Red Deer	303	295	8	2.7	292	11	3.8	
Sherwood Park	133	131	2	1.5	137	-4	-2.9	
Spruce Grove	67	67			56	11	19.6	
St. Albert	178	178			172	6	3.5	
Wetaskiwin	45	45			43	2	4.7	
Other Locations	1135	1130	5	0.4	1124	11	1	
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2777	2770	7	0.3	2742	35	1.3	
U OF C	1662	1645	17	1	1631	31	1.9	
Other Canadian	2873	2838	35	1.2	2849	24	0.8	
U.S.A.	93	92	1	1.1	94	-1	-1.1	
Other Locations	3664	3620	44	1.2	3611	53	1.5	
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	600	580	20	3.4	524	76	14.5	
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1721	1658	63	3.8	1686	35	2.1	
Student Register	982	1127	-145	-12.9	981	1	0.1	
Total, All Registers	14372	14330	42	0.3	14118	254	1.8	
Retired, out-of-province								
Retired, out-of-province	143	142	1	0.7	137	6	4.4	
Retired, in-province	1595	1585	10	0.6	1401	194	13.8	
Total Retired	1738	1727	11	0.6	1538	200	13	

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Apr 2022 to 30 Jun 2022

Code	Health Region	<u>Current Period</u>			<u>Same Period Last Year</u>			# Change	% Change
		Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total	Specialists	Non-Specialists	Total		
1	Z1 - South Zone	490	80	570	482	114	596	-26	-4.4
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4560	416	4976	4447	454	4901	75	1.5
3	Z3 - Central Zone	539	221	760	511	239	750	10	1.3
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3796	412	4208	3685	453	4138	70	1.7
5	Z5 - North Zone	355	190	545	334	201	535	10	1.9
	Totals	9740	1319	11059	9459	1461	10920	139	1.3

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2022 to 30 Jun 2022

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Adolescent Medicine	1						1
Anatomical Pathology	156	12		3	15	-6	150
Anesthesiology	440	29		11	27	-9	431
Cardiac Surgery	20	1			1		20
Cardiology	178	11	7	4	17	-3	175
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	8				1	-1	7
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	31	1	3		1	3	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	4	7		4	7	141
Dermatology	74	7			2	5	79
Developmental Pediatrics	5						5
Diagnostic Radiology	401	40		4	16	20	421
Emergency Medicine	211	14	1	2	7	6	217
Endocrinology & Metabolism	65	3	6		2	7	72
Family Medicine	3561	238	120	51	119	188	3749
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	8						8
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	15		2			2	17
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	204	4	14	2	5	11	215
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	1		4			4	5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	17	2	1	1		2	19
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	1	1	2			3	4
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	15	1	4		2	3	18
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	9	1	4			5	14
Forensic Pathology	3	2				2	5
Forensic Psychiatry	15		1			1	16
Gastroenterology	117	4	3	3	2	2	119
General Internal Medicine	12	3	4			7	19
General Surgery	183	17		5	11	1	184
General Surgical Oncology	2						2

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2022 to 30 Jun 2022

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Geriatric Medicine	26				1	-1	25
Geriatric Psychiatry	13		1		1		13
Gynecologic Oncology	4						4
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	11			1		-1	10
Hematological Pathology	19	1	1	1		1	20
Hematology	49	2	3		3	2	51
Infectious Diseases	68	1	2		2	1	69
Internal Medicine	437	60	2	6	55	1	438
Interventional Radiology	1		2			2	3
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	11		1			1	12
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	21				1	-1	20
Medical Microbiology	27	1	3	1	1	2	29
Medical Oncology	61	2		1	3	-2	59
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	47	4	2		2	4	51
Nephrology	96	4	1		3	2	98
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	167	15		1	3	11	178
Neuropathology	10			1		-1	9
Neuroradiology	5				1	-1	4
Neurosurgery	40	1			3	-2	38
Nuclear Medicine	28		1	1			28
Obstetrics & Gynecology	251	17	1	6	15	-3	248
Occupational Medicine	18				1	-1	17
Ophthalmology	142	9		3	8	-2	140
Orthopedic Surgery	201	10		5	5		201
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	74	4		2	2		74
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	5		3		1	2	7
Pathology, General	56	2			1	1	57
Pediatric Cardiology	18						18
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	17		2			2	19
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Apr 2022 to 30 Jun 2022

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8						8
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	9	2				2	11
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	441	22		4	27	-9	432
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	98	8		2	2	4	102
Plastic Surgery	70	8		1	1	6	76
Psychiatry	574	34		9	26	-1	573
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	29	6	1		2	5	34
Radiation Oncology	60	3			1	2	62
Respirology	121		7		5	2	123
Rheumatology	63	3	4		4	3	66
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14						14
Urology	63	1			6	-5	58
Vascular Surgery	18				1	-1	17
Total, Specialist	9465	616	223	132	423	284	9749
Total, Non-Specialist	1462	68		13	197	-142	1320
Total, Overall	10927	684	223	145	620	142	11069

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Apr 2022 to 30 Jun 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 4 Most Recent	201	363	51	62	7	684	145	91	104	1	201	0	542	142
Quarter 2 2022	27	87	11	1	1	127	3	5	4	0	11	0	23	104
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

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Apr 2022 to 30 Jun 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 w Total	Net Change	New Cert	Total Change
Non-Specialists															

Alberta U OF A					0					2		2	-2		-2
Alberta U OF C	1				1								1		1
British Columbia					0										
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0										
Quebec					0									-1	-1
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	17	1			18		1	1		1		3	15	-20	-5
USA					0									-1	-1
Total, Non-Specialists	18	1			19		1	1		3		5	14	-22	-8
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	12	1	1		14		2			3		5	9	3	12
Alberta U OF C	14	3			17					1		1	16	2	18
British Columbia	9				9		1	1				2	7		7
Manitoba	4				4					1		1	3		3
Newfoundland	1	1			2								2	1	3
Nova Scotia	2				2								2	1	3
Ontario	17	2			19	2		1				3	16	3	19
Quebec	3				3								3	2	5
Saskatchewan	3				3					1		1	2		2
Foreign	30	3		1	34	1	1	1		2		5	29	25	54
USA	1				1								1	2	3
Total, Specialists	96	10	1	1	108	3	4	3		8		18	90	39	129
Total, Overall	114	11	1	1	127	3	5	4		11		23	104	17	121

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 & 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 2, 2022, is compared to Quarter 2, 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 licences. 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 license.

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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