

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
July 01, 2022 to Sept 30, 2022

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of September 2022** there were **11,346** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 277 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 176 from the same period in 2021**.
- During the **third quarter** of 2022, an increase of 281 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register decrease by 4.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 362 on the General Register, and a decrease of 183 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 323 physicians during the third quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 46 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 136 males** and a **net increase of 129 females, and 12 undisclosed**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net decrease of **38 males** and an increase of **105 females, and 36 undisclosed**.

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 280 specialists (increase of 127 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 153 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 3 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **302 specialists (210 Family Medicine Specialists/92 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **123 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 Jul 2022 to 30 Sep 2022

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	10889	10608	281	2.6	10527	362	3.4	
Provisional Register Conditional	457	461	-4	-0.9	640	-183	-28.6	
Total in Alberta	11346	11069	277	2.5	11167	179	1.6	
Sex:								
Female	4761	4632	129	2.8	4656	105	2.3	
Male	6547	6411	136	2.1	6509	38	0.6	
Unknown	38	26	12	46.2	2	36	1800	
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5853	5700	153	2.7	5761	92	1.6	
Specialist - Family Medicine	4176	4049	127	3.1	3966	210	5.3	
Non-Specialist	1317	1320	-3	-0.2	1440	-123	-8.5	
Location:								
Airdrie	82	77	5	6.5	76	6	7.9	
Brooks	23	22	1	4.5	23			
Calgary	4694	4555	139	3.1	4564	130	2.8	
Camrose	54	49	5	10.2	52	2	3.8	
Drumheller	18	19	-1	-5.3	19	-1	-5.3	
Edmonton	3761	3672	89	2.4	3717	44	1.2	
Fort McMurray	95	92	3	3.3	93	2	2.2	
Fort Saskatchewan	29	30	-1	-3.3	35	-6	-17.1	
Grande Prairie	140	140			143	-3	-2.1	
Leduc	54	52	2	3.8	48	6	12.5	
Lethbridge	274	278	-4	-1.4	297	-23	-7.7	
Lloydminster	46	43	3	7	45	1	2.2	
Medicine Hat	177	179	-2	-1.1	187	-10	-5.3	
Red Deer	307	303	4	1.3	298	9	3	
Sherwood Park	138	133	5	3.8	141	-3	-2.1	
Spruce Grove	68	67	1	1.5	61	7	11.5	
St. Albert	183	178	5	2.8	174	9	5.2	
Wetaskiwin	45	45			42	3	7.1	
Other Locations	1158	1135	23	2	1152	6	0.5	
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2844	2777	67	2.4	2810	34	1.2	
U OF C	1720	1662	58	3.5	1672	48	2.9	
Other Canadian	2958	2873	85	3	2917	41	1.4	
U.S.A.	94	93	1	1.1	95	-1	-1.1	
Other Locations	3730	3664	66	1.8	3673	57	1.6	
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	612	600	12	2	549	63	11.5	
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1681	1721	-40	-2.3	1692	-11	-0.7	
Student Register	1133	982	151	15.4	1103	30	2.7	
Total, All Registers	14772	14372	400	2.8	14511	261	1.8	
Retired, out-of-province								
Retired, out-of-province	143	143			138	5	3.6	
Retired, in-province	1610	1595	15	0.9	1419	191	13.5	
Total Retired	1753	1738	15	0.9	1557	196	12.6	

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Jul 2022 to 30 Sep 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	487	82	569	502	105	607	-38	-6.3
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4712	413	5125	4534	449	4983	142	2.8
3	Z3 - Central Zone	551	226	777	530	237	767	10	1.3
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3902	406	4308	3805	447	4252	56	1.3
5	Z5 - North Zone	367	189	556	349	201	550	6	1.1
Totals		10019	1316	11335	9720	1439	11159	176	1.6

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2022 to 30 Sep 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	157	15		3	14	-2	155
Anesthesiology	450	29		11	26	-8	442
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)			1				1
Cardiac Surgery	20	1			1		20
Cardiology	182	8	7	3	19	-7	175
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	8				1	-1	7
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	32	1	3		1	3	35
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	25	1	1		1	1	26
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	3		1		1		3
Community Medicine	20				2	-2	18
Critical Care Medicine	134	6	7		5	8	142
Dermatology	78	9			2	7	85
Developmental Pediatrics	5	1				1	6
Diagnostic Radiology	410	35		2	14	19	429
Emergency Medicine	220	13	1	2	7	5	225
Endocrinology & Metabolism	67	2	5		2	5	72
Family Medicine	3694	242	106	47	124	177	3871
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	8						8
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	15		2			2	17
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	204	4	14	2	6	10	214
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	1		4			4	5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	18	1	5	1	1	4	22
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	1	1	3			4	5
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	15	1	4		3	2	17
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	10		7			7	17
Forensic Pathology	4	1				1	5
Forensic Psychiatry	15		1			1	16
Gastroenterology	118	6	3	2	2	5	123
General Internal Medicine	14	4	6		1	9	23
General Surgery	190	17		6	12	-1	189

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2022 to 30 Sep 2022

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	26	1			1		26
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	50	2	2		3	1	51
Infectious Diseases	67	1	2		1	2	69
Internal Medicine	457	59	1	5	52	3	460
Interventional Radiology	2		1			1	3
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	11		1			1	12
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	20				20		
Medical Genetics and Genomics		1	20				21
Medical Microbiology	31			1	1	-2	29
Medical Oncology	61	4		1	3		61
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	47	5	2		2	5	52
Nephrology	96	6	1		3	4	100
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	174	11		1	3	7	181
Neuropathology	10			1		-1	9
Neuroradiology	5				1	-1	4
Neurosurgery	39	3			2	1	40
Nuclear Medicine	28		1	1			28
Obstetrics & Gynecology	257	17	1	6	13	-1	256
Occupational Medicine	18				2	-2	16
Ophthalmology	148	5		5	9	-9	139
Orthopedic Surgery	202	15		5	4	6	208
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	75	3		2	2	-1	74
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	5		3		1	2	7
Pathology, General	56	3			3		56
Pediatric Cardiology	18	1				1	19

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jul 2022 to 30 Sep 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	18		1			1	19
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8						8
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	10	1				1	11
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	12						12
Pediatric Radiology	1	1		1			1
Pediatric Respiriology	6				1	-1	5
Pediatric Surgery	10		1			1	11
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	445	32		4	24	4	449
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	104	8		2	2	4	108
Plastic Surgery	71	8		2	2	4	75
Psychiatry	586	41	1	6	30	6	592
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	33	5	1		2	4	37
Radiation Oncology	61	2			2		61
Respirology	122	2	6	1	5	2	124
Rheumatology	66	3	3		3	3	69
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14						14
Urology	61	2			3	-1	60
Vascular Surgery	18	2			1	1	19
Total, Specialist	9727	643	231	125	447	302	10029
Total, Non-Specialist	1440	78		13	188	-123	1317
Total, Overall	11167	721	231	138	635	179	11346

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Jul 2022 to 30 Sep 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	217	383	45	68	8	721	138	96	103	3	202	0	542	179
Quarter 3 2022	138	166	6	12	1	323	13	8	4	3	18	0	46	277
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

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Jul 2022 to 30 Sep 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	1				1					2		2	-1	-1	-2
Alberta U OF C	1				1					1		1		-1	-1
British Columbia	1				1								1		1
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario	1				1								1		1
Quebec					0		1					1	-1		-1
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	20			1	21				2	2		4	17	-18	-1
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	24			1	25		1		2	5		8	17	-20	-3
Specialists															

Alberta U OF A	70	2	1		73	1	2			2		5	68	9	77
Alberta U OF C	66		1		67	4	1	1		3		9	58	7	65
British Columbia	17	1	1		19					1		1	18	1	19
Manitoba	10				10					1		1	9	2	11
Newfoundland	4				4								4	2	6
Nova Scotia	6				6					1		1	5	1	6
Ontario	35	1			36		1			1		2	34	8	42
Quebec	6	1	1		8	1	2			1		4	4	2	6
Saskatchewan	11	1			12	1				1		2	10		10
Foreign	53		8		61	6	1	2	1	2		12	49	23	72
USA	2				2			1				1	1		1
Total, Specialists	280	6	12		298	13	7	4	1	13		38	260	55	315
Total, Overall	304	6	12	1	323	13	8	4	3	18		46	277	35	312

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 3, 2022, is compared to Quarter 3, 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 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:

Contact Bruce Leisen, Director, Registration, at the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, bruce.leisen@cpsa.ab.ca.