

# Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:  
Oct 01, 2022 to Dec 31, 2022

# **Quarterly Update on Physician Resources**

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Registers:

- At the **end of December 2022** there were **11407** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects an **increase of 61 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 254 from the same period in 2021**.
- During the **fourth quarter** of 2022, an increase of 65 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 405 on the General Register, and a decrease of 151 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 137 physicians during the fourth quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 76 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 22 males** and a **net increase of 31 females, and 8 undisclosed**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net increase of **64 males** and an increase of **151 females, and 39 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 62 specialists (increase of 29 Family Medicine Specialists/increase of 33 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 1 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **343 specialists (222 Family Medicine Specialists/121 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **89 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 Oct 2022 to 31 Dec 2022

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	10954	10889	65	0.6	10549	405	3.8	
Provisional Register Conditional	453	457	-4	-0.9	604	-151	-25	
<b>Total in Alberta</b>	<b>11407</b>	<b>11346</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>11153</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>2.3</b>	
Sex:								
Female	4792	4761	31	0.7	4641	151	3.3	
Male	6569	6547	22	0.3	6505	64	1	
Unknown	46	38	8	21.1	7	39	557.1	
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5886	5853	33	0.6	5765	121	2.1	
Specialist - Family Medicine	4205	4176	29	0.7	3983	222	5.6	
Non-Specialist	1316	1317	-1	-0.1	1405	-89	-6.3	
Location:								
Airdrie	76	82	-6	-7.3	77	-1	-1.3	
Brooks	23	23			21	2	9.5	
Calgary	4737	4694	43	0.9	4571	166	3.6	
Camrose	54	54			49	5	10.2	
Drumheller	17	18	-1	-5.6	19	-2	-10.5	
Edmonton	3763	3761	2	0.1	3705	58	1.6	
Fort McMurray	95	95			94	1	1.1	
Fort Saskatchewan	32	29	3	10.3	31	1	3.2	
Grande Prairie	136	140	-4	-2.9	144	-8	-5.6	
Leduc	56	54	2	3.7	57	-1	-1.8	
Lethbridge	278	274	4	1.5	289	-11	-3.8	
Lloydminster	46	46			44	2	4.5	
Medicine Hat	174	177	-3	-1.7	183	-9	-4.9	
Red Deer	321	307	14	4.6	298	23	7.7	
Sherwood Park	137	138	-1	-0.7	138	-1	-0.7	
Spruce Grove	66	68	-2	-2.9	66			
St. Albert	184	183	1	0.5	177	7	4	
Wetaskiwin	43	45	-2	-4.4	44	-1	-2.3	
Other Locations	1169	1158	11	0.9	1146	23	2	
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2834	2844	-10	-0.4	2808	26	0.9	
U OF C	1717	1720	-3	-0.2	1674	43	2.6	
Other Canadian	2986	2958	28	0.9	2906	80	2.8	
U.S.A.	93	94	-1	-1.1	98	-5	-5.1	
Other Locations	3777	3730	47	1.3	3667	110	3	
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	618	612	6	1	616	2	0.3	
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1642	1681	-39	-2.3	1669	-27	-1.6	
Student Register	1135	1133	2	0.2	1121	14	1.2	
<b>Total, All Registers</b>	<b>14802</b>	<b>14772</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>14559</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
Retired, out-of-province	144	143	1	0.7	137	7	5.1	
Retired, in-province	1622	1610	12	0.7	1452	170	11.7	
<b>Total Retired</b>	<b>1766</b>	<b>1753</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1589</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>11.1</b>	

## Report 2

### Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Oct 2022 to 31 Dec 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	485	83	568	494	95	589	-21	-3.6
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4756	414	5170	4553	444	4997	173	3.5
3	Z3 - Central Zone	567	227	794	529	231	760	34	4.5
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3911	404	4315	3814	439	4253	62	1.5
5	Z5 - North Zone	364	187	551	350	195	545	6	1.1
	Totals	10083	1315	11398	9740	1404	11144	254	2.3

### Report 3

## Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2022 to 31 Dec 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	155	17		1	13	3	158
Anesthesiology	446	23		6	22	-5	441
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)			1				1
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)			1				1
CAC (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	1				1		
Cardiac Surgery	20	1			1		20
Cardiology	188	6	5	1	17	-7	181
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	7						7
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	33	2	2			4	37
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	25		1		1		25
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	4				1	-1	3
Community Medicine	20	1			2	-1	19
Critical Care Medicine	140	5	7		5	7	147
Dermatology	79	10			2	8	87
Developmental Pediatrics	5	1				1	6
Diagnostic Radiology	411	41		1	13	27	438
Emergency Medicine	220	13	1	2	7	5	225
Endocrinology & Metabolism	71	2	3		2	3	74
Family Medicine	3702	240	97	31	110	196	3898
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	8		1			1	9
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	16		1		1		16
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	206	4	13	2	6	9	215
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	2		3			3	5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	19	1	4	1	1	3	22
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	3		2			2	5
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	15	1	4		2	3	18
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	12	1	5	1		5	17
Forensic Pathology	4	2				2	6
Forensic Psychiatry	16						16
Gastroenterology	116	6	4	1	2	7	123

## Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2022 to 31 Dec 2022

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
General Internal Medicine	15	4	5		2	7	22
General Surgery	187	14		4	10		187
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	26	3			1	2	28
Geriatric Psychiatry	13		1		1		13
Gynecologic Oncology	4		1			1	5
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	11			1		-1	10
Hematological Pathology	18	1	1			2	20
Hematology	53	1	1		3	-1	52
Infectious Diseases	68	1	2		2	1	69
Internal Medicine	437	65	1	2	48	16	453
Interventional Radiology	2		1			1	3
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	11		2			2	13
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	20				20		
Medical Genetics and Genomics		1	20				21
Medical Microbiology	30				2	-2	28
Medical Oncology	62	4		1	4	-1	61
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	51	2	2		3	1	52
Nephrology	98	7	3		2	8	106
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	179	6			5	1	180
Neuropathology	9						9
Neuroradiology	4		1			1	5
Neurosurgery	39	3			2	1	40
Nuclear Medicine	28	1				1	29
Obstetrics & Gynecology	253	16	1	3	15	-1	252
Occupational Medicine	18				2	-2	16
Ophthalmology	148	6		5	7	-6	142
Orthopedic Surgery	200	15		2	3	10	210
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	75	2			3	-1	74
Pain Medicine	1						1
Palliative Medicine	6		3		1	2	8



## Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Oct 2022 to 31 Dec 2022

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pathology, General	57	2		1	3	-2	55
Pediatric Cardiology	18	1	1		1	1	19
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	19	1	3			4	23
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
Pediatric Respiriology	6				2	-2	4
Pediatric Surgery	11						11
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	444	29	1	5	25		444
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	105	7		3	2	2	107
Plastic Surgery	73	6		1	2	3	76
Psychiatry	583	41	2	3	28	12	595
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	33	4	1		2	3	36
Radiation Oncology	62	1			2	-1	61
Respirology	126	3	3	2	4		126
Rheumatology	67	5	2		5	2	69
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14				1	-1	13
Urology	60	2			2		60
Vascular Surgery	18	2			1	1	19
<b>Total, Specialist</b>	<b>9748</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>10091</b>
<b>Total, Non-Specialist</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>81</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>-89</b>	<b>1316</b>
<b>Total, Overall</b>	<b>11153</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>11407</b>

## Report 4

### Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Oct 2022 to 31 Dec 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	203	413	35	59	6	716	82	92	102	6	180	0	462	254
Quarter 4 2022	12	89	3	31	2	137	34	12	8	3	19	0	76	61
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

## Report 5

### Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Oct 2022 to 31 Dec 2022

Place of Graduation	New	Restored	Returned To Prov	Retired To Full	Inflow Total	Left Prov	Vol Erase	Removed	Deceased	Retired	Full to Educ	Outflo w Total	Net Change	New Cert	Total Change
<b>Non-Specialists</b>															
-----															
Alberta U OF A				1	1								1		1
Alberta U OF C					0										
British Columbia					0										
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0										
Ontario					0			1				1	-1		-1
Quebec					0										
Saskatchewan					0										
Foreign	15		2		17	2			1	1		4	13	-14	-1
USA					0										
<b>Total, Non-Specialists</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Specialists</b>															
-----															
Alberta U OF A	7		1		8	5	4		1	9		19	-11	11	
Alberta U OF C	5	1	1	1	8	4	2	3		2		11	-3	6	3
British Columbia	8		2		10	2	2	1				5	5		5
Manitoba	2		1		3			1		1		2	1	5	6
Newfoundland	1				1								1		1
Nova Scotia					0	1			1			2	-2		-2
Ontario	16		3		19	2	2			2		6	13	2	15
Quebec	5		4		9	1	1			1		3	6	4	10
Saskatchewan	3		4		7	1				1		2	5	2	7
Foreign	39	2	13		54	15	1	2		2		20	34	20	54
USA					0	1						1	-1		-1
<b>Total, Specialists</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Total, Overall</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>97</b>

# 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 4, 2022, is compared to Quarter 4, 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](mailto:bruce.leisen@cpsa.ab.ca).