

Physician Resources in Alberta

Quarterly Update:
Jan 01 2023 to Mar 31 2023

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Highlights
2. Report 1 - Summary of Changes in Physician Resources
3. Report 2 - Physician Resources by Zone
4. Report 3 - Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty
5. Report 4 - Summary of Inflows and Outflows
6. Report 5 - Inflows and Outflows by Physicians' Place of Graduation
7. Methodology

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources for the three months, and year, ended Mar 31, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

Registers:

- At the **end of March 2023** there were **11132** physicians registered on the in-province registers. This figure reflects a **decrease of 275 from the last quarter**, and an **increase of 167 from the same period in 2022**.
- During the **first quarter** of 2023, a decrease of 252 physicians was noted on the General Register with the Provisional Register decrease by 23.
- Within the **year-to-year** comparison there was an increase of 252 on the General Register, and a decrease of 85 on the Provisional Register.
- To put this in perspective, report 4 (Summary of Inflows and Outflows) reflects an inflow of 179 physicians during the first quarter. Offsetting the overall inflow of physicians was an outflow of 454 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 135 males** and a **net decrease of 143 females, and an increase of 3 undisclosed**.
- The **year-to-year** change reflected a net increase of **69 males** and an increase of **63 females, and 35 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 decrease of 216 specialists (decrease of 46 Family Medicine Specialists/decrease of 170 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a **net decrease of 59 non-specialists** (report 1).
- The **year-to-year** change reflected an increase of **238 specialists (166 Family Medicine Specialists/72 Non Family Medicine Specialists)** and a net decrease of **71 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 2023 to 31 Mar 2023

	Current Period	Last Period	#	Change %	Same Prd Last Year	#	Change %	Change
Fully-Registered Physicians in Alberta:								
General Register	10702	10954	-252	-2.3	10450	252	2.4	
Provisional Register Conditional	430	453	-23	-5.1	515	-85	-16.5	
Total in Alberta	11132	11407	-275	-2.4	10965	167	1.5	
Sex:								
Female	4649	4792	-143	-3	4586	63	1.4	
Male	6434	6569	-135	-2.1	6365	69	1.1	
Unknown	49	46	3	6.5	14	35	250	
Specialists/Non-Specialists:								
Specialist - non Family Medicine	5716	5886	-170	-2.9	5644	72	1.3	
Specialist - Family Medicine	4159	4205	-46	-1.1	3993	166	4.2	
Non-Specialist	1257	1316	-59	-4.5	1328	-71	-5.3	
Location:								
Airdrie	76	76			75	1	1.3	
Brooks	22	23	-1	-4.3	21	1	4.8	
Calgary	4626	4737	-111	-2.3	4506	120	2.7	
Camrose	54	54			47	7	14.9	
Drumheller	18	17	1	5.9	19	-1	-5.3	
Edmonton	3630	3763	-133	-3.5	3644	-14	-0.4	
Fort McMurray	99	95	4	4.2	91	8	8.8	
Fort Saskatchewan	32	32			29	3	10.3	
Grande Prairie	139	136	3	2.2	138	1	0.7	
Leduc	57	56	1	1.8	52	5	9.6	
Lethbridge	275	278	-3	-1.1	276	-1	-0.4	
Lloydminster	44	46	-2	-4.3	43	1	2.3	
Medicine Hat	176	174	2	1.1	178	-2	-1.1	
Red Deer	319	321	-2	-0.6	295	24	8.1	
Sherwood Park	137	137			131	6	4.6	
Spruce Grove	65	66	-1	-1.5	67	-2	-3	
St. Albert	182	184	-2	-1.1	178	4	2.2	
Wetaskiwin	43	43			45	-2	-4.4	
Other Locations	1138	1169	-31	-2.7	1130	8	0.7	
Place of Graduation:								
U OF A	2747	2834	-87	-3.1	2770	-23	-0.8	
U OF C	1674	1717	-43	-2.5	1645	29	1.8	
Other Canadian	2864	2986	-122	-4.1	2838	26	0.9	
U.S.A.	90	93	-3	-3.2	92	-2	-2.2	
Other Locations	3757	3777	-20	-0.5	3620	137	3.8	
Other Categories of Licensure:								
General Register, out-of-province	548	618	-70	-11.3	580	-32	-5.5	
Provisional Register Postgrad. Training	1625	1642	-17	-1	1658	-33	-2	
Student Register	1135	1135			1127	8	0.7	
Total, All Registers	14440	14802	-362	-2.4	14330	110	0.8	
Retired, out-of-province	147	144	3	2.1	142	5	3.5	
Retired, in-province	1721	1622	99	6.1	1585	136	8.6	
Total Retired	1868	1766	102	5.8	1727	141	8.2	

Report 2

Physician Resources by AHS Zone For the Period 01 Jan 2023 to 31 Mar 2023

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	482	83	565	485	83	568	-3	-0.5
2	Z2 - Calgary Zone	4659	391	5050	4500	421	4921	129	2.6
3	Z3 - Central Zone	560	218	778	527	225	752	26	3.5
4	Z4 - Edmonton Zone	3800	377	4177	3765	413	4178	-1	0.0
5	Z5 - North Zone	366	187	553	350	185	535	18	3.4
Totals		9867	1256	11123	9627	1327	10954	169	1.5

Report 3

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty For the Period 01 Jan 2023 to 31 Mar 2023

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	145	22		1	7	14	159
Anesthesiology	431	22		4	10	8	439
CAC (Enhanced Surgical Skills)			1				1
CAC (Family Practice Anesthesia)			1				1
CAC (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	1				1		
Cardiac Surgery	19	2				2	21
Cardiology	176	6	8	3	15	-4	172
Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery	7				1	-1	6
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	34	2	3		1	4	38
Clinical Immunology & Allergy	26				4	-4	22
Clinical Pharmacology	1						1
Colorectal Surgery	3						3
Community Medicine	19	1			1		19
Critical Care Medicine	140	3	9	1	8	3	143
Dermatology	78	10			3	7	85
Developmental Pediatrics	5	1	1		1	1	6
Diagnostic Radiology	408	42		1	12	29	437
Emergency Medicine	216	11	1	1	10	1	217
Endocrinology & Metabolism	70	2	3		4	1	71
Family Medicine	3704	267	79	30	173	143	3847
Family Medicine (Addiction Medicine)	8		2			2	10
Family Medicine (Care of the Elderly)	17				2	-2	15
Family Medicine (Emergency Medicine)	212	9	8	1	7	9	221
Family Medicine (Enhanced Surgical Skills)	4		2	1		1	5
Family Medicine (Family Practice Anesthesia)	18	1	5	1	3	2	20
Family Medicine (Obstetrical Surgical Skills)	3		2			2	5
Family Medicine (Palliative Care)	15	1	5		2	4	19
Family Medicine (Sport and Exercise Medicine)	12	1	5	1		5	17
Forensic Pathology	5	1				1	6
Forensic Psychiatry	16	2		1		1	17
Gastroenterology	117	7	4	1	6	4	121

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty

For the Period 01 Jan 2023 to 31 Mar 2023

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	18	5	2		5	2	20
General Surgery	183	11		3	20	-12	171
General Surgical Oncology	2						2
Geriatric Medicine	25	3	2			5	30
Geriatric Psychiatry	12		2			2	14
Gynecologic Oncology	4		2			2	6
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	10				1	-1	9
Hematological Pathology	19	1		1	1	-1	18
Hematology	50	2	1		4	-1	49
Infectious Diseases	68	1	4		5		68
Internal Medicine	428	63	1	1	57	6	434
Interventional Radiology	3				1	-1	2
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	11		2			2	13
Medical Biochemistry							
Medical Genetics	20				20		
Medical Genetics and Genomics		1	20		1		20
Medical Microbiology	29				1	-1	28
Medical Oncology	59	5	1		1	5	64
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	50	1	2		2	1	51
Nephrology	98	6	3		4	5	103
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)	178	9			15	-6	172
Neuropathology	9						9
Neuroradiology	4	1	1			2	6
Neurosurgery	38	4			2	2	40
Nuclear Medicine	28	2	1		2	1	29
Obstetrics & Gynecology	246	15		2	22	-9	237
Occupational Medicine	17				2	-2	15
Ophthalmology	139	10		2	5	3	142
Orthopedic Surgery	198	17			11	6	204
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	73	4			3	1	74
Pain Medicine	1	1				1	2
Palliative Medicine	6		2			2	8

Changes in Physician Resources by Specialty

For the Period 01 Jan 2023 to 31 Mar 2023

Specialty	Total This Period Last Year	Inflow New Reg	Inflow New Cert	Outflow Left Prov	Outflow Other	Net Change	Total This Period
Pathology, General	56	2		3	5	-6	50
Pediatric Cardiology	18	1	1		4	-2	16
Pediatric Emergency Medicine	19	2	3		1	4	23
Pediatric Endocrinology	2						2
Pediatric Gastroenterology	8				1	-1	7
Pediatric Hematology & Oncology	10	1				1	11
Pediatric Nephrology	2						2
Pediatric Neurology	12	1				1	13
Pediatric Radiology		1					1
Pediatric Respiriology	5				2	-2	3
Pediatric Surgery	11				3	-3	8
Pediatric Urology	1						1
Pediatrics	429	32	1	3	33	-3	426
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	102	8		1	3	4	106
Plastic Surgery	74	4		1	4	-1	73
Psychiatry	573	43	2	2	36	7	580
Public Health and Preventive Medicine	34	2	1		6	-3	31
Radiation Oncology	62				4	-4	58
Respirology	123	6	2	2	1	5	128
Rheumatology	67	4	1		11	-6	61
Sleep Medicine							
Sport and Exercise Medicine	3						3
Thoracic Surgery	14				2	-2	12
Urology	58	2			2		58
Vascular Surgery	17	2			2		17
Total, Specialist	9637	686	196	68	576	238	9875
Total, Non-Specialist	1328	80		3	148	-71	1257
Total, Overall	10965	766	196	71	724	167	11132

Report 4

Summary of Inflows and Outflows For the Period 01 Jan 2023 to 31 Mar 2023

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	205	458	39	57	7	766	71	76	299	6	147	0	599	167
Quarter 1 2023	28	116	19	13	3	179	21	51	283	0	99	0	454	-275
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

Report 5

Inflows and Outflows by Place of Graduation For the Period 01 Jan 2023 to 31 Mar 2023

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			8		9		17	-17		-17
Alberta U OF C					0					5		5	-5	-1	-6
British Columbia					0			1		2		3	-3	-1	-4
Manitoba					0										
Newfoundland					0										
Nova Scotia					0			1				1	-1		-1
Ontario					0			1				1	-1		-1
Quebec					0			1				1	-1		-1
Saskatchewan					0					2		2	-2		-2
Foreign	16	1		1	18	1	1	12		7		21	-3	-24	-27
USA					0										
Total, Non-Specialists	16	1		1	18	1	1	24		25		51	-33	-26	-59
Specialists															
Alberta U OF A	16	1	1	2	20	4	8	54		24		90	-70	5	-65
Alberta U OF C	12	2	3		17	2	10	32		11		55	-38	8	-30
British Columbia	4	1	1		6	2	4	22		3		31	-25	4	-21
Manitoba	3		1		4		3	8		1		12	-8		-8
Newfoundland	5				5		1	3				4	1		1
Nova Scotia	1	1			2		2	3				5	-3		-3
Ontario	15	3	2		20	3	6	40		12		61	-41	3	-38
Quebec	5	1			6	1	3	19		2		25	-19		-19
Saskatchewan	6				6	1	4	14		6		25	-19		-19
Foreign	59	9	4		72	7	8	60		14		89	-17	31	14
USA	2		1		3		1	4		1		6	-3	1	-2
Total, Specialists	128	18	13	2	161	20	50	259		74		403	-242	52	-190
Total, Overall	144	19	13	3	179	21	51	283		99		454	-275	26	-249

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, 2023, is compared to Quarter 1, 2022).

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.