



WORK NW ALBERTA

GRANDE PRAIRIE-GREENVIEW CORRIDOR

CHEMICAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING SECTOR PROFILE



If you are organizing a talent attraction campaign, presentation or hiring event, we've got some assets to help you.

Email us at **info@worknwalberta.ca** for information on accessing our photo and video library, research findings and market data. We're here to help.

WORK NW ALBERTA

GRANDE PRAIRIE-GREENVIEW CORRIDOR

Work Northwest Alberta - representing the Grande Prairie Greenview corridor - is poised for unprecedented growth and opportunity. By 2031 our region will need over 4,000+ skilled employees across key sectors such as Energy, Healthcare, Agriculture, Education, Logistics, and Transportation (Lightcast Analyst) to support and expand our thriving economy. Recognized as a northern economic powerhouse, our area serves a trade market of 300,000 and plays a vital role in contributing to both national and international markets.

The sector profile project was led by Work NW Alberta, a collaborative effort between the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, Municipal District of Greenview, Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce, and Northwestern Polytechnic.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed their feedback, ideas and expertise to the study.

Please note that every effort has been made to use the most current data available. The following sources of information are used in this profile:

- Manifold Data Mining Inc. 2023/2024
- Lightcast Analyst, Datarun 2024.3
- IBIS World 2024 Industry Profiles



County of
Grande Prairie No. 1
Alberta, Canada



Municipal District of
GREENVIEW

NORTHWESTERN
POLYTECHNIC 

Chamber of
Commerce 
GRANDE PRAIRIE & DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

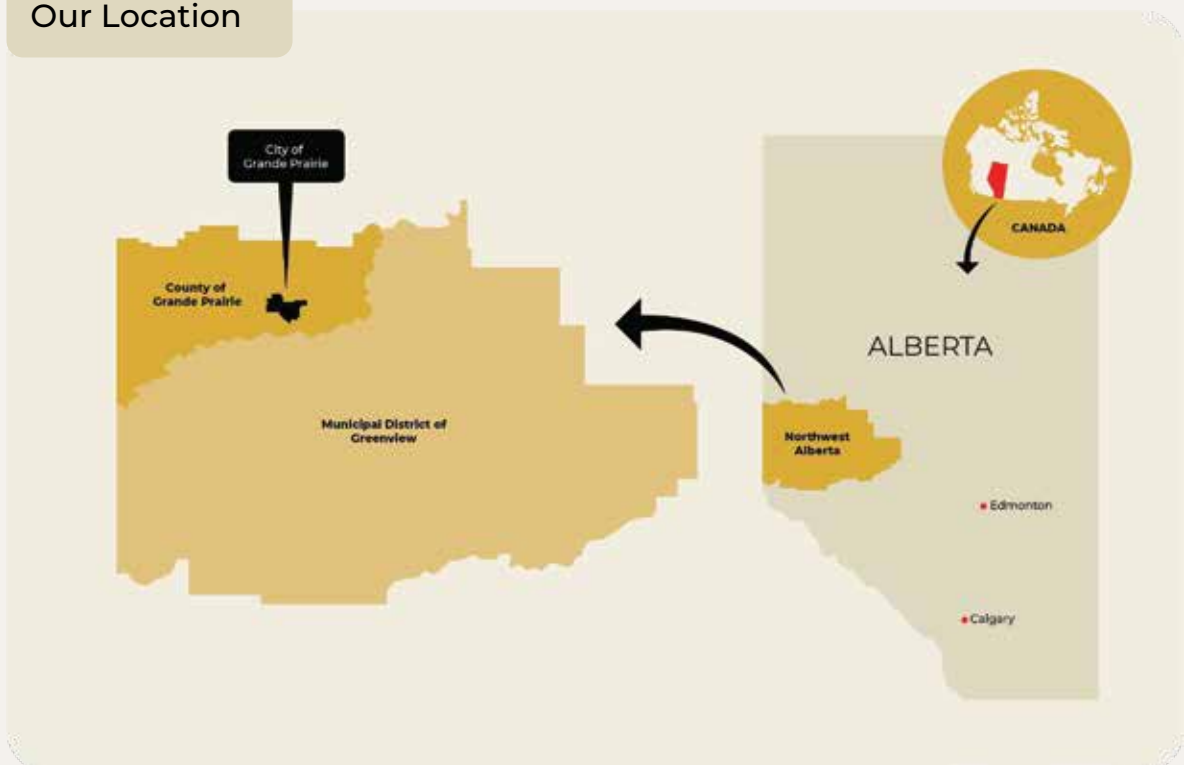
This profile offers comprehensive information about the chemical manufacturing sector in the Northwest Alberta Region. It serves as a valuable resource, providing detailed data on business size, sector outlook, and cluster assets within the region.

This sector profile focuses on the Region consisting of the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, Municipal District (MD) of Greenview, Town of Beaverlodge, Town of Sexsmith, Town of Wembley, Town of Fox Creek, Town of Valleyview, Greenview Co-ops and Enterprises, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, and Horse Lake First Nation. Any references to "Region" within this document refer to the custom region above.

The Region spans nearly 40,000 square kilometres and acts as a gateway and resource hub for northwestern Alberta. Its largest centre, the City of Grande Prairie, is located approximately 450 kilometres northwest of Edmonton. With a strong postsecondary institution, new hospital, skilled labour force, and significant business supports, opportunities abound within the Region.

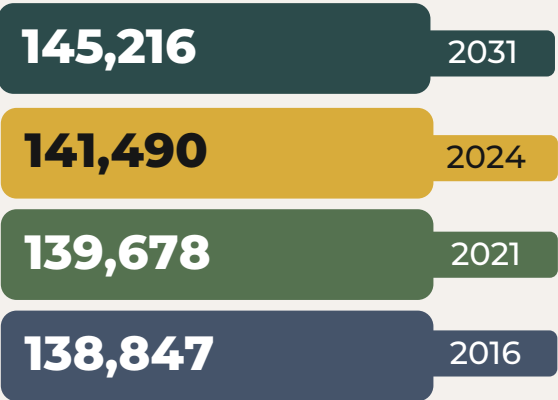
The chemical product manufacturing industry employed 749 individuals in 2024 across 47 business in the Region. Employment is expected to increase by 23 jobs or 3% by 2031. The majority of the Region's businesses within this sector are small enterprises as 75.8% of businesses with employees, employ fewer than nine individuals.

Our Location



REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

POPULATION OF REGION, 2024



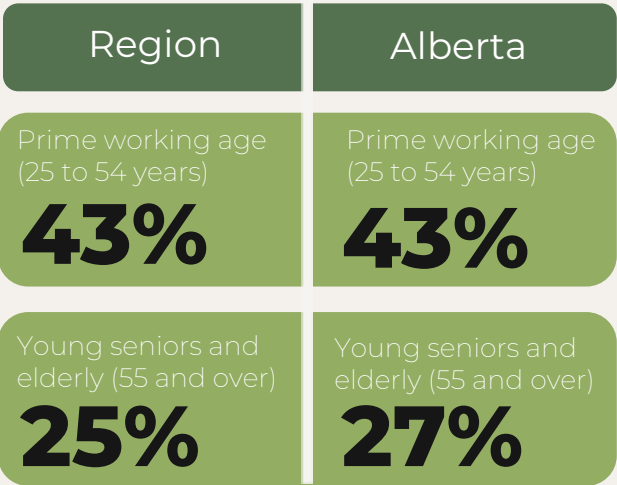
Source: Lightcast Analyst, Datarun 2024.3

Approximately 60% of the Region's population resides in the City of Grande Prairie.

The Region's population accounted for 80% of the total population in Census Division 18 and Census Division 19. The population in both Census Divisions is projected to increase 2% by 2031.

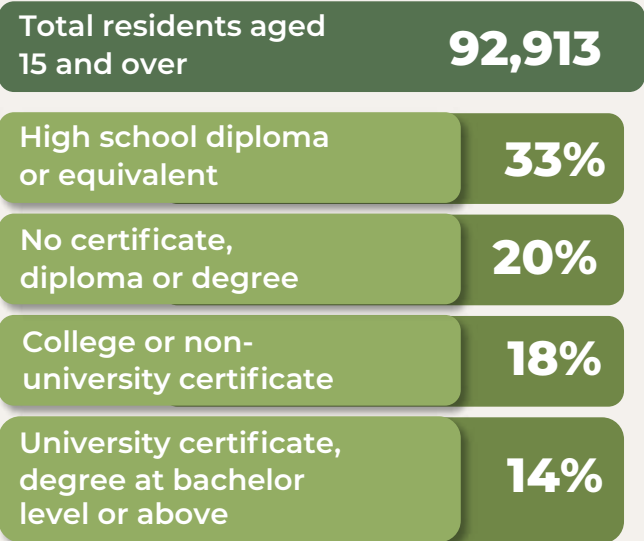


AGE OF POPULATION, 2024



Source: Lightcast Analyst, Datarun 2024.3

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR REGION RESIDENTS, AGED 15 AND OVER, 2024



Source: Manifold Data Mining, 2024

60%

of the Region's working
age population is within
the City of Grande Prairie

LABOUR FORCE STATUS FOR REGION RESIDENTS ,
2024

Labour Force Status	Region
Total population, Residents aged 15 and over	92,913
In the labour force	68,406
Employed	63,970
Unemployed	4,436
Not in the labour force	24,507

Source: Manifold Data Mining, 2024

TOP 5 FIELDS OF STUDY FOR REGION
RESIDENTS, AGED 15 AND OVER, 2024

13,666

Architecture, Engineering,
and Related Technologies



8,233

Business, Management,
and Public Administration



6,852

Health and Related Fields



3,264

Education



3,170

Personal, Protective and
Transportation Services



Source: Manifold Data Mining, 2024

AVERAGE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES, 2024

PARTICIPATION RATE

74%

EMPLOYMENT RATE

69%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

6%

Source: Manifold Data Mining, 2024

ABOUT THE SECTOR

Upstream and downstream chemical product manufacturers (hereafter referred to as chemical product manufacturers) add value to naturally extracted goods and help diversify the economic opportunities for those extracted natural resources. As an industry that supports and cushions the natural resource extraction sector from international shocks, this sector has been identified as a target sector by the Region.

Upstream chemical product manufacturers are those who process goods earlier in the manufacturing cycle, closer to the original natural good. These manufacturers include producers of organic and inorganic chemicals; agricultural chemicals; and industrial gases. Downstream chemical manufacturers are those who process goods later in the manufacturing stages, as a product gets closer to the end of the production process and the final consumer. These businesses include producers of personal care and cleaning products; dyes, pigments and coating; lubricating oils and greases; and processed chemical products and explosives.

REGION SPECIFIC

The chemical product manufacturing sector is an emerging sector that is growing within the Region. Currently, three subsectors have ten or more businesses located within the Region, with the largest subsector housing 12 local establishments (Petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers).

The majority of local businesses within this sector are small businesses – 75.8% of businesses with known employee counts have between 1 and 9 employees. In total, the Region is home to 47 businesses within the chemical product manufacturing sector.

CHEMICAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES, 2024

Industries	Businesses
Petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers	12
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product merchant wholesalers	12
Petroleum and coal product manufacturing	10
Pharmaceuticals, toiletries, cosmetics and sundries merchant wholesalers	4
Basic chemical manufacturing	2
Other chemical product manufacturing	2
Plastic product manufacturing	2
Paint, coating and adhesive manufacturing	1
Soap, cleaning compound and toilet preparation manufacturing	1
Rubber product manufacturing	1
Pesticide, fertilizer and other agricultural chemical manufacturing	0
TOTAL	47

Source: Lightcast Analyst, Datarun 2024.3

REGION SPECIFIC (Cont.)

Chemical product manufacturing businesses in the Region employed 749 people in 2024, a slight decline of 6 positions since 2021. From 2024 to 2031 this sector is poised to see a slight rebound resulting in growth of approximately 23 net new jobs, up to 772 positions in the Region. The subsector with the largest projected growth is petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesales, with a projected increase of 45 jobs. Please note, these projections are based on current and historic industry trends, and do not account for any potential large-scale projects currently proposed for the Region.

CHEMICAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING EMPLOYED AND SELF-EMPLOYED POSITIONS, 2021, 2024 AND 2031

Subsector	2021 Positions	2024 Positions	2031 Positions	Change 24'-31'	% Change
Petroleum and coal product manufacturing	54	36	20	-16	-44%
Basic chemical manufacturing	73	74	76	2	3%
Pesticide, fertilizer and other agricultural chemical manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0%
Paint, coating and adhesive manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0%
Soap, cleaning compound and toilet preparation manufacturing	<10	0	0	0	0%
Other chemical product manufacturing	96	103	115	12	12%
Plastic product manufacturing	29	33	38	5	15%
Rubber product manufacturing	<10	<10	<10	N/A	N/A
Petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers	370	412	457	45	11%
Pharmaceuticals, toiletries, cosmetics and sundries merchant wholesalers	15	17	19	2	12%
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product merchant wholesalers	110	70	44	-26	-37%
TOTAL	754	749	772	23	3%

Source: Lightcast Analyst, Datarun 2024:3

Note: Job totals per subsector may not add up to total number of positions within the broader sector due to methodological rounding



Photo courtesy of the City of Grande Prairie

Though many positions within this sector are specialized, other occupations such as accounting technicians and bookkeepers; heavy-duty equipment mechanics; and transport truck drivers directly support the chemical product manufacturing sector. These positions illustrate how sector businesses employ a range of individuals with diverse skillsets. The occupations in the table below are the top occupations based on total staffing patterns within the Region. The associated wages are listed for the occupation regardless of the sector of work.

CHEMICAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING AVERAGE WAGES (REGARDLESS OF SECTOR OF WORK) PER OCCUPATION, 2023

Occupations	Average Wages
Central control and process operators, petroleum, gas and chemical processing	\$125,373.63
Transport truck drivers	\$69,742.40
Technical sales specialists - wholesale trade	\$69,813.00
Contractors and supervisors, oil and gas drilling and services	\$109,179.20
Supervisors, petroleum, gas and chemical processing and utilities	\$138,862.65
Sales and account representatives - wholesale trade (non-technical)	\$73,171.31
Power engineers and power systems operators	\$120,850.38
Industrial instrument technicians and mechanics	\$113,709.77
Construction millwrights and industrial mechanics	\$87,505.60
Chemical technologists and technicians	\$74,182.87

Source: Lightcast Analyst, Datarun 2024.3

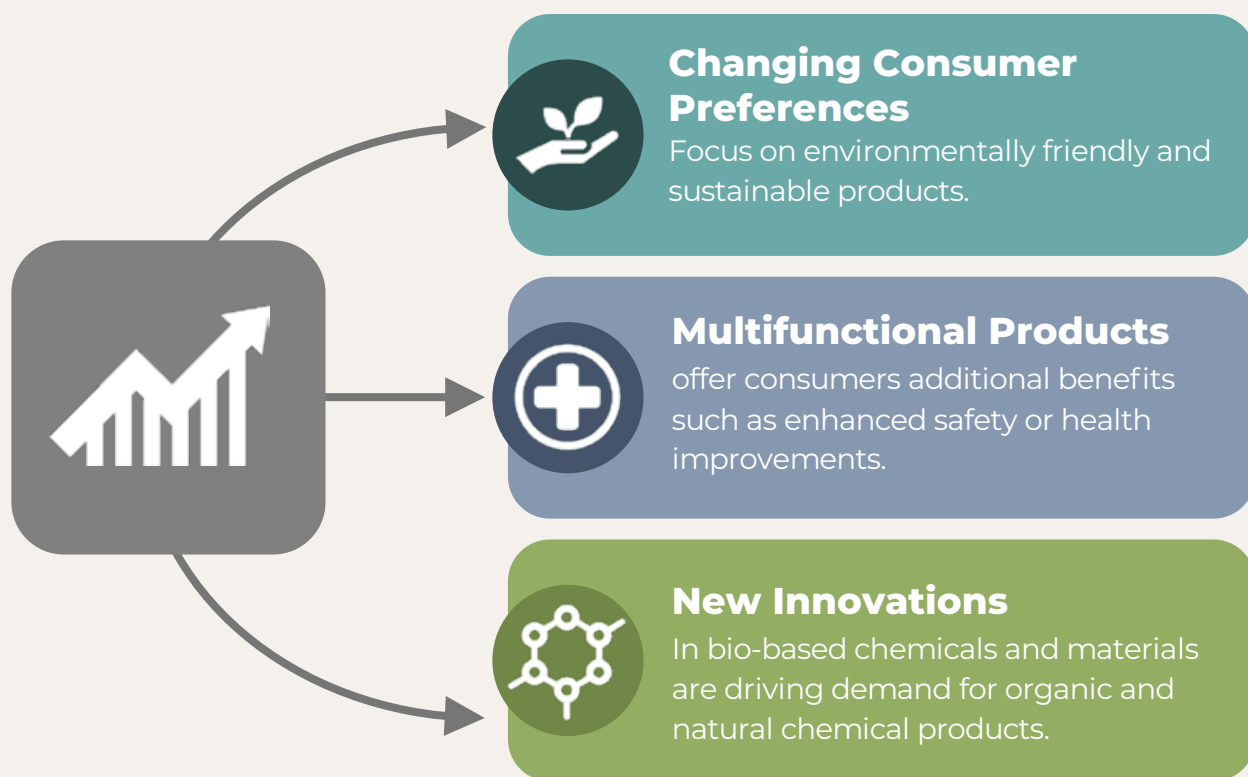
SECTOR DATA

FUTURE OUTLOOK OF THE SECTOR

Sustainability is set to become an important driver in the chemical product manufacturing industry as environmental regulations increase across Canada. Companies must invest more in research and development to create eco-friendly products and reduce their carbon footprints. Collaboration between upstream and downstream markets can support the development of greener alternatives that will in-turn enhance brand reputation and market reach. Government incentives and public pressure will encourage environmental compliance, making sustainability a necessity for growth.

KEY DRIVERS OF DEMAND

Factors determining national demand for the chemical product manufacturing can be broken into three categories.



KEY SUPPLIERS TO THE SECTOR



Primary goods extractors

Including oil and gas, and mineral phosphates



Manufacturers of upstream, raw products

E.g., plastic and resin mfg, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals, petrochemical products, and machinery

Source: IBISWorld – 32599CA – Chemical Product Manufacturing in Canada

KEY BUYERS TO THE SECTOR



Wholesales and retailers of chemical products

Including construction, forestry, farm supplies and chemical wholesaling



Manufacturers of paper, asphalt, lubricant oil, and fertilizers

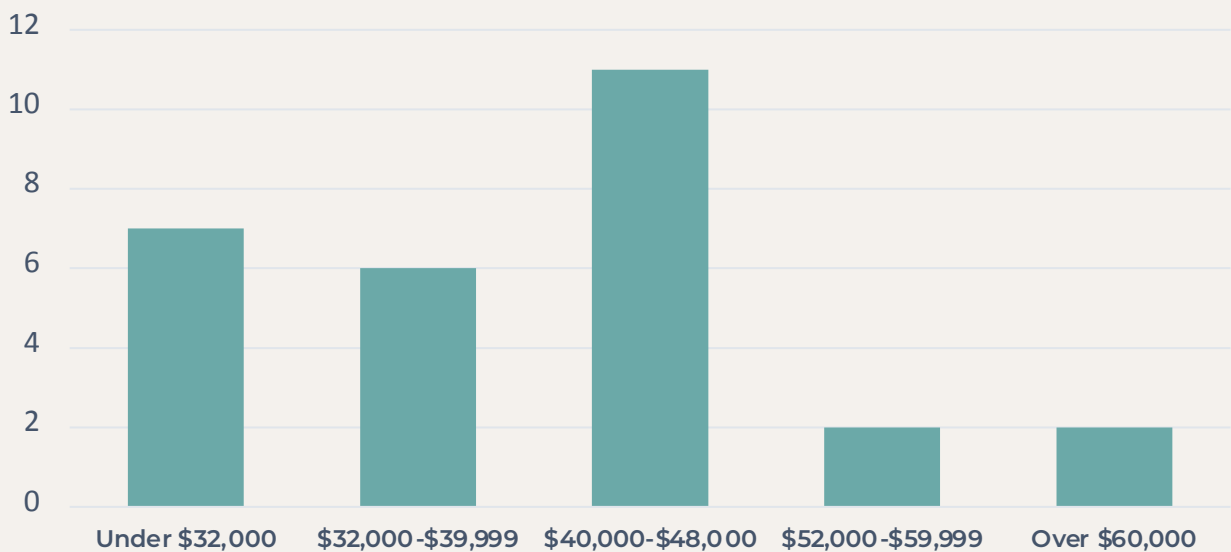
Source: IBISWorld – 32599CA – Chemical Product Manufacturing in Canada

JOB POSTING DATA

Between January and December 2024, the Region saw 108 unique job postings within the chemical product manufacturing sector. Of the jobs posted during this period, 28 had advertised salaries. Those 28 postings had a median advertised salary of \$40,600, with 7.1% offering a salary above \$60,000.

The top occupations by number of job postings in the chemical product manufacturing sector are other customer and information services representatives, retail sales supervisors, and cashiers.

JOB POSTINGS BY SALARY, JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024, REGION



Source: Lightcast Analyst, Datarun 2024.3

TOP OCCUPATIONS BY NUMBER OF JOB POSTINGS, JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024



Source: Lightcast Analyst, Datarun 2024.3

COMMUNITY ASSETS SUPPORTING THE SECTOR/CLUSTER

Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce is the voice for business and community betterment in the Region. As one of the provinces largest chambers, they focus on empowering businesses and fostering opportunities for their members.
www.grandeprairiechamber.com

Grande Prairie Regional Innovation Network serves innovators, entrepreneurs and companies in Northwestern Alberta with resources, knowledge and connections to launch innovations in connection with the broader Alberta innovation ecosystem.
gprin.ca

Community Futures Grande Prairie and Region offers businesses support from first steps through to growth stages. This includes information on how to start a business, developing business plans, financing loans, marketing and feasibility studies.
grandeprairie.albertacf.com

Women Building Futures offers programs and support services to help unemployed and underemployed women explore and connect to careers that pay a living wage. Employment training programs provide the introductory skills to begin a new careers in trades, trucking and related fields.
womenbuildingfutures.ca

ATB Entrepreneur Centre supports businesses through business-to-business networking, connections and workshops.
atbentrepreneurcentre.com

For information on other Community and Training Assets, please contact the project partners.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

The Greenview Industrial Gateway, situated directly on the Montney Gas formation, is located within the Municipal District of Greenview, approximately 40 kilometres south of the City of Grande Prairie.

This unique 2000-acre development will encompass world-class heavy industrial facilities focused on value-added petrochemical development linked to the Montney's abundant natural gas deposit. The area offers low-cost natural gas feedstock utilized in the processing and development of petrochemicals. This development is also a prime site for artificial intelligence data centre.

Ease of access to both the Canamex Heavy Load Corridor and full rail capacity (CN Rail) allows for efficient transportation routes to the deep-water ports of Kitimat and Prince Rupert, with quicker access to Asian markets than other west coast seaports.

The Greenview Industrial Gateway will bolster the growth of Alberta and the Greater Northwest Alberta Region, resulting in long term economic sustainability for the Region.

TRAINING ASSETS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT SUPPORT THE SECTOR/CLUSTER

TRAINING ASSETS SPECIFIC TO REGION



Northwest Polytechnic (NWP) has a wide array of chemical product manufacturing sector-related degrees, diplomas or certificate programs. Students can enhance skills and knowledge through Power Engineering, Computer Systems Technology, and Business Administration offerings.

Sector-related Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships provide hands-on Heavy Equipment Technician, Steamfitter/Pipefitter, Industrial Mechanic, Instrumentation Control Technician, and Plumbing, experience. Continuing Education offers micro-credential for a variety of skills including basic bookkeeping, materials handling and warehousing, and service excellence.

nwpolytech.ca



Power
Engineering



Computer
Systems
Technology



Business
Administration

TRAINING ASSETS SPECIFIC TO REGION (CONT.)

CAREERS: The Next Generation is an industry led non-profit organization that brings together industry, schools, governments, and communities to guide youth into successful career paths. Youth get the opportunity to test drive in-demand occupations in skilled trades, forestry, information and communications technology, agriculture and healthcare. Companies benefit by attracting local talent and bringing youthful energy to their industry.

careersnextgen.ca

The Rupertsland Institute supports the well-being of Métis in Alberta through job matching, training partnerships with NWP, access to technology and internet, online counselling tools, information on local services, employers and careers, and self-employment workshops.

rupertsland.org

Montney Riverstone Tribal Council is the service provider for the **Indigenous Skills Employment and Training (ISET) Program** in the Montney Riverstone Tribal Council area. ISET is designed to help members improve their skills and find employment through training and skills development. The program helps the community members find employment and polish employment skills. Funded through Service Canada, it gives members the skills required to find employment and fill job gaps.

montneyriverstone.ca

Northern Lakes College (NLC) provides a supported distance learning environment with two locations in the Region. NLC offers Business and Administrative Studies. Continuing Education and Corporate Training programs include Asset Management Professional and Maintenance Management Professional certificates.

northernlakescollege.ca

Other relevant organizations to the chemical manufacturing sector include the Grande Prairie Petroleum Association, the Women in Energy Community Group, and the Peace Region Energy Show. For information on other Community and Training Assets, please contact the project partners.

Data Disclaimer

- The data has been rounded to the sum of all subcategories to minimize discrepancies caused by margin of error.
- The information presented in this report may not precisely match the data collected or developed by each individual community.
- To maintain privacy due to small population samples, data for some communities have been suppressed by Statistics Canada and economic modeling tools. These instances are represented with "<10".
- Occupational wages and median advertised salaries for the sector are two distinct values. Occupational wages reflect the average wage by occupation based on the latest available data (2023). In contrast, the median advertised salary represents the median value of job postings in the sector that included compensation data for the period between January and December 2024.

WORK NW ALBERTA

GRANDE PRAIRIE-GREENVIEW CORRIDOR

**MAKE A GREAT LIVING.
LIVE A GREAT LIFE.**

**CONNECT WITH US TO HELP
IDENTIFY, RECRUIT AND GROW
YOUR TALENT POOL.**



info@worknwalberta.ca



www.worknwalberta.ca



CHEMICAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING SECTOR PROFILE

**WORK NW
ALBERTA**



Northwest Alberta (2024 Profile Summary)

Overview: This sector focuses on businesses that transform natural resources into chemical products. It includes upstream (raw chemical processing) and downstream (finished chemical goods) manufacturers. The sector supports economic diversification and stabilizes the region's natural resource economy.

KEY FACTS



Sector Employment (2024):
749 individuals



Projected Employment (2031):
772 (▲3% or 23 jobs)



Total Businesses:
47 (75.8% employ fewer than 9 people)

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Growing demand for sustainable, bio-based, and multifunctional products.
- Innovation in chemical formulation and materials
- Environmental regulation driving green product development.
- Common roles are in customer service, retail sales, account representatives.

WAGES (2023 AVERAGES)

\$125,374

Chemical operators



\$138,863

Supervisors – Processing



\$120,850

Power engineers



\$74,183

Technologists/Technicians



MAJOR SUB-SECTORS:



Petroleum & Coal
product
wholesalers &
manufacturing



Chemical and
allied product
wholesaling &
manufacturing



Plastic, rubber,
soap, & cleaning
product
manufacturing

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Bio-based chemical products are creating new market potential

The Greenview Industrial Gateway provides a strategic hub for petrochemical expansion

Regulations require ongoing investment in cleaner technologies

COMMUNITY & TRAINING ASSETS



Institutions:

Northwestern Polytechnic,
Northern Lakes College



Programs:

Power Engineering,
Instrumentation,
Business Admin



Support Networks:

Greenview Industrial Gateway
(AI & petrochemical hub)

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Greenview Industrial Gateway is a 2,000-acre heavy industrial development built on the Montney Gas formation. It supports value-added petrochemical projects.

Scan for an
Audio Overview!

