

2025 CPA Profession Compensation Study

Alberta Report





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Background & Methodology

Background & Methodology -



Leger, in collaboration with CPA Canada, carried out this research study to evaluate compensation, benefit packages, and work/life balance among CPA Canada's members.

How	10-minute online survey, available in English and French.
Who	1,212 CPA Canada members from Alberta, sourced from CPA Canada's member list.
When	May 12 th to 30 th , 2025
Data	This study relies on self-reported compensation.
Note on Reporting	Non-Owners are defined as employees/contractors/consultants of an organization/firm/company earning T4 income. Owners are defined as sole practitioner (sole owner of an accounting, auditing and/or tax practice), partner of an accounting, auditing and/or tax firm, or an owner of another type of business.
	In order to protect the privacy of respondents and avoid reporting misleading results, the median compensation data and 25 th and 75 th percentile values are presented only when there were at least 10 respondents in a subcategory. Despite these approaches, results can still vary considerably if there were findings with fewer than 100 respondents in a given category. Definitions of the three statistical measures used in this report are consistent with the 2023 National report and are as follows:
	• Median (or 50th percentile) is the value above and below which half the cases fall. If there is an even number of cases, then the average of the two middle cases is used. The median is not sensitive to outlying (a few very high or very low) values.
	 25th percentile is the value above which 75 per cent of the cases fall. 75th percentile is the value below which 75 per cent of the cases fall.



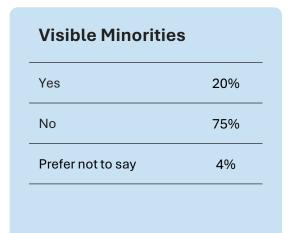
Respondent profile

CPA Canada members from Alberta who worked for at least 2 months in 2024 (n=1,212)

Gender	
Man	49%
Woman	49%
Non-binary	<1%
Two-Spirit	<1%
Prefer not to say	2%

Work Experience	
Less than 3 years	5%
3–4 years	3%
5–9 years	17%
10–14 years	25%
15–19 years	15%
20–24 years	15%
25 years and over	19%
Prefer not to say	1%

Years of Post-Designation









Caveats

Members were invited to complete the survey by CPA Canada, using 170,193 unique survey links provided by Leger. Note that the findings in this report are representative of those who responded and may not represent the Canadian CPA profession as a whole. Comparisons with the results of the previous survey cannot be considered definitive, as the composition of those responding may vary from year to year.

Unless otherwise specified, compensation figures in this report include annualized data for members who worked at least two months, either part time or full time, during 2024.

Pre-Calculation Data Cleaning:

Responses were cleaned prior to calculation when input values did not align with the requested format. This includes cases such as respondents entering years instead of the number of years, or indicating they worked part-time but reporting 0 hours or months worked. These corrections were made to improve data consistency and validity.

Post-Calculation Data Cleaning:

Additional cleaning was conducted after calculations to address inconsistencies or likely misinterpretations. This includes cases where respondents appeared to enter income proportions instead of actual income values, or mistakenly re-entered hours worked in place of income. Such responses were adjusted or excluded based on contextual judgment to preserve data integrity.



Overall Compensation

- CPA members in Alberta reported a median compensation of \$169K.
- CPA members with three or more years of post-designation experience had a median compensation of \$176K.

Compensation by Experience and Industry

- Compensation grows steadily with experience, ranging from **\$92K** (<3 years) to **\$225K** (25+ years).
- Among industries with at least 30 members reporting, Construction reported the highest median compensation at \$224K, followed by Real Estate/Building Management (\$205K) and Oil & Gas (\$202K). Public Sector - Federal, provincial, First Nations or municipal government reported the lowest at \$132K.



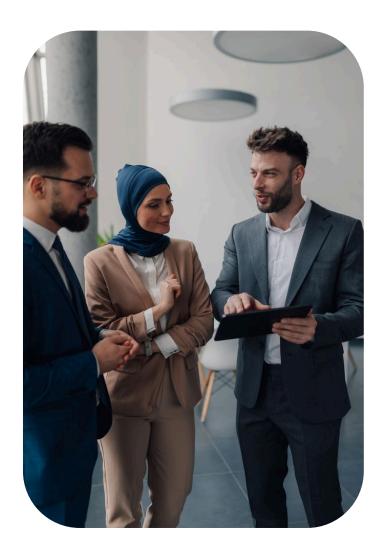


Non-Owner and Owner Compensation

- Non-owners earned a median total compensation of \$159K. Their median base pay was \$143K base pay and \$12K non-base pay.
- Non-owners in Construction reported the highest median total compensation (\$224K) and median base compensation (\$169K), while those in Professional Services firm – public practice reported the lowest total compensation (\$111K) and base compensation (\$106K).
- Among titles with at least 30 members responding, **Vice Presidents** report the highest median compensation **(\$250K)**.
- Strategy and Governance is the highest-paid focus area among non-owners responding at \$250K.
- Business owners made up 12% of Alberta respondents, with owners of an accounting firm (sole and/or partner) reporting a median compensation of \$286K.

2024 Compensation Compared to 2023

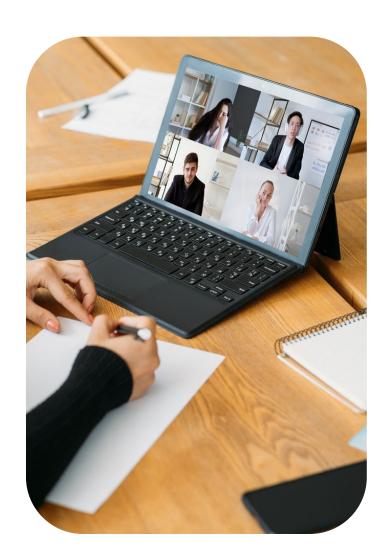
- 76% of members reported increased compensation in 2024 compared to 2023, while 7% reported a decline.
- Those in **Utilities** were most likely to report a compensation increase **(90%)**. **12%** of those in **Not for profit organizations** reported a decline since 2023, more than any other industry.





Benefits and Work/Life Balance Programs

- Medical benefits were most commonly offered (97%), followed by life insurance and long-term disability insurance (both at 82%).
- Mental health supports, defined benefit pension plan, and defined contribution pension plan are more commonly offered among larger organizations.
- Benefit offerings vary by sector and employer size. Large professional services firms provide more comprehensive coverage compared to smaller ones. In public sector government, large and medium organizations offer similar benefits.
- Internal professional development leads in work/life balance program usage among surveyed members. Employee assistance programs are offered but least used, while childcare benefits are least likely to be offered by employers.
- Among the top industries, Construction, Manufacturing, and Oil and gas tends to offer work/life balance programs less often than the provincial average, while Public sector and Not for profit exceeds it.



Detailed Findings

Compensation

Overall Compensation



Total Compensation by Years of Work Experience (\$ in 000s)

The median compensation of members with at least three years post-designation experience is \$176K. Compensation shows a large range from \$92K (<3 years) to \$225K (25+ years). Alberta members with 10-14 years of experience make up the largest proportion of surveyed members at 25%.

Years of Experience	Count (% of total)	Median	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Less than 3 years	55 (5%)	\$92	\$79	\$109
3–4 years	41 (3%)	\$113	\$103	\$140
5–9 years	209 (17%)	\$140	\$116	\$181
10–14 years	303 (25%)	\$161	\$130	\$211
15–19 years	180 (15%)	\$195	\$137	\$273
20–24 years	178 (15%)	\$200	\$144	\$350
25 years and over	231 (19%)	\$225	\$153	\$369
NET: Over 3 years	1,142 (94%)	\$176	\$130	\$255
Total	1,212 (100%)	\$169	\$126	\$250



Total Compensation by Industry of Employment (\$ in 000s)

Among industries with at least 30 members reporting, Construction reports the highest median compensation (\$224K), followed by Real Estate/Building Management (\$205K), and Oil & Gas (\$202K).

Industry of Employment	Count (% of total)		25th Percentile	75th Percentile	
Holding, Conglomerate	12 (1%)		\$253	\$182	\$366
Software	12 (1%)		\$243	\$181	\$295
Mining	9 (1%)*	_*		_*	_*
Construction	56 (5%)		\$224	\$167	\$318
Arts, Entertainment, Leisure	2 (<1%)*	_*		_*	_*
Real Estate/Building Management	33 (3%)		\$205	\$147	\$323
Oil & Gas	193 (17%)		\$202	\$150	\$295
Financial Services	45 (4%)		\$195	\$138	\$255
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	31 (3%)		\$192	\$140	\$250
Professional Services firm – other	48 (4%)		\$186	\$120	\$250
Retail, Wholesale	43 (4%)		\$185	\$128	\$255
Hotels and Restaurants	5 (<1%)*	_*		_*	_*
Public Sector - Crown corporation	10 (1%)		\$181	\$122	\$240
Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals	7 (1%)*	_*		_*	_*

Industries with n>30 shown in blue.



Total Compensation by Industry of Employment (\$ in 000s) (cont'd)

Educational institutions and public sector industries report the lowest median compensations, with Public Sector – Federal, provincial, First Nations or municipal government reporting the lowest median compensation (\$132K) of industries with at least 30 members reporting.

Industry of Employment	Count (% of total)		25th Percentile	75th Percentile	
Manufacturing	48 (4%)		\$178	\$130	\$230
Utilities	42 (4%)		\$175	\$150	\$253
Professional Services firm – public practice	214 (19%)		\$158	\$105	\$300
Public Sector - Office of the auditor general	9 (1%)*	_*		_*	_*
Transportation, Distribution	32 (3%)		\$155	\$114	\$234
Telecommunications	7 (1%)*	_*		_*	_*
Not for profit	52 (4%)		\$137	\$114	\$168
Educational Institution	46 (4%)		\$135	\$114	\$175
Public Sector - Federal, provincial, First Nations or municipal government	129 (11%)		\$132	\$113	\$160
Public Sector - Hospital, library, health organization, or social services organization	17 (1%)		\$130	\$104	\$144
Media, Communications, Publishing	2 (<1%)*	_*		_*	_*
Other	52 (4%)		\$190	\$136	\$255
Total	1,156 (100%)		\$170	\$126	\$250

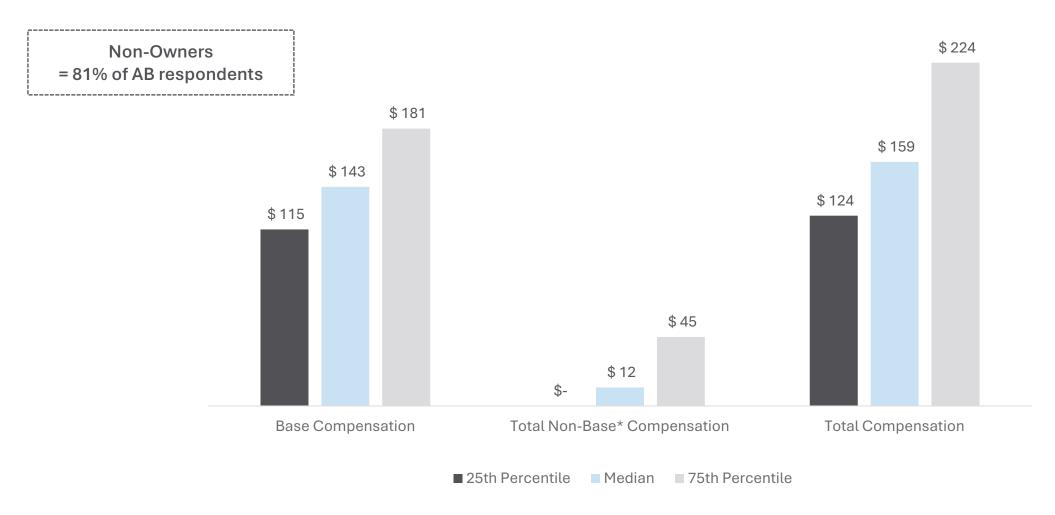
Industries with n>30 shown in blue.

Non-Owners' Compensation



Non-Owner Compensation – 2024 (\$ in 000s)

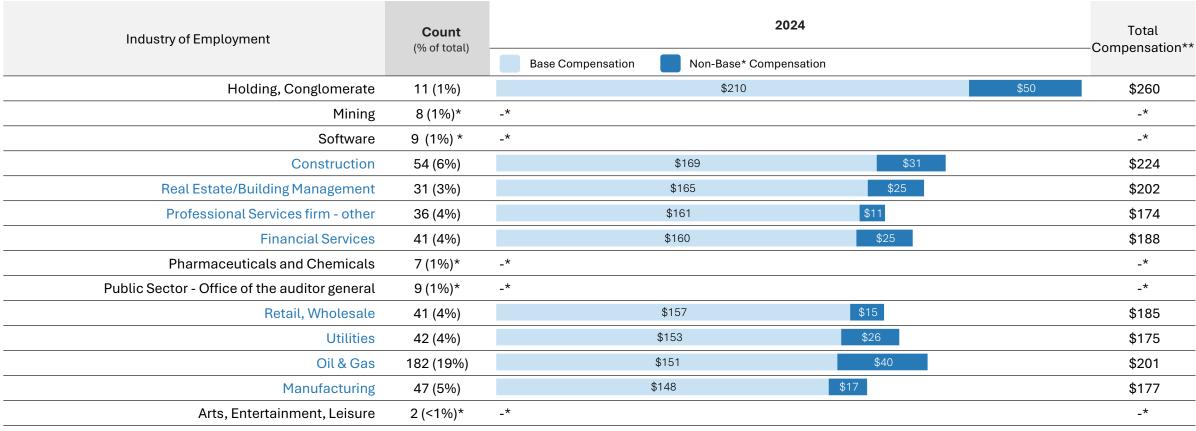
Non-owner Alberta members, who make up most respondents, earned a median total compensation of \$159K. The median base compensation is \$143K, while the median non-base is \$12K.





Non-Owner Compensation by Industry of Employment (\$ in 000s) – 2024

Among industries with more than 30 non-owner members responding, Construction reports the highest median total compensation (\$224K) and median base compensation (\$169K). Oil & Gas reports the highest non-base median compensation (\$40K), and makes up the largest proportion of Albertan non-owners responding (19%)



Industries with n>30 shown in blue.

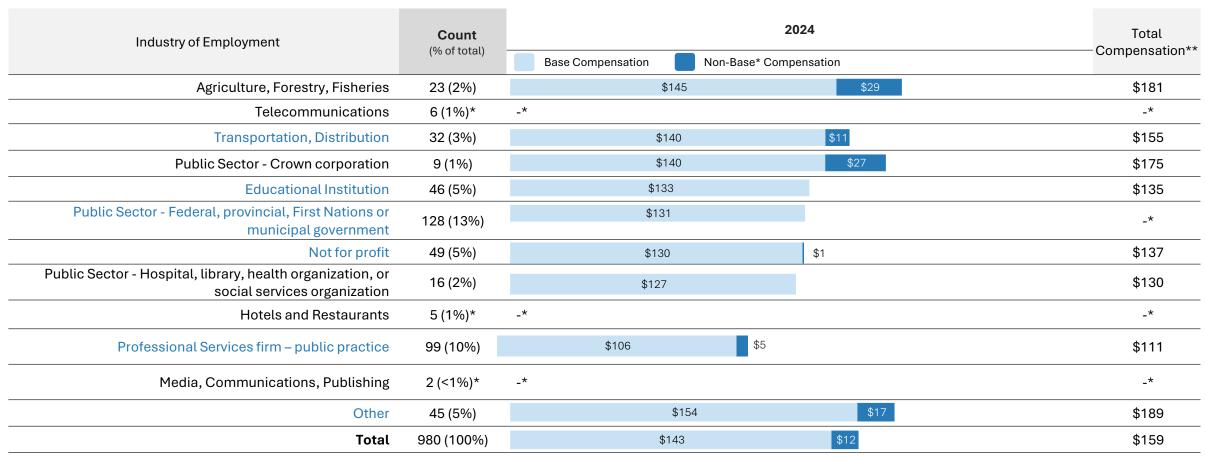
QA2b. For the calendar year 2024, please enter your income from the following sources (in CAD, or equivalent)

^{**}Total compensation is the median of NET: base + non-base, rather than a sum of both.



Non-Owner Compensation by Industry of Employment (\$ in 000s) – 2024 (cont'd)

Professional Services firm – public practice, reports the lowest base compensation (\$106) and total compensation (\$111K) among industries with at least 30 members responding.



Industries with n>30 shown in blue.

QA2b. For the calendar year 2024, please enter your income from the following sources (in CAD, or equivalent)

^{**}Total compensation is the median of NET: base + non-base, rather than a sum of both.



Total Compensation by Job Title Among Non-Owners (\$ in 000s)

Among job titles with at least 30 members reporting, Vice Presidents and CFOs report the highest compensation (\$250K and \$236K respectively). Compensation appears to increase as organization size increases for CFOs.

	Total Size of Employer by Number of Staff (n=980)			Total (n=980)	Size of Employer by Number of Staff				
Job Title	Median	<100 (n=261) Median	100–999 (n=303) Median	≥1,000 (n=416) Median	116)		<100 (n=261) Median	100–999 (n=303) Median	≥1,000 (n=416) Median
Senior Vice President	\$355	_*	_*	_*	Supervisor	\$162	_*	_*	_*
President and/or CEO	_*	_*	_*	-	Principal	_*	_*	_*	_*
Other Executive Management	\$255	_*	_*	_*	Tax Specialist	\$157	_*	-	\$160
Non-Equity Partner	_*	_*	-	-	Associate/Assistant Director	\$147	\$147	\$138	\$147
Vice President	\$250	_*	_*	_*	Controller and/or Comptroller	\$144	\$132	\$145	\$180
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	\$236	\$226	\$229	\$370	Manager	\$140	\$130	\$149	\$137
Senior Director	\$220	_*	_*	\$257	Associate/Assistant Manager	_*	_*	-	_*
Assistant Vice President	_*	_*	-	_*	Analyst	\$122	-	\$141	\$120
Consultant	_*	_*	_*	_*	Professor/Lecturer/Teacher	_*	-	_*	_*
Treasurer	_*	-	_*	-	Senior Auditor/Accountant	\$114	\$93	\$125	\$117
Director	\$185	\$166	\$169	\$203	Auditor/Accountant	\$112	_*	_*	\$117
Internal Auditor	_*	-	-	_*	Junior Auditor/Accountant	_*	-	-	_*
Senior Manager	\$169	\$136	_*	\$179	Other	\$140	\$179	\$151	\$138
General Manager	_*	_*	_*	_*					

Medians with n>30 shown in blue.



Compensation by Area of Focus Among Non-Owners (\$ in 000s)

Strategy and Governance leads in median compensation among non-owners (\$250K), followed by Managing Staff (\$170K) and Finance (\$169K). Audit and assurance reports the lowest median compensation at \$112K.

Area of Focus	Count (% of total)	Median	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
Strategy & Governance	78 (8%)	\$ 250	\$184	\$360
Managing staff	49 (5%)	\$ 170	\$147	\$255
Finance	206 (21%)	\$ 169	\$130	\$230
Risk management/Control/Internal audit	24 (2%)	\$ 155	\$133	\$195
Financial and/or Non-Financial Reporting	281 (29%)	\$ 150	\$119	\$209
Taxation	86 (9%)	\$ 148	\$118	\$222
Management Accounting	122 (12%)	\$ 145	\$120	\$192
Audit and Assurance	69 (7%)	\$112	\$ 85	\$154
Other	65 (7%)	\$ 190	\$125	\$309

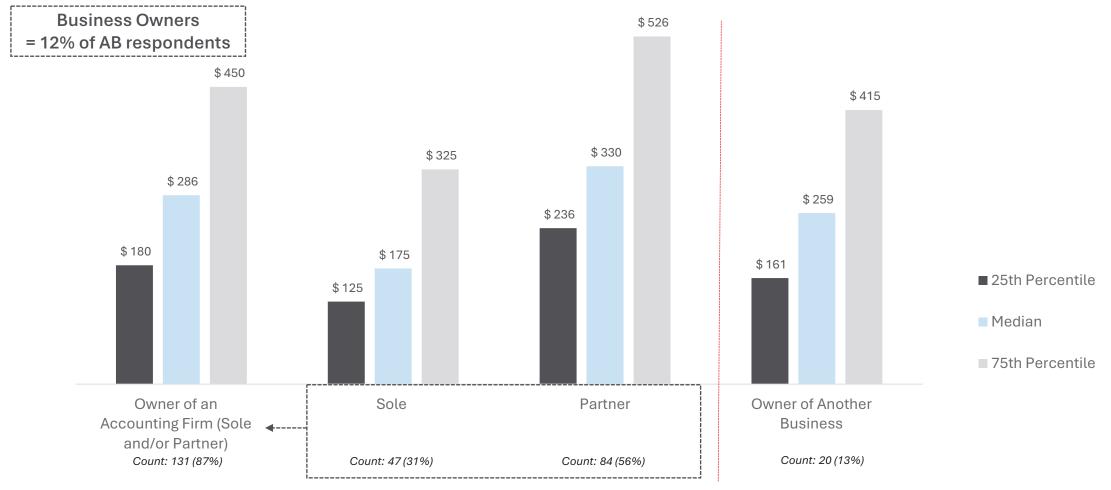
Areas of focus with n>30 shown in blue.

Owners' Compensation



Owner's Compensation – 2024 (\$ in 000s)

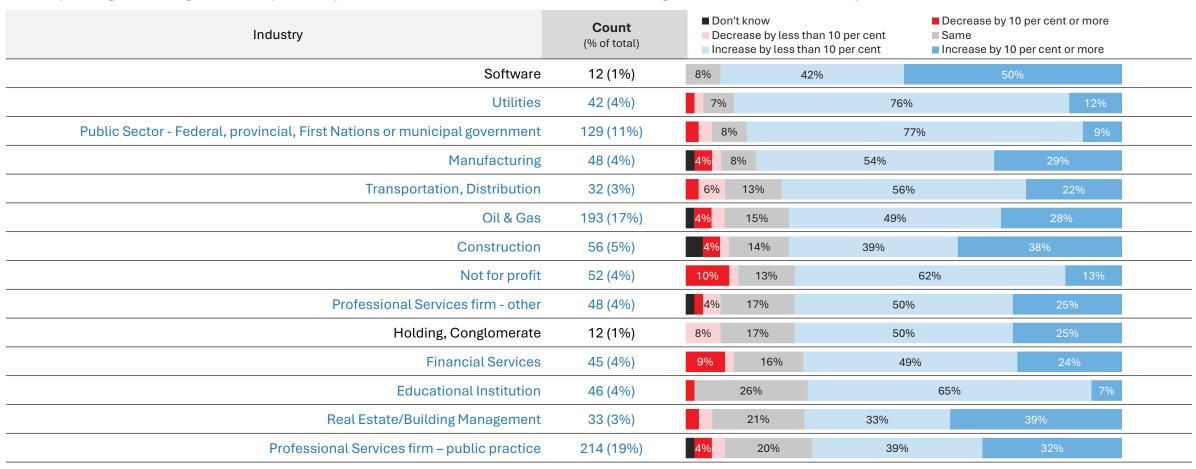
12% of Alberta respondents are business owners, with 87% of these being owners of an accounting firm (sole and/or partner) and reporting a median compensation of \$286K. Owners of another business made up the remaining 13% and report a median of \$259K, however with a base size of 20, this should be interpreted with caution.





2024 Compensation Compared to 2023

Across industries, 76% report higher compensation, while 7% report a decrease. Utilities lead with 90% reporting increases. Real Estate/Building Management sees the largest raises, with 39% reporting increases of 10% or more, while Educational Institutions are among the most stable, with 26% reporting no change. Not for profit report the most decline, with 12% indicating a decrease, followed by Financial Services, at 11%.

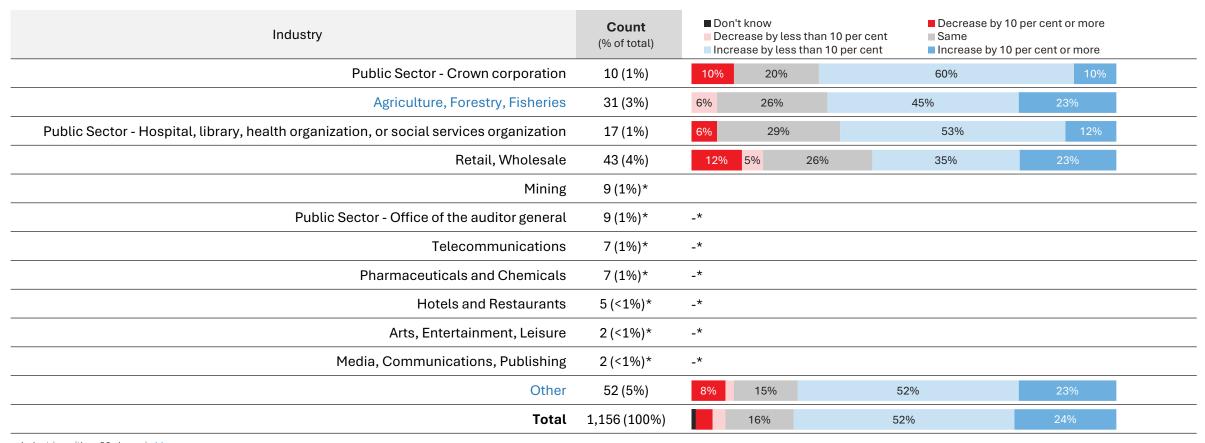


Industries with n>30 shown in blue.



2024 Compensation Compared to 2023 (cont'd)

Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries tie with Educational Institutions as the most stable among industries with at least 30 members responding, with 26% reporting no change in compensation.



Industries with n>30 shown in blue.

Benefits & Work/Life Balance



Benefits by Number of Employees Among Non-Owners

Medical benefits (97%), life insurance (82%), and long term disability insurance (82%) are the most offered benefits among non-owner members. Mental health supports, defined contribution pension plan , and defined benefit pension plan are more commonly offered among larger organizations.

					Size of Em	ployer by Numb	er of Staff
Benefit		Total (n=1,005)	<100 (n=273)	100–999 (n=309)	≥1,000 (n=423)		
Medical (health and dental) benefits				97%	94%	98%	98%
Life Insurance			82%		79%	83%	83%
Long Term Disability Insurance			82%		77%	83%	84%
Mental Health supports			77%		59%	79%	86%
Out of Country Travel Insurance		65%	6		59%	66%	69%
Professional Membership dues other than for my accounting designation(s)		45%			42%	47%	45%
Parking		43%			48%	50%	35%
Group RRSPs		40%			35%	47%	39%
Defined Contribution Pension Plan	28%				8%	20%	47%
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	25%				10%	25%	35%
Health/Fitness Club Memberships	22%				16%	24%	23%
Stock or Stock Options Purchase Program	19%				11%	16%	27%
Parental/Maternal/Caregiver Leave Top Ups	13%				4%	10%	20%
Car Allowances	11%				8%	14%	11%
Deferred Profit Sharing Plans	9%				4%	7%	14%
Other Significant Benefits	7%				7%	9%	6%



Benefits by Industry and Number of Employees Among Non-Owners

In Public sector - government, most benefits are as widely offered by mid-sized organizations as they are by larger ones, with the exception of professional membership dues and parental leave top ups. In Professional services – public practice, large organizations exceed smaller ones across all benefits.

	Public Sector – Government Total			nment	Professional Services - Public Practice			
Benefit	(n=1,005)	<100 (n=19)	100–999 (n=36)	≥1,000 (n=75)	<100 (n=46)	100–999 (n=9)*	≥1,000 (n=46)	
Medical (health and dental) benefits	97%	100%	97%	97%	83%	_*	96%	
Life Insurance	82%	79%	89%	71%	59%	_*	70%	
Long Term Disability Insurance	82%	74%	83%	69%	54%	_*	80%	
Mental Health supports	77%	84%	86%	76%	28%	_*	91%	
Out of Country Travel Insurance	65%	68%	61%	56%	35%	_*	63%	
Professional Membership dues other than for my accounting designation(s)	45%	47%	39%	52%	33%	_*	39%	
Parking	43%	32%	36%	31%	43%	_*	43%	
Group RRSPs	40%	16%	6%	4%	17%	_*	50%	
Defined Contribution Pension Plan	28%	16%	22%	15%	2%	_*	67%	
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	25%	84%	75%	76%	0%	_*	4%	
Health/Fitness Club Memberships	22%	11%	36%	11%	17%	_*	28%	
Stock or Stock Options Purchase Program	19%	0%	0%	1%	0%	_*	0%	
Parental/Maternal/Caregiver Leave Top Ups	13%	16%	14%	20%	2%	_*	26%	
Car Allowances	11%	11%	0%	4%	0%	_*	0%	
Deferred Profit Sharing Plans	9%	0%	0%	1%	0%	_*	11%	
Other Significant Benefits	7%	0%	14%	3%	11%	_*	4%	



Benefits by Industry and Number of Employees Among Non-Owners (cont'd)

Medium and large educational institutions perform at similarly in top benefits but fall behind in group RRSPs. Small and large manufacturing firms perform similarly in offering the top 3 benefits, while mid-sized firms score lower in offering life insurance and long term disability insurance. However, these scores all have low base sizes and should be interpreted with caution.

	Total	Edu	ıcational Institu	tion	Manufacturing		
Benefit	(n=1,005)	<100 (n=4)*	100–999 (n=24)	≥1,000 (n=19)	<100 (n=16)	100–999 (n=14)	≥1,000 (n=17)
Medical (health and dental) benefits	97%	_*	100%	100%	94%	100%	100%
Life Insurance	82%	_*	92%	95%	94%	79%	94%
Long Term Disability Insurance	82%	_*	83%	84%	94%	64%	88%
Mental Health supports	77%	_*	79%	79%	50%	57%	88%
Out of Country Travel Insurance	65%	_*	54%	68%	31%	64%	88%
Professional Membership dues other than for my accounting designation(s)	45%	_*	58%	53%	38%	50%	29%
Parking	43%	_*	42%	21%	50%	29%	41%
Group RRSPs	40%	_*	4%	0%	44%	64%	47%
Defined Contribution Pension Plan	28%	_*	21%	16%	13%	7%	53%
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	25%	_*	67%	89%	0%	14%	6%
Health/Fitness Club Memberships	22%	_*	8%	21%	31%	0%	18%
Stock or Stock Options Purchase Program	19%	_*	0%	0%	19%	21%	29%
Parental/Maternal/Caregiver Leave Top Ups	13%	_*	13%	26%	0%	0%	12%
Car Allowances	11%	_*	8%	11%	0%	14%	12%
Deferred Profit Sharing Plans	9%	_*	0%	0%	0%	7%	41%
Other Significant Benefits	7%	_*	13%	16%	6%	7%	0%



Benefits by Industry and Number of Employees Among Non-Owners (cont'd)

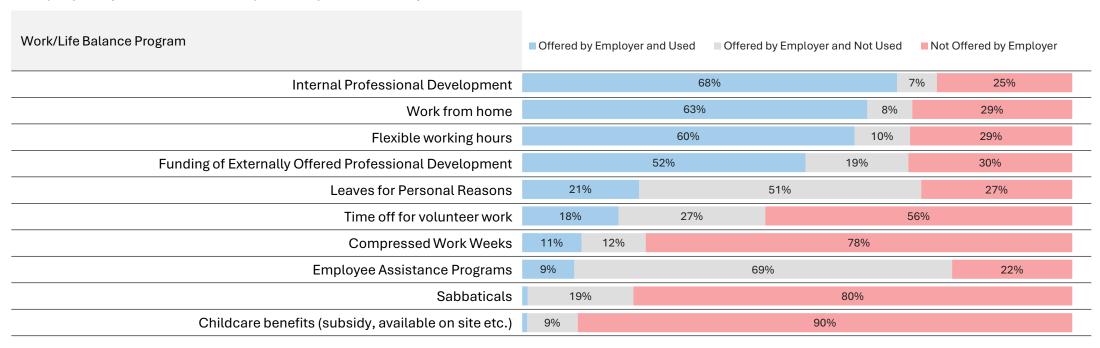
Medical benefits, life insurance, and long-term disability insurance are consistently offered across financial services both large and small. Mid-sized retail/wholesale companies are less likely to offer life and disability coverage than large size companies. However, these scores all have low base sizes and should be interpreted with caution.

	Total (n=1,005)	Financial Services			Retail, Wholesale		
Benefit		<100 (n=17)	100–999 (n=8)*	≥1,000 (n=21)	<100 (n=8)*	100–999 (n=17)	≥1,000 (n=18)
Medical (health and dental) benefits	97%	100%	_*	100%	_*	94%	100%
Life Insurance	82%	88%	_*	81%	_*	65%	100%
Long Term Disability Insurance	82%	100%	_*	90%	_*	65%	94%
Mental Health supports	77%	65%	_*	81%	_*	76%	89%
Out of Country Travel Insurance	65%	76%	_*	71%	_*	65%	72%
Professional Membership dues other than for my accounting designation(s)	45%	59%	_*	52%	_*	53%	39%
Parking	43%	59%	_*	62%	_*	53%	28%
Group RRSPs	40%	12%	_*	52%	_*	41%	33%
Defined Contribution Pension Plan	28%	0%	_*	52%	_*	12%	39%
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	25%	6%	_*	38%	_*	18%	11%
Health/Fitness Club Memberships	22%	18%	_*	38%	_*	6%	17%
Stock or Stock Options Purchase Program	19%	29%	_*	33%	_*	12%	33%
Parental/Maternal/Caregiver Leave Top Ups	13%	6%	_*	14%	_*	0%	17%
Car Allowances	11%	6%	_*	10%	_*	18%	39%
Deferred Profit Sharing Plans	9%	12%	_*	38%	_*	6%	11%
Other Significant Benefits	7%	6%	_*	5%	_*	0%	6%



Work/Life Balance Programs Among Non-Owners

Internal professional development leads in usage among surveyed members (68%), followed by 'work from home' (63%) and flexible working hours (60%). Employee assistance programs are offered but least used (69% not using). Childcare benefits and sabbaticals are least likely to be offered by employers (90% and 80% respectively not offered).





Work/Life Balance Programs Used by Industry Among Non-Owners

'Work from home' is most commonly offered by Public sector – government and Not-for-profit organizations and is least offered by Construction and Manufacturing firms. Internal professional development is highly prioritized in the public sector while manufacturing report the lowest access. Compressed work weeks and employee assistance programs are offered more frequently in the public sector than in any other industry group.

Work/Life Balance Program	Total (n=980)	Oil & Gas (n=182)	Public Sector – Government (n=128)	Professional Services – Public Practice (n=99)	Construction (n=54)	Not for profit (n=49)	Manufacturing (n=47)
Work from home	68%	61%	82%	71%	44%	80%	51%
Internal Professional Development	63%	56%	84%	79%	59%	61%	40%
Flexible working hours	60%	56%	64%	62%	52%	76%	45%
Funding of Externally Offered Professional Development	52%	40%	54%	49%	50%	63%	55%
Leaves for Personal Reasons	21%	15%	49%	24%	9%	22%	9%
Time off for volunteer work	18%	22%	16%	17%	17%	14%	13%
Compressed Work Weeks	11%	11%	34%	8%	4%	14%	4%
Employee Assistance Programs	9%	8%	12%	11%	6%	18%	9%
Sabbaticals	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%
Childcare benefits (subsidy, available on site etc.)	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%





cpacanada.ca