CGA by the Numbers:
How many Canadians work in the natural gas sector?

In this issue we look at employment data within Canada’s natural gas delivery industry and the broader energy sector.

Employment in the energy sector has historically been linked to oil prices. Following the sharp drop in oil prices in March 2020, partially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we draw on historical data to determine what we should expect for natural gas employment.

If we look back to a similar trend in 2014 to 2015, we see that when oil prices declined, oil and gas extraction followed with an 11% decline, according to Stats Canada. Comparatively, employment in the natural gas distribution and transmission sector declined by just over 5%. Since 2016, following a recovery in oil prices, employment in the natural gas sector has recovered and even exceeded beyond pre-2014 levels. As of 2019, CGA members employ nearly 14,000 full-time workers in the natural gas distribution and transmission sector.

Furthermore, the sector is a source of excellent jobs, attracting skilled labourers including engineers, technicians, operators, and skilled trade workers. Over the last five years, average salaries in the natural gas distribution sector have been nearly double the Canadian average and 5% higher than those in other utilities.

As we look to the future, the natural gas delivery industry is committed to making meaningful contributions to Canadian employment and GDP. With emerging gas technologies and new gaseous energies — including renewable natural gas and hydrogen — the natural gas delivery industry will continue to be a significant part of the Canadian economy for decades to come.