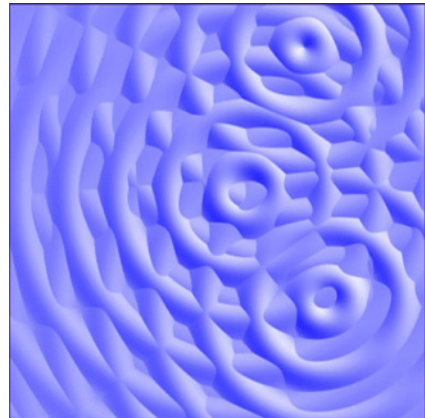




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Women in Canada: Work Chapter Updates

2006



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Statistics Canada
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- ^p preliminary
- ^r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

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Women in the workplace

Ed. note: The entry of large numbers of women into the paid workforce has been one of the dominant social trends in Canada over the last half century. That is one of the key findings in Women in Canada 2005, the latest edition of Statistics Canada's seminal series of reports on gender trends in Canada, which was released in March, 2006. The following report attempts to complement the Women in Canada series, which is published only every five years, by providing updated information on women's participation in the labour market. It should be noted, however, that only indicators for which updated figures are available have been included in this report. As such, the reader is encouraged to refer to the full Women in Canada 2005 document for the latest data on other key topics such as unpaid household work and participation in volunteer work.

This report is an adaption of the section in Women in Canada 2005 entitled "Paid and Unpaid Work" by Colin Lindsay and Marcia Almey. The data in this report were compiled by Marcia Almey. Questions or comments should be addressed to Colin Lindsay by calling 613-951-2603 or by email at lindcol@statcan.ca.

More women employed

The past several decades have witnessed dramatic growth in the share of women who are part of the paid workforce. In 2006, 58% of all women aged 15 and over had jobs, up from 42% in 1976. In contrast, the proportion of men who were employed in 2006 (68%) was well below the figure recorded in 1976 (73%). As a result of these trends, women accounted for 47% of the employed workforce in 2006, up from 37% in 1976. (Table 1)

Most of the growth in female employment in the past quarter century, however, took place during the late 1970s and 1980s. Between 1976 and 1990, for example, the proportion of adult women participating in the paid labour force rose from 42% to 54%. In contrast, the female employment rate dipped to 52% during the recession in the early part of the 1990s and hovered around that level for much of the rest of the decade. The share of women with jobs, though, has begun to rise again in recent years, increasing to 58% in 2006. The employment rate among men has also risen in the past several years after almost two decades of decline, although rates of growth in male employment remain somewhat below those of their female counterparts.

Employment levels vary across the country

Women in Ontario and the Western provinces are more likely than those in Quebec and most of the Atlantic provinces to be employed. In 2006, 65% of women in Alberta worked at a job or business, as did 61% of those in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 59% in Ontario, and 58% in British Columbia. In contrast, just over half of all women in each of Quebec (56%), New Brunswick (55%) and Nova Scotia (55%) were employed that year, while the figure was just 48% in Newfoundland and Labrador. The exception to this pattern was Prince Edward Island, where 59% of women were employed in 2006. (Table 2)

In all provinces, however, women are considerably less likely than their male counterparts to be part of the paid workforce. Indeed, in 2006, the difference between the proportions of women and men with jobs was as high as 12 percentage points in Alberta, 11 in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 9 in Quebec, British Columbia and Ontario. There were also gaps of 6 points in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 5 points in Prince Edward Island, and 4 points in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Chances of employment increase with higher education

Not surprisingly, the likelihood of women being employed increases dramatically the higher their level of educational attainment. In 2006, 75% of women with a university degree and 69% of those with a certificate or diploma from a community college worked for pay or profit, compared with 61% of those with some postsecondary training and 59% of high school graduates. In contrast, only 38% of women who had attended, but had not completed high school, and just 15% of those who had not gone beyond Grade 8, had jobs that year. (Table 3)

Regardless of their level of educational attainment, however, women are still less likely than their male counterparts to be employed, although the gaps are smallest among better-educated women. Among those with a university degree, for example, 75% of women, versus 79% of men, had jobs in 2006. Similarly, among those with a non-university certificate or diploma, 69% of women, compared with 77% of men, were employed. In contrast, women with less than a Grade 9 education were only half as likely to be employed that year as their male counterparts: 15% versus 30%. Part of these differences is explained by variation in the education and work experiences of different age groups. At the same time, though, these patterns generally hold among all age groups over the age of 25.

Ages 25 to 54 prime working years for women

Women between the ages of 25 and 54 are currently more likely to be part of the paid workforce than women in other age ranges. In 2006, 77% of women aged 25 to 44 and 45 to 54 had jobs, compared with 60% of women aged 15 to 24 and 49% of those aged 55 to 64. This contrasts with trends in the late 1970s, when women aged 15 to 24 were slightly more likely than their older counterparts to be employed. In the intervening years, however, it has become more common for women aged 25 and over to participate in the labour force, while the employment rate of women aged 15 to 24 has changed relatively little. (Table 4)

Women between the ages of 25 and 54, however, are still considerably less likely than their male counterparts to be employed. For example, in 2006, 77% of 25- to 44-year-old women had jobs, compared with 87% of men in this age group. Similarly, 77% of women aged 45 to 54 were employed that year, compared with 85% of their male counterparts. These gaps, however, have closed significantly since the late 1970s, when women in these age ranges were only about half as likely as their male counterparts to be employed.

The gap between the employment levels of women and men aged 55 to 64 has also narrowed over the past quarter century. This is due to modest increases in employment rates among women, accompanied by a sharp decline in employment levels among men which may reflect, in part, the trend for men to retire at earlier ages. Women aged 55 to 64, though, were still considerably less likely than men in this age range to be employed in 2006: 49% versus 63%.

In contrast to older age groups, employment rates are similar for women and men aged 15 to 24. In 2006, 60% of women and 58% of men in this age range were working for pay or profit. This also represents a change from 1976, when young women were somewhat less likely than their male counterparts to be employed: 51% versus 60%.

Dramatic increases in employment among women with children

There has been particularly sharp growth in the employment rate of women with children in the past quarter century. In 2006, 73% of all women with children less than age 16 living at home were part of the employed workforce, up from 39% in 1976. Women with children, though, are still less likely to be employed than women without children. That year, 80% of women under age 55 without children had jobs. (Table 5)

There have been especially dramatic increases in the employment levels of women with very young children. Indeed, by 2006, 64% of women with children less than age 3 were employed, more than double the figure in 1976 when only 28% of these women were employed outside their homes. Similarly, 69% of women whose youngest child was aged 3 to 5 worked for pay or profit in 2006, up from 37% in 1976.

Women with pre-school-aged children, though, are still less likely than those with school-aged children to be employed. Overall, in 2006, 66% of women with children under age 6 were employed, compared with 78% of those whose youngest child was aged 6 to 15.

Female lone parents less likely to be employed

Female lone parents are less likely than mothers in two-parent families to be employed. In 2006, 70% of female lone parents with children less than age 16 living at home were employed, compared with 74% of their counterparts in two-parent families. This represents a major shift from the late 1970s when female lone parents were more likely to be employed than mothers with partners. (Table 6)

In the intervening years, however, the employment rate of mothers in two-parent families grew steadily, surpassing that of female lone parents in the mid-1980s. However, in recent years, the proportion of employed lone mothers has increased substantially, jumping 20 percentage points between 1995 and 2006.

The presence of young children also has a greater impact on the employment of lone mothers than it does their counterparts with partners. In 2006, just 46% of lone mothers with children under age 3 were employed, compared with 66% of mothers in two-parent families. At the same time, among those whose youngest child was aged 3 to 5, 66% of female lone parents, compared with 70% of mothers in two-parent families, were part of the paid workforce.

Many women work part-time

A relatively large proportion of employed women work part-time. In 2006, more than 2 million employed women, 26% of all women in the paid workforce, worked less than 30 hours per week at their main job, compared with just 11% of employed men. In fact, women have accounted for about seven in 10 of all part-time employees since the late 1970s. (Table 7)

Young women are more likely than other women to work part-time. In 2006, over half (52%) of employed women aged 15 to 24 worked part-time, compared with around 20% of those between the ages of 25 and 54 and just under 30% of those aged 55 to 64. Women in all age groups, however, are far more likely than their male counterparts to work part-time. This is especially the case among those in age ranges over age 25. That year, for example, 19% of women aged 25 to 44 and 20% of those aged 45 to 54 worked part-time, versus only around 5% of men in each of these groups. (Table 8)

Most women who work part-time do so either because they do not want full-time employment or because part-time work is more appropriate for their personal situation. In 2006, 28% of women employed part-time reported they did not want full-time work and 27% indicated they were going to school. (Table 9)

Many women, however, work part-time because of childcare or other responsibilities. In 2006, just under one in five female part-time employees said they worked part-time because of personal or family responsibilities. That year, 15% said they did not work full-time because they were caring for children, while 4% reported other family or personal responsibilities as the reason they worked part-time. In sharp contrast, a total of only 3% of male part-time workers cited these reasons as why they did not work full-time.

At the same time, a substantial number of women work part-time because they cannot find full-time employment. In 2006, 23% of all female part-time employees indicated that they wanted full-time

employment, but could only find part-time work. Women, though, were slightly less likely than men to work part-time involuntarily; that year, 26% of male part-time employees wanted full-time work.

The reasons women work part-time also vary considerably by age. Women aged 25 to 44, for example, were more likely than other women to work part-time in 2006 because of personal or family responsibilities or because they could not find full-time work. In contrast, women aged 15 to 24 were the most likely to work part-time because they were going to school, while those aged 45 and over were the most likely not to want full-time employment.

Increasing numbers of women self-employed

A growing number of women are self-employed. In 2006, close to 900,000 women, 11% of all those with jobs, were self-employed, up from 9% in 1976. In fact, self-employment has grown about as fast among women as it has among men in the past quarter century, though women are still less likely than men be self-employed: 11% versus 19% in 2006. Overall, women accounted for 35% of all self-employed workers that year, up from 31% in 1990 and 26% in 1976. (Table 10)

Still concentrated in traditional female occupations

The majority of employed women continue to work in occupations in which women have traditionally been concentrated. In 2006, 67% of all employed women were working in one of teaching, nursing and related health occupations, clerical or other administrative positions or sales and service occupations. This compared with just 30% of employed men. (Table 11)

The proportion of women employed in traditionally female-dominated occupations, however, has slowly declined over the past decade. In 2006, 67% of employed women were working in one of these areas, down from 72% in 1987.

Most of the drop in the proportion of employed women working in traditionally female-dominated jobs since the late 1980s has been accounted for by declines in the share employed in clerical and related administrative jobs. In 2006, 24% of all employed women had these types of jobs, compared with 30% in 1987. In contrast, the share of women in teaching positions has risen from 4% to 6% in this period; at the same time, though, there has been little change in the shares of women working in nursing and related occupations or in sales and service jobs.

As well, women continue to account for large shares of total employment in each of these occupational groups. In 2006, 87% of nurses and health-related therapists, 75% of clerks and other administrators, 64% of teachers and 57% of sales and service personnel were women.

Women have, however, increased their representation in several professional fields in recent years. For example, women made up 52% of business and financial professionals in 2006, up from 38% in 1987. There has also been substantial growth in the number of women employed in diagnostic and treating positions in medicine and related health professions. In fact, women made up more than half (55%) of all doctors and dentists in 2006, up from 43% in 1987. Similarly, 71% of professionals employed in social sciences or religion in 2006 were women, compared with 61% in 1987.

Women have also increased their share of total employment in managerial positions. In 2006, 36% of all those employed in managerial positions were women, up from 30% in 1987. Among managers, however, women tend to be better represented among lower-level managers, as opposed to those at more senior levels. In 2006, women made up only 26% of senior managers, compared with 37% of managers at other levels.

Women also continue to remain very much a minority among professionals employed in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics. In 2006, just 22% of professionals in these occupations were

women, a figure up only marginally from 1987 when women held 20% of these positions. In addition, it is unlikely that female representation in these occupations will increase in the near future, because women continue to account for relatively small shares of total university enrolments in these fields.

There are also relatively few women employed in most goods-producing occupations in which few women have traditionally worked. In 2006, 31% of workers in manufacturing were women, as were 21% of those in primary industries and just 7% of those in transportation, trades, and construction work. The representation of women in the last category, however, has grown somewhat since the late 1980s, while that in manufacturing and primary industries was about the same in 2006 as it was in 1987.

Unemployment lower among women

Unemployment rates are currently slightly lower among women than men. In 2006, 500,000 women, 6.1% of all female labour force participants, were unemployed, compared with 6.5% of male labour force participants. In fact, the unemployment rate has been lower among women than men since the beginning of the 1990s, whereas the reverse was the case for much of the period from 1976 to 1989. (Table 12)

Young women are considerably more likely than other women to be unemployed. In 2006, 10.4% of female labour force participants aged 15 to 24 were unemployed, compared with just 5.6% of those aged 25 to 44 and 4.7% of those aged 45 to 64. (Table 13)

Young women, however, are still considerably less likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed. While 10.4% of female labour force participants aged 15 to 24 were unemployed in 2006, the figure was 12.8% among males in this age group. In contrast, women aged 25 to 44 and 45 to 64 were both about as likely to be unemployed as men in these age ranges.

Women in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec have higher unemployment rates than those in Ontario and the western provinces. In 2006, 12.9% of female labour force participants in Newfoundland and Labrador were unemployed, while the figure was 9.3% in Prince Edward Island, 7.5% in Quebec, 7.1% in New Brunswick, and 6.5% in Nova Scotia. In contrast, 4.9% of female labour force participants in British Columbia, 6.2% of those in Ontario, 4.4% in Saskatchewan, 4.1% in Manitoba, and 3.6% in Alberta were unemployed that year. Women are also less likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed in all provinces. (Table 14)

The most frequent reason given by unemployed women for leaving their last job was that they either lost their job or were laid off. In 2006, 39% of unemployed women fell into one of these categories. At the same time, 25% were labour force re-entrants who had not worked for pay or profit in the last year, while 12% were new job-market entrants who had never been employed. Another 5% of unemployed women had left their last job because they were going to school, 3% had left because of personal or family responsibilities, and another 3% had left because of personal illness. (Table 15)

Unemployed women, though, are less likely than unemployed men to have lost, or been laid off from, their last job. In 2006, 39% of unemployed women, versus 51% of unemployed men, had lost their job or been laid off. On the other hand, unemployed women were more likely than men to have been either new job-market entrants who had never worked for pay or profit or labour force re-entrants who had not been employed in the previous year. Unemployed women were also more likely than their male counterparts to have left their last job because of personal or family responsibilities: 3% versus 1%.

Table 1
Employment, 1976 to 2006

	Women aged 15 and over		Men aged 15 and over		Women as a percentage of total employment
	Total employed (thousands)	Percentage of all women employed	Total employed (thousands)	Percentage of all men employed	
1976	3,618.2	41.9	6,129.3	72.7	37.1
1977	3,729.3	42.3	6,187.9	71.9	37.6
1978	3,904.2	43.4	6,316.0	72.0	38.2
1979	4,139.9	45.1	6,528.7	73.1	38.8
1980	4,348.1	46.4	6,635.9	72.8	39.6
1981	4,556.6	47.7	6,748.4	72.8	40.3
1982	4,513.0	46.5	6,430.7	68.4	41.2
1983	4,605.7	46.8	6,416.3	67.4	41.8
1984	4,749.5	47.7	6,552.2	68.0	42.0
1985	4,942.7	49.0	6,684.5	68.5	42.5
1986	5,126.5	50.2	6,860.1	69.5	42.8
1987	5,307.7	51.3	7,025.3	70.3	43.0
1988	5,531.4	52.7	7,178.2	70.9	43.5
1989	5,704.2	53.6	7,292.0	71.1	43.9
1990	5,809.2	53.8	7,277.2	69.9	44.4
1991	5,790.5	52.8	7,066.9	66.9	45.0
1992	5,770.1	51.9	6,960.8	65.0	45.3
1993	5,798.7	51.5	6,994.0	64.6	45.3
1994	5,916.9	51.9	7,141.9	65.1	45.3
1995	6,034.6	52.2	7,260.8	65.4	45.4
1996	6,099.0	52.1	7,322.4	65.0	45.4
1997	6,235.4	52.6	7,470.7	65.5	45.4
1998	6,433.4	53.7	7,612.8	65.9	45.8
1999	6,609.6	54.6	7,797.2	66.7	45.9
2000	6,790.4	55.4	7,973.9	67.3	46.0
2001	6,910.3	55.6	8,035.8	66.8	46.2
2002	7,126.0	56.6	8,184.4	67.1	46.5
2003	7,324.2	57.4	8,348.1	67.6	46.7
2004	7,466.4	57.8	8,480.6	67.8	46.8
2005	7,575.0	57.8	8,594.7	67.7	46.8
2006	7,757.2	58.3	8,727.1	67.7	47.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 2
Percentage of the population aged 15 and over employed, by province, 1976 to 2006

	1976		1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	percentage											
Newfoundland and Labrador	27.7	57.5	35.8	52.3	40.8	51.3	38.5	46.1	44.6	51.0	48.3	52.7
Prince Edward Island	38.0	66.3	46.1	63.0	49.1	59.8	51.3	61.8	55.0	63.2	58.9	63.5
Nova Scotia	36.0	65.8	42.9	61.4	47.1	61.6	46.4	58.0	51.6	60.6	55.0	61.1
New Brunswick	34.0	62.2	41.3	58.0	44.8	58.1	46.7	57.0	51.1	59.2	55.1	61.3
Quebec	37.4	70.5	45.6	66.7	48.1	64.1	47.7	61.7	51.7	64.4	55.6	65.0
Ontario	45.8	75.3	54.3	73.9	55.6	68.7	53.6	66.1	57.6	68.6	59.0	68.1
Manitoba	44.5	73.8	52.5	70.6	54.6	68.1	54.7	68.7	58.1	70.9	60.7	71.2
Saskatchewan	41.1	75.1	51.7	71.0	54.6	69.6	54.2	68.1	55.7	68.2	60.6	71.3
Alberta	49.2	80.0	57.0	73.5	59.5	73.8	60.7	73.9	62.8	75.1	64.6	76.9
British Columbia	41.9	71.3	47.8	66.0	53.5	67.3	53.6	66.5	54.6	63.6	58.0	67.2
Canada	41.9	72.7	50.2	69.5	52.8	66.9	52.1	65.0	55.6	66.8	58.3	67.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 3
Percentage employed, by age and educational attainment, 2006

	People aged								
	15 to 24		25 to 44		45 and over		Total		
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	
	percentage								
Educational attainment									
Less than Grade 9		20.9	30.9	36.3	64.6	11.9	24.1	14.5	29.5
Some secondary school		43.3	43.5	55.2	75.6	29.0	46.3	38.3	51.3
High school graduate		68.9	69.8	72.9	85.9	47.9	61.1	59.0	72.0
Some postsecondary		62.0	59.0	73.8	81.7	49.1	60.2	61.3	66.6
Postsecondary certificate or diploma ¹		78.5	77.5	82.2	90.1	55.5	63.9	69.0	76.5
University degree		74.8	71.7	82.3	90.4	64.2	68.4	74.8	79.0
Total		59.5	57.9	77.2	86.8	44.6	56.6	58.3	67.7

1. Includes trades certificate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 4
Percentage employed, by age, 1976 to 2006

	People aged							
	15 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 54		55 to 64	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	percentage							
1976	51.4	59.9	50.0	90.9	45.6	88.9	30.3	72.8
1977	51.6	59.8	51.3	90.0	45.4	87.8	29.7	71.0
1978	52.4	60.4	53.6	90.0	46.5	88.0	29.4	70.8
1979	54.6	63.1	55.7	90.7	48.2	88.2	31.4	71.3
1980	56.1	63.4	58.0	90.2	49.8	88.1	30.9	71.2
1981	57.2	63.5	60.3	90.1	51.8	88.4	31.1	70.4
1982	53.9	56.1	59.7	85.5	51.4	85.1	30.7	67.0
1983	53.9	55.3	60.5	84.0	52.8	84.8	30.0	65.2
1984	55.0	57.3	62.1	84.5	53.3	84.0	29.9	64.4
1985	56.2	58.6	63.7	85.4	56.4	84.3	30.8	62.8
1986	58.1	60.6	66.4	86.3	55.9	85.7	30.3	62.3
1987	59.4	62.5	67.5	87.1	58.5	86.7	31.5	61.1
1988	60.9	64.0	69.4	87.9	61.4	86.6	32.3	61.1
1989	61.9	64.8	70.5	87.9	63.4	86.9	31.8	60.9
1990	59.9	62.6	71.5	86.7	63.9	85.5	32.9	60.0
1991	57.6	57.1	70.5	83.6	64.3	84.1	32.4	56.9
1992	55.1	54.4	69.4	81.4	65.1	82.5	32.6	55.2
1993	53.3	53.4	69.1	81.7	65.3	81.9	32.4	54.0
1994	53.4	54.1	69.6	82.5	65.7	82.4	33.8	53.7
1995	53.3	54.3	70.4	83.1	66.8	82.9	33.3	53.3
1996	52.0	53.3	70.9	83.0	66.3	82.4	33.5	53.7
1997	50.2	52.7	72.1	84.1	68.1	82.7	34.1	55.1
1998	52.0	52.9	73.2	85.3	69.7	82.7	36.1	54.7
1999	53.7	55.3	74.3	85.8	70.8	83.6	37.3	56.6
2000	55.7	56.8	75.1	86.5	71.4	84.2	39.1	57.4
2001	56.2	56.5	75.3	85.9	72.3	84.0	39.4	57.3
2002	57.6	57.4	75.9	85.7	74.2	84.3	41.4	59.0
2003	58.6	57.9	76.2	86.1	75.4	84.5	45.3	60.9
2004	58.4	57.7	77.0	86.3	76.0	85.3	46.0	62.0
2005	58.9	56.7	77.0	86.7	75.6	85.0	46.8	63.1
2006	59.5	57.9	77.2	86.8	76.8	85.1	48.7	62.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 5
Percentage of women with children employed, by age of youngest child, 1976 to 2006

	Youngest child under age 3	Youngest child aged 3 to 5	Total with youngest child under age 6	Youngest child aged 6 to 15	Total with children under age 16	Total under age 55 without children under age 16 living at home
	percentage					
1976	27.6	36.8	31.4	46.4	39.1	60.9
1977	29.3	37.9	32.7	47.5	40.4	61.2
1978	32.0	40.6	35.4	49.2	42.6	62.3
1979	34.6	42.9	37.8	50.9	44.6	64.1
1980	36.9	45.2	40.1	53.5	47.1	65.2
1981	39.3	46.7	42.1	56.2	49.3	66.0
1982	39.4	46.5	42.1	55.3	48.8	64.9
1983	42.2	47.9	44.4	55.0	49.8	65.7
1984	44.1	49.1	46.1	57.0	51.6	66.1
1985	46.7	52.0	48.7	59.1	53.9	67.7
1986	49.3	54.4	51.3	61.8	56.6	69.1
1987	50.2	56.1	52.5	63.8	58.2	69.8
1988	51.8	58.2	54.3	66.5	60.4	71.7
1989	52.9	59.2	55.4	69.0	62.3	72.7
1990	53.4	59.5	55.8	70.1	63.0	73.5
1991	54.4	60.1	56.5	69.0	62.8	72.6
1992	54.0	59.4	56.0	68.0	62.1	71.6
1993	54.4	59.4	56.3	68.5	62.4	71.6
1994	55.6	59.1	57.0	68.5	62.8	72.1
1995	56.0	60.2	57.7	69.8	63.8	73.0
1996	57.8	60.5	58.9	69.8	64.5	72.4
1997	58.8	62.1	60.1	71.1	65.9	73.4
1998	59.2	63.9	61.2	72.1	67.0	74.8
1999	60.1	66.0	62.6	73.4	68.4	76.0
2000	60.3	67.3	63.2	74.4	69.2	76.3
2001	61.3	67.0	63.7	75.3	70.1	76.8
2002	61.9	68.1	64.5	77.0	71.4	77.9
2003	62.7	68.5	65.1	76.7	71.6	79.0
2004	64.5	69.4	66.6	77.0	72.4	79.3
2005	64.7	70.6	67.2	77.4	72.8	78.7
2006	64.3	69.4	66.4	78.2	72.9	79.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 6
Employment of women with children, by family status and age of youngest child,
1976 to 2006

	Female lone parents				Women with partners			
	Youngest child under age 3	Youngest child aged 3 to 5	Youngest child aged 6 to 15	Total with children under age 16	Youngest child under age 3	Youngest child aged 3 to 5	Youngest child aged 6 to 15	Total with children under age 16
	percentage							
1976	27.6	45.1	54.0	48.3	27.6	36.0	45.5	38.3
1977	31.1	47.8	55.3	50.0	29.3	37.0	46.5	39.4
1978	31.2	43.2	55.4	49.3	32.1	40.3	48.4	42.0
1979	34.8	45.9	55.8	50.6	34.6	42.5	50.2	44.0
1980	36.4	50.9	59.5	53.9	37.0	44.6	52.7	46.3
1981	32.5	51.8	61.5	54.5	39.7	46.0	55.4	48.7
1982	31.9	48.7	57.5	51.3	39.9	46.2	55.0	48.5
1983	30.7	44.6	55.4	48.9	42.9	48.4	55.0	49.9
1984	30.2	45.1	57.9	50.6	45.1	49.7	56.9	51.8
1985	34.3	47.0	58.4	51.5	47.7	52.7	59.2	54.3
1986	29.7	47.0	60.0	51.5	51.0	55.5	62.1	57.3
1987	33.2	50.3	60.3	52.8	51.8	57.0	64.4	59.0
1988	32.8	50.6	62.9	54.2	53.6	59.4	67.1	61.3
1989	30.2	50.7	65.2	55.1	55.0	60.6	69.7	63.3
1990	31.3	49.6	65.3	54.9	55.5	61.2	71.0	64.2
1991	30.9	47.5	62.3	52.1	57.0	62.3	70.3	64.5
1992	27.2	43.7	61.0	49.6	57.3	62.3	69.3	64.2
1993	25.3	44.3	59.0	48.0	58.3	62.4	70.4	65.0
1994	27.7	47.2	60.3	50.1	59.5	61.7	70.3	65.3
1995	28.9	41.8	61.0	49.9	59.4	64.2	71.7	66.4
1996	32.9	46.2	62.6	53.1	61.0	63.3	71.4	66.6
1997	35.6	49.8	63.7	54.9	61.9	64.9	72.8	68.0
1998	33.1	51.9	66.4	56.6	62.9	66.4	73.4	69.1
1999	37.5	55.2	69.2	60.7	62.8	68.3	74.4	69.9
2000	42.4	55.7	71.7	63.0	62.6	69.7	75.0	70.4
2001	45.5	61.0	73.7	66.5	63.2	68.3	75.7	70.9
2002	46.2	60.2	74.4	67.1	63.7	69.7	77.7	72.3
2003	46.5	61.1	75.2	68.3	64.5	69.9	77.1	72.3
2004	46.1	63.3	74.9	68.3	66.4	70.6	77.5	73.2
2005	47.2	64.6	75.8	69.2	66.8	71.8	77.9	73.6
2006	46.3	66.2	76.6	69.9	66.4	70.1	78.6	73.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 7
Part-time employment, 1976 to 2006

	Women employed part-time (thousands)	Percentage of women employed part-time ¹	Percentage of men employed part-time ¹	Women as a percentage of total part-time employment
1976	854.2	23.6	5.9	70.1
1977	906.2	24.3	6.2	70.2
1978	952.8	24.4	6.3	70.6
1979	1,040.3	25.1	6.5	70.9
1980	1,117.1	25.7	6.8	71.2
1981	1,187.4	26.1	7.2	70.9
1982	1,229.3	27.2	8.0	70.6
1983	1,287.8	28.0	8.7	69.7
1984	1,309.5	27.6	8.9	69.2
1985	1,396.9	28.3	8.8	70.3
1986	1,417.1	27.6	8.9	69.8
1987	1,444.4	27.2	8.6	70.4
1988	1,512.3	27.3	8.7	70.8
1989	1,524.0	26.7	8.7	70.5
1990	1,551.3	26.7	9.2	69.9
1991	1,616.8	27.9	10.1	69.3
1992	1,627.6	28.2	10.5	69.0
1993	1,676.6	28.9	11.1	68.3
1994	1,702.8	28.8	10.8	68.9
1995	1,717.0	28.4	10.7	68.8
1996	1,769.1	29.0	10.8	69.1
1997	1,829.4	29.3	10.5	69.9
1998	1,841.2	28.6	10.5	69.7
1999	1,842.2	27.9	10.3	69.6
2000	1,847.5	27.2	10.3	69.2
2001	1,863.2	27.0	10.4	68.9
2002	1,974.6	27.7	11.0	68.8
2003	2,041.9	27.9	11.1	68.8
2004	2,027.6	27.2	10.9	68.8
2005	2,032.8	26.8	10.8	68.6
2006	2,028.5	26.1	10.8	68.2

1. Expressed as a percentage of total employed.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 8
Percentage employed part-time,¹ by age, 1976 to 2006

	People aged							
	15 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 54		55 to 64	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	percentage							
1976	24.8	17.9	21.8	1.5	24.0	1.4	24.7	3.7
1977	25.6	18.4	22.3	1.8	25.0	1.7	25.7	3.7
1978	26.1	18.5	22.1	1.7	25.7	1.8	25.8	4.2
1979	27.6	19.0	22.4	1.7	26.2	1.8	26.1	4.7
1980	27.9	19.8	23.0	1.9	27.0	2.0	27.7	4.4
1981	29.0	21.3	23.1	2.1	27.3	2.1	27.6	4.4
1982	32.3	24.6	23.3	2.6	28.0	2.6	29.6	5.0
1983	34.3	26.7	23.9	3.2	27.9	2.9	30.0	6.2
1984	35.6	27.4	22.8	3.2	27.1	2.9	30.2	5.7
1985	36.8	27.7	23.7	3.2	27.4	2.9	29.8	6.0
1986	37.4	28.3	22.8	3.2	26.8	2.8	30.4	6.7
1987	37.6	27.8	22.3	3.1	25.5	2.7	31.7	6.5
1988	38.3	29.4	22.2	2.9	26.3	2.4	31.2	7.0
1989	39.3	30.0	21.3	2.9	24.1	2.8	32.5	7.0
1990	40.7	32.3	21.4	3.3	24.2	2.7	31.0	7.3
1991	45.1	36.4	22.3	3.9	24.0	3.4	32.0	8.5
1992	47.1	38.7	22.5	4.3	23.5	3.6	32.5	8.8
1993	50.2	40.8	23.0	5.1	23.6	3.7	33.3	9.2
1994	51.0	39.2	22.7	4.8	23.1	3.8	33.9	9.6
1995	51.2	39.4	22.7	4.7	22.2	4.3	32.5	9.6
1996	53.0	38.6	23.1	5.1	23.1	4.3	32.3	9.9
1997	53.9	37.6	23.6	5.0	23.6	4.4	32.3	10.2
1998	53.1	37.7	22.7	4.9	22.9	4.4	32.4	10.5
1999	51.6	37.2	22.2	4.4	21.9	4.3	31.4	10.3
2000	51.0	36.6	21.3	4.4	21.4	4.2	30.0	10.4
2001	50.4	36.8	21.1	4.7	21.3	4.4	29.1	9.9
2002	52.4	37.6	21.2	4.9	21.4	4.5	31.3	10.8
2003	52.8	37.7	21.2	4.9	21.3	4.7	31.0	10.7
2004	52.2	37.4	20.5	4.7	20.6	4.3	29.6	10.7
2005	52.4	36.8	20.0	4.9	20.1	4.5	29.3	10.3
2006	51.5	36.6	19.3	4.7	19.5	4.5	28.3	10.6

1. Expressed as a percentage of total employed.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 9
Reasons for part-time work, by age, 2006

	Women aged				Men aged			
	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 and over	Total	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 and over	Total
	percentage							
Own illness	0.4	2.9	5.7	3.0	0.6	5.1	6.0	3.1
Caring for children	1.6	35.5	5.8	14.6	F	4.0	1.4	1.3
Other personal/family responsibilities	0.6	4.5	5.7	3.7	0.6	2.0	2.1	1.3
Going to school	74.1	8.0	0.9	26.7	76.2	18.9	0.7	41.7
Personal preference	5.9	19.8	57.3	28.1	5.6	20.9	60.4	25.4
Other voluntary	0.3	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.4	2.5	1.3	1.1
Other ¹	17.1	28.2	23.8	23.2	16.4	46.8	28.2	26.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed part-time (thousands)	648.4	690.1	690.0	2,028.5	467.7	189.7	288.7	946.1
Percentage employed part-time ²	51.5	19.3	23.6	26.1	36.6	4.7	8.4	10.8

F too unreliable to be published

1. Includes business conditions and unable to find full-time work.

2. Expressed as a percentage of total employed.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 10
Self-employment, 1976 to 2006

	Self-employed women (thousands)	Self-employed men (thousands)	Percentage of women self-employed ¹	Percentage of men self-employed ¹	Women as a percentage of total self-employment
1976	311.6	873.4	8.6	14.2	26.3
1977	329.8	880.4	8.8	14.2	27.2
1978	353.1	910.3	9.0	14.4	27.9
1979	380.1	944.6	9.2	14.4	28.7
1980	391.7	971.9	9.0	14.6	28.7
1981	404.6	1,020.6	8.9	15.1	28.4
1982	426.5	1,056.7	9.4	16.4	28.8
1983	448.7	1,094.5	9.7	17.1	29.1
1984	473.3	1,096.4	10.0	16.7	30.2
1985	537.2	1,188.9	10.9	17.8	31.1
1986	498.5	1,175.6	9.7	17.1	29.8
1987	513.3	1,185.8	9.7	16.9	30.2
1988	541.0	1,233.1	9.8	17.2	30.4
1989	559.6	1,240.7	9.8	17.0	31.1
1990	573.0	1,263.6	9.9	17.4	31.2
1991	582.6	1,313.2	10.1	18.6	30.7
1992	610.8	1,316.7	10.6	18.9	31.7
1993	649.4	1,361.7	11.2	19.4	32.3
1994	676.7	1,351.7	11.4	18.9	33.4
1995	701.3	1,381.8	11.6	19.0	33.7
1996	744.8	1,426.8	12.2	19.4	34.3
1997	827.2	1,522.2	13.3	20.4	35.2
1998	855.1	1,550.6	13.3	20.4	35.5
1999	850.2	1,582.8	12.9	20.3	34.9
2000	835.1	1,538.7	12.3	19.3	35.2
2001	773.4	1,503.3	11.2	18.7	34.0
2002	814.7	1,499.7	11.4	18.3	35.2
2003	830.7	1,571.1	11.3	18.8	34.6
2004	838.9	1,614.5	11.2	19.0	34.2
2005	866.0	1,645.6	11.4	19.1	34.4
2006	876.6	1,621.4	11.3	18.6	35.1

1. Expressed as a percentage of total employed.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 11
Distribution of employment, by occupation, 1987, 1996 and 2006

	1987			1996			2006		
	Women	Men	Women as a percentage of total employed in occupation	Women	Men	Women as a percentage of total employed in occupation	Women	Men	Women as a percentage of total employed in occupation
Managerial									
Senior management	0.3	0.8	21.0	0.3	0.7	27.2	0.3	0.8	26.3
Other management	5.7	9.7	30.7	7.8	10.9	37.5	6.7	10.2	36.9
Total management	6.0	10.5	30.1	8.2	11.6	37.0	7.1	11.0	36.3
Professional									
Business and finance	1.9	2.3	38.3	2.8	2.7	46.9	3.3	2.8	51.6
Natural sciences/ engineering/ mathematics	2.3	7.0	19.6	2.3	8.0	19.1	3.2	10.1	22.0
Social sciences/ religion	4.3	2.0	61.4	6.0	2.3	68.8	6.7	2.4	71.3
Teaching	3.8	2.6	52.3	5.1	2.8	60.1	5.6	2.8	63.9
Doctors/dentists/ other health	0.9	0.9	43.1	1.2	1.1	48.1	1.4	1.0	55.3
Nursing/ therapy/other health-related	8.3	0.9	87.1	8.3	1.0	87.0	8.9	1.1	87.4
Artistic/literary/ recreational	2.7	2.1	48.4	3.1	2.4	51.5	3.4	2.6	54.1
Total professional	24.1	18.0	50.4	28.8	20.3	54.2	32.5	22.9	55.9
Clerical and administrative	29.7	7.9	73.9	25.6	7.2	74.9	24.1	7.1	75.0
Sales and service	30.0	18.4	55.2	28.6	19.2	55.4	28.6	19.3	56.8
Primary	2.3	7.2	19.7	2.1	6.5	20.9	1.5	5.3	20.5
Trades, transport and construction	2.1	28.9	5.2	2.1	26.4	6.1	2.1	26.3	6.5
Processing, manufacturing and utilities	5.8	9.1	32.4	4.7	8.8	30.6	4.1	8.1	31.1
Total ¹	100.0	100.0	43.0	100.0	100.0	45.4	100.0	100.0	47.1
Total employed (thousands)	5,307.7	7,025.3	...	6,099.0	7,322.4	...	7,757.2	8,727.1	...

... not applicable

1. Includes occupations that are not classified.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 12
Unemployment, 1976 to 2006

	Women		Men	
	Total unemployed (thousands)	Unemployment rate (percentage)	Total unemployed (thousands)	Unemployment rate (percentage)
1976	323.4	8.2	420.3	6.4
1977	376.5	9.2	491.5	7.4
1978	412.1	9.5	522.2	7.6
1979	394.1	8.7	474.1	6.8
1980	395.0	8.3	500.3	7.0
1981	410.1	8.3	520.7	7.2
1982	543.2	10.7	81.5	11.2
1983	602.2	11.6	903.5	12.3
1984	605.6	11.3	840.6	11.4
1985	590.8	10.7	794.3	10.6
1986	560.2	9.9	725.3	9.6
1987	538.1	9.2	654.9	8.5
1988	493.4	8.2	576.1	7.4
1989	480.4	7.8	580.4	7.4
1990	511.4	8.1	646.8	8.2
1991	621.3	9.7	857.7	10.8
1992	654.8	10.2	950.4	12.0
1993	693.1	10.7	949.1	11.9
1994	642.6	9.8	872.4	10.9
1995	605.2	9.1	788.7	9.8
1996	625.4	9.3	806.8	9.9
1997	610.0	8.9	763.1	9.3
1998	558.6	8.0	711.5	8.5
1999	521.2	7.3	660.4	7.8
2000	487.5	6.7	595.3	6.9
2001	508.5	6.9	655.1	7.5
2002	547.2	7.1	721.7	8.1
2003	566.6	7.2	719.6	7.9
2004	549.9	6.9	685.4	7.5
2005	523.8	6.5	649.0	7.0
2006	500.1	6.1	608.3	6.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 13
Unemployment rates, by age, 1976 to 2006

	Labour force participants aged							
	15 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 64		Total ¹	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	percentage							
1976	11.6	13.0	7.4	4.7	5.0	3.8	8.2	6.4
1977	13.0	14.5	8.0	5.4	6.1	4.6	9.2	7.4
1978	13.3	14.6	8.6	5.7	6.3	5.1	9.5	7.6
1979	12.4	12.9	7.7	5.1	5.6	4.4	8.7	6.8
1980	12.2	13.4	7.0	5.4	5.8	4.3	8.3	7.0
1981	11.7	13.7	7.5	5.5	5.2	4.4	8.3	7.2
1982	15.5	20.7	9.6	9.4	7.1	7.0	10.7	11.2
1983	16.4	21.8	10.5	10.7	8.1	8.0	11.6	12.3
1984	15.4	19.1	10.6	10.1	8.2	7.8	11.3	11.4
1985	14.3	17.6	10.2	9.4	7.8	7.7	10.7	10.6
1986	13.3	16.2	9.3	8.5	7.5	6.6	9.9	9.6
1987	12.0	14.3	8.7	7.6	7.6	6.2	9.2	8.5
1988	10.5	12.4	7.9	6.7	6.6	5.5	8.2	7.4
1989	9.6	12.2	7.9	6.7	5.9	5.5	7.8	7.4
1990	11.0	13.5	7.9	7.6	6.2	5.9	8.1	8.2
1991	12.9	18.5	9.3	10.2	8.0	7.5	9.7	10.8
1992	14.5	19.7	9.6	11.5	8.2	8.6	10.2	12.0
1993	14.4	19.7	10.3	11.3	9.0	9.0	10.7	11.9
1994	13.7	17.9	9.5	10.2	7.9	8.5	9.8	10.9
1995	13.2	16.3	8.7	9.2	7.4	7.6	9.1	9.8
1996	13.8	16.9	8.9	9.4	7.5	7.5	9.3	9.9
1997	15.3	17.1	8.1	8.5	6.8	6.9	8.9	9.3
1998	13.6	16.6	7.3	7.5	6.2	6.5	8.0	8.5
1999	12.7	15.3	6.7	6.9	5.5	5.9	7.3	7.8
2000	11.4	13.8	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.2	6.7	6.9
2001	11.1	14.5	6.3	6.7	5.4	5.6	6.9	7.5
2002	11.7	15.3	6.7	7.2	5.5	6.1	7.1	8.1
2003	11.8	15.3	6.8	6.9	5.5	6.2	7.2	7.9
2004	11.7	14.9	6.4	6.6	5.2	5.5	6.9	7.5
2005	10.6	14.2	6.0	6.1	5.2	5.3	6.5	7.0
2006	10.4	12.8	5.6	5.7	4.7	5.0	6.1	6.5

1. Includes those aged 65 and over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 14
Unemployment rates, by age and province, 2006

	Labour force participants aged							
	15 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 64		Total ¹	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	percentage							
Newfoundland and Labrador	19.3	26.0	12.0	16.2	11.4	14.0	12.9	16.6
Prince Edward Island	10.0	18.6	9.3	12.5	9.4	10.5	9.3	12.9
Nova Scotia	10.9	16.5	6.0	8.1	5.0	7.7	6.5	9.4
New Brunswick	11.4	16.2	6.4	9.0	6.2	9.5	7.1	10.3
Quebec	12.0	15.0	6.9	7.7	6.4	7.0	7.5	8.5
Ontario	12.0	14.3	5.6	5.5	4.3	4.3	6.2	6.4
Manitoba	7.2	10.3	3.7	3.7	3.2	2.8	4.1	4.5
Saskatchewan	8.3	8.8	4.2	4.2	2.7	4.1	4.4	4.9
Alberta	6.0	7.5	3.2	2.5	2.8	2.4	3.6	3.3
British Columbia	7.3	9.2	4.6	3.9	4.1	3.5	4.9	4.6

1. Includes those aged 65 and over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 15
Unemployed, by reason for leaving last job, 2006

	Women		Men	
	thousands	percentage	thousands	percentage
Own illness/disability	14.2	2.8	13.2	2.2
Personal/family reasons	15.3	3.1	6.2	1.0
Going to school	27.3	5.4	30.4	5.0
Lost job/laid off	192.8	38.6	308.1	50.6
Retired	2.5	0.4	4.6	0.8
Other reasons	64.1	12.8	77.8	12.8
Had not worked in last year	125.5	25.1	119.7	19.7
Never worked	58.5	11.7	48.4	8.0
Total	500.1	100.0	608.3	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.