Self-employment in Canada, 2018

Share of workers in each age group who were self-employed







25 to 54



55 and older



15% (2.9 million) of the total Canadian workforce was **self-employed** in 2018.

Among the self-employed, **62%** were **men** and **38%** were **women**.



Older workers were more likely to be self-employed than **younger** workers.

Occupations with the highest proportion of self-employed workers:







72% Managers in food service and accommodation



Optometrists, chiropractors and other health diagnosing 72% and treating professionals





Top four reasons for being self-employed:



Independence, freedom, being one's own boss



Nature of job







About **3 in 10** self-employed workers cited independence, freedom and being their own boss as the main reason for their choice of self-employment.

Men (38%) were more likely than women (26%) to indicate independence as their top reason for self-employment.





Women were more likely to cite work-family balance (15%) or flexible hours (11%) as their main reason for self-employment compared with men (5% and 7% respectively).

Note: For more information, see the Guide to the Labour Force Survey (71-543-G). Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

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