

Family matters

Splitting household tasks: Who does what?

In 2017, the tasks of doing the dishes, grocery shopping and organizing the household's social life were shared equally between men and women who were married or living in a common-law relationship.¹

Doing the dishes²

50%



Grocery shopping

49%



Organizing the household's social life

49%



Tasks mostly done by women

Tasks mostly done by men

Laundry

61%



Meal preparation

56%



Outdoor work and repairs

78%



The distribution of some household tasks depended on who was in the labour force.



Meal preparation

26%

Equally shared between spouses or partners when **men were the sole earners.**

38%

Equally shared between spouses or partners when **both were working.**³



Laundry

64%

Mostly done by **women** when men **were the sole earners.**

55%

Mostly done by **women** when **both spouses or partners were working.**



Bookkeeping and bill payments

48%

Mostly done by **men** when **they were the sole earners.**

31%

Mostly done by **men** when **both spouses or partners were working.**



1. The data cover persons aged 20 and older in Canada who were married or living common-law at the time of the survey. Respondents living in the same household with a spouse or partner of the opposite sex are considered. Given the nature of the analysis, which compares how household tasks are shared between genders, same-sex couples are not included in this study. According to this survey, persons in same-sex couples represent 0.7% of the Canadian population.

2. The proportions represent the percentage of men and women who reported that a certain task was mostly done by one spouse or partner, or done equally by both. For example, 50% of Canadians reported that the task of doing the dishes was equally done by men and women.

3. Employed or self-employed.

Source: General Social Survey – Family, 2017.

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