

Article

Social fact sheet



March 8, 2010

Standard symbols for Statistics Canada

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^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

Table 1 Estimates of population, by sex, for July 1, Canada, select years

	1981	1991	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	number								
Sex									
Men	12,351,233	13,904,391	15,675,460	15,825,754	15,979,800	16,147,873	16,325,702	16,524,504	16,732,476
Women	12,468,682	14,133,029	15,964,210	16,114,922	16,265,409	16,428,201	16,606,254	16,802,833	17,007,383
	years								
Median age									
Men	28.8	32.5	37.1	37.4	37.7	38.0	38.2	38.4	38.6
Women	30.2	34.0	38.9	39.2	39.6	39.9	40.1	40.3	40.5

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0001.

- In 1981 Canada's population was approximately 25 million. In 2009, the population was estimated to be almost 34 million. In recent years, much of the population growth has been a result of international migration.
- The population of Canada continues to age. In 2009, the median age for the Canadian population was 39.5 years. The median age of women was 40.5 compared to 38.6 for men. Fertility rates persistently below the generation replacement level and an increasing life expectancy are the main factors explaining the ageing process of the Canadian population.

Table 2 Life expectancy at birth and at age 65, by sex, Canada, select years

	1981	1991	2003	2004	2005	2006
	years					
Life expectancy						
At birth	75.6	77.8	79.9	80.2	80.4	80.8
Men	72.1	74.6	77.4	77.8	78.0	78.4
Women	79.3	80.9	82.4	82.6	82.7	83.0
At age 65	17.0	18.0	19.2	19.5	19.6	19.9
Men	14.7	15.8	17.4	17.7	17.9	18.2
Women	19.2	19.9	20.8	21.0	21.1	21.4

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Tables 102-0511 and 102-0025.

- Life expectancy in Canada continues to increase. Life expectancy at birth was 81 years in 2006, compared with 76 years in 1981. A girl born in 2006 can expect to live 83 years; a boy can expect to live 78 years.
- The difference in life expectancy for men and women is decreasing. In 1981 there was a difference in life expectancy of 7.2 years for women and men. By 2006 this difference had shrunk to 4.6 years.
- Life expectancy at age 65 is also increasing for Canadians. For someone who was 65 in 1981, they could expect to live another 17 years compared to 20 years for someone who was 65 in 2006.
- Between 1981 and 2006, the increase in life expectancy for men at age 65 was impressive. For example, in 1981 a male aged 65 could expect to live another 14.7 years compared with a female who could expect to live another 19.2 years. By 2006, a 65 year old man could expect to live another 18.2 years compared to 21.4 years for a 65 year old woman.

Table 3 Indicators of well-being, by sex, Canada, select years

	2003	2005	2007	2008
percentage of population 12 years and older				
Life satisfaction (very satisfied or satisfied)				
Total	91.3	91.8	91.9	91.4
Men	91.3	91.9	92.0	91.5
Women	91.4	91.7	91.8	91.2
Life stress (quite a lot)				
Total	24.1	22.9	22.5	22.3
Men	23.4	21.9	21.5	21.2
Women	24.8	23.8	23.5	23.4
Sense of belonging to local community (somewhat strong or very strong)				
Total	63.9	64.4	64.6	65.0
Men	63.5	64.0	63.9	65.0
Women	64.2	64.7	65.4	64.9

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 105-0501.

- More than 9 out of 10 women and men stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their life in general in 2008.
- Men and women were equally likely to feel stress. For example, in 2008 a little more than 1 in 5 men and women stated that they had quite a lot of life stress.
- Research has shown that having a strong sense of belonging to one's community is highly correlated with physical and mental well-being. Between 2003 and 2008, about 65% of Canadians stated that they had a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging to their community.

Table 4 Health indicators, by sex, Canada, select years

	2003	2005	2007	2008
percentage of population 12 years and older				
Health (very good or excellent)				
Total	58.4	60.1	59.6	58.9
Men	59.5	60.6	60.3	59.1
Women	57.2	59.6	59.0	58.7
Health (fair or poor)				
Total	11.3	11.2	11.3	11.4
Men	10.3	10.7	10.9	11.2
Women	12.4	11.7	11.8	11.7
Mental health (very good or excellent)				
Total	73.4	74.4	74.8	74.4
Men	73.6	75.0	75.5	75.3
Women	73.3	73.9	74.1	73.4
Mental health (fair or poor)				
Total	4.7	4.9	4.7	5.1
Men	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.7
Women	5.1	5.2	4.7	5.5
Participation or activity limitation				
Total	31.3	29.7	31.3	29.0
Men	29.5	28.6	29.6	27.9
Women	33.1	30.9	33.0	30.1
Diabetes				
Total	4.6	4.9	5.8	5.9
Men	4.9	5.4	6.4	6.3
Women	4.3	4.4	5.2	5.4
High blood pressure				
Total	14.4	15.0	16.0	16.4
Men	13.4	14.2	15.1	15.9
Women	15.4	15.7	16.8	16.9
Asthma				
Total	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.4
Men	7.1	6.9	6.7	7.3
Women	9.6	9.7	9.4	9.5
Arthritis				
Total	16.8	16.4	15.0	15.3
Men	12.6	12.5	11.8	12.0
Women	20.8	20.1	18.1	18.5
Body mass index – overweight (self reported)^{1,2}				
Total	34.1	34.2	34.0	33.8
Men	41.3	41.2	40.9	40.2
Women	26.8	27.1	27.1	27.4

Table 4 Health indicators, by sex, Canada, select years (continued)

	2003	2005	2007	2008
percentage of population 12 years and older				
Body mass index – obese (self reported)^{1,2}				
Total	15.3	15.8	16.8	17.2
Men	16.0	16.9	17.9	18.3
Women	14.5	14.7	15.8	16.2

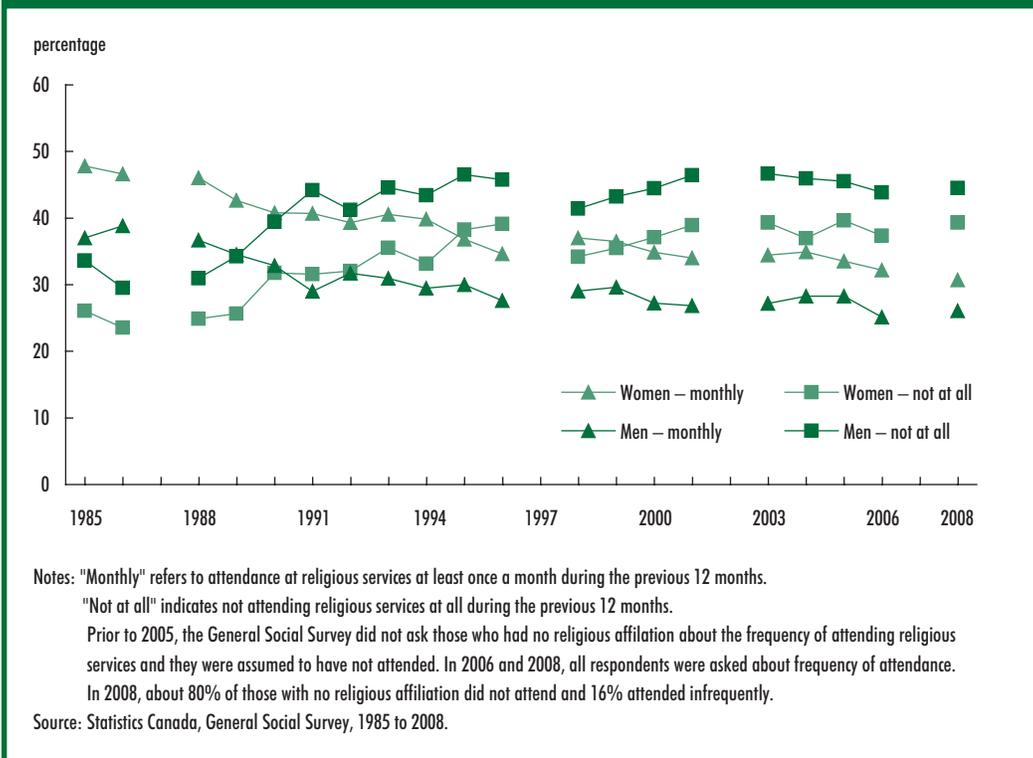
1. For those 18 years of age and over.

2. Body mass index (BMI) is a method of classifying body weight according to health risk, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and Health Canada guidelines. It is calculated by dividing the respondent's body weight (in kilograms) by their height (in metres) squared.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 105-0501.

- While women and men were equally likely to state that their health was very good or excellent in 2008, women were slightly more likely than men to state they have a participation or activity limitation (30% vs. 28%).
- The incidence of high blood pressure increased between 2003 and 2008 from about 14% to just over 16%. The increase occurred among both men and women and by 2008 about 16% of men and 17% of women had high blood pressure.
- Women were more likely to have arthritis or asthma than men. In 2008, close to 10% of women compared to 7% of men had asthma. The proportion of women with arthritis was about 19% compared to 12% of men.

Chart 1 Religious attendance rates, by sex, 1985 to 2008



- Women were more likely to attend a religious service at least once a month over the 1985 to 2008 period than were men. However, by 2008 the difference between monthly attendance rates for men and women had declined.

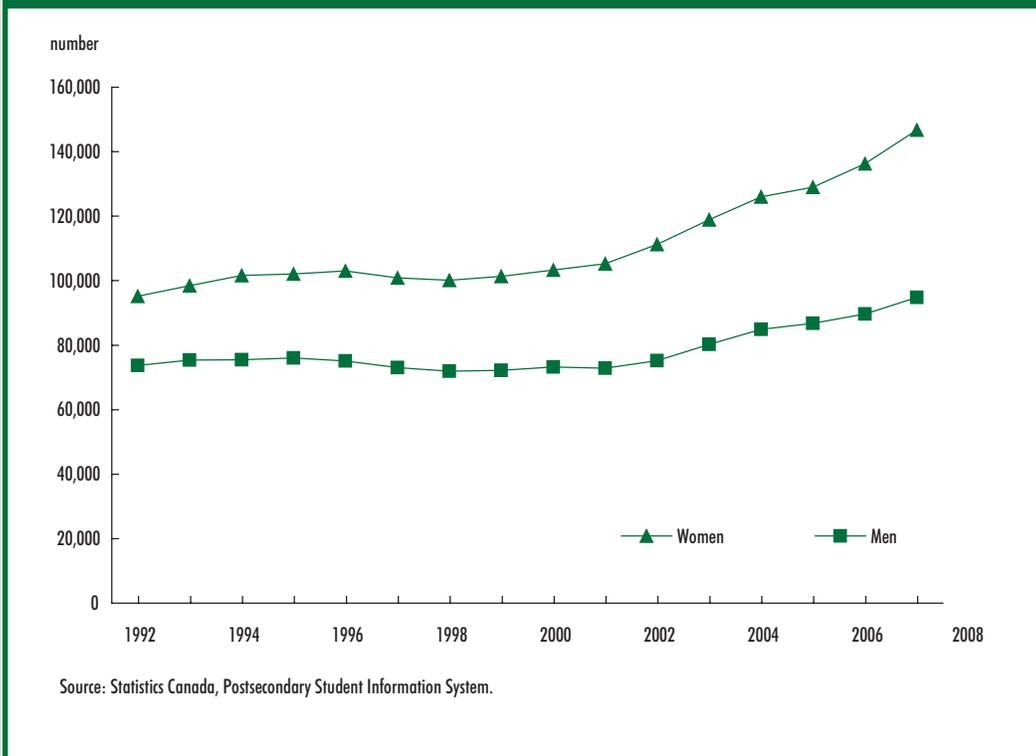
Table 5 Highest level of educational attainment for the population aged 25 to 64, by sex, Canada, 2001 and 2006

	2001	2006
	percentage	
No certificate, diploma or degree¹	24.6	15.4
Men	25.3	16.4
Women	23.9	14.5
High school certificate or equivalent¹	22.0	23.9
Men	20.6	22.8
Women	23.4	25.0
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	12.9	12.4
Men	16.5	16.0
Women	9.3	9.0
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	17.9	20.3
Men	15.0	17.9
Women	20.7	22.6
University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level²	2.9	5.0
Men	2.4	4.3
Women	3.4	5.6
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor's level or above	19.7	22.9
Men	20.2	22.6
Women	19.2	23.3

1. When observing 2001-2006 trends for "No degree, certificate or diploma" and "High school graduation certificate or equivalent", readers should be aware that the census questionnaire was redesigned for 2006 to address suspected underreporting of high school completion.
2. Users should be aware that in 2006 there was unexpected growth in the 'University certificate or diploma below the bachelor level' category compared to the 2001 Census. It is recommended that no comparison be made between 2001 and 2006 data for this category.

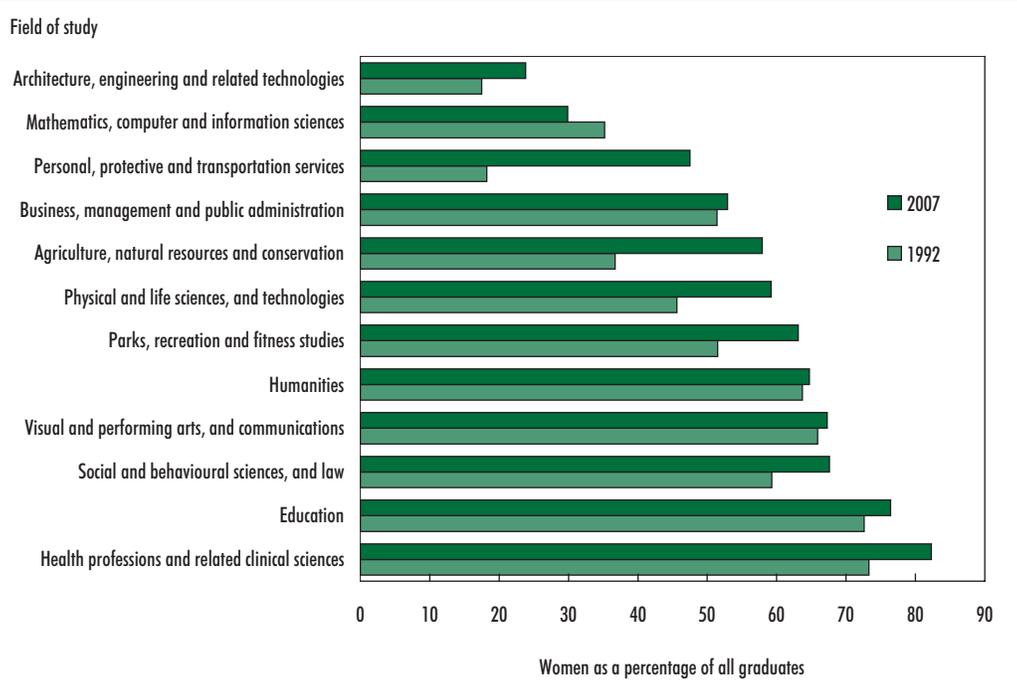
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of population, 2001 and 2006.

- Six out of every 10 adults aged between 25 and 64 had completed some form of postsecondary education in 2006, according to the census. Men and women were equally likely to have some type of postsecondary education.
- Just under one-quarter (24%) of the adults aged 25 to 64 had a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment, while 15% had less than a high school education.
- The proportion of men and women who had a university certificate, diploma or degree at the bachelor's level or above increased between 2001 and 2006. For example, in 2001, 19.2% of women and 20.2% of men had a bachelor's degree or higher. By 2006, 23.3% of women and 22.6% of men had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Chart 2 Among university graduates, women continue to outnumber men

- The number of students graduating from Canadian universities rose 43% between 1992 and 2007, increasing from 169,000 in 1992 to 242,000 in 2007. The number of both male and female graduates has grown steadily since 2002, following a period of stagnant growth in the mid-1990s.
- In 2007, women made up almost 61% of all university graduates up from 56% in 1992.

Chart 3 Women now make up nearly 60% of all university graduates in the physical and life sciences



Source: Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Student Information System.

- Women have increased their share of university graduates such that in 2007, they accounted for more than 50% of graduates in all fields, except for three: architecture and engineering; mathematics and computer sciences; and personal, protective and transportation services.
- Women increased their share of graduates from less than 50% in 1992 to over 50% in 2007 in two fields—physical and life sciences; and agriculture, natural resources and conservation.