

Article

Economic fact sheet



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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 Labour force characteristics, by sex, Canada, 1998 to 2009

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
in thousands												
Labour force												
Total	15,316.3	15,588.3	15,847.0	16,109.8	16,579.3	16,958.5	17,182.3	17,342.6	17,592.8	17,945.8	18,245.1	18,368.7
Men	8,324.3	8,457.6	8,569.2	8,690.9	8,906.2	9,067.7	9,166.0	9,243.7	9,335.4	9,492.8	9,654.0	9,684.6
Women	6,992.0	7,130.7	7,277.8	7,418.9	7,673.1	7,890.9	8,016.3	8,098.8	8,257.3	8,453.0	8,591.2	8,684.1
Employed												
Total	14,046.2	14,406.7	14,764.2	14,946.2	15,310.4	15,672.3	15,947.0	16,169.7	16,484.3	16,866.4	17,125.8	16,848.9
Men	7,612.8	7,797.2	7,973.9	8,035.8	8,184.4	8,348.1	8,480.6	8,594.7	8,727.1	8,888.9	9,021.3	8,772.7
Women	6,433.4	6,609.6	6,790.4	6,910.3	7,126.0	7,324.2	7,466.4	7,575.0	7,757.2	7,977.5	8,104.5	8,076.2
Full-time employment¹												
Total	11,403.4	11,759.5	12,093.6	12,242.5	12,439.3	12,705.3	12,998.1	13,206.2	13,509.7	13,803.1	13,976.6	13,628.3
Men	6,811.2	6,992.1	7,150.8	7,195.3	7,287.9	7,423.0	7,559.3	7,664.0	7,781.0	7,909.9	8,008.0	7,726.3
Women	4,592.2	4,767.4	4,942.8	5,047.1	5,151.4	5,282.3	5,438.8	5,542.3	5,728.7	5,893.2	5,968.7	5,902.0
Part-time employment												
Total	2,642.8	2,647.3	2,670.6	2,703.7	2,871.1	2,967.0	2,948.9	2,963.5	2,974.7	3,063.3	3,149.2	3,220.5
Men	801.6	805.1	823.1	840.5	896.5	925.0	921.3	930.7	946.1	979.0	1,013.3	1,046.4
Women	1,841.2	1,842.2	1,847.5	1,863.2	1,974.6	2,041.9	2,027.6	2,032.8	2,028.5	2,084.3	2,135.9	2,174.2
Unemployed												
Total	1,270.1	1,181.6	1,082.8	1,163.6	1,268.9	1,286.2	1,235.3	1,172.8	1,108.4	1,079.4	1,119.3	1,519.8
Men	711.5	660.4	595.3	655.1	721.7	719.6	685.4	649.0	608.3	603.9	632.6	912.0
Women	558.6	521.2	487.5	508.5	547.2	566.6	549.9	523.8	500.1	475.5	486.6	607.9
Not in the labour force												
Total	8,206.4	8,198.6	8,247.2	8,334.5	8,218.0	8,147.9	8,261.1	8,462.9	8,592.4	8,607.5	8,679.5	8,940.5
Men	3,224.6	3,225.3	3,273.4	3,333.5	3,294.8	3,284.0	3,349.2	3,448.9	3,547.2	3,572.5	3,597.8	3,761.8
Women	4,981.8	4,973.3	4,973.8	5,001.0	4,923.1	4,863.9	4,911.9	5,014.0	5,045.1	5,035.0	5,081.7	5,178.7

Table 1 Labour force characteristics, by sex, Canada, 1998 to 2009 (continued)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
percentage												
Unemployment rate												
Total	8.3	7.6	6.8	7.2	7.7	7.6	7.2	6.8	6.3	6.0	6.1	8.3
Men	8.5	7.8	6.9	7.5	8.1	7.9	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.6	9.4
Women	8.0	7.3	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.1	5.6	5.7	7.0
Employment rate												
Total	59.7	60.6	61.3	61.1	61.7	62.4	62.7	62.7	63.0	63.5	63.6	61.7
Men	65.9	66.7	67.3	66.8	67.1	67.6	67.8	67.7	67.7	68.0	68.1	65.2
Women	53.7	54.6	55.4	55.6	56.6	57.4	57.8	57.8	58.3	59.1	59.3	58.3

1. Full-time employment is for those working 30 hours or more per week at their main or only job.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 282-0002.

- In 2009, women made up 47% of the labour force. While women continued to be more likely to work part-time than men, close to 73% of women who worked were full-time workers, up from 71% in 1998.
- Between 1998 and 2008 the employment rate increased from about 60% to almost 64%. This was the result of an expanding economy and job growth. The employment rate for men increased from about 66% to 68%. The growth in the employment rate for women was more pronounced increasing from 54% to 59% between 1998 and 2008. In 2009 however, the employment rate contracted for both women and men.
- After several years of decline—the unemployment rate in Canada climbed to 8.3% in 2009. While both men and women experienced increasing rates of unemployment, the increase was more profound for men. Between 2008 and 2009 the number of unemployed men increased by 44%, as the unemployment rate for men climbed from 6.6% to 9.4% in 2009. For women, the number unemployed increased by 25% between 2008 and 2009, resulting in an increase in the unemployment rate for women—from 5.7% to 7.0%.
- For each year between 1998 and 2008 the number of individuals working full-time grew. However, in 2009 the number of men working full-time declined by 3.5% and women experienced a 1.1% decline in the number working full-time. At the same time, the number of men and women working part-time continued to increase.

Table 2 Average hourly wages of employees aged 15 and older by sex, job permanence and union coverage, by sex, Canada, annual, 1998 to 2008

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
average hourly wages¹ in dollars											
All employees(permanent and temporary)	15.78	16.17	16.66	17.22	17.66	18.04	18.50	19.09	19.72	20.41	21.32
Men	17.32	17.79	18.38	18.98	19.37	19.75	20.16	20.74	21.43	22.17	23.18
Women	14.10	14.42	14.81	15.35	15.84	16.26	16.78	17.38	17.96	18.62	19.43
Union coverage ²	18.68	19.05	19.46	19.89	20.51	20.98	21.57	22.15	22.73	23.51	24.46
Men	19.63	20.05	20.48	20.95	21.42	21.96	22.44	22.96	23.58	24.32	25.28
Women	17.57	17.91	18.30	18.72	19.53	19.92	20.66	21.30	21.86	22.71	23.65
Non-union coverage ³	14.35	14.80	15.32	15.94	16.31	16.65	17.08	17.65	18.33	18.98	19.89
Men	16.12	16.67	17.33	18.00	18.40	18.67	19.10	19.69	20.43	21.20	22.24
Women	12.50	12.84	13.21	13.79	14.10	14.56	14.98	15.54	16.15	16.71	17.48
Permanent employees⁴	16.27	16.69	17.24	17.81	18.27	18.62	19.12	19.73	20.38	21.07	21.98
Men	17.91	18.42	19.06	19.65	20.09	20.45	20.87	21.50	22.19	22.93	23.97
Women	14.45	14.81	15.25	15.80	16.31	16.70	17.27	17.86	18.49	19.14	19.94
Union coverage	18.87	19.29	19.71	20.15	20.78	21.24	21.87	22.43	23.07	23.82	24.79
Men	19.80	20.27	20.70	21.20	21.68	22.18	22.74	23.21	23.85	24.57	25.55
Women	17.73	18.13	18.55	18.95	19.80	20.20	20.94	21.59	22.24	23.06	24.01
Non-union coverage	14.92	15.40	16.01	16.65	17.04	17.34	17.80	18.41	19.11	19.77	20.68
Men	16.86	17.45	18.20	18.86	19.30	19.57	19.97	20.65	21.40	22.17	23.24
Women	12.89	13.25	13.69	14.30	14.63	15.04	15.53	16.07	16.72	17.29	18.04
Temporary employees⁵	12.14	12.34	12.60	13.20	13.55	13.95	14.26	14.91	15.30	15.99	16.59
Men	12.62	12.98	13.28	13.98	14.27	14.62	14.90	15.45	16.02	16.78	17.30
Women	11.67	11.71	11.94	12.48	12.87	13.31	13.68	14.40	14.64	15.25	15.91
Union coverage	16.82	16.78	17.18	17.76	18.30	18.78	19.09	19.94	20.20	21.14	21.84
Men	17.52	17.59	18.11	18.59	19.08	19.93	19.63	20.72	21.29	22.14	22.86
Women	16.23	16.05	16.38	17.01	17.63	17.79	18.66	19.29	19.30	20.32	20.99

Table 2 Average hourly wages of employees aged 15 and older by sex, job permanence and union coverage, by sex, Canada, annual, 1998 to 2008 (continued)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	average hourly wages¹ in dollars										
Non-union coverage	10.56	10.87	11.03	11.53	11.75	12.10	12.47	13.01	13.38	13.97	14.54
Men	11.13	11.55	11.75	12.33	12.56	12.74	13.30	13.60	14.12	14.85	15.33
Women	9.99	10.17	10.31	10.78	10.93	11.45	11.67	12.42	12.65	13.12	13.75

1. Information is collected on the usual wages or salary of employees at their main job. Respondents are asked to report their wage/salary before taxes and other deductions, and include tips, commissions and bonuses.
 2. Employees who are members of a union and employees who are not union members but who are covered by a collective agreement or a union contract.
 3. Employees who are not members of a union or not covered by a collective agreement or a union contract.
 4. A permanent job is one that is expected to last as long as the employee wants it, given that business conditions permit. That is, there is no pre-determined termination date.
 5. A temporary job has a predetermined end date, or will end as soon as a specified project is completed.
- Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 1998 to 2008.

- Average hourly wage growth was strong for both women and men between 1998 and 2008. Unionized workers continued to enjoy hourly wages that were higher than non-unionized workers. In 2008, unionized employees' hourly wages were about 23% higher than their non-unionized counterparts.
- In 1998, women's average hourly wages were about 81% of men's. By 2008, the average hourly wage ratio was 84% as the gap decreased. However, the size of the wage gap differed by union status. For example, women who were unionized employees had average hourly wages that were about 94% of men's in 2008 compared to 80% in 1998. The gap between women's and men's hourly wages was larger if employees were non-unionized. In 2008, non-unionized women average hourly wages were \$17.48 compared to \$22.24 for men who were non-unionized jobs, the wage ratio remained largely unchanged at 78% in 1998 and 79% in 2008.
- Temporary employees' average hourly wages were less than the wages of permanent workers at an average of \$16.59 per hour in 2008 compared to \$21.98 for permanent employees. The hourly wage ratio between women and men who were temporary workers was 92%, meaning that for every dollar earned by a man, a woman earned 92 cents. This ratio was unchanged from 1998.

Table 3 Registered pension plans and members, by sex and type of plan, Canada, 2004 to 2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	number				
All RPPs¹	14,777	15,336	15,130	18,594	19,185
All members	5,589,799	5,670,684	5,690,580	5,768,280	5,908,633
Men	2,959,631	2,976,031	2,977,758	2,973,239	3,039,988
Women	2,630,168	2,694,653	2,712,822	2,795,041	2,868,645
Defined benefit plans	7,014	7,561	7,611	11,056	11,539
Members	4,557,331	4,605,601	4,600,581	4,590,805	4,538,192
Men	2,350,783	2,347,405	2,337,151	2,282,930	2,251,795
Women	2,206,548	2,258,196	2,263,430	2,307,875	2,286,397
Defined contribution plans	7,507	7,485	7,196	7,160	7,165
Members	876,559	885,840	893,403	899,540	935,236
Men	521,157	524,102	525,998	534,214	553,361
Women	355,402	361,738	367,405	365,326	381,875
Hybrid plans²	31	32	16	15	14
Members	49,407	15,461	11,351	11,337	16,881
Men	24,300	9,938	6,198	6,194	8,663
Women	25,107	5,523	5,153	5,143	8,218
Composite or combination plans³	173	161	150	144	140
Members	64,812	96,781	92,265	140,862	151,150
Men	39,523	52,126	52,387	75,986	82,015
Women	25,289	44,655	39,878	64,876	69,135
Defined benefit and contribution plans⁴	..	38	90	145	249
Members	..	17,583	40,057	79,760	201,895
Men	..	12,628	23,118	46,895	106,796
Women	..	4,955	16,939	32,865	95,099
Other types of plans	52	59	67	74	78
Members	41,690	49,418	52,923	45,976	65,279
Men	23,868	29,832	32,906	27,020	37,358
Women	17,822	19,586	20,017	18,956	27,921

1. Registered pension plans are plans established by either employers or unions to provide retirement income to employees.
2. Hybrid plans are plans where the pension benefit is the better of that provided by defined benefit or defined contribution provisions.
3. In composite or combination plans, the pension has both defined benefit and defined contribution characteristics.
4. These plans may be for different classes of employees or one benefit type may be for current employees and the other for new employees.

Note: As of January 1.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 280-0016.

- There were more than 19,000 private and public pension plans in Canada in 2008—60% of these plans were defined benefit plans—up from 47% of plans in 2004
- In 2008, women made up about one-half of the 4.5 million members of defined benefit pension plans.
- There were about 7,200 defined contribution plans in Canada in 2008 down from around 7,500 in 2004. The majority (59%) of defined contribution plan members were men.

Table 4 Proportion of labour force and paid workers covered by a registered pension plan, by sex, Canada, select years

	1992	1997	2002	2007
number				
RPP¹ members				
Both sexes	5,244,703	5,088,455	5,522,563	5,908,633
Men	3,024,770	2,841,608	2,960,525	3,039,988
Women	2,219,933	2,246,847	2,562,038	2,868,645
percentage				
Labour force				
Both sexes	36.2	33.5	33.1	32.6
Men	37.6	34.1	32.9	31.7
Women	34.4	32.7	33.3	33.7
Paid workers				
Both sexes	45.3	41.6	39.7	38.3
Men	48.3	42.9	40.2	37.7
Women	41.8	40.1	39.2	38.8

1. Registered pension plans are plans established by either employers or unions to provide retirement income to employees.

Notes: The data used from Labour Force Survey (labour force and paid workers) are annual averages to which the number of Canadian Forces members was added.

Paid workers refer to employees in the public and private sector and include self-employed workers in incorporated business (with and without paid help).

Source: Statistics Canada, Pension Plans in Canada and Labour Force Survey.

- Roughly one-third of the labour force is covered by a registered pension plan (RPP). Between 1992 and 2007, RPP coverage dropped for both men and women. Men, however, experienced a more precipitous decline than women such that by 2007 women in the labour force were slightly more likely than men to be covered by an RPP.
- Among paid workers, RPP coverage declined from about 45% in 1992 to 38% in 2007. Coverage for men who were paid workers declined by about 11 percentage points and by 3 percentage points for women over the 1992 to 2007 period.

Table 5 Registered retirement savings plan contributions, by sex, Canada, 2000 to 2008

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
number									
Total RRSP¹ contributors	6,291,170	6,241,050	5,991,440	5,948,340	6,002,350	6,135,980	6,196,050	6,292,480	6,178,900
percentage									
Men	55	55	54	54	54	54	54	54	53
Women	45	45	46	46	46	46	46	46	47
in thousands of dollars									
Total RRSP contributions	29,280,163	28,438,914	27,072,812	27,561,305	28,788,102	30,581,252	32,350,792	34,057,715	33,314,040
percentage									
Share of total contributions									
Men	61	62	61	62	62	62	62	61	61
Women	39	38	39	38	38	38	38	39	39
dollars									
Median contribution	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,630	2,730	2,780	2,700
Men	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,070	3,200	3,260	3,220
Women	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,100	2,200	2,180	2,250	2,300	2,240

1. Registered retirement savings plan.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 111-0039.

- There were approximately 6.2 million Canadians who contributed more than \$33 billion to an RRSP in 2008.
- Almost half (47%) of all RRSP contributors in 2008 were women, up from 45% in 2000.
- The median RRSP contribution was \$2,700 in both 2000 and 2008. However, the median contribution for men was higher than that of women over the 2000 to 2008 period. For example in 2008, the median RRSP contribution for men was \$3,220 compared to \$2,240 for women.
- Although women made up almost half of all RRSP contributors, their share of total contributions was lower. In both 2000 and 2008, RRSP contributions made by women made up 39% of total contributions (61% for men).