

# The rise in *self-employment* among *women* in Canada



In 2022, **nearly 1 million women** in Canada were **self-employed**, accounting for 37% of the total self-employed population. This is up from 26% in 1976.

**FIVE OCCUPATIONS** with the highest proportion of self-employed women, 2022



In 1976, 34% of self-employed women were **unpaid family workers**,<sup>1</sup> working mostly in **agriculture**. This proportion declined to 1% by 2022.



Retail and wholesale trade managers  
**6.5%**



Early childhood educators and assistants  
**4.6%**



Real estate agents and salespersons  
**4.5%**



Light duty cleaners  
**4.4%**



Hairstylists and barbers  
**4.3%**

Self-employed women are less likely than self-employed men to...

WOMEN



**19%**

Have employees



MEN



**32%**

Have an incorporated business<sup>2</sup>



**34%**

**54%**



In 2021, Korean Canadian women were most likely to be self-employed



1. Unpaid family workers are people who work without pay on a farm or in a business or professional practice owned and operated by another family member who lives in the same dwelling.  
2. An incorporated business refers to a business, farm or professional practice that has been formed into a legal corporation, thus constituting a legal entity under either federal or provincial laws, while an unincorporated business, farm or professional practice is not a separate legal entity.  
Source: Uppal, S., 2023, "Self-employment among women in Canada," *Insights on Canadian Society*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-006-X.

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Catalogue number: 11-627-M | ISBN: 978-0-660-69091-9