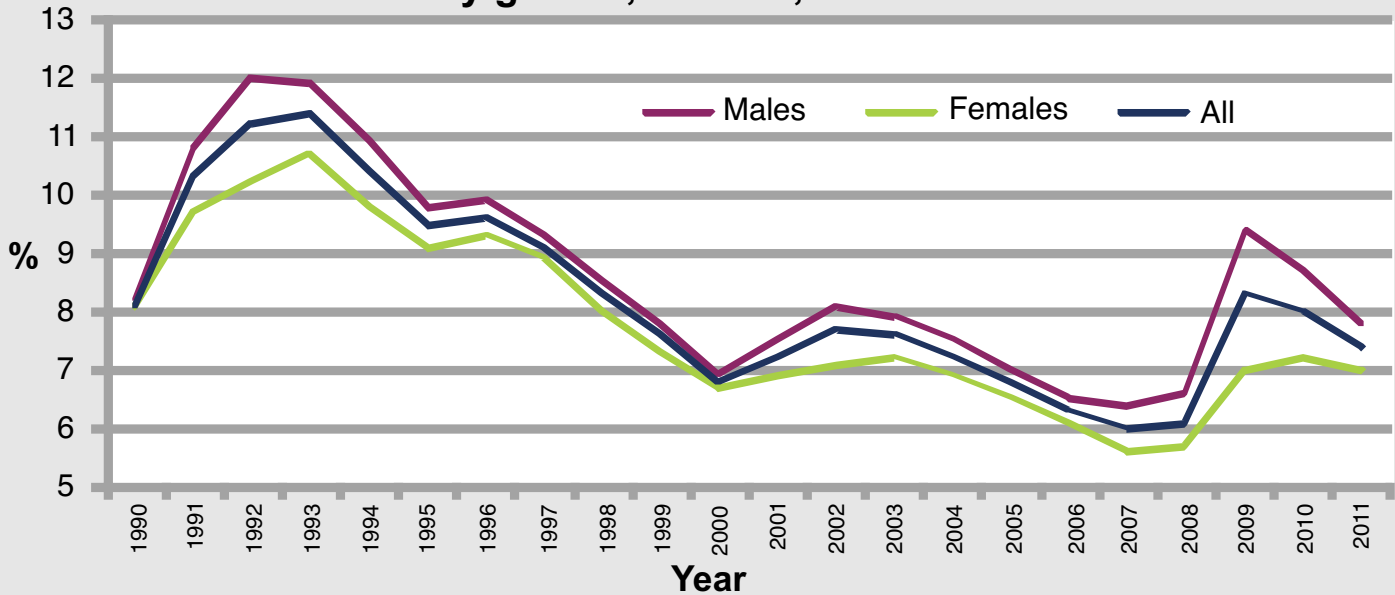




4.3.9 Work

Fig. 4.3.9 Unemployment rates, total labour force, by gender, Canada, 1990–2011



	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
All	10.3	11.4	9.5	9.1	7.6	7.2	7.6	6.8	6.0	8.3	7.4
Males	10.8	11.9	9.8	9.3	7.8	7.5	7.9	7.0	6.4	9.4	7.8
Females	9.7	10.7	9.1	8.9	7.3	6.9	7.2	6.5	5.6	7.0	7.0

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0209, accessed on June 29, 2012.

The unemployment rate is the percent of people who are unemployed of all people 15 and over who are in the labour force (working and seeking employment).¹ During the recession in the early 1990s, unemployment in Canada rose to 11.4% for the total labour force. The economic boom in the late 1990s brought unemployment down to 7.6%. After a small increase, 2007 saw the lowest unemployment rate since 1991 at 6.0%. However, a further economic downturn in 2009 caused another peak in unemployment. As of 2011, the unemployment rate has declined to below 8%. In all years, unemployment among males was higher than for females.

¹ Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0209, accessed on June, 29 2012. Labour force includes both those who are unemployed and those who are searching for work.

Implications

Employment determines the capacity to which parents can use available resources to invest in their children. In the most general sense, families successful within the labour market invest more in their children.²

² Corak M, Curtis L, Phipps S. (2010). "Economic Mobility, Family Background, and the Well-Being of Children in the United States and Canada." http://economics.dal.ca/Files/Econ_Mobility_Family_Background.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.

