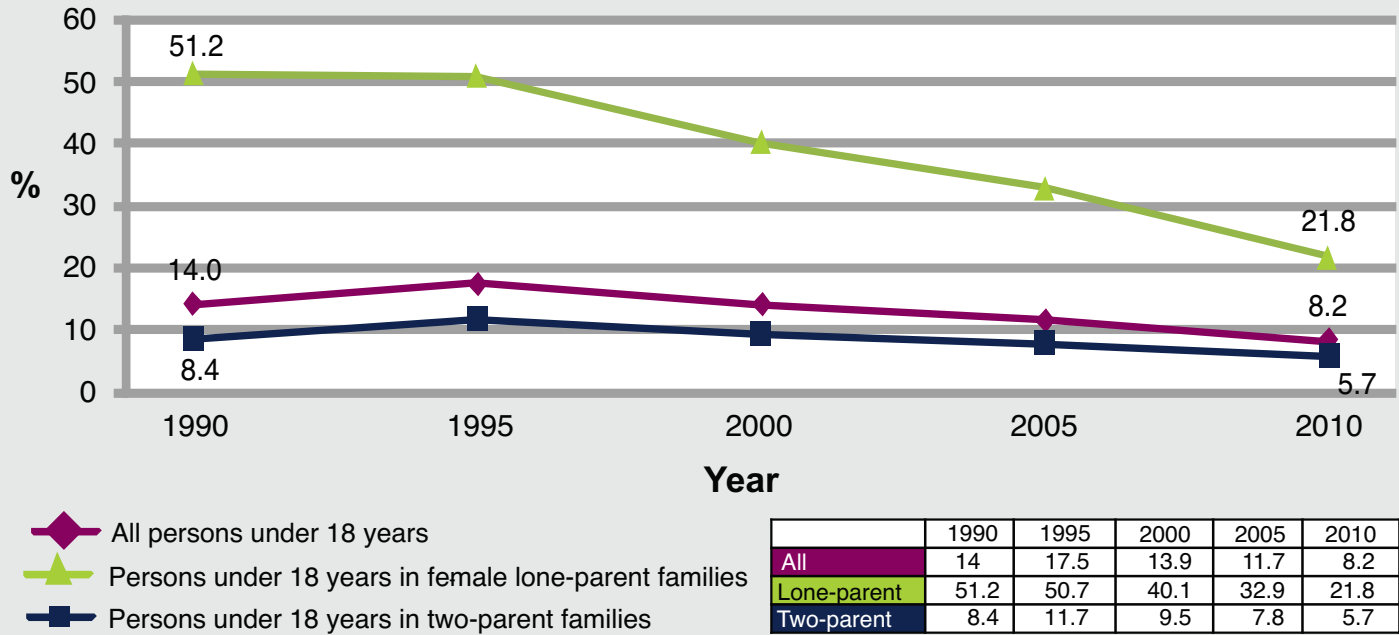




4.1.1 Economic Inequities - Poverty

Fig. 4.1.1 Trends in child poverty*, by family type, Canada, 1990–2010



* Poverty is represented by low income cut-offs (LICO). LICOs represent the income level at which a family may be in distressed circumstances because they spend a greater proportion of their income on necessities (i.e., food, shelter, and clothing) than the average family of similar size. In this case, LICOs have been calculated after a family has paid income tax (after-tax).

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0802, accessed on June 29, 2012.

The number of children under 18 years living in poverty in Canada decreased to 550,000 (8.2%) in 2010 from 942,000 (14.0%) in 1990. For children under 18 years living in two-parent families, the number living in poverty decreased to 314,000 (5.7%) in 2010 from 475,000 (8.4%) in 1990. The most marked change was among children living in poverty in female lone-parent families. Their numbers decreased to 187,000 (21.8%) in 2010 from 407,000 (51.2%) in 1990.

Implications

Children and youth living in poverty are faced with many challenges to their health and well-being. Conditions of inadequate nutrition; crowded or unsafe living accommodations; less access to health care; and lower quality education are well-known challenges that low-income families face frequently.¹

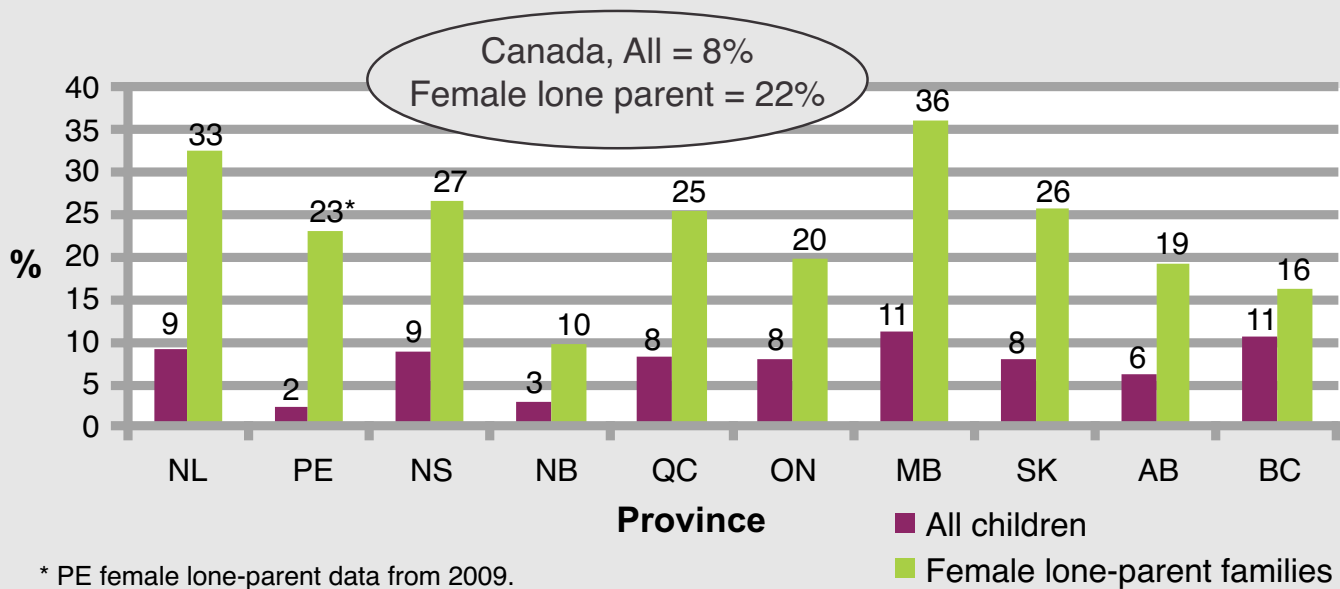
¹ "Campaign 2000: 2010 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada; 1989–2010." <http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/national/2010EnglishC2000NationalReportCard.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.1.2 Economic Inequities - Poverty

Fig. 4.1.2 Children under 18 years living in low income*, by family type, Canada and provinces, 2010



* Poverty is represented by low income cut-offs (LICO). LICOs represent the income level at which a family may be in distressed circumstances because they spend a greater proportion of their income on necessities (i.e., food, shelter, and clothing) than the average family of similar size. In this case, LICOs have been calculated after a family has paid income tax (after-tax).

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0802, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2010, 8% of all children in Canada and 22% of children living in female lone-parent families were living in poverty. Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick had the lowest rates of child poverty overall. In PEI, 2% of all children and youth lived in poverty, which was the case for 3% of New Brunswick's children and youth. In New Brunswick, 10% of children and youth living with female lone parents lived in poverty. Manitoba and British Columbia had the highest rates of child poverty in Canada. In both Manitoba and British Columbia, 11% of all children and youth lived in poverty. In Manitoba, 36% of children and youth living with female lone parents lived in poverty.

Implications

In every province except Newfoundland, the welfare¹ income of a lone parent with one child is below the poverty line. With the rising cost of food and the nearly unaffordable cost of housing, many families continue to struggle to balance their budgets each month².

¹ Welfare income for a lone parent with a child aged two includes basic social assistance, other provincial benefits, federal child benefits, provincial child benefits, provincial child benefits, GST credit.

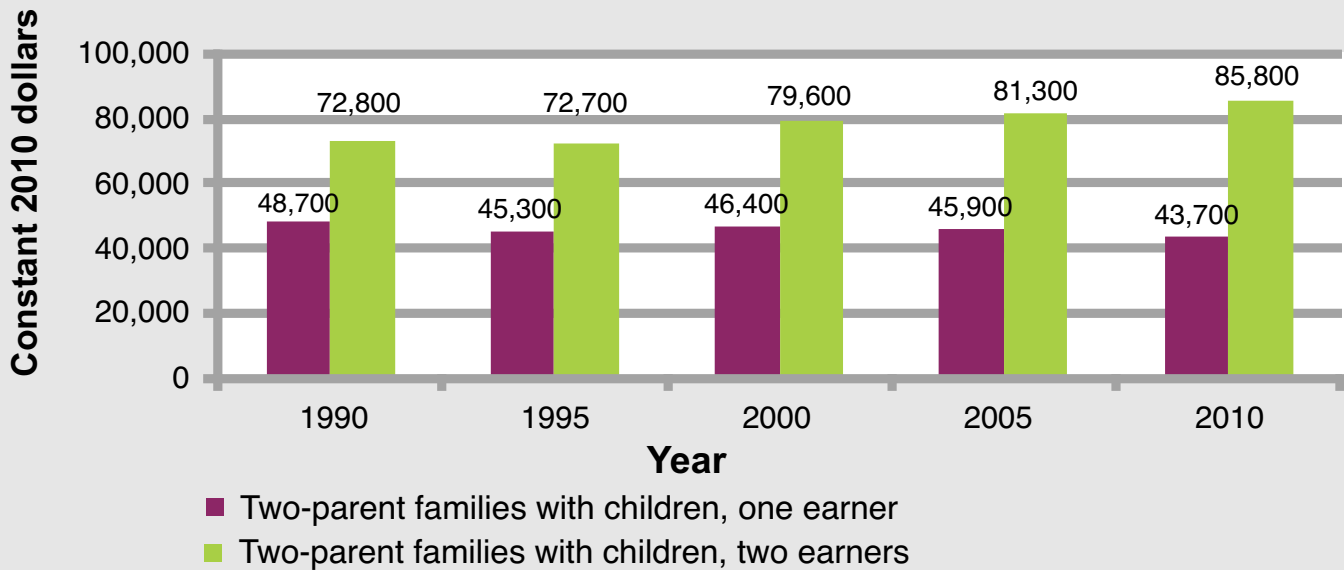
² "Campaign 2000, 2011 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada." <http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/national/2011EnglishRreportCard.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.2.3 Income

Fig. 4.2.3 Median market income, couples with children by number of earners, Canada, 1990-2010



*Total income before tax minus income from government sources

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0203, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Children living in two-parent families with two earners were better off in 2010 compared to 1990 with an average income increase of 15%. Single-earner families showed an 11% decrease in income from 1990 to 2010.

Implications

The median income of single-earner families with children decreased over the two decades. With little to no gains in income, accompanied by increases in spending and debt, many of today's families are walking a "financial high wire".¹ Furthermore, living in a two-earner family reduces the likelihood of poverty. During the recession, two-earner couples with children had one of the lowest poverty rates among all family types (3.4%).¹

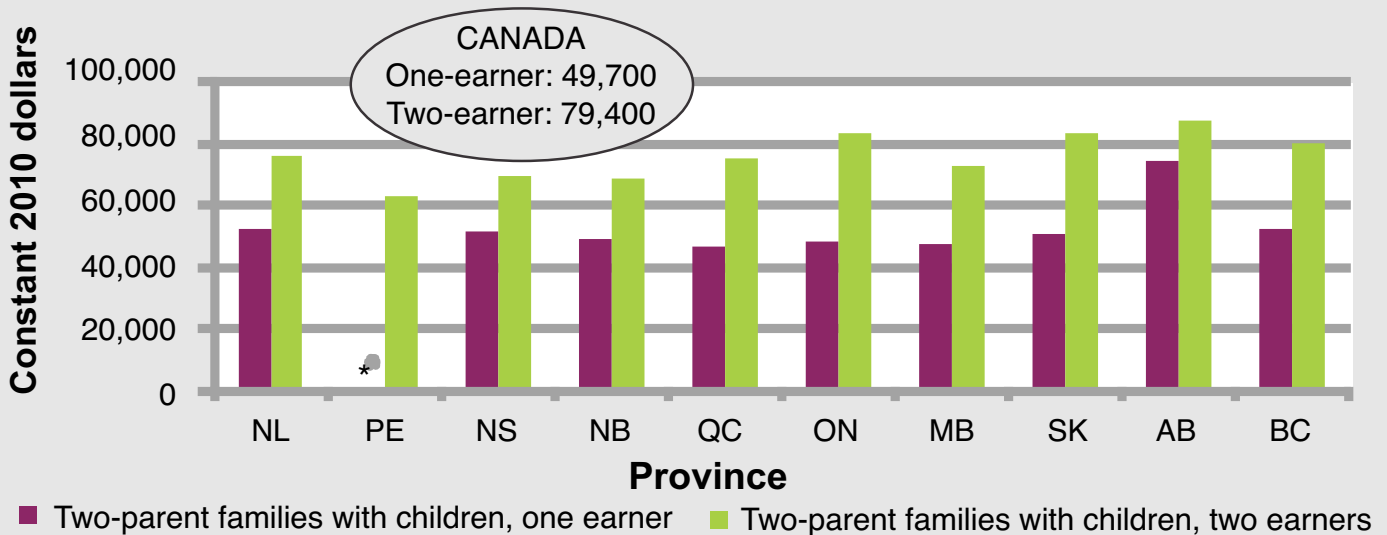
¹ Vanier Institute of the Family. "Fascinating Families." <http://www.vanierinstitute.ca/include/get.php?nodeid=341>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.2.4 Income

Fig. 4.2.4 Median after-tax income, one and two-earner couple families, Canada and provinces, 2010



	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC
One-earner	52,100	*	51,700	49,200	46,500	47,900	47,300	50,600	74,200	52,300
Two-earner	75,800	62,800	69,100	69,000	75,000	83,600	72,700	83,600	87,700	79,900

*Too unreliable to publish.

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0605, accessed on June 29, 2012.

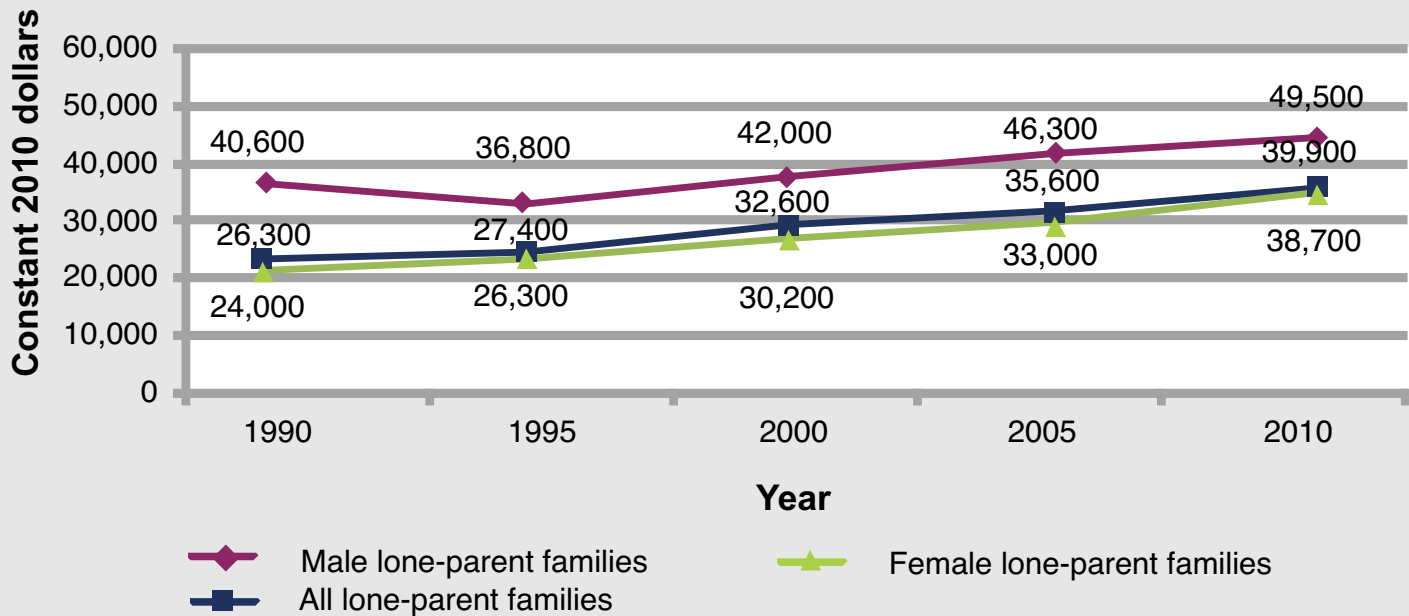
In 2010, the median after-tax income of couple families with children with one household earner was \$49,700 per year. If there were two earners in the family that income jumped to \$79,400 per year. Children in two-parent families in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta had the highest family income with two earners, but Ontario has a bigger gap between one-earner and two-earner family incomes. Children in two-parent families in Prince Edward Island have a family income of \$62,800 per year, 21% lower than the national average. Across the provinces, one-earner families in Quebec had the lowest after-tax income (\$46,500) and Alberta had the highest with one-earner families making \$74,200 per year, almost \$30,000 per year more than Quebec.





4.2.5 Income

Fig. 4.2.5 Median after-tax income of lone-parent families, by gender, Canada, 1990–2010



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0605, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Not only are there significantly more female lone-parent families than male lone-parent families in Canada, female headed households are also more likely to have lower incomes. Of the estimated 634,000 children under 17 years living in low-income families in 2009, 31% lived in a lone-parent family headed by a woman.¹

The income of all lone-parent families increased between 1990 and 2010. During that time, female lone-parent family incomes increased by 38%, to \$38,700 in 2010 from \$24,000 in 1990, whereas male lone-parents family incomes increased by 18%, to \$49,500 in 2010 from \$40,600 in 1990. Although female lone-parent family incomes increased significantly, their average after-tax income was almost \$11,000 less than their male counterparts in 2010.

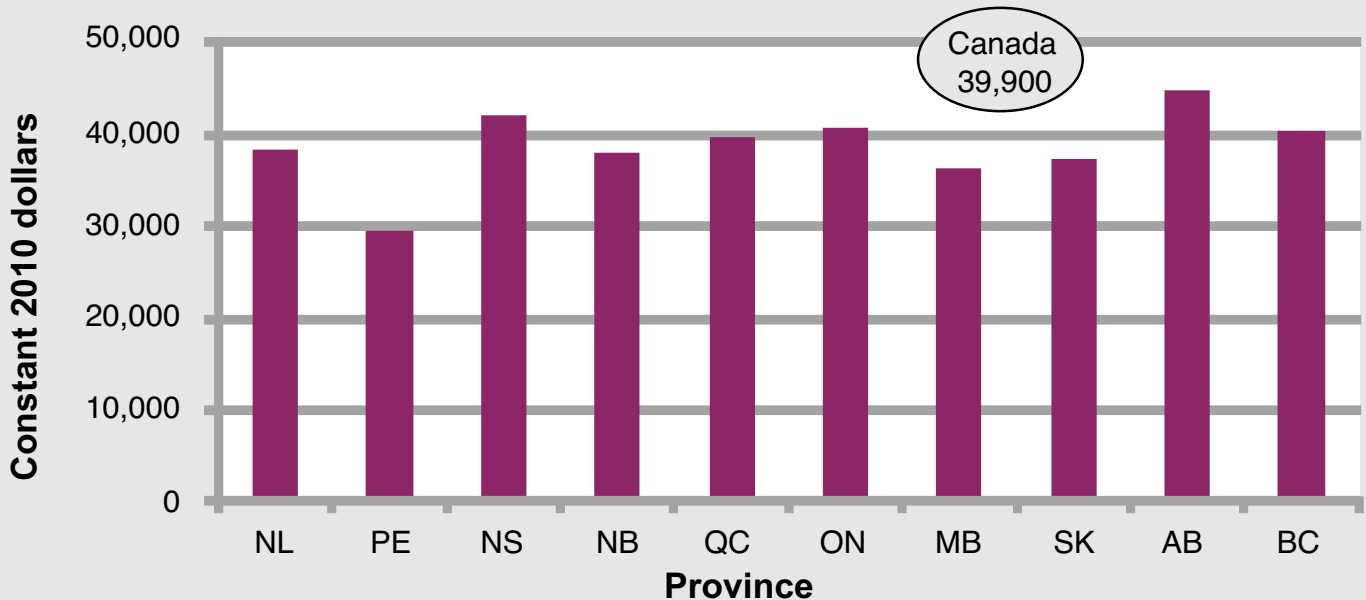
¹ Statistics Canada. The Daily. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/110615/dq110615b-eng.htm>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.2.6 Income

Fig. 4.2.6 Median after-tax income of lone-parent families, Canada and provinces, 2010



NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC
38,200	29,400	42,200	38,000	39,800	40,600	36,300	37,200	44,800	40,400

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0605, accessed on June 29, 2012.

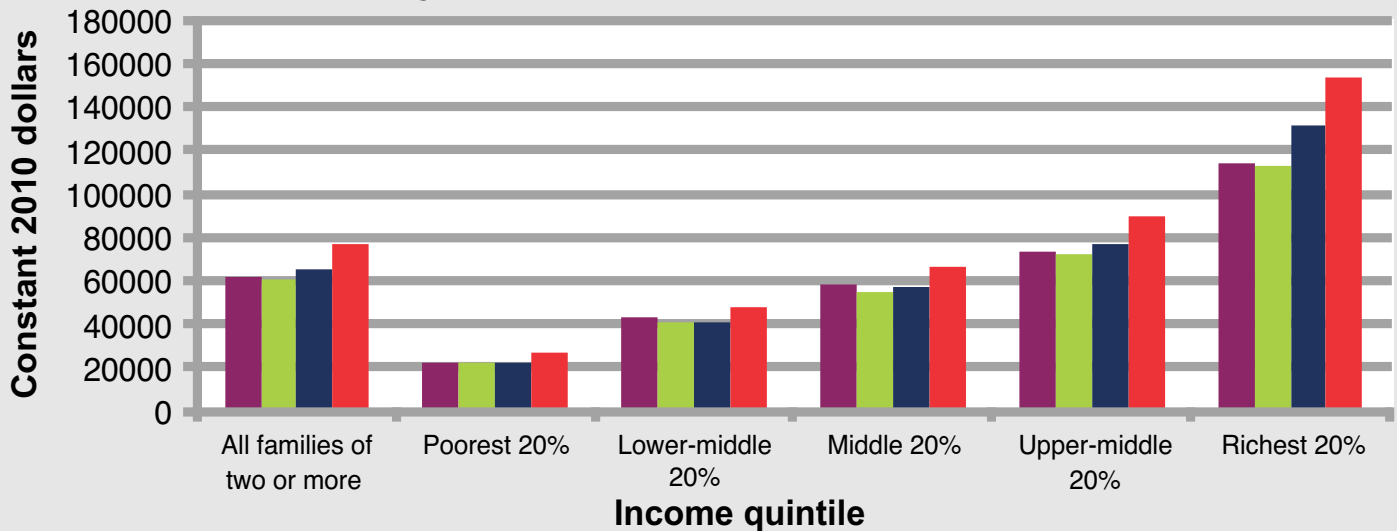
In 2010, the median after-tax income for lone parents in Canada was \$39,900. Lone-parents in Nova Scotia (\$42,200), Ontario (\$40,600), Alberta (\$44,800), and British Columbia (\$40,400) had after-tax incomes above the national average. Prince Edward Island (\$29,400) and Manitoba (\$36,300) had the lowest lone-parent family incomes. The median after-tax family income for Prince Edward Island was 36% below the national average.





4.2.7 Income

Fig. 4.2.7 Average after-tax income for families of two or more, by income quintile, Canada, 2010



	All families of two or more	Poorest 20%	Lower-middle 20%	Middle 20%	Upper-Middle 20%	Richest 20%
1980	62,300	22,500	43,200	58,100	73,900	113,700
1990	60,700	22,700	40,700	55,300	72,200	112,400
2000	65,800	22,800	41,400	57,200	76,700	131,000
2010	76,600	27,300	47,400	65,900	89,100	153,100

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0701, accessed on June 29, 2012.

The gap between the rich and poor in Canada is widening. In 1990, the income of the richest 20% of Canadian families was 5 times the income of the poorest 20%. In 2010, the richest 20% earned 5.6 times that of the poorest. The bottom 60% of households had income increases of less than \$8,000 from 1980 to 2010. The richest 20% had increases of almost \$40,000 from 1980 to 2010.

Implications

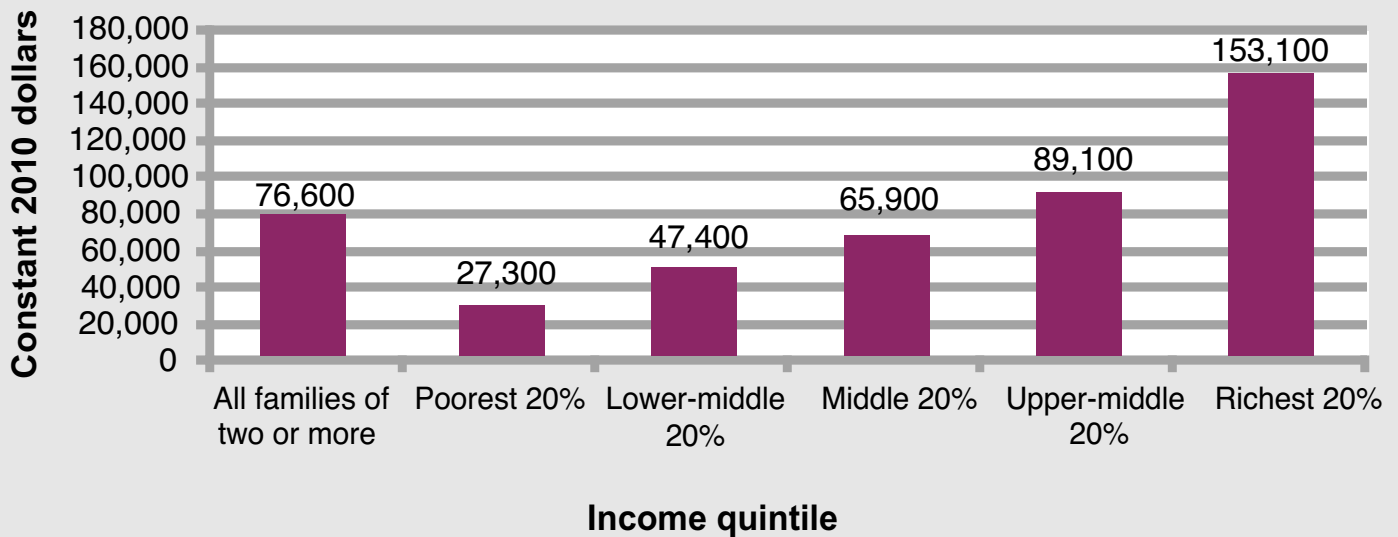
The living conditions that children and youth living in low-income families experience predisposes them to material and social deprivation. The greater the deprivation, the less likely families are able to afford the basic prerequisites of health such as food, clothing, and housing.





4.2.8 Income

Fig. 4.2.8 Average after-tax income for families of two or more, by income quintile, 2010



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0701, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2010, the average after-tax income of all families with two or more children was \$76,600. The richest 20% earned \$125,800 more than the poorest 20% (about 5.6 times greater).

Implications

Income is perhaps the most important social determinant of health for Canadian families. Level of income shapes overall living conditions, affects psychological functioning and well-being, and influences health-related behaviours. Level of income also determines the quality of other social determinants of health, including food security, housing, and access to social and cultural resources.¹

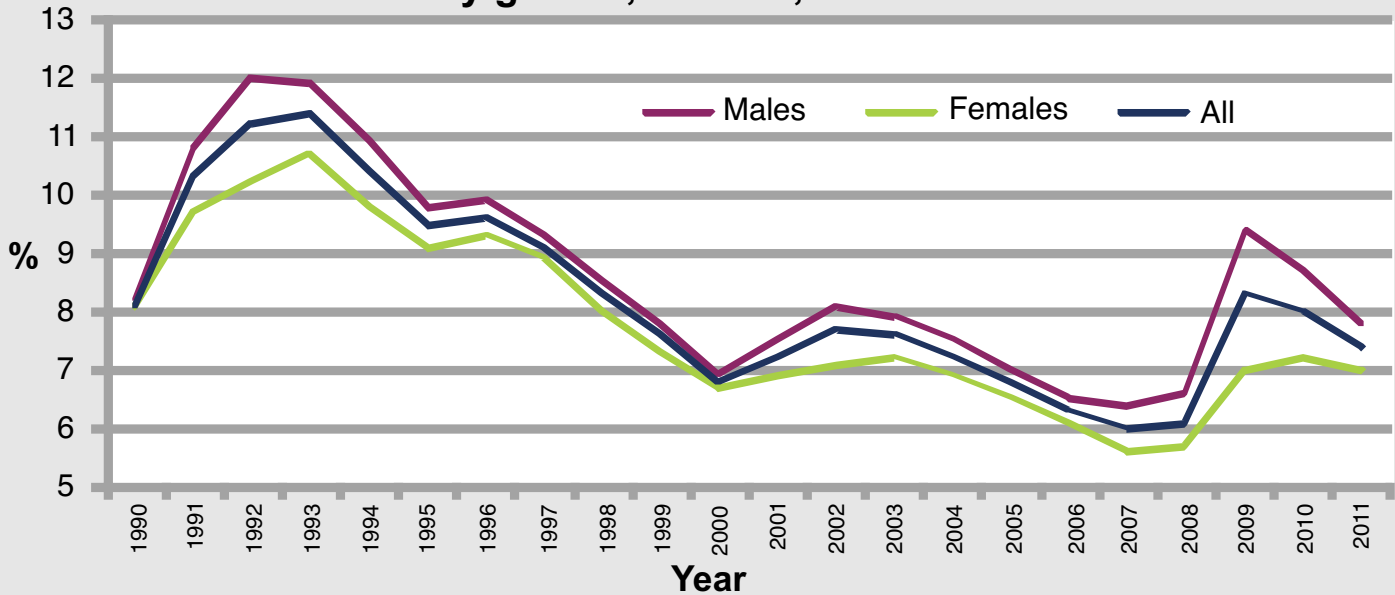
¹ Mikkonen J, Raphael D. (2010). "Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts." Toronto, ON: York University School of Health Policy and Management. http://www.thecanadianfacts.org/The_Canadian_Facts.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.





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

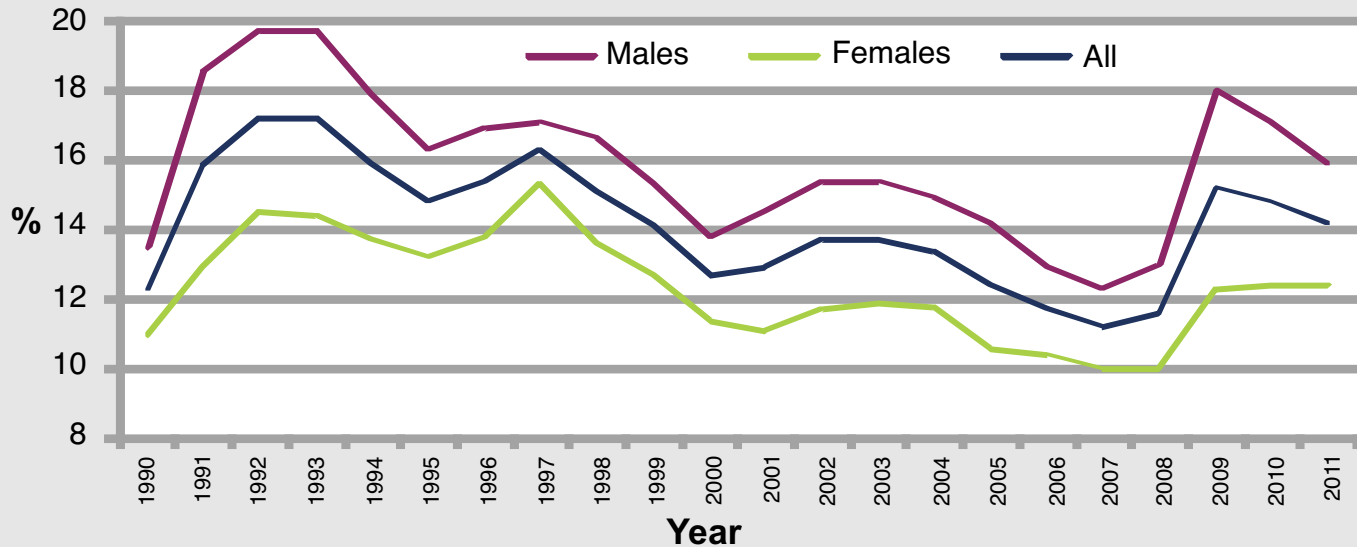
² Corak M, Curtis L, Phipps S. (2010). "Economic Mobility, Family Background, and the Well-Being of Children in the United States and Canada." http://economics.dal.ca/Files/Econ_Mobility_Family_Background.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.10 Work

Fig. 4.3.10 Unemployment rates, age 15 to 24 years, by gender, Canada, 1990–2011



	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
All	15.8	17.2	14.8	16.3	14.1	12.9	13.7	12.4	11.2	15.2	14.2
Males	18.5	19.7	16.3	17.1	15.3	14.5	15.4	14.2	12.3	18.0	15.9
Females	12.9	14.4	13.2	15.3	12.7	11.1	11.9	10.6	10.0	12.3	12.4

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

In 2011, the youth unemployment rate in Canada (14.2%) was higher than it was 30 years ago – 12.8% in 1981. And, the youth unemployment rate is significantly higher than the national average (14.2% vs. 7.4%). The outlook for employment for youth and young adults has shown some improvement in the last decade, but rates for young males are still high at nearly 16%.

Implications

NEET – not in employment, education, or training – is a fairly new phenomena and a growing concern to policymakers. According to Statistics Canada, in 2011, nearly a million young people age 15 to 29 years were considered NEET. Among this group, 391,000 were actively looking for work, while the other 513,000 were not.¹ Being unable to find work and being out of school over a long period of time takes a major toll on the health and well-being of young people. It can create a sense of uselessness and idleness that can lead to increased mental health problems, substance use, and violence.²

¹ Marshall K. (2012). "Youth Neither Enrolled Nor Employed." Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/2012002/article/11675-eng.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

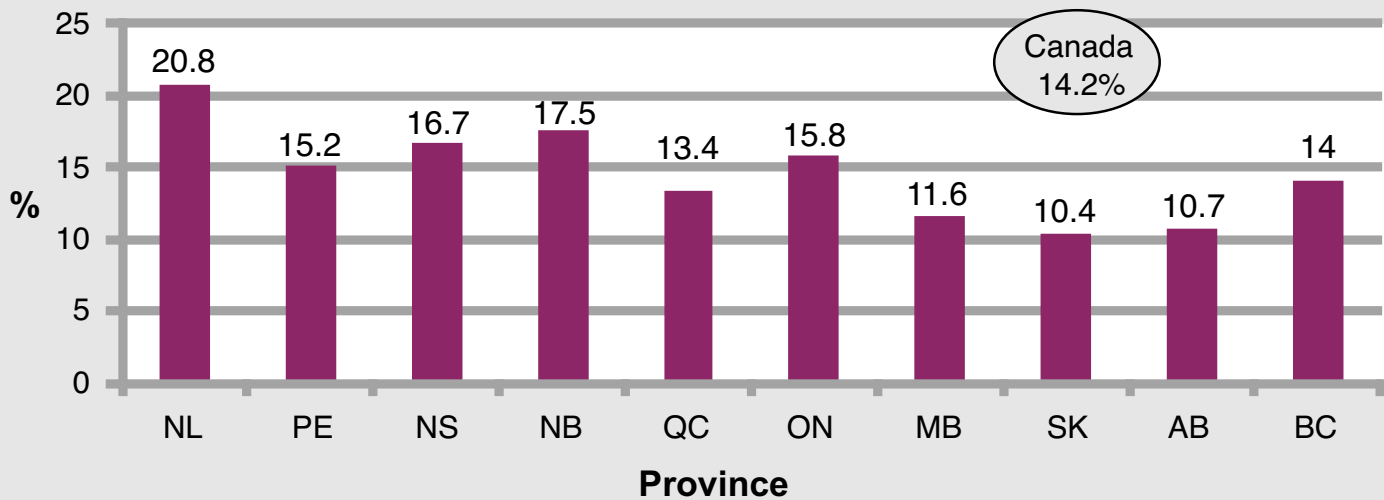
² As cited in Canada's Public Policy Forum (2012). "Employment Challenges for Canadian Youth in a Changing Economy." <http://www.pppforum.ca/sites/default/files/Youth%20Backgrounder%20-%20FINAL%20EN.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.11 Work

Fig. 4.3.11 Unemployment rates, age 15 to 24 years, Canada and provinces, 2011



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

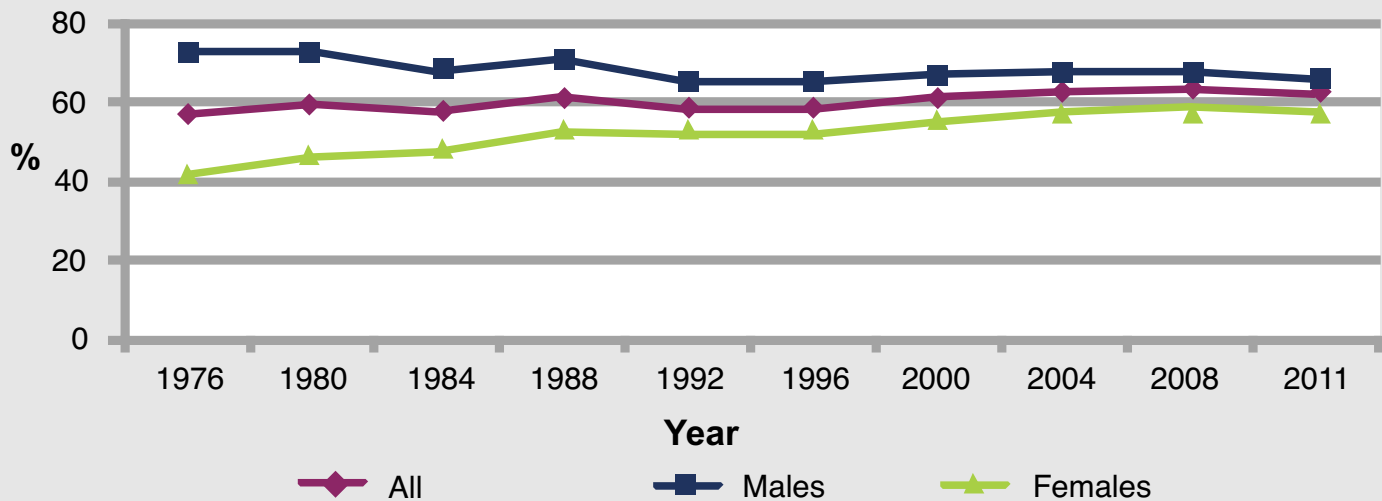
Youth unemployment varies widely across the country. In 2011, the highest rate was in Newfoundland and Labrador at nearly 21% and the lowest rate was in Saskatchewan at around 10%.





4.3.12 Work

Fig. 4.3.12 Employment rate, by gender, Canada, 1976–2011



	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
All	61.7	58.7	61.3	62.5	61.6
Males	69.9	65.4	67.3	67.7	65.4
Females	53.8	52.2	55.4	57.6	57.9

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0002, accessed on June 29, 2012.

The employment rate has increased among women during recent decades, while it has declined slightly for men. Between 1990 and 2010, the employment rate for women rose to 57.9% from 53.8%, a 4.1 percentage point increase. The employment rate for men declined by 4.5 percentage points to 65.4% in 2010 from 69.9% in 1990.

Implications

Children and youth require the material sustenance money can buy, but also the non-material care they share with their parents and other caregivers. On one hand, parental employment provides children with resources. On the other, the choice or need to work means that parents need to find alternative arrangements to care for their children. Depending on family structure, families will face challenges to meet the basic needs of their children.¹

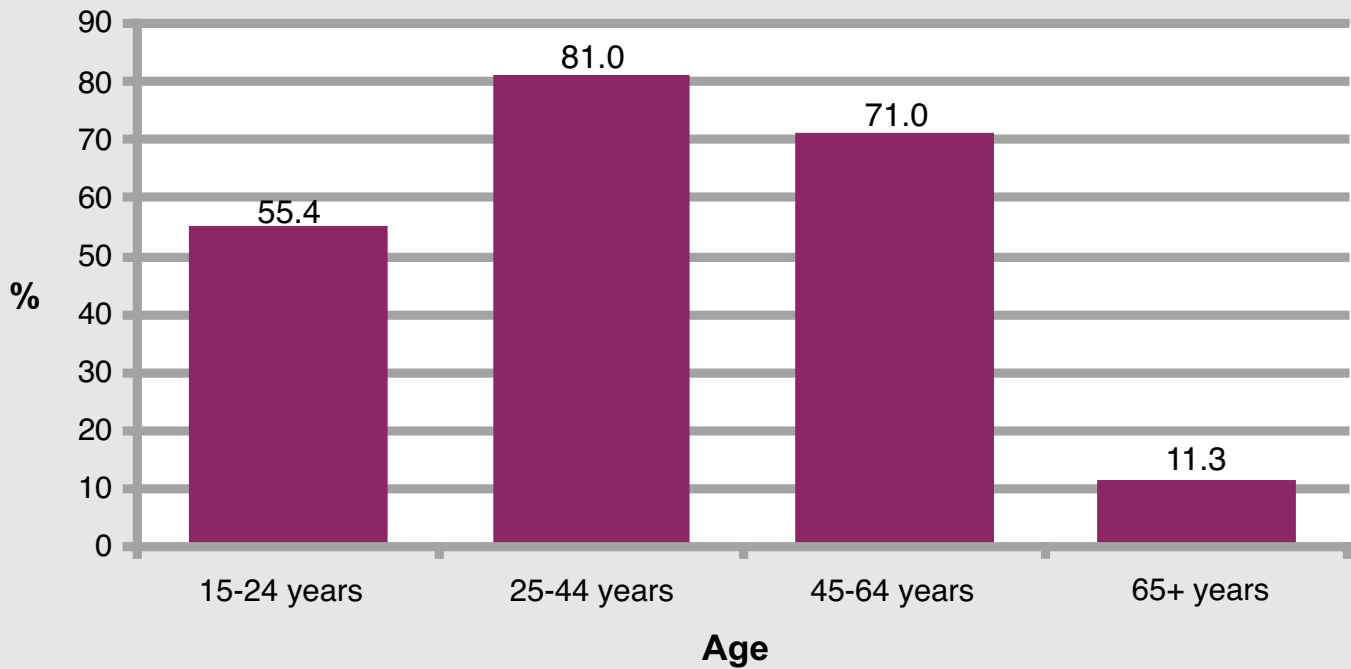
¹ Corak M, Curtis L, Phipps S. (2010). "Economic Mobility, Family Background, and the Well-Being of Children in the United States and Canada." http://economics.dal.ca/Files/Econ_Mobility_Family_Background.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.13 Work

Fig. 4.3.13 Employment rate, by age, Canada, 2011



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0002, accessed on June 29, 2012.

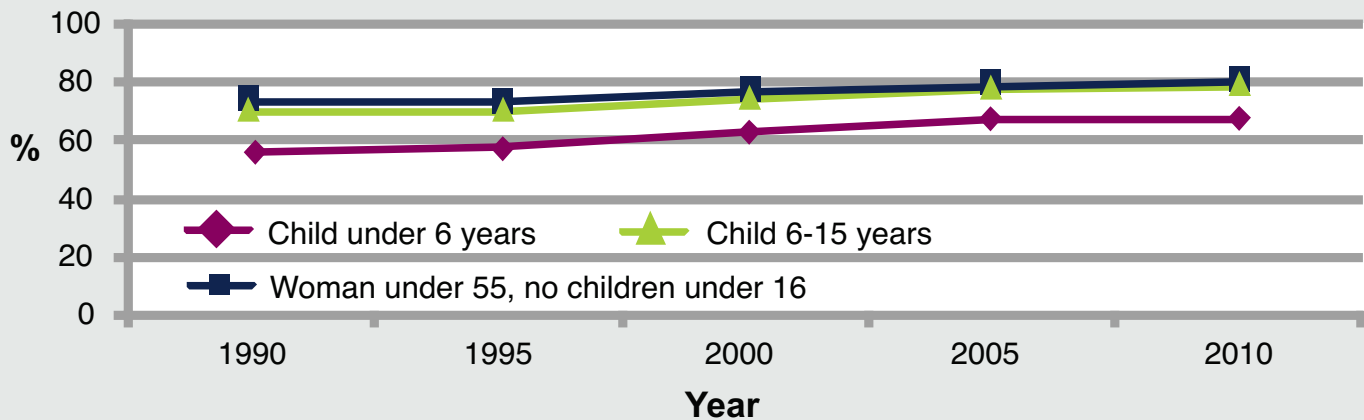
In 2011, 81.0% of Canadians aged 25 to 44 were working compared to 55.4% of youth aged 15 to 24 and 71.0% of individuals aged 45 to 64. Among seniors, 11.3% had jobs in 2011.





4.3.14 Work

Fig. 4.3.14 Employment rate for women, by age of youngest child, Canada, 1990–2010



	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Children under 6 years	55.8	57.7	63.2	67.1	66.9
Child 6–15 years	70.1	69.8	74.4	77.4	78.6
Women under 55, no children under 16	73.5	73.0	76.3	78.6	80.2

Statistics Canada. *Labour Force Historical Review 2010 (Table 217)*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2012 (Cat. No. 71F0004XVB).

The employment rate of women with children increased between 1990 and 2010, especially among women with children under six years of age. In 2010, the employment rate for women with children under six was 66.9%, up from 55.8% in 1990, and 78.6% for women with children from 6 to 15 years old, up from 70.1% in 1990.

Implications

In general, employment rates for women have steadily increased over the last 35 years, and more women with children are finding employment outside the home. Although the proportion of women working with pre-school children has grown, they are still less likely to be employed than women with school-aged children.¹

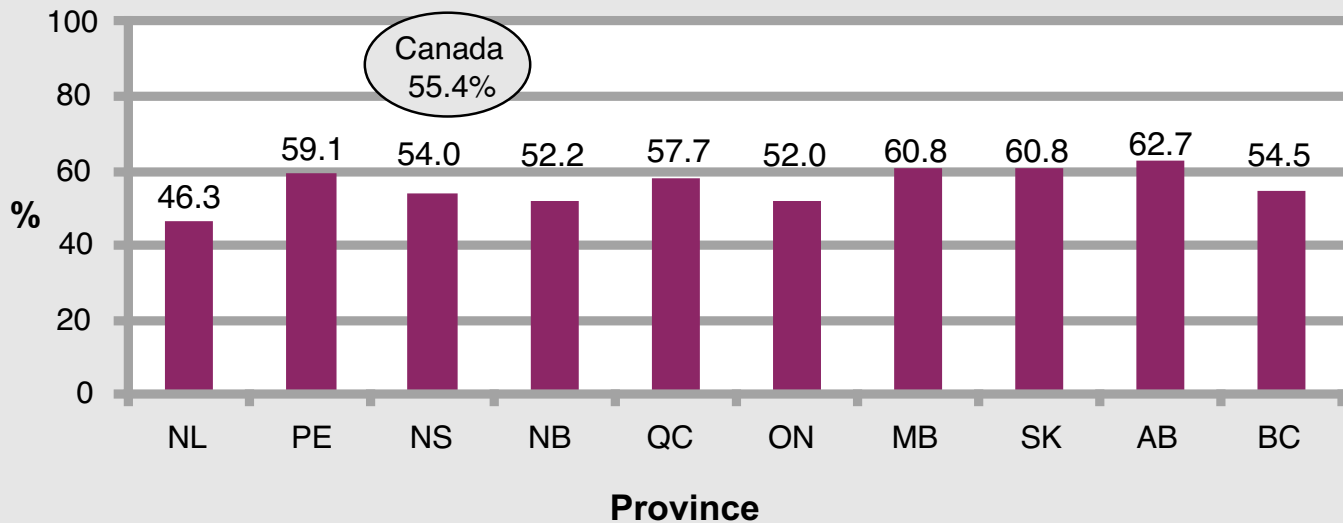
¹ Ferrao V. "Women in Canada: a gender-based statistical report." Paid Work. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11387-eng.pdf>, accessed June 29, 2012.





4.3.15 Work

Fig. 4.3.15 Employment rate, aged 15 to 24 years, Canada and provinces, 2011



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0002, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2011, just over half (55.4%) of youth were employed—52.6% were employed full time and 47.4% were employed part time. In 2011, Alberta (62.7%), Saskatchewan (60.8%), Manitoba (60.8%), and Quebec (57.7%) had youth employment rates above the national average. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest proportion of youth and young adults holding a job. With an employment rate of 46.3%, Newfoundland and Labrador was 9.1 percentage points below the national average.

Implications

For younger workers in Canada, economic recovery after the recession has been almost non-existent, and youth 15 to 24 years of age entering the workforce are faced with some significant challenges. “In addition to competition within their own age group, they now must compete with older workers looking to re-enter the labour market and those more experienced who lost their job during the recession.”¹

Increased competition leads young graduates to take jobs outside of their degrees or pulls them out of the labour market. Unable to find jobs in their area of study, university and college grads often retreat into another degree or into jobs that support them but don't put their training to use.¹

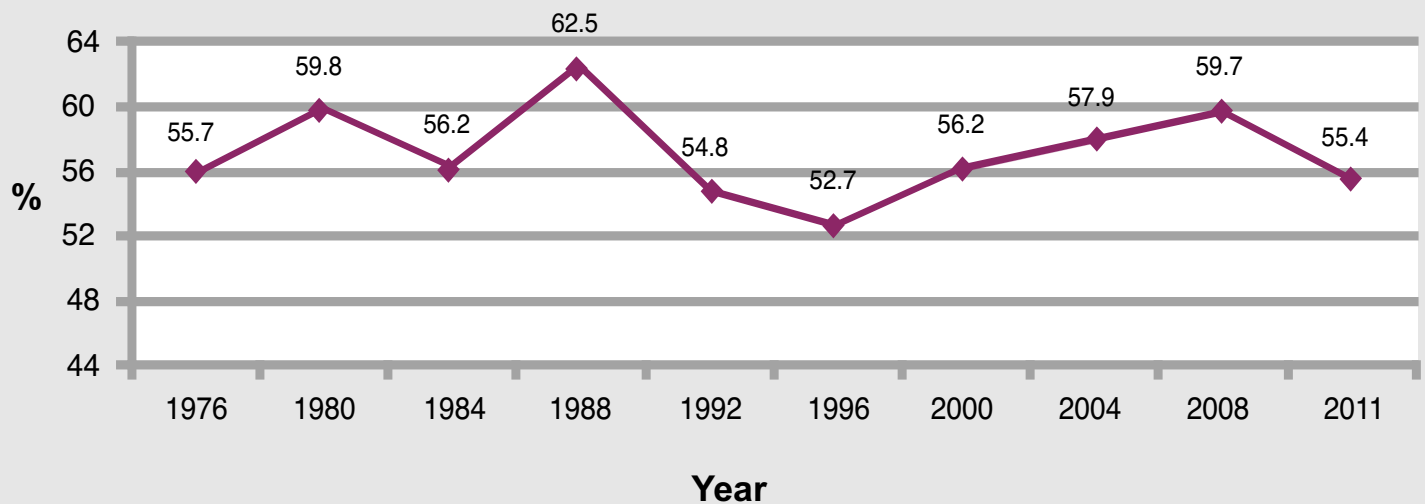
¹ Fong F. (2012). “The Plight of Younger Workers.” TD Economics. http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/ff0312_younger_workers.pdf, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.3.16 Work

Fig. 4.3.16 Employment rate, aged 15 to 24 years, Canada, 1976–2011



Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 282-0002, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Although the employment rate for youth 15 to 24 years of age has fluctuated over time, the rate in 2011 was just slightly less than that of the rate in 1976. However, the composition of employment for this group changed significantly. In 1976, 78.9% of employed youth worked full time and the other 21.1% worked part time; in 2011, 52.6% of employed youth worked full time and the other 47.4% worked part time.

Implications

“Like adults, teenagers can feel somewhat burdened with their day-to-day unpaid and paid work responsibilities. Approximately 1 in 10 regularly felt very stressed with not having enough time in the day. Similar proportions were quite or extremely stressed because of school, while 16% considered themselves workaholics. Almost 4 in 10 reported being under constant pressure to accomplish more than they could handle, and 6 in 10 tended to cut back on sleep when they needed more time.”¹

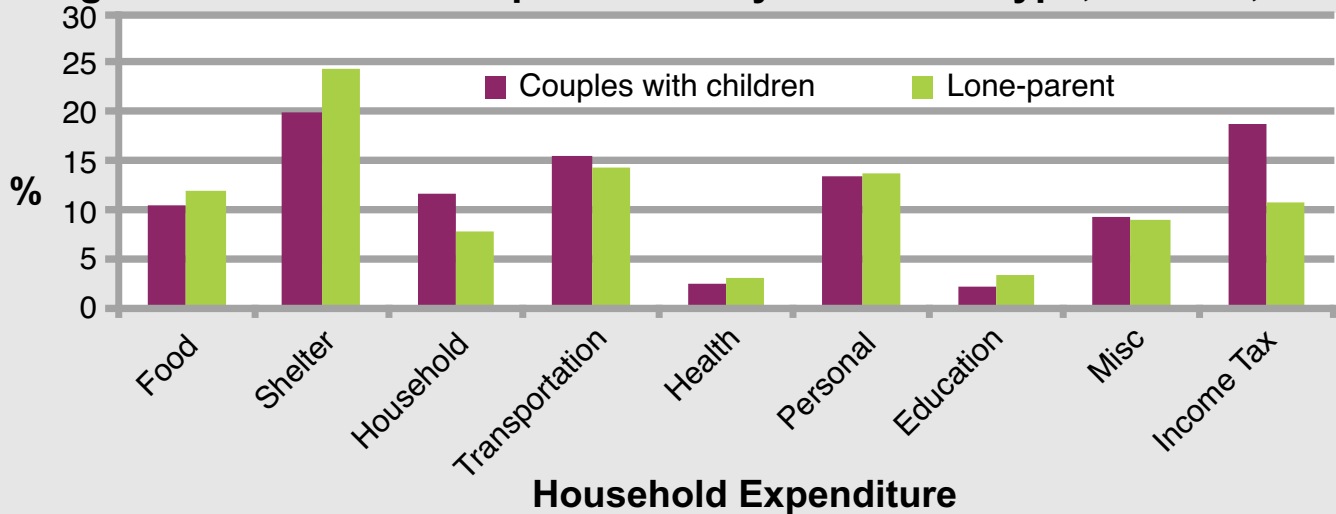
¹ Marshall K. (2007). “General Social Survey, Perspectives on Labour and Income: The Busy Lives of Teens.” Statistics Canada. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/75-001-x2007105-eng.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.4.17 Household Expenditures

Fig. 4.4.17 Percent of expenditures by household type, Canada, 2010



	Food	Shelter	Household	Transportation	Health	Personal	Education	Misc	Income Tax
Couples with children	10.4	19.9	11.7	15.4	2.5	13.4	2.2	9.3	18.7
Lone-parent	11.8	24.3	7.7	14.2	3.1	13.6	3.2	9.0	10.7

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 203-0023, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2010, housing was the biggest expenditure in Canadian's budgets, at 21.3%. Lone-parent families spend proportionately more on shelter than do couple families with children. They also spend proportionately more on food, education, and health care.

Implications

For low and modest income families, housing is an even larger expense proportionately. In Canada, 1 in 4 households pay more than 30% of their income on housing.¹ In 2010, families in the lowest quintile spent 32.3% of their total income on housing, where families in the highest income quintile only spent 16.7% of their total income on housing.² Families sometimes face affordability problems and may be forced to choose between appropriate housing and other necessities. Roughly 750,000 children under 15 live in housing that is unaffordable, substandard, or overcrowded—or all three.¹ Living in inadequate housing can have negative effects on children's health, behaviour, and development.³

¹ "Campaign 2000, 2011 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada." <http://www.campaign2000.ca/reportCards/national/2011EnglishRreportCard.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

² Statistics Canada. "Survey of Household Spending, 2010." <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/120425/t120425a001-eng.htm>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

³ Jackson A, Roberts P. (2001). "Physical Housing Conditions and the Well-Being of Children." Background paper on housing for The Progress of Canada's Children 2001. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Council on Social Development. <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2001/pcc2001/housing.htm>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.4.18 Household Expenditures

Fig. 4.4.18 Estimated cost of raising a child to age 18, typical two-child family, Canada, 2011

	Food	Clothing	Health care	Personal care	Recreation, reading, school supplies	Transportation	Child care	Shelter, furnishings and household operation	Total cost
Total cost to age 18	32,815	15,945	4,655	4,750	19,080	39,235	75,500	51,680	243,660

Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Raising children in Canada is an expensive proposition. The average cost of raising a child in Canada to age 18 in a typical two-child family is \$243,660. This amounts to an average cost of \$1,070 per month per child. This cost varies by the number of children in a family. The estimated per-child expenditure in lone-child families (\$304,600) is 25% higher than in families with two children, while families with three or more children spend 22% less per child (\$190,050).¹

¹ Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Implications

Based on ratios developed for the U.S., it is estimated that the bottom third by income of couples with children spend about 28% less (\$175,400) per child than the average household. The upper third by income of families with children spend almost 40% more (\$404,500).¹ In terms of child outcomes, higher income is almost always associated with better outcomes for children.²

¹ Cornell C. (2011). "The real cost of raising a child." Money Sense Magazine. <http://www.moneysense.ca/2011/08/10/the-real-cost-of-raising-kids/>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

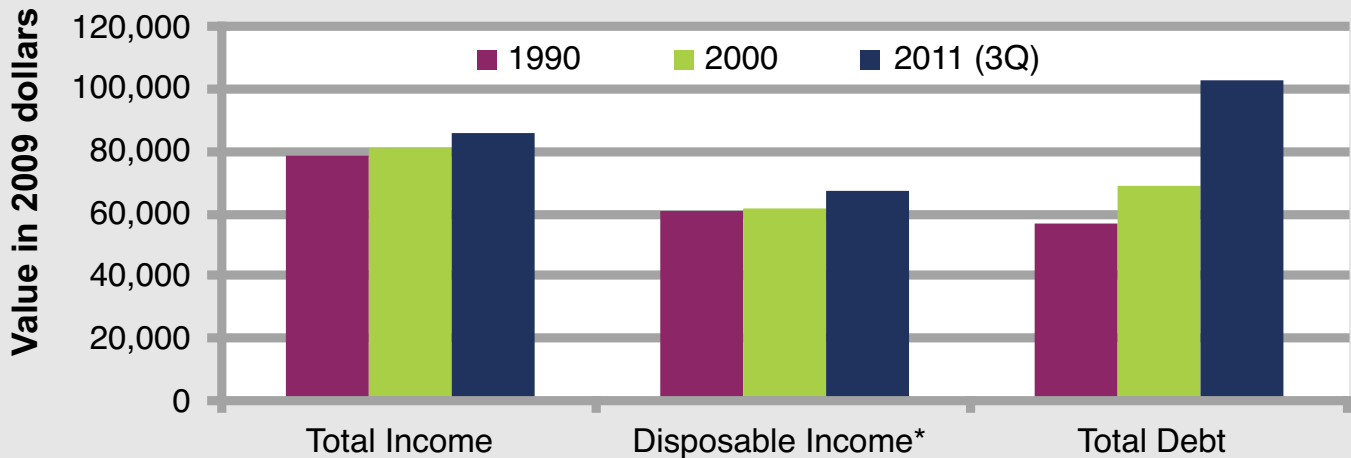
² Phipps S, Lethbridge L. (2006). "Income and the Outcomes of Children." Statistics Canada. <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/Statcan/11F0019MIE/11F0019MIE2006281.pdf>, accessed on June 29, 2012.





4.4.19 Household Expenditures

Fig. 4.4.19 Income and debt per household, Canada, 1990–2011



Income/Debt

	1990	2000	2011 (3rd quarter)
Total income	78,545	80,847	86,049
Disposable income*	61,249	61,528	67,368
Total debt	56,929	69,296	103,000

*After-tax income

Statistics Canada, *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 10, no. 3 Catalogue 13-010-X. Vanier Institute of the Family. "The Current State of Canadian Family Finances: 2011–2012 Report." <http://www.vanierinstitute.ca/include/get.php?nodeid=1779>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

By the end of 2011, the debt load in Canada stood at \$103,000 per household. (This average includes households that have debt and those that do not.) While disposable income remained almost unchanged from 1990 to 2011, total household debt almost doubled.

Implications

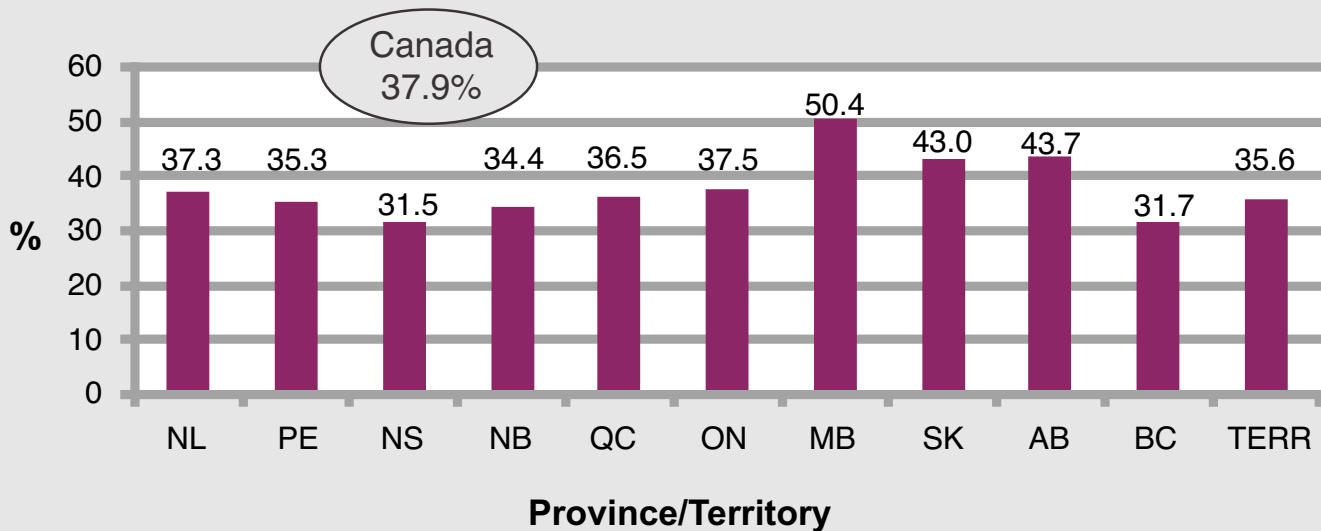
Being in debt is a very distressing experience that affects the entire family. Owing money limits a family's purchasing power, financial flexibility, and financial stability. For children and youth, the burden of debt means that fewer resources can be allocated to fill their monetary and non-monetary needs.





4.5.20 Food Security

Fig. 4.5.20 Percent of food bank users under 18 years of age, Canada, provinces and territories, March 2011



Adapted from "Hunger Count Canada (2011)." Food Banks Canada. <http://www.foodbankscanada.ca/getmedia/dc2aa860-4c33-4929-ac36-fb5d40f0b7e7/HungerCount-2011.pdf.aspx>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

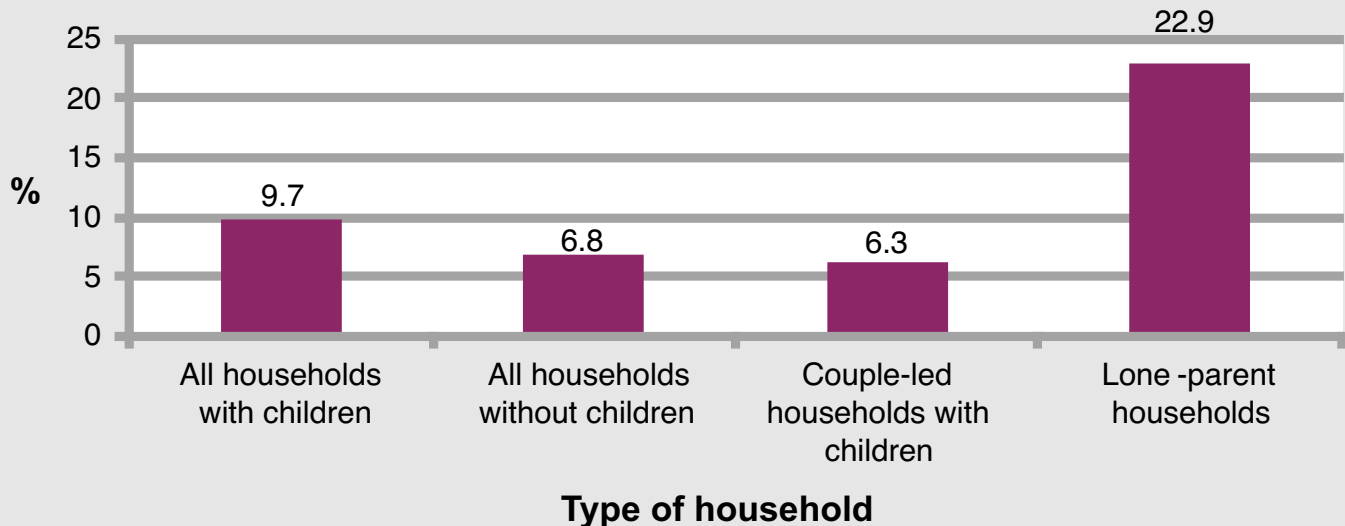
More than a third (38%) of people receiving assistance from food banks in Canada are children and youth under age 18. That means that 851,014 children and youth received assistance. That proportion was lowest in British Columbia (31.7%) and Nova Scotia (31.5%) and highest in Manitoba (50.4%).





4.5.21 Food Security

Fig. 4.5.21 Household food insecurity by household composition, Canada, 2007–2008



Note: Data from this graph is from respondents who were moderately food insecure and severely food insecure. Moderately food insecure: indication of compromise in quality and/or quantity of food consumed. Severely food insecure: indication of reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns.

Adapted from Health Canada, "Household Food Insecurity." <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/nutrition/commun/insecurit/key-stats-cles-2007-2008-eng.php#a>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

In 2007–08, almost 10% of households with children reported that they had been uncertain of having, or being able to acquire, enough food to meet the needs of their family because they had insufficient money for food at some time or times during the year.¹ Lone-parent households were far more likely to worry about having enough food, with 22.9% of such families saying that was the case. Lone parents were almost 4 times as likely as two-parent families to face food insecurity.

¹ Health Canada. "Household Food Insecurity." <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/nutrition/commun/insecurit/key-stats-cles-2007-2008-eng.php#a>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

