

## Statistics on women in Canada throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### FEMALE POPULATION<sup>(1)</sup>

Table 1	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971 <sup>(2)</sup>	1981 <sup>(2)</sup>	1991 <sup>(2)</sup>	1998
In thousands	2,620	2,285	4,258.3	5,002.2	5,606.1	6,920.6	9,019.4	10,961.4	12,501.0	14,179.5	15,302.3
Women as % of the total population	48.7%	47 %	48.4%	48.2%	48.7%	49.4%	49.4%	49.8%	50.2%	50.4%	50.5%

- (1) Excludes Newfoundland prior to 1951.  
 (2) Adjusted for net census undercoverage.

### MARITAL STATUS OF THE FEMALE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER<sup>(1)</sup>

Table 2	1901 <sup>(2)</sup>	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	1996
Married <sup>(3)</sup>	34.5%	56.9%	59.2%	57.4%	58%	64.5%	66.8%	61.1%	59.7%	59.2%	59.1%
Separated <sup>(4)</sup>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.7%	2.7%	2.6%	2.6%
Divorced	0.01%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	1.3%	3.1%	4.9%	5.1%
Widowed	5.8%	8.2%	8.6%	8.5%	8.8%	9.4%	9.7%	9.8%	10%	10.1%	6.2%
Single, never married	59.7%	34.9%	32%	34%	33%	25.7%	23.7%	25%	24.5%	23.2%	27%

- (1) Excludes Newfoundland prior to 1951.  
 (2) Classification by age is not available for 1901. Data includes all females (not only those 15 and over).  
 (3) Includes all married women whether or not they are living with a husband. Also includes women living common law.  
 (4) Prior to the 1971 census, separated women were included with married women.

### BIRTH RATE PER 1000<sup>(1)</sup>

Table 3	1901	1911	1921 <sup>(2)</sup>	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	1996
Birth per 1,000	31.2	30.1	29.3	23.2	22.4	27.2	26.1	16.8	15.3	14.3	12.2

- (1) Excludes Newfoundland prior to 1951.  
 (2) In Canada, relatively complete and regular birth registration has only existed since 1921. Prior to 1921, birth rates were estimated.

## FEMALE UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT<sup>(1)</sup>

<b>Table 4</b>	<b>1920-21</b>	<b>1930-31</b>	<b>1940-41</b>	<b>1950-51</b>	<b>1960-61</b>	<b>1970-71</b>	<b>1980-81</b>	<b>1990-91</b>	<b>1997-98</b>
Female % of total undergraduate full-time enrollment	16.3%	23.5%	23.3%	21.7%	24.9%	36.7%	46%	52.6%	55.7%
Female % of total graduate full-time <sup>(2)</sup> enrollment	25.5%	26.1%	20.8%	15.4%	15.1%	22.3%	36.1%	41.4%	47.7%
Female % of total University full-time enrollment	16.5%	23.6%	23.2%	24.9%	24.2%	35.1%	44.9%	51.3%	54.8%

(1) Excludes Newfoundland prior to 1951.

(2) Data include full-time and part-time graduate enrollment until 1951.

## LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY<sup>(1)</sup> OF FEMALES AGED 15 AND OVER<sup>(2)</sup>

<b>Table 5</b>	<b>1901</b>	<b>1911</b>	<b>1921</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>1961</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1999</b>
% of female population part of the labour force	14.4%	16.6%	17.7%	19.4%	22.9%	24.4%	29.3%	39.9%	47.4%	52.6%	58.9%
Females % of the total labour force	14.9%	15%	17%	18.6%	20.2%	22.3%	26.4%	32.8%	40.4%	45.3%	45.8%

(1) Labour force activity includes workers and unemployed seeking a job.

(2) Data of 1901 to 1941 are based on female population aged 14 and over and exclude Newfoundland.

### Sources

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