



## Sport Participation in Canada

## Chapter 10

### 10.0 Involvement in Amateur Sport as a Referee, Official or Umpire

*Adult Canadians involved in amateur sport as a referee, official or umpire increased from 550,000 in 1992 to almost 940,000 in 1998.*

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The number of adult Canadians involved in amateur sport as referees, officials or umpires increased from an estimated 550,000 in 1992 to almost 940,000 in 1998. Taking population increases into account, this represented nearly 3% of the adult population in 1992 and 4% in 1998.

*Male referees, officials and umpires outnumbered females 5 to 1 in 1992. By 1998, the gender gap decreased to a ratio of less than 2 males to 1 female.*

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The proportion of male referees, officials and umpires outnumbered females 5 to 1 in 1992. By 1998, the gender gap decreases to a ratio of less than 2 male referees to 1 female. Increasingly, more women are showing their support for amateur sport by getting involved as coaches and referees.

As with coaches, most referees, officials or umpires were 15-18 year olds (12%) followed by the 19-24 age group (6%). Less than 3 percent of persons aged 25 and older acted as referees or umpires in 1998.

Participation as a referee/ official or umpire tends to increase with increased levels of education and family income. The data also reveal that the proportion of English-speaking refs/officials and referees speaking multiple languages outnumber those of other linguistic profiles.

Table 12.

Profile of Canadians (aged 15 years and older) who Participate  
in Amateur Sport as a Referee, Official or Umpire, 1998

	population	Total		Male		Female	
		000s	%	000s	%	000s	%
Total	24,260	937	3.9	537	4.5	399	3.2
Age group							
15-18	1,644	194	11.8	152	17.7	42	5.4
19-24	2,415	142	5.9	80	6.6	62	5.1
25-34	4,615	143	3.1	95	4.1	48	2.1
35-54	9,353	412	4.4	184	3.9	229	4.9
55 and over	6,233	45	0.7	x	x	x	x
Level of education							
Some secondary or less	6,286	187	3.0	136	4.4	51	1.6
Some college/trade/high school	6,057	285	4.7	151	5.3	133	4.2
Diploma/some University	6,201	302	4.9	144	4.9	158	4.9
University degree	4,094	150	3.7	92	4.0	57	3.2
Family income							
Less than \$20,000	2,305	37	1.6	x	x	x	x
\$20,000 to \$29,999	1,828	x	x	x	x	x	x
\$30,000 to \$49,999	4,262	173	4.1	106	5.2	67	3.0
\$50,000 to \$79,999	4,418	242	5.5	144	6.0	98	4.9
\$80,000 or more	3,168	202	6.4	116	5.8	86	7.3
Province of residence							
Newfoundland	447	27	6.1	17	7.7	10	4.6
Prince Edward Island	107	8	7.2	x	x	x	x
Nova Scotia	761	43	5.7	27	7.4	16	4.1
New Brunswick	613	25	4.1	x	x	x	x
Quebec	6,006	142	2.4	84	2.8	58	1.9
Ontario	9,184	335	3.7	196	4.4	139	3.0
Manitoba	893	46	5.1	27	6.2	19	4.2
Saskatchewan	787	57	7.2	31	8.1	25	6.4
Alberta	2,261	129	5.7	74	6.6	54	4.8
British Columbia	3,201	124	3.9	58	3.7	66	4.1
Labour force participation							
Full time	11,388	524	4.6	316	4.6	208	4.6
Part time	1,615	82	5.1	x	x	x	x
Student with/without employment	2,368	217	9.2	157	13.1	60	5.1
Not in labour force	6,742	102	1.5	43	1.8	59	1.4
Mother tongue							
English only	11,360	612	5.4	344	6.1	267	4.7
French only	4,321	126	2.9	73	3.6	53	2.3
Other only	2,358	x	x	x	x	x	x
Multiple languages	4,161	169	4.1	97	4.7	72	3.4

% The participation rate is calculated by using the total Canadian population 15 years and older for each designated category.

Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not add due to rounding.

\* Only replies with estimates of 35,000 or more are indicated.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1998