



Sport Participation in Canada

Chapter 8

8.0 Competitions and/or Tournaments

8.1 Fewer Canadians Competing

Of Active Canadians, just over one-third (36%) competed in competitions or tournaments in 1998, comparable to the proportion competing in 1992 (33%).

Of the 8.3 million Canadians participating in sport in 1998, approximately 3 million, or 12% of adult Canadians competed in competitions or tournaments, down 2.5 percentage points from the 15% competing in 1992. If we look only at those Canadians who are regularly active in sport, we find that just over one-third (36%) competed in competitions/tournaments in 1998, comparable to the 33% competing in 1992.

8.2 More Men than Women Involved in Competitions/ Tournaments

A gender gap exists in competing in sporting events: Of the 3 million Canadians competing, over two-thirds were men.

A gender gap exists when it comes to competing in sporting events. Of the 3 million Canadians competing, over two-thirds were men. Since a greater proportion of men tend to participate in sport in the first place, one needs to control for the active population by sex to derive comparable data. When looking only at active Canadians, the data indicate that 40% of active males competed in competitions or tournaments compared to 29% of active females – a difference of 11 percentage points between the sexes.

Another noteworthy observation is the increase in the rate of active females competing in competitions and/or tournaments between 1992 and 1998. While 24% of active females took part in competitions or tournaments in 1992, this figure increased to 29% in 1998 – an increase of 5 percentage points, little change was reported in the proportion of active men competing over the same time frame.

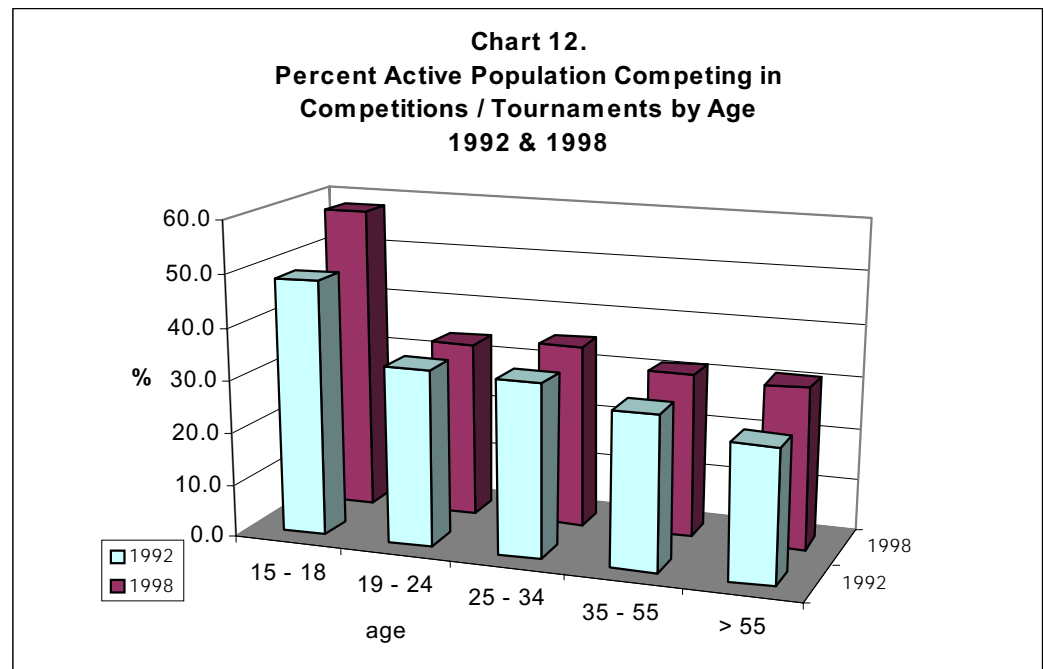
8.3 Young Canadians Compete

Young active Canadians between the ages of 15-18 competed in greater proportion than any other age group.

Young active Canadians aged 15-18 competed in greater proportion than any other age group. In 1998, 6 out of 10 active young adults between 15 -18 years of age engaged in competitions. The proportion of active Canadians competing in sporting events decreases rather dramatically after the age of 19, averaging at approximately 30%.

Since it tends to be young people who are competing in competitions, levels of education are reflective of their age – that is, the highest proportion of competitors are still in school, either in high school, college or trade school.

The labour force status of competitors also reflects their young age. Being young, the bulk of competitors are students, either with or without employment. English-speaking active Canadians are more likely to compete in competitions or tournaments (43%) than persons of other linguistic profiles.



	15 - 18	19 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 54	> 55
1998	58.1	33.7	34.9	31.4	30.8
1992	48.7	33.8	33.0	29.4	25.5

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992 and 1998

8.4 Competitions and Tournaments for Selected Sports

Table 9 shows two sets of participation rates for those Canadians competing in competitions and/or tournaments for selected sports by sex. The first set of rates indicate the proportion of all adult Canadians who competed in a specific sport during the previous 12 months. For example, almost 7% of adult males competed in hockey in 1998. The second set of rates show the proportion of active men and women who participated in tournaments or competitions for selected sports. Curling was the sport showing the highest rate of competitions/ tournaments

among adult Canadians who curl. Almost 7 in 10 adults who curled also competed in tournaments. Softball came second at almost 6 in 10 (58%), followed by hockey (55%), football (55%) and volleyball (54%). The sports showing the lowest rate of competition among its participants was swimming at less than 2 in 10 participants competing (18%), and cross-country skiing (21%).

Table 9.

Participation by Canadians (15 years and older) in Competitions or Tournaments*
by Sport and Sex, 1998

	Number Participating in Tournaments			Tournament Participation Rate			Active Tournament Participation Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Active Total	Active Males	Active Female
	000s	000s	000s	%	%	%	%	%	%
Population 15 years and older	24,260	11,937	12,323						
	2,992	2,076	916	12.3	17.4	7.4	36.0	40.4	28.9
Hockey (ice)	830	785	44	3.4	6.6	0.4	55.3	54.7	67.7
Golf	822	625	198	3.4	5.2	1.6	45.6	47.2	41.6
Baseball	693	512	182	2.9	4.3	1.5	51.8	53.7	47.2
Volleyball	399	212	187	1.6	1.8	1.5	53.7	53.8	53.4
Soccer	391	293	97	1.6	2.5	0.8	52.8	53.3	51.3
Basketball	350	242	108	1.4	2.0	0.9	44.5	44.0	45.6
Tennis	226	166	60	0.9	1.4	0.5	34.3	38.2	26.8
Football	212	181	31	0.9	1.5	0.3	54.9	52.2	77.5
Swimming	207	124	83	0.9	1.0	0.7	18.4	28.7	12.1
Curling	205	123	82	0.8	1.0	0.7	65.6	68.7	61.7
Skiing, downhill/alpine	196	133	64	0.8	1.1	0.5	29.9	38.9	20.3
Cycling	147	109	39	0.6	0.9	0.3	24.2	30.4	15.6
Badminton	144	83	61	0.6	0.7	0.5	35.7	41.7	29.9
Weightlifting	129	x	x	0.5	x	x	29.6	x	x
Bowling, 10 pin	124	66	57	0.5	0.6	0.5	43.9	50.0	38.0
Softball	122	70	51	0.5	0.6	0.4	57.9	59.3	55.4
Skiing, cross-country/nordic	106	62	44	0.4	0.5	0.4	20.8	29.8	14.5

*Persons may report participating and/or competing in more than one sport.

Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1998

Table 10.

Profile of Canadians (aged 15 and older) who participated in Competitions or Tournaments, 1998

	Total			Male			Female		
	000s	TP %	Active TP %	000s	MP %	Active MP %	000s	FP %	Active FP %
Total	2,992	12.3	36.0	2,076	17.4	40.4	916	7.4	28.9
Age group									
15-18	652	39.6	58.1	433	50.3	62.9	219	27.9	50.6
19-24	417	17.3	33.7	292	24.2	38.4	125	10.4	26.4
25-34	622	13.5	34.9	445	19.2	39.7	177	7.7	26.8
35-54	922	9.9	31.4	665	14.2	35.9	257	5.5	23.7
55 and over	380	6.1	30.8	242	8.5	33.7	137	4.1	26.6
Level of education									
Some secondary or less	797	12.7	44.4	529	17.1	47.4	268	8.4	39.5
Some college/ trade/high school	787	13.0	38.4	597	21.0	47.3	190	5.9	24.2
Diploma/some University	860	13.9	34.1	551	18.6	36.0	309	9.5	31.1
University degree	540	13.2	28.4	391	17.2	32.3	149	8.2	21.5
Family income									
Less than \$20,000	159	6.9	27.4	73	7.8	26.1	87	6.3	28.6
\$20,000 to \$29,999	141	7.7	29.4	87	10.5	31.8	53	5.4	26.0
\$30,000 to \$49,999	473	11.1	32.3	325	16.0	38.2	148	6.6	24.0
\$50,000 to \$79,999	682	15.4	37.2	485	20.1	38.5	196	9.8	34.3
\$80,000 or more	629	19.9	39.3	513	25.9	45.1	116	9.8	24.9
Province of residence									
Newfoundland	51	11.5	43.2	37	16.6	47.1	15	6.5	36.7
Prince Edward Island	15	14.5	57.3	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nova Scotia	119	15.7	48.2	86	23.2	53.2	33	8.5	38.3
New Brunswick	83	13.5	42.6	48	15.9	41.7	35	11.1	44.4
Quebec	565	9.4	24.7	371	12.6	27.9	194	6.3	20.2
Ontario	1,12	12.3	38.6	847	18.8	45.5	281	6.0	26.5
Manitoba	102	11.5	38.6	69	15.6	42.1	34	7.4	32.9
Saskatchewan	131	16.7	49.1	94	24.2	53.2	37	9.3	41.1
Alberta	369	16.3	44.3	242	21.4	45.6	127	11.2	42.2
British Columbia	427	13.3	37.2	270	17.1	38.3	157	9.7	35.5
Labour force participation									
Full time	1,63	14.3	36.0	1,268	18.4	39.0	366	8.2	28.3
Part time	143	8.9	26.6	63	17.3	36.3	80	6.4	22.0
Student with/without employment	738	31.2	48.7	491	40.8	53.5	247	21.2	41.3
Not in labour force	411	6.1	26.3	215	8.8	29.4	196	4.6	23.6
Mother tongue									
English only	1,85	16.3	42.7	1,302	23.0	47.1	554	9.7	35.1
French only	378	8.7	23.8	240	11.9	26.4	138	6.0	20.4
Other only	173	7.3	27.9	x	x	x	x	x	x
Multiple languages	582	14.0	33.9	384	18.6	37.3	198	9.4	28.7

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

TP% = percentage of total pop. MP% = percentage of male pop. FP% = percentage of female pop.

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

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1998