



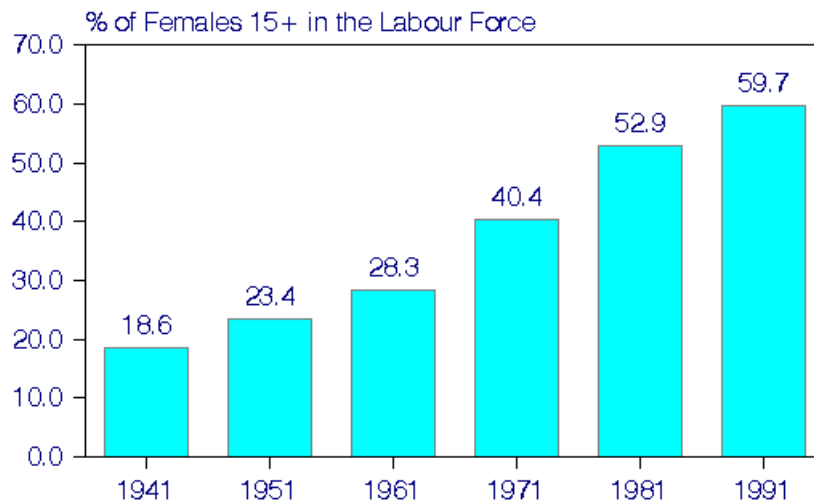
Census 91 Fast Facts

Issue 17: Women in the Labour Force

Produced by: Labour and Social Statistics Section

- Women's participation in the labour force continues to climb. In 1991, three out of every five women in British Columbia 15 years old and over were active in the workforce.

Three of Every Five Women in B.C. are Active in the Workforce



Source: 1991 Census of Canada

- The participation rate of women in B.C. has been increasing steadily over the past fifty years, from 18.6% in 1941 to 59.7% in 1991. The participation rate for men, however, has remained relatively stable, fluctuating between 74% and 78% in the same time period.
- While labour force participation of women in all age groups has increased steadily in the last 50 years, participation of women between the ages of 25 and 54 has increased significantly even in the last ten years, from 64.9% in 1981 to 78.3% in 1991. This age group accounts for over 72% of the women in the workforce.
- Although women have shown a continued increase in participation in the labour force, men continue to outnumber women in the labour force. In 1991, women accounted for 45% of the labour force, up from 34% twenty years ago and 17.6% fifty years ago.

Labour force Participation Rate of Women, British Columbia

Age Group	Per Cent of Female Population 15+					
	1991	1981	1971	1961	1951	1941
15-19	58.0	58.1	42.1	28.6	34.7	21.5
20-24	82.9	77.7	61.1	44.8	48.8	42.0
25-34	79.1	66.6	44.6	28.4	25.8	23.3
35-44	80.4	67.2	46.2	33.0	24.2	15.1
45-54	73.9	59.2	46.9	36.8	21.7	12.0
55-64	39.7	35.5	35.8	24.4	13.1	9.5
65+	4.4	4.9	6.6	5.1	3.8	4.8

Source: 1991 Census of Canada