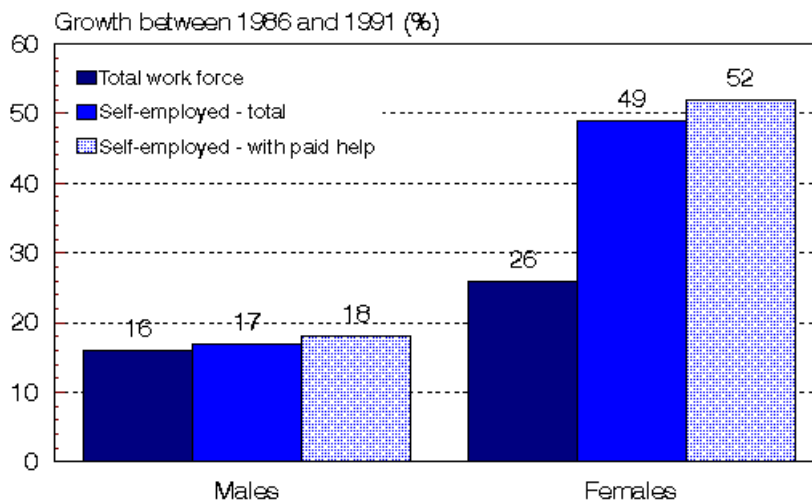


## Issue 23: The Self Employed

Produced by: Labour and Social Statistics Section

- In 1991, 193,665 workers in British Columbia (11 per cent of the experienced labour force) were either self-employed in an unincorporated business or owner-operators of an incorporated business.
- Men were twice as likely as women to be self-employed.<sup>1</sup> In 1991, one in seven men in the labour force was self-employed, compared to one in every fourteen women.
- As the graph below illustrates, the number of self-employed females increased by 49 per cent between 1986 and 1991. This was twice the growth rate of the total female labour force and about three times the increase in male self employment over the same period.

### Female self employment increased almost three times as fast as male self employment between 1986 and 1991



- In 1971, one in six unincorporated self-employed workers was female; by 1991, the share had doubled to one in three.
- Self-employed operators of unincorporated businesses were most likely to work alone or with unpaid family help. In 1991, seven in ten self-employed females and six in ten self-employed males who operated unincorporated businesses did not have any paid help.
- In contrast, seventy per cent of self-employed workers in corporations had paid employees in 1991.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those in incorporated and unincorporated businesses.

- The share of unpaid family workers<sup>2</sup> in the labour force has declined from about 2.6 per cent to 0.3 per cent during the last twenty years.
- The majority of unpaid family workers were female. In 1971, females made up 81 per cent of unpaid family workers; by 1991, the share had fallen slightly to 74 per cent.

## Self Employed Labour Force

	1986			1991		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Experienced labour force	1,435,980	822,925	613,060	1,721,690	951,370	770,320
Percent self-employed	10.8	14.1	6.4	11.2	14.2	7.6
with paid help	5.2	7.2	2.6	5.5	7.3	3.2
without paid help	5.6	6.9	3.8	5.8	6.9	4.4

### Number of self-employed by class and sex

Total self-employed	154,855	115,635	39,230	193,665	135,255	58,415
with paid help	74,880	58,890	15,985	93,850	69,510	24,340
without paid help	79,975	56,740	23,240	99,810	65,740	34,065
Incorporated	56,595	44,710	11,890	70,700	52,720	17,980
with paid help	39,215	31,050	8,165	49,665	37,145	12,515
without paid help	17,375	13,660	3,720	21,035	15,575	5,460
Unincorporated	98,260	70,925	27,340	122,965	82,535	40,435
with paid help	35,665	27,840	7,820	44,185	32,365	11,825
without paid help	62,600	43,080	19,520	78,775	50,165	28,605

### Distribution of self-employed by class

Total self-employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
with paid help	48.4	50.9	40.7	48.5	51.4	41.7
without paid help	51.6	49.1	59.2	51.5	48.6	58.3
Incorporated	36.5	38.7	30.3	36.5	39.0	30.8
with paid help	25.3	26.9	20.8	25.6	27.5	21.4
without paid help	11.2	11.8	9.5	10.9	11.5	9.3
Unincorporated	63.5	61.3	69.7	63.5	61.0	69.2
with paid help	23.0	24.1	19.9	22.8	23.9	20.2
without paid help	40.4	37.3	49.8	40.7	37.1	49.0

### Distribution of self-employed by sex

Total self-employed	100.0	74.7	25.3	100.0	69.8	30.2
with paid help	100.0	78.6	21.3	100.0	74.1	25.9
without paid help	100.0	70.9	29.1	100.0	65.9	34.1
Incorporated	100.0	79.0	21.0	100.0	74.6	25.4
with paid help	100.0	79.2	20.8	100.0	74.8	25.2
without paid help	100.0	78.6	21.4	100.0	74.0	26.0
Unincorporated	100.0	72.2	27.8	100.0	67.1	32.9
with paid help	100.0	78.1	21.9	100.0	73.2	26.8
without paid help	100.0	68.8	31.2	100.0	63.7	36.3

Source: 1986, 1991 Census of Canada

<sup>2</sup> Those who work without pay in a family firm, business or professional practise owned or operated by a related household member.

# Labour Force by Class of Worker

	1971	1981	1986	1991
<b>Total</b>				
Experienced Labour Force	910,090	1,473,460	1,435,980	1,721,690
Percent of labour force	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Paid workers	828,755	1,383,340	1,331,420	1,594,165
Percent of labour force	91.1	93.9	92.7	92.6
Self-employed (unincorporated)	57,675	85,715	98,260	122,965
Percent of labour force	6.3	5.8	6.8	7.1
Unpaid family workers	23,665	4,405	6,295	4,560
Percent of labour force	2.6	0.3	0.4	0.3
<b>Males</b>				
Experienced Labour Force	602,335	854,055	822,925	951,370
Percent of male labour force	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent of total labour force	66.2	58.0	57.3	55.3
Paid workers	549,920	788,840	750,305	867,665
Percent of male labour force	91.3	92.4	91.2	91.2
Percent of total paid workers	66.4	57.0	56.4	54.4
Self-employed (unincorporated)	48,010	64,150	70,925	82,535
Percent of male labour force	8.0	7.5	8.6	8.7
Percent of total self-employed	83.2	74.8	72.2	67.1
Unpaid family workers	4,405	1,065	1,695	1,170
Percent of male labour force	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1
Percent of total unpaid workers	18.6	24.2	26.9	25.7
<b>Females</b>				
Experienced Labour Force	307,755	619,405	613,060	770,320
Percent of female labour force	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percent of total labour force	33.8	42.0	42.7	44.7
Paid workers	278,835	594,505	581,115	726,500
Percent of female labour force	90.6	96.0	94.8	94.3
Percent of total paid workers	33.6	43.0	43.6	45.6
Self-employed (unincorporated)	9,665	21,565	27,340	40,435
Percent of female labour force	3.1	3.5	4.5	5.2
Percent of total self-employed	16.8	25.2	27.8	32.9
Unpaid family workers	19,260	3,335	4,600	3,390
Percent of female labour force	6.3	0.5	0.8	0.4
Percent of total unpaid workers	81.4	75.7	73.1	74.3

Paid workers includes self-employed owner/operators of incorporated businesses.  
 Source: 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 Census of Canada