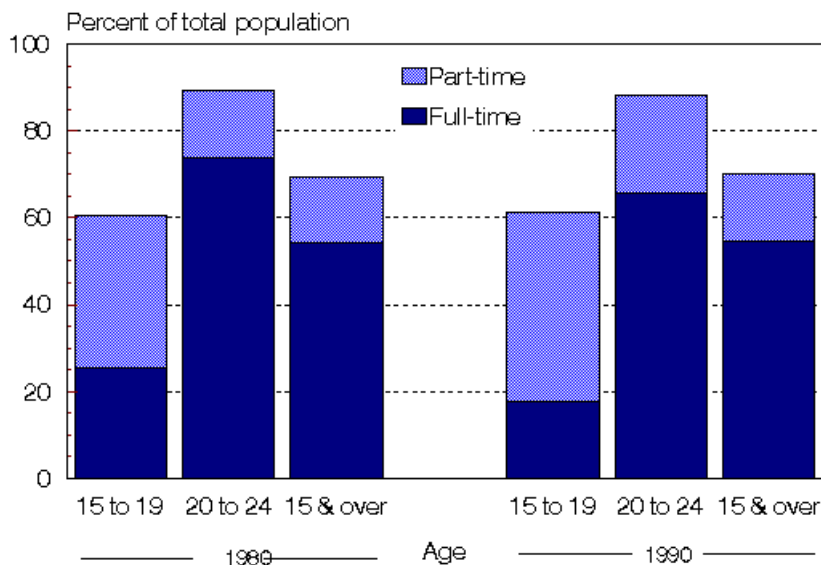


Issue 26: Work Activity of Young Adults

Produced by: Labour and Social Statistics Section

- Six out of every ten British Columbians between the ages of 15 and 19, and nine out of ten young adults aged 20 to 24, had full-time¹ or part-time jobs in 1990.
- As the chart below illustrates, the percentage of British Columbians with some work activity remained quite stable between 1980 and 1990.
- However, proportionally fewer young workers were employed full-time in 1990. The percentage of young adults (aged 15 to 19) who worked full-time fell from 26 to 18 per cent between 1980 and 1990.

While the proportion of young adults who have full-time jobs has declined since 1980, part-time employment has increased.



- Most of the decline in full-time employment was compensated for by growth in part-time work. In 1980, 35 per cent of those between the ages of 15 and 19 had part-time work; by 1990, the share had increased to 44 per cent.
- Part-time employment also accounts for a growing share of workers between the ages of 20 and 24. In 1990, one in five individuals in this age group had a part-time job, up from one in six ten years earlier.
- The difficulty that inexperienced workers have finding good-paying, full-time jobs may have caused a growing number of young British Columbians to opt for part-time work combined with further training. In 1981, two in three individuals aged 15 to 19 were in school; by 1991, the share had risen to four in five.

Work Activity of Young Adults

1980

Age	Population	Total workers	Full time	Part time	% of Population working:	
					Full time	Part time
Total	2,125,735	1,473,460	1,150,120	323,340	54.1	15.2
15-19	238,310	144,540	60,735	83,805	25.5	35.2
20-24	250,210	223,045	184,790	38,260	73.9	15.3
25+	1,637,220	1,105,870	904,595	201,270	55.3	12.3
Males	1,050,915	854,055	752,890	101,165	71.6	9.6
15-19	121,625	77,020	35,190	41,825	28.9	34.4
20-24	124,010	117,285	103,445	13,840	83.4	11.2
25+	805,280	659,745	614,255	45,495	76.3	5.6
Females	1,074,815	619,405	397,230	222,180	37.0	20.7
15-19	116,680	67,520	25,540	41,980	21.9	36.0
20-24	126,200	105,760	81,345	24,415	64.5	19.3
25+	831,940	446,120	290,340	155,785	34.9	18.7

1990

Age	Population	Total workers	Full time	Part time	% of Population working:	
					Full time	Part time
Total	2,585,525	1,812,410	1,411,445	400,965	54.6	15.5
15-19	212,300	129,705	37,380	92,330	17.6	43.5
20-24	224,030	198,045	147,495	50,550	65.8	22.6
25+	2,149,200	1,484,665	1,226,580	258,080	57.1	12.0
Males	1,273,585	989,170	859,625	129,550	67.5	10.2
15-19	107,880	66,745	21,310	45,430	19.8	42.1
20-24	114,405	104,235	82,405	21,835	72.0	19.1
25+	1,051,300	818,190	755,910	62,290	71.9	5.9
Females	1,311,945	823,240	551,820	271,415	42.1	20.7
15-19	104,420	62,970	16,065	46,900	15.4	44.9
20-24	109,620	93,810	65,090	28,720	59.4	26.2
25+	1,097,915	666,465	470,665	195,805	42.9	17.8

Source: 1981, 1991 Census of Canada