

Issue 33: The Distribution of Wage Earners

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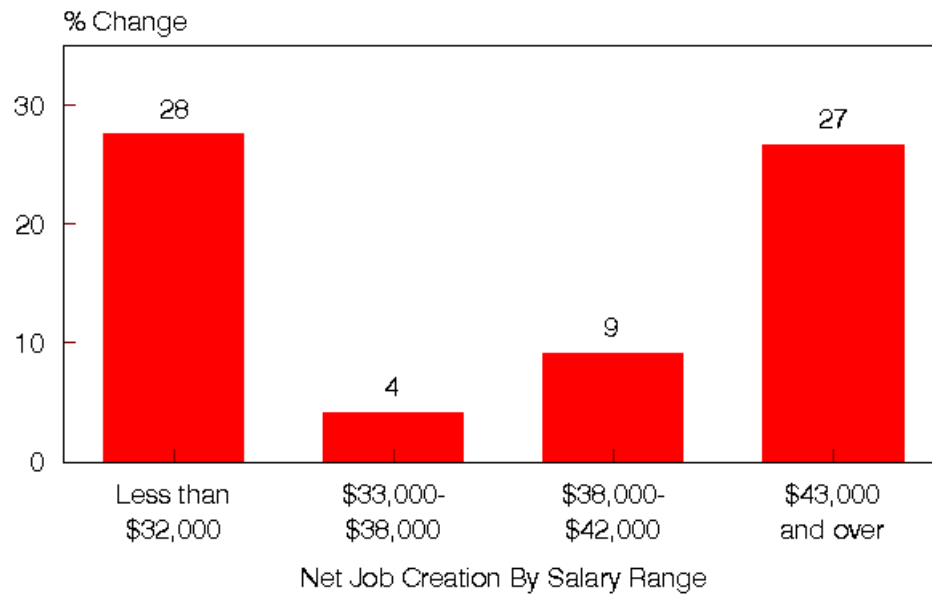
- Job creation has varied considerably among different occupations over the last ten years. The professional, service and managerial occupations stand out as high-growth areas, while low growth or actual declines were prevalent among occupations specific to manufacturing, construction and the primary industries.
- When occupations are ranked according to the potential average annual salary earned, it becomes apparent that most of the growth was in occupations at the high and low ends of the income scale. There was little growth in middle-income occupations, and as a result their relative importance in the labour market declined.

The Declining Middle: Occupations at the top and bottom of the wage scale grew most rapidly between 1980 and 1990



- For men, the distribution of occupations across the pay scale has changed radically. Between 1980 and 1990, the share of male workers employed in occupations at the mid-range of the salary scale fell from 56 to 51 per cent, with the difference being distributed roughly equally between high and low income occupations.
- There was also a decline, from 54 to 49 per cent, in the share of working women in middle-income occupations between 1980 and 1990. However, the change for women was positive, with a growing number moving from the middle-income to the high-income occupations. The share of women in lower-paid jobs remained relatively unchanged, at 23 per cent of the workforce.

Males were particularly affected by the low growth in mid-salary-range occupations



Growth in British Columbia's Workforce by Occupation, 1980 to 1990, Total

(Ranked according to earnings of full-time, full-year workers)

Occupation	Number			Earnings 1990 (\$)
	1980	1990	% change	
BC Total	1,463,345	1,806,130	23.4	33,806
High Pay:				
Mining & quarrying	8,780	7,730	-12.0	48,938
Management	118,195	176,410	49.3	45,915
Science, Eng, Math	44,060	60,570	37.5	44,603
Social Sciences	23,645	40,270	70.3	40,492
Forestry & logging	25,910	28,115	8.5	40,374
Teaching & related	57,590	74,165	28.8	38,946
Total	278,180	387,260	39.2	
Share of BC total	19.0	21.4		
Mid-High Pay:				
Medicine & health	65,985	87,300	32.3	38,523
Machining & related	28,485	25,745	-9.6	37,434
Transport equipt op	61,435	70,090	14.1	36,896
Construction trades	112,750	118,035	4.7	36,403
Other crfts,equip op	14,440	16,025	11.0	35,621
Total	283,095	317,195	12.0	
Share of BC total	19.3	17.6		
Mid-Low Pay:				
Processing	62,875	59,400	-5.5	35,314
Materials handling	38,560	32,740	-15.1	33,968
Product fab,ass,rep	86,695	92,825	7.1	33,229
Sales	140,380	183,430	30.7	32,264
Fishing & trapping	7,260	9,760	34.4	31,360
Total	335,770	378,155	12.6	
Share of BC total	22.9	20.9		
Low Pay:				
Occupations nec	19,500	25,630	31.4	29,222
Art, lit, recreation	19,905	33,500	68.3	28,662
Religion	2,830	3,905	38.0	27,269
Clerical & related	275,470	323,075	17.3	25,470
Services	199,385	264,855	32.8	22,875
Farming etc	34,460	44,085	27.9	19,514
Total	551,550	695,050	26.0	
Share of BC total	37.7	38.5		
Not applicable	14,725	28,480	93.4	

Source: 1981 and 1991 Census of Canada

Growth in British Columbia's Workforce by Occupation, 1980 to 1990, Men

(Ranked according to earnings of full-time, full-year workers)

Occupation	Number			Earnings 1990 (\$)
	1980	1990	% change	
BC Total	846,460	983,000	16.1	40,200
High Pay:				
Medicine & health	14,690	19,440	32.3	59,417
Social Sciences	11,065	15,760	42.4	54,404
Management	87,340	111,480	27.6	53,177
Mining & quarrying	8,430	7,430	-11.9	49,617
Science, Eng, Math	38,095	50,710	33.1	46,587
Teaching & related	22,300	25,800	15.7	46,140
Total	181,920	230,620	26.8	
Share of BC total	21.5	23.5		
Mid-High Pay:				
Forestry & logging	24,455	25,900	5.9	41,882
Other crfts, equip op	11,010	11,915	8.2	39,960
Sales	74,455	96,210	29.2	38,970
Processing	51,685	47,535	-8.0	38,652
Machining & related	27,315	24,865	-9.0	37,985
Total	188,920	206,425	9.3	
Share of BC total	22.3	21.0		
Mid-Low Pay:				
Transport equipt op	57,230	64,550	12.8	37,965
Construction trades	110,010	114,790	4.3	36,698
Materials handling	32,490	27,160	-16.4	36,229
Product fab, ass, rep	75,765	79,655	5.1	35,505
Fishing & trapping	6,530	7,955	21.8	33,716
Total	282,025	294,110	4.3	
Share of BC total	33.3	29.9		
Low Pay:				
Art, lit, recreation	11,210	18,055	61.1	31,554
Clerical & related	51,025	61,340	20.2	31,417
Occupations nec	16,640	21,015	26.3	30,397
Services	82,750	107,795	30.3	30,031
Religion	2,365	3,205	35.5	28,946
Farming etc	24,010	28,685	19.5	22,400
Total	188,000	240,095	27.7	
Share of BC total	22.2	24.4		
Not applicable	5,600	11,755	109.9	

Source: 1981 and 1991 Census of Canada

Growth in British Columbia's Workforce by Occupation, 1980 to 1990, Women

(Ranked according to earnings of full-time, full-year workers)

Occupation	Number			Earnings 1990 (\$)
	1980	1990	% change	
BC total	616,885	823,130	33.4	26,170
High Pay:				
Teaching & related	35,290	48,365	37.1	35,109
Science, Eng, Math	5,965	9,860	65.3	34,398
Management	30,855	64,930	110.4	33,446
Medicine & health	51,295	67,860	32.3	32,537
Mining & quarrying	350	300	-14.3	32,131
Social Sciences	12,580	24,510	94.8	31,547
Total	136,335	215,825	58.3	
Share of BC total	16.1	22.0		
Mid-High Pay:				
Construction trades	2,740	3,245	18.4	25,970
Art, lit, recreation	8,695	15,445	77.6	25,282
Sales	65,925	87,220	32.3	24,867
Transport equipt op	4,205	5,540	31.7	24,435
Clerical & related	224,445	261,735	16.6	24,076
Total	306,010	373,185	22.0	
Share of BC total	36.2	38.0		
Mid-Low Pay:				
Occupations nec	2,860	4,615	61.4	23,874
Other crfts,equip op	3,430	4,110	19.8	23,042
Materials handling	6,070	5,580	-8.1	22,960
Forestry & logging	1,455	2,215	52.2	22,738
Processing	11,190	11,865	6.0	21,940
Total	25,005	28,385	13.5	
Share of BC total	3.0	2.9		
Low Pay:				
Machining & related	1,170	880	-24.8	21,859
Fishing & trapping	730	1,805	147.3	20,979
Religion	465	700	50.5	19,589
Product fab,ass,rep	10,930	13,170	20.5	19,464
Services	116,635	157,060	34.7	17,964
Farming etc	10,450	15,400	47.4	14,137
Total	140,380	189,015	34.6	
Share of BC total	16.6	19.2		
Not applicable	9,125	16,725	83.3	

Source: 1981 and 1991 Census of Canada