



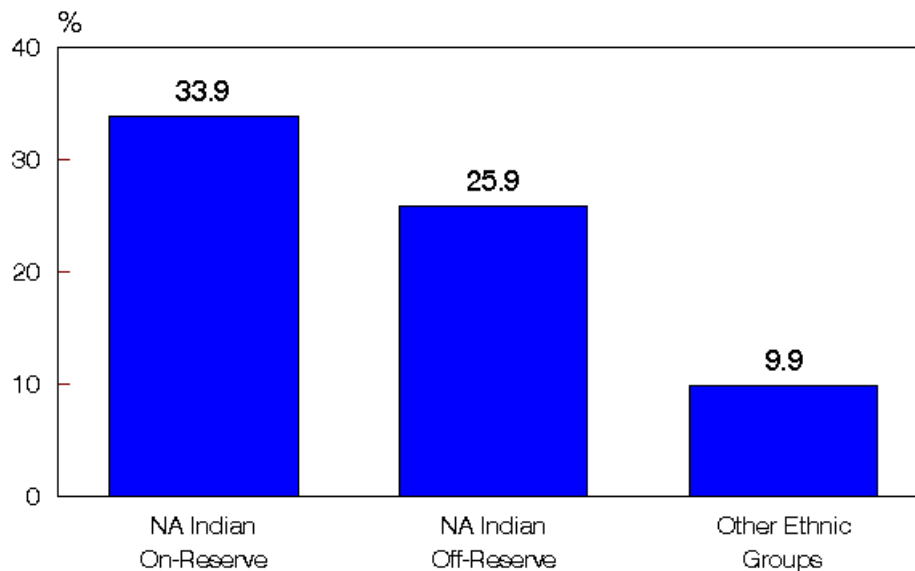
Census 91 Fast Facts

Issue 36: Aboriginal Peoples Survey¹—Work Activity

Produced by: Labour and Social Statistics Section

- There are large disparities between aboriginals and non-aboriginals with respect to their participation in and access to the workforce. The most pronounced under-representation is found among North American Indians living on-reserve. In June 1991, only 36 per cent of the adults living on-reserve who identified themselves as North American Indians were employed. In contrast, among those adults who did not identify themselves as North American Indians, the comparable figure was 61 per cent.

Unemployment Rates
British Columbia--June 1991

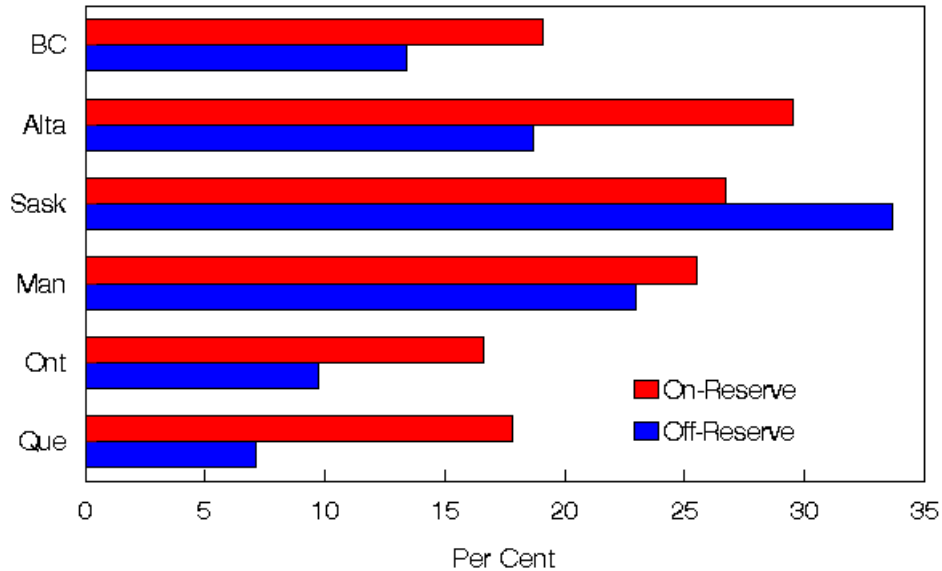


- The unemployment rate (the proportion of people who wish to work but are unable to find a job) among North American Indians is very high for both the on-reserve and off-reserve populations. Among North American Indians living on-reserve, one of every three (34%) labour force participants was unemployed in June 1991. In contrast, among those who were not North American Indians less than one in ten (9%) was unemployed.
- Those who would like to work but have given up hope and are no longer actively looking for a job ("discouraged workers") are excluded from census unemployment figures since they are considered to be "not in the labour force". Usually, low labour force participation rates combined with high unemployment rates, as observed among North American Indians living on-reserve, are

¹ The Aboriginal Peoples Survey was administered by Statistics Canada to a sample of people who reported aboriginal ancestry on the 1991 Census. This follow-up survey to the Census asked additional questions to supplement the Census profiles of the respondents.

coincident with a very high percentage of "discouraged workers". For this reason, the official unemployment rate for North American Indians living on-reserve probably understates the true extent of unemployment in this group.

Proportion of North American Indians who felt they had encountered discrimination when looking for a job-1990/91



- The above figure shows the extent to which people who identify themselves as North American Indians feel there are barriers to finding work because "they are an aboriginal person". In British Columbia, 15 per cent of North American Indians who had looked for a job in 1990/91 felt they faced racial discrimination. Among those living on-reserve, the figure was slightly higher, at 19 per cent, while 13 per cent of those living off-reserve reported that they had problems finding work because they were aboriginals. While the rate is very high in British Columbia, it is even higher in the Prairie provinces, particularly in Saskatchewan, where thirty-four per cent of natives living off-reserve identified racial discrimination as a barrier to getting a job.

Labour Market Activity, June 1991

North American Indians

	Total	On-Reserve	Off-Reserve	Other Ethnic Groups	Total Population
Working Age Population (15+)	60,700	20,135	40,565	2,524,830	2,585,530
Labour Force	37,540	11,000	26,540	1,711,385	1,748,925
Employed	26,930	7,275	19,655	1,541,850	1,568,780
Unemployed	10,610	3,725	6,885	169,535	180,145
Not in Labour Force	22,950	9,040	13,910	813,655	836,605
Participation Rate	61.8	54.6	65.4	67.8	67.6
Unemployment Rate	28.3	33.9	25.9	9.9	10.3
Employed as a % of Population 15+	44.4	36.1	48.5	61.1	60.7

Adults who did activities to support themselves for which they received no money

Number	11,595	6,300	5,295	n.a.	n.a.
Per cent of Population 15+	19.1	31.3	13.1	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and 1991 Census

Adults Who Reported They Looked for Work in 1990/91 and Faced Barriers to Finding a Job "Because They Were Aboriginals"

	Living On-Reserve			Living Off-Reserve		
	Adult Population	Felt Discriminated Against		Adult Population	Felt Discriminated Against	
		Number	Per cent		Number	Per cent
Canada	31,790	7,050	22.2	61,840	9,675	15.6
Quebec	4,075	725	17.8	3,965	280	7.1
Ontario	3,835	635	16.6	16,065	1,565	9.7
Manitoba	5,795	1,475	25.5	6,450	1,485	23.0
Saskatchewan	4,620	1,235	26.7	6,265	2,110	33.7
Alberta	4,220	1,245	29.5	9,430	1,765	18.7
British Columbia	7,160	1,365	19.1	14,230	1,900	13.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey and 1991 Census