

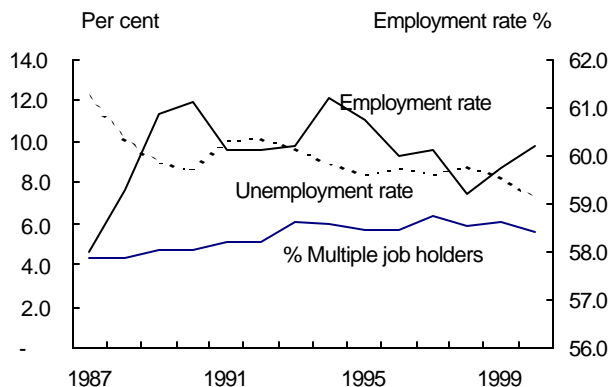
Earnings and Employment Trends ♦ April 2001

HAVING A SECOND JOB

In the mid seventies, about 2% of employed British Columbians held more than one job. The rate has since tripled, reaching 6.1% in 1999, dropping the following year to 5.6%. In 2000, 109,000 people had some reason for working at more than one job.

Multiple job holding has been viewed rather negatively in the past, often termed "moonlighting". Neither employers nor the labour movement have supported the practice. It is often thought that moonlighting takes jobs away from others. However, there is really no evidence of that.

Multiple job holding has little negative impact on employment or unemployment

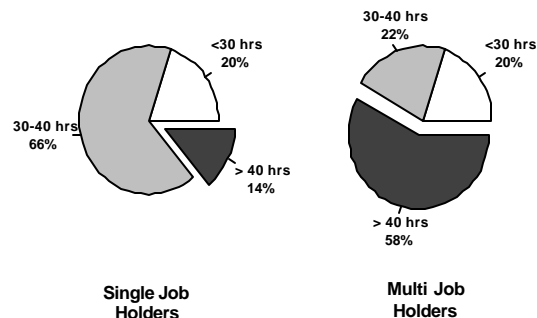


Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey offers a variety of characteristics of multiple job holders but doesn't provide reasons, such as, whether people need the additional income, are looking for work experience in another field, insuring themselves against future job loss or other reasons.

The majority of multiple job holders usually work more than forty hours, although equal

proportions of single and multiple job holders work up to 30 hours.

More than one-half of multi-job holders work more than 40 hours per week



One might suppose that most multiple job holders would be persons unable to find full-time main jobs, and therefore, forced to string part-time jobs together to make up full-time work. However, sixty per cent of multiple job holders work full-time (30 hours or more) at their main job and therefore are considered "moonlighters".

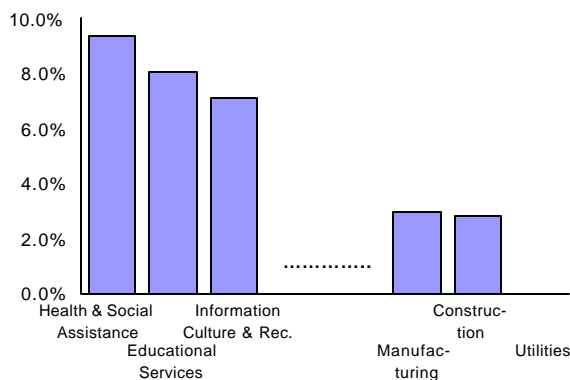
Multiple job holding rates for men and women were similar in the late 1980's at around 4.5% but have increasingly diverged. In 2000, the rate for women (6.7%), is two percentage points above that for men (4.6%). As their participation in the labour force increased, women have taken a greater share of the available work.

It is not unexpected that the rate for youth 15 to 24 years of age, would be higher than that for older persons. Young women were more likely than young men to work at more than one job, and in recent years the spread has been as much as 4 percentage points. In the mid 1990's, there was a brief deviation in the age pattern when men be-

tween 25 to 44 years had a somewhat higher rate than their younger counterparts. Persons 45 years of age and older were least likely to be multiple job holders. However, this age group has consistently increased its share of the “multiple job market”, having gone from 21.1% of the total in 1987 to 28.2% by 2000.

The industry sectors with the highest rates of multiple job holding were Health Care and Social Assistance and Educational Services at 9.4% and 8.1% respectively in 2000. Further examination by occupation shows that persons with primary jobs in childcare and home support services and in technical, assisting and related occupations in health had the highest rates of multiple job holding as well as high part-time rates. The high part-time rates may mean that persons in these jobs look for secondary work to supplement their incomes.

Service industry workers are more likely to have second jobs

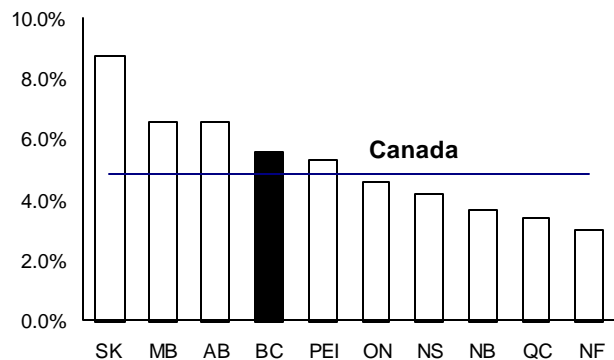


The Information, Culture and Recreation industry was in third position (7.2%). Since the Labour Force Survey defines the primary job as the one with most hours, LFS data may not measure all of workers whose primary job aspirations are in the arts, culture and recreation fields, nor the degree of multiple job holding. This may be true for other industries as well.

Workers in the highly unionized goods-producing industries showed the lowest rates of multiple job holding. Workers in Utilities have a very low rate.

Although one might expect some seasonality in the degree of multiple job holding, no pattern emerges from the data. Examining both the numbers and the rates for the years from 1987 to 2000, peak months are scattered throughout the year.

Saskatchewan has the highest rate in 2000



Among the provinces, multiple job holding rates tended to be lowest where unemployment rates were highest. Provinces with higher overall rates had significantly high concentrations in agriculture and also in educational services and health and social assistance.

Source: All data and charts are based on information from Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey.

TITLES OF PREVIOUS ISSUES	ISSUE NUMBER
Summer Work	01-03
When Workers Retire	01-01/02
Year 2000 in Review	00-12
Turnover in the Workforce	00-11
BC Unions Low Wage Increases	0010