
Manufacturing

Table 3.5 shows where women are employed in the manufacturing sector. The clothing industry accounts for 18 per cent of women's manufacturing jobs. Other manufacturing categories where women are primarily employed include the food and beverage industries (13 per cent), the printing, publishing and allied industries (12 per cent), and the electrical products industry (nine per cent).

The fastest growth in women's employment in manufacturing during the last decade has been in printing and publishing. By comparison, the number of women employed in the clothing industry has grown relatively slowly owing to the limited growth in this sector.

Primary Industries

Primary industries include agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining. They account for less than five per cent of women's total employment, with the majority of women in this sector working in agriculture.

Women comprised approximately 30 per cent of the agricultural work force in 1986, up from 23 per cent in 1975. Since 1975, the number of self-employed women operating farms almost tripled from 13,000 to 35,000. However, statistics do not portray the full extent of women's involvement in agriculture. Many women who contribute to Canadian agriculture may be excluded from the statistics because of the part-time or seasonal nature of their work or because they contribute as family members to the operation

of family farms. Family farms account for 99 per cent of all farms in Canada, with the overwhelming majority of them operated by married couples. The percentage of women in agriculture who were unpaid family workers decreased from 57 per cent in 1975 to 36 per cent in 1986. This is partly explained by the hiring of family members as paid employees and partly by the increase in non-family workers employed in agriculture.

Labour Mobility

Canada's labour force is highly mobile. This mobility can be seen by examining data on new hires, employment separations, and employment. In 1985, total employees averaged 11.3 million of which 4.8 million were women. There were approximately 6.1 million new hires and 5.4 million employment separations. For women, new hires numbered 2.7 million and employment separations 2.2 million. This volume of new hires and employment separations reflects the large number of job changes which occur every year as workers take advantage of growth in employment and alternate opportunities. The relevant data for women are provided in Table 3.6. Reasons for which workers leave a job include layoffs, voluntary quits and various personal reasons. The 1985 data for women are shown in Table 3.7.