

2. PROFILE OF POLITICAL OFFICERS

The Foreign Service (FS) officer group

The foreign service officer complement at DFAIT consists of some 320 EX-level officers and about 860 FS officers. EX-level officers form an integrated group, in recognition of the common leadership abilities and breadth of knowledge expected of managers. FS officers, however, are divided into two distinct groups: the "political/economic" stream and the "trade" stream (Table 1). There is also a separate stream for administrative and consular officers, who do not form part of the FS group but many of whom are also "rotational", i.e. they rotate regularly between assignments at headquarters and abroad. Members of one group frequently perform the work of another, either for the duration of an assignment or on a temporary basis.

TABLE 1 FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS (FS)			
	Political/Economic	Trade	TOTAL
At Headquarters	316	254	570
At Missions	166	127	293
TOTAL	482	381	863

Source: HPP

Within the FS group as a whole, the ratio of men to women is about 70/30, while the ratio of Anglophones to Francophones is about 75/25 (Table 2). Among more junior officers (i.e. at the FS-1 level), the ratios are much closer.

TABLE 2 FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS (FS) GENDER AND LANGUAGE DISTRIBUTION			
	FS 1	FS 2	TOTAL
Men	161	448	609
Women	136	118	254
Anglophones	212	428	640
Francophones	85	138	223

Source: DFAIT's Demographic Profile