



Looking for work? Understanding the labour market transitions of women and men in Canada

Schirle, Tammy. "Looking for work? Understanding the labour market transitions of women and men in Canada."
CRDCN research-policy snapshots. January 2023

What the researcher(s) did

The researchers use the Labour Force Survey to measure transition rates, representing the extent to which men and women move between non-participation in the labour force, unemployment and employment, from 1980-2019. The researchers estimate the extent to which young children, changes in spousal employment, and the business cycle affect these transitions.

What the researcher(s) found

The transitions rates of women became more similar to men over time, as women were more likely to enter the labour force. Spousal job loss increases women's likelihood of entering the labour force, while the presence of young children significantly reduces the chance of entering among women, but not men.

RDC Datasets used

[Labour Force Survey](#)

Policy areas this research can inform

- Families, households and marital status
- Labour

Policy implications of this research

The presence of young children appears central to women's labour market decisions and the timing of career development. Policies that support re-entry to the labour market (such as job search, childcare, and upskilling) could improve outcomes for those women wishing to achieve a balance between family and career.

Read the full article

[Schirle, T, Ferrer, A. & Pan, A. \(Y.\) \(2022\). "Uneven Odds: Men, Women and the Obstacles to Getting Back to Work with Kids." e-briefs 333, C.D. Howe Institute.](#)

