Canada’s uneven labour market recovery exposes worrying shortfalls

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A sharp shock and uneven recovery

3 million jobs lost, 2.5 million jobs recovered

Employment, millions, SA

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
Rising numbers out of work for extended period

Long-Term Unemployment

Long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more), thousands, seasonally-adjusted

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
Women in hardest-hit sectors experienced more job losses

Thousands of job losses among males and females aged 20+, Feb ‘20 - Apr’21, SA

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
Women more likely to have more than one job

Females more likely to be working multiple service sector jobs

Prime age females % share of multiple jobholders pre covid

Health care and social assistance [62]
Educational services [61]
Other services (except public administration) [81]
Accommodation and food services [72]
Construction [23]
Manufacturing [31-33]
Transportation and warehousing [48-49]
Agriculture [111-112, 1100, 1151-1152]
Professional, scientific and technical services [54]
Public administration [91]
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing [52-53]
Information, culture and recreation [51, 71]
Business, building and other support services [55-56]
Wholesale and retail trade [41, 44-45]
Utilities [22]
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas [21, 113-…]
Accommodation and food services [72]
Agriculture [111-112, 1100, 1151-1152]
Manufacturing [31-33]
Construction [23]
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas [21, 113-…]

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics Research
More low-wage workers out of work

Pandemic hit lower-earning women harder

% change in employment (Feb ’20-Apr ’21), employees aged 25-54 who work full time (>= 30 hours/week), SA

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
Youth face challenges

Youngest women were most affected by job losses

% change in employment by age group, Feb '20- Apr '21, SA

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
Those with less education under pressure

Women without university degrees fared worse

% change in employment (Feb '20- Apr '21), prime aged females and males by highest level of educational attainment, SA

Women without university degrees fared worse
Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
More mothers have lost jobs

Mothers face higher job losses than women without children

% change in employment (Feb ’20-Apr’21) among mothers aged 25-54 with children <13, & females without children, full-time employees only (weekly hours worked >=30), by weekly wage bracket

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
Parents left while those without children joined

Mothers left the labour force, women without children joined

% change in labour force size (Feb '20 - Apr '21) among parents aged 25-54 with children <13 & those without children, full-time employees only (weekly hours worked >= 30)

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
Women exiting labour market

71,000 women leave the labour force while men join

Change in labour force size from Feb ‘20 to Apr ‘21, males and females aged 20+, thousands of persons

Source: Statistics Canada, RBC Economics
Pandemic threatens decades of women’s labour force gains, July 2020

Canadian women continue to exit the labour force
December 2020

Double Jeopardy March 2021

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rbc.com/economics