

Household Work



Noteworthy:

- Unpaid work is made up of volunteerism and household work.
- Household work consists of domestic work, parenting and eldercare, management and shopping, and transportation and travel related to these activities.
- Household work made up the majority of total unpaid between 1961 and 2003. The remaining portion of unpaid work was spent volunteering.
- In 1961, household work per person (population 15 years and over) in Alberta totaled 1,156 hours; in 2003, the total was 1,099 hours.
- In 2003, hours of household work were equivalent to 1,450,509 full-time jobs; close to the 1,717,900 actual full time jobs realized in Alberta in the same year.
- The value of household work increased by 289% from 1961 to 2003—from \$5.7 billion (1998\$) to over \$22 billion (1998\$).
- Despite increasing expenditure on time-saving devices and restaurant meals, Albertans are not experiencing a significant decline in hours devoted to domestic work.
- Albertans are having fewer children than in the past and live in larger houses.

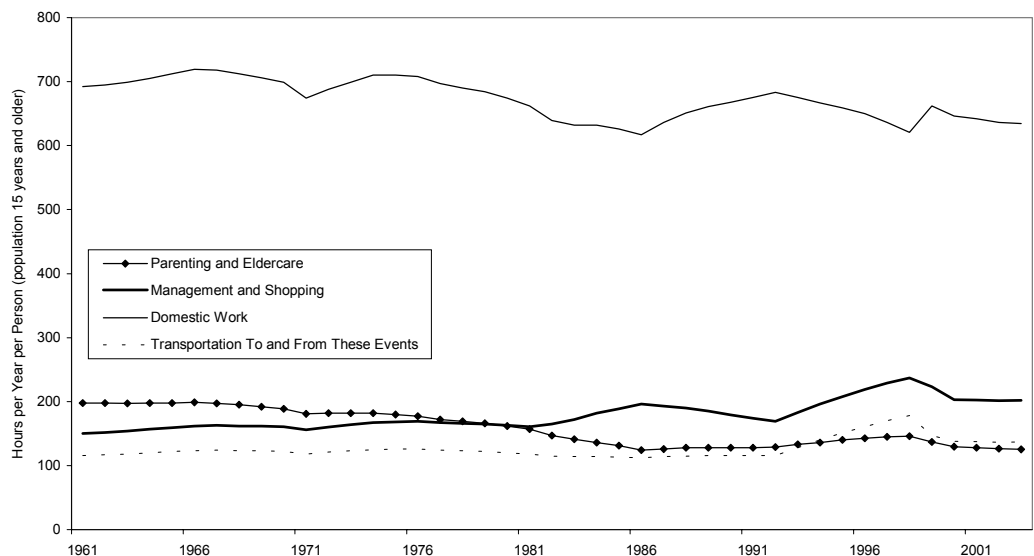
Household Work in Alberta: How Much?

Total unpaid work is made up of household unpaid work and volunteerism. Household unpaid work is responsible for most of the total unpaid work and can be further disaggregated into domestic work (cooking, cleaning and laundry for example), parenting and eldercare, shopping and management, and transportation and travel associated with these unpaid tasks. In 2003,

household unpaid work accounted for over 2,785 million hours of total unpaid work. In full-time job equivalents that is: 837,756 full-time jobs attributable to domestic unpaid work; 165,644 full-time jobs attributable to parenting and eldercare; 266,584 full-time jobs attributable to management and shopping; and 180,524 full-time jobs attributable to transportation.

The total estimated value of household work in 1961 was \$5,791 million (1998\$). By 2003, that figure had increased 289% to \$22,512 million. The figure below shows hours of household work by activity per person (population 15 years and over) for Alberta between 1961 and 2003.

Per Person Household Work in Alberta, 1961 to 2003



Source: Derived from Statistics Canada data, General Social Survey