

Parenting & Eldercare

Alberta GPI

Noteworthy:

- The percent of household unpaid work attributable to parenting and eldercare fell steadily from 17% in 1961 to 11% in 2003.
- Between 1961 and 2003, the average time spent (hours per person per year) at parenting and eldercare declined by 37%.
- There are fewer children to look after today than there were in 1961.
- More mothers are working in paid jobs than in 1961.
- According to Statistics Canada, nearly 70% of full-time employed, married mothers feel rushed on a daily basis.
- The demand for paid childcare increased significantly between 1961 and 2003, in spite of the reduced fertility rates in Canada.
- Vast investments in time-saving devices have had little impact on time spent on domestic work.
- Families are eating out more than ever. In 1969, Canadian households spent 15% of their food budget on restaurant meals. By 2003 it was 22%.
- The estimated value of parenting and eldercare in Alberta was \$3,276 million (1998\$) in 2003.

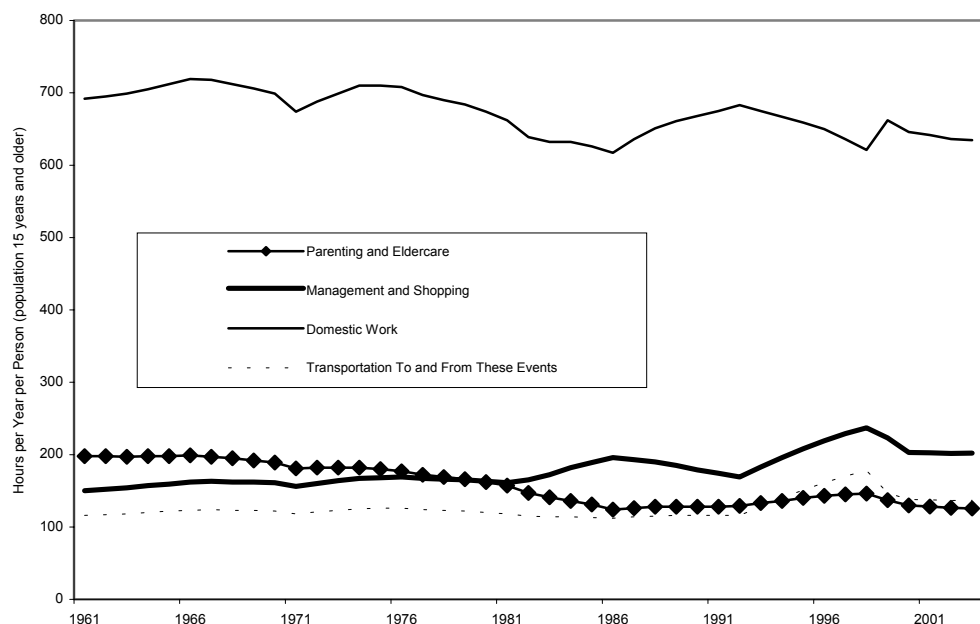
Parenting and Eldercare in Alberta: How Much?

Parenting and eldercare consumed more time than both management and shopping and transportation, two other forms of unpaid work, in 1961. But in 2003 it consumed less time than these activities. In fact, the percent of household unpaid work attributable to parenting and eldercare fell steadily from 17% in 1961 to 11% in 2003. A closer look at trends in

household size likely explains some of the decline. Statistics Canada data reveal that children under the age of four in Alberta made up 12% of the total population in 1971. By 2003, that figure had fallen to 8%. A second factor is the trend towards increasing labour force participation by women. In 2002, dual-earner families made up 59% of all

two-spouse families in Canada, up from just 33% in 1967. The increasing number of hours households are devoting to paid work while still trying to maintain a house and do the regular shopping could be manifesting itself partly in a decline in hours devoted to childcare.

Parenting and Eldercare in Alberta, 1961 to 2003



Source: Derived from Statistics Canada data, General Social Survey