

More Canadian women are the breadwinners of the family, but the 'motherhood penalty' keeps many from getting ahead ^[1]

Author: Peesker, Saira

Source: The Globe and Mail

Format: Article

Publication Date: 18 Feb 2025

AVAILABILITY

Access online ^[2]

Excerpt

...

Hit with the motherhood penalty

Ms. Anderson is part of an increasing number of breadwinner women in Canada, according to a recent report by the Vanier Institute of the Family. It found that women making more than 50 per cent of total income in "different-gender couple census families" went from 25.9 per cent in 2000 to 32.8 per cent in 2022.

However, being a breadwinner and a mother is much less common, at 10.7 per cent, increasing marginally from 7.8 per cent in 2000. Experts say that's because mothers still face stigma in the workplace, driving the phenomenon known as the motherhood penalty, in which mothers often take a pay cut while fathers see a pay bump.

Mothers also continue to be responsible for a majority of a family's housework and child-care duties, whether or not they have high-earning jobs or multiple jobs, making it hard for many to continue in their careers at the same pace after having children.

...

Related link: Families count 2024 ^[3]

Why are so many U.S. mothers becoming their family's primary economic support? ^[4]

Region: Canada ^[5]

Tags: gender equity ^[6]

gender gap ^[7]

gender roles ^[8]

women's labour force participation ^[9]

Source URL (modified on 19 Feb 2025): <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/25/02/more-canadian-women-are-breadwinners-family-%E2%80%98motherhood-penalty%E2%80%99>

Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/25/02/more-canadian-women-are-breadwinners-family-%E2%80%98motherhood-penalty%E2%80%99> [2] <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-more-canadian-women-are-the-breadwinners-of-the-family-but-the/> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/25/02/families-count-2024> [4] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/25/02/why-are-so-many-us-mothers-becoming-their-family's-primary> [5] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7864> [6] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/gender-equity> [7] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/gender-gap> [8] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/9202> [9] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/womens-labour-force-participation>