



2005 Workforce Profile of Registered Nurses in Canada

Demographic Profile

- In 2005, there were **268,376 registered nurses** (RNs) in Canada, an increase of 5.3% from 2000.
- Of this number of nurses:
 - **93.8%** (251,675) were **employed in nursing**, an increase of 8.2% from 2000 (from 232,566 to 251,675);
 - **1.9%** (5,030) were **employed outside of nursing**;
 - **3.3%** (8,912) were **not employed**; and
 - **1.0%** (2,759) *did not state* their employment status.
- The **ratio of practising registered nurses to the Canadian population** in 2005 was one registered nurse to every 120 persons.¹
- **RNs employed in nursing** in 2005 by province/territory compared to the Canadian population is as follows:

Province/Territory	RNs	Canadian Popn ¹	Ratio of RNs to Popn
Canada	251,675	32,270,500	1:120
Newfoundland/Labrador	5,496	516,000	1:93
Prince Edward Island	1,443	138,100	1:95
Nova Scotia	8,733	937,900	1:107
New Brunswick	7,507	752,000	1:100
Québec	63,827	7,598,100	1:119
Ontario	89,429	12,541,400	1:140
Manitoba	11,263	1,177,600	1:104
Saskatchewan	8,549	994,100	1:116
Alberta	26,355	3,256,800	1:123
British Columbia	27,814	4,254,500	1:152
Yukon	302	31,000	1:102
NWT/Nunavut ²	957	73,000	1:76

¹ Statistics Canada, CANSIM, TABLE 051-0001 as of September 2006.

² Northwest Territories and Nunavut data combined for 2005.

- **Males represent 5.6% of RNs** (14,007) employed in nursing, with 41.5% practising in Québec, 27.7% in Ontario, 10.0% in British Columbia, 7.2% in Alberta, 4.4% in Manitoba and 9.3% distributed throughout the remaining provinces/territories.
- **Females represent 94.4% of the RN population** (237,668) employed in nursing
- The **number of RNs** (employed in nursing) **by sex** is as follows:

	2005			2000		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Canada	237,668	14,007	251,675	221,493	11,073	232,566
Newfoundland	5,252	244	5,496	5,192	202	5,394
Prince Edward Island	1,405	38	1,443	1,234	21	1,255
Nova Scotia	8,447	286	8,733	8,467	232	8,699
New Brunswick	7,201	306	7,507	6,998	258	7,256
Québec	58,008	5,819	63,827	53,611	5,139	58,750
Ontario	85,553	3,876	89,429	78,931	2,748	81,679
Manitoba	10,645	618	11,263	9,608	443	10,051
Saskatchewan	8,255	294	8,549	8,310	233	8,543
Alberta	25,351	1,004	26,355	21,589	583	22,172
British Columbia	26,415	1,399	27,814	26,601	1,129	27,730
Yukon	276	26	302	259	16	275
NWT/Nunavut	860	97	957	693	69	762

- The **age distribution of RNs** (employed in nursing) in Canada are in the following age groups:

Age of Canadian RNs in 2005

<25	6,238	(2.5%)
25-29	19,100	(7.6%)
30-34	24,944	(9.9%)
35-39	30,164	(12.0%)
40-44	37,723	(15.0%)
45-49	40,209	(16.0%)
50-54	43,778	(17.4%)
55-59	31,043	(12.3%)
60-64	14,243	(5.7%)
65-69	3,441	(1.3%)
70+	781	(0.3%)
Not stated	11	<0.0%

- The **average age** of an RN employed in nursing in 2005 was **44.7**; the average age in 2000 was 43.3.

- The **average age of Canadian RNs by province and territory** for 2005 is as follows:

Province/Territory	Average age	Difference from Canada
Canada	44.7	-
Newfoundland	41.9	-2.8
Prince Edward Island	45.6	+0.9
Nova Scotia	45.5	+0.8
New Brunswick	43.9	-0.8
Québec	43.4	-1.3
Ontario	45.2	+0.5
Manitoba	45.2	+0.5
Saskatchewan	45.6	+0.9
Alberta	44.6	-0.1
British Columbia	46.4	+1.7
Yukon	44.7	0.0
Northwest Territories/Nunavut	43.8	-0.9

Educational Profile

- The **highest levels of education in nursing** reported by RNs (employed in nursing) in Canada are as follows:

2005		2000
66.0% (166,004)	Diploma	75.6% (175,801)
31.5% (79,306)	Baccalaureate	22.7% (52,927)
2.4% (5,954)	Master's	1.6% (3,652)
0.1% (394)	Doctoral	0.1% (186)

- The **location of graduation** reported by RNs (employed in nursing) in 2005 was:
 - 91.5%** (230,286) **educated in Canada;**
 - 7.6%** (19,230) **internationally educated;**
 - 0.9%** (2,159) not stated.

Employment Profile

- The **sector of employment** for RNs in Canada (employed in nursing) in 2005 is as follows:

2005	
62.5% (157,489)	Hospital
13.3% (33,419)	Community Health
11.5% (28,965)	Nursing Home/Long Term Care
11.3% (28,369)	Other
1.4% (3,433)	Not Stated

- The **number and percentage distribution** of RNs employed in nursing **by place of employment** in 2005 is as follows:

2005	
59.4% (149,444)	Hospital
11.5% (28,965)	Nursing Home/Long-term Care
10.0% (25,061)	Community Health Centre/Agency
2.9% (7,404)	Home Care Agency
2.7% (6,871)	Educational Institution
2.3% (5,651)	Other Place of Work
2.0% (5,117)	Physician's Office/Family Practice Unit
1.8% (4,433)	Association/Government
1.7% (4,328)	Rehabilitation/Convalescent Centre
1.5% (3,717)	Mental Health Centre
1.3% (3,433)	Not stated
1.0% (2,506)	Business/Industry/Occupational Health Office
0.9% (2,217)	Self-Employed
0.6% (1,574)	Private Nursing Agency/Private Duty
0.4% (954)	Nursing Station

- The **number and percentage distribution** of RNs employed in nursing **by primary area of responsibility** is as follows:

2005		2000
75.0% (188,831)	Direct patient care	76.4% (177,594)
13.7% (34,564)	Other	12.0% (27,944)
4.3% (10,796)	Not stated	3.7% (8,493)
4.3% (10,737)	Administration	5.4% (12,563)
2.4% (5,964)	Education	2.1% (4,916)
0.3% (783)	Research	0.5% (1,056)

- The **number and percentage distribution** of RNs employed in nursing **by position** is as follows:

2005		2000
76.6% (192,816)	Staff Nurse/Community Health Nurse	76.7% (178,366)
5.1% (12,868)	Manager/Assistant Manager	5.9% (13,624)
4.9% (12,268)	Other	6.7% (15,552)
3.4% (8,423)	Not stated	2.4% (5,554)
3.3% (8,347)	Instructor/Professor	2.2% (5,213)
3.0% (7,590)	Consultant	2.6% (5,949)
1.4% (3,389)	Director/Assistant Director	0.9% (2,057)
0.9% (2,279)	Clinical Specialist	1.1% (2,624)
0.7% (1,638)	Researcher	0.6% (1,394)
0.5% (1,226)	Chief Nursing Officer/CEO	0.9% (2,233)

- Canadian RNs employed in nursing in 2005 and 2000 reported their **employment status** as follows:
 - **54.5%** (137,028) worked **full-time** in 2005 versus 51.7% (120,860) in 2000;
 - **32.7%** (82,222) worked **part-time** in 2005 versus 33.1% (77,114) in 2000;
 - **11.1%** (28,043) worked **casual** in 2005 versus 14.9% (34,592) in 2000;
 - **1.7%** (4,382) were of **unknown status** (not stated) in 2005 versus 0.3% (762) in 2000.

2005	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Casual
Canada	251,675	137,028	82,222	28,043
Newfoundland	5,496	3,853	979	664
Prince Edward Island	1,443	770	532	140
Nova Scotia	8,733	5,446	2,377	910
New Brunswick	7,507	4,789	2,193	525
Québec	63,827	34,081	20,637	7,035
Ontario	89,429	53,696	27,846	7,887
Manitoba	11,263	5,184	4,800	767
Saskatchewan	8,549	4,685	2,859	978
Alberta	26,355	10,074	11,548	3,923
British Columbia	27,814	14,316	8,351	5,147
Yukon	302	134	100	67
NWT/Nunavut	957	n/s	n/s	n/s

Multiple Employers

- The number and proportion of RNs by **multiple employment status** in Canada for 2005 and in 2000 is as follows:

2005		2000
(86.0%) 216,480	Single Employer in Registered Nursing	185,621 (79.8%)
(13.5%) 34,039	Multiple Employers in Registered Nursing	35,653 (15.3%)
(0.5%) 1,156	Not Stated	11,292 (4.9%)
251,675	Total	232,566

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, *Workforce Trends of Registered Nurses in Canada, 2005*.

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