

2006 WORKFORCE PROFILE

of Registered Nurses in Canada



Demographic Profile

- In 2006, there were 270,845 **registered nurses** (RNs) in Canada, an increase of 10.7% from 2001.
- Of this number of nurses:
 - **93.4%** (252,948) were **employed in nursing**, an increase of 9.3% from 231,512 in 2001.
 - **1.8%** (4,776) were **employed outside of nursing**.
 - **3.2%** (8,551) were **not employed**.
 - **1.7%** (4,570) **did not state** their employment status.
- The **ratio of RNs employed in nursing to the Canadian population** in 2006 was one RN for every 129 persons.
- The ratios of **RNs employed in nursing** in 2006 by jurisdiction relative to the jurisdiction population were as follows:

Jurisdiction	Number of RNs	Population*	Ratio of RNs to Population
Canada	252,948	32,623,490	1:129
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,515	509,667	1:92
Prince Edward Island	1,428	135,851	1:95
Nova Scotia	8,790	934,405	1:106
New Brunswick	7,680	749,168	1:98
Quebec	64,014	7,651,531	1:120
Ontario	90,061	12,686,952	1:141
Manitoba	10,902	1,177,765	1:108
Saskatchewan	8,480	985,386	1:116
Alberta	25,881	3,375,763	1:130
British Columbia	28,840	4,310,452	1:149
Yukon	324	31,229	1:96
N.W.T. and Nunavut†	1,033	72,643	1:70

* Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Table 051-0001 for 2006. Numbers may not sum to the total because of rounding.

† Northwest Territories and Nunavut data were combined for 2006.

- **Men represent 5.6% of RNs** (14,283) employed in nursing, with 40.9% practising in Quebec, 27.8% in Ontario, 10.4% in British Columbia, 7.2% in Alberta, and the rest distributed throughout the remaining provinces and territories.
- **Women represent 94.4% of RNs** (238,665) employed in nursing.
- The **number of RNs** employed in nursing **by sex** by jurisdiction was as follows for 2006 and 2001:

Jurisdiction	2006			2001		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Canada	238,665	14,283	252,948	220,045	11,467	231,512
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,271	244	5,515	5,222	217	5,439
Prince Edward Island	1,390	38	1,428	1,248	22	1,270
Nova Scotia	8,479	311	8,790	8,313	241	8,554
New Brunswick	7,354	326	7,680	7,116	269	7,385
Quebec	58,166	5,848	64,014	53,324	5,158	58,482
Ontario	86,093	3,968	90,061	77,700	2,890	80,590
Manitoba	10,290	612	10,902	9,775	488	10,263
Saskatchewan	8,180	300	8,480	7,966	232	8,198
Alberta	24,849	1,032	25,881	22,250	674	22,924
British Columbia	27,361	1,479	28,840	26,183	1,192	27,375
Yukon	289	35	324	252	21	273
N.W.T. and Nunavut*	943	90	1,033	430	41	471
Nunavut	NA	NA	NA	266	22	288

* Northwest Territories and Nunavut data were combined for 2006 but reported separately for 2001.

- The **distribution of RNs** employed in nursing in Canada **by age** in 2006 and 2001 was as follows:

Age cohort (yr)	2006		2001	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
< 25	5,854	(2.31)	3,933	(1.70)
25-29	19,986	(7.90)	17,688	(7.64)
30-34	24,587	(9.72)	24,847	(10.73)
35-39	29,574	(11.69)	33,787	(14.60)
40-44	37,192	(14.70)	36,850	(15.92)
45-49	39,183	(15.49)	43,363	(18.73)
50-54	43,903	(17.36)	37,587	(16.24)
55-59	32,324	(12.78)	23,077	(9.97)
60-64	15,521	(6.14)	8,471	(3.66)
65-69	3,940	(1.56)	1,538	(0.66)
≥ 70	883	(0.35)	329	(0.14)
Missing	1	(< 0.01)	42	(< 0.01)
All ages	252,948	(100.00)	231,512	(100.00)

- The **average age** of an RN employed in nursing in 2006 was **45.0 years**; the average age in 2001 was 43.3 years.
- The **average age of RNs** employed in nursing by jurisdiction for 2006 was as follows:

Jurisdiction	Average age (years)	Difference from Cdn Average (years)
Canada	45.0	-
Newfoundland and Labrador	42.2	- 2.8
Prince Edward Island	45.8	+ 0.8
Nova Scotia	45.8	+ 0.8
New Brunswick	44.2	- 0.8
Quebec	43.5	- 1.5
Ontario	45.6	+ 0.6
Manitoba	45.4	+ 0.4
Saskatchewan	45.9	+ 0.9
Alberta	45.0	0.0
British Columbia	46.4	+ 1.4
Yukon	44.7	- 0.3
N.W.T. and Nunavut*	44.3	- 0.7

* Northwest Territories and Nunavut data were combined for 2006.

Educational Profile

- The **highest level of nursing education** reported by RNs employed in nursing in Canada in 2006 and 2001 was as follows:

Education level	2006		2001	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Diploma	162,493	(64.24)	171,247	(73.97)
Baccalaureate	83,704	(33.09)	56,193	(24.27)
Master's	6,354	(2.51)	3,860	(1.67)
Doctorate	382	(0.15)	212	(0.09)
Not stated	15	(0.01)	0	(0.00)
Total	252,948	(100.00)	231,512	(100.00)

- The **location of graduation** reported by RNs employed in nursing in 2006 was:
 - **92.1%** (231,140) **educated in Canada**
 - **7.9%** (19,836) **internationally educated**

Employment Profile

- The **distribution of RNs** employed in nursing **by place of work** in 2006 was as follows:

Place of work	Number	(%)
Hospital	149,615	(59.15)
Nursing home or long-term care	27,754	(10.97)
Community health centre or agency	21,284	(8.41)
Home care agency	7,464	(2.95)
Educational institution	7,046	(2.79)
Physician's office or family practice unit	5,038	(1.99)
Public health department or unit	4,692	(1.85)
Association or government	4,604	(1.82)
Rehabilitation or convalescent centre	4,375	(1.73)
Mental health centre	3,709	(1.47)
Business or industry occupational health office	2,451	(0.97)
Self-employed	2,241	(0.89)
Private nursing agency or private duty	1,528	(0.60)
Nursing station	1,037	(0.41)
Other place of work	6,843	(2.71)
Not stated	3,267	(1.29)
Total	252,948	(100.00)

- The **distribution of RNs** employed in nursing **by primary area of responsibility** in 2006 and 2001 was as follows:

Area of responsibility	2006		2001	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Direct patient care	218,816	(86.51)	194,662	(84.08)
Administration	16,679	(6.59)	16,296	(7.04)
Education	8,607	(3.40)	8,784	(3.79)
Research	1,878	(0.74)	2,241	(0.97)
Not stated	6,968	(2.75)	9,529	(4.12)
Total	252,948	(100.00)	231,512	(100.00)

- The **distribution of RNs** employed in nursing **by position** in 2006 and 2001 was as follows:

Position	2006		2001	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Staff or community health nurse	195,250	(77.19)	176,681	(76.32)
Manager or assistant manager	13,137	(5.19)	12,540	(5.42)
Instructor or professor	8,727	(3.45)	5,658	(2.44)
Consultant	7,861	(3.11)	6,076	(2.62)
Director or assistant director	3,435	(1.36)	2,244	(0.97)
Clinical specialist	2,288	(0.90)	2,321	(1.00)
Researcher	1,679	(0.66)	1,567	(0.68)
Chief nursing officer or CEO	1,293	(0.51)	2,013	(0.87)
Nurse practitioner	929	(0.37)	620	(0.27)
Nurse midwife	6	(< 0.01)	13	(0.01)
Other	13,571	(5.37)	15,448	(6.67)
Not stated	4,772	(1.89)	6,331	(2.73)
Total	252,948	(100.00)	231,512	(100.00)

- Canadian RNs employed in nursing in 2006 and 2001 reported their **employment status** as follows:
 - **55.76%** (141,047) worked **full time** in 2006 versus 53.32% (123,434) in 2001.
 - **32.47%** (82,120) worked **part time** in 2006 versus 33.86% (78,392) in 2001.
 - **10.82%** (27,366) worked on a **casual** basis in 2006 versus 14.94% (34,592) in 2001.

- The **distribution of RNs** employed in nursing **by employment status** in 2006 was as follows:

Jurisdiction	Total	Full time		Part time		Casual	
	Number	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Canada	252,948	141,047	(55.76)	82,120	(32.47)	27,366	(10.82)
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,515	3,794	(68.79)	982	(17.81)	739	(13.40)
Prince Edward Island	1,428	729	(51.05)	546	(38.24)	153	(10.71)
Nova Scotia	8,790	5,565	(63.31)	2,346	(26.69)	879	(10.00)
New Brunswick	7,680	4,865	(63.35)	2,235	(29.10)	580	(7.55)
Quebec	64,014	35,172	(54.94)	20,684	(32.31)	7,376	(11.52)
Ontario	90,061	55,462	(61.58)	27,218	(30.22)	7,381	(8.20)
Manitoba	10,902	5,204	(47.73)	4,871	(44.68)	788	(7.23)
Saskatchewan	8,480	4,713	(55.58)	2,819	(33.24)	948	(11.18)
Alberta	25,881	10,286	(39.74)	11,782	(45.52)	3,813	(14.73)
British Columbia	28,840	15,119	(52.42)	8,535	(29.59)	4,625	(16.04)
Yukon	324	138	(42.59)	102	(31.48)	84	(25.93)
N.W.T. and Nunavut*	1,033	-	-	-	-	-	-

* For the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, breakdown according to full-time, part-time and casual employment status was unavailable.

Multiple Employers

- The **distribution of RNs by multiple employment status** in Canada for 2006 and 2001 was as follows:

Multiple employment status	2006		2001	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Single employer in registered nursing	219,777	(86.89)	188,298	(81.33)
Multiple employers in registered nursing	32,098	(12.69)	34,440	(14.88)
Not stated	1,073	(0.42)	8,774	(3.79)
Total	252,948	(100.00)	231,512	(100.00)

Source: Adapted from the Registered Nurses Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2006
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