



# CANADIAN KNOWLEDGE HUB FOR GIVING AND VOLUNTEERING

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## Volunteering

### Who volunteers and how much time do they contribute to charitable or nonprofit organizations ?

Provincial by Age, Income and Labour Force Status

In addition to varying according to where individuals live, volunteering patterns also tend to vary according to their personal and economic characteristics. In this factsheet, we look at how some of these characteristics relate to key measures of volunteering presented by geography. Percentages presented in the following charts are rounded to the closest integer.

#### VOLUNTEER RATE AND AVERAGE HOURS BY FORMS OF VOLUNTEERING

The following charts highlight the volunteer rate and average hours per volunteer by forms of volunteering. An 'informal volunteer' is a volunteer who volunteers on their own and not on behalf of a group or organization. A 'formal volunteer' is a volunteer who volunteers for or on behalf of a charitable or non-profit organization. The concept of 'overall' combines the statistics in informal and formal volunteering. It is important to note that those who engaged in formal volunteering could have also engaged in informal volunteering.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWNS OF FORMS OF VOLUNTEERING

In this chart, Saskatchewan reports the highest volunteer rate in all forms of volunteering (80% Informal, 55% Formal, and 85% Overall volunteering). The highest average hours per volunteer are reported by New Brunswick with 198hrs in *Informal* volunteering, Newfoundland and Labrador with 161hrs in *Formal* volunteering, and Manitoba with 251hrs in *Overall* volunteering.

| Geography | Informal Volunteering<br>(Rate/Avg. hours) | Formal Volunteering<br>(Rate/Avg. hours) | Overall Volunteering<br>(Rate/Avg. hours) |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| National  | 74% / 149hrs                               | 41% / 131hrs                             | 79% / 206hrs                              |
| AB        | 78% / 126hrs                               | 46% / 141hrs                             | 83% / 198hrs                              |
| BC        | 74% / 131hrs                               | 44% / 148hrs                             | 80% / 203hrs                              |
| MB        | 78% / 194hrs                               | 49% / 118hrs                             | 83% / 251hrs                              |
| NB        | 73% / 198hrs                               | 42% / 117hrs                             | 78% / 249hrs                              |
| NL        | 75% / 190hrs                               | 46% / 161hrs                             | 81% / 269hrs                              |
| NS        | 78% / 119hrs                               | 45% / 145hrs                             | 83% / 190hrs                              |
| ON        | 72% / 159hrs                               | 42% / 122hrs                             | 79% / 210hrs                              |
| PE        | 76% / 142hrs                               | 48% / 124hrs                             | 82% / 204hrs                              |
| QC        | 71% / 146hrs                               | 32% / 126hrs                             | 77% / 189hrs                              |
| SK        | 80% / 133hrs                               | 55% / 139hrs                             | 85% / 215hrs                              |

Source: Table 45-10-0039-01 Volunteer rate and average annual volunteer hours, by definition of volunteering and age group  
(DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/4510003901>)

## VOLUNTEER RATE AND AVERAGE HOURS BY AGE AND FORMS OF VOLUNTEERING

The following chart highlights the volunteer rate and average hours by age group, and breakdowns are given by forms of volunteering. Canadians under the age of 45 contribute smaller proportions of total volunteer hours to charitable or nonprofit organizations than one would expect given their numbers. Driven by their tendency to contribute many hours when they volunteer, those 65 years of age and older account for significantly larger percentages of total volunteer hours to charitable or nonprofit organizations than one might expect given their numbers.

| Geography | 15 to 24 years<br>Rate / Hrs |                 | 25 to 34 years<br>Rate / Hrs |                 | 35 to 44 years<br>Rate / Hrs |                 | 45 to 54 years<br>Rate / Hrs |                 | 55 to 64 years<br>Rate / Hrs |                 | 65 to 74 years<br>Rate / Hrs |                 | 75 years and<br>over<br>Rate / Hrs |                 |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
|           | I                            | F               | I                            | F               | I                            | F               | I                            | F               | I                            | F               | I                            | F               | I                                  | F               |
| National  | 76% /<br>110hrs              | 52% /<br>86hrs  | 79% /<br>121hrs              | 37% /<br>121hrs | 75% /<br>114hrs              | 46% /<br>106hrs | 74% /<br>147hrs              | 42% /<br>134hrs | 74% /<br>199hrs              | 38% /<br>143hrs | 72% /<br>204hrs              | 39% /<br>183hrs | 55% /<br>182hrs                    | 31% /<br>226hrs |
| AB        | 81% / u                      | 49% /<br>83hrs  | 81% /<br>111hrs              | 36% /<br>100hrs | 81% /<br>89hrs               | 52% /<br>136hrs | 70% /<br>151hrs              | 50% /<br>183hrs | 83% /<br>162hrs              | 48% /<br>149hrs | 79% /<br>128hrs              | 45% /<br>199hrs | 62% / u                            | 35% /<br>194hrs |
| BC        | 77% / u                      | 47% /<br>107hrs | 76% /<br>83hrs               | 33% /<br>114hrs | 78% /<br>71hrs               | 48% /<br>124hrs | 72% /<br>174hrs              | 49% /<br>148hrs | 74% /<br>157hrs              | 47% /<br>150hrs | 79% /<br>168hrs              | 44% /<br>242hrs | 59% /<br>161hrs                    | 35% /<br>186hrs |
| MB        | 83% /<br>129hrs              | 62% /<br>72hrs  | 88% /<br>114hrs              | 50% /<br>98hrs  | 81% / u                      | 55% /<br>118hrs | 70% /<br>120hrs              | 36% /<br>130hrs | 83% /<br>212hrs              | 53% /<br>116hrs | 72% /<br>333hrs              | 45% /<br>168hrs | 52% / u                            | 35% /<br>247hrs |
| NB        | 83% / u                      | 46% / u         | 78% /<br>79hrs               | 43% / u         | 72% /<br>108hrs              | 47% /<br>79hrs  | 77% / u                      | 44% /<br>133hrs | 71% /<br>171hrs              | 33% /<br>105hrs | 73% /<br>143hrs              | 48% /<br>149hrs | 50% /<br>163hrs                    | 34% /<br>168hrs |
| NL        | 75% /<br>53hrs               | 63% /<br>144hrs | 81% /<br>111hrs              | 45% / u         | 84% /<br>167hrs              | 56% / u         | 81% /<br>221hrs              | 42% /<br>86hrs  | 78% /<br>297hrs              | 41% /<br>173hrs | 67% /<br>249hrs              | 38% /<br>236hrs | 54% /<br>152hrs                    | 42% / u         |
| NS        | 87% / u                      | 46% /<br>54hrs  | 84% /<br>95hrs               | 32% /<br>91hrs  | 80% /<br>87hrs               | 55% /<br>98hrs  | 86% /<br>139hrs              | 50% /<br>173hrs | 74% /<br>136hrs              | 42% / u         | 73% /<br>202hrs              | 53% /<br>217hrs | 52% /<br>161hrs                    | 30% /<br>161hrs |
| ON        | 70% /<br>104hrs              | 55% /<br>94hrs  | 77% /<br>146hrs              | 38% /<br>122hrs | 75% /<br>143hrs              | 44% /<br>79hrs  | 74% /<br>127hrs              | 42% /<br>121hrs | 72% /<br>212hrs              | 36% /<br>133hrs | 73% /<br>225hrs              | 40% /<br>167hrs | 56% /<br>188hrs                    | 32% /<br>224hrs |
| PE        | 89% / u                      | 52% /<br>52hrs  | 82% /<br>117hrs              | 48% /<br>91hrs  | 80% /<br>86hrs               | 59% /<br>110hrs | 76% /<br>121hrs              | 51% /<br>149hrs | 71% /<br>154hrs              | 43% /<br>190hrs | 74% /<br>302hrs              | 44% /<br>142hrs | 55% /<br>192hrs                    | 32% /<br>135hrs |
| QC        | 81% /<br>84hrs               | 50% / u         | 80% /<br>110hrs              | 30% /<br>161hrs | 69% /<br>101hrs              | 37% /<br>106hrs | 74% /<br>156hrs              | 31% /<br>86hrs  | 72% /<br>228hrs              | 26% /<br>143hrs | 62% /<br>215hrs              | 29% /<br>163hrs | 52% /<br>134hrs                    | 22% /<br>302hrs |
| SK        | 80% /<br>51hrs               | 65% /<br>83hrs  | 85% /<br>139hrs              | 59% /<br>80hrs  | 85% /<br>86hrs               | 66% /<br>145hrs | 82% /<br>190hrs              | 50% / u         | 85% /<br>180hrs              | 48% / u         | 77% /<br>168hrs              | 46% /<br>120hrs | 56% /<br>127hrs                    | 32% /<br>176hrs |

**Legend:** I = Informal Volunteering. F = Formal Volunteering. u = Unreliable to publish.

**Source:** Table 45-10-0039-01 Volunteer rate and average annual volunteer hours, by definition of volunteering and age group (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/4510003901>)

Source: General Social Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2018, Statistics Canada.

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## VOLUNTEER RATE AND AVERAGE HOURS BY INCOME AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS

While the likelihood of volunteering tends to increase with household income, the number of hours typically contributed by volunteers is generally somewhat lower among higher-income households. Broadly speaking, the likelihood of volunteering does not vary much by one's employment status, but volunteers who are not in the labour force tend to contribute many more hours.

| Geography | Volunteer Rate and Average Hours by Income Level |                      |                      |                      |                        |                    | Volunteer Rate and Average Hours by Labour Force Status |              |                     |
|-----------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------|---------------------|
|           | Less than \$25,000                               | \$25,000 to \$49,999 | \$50,000 to \$74,999 | \$75,000 to \$99,999 | \$100,000 to \$124,999 | \$125,000 and more | Employed  | Unemployed   | Not in labour force |
| National  | 41% / 130hrs                                     | 36% / 137hrs         | 42% / 137hrs         | 46% / 120hrs         | 52% / 123hrs           | 53% / 111hrs       | 41% / 113hrs  | 41% / 114hrs | 39% / 166hrs        |
| AB        | 46% / 132hrs                                     | 42% / 131hrs         | 42% / 145hrs         | 50% / 183hrs         | 61% / 152hrs           | 53% / 135hrs       | 43% / 136hrs  | 49% / 77hrs  | 48% / 164hrs        |
| BC        | 42% / 167hrs                                     | 38% / 143hrs         | 48% / 146hrs         | 49% / 140hrs         | 68% / 122hrs           | 53% / 105hrs       | 44% / 129hrs  | 42% / 97hrs  | 42% / 174hrs        |
| MB        | 48% / 96hrs                                      | 44% / 143hrs         | 52% / 116hrs         | 65% / 149hrs         | 56% / u                | 40% / 100hrs       | 51% / 99hrs   | u            | 45% / 133hrs        |
| NB        | 40% / 111hrs                                     | 39% / 147hrs         | 45% / 100hrs         | 53% / 82hrs          | 56% / 115hrs           | 57% / u            | 43% / 117hrs  | u            | 40% / 132hrs        |
| NL        | 45% / 128hrs                                     | 41% / 213hrs         | 49% / 137hrs         | 55% / 231hrs         | 58% / 134hrs           | 51% / 93hrs        | 44% / 140hrs  | u            | 45% / 215hrs        |
| NS        | 40% / 133hrs                                     | 42% / 153hrs         | 49% / 134hrs         | 56% / 143hrs         | 66% / 167hrs           | 60% / u            | 45% / 105hrs  | 65% / u      | 40% / 203hrs        |
| ON        | 42% / 126hrs                                     | 36% / 113hrs         | 42% / 145hrs         | 44% / 98hrs          | 47% / 114hrs           | 58% / 106hrs       | 41% / 101hrs  | 40% / 112hrs | 40% / 160hrs        |
| PE        | 44% / 87hrs                                      | 51% / 142hrs         | 51% / 135hrs         | 48% / 123hrs         | 53% / u                | u                  | 49% / 118hrs  | u            | 44% / 133hrs        |
| QC        | 34% / 120hrs                                     | 28% / 169hrs         | 34% / 125hrs         | 38% / 66hrs          | 37% / 64hrs            | 40% / 54hrs        | 33% / 108   | 36% / u      | 30% / 172hrs        |
| SK        | 59% / 132hrs                                     | 51% / 145hrs         | 49% / 94hrs          | 53% / 136hrs         | 72% / 245hrs           | 50% / 170hrs       | 58% / 125hrs  | u            | 44% / 163hrs        |
| Prairies  | 53% / 114hrs                                     | 47% / 144hrs         | 50% / 106hrs         | 59% / 143hrs         | 65% / 178hrs           | 46% / 148hrs       | 54% / 112hrs  | 32% / u      | 45% / 146hrs        |
| Atlantic  | 41% / 122hrs                                     | 41% / 163hrs         | 48% / 125hrs         | 54% / 146hrs         | 60% / 141hrs           | 56% / 168hrs       | 44% / 116hrs  | 47% / u      | 41% / 181hrs        |

Legend: u = Unreliable to publish.

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