

The Stats Speak—Career/Life Success Stats

Canadian teens face big decisions about what to do in life and which paths can take them there. Making decisions about the future is challenging, especially while you are busy going to high school! How are today's teens preparing for tomorrow's world?

The stats speak: what are students saying?

Students are drawn to jobs that allow them to:

- Make a contribution (84%); help people (79%); make decisions (75%); solve problems (70%); use communications skills (70%); own a business (48%); and be an entrepreneur (39%).

Future plans

- 9 in 10 youth think about their career a lot or sometimes.
- More than 6 in 10 students plan to attend university or college. 6% want to do an apprenticeship.
- 16% plan to pursue at least two of these three options.
- Almost half of female students say they want to go to university compared with one third of males.

Influences

- 76% of students say parents have the greatest influence on their educational direction. Only 24% said the same thing about teachers.
- 65% of students are interested in working with their hands. Two-thirds of these students have a parent in the trades.

When asked what influences their decisions about “education and career aspirations”:

- 86% said interests. 64% said subjects they are good at. 50% said personal dreams.

When asked what influences their plans for life after high school:

- 89% said personal likes and interests. 84% said skills and abilities. 78% said earning potential. 69% said job security.

Attitudes

- 84% of respondents said women can find “great satisfaction in a science, technology, engineering, or math-related career” (79% of men said yes. 88% of women said yes).
- 19% (almost 1 in 5) Canadian teens feel that careers in engineering and/or technology are best suited to men. Almost as many female students (17%) as male students (21%) agree with this.

Interest in specific STEM jobs

Research provided by Let's Talk Science (<http://www.letstalkscience.ca/>)



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- 46% technology jobs (instrument technician, computers, etc.)
- 40% science jobs (research, manufacturing, pharmacy, etc.)
- 36% skilled trades (automotive, cook, cosmetician, etc.)
- 28% engineering (civil, electrical, chemical, etc.)
- 22% math jobs (accountant, economist, etc.)

How these stats speak to experts

The report (see first Report below) suggests several challenges for educators and society:

- Explaining the range of jobs that fit student values.
- Raising awareness of opportunities, and the paths required to get there, for students making major educational and career decisions.
- Clarifying what goes on in jobs that involve math and science. Showing students that such jobs offer stimulating work environments.
- Correcting misperceptions about math and science careers. For example, 60% of respondents believe they need a university degree, but many jobs, such as skilled trades, require a college certificate or diploma.
- Canada needs more people who can apply math and science learning. This includes future scientists, engineers, tradespeople, health care professionals, and others.
- Canada needs to emphasize that many sectors benefit from workers with math and science skills, not only traditional jobs in these areas.

Learn more about career and life stats

- **Report.**
http://www.letstalkscience.ca/Portals/0/Documents/RPS/Spotlight/LTS_Spotlight_on_Science_Learning_2014_EN.pdf. **“Spotlight on Science Learning: Shaping Tomorrow’s Workforce: What Do Canada’s Teens Think About Their Futures?”**. Bonnie Schmidt, Let’s Talk Science.

Suggestion for graphs

Report.

<http://www.letstalkscience.ca/Portals/0/Documents/RPS/Spotlight/SpotlightOnScienceLearning-2013.pdf>. **“Spotlight on Science Learning: The High Cost of Dropping Science and Math”**

- p. 9 Table 1: Career Opportunity Matrix. Top-paying jobs in Canada
- p. 10 Table 2: Surprising Stem Requirements for Programs and Careers

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http://www.letstalkscience.ca/Portals/0/Documents/RPS/Spotlight/LTS_Spotlight_on_Science_Learning_2014_EN.pdf. **“Spotlight on Science Learning. Shaping Tomorrow’s Workforce: What Do Canada’s Teens Think About their Futures?”**

- p. 13 Chart of attributes and STEM-related job titles

