

# Fact Sheet

## Hospital and Health Care Staffing

### Hourly Paid Staff

Statistics Canada figures indicate that staffing by hourly paid employees has not increased significantly since 1995. Here are some key figures:

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2002
1] Hospitals	171*	170	170	150	143	152	158
2] Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	59	57	67	65	73	75	76
3] Home Health Care Services	8	5	6	10	10	10	10
Total	238	232	243	225	226	237	244

*\*Thousands of hourly paid employees, annual average. Source: Statistics Canada Cansim Table 281-0023*

So, since 1995 (the year the Conservatives were elected) hospitals have lost 12,000 hourly paid employees, or 7%. Nursing and Residential Care facilities have gained 9,000 hourly paid staff, or 13%. And home health care facilities have gained 4,000 hourly paid employees, or 67%.

In total the three sectors have seen a slight increase in hourly paid employees (a thousand, less than ½ of one percent). Consistent with the virtual funding freeze in the first years of Conservative rule followed by the significant increases in later years, there was a dramatic cut in employees between 1995 and 1997 (7.4% cut in two years) and then a gradual return of staff.

### Average Weekly Hours of Work

The average weekly hours for hospital employees paid by the hour (excluding overtime) has declined slightly since 1995 – from 32.2 hours per week to 31.1 hours per week in 2002. (Statistics Canada Cansim Table 281-0032.)

### Salaried Staff

While hourly paid hospital employees have been cut, the number of salaried staff has risen, bumping up sharply in 1996 and then increasing from 21,600 in 1996 to 24,000 in 2002. (Statistics Canada Cansim Table 281-0023.)

### Funding and Staffing

Between 1995 and 2002 the number of hourly rated hospital employees was reduced by 7%. Support staff in central bargaining received wage increases of 13.7%. Taken together these figures compound to an increase of 5.8% for changes in the staffing and wages of hourly paid hospital employees.

Provincial budgets saw hospital funding increase 25% from 1995 to 2002.