

The Evolution of Multiple Jobholding in Canada and the United States*

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Abstract

In Canada, the number of workers who hold multiple jobs (expressed as a share of total employment) has *increased* by more than 30 percent over the past 30 years. By contrast, in the United States, after being on upward trend from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, the fraction of multiple jobholders has *decreased* by more than 20 percent over the past 20 years. In this paper, first we use longitudinally-linked micro-data to provide a comprehensive picture of the gross worker flows that underlie the evolution of multiple jobholding in both countries. We devise a statistical decomposition that measures the contribution of worker flows to the different trends in multiple jobholding, and show that these are overwhelmingly explained by the changing propensity of full-time workers to take on a second job. Second, we combine these findings with information on income and program participation from the Longitudinal Administrative Databank (Canada) and from the March supplements of the Current Population Survey (U.S.). We conduct a comparative study highlighting the contribution of income maintenance programs to the changing labor supply behavior of full-time employed workers in both countries.

Keywords: Multiple jobholding; Worker flows; Trend decomposition

JEL codes: E24, J21, J22, J60

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