

The Increase in Female Enrolment and Graduation from University: Trends and Causes
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Abstract

The study documents trends in the university enrolment rates and percentages of university educated individuals for males and females. It is observed that female enrolment in university surpassed male enrolment in the early 1980s. By 2008, there were 1.38 females for every male enrolled in university. As for the stock of education, there were equal percentages of university educated male and female individuals in the Canadian population by the early 2000s. In 2008, there were 1.10 females with university education for every university educated male in Canada. Furthermore, the study investigates the cause of the imbalance in university enrolment between males and females by conducting OLS and IV regressions on data obtained from the Canadian Labour Force Survey. The predicted fertility has a strong negative impact on current young females' decision to go to university. As the male-female wage gap for university educated individuals shrinks, there is a positively significant effect on female university enrolment. Moreover, the university versus non-university educated female wage gap has a positively significant effect on female university enrolment.