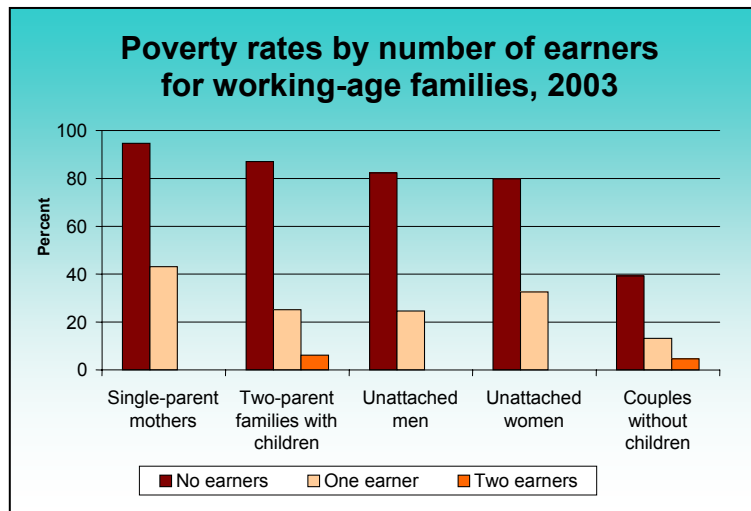


# Paid Work and Poverty

For some Canadians, having a job is the best protection against poverty. For others, having a job or two jobs or even three jobs is not enough to provide their families with economic security. Employment is vital to avoiding poverty, yet many jobs do not pay enough to keep a family out of poverty.

## Importance of Paid Work

- Families without earners or with only one earner have the highest poverty rates.
- In 2003, the poverty rates for families without earners ranged from 94.6% for single-parent mothers to 39.3% for couples without children.
- The lowest poverty rates are found in families with two or more earners. In 2003, the rate for two-earner couples without children was 4.6%. For two-parent families, it was 6.2%.



## Limitations of Paid Work

- Many people work hard, but are still in poverty. Plenty of jobs do not pay enough to support a family and many jobs are increasingly precarious with the rise in temporary work, part-time, contract and seasonal jobs.
- One-quarter of poor families had a major income earner who worked full-time for the full year in 2003.
- Almost a million poor families and working-age singles earned at least half of their income from paid jobs in 2003.
- One in ten people using a food bank report that their primary source of income is paid employment.\*

\* Canadian Association of Foodbanks, *HungerCount 2003*.