

Economics 261

September 2011

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Assignment No. 1

How is the “employment rate” defined and why is it of interest? How has the employment rate in Canada changed since 1980, separately for men and women? Note that the employment rate, ER, can be expressed in terms of the labour force participation rate, PR, and the unemployment rate, UR, as

$$ER = PR [1 - UR]$$

where ER, PR, and UR are all expressed as proportions between 0 and 1.

What are the major factors that have contributed to these changes?

Length: 7 – 10 pp. typed double-spaced.

Due: Thursday, Oct. 20 (in class).