

Examination of artists in each province and territory of Canada in the 50th report in *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series

[*Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories in 2016 \(With Summary Information about Cultural Workers\)*](#) provides an in-depth examination of the number and incomes of artists in each province and territory of Canada, based on the 2016 census. With the release of this report, Hill Strategies Research is proud to have reached the milestone of 50 reports in the [*Statistical Insights on the Arts series*](#).

The [previous report in the series](#) showed that there are 158,100 artists in Canada, representing almost 1% of the overall Canadian labour force (0.87%). This proportion is also called the concentration of artists.

Artists in the provinces and territories

- With 66,000 artists who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May of 2016, Ontario accounts for 42% of Canada's artists, almost twice as many as any other province.
- British Columbia has the highest concentration of artists (1.18% of the overall labour force) and the second-highest concentration of cultural workers (4.7%) in the country.
- Nunavut has the second-highest concentration of artists in the country (1.17%). Ninety-one percent are Indigenous (by far the largest proportion in the country), and 71% are artisans and craftspeople.
- Yukon has the third-highest concentration of artists (1.14%) and the highest concentration of cultural workers (5.3%) in the country.
- As shown in the chart below, these two provinces and two territories (BC, Nunavut, Yukon, and Ontario) have a larger percentage of their overall labour forces in arts occupations than the Canadian average of 0.87%.
- Musicians and singers represent the largest arts occupation in nine provinces. In Quebec, the largest arts occupation is producers, directors, and choreographers.
- Women represent 52% of Canadian artists and a majority of artists in all provinces and territories except Quebec (48%) and Nunavut (26%). The highest proportions of female artists are in Saskatchewan (62%) and Alberta (60%).
- The proportion of artists with at least a bachelor's degree is highest in Nova Scotia and Yukon (each 51%), followed by Ontario (50%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (49%).
- The percentage of artists who are 45 years of age or older is highest in Yukon (63%), followed by the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Nova Scotia (each 54%).
- Members of racialized groups represent a higher proportion of artists in British Columbia (20%) and Ontario (18%) than in any other province.

- Self-employment rates are highest among artists in the three territories: Yukon (69%), Nunavut (66%), and the Northwest Territories (58%). Among the provinces, self-employment rates are highest in British Columbia and Nova Scotia (each 56%).
- Among the provinces, Quebec has the smallest difference between the median income of artists and all workers (-35%) as well as the smallest difference between cultural workers and all workers (-1%).
- Artists in Nunavut have the lowest median incomes (\$10,700) of any jurisdiction in Canada.

For more information

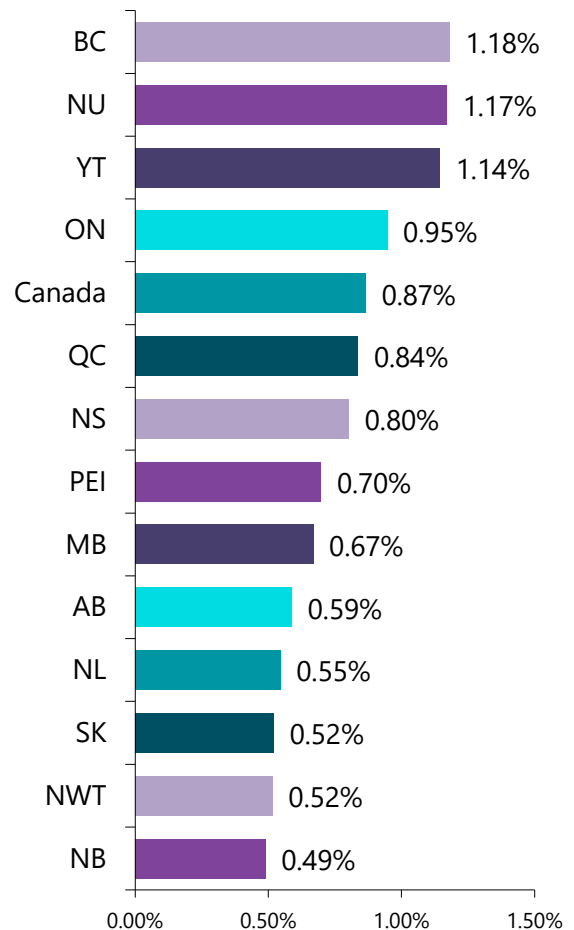
In order to better understand the working lives of artists and cultural workers in each province and territory, the following factors are examined in [the full report](#):

- The overall number of artists and cultural workers
- Artists by occupation
- Demographic information on artists, such as gender, education, age, as well as whether artists are Indigenous or members of racialized groups
- Self-employment rates of artists
- Total incomes, employment incomes, and household incomes of artists and cultural workers. (The income statistics include all sources of individuals' incomes, not just their artistic work, which is not broken out separately in census data.)
- The industry sectors in which artists work

Nine detailed occupation codes are included in the count of artists. From largest to smallest in Canada as a whole, the arts occupations are:

- Musicians and singers: 35,000 (22% of all artists)
- Authors and writers: 27,700 (18%)
- Producers, directors, choreographers, and related occupations: 27,600 (17%)
- Visual artists: 21,100 (13%)
- Artisans and craftspeople: 14,700 (9%)
- Actors and comedians: 11,400 (7%)

Concentration of artists by province and territory



Source: 2016 census custom data request

- Dancers: 10,100 (6%)
- Other performers: 6,300 (4%)
- Conductors, composers, and arrangers: 4,200 (3%)

The report is available free of charge on the website of Hill Strategies Research (hillstrategies.com) and the websites of [the Canada Council for the Arts](#) and [the Ontario Arts Council](#), which funded the report along with the Department of Canadian Heritage. The report is based on Statistics Canada's 2016 long-form census, which captures individuals who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May of 2016.

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[Hill Strategies Research](#) specializes in rigorous and reliable research on the arts and culture in Canada, combined with clear and effective communications.