

STATISTICAL INSIGHTS ON THE ARTS

New report on Canada’s artists provides insights into the situations of women, Indigenous, racialized, and official language minority artists

[*Demographic Diversity of Artists in Canada*](#), based on the 2016 census, provides insights into the situations of four demographic groups of artists: women, Indigenous people, members of racialized groups, and members of official language minority groups.

A [previous report](#) in the [Statistical Insights on the Arts series](#) found that there are 158,100 artists in Canada, representing 0.87% of the overall Canadian labour force (also called the concentration of artists). The median income of Canadian artists is \$24,300.

Key findings follow regarding each demographic group of artists.

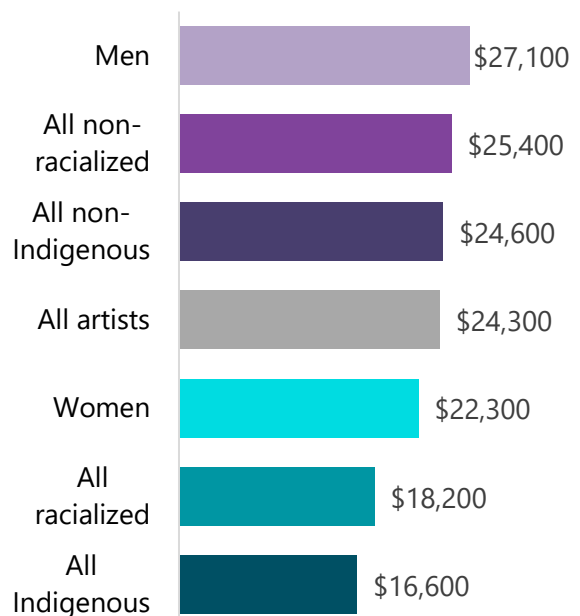
Women artists

- 82,500 women artists in Canada, representing 52% of Canada’s artists. Women account for 48% of the overall labour force.
- More likely than men artists to have a bachelor’s degree or higher (51% vs 42%).
- Hold most arts occupations in similar proportions to men. However, there are fewer women producers, directors, and choreographers (12% of women artists vs. 23% of men artists) and substantially more women dancers (11% vs. 2%).
- Median income (\$22,300) is well below that of men artists (\$27,100). Women artists make 82 cents of total income for every \$1 for men artists, compared with 78 cents in the overall labour force.

Indigenous artists

- 5,000 Indigenous artists in Canada.
- 3.1% of all artists, below the proportion of Indigenous workers in the overall labour force (3.9%).
- Younger than non-Indigenous artists (59% vs. 54% under 45 years of age).

Median incomes of artists in Canada by demographic group



Source: 2016 census custom data request. Income figures relate to the 2015 calendar year.

- Fewer have a bachelor's degree or higher (28% of Indigenous artists vs. 47% of non-Indigenous artists).
- Median income (\$16,600) is well below that of non-Indigenous artists (\$24,600). Indigenous artists make 68 cents of total income for every \$1 for non-Indigenous artists, compared with 85 cents in the overall labour force.
- Much higher proportions of Indigenous than non-Indigenous artists are artisans and visual artists. The median incomes of Indigenous artists are less than \$14,000 in the two most common occupations: artisans and visual artists.

Racialized artists

- 23,300 racialized artists in Canada, representing 15% of all artists in the country, lower than the proportion of racialized people in the overall labour force (21%).
- A much higher percentage of racialized than non-racialized artists are immigrants (60% vs. 14%).
- A slightly higher proportion of racialized than non-racialized artists have a bachelor's degree or higher (50% vs. 46%), and a much higher proportion are under 45 (68% vs. 52%). The same proportion of racialized and non-racialized artists are women (52%).
- Racialized and non-racialized artists hold many arts occupations in similar proportions.
- Median income of \$18,200, much lower than that of non-racialized artists in Canada (\$25,400). Racialized artists make a median income of 72 cents for every \$1 for non-racialized artists, compared with 78 cents in the overall labour force.

French-language minority artists

- Based on the language spoken most often at home, the 2,000 French-language artists outside Quebec represent 1.2% of all Canadian artists, while French-minority workers outside Quebec represent 1.8% of all Canadian workers.
- Women represent a higher proportion of Francophone than Anglophone artists outside Quebec (57% vs. 53%). Members of racialized groups represent a lower proportion of Francophone than Anglophone artists outside Quebec (10% vs. 13%), as do immigrants (14% vs. 18%).
- Median income of \$27,700, somewhat higher than that of Anglophone artists outside Quebec (\$24,200). Francophone artists outside Quebec have a median income of \$1.15 for every \$1 for Anglophone artists outside Quebec, compared with 99 cents for every \$1 in the overall labour force outside Quebec.

This report is based on a custom data request from the 2016 long-form census, which classifies most people in the occupation in which they worked the most hours during the census reference week (May 1 to 7, 2016).

Nine occupation codes are included in the count of artists:

- Musicians & singers: 22% of all artists
- Authors & writers: 18%
- Producers, directors, choreographers & related occupations: 17%
- Visual artists: 13%
- Artisans & craftspeople: 9%
- Actors & comedians: 7%
- Dancers: 6%
- Other performers: 4%
- Conductors, composers & arrangers: 3%

- A higher proportion of Francophone than Anglophone artists outside Quebec are producers, directors, and choreographers (25% of Francophone artists vs. 16% of Anglophone artists), but a smaller proportion are authors and writers (13% vs. 19%).

English-language minority artists

- The 7,300 English-language artists in Quebec represent 4.6% of all Canadian artists, while all English-language workers in Quebec represent just 2.8% of all Canadian workers.
- Similar proportions of Anglophone and Francophone artists in Quebec are women (47% and 48%). However, higher proportions of Anglophone than Francophone artists in Quebec are Indigenous (2.1% vs. 1.6%), racialized (15% vs. 5%), or immigrants to Canada (23% vs. 10%).
- Unlike most demographic and geographic groups, the largest arts occupation among Anglophones in Quebec is authors and writers. Musicians and singers (ranked first among most demographic and geographic groups) are the second-largest occupation among Quebec-based Anglophone artists.
- Anglophone artists in Quebec have a median income of \$23,700, below that of Francophone artists in Quebec (\$27,800). Anglophone artists in Quebec make a median income of 85 cents for every \$1 for Francophone artists in Quebec, compared with 96 cents in the overall labour force in Quebec.

For more information

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.

For media enquiries, please contact Mr. Kelly Hill, President of Hill Strategies Research, Hamilton, Ontario, 877-445-5494 (toll-free voice or text), kelly@hillstrategies.com. [Hill Strategies Research](#) specializes in rigorous and reliable research on the arts and culture in Canada, combined with clear and effective communications.

The report is based on a custom data request from the 2016 long-form census. Some aspects of the census have particular relevance in capturing the working lives of artists:

- Artists who spent more time at another occupation than at their artwork during the reference week would be classified in the other occupation. The census does not capture information about secondary occupations.
- Each occupation includes individuals who are employed or self-employed.
- Artists who teach in post-secondary, secondary, or elementary schools are classified as professors or teachers, not in artistic occupations. Instructors and teachers in some settings (such as private arts schools, academies, and conservatories) are *included* as "artists".
- Because data related to disability, deafness, and sexual orientation are not available from the census, they could not be analyzed in this report.