

Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories Based on the 2006 Census



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ARTISTS IN CANADA'S PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES BASED ON THE 2006 CENSUS

Section 1: Introduction

This report provides an analysis of artists residing in each province and territory in Canada, including statistics concerning the number of artists, artists' earnings, select demographic characteristics, and trends between 1991 and 2006. Nine arts occupations are included in the analysis:

- actors and comedians;
- artisans and craftspersons;
- authors and writers;
- conductors, composers and arrangers;
- dancers;
- musicians and singers;
- other performers;
- painters, sculptors and other visual artists (identified in this report as "visual artists"); and
- producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations.

This report complements a recent study in the *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series entitled *A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada in 2006*. Some key findings of the national profile of artists include:

- There are 140,000 artists in Canada who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. The number of artists is slightly larger than the number of Canadians directly employed in the automotive industry (135,000).¹
- The average earnings of artists are \$22,700, compared with an average of \$36,300 for all Canadian workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 37%.
- Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists decreased by 11% (after adjusting for inflation). In the overall Canadian labour force, average earnings grew by 9% during the same timeframe (in constant 2005 dollars, i.e., after adjusting for inflation).

Subsequent reports in the *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series will examine artists by city and postal region. This study is based largely on a custom data request from the 2006 census, commissioned by the Department of Canadian Heritage from Statistics Canada.²

¹ The automotive industry figure is from the Canadian Auto Workers union, as reported in a November 13, 2008 CBC article entitled *A timeline of auto sector layoffs*, <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2008/10/21/f-autolayoffs.html>. This page was viewed on January 12, 2009.

There are some key aspects to note about the census classification of artists:

- Individuals are classified in the occupation in which they worked the most hours between May 7 and 13, 2006 (the census reference week).
- Individuals who are employed or self-employed are captured in each occupation.
- Artists who teach in post-secondary, secondary or elementary schools are classified as teachers or professors and are therefore excluded from the count of artists.
- Artists may have worked in any sector of the economy, not just in cultural organizations.
- The 2006 census collected earnings information for 2005, the most recent full calendar year.
- This report includes only those artists who reported some employment or self-employment earnings. This provides a reasonable estimate of the number of people who commit a significant amount of time to their art. However, this restriction means that the 11% of individuals in the nine arts occupations who reported no employment or self-employment earnings in 2005 are excluded from the analysis.
- The earnings statistics include an individual's wages and salaries as well as net self-employment income. Other income sources, such as income from government programs, pensions or investments, are excluded from the earnings statistics.
- Artists' project grants are not included in employment earnings but are captured in a separate component of income ("other income") that was not available in the custom data request.
- The earnings statistics include amounts received from all employment and self-employment positions in 2005, not just the position at which the respondent worked the most hours during the census reference week. In some cases, individuals may have worked in a different occupation in 2005 (the basis for earnings statistics) than the one in which they worked the most hours during the census reference week (the basis for occupational classifications).³
- Canadians 15 or older are captured in the occupational data.

² We wish to thank the Department of Canadian Heritage for contributing the data from their custom data request. Previous years' census data is taken from a similar request commissioned by the Canada Council for the Arts.

³ For Statistics Canada's official labour force definitions for the 2006 census, please visit <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/analysis/labour/definitions.cfm>.

Choice of nine arts occupations

In this report, the term “artists” is used to describe those Canadians 15 or older reporting employment or self-employment earnings in nine occupation groups that were identified as artistic in discussions by arts sector representatives prior to the analysis of the 2001 census. In 2008, the nine occupation groups were reconfirmed as priority occupations for the *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series during discussions between Hill Strategies Research, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Department of Canadian Heritage.⁴

As noted in previous research by the Canada Council for the Arts (*Artists in the Labour Force*, 1999), the nine occupations were selected as “artists” on the basis of two key criteria: 1) the artistic nature of the occupations, based on occupation titles and descriptions;⁵ and 2) the most common types of professional artists who are eligible to apply to arts councils for funding. Although occupation categories used in Statistics Canada data are not quite as precise and detailed as the types of artists eligible for arts council funding, there are many similarities.

Census strengths and limitations in counting artists

Despite its limitations, the 2006 census is one of the best available sources of information on artists in Canada. The census provides occupation estimates based on a very large population base: the 20% of households that completed a long census form. Census data allows us to provide a very detailed and reliable statistical portrait of artists in Canada.

However, the census is not a perfect source for information about artists. One gap in the Statistics Canada occupational classification is the fact that there is no distinct category for filmmakers or other media artists. The closest categories are “producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations” (which includes a number of artforms), “film and video camera operators” and “painters, sculptors and other visual artists”.

Another example of an occupation group that is not a perfect fit for artists is the authors and writers category. This occupation group includes a broader range of writers than simply novelists, poets and other “artistic” writers. As can be seen in the occupation definition, a fairly broad range of writers (but not journalists) are included in this category: “Authors and writers plan, research and write books, scripts, storyboards, plays, essays, speeches, manuals, specifications and other non-journalistic articles for publication or presentation. They are employed by advertising agencies, governments, large corporations, private consulting firms, publishing firms, multimedia/new-media companies and other establishments, or they may be self-employed.”

⁴ Other occupation groups, such as photographers, were also considered for inclusion in the analysis. However, further investigation found that a large majority of photographers captured by the census work as commercial photographers, which would limit the usefulness of including photographers in the analysis.

⁵ See the Appendix for full occupational descriptions. The nine arts occupations were drawn from the 2006 National Occupation Classification for Statistics (NOC-S), <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/soc-cnp/2006/noc2006-cnp2006-eng.htm>.

Another issue is the timing of the census. The classification of occupations is based on the job that respondents spend the most hours at during the week of Sunday, May 7 to Saturday, May 13, 2006. This is an “in between” period for many artistic endeavors. For example, many performing arts organizations have seasons that extend from the fall to the spring. These seasons may be finished before the week of May 7, leaving some artists to find other employment during the late spring and summer. Other organizations may have summer seasons that do not begin in early May.

The focus on the job where the individual worked the most hours affects census labour force counts. Having multiple jobs is an important facet of the working life of many artists. Some may work more hours at other jobs during the week than at their art. Due to this, census-based estimates of artists are likely to be somewhat low.

Even though the census provides a very large sample, this still has limits. Some breakdowns of the number of artists in areas with lower populations are less accurate because of the fairly small sample of artists in these locations. In addition, Statistics Canada’s efforts to ensure confidentiality of individual responses result in some distortion of the estimates of artists in areas with low populations.⁶ Very few statistics based on fewer than 250 artists are presented in this report. Those figures based on fewer than 250 artists should be used with caution.

Census data has some specific limitations concerning Aboriginal people. Census enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before completion on some Indian reserves and settlements. Overall, however, it appears that the coverage of Aboriginal people was better in the 2006 census than ever before. Statistics Canada notes that, in 2006, there were 22 incompletely enumerated reserves, down from 30 in 2001 and 77 in 1996.⁷

The census is conducted once every five years, limiting the analysis of trends over time to the census years.

Given these limitations, census data will not fill all analytical needs. Despite its limitations, the 2006 census is one of the best available sources of information on artists in Canada.⁸

⁶ This included “random rounding” of small figures, whereby occupation groups with 1 to 10 individuals are rounded to 0 or 10 on a random basis. This results in some distortion of the estimates of artists in individual occupations in the territories and other small population areas.

⁷ See *2006 Census: A decade of comparable data on Aboriginal Peoples*, available at <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/ref/info/aboriginal-autochtones-eng.cfm>.

⁸ Membership in artist associations is another possible source of data. However, this would not provide complete information as only some artists belong to associations. In addition, some artists who belong to an association may not be active as an artist in a specific year.

Organization of the report

[Section 2](#) provides comparisons of the number and earnings of artists in the provinces and territories. [Section 3](#) provides a brief profile of artists in each province and territory, including an examination of artists by sex, education level, age, self-employment rates, weeks worked, industry sectors and occupation. Changes in the number and earnings of artists between 1991 and 2006 are highlighted, as are key statistics on the broader cultural sector in 2006. [The final section](#) provides a summary of the report's key findings. [The appendix](#) provides descriptions of the nine arts occupation groups.

Section 2: Comparisons between the provinces and territories

Number and concentration of artists

Among the 10 provinces, British Columbia has the largest percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (1.08%), the only province above 1% and a figure that is well above the Canadian average of 0.77%. British Columbia has 25,900 artists who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006.

Ontario has a slightly higher percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (0.81%) than the Canadian average (0.77%). With 56,900 artists, Ontario has nearly twice as many artists as any other province.

The 3,700 artists in Nova Scotia place the province third in terms of the proportion of the labour force in arts occupations (0.73%).

Quebec has the second-largest number of artists (30,200) and is fourth in terms of the percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (0.71%).

No other province has over 0.6% of its workforce in arts occupations:

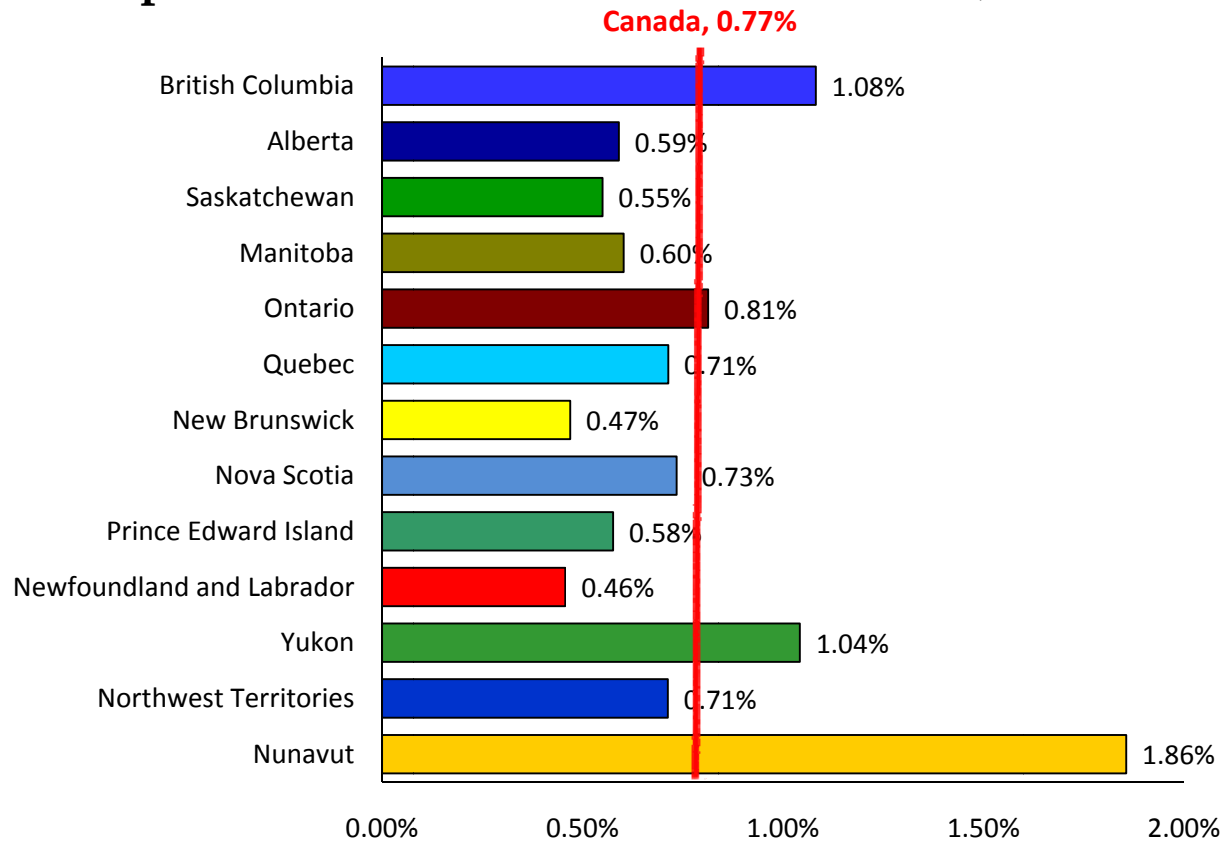
- Manitoba's 3,900 artists represent 0.60% of the overall provincial labour force.
- Alberta's 12,200 artists comprise 0.59% of the provincial labour force.
- There are 470 artists on Prince Edward Island, or 0.58% of the Island's labour force.
- Saskatchewan's 3,000 artists comprise 0.55% of the province's labour force.
- In New Brunswick, the 1,900 artists represent less than one-half of a percent of the province's labour force (0.47%).
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are approximately 1,200 artists, representing 0.46% of the province's labour force.

Given their small populations, Canada's three territories have relatively small numbers of artists.⁹ Because of this, the data for the territories should be used with caution. Nunavut's 250 artists represent a strikingly large percentage of the territory's labour force (1.86%, more than double the national average of 0.77%). Yukon's 210 artists represent 1.04% of the territory's labour force (similar to the percentage in B.C.). The Northwest Territories' 180 artists account for 0.71% of the overall labour force.

⁹ The estimates of artists in low population areas, such as the territories, are less accurate than in other areas because of attempts by Statistics Canada to ensure the confidentiality of individual responses. This includes "random rounding" of small figures, whereby occupation groups with 1 to 10 individuals are rounded to 0 or 10 on a random basis. This results in some distortion of the estimates of artists in the territories and other small population areas. Because of concerns about data reliability, very few statistics based on fewer than 250 artists are presented in this report. Those figures based on fewer than 250 artists should be used with caution.

Chart 1 provides the concentration of artists in each province and territory. Because there is a relatively small number of artists in the territories, territorial data should be used with caution.

Chart 1: Artists as a percentage of overall provincial and territorial labour forces, 2006



Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request.

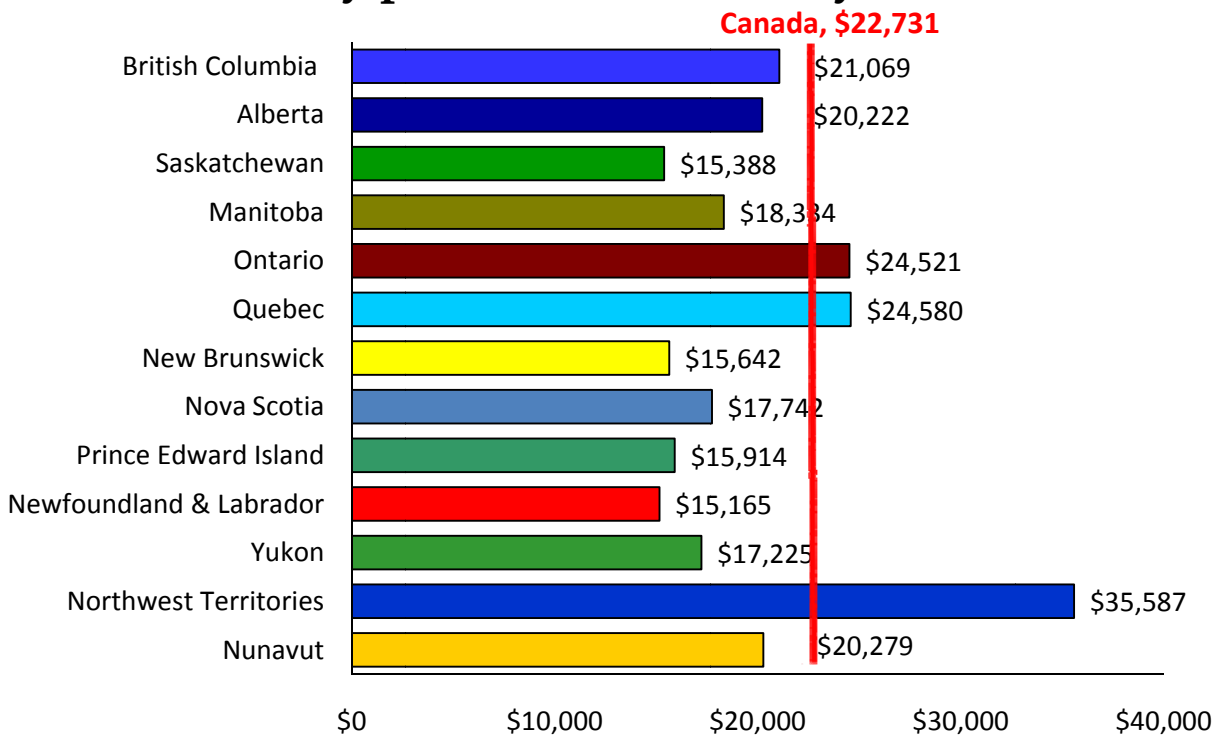
As a group, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia account for 81% of Canada's artists, compared with 75% of the country's overall labour force. These three provinces have significant arts infrastructures that attract a large number of artists. Those areas with a large arts infrastructure may be able to provide more full-time or near full-time arts employment and self-employment opportunities than other jurisdictions. This will affect statistics based on the census, which classifies respondents into occupation groups based on the position at which the respondent worked the most hours in May 2006.

Average earnings

As shown in Chart 2, Quebec and Ontario are the only provinces where artists' average earnings (about \$24,500 in both provinces) are above the Canadian average (\$22,700). British Columbia and Alberta are the only other provinces where artists' average earnings exceed \$20,000. Artists' average earnings are about \$18,000 or less in the six other provinces.

Because there is a relatively small number of artists in the territories, territorial data should be used with caution.

Chart 2: Artists' average earnings by province and territory, 2005



Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Earnings gap

Note: The earnings gap is the difference between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings.

Artists' average earnings are well below the overall labour force average in every province. It is in Quebec where artists come closest to overall labour force earnings, with an earnings gap of 25%. Interestingly, Quebec is the only province that has the highest-paid arts occupation as its largest group (producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations). It may be that the strong, home-grown film industry in Quebec has an impact on the overall earnings of artists.

In Ontario and Prince Edward Island, the earnings gap between artists and the overall labour force is 38%, while in all other provinces the earnings gap is 40% or more. In fact, artists in Alberta earn, on average, 52% less than the average earnings in the overall provincial labour force. In the country as a whole, the earnings gap for artists is 37%.

Table 1 provides estimates of the average earnings of artists and the overall labour force as well as the earnings gap in each province and territory, from west to east.

Table 1: Artists' average earnings in the provinces and territories, 2005			
Province	Artists	Overall labour force	Earnings gap
British Columbia	\$21,069	\$34,978	40%
Alberta	\$20,222	\$42,439	52%
Saskatchewan	\$15,388	\$30,773	50%
Manitoba	\$18,334	\$31,318	41%
Ontario	\$24,521	\$39,386	38%
Quebec	\$24,580	\$32,639	25%
New Brunswick	\$15,642	\$28,353	45%
Nova Scotia	\$17,742	\$29,958	41%
Prince Edward Island	\$15,914	\$25,574	38%
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$15,165	\$28,002	46%
Yukon Territory	\$17,225	\$37,908	55%
Northwest Territories	\$35,587	\$46,750	24%
Nunavut	\$20,279	\$37,997	47%
Canada	\$22,731	\$36,301	37%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Changes in the number of artists between 1991 and 2006

In Canada, there were 38% more artists in 2006 than in 1991. As shown in Map 1, among the provinces, the growth in the number of artists was highest in British Columbia (58% increase). There were also strong increases in the number of artists in five other provinces: Ontario (44%), New Brunswick (38%), Alberta (37%), Quebec (28%) and Nova Scotia (27%). There was an 18% increase in the number of artists on Prince Edward Island and an 8% increase in Manitoba. The number of artists decreased by 2% in two provinces: Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador. In the three territories, the number of artists increased by 20% between 1991 and 2006.

Between 1991 and 2006, the number of artists in Canada increased by 38%, nearly double the 22% growth in the overall labour force.

The growth in the number of artists was greater than overall labour force growth in six provinces. In three of these provinces (Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia), the growth in the number of artists was double or more the overall provincial labour force growth rate. The other three provinces with higher growth in artists than the overall labour force are British Columbia, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.

In Alberta, the number of artists grew substantially (by 37% between 1991 and 2006), but this strong growth was outpaced by the 41% growth in the overall labour force. In Manitoba, the 8% growth in the number of artists was outpaced by the 11% growth in the overall labour force. In Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, the number of artists decreased by 2% between 1991 and 2006. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the overall labour force decreased by slightly more (4%). In Saskatchewan, the overall labour force increased by 7%.

Between 1990 and 2005, artists average earnings *decreased* in six provinces, after adjusting for inflation. The largest decreases were in Ontario (15%) and Quebec (11%). The decreases were 9% in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, 8% in Alberta, and 5% in British Columbia.

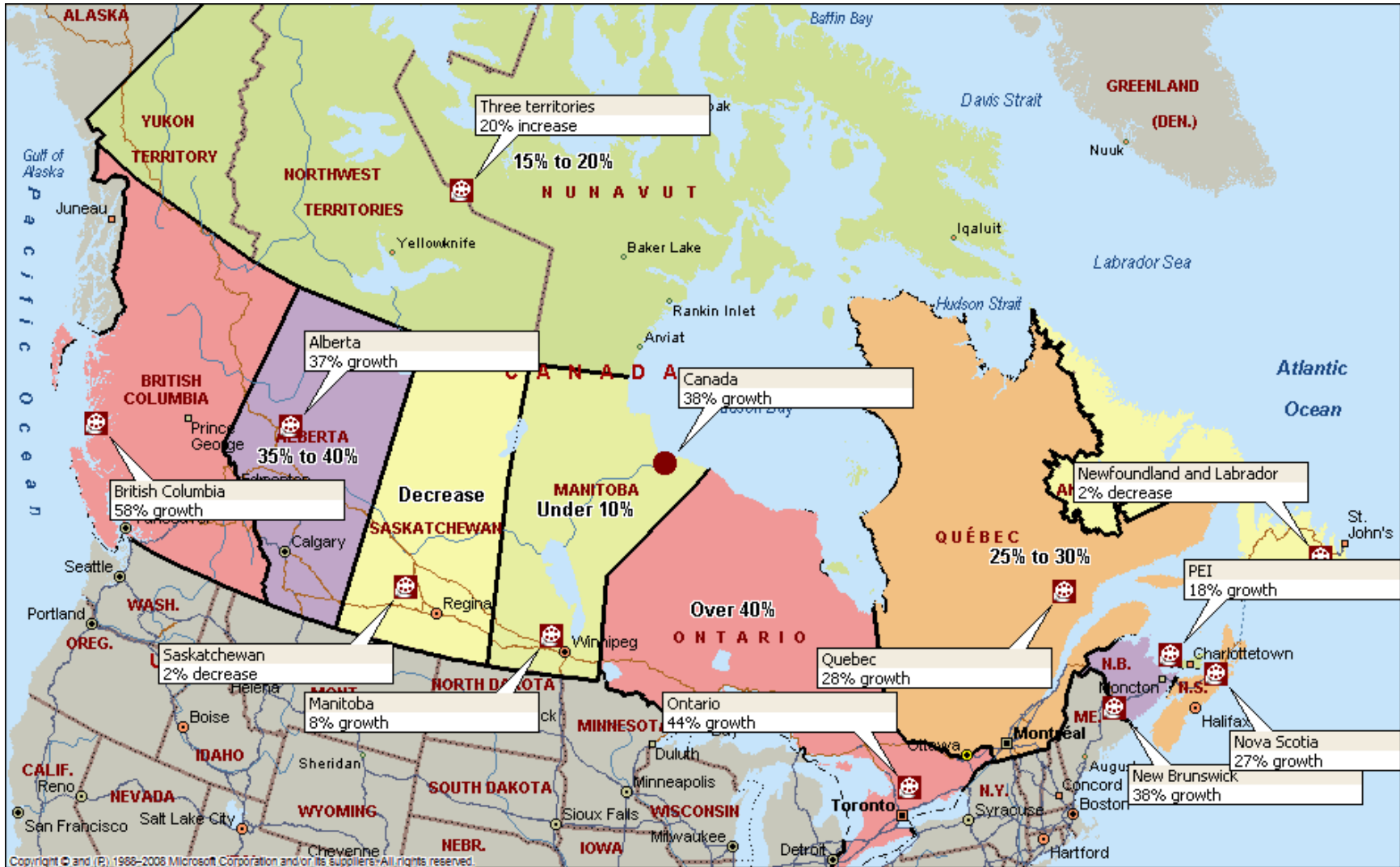
In Manitoba and New Brunswick, the average earnings of artists increased by 2%, which is less than the growth in earnings of these provinces' overall labour force.

Prince Edward Island is the only province where the average earnings of artists increased by more than the overall labour force (12% vs. 6%). However, the average earnings of artists on PEI are still quite low (\$15,900 in 2005).

In Newfoundland and Labrador, artists' average earnings grew at the same rate as average earnings in the overall labour force (13%).

Map 1: Change in the number of artists, 1991 to 2006

Legend ■ Over 40% growth ■ 35%-40% growth ■ 25%-30% growth ■ 15%-20% growth ■ Under 10% growth ■ Decrease



Section 3: Profile of artists in each province and territory

This section provides a brief profile of artists in each province and territory. The section starts with a brief synopsis of the situation of artists in the country as a whole, in order to provide comparative information for the provinces and territories.

Because of concerns about data reliability, the Atlantic provinces and the three territories have been grouped together for some statistics in order to minimize the categories with unreliable figures (typically occupational, age or other breakdowns). In addition, very few statistics based on fewer than 250 artists are presented in this section. Those figures based on fewer than 250 artists should be used with caution.

Canada

There are 140,000 artists in Canada who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.77% of the overall Canadian labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$22,700, compared with an average of \$36,300 for all Canadian workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 37%.

For artists, median earnings are only \$12,900. A typical artist in Canada earns less than half the typical earnings of all Canadian workers (median earnings of \$26,900).¹

At \$3.2 billion, the total earnings of artists account for one-half of one percent of total earnings in the overall Canadian labour force (0.48%).

Between 1991 and 2006, the number of artists increased much more quickly than the overall labour force. During this period, the number of artists in Canada increased by 38%, nearly double the 22% growth in the overall labour force. However, the rate of growth in the number of artists was much higher between 1991 and 2001 (29%) than between 2001 and 2006 (7%).

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in Canada decreased by 11%, after adjusting for inflation.² In contrast, average earnings in the overall labour force increased by 9% during the same timeframe.

¹ Half of individuals have earnings that are less than the median value, while the other half has earnings greater than the median. The median is less influenced than the average (more appropriately known as the "mean") by extreme observations, such as a few individuals reporting very large incomes. As a consequence, median earnings are typically lower than average earnings.

² Inflation was 36% between 1990 and 2005. The inflation rate was calculated based on the Canadian Consumer Price Index. Statistics Canada's webpage with inflation data (<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/econ46a.htm>) was viewed on January 7, 2009.

In Canada, the broader cultural sector has about 609,000 workers and comprises 3.3% of the overall labour force in Canada. One in every 30 people in Canada has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$32,900, 9% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in Canada (\$36,300) but 45% higher than artists' average earnings (\$22,700).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are more female artists (74,000) than male artists (66,100) in Canada.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (39%) is nearly double the rate in the overall labour force (21%).

A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (33% vs. 36%). Similar percentages of artists and the overall labour force (45% and 46%) are between 35 and 54 years old. A larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (21% vs. 18%).

At 42%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is six times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (7%).

Only 47% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 66% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (52,600, or 38% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in educational services (28,700) and information and cultural industries (25,500).

Table 2 shows that musicians and singers are the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 33,600 people reporting earnings), followed by authors and writers (24,500), producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (22,400), artisans and craftspersons (17,400), and visual artists (17,100).

Table 2 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Six of the nine arts occupations have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. Only the "producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations" group earns more than the average earnings for the overall Canadian labour force.

Table 2: Number of artists and average earnings by occupation in Canada, 2006 census

Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	11,740	8%	\$17,866	51%
Artisans and craftspersons	17,350	12%	\$15,187	58%
Authors and writers	24,545	18%	\$32,045	12%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	2,320	2%	\$27,488	24%
Dancers	7,330	5%	\$13,167	64%
Musicians and singers	33,635	24%	\$14,439	60%
Other performers	3,630	3%	\$16,250	55%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	22,370	16%	\$43,776	-21%
Visual artists	17,115	12%	\$13,976	61%
All 9 arts occupations	140,040	100%	\$22,731	37%
Overall labour force	18,201,270	N/A	\$36,301	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

British Columbia

There are 25,900 artists in British Columbia who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 1.08% of the overall provincial labour force.

Among the 10 provinces, British Columbia has the largest percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (1.08%), the only province above 1% and a figure that is well above the Canadian average of 0.77%.

The average earnings of artists are \$21,100, compared with an average of \$35,000 for all British Columbian workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 40%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$11,700. This means that a typical artist in British Columbia earns less than half the typical earnings of all B.C. workers (median earnings of \$25,700).

At \$545 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.65% of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force.

The number of artists in British Columbia increased much more rapidly than the overall provincial labour force between 1991 and 2006 (58% vs. 37%). However, the rate of growth in the number of artists was much higher between 1991 and 2001 (47%) than between 2001 and 2006 (8%).

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in British Columbia decreased by 5% (from \$22,300 to \$21,100, after adjusting for inflation). The 5% decrease in artists' earnings is due to a large recent decrease (14% between 2000 and 2005). In comparison, average earnings in the overall provincial labour force increased by 3% between 1990 and 2005.

In British Columbia, the broader cultural sector has about 87,000 workers and comprises 3.7% of the overall provincial labour force. One in every 27 people in British Columbia has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$30,500, 13% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in British Columbia (\$35,000) but 45% higher than artists' average earnings (\$21,100).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are more female artists (14,000) than male artists (11,900) in British Columbia.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (37%) is nearly double the rate in the overall labour force (22%).

A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (30% vs. 34%). The same percentage of artists and the overall labour force (46%) is between 35 and 54 years old. A larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (24% vs. 20%).

At 47%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is over five times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (9%).

Only 43% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 58% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (10,000, or 39% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in educational services (5,500) and information and cultural industries (5,000).

Table 3 shows that musicians and singers are the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 5,900 people reporting earnings), followed by authors and writers (4,300), visual artists (3,800), artisans and craftspersons (3,500), and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (3,500).

Table 3 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Six of the nine arts occupations have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. Only the “producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations” group earns more than the average earnings for the overall provincial labour force.

Table 3: Number of artists and average earnings by occupation in British Columbia, 2006 census

Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	2,845	11%	\$16,920	52%
Artisans and craftspersons	3,495	13%	\$14,307	59%
Authors and writers	4,305	17%	\$26,655	24%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	320	1%	\$31,267	11%
Dancers	1,320	5%	\$14,143	60%
Musicians and singers	5,890	23%	\$14,088	60%
Other performers	390	2%	\$15,148	57%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	3,475	13%	\$44,520	-27%
Visual artists	3,840	15%	\$15,607	55%
All 9 arts occupations	25,890	100%	\$21,069	40%
Overall labour force	2,392,805	N/A	\$34,978	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Alberta

There are 12,200 artists in Alberta who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.59% of the overall provincial labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$20,200, compared with an average of \$42,400 for all Albertan workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 52%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$13,000. This means that a typical artist in Alberta earns less than half the typical earnings of all Alberta workers (median earnings of \$29,700).

At \$246 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.28% of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force.

The number of artists in Alberta increased substantially between 1991 and 2006 (37%) but was surpassed by the increase in the overall labour force (41%). The rate of growth in the number of artists was much higher between 1991 and 2001 (31%) than between 2001 and 2006 (4%).

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in Alberta decreased by 8% (from \$22,000 to \$20,200, after adjusting for inflation). The 8% decrease in artists' earnings is due to a more recent decrease (8% between 2000 and 2005). In comparison, average earnings in the overall provincial labour force increased by 29% between 1990 and 2005.

In Alberta, the broader cultural sector has about 56,000 workers and comprises 2.7% of the overall provincial labour force. One in every 37 people in Alberta has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$34,000, 20% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in Alberta (\$42,400) but 68% higher than artists' average earnings (\$20,200).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are more female artists (7,400) than male artists (4,800) in Alberta.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (37%) is nearly double the rate in the overall labour force (20%).

A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (36% vs. 39%). The same percentage of artists and the overall labour force (44%) is between 35 and 54 years old. A larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (20% vs.17%).

At 42%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is six times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (7%).

Only 44% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 64% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (4,500, or 37% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in educational services (3,500) and information and cultural industries (1,400).

Table 4 shows that musicians and singers are the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 3,500 people reporting earnings), followed by authors and writers (2,000), visual artists (1,700), artisans and craftspersons (1,500) and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (1,300).

Table 4 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Six of the eight arts occupations with reliable data have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. No arts occupation group earns more than the average earnings for the overall provincial labour force.

Table 4: Number of artists and average earnings by occupation in Alberta, 2006 census				
Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	625	5%	\$15,122	64%
Artisans and craftspersons	1,530	13%	\$16,552	61%
Authors and writers	1,965	16%	\$28,369	33%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dancers	975	8%	\$15,480	64%
Musicians and singers	3,535	29%	\$14,532	66%
Other performers	375	3%	\$16,161	62%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	1,265	10%	\$41,446	2%
Visual artists	1,695	14%	\$14,859	65%
All 9 arts occupations	12,160	100%	\$20,222	52%
Overall labour force	2,058,650	n/a	\$42,439	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Saskatchewan

There are 3,000 artists in Saskatchewan who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.55% of the overall provincial labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$15,400, compared with an average of \$30,800 for all Saskatchewanian workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 50%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$8,800. This means that a typical artist in Saskatchewan earns just over one-third of the typical earnings of all Saskatchewan workers (median earnings of \$23,000).

At \$47 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.28% of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force.

The number of artists in Saskatchewan decreased by 2% between 1991 and 2006, while the overall provincial labour force increased by 7%. The number of artists decreased by 5% between 1991 and 2001 but increased by 3% between 2001 and 2006.

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in Saskatchewan decreased by 9% (from \$16,900 to \$15,400, after adjusting for inflation). The 9% decrease in artists' earnings is due to a large recent decrease (11% between 2000 and 2005). In comparison, average earnings in the overall provincial labour force increased by 3% between 1990 and 2005.

In Saskatchewan, the broader cultural sector has about 13,000 workers and comprises 2.3% of the overall provincial labour force. One in every 43 people in Saskatchewan has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$27,100, 12% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in Saskatchewan (\$30,800) but 76% higher than artists' average earnings (\$15,400).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are more female artists (1,800) than male artists (1,300) in Saskatchewan.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (34%) is more than double the rate in the overall labour force (16%).

A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (34% vs. 36%). In addition, a smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force (39% vs. 44%) is between 35 and 54 years old. A much larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (27% vs. 21%).

At 44%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is four times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (11%).

Only 39% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 61% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (1,000, or 32% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in educational services (900) and information and cultural industries (400).

Table 5 shows that musicians and singers are the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 1,000 people reporting earnings), followed by artisans and craftspersons (500), authors and writers (400), producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (400) and visual artists (300). The data for the remaining four occupations is not reliable.

Table 5 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Three of the five arts occupations with reliable data have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. Only the “producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations” group earns more than the average earnings for the overall provincial labour force.

Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Artisans and craftspersons	535	18%	\$12,857	58%
Authors and writers	430	14%	\$22,871	26%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dancers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Musicians and singers	975	32%	\$9,342	70%
Other performers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	375	12%	\$32,055	-4%
Visual artists	335	11%	\$14,967	51%
All 9 arts occupations	3,045	100%	\$15,388	50%
Overall labour force	553,655	N/A	\$30,773	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Manitoba

There are 3,900 artists in Manitoba who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.60% of the overall provincial labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$18,300, compared with an average of \$31,300 for all Manitoban workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 41%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$11,300. This means that a typical artist in Manitoba earns less than half of the typical earnings of all Manitoba workers (median earnings of \$24,500).

At \$72 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.35% of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force.

The number of artists in Manitoba increased by 8% between 1991 and 2006, compared with an 11% increase in the overall provincial labour force. The number of artists increased by 9% between 1991 and 2001 but decreased by 2% between 2001 and 2006.

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in Manitoba increased by 2% (from \$18,000 to \$18,300, after adjusting for inflation). In comparison, average earnings in the overall labour force increased by 8% between 1990 and 2005.

In Manitoba, the broader cultural sector labour force has about 18,500 workers and comprises 2.8% of the overall provincial labour force. One in every 36 people in Manitoba has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$29,500, 6% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in Manitoba (\$31,300) but 61% higher than artists' average earnings (\$18,300).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are more female artists (2,200) than male artists (1,700) in Manitoba.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (32%) is nearly double the rate in the overall labour force (18%).

Similar percentages of artists and the overall labour force are under 35 years of age (37% vs. 36%). A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force (39% vs. 45%) is between 35 and 54 years old. A larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (24% vs. 19%).

At 43%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is over five times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (8%).

Only 47% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 62% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (1,400, or 37% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in educational services (1,000) and information and cultural industries (600).

Table 6 shows that musicians and singers are the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 1,200 people reporting earnings), followed by artisans and craftspersons (600), authors and writers (500) and visual artists (500).

Table 6 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Four of the six arts occupations with reliable data have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. Only the “producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations” group earns more than the average earnings for the overall provincial labour force.

Table 6: Number of artists and average earnings by occupation in Manitoba, 2006 census				
Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	350	9%	\$9,777	69%
Artisans and craftspersons	565	14%	\$15,859	49%
Authors and writers	500	13%	\$24,920	20%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dancers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Musicians and singers	1,245	32%	\$15,701	50%
Other performers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	440	11%	\$39,820	-27%
Visual artists	480	12%	\$11,181	64%
All 9 arts occupations	3,920	100%	\$18,334	41%
Overall labour force	650,410	N/A	\$31,318	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Ontario

There are 56,900 artists in Ontario who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Ontario has nearly twice as many artists as any other province. Artists represent 0.81% of the overall provincial labour force, slightly higher than the Canadian average (0.77%).

The average earnings of artists are \$24,500, compared with an average of \$39,400 for all Ontarian workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 38%.

Ontario and Quebec are the only provinces where artists' average earnings (about \$24,500 in both provinces) are higher than the average for all Canadian artists (\$22,700).

The median earnings of artists are only \$13,900. This means that a typical artist in Ontario earns less than half of the typical earnings of all Ontario workers (median earnings of \$29,300).

At \$1.4 billion, the total earnings of artists account for one-half of one percent of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force (0.51%).

The number of artists in Ontario increased by 44% between 1991 and 2006, double the increase in the overall provincial labour force (22%). However, the rate of growth in the number of artists was much higher between 1991 and 2001 (33%) than between 2001 and 2006 (8%).

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in Ontario decreased by 15% (from \$28,900 to \$24,500, after adjusting for inflation). The 15% decrease in artists' earnings is due to a large recent decrease (18% between 2000 and 2005). In comparison, average earnings in the overall provincial labour force increased by 9% between 1990 and 2005.

In Ontario, the broader cultural sector has about 240,000 workers and comprises 3.4% of the overall provincial labour force. One in every 29 people in Ontario has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$35,300, 10% lower than average earnings in the overall provincial labour force (\$39,400) but 44% higher than artists' average earnings (\$24,500).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are more female artists (30,400) than male artists (26,500) in Ontario.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (41%) is much higher than the rate in the overall labour force (24%).

A slightly smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (33% vs. 35%). Similar percentages of artists and the overall labour force (45% and 46%) are between 35 and 54 years old. A larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (22% vs. 18%).

At 40%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is nearly six times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (7%).

Only 47% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 63% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (19,600, or 34% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in educational services (12,200) and information and cultural industries (10,900).

Table 7 shows that musicians and singers are the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 13,500 people reporting earnings), followed by authors and writers (10,900), producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (9,200), artisans and craftspersons (6,500), and visual artists (6,300).

Table 7 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Six of the nine arts occupations have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. Only the “producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations” group earns more than the average earnings for the overall provincial labour force.

Table 7: Number of artists and average earnings by occupation in Ontario, 2006 census				
Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	4,600	8%	\$18,239	54%
Artisans and craftspersons	6,530	11%	\$16,619	58%
Authors and writers	10,865	19%	\$34,795	12%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	1,175	2%	\$29,344	25%
Dancers	3,040	5%	\$12,056	69%
Musicians and singers	13,455	24%	\$14,985	62%
Other performers	1,665	3%	\$14,319	64%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	9,185	16%	\$47,638	-21%
Visual artists	6,345	11%	\$14,120	64%
All 9 arts occupations	56,860	100%	\$24,521	38%
Overall labour force	6,991,670	N/A	\$39,386	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Quebec

There are 30,200 artists in Quebec who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.71% of the overall provincial labour force.

Quebec has the second-largest number of artists among the 10 provinces (30,200) and is fourth in terms of the percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (0.71%).

The average earnings of artists are \$24,600, compared with an average of \$32,600 for all Quebec workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 25%, the lowest level among the provinces.

Quebec and Ontario are the only provinces where artists' average earnings (about \$24,500 in both provinces) are higher than the average for all Canadian artists (\$22,700).

Interestingly, Quebec is the only province that has the highest-paid arts occupation as its largest group (producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations). It may be that the strong, home-grown film industry in Quebec has an impact on the overall earnings of artists.

The median earnings of artists are only \$14,300. This means that a typical artist in Quebec earns 44% less than the typical earnings of all Quebec workers (median earnings of \$25,500).

At \$742 million, the total earnings of artists account for one-half of one percent of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force (0.54%).

The number of artists in Quebec increased more rapidly than the overall labour force between 1991 and 2006 (28% vs. 18%). However, the rate of growth in the number of artists was much higher between 1991 and 2001 (17%) than between 2001 and 2006 (9%).

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in Quebec decreased by 11% (from \$27,700 to \$24,600, after adjusting for inflation). The 11% decrease in artists' earnings is largely due to a recent decrease of 9% between 2000 and 2005. In comparison, average earnings in the overall provincial labour force increased by 2% between 1990 and 2005.

In Quebec, the broader cultural sector has about 160,000 workers and comprises 3.8% of the overall labour force. One in every 26 people in Quebec has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$32,200, 1% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in Quebec (\$32,600) but 31% higher than artists' average earnings (\$24,600).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are fewer female artists (14,100) than male artists (16,100) in Quebec.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (40%) is double the rate in the overall labour force (20%).

The age breakdown of artists is the same as the overall labour force in Quebec. Similar percentages of artists and overall labour force workers are under 35 years of age (36% vs. 35%). The same percentage of artists and the overall labour force (47%) is between 35 and 54 years old. The same percentage of artists and other workers is 55 or older (17%).

At 39%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is over six times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (6%). Only 50% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 62% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (12,800, or 43% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in information and cultural industries (6,000) and educational services (4,000).

Table 8 shows that producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations is the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 6,700 people reporting earnings), followed by musicians and singers (6,600), authors and writers (5,100), visual artists (3,400), and artisans and craftspersons (3,100). Table 8 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Four of the nine arts occupations have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. Two occupations, "producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations" and authors and writers earn more than the average earnings for the overall provincial labour force.

Table 8: Number of artists and average earnings by occupation in Quebec, 2006 census

Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	2,540	8%	\$22,613	31%
Artisans and craftspersons	3,100	10%	\$14,388	56%
Authors and writers	5,125	17%	\$35,697	-9%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	425	1%	\$25,968	20%
Dancers	1,325	4%	\$13,244	59%
Musicians and singers	6,575	22%	\$14,825	55%
Other performers	970	3%	\$21,560	34%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	6,700	22%	\$39,875	-22%
Visual artists	3,420	11%	\$12,490	62%
All 9 arts occupations	30,170	100%	\$24,580	25%
Overall labour force	4,225,880	N/A	\$32,639	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Atlantic provinces

There are 7,400 artists in the four Atlantic provinces who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.58% of the overall labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$16,600, compared with an average of \$28,700 for all workers in the Atlantic provinces. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 42%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$8,800. This means that a typical artist in the Atlantic provinces earns less than half of the typical earnings of all Atlantic workers (median earnings of \$21,100).

At \$122 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.34% of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force.

The number of artists in the Atlantic provinces increased more than three times as much as the overall labour force between 1991 and 2006 (23% vs. 7%). However, the rate of growth in the number of artists was much higher between 1991 and 2001 (20%) than between 2001 and 2006 (2%).

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in the Atlantic provinces decreased by 2% (from \$16,900 to \$16,600, after adjusting for inflation). The 2% decrease in artists' earnings is due to a large recent decrease (7% between 2000 and 2005). In comparison, average earnings in the overall labour force increased by 7% between 1990 and 2005.

In the Atlantic provinces, the broader cultural sector has about 31,000 workers and comprises 2.5% of the overall labour force. One in every 40 people in the Atlantic provinces has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$26,100, 9% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in the Atlantic provinces (\$28,700) but 57% higher than artists' average earnings (\$16,600).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are more female artists (3,900) than male artists (3,500) in the Atlantic provinces.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (41%) is more than double the rate in the overall labour force (18%).

A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (32% vs. 35%). In addition, a smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force (43% and 48%) is between 35 and 54 years old. A much larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (25% vs. 17%).

At 41%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is about eight times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (5%).

Only 42% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 55% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (2,900, or 39% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in educational services (1,500) and information and cultural industries (1,000).

Table 9 shows that musicians and singers are the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 1,900 people reporting earnings), followed by artisans and craftspersons (1,400), authors and writers (1,300), visual artists (900) and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (800). The data for two of the remaining arts occupations is not reliable.

Table 9 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Five of the seven arts occupations that have reliable data have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. Only the “producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations” group earns more than the average earnings for the overall Atlantic labour force.

Table 9: Number of artists and average earnings by occupation in the Atlantic provinces, 2006 census				
Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	565	8%	\$8,841	69%
Artisans and craftspersons	1,360	18%	\$11,357	60%
Authors and writers	1,295	18%	\$22,756	21%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dancers	285	4%	\$14,402	50%
Musicians and singers	1,920	26%	\$11,947	58%
Other performers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	815	11%	\$41,464	-44%
Visual artists	880	12%	\$10,286	64%
All 9 arts occupations	7,360	100%	\$16,644	42%
Overall labour force	1,269,310	N/A	\$28,744	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

New Brunswick

There are 1,900 artists in New Brunswick who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.47% of the overall provincial labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$15,600, compared with an average of \$28,400 for all New Brunswick workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 45%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$8,800. This means that a typical artist in New Brunswick earns less than half of the typical earnings of all New Brunswick workers (median earnings of \$21,500).

At \$30 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.26% of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force.

The number of artists in New Brunswick increased much more rapidly than the overall provincial labour force between 1991 and 2006 (38% vs. 11%). However, the rate of growth in the number of artists was much higher between 1991 and 2001 (29%) than between 2001 and 2006 (7%).

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in New Brunswick increased by 2% (from \$15,300 to \$15,600, after adjusting for inflation). In comparison, average earnings in the overall labour force increased by 5% during this time period.

In New Brunswick, the broader cultural sector has about 9,000 workers and comprises 2.2% of the overall provincial labour force. One in every 45 people in New Brunswick has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$27,200, 4% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in New Brunswick (\$28,400) but 74% higher than artists' average earnings (\$15,600).

Artists by sex, education, age and employment characteristics

There are more female artists (1,100) than male artists (900) in New Brunswick.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (37%) is more than double the rate in the overall labour force (16%).

A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (29% vs. 35%). In addition, a smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force (44% and 48%) is between 35 and 54 years old. A much larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (26% vs. 17%).

At 39%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is nearly eight times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (5%).

Only 41% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 57% of the overall labour force. Although artists work in different sectors of the economy, many artists work in the arts, entertainment and recreation (700 artists) and educational services (400) industries.

Nova Scotia

There are 3,700 artists in Nova Scotia who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.73% of the overall provincial labour force, placing Nova Scotia third among the 10 provinces in terms of the proportion of the labour force in arts occupations.

The average earnings of artists are \$17,700, compared with an average of \$30,000 for all Nova Scotian workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 41%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$9,500. This means that a typical artist in Nova Scotia earns less than half of the typical earnings of all Nova Scotia workers (median earnings of \$22,600).

At \$66 million, the total earnings of artists account for nearly one-half of one percent of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force (0.44%).

The number of artists in Nova Scotia increased three times more rapidly than the overall provincial labour force between 1991 and 2006 (27% vs. 9%). However, the rate of growth in the number of artists was much higher between 1991 and 2001 (19%) than between 2001 and 2006 (6%).

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in Nova Scotia decreased by 9% (from \$19,500 to \$18,100, after adjusting for inflation). In comparison, average earnings in the overall labour force increased by 4% during this time period.

In Nova Scotia, the broader cultural sector has about 15,000 workers and comprises 2.9% of the overall provincial labour force. One in every 34 people in Nova Scotia has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$26,900, 10% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in Nova Scotia (\$30,000) but 51% higher than artists' average earnings (\$17,700).

Artists by sex, education, age, employment characteristics and occupation

There are slightly more female artists (1,900) than male artists (1,800) in Nova Scotia.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (46%) is nearly double the rate in the overall labour force (20%).

A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (29% vs. 35%). In addition, a smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force (45% and 48%) is between 35 and 54 years old. A much larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (26% vs. 18%).

At 43%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is more than seven times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (6%). Only 46% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 58% of the overall labour force. Although artists work in many different sectors of the economy, the industry with the highest number of artists is arts, entertainment and recreation (1,500, or 40% of all artists). In addition, a substantial number of artists work in educational services (700) and information and cultural industries (600).

Table 10 shows that musicians and singers are the largest of the nine arts occupation groups (with 1,000 people reporting earnings), followed by authors and writers (600), artisans and craftspersons (600), visual artists (500) and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (500). The three remaining arts occupations do not have reliable data. Table 10 also shows that many different kinds of artists have low average earnings. Four of the six arts occupations with reliable data have average earnings that are less than \$20,000. Only the "producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations" group earns more than the average earnings for the overall provincial labour force.

Table 10: Number of artists and average earnings by occupation in Nova Scotia, 2006 census

Occupation	Number of artists	% of artists	Average earnings	Earnings gap
Actors and comedians	305	8%	\$8,679	71%
Artisans and craftspersons	605	16%	\$12,310	59%
Authors and writers	630	17%	\$21,362	29%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dancers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Musicians and singers	1,010	27%	\$13,595	55%
Other performers	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	450	12%	\$45,959	-53%
Visual artists	480	13%	\$11,572	61%
All 9 arts occupations	3,735	100%	\$17,742	41%
Overall labour force	508,300	N/A	\$29,958	0%

Source: Analysis by Hill Strategies Research based on a 2006 census custom data request. All earnings figures captured in the 2006 census relate to the 2005 calendar year.

Prince Edward Island

There are 470 artists in Prince Edward Island who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.58% of the overall provincial labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$15,900, compared with an average of \$25,600 for all Prince Edward Islander workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 38%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$8,800. This means that a typical artist on PEI earns less than half of the typical earnings of all PEI workers (median earnings of \$19,500).

At \$7.4 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.36% of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force.

The number of artists on Prince Edward Island increased by 18% between 1991 and 2006, slightly higher than the growth in the overall provincial labour force (14%). The number of artists increased by 27% between 1991 and 2001 but decreased by 7% between 2001 and 2006.

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists on Prince Edward Island increased by 12% (from \$14,300 to \$15,900, after adjusting for inflation). PEI is the only province where the average earnings of artists increased by more than the overall labour force (12% vs. 6%).

On PEI, the broader cultural sector has about 2,000 workers and comprises 2.4% of the overall provincial labour force on the island. One in every 41 people on Prince Edward Island has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$23,600, 8% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force on Prince Edward Island (\$25,600) but 48% higher than artists' average earnings (\$15,900).

Because there is a relatively small number of artists on PEI, further breakdowns are not available because of concerns over data reliability.

Newfoundland and Labrador

There are 1,200 artists in Newfoundland and Labrador who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.46% of the overall provincial labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$15,200, compared with an average of \$28,000 for all Newfoundland and Labrador workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 46%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$7,900. This means that a typical artist in Newfoundland and Labrador earns less than half of the typical earnings of all Newfoundland workers (median earnings of \$18,100).

At \$18.8 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.25% of total earnings in the overall provincial labour force.

The number of artists in Newfoundland and Labrador decreased by 2% between 1991 and 2006, which is slightly less than the decrease in the overall provincial labour force (4%). The number of artists increased by 11% between 1991 and 2001 but decreased by 12% between 2001 and 2006.

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in Newfoundland and Labrador increased by 13% (from \$13,500 to \$19,000, after adjusting for inflation). This equals the 13% increase in the overall provincial labour force during this time period.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the broader cultural sector has about 5,400 workers and comprises 2.0% of the overall provincial labour force. One in every 50 people in Newfoundland and Labrador has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$23,300, 17%

lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in Newfoundland and Labrador (\$28,000) but 53% higher than artists' average earnings (\$15,200).

Artists by sex, education, age and employment characteristics

There are more female artists (710) than male artists (530) in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The percentage of artists with a bachelor's degree or higher (31%) is double the rate in the overall labour force (15%).

A larger percentage of artists than the overall labour force is under 35 years of age (46% vs. 34%). A smaller percentage of artists than the overall labour force (37% and 50%) is between 35 and 54 years old. A slightly larger percentage of artists than other workers is 55 or older (18% vs. 16%).

At 39%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is more than nine times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (4%).

Only 36% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 48% of the overall labour force.

Although artists work in different sectors of the economy, many artists work in the arts, entertainment and recreation (500 artists) and educational services (400) industries.

Because there is a relatively small number of artists in Newfoundland and Labrador, further breakdowns are not available because of concerns over data reliability.

The Territories

There are 630 artists in the three territories who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 1.06% of the overall labour force in the three territories.

The average earnings of artists are \$23,400, compared with an average of \$41,700 for all resident workers of the territories. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 44%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$13,000. This means that a typical artist in the three territories earns just over one-third of the typical earnings of all workers in the three territories (median earnings of \$33,900).

At \$14.7 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.60% of total earnings in the overall labour force in the three territories.

The number of artists in the three territories increased at about the same rate as the overall labour force between 1991 and 2006 (20% vs. 21%). The number of artists increased by 24% between 1991 and 2001 but decreased by 4% between 2001 and 2006.

Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists in the three territories increased by 52% (from \$15,400 to \$23,400, after adjusting for inflation). In comparison, average earnings in the overall labour force in the three territories increased by 14% between 1990 and 2005.

In the three territories, the broader cultural sector has about 2,200 workers and comprises 3.7% of the overall labour force. One in every 27 people in the territories has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$38,100, 9% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in the territories (\$41,700) but 63% higher than artists' average earnings (\$23,400).

Artists by sex, education, age and employment characteristics

There are fewer female artists (250) than male artists (380) in the three territories.

The percentage of artists who have not completed high school (42%) is much higher than the rate in the overall labour force (27%).

At 58%, the percentage of artists who are self-employed is more than 10 times the self-employment rate in the overall labour force (5%).

Only 50% of artists worked full-time for 40 to 52 weeks in 2005, compared with 59% of the overall labour force.

Yukon

Because these statistics are based on fewer than 250 artists, they should be used with caution.

There are 210 artists in the Yukon who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 1.04% of the overall territorial labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$17,200, compared with an average of \$37,900 for all workers in the Yukon. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 55%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$12,000. This means that a typical Yukon artist earns just over one-third of the typical earnings of all Yukon workers (median earnings of \$31,200).

At \$3.6 million, the total earnings of artists account for one-half of one percent of total earnings in the overall territorial labour force (0.47%).

In the Yukon, the broader cultural sector has about 720 workers and comprises 3.6% of the overall labour force. One in every 28 people in the Yukon has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$31,700, 16% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in the Yukon (\$37,900).

Because there is a relatively small number of artists in the Yukon, further breakdowns are not available because of concerns over data reliability.

Northwest Territories

Because these statistics are based on fewer than 250 artists, they should be used with caution.

There are 180 artists in the Northwest Territories who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 0.71% of the overall territorial labour force.

The average earnings of artists are \$35,600, compared with an average of \$46,800 for all workers in the Northwest Territories. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 24%.

The median earnings of artists are \$20,100. This means that a typical NWT artist earns one-half of the typical earnings of all NWT workers (median earnings of \$40,000).

At \$6.4 million, the total earnings of artists account for one-half of one percent of total earnings in the overall territorial labour force (0.54%).

In the Northwest Territories, the broader cultural sector has about 750 workers and comprises 3.0% of the overall labour force. One in every 34 people in the Northwest Territories has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$48,800, 4% higher than average earnings in the overall labour force in Northwest Territories (\$46,800).

Because there is a relatively small number of artists in Northwest Territories, further breakdowns are not available because of concerns over data reliability.

Nunavut

There are 250 artists in Nunavut who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists represent 1.86% of the overall territorial labour force.

Nunavut's 250 artists represent a strikingly large percentage of the territory's labour force (1.86%, more than double the national average of 0.77%).

The average earnings of artists are \$20,300, compared with an average of \$38,000 for all Nunavut workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 47%.

The median earnings of artists are only \$10,000. This means that a typical Nunavut artist earns just over one-third of the typical earnings of all Nunavut workers (median earnings of \$26,800).

At \$5.1 million, the total earnings of artists account for 0.99% of total earnings in the overall labour force, higher than any other jurisdiction in Canada.

In Nunavut, the broader cultural sector labour force has about 700 workers and comprises 5.0% of the overall labour force. One in every 20 people in Nunavut has a cultural occupation. Average earnings in the cultural sector are \$33,200, 13% lower than average earnings in the overall labour force in Nunavut (\$38,000) but 64% higher than artists' average earnings (\$20,300).

Because there is a relatively small number of artists in Nunavut, further breakdowns are not available because of concerns over data reliability.

Section 4: Key findings

A previous report in the *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series (*A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada in 2006*) showed that there are 140,000 artists in Canada who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006. Artists include actors, choreographers, craftspeople, composers, conductors, dancers, directors, musicians, producers, singers, visual artists and writers.

The average earnings of artists are \$22,700, compared with an average of \$36,300 for all Canadian workers. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 37%. Between 1990 and 2005, the average earnings of artists decreased by 11% (after adjusting for inflation). In the overall labour force, average earnings grew by 9% during the same timeframe (after adjusting for inflation).

Artists in Canada's Provinces and Territories shows that, among the 10 provinces, British Columbia has the largest percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (1.08%), the only province above 1% and a figure that is well above the Canadian average of 0.77%. British Columbia has 25,900 artists who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2006.

Ontario has a slightly higher percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (0.81%) than the Canadian average (0.77%). With 56,900 artists, Ontario has nearly twice as many artists as any other province.

The 3,700 artists in Nova Scotia place the province third in terms of the proportion of the labour force in arts occupations (0.73%).

Quebec has the second-largest number of artists (30,200) and is fourth in terms of the percentage of its labour force in arts occupations (0.71%).

No other province has over 0.6% of its workforce in arts occupations:

- Manitoba's 3,900 artists represent 0.60% of the overall provincial labour force.
- Alberta's 12,200 artists comprise 0.59% of the provincial labour force.
- There are 470 artists on Prince Edward Island, or 0.58% of the Island's labour force.
- Saskatchewan's 3,000 artists comprise 0.55% of the province's labour force.
- In New Brunswick, the 1,900 artists represent less than one-half of a percent of the province's labour force (0.47%).
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, there are approximately 1,200 artists, representing 0.46% of the province's labour force.

Given their small populations, Canada's three territories have relatively small numbers of artists. Because of this, the data for the territories should be used with caution. Nunavut's 250 artists represent a strikingly large percentage of the territory's labour force (1.86%, more than

double the national average of 0.77%). Yukon's 210 artists represent 1.04% of the territory's labour force (similar to the percentage in B.C.). The Northwest Territories' 180 artists account for 0.71% of the overall labour force.

Artists' earnings are well below the overall labour force average in every province. It is in Quebec where artists come closest to overall labour force earnings, with an earnings gap of 25%. In Ontario and Prince Edward Island, the earnings gap is 38%. In all other provinces, the earnings gap is 40% or more.

In dollar terms, Quebec and Ontario are the only provinces where artists' average earnings (about \$24,500 in both provinces) are above the Canadian average (\$22,700). British Columbia and Alberta are the only other provinces where artists' average earnings exceed \$20,000. Artists' average earnings are about \$18,000 or less in the six other provinces.

Between 1991 and 2006, the growth in the number of artists was greater than overall labour force growth in six provinces. In three of these provinces (Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia), the growth in the number of artists was double or more the overall provincial labour force growth rate. The other three provinces with higher growth in artists than the overall labour force are British Columbia, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.

In Alberta, the number of artists grew substantially (by 37% between 1991 and 2006), but this strong growth was outpaced by the 41% growth in the overall labour force. In Manitoba, the 8% growth in the number of artists was outpaced by the 11% growth in the overall labour force. In Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, the number of artists decreased by 2% between 1991 and 2006. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the overall labour force decreased by slightly more (4%). In Saskatchewan, the overall labour force increased by 7%.

Between 1990 and 2005, artists average earnings *decreased* in six provinces, after adjusting for inflation. The largest decreases were in Ontario (15%) and Quebec (11%). The decreases were 9% in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, 8% in Alberta, and 5% in British Columbia.

In Manitoba and New Brunswick, the average earnings of artists increased by 2%, which is less than the growth in earnings of these provinces' overall labour force.

Prince Edward Island is the only province where the average earnings of artists increased by more than the overall labour force (12% vs. 6%). However, the average earnings of artists on PEI are still quite low (\$15,900 in 2005).

In Newfoundland and Labrador, artists' average earnings grew at the same rate as average earnings in the overall labour force (13%).

Appendix: Descriptions of the nine arts occupations

Source: 2006 National Occupation Classification for Statistics (NOC-S), Statistics Canada
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/soc-cnp/2006/noc2006-cnp2006-eng.htm>

Occupation title and code	Definition
Actors and comedians (F035)	<p>Actors and comedians perform roles in motion picture, television, theatre and radio productions to entertain a variety of audience. They are employed by motion picture, television, theatre and other production companies. This unit group includes acting teachers employed by private acting schools.</p> <p>Exclusions: Persons who teach acting in post-secondary, secondary or elementary schools (E1, Teachers and Professors).</p>
Artisans and craftspersons (F144)	<p>This unit group includes those who use manual and artistic skills to design and make ornamental objects, pottery, stained glass, jewellery, rugs, blankets, other handicrafts and artistic floral arrangements. Makers of stringed musical instruments are also included in this unit group. Most craftspersons are self-employed. Artistic floral arrangers are usually employed in florist shops and floral departments of retail establishments or may be self-employed. Craft instructors are also included in this unit group and are employed by artisan guilds, colleges, private studios and recreational organizations.</p> <p>Exclusions: Painters, sculptors and other visual artists (F036, Painters, Sculptors and Other Visual Artists); Machine operators and assemblers and Related Occupations; or J, Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities).</p>
Authors and writers (F021)	<p>Authors and writers plan, research and write books, scripts, storyboards, plays, essays, speeches, manuals, specifications and other non-journalistic articles for publication or presentation. They are employed by advertising agencies, governments, large corporations, private consulting firms, publishing firms, multimedia/new-media companies and other establishments, or they may be self-employed.</p> <p>Exclusions: Journalists (F023, Journalists).</p>
Conductors, composers and arrangers (F032)	<p>This unit group included those who conduct bands and orchestras, compose musical works and arrange instrumental and vocal compositions. They are employed by symphony and chamber orchestras, bands, choirs, sound recording companies, orchestras for ballet and opera performances or they may be self-employed.</p> <p>Exclusions: Occupations concerned with performing or teaching instrumental or vocal music (F033, Musicians and Singers).</p>

Dancers (F034)	<p>This unit group includes dancers and dance teachers. Dancers are employed by ballet and dance companies, television and film productions and night clubs and similar establishments. Dance teachers are employed by dance academies and dance schools.</p> <p>Exclusions: Persons who teach dance in post-secondary, secondary or elementary schools (E1, Teachers and Professors), Choreographers (F031, Producers, Directors, Choreographers and Related Occupations); and Exotic and striptease dancers (F132, Other Performers).</p>
Musicians and singers (F033)	<p>This unit group includes musicians, singers and teachers of vocal and instrumental music. Musicians and singers perform with orchestras, choirs, opera companies and popular bands in establishments such as concert halls, lounges and theatres and in film, television and recording studios. Music teachers teach in conservatories, academies and private homes.</p> <p>Exclusions: Persons who teach music in post-secondary, secondary or elementary school (E1, Teachers and Professors), and Music composers and arrangers (F032, Conductors, Composers and Arrangers).</p>
Other performers (F132)	<p>This unit group includes circus performers, magicians, models, puppeteers and other performers not elsewhere classified. They are employed by circuses, nightclubs, theatre, advertising and other production companies or may be self-employed.</p>
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists (F036)	<p>Painters, sculptors and other visual artists create original paintings, drawings, sculptures, engravings and other artistic works. They are usually self-employed. This group also includes art instructors and teachers, who are usually employed by art schools.</p> <p>Exclusions: Art teachers in primary, secondary or post-secondary institutions (E1, Teachers and Professors); Graphic designers (F141, Graphic Designers and Illustrating Artists); Skilled craftspersons (F144, Artisans and Craftspersons) and House painters (H144, Painters and Decorators).</p>
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (F031)	<p>This unit group includes producers, directors, choreographers and others who oversee and control the technical and artistic aspects of film, television, radio, dance and theatre productions. They are employed by film production companies, radio and television stations, broadcast departments, advertising companies, sound recording studios, record production companies and dance companies. They may also be self-employed.</p> <p>Exclusions: Editors of pre-recorded videos, sound recording mixers and other radio and video technicians (F125, Audio and Video Recording Technicians).</p>