

Diversity in Canada's Arts Labour Force

An Analysis of 2001 Census Data



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DIVERSITY IN CANADA'S ARTS LABOUR FORCE

An Analysis of 2001 Census Data

This report analyzes 2001 census data concerning visible minority, Aboriginal and immigrant Canadians in the arts labour force. This project complements recent reports in the *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series entitled *A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada* and *Artists in Canada's Provinces, Territories and Metropolitan Areas*. Some findings of the national profile of artists include:

- There are 131,000 artists in Canada who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2001.
- Between 1991 and 2001, the number of artists grew by 29%, close to three times the rate of growth of the overall labour force (10%).
- With average earnings of \$23,500, artists are in the lowest quarter of average earnings of all occupation groups. The gap between artists' average earnings and overall labour force earnings is 26%.

The current report shows that:

- There were 11,700 visible minority artists in Canada who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May 2001. There were 74% more visible minority artists in 2001 than in 1991. Average earnings for visible minority artists are \$20,800, 11% less than other artists, who have relatively low earnings compared to other labour force workers.
- Aboriginal artists numbered 3,100 in 2001. Average earnings for Aboriginal artists are only \$16,900, 28% less than other artists.
- There were 26,400 immigrant artists in Canada in 2001, an increase of 31% from 1991. Average earnings for immigrant artists are \$23,200, only slightly lower than the average earnings of all artists (\$23,500).

The 2001 census dictionary defines visible minority, Aboriginal and immigrant populations as follows:

Visible minorities: The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour". The visible minority population is derived from a census question regarding the respondent's ethnicity and race, including the following options that are classified as visible minorities: Chinese, South Asian, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Southeast Asian, Arab, West Asian, Japanese, Korean and Pacific Islander. Other responses could be specified in the space provided.

Aboriginal: Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo), and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, and/or those who are members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

Immigrants: People who are or who have ever been landed immigrants. Landed immigrants are people who have been permitted by immigration authorities to live in Canada permanently; some will have lived in Canada for a number of years, while others have arrived recently.¹

This study is based largely on a custom data request from the 1991 and 2001 census years, commissioned by the Canada Council for the Arts from Statistics Canada.² The census captures information about the occupation at which a person worked the most hours between May 6 and 12, 2001. Nine arts occupations are included in the analysis:

- actors;
- artisans and craftspersons;
- conductors, composers and arrangers;
- dancers;
- musicians and singers;
- other performers;
- painters, sculptors and other visual artists;
- producers, directors, choreographers, and related occupations; and
- writers.

The occupational categories are not a perfect fit for artists but do provide a reasonable approximation of the arts labour force. Both employed and self-employed artists are captured in each occupation group.

Overall, census estimates of artists may be somewhat low because of the frequency of multiple job-holding among artists and the May timing of the census. The Appendix to this report provides a fuller explanation of the study's methodology and descriptions of the nine arts occupations.

The first section of the report examines data on visible minority artists in Canada, including an examination of the number of artists, changes between 1991 and 2001, and artists' average earnings. The second section provides a similar analysis of Aboriginal artists in Canada. Section 3 examines statistics on immigrant artists in Canada. The final section highlights some key findings of the report.

Section 1: Visible minority artists

Number of artists

Canada's arts labour force consisted of 130,700 artists in 2001. Visible minorities, who the census defines as persons who are non-Caucasian in race, non-white in colour and not of Aboriginal origin, accounted for 11,700 artists in 2001, or 8.9% of all artists. Table 1 shows that this percentage is lower than the percentage of visible minority Canadians in the overall labour force (12.5%).

¹ Definitions taken from the online census dictionary available at <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Reference/dict/poptoc.htm>

² We wish to thank the Canada Council for the Arts for contributing the data from their custom data request.

Table 1 also shows that the 11,700 visible minority artists comprise 0.6% of the 2 million visible minority workers in Canada. This concentration of visible minority artists in the visible minority labour force is slightly less than the concentration of all artists in the overall labour force (0.8%).

Table 1: Visible minorities among Canada's artists and overall labour force, 2001			
	Artists	Overall labour force	Artists as % of overall labour force
Visible minorities	11,650	2,043,825	0.6%
Total	130,700	16,415,785	0.8%
Visible minorities as % of total	8.9%	12.5%	
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>			

The most common visible minorities represented in the arts labour force are Chinese artists (3,800), Black artists (2,300) and South Asian artists (1,300).

Between 1991 and 2001, the number of visible minority artists grew from 6,700 to 11,700, for a growth rate of 74%. Table 2 shows that this 74% growth in the number of visible minority artists is larger than the growth in all visible minority workers (55%) and is much larger than the growth in the total arts labour force (29%) and the overall Canadian labour force (10%).

Table 2: Change in the number of workers in various Canadian labour force groupings, 1991 to 2001				
	1991	2001	Change (#)	Change (%)
Visible minority artists	6,685	11,650	4,965	74%
All artists	101,605	130,700	29,095	29%
All visible minority workers	1,315,200	2,043,825	728,625	55%
Overall labour force	14,905,395	16,415,785	1,510,390	10%
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>				

Artists by occupation

The most common occupations for visible minority artists include: musicians and singers (3,100); artisans and craftspersons (1,800); producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (1,500); writers (1,400); actors (1,300); and painters, sculptors and other visual artists (1,200).

Visible minority artists are most strongly represented among actors (12% of all actors), musicians and singers (10%), other performers (9.8%), dancers (9.8%) and artisans and craftspersons (9.0%). Visible minorities are least represented among writers (6.8%), painters, sculptors and other visual artists (7.7%) and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (7.9%).

Table 3 shows that, between 1991 and 2001, the number of visible minority artists more than doubled in three occupation groups: actors; dancers; and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations. Significant increases were seen in all other arts occupation groups

except artisans (1% increase) and conductors, composers, and arrangers (data not reliable).³ In each of the eight arts occupations for which data is reliable, the percentage change in visible minority artists exceeded the percentage change in all artists.

Occupation	Visible minority artists				All artists
	1991	2001	Change (#)	Change (%)	Change (%)
Actors	435	1,290	855	197%	107%
Artisans and craftspersons	1,750	1,760	10	1%	-10%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a	22%
Dancers	280	675	395	141%	64%
Musicians and singers	1,725	3,145	1,420	82%	18%
Other performers	255	450	195	76%	39%
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	645	1,180	535	83%	39%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	710	1,525	815	115%	50%
Writers	765	1,435	670	88%	39%
Total	6,685	11,650	4,965	74%	29%

Source: 2001 census custom data request

Artists by province and Census Metropolitan Area

In 2001, Ontario was home to one-half of Canada's visible minority artists (5,600 artists or 49% of the Canadian total). Visible minority artists account for 11% of the province's arts labour force, the second highest level next to B.C.

British Columbia is home to over one-quarter of the nation's visible minority artists (3,200 artists or 27% of the Canadian total), and the province has the highest concentration of visible minority artists in its arts labour force (13% of all B.C. artists).

Quebec has the third highest number of visible minority artists (1,500 artists or 12% of the Canadian total) and a much smaller concentration of visible minority artists in its arts labour force (5% of all Quebec artists).

The other seven provinces and territories make up the remaining 12% of visible minority artists, as seen in Table 4.

The vast majority (90%) of visible minority artists are located within Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas.⁴ Canada's three largest Census Metropolitan Areas account for three-

³ Figures are not reported for visible minority conductors, composers and arrangers, because the numbers are so low that they may not be reliable (i.e., less than 250 artists).

⁴ A Census Metropolitan Area consists of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. The urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.

quarters of all visible minority artists. Toronto has the largest number of visible minority artists (4,600 or 39% of the Canadian total). Visible minority artists account for 16% of the Toronto CMA's arts labour force, slightly lower than the level in Vancouver.

The Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area is home to the second highest number of visible minority artists (2,800 artists or 24% of the Canadian total). The Vancouver CMA has the highest concentration of visible minority artists as a percentage of its arts labour force (19% of all Vancouver artists).

The Montreal CMA has 1,300 visible minority artists, representing 11% of all visible minority artists in Canada and 7% of all Montreal artists.

Table 4 shows the number of visible minority artists and all artists in various Canadian jurisdictions. Figures are not reported for those jurisdictions with numbers that are so low that they may not be reliable (i.e., those jurisdictions with less than 250 visible minority artists).

Table 4: Visible minority artists in various Canadian jurisdictions, 2001			
Jurisdiction	Visible minority artists	All artists	Visible minority artists as % of all artists
British Columbia	3,160	24,080	13.1%
Alberta	895	11,655	7.7%
Saskatchewan	n/a (<250)	2,970	n/a
Manitoba	250	3,980	6.3%
Ontario	5,645	52,485	10.8%
Quebec	1,450	27,605	5.3%
Atlantic provinces	n/a (<250)	7,215	n/a
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	n/a (<250)	665	n/a
All 27 Census Metropolitan Areas	10,440	101,075	10.3%
Vancouver	2,830	15,130	18.7%
Toronto	4,575	28,865	15.8%
Montreal	1,300	18,280	7.1%
Non-CMA areas	1,210	29,625	4.1%
Canada	11,650	130,700	8.9%
<i>A Census Metropolitan Area consists of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. The urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.</i>			
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>			

Average earnings

In 2001, visible minority artists had average earnings of \$20,800. This figure represents an 11% earnings gap between visible minority artists and the total arts labour force (average earnings of \$23,500).⁵ This gap is even wider when visible minority artists are compared with the overall visible minority work force. Visible minority artists earn 23% less than the overall visible minority workforce (\$27,100). Visible minority artists also have average earnings that are 34% less than the average earnings of all Canadian workers (\$31,800). Chart 1 compares the average earnings of these labour force groupings in 2001.

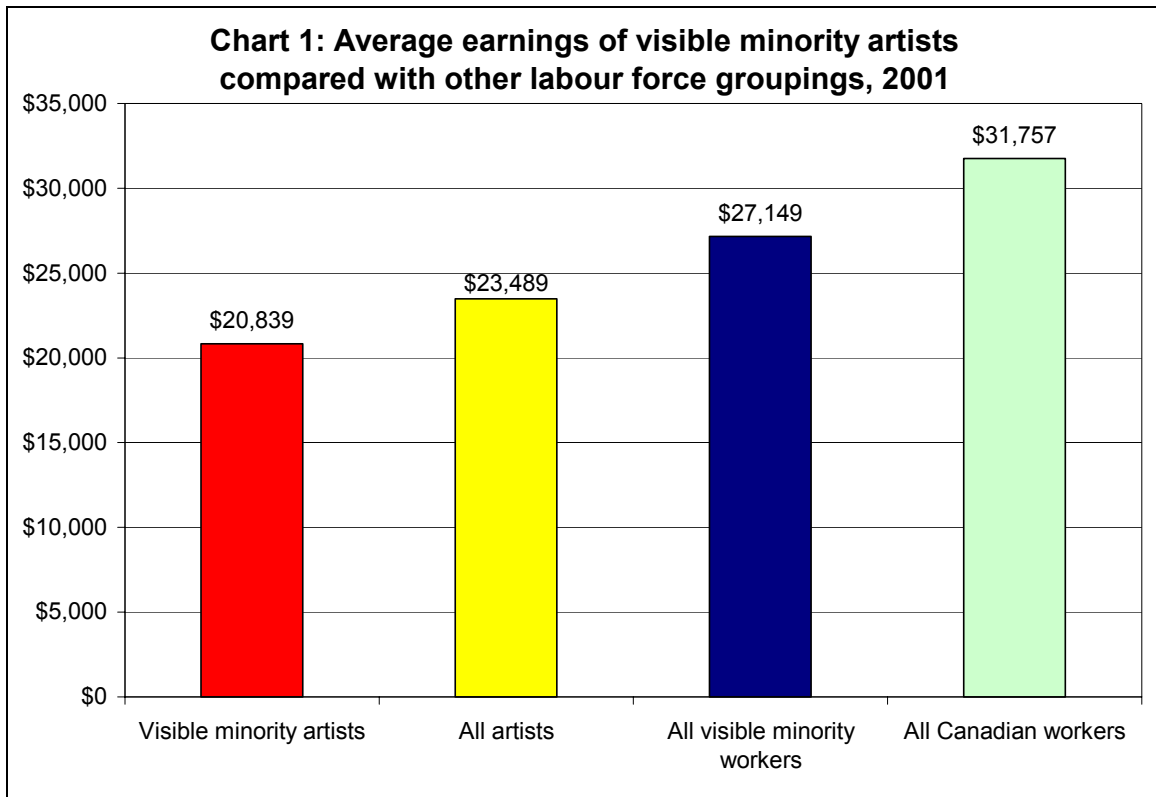


Table 5 shows the change in average earnings for various labour force groupings between 1991 and 2001. The growth in average earnings was 24% for visible minority artists, slightly lower than the growth in the average earnings of all artists (26%) and lower still than the growth in average earnings for the overall labour force (31%). The 24% earnings growth for visible minority artists was only slightly ahead of the rate of inflation (22%). None of the earnings growth figures have been adjusted for inflation.⁶

⁵ The existence of an earnings gap between visible minority artists and other artists means that visible minority artists are particularly poorly remunerated. Previous reports in the *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series showed that artists earn 26% less, on average, than other labour force workers. See *A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada*, Hill Strategies Research, September 2004.

⁶ Inflation data was calculated based on Statistics Canada, CANSIM II, table 326-0002 and Catalogue nos. 62-001-XPB and 62-010-XIB, available at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/econ46.htm>. The inflation data was calculated from 1990 to 2000, the years for which census respondents reported their earnings.

Between 1991 and 2001, there was a slight widening of the earnings gap between visible minority and other artists (from 9.8% to 11.3%). Table 5 shows that, in 1991, the average earnings of visible minority artists were \$16,800, 9.8% less than average earnings of all artists (\$18,600). In 2001, the average earnings of visible minority artists were \$20,800, while all artists earned an average of \$23,500, for an earnings gap of 11.3%.

	1991	2001	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Visible minority artists	\$16,802	\$20,839	\$4,037	24%
All artists	\$18,635	\$23,489	\$4,854	26%
All visible minority workers	\$21,668	\$27,149	\$5,481	25%
Overall labour force	\$24,329	\$31,757	\$7,428	31%

Source: 2001 census custom data request

Earnings by occupation

Table 6 provides a comparison of the average earnings of visible minority artists and all artists by occupation. In two arts occupations, visible minority artists have higher average earnings than other artists (artisans and writers). In the other arts occupations, visible minority artists earn between 3% and 21% less than other artists.

Occupation	Visible minority artists	All artists	Earnings difference (\$)	Earnings gap (%)
Actors	\$17,092	\$21,597	-\$4,505	-21%
Artisans and craftspersons	\$19,545	\$15,533	\$4,012	26%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	\$27,381	n/a	n/a
Dancers	\$12,597	\$14,587	-\$1,990	-14%
Musicians and singers	\$13,156	\$16,090	-\$2,934	-18%
Other performers	\$17,558	\$18,156	-\$598	-3%
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	\$14,888	\$18,666	-\$3,778	-20%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	\$34,700	\$43,111	-\$8,411	-20%
Writers	\$36,881	\$31,911	\$4,970	16%
Total	\$20,839	\$23,489	-\$2,650	-11%

Source: 2001 census custom data request

In terms of the change in average earnings between 1991 and 2001, the highest growth was for visible minority artists working as other performers (68% increase) and writers (58% increase). Visible minority actors, who had the highest increase in labour force numbers (see Table 3), saw an 11% decrease in their average earnings between 1991 and 2001. Table 7 shows the change in average earnings for visible minority artists by occupation between 1991 and 2001.

Table 7: Change in average earnings for visible minority artists by occupation, Canada, 1991 to 2001				
Occupation	1991	2001	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Actors	\$19,211	\$17,092	-\$2,119	-11%
Artisans and craftspersons	\$16,035	\$19,545	\$3,510	22%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	n/a (<250)	n/a	n/a
Dancers	\$10,404	\$12,597	\$2,193	21%
Musicians and singers	\$12,689	\$13,156	\$467	4%
Other performers	\$10,438	\$17,558	\$7,120	68%
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	\$13,085	\$14,888	\$1,803	14%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	\$27,720	\$34,700	\$6,980	25%
Writers	\$23,352	\$36,881	\$13,529	58%
All visible minority artists	\$16,802	\$20,839	\$4,037	24%
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>				

Earnings by province and Census Metropolitan Area

Although the average earnings of visible minority artists vary significantly between provinces, there is a substantial earnings gap between visible minority artists and other artists *in all provinces* for which the data is reliable. In Ontario, visible minority artists have the highest average earnings (\$22,800), a figure that is 15% less than the average earnings of all artists in the province.

In British Columbia, visible minority artists earn an average of \$19,800 (the second highest average earnings of any Canadian province), a figure that is 10% less than other artists in the province. This is the lowest earnings gap of any province.

Quebec has the third highest average earnings for visible minority artists (\$19,400). However, visible minority artists earn 19% less than all artists in Quebec, the largest earnings gap of all the provinces.

Visible minority artists residing in Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas have average earnings of \$21,100, which is 18% lower than the average earnings of all artists living in CMAs (\$25,800). Relative to other artists, the average earnings of visible minority artists are particularly low in Canada's three largest CMAs. In the Vancouver CMA, visible minority artists earn \$20,400, or 22% less than the average earnings of all artists. In the Toronto CMA, visible minority artists earn, on average, \$23,400, which is 26% less than other artists. In the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area, visible minority artists have average earnings of \$19,200, a figure that is 27% lower than the average earnings of all artists in Montreal.

Artists outside of CMAs, including visible minority artists, earn less than their counterparts in Canada's 27 CMAs. The relatively small number of visible minority artists who reside outside of Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas earn, on average, \$18,400, which is 19% more than other artists in non-CMA areas.

Table 8 shows the average earnings of visible minority artists and all artists in various Canadian jurisdictions.

Table 8: Average earnings of visible minority artists in various Canadian jurisdictions, 2001				
Jurisdiction	Visible minority artists	All artists	Earnings difference (\$)	Earnings gap (%)
British Columbia	\$19,791	\$21,903	-\$2,112	-10%
Alberta	\$16,994	\$19,683	-\$2,689	-14%
Saskatchewan	n/a (<250)	\$15,341	n/a	n/a
Manitoba	\$16,078	\$18,011	-\$1,933	-11%
Ontario	\$22,849	\$26,784	-\$3,935	-15%
Quebec	\$19,395	\$24,034	-\$4,639	-19%
Atlantic provinces	n/a (<250)	\$15,890	n/a	n/a
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	n/a (<250)	\$17,069	n/a	n/a
All 27 Census Metropolitan Areas	\$21,124	\$25,835	-\$4,711	-18%
Vancouver	\$20,408	\$26,217	-\$5,808	-22%
Toronto	\$23,353	\$31,543	-\$8,190	-26%
Montreal	\$19,191	\$26,433	-\$7,243	-27%
Non-CMA areas	\$18,379	\$15,485	\$2,894	19%
Canada	\$20,839	\$23,489	-\$2,650	-11%
<i>A Census Metropolitan Area consists of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. The urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.</i>				
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>				

Section 2: Aboriginal artists

Census data limitations pertaining to Aboriginal people

Census data has some specific limitations concerning Aboriginal people. The questions asked of respondents changed between 1991 and 2001, with 1991 questions referring to ethnic origin and 2001 questions referring to Aboriginal identity. Because of this, data on the Aboriginal labour force from the 1991 census is not considered comparable to 2001 census data. For this reason, the 1991 data is noted as “not available” in this report. Overall, it appears that the coverage of Aboriginal people was better in the 2001 census than ever before.

Number of artists

About 3,100 Aboriginal people were artists in 2001, accounting for 2.4% of Canada's 130,700 artists. Table 9 shows that this percentage is basically equal to the percentage of Aboriginal people in the overall labour force (2.5%).

Table 9 also shows that the 3,100 Aboriginal artists comprise 0.8% of the 408,600 Aboriginal workers in Canada. This concentration of Aboriginal artists in the Aboriginal labour force is equal to the concentration of all artists in the overall labour force (0.8%).

Table 9: Aboriginal people among Canada's artists and overall labour force, 2001			
	Artists	Overall labour force	Artists as % of overall labour force
Aboriginal people	3,135	408,645	0.8%
Total	130,700	16,415,785	0.8%
Aboriginal people as % of total	2.4%	2.5%	
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>			

Artists by occupation

Most Aboriginal artists are craftspersons and visual artists. Table 10 also shows that the two most common arts occupation groups for Aboriginal artists are artisans and craftspersons (1,300) and painters, sculptors and other visual artists (500). Three other arts occupation groups have about 300 Aboriginal artists: musicians and singers; writers; and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations. Due to relatively small numbers within each occupation, Aboriginal actors, dancers and other performers have been grouped together in Table 10. This combined occupation group includes about 400 Aboriginal artists.

Table 10 also shows that Aboriginal artists are most strongly represented among artisans and craftspersons (6.6% of all artisans and craftspersons) and painters, sculptors and other visual artists (3.4%). Aboriginal artists are least represented among musicians and singers (1.0%) and writers (1.4%).

Table 10: Aboriginal artists by occupation in Canada, 2001			
Occupation	Aboriginal artists	All artists	Aboriginal as % of all
Actors, dancers, other performers	410	22,200	1.8%
Artisans and craftspersons	1,295	19,575	6.6%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	2,290	n/a
Musicians and singers	300	31,000	1.0%
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	515	15,250	3.4%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	305	19,240	1.6%
Writers	295	21,145	1.4%
Total	3,135	130,700	2.4%
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>			

Artists by province and Census Metropolitan Area

The highest concentration of Aboriginal artists occurs in Canada's three territories. Combined, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are home to close to 400 Aboriginal artists, 54% of the total number of artists in the territories (nearly 700).

Among the provinces, Canada's four westernmost provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) have the highest concentrations of Aboriginal artists in their provincial arts labour force. The figures for Saskatchewan and Manitoba have been grouped together to ensure that the figures are reliable (i.e., more than 250 artists). There are nearly 350 Aboriginal artists in both provinces combined, representing 5.0% of the combined arts labour forces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (the highest concentration of Aboriginal artists among the provinces).

In 2001, British Columbia was home to the largest number of Aboriginal artists, with almost one-third of the country's Aboriginal artists (about 900 artists or 29% of the Canadian total). Aboriginal artists account for 3.8% of all artists in B.C. In Alberta, 2.6% of all artists are Aboriginal.

Ontario is home to one-fifth of the nation's Aboriginal artists (over 600 artists or 20% of the Canadian total). Because of its large arts labour force, the province has one of the lowest concentrations of Aboriginal artists in its arts labour force (1.2% of all Ontario artists).

Contrary to visible minority and immigrant artists, a large majority of Aboriginal artists reside outside of Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas (2,200 artists or 71% of all Aboriginal artists). About 900 artists, or 29% of all Aboriginal artists, reside in CMAs.

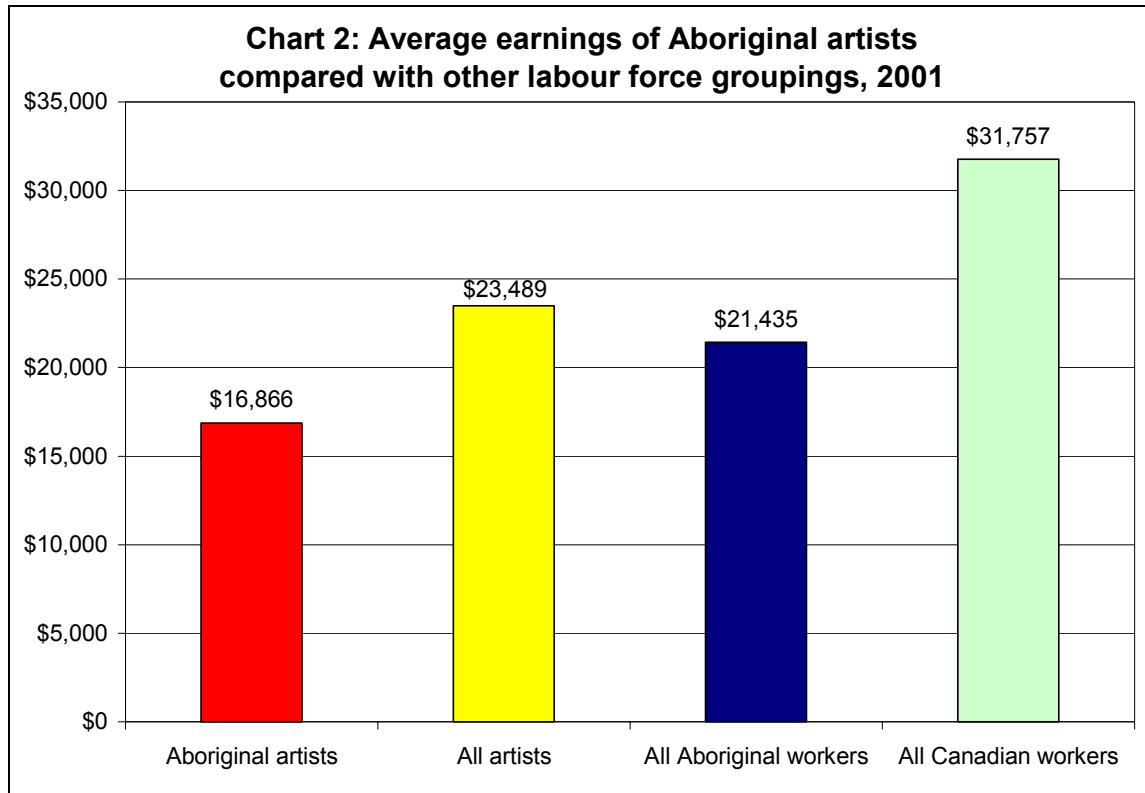
Table 11 shows the number of Aboriginal artists and all artists in various Canadian jurisdictions.

Table 11: Aboriginal artists in various Canadian jurisdictions, 2001			
Jurisdiction	Aboriginal artists	All artists	Aboriginal artists as % of all artists
British Columbia	910	24,080	3.8%
Alberta	305	11,655	2.6%
Saskatchewan & Manitoba	345	6,950	5.0%
Ontario	615	52,485	1.2%
Quebec	345	27,605	1.2%
Atlantic provinces	n/a (<250)	7,215	n/a
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	360	665	54.1%
All 27 Census Metropolitan Areas	920	101,075	0.9%
Non-CMA areas	2,215	29,625	7.5%
Canada	3,135	130,700	2.4%
<i>A Census Metropolitan Area consists of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. The urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.</i>			
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>			

Average earnings

In 2001, Aboriginal artists had average earnings of \$16,900. This figure represents a 28% earnings gap between Aboriginal artists and the total arts labour force (average earnings of \$23,500).⁷ Because of low average earnings for all Aboriginal workers (\$21,400), the gap between Aboriginal artists and other Aboriginal workers is slightly smaller (21%). Aboriginal artists have average earnings that are 47% less than the average earnings of all Canadian workers (\$31,800). Chart 2 compares the average earnings of these labour force groupings in 2001.

⁷ The existence of an earnings gap between Aboriginal artists and other artists means that Aboriginal artists are particularly poorly remunerated. Previous reports in the *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series showed that artists earn 26% less, on average, than other labour force workers. See *A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada*, Hill Strategies Research, September 2004.



Earnings by occupation

Table 12 provides a comparison of the average earnings of Aboriginal artists and all artists by occupation. In all arts occupations, Aboriginal artists have lower average earnings than other artists, earning between 2% and 36% less than other artists.

Occupation	Aboriginal artists	All artists	Earnings difference (\$)	Earnings gap (%)
Actors, dancers and other performers	\$16,212	\$18,721	-\$2,509	-13%
Artisans and craftspersons	\$13,067	\$15,533	-\$2,466	-16%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	n/a (<250)	\$27,381	n/a	n/a
Musicians and singers	\$15,825	\$16,090	-\$265	-2%
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	\$17,266	\$18,666	-\$1,400	-8%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	\$30,312	\$43,111	-\$12,799	-30%
Writers	\$20,280	\$31,911	-\$11,631	-36%
Totals	\$16,866	\$23,489	-\$6,623	-28%

Earnings by province and Census Metropolitan Area

Although the average earnings of Aboriginal artists vary significantly between the provinces, there is a substantial earnings gap between Aboriginal artists and other artists *in all provinces* for which the data is reliable.

The earnings gap is relatively low in the Prairie provinces. In Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Aboriginal artists earn only \$15,600 on average, but have a relatively small earning gap (7%) compared with all artists in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In Alberta, the earnings gap between Aboriginal artists and other artists is 12%.

In British Columbia, home to the largest number of Aboriginal artists, Aboriginal artists earn 25% less than other artists (\$16,400 vs. \$21,900). In Ontario, Aboriginal artists have the highest average earnings (\$21,300), a figure that is 21% less than the average earnings of all artists in the province. Quebec has the second lowest average earnings for Aboriginal artists (\$14,900) and the highest earnings gap of all the provinces (38%).

In the territories, Aboriginal artists have particularly low average earnings (\$13,000), a figure that is 24% less than the average earnings of all artists in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The average earnings of Aboriginal artists are particularly low outside of Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas (\$14,500), where a large majority of Aboriginal artists reside. However, because all artists in non-CMA areas also have low earnings, the earnings gap between Aboriginal artists and other artists in non-CMA areas is only 6%. Aboriginal artists in Census Metropolitan Areas earn, on average, \$22,500, a figure that is 13% less than the average earnings of all artists in Canada's 27 CMAs.

Table 13 shows the average earnings of Aboriginal artists and all artists in various Canadian jurisdictions.

Table 13: Average earnings of Aboriginal artists in various Canadian jurisdictions, 2001				
Jurisdiction	Aboriginal artists	All artists	Earnings difference (\$)	Earnings gap (%)
British Columbia	\$16,434	\$21,903	-\$5,469	-25%
Alberta	\$17,273	\$19,683	-\$2,410	-12%
Saskatchewan & Manitoba	\$15,623	\$16,870	-\$1,247	-7%
Ontario	\$21,278	\$26,784	-\$5,506	-21%
Quebec	\$14,870	\$24,034	-\$9,164	-38%
Atlantic provinces	n/a (<250)	\$15,890	n/a	n/a
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	\$13,000	\$17,069	-\$4,069	-24%
All 27 Census Metropolitan Areas	\$22,453	\$25,835	-\$3,382	-13%
Non-CMA areas	\$14,545	\$15,485	-\$940	-6%
Canada	\$16,866	\$23,489	-\$6,623	-28%
<i>A Census Metropolitan Area consists of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. The urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.</i>				
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>				

Section 3: Immigrant artists

Number of artists

Immigrants accounted for 26,400 of the 130,700 artists in Canada in 2001. Table 14 shows that the percentage of artists who are immigrants (20%) is equal to the percentage of the overall labour force who are immigrants (20%).

Table 14 also shows that the 26,400 immigrant artists comprise 0.8% of the 3.2 million immigrant workers in Canada. This concentration of immigrant artists in the immigrant labour force is the same as the concentration of all artists in the overall labour force (0.8%).

The final row of Table 14 shows that the largest number of immigrant artists arrived between 1991 and 2001. However, artists comprised the largest percentage of all immigrants in the period before 1961.

Table 14: Immigrants among Canada's artists and overall labour force, 2001			
	Artists	Overall labour force	Artists as % of overall labour force
Immigrants	26,375	3,214,645	0.8%
Total	130,700	16,415,785	0.8%
Immigrants as % of total	20%	20%	
Immigrants before 1961	3,795	314,355	1.2%
Immigrants between 1961 and 1970	4,985	459,190	1.1%
Immigrants between 1971 and 1980	5,755	699,105	0.8%
Immigrants between 1981 and 1990	4,930	746,825	0.7%
Immigrants between 1991 and 2001	6,900	995,165	0.7%
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>			

Between 1991 and 2001, the number of immigrant artists grew from 20,100 to 26,400, for a growth rate of 31%. Table 15 shows that this 31% growth in the number of immigrant artists is only slightly larger than the growth in the total arts labour force (29%) but is much larger than the growth in all immigrant workers (19%) and the overall Canadian labour force (10%).

Table 15: Change in the number of workers in various Canadian labour force groupings, 1991 to 2001				
	1991	2001	Change (#)	Change (%)
Immigrant artists	20,065	26,375	6,310	31%
All artists	101,605	130,700	29,095	29%
All immigrant workers	2,712,055	3,214,645	502,590	19%
Overall labour force	14,905,395	16,415,785	1,510,390	10%
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>				

Artists by occupation

The most common occupations for immigrant artists are musicians and singers (6,200), artisans and craftspersons (4,700), writers (4,300), painters, sculptors and other visual artists (3,800), and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (3,200).

Immigrant artists are most strongly represented among painters, sculptors and other visual artists (25% of all painters, sculptors and other visual artists), artisans and craftspersons (24%), writers (20%), musicians and singers (20%), actors (19%) and conductors, composers and arrangers (19%). Immigrant artists are least represented among other performers (14%), dancers (16%), and producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (17%).

Table 16 shows that, between 1991 and 2001, the number of immigrant actors more than doubled. Significant increases were seen in the number of immigrant artists in all other arts occupations, with the exception of artisans and craftspersons (3% decrease). In five of the nine

arts occupations, the percentage change in immigrant artists exceeded the percentage change in all artists.

Occupation	Immigrant artists				All artists
	1991	2001	Change (#)	Change (%)	Change (%)
Actors	830	2,055	1,225	148%	107%
Artisans and craftspersons	4,785	4,660	-125	-3%	-10%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	405	425	20	5%	22%
Dancers	705	1,115	410	58%	64%
Musicians and singers	4,755	6,215	1,460	31%	18%
Other performers	425	650	225	53%	39%
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	2,540	3,775	1,235	49%	39%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	2,295	3,180	885	39%	50%
Writers	3,325	4,300	975	29%	39%
Total	20,065	26,375	6,310	31%	29%

Source: 2001 census custom data request

Artists by province and Census Metropolitan Area

In 2001, Ontario was home to one-half of Canada's immigrant artists (12,800 artists or 49% of the Canadian total). Immigrant artists accounted for 24% of the province's arts labour force, the second highest level next to B.C.

British Columbia is home to one-quarter of the nation's immigrant artists (6,500 artists or 24% of the Canadian total), and the province has the highest concentration of immigrant artists in its arts labour force (27% of all B.C. artists).

Quebec has the third highest number of immigrant artists (3,500 artists or 13% of the Canadian total) and a relatively low concentration of immigrant artists in its arts labour force (13% of all Quebec artists).

These three provinces account for 86% of Canada's immigrant artists. The other seven provinces and territories are home to the rest of the country's immigrant artists.

The vast majority of immigrant artists (83%) reside in Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas. Canada's three largest Census Metropolitan Areas account for three-quarters of all immigrant artists. The Toronto Census Metropolitan Area has the largest number of immigrant artists (8,700 or one-third of the Canadian total). Immigrant artists account for 30% of the Toronto CMA's arts labour force, the same level as that in Vancouver.

The Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area is home to the second highest number of immigrant artists (4,600 artists or 17% of the Canadian total). Immigrant artists represent 30% of all artists in the Vancouver CMA.

The Montreal CMA has 3,000 immigrant artists, representing 11% of all immigrant artists in Canada and 16% of all Montreal artists.

Table 17 shows the number of immigrant artists and all artists in various Canadian jurisdictions.

Table 17: Immigrant artists in various Canadian jurisdictions, 2001			
Jurisdiction	Immigrant artists	All artists	Immigrant artists as % of all artists
British Columbia	6,460	24,080	27%
Alberta	2,120	11,655	18%
Saskatchewan	n/a (<250)	2,970	n/a
Manitoba	450	3,980	11%
Ontario	12,805	52,485	24%
Quebec	3,515	27,605	13%
Atlantic provinces	605	7,215	8%
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	n/a (<250)	665	n/a
All 27 Census Metropolitan Areas	21,955	101,075	22%
Vancouver	4,570	15,130	30%
Toronto	8,680	28,865	30%
Montreal	2,955	18,280	16%
Non-CMA areas	4,420	29,625	15%
Canada	26,375	130,700	20%
<i>A Census Metropolitan Area consists of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. The urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.</i>			
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>			

Average earnings

In 2001, immigrant artists had average earnings of \$23,200, a figure that is only 1.4% less than the average earnings of all Canadian artists (\$23,500). The earnings gap is wider when immigrant artists are compared with the overall immigrant workforce. With average earnings of \$23,200, immigrant artists earn 30% less than all immigrant workers (\$33,000). Chart 3 compares the average earnings of these labour force groupings in 2001.

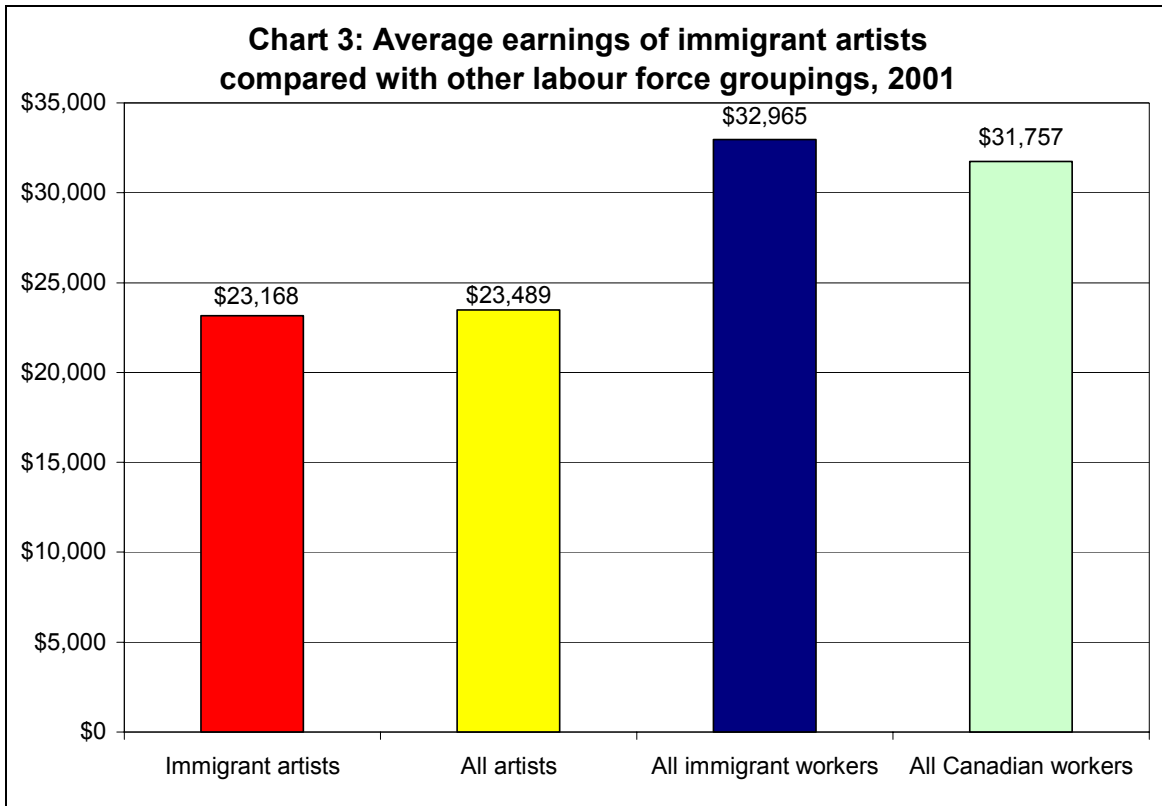


Table 18 shows the change in average earnings for various labour force groupings between 1991 and 2001. The growth in average earnings was 13% for immigrant artists, exactly one-half the growth rate of all artists' average earnings (26%) and lower still than the growth in average earnings for the overall labour force (31%). The 13% earnings growth for immigrant artists was much lower than the rate of inflation (22%). None of the earnings growth figures have been adjusted for inflation.⁸

	1991	2001	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Immigrant artists	\$20,538	\$23,168	\$2,631	13%
Arts labour force	\$18,635	\$23,489	\$4,854	26%
All immigrant workers	\$26,584	\$32,965	\$6,381	24%
Overall labour force	\$24,329	\$31,757	\$7,428	31%

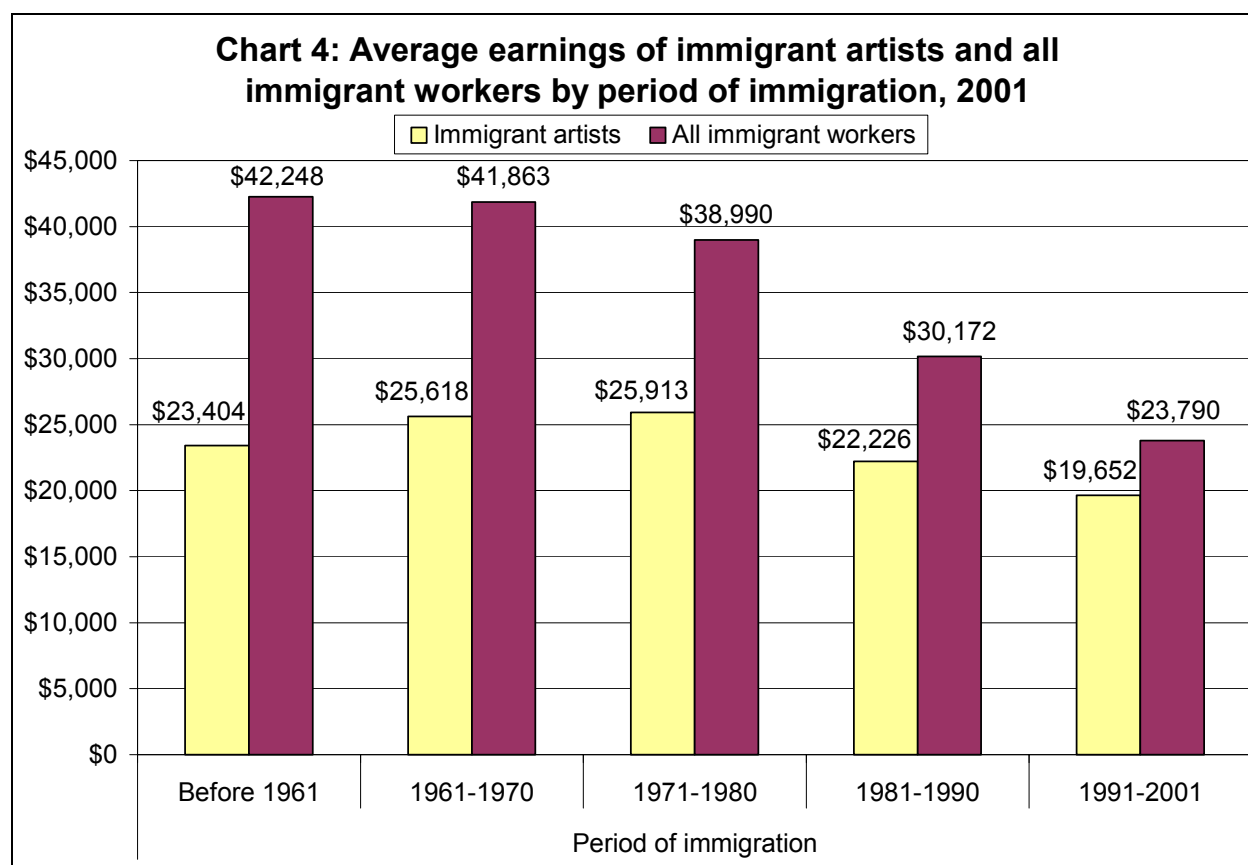
Source: 2001 census custom data request

⁸ Inflation data was calculated based on Statistics Canada, CANSIM II, table 326-0002 and Catalogue nos. 62-001-XPB and 62-010-XIB, available at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/econ46.htm>. The inflation data was calculated from 1990 to 2000, the years for which census respondents reported their earnings.

Between 1991 and 2001, there was a reversal of the earnings gap between immigrant artists and other artists. Table 18 shows that, in 1991, the average earnings of immigrant artists were \$20,500, 10% more than the average earnings of all artists (\$18,600). In 2001, the average earnings of immigrant artists were \$23,200, 1.4% less than the average earnings of all artists (\$23,500).

This reversal of fortunes is due to the particularly low average earnings of recent immigrants in Canada's arts labour force. Chart 4 shows that average earnings in 2001 were highest for those artists who immigrated during the 1970s (average earnings of \$25,900). Since that time, there has been a marked decrease in the average earnings of immigrant artists. Artists who immigrated in the 1990s earn, on average, \$19,700.

Chart 4 also shows that average earnings have declined consistently for more recent immigrants in all occupations.



Earnings by occupation

Table 19 provides a comparison of the average earnings of immigrant artists and all artists by occupation. Immigrant artists have higher average earnings than other artists in four of the nine arts occupations, namely: artisans and craftspersons (21%); musicians and singers (17%); dancers (16%); and other performers (1.3%). In the five other arts occupations, immigrant artists earn between 1.5% and 20% less than other artists.

	Immigrant artists	All artists	Earnings difference (\$)	Earnings gap (%)
Actors	\$21,276	\$21,597	-\$321	-1.5%
Artisans and craftspersons	\$18,869	\$15,533	\$3,336	21%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	\$21,882	\$27,381	-\$5,499	-20%
Dancers	\$16,855	\$14,587	\$2,268	16%
Musicians and singers	\$18,836	\$16,090	\$2,746	17%
Other performers	\$18,391	\$18,156	\$235	1.3%
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	\$16,429	\$18,666	-\$2,237	-12%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	\$43,030	\$43,111	-\$81	-0.2%
Writers	\$28,709	\$31,911	-\$3,202	-10%
Totals	\$23,168	\$23,489	-\$321	-1.4%

Source: 2001 census custom data request

In terms of the change in average earnings between 1991 and 2001, the highest growth was for immigrant artists working as other performers (48% increase) and artisans and craftspersons (29% increase). Immigrant actors, who had the highest increase in labour force numbers (see Table 16), saw an 8% decrease in their average earnings between 1991 and 2001. Table 20 shows the change in average earnings for immigrant artists by occupation between 1991 and 2001.

	1991	2001	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Actors	\$23,054	\$21,276	-\$1,778	-8%
Artisans and craftspersons	\$14,626	\$18,869	\$4,243	29%
Conductors, composers and arrangers	\$28,774	\$21,882	-\$6,892	-24%
Dancers	\$13,735	\$16,855	\$3,120	23%
Musicians and singers	\$17,396	\$18,836	\$1,440	8%
Other performers	\$12,387	\$18,391	\$6,004	48%
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists	\$16,639	\$16,429	-\$210	-1%
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations	\$35,274	\$43,030	\$7,756	22%
Writers	\$27,197	\$28,709	\$1,512	6%
All immigrant artists	\$20,538	\$23,168	\$2,631	13%

Source: 2001 census custom data request

Earnings by province and Census Metropolitan Area

There are significant differences in the earnings gap between immigrant artists and other artists in various Canadian jurisdictions. Immigrant artists have average earnings that are greater than the average earnings of other artists in Manitoba and the Atlantic provinces. In Manitoba, immigrant artists have average earnings of \$19,900, a figure that is 10% more than other artists in the province. In the Atlantic provinces, immigrant artists have average earnings of \$16,300, 3% more than the average earnings of all artists.

In Ontario, immigrant artists have relatively high average earnings (\$26,500) and a minimal earnings gap compared with other artists (1%).

In British Columbia, immigrant artists earn an average of \$19,900, a figure that is 9% less than other artists in the province. This is the largest earning gap of any province.

Immigrant artists residing in Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas earn, on average, \$24,400, which is 5% less than the average earnings of all artists residing in CMAs. Relative to other artists, the average earnings of immigrant artists are quite low in Canada's three largest CMAs. In the Vancouver CMA, immigrant artists earn \$22,300, or 15% less than the average earnings of all artists. In the Toronto CMA, immigrant artists earn, on average, \$28,700, which is 9% less than other artists. In the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area, immigrant artists have average earnings of \$23,100, a figure that is 12% lower than the average earnings of all Montreal artists.

The relatively small number of immigrant artists who reside outside of Census Metropolitan Areas have average earnings of \$16,900, or 9% more than other artists in non-CMA areas.

Table 21 shows the average earnings of immigrant artists and all artists in various Canadian jurisdictions.

**Table 21: Average earnings of immigrant artists
in various Canadian jurisdictions, 2001**

Jurisdiction	Immigrant artists	All artists	Earnings difference (\$)	Earnings gap (%)
British Columbia	\$19,857	\$21,903	-\$2,046	-9%
Alberta	\$18,309	\$19,683	-\$1,374	-7%
Saskatchewan	n/a (<250)	\$15,341	n/a	n/a
Manitoba	\$19,874	\$18,011	\$1,863	10%
Ontario	\$26,531	\$26,784	-\$253	-1%
Quebec	\$22,167	\$24,034	-\$1,867	-8%
Atlantic provinces	\$16,329	\$15,890	\$439	3%
Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut	n/a (<250)	\$17,069	n/a	n/a
All 27 Census Metropolitan Areas	\$24,432	\$25,835	-\$1,403	-5%
Vancouver	\$22,276	\$26,217	-\$3,940	-15%
Toronto	\$28,733	\$31,543	-\$2,810	-9%
Montreal	\$23,138	\$26,433	-\$3,296	-12%
Non-CMA areas	\$16,891	\$15,485	\$1,406	9%
Canada	\$23,168	\$23,489	-\$321	-1.4%

A Census Metropolitan Area consists of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. The urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.

Source: 2001 census custom data request

Section 4: Key findings

A recent report in this *Statistical Insights on the Arts* series showed that there are about 131,000 artists in Canada who spent more time at their art than at any other occupation in May of 2001.⁹ Between 1991 and 2001, the number of artists grew by 29%, close to three times the rate of growth of the overall labour force (10%). With average earnings of \$23,500, artists were found to earn 26% less, on average, than other labour force workers.

The current report highlights the situation of visible minority, Aboriginal and immigrant artists in Canada.

Number and earnings of artists in 2001

Visible minorities accounted for 11,700 artists or 8.9% of the 130,700 artists in Canada in 2001. As shown in Table 22, this is less than the percentage of visible minority workers in the overall labour force (12.5%). In the 2001 census, 3,100 Aboriginal people reported an artistic occupation. Aboriginal artists represent 2.4% of all artists, essentially the same percentage as Aboriginal workers in the overall labour force (2.5%). There are 26,400 immigrant artists in Canada, representing 20% of all Canadian artists – equal to immigrant workers' share of the overall labour force.

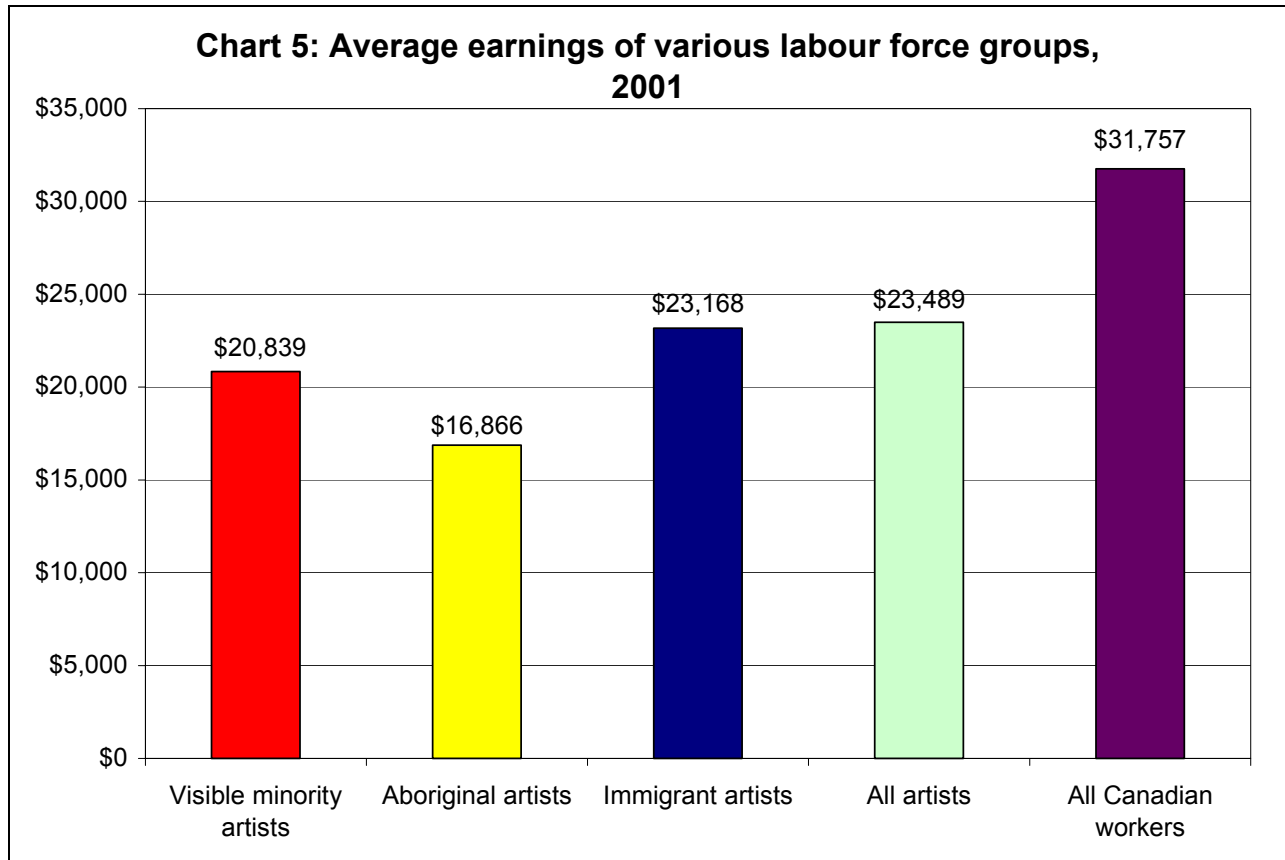
Table 22: Visible minorities, Aboriginal people and immigrants among Canada's artists and overall labour force, 2001			
	Artists	Overall labour force	Artists as % of overall labour force
Visible minorities	11,650	2,043,825	0.6%
Visible minorities as % of total	8.9%	12.5%	
Aboriginal people	3,135	408,645	0.8%
Aboriginal people as % of total	2.4%	2.5%	
Immigrants	26,375	3,214,645	0.8%
Immigrants as % of total	20%	20%	
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>			

As shown in Chart 5, the average earnings of the three selected groups in 2001 are:

- \$20,800 for visible minority artists (11% less than the total arts labour force);
- \$16,900 for Aboriginal artists (28% less than other artists);
- \$23,200 for immigrant artists (1.4% less than the total arts labour force).

All of the artist groups earn significantly less than all labour force workers in Canada.

⁹ See *A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada*, Hill Strategies Research Inc., September 2004.



Number and earnings of artists by province and Census Metropolitan Area

British Columbia has the highest concentration of visible minority and immigrant artists in the province's arts labour force (respectively accounting for 13% and 27% of all B.C. artists). Ontario has the second-highest concentration in both groups (11% and 24% respectively). Given the large visible minority and immigrant population in Ontario, the province accounts for one-half of the visible minority and immigrant artists in Canada.

The highest concentration of Aboriginal artists occurs in Canada's three territories. Combined, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are home to close to 400 Aboriginal artists, 54% of the nearly 700 artists in the territories. Among the provinces, Canada's four westernmost provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) have the highest concentrations of Aboriginal artists in their provincial arts labour forces.

The average earnings of the selected groups of artists vary significantly between the provinces. In all provinces for which reliable data is available, visible minority and Aboriginal artists earn less on average than other artists. In contrast, immigrant artists in Manitoba and the Atlantic provinces have average earnings that are greater than the average earnings of other artists.

For Aboriginal artists, the earnings gap compared to other artists is relatively low in the Prairie provinces (7% in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and 12% in Alberta). In the territories, Aboriginal artists have particularly low average earnings (\$13,000), a figure that is 24% less than the average earnings of all artists in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Immigrant artists In Ontario have relatively high average earnings (\$26,500) and a minimal earnings gap compared with other artists (1%). In British Columbia, immigrant artists earn an average of \$19,900, a figure that is 9% less than other artists in the province. This is the largest earning gap between immigrant artists and other artists of any province.

The vast majority of visible minority and immigrant artists reside in Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas.¹⁰ Canada's three largest Census Metropolitan Areas (Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver) account for three-quarters of all visible minority and immigrant artists.

The Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area has the highest concentration of visible minority artists as a percentage of its arts labour force (19% of all Vancouver artists). Toronto has the largest number of visible minority artists of any CMA (4,600) and the second-highest concentration of visible minorities in its arts labour force (16% of all Toronto artists). The Montreal CMA has 1,300 visible minority artists, representing 7% of all Montreal artists.

In Vancouver and Toronto, immigrant artists represent 30% of the overall arts labour force. The Montreal CMA's 3,000 immigrant artists represent 16% of all Montreal artists.

Contrary to visible minority and immigrant artists, a large majority of Aboriginal artists reside *outside* of Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas (2,200 artists or 71% of all Aboriginal artists). About 900 artists, or 29% of all Aboriginal artists, reside in CMAs.

Visible minority artists residing in Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas have average earnings that are 18% lower than the average earnings of all artists living in CMAs. Relative to other artists, the average earnings of visible minority artists are particularly low in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

The average earnings of Aboriginal artists are particularly low outside of Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas (\$14,500), where the majority of Aboriginal artists reside. However, because all artists in non-CMA areas also have low earnings, the earnings gap between Aboriginal artists and other artists in non-CMA areas is only 6%. Aboriginal artists in Census Metropolitan Areas earn, on average, \$22,500, a figure that is 13% less than the average earnings of all artists in Canada's 27 CMAs.

Immigrant artists residing in Canada's 27 Census Metropolitan Areas earn, on average, 5% less than the average earnings of all artists residing in CMAs. The average earnings of immigrant artists are between 9% and 15% less than other artists in the Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver CMAs.

¹⁰ A Census Metropolitan Area consists of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. The urban core must have a population of at least 100,000.

Change in the number and earnings of artists between 1991 and 2001

The number of visible minority and immigrant artists grew strongly between 1991 and 2001 (by 74% and 31% respectively). These growth rates are higher than the growth in the overall number of visible minority and immigrant workers in Canada during the same period. Figures on the Aboriginal labour force in the 1991 census are not comparable to 2001 census data due to a change in the questions concerning Aboriginal origin and identity. Table 23 compares the changes in the selected groups of artists with the growth in all workers in each group, the total arts labour force and the overall Canadian labour force.

Table 23: Change in the number of workers in various Canadian labour force groupings, 1991 to 2001				
	1991	2001	Change (#)	Change (%)
Visible minority artists	6,685	11,650	4,965	74%
All visible minority workers	1,315,200	2,043,825	728,625	55%
Aboriginal artists	n/a	3,135	n/a	n/a
All Aboriginal workers	n/a	408,645	n/a	n/a
Immigrant artists	20,065	26,375	6,310	31%
All immigrant workers	2,712,055	3,214,645	502,590	19%
All artists	101,605	130,700	29,095	29%
Overall labour force	14,905,395	16,415,785	1,510,390	10%
<i>Source: 2001 census custom data request</i>				

The earnings figures in Table 24 show that none of the selected artist groups experienced growth in average earnings that was as high as the 26% growth in all artists' average earnings. Only visible minority artists' earnings kept up with inflation between 1991 and 2001.¹¹

The growth in average earnings between 1991 and 2001 was 24% for visible minority artists, slightly higher than inflation (22%) but slightly lower than the growth in the average earnings of all artists (26%) and lower still than the growth in average earnings of the overall labour force (31%).

The growth in immigrant artists' average earnings was 13% between 1991 and 2001, much lower than the 22% inflation, all artists' average earnings (26%) and average earnings for the overall labour force (31%). The low growth in immigrant artists' average earnings is largely due to the particularly low average earnings of recent immigrants in Canada's arts labour force.

¹¹ None of the earnings growth figures have been adjusted for the 22% inflation between 1991 and 2001. Inflation data was calculated based on Statistics Canada, CANSIM II, table 326-0002 and Catalogue nos. 62-001-XPB and 62-010-XIB, available at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/econ46.htm>. The inflation data was calculated from 1990 to 2000, the years for which census respondents reported their earnings.

Table 24: Change in the average earnings in various Canadian labour force groupings, 1991 to 2001

	1991	2001	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Visible minority artists	\$16,802	\$20,839	\$4,037	24%
All visible minority workers	\$21,668	\$27,149	\$5,481	25%
Aboriginal artists	n/a	\$16,866	n/a	n/a
All Aboriginal workers	n/a	\$21,435	n/a	n/a
Immigrant artists	\$20,538	\$23,168	\$2,631	13%
All immigrant workers	\$26,584	\$32,965	\$6,381	24%
All artists	\$18,635	\$23,489	\$4,854	26%
Overall labour force	\$24,329	\$31,757	\$7,428	31%

Source: 2001 census custom data request

Appendix: Counting artists – Census strengths and limitations

The terms “artists” and “arts labour force” are used interchangeably in this report to describe those Canadians 15 or older reporting employment or self-employment earnings in any of the nine occupation groups which have been identified as artistic by the Canada Council for the Arts in previous research, including *Artists in the Labour Force* (1999). As that report noted:

There are numerous reasons why it is difficult to count the number of artists in Canada. First, there is no widely accepted definition of which occupations should fall under the heading of “artist”. Second, Statistics Canada does not have one well-defined occupation category for artists. Third, membership in artist associations, another possible source of data, would not provide complete information as some artists belong to associations while others do not. Fourth, previous studies have shown that as many as 50% of cultural workers hold multiple jobs. Some artists (e.g., the musician who also works full time as a taxi driver) will therefore be counted in statistics under a non-artistic occupation.

The nine occupations were selected for this profile of artists on the basis of two criteria. First, occupations were chosen on the basis of artistic content (as found in the description of job content and job titles for each occupation under the Standard Occupation Classification used by Statistics Canada)...¹² Second, the definition of artist occupations was based on the range of types of professional artists applying to the Canada Council for funding each year. The artists eligible for funding include writers, visual artists, craft artists, film and video artists, dancers, choreographers, playwrights, artistic directors, actors, musicians, singers, composers and interdisciplinary and performance artists. Although occupation categories used in Statistics Canada data are not quite as precise and detailed as these, there are many similarities.

It should be noted that the Statistics Canada occupation classification does not distinguish between commercial and non-commercial activity. Figures on the number of artists from Census data therefore will include many individuals who would not be eligible for Canada Council grants. Also note that Statistics Canada figures do not include amateur artists as the data is based on labour force activity.

The number of people reporting wages, salaries or self-employment earnings, also referred to as “earners”, was chosen as the count of artists because this figure is readily available in the custom data set and because it provides a reasonable estimate of the number of people who commit a significant amount of time to their art. The position in which the person spent the most time working during the census week was used to classify census respondents by occupation.

The earnings statistics in this report include wages, salaries and net self-employment earnings, but exclude government transfers, investment income and pension income. It is important to note that the earnings statistics include amounts received from all positions, not just the position at which the respondent worked the most hours. Earnings figures were asked for the 2000 calendar year. Some workers may have changed positions between the end of 2000 and May of 2001, leaving an earnings figure that would not directly relate to the occupation in May, 2001.

¹² [See the Appendix for these occupation descriptions. The nine arts occupation codes were drawn from the Standard Occupational Classification, developed in 1991.]

This is likely to be relatively rare, and the earnings figures in this report should generally relate to the occupation reported.

Despite some limitations, the 2001 census is one of the best available sources of information on the arts labour force. The census provides estimates based on a very large population base – the 20% of households that completed a long census form.

However, the census is not a perfect source for information about artists. One issue is the timing of the census. The classification of occupations is based on the position that respondents spent the most hours at during the week of Sunday, May 6 to Saturday, May 12, 2001. This is an “in between” period for many artistic endeavours. 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 6, 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 position where the individual worked the most hours affects census labour force counts. Having multiple positions is an important facet of the working life of many artists. Some may work more hours at other positions during the week than at their art. Due to this, census-based estimates of artists are likely to be somewhat low.

Even though the 2001 census provides a very large sample, this still has limits. Some breakdowns of the arts labour force 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.¹³ Very few statistics under 250 are reported in this report due to possible inaccuracies.

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. Census data does, however, allow us to provide a very detailed statistical portrait of artists in Canada’s provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas.

¹³ 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 the territories and other small population areas.

Descriptions of the nine arts occupations

Source: 1991 Standard Occupation Classification, Statistics Canada

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/Subjects/Standard/soc/1991/soc91-menu.htm>

Occupation (Code)	Definition
Actors (F035)	<p>Occupations in this unit group are primarily concerned with acting in productions for stage, motion picture, television, radio or other settings to entertain audiences. Persons in these occupations may specialize in stage acting or film acting. Acting teachers, other than those who teach in educational institutions, are also included in this unit group.</p> <p>Exclusions - Persons who teach acting in post-secondary, secondary or elementary schools are classified in an appropriate unit group of major group E1 - Teachers and Professors.</p>
Artisans and craftspersons (F144)	<p>Occupations in this unit group are primarily concerned with using manual and artistic skills in designing and making various craft objects, such as jewellery, ornamental objects, pottery, stained glass, rugs and woven fabrics. Makers of hand-crafted stringed musical instruments, hand bookbinders, and craft teachers are also included in this unit group.</p> <p>Exclusions - Machine operators and assemblers who produce similar objects in manufacturing are classified in an appropriate unit group of broad occupational category H - Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations, or an appropriate unit group of broad occupational category J - Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities. - Painters, sculptors and other visual artists are classified in unit group F036 - Painters, Sculptors and Other Visual Artists.</p>
Conductors, composers and arrangers (F032)	<p>Occupations in this unit group are primarily concerned with conducting, composing and arranging instrumental or vocal music.</p> <p>Exclusions - Occupations concerned with performing or teaching instrumental or vocal music are classified in unit group F033 - Musicians and Singers.</p>
Dancers (F034)	<p>Occupations in this unit group are primarily concerned with performing dances. Also included in this unit group are dance teachers, other than those that teach in post-secondary, secondary or elementary schools.</p> <p>Exclusions - Exotic and striptease dancers are classified in unit group F132 - Other Performers. - Choreographers are classified in unit group F031 - Producers, Directors, Choreographers and Related Occupations. - Persons who teach dance in post-secondary, secondary or elementary school are classified in an appropriate unit group of major group E1 - Teachers and Professors.</p>
Musicians and singers (F033)	<p>Occupations in this unit group are primarily concerned with performing instrumental or vocal music. Musicians and singers perform with orchestras, opera companies or popular bands in lounges, theatres, film, television and recording studios. Music teachers, other than those in educational institutions, are included in this unit group. They teach in conservatories, academies and private homes.</p> <p>Exclusions - Music composers and arrangers are classified in unit group F032 - Conductors, Composers and Arrangers. - Persons who teach music in post-secondary, secondary or elementary school are classified in an appropriate unit group of major group E1 - Teachers and Professors.</p>

Other performers (F132)	Occupations in this unit group are those, not elsewhere classified, primarily concerned with entertaining the public, such as circus performers, magicians and puppeteers.
Painters, sculptors and other visual artists (F036)	<p>Occupations in this unit group are primarily concerned with creating original artistic works using methods such as painting, drawing, sculpting, or etching. This unit group also includes art instructors and teachers, who teach in art schools other than primary, secondary or post-secondary schools.</p> <p>Exclusions - House painters are classified in unit group H144 - Painters and Decorators. - Art teachers in primary, secondary or post-secondary institutions are classified in an appropriate unit group of major group E1 - Teachers and Professors. - Skilled craftspersons are classified in unit group F144 - Artisans and Craftspersons. - Graphic designers are classified in unit group F141 - Graphic Designers and Illustrating Artists.</p>
Producers, directors, choreographers and related occupations (F031)	<p>Occupations in this unit group are primarily concerned with producing, directing and overseeing film, television, radio, theatre, recording or dance productions or a specific aspect of the production.</p> <p>Exclusions - Editors of pre-recorded videos, sound recording mixers and other radio and video technicians are classified in unit group F125 - Audio and Video Recording Technicians.</p>
Writers (F021)	<p>Occupations in this unit group are primarily concerned with researching and writing books, scripts, plays, essays, speeches, manuals, specifications and other non-journalistic articles for publication or presentation. Writers may specialize in a particular subject, type of publication or type of writing. Free-lance writers are classified in this unit group.</p> <p>Exclusions - Journalists are classified in unit group F023 - Journalists.</p>