

Workforce Focus

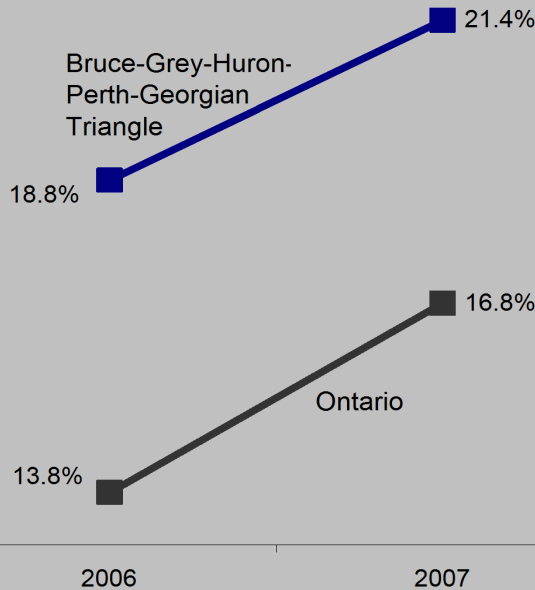
From the Bruce Grey Huron Perth Georgian Triangle Training Board

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Small Business and Self-employment

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Recent Trends

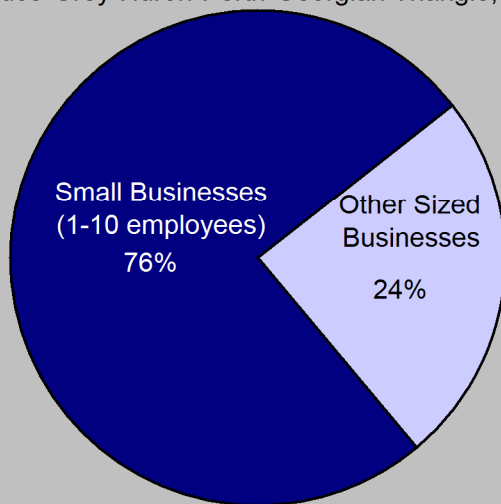
Estimated share of total employment in small businesses (Excludes self-employed)
 Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Georgian Triangle and Ontario, 2006-2007



Source: Canadian Business Patterns, 2006-07.

Establishment Composition by Size

Small business share of all local business establishments (Excludes self-employed)
 Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Georgian Triangle, 2007



Source: Canadian Business Patterns, 2007.

The Nature of Small Business

Small business activity is highly cyclical, usually outpacing the overall economy during periods of an economic recovery, and under-performing the economy during periods of economic weakness. The out-performance of small business in recent years also reflects the fact that small firms were less damaged by the rising dollar than larger companies.

There has been a reduction in the growth orientation of small firms in Canada. Almost 60% of small business owners in Canada consider themselves as “lifestylers” that use their business as a means of generating income, while balancing other commitments and choices.

Source: CIBC, Small business in Canada, Tal, 2006.

Small Business Share by Sector

Share of establishments employing 1 to 10 people (Excludes self-employed)
 Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Georgian Triangle, 2007

Other Services (except Public Administration)	92%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	89%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	88%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	87%
Construction	85%
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	78%
Educational Services	77%
Health Care and Social Assistance	74%
Retail Trade	72%
Information and Cultural Industries	71%
Transportation and Warehousing	71%
Utilities	67%
Finance and Insurance	67%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	66%
Wholesale Trade	66%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	59%
Manufacturing	53%
Accommodation and Food Services	50%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	29%
Public Administration	13%

For more information please contact The Bruce Grey Huron Perth Georgian Triangle Training Board at: 111 Jackson St. S, Suite 1, P.O. Box 1078, Walkerton ON. N0G 2V0 (519) 881-2725 info@trainingboard.ca

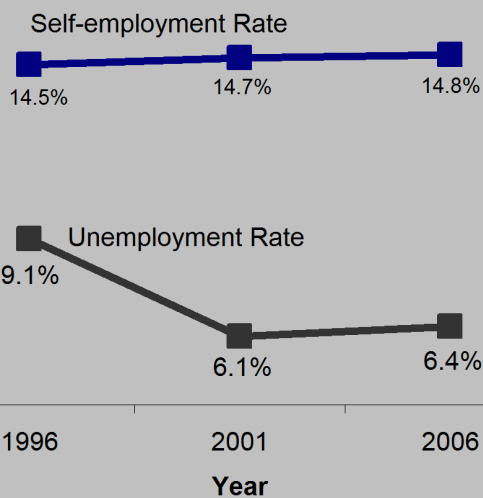


Workforce Focus is an original publication of the Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford Local Training Board

Created by : Dane Rice

Employment Trends

Self-employment and unemployment rates, Ontario 1996, 2001, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 1996-2006

Top Self-employment Occupations

Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Georgian Triangle, 2006

Occupation and number of people self-employed

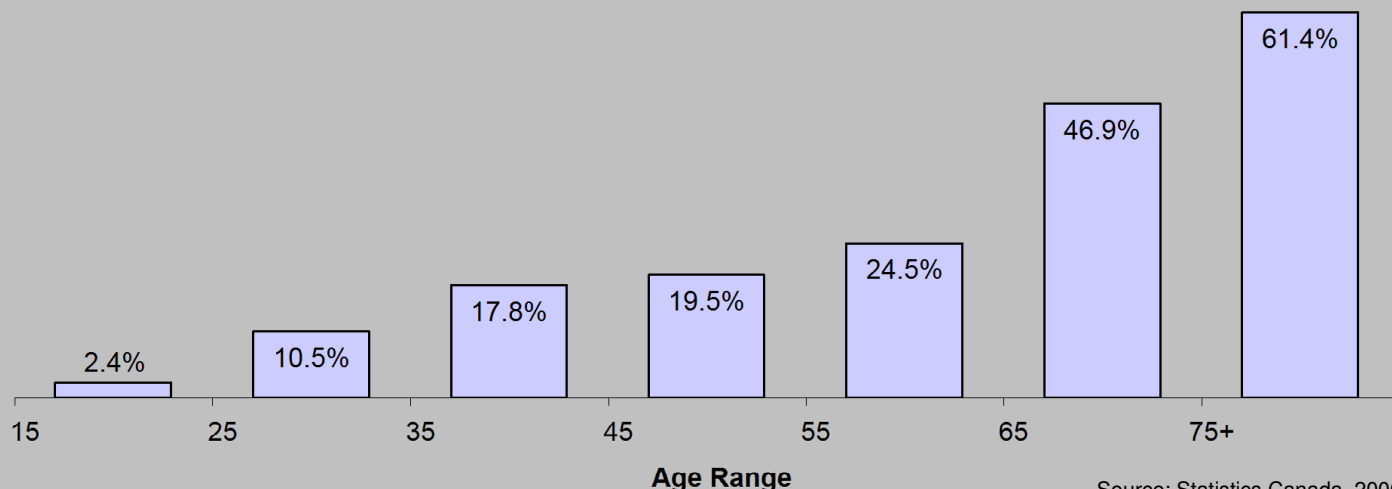
Occupations unique to agriculture, excluding labourers	8,190
Managers in retail trade, food and accommodation services	2,415
Construction trades	2,295
Other sales and service occupations	1,890
Other managers	1,050
Transportation equipment operators and related workers, excluding labourers	1,005
Technical occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	845
Professional occupations in health	800
Professional occupations in art and culture	750
Mechanics	715

Individuals tend to enter self-employment when economic conditions are better. Ontario's self-employment rate has remained quite stable, despite a lower un-employment rate. This is likely due to a balance in the number of people entering self-employment due to a healthy economy, and declining employment in agriculture where self-employment is very common. If economic conditions deteriorate, some people may be pushed into self-employment because of poor job opportunities, but just as many could be pushed out, as self-employment and small business is vulnerable to decreases in consumer spending.

Source: Bank of Canada, Kamhi and Leung, 2005.

Self-employment Rate by Age

Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Georgian Triangle, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006.

Self-employment remains more prominent among older workers. Higher levels of experience, skills, capital and contacts, work to pull many older workers into this avenue of employment. Another factor is that older displaced workers may have more difficulty than younger ones in finding paid employment, leaving self-employment as the only alternative.

Source: Canadian Labour Market, Drost and Hird, 2000.

**EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO**

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