
Non-metro employment: arts, recreation & information

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Highlights

- Employment in the sector of arts, entertainment and recreation was 1.8% of the total employment in non-metro census divisions in 2014.
- This sector grew from 2001 to 2014, in part, due to job increases at golf courses, ski hills and marinas.
- Employment in 2014 in information and cultural industries was 0.9% of the non-metro total.
- This sector declined from 2001 to 2014, due, in part, to the overall decline in employment in newspaper, magazine and book publishing.
- Subsectors with non-metro employment growth more than expected, based on national patterns, included Internet publishing, the sector of independent artists, writers and performers and the sector of heritage institutions.

Why look at employment in the sectors of information, arts and recreation?

Culture-related sectors are often credited with the instigation of development trajectories in rural communities. Some of these sectors are or may become exportable¹ sectors.

We focus on the sectors of information and cultural industries² and the arts, entertainment and recreation industries³.

Findings⁴

The number employed in non-metro census divisions (CDs) in arts, entertainment and recreation increased from 15K⁵ in 2001 to 17K in 2014 (Figure 1 and Row #18 in Table 1). This sector represented 1.8% of the employment in non-metro CDs in 2014, up from 1.7% in 2001 (Row #18 as a percent of Row #30).

More than ½ of the employment in this sector was in “other” recreation industries which include golf courses, ski hills and marinas (Row #29). From 2001 to 2014, the number employed grew by 1.6K.

¹ An “exportable” good or service is one that can be sold to those in other jurisdictions – either sent to the customer (e.g. a box of chocolates) or the customer comes to your jurisdiction to consume the item (e.g. a day on a ski hill).

² Includes book, newspaper and Internet publishing, telephone and cable telecommunications and library and archives services.

³ Includes performing arts companies, independent artists, writers and performers and recreational facilities (such as golf courses, ski hills and marinas).

⁴ For the level of employment in each subsector, see [Appendix Table](#): Employment in non-metro CDs by industry sector.

⁵ Where “K” indicates “thousand”.

We report an employment “performance” indicator that compares the “expected” change in employment⁶ in each sector, based on national patterns, and the “actual” change in employment⁷. Sectors with a positive value are leading national patterns while ones with negative values are lagging.

For “other” recreational industries (Row #29), job “performance” was -0.7K, where the growth of 1.6K from 2001 to 2014 was less than the expected growth, based on Canadian patterns of growth.

Employment in non-metro CDs in information industries (Row #1) declined from 9K in 2001 to 8K in 2014. This represented 0.9% of employment in non-metro CDs in 2014, down from 1.1% in 2001.

Telecommunications (mostly telephone services) (Row #11) was one of the larger subsectors and where the job decline was 0.4K more than the expected decline. Another larger sector was publishing (except Internet publishing) (Row #2) with an employment decline that was 1.2K greater than the expected decline. Another subsector was “other”

⁶ As defined in Footnote #1 in Table 1.

⁷ The shift-share analysis generates a useful indicator for those seeking to understand how employment is faring in a given region. Employment across all sectors in non-metro CDs grew by 78K from 2001 to 2004 but this growth was about ½ of expected growth, based on national patterns (last line of Table 1). However, this analysis does not tell the whole story -- the change in output per worker provides a different indicator of economic performance of a sector. Perhaps obviously, one way to improve labour productivity (i.e. GDP per worker) is to substitute machines for workers.

