
Non-metro precarious employment by industry sector

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Highlights

- We review the incidence of four indicators of precarious employment (contract work, involuntary part-time work, low-wage work, and self-employment) in each industry sector.
- Jobs in the goods-producing sectors have a lower incidence of each of the four indicators – except for higher self-employment in the agriculture and construction sectors.
- Conversely, jobs in the services-producing sectors are more likely to be precarious (according to our indicators), except the self-employment indicator is lower.
- Four sectors have a higher incidence of each of the four indicators:
 - Business, building and other support services;
 - Information, culture and recreation services;
 - Accommodation and food services; and
 - Other (personal) services.
- Wholesale and retail trade has a higher incidence of involuntary part-time work and low-wage work.
- Educational services and health care and social assistance services have a higher incidence of contract work and involuntary part-time work (except involuntary-part work is lower for females in educational services).

Why look at precarious employment by industry sector?

Precarious employment is becoming an area of public interest in Ontario¹. Earlier [Focus on Rural Ontario](#) FactSheets reviewed selected indicators of precarious employment (contract work, involuntary part-time work, low work and self-employment) by sex, age and level of educational attainment.

One question kept surfacing – in which industry sectors do we find these jobs?

The objective of this FactSheet is to document the differences in precarious employment across industry sectors in Ontario. Note that this analysis focusses solely on non-student workers.

Findings

Among goods-producing sectors, the percent reporting fixed-term or contract work or involuntary part-time work is lower, relative to all sectors (Table 1). Conversely, these rates are higher for the average job in the services-producing sectors.

We report the results for all census divisions in Ontario as the sample size for non-metro census divisions² is too small for most sectors.

For low-wage work, males are less likely to have a low-wage job in the goods-producing sectors (and, consequently, more likely to have a low-wage job in the services-producing sectors.) The incidence of low-wage jobs is essentially the same for females in both goods and services-producing sectors.

Males are more likely to be self-employed in the goods-producing sectors (due to enterprises in farming and construction) and, conversely, lower in services-producing sectors. Females are equally likely to be self-employed in goods and services-producing sectors.

Looking at individual sectors³, relative to the precarious employment in the average sector:

- agriculture has a higher incidence of low-wage work and a higher incidence of self-employment;
- construction has a lower incidence of contract work, involuntary part-time work and low-wage work, but a higher

¹ For example, see Noack, Andrea M. and Leah F. Vosko. (2011) [Precarious Jobs in Ontario: Mapping Dimensions of Labour Market Insecurity by Workers' Social Location and Context](#) (Toronto: Law Commission of Ontario).

² Non-metro CDs have none of their component census subdivisions being delineated as part of a Census Metropolitan Area. See ["Overview of Ontario's rural geography"](#) (June, 2013).

³ For details of the enterprises in each sector, see Statistics Canada. (2016) [North American Industry Classification System: 2012](#) (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 12-501).

- incidence of self-employment;
- manufacturing** has a lower incidence of contract work, involuntary part-time work and the incidence for low-wage work is lower for males but a higher for females;
- wholesale and retail trade** has a lower incidence of contract work and self-employment but a higher incidence of involuntary part-time work and low-wage work;
- transportation** has a lower incidence of contract work for males and a higher incidence of low-wage work for females;
- finance, insurance and real estate** has a lower incidence of contract work, involuntary part-time work and low-wage work but a higher incidence of self-employment among males;
- professional, scientific and technical services** have a lower incidence of contract work, involuntary part-time work and low-wage work but a high incidence of self-employment (e.g. consultants);
- business, building and other support services** have a higher incidence of each indicator of precarious employment;
- educational services** have a higher incidence of contract work and lower incidence of low-wage work. The incidence of involuntary part-time work is higher for males but lower for females;
- health services** have a higher incidence of contract work, involuntary part-time work and self-employment, but a lower incidence of low-wage work;
- information, culture and recreation** has a higher incidence of each of contract work, involuntary part-time work and low-wage work;
- accommodation and food services** has a higher incidence of contract work for males (but is lower for females) and a higher incidence of involuntary part-time work and low-wage work;
- other (personal) services** has a higher incidence of each of contract work, involuntary part-time work, low wage and self-employment; and
- public administration** has a higher incidence of contract work among males.

Summary

Jobs in the goods-producing sectors have a lower incidence of the four indicators of precarious employment – except for higher self-employment in the agriculture and construction sectors.

Conversely, jobs in the services-producing sectors are more likely to be precarious (according to our four indicators), except the incidence of self-employment is lower.

Four sectors have a higher incidence of each of the four indicators of precarious employment:

- Business, building and other support services;
- Information, culture and recreation services;
- Accommodation and food services; and
- Other (personal) services.

Wholesale and retail trade have a higher incidence of involuntary part-time work and low-wage work.

Educational services and health care and social assistance services have a higher incidence of contract work and involuntary part-time work (except involuntary-part work is lower for females in educational services).

Table⁴ 1

Selected indicators of precarious employment: Incidence by industry sector across all census divisions in Ontario								
	Fixed-term or contract work		Involuntary part-time work		Low wage work		Self-employed (no paid help)	
	Percent ¹		Percent ¹		Percent ¹		Percent ¹	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Goods-producing sectors (subtotal)	L	L	L	L	L	S ²	H	S
Agriculture	sts	sts	sts	sts	H	H	H	H
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil & gas	sts	sts	sts	sts	sts	sts	sts	sts
Utilities	sts	sts	sts	sts	sts	sts	sts	sts
Construction	L ³	sts	L	sts	L	L	H	sts
Manufacturing	L	L	L	L	L	H ²	sts	sts
Services-producing sectors (subtotal)	H	H	H	H	H	S	L	S
Trade (wholesale & retail)	L	L	H	H	H	H	L	L
Transportation & warehousing	L	sts	S	H	S	H	S	sts
Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing	L	L	L	L	L	L	H	sts
Professional, scientific & technical serv.	L	L	S	L	L	L	H	H
Business, building & other support serv.	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Educational services	H	H	H	L	L	L	sts	sts
Health care & social assistance	H	H	H	H	L	L	L	sts
Information, culture & recreation	H	H	H	H	H	H	sts	sts
Accommodation & food services	H	L	H	H	H	H	sts	sts
Other services	H	S	H	H	H	H	H	H
Public administration	H	S	sts	L	L	L	sts	sts

Notes:

"M": males and "F": females.

"sts": sample too small.

"H": Higher; "S": Same; "L": Lower -- percent with precarious employment, relative to the average across all industry sectors.

1. Percent with precarious employment, relative to all industry sectors.

2. Lower within non-metro census divisions.

3. Higher within non-metro census divisions.

Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, special tabulation.

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⁴ See the accompanying "Charts: Indicators of precarious employment by industry sector" and Slides 21 to 106 in "Charts B: Self-employment by Type of Region and by Industry Group (LFS)" that is associated with the earlier factsheet entitled "Non-metro self-employed with no paid help."