

# Workforce Focus

From the 1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board.

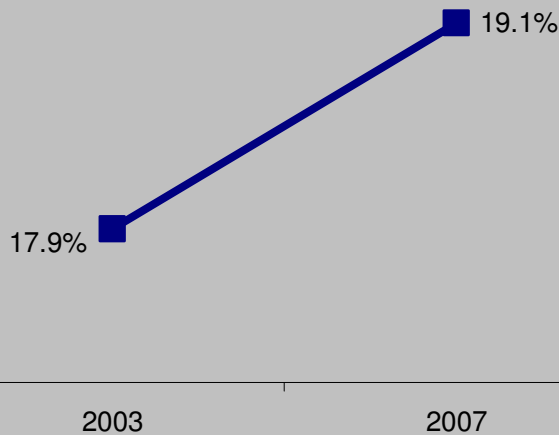
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### Recent Trends

Estimated share of total employment in small businesses  
(Excludes self-employed)  
Frontenac-Leeds-Grenville, 2003-2007



Source: Canadian Business Patterns, 2003-07.

### 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.

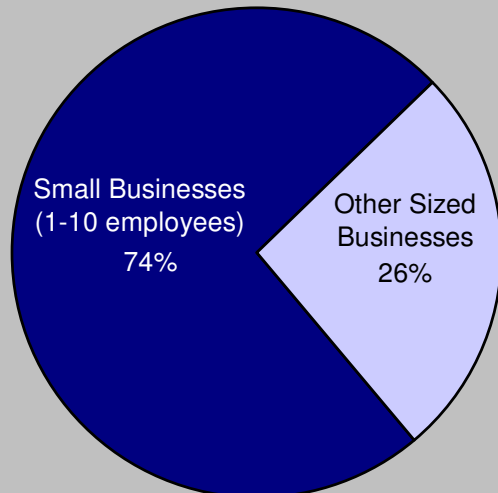
### Small Business Share by Sector

Share of establishments employing 1 to 10 people  
(Excludes self-employed)  
Frontenac-Leeds-Grenville, 2007

Other Services (except Public Administration)	89%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	88%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	87%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	85%
Construction	80%
Health Care and Social Assistance	79%
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	73%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	72%
Finance and Insurance	72%
Educational Services	72%
Wholesale Trade	70%
Transportation and Warehousing	69%
Retail Trade	69%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	67%
Information and Cultural Industries	60%
Manufacturing	56%
Utilities	53%
Accommodation and Food Services	47%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	39%
Public Administration	16%

### Establishment Composition by Size

Small business share of all local business establishments  
(Excludes self-employed)  
Frontenac-Leeds-Grenville, 2007

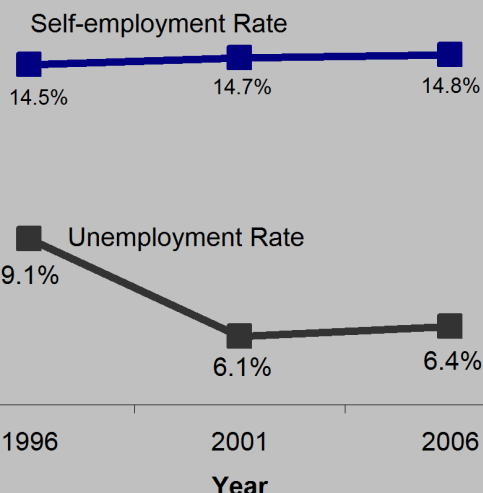


Source: Canadian Business Patterns, 2007.

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### Employment Trends

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



Source: Statistics Canada, 1996-2006

### Top Self-employment Occupations

Frontenac-Leeds-Grenville, 2006

Occupation and number of people self-employed

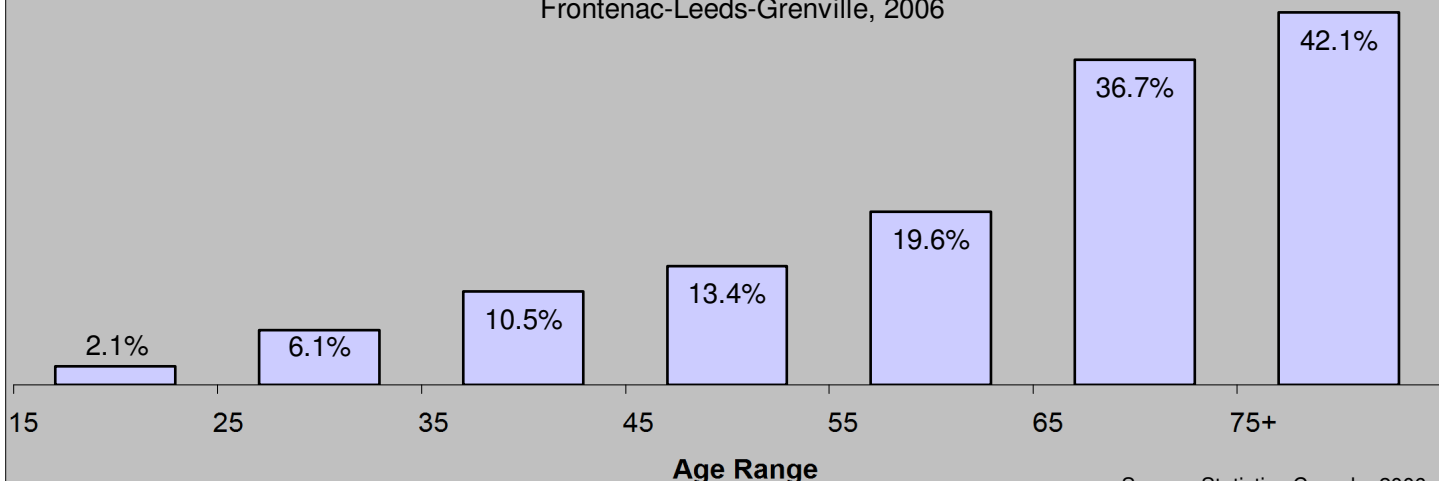
Managers in retail trade, food and accommodation	1,285
Occupations unique to agriculture, excluding labourers	1,230
Other sales and service occupations	1,115
Construction trades	1,070
Other managers	855
Professional occupations in health	750
Professional occupations in art and culture	720
Judges, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, ministers of religion, and policy and program officers	625
Transportation equipment operators and related workers, excluding labourers	590
Professional occupations in natural and applied sciences	490

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

Frontenac-Leeds-Grenville, 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.

SEE MORE LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION ON THE WEB AT  
[WWW.WORKFORCEDEV.CA](http://WWW.WORKFORCEDEV.CA)

**EMPLOYMENT  
 ONTARIO**

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS DOCUMENT DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF  
 THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO.