

Statistics on Small Business in Canada

Small businesses are the backbone of Canada's economy. Startup Canada has compiled some of the big numbers behind small businesses in Canada.

What is the definition of a small business in Canada?

- 1 to 4 employees: Micro-enterprise
 - 5 to 100: Small business
 - 101 to 499: Medium-sized business
 - 500-plus: Large business
- (Source: Industry Canada)

How many small businesses are there in Canada?

- As of December 2012, there are nearly 1.2 million small businesses in Canada (businesses with at least one employee on payroll).
 - Between 2002 and 2007, an average of 104,000 new small businesses were created in Canada each year.
- (Source: Industry Canada calculations using data from Statistics Canada)

How many Canadians work for small businesses?

- 5.1 million (48.3 per cent of Canada's total workforce)
 - In 2005, 41 per cent of employed Canadians worked for businesses with fewer than 20 employees.
- (Source: Industry Canada calculations using data from Statistics Canada)

How many Canadians are self-employed?

- In 2010, 2.7 million Canadians were self-employed.
 - 31 per cent of self-employed Canadians reported working more than 50 hours per week in 2010, while 4 per cent of employees worked past that threshold in the same year.
- (Source: Statistics Canada)

How active are small business owners online?

- In 2007 (the more recent statistics available)...
 - 85 per cent of small businesses had Internet access (compared to 99 per cent of large businesses).
 - 36 per cent of small businesses had their own websites (compared to 91 per cent of large businesses)
 - 7 per cent of small businesses sold goods/services online (compared to 22 per cent of large businesses)

(Source: Industry Canada calculations using data from Statistics Canada)

What is the success rate for small businesses and entrepreneurs?

- Current survival rates for small and medium-sized businesses in Canada decline over time. About 85 per cent of businesses that enter the marketplace survive one full year, 70 per cent survive for two years and 51 per cent survive for five years.
- (Source: Industry Canada)

How do small businesses contribute to Canada's total exports?

- In 2009, 86 per cent of Canadian exporters were small businesses and small businesses accounted for \$68 billion in exports (25 per cent of Canada's total export value).
- (Source: Industry Canada calculations using data from Statistics Canada)

How much do small businesses contribute to Canada's GDP?

- Small businesses contribute slightly more than 30 per cent to Canada's GDP.
- (Industry Canada)