



Law Society of Ontario 2021 Annual Report

Licensee statistics

In 2021, the Law Society regulated more than 57,657 lawyers and more than 10,608 paralegals. Of those, approximately 41,172 lawyers were practising law and 3,873 paralegals were providing legal services, as of December 31, 2021.

Lawyers by age and gender

Age range	Total	Men	% M	Women	% W	Non-Binary	% X
Under 30	4,081	1,663	2.88	2,418	4.19	0	0.00
30 – 39	16,218	7,528	13.06	8,689	15.07	1	0.00
40 – 49	12,589	6,013	10.43	6,576	11.41	0	0.00
50 – 65	15,408	8,915	15.46	6,493	11.26	0	0.00
Over age 65	9,361	7,587	13.16	1,774	3.08	0	0.00
Total	57,657	31,706	54.99	25,950	45.01	1	0.00

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2021.*
- b) *Percentage is based on total.*
- c) *Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*
- d) *Statistics do not include honorary members, lawyers appointed to judicial office, and lawyers whose licences were suspended as of December 31, 2021.*



Paralegals by age and gender

Age range	Total	Men	% M	Women	% W	Non-Binary	% X
Under 30	2,424	474	4.47	1,950	18.38	0	0.00
30 – 39	3,328	832	7.84	2,496	23.53	0	0.00
40 – 49	1,889	623	5.87	1,266	11.93	0	0.00
50 – 65	2,331	1,088	10.26	1,243	11.72	0	0.00
Over age 65	636	482	4.54	154	1.45	0	0.00
Total	10,608	3,499	32.98	7,109	67.02	0	0.00

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2021.*
- b) *Percentage is based on total.*
- c) *Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*
- d) *Statistics do not include paralegals appointed to judicial office and paralegals whose licences were suspended as of December 31, 2021.*



Lawyers by type of employment and gender

Type of employment	Total	Men	% M	Women	% W	Non-Binary	% X
Sole owner	9,698	6,413	13.64	3,285	6.98	0	0.00
Partner	7,048	5,167	10.99	1,881	4.00	0	0.00
Employee	1,650	870	1.85	780	1.66	0	0.00
Associate	10,151	5,124	10.89	5,027	10.69	0	0.00
Education	638	252	0.54	386	0.82	0	0.00
Government	6,721	2,759	5.87	3,962	8.42	0	0.00
In-house	6,650	3,131	6.66	3,519	7.48	0	0.00
Legal clinic	611	170	0.36	441	0.94	0	0.00
Other	3,865	1,865	3.97	1,999	4.25	1	0.00
Total	47,032	25,751	54.75	21,280	45.25	1	0.00

Notes:

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- d) *Statistics do not include honorary members, lawyers not working or retired, lawyers appointed to judicial office, and lawyers whose licences were suspended as of December 31, 2021.*



Paralegals by type of employment and gender

Type of employment	Total	Men	% M	Women	% W	Non-Binary	% X
Sole owner	1,765	1,022	12.55	743	9.13	0	0.00
Partner	189	112	1.38	77	0.95	0	0.00
Employee	833	252	3.10	581	7.14	0	0.00
Associate	274	102	1.25	172	2.11	0	0.00
Education	100	20	0.25	80	0.98	0	0.00
Government	924	224	2.75	700	8.60	0	0.00
In-house	431	143	1.76	288	3.54	0	0.00
Legal clinic	110	18	0.22	92	1.13	0	0.00
Other	3,516	759	9.32	2,757	33.86	0	0.00
Total	8,142	2,652	32.57	5,490	67.43	0	0.00

Notes:

- a) Data as of December 31, 2021.
- b) Percentage is based on total.
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- d) Statistics do not include paralegals not working or retired, paralegals appointed to judicial office, and paralegals whose licences were suspended as of December 31, 2021.

Geographical distribution of lawyers by gender

Geographic area	Total	Men	% M	Women	% W	Non-Binary	% X
City of Toronto	28,269	15,323	26.58	12,945	22.45	1	0.00
Ontario (excl. Toronto)	24,281	13,729	23.81	10,552	18.30	0	0.00
Canada (excl. Ontario)	3,015	1,575	2.73	1,440	2.50	0	0.00
Outside Canada	2,092	1,079	1.87	1,013	1.76	0	0.00
Total	57,657	31,706	54.99	25,950	45.01	1	0.00

Notes:

- a) Data as of December 31, 2021.
- b) Percentage is based on total.
- c) Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
- d) Statistics do not include honorary members, lawyers appointed to judicial office, and lawyers whose licences were suspended as of December 31, 2021.

Geographical distribution of paralegals by gender

Geographic area	Total	Men	% M	Women	% W	Non-Binary	% X
City of Toronto	3,810	1,228	11.58	2,582	24.34	0	0.00
Ontario (excl. Toronto)	6,579	2,199	20.73	4,380	41.29	0	0.00
Canada (excl. Ontario)	179	55	0.52	124	1.17	0	0.00
Outside Canada	40	17	0.16	23	0.22	0	0.00
Total	10,608	3,499	32.98	7,109	67.02	0	0.00

Notes:

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- b) *Percentage is based on total.*
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- d) *Statistics do not include honorary members, paralegals appointed to judicial office, and paralegals whose licences were suspended as of December 31, 2021.*

Number of law firms by size

Firm size	# of firms	%
1 lawyer	8,821	74.34
2 – 5 lawyers/paralegals	2,390	20.14
6 – 10 lawyers/paralegals	360	3.03
11 – 25 lawyers/paralegals	192	1.62
26 – 50 lawyers/paralegals	66	0.56
51+ lawyers/paralegals	37	0.31
Total	11,866	100.00

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2021.*
- b) *Statistics based on law firms reported as primary business.*
- c) *Firm size based on number of lawyers and paralegals in private practice at the firm.*
- d) *Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*



Number of paralegal firms by size

Firm size	# of firms	%
1 paralegal	1,626	87.65
2 – 5 paralegals/lawyers	213	11.48
6 – 10 paralegals/lawyers	9	0.49
11 – 25 paralegals/lawyers	5	0.27
26 – 50 paralegals/lawyers	2	0.11
51+ paralegals/lawyers	0	0.00
Total	1,855	100.00

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2021.*
- b) *Statistics based on paralegal firms reported as primary business.*
- c) *Firm size based on number of paralegals and lawyers in private practice at the firm.*
- d) *Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.*



Number of lawyers and paralegals working in law firms by size

Firm size	# of lawyers and paralegals	%
1 lawyer	8,821	30.75
2 – 5 lawyers/paralegals	5,965	20.79
6 – 10 lawyers/paralegals	2,585	9.01
11 – 25 lawyers/paralegals	2,774	9.67
26 – 50 lawyers/paralegals	2,275	7.93
51+ lawyers/paralegals	6,266	21.84
Total	28,686	100.00

Notes:

- a) Data as of December 31, 2021.
- b) Statistics based on lawyers and paralegals in a private practice status with a law firm as their primary business.
- c) Firm size based on number of lawyers and paralegals in private practice at the firm.
- d) Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Number of paralegals and lawyers working in paralegal firms by size

Firm size	# of paralegals and lawyers	%
1 paralegal	1,626	72.17
2 – 5 paralegals/lawyers	465	20.64
6 – 10 paralegals/lawyers	58	2.57
11 – 25 paralegals/lawyers	53	2.35
26 – 50 paralegals/lawyers	51	2.26
51+ paralegals/lawyers	0	0.00
Total	2,253	100.00

Notes:

- a) Data as of December 31, 2021.
- b) Statistics based on paralegals and lawyers in a private practice status with a paralegal firm as their primary business.
- c) Firm size based on number of paralegals and lawyers in private practice status at the firm.
- d) Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.