

## ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT

# Canada's Major Urban Systems: Drivers of Growth (Part I)

## Many Similarities, Some Differences

Cities play an essential role in economic growth and development by offering specialized services and enabling complementarities between economic agents. They drive growth. They are also melting pots where needs arise and are met. Owing to the diversity of economic agents, networking opportunities abound and solutions to problems are developed.

Canada had 64 urban systems of 50,000 or more inhabitants according to the 2016 Census, the most recent census from which we have results to date. The observation is that relative importance is more or less the same for jobs in industries and professional occupations related to trade, health, education, recreation, accommodation and food services, whatever the size and location of the urban systems and regardless of whether these are metropolises or capitals. With a few rare exceptions, the vast sector of public services is established everywhere to the same degree and accounts for a very large share of the labour force. However, notable differences in the employment structures of various urban systems appear in sectors and occupations directly or indirectly linked to goods production, namely natural resources, construction and manufacturing. These sectors highlight the importance of manufacturing in Quebec's and Ontario's urban systems as well as the weight of agriculture and natural resources and construction in the Prairies and British Columbia. The differences observed represent both assets that should be capitalized on and challenges that must be overcome.

### Terms of Reference

This study focuses on the economic dimensions of cities and will use those of 50,000 or more inhabitants for analysis and comparison purposes. From an economic perspective, cities generally stretch beyond municipal borders; these are referred to as integrated urban economies. Employee-employer and client-supplier relationships therefore connect a municipality's economic agents to the economic agents of neighbouring municipalities, villages and rural areas. For this reason, it seems logical to consider Montreal, Laval, Terrebonne and Longueuil or Quebec City and Lévis, or even Gatineau and Ottawa, as integrated urban economies. The economic vitality of Canadian cities must therefore be viewed from the standpoint of urban systems potentially comprising more than one municipality.

The analysis will be conducted through the labour market lens. To that end, Statistics Canada censuses provide data on this important aspect of the economy. These data show how the labour force (workers and job seekers) of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA) is distributed among the 20 major sectors of economic activity under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and among

the 10 major trade and occupation groups under the National Occupational Classification (NOC) (box 1 on page 2).

Employment can meet local needs or serve a clientele located outside the urban system. This plays into the urban system's development potential insofar as external markets offer more opportunities for growth than a response to local needs. The two classifications (NAICS and NOC) allow for a distinction between production or occupation categories depending on their capacity to support innovation and increased productivity.

These classifications have their limits, as some categories are too broad and preclude all the desired nuances. For example, the accommodation portion of the accommodation and food services category meets the needs of an external clientele, whereas the opposite is true for food services. Moreover, valid comparisons of the value of production of various urban systems are not possible under the NAICS and NOC because productivity varies from industry to industry.

Nevertheless, the two job classification systems are of interest. Classification by sector (NAICS) isolates sectors most likely to act

**BOX 1**
**Job classification in the 2016 Census**
**By economic sector (NAICS)**

- ▶ Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing
- ▶ Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction
- ▶ Utilities (gas, water, electricity)
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Wholesaling
- ▶ Retailing
- ▶ Transportation and warehousing
- ▶ Information and cultural industries
- ▶ Finance and insurance
- ▶ Real estate and rental and leasing
- ▶ Professional, scientific and technical services
- ▶ Management of companies and enterprises
- ▶ Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services
- ▶ Educational services
- ▶ Healthcare and social assistance
- ▶ Arts, entertainment and recreation
- ▶ Accommodation and food services
- ▶ Other services (except public administration)
- ▶ Public administration

**By nature of job (NOC)**

- ▶ Management occupations
- ▶ Business, finance and administration occupations
- ▶ Natural and applied sciences and related occupations
- ▶ Health occupations
- ▶ Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services
- ▶ Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport
- ▶ Sales and service occupations
- ▶ Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations
- ▶ Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations
- ▶ Occupations in manufacturing and utilities

as economic drivers owing to their potential for innovation and export outside the urban system (box 2 on page 3). The NOC can provide useful indications as to the occupational skills on which urban systems can rely to improve their performance in terms of productivity, innovation and export (box 3 on page 3). In this study, priority is given to classification by industrial sector, where the linkage with economic structures is more direct and the classification is more precise. NOC data corroborate the NAICS results, where applicable.

**Major Urban Systems in Quebec and Canada**

At the time of the 2016 Census, Canada had 61 CMAs and CAs of more than 50,000 inhabitants, including 10 in Quebec. To this list, we added Joliette (49,439 inhabitants), Victoriaville (49,151) and Leamington in Ontario (49,147) given their close proximity to the arbitrary threshold of 50,000 inhabitants used for the study. The analysis therefore examines 64 urban systems, including 12 in Quebec (table 11, Appendix 1 on page 14). The Ottawa–Gatineau CMA was not included in the number of Quebec and Ontario urban systems because it straddles the two

**BOX 2**
**Sectors most likely to act as economic drivers (NAICS)**

- ▶ Agriculture, forestry
- ▶ Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Finance and insurance
- ▶ Professional, scientific and technical services
- ▶ Management of companies and enterprises

NAICS: North American Industry Classification System  
Source: Desjardins, Economic Studies

provinces. This CMA was, however, included in the analyses examining urban systems of comparable status and size.

Table 1 shows that the concentration of the population in urban areas differs in Canada by province. This means that more than three quarters of Quebec's population lives in a major urban system as defined in this study. In that respect, Quebec falls halfway between British Columbia (80.0%) and the Prairies (70.0%). Ontario has the highest proportion, with close to 86% of its population living in a major urban system if the Ontario portion of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA is included. By contrast, just half of the population of the Atlantic provinces lives in such an area of heavy urbanization. In short, with the exception of British Columbia, the percentage of the population living in major cities increases with the size of the provincial entity involved. This uniqueness of the West Coast province could be due in part to its very rugged topography, which forces the population to concentrate in more habitable areas.<sup>1</sup>

Table 1 also shows that population growth in Canada was faster in the West from 2011 to 2016 both in total population and in major urban systems. This is hardly surprising. The boom in (oil and natural gas) exploration and exploitation activities in energy resources created many jobs, in addition to providing a strong incentive for settlement in that part of the country. The picture that 2021 Census data paint could look very different, however.

<sup>1</sup> Agricultural land protection since the 1970s can be assumed to factor in here as well. "The Agricultural Land Reserve was established in British Columbia in 1970s to protect high quality farmland from development (Agricultural Land Commission of British Columbia [ALC], 2014). (Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing [MAH], 2017; ALC, 2018)." Source: Jenni WANG and Hugo LAROCQUE, [Long-term population density change in Toronto and Vancouver, 1971 to 2016](#), Statistics Canada, February 11, 2019.

**BOX 3**
**Occupational skills on which urban systems can rely to improve their performance in terms of productivity, innovation and export (NOC)**

- ▶ Natural and applied sciences and related occupations
  - Science and engineering skills increase innovation potential and reflect the economy's development potential.
- ▶ Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations
  - Technical trades are required for construction, production and distribution and reflect the economy's growth potential.
- ▶ Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations
  - The natural endowment of the land can be leveraged by resource trades and occupations.

NOC: National Occupational Classification  
Source: Desjardins, Economic Studies

Considering the number of urban systems of more than 50,000 inhabitants in each regional entity (table 2 on page 4), we see that Ontario has 23 such systems, nearly double Quebec's 12. Factoring in the size of the provincial entity's population, the Atlantic provinces take the top spot because they have seven major urban systems despite a total population

**TABLE 1**
**Major urban systems in Canada in 2016**

	POPULATION IN 2016		GROWTH 2016/2011
	Number	%	%
<b>Quebec</b>	<b>8,164,361</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Major urban systems (including Gatineau)	5,877,128	76.1	4.1
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>13 448 494</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Major urban systems (including Ottawa)	10,558,781	85.9	4.9
<b>Prairies</b>	<b>6,443,892</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Major urban systems	4,512,923	70.0	12.1
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>4,648,055</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Major urban systems	3,718,973	80.0	6.4
<b>Atlantic provinces</b>	<b>2,333,122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Major urban systems	1,150,164	49.3	2.6

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 2**  
**Distribution of major urban systems by number of inhabitants in 2016**

PROVINCES	POPULATION (MILLION)	>1 MILLION	>100 000 <1 MILLION	>50 000 <100 000	TOTAL*
Quebec	8.2	1	4	7	12
Ontario	13.4	1	15	7	23
Prairies	6.4	2	5	4	11
British Columbia	4.6	1	6	3	10
Atlantic	2.3	0	5	2	7

\* Excluding the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area because it straddles two provinces.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

of just 2.3 million inhabitants. The Prairies also have two major centres of more than 1 million inhabitants, namely Calgary and Edmonton. However, these two urban systems have only 1.4 and 1.3 million inhabitants and therefore fall far behind Toronto (5.9 million), Montreal (4.1 million) and Vancouver (2.4 million).

Table 2 also shows that around two thirds of major urban systems are located in population categories with more than 100,000 inhabitants, except in Quebec. In that province, major urban systems with a population of less than 100,000 inhabitants are the ones that predominate. Moreover, according to more detailed data in table 11, Appendix 1 on page 14, Montreal accounts for half (50.2%) of Quebec's population, whereas the equivalent ratio for Toronto is only 44.1%. In the Prairies and Atlantic provinces, the share of the population living in the largest major urban systems (Calgary and Halifax) is even smaller (21.6% and 17.3%). Only Vancouver (53.0%) has a larger concentration of the provincial population than Montreal, but this imbalance is offset by the large number (six) of other urban systems with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Although the differences between the five provincial groups are small, Quebec has the greatest polarization between a very populous metropolis and urban systems that barely hit the 100,000 mark.

### Economic Structure of Major Urban Systems

The economic growth and size of major urban systems are important and interesting data, but their contribution to provinces' economic development cannot be evaluated based on these parameters alone. The economic structure of these systems reveals just as much, if not more of their growth potential. We were interested in determining whether similarities or differences existed between agglomerations with large differences in terms of size or status in their respective provinces or regional blocks. Comparisons were therefore drawn by dividing the urban systems into four main categories: metropolises, capitals, major urban centres and regional centres. These categories were created for work purposes and do not fall within any established nomenclature. In short, metropolises are the most populous systems in their province and have more than a million inhabitants. Capitals have a strong public administration presence. Major urban centres have more

than 100,000 inhabitants, but are not metropolises. Regional centres, meanwhile, have a population between 50,000 and 100,000 inhabitants. Box 4 on page 5 contains a more detailed description of each category.

### Metropolis Dynamics across Canada

Job distribution by industrial sector (table 3 on page 6) highlights certain differences between the four Canadian metropolises. This is the case with Calgary's strong specialization (6.2%) in mining, oil and gas. By comparison, this sector is virtually non-existent in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Calgary also stands out in the construction sector, as the workforce there is substantially larger than in Toronto and Montreal. Lastly, in Calgary still, the share of the workforce engaged by information and cultural industries (1.9%) is much smaller than in the three other metropolises (3.3% and up).

The only sector where Montreal stands out somewhat is that of manufacturing, where 9.8% of its workforce is active, a proportion higher than in Toronto (8.8%) and close to double that of Calgary (5.1%). Toronto does well in the finance and insurance sector, in which 7.7% of the labour force works, compared to 4.8% or less in the other metropolises.

As for the distribution of professional occupations in the metropolises (table 4 on page 6), there are key differences between the two largest, Toronto and Montreal, and the smallest, Calgary. Generally speaking, Vancouver tends to be closer to Toronto and Montreal than the metropolis in the Prairies.

Just like in table 3 on page 6, the only area where Vancouver comes first is arts and culture (4.6% of the workforce). Calgary differs due to the importance of trades and occupations in the natural and applied sciences category (10.7% of jobs) and in the trades, transportation and machinery category (14.0%), which is not surprising, given what has been stated previously. Moreover, proportionally, Calgary creates twice as many jobs as Toronto and Montreal in trades and occupations related to natural resources and agriculture, which is in line with the historically recognized industries in that city. However, the relative importance of these jobs is just 1.5% because these are highly productive

**BOX 4**
**Four analysis categories for major urban centres**
**Metropolises**

- ▶ In this study, the term “metropolis” refers to urban systems that meet two criteria: the urban system must be the most populous in its province and it must be of a size, that is, over 1 million inhabitants, that gives it reach beyond its immediate region and even its province. These two criteria mean that, despite having 1.3 million inhabitants, Edmonton is displaced by Calgary (1.4 million) as Alberta’s metropolis. Similarly, Winnipeg (0.8 million inhabitants) and Halifax (0.4 million) are not considered metropolises despite being the most populous urban centres in their respective provinces.

**Major urban centres**

- ▶ In this study, “major urban centres” are urban systems that, despite the size of their population, that is, more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Except for capitals, these terms are arbitrary and are merely intended to provide a summary characterization of the four groups of major urban systems used in this analysis.

Source: Desjardins, Economic Studies

**Capitals**

- ▶ Ottawa-Gatineau, Quebec City and the other provincial capitals are subject to special analysis given that the strong public administration presence they have puts them in a separate category. Provincial capitals are also analyzed, as the case may be, as urban or regional centres.

**Regional centres**

- ▶ The term “regional centre” is used to refer to urban systems whose size, between 50,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, makes them a hub of economic growth and development in their respective regions.

sectors. Calgary (2.3%) in turn lags behind Toronto (4.6%) and Montreal (4.0%) when it comes to the importance of skilled labour in manufacturing and utilities.

In short, a review of job distribution in the four metropolises reveals Calgary’s particular nature due to the importance of activities related to agriculture and oil and gas resources. Toronto, meanwhile, is in a class of its own given the importance of the finance and insurance sector in that city (the hub of the Canadian stock market and the head offices of many major Canadian banks and insurance companies). Lastly, Montreal stands out with a larger manufacturing sector than in the other metropolises.

**An Overview of the Capitals**

Capital status can have significant effects on the economic structure of an urban system, particularly by substantially increasing the share of the labour force in public administration. In this section, the analysis takes a closer look at the 11 federal and provincial capitals.

To simplify data presentation, tables 5 and 6 on page 8 focus explicitly on the three urban systems associated with a capital, that is, Quebec City, Ottawa–Gatineau and Toronto. This latter city is highlighted to determine the extent to which its status as a major metropolis overshadows its status as a provincial capital. The average values for the eight other capitals are also

shown. Specific data for each of these other capitals appear in Appendix 2, in tables 12 and 13 on pages 15, 16 and 17.

The first finding is that tables 5 and 6 show job distribution by industrial structure or professional occupation to be very similar overall from one capital to the next.

Only Toronto and Ottawa–Gatineau really stand out from the other capitals. The public administration sector is therefore significantly larger in Ottawa–Gatineau (21.0% of the labour force) than in all the provincial capitals. The difference is particularly pronounced with Toronto (3.7%). This exceptionalism of Ontario’s capital is due to the fact that the relative importance of public administration activities tends to decrease with population size. Therefore, all provinces, regardless of the size of their capital, must have a parliament, courts and ministries. Consequently, in relatively small capitals, such as Charlottetown and Fredericton, the public administration sector is much more visible than, for example, in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Quebec City and even Halifax. The difference with Toronto is even more striking. In other words, many industries, such as trade, construction and health services, have an importance that grows proportionally with population size, but that is not the case with public administration. Economies of scale mean that the number of jobs in this sector increases at a slower pace than the size of the capital’s population.

**TABLE 3**  
**Industrial structure in metropolises in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	TORONTO	MONTREAL	VANCOUVER	CALGARY
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.6
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.1	0.1	0.3	6.2
Utilities	0.5	0.7	0.5	1.1
Construction	5.9	5.1	7.3	9.2
Manufacturing	8.8	9.8	6.2	5.1
Wholesale trade	4.4	4.5	4.1	3.6
Retail trade	10.5	11.8	11.1	10.8
Transportation and warehousing	5.2	4.8	5.5	5.6
Information and cultural industries	3.3	3.3	3.7	1.9
Finance and insurance	7.7	4.7	4.8	3.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	2.6	1.8	2.6	2.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.5	8.7	9.8	10.3
Management of companies and enterprises	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.2
Educational services	7.1	7.5	7.4	6.1
Health care and social assistance	8.9	11.9	10.2	10.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.2
Accommodation and food services	6.3	6.4	8.2	6.8
Other services (except public administration)	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.2
Public administration	3.7	4.5	4.0	3.7
Not applicable	2.8	2.8	1.8	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.2</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 4**  
**Nature of jobs in metropolises in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	TORONTO	MONTREAL	VANCOUVER	CALGARY
Management occupations	11.7	10.4	11.6	11.1
Business, finance and administration occupations	17.8	17.2	16.4	17.3
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	8.3	7.7	7.5	10.7
Health occupations	5.4	6.6	6.2	6.4
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	11.1	11.8	11.0	10.0
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	3.9	4.0	4.6	2.6
Sales and service occupations	22.7	23.6	24.5	22.1
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	10.9	11.2	12.4	14.0
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	0.7	0.7	1.3	1.5
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	4.6	4.0	2.9	2.3
Not applicable	2.8	2.8	1.8	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

Aside from public administration's reduced importance there, Toronto differs in a number of respects from other capitals, including the share of its labour force in the manufacturing (8.8%), professional, scientific and technical services (10.5%), and finance and insurance (7.7%) sectors. Lastly, although just 0.3% of jobs in Toronto are in the management of companies and enterprises sector, this rate is nevertheless three times higher, or more, than in the other capitals.

For its part, Quebec City contrasts very little with the other capitals. The biggest difference is the relative importance of the manufacturing sector (7.3% of jobs) in this city, meaning that it outstrips Ottawa–Gatineau (3.1%) and the average of other provincial capitals (4.3%), with the exception of Toronto.

Appendix 2 on pages 15, 16 and 17 identifies some other peculiarities among provincial capitals. Winnipeg comes ahead of Quebec City and is nearly on par with Toronto with the highest share (8.5%) of its labour force in the manufacturing sector. Unsurprisingly, Edmonton leads with the share of jobs in the construction (11.6%) and mining, oil and gas (3.1%) sectors. The size of this industry in Alberta is reflected in these numbers.

As for professional occupations, Edmonton stands out from the rest in the trades, transportation and machinery category. This category represents 18.4% of the labour force in Alberta's capital, more than double that in the federal capital (8.9%). Clearly, its role as the provincial capital does not preclude Edmonton from playing a very active part in resource development activities in its hinterland.

In Charlottetown, the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector provides twice as many or more jobs (3.5% of the workforce) than in all the other capitals. Lastly, both in Charlottetown (13.1%) and in Fredericton (14.7%), the two least populous capitals, the share of public administration jobs is higher than in the other provincial capitals.

**Differences and Similarities between Major Urban Centres**  
Because there are so many, major urban centres were grouped into five geographic divisions, namely the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia (tables 7 and 8 on page 9).

An analysis of job distribution by economic sector (table 7) reveals that manufacturing employs 10.7% of the labour force in Quebec's major urban centres, a proportion virtually equivalent to that observed among their Ontario counterparts (11.1%) and close to double or more the size of this sector in major centres in the Atlantic provinces, the Prairies and British Columbia.

In the construction sector, major centres in British Columbia (9.3% of the labour force) and the Prairies (9.2%) are the ones that hire more. British Columbia stands out with the size of its workforce in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector

(3.4% of the labour force), close to double or more the size of this sector in major centres elsewhere in Canada. The traditional importance of the forestry industry has left its mark on the British Columbian labour market. Major urban centres in the Atlantic provinces are characterized by their relative importance of jobs in the public administration sector (9.4%).

Job distribution by nature is remarkably similar overall for major urban centres in the five provincial groups (table 8). For example, everywhere, sales and service jobs account for nearly a quarter of the labour force, business, finance and administrative jobs for close to 15% and management for around 10%. These are the commonalities.

The main differences arise in manufacturing and utilities jobs. In Ontario, these jobs represent 6.1% of the workforce, a much higher proportion than in Quebec (4.6%) and double and triple the rates in British Columbia and the Atlantic provinces, respectively. The only other notable difference is in natural resources and agriculture occupations. They are much more prevalent in British Columbia (3.4% of the labour force) than in the four other provincial groups, where the proportion ranges from 1.6% to 2.1%.

**Some Peculiarities of Major Urban Centres Taken Individually**  
Some peculiarities emerge from the analysis of major urban centres taken individually. Windsor (19.9%), Guelph (18.1%) and Kitchener (15.8%) in Ontario stand out with the size of their labour force employed in the manufacturing sector. Windsor is frequently nicknamed "Canada's car capital," whereas Guelph and Kitchener have large automobile and industrial equipment manufacturers. The latter also has a finance and insurance sector (6.1% of the labour force) that is much larger than in the other major centres in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

St. Catharines is unique in that its accommodation and food services (11.6% of jobs) and arts, entertainment and recreation (4.3%) sectors are well above the average for urban systems of comparable size. This is a reflection of the Niagara Peninsula's nature as a recreation and tourism destination. For their part, Chatham-Kent in Ontario (7.6%) as well as Abbotsford (6.6%) and Chilliwack (6.1%) in British Columbia have very high rates of jobs in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector.

There is no surprise that Saskatoon (3.2%) and Edmonton (3.1%) rank highest for the share of workforce employed in mining, oil and gas. Alberta's capital also takes the top spot for the size of its labour force in construction (11.6%).

In Ontario, Kingston stands out with its high share (11.7%) of public administration jobs. In this case, this uniqueness is due to the presence of federal institutions, that is, an Armed Forces base, a military college and a penitentiary. The public administration also employs a fairly high share (11.1%) of

**TABLE 5**  
**Industrial structure in Canadian capitals in 2016**

	TORONTO	OTTAWA-GATINEAU	QUEBEC	OTHERS
IN % OF LABOUR FORCE				
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.4
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.2
Utilities	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.0
Construction	5.9	5.6	5.3	7.5
Manufacturing	8.8	3.1	7.3	4.9
Wholesale trade	4.4	2.2	3.1	3.0
Retail trade	10.5	10.4	11.7	11.6
Transportation and warehousing	5.2	2.9	3.4	4.1
Information and cultural industries	3.3	2.5	1.7	2.2
Finance and insurance	7.7	3.0	5.7	3.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	2.6	1.6	1.5	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.5	8.6	7.2	6.8
Management of companies and enterprises	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	5.0	4.4	4.0	4.0
Educational services	7.1	7.9	7.3	8.0
Health care and social assistance	8.9	10.8	13.4	12.9
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.1
Accommodation and food services	6.3	6.5	7.4	7.5
Other services (except public administration)	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3
Public administration	3.7	21.0	12.1	10.5
Not applicable	2.8	2.4	1.4	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 6**  
**Professional occupation structure in capitals in 2016**

	TORONTO	OTTAWA-GATINEAU	QUEBEC	OTHERS
IN % OF LABOUR FORCE				
Management occupations	11.7	11.3	9.1	10.5
Business, finance and administration occupations	17.8	18.3	17.9	15.9
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	8.3	10.6	9.0	7.6
Health occupations	5.4	6.2	8.1	7.7
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	11.1	15.6	13.2	13.1
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.8
Sales and service occupations	22.7	21.3	23.7	23.5
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	10.9	8.9	11.0	13.3
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.8
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	4.6	1.1	2.7	2.3
Not applicable	2.8	2.4	1.4	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies



**TABLE 7**  
**Industrial structure in major urban centres in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	ATLANTIC	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.9	3.4
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1.3	0.4	0.8	2.7	1.3
Utilities	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.4
Construction	6.8	6.0	6.9	9.2	9.3
Manufacturing	4.6	10.7	11.1	6.7	6.1
Wholesale trade	3.3	2.7	3.5	3.6	2.7
Retail trade	12.3	12.7	11.6	11.6	12.2
Transportation and warehousing	4.4	3.3	4.3	4.2	5.1
Information and cultural industries	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8
Finance and insurance	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.7	2.9
Real estate and rental and leasing	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	6.7	5.8	5.2	5.6	5.9
Management of companies and enterprises	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	5.3	4.0	4.8	3.5	4.7
Educational services	7.8	8.4	8.3	7.7	6.7
Health care and social assistance	13.2	14.6	12.5	12.9	12.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1
Accommodation and food services	7.0	7.0	7.3	7.4	8.4
Other services (except public administration)	4.2	4.8	4.1	4.7	4.8
Public administration	9.4	7.4	5.9	6.6	6.2
Not applicable	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 8**  
**Nature of jobs in major urban centres in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	ATLANTIC	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA
Management occupations	10.0	8.5	9.9	10.2	10.4
Business, finance and administration occupations	15.7	15.0	13.6	15.1	13.8
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	7.7	6.9	5.7	6.2	5.3
Health occupations	7.9	8.5	7.4	7.8	7.5
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	13.0	13.0	12.2	11.6	11.2
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.7
Sales and service occupations	24.9	24.0	23.9	22.9	24.3
Trades, transport and equipment operators and	12.8	13.8	14.8	16.5	16.8
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	1.5	1.3	2.1	2.4	3.4
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	2.1	4.6	6.1	3.5	3.1
Not applicable	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

Belleville's labour force, a connection no doubt to the presence of a federal tax centre there. In the Prairies, Regina owes its role as the provincial capital to a proportion of jobs in the public administration sector (9.2%) that is higher than anywhere else. This institutional status is less apparent in the much more populous provincial capitals of Edmonton and Winnipeg. Elsewhere in Canada, provincial capital status means that the public administration sector employs much more of the labour force in Victoria (12.4%) and Fredericton (14.7%) than in the other major urban centres of their respective regions.

### A Brief Review of Regional Centres

Like the other urban system groups, regional centres have many similarities from one provincial block to another in labour force distribution among the various industries (table 9 on page 11). Some peculiarities do exist, however, especially in the size of the manufacturing sector in Quebec's regional centres. With 15.6% of the labour force, this sector is much larger there than in the regional centres of other provinces, including Ontario (11.7%), whose manufacturing activity is nonetheless significant.

In mining, oil and gas, the differences are even bigger, as the share of the labour force in that sector ranges from 12.1% in the regional centres of the Prairies to just 0.2% in Quebec.<sup>2</sup> Another peculiarity that emerges from table 9 on page 11 is the size of the public administration sector (10.5%) in the regional centres of the Atlantic provinces. This is due to the provincial capital status held by Charlottetown (13.1%), which along with Cape Breton is one of the only two regional centres in this provincial block.

With regard to the nature of jobs (table 10 on page 11), the main differences appear in professional occupations related to primary production and manufacturing. The largest variations from one provincial block to another are therefore in manufacturing and utilities jobs. The share of the labour force in these trades and occupations ranges from 8.0% in Quebec to just 2.5% in the Atlantic provinces.

The disparities are also greater in natural resources and agriculture occupations. In this case, regional centres in the Prairies are the ones that take the lead with 4.4% of their workforce in these trades and occupations, far ahead of their Quebec counterparts, which rank last with just 1.8% of their workforce in this job category.

The differences are also notable in trades and occupations related to transportation and machinery. They account for over 20% of

the workforce in the Prairies and Ontario, but just 13.9% of jobs in the regional centres of the Atlantic provinces.

In each of these provincial groups, a few urban agglomerations draw attention due to the under- or overrepresentation of some industries. This is primarily the case with Ontario's agglomeration of Sarnia, which has a high proportion of jobs in construction (14.8%) and manufacturing (16.7%) and which, in turn, provides fewer jobs than other comparable urban systems in retail trade (9.6%) and healthcare and social assistance (3.4%). The strong presence of the petrochemical sector explains Sarnia's particular profile. Leamington, another centre in southern Ontario, has a high concentration of the workforce in both the forestry (13.4%) and the manufacturing (17.4%) sectors.

The community of Wood Buffalo in Alberta also has an exceptional profile, with 29.4% of jobs in mining, oil and gas. Moreover, 30.0% of professional occupations there are in trades, transportation and machinery. These very high rates reflect the presence of the Fort McMurray oil sands complex in this community. In contrast, the share of jobs related to retail trade (8.1%) and healthcare and social assistance (5.3%) in Wood Buffalo is the lowest among Canada's urban systems. Brandon, Manitoba, has a clear lead with 10.3% of its labour force working in the manufacturing sector.

In British Columbia, the proximity of Canadian Forces Base Comox could explain the large share (9.1%) of Courtney jobs in the public administration sector.

### Economic Potential of Major Urban Systems

As mentioned earlier, major urban systems are distributed quite uniformly across Canada. Compiled data show little difference in the sectoral and occupational distribution of jobs, regardless of the size of the urban system. Only the professional, scientific and technical services and the management of companies and enterprises sectors appear to grow with the size of the urban system. However, this observation should not detract from the fact that synergistic gains can result from a larger urban system. A given sector can therefore be more productive in a major centre than in a regional centre because it will be able to benefit from economies of scale, a wider network of local suppliers, and more developed physical and institutional infrastructure.

Much of the economic activity of major urban systems serves to meet local and regional demand for common goods and services sought by citizens, businesses and institutions. Although they are essential to the population's well-being and the proper operation of businesses, these activities do not lend themselves well, or at all, to innovation, productivity gains and sales elsewhere in the country or abroad. These sectors alone employ close to half of the workforce of major urban systems in Quebec and in the rest of Canada, pointing to a considerable adaptation issue in the years to come. Sectors such as retail trade, transportation, information, real estate, healthcare and social

<sup>2</sup> The picture would have been different for Quebec if the threshold of 50,000 inhabitants had not excluded urban agglomerations in which the mining industry has a substantial presence, namely Rouyn-Noranda (42,334 inhabitants), Val-d'Or (33,871), Sept-Îles (28,534) and Baie-Comeau (27,692).

**TABLE 9**  
**Industrial structure in regional centres in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	ATLANTIC	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	3.2	2.4	4.5	2.1	4.2
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1.3	0.2	0.9	12.1	1.3
Utilities	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.6
Construction	7.2	6.2	9.1	9.3	8.9
Manufacturing	4.3	15.6	11.7	5.7	6.4
Wholesale trade	1.8	3.8	3.4	3.1	2.5
Retail trade	12.9	13.1	12.2	11.5	13.5
Transportation and warehousing	3.5	3.3	5.1	4.5	4.7
Information and cultural industries	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.3
Finance and insurance	2.5	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.2	5.3
Management of companies and enterprises	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	5.1	3.2	4.8	3.7	4.0
Educational services	8.2	7.2	6.1	6.0	6.7
Health care and social assistance	15.1	14.3	11.5	11.0	13.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.3	1.6	2.1	1.6	2.4
Accommodation and food services	8.2	6.9	6.8	7.1	8.2
Other services (except public administration)	4.0	5.2	4.4	4.8	4.6
Public administration	10.5	4.4	5.5	6.2	6.1
Not applicable	2.3	2.4	2.2	1.4	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 10**  
**Nature of jobs in regional centres in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	ATLANTIC	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PRAIRIES	BRITISH COLUMBIA
Management occupations	8.7	8.4	9.6	9.3	9.7
Business, finance and administration occupations	13.8	13.6	11.7	12.9	12.9
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.3
Health occupations	9.2	8.1	6.7	6.6	8.0
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	12.9	11.4	9.8	9.8	11.4
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	2.1	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.2
Sales and service occupations	26.2	24.0	22.9	22.3	24.7
Trades, transport and equipment operators and	13.9	15.4	20.5	21.3	17.1
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	3.7	1.8	3.2	4.4	3.8
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	2.5	8.0	6.6	5.3	3.2
Not applicable	2.3	2.4	2.2	1.4	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.1</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

assistance, education, accommodation and food services will be affected by factors such as the digital revolution, the ageing of the population and the many changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In parallel with these local activities, census data also reveal sizeable differences between major urban systems. One example is the importance in such systems of industries or occupational categories that can hold competitive advantages and that can position the systems as sectoral centres of excellence. In Quebec's case, manufacturing is a sector that can play such a role of economic driver. With a few exceptions, manufacturing in that province is a larger employer than in comparable urban systems elsewhere in Canada.

Canada-wide, two centres of specialization clearly emerge. The manufacturing sector is much larger in urban systems in Quebec and Ontario, whereas sectoral and occupational specialization in agriculture and resources stands out in the Prairies and British Columbia. No clear distinction emerges in the Atlantic provinces.

This relative specialization of major urban systems in Quebec and Ontario in manufacturing is both an advantage and a challenge. Manufacturing makes activity diversification possible, thereby making urban systems less vulnerable to economic ups and downs. However, it exposes them more to international competition.

The natural resource specialization in major urban systems in the Prairies and British Columbia offers potential, but also poses threats given the inherent volatility of these industries and the constraints arising from environmental regulations.

Although job distribution by nature broadly corroborates the sectoral specialization of various urban systems, it does not establish notable differences between them.

### Wrapping It Up

Across Canada, most of the population lives in urban centres comprising adjoining municipalities in an integrated system of economic exchanges.

According to 2016 Census data, urban systems with 50,000 or more inhabitants are well distributed throughout Canada, but the relative importance of those with over 100,000 inhabitants in Quebec is smaller than elsewhere, giving Montreal dominance in that province equal only to Vancouver in British Columbia.

The census also revealed that major urban systems have both many similarities and notable differences as concerns labour force distribution among the various economic sectors and job types.

Whatever the size and location of the urban system, and regardless of whether it is a metropolis or capital, relative

importance is virtually the same for jobs in industries and professional occupations related to trade, health, education, recreation, accommodation and restaurant services.

With the exception of Toronto, federal and provincial capitals differ from other major urban systems due to the high proportion of their workforce in public administration. This proportion is generally around 10%, but is higher in the smallest provincial capitals and peaks at 21% in the urban system of the federal capital.

Regardless of their size or status, major urban systems in the Prairies are generally more oriented towards sectors related directly or indirectly to natural resources. Moreover, the importance that the construction sector and technical occupations (trades, transportation and machinery) play in them could be a reflection of the fact that, in the years prior to the 2016 Census, population growth in the Prairies and British Columbia was higher than in other provinces (table 1 on page 3). We should mention that oil and natural gas prices were continuously high between early 2011 and June 2014. Exploration and extraction were in full swing during this period, resulting in the hiring of many workers, who came to settle in the producing provinces of the Prairies.

In the case of Quebec and Ontario, manufacturing appears to be a sector of relative specialization. These differences speak to Central Canada's long-standing manufacturing role, the origins of which date back to the National Policy of 1879.<sup>3</sup> However, other factors are also at play.

An analysis of 2016 Census data also shows that the size of the population influences the economic profile of urban systems, particularly in metropolises and capitals. In Toronto, the finance and insurance and the management of companies and enterprises sectors employ a much larger share of the labour force than anywhere else in Canada. In addition, the relative importance of the professional, scientific and technical services sector grows based on the size of the urban system; this sector accounts for roughly 4% of the labour force in regional centres, 6% in major urban centres and 10% in metropolises.

Aside from the average profiles that can be drawn based on size or Canadian region, specific urban systems are differentiated in some regards for reasons such as a hinterland rich in natural resources (e.g., Edmonton), a concentration of public institutions (e.g., Kingston and Shawinigan), a strong sectoral specialization (e.g., Sarnia) or the presence of major employers (e.g., Windsor and Comox). Furthermore, the relative importance of the manufacturing sector in Quebec and, to a slightly lesser

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<sup>3</sup> Very briefly put, the 1879 National Policy (Canada) sought to favour Canadian manufacturers (the vast majority of which were based in Quebec and Ontario) by imposing high customs tariffs on imported goods. For more information, see: [National Policy](#).

extent, in Ontario is likely reflective of the long-standing expertise and capacity in the manufacturing industry.

The differences observed represent both assets that should be capitalized on and challenges that must be overcome for the major urban systems in question. For those in Quebec and Ontario, this means leveraging a manufacturing base that offers growth and development opportunities tied to innovation, export and productivity gains, while withstanding the onslaught of relentless global competition. For those in the Prairies and British Columbia, the main challenge is to diversify the structure of their economy to break free from the uncertainty inherent to the resource market and adapt to the transformation necessitated by the fight against climate change.

All major urban systems also face disruptions that have begun to affect sectors providing basic consumer services. The COVID-19 pandemic will only add to the upheaval created by digital technologies and changing demographics.

This first part took a look at Canada as a whole. The second instalment will focus on the 12 urban systems with more than 50,000 inhabitants in Quebec.

# Appendix I

## Major Urban Systems in Canada

**TABLE 11**  
Major urban systems in Canada in 2016

	TOTAL POPULATION 2016		GROWTH 2016/2011
	Number	%	%
<b>Quebec</b>	<b>8,164,361</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>
CMA and CA (excluding Gatineau)	5,877,258	72.0	4.1
Montreal	4,098,927	50.2	4.2
Quebec	800,296	9.8	4.3
Sherbrooke	212,105	2.6	4.9
Saguenay	160,980	2.0	1.5
Trois-Rivières	156,042	1.9	2.8
Drummondville	96,118	1.2	5.4
Granby	85,056	1.0	5.2
Saint-Hyacinthe	59,614	0.7	5.0
Rimouski	55,349	0.7	3.0
Shawinigan	54,181	0.7	-0.6
Joliette	49,439	0.6	5.3
Victoriaville	49,151	0.6	6.0
<b>Ottawa–Gatineau</b>	<b>1,323,783</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Gatineau	332,057	4.1	4.4
Ottawa	991,726	7.4	5.9
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>13 448 494</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>
CMA and CA (excluding Ottawa)	10,559,581	78.5	4.9
Toronto	5,928,040	44.1	6.2
Hamilton	747,545	5.6	3.7
Kitchener	523,894	3.9	5.5
London	494,069	3.7	4.1
St. Catharines	406,074	3.0	3.5
Oshawa	379,848	2.8	6.6
Windsor	329,144	2.4	3.1
Barrie	197,059	1.5	0.4
Sudbury	164,689	1.2	1.0
Kingston	161,175	1.2	1.0
Guelph	151,984	1.1	7.7
Brantford	134,203	1.0	-1.0
Peterborough	121,721	0.9	2.3
Thunder Bay	121,621	0.9	0.0
Belleville	103,472	0.8	1.8
Chatham-Kent	102,042	0.8	-2.0
Sarnia	96,151	0.7	-1.0
Sault-Ste-Marie	78,159	0.6	-2.1
Kawartha Lakes	75,423	0.6	3.0
North Bay	70,378	0.5	-2.6
Norfolk	64,044	0.5	1.4
Cornwall	59,699	0.4	1.3
Leamington	49,147	0.4	-1.2

CMA: census metropolitan area; CA: census agglomeration  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 11 (CONT.)**  
Major urban systems in Canada in 2016

	TOTAL POPULATION 2016		GROWTH 2016/2011
	Number	%	%
<b>Prairies</b>	<b>6,443,892</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>
CMA and CA	4,512,923	70.0	12.1
Calgary	1,392,609	21.6	14.6
Edmonton	1,321,426	20.5	13.9
Winnipeg	778,489	12.1	6.6
Saskatoon	295,095	4.6	12.5
Regina	236,481	3.7	11.8
Lethbridge	117,394	1.8	10.8
Red Deer	100,418	1.6	10.9
Medicine Hat	76,522	1.2	5.1
Wood Buffalo	73,320	1.1	9.6
Grande Prairie	63,166	1.0	13.5
Brandon	58,003	0.9	6.0
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>4,648,055</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
CMA and CA	3,718,973	80.0	6.4
Vancouver	2,463,431	53.0	6.5
Victoria	367,770	7.9	6.7
Kelowna	194,882	4.2	6.4
Abbotsford	180,518	3.9	6.1
Nanaimo	104,936	2.3	7.1
Kamloops	103,811	2.2	5.1
Chilliwack	101,512	2.2	8.1
Prince George	86,622	1.9	2.8
Vernon	61,334	1.3	4.7
Courtenay	54,157	1.2	4.6
<b>Atlantic provinces</b>	<b>2,333,122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>
CMA and CA	1,150,164	49.3	2.6
Halifax	403,390	17.3	3.3
St. John's (NL)	205,955	8.8	4.6
Moncton	144,810	6.2	4.0
Saint John (BC)	126,202	5.4	-2.2
Fredericton	101,760	4.4	3.5
Cap-Breton	98,722	4.2	-2.9
Charlottetown	69,325	3.0	6.0

CMA: census metropolitan area; CA: census agglomeration  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

## Appendix 2

### Labour Force Distribution in Federal and Provincial Capitals

**TABLE 12**
**Distribution of labour force aged 15 and over by economic sector classification in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE (EXCEPT IF INDICATED)	TORONTO	OTTAWA-GATINEAU	EDMONTON	QUEBEC	WINNIPEG
Population (number)	5,928,040	1,323,783	1,321,426	800,296	778,489
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.1	0.1	3.1	0.2	0.2
Utilities	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.4	1.0
Construction	5.9	5.6	11.6	5.3	6.7
Manufacturing	8.8	3.1	6.1	7.3	8.5
Wholesale trade	4.4	2.2	4.0	3.1	3.6
Retail trade	10.5	10.4	11.0	11.7	10.7
Transportation and warehousing	5.2	2.9	4.7	3.4	5.6
Information and cultural industries	3.3	2.5	1.4	1.7	2.0
Finance and insurance	7.7	3.0	3.2	5.7	4.7
Real estate and rental and leasing	2.6	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	10.5	8.6	6.8	7.2	5.3
Management of companies and enterprises	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	5.0	4.4	3.8	4.0	3.9
Educational services	7.1	7.9	6.8	7.3	8.3
Health care and social assistance	8.9	10.8	11.4	13.4	14.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.1
Accommodation and food services	6.3	6.5	6.8	7.4	7.1
Other services (except public administration)	4.2	4.1	4.7	4.3	4.3
Public administration	3.7	21.0	7.1	12.1	7.2
Not applicable	2.8	2.4	1.7	1.4	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

## Appendix 2 (cont.)

### Labour Force Distribution in Federal and Provincial Capitals

**TABLE 12 (CONT.)**
**Distribution of labour force aged 15 and over by economic sector classification in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE (EXCEPT IF INDICATED)	HALIFAX	VICTORIA	REGINA	ST. JOHN'S	FREDERICTON	CHARLOTTETOWN
Population (number)	403,390	367,770	236,481	205,955	101,760	69,325
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	0.6	1.0	1.7	0.9	1.5	3.5
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.5	0.3	1.1	3.3	0.4	0.4
Utilities	0.7	0.2	1.5	1.1	1.7	0.5
Construction	6.1	6.7	8.4	8.2	6.0	6.3
Manufacturing	4.4	3.4	4.9	4.0	3.3	4.7
Wholesale trade	3.1	1.9	4.0	2.8	2.3	2.0
Retail trade	11.8	11.4	11.1	12.2	12.1	12.3
Transportation and warehousing	4.4	3.7	3.9	4.2	3.3	2.9
Information and cultural industries	2.8	2.1	3.2	2.3	2.4	1.6
Finance and insurance	4.6	3.1	5.8	2.9	2.7	3.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	7.8	8.2	5.6	6.7	7.4	6.3
Management of companies and enterprises	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	5.2	4.4	3.3	3.3	4.4	3.9
Educational services	7.8	8.1	6.6	8.3	9.8	8.3
Health care and social assistance	12.8	13.5	12.5	14.0	11.8	13.0
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.1	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.6	2.4
Accommodation and food services	7.1	9.1	7.1	7.2	6.9	8.5
Other services (except public administration)	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.1	4.4	4.0
Public administration	10.3	12.4	9.2	9.7	14.7	13.1
Not applicable	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>99.9</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies



## Appendix 2 (cont.)

### Labour Force Distribution in Federal and Provincial Capitals

**TABLE 13**
**Distribution of labour force aged 15 and over by National Occupational Classification in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE (EXCEPT IF INDICATED)	TORONTO	OTTAWA-GATINEAU	EDMONTON	QUEBEC	WINNIPEG
Population (number)	5,928,040	1,323,783	1,321,426	800,296	778,489
Management occupations	11.7	11.3	10.4	9.1	9.7
Business, finance and administration occupations	17.8	18.3	15.7	17.9	16.0
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	8.3	10.6	7.2	9.0	6.2
Health occupations	5.4	6.2	7.2	8.1	8.2
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	11.1	15.6	10.7	13.2	13.2
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	3.9	3.5	2.3	3.1	2.7
Sales and service occupations	22.7	21.3	21.7	23.7	23.0
Trades, transport and equipment operators and	10.9	8.9	18.4	11.0	13.6
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	0.7	0.9	1.8	0.8	1.1
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	4.6	1.1	2.9	2.7	4.3
Not applicable	2.8	2.4	1.7	1.4	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.9</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 13 (CONT.)**
**Distribution of labour force aged 15 and over by National Occupational Classification in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE (EXCEPT IF INDICATED)	HALIFAX	VICTORIA	REGINA	ST. JOHN'S	FREDERICTON	CHARLOTTETOWN
Population (number)	403,390	367,770	236,481	205,955	101,760	69,325
Management occupations	10.8	10.9	10.9	9.8	10.5	10.8
Business, finance and administration occupations	16.3	15.7	17.6	15.9	15.2	14.7
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	7.8	7.7	7.2	9.1	9.1	6.5
Health occupations	7.7	7.8	7.1	8.0	7.1	8.3
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	13.5	14.1	11.4	12.8	15.6	13.4
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	3.3	3.7	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.5
Sales and service occupations	24.4	24.3	22.8	23.1	23.3	25.0
Trades, transport and equipment operators and	11.6	11.1	15.2	13.3	11.3	12.1
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.9	3.2
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	1.7	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.5	2.1
Not applicable	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies