

Law Society of Ontario 2020 Annual Report

Membership statistics

In 2020, the Law Society regulated more than 56,953 lawyers and more than 9,607 paralegals. Of those, approximately 39,394 lawyers were practising law and 3,699 paralegals were providing legal services, as of December 31, 2020.

Lawyers by age and gender

Age range	Total	Male	% M	Female	% F
Under 30	4,039	1,652	2.90	2,387	4.19
30 – 39	15,504	7,231	12.70	8,273	14.53
40 – 49	12,331	5,900	10.36	6,431	11.29
50 – 65	15,043	8,868	15.57	6,175	10.84
Over age 65	10,036	8,206	14.41	1,830	3.21
Total	56,953	31,857	55.94	25,096	44.06

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2020.*
- 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, 2020.*

Paralegals by age and gender

Age range	Total	Male	% M	Female	% F
Under 30	2,190	427	4.44	1,763	18.35
30 – 39	2,897	749	7.80	2,148	22.36
40 – 49	1,718	593	6.17	1,125	11.71
50 – 65	2,201	1,052	10.95	1,149	11.96
Over age 65	601	451	4.69	150	1.56
Total	9,607	3,272	34.06	6,335	65.94

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2020.*
- 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, 2020.*

Lawyers by type of employment and gender

Type of employment	Total	Male	% M	Female	% F
Sole owner	9,470	6,304	13.98	3,166	7.02
Partner	7,049	5,183	11.50	1,866	4.14
Employee	1,512	783	1.74	729	1.62
Associate	9,345	4,770	10.58	4,575	10.15
Education	626	259	0.57	367	0.81
Government	6,410	2,644	5.86	3,766	8.35
In-house	6,235	2,987	6.63	3,248	7.20
Legal clinic	621	175	0.39	446	0.99
Other	3,814	1,874	4.16	1,940	4.30
Total	45,082	24,979	55.41	20,103	44.59

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, 2020.*

Paralegals by type of employment and gender

Type of employment	Total	Male	% M	Female	% F
Sole owner	1,677	992	13.70	685	9.46
Partner	172	103	1.42	69	0.95
Employee	810	245	3.38	565	7.80
Associate	246	100	1.38	146	2.02
Education	87	18	0.25	69	0.95
Government	780	200	2.76	580	8.01
In-house	433	157	2.17	276	3.81
Legal clinic	110	15	0.21	95	1.31
Other	2,927	646	8.92	2,281	31.50
Total	7,242	2,476	34.19	4,766	65.81

Notes:

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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, 2020.*

Geographical distribution of lawyers by gender

Geographic area	Total	Male	% M	Female	% F
City of Toronto	27,806	15,317	26.89	12,489	21.93
Ontario (excl. Toronto)	24,232	13,974	24.54	10,258	18.01
Canada (excl. Ontario)	2,963	1,555	2.73	1,408	2.47
Outside Canada	1,952	1,011	1.78	941	1.65
Total	56,953	31,857	55.94	25,096	44.06

Notes:

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- d) *Statistics do not include honorary members, lawyers appointed to judicial office, and lawyers whose licences were suspended as of December 31, 2020.*

Geographical distribution of paralegals by gender

Geographic area	Total	Male	% M	Female	% F
City of Toronto	3,485	1,164	12.12	2,321	24.16
Ontario (excl. Toronto)	5,955	2,055	21.39	3,900	40.60
Canada (excl. Ontario)	131	38	0.40	93	0.97
Outside Canada	36	15	0.16	21	0.22
Total	9,607	3,272	34.06	6,335	65.94

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2020.*
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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, 2020.*

Number of law firms by size

Firm size	# of firms	%
1 lawyer	8,552	74.43
2 – 5 lawyers/paralegals	2,303	20.04
6 – 10 lawyers/paralegals	359	3.12
11 – 25 lawyers/paralegals	184	1.60
26 – 50 lawyers/paralegals	56	0.49
51+ lawyers/paralegals	36	0.31
Total	11,490	100.00

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2020.*
- 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	1,559	87.19
2 – 5 paralegals/lawyers	209	11.69
6 – 10 paralegals/lawyers	14	0.78
11 – 25 paralegals/lawyers	4	0.22
26 – 50 paralegals/lawyers	2	0.11
51+ paralegals/lawyers	0	0.00
Total	1,788	100.00

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2020.*
- 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	8,552	31.05
2 – 5 lawyers/paralegals	5,756	20.90
6 – 10 lawyers/paralegals	2,571	9.33
11 – 25 lawyers/paralegals	2,721	9.88
26 – 50 lawyers/paralegals	1,941	7.05
51+ lawyers/paralegals	6,005	21.80
Total	27,546	100.00

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2020.*
- 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	1,559	71.32
2 – 5 paralegals/lawyers	449	20.54
6 – 10 paralegals/lawyers	88	4.03
11 – 25 paralegals/lawyers	42	1.92
26 – 50 paralegals/lawyers	48	2.20
51+ paralegals/lawyers	0	0.00
Total	2,186	100.00

Notes:

- a) *Data as of December 31, 2020.*
- 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.*