



September 2024

Results of the Canada Articling Snapshot Survey for the Class of 2023

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Introduction

For the past 20 years, NALP has worked with the Canadian Section and its Data Collection Working Group to survey Canadian law schools about the employment and articling outcomes for each graduating class. This Class of 2023 report includes data submitted by 17 Canadian law schools, representing 2,925 total graduates.

In some cases, law schools were not able to provide data for some or all of their graduates for certain items included within the survey. The footnotes of each table describe the number of schools and students represented. Tables 1-8 include information for the Class of 2023 specifically, and Tables 9-12 provide historical trend information.

Table 1. **Overall Employment Status – Class of 2023**

Employment Status	Percent of Total
Secured articles	86.4%
Secured associate positions	2.5
Enrolled in Law Society of Ontario's LPP	0.5
Subtotal Employed or in LPP	89.4
Seeking articles	2.5
Not Seeking articles	2.1
Enrolled in/planning to enroll in an LLM	0.3
Deferring articles to next academic year	0.4
Pursuing non-traditional career	0.9
Other	0.4
Employment Status Unknown	5.9

Note: Figures based on 2,786 graduates at 16 schools. One additional graduate was reported as “enrolled in/planning to enroll in a National Program” and three additional graduates were reported as “enrolled in/planning to enroll in non-law-related studies.”

Table 2. **Employer Types for Graduates with Articles – Class of 2023**

Employer Type	Percent of Total
Private Practice	80.4%
Clerkships	2.9
Public Interest	4.1
Government	10.0
Business	1.7
Other/unknown type	0.9

Note: Figures based on 2,459 known articling placements and associate positions reported by 16 schools. The clerkship category includes only those clerkships in jurisdictions/courts that fulfill the articling requirement.

Table 3. **Employer Types for Graduates with Articles – Government Detail – Class of 2023**

Articles in government as % of all articles	10.0%
Distribution by Level of Government	Percent of Total
Federal	26.9%
Provincial	62.4
Municipal	10.6

Note: Figures for distribution by level of government are based on 245 placements reported by 16 schools.

Articles in government as % of all articles

Table 4. **Employer Types for Graduates with Articles – Private Practice Detail – Class of 2023**

Articles in private practice as % of all articles		80.4%
Distribution by Type of Practice		Percent of Total
Aboriginal		1.0
Construction		0.6
Corporate/commercial (boutique)		6.7
Criminal Defence		4.1
Family		3.5
Full Service/general practice		61.4
Immigration		1.5
Insurance		1.6
Intellectual Property		1.0
Litigation Boutique		6.8
Labour and Employment		4.2
Personal Injury		3.5
Real Estate		0.9
Tax		0.9
Wills/Estates		0.5
Other [environment (3); international trade (2); and 30 reported as 'other'.]		1.6

Note: Figures for distribution by type of firm are based on 1,862 placements reported by 15 schools. No jobs were reported in bankruptcy. These figures may include a small number of associate positions.

Table 5. Location of Graduates with Articles – Class of 2023

Location	Percent of Total
Alberta	14.2%
British Columbia	18.5
Manitoba	3.3
New Brunswick	1.5
Newfoundland	1.2
Northwest Territories	0.1
Nova Scotia	3.5
Ontario	52.4
Prince Edward Island	0.5
Quebec	0.2
Saskatchewan	2.5
Yukon Territory	0.1
New York City	2.1

Note: Figures are based on 2,433 locations reported by 16 schools and exclude unknown locations. No jobs in Nunavut or other locations were reported.

Table 6. **Location of Graduates with Articles – City Detail
– Class of 2023**

Location	# of Articles Reported	Location	# of Articles Reported
Alberta	345	Nunavut Territory	0
Calgary	196	Iqaluit	–
Edmonton	112	Rankin Inlet	–
Red Deer	6	Cambridge Bay	–
Other	26	Other	–
British Columbia	449	Ontario	1275
Vancouver	305	Toronto	865
Greater Vancouver	51	Greater Toronto area	60
Abbotsford/Chilliwack	10	Ottawa	184
Nanaimo	4	London	39
Vancouver Island	1	Hamilton	26
Victoria	31	Kitchener-Waterloo	21
Kamloops	7	Kingston	7
Kelowna	7	Windsor	21
Prince George	5	Northern Ontario	13
Other	20	Eastern Ontario	21
Manitoba	80	Other	18
Winnipeg	74	Prince Edward Island	11
Other	6	Charlottetown	10
New Brunswick	37	Other	1
Fredericton	16	Quebec	6
Saint John	10	Montreal	4

(continued)

Location	# of Articles Reported	Location	# of Articles Reported
Moncton	8	Quebec City	1
Other	3	Other	1
Newfoundland	28	Saskatchewan	60
St. Johns	24	Regina	23
Other	4	Saskatoon	33
Northwest Territories	3	Other	4
Yellowknife	3	Yukon Territory	2
Other	–	Whitehorse	2
Nova Scotia	85	Other	0
Halifax	79		
Other	6		

Note: Not all schools provided detailed information on locations of placements. Because of this, certain city details shown do not sum to their city's total.

Table 7. Clerkship Locations Reported – Class of 2023

Province/Type of Court	# of Clerkships
Alberta	9
Provincial Court	0
Court of King's Bench	5
Court of Appeal	4
British Columbia	27
Supreme Court	18
Court of Appeal	9
New Brunswick	0
Court of Appeal	–
Nova Scotia	0
Court of Appeal	–
Nunavut	0
Court of Justice	–
Ontario	36
Superior Court of Justice	24
Superior Court of Justice – Divisional Court	1
Court of Appeal	11
Quebec	0
Court of Appeal	–
Saskatchewan	7
Provincial Court	2
Court of King's Bench	3
Court of Appeal	2
Federal	36
Federal Court	15
Federal Court of Appeal	5
Tax Court of Canada	9
Supreme Court of Canada	8

Note: Clerkship location counts were reported by all 17 schools. In total, 115 clerkships were reported.

Table 8. **Graduates Not Seeking Articles – Class of 2023**

Not Seeking Article Status	Percent of Total
Deferring articles to next academic year	19.0%
Graduates enrolled in/planning to enroll in an LLM	13.8
Enrolled in/planning to enroll in a National Program	1.7
Graduates enrolled in/planning to enroll in non-law-related studies	5.2
Pursuing non-traditional career	43.1
Other	17.2

Note: Figures are based on 58 graduates reported by 16 schools.

Table 9. Overall Employment Status Trends (in percentages)
– Classes of 2004-2023

	Obtained Articles	Seeking Articles	Not Seeking Articles	Pursuing LLM	Status Unknown	# of Students
2004	77.4%	5.5%	2.1%	2.1%	12.9%	1,994
2005	79.5	6.3	3.0	2.4	8.8	2,109
2006	77.9	7.6	2.8	1.6	10.1	1,838
2007	83.5	4.5	1.8	1.0	9.2	2,003
2008	78.3	5.2	1.4	1.1	14.0	1,930
2009	75.9	5.5	1.6	1.0	16.0	1,950
2011	78.2	8.8	1.4	0.8	10.8	1,788
2012	80.0	8.8	3.3	0.9	7.0	2,099
2013	85.4	6.6	2.1	0.7	5.2	2,462
2014	83.2	6.1	3.1	1.0	6.5	2,673
2015	82.3	7.7	4.1	0.5	5.3	2,600
2016	82.7	2.6	3.6	1.1	6.4	2,498
2017	86.2	3.0	3.2	1.2	4.4	2,581
2018	87.5	2.9	3.1	0.5	4.2	2,751
2019	88.2	3.3	3.3	0.6	4.0	2,749
2020	88.7	3.2	2.7	0.7	3.8	2,863
2021	87.9	2.8	2.4	0.6	5.7	2,922
2022	84.4	1.6	2.3	0.4	9.4	2,725
2023	86.4	2.5	2.1	0.3	5.9	2,786

Note: Data was not collected for 2010. Graduates participating in the Law Society of Ontario's Law Practice Program were tallied separately starting in 2016 and accounted for 0.5% of 2023 graduates. In 2014 and 2015 they were included in the "not seeking" category. This information was not collected prior to 2014.

Prior to 2016, articles may have included a small number of associate positions that do not count towards the articling requirement. Beginning in 2016 such associates were tallied separately and in 2023 accounted for 2.5% of graduates. Starting with 2016, the "not seeking" category includes the LLM figure, thus these LLM figures are counted in both columns. Due to the changes implemented since 2016 and the addition of new categories — all of which are not shown — percentages shown do not add up to 100% from 2016-2023.

Table 10. Trends in Employer Types for Graduates with Articles (in percentages) – Classes of 2004-2023

	Private Practice	Clerkships	Public Interest*	Government	Business/ Other	# of Positions
2004	83.2%	5.2%	1.7%	8.5%	1.4%	1,515
2005	81.6	7.2	2.1	8.0	1.1	1,676
2006	83.5	5.5	2.0	7.5	1.5	1,432
2007	82.2	6.6	2.5	7.2	1.5	1,672
2008	82.5	5.6	2.3	8.4	1.2	1,511
2009	79.5	7.6	3.0	9.3	0.6	1,479
2011	80.6	6.2	2.9	9.9	0.4	1,399
2012	82.4	3.4	2.8	9.9	1.5	1,674
2013	79.0	2.7	3.8	10.0	4.5	2,104
2014	78.7	3.3	3.2	9.8	5.0	2,225
2015	79.0	3.7	4.0	10.0	3.2	2,140
2016	79.3	3.3	4.3	9.8	3.2	2,092
2017	76.0	3.5	4.2	8.9	7.4	2,259
2018	78.8	2.7	4.0	10.5	4.0	2,407
2019	81.4	2.9	2.4	9.9	3.5	2,426
2020	81.9	3.1	2.1	10.3	2.6	2,539
2021	81.7	2.5	3.1	10.1	2.7	2,480
2022	82.0	2.5	3.2	9.7	2.7	2,343
2023	80.4	2.9	4.1	10.0	2.6	2,459

Note: Data was not collected for 2010. Starting in 2012, the survey included a category for ‘unknown’ employer type. These figures are included within “business/other” in this table. Clerkship figures prior to 2012 may include clerkships that did not fulfill the articling requirement. Distribution percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Starting in 2016, the count of associate jobs was explicitly reported as its own category. Prior to that, they may have been included in private practice. In this table, figures for 2016 and onward generally do not include associate positions, although a few associate jobs may have been reported.

*Includes non-profits, boards, commissions, or clinics.

Table 11. **Graduates with Articles – Government Detail
Trends (in percentages) – Classes of 2004-2023**

	Federal	Provincial	Municipal	# of Articles
2004	24.0%	64.6%	11.4%	96
2005	23.2	68.8	8.0	125
2006	33.8	50.7	15.5	71
2007	26.4	62.0	11.6	121
2008	35.8	58.3	5.8	120
2009	36.8	52.8	10.4	106
2011	37.4	51.8	10.8	139
2012	26.4	63.5	10.1	148
2013	28.4	63.9	7.7	194
2014	17.0	74.7	17.0	182
2015	22.4	68.1	9.5	215
2016	20.9	69.4	9.7	206
2017	19.0	70.5	10.5	200
2018	31.9	59.8	8.3	254
2019	26.4	64.0	9.6	239
2020	30.0	62.4	7.6	263
2021	27.2	62.8	10.0	250
2022	23.3	68.7	7.9	227
2023	26.9	62.4	10.6	245

Note: Data was not collected for 2010. Percentages are based on articles for which level of government was reported. Distribution percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Table 12. **Graduates with Articles – Private Practice Trends (in percentages) – Classes of 2004-2023**

	Full-service	IP & Litigation	Criminal & Human Rights	Other	# of Articles
2004	80.7%	6.5%	6.2%	6.6%	963
2005	68.8	23.2	8.0	8.9	999
2006	79.0	6.9	6.4	7.7	987
2007	81.3	6.6	4.6	7.5	1,205
2008	81.5	6.7	4.3	7.5	940
2009	77.0	6.9	5.8	10.3	669
2011	73.7	12.3	6.6	7.4	741
2012	73.4	13.4	4.6	8.6	1,058
2013	71.1	14.6	5.2	14.3	1,382
2014	69.1	12.2	5.7	13.0	1,425
2015	67.6	14.4	5.9	12.1	1,690
2016	65.6	7.2	6.8	20.4	1,476
2017	61.3	8.7	6.4	23.6	1,623
2018	61.5	8.8	5.6	24.1	1,897
2019	64.4	8.1	5.6	21.9	1,863
2020	63.0	8.6	4.9	23.5	1,968
2021	63.7	7.2	4.3	24.8	1,921
2022	66.4	6.9	4.5	22.2	1,763
2023	61.4	7.8	4.1	26.7	1,862

Note: Data was not collected for 2010. Percentages are based on articles for which private practice area was reported. “Human rights” was not tracked separately after 2011; subsequent figures are for “criminal” only. Additional categories tracked starting in 2016 are included in “Other” for purposes of this table.

Schools Participating in Survey for the Class of 2023, and Number of Students (including those for whom information is unknown)

Law School	# of Graduates
U. of British Columbia	176
Osgoode	327
U. of Calgary	136
U. of Ottawa	373
U. of Toronto	229
U. of Windsor	225
Western	187
U. of New Brunswick	82
Queen's	210
U. of Alberta	176
U. of Manitoba	99
Thompson Rivers University	103
Dalhousie	158
U. of Saskatchewan	119
U. of Victoria	126
Toronto Metro University	139
LakeHead University/Bora Laskins	60
Total	2,925



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