

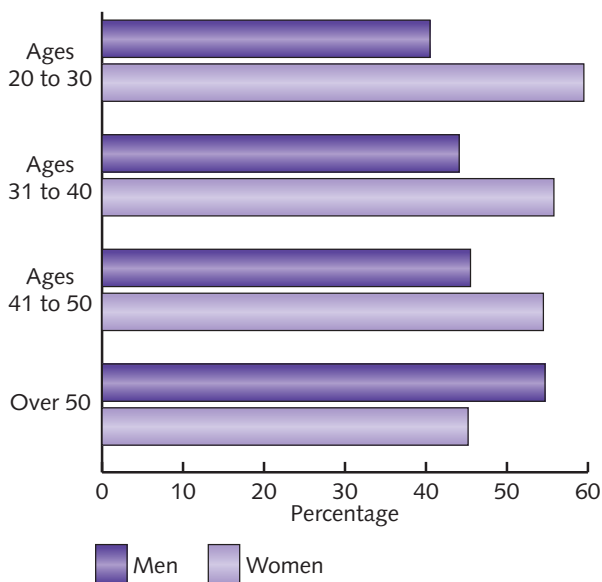


**EQ interviews "The Artist"** – representing a typical Canadian resident Equity member – to find out what the work situation is like these days and what are the issues affecting members.<sup>[1]</sup>

**EQ:** Describe an Equity member.

**Artist:** There are slightly more female Equity members (51.4%) than male (48.5%). It is interesting to note that men overtake women only in the above 50 category. (See graph 1.)

**Graph 1: Equity membership breakdown of age by gender**



**EQ:** Where do Equity members work?

**A:** 88.3% are in theatre, 8.6% in opera, and 3% are in dance.

**EQ:** What do members do?

**A:** Most are performers (81.8%), with 6.6% being directors, 8.5% stage managers, 2.7% choreographers and .3% fight directors. While there are more woman in stage management and choreography, there are more male performers, directors and fight directors.

**EQ:** How many Equity members are working?

**A:** Over the course of 2011, 4,083 members worked under contract. The average number of members working per week is 1,192.

**EQ:** How many weeks did Equity members work last year?

**A:** In 2011, Equity members worked a total of 61,974 work weeks with total earnings of \$67,828,712.

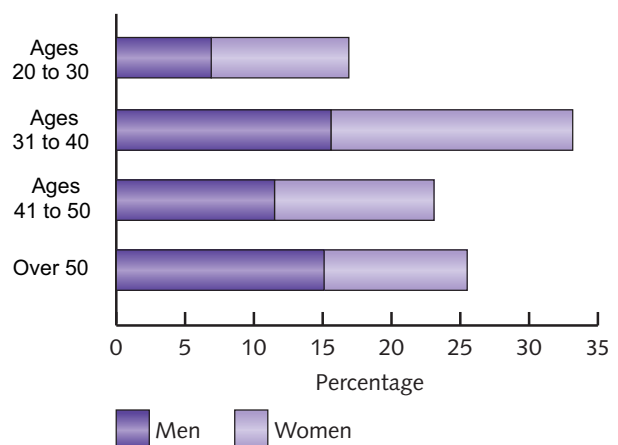
**EQ:** What is an Equity member's average income?

**A:** The average annual Equity income (under negotiated agreements) is \$16,612, but when broken down by gender, men make more money than women (Men – \$17,323, Women – \$15,849). The mean average annual Equity income is \$9,410 (Men – \$9,533, Women – \$9,139).

**EQ:** How do Equity member work weeks break down by gender?

**A:** About 50.8% of the total work weeks were worked by men, and 49.16% were worked by women. Women tend to work more in the beginning of their career, but men surpass them in work weeks after 50 years. (See graph 2.)

**Graph 2: Equity membership breakdown of weeks worked by gender**

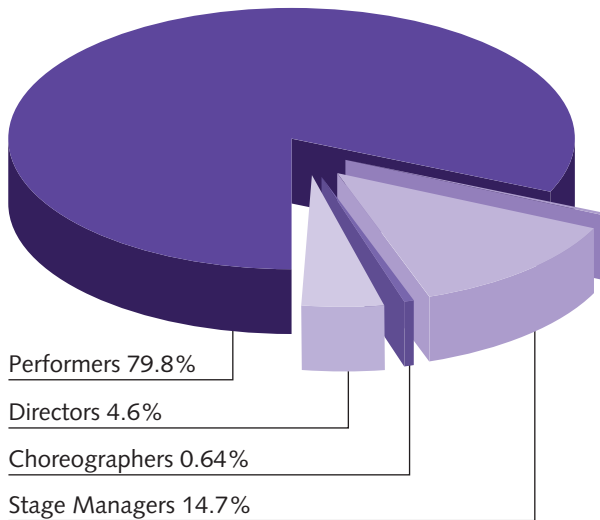




**EQ:** How do work weeks break down by discipline?

**A:** Most of the work weeks are worked by performers (79.8%). Directors, choreographers, fight directors and stage managers together comprise 20.2% of all weeks worked by Equity members. (See graph 3.)

**Graph 3: Work weeks broken down by discipline and gender**



DISCIPLINE	MEN	WOMEN
Directors	66.5%	34.4%
Choreographers	10.9%	89%
Fight Directors	98%	2%
Performers	55.5%	44.4%
Stage Managers	21.1%	78.8%

**EQ:** What type of contracts do Equity members perform under?

**A:** The overwhelming majority (90.6%) perform under not-for-profit contracts, with 9.4% performing under commercial contracts.

**EQ:** Do some Equity members also belong to another union?

**A:** Yes, 76% of Equity members are also members of another performing association or union. Of those, 95% are with ACTRA, 10% are with AEA, 6% are with UBCP and 4% are with UDA.<sup>[2]</sup>

**EQ:** Do members do other types of related work besides live performance?

**A:** On average, 33% of Equity members report that their work is on an Equity contract. A further 24% of Equity members supplement their earnings with the following – coaching (29%), teaching (29%), writing (27%), theatre administration (14%), and technical/theatre production (5%).<sup>[2]</sup>

**EQ:** What kind of training and educational background do most artists have?

**A:** The percentage of artists with a university degree, certificate or diploma is 41%. That's nearly double the rate in the overall Canadian labour force (22%).<sup>[3]</sup>

**EQ:** Do Equity members continue to take classes and workshops throughout their career?

**A:** An average of 38% of Equity members teach, coach or attend a conference during the year.

**EQ:** How much do artists contribute to the economy?

**A:** The cultural sector represents an economic footprint as high as 7.4% of Canada's real GDP, with as many as 1.1 million people employed.<sup>[4]</sup>

**EQ:** How many Canadians attend performances by Equity members?

**A:** 41% of Canadians 15 years or older (approximately 10.76 million people) attend a concert or performance by professional artists of music, dance, theatre or opera each year.<sup>[5]</sup> **EQ**

1. Unless noted otherwise, all statistics are drawn from contracts in 2011 under Equity's negotiated agreements (and equivalent policies). Guest Artist contracts have also been included.  
 2. Equity member survey 2007.  
 3. A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada – based on the 2001 Census Hill Strategies Research Inc., September 2004.  
 4. Conference Board of Canada report "Valuing Culture – Measuring and Understanding Canada's Creative Economy," 2008.  
 5. Statistics Canada, 2005.