
Average income by census division

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Highlights

- The average income in Ontario for individuals over 15 years of age in 2015 was \$45,825.
- Almost all non-metro census divisions (CDs), 22 of 24, have an average income below the Ontario average
- Similarly, within 12 of 15 partially non-metro CDs, the average income falls below the Ontario average.
- Concentrations of higher income levels in several urban CDs (e.g., Halton, Ottawa, Toronto and York) raise the average Ontario level.
- Average incomes in non-metro CDs range from the low \$30,000's to the high \$40,000's with most hovering near \$40,000.

Why look at average income?

Level of income is a partial indicator of well-being and is a measure of the capacity of the population to purchase the goods and services for a reasonable standard of living. The income level is also an indicator of the economic vibrancy of the local economy.

This Fact Sheet topic has both census division (CD) and census subdivision (CSD) Fact Sheets that should be read together. Figure 1 in the CD Fact Sheet includes all the CDs in the province and Table 1 in the CSD Fact Sheet presents results for top and bottom ranked CSDs.

Findings

In 2015, at the Ontario level, the average income per person (15 years of age and over) was \$45,825 (see the orange line in Figure 1).

Only 2 of 24 non-metro CDs¹ had an average income above the Ontario average (Bruce and Lambton). The lowest average income was in the Manitoulin CD (\$33,234). Another 7 non-metro CDs had an average income less than \$40,000 (Nipissing, Algoma, Parry Sound, Kenora, Haliburton, Chatham-Kent, and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry).

The average income at the Ontario level is bolstered by the metro CDs of Halton, Ottawa, Toronto and York. In this context, most non-metro CDs are below

the provincial average.

In addition to the 8 non-metro CDs with an average income below \$40,000, there are also 2 metro CDs and 2 partially-non-metro CDs with an average income below \$40,000.

Discussion

Non-metro incomes are lower, generally, than metro incomes². Note that average income levels can mask significant income inequality within jurisdictions where there may be significant numbers of both high and low-income individuals. Toronto, for example, has had high coefficients of such inequality³. The range across non-metro CDs is similar to the range shown by other types of CDs.

Bruce and Lambton have relative higher average incomes, perhaps reflecting the success of nuclear power production and petro-chemical processing sectors in those regions.

The Manitoulin census division is an outlier, suggesting a lower capacity of the population being able to purchase desired goods and services and perhaps an economy without many high-performing sectors.

A companion Fact Sheet shows the much wider range in the average income across the census subdivisions within non-metro census divisions.

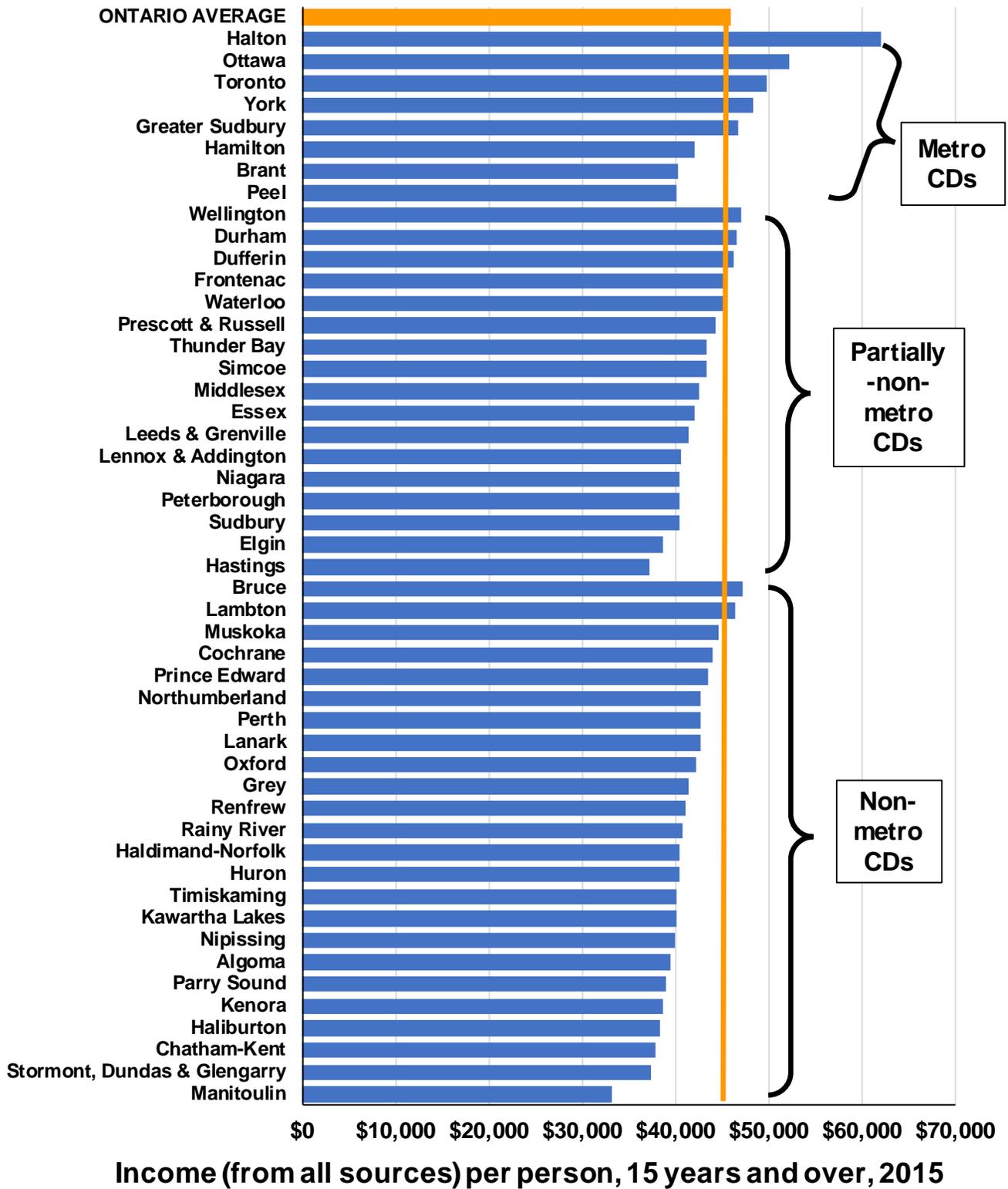
¹ Defined in "[Rural Ontario's Demography: Census Update 2016](#)." *Focus on Rural Ontario* (Guelph: Rural Ontario Institute, March).

² See "[Non-metro income: Levels and trends](#)." *Focus on Rural Ontario* (Guelph: Rural Ontario Institute, Vol. 3, No. 16, 2015).

³ See "[Non-metro income inequality](#)." *Focus on Rural Ontario* (Guelph: Rural Ontario Institute, Vol. 3, No. 19, 2015).

Figure 1

Ranking of census divisions by average income per person (15 years of age and over), Ontario, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016, Table 98-400-X2016120.

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