
Percent with Employment Insurance regular benefits by census division *Vol. 5, No. 27, 2018*

Highlights

- In 2015, 22 of 24 non-metro census divisions had a higher share of individuals (15 years of age and over) with some Employment Insurance regular benefits, than the Ontario average.

Why look at Employment Insurance regular benefits?

The spatial pattern of recipients of Employment Insurance regular benefits shows the configuration of the strength of local labour markets and the seasonality of work across rural Ontario.

The “regular benefits” of Canada’s Employment Insurance program provides temporary income support to unemployed workers who have recently lost their job through no fault of their own.

The census data also shows recipients of Employment Insurance “special benefits” such as maternity and parental benefits, sickness benefits and compassionate care benefits, but this Fact Sheet focuses specifically on recipients of regular benefits.

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

Across Ontario in 2015, 4.6% of individuals (15 years of age and over) received some Employment Insurance regular benefits during the 2015 calendar year (see orange line in Figure 1).

In 2015, fully 22 of 24 non-metro CDs¹ had a higher percent of individuals (15 years and over) reporting Employment Insurance regular benefits, compared to the provincial average.

Seven CDs had over 7% of all individuals (15 years and over) with some Employment Insurance benefits during 2015:

- Rainy River (8.9%);
- Manitoulin (8.8%);
- Parry Sound (8.3%);
- Kenora (8.2%);
- Algoma (7.8%);
- Nipissing (7.6%); and
- Cochrane (7.2%).

Discussion

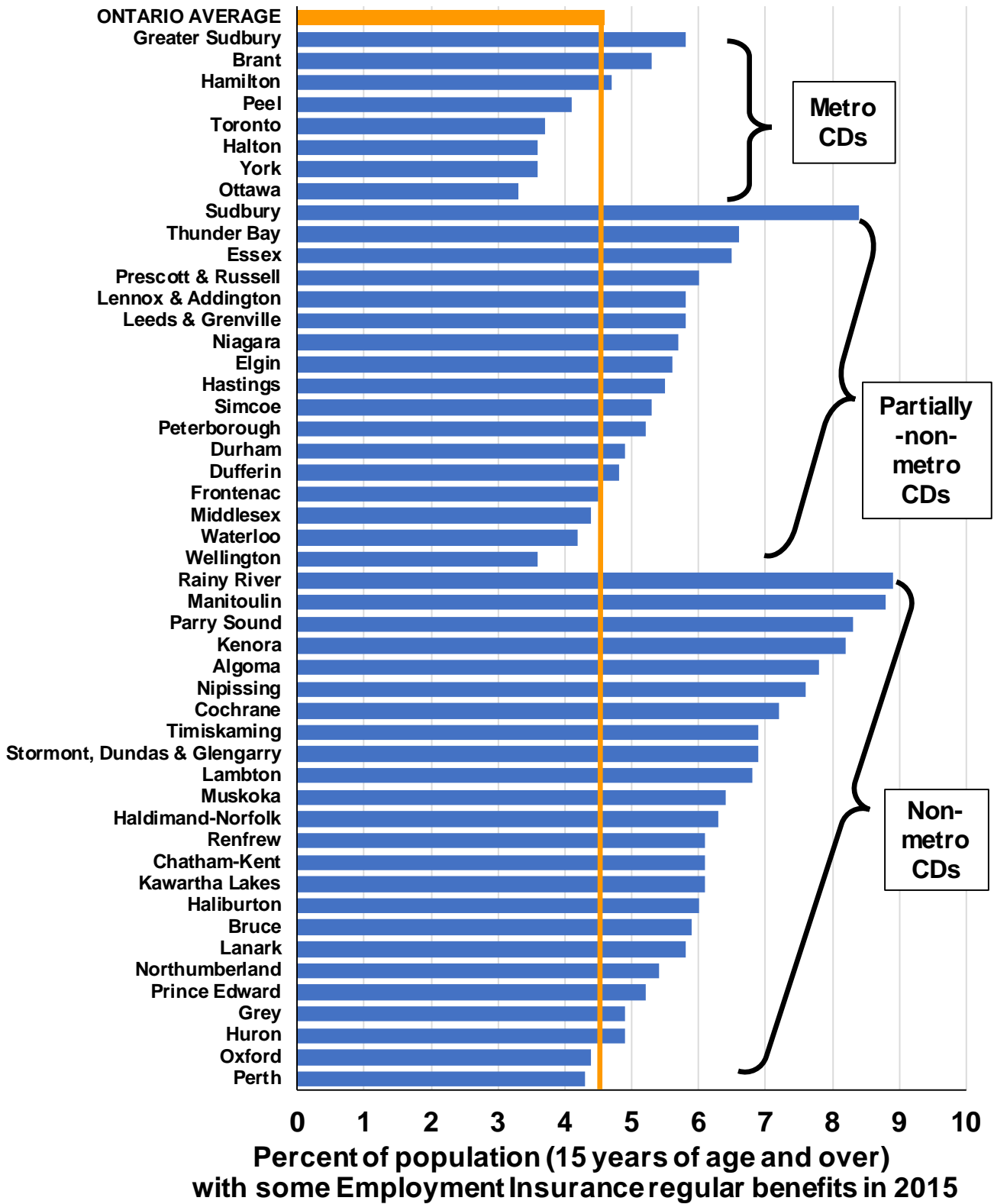
Non-metro CDs, in general, have labour markets that feature more volatility, due, in part, to more seasonality in the industry sectors of non-metro Ontario.

Northern jurisdictions with mining and forestry sectors display higher volatility than the more diversified economies of southern rural Ontario, despite the absolute seasonality of particular agricultural activities.

A companion Fact Sheet shows the much wider range in the percent of individuals with some Employment Insurance regular benefits 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).

Figure 1 Ranking of census divisions by percent of population (15 years of age and over) with some Employment Insurance regular benefits in 2015, Ontario



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

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