

Highlights

- **In 2015, 88% of the census subdivisions in non-metro census divisions reported a higher share of the population (15+ years of age) with Employment Insurance regular benefits, compared to the provincial average.**

Why look at Employment Insurance regular benefits?

The spatial pattern of recipients of Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits shows the volatility of local labour markets and the seasonality of work across rural Ontario.

The “regular benefits” of Canada’s EI 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 EI “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. An Expanded Table 1 with the data for every CSD in Ontario is available for download.

Findings

There is a wide range across CSDs¹ in non-metro Ontario in terms of the percent of the population (15 years of age and over) with some EI regular benefits (Table 1 and the Map).

The far-left column shows the rank of the CSD in terms of the incidence of EI during 2015 (and the percent reporting is shown in the far-right column). We show the top 10 and lower 10 ranking CSDs

within non-metro CDs. Within metro and partially-non-metro CDs, we show the top 5 and the lower 5 ranking CSDs.

Within non-metro CDs, there are 10 CSDs with 14.6% or more of the total population (15+ years of age) who received some EI regular benefits in 2015 (Table 1). At the other end of the scale, there were 10 CSDs with 3.7% or fewer residents with EI regular benefits in 2015.

Within non-metro CDs, 88% of the CSDs reported a higher share of the population (15+ years of age) with EI regular benefits, compared to the provincial average (Table 2). One-fifth (21%) of the CSDs in non-metro CDs had 10% or more all residents (15+years of age) with some EI regular benefits in 2015.

Discussion

Labour markets are relatively seasonal within non-metro Ontario. Importantly, an earlier Fact Sheet² showed that the percent of the population employed in Ontario’s non-metro areas during seasonal peaks was as high or higher than in metro areas. Thus, overall, a higher incidence of EI during the year (and sometimes a lower 12-month average employment rate) is due, at least in part, to the seasonal nature of the non-metro labour market.

However, in addition, there are many CSDs with weak labour markets that generate a high share of the population reporting some EI regular benefits.

¹ A census subdivision (CSD) is an incorporated town or municipality (or similar jurisdiction, such as an Indian Reserve). Income data were published only for CSDs with a population of 150 or more, 15 years of age and over. For details, see Statistics Canada. (2017) **2016 Census Dictionary** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 98-301).

² See “[Non-metro Employment Rates](#),” **Focus on Rural Ontario** (Guelph, Rural Ontario Institute, Vol. 3, No. 7, 2015).

Table 1. Ranking of census subdivisions¹ by percent of population (15 years and over) with some Employment Insurance Regular Benefits in 2015, Ontario

Rank of CSDs within each type of CD	CD ID	Name of census division (CD)	CSD ID	Name of census subdivision ¹ (CSD)	Total population (15+ years of age) in private households	Population with some Employment Insurance Regular Benefits	Percent with some Employment Insurance Regular Benefits
Census subdivisions within metro CDs (showing² the 5 highest and 5 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3524	Halton	3524001	Oakville	155,020	4,630	3.0
2	3519	York	3519038	Richmond Hill	161,265	5,025	3.1
3	3506	Ottawa	3506008	Ottawa	761,420	24,985	3.3
4	3519	York	3519049	King	19,930	675	3.4
5	3519	York	3519036	Markham	272,050	9,220	3.4
19	3525	Hamilton	3525005	Hamilton	441,055	20,545	4.7
20	3529	Brant	3529006	Brantford	78,495	4,415	5.6
21	3519	York	3519070	Georgina	37,270	2,180	5.8
22	3553	Greater Sudbury	3553005	Greater Sudbury	133,640	7,740	5.8
23	3529	Brant	3529021	New Credit (Part) 40A	455	40	8.8
Census subdivisions in partially-non-metro CDs (showing² the 5 highest and 5 lowest CSDs)							
1	3530	Waterloo	3530035	Woolwich	19,160	515	2.7
2	3522	Dufferin	3522008	Amaranth	3,380	95	2.8
3	3530	Waterloo	3530027	Wellesley	8,260	235	2.8
4	3523	Wellington	3523009	Guelph/Eramosa	10,590	305	2.9
5	3523	Wellington	3523001	Puslinch	6,240	190	3.0
175	3558	Thunder Bay	3558097	Whitesand	230	30	13.0
176	3512	Hastings	3512065	Carlow/Mayo	755	100	13.2
177	3558	Thunder Bay	3558064	Lake Helen 53A	230	35	15.2
178	3558	Thunder Bay	3558012	Gillies	425	70	16.5
179	3552	Sudbury	3552036	Killarney	295	100	33.9
Census subdivisions in non-metro CDs (showing² the 10 highest and 10 lowest ranking CSDs)							
1	3559	Rainy River	3559024	Chapple	490	10	2.0
2	3547	Renfrew	3547096	Deep River	3,395	80	2.4
3	3542	Grey	3542045	The Blue Mountains	6,285	215	3.4
4	3549	Parry Sound	3549018	Kearney	710	25	3.5
5	3531	Perth	3531016	St. Marys	5,790	205	3.5
6	3560	Kenora	3560049	Pickle Lake	275	10	3.6
7	3509	Lanark	3509021	Perth	5,135	185	3.6
8	3554	Timiskaming	3554001	Coleman	405	15	3.7
9	3547	Renfrew	3547090	Laurentian Hills	2,445	90	3.7
10	3531	Perth	3531030	Perth East	9,180	340	3.7
269	3548	Nipissing	3548069	Temagami	720	105	14.6
270	3560	Kenora	3560098	Kingfisher Lake 1	340	50	14.7
271	3548	Nipissing	3548013	Papineau-Cameron	910	135	14.8
272	3557	Algoma	3557096	Hornepayne	800	120	15.0
273	3551	Manitoulin	3551040	Whitefish River (Part) 4	365	55	15.1
274	3549	Parry Sound	3549077	Dokis 9	295	45	15.3
275	3560	Kenora	3560076	Sachigo Lake 1	320	50	15.6
276	3549	Parry Sound	3549051	Joly	270	45	16.7
277	3560	Kenora	3560008	Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls	515	90	17.5
278	3548	Nipissing	3548001	South Algonquin	970	175	18.0

1. A census subdivision (CSD) is an incorporated town or municipality or a similar jurisdiction, such as an Indian Reserve. Income data were published for each CSD with 150 or more residents, 15 years of age and over.

2. For the complete ranking of all CSDs, see the "Expanded Table 1" at <http://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/rural-reports/focus-on-rural-ontario>.

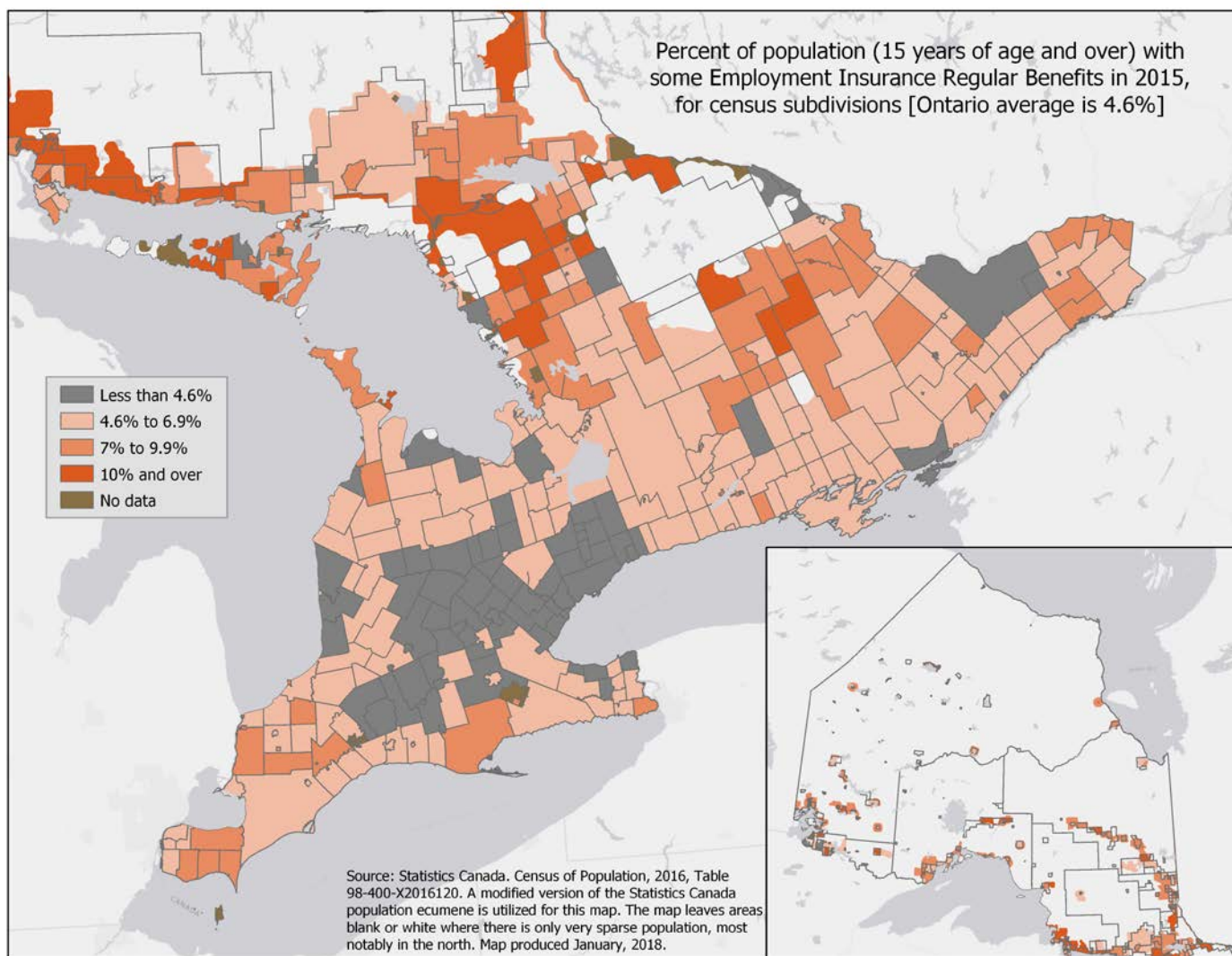
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016, Table 98-400-X2016120.

Table 2. Percent distribution of census subdivisions¹ by size class of percent of population (15 years of age and over) with some Employment Insurance Regular Benefits in 2015, Ontario

Size class of percent of population (15 years of age and over) with some Employment Insurance Regular Benefits in 2015	Type of census division (CD)			
	Metro CDs	Partially-non-metro CDs	Non-metro CDs	All CDs
	Percent distribution of census subdivisions ¹			
Less than 4.6%	74	22	12	19
4.6% to 6.9%	22	53	34	41
7% to 9.9%	4	19	33	26
10% and over	0	6	21	14
All CSDs	100	100	100	100

1. A census subdivision (CSD) is an incorporated town or municipality or a similar jurisdiction, such as an Indian Reserve. Income data were published for each CSD with 250 or more residents (in private or collective dwellings).

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



The Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges the work of Ray Bollman in preparing this edition of [Focus on Rural Ontario](#). Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to NRagetlie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.