

INCOME TRENDS ANALYSIS BRIEF

What does this measure and why is it important?

This indicator measures the average and median income of the Basin Boundary population. Data are sourced from the [National Household Survey](#). Since, at the time of writing, current income data were not available from Canada Revenue Agency, the source used for the previous State of the Basin report, these results are not directly comparable to those reported previously.

Median income values differ from average income values in that they represent the mid-point in an income distribution, meaning half of the population has incomes above that point and half below. Income levels reflect relative opportunities in a local economy and income is a significant determinant of personal well-being.

What are the trends and current conditions?

Average Income

Average income in 2010 was \$39,415 in BC, roughly \$1200 less than the national average of \$40,650. The average income in the Kootenay Development region was \$36,633 indicating that people in the Kootenay region have less earning potential than the average Canadian and average BC resident.

Median Income

Median income in 2010 was \$28,765 in BC, compared to the national average of \$29,878. This difference is similar to that shown for average income. However, some stark differences are reported across the Basin Boundary region. Median incomes are very high in some East Kootenay communities, with many of the more rural communities displaying significantly lower median income levels. Gender differences can also be seen in Basin Boundary income profiles. In 2009, for example, female incomes were lower than the provincial average in all Basin Boundary jurisdictions (see Figure 1).



The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional centre of excellence in applied research and information provision focused on strengthening rural communities in the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.

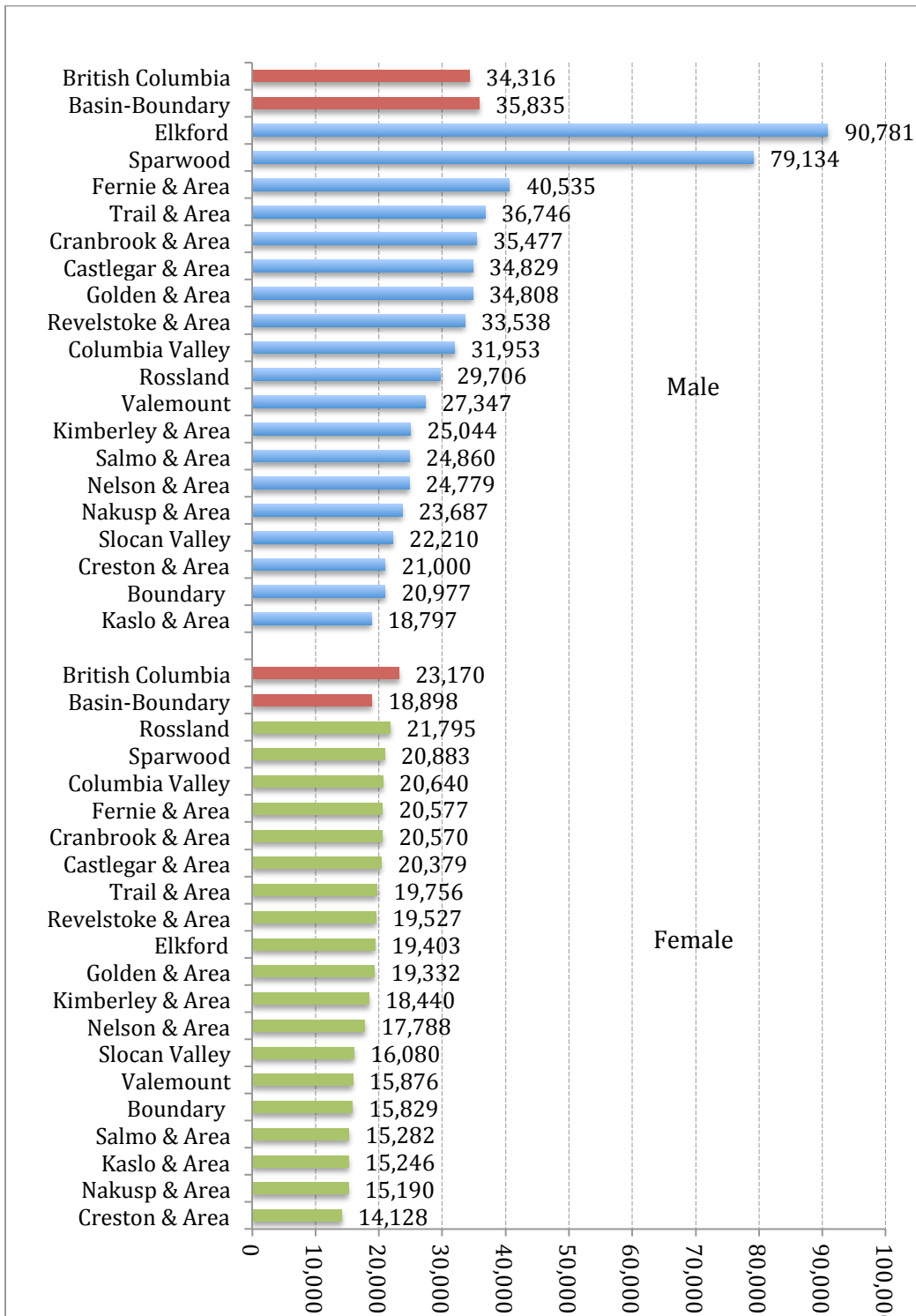


Figure 1: Median income by gender, 2009

Source: BC Stats, 2012d



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