

# TRENDS ANALYSIS: WAGES

FALL 2015



## What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator measures the median hourly wage earned by workers in Basin-Boundary Development Regions. Employment income constitutes the majority of most households' total income. Since income is a strong social determinant of health, trends in wages indicate trends in a region's social *and* economic well-being.

Data for this indicator were sourced from Statistics Canada's [Labour Force Survey](#). These statistics consider only wages for employees of employers, and therefore exclude self-employed workers. The results are in "Current Dollars", meaning that they have not been corrected for inflation (figures that are corrected for inflation are typically referred to as "Real").

Three Development Regions (DRs) are represented, in whole or in part, in the Basin-Boundary region. The Kootenay DR includes the Regional Districts of Kootenay Boundary, Central Kootenay, and East Kootenay. In our region, the Thompson-Okanagan DR is represented by the areas surrounding Golden and Revelstoke, and the Cariboo DR is represented by the area surrounding Valemount.

## What are the trends & current conditions?

### Overview

On the whole, wages are on the rise in Basin-Boundary Development Regions (Figure 1). Compared<sup>1</sup> to five years previous, 2014 median wages:

- increased by 15% in the Kootenay DR,
- did not change in the Thompson-Okanagan DR, and
- increased by 9% in the Cariboo DR

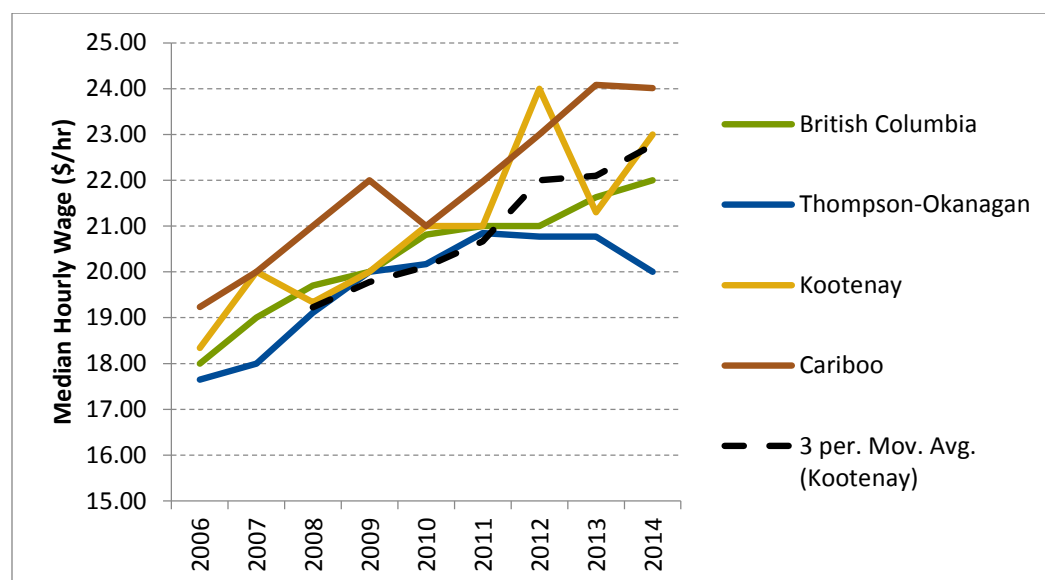


Figure 1: Median hourly wages for BC and Basin-Boundary Development Regions, 2006-2014  
Source: Statistics Canada, 2015

<sup>1</sup> Note: Due to small sample sizes, observations tend to show year to year volatility. For full discussion of this issue, refer to the RDI report, *Understanding Labour Force Survey Variability for the Basin-Boundary Region*.

### Sectors

Figure 2 shows consistently higher wages in the Kootenay DR's Goods-Producing sector (i.e. primary resource extraction and manufacturing) as compared to the Services-Producing (i.e. retail, service businesses, hospitality) sector. This trend also holds true for the Basin-Boundary region's other development regions. See Tables 3 through 5 (Appendix) for detailed breakdowns by sector.

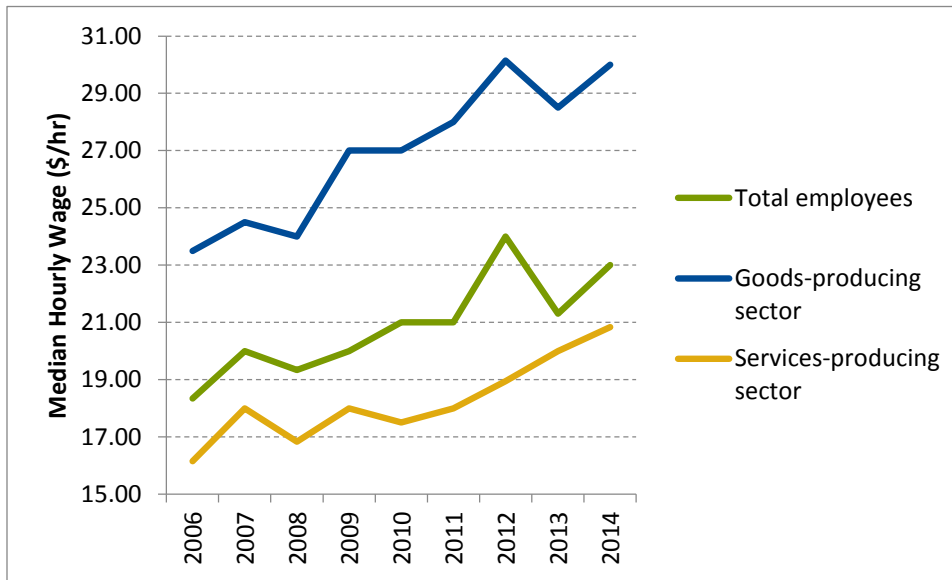


Figure 2: Median hourly wage for Kootenay Development Region: Production vs. Service, 2006-2014

Source: Statistics Canada, 2015

### Regional Distribution

Wages are generally highest in the Cariboo DR and lowest in the Thompson-Okanagan DR (Table 1). And, Table 2 shows us that the Cariboo DR has the highest percentage of its jobs rooted in the Goods-Producing sector. It is evident from Figure 2 that Goods-Producing jobs have higher wages than Service jobs. This weighting of the job profile contributes to the higher overall wages in the Cariboo DR.

However, the detailed sector breakdowns (see Tables 3-5 in the appendix) demonstrates that the wages in individual sectors tend to be higher in the Cariboo DR. This suggests that the labour market dynamics are more favourable to labour in the more remote communities of the Cariboo.

Intra-Regional Median Wage Comparisons															
Sector	2009			2013			2014			5 Year Change			1 Year Change		
	All	FT	PT	All	FT	PT	All	FT	PT	All	FT	PT	All	FT	PT
Kootenay DR	\$20	\$23	\$15	\$21	\$23	\$15	\$23	\$25	\$14	15%	9%	-7%	8%	7%	-7%
Thompson-Okanagan DR	\$20	\$22	\$13	\$21	\$23	\$15	\$20	\$22	\$13	0%	2%	0%	-4%	-4%	-10%
Cariboo DR	\$22	\$25	\$13	\$24	\$26	\$14	\$24	\$26	\$15	9%	6%	20%	0%	0%	4%

Table 1: Median hourly wage comparisons within Basin-Boundary development regions: All vs Full-time vs Part-time, 2009-2014

Source: Statistics Canada, 2015

Ratio of Goods-Producing to Service-Producing Jobs		
Development Region	% GP	% SP
Thompson-Okanagan	24	76
Kootenay	27	73
Cariboo	28	72

**Table 2: Ratio of Goods-Producing to Service-Producing Jobs**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2015

### References

Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute. (2015). Understanding Labour Force Survey Variability for the Basin-Boundary Region. RDI, Castlegar, BC.

Statistics Canada. (2015). Labour Force Survey [custom tables]. Based on Table Nos.: 282-0002, 282-0004, 282-0008, 282-0072.



*The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit [www.cbrdi.ca](http://www.cbrdi.ca) for more information.*

## APPENDICES (DETAILED TABLES)

The tables provided here are based on both full-time and part-time employed employees. FT and PT breakdowns are available from the RDI.

Kootenay DR Median Wage by Sector								
Sector	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
<b>Total</b>	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$21.30	\$23.00	15.0%	8.0%
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$28.00	\$30.14	\$28.50	\$30.00	11.1%	5.3%
Agriculture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil & gas	\$32.00	\$30.17	\$30.00	\$33.00	\$35.00	\$33.27	4.0%	-4.9%
Utilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Construction	\$22.00	\$24.00	\$30.00	\$28.60	\$25.00	\$25.00	13.6%	0.0%
Manufacturing	\$27.17	\$26.00	\$24.92	\$31.00	\$26.40	\$27.00	-0.6%	2.3%
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	\$18.00	\$17.50	\$18.00	\$18.95	\$20.00	\$20.83	15.7%	4.1%
Trade	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$12.70	\$14.00	\$16.50	\$17.00	13.3%	3.0%
Transportation & warehousing	\$23.00	\$ -	\$20.00	\$ -	\$25.50	\$25.27	9.9%	-0.9%
Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing	\$18.71	\$19.00	\$29.46	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$22.12	18.2%	0.5%
Professional, scientific & technical services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$24.00	\$24.50	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Business, building & other support services	\$ -	\$ -	\$14.42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Educational services	\$22.00	\$25.30	\$24.00	\$27.65	\$26.25	\$28.37	29.0%	8.1%
Health care & social assistance	\$20.00	\$21.94	\$22.00	\$21.53	\$21.96	\$22.00	10.0%	0.2%
Information, culture & recreation	\$ -	\$16.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$15.00	\$18.82	N/A	25.5%
Accommodation & food services	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$11.75	\$12.00	\$12.00	0.0%	0.0%
Other services	\$13.50	\$15.87	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$ -	\$19.23	42.4%	N/A
Public administration	\$30.00	\$24.42	\$30.67	\$30.05	\$29.00	\$27.00	-10.0%	-6.9%

Table 3: Median Wage in the Kootenay Development Region, by sector

Source: Statistics Canada, 2015 (Table 282-0072)

Cariboo DR Median Wage by Sector								
Sector	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
<b>Total</b>	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$21.97	\$23.00	\$24.08	\$24.01	9.1%	-0.3%
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$27.02	\$28.00	\$29.75	\$30.00	15.4%	0.8%
Agriculture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil & gas	\$27.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$28.00	\$30.00	\$27.80	3.0%	-7.3%
Utilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Construction	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$20.80	\$27.00	\$29.00	\$29.81	49.1%	2.8%
Manufacturing	\$27.72	\$27.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$29.00	\$31.00	11.8%	6.9%
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	\$19.86	\$19.38	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$21.86	10.1%	4.1%
Trade	\$14.00	\$14.50	\$13.67	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$17.00	21.4%	13.3%
Transportation & warehousing	\$22.66	\$23.83	\$24.04	\$24.73	\$25.00	\$25.33	11.8%	1.3%
Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing	\$17.00	\$20.81	\$16.62	\$18.79	\$21.90	\$18.25	7.4%	-16.7%
Professional, scientific & technical services	\$28.57	\$21.35	\$24.00	\$25.76	\$ -	\$25.38	-11.2%	N/A
Business, building & other support services	\$ -	\$18.00	\$14.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$15.00	N/A	N/A
Educational services	\$23.08	\$25.00	\$26.62	\$25.00	\$26.92	\$28.21	22.2%	4.8%
Health care & social assistance	\$23.00	\$21.00	\$23.00	\$24.00	\$22.00	\$22.64	-1.6%	2.9%
Information, culture & recreation	\$19.00	\$19.50	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$23.86	\$22.21	16.9%	-6.9%
Accommodation & food services	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.50	\$10.51	\$13.00	\$12.00	20.0%	-7.7%
Other services	\$21.63	\$17.00	\$18.46	\$16.15	\$20.00	\$20.00	-7.5%	0.0%
Public administration	\$29.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$30.77	\$30.51	\$33.00	13.8%	8.2%

Table 4: Median Wage in the Cariboo Development Region, by sector

Source: Statistics Canada, 2015 (Table 282-0072)

Thompson-Okanagan DR Median Wage by Sector								
Sector	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	5 Year Change	1 Year Change
<b>Total</b>	\$20.00	\$20.17	\$20.85	\$20.77	\$20.77	\$20.00	0.0%	-3.7%
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	\$23.61	\$24.29	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.50	\$25.00	5.9%	-2.0%
Agriculture	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$ -	\$13.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	0.0%	25.0%
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil & gas	\$26.44	\$29.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$28.00	\$27.05	2.3%	-3.4%
Utilities	\$ -	\$32.00	\$34.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	N/A
Construction	\$24.04	\$24.00	\$23.08	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$24.00	-0.2%	0.0%
Manufacturing	\$22.50	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$25.00	11.1%	-3.8%
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	\$19.00	\$19.23	\$20.00	\$19.66	\$19.76	\$19.00	0.0%	-3.8%
Trade	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$12.50	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	0.0%	0.0%
Transportation & warehousing	\$22.00	\$23.74	\$24.65	\$22.48	\$25.00	\$25.00	13.6%	0.0%
Finance, insurance, real estate & leasing	\$21.05	\$20.82	\$21.10	\$23.08	\$20.00	\$20.55	-2.4%	2.8%
Professional, scientific & technical services	\$24.04	\$19.71	\$24.52	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$24.04	0.0%	-3.8%
Business, building & other support services	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.75	\$17.01	\$15.50	\$16.00	6.7%	3.2%
Educational services	\$25.96	\$25.00	\$27.50	\$28.41	\$26.37	\$27.50	5.9%	4.3%
Health care & social assistance	\$21.00	\$21.87	\$21.94	\$22.22	\$22.50	\$22.14	5.4%	-1.6%
Information, culture & recreation	\$16.88	\$18.25	\$18.00	\$16.79	\$18.46	\$17.27	2.3%	-6.4%
Accommodation & food services	\$11.00	\$10.08	\$11.50	\$11.75	\$12.00	\$12.00	9.1%	0.0%
Other services	\$13.85	\$17.31	\$18.46	\$14.50	\$17.35	\$16.00	15.5%	-7.8%
Public administration	\$28.00	\$30.77	\$33.56	\$34.29	\$30.26	\$31.79	13.5%	5.1%

Table 5: Median Wage in the Thompson-Okanagan Development Region, by sector

Source: Statistics Canada, 2015 (Table 282-0072)