

TRENDS ANALYSIS: WAGES

FALL 2014



What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator measures the median hourly wage earned by workers in Basin-Boundary Development Regions. Results are presented for all, full-time, and part-time employed employees. 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.

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.

Three Development Regions (DRs) are contained in whole or in part by 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?

On the whole, wages are on the rise in Basin-Boundary Development Regions (Figure 1). Compared to five years previous, 2013 median wages (adjusted for inflation) were up by 11% in the Thompson-Okanagan and Kootenay DRs, and 17% in the Cariboo DR. Figures for the Kootenay DR show more volatility than those for other DRs; however this finding could be related to the smaller sample size in that region.

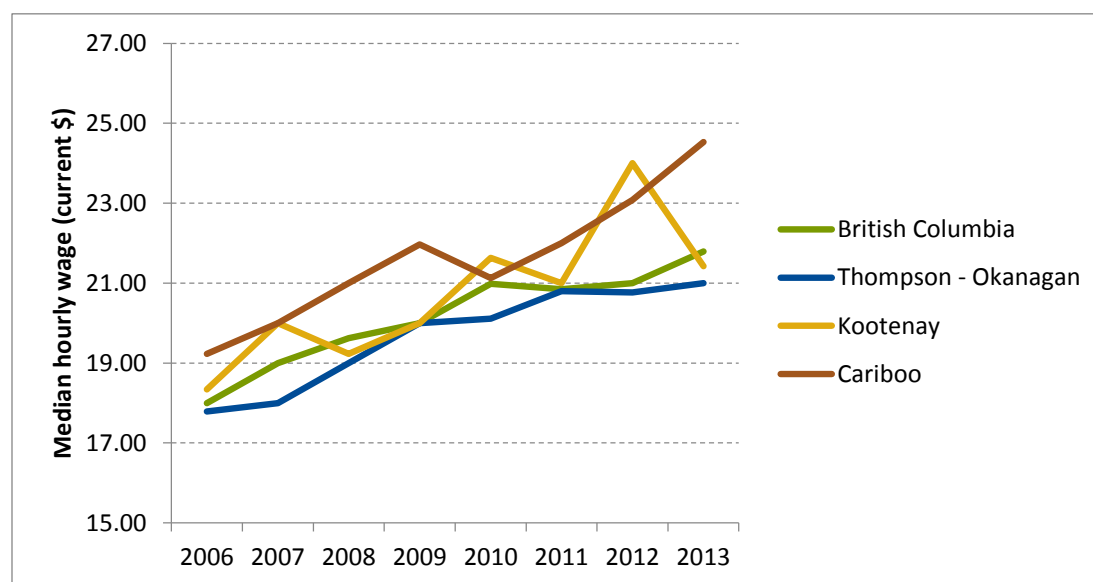


Figure 1: Median hourly wages (in 2013 \$) for BC and Basin-Boundary Development Regions, 2006-2013

Source: Statistics Canada, 2014

Not surprisingly, data confirm that full-time workers earn higher median hourly wages than part-time workers (Figure 2). In fact, in the Kootenay DR, the 2013 median hourly full-time wage (\$24) was 60% higher than the median hourly part-time wage (\$15). There is more differentiation across Development Regions in full-time wages than there is in part-time wages.

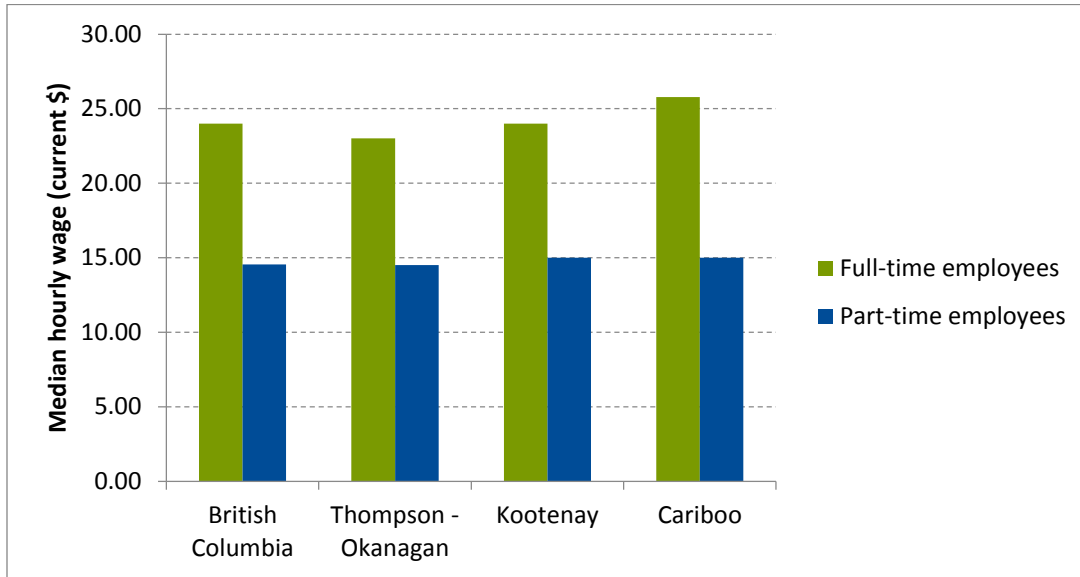


Figure 2: Median hourly wage for full-time and part-time employees, BC and Basin-Boundary Development Regions, 2013

Source: Statistics Canada, 2014



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 for more information.

References

Statistics Canada. (2014). Labour Force Survey [custom tables]. Based on Table Nos.: 282-0002, 282-0004, 282-0008, 282-0072.