

2006 Census Research Paper Series



#9 –Trends in Northern Ontario’s Income Levels

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Prepared for the Local Boards of Northern Ontario



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background to the Report:

This study has been prepared for the 5 Local Boards in Northern Ontario and the Algoma Workforce Investment Committee. Due to the particular economic conditions in Northern Ontario, it is very important for the Northern Boards to properly understand the demographic and economic trends occurring in their region. This is the ninth research report in a series that examines the current trends in Northern Ontario using data from the 2006 Census. Based on concerns expressed in the Trends, Opportunities, and Priorities (TOP) Reports, this report attempts to examine trends in income levels in Northern Ontario.

Methodology:

This report is based on newly released data from the 2006 Census as prepared by Statistics Canada. Data is also used from other census years as compiled by Statistics Canada.

Findings:

Analysis of the 2006 Census data for income has shown us several important facts about Northern Ontario. They are as follows:

- Northern Ontario continues to have a higher dependence on government transfer payments than Ontario as a whole but the differences have decreased slightly since 2000
- Northern Ontario continues to have a significantly lower percentage of high income earners
- The average income of individuals in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial average
- Differences in levels of income between Northern Ontario and Ontario are decreasing
- The average and median incomes of families in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial averages
- Differences in the income levels of families between Northern Ontario and Ontario decreased slightly since 2000
- Northern Ontario has a higher percentage of part-time income earners
- The average employment income of both full time workers and part time workers is less than the provincial average
- Differences in the employment income levels of workers in Northern Ontario and Ontario remained stable from 2000 to 2005
- The District of Thunder Bay and the Greater Sudbury Division have the highest income levels in Northern Ontario
- Resource dependent communities and suburb communities have the highest levels of income in Northern Ontario

Section One: Introduction

This study has been prepared for the 5 Local Boards in Northern Ontario and the Algoma Workforce Investment Committee. The Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board (Local Board #20), the Sudbury and Manitoulin Workforce Partnerships Board (Local Board #21), the Far Northeast Training Board (Local Board #23), the North Superior Training Board (Local Board #24) and the Northwest Training and Adjustment Board (Local Board #25) are among the 21 Local Boards established in Ontario in 1994.¹ These Boards were created to assist in assessing the workforce development needs and issues of each area. Each Local Board Area is made up of representatives of the key labour market partner groups; primarily business and labour, but also including educators and trainers, Aboriginal groups, women, persons with disabilities, francophones, racial minorities and youth. The Boards are sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The 2001 Census Research Series produced by the Northern Boards from 2002 to 2004 showed that Northern Ontario is a region undergoing important transformations. Economic growth in Northern Ontario has been significantly less than the provincial average since the 1970s. Since workforce development is seen as crucial to economic development by most people in the region, regional Boards are therefore necessarily involved in economic development discussions. Income trends are an indicator of economic development. These trends also have an important impact on future development decisions. It, therefore, becomes very important for the Local Boards of Northern Ontario to understand the income trends that exist in their region.

This is the ninth research report in a series that examines the current trends in Northern Ontario using data from the 2006 Census. The first report analyzed the general population trends following release of that data in March, 2007. The second report looked at trends in youth out-migration. The third report looked at the extent to which the population of Northern Ontario is aging. The fourth report examined migration trends. The fifth looked at changes in labour force participation. The sixth and seventh looked at changes in industrial structure and occupational structure while the eighth report discussed trends in education levels.

Section Two: Background to the Issue in Northern Ontario

2.1 Introduction to Northern Ontario

Northern Ontario comprises more than 88% of the land mass of Ontario but represents only 6.5% of the total population of the province (2006 Census). This percentage represents a decrease from 6.9% in 2001. As the region has no legislated boundaries, the definition of the region varies, especially as concerns its southern border. Currently, for the purpose of programming and statistical analysis, the provincial government has defined Northern Ontario as comprising the

City of Greater Sudbury and the following districts: Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Nipissing, and Parry Sound. In 2000, the Ontario government decided to also include the Muskoka District Municipality in its definition of Northern Ontario. This inclusion was somewhat problematic in that the socio-economic characteristics of the Muskoka District Municipality differ from that of the other districts in Northern Ontario. In 2004 the government changed the definition to once again to exclude the Muskoka District Municipality. For the purposes of FedNor programming, the federal government continues to include the Muskoka District Municipality in its operational definition of Northern Ontario. In the 2001 Census Research Series, the Muskoka District Municipality was included in statistics relating to Northern Ontario. Due to the recent change in definition by the provincial government, 2006-based reports will exclude the area from statistics relating to Northern Ontario.² Comparisons between the data presented in the previous report need to take this change in definition into account. The Muskoka district will however be included in statistics related to the Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board (Board #20).

The history of continuous settlement by non-Natives in Northern Ontario is relatively recent when compared to the rest of Ontario. Settlement in earnest started with the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the late 1870s and 1880s. This was soon followed by the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk and National Transcontinental Railways. Most non-Aboriginal communities in the region were initially railway towns.

Following the building of the railways, the region's growth has been driven primarily by the forest industry and by mining. The development of communities was, for the most part, undertaken by large resource extraction corporations based outside the region rather than by local entrepreneurs. This fact has meant that the social and economic structure of this region exhibits several unique characteristics.³

The first of these characteristics relates to an overdependence on natural resource exploitation. This has meant a high degree of vulnerability to resource depletion, world commodity prices, corporate policy changes, the boom and bust cycles of the resource industries, changes in the Canadian exchange rate, and changes in government policies regarding Northern Ontario.⁴

The second characteristic is a high degree of dependency on external forces. The fact that most communities were developed by outside interests means that local entrepreneurship has been more limited than in other areas. This has served as a barrier to the cultivation of an entrepreneurial culture in these communities. This dependence is also seen in the area of political decision-making. Unlike most areas of Ontario, Northern Ontario is made up of Districts instead of Counties. Unlike Counties, Districts do not have regional governments. Northern Ontario is unique in Ontario in that unlike the Counties of Southern Ontario there is no regional government serving as an intermediary between the provincial government and municipalities.⁵

While all communities in the region share some common characteristics, Northern Ontario can be divided internally into three different types of communities:

Small and Medium-sized cities - Northern Ontario includes 5 cities with over 40,000 inhabitants. They are, in order of size, Sudbury (157,857), Thunder Bay (109,140), Sault Ste. Marie (74,948), North Bay (53,966), and Timmins (42,997).⁶ While these centres are heavily dependent on resource industries they are also relatively diversified in that they tend to be important centres for health, education, and other services for the outlying regions.

Resource Dependent Communities - The vast majority of the remaining non-Aboriginal communities in the region are resource dependent communities, or single industry towns, which share many distinct characteristics.⁷ These communities are smaller and less diversified economically than the small and medium-sized cities. They are much more directly dependent on resource industries.

Aboriginal Communities - The region of Northern Ontario is unique in terms of its large number of Aboriginal communities. The Aboriginal population makes up almost 12.6% percent of the population of the region.⁸ The population in the area of the region north of the 50th parallel is almost entirely made up of these communities. Of all the communities in the region, Aboriginal communities face the greatest number of social and economic challenges.

2.2 The History of Income Levels in Northern Ontario

As was pointed out in previous reports, jobs in “blue collar” industries had been the largest single group of jobs in the regional economy since the arrival of the railways and the origins of the forest industries and mining industries.⁹ Historically this has been a factor which differentiated the region from many other regions in Ontario. Northern Ontario has traditionally had a higher percentage of these types of jobs than for the province as a whole. These jobs were in logging and forestry, mining, construction, and transportation.

Wages in these occupations have tended to be relatively high since at least 1945. Partial explanations of this include high rates of unionization in these industries, and a need for companies to pay higher wages to attract workers to the more isolated resource dependent communities of the region.¹⁰ At the same time, up until the 1960s, much of the work in the forest industry was seasonal. While wages were quite high, workers in the forest industry often did not work all year round. Data from the 1941 Census shows that the wages of male workers were less than the Ontario average but that the difference is explained by the fact that Northern Ontario workers were employed for less weeks than other workers in Ontario.¹¹

Wages for women tended to be lower in Northern Ontario since, until recently, there have been few jobs for women in the resource dependent communities of Northern Ontario.¹² When employment was available it was often seasonal or for shorter periods of time.

Aboriginal communities are an important part of Northern Ontario. Historically, these communities have a higher dependence on a non-wage traditional economy. Members of these

communities were often used in the region as a “reserve army of the unemployed” and were integrated into the wage economy primarily during periods of labour shortages.¹³

Section Three: Methodology

This report attempts to describe trends in income levels in Northern Ontario based on newly released data from the 2006 Census as prepared by Statistics Canada. The description will be done through a comparison of income levels of Ontario as a whole and through an examination of internal regional differences. Data for the 2006 Census is from community profiles ordered from Statistics Canada by the researcher. Where possible, trends will be examined using data from previous censuses.

3.1 Potential problems with our method

Our method has three potential problems which must be mentioned: sampling error, the “random rounding” technique used by Statistics Canada, and problems with data for Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario.

Unlike the first three reports in this series, the data used in this report is not from 100% of the population. Statistics Canada has two census forms; a short one that goes to all residences, and a long one, Form 2B, which goes to 20% of residences. The data analyzed here is from Form 2B. This data is therefore a “sample” of total possible responses. It is meant to represent 100% of the population but, being a sample, it often does not. When the responses from the sample differ from what the responses would be from the entire population, we say there is “sampling error”.¹⁴

Using statistical analyses, we can calculate what the likelihood of sampling error is for a given number of responses. Generally speaking, the larger the number of respondents, the less sampling error is a problem. In our study, the data from smaller communities has a higher possibility of sampling error.

Another potential problem is the use of random rounding by Statistics Canada in its census data.¹⁵ In order to ensure confidentiality, census data is round up or down to the nearest 5 count. This has an insignificant effect on large numbers. On very small numbers however this process can introduce a significant degree of error. This does not have a significant effect on numbers for the districts of Northern Ontario. This limits our ability to be confident about numbers for very small communities in Northern Ontario.

The third problem was mentioned in the first report in this series dealing with population change. The population figures for the census divisions in Northern Ontario are not as reliable as the census divisions in most of Ontario. This is due to the large number of Aboriginal communities which, for various reasons, are improperly counted. If Statistics Canada can not properly count a community, the population of that community is not included in the population totals for that census division. As a result, the population figures for almost all the census divisions in Northern Ontario are incomplete. Comparison from census year to census year becomes difficult when a

particular community was not counted in one year but counted in another year.

In the report on population change, the statistics were “adjusted” to try and deal with this problem. This was not done for this report. This means that there is a certain degree of error in the statistics used in the report. This type of error only applies to the section of the report that compares data from previous census years with that of 2006.

3.2 Types of Income

This report will examine income as reported in the 2006 Census and those of previous years. The income that is reported in the 2006 Census is the income for the previous year. In other words, income analyzed in the 2006 Census is income for the year 2005. When Statistics Canada lists income in recent census data, it refers to income coming from three main sources. The first source is called employment income. This includes income from wages and salaries, net farm income, and self-employment income from unincorporated business and/or professional practice.¹⁶

The second type of income is investment and other income. This represents dividends, interest and other investment income; retirement pensions, superannuation and annuities; and other income. The final type of income is government transfer payments. This includes Old Age Security pensions, Guaranteed Income Supplements, Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan benefits, Employment Insurance benefits, Canada Child Tax benefits and other income from government sources.¹⁷ Total income refers to the combination of all three of these types of income. In this study we will compare the differences in the types of income as well as the differences in employment income and total income.

3.3 Average Income and Median Income

Statistics Canada provides the data for two main summary measures of income: average income and median income. These measures are not the same and each is useful for different purposes. Average income for a particular community or district is obtained by taking the total amount of income in that particular community or district and dividing this amount by the total number of people in this particular community or district that declared having an income. This is a simple statistic that gives a good indication of the relative amount of total income in a particular community. This is useful in comparing communities or regions that have different populations.

Despite its name, average income is not necessarily a good indicator of what the “average” income of most people in a particular community is. This indicator can represent “skewed” or distorted information. If there are a few people that have extremely high levels of income in a particular community while the vast majority of people have low levels of income, the measure “average income” may lead some people to think that the average income of everyone is relatively high.

For this reason, median income is often a better indicator of total levels of income and the

relative distribution of this income. “Median income represents the middle point, so that one half of incomes are above this level and one half are below.”¹⁸

3.4 Data for Northern Ontario

As was mentioned earlier, Statistics Canada does not list data for Northern Ontario. All data for Northern Ontario is produced by combining data from the 11 Census Divisions mentioned above that make up Northern Ontario. Figures for average income, median income, and types of income are obtained by special calculations where the average for each census division is multiplied by the number of income earners in that census division. The totals for all 11 census divisions in Northern Ontario are then added up and divided by the total of income earners in all 11 census divisions.

When income levels are analyzed, they are often analyzed in “constant dollars”. When this is done, the income levels in a particular year are changed according to changes in inflation indicated by changes in the Consumer Price Index. This is done to determine whether income has increased or decreased in constant dollars using a particular year as a base. This report does not use this tool in its analysis of income levels. This report is primarily concerned with comparing relative differences in income levels between regions and communities and as such, real changes in income levels from year to year are of a lesser importance.

Section 4: Income Levels in Northern Ontario

4.1 Types of Income

4.1.1 Northern Ontario continues to have a higher dependence on government transfer payments than Ontario as a whole

Figure 1 shows the types of income as a percentage of total income for the year 2005. Employment income accounts for only 71.5% of total income in Northern Ontario whereas in Ontario as a whole it accounts for 77.8% of all income. In Northern Ontario, investment and other income accounts for 14.1% of income while in Ontario it represents 12.7%. As mentioned in previous reports, the difference in employment income and investment and other income can be related to the fact that Northern Ontario now has an older population than Ontario as a whole.¹⁹

What is quite noticeable in Figure 1 is the difference in the dependence on government transfer payments between Northern Ontario and Ontario. In Ontario as a whole, government transfer payments represent 9.6% of total income. In Northern Ontario, this source of income represents 14.4% of total income. Northern Ontario’s dependence on government transfer payments as total income is 49.9% higher than that of Ontario as a whole.

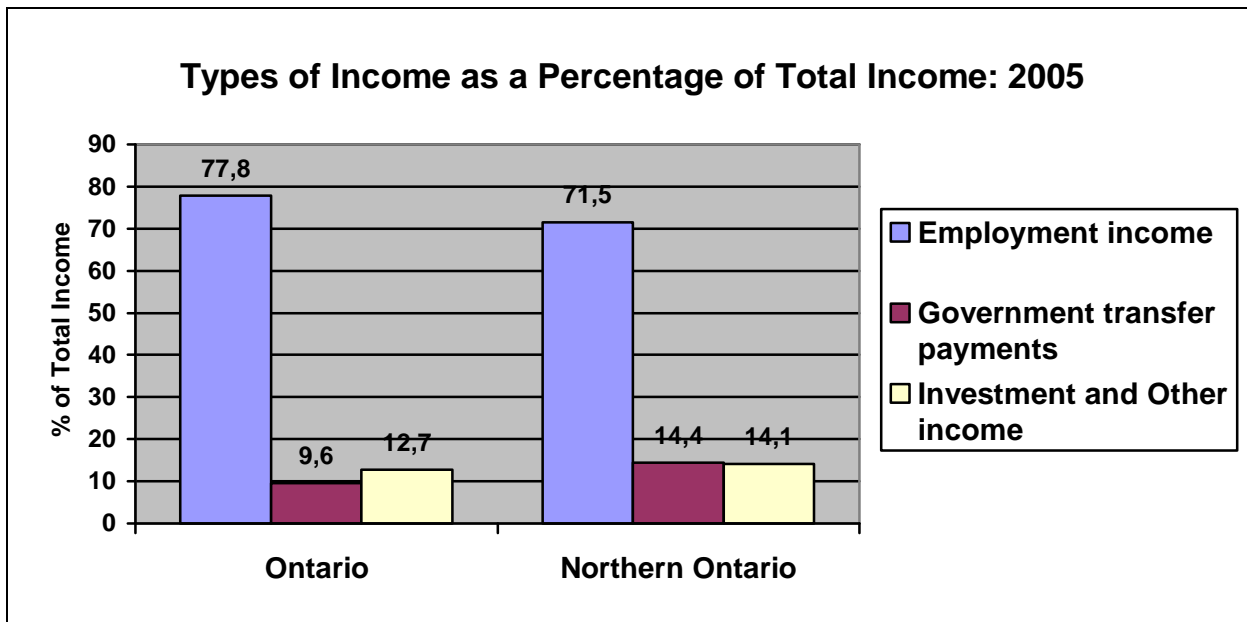


Figure 1: Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006

4.1.2 The differences in levels of dependence on government transfer payments between Northern Ontario and Ontario has decreased slightly since 2000

Figure 2 shows the historical differences of levels of dependence on government transfer payments between Northern Ontario and Ontario since 1985. During this period Northern Ontario has always had a higher dependence on government transfer payments as a percentage of its total income but the difference has fluctuated. From 1985 until 1990, the difference between the two increased slightly but from 1990 to 1995 it decreased considerably. In 1990, Northern Ontario's dependence was 41.5% higher than that of Ontario as a whole. By 1995, this difference had declined to 31.7%. As was noted in our previous report on the 2001 Census, this difference increased dramatically from 1995 to 2000.²⁰ In 2000 Northern Ontario's dependence on government transfers was 52.7% higher than that of Ontario as a whole.

In 2005 Northern Ontario's dependence on government transfer payments decreased from 15% to 14.4% while Ontario's decreased from 9.8% to 9.6%. This meant that the dependence rate for Northern Ontario was 49.9% higher than that of Ontario which represents a slight decline from the 2000 differential of 52.7%.

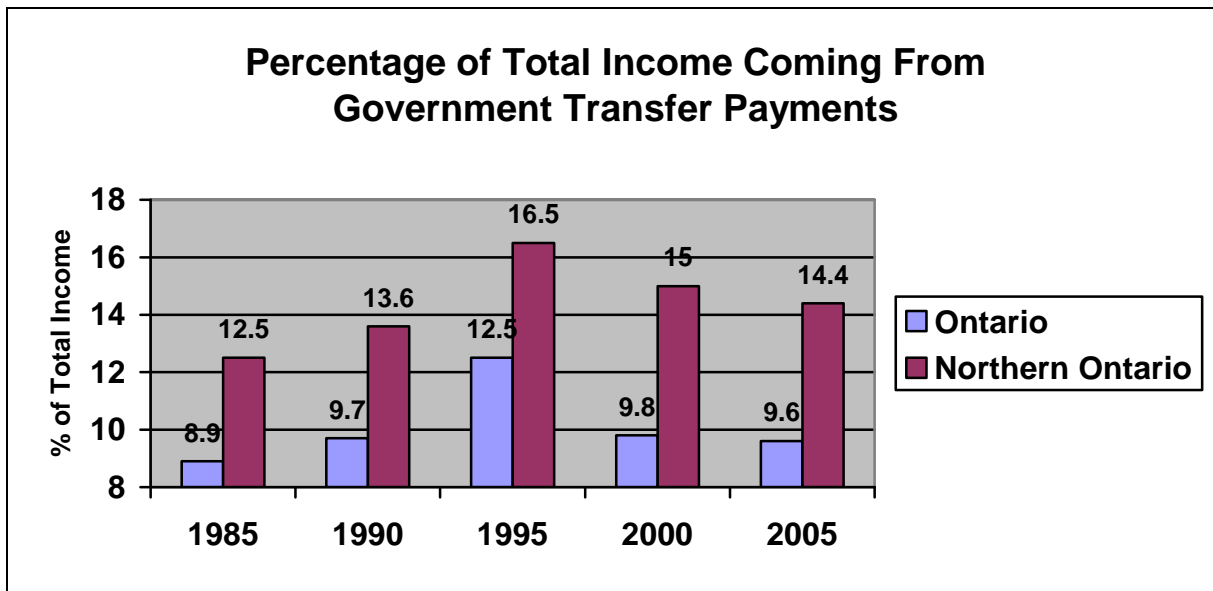


Figure 2: Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

4.2 Income Distribution

In our report on income data from the 2001 Census we noted that incomes in Northern Ontario are somewhat more evenly distributed than for Ontario as a whole in that Northern Ontario had a lower percentage of high income earners and a slightly higher percentage of low income earners. In 2005 we see that this continues to be the case. While Northern Ontario continues to have a lower percentage of high income earners and it continues to have a slightly higher percentage of low income earners.

4.2.1 Northern Ontario continues to have a lower percentage of high income earners

Figure 3 lists the income distribution pattern of Northern Ontario compared to the provincial averages. In terms of high income earners, in Northern Ontario in the year 2005, only 14.4% of the population earned \$60,000 or more. The average for the province of Ontario was significantly higher at 17.3%. The percentage of high income earners in Northern Ontario was 17% lower than the provincial average.

4.2.2 Northern Ontario continue to have a slightly higher percentage of low income earners

While Northern Ontario has a significantly lower percentage of high income earners, Figure 3 also shows that it has a higher percentage of low income earners. The difference is not as extreme as with high income earners however. The percentage of people in Northern Ontario that earned less than \$12,000 in 2005 was 25.2. The percentage of people in Ontario as a whole that earned less than \$12,000 in 2005 was 24.7%. The means that the percentage of people in Northern Ontario that earned less than \$12,000 in 2005 was only 2% higher than the provincial average. This represents a decrease from the difference seen in 2000.

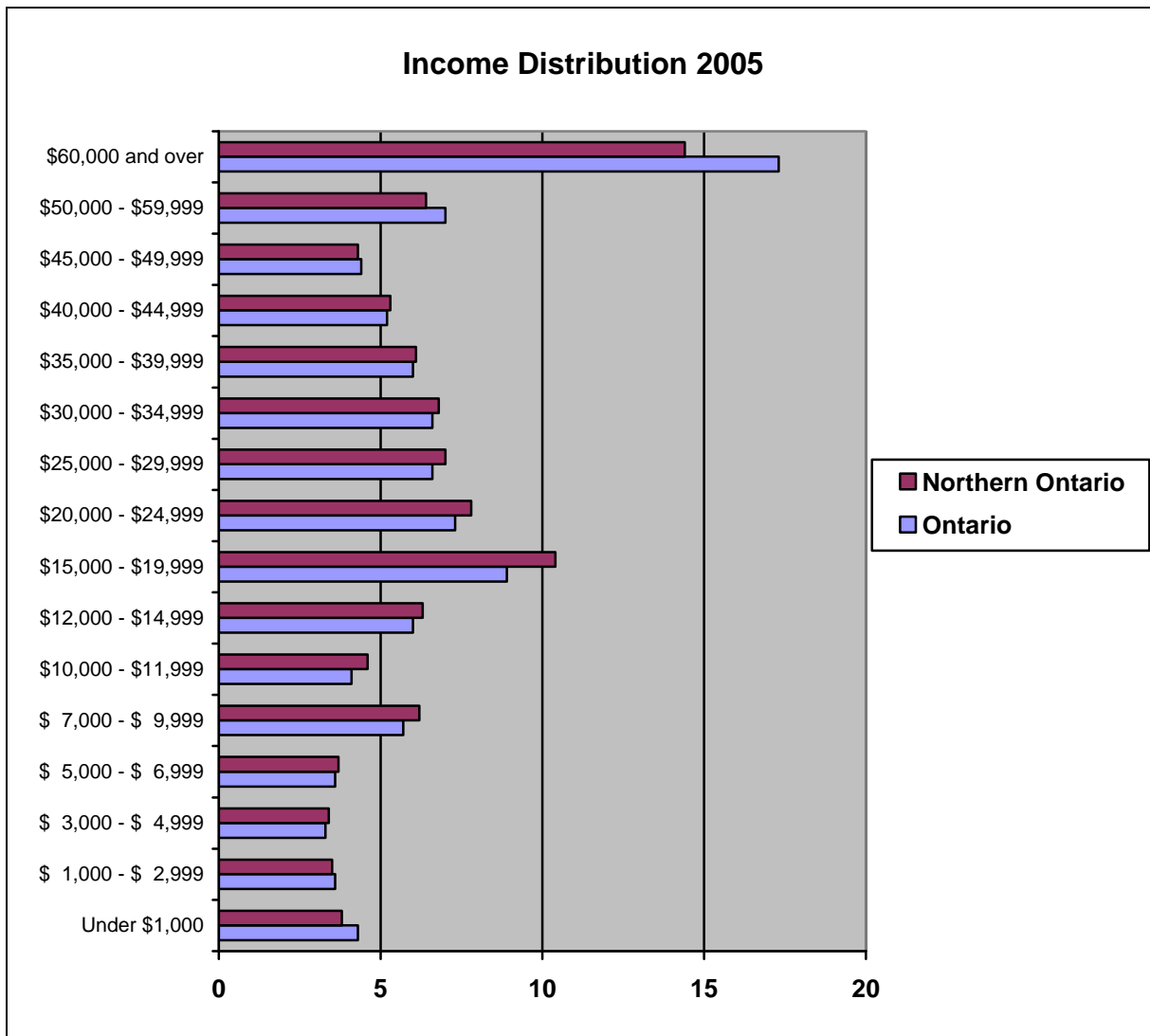


Figure 3: Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006

4.3 Average and Median Incomes of Individuals

4.3.1 The average income of individuals in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial average

Figure 4 illustrates the differences in the average and median incomes of individuals in Northern Ontario. Looking at average incomes, the average total income of individuals in Ontario for the year 2005 was \$38,099. The average total income of individuals in Northern Ontario was \$33,019. Average incomes in Northern Ontario were 13.3% less than the provincial average.

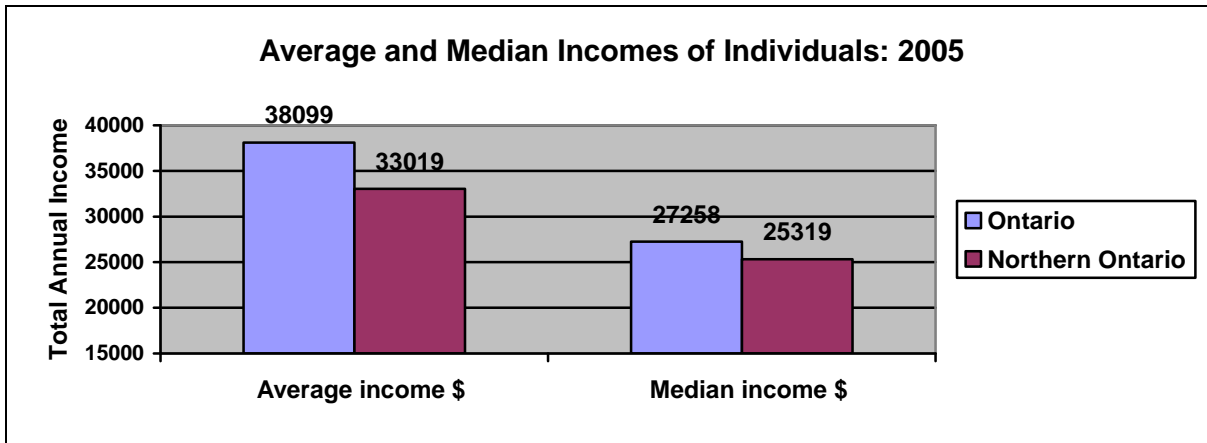


Figure 4: Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006

4.3.2 The median income of individuals in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial average

Similar differences are found when one looks at the median income of individuals. In 2005, the median income of all people living in Ontario was \$27,258. In Northern Ontario, the median income in 2005 was \$25,319. The median income in Northern Ontario was 7.1% less than the provincial average.

4.3.3 Differences in levels of income between Northern Ontario and Ontario are decreasing

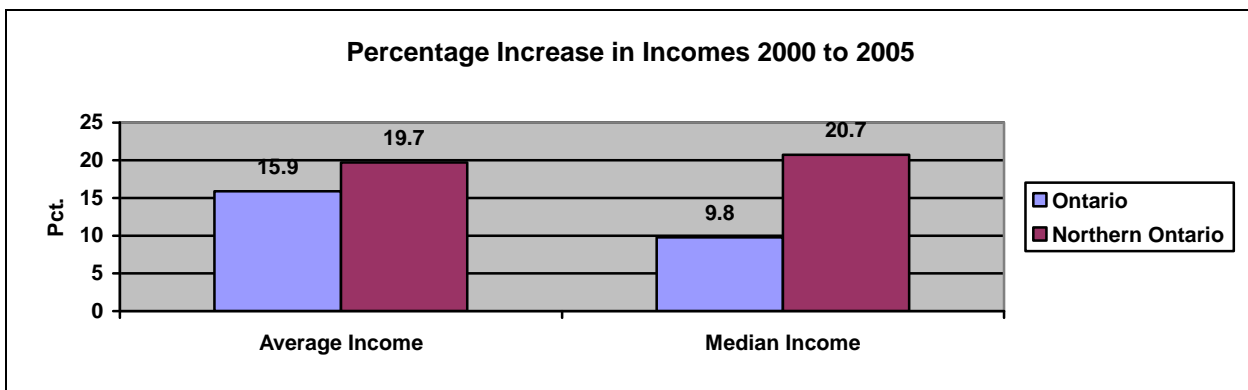


Figure 5: Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006

Table 1 shows the changes in average and median incomes from 1990 to 2005 in Northern Ontario and Ontario. In our 2001 Census report on incomes we noted that for both average incomes and median incomes, the differences between Northern Ontario and Ontario increased substantially from 1995 to 2000. From 1995 to 2000 the difference increased to the point where in 2000, the average income for Northern Ontario was 16.1% lower than the average income for Ontario. This represented a 64.8% increase in the difference between the average income for Northern Ontario and the average income for Ontario. The figures for median incomes showed

an even greater increase in differences. From 1995 to 2000, the difference had increased from 9.6% to 15.4%, a change of 55.1% from 1995 to 2000.

This trend reversed itself from 2000 to 2005. As seen in Figure 5, the average income in Northern Ontario rose by 19.7% during this period while in Ontario it rose by 15.9%. This meant that the difference between average incomes in Ontario and Northern Ontario decreased by 17.1% from 2000 to 2005. This decrease was even more substantial for median incomes. From 2000 to 2005 the median income in Northern Ontario increased from \$20,982 to \$25,319, and increase of 20.7%. The comparable increase for Ontario was 9.8%. The meant that the difference between the median incomes in Ontario and those of the North decreased by 54% during this period.

Table 1: Changes in Average and Median Incomes of Individuals 1990 to 2005

	Average Incomes			Median Income		
	Ontario	Northern Ontario	Percentage Difference – Northern Ontario from Ontario	Ontario	Northern Ontario	Percentage Difference – Northern Ontario from Ontario
1990	26215	23234	11,4	21645	19865	8,2
1995	27309	24748	9,4	20678	18700	9,6
2000	32865	27580	16,1	24816	20982	15,4
2005	38099	33019	13,3	27258	25319	7,1

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

4.4 Average and Median Incomes of Families

Table 2: Changes in Average and Median Incomes of Census Families 1985 to 2005

	Average Incomes			Median Income		
	Ontario	Northern Ontario	Percentage Difference – Northern Ontario from Ontario	Ontario	Northern Ontario	Percentage Difference – Northern Ontario from Ontario
1985	41692	36518	12,4	36978	34069	7,9
1990	57227	49627	13,3	50046	45031	10,0
1995	59830	53744	10,2	51520	48434	6,0
2000	73849	60267	18,4	61024	53223	12,8
2005	90526	74521	17,7	72734	64592	11,2

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

4.4.1 The average and median incomes of families in Northern Ontario is lower than the

provincial averages

Table 2 lists the average and median incomes of census families in Northern Ontario and Ontario from 1985 to 2005.²¹ As was the case for individuals, the average and median incomes of families in Northern Ontario is lower than the averages for Ontario as a whole. In 2005, the average census family income in Northern Ontario was 17.7% less than the average census family income in Ontario. The median census family income in Northern Ontario was 11.2% less than the median census family income in Ontario.

4.4.2 Differences in the income levels of families between Northern Ontario and Ontario decreased slightly since 2000

Table 2 also shows that, as was the case for individuals, differences in the income levels of families between Northern Ontario and Ontario decreased slightly between 2000 and 2005. From 1985 to 1990, differences in income levels increased. From 1990 to 1995, however, these differences actually decreased rather significantly. Despite this, from 1995 to 2000, differences in income levels between Northern Ontario and Ontario increased quite dramatically. During this period the difference in average census family incomes increased by 72.4%. The difference in median census family incomes almost doubled. It increased by 93.2%.

These changes indicate continual shifts in the economic fortunes of Northern Ontario's families. These shifts are likely linked to the booms and busts of Northern Ontario's resource extraction industries.

4.5 Employment Income

4.5.1 Northern Ontario has a higher percentage of part-time income earners

As was pointed out above, the differences in total income between Northern Ontario and Ontario can be partially explained by the difference in age structure between the two regions. To what degree is uncertain. To understand differences in income that are less affected by age structure we can examine employment income. As has already been noted, employment income includes income from wages and salaries, net farm income, and self-employment income from unincorporated business and/or professional practice. As it excludes retirement income, it tends to be less affected by age structure.²²

Employment income is affected by the percentage of full time workers compared to part time workers. Total average employment income in a community that has a higher percentage of part time workers will generally tend to be lower than in a community that has a higher percentage of full time workers. Table 3 compares the percentage of full time and part time employment income earners in Ontario and Northern Ontario from 1985 to 2005. It shows that Northern Ontario has a higher percentage of part year, part time workers. The relative differences in percentage of full time and part time work between Ontario and Northern Ontario was stable from 1985 to 2000 but from 2000 to 2005 there was a significant convergence. While the percentage of part-time work is relatively stable from 1985 to 2005, in the North one can see a

gradual but continual decline in the percentage of part-time work. This decline is primarily due to the decline in part-time employment for women. The percentage of part time, part year work among men has been relatively stable.²³

Table 3: Percentage of Full time and Part time employment income earners 1985 to 2005*

	1985		1990		1995		2000		2005	
	Ont.	Nor. Ont.	Ont.	Nor. Ont.	Ont.	Nor. Ont.	Ont.	Nor. Ont.	Ont.	Nor. Ont.
All income earners working full year, full time	54.9	47.3	56.5	48.3	54.9	48.5	56.5	49.2	56.5	52.4
All income earners working part year or part time	45.1	52.7	43.5	51.7	45.1	51.5	43.5	50.8	43.5	47.6
Male income earners working part year or part time	36.8	44.1	37.2	45.1	38.7	44.5	36.9	44.3	37.6	42.2
Female income earners working part year or part time	55.3	64.8	50.9	59.9	52.5	59.8	50.9	58.0	49.9	53.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006.* Note that percentages from 1985 to 2000 include the District Municipality of Muskoka.

4.5.2 The average employment income of both full time workers and part time workers is less than the provincial average

Table 4 shows the average employment income for all employment income earners, full time employment income earners, and part time employment income earners. For the year 2005, full time workers in Northern Ontario earned 10.8% less than the provincial average. Part time workers earned 10.6% less.

Table 4: Changes in Average Employment Income: 1985 to 2005*

	Average employment income – Total Population 15 years and over with income			Average employment income – Total Population 15 years and over with income Worked full year, full time			Average employment income – Total Population 15 years and over with income Worked part year or part time		
	Ontario \$	Northern Ontario \$	% Diff. in average wages	Ontario \$	Northern Ontario \$	% Diff. in average wages	Ontario \$	Northern Ontario \$	% Diff. in average wages
2005	39386	33319	15.4	55626	49640	10.8	22895	20466	10.6
2000	35185	29489	16.2	47247	41752	11.6	20816	18602	10.6
1995	28838	26152	9.3	40281	38488	4.5	15883	15339	3.4
1990	26882 ¹	24258 ¹	9.8	36031	34536	4.1	15002	14645	2.4
1985	19864 ¹	19864 ¹	6.3	27713	27509	0.7	10296	10648	-3.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006. See footnote 24

* Note that percentages from 1985 to 2000 include the District Municipality of Muskoka.

4.5.3 Differences in the employment income levels of workers in Northern Ontario and Ontario remained stable from 2000 to 2005

Table 4 also shows the degree to which differences in the employment income levels of workers in Northern Ontario are changing. In 1985, full time workers in Northern Ontario made essentially the same as the provincial average. By 1995 full time workers in Northern Ontario were making 4.5% less than the averages for the province. From 1995 to 2000, this difference increased dramatically to 11.6%. In 2005 the differences remain similar to 2000 at 10.8%.

Similar patterns are found when comparing the income of part time workers. In 1985, part time workers in Northern Ontario actually made 3.4% more than the average income of part time workers in Ontario. By 1995 the situation had reversed itself and part time workers in Northern Ontario were making 3.4% less than the provincial average. As was the case for full time workers, from 1995 to 2000 the difference in employment income for part time workers jumped to 10.6%. It remained at 10.6% for 2005.

4.6 Internal Differences

Table 5: Income Levels of Districts in Northern Ontario: 2005

	Average Total Income in \$	Percentage Difference from Provincial Average	Median Total Income in \$	Percentage Difference from Provincial Average	Median Census Family Total Income in \$	Percentage Difference from Provincial Average
Ontario	38099		27258		72734	
Nipissing District	30967	18.7	23509	13.8	58751	19.2
Parry Sound District	31244	18.0	22111	18.9	54917	24.5
Manitoulin District	26302	31.0	19894	27.0	48489	33.3
Sudbury District	30906	18.9	23493	13.8	57827	20.5
Greater Sudbury Division	35970	5.6	27469	-0.8	69907	3.9
Timiskaming District	29825	21.7	22541	17.3	55942	23.1
Cochrane District	33553	11.9	25417	6.8	68266	6.1
Algoma District	31858	16.4	24427	10.4	61547	15.4
Thunder Bay District	34590	9.2	27638	-1.4	69944	3.8
Rainy River District	32589	14.5	25470	6.6	67042	7.8

Kenora District	31220	18.1	23667	13.2	63969	12.1
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Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

4.6.1 The District of Thunder Bay and the Greater Sudbury Division have the highest income levels in Northern Ontario

Table 5 shows the income levels for all of the districts in Northern Ontario and compares these to the provincial average. It lists the average total income for individuals, the median total income for individuals, and the median total income for census families. In our report on the 2001 Census we noted that income levels for all districts in Northern Ontario were below the provincial average. For 2006 we see that the situation is almost the same except that median income levels for individuals are somewhat higher than the provincial levels in both major urban districts of the region: the Greater Sudbury Division and the District of Thunder Bay.

As was noted in our previous report there are certain internal regional differences. As was the case in 2000, for average total income for individuals, median total income for individuals, and median total income for census families, the District of Thunder Bay and the Greater Sudbury Division have the highest levels of income in Northern Ontario.

4.6.2 The Districts of Manitoulin and Timiskaming have the lowest income levels in Northern Ontario

At the opposite end of the income scale fall the Districts of Manitoulin and Timiskaming. In our 2001 Census report we noted that the District of Manitoulin had the lowest level of income for all three categories listed in Table 5. The District of Timiskaming had the second lowest median total income for individuals while the District of Parry Sound had the second lowest average total income for individuals and the second lowest median total income for census families.

The situation changed slightly in 2005. The District of Manitoulin continues to have the lowest incomes in all three categories. The District of Timiskaming has the second lowest average income for individuals, the third lowest median income for individuals, and the third lowest median income for families. The District of Parry Sound improved somewhat from 2000 in that while it continued to have the second lowest median income for individuals and median income for families, it had the sixth lowest average income for individuals.

Table 6 lists the differences in employment income levels for the districts of Northern Ontario for 2005. As was the case in 2000, the patterns in employment income levels are very similar to the patterns for total income levels mentioned above.

Table 6: Employment Income Levels of Districts in Northern Ontario: 2005

	Average employment income – Total Pop. 15 and over with income	Percentage Difference from Provincial Average	Average employment income – Total Pop. 15 and over with income Worked Full-time	Percentage Difference from Provincial Average	Average employment income – Total Pop. 15 and over with income Worked part year or part time	Percentage Difference from Provincial Average
Ontario	39386		55626		22895	
Nipissing District	31143	20.9	45727	17.8	18736	18.2
Parry Sound District	30493	22.6	47566	14.5	17754	22.5
Manitoulin District	24323	38.2	40149	27.8	15818	30.9
Sudbury District	31247	20.7	49436	11.1	20125	12.1
Greater Sudbury Division	36182	8.1	53880	3.1	21853	4.6
Timiskaming District	30151	23.4	44912	19.3	18305	20.0
Cochrane District	35098	10.9	50570	9.1	22557	1.5
Algoma District	31360	20.4	49076	11.8	18861	17.6
Thunder Bay District	34986	11.2	50401	9.4	22296	2.6
Rainy River District	32218	18.2	48593	12.6	18612	18.7
Kenora District	32231	18.2	47304	15.0	19704	13.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

4.6.3 Resource dependent communities and suburb communities have the highest levels of income in Northern Ontario

Table 7 lists the communities in Northern Ontario with the highest total average income in 2005. This table includes only those communities with 500 income earners or more and with a standard error of less than \$3,200. As was mentioned in the methodology section of this report, figures from smaller communities are less reliable than figures from larger communities due to sampling error. In the case of average incomes, Statistics Canada has calculated the “standard error” for

each community. This standard error represents the amount by which the calculated figure for average income could be wrong. These figures are listed in the table.

Table 7: Communities in Northern Ontario with the Highest Total Average Income 2005*

	Type of Community	Population 15 years of age and over with income	Percentage of Income earners making more than \$60,000	Average Total Income \$	Standard error of average income \$	Local Board
Ontario		9340020	17.3	38099	56	
Terrace Bay	TP	1320	35.2	44594	1916	24
Marathon	TP	3090	29.4	42921	1035	24
Red Lake	MU	3545	23.3	42216	1312	25
Manitouwadge	TP	1790	30.4	42110	1831	24
Hornepayne	TP	910	26.4	41682	2125	23
Dubreuilville	TP	600	19.2	39881	3110	22
O'Connor	TP	540	21.3	39538	2181	24
Ear Falls	TP	920	24.5	39521	1812	25
Oliver Paipoonge	MU	4520	18.9	39447	1634	24
Callander	MU	2595	20.8	39072	1627	20
Sioux Lookout	MU	3930	18.7	38971	820	25
Shuniah	TP	2445	20.7	38598	1703	24
Red Rock	TP	830	28.9	38312	2143	24
Greenstone	MU	3815	18.7	38283	1019	24
Alberton	TP	755	24.5	37630	2218	25
Dryden	CY	6395	21.0	37246	862	25
Neebing	MU	1705	18.8	37194	2278	24
Prince	TP	835	21.0	37012	1981	22
Atikokan	TP	2565	15.2	36735	2480	25
Carling	TP	990	19.7	36306	2063	20
Dorion	TP	300	18.3	36181	2897	24
Greater Sudbury	CY	123265	16.8	35975	245	21
Laird	TP	900	21.1	35933	2337	22
Michipicoten	TP	2510	22.5	35371	1176	22
Chapleau	TP	1755	17.7	35328	1329	23

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2005. *Includes only those communities with at least 500 income earners and a standard error of less than \$3,200.

Our previous analysis of the 2001 Census data showed that there were a large number of resource dependent communities with high levels of income. Of the 25 highest income communities in 2000, 10 were heavily dependent on forestry and three were heavily dependent on mining.²⁵ Of the remaining communities, 5 were “suburb” communities.

The situation in 2005 was similar to that of 2000 in that resource dependent communities continue to dominate the high income communities followed by suburb communities. Of the 25 highest income communities in 2005 eleven are highly dependent on forestry, three are highly dependent on a combination of forestry and mining and one is dependent primarily on mining. Six of the communities can be classified as suburb communities.²⁶

Section 5: Comparing the Training Board Areas of Northern Ontario

Table 8: Income Levels in the Northern Ontario Training Board Areas: 2005

	% of Income as Government transfer payments	Pop. 15 years and over with income	Average Total income for Individuals \$	Median Total Income for Individuals \$	Total Number of Census Families	Median Total Census Family Income \$
Ontario	9.6	9340020	38099	27258	3347610	72734
Northern Ontario	14.4	613775	33019	25319	229325	64592
LAB # 20	14.9	145420	29208	26346	54610	59092
LAB # 21	13.4	148345	34750	26468	55795	66910
AWICA	16.7	93155	31762	24325	34580	61364
LAB # 23	14.6	92180	32608	24794	34920	65043
LAB # 24	13.3	118535	34378	27468	43390	69545
LAB # 25	12.6	62065	31920	24390	23160	65408

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

5.1 The Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board (Board #20)

Table 8 shows the levels of income in 2000 for each of the Local Boards in Northern Ontario. Local Board #20 includes the Muskoka District Municipality and the Districts of Parry Sound and Nipissing. In 2000 it had the lowest average total incomes and lowest median total incomes. It also had the lowest median census family incomes and the second greatest dependency on government transfer payments as a percentage of its income.

In 2005 Board #20 still had the lowest average income for individuals and the lowest median census family income. A change has occurred as concerns median total income for individuals in that Board #20 now has the second highest median income of all the Boards in Northern Ontario. This is primarily due to an important increase in the median incomes in the Muskoka District Municipality. The area continues to have the second highest dependence on government transfer payments.

Table 9: Levels of Income for Communities in the Board 20 Area

	Type of Community	Pop. 15 years and over with income	Average Total income for Individuals \$	Median Total Income for Individuals \$	Median Total Census Family Income \$
Local Board #20		145420	29208	26346	59092
Gravenhurst	T	8585	22651	29214	57568
Bracebridge	T	12470	28441	35128	68379
Lake of Bays	TP	3055	25766	36857	62477
Huntsville	T	14385	25058	33359	62537
Muskoka Lakes	TP	5340	25884	37329	63672
Georgian Bay	TP	1940	21077	28422	52503
South Algonquin	TP	1060	30300	23949	60610
Papineau-Cameron	TP	820	22605	18773	49860
Mattawa	T	1510	25109	19305	45725
Calvin	TP	420	25907	22704	56342
Bonfield	TP	1590	28542	22452	57513
Chisholm	TP	1050	27622	21838	59776
East Ferris	TP	3305	33832	27584	71642
North Bay	CY	42090	32206	23803	59901
West Nipissing / Nipissing Ouest	M	10500	28162	21987	53765
Temagami	MU	775	23638	20302	44486
Nipissing 10	R	1075	23329	17705	41627
Nipissing, Unorg., North Part	UNO	1405	30505	25897	59302
Seguin	TP	3490	49508	24382	58793
The Archipelago	TP	495	21727	17868	43856
McMurrich/Monteith	TP	665	22782	17985	39072
Perry	TP	1625	26774	21611	50406
Kearney	T	675	25756	22543	51421
Armour	TP	1055	26446	21364	46478
Burk's Falls	VL	690	24040	17932	37451
Ryerson	TP	560	28439	22834	58227
McKellar	TP	895	31682	21269	58662
McDougall	MU	2230	34463	28647	74688
Parry Sound	T	4615	29591	22055	53526
Carling	TP	990	36306	29892	77527
Whitestone	MU	930	26083	18840	54012
Magnetawan	MU	1360	26517	20662	46265
Strong	TP	1085	26782	19883	46805
Sundridge	VL	810	27677	18768	48783
Joly	TP	230	18747	15957	38106
Machar	TP	700	32542	26581	60058

South River	VL	805	24600	17914	39287
Powassan	MU	2490	28057	21110	55676
Callander	MU	2595	39072	31954	76993
Nipissing	TP	1340	30303	21701	55603
Parry Island First Nation	R	260	19806	14880	40448
Parry Sound, Unorg. Centre Part	UNO	2035	25417	18003	42954

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

5.2 The Sudbury and Manitoulin Workforce Partnerships Board Area (Board #21)

Local Board #21, also known as the Sudbury and Manitoulin Workforce Partnerships Board (Board #21), includes the District of Manitoulin, the Greater Sudbury Division, and most of the District of Sudbury. In 2000 this area had the second highest average incomes in the region and the second highest median census family incomes.

The mining boom of the past years has had an impact on incomes in the region as we see that in 2005 this area now had the highest average income. It continued to have the second highest median individual and family incomes.

Table 10: Levels of Income for Communities in the Board 21 Area

	Type of Community	Pop. 15 years and over with income	Average Total income for Individuals \$	Median Total Income for Individuals \$	Median Total Census Family Income \$
LAB # 21		148345	34750	26468	66910
Tehkummah	TP	315	25437	17794	42778
Central Manitoulin	TP	1640	29233	23939	51185
Assiginack	TP	725	32088	25549	58356
Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	T	2185	30701	21416	59092
Billings	TP	475	26724	18483	55814
Gordon	TP	340	25657	24512	53953
Gore Bay	T	740	32007	25680	62022
Burpee and Mills	TP	260	18414	13941	45147
Killarney	MU	370	31539	25193	57327
Whitefish River (Part) 4	R	255	20422	15712	38400
Sucker Creek 23	R	235	19472	15040	36992
Wikwemikong Unceded	R	1525	18637	13821	32512
M'Chigeeng 22 (West Bay 22)	R	540	17654	12672	32896
French River	MU	2210	32764	24763	51728
St.-Charles	MU	915	28589	21821	61582

Markstay-Warren	MU	1900	27730	21842	51802
Sables-Spanish Rivers	TP	2425	26694	19924	52270
Espanola	T	4150	33746	25747	70041
Baldwin	TP	420	25604	19566	47870
Nairn and Hyman	TP	415	25990	22869	55878
Whitefish Lake 6	R	235	20498	13717	46272
Sudbury, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	2045	32709	23405	59200
Greater Sudbury	CY	123265	35975	27476	69926

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

5.3 The Algoma Workforce Investment Committee Area

The Algoma Workforce Investment Committee Area is comprised of most of the District of Algoma. In 2000 this Board Area had the second lowest average total incomes, the second lowest median total incomes, and the second lowest median census family incomes. In addition, it had the greatest dependency on government transfer payments as a percentage of its income.

In 2005 it continued to have the highest dependence on government transfers in the region and the second lowest average income for individuals. Things have declined somewhat in this area however as it now has the lowest median income for individuals and for families.

Table 11: Levels of Income for Communities in the Board 22 Area

	Type of Community	Pop. 15 years and over with income	Average Total income for Individuals \$	Median Total Income for Individuals \$	Median Total Census Family Income \$
AWICA		93155	31762	24325	61364
Jocelyn	TP	230	35269	21977	48196
St. Joseph	TP	960	32935	25232	69823
Laird	TP	900	35933	29355	72783
Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional	TP	285	32777	26875	62034
Johnson	TP	520	24722	18357	57357
Plummer Additional	TP	470	28033	22161	56070
Bruce Mines	T	470	28817	25204	59089
Thessalon	T	995	28402	21431	61489
Huron Shores	MU	1330	27789	21509	52564
Blind River	T	2985	34144	23949	58521
Spanish	T	555	23719	17650	43657
North Shore	TP	475	34625	23985	53207
Elliot Lake	CY	9815	26406	20111	47283

Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional	TP	1195	30499	26032	52379
Sault Ste. Marie	CY	60025	33159	25545	64938
Prince	TP	835	37012	32404	75643
Sagamok	R	565	15577	12032	31936
Serpent River 7	R	245	19451	14069	40064
Mississagi River 8	R	290	19336	14672	36480
Garden River 14	R	665	19564	14912	38315
Rankin Location 15D	R	375	19178	14944	36448
Michipicoten	TP	2510	35371	28715	76985
Dubreuilville	TP	600	39881	39947	86098
White River	TP	665	35154	36209	74289
Algoma, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	4655	28905	21953	61283

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

5.4 The Far Northeast Training Board Area (Board #23)

Local Board #23 is also known as the Far Northeast Training Board and is comprised of the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming and small parts of several neighbouring districts. In 2000 the income levels in this Board area were the closest to the regional averages.

This continued to be the situation in 2005 as, despite the crisis in the forest industry, incomes in the region seemed to stay extremely close to the regional averages.

Table 12: Levels of Income for Communities in the Board 23 Area

	Type of Community	Pop. 15 years and over with income	Average Total income for Individuals \$	Median Total Income for Individuals \$	Median Total Census Family Income \$
Local Board #23		92180	32608	24794	65043
Chapleau	TP	1755	35328	30722	76247
Coleman	TP	370	21849	19258	43966
Latchford	T	335	27812	24054	46405
Cobalt	T	920	23058	18497	37457
Harris	TP	430	34267	28357	77778
Temiskaming Shores	CY	8460	31744	24287	61000
Hudson	TP	235	24804	23681	47216
Kerns	TP	230	27229	23274	53175
Harley	TP	390	31208	29874	56403

Casey	TP	310	32869	23203	86880
Armstrong	TP	940	28206	19733	58082
James	TP	345	29129	16164	56054
Charlton and Dack	MU	490	28725	18656	60427
Evanturel	TP	325	32146	27455	54559
Englehart	T	1150	28222	18985	55752
Chamberlain	TP	260	23080	16546	57179
McGarry	TP	545	20658	16173	33317
Larder Lake	TP	615	27911	22349	46686
Kirkland Lake	T	6365	30074	22761	55801
Timiskaming, Unorganized, West Part	UNO	2635	32490	22456	54040
Black River-Matheson	TP	2015	30134	23102	61377
Timmins	CY	33100	35238	26364	70853
Iroquois Falls	T	3705	34763	28357	69009
Cochrane	T	4195	30933	22541	61613
Smooth Rock Falls	T	1240	35081	29703	69936
Fauquier-Strickland	TP	470	35501	28075	73239
Moonbeam	TP	1040	33477	27730	62681
Kapuskaing	T	6785	33164	24818	66030
Val Rita-Harty	TP	745	27648	21731	64367
Opasatika	TP	215	29216	27069	62137
Hearst	T	4385	35210	28975	73672
Mattice-Val Côté	TP	600	28695	25751	63248
Cochrane, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	1955	31169	24128	65671
Constance Lake 92	R	445	19484	12896	40405
Hornepayne	TP	910	41682	34872	80971
Chapleau	TP	1755	35328	30722	76247

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

5.5 The North Superior Training Board Area (Board #24)

Local Board #24 is also known as the North Superior Training Board. It comprises the District of Thunder Bay and several Aboriginal communities just north of the boundaries of the District of Thunder Bay. In 2000 this area had the highest levels of income in Northern Ontario.

In 2005 the situation has changed somewhat in that it now had the second highest average income for individuals, slightly less than Board Area #21. It continued to have the highest

median incomes for individuals and families.

Table 13: Levels of Income for Communities in the Board 24 Area

	Type of Community	Pop. 15 years and over with income	Average Total income for Individuals \$	Median Total Income for Individuals \$	Median Total Census Family Income \$
Local Board #24		118535	34378	27468	69545
Needing	MU	1705	37194	28357	77801
Fort William 52	R	635	21219	14832	38016
Thunder Bay	CY	86190	33902	27395	68440
Oliver Paipoonge	MU	4520	39447	32729	80560
Gillies	TP	435	28281	21301	71205
O'Connor	TP	540	39538	37192	80124
Conmee	TP	520	31167	25150	65863
Shuniah	TP	2445	38598	29004	71605
Dorion	TP	300	36181	36424	73267
Red Rock	TP	830	38312	30146	79257
Nipigon	TP	1355	32278	27208	66886
Schreiber	TP	725	34904	28524	79642
Terrace Bay	TP	1320	44594	37917	90006
Marathon	T	3090	42921	31775	93817
Pic River 50	R	285	22848	16096	51072
Lake Helen 53A	R	190	20990	17408	37914
Manitouwadge	TP	1790	42110	31372	84440
Long Lake 58	R	235	16502	12224	33408
Greenstone	MU	3815	38283	35204	79780
Aroland 83	R	190	17335	12288	34176
Thunder Bay, Unorganized	UNO	5295	33983	26926	68366
Fort Hope 64	R	595	13153	10187	27968
Webequie	R	390	13112	10656	34688
Summer Beaver	S	215	16156	13088	34304

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

5.6 The Northwest Training and Adjustment Board (Board #25)

Local Board #25 is also known as the Northwest Training and Adjustment Board. It is comprised of the District of Rainy River and most of the District of Kenora. In 2000 this area was notable as having the lowest dependence on government transfer payments as a percentage of its income. It also had levels of income close to the regional averages.

The situation in 2005 was similar to that of 2000. It continues to have the lowest dependence on government transfer payments and it continues to have income levels close to the regional norm.

Table 14: Levels of Income for Communities in the Board 25 Area

	Type of Community	Pop. 15 years and over with income	Average Total income for Individuals \$	Median Total Income for Individuals \$	Median Total Census Family Income \$
Local Board #25		62065	31920	24390	65408
Atikokan	TP	2565	36735	25718	65513
Alberton	TP	755	37630	33613	82652
Fort Frances	T	6270	35087	29998	75934
La Vallee	TP	810	31877	28551	78075
Emo	TP	960	32382	25055	68148
Chapple	TP	650	23247	17601	42182
Morley	TP	380	29111	25212	69090
Dawson	TP	470	27114	19192	47527
Rainy River	T	735	30106	21756	64309
Lake of the Woods	TP	230	27686	17138	44282
Neguaguon Lake 25D	R	155	20490	15040	47936
Couchiching 16A	R	460	22673	17877	46976
Seine River 23A	R	165	15180	11568	36181
Rainy River, Unorganized	UNO	1165	33706	25432	62610
Ignace	TP	1155	30538	20602	67189
Whitefish Bay 32A	R	335	14061	11744	27072
Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls	TP	545	30319	25815	57487
Kenora	CY	12035	35252	29703	75708
Machin	TP	780	32508	25920	66475
Dryden	CY	6395	37246	30305	78529
Ear Falls	TP	920	39521	39149	86440
Sioux Lookout	MU	3930	38971	34325	83223
Red Lake	MU	3545	42216	33344	88408
Pickle Lake	TP	315	37934	29405	73113
Cat Lake 63C	R	275	13312	9248	30784
Osnaburgh 63B	R	205	11283	9504	28224
Lac Seul 28	R	520	17995	13216	39296
English River 21	R	405	11599	6136	21568
Weagamow Lake 87	R	450	18158	13877	35264
Wabaseemoong	R	455	14516	9888	30656
Sabaskong Bay 35D	R	220	17124	13760	36480
Kenora 38B	R	220	13709	9424	26624

Poplar Hill	R	270	12345	6784	26880
Shoal Lake (Part) 39A	R	230	16251	11200	34432
Deer Lake	R	395	14736	10272	28096
Sandy Lake 88	R	1075	15744	11467	33984
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Aaki 84 (Big Trout Lake)	R	565	16322	11563	31456
Sachigo Lake 1	R	260	16487	14752	39424
North Spirit Lake	R	165	15393	12256	42368
Wunnumin 1	R	300	16613	13344	34816
Wapekeka 2	R	225	11474	6240	23232
Kenora, Unorganized	UNO	5720	35173	28041	69819
Neskantaga	R	160	18442	13600	38912
Bearskin Lake	R	285	19091	15712	43008
Kasabonika Lake	R	385	13150	10123	32704
Muskrat Dam Lake	R	155	20739	20960	44416
Kingfisher Lake 1	R	245	16246	13582	39296
Kee-Way-Win	R	180	18120	14304	40576

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.

Section Six: Observations

Trends in 2001	Trends in 2006
The average income of individuals in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial average	The average income of individuals in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial average
The median income of individuals in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial average	The median income of individuals in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial average
Differences in levels of income between Northern Ontario and Ontario are increasing	Differences in levels of income between Northern Ontario and Ontario are decreasing
The average and median incomes of families in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial averages	The average and median incomes of families in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial averages
Differences in the income levels of families between Northern Ontario and Ontario are increasing	Differences in the income levels of families between Northern Ontario and Ontario decreased slightly since 2000
The average employment income of both full time workers and part time workers is less then the provincial average	The average employment income of both full time workers and part time workers is less then the provincial average
Differences in the employment income levels of workers in Northern Ontario and Ontario are increasing	Differences in the employment income levels of workers in Northern Ontario and Ontario remained stable from 2000 to 2005
The District of Thunder Bay and the Greater Sudbury Division have the highest income levels in Northern Ontario	The District of Thunder Bay and the Greater Sudbury Division have the highest income levels in Northern Ontario
The Districts of Manitoulin, Timiskaming, and Parry Sound have the lowest income levels in Northern Ontario	The Districts of Manitoulin and Timiskaming have the lowest income levels in Northern Ontario
Resource dependent communities and suburb communities have the highest levels of income in Northern Ontario	Resource dependent communities and suburb communities have the highest levels of income in Northern Ontario

Analysis of the 2006 Census data for income has shown us several important facts about Northern Ontario. They are as follows:

- Northern Ontario continues to have a higher dependence on government transfer payments than Ontario as a whole but the differences in levels of dependences have decreased slightly since 2000
- Northern Ontario continues to have a significantly lower percentage of high income earners
- The average income of individuals in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial average

- Differences in levels of income between Northern Ontario and Ontario are decreasing
- The average and median incomes of families in Northern Ontario is lower than the provincial averages
- Differences in the income levels of families between Northern Ontario and Ontario decreased slightly since 2000
- Northern Ontario has a higher percentage of part-time income earners
- The average employment income of both full time workers and part time workers is less than the provincial average
- Differences in the employment income levels of workers in Northern Ontario and Ontario remained stable from 2000 to 2005
- The District of Thunder Bay and the Greater Sudbury Division have the highest income levels in Northern Ontario
- The Districts of Manitoulin and Timiskaming have the lowest income levels in Northern Ontario
- Resource dependent communities and suburb communities have the highest levels of income in Northern Ontario

Notes

¹ As this report is being written, the Board #22 area, covering most of the Algoma District, is being represented by the recently established Algoma Workforce Investment Committee.

² While most of the statistics will exclude the Muskoka District Municipality, historical data prior to 2006 will sometimes include this region. It should be pointed out that while this inclusion will have a slight effect on the precise calculations, Muskoka's relative small size as a percentage of Northern Ontario's population means that it will have little effect on isolating overall trends.

³ This has been pointed out by several government studies undertaken over the past 30 years including the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment (Fahlgren Commission). Final Report, Toronto, 1985 and the Task Force on Resource Dependent Communities in Northern Ontario, (the Rosehart Report) Final Report, 1986.

⁴ For an elaboration on these points see Dadgostar, B., Jankowski, W.B., and Moazzami, B. The Economy of Northwestern Ontario: Structure, Performance and Future Challenges, Thunder Bay: Centre for Northern Studies, Lakehead University, 1992.

⁵ For a detailed discussion of this aspect of Northern Ontario see McBride, Stephen, McKay, Sharon, and Hill, Mary Ellen. "Unemployment in a Northern Hinterland: The Social Impact of Political Neglect" in Chris Southcott (ed.) A Provincial Hinterland: Social Inequality in Northwestern Ontario, Halifax: Fernwood, 1993.

⁶ Canada, 2006 Census.

⁷ An elaboration on these unique characteristics can be found in Randall, James and R. G. Ironside “Communities on the Edge: An Economic Geography of Resource-Dependent Communities in Canada” The Canadian Geographer 40(10):17-35, 1996.

⁸ There are various indicators of Aboriginal status used in the 2006 census. The figure of 12.6% refers to those who have indicated an Aboriginal identity. If Aboriginal origins is used then the figure increases to 14.8%. If status as a Registered Indian is used then the figure is 8.3%.

⁹ Southcott, Chris. A Regional Outlook for Northern Boards: A Northern Approach to Regional Labour Force Development, Dryden: Training Boards of Northern Ontario, 2000, p.5, 6. Blue collar industrial employment includes the following census categories as contained in the 1980 Standard Industrial Categories: Logging and Forestry, Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing, Construction, Transportation and Storage, Communication and Utilities. Longitudinal consistency requires that the categories of Agriculture and Trapping and Fishing also be included in this definition as the 1986 public profile categories did not separate these categories from Mining and Primary Forestry employment.

¹⁰ See Lucas, Rex Minetown, Milltown, Railtown: Life in Canadian communities of single industry, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1971.

¹¹ Census of Canada, 1941.

¹² See Southcott, C. “Single Industry Towns in a Post-Industrial Era: Northwestern Ontario as a Case Study”. Research Reports, Centre for Northern Studies, Lakehead University, 2000. See also Gill, Alison, “Women in Isolated Resource Towns: An Examination of Gender Differences in Cognitive Structures” Geoforum 21(3):347-358, 1990.

¹³ See Dunk, Thomas W. Indian Participation in the Industrial Economy on the North Shore of Lake Superior, 1869-1940. Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society Papers and Records XV: 3-13, 1987.

¹⁴ For an explanation of sampling error see Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, 2002, p. 295,296.

¹⁵ For an explanation of random rounding see Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, 2002, p. 296.

¹⁶ Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Handbook, Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, 2001, p.89.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Statistics Canada, Income of Canadian families, 2001 Census Analysis Series, Ottawa, May, 2003, Catalogue no. 96F0030XIE2001014, p.7.

¹⁹ See Southcott, Chris. An Aging Population in Northern Ontario, 2001 Census Research Paper Series: Report #3, North Bay: The Northern Ontario Training Boards, October, 2002.

²⁰ Southcott, Chris. Income levels in Northern Ontario, 2001 Census Research Paper Series: Report #10, North Bay: The Northern Ontario Training Boards, June, 2003.

²¹ Statistics Canada lists income for several different types of families. Here we are using data for “census families”. Census families are defined by Statistics Canada as “a married couple (with or without children of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without children of either or both partners) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child living in the same dwelling. A couple living common-law may be of opposite or same sex.” Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Ottawa: Ministry of Industry, 2002, p. 147.

²² It is affected by age structure to the extent that the older workers have often tended to move up the graduated pay scale that exists in many occupations and as such, older workers tend to get paid higher wages than younger workers.

²³ Income earners are classified by Statistics Canada as part time, part year workers if they work less than 48 weeks per year (excluding normal vacation time etc) and/or if they regularly work less than 30 hours per week. It should be pointed out that the total numbers of income earners for 1995, 2000, and 2005 are problematic. The figures for 1995, 2000, and 2005 contain a certain percentage of income earners that can not be categorized as either full year, full time workers or part year, part time workers. In the 2001 Census these represented 2.4% of all income earners in Ontario. In the 1996 Census these represented 2.7% of all income earners in Ontario. These income earners are not included in the calculations for this table. The percentages for both Ontario and Northern Ontario for these years were calculated by combining only the full year, full time workers and part year, part time workers.

²⁴ As was the case for Table 3, the total average employment income figures for 1990 and 1985 are somewhat problematic. The figures for 1995, 2000, and 2005 contain a certain percentage of income earners that can not be categorized as either full year, full time workers or part year, part time workers. These income earners are not included in the total average employment income figures for 1990 and 1985. The averages for both Ontario and Northern Ontario for these years were calculated by combining the full year, full time workers and part year, part time workers. The result is that there may be a certain degree of error when comparing the total average employment income figures for 1990 and 1985 with the figures for 2000 and 1995. Comparisons of average employment income for either full year, full time workers or part year, part time workers are not affected by this degree of error.

²⁵ There are varying definitions of resource dependency. The communities we have categorized as resource dependent communities have either 1) at least 25% of the workforce in one 2-digit industrial category or 2) have 20 to 25% of its workforce in one 2-digit industrial category and have been traditionally described as resource dependent communities (See Southcott, C. “Single

Industry Towns in a Post-Industrial Era: Northwestern Ontario as a Case Study”. Research Reports, Centre for Northern Studies, Lakehead University, 2000.) Traditional railway towns such as Hornepayne, Sioux Lookout, and Schreiber are not included in this total. The following communities have been categorized as resource dependent communities: Terrace Bay, White River, Manitouwadge, Marathon, Dubreuilville, Red Rock, Red Lake, Smooth Rock Falls, Dryden, Kenora, Hearst, Nipigon, and Fort Frances. The following communities have been categorized as suburb communities: Shuniah, O'Connor, Conmee, Oliver Paipoonge, and East Ferris.

²⁶ In 2005 the following communities are classified as forest dependent communities: Terrace Bay, Hornepayne, Dubreuilville, Sioux Lookout, Red Rock, Greenstone, Alberton, Dryden, Atikokan, and Chapleau. The following are classified as forestry and mining dependent: Marathon, Manitouwadge, Ear Falls, and Michipicoten; and Red Lake is a mining community. Suburb communities are: Oliver Paipoonge, O'Conner, Callander, Shuniah, Neebing, and Prince.

Appendix A: List of All Census Sub-Divisions in Northern Ontario in Order of Median Total Income of Individuals

	Type of Comm.	Pop. 15 years and over with income	Average Total income for Individuals \$	Median Total Income for Individuals \$	Median Total Census Family Income \$	Board Area
Dubreuilville	TP	600	39881	39947	86098	AWICA
Ear Falls	TP	920	39521	39149	86440	25
Terrace Bay	TP	1320	44594	37917	90006	24
Muskoka Lakes	TP	5340	25884	37329	63672	20
O'Connor	TP	540	39538	37192	80124	24
Lake of Bays	TP	3055	25766	36857	62477	20
Dorion	TP	300	36181	36424	73267	24
White River	TP	665	35154	36209	74289	AWICA
Greenstone	MU	3815	38283	35204	79780	24
Bracebridge	T	12470	28441	35128	68379	20
Hornepayne	TP	910	41682	34872	80971	23
Sioux Lookout	MU	3930	38971	34325	83223	25
Alberton	TP	755	37630	33613	82652	25
Huntsville	T	14385	25058	33359	62537	20
Red Lake	MU	3545	42216	33344	88408	25
Oliver Paipoonge	MU	4520	39447	32729	80560	24

Prince	TP	835	37012	32404	75643	AWICA
Callander	MU	2595	39072	31954	76993	20
Marathon	T	3090	42921	31775	93817	24
Manitouwadge	TP	1790	42110	31372	84440	24
Chapleau	TP	1755	35328	30722	76247	23
Dryden	CY	6395	37246	30305	78529	25
Red Rock	TP	830	38312	30146	79257	24
Fort Frances	T	6270	35087	29998	75934	25
Carling	TP	990	36306	29892	77527	20
Harley	TP	390	31208	29874	56403	23
Smooth Rock Falls	T	1240	35081	29703	69936	23
Kenora	CY	12035	35252	29703	75708	25
Pickle Lake	TP	315	37934	29405	73113	25
Laird	TP	900	35933	29355	72783	AWICA
Gravenhurst	T	8585	22651	29214	57568	20
Shuniah	TP	2445	38598	29004	71605	24
Hearst	T	4385	35210	28975	73672	23
Michipicoten	TP	2510	35371	28715	76985	AWICA
McDougall	MU	2230	34463	28647	74688	20
La Vallee	TP	810	31877	28551	78075	25
Schreiber	TP	725	34904	28524	79642	24
Georgian Bay	TP	1940	21077	28422	52503	20
Neebing	MU	1705	37194	28357	77801	24
Harris	TP	430	34267	28357	77778	23
Iroquois Falls	T	3705	34763	28357	69009	23
Fauquier-Strickland	TP	470	35501	28075	73239	23
Kenora, Unorganized	UNO	5720	35173	28041	69819	25
Moonbeam	TP	1040	33477	27730	62681	23
East Ferris	TP	3305	33832	27584	71642	20
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	CY	123265	35975	27476	69926	21
Evanturel	TP	325	32146	27455	54559	23
Thunder Bay	CY	86190	33902	27395	68440	24
Nipigon	TP	1355	32278	27208	66886	24
Opasatika	TP	215	29216	27069	62137	23
Thunder Bay, Unorganized	UNO	5295	33983	26926	68366	24
Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional	TP	285	32777	26875	62034	AWICA
Machar	TP	700	32542	26581	60058	20
Timmins	CY	33100	35238	26364	70853	23
Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional	TP	1195	30499	26032	52379	AWICA
Machin	TP	780	32508	25920	66475	25

Nipissing, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	1405	30505	25897	59302	20
Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls	TP	545	30319	25815	57487	25
Mattice-Val Côté	TP	600	28695	25751	63248	23
Espanola	T	4150	33746	25747	70041	21
Atikokan	TP	2565	36735	25718	65513	25
Gore Bay	T	740	32007	25680	62022	21
Assiginack	TP	725	32088	25549	58356	21
Sault Ste. Marie	CY	60025	33159	25545	64938	AWICA
Rainy River, Unorganized	UNO	1165	33706	25432	62610	25
St. Joseph	TP	960	32935	25232	69823	AWICA
Morley	TP	380	29111	25212	69090	25
Bruce Mines	T	470	28817	25204	59089	AWICA
Killarney	MU	370	31539	25193	57327	21
Conmee	TP	520	31167	25150	65863	24
Emo	TP	960	32382	25055	68148	25
Kapusking	T	6785	33164	24818	66030	23
French River / Rivière des Français	MU	2210	32764	24763	51728	21
Gordon	TP	340	25657	24512	53953	21
Seguin	TP	3490	49508	24382	58793	20
Temiskaming Shores	CY	8460	31744	24287	61000	23
Cochrane, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	1955	31169	24128	65671	23
Latchford	T	335	27812	24054	46405	23
North Shore	TP	475	34625	23985	53207	AWICA
Blind River	T	2985	34144	23949	58521	AWICA
South Algonquin	TP	1060	30300	23949	60610	20
Central Manitoulin	TP	1640	29233	23939	51185	21
North Bay	CY	42090	32206	23803	59901	20
Hudson	TP	235	24804	23681	47216	23
Sudbury, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	2045	32709	23405	59200	21
Kerns	TP	230	27229	23274	53175	23
Casey	TP	310	32869	23203	86880	23
Black River- Matheson	TP	2015	30134	23102	61377	23
Nairn and Hyman	TP	415	25990	22869	55878	21
Ryerson	TP	560	28439	22834	58227	20
Kirkland Lake	T	6365	30074	22761	55801	23
Calvin	TP	420	25907	22704	56342	20

Kearney	T	675	25756	22543	51421	20
Cochrane	T	4195	30933	22541	61613	23
Timiskaming, Unorganized, West Part	UNO	2635	32490	22456	54040	23
Bonfield	TP	1590	28542	22452	57513	20
Larder Lake	TP	615	27911	22349	46686	23
Plummer Additional	TP	470	28033	22161	56070	AWICA
Parry Sound	T	4615	29591	22055	53526	20
West Nipissing / Nipissing Ouest	M	10500	28162	21987	53765	20
Jocelyn	TP	230	35269	21977	48196	AWICA
Algoma, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	4655	28905	21953	61283	AWICA
Markstay-Warren	MU	1900	27730	21842	51802	21
Chisholm	TP	1050	27622	21838	59776	20
St.-Charles	MU	915	28589	21821	61582	21
Rainy River	T	735	30106	21756	64309	25
Val Rita-Harty	TP	745	27648	21731	64367	23
Nipissing	TP	1340	30303	21701	55603	20
Perry	TP	1625	26774	21611	50406	20
Huron Shores	MU	1330	27789	21509	52564	AWICA
Thessalon	T	995	28402	21431	61489	AWICA
Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	T	2185	30701	21416	59092	21
Armour	TP	1055	26446	21364	46478	20
Gillies	TP	435	28281	21301	71205	24
McKellar	TP	895	31682	21269	58662	20
Powassan	MU	2490	28057	21110	55676	20
Muskrat Dam Lake	R	155	20739	20960	44416	25
Magnetawan	MU	1360	26517	20662	46265	20
Ignace	TP	1155	30538	20602	67189	25
Temagami	MU	775	23638	20302	44486	20
Elliot Lake	CY	9815	26406	20111	47283	AWICA
Sables-Spanish Rivers	TP	2425	26694	19924	52270	21
Strong	TP	1085	26782	19883	46805	20
Armstrong	TP	940	28206	19733	58082	23
Baldwin	TP	420	25604	19566	47870	21
Mattawa	T	1510	25109	19305	45725	20
Coleman	TP	370	21849	19258	43966	23
Dawson	TP	470	27114	19192	47527	25
Englehart	T	1150	28222	18985	55752	23
Whitestone	MU	930	26083	18840	54012	20

Papineau-Cameron	TP	820	22605	18773	49860	20
Sundridge	VL	810	27677	18768	48783	20
Charlton and Dack	MU	490	28725	18656	60427	23
Cobalt	T	920	23058	18497	37457	23
Billings	TP	475	26724	18483	55814	21
Johnson	TP	520	24722	18357	57357	AWICA
Parry Sound, Unorganized, Centre Part	UNO	2035	25417	18003	42954	20
McMurrich/Monteith	TP	665	22782	17985	39072	20
Burk's Falls	VL	690	24040	17932	37451	20
South River	VL	805	24600	17914	39287	20
Couchiching 16A	R	460	22673	17877	46976	25
The Archipelago	TP	495	21727	17868	43856	20
Tehkummah	TP	315	25437	17794	42778	21
Nipissing 10	R	1075	23329	17705	41627	20
Spanish	T	555	23719	17650	43657	AWICA
Chapple	TP	650	23247	17601	42182	25
Lake Helen 53A	R	190	20990	17408	37914	24
Lake of the Woods	TP	230	27686	17138	44282	25
Chamberlain	TP	260	23080	16546	57179	23
McGarry	TP	545	20658	16173	33317	23
James	TP	345	29129	16164	56054	23
Pic River 50	R	285	22848	16096	51072	24
Joly	TP	230	18747	15957	38106	20
Whitefish River (Part) 4	R	255	20422	15712	38400	21
Bearskin Lake	R	285	19091	15712	43008	25
Sucker Creek 23	R	235	19472	15040	36992	21
Neguaguon Lake 25D	R	155	20490	15040	47936	25
Rankin Location 15D	R	375	19178	14944	36448	AWICA
Garden River 14	R	665	19564	14912	38315	AWICA
Parry Island First Nation	R	260	19806	14880	40448	20
Fort William 52	R	635	21219	14832	38016	24
Sachigo Lake 1	R	260	16487	14752	39424	25
Mississagi River 8	R	290	19336	14672	36480	AWICA
Kee-Way-Win	R	180	18120	14304	40576	25
Serpent River 7	R	245	19451	14069	40064	AWICA
Burpee and Mills	TP	260	18414	13941	45147	21
Weagamow Lake 87	R	450	18158	13877	35264	25
Wkwemikong Unceded	R	1525	18637	13821	32512	21
Sabaskong Bay 35D	R	220	17124	13760	36480	25
Whitefish Lake 6	R	235	20498	13717	46272	21

Neskantaga	R	160	18442	13600	38912	25
Kingfisher Lake 1	R	245	16246	13582	39296	25
Wunnumin 1	R	300	16613	13344	34816	25
Lac Seul 28	R	520	17995	13216	39296	25
Summer Beaver	S	215	16156	13088	34304	24
Constance Lake 92	R	445	19484	12896	40405	23
M'Chigeeng 22 (West Bay 22)	R	540	17654	12672	32896	21
Aroland 83	R	190	17335	12288	34176	24
North Spirit Lake	R	165	15393	12256	42368	25
Long Lake 58	R	235	16502	12224	33408	24
Sagamok	R	565	15577	12032	31936	AWICA
Whitefish Bay 32A	R	335	14061	11744	27072	25
Seine River 23A	R	165	15180	11568	36181	25
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Aaki 84 (Big Trout Lake)	R	565	16322	11563	31456	25
Sandy Lake 88	R	1075	15744	11467	33984	25
Shoal Lake (Part) 39A	R	230	16251	11200	34432	25
Webequie	R	390	13112	10656	34688	24
Deer Lake	R	395	14736	10272	28096	25
Fort Hope 64	R	595	13153	10187	27968	24
Kasabonika Lake	R	385	13150	10123	32704	25
Wabaseemoong	R	455	14516	9888	30656	25
Osaburgh 63B	R	205	11283	9504	28224	25
Kenora 38B	R	220	13709	9424	26624	25
Cat Lake 63C	R	275	13312	9248	30784	25
Poplar Hill	R	270	12345	6784	26880	25
Wapekeka 2	R	225	11474	6240	23232	25
English River 21	R	405	11599	6136	21568	25

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2006.