

Ontario County Summary*

General Overview

Ontario County, first organized in 1789, is situated southeast of Rochester. Much of Canandaigua Lake and the northwest shore of Seneca Lake are located in Ontario County. Ontario is the second most populous county in the region after Monroe with just under 110,000 residents in 2017.

With a 9.9% increase in residents from 2000 to 2017, Ontario County is one of only two counties in the region (along with Seneca) to experience considerable growth. Ontario has a strong tourism sector, anchored by the high-end Eastview Mall, CMAC Performing Arts Center, and several wineries and breweries.

Ontario continues to have the highest median income and home values in the region, along with the lowest poverty rate. Ontario has among the lowest unemployment rates in the region. A third of residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher and the county has the lowest share of the adult population receiving less than a high school diploma in the region.

Demographic Overview

Ontario County experienced significant population growth over the decade, while most of the region had a steady or declining population. With just over 100,000 residents in 2000, Ontario County grew by 9.9% to approximately 110,000 residents in 2017. This growth in population surpassed the growth rate of the region (0.90%) and the state (4.6%). Ontario County was home to 9% of the regional population in 2017.

Ontario County is aging faster than the region, state and nation:

- From 2000 to 2012-17, the number of residents 85 and older grew by 60% and the number of residents age 60-84 grew by 60% - both larger increases than the state, nation, region, and every county in the region.
- Meanwhile, the number of residents under 20 shrank by 5% from 2000 to 2012-17; this is a smaller decrease than the region and every county in the region.
- The smaller decrease in the young population and larger increase in the old population relative to the region is reflective of Ontario's comparatively strong overall population growth.

*Please note, the indicator information included in this summary reflects the data available at the time of its composition. Some indicator data may have since been updated on our website. Visit actrochester.org/all-indicators for updates.

While the Asian, African American, and Hispanic populations have grown faster than the white population, the county remains overwhelmingly white:

- In 2012-17, 92% of Ontario residents were white, compared to 2% who were African American, 4% Hispanic, and 1% Asian.
- From 2000 to 2012-17, the Hispanic population grew by 122%, while the Asian population grew by 105% and the African American population rose by 46%. This compares to growth of 6% for white residents.

Community Vitality

In 2017, Ontario had higher tourism spending per resident (\$1,942) than any other county besides Yates, an increase of 8% from 2005. This was higher than the regional rate (\$1,368) but lower than the state excluding NYC (\$2,089). Ontario County's tourism industry includes such attractions as the New York State Wine & Culinary Center, the Constellation Brands Marvin Sands Performing Arts Center (also known as CMAC), and the Finger Lakes wine trails, winter sports venues, area museums and shops.



Per capita recreational spending (\$98) has been flat since 2005. While higher than the region (\$76), was below the statewide (excluding NYC) figure of \$184.

In 2017, voter registration in Ontario (83%) was higher than the state (79%), region (81%), and similar to every other county in the region. This rate, however, was a decrease of 6 points from 2000.

Similar to the region, voter participation for the 2016 presidential election was higher in Ontario (61%). Voter turnout was higher in Ontario than every other regional county, the state, and nation, and was 5 points higher than the county's turnout in the 2012 presidential election.

Ontario County's share of registered borrowers decreased by 34 percentage points since 2000, but library visits have increased:

- In 2016, 46% of residents of Ontario's county library system were registered borrowers, below the state (57%) and region (63%).
- The number of library visits has increased 12% in Ontario to 5.7 visits per resident in 2016. This increase was larger than that of the state and region.

Total charitable giving in Ontario County increased by 11% from 2011, a smaller increase than the state (26%) and the nation (24%), but much higher than the region (2%). Ontario donors gave approximately 61 million dollars in 2016, the second highest giving total in the region.

In 2013-17, Ontario had among the lowest shares of households without a vehicle (7%), lower than the nation (9%), the state excluding New York City and the region (both 10%). Like most counties in the region, Ontario's rate has remained stable from 2000 to 2013-17.

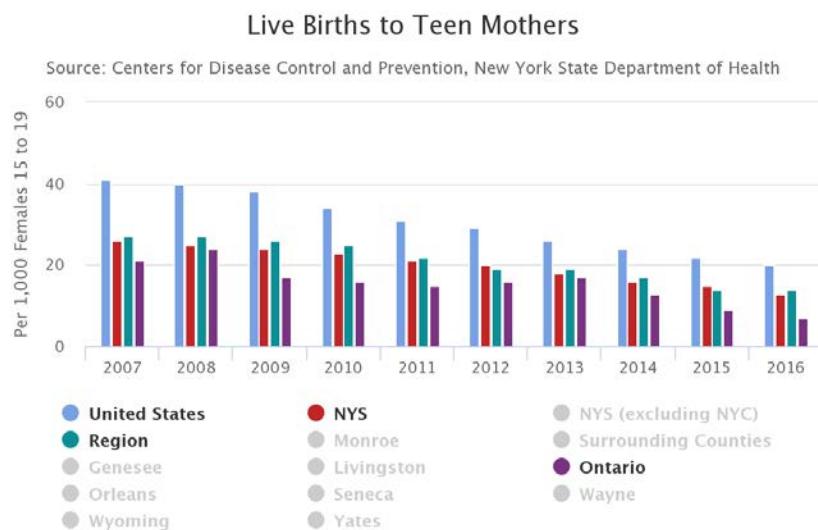
Children and Youth

Child poverty, while consistently on the rise, remained comparatively low in Ontario:

- In 2013-17, 13% of children in Ontario County were living in poverty, lower than the state (21%), region, and nation (both 20%), and the lowest of all counties in the region.
- The rate rose by 3 points from 2000 to 2013-17, more than the state increase (1 point), but at or below those of the nation and region (3 and 6 points respectively).

Teen pregnancy and teen births in Ontario County have declined over the past decade:

- In 2016, the teen pregnancy rate in Ontario was 1%, lower than the region (2%).
- The teen birth rate continues to decline steadily with a reported 7 live births in 2016 per 1,000 females in the county age 15 to 19 – a rate well below most other counties in the region, the state and nation. Ontario has experienced a notable decline in teen births since 2000 dropping 75% - the largest decrease of all the region's counties.



In 2016, 5% of births in Ontario were of low birth weight babies, below the nation (8%), region (7%) and state (8%). The 2016 rate was slightly lower than Ontario's rate in 2000.

Similar to the region, state and nation, Ontario County has seen an increase in the number of single-parent families:

- In 2013-17, 33% of families were headed by single parents. Ontario's rate was lower than the region (39%) and state (36%) and similar to the nation (34%).
- The 7-point increase from 2000 was less than the region (8 points), but more than the state (3 points) and nation (5 points). This was the second highest increase of the regional counties.

Economy

Ontario has continued to post strong job growth relative to the region:

- Total jobs grew by 15% from 2001 to 2017, lower than the state (19%) and nation (18%) but well above the region (4%).
- Sectors in which job growth outperformed the region and most individual counties include Education; Financial Activities, Other Services, Professional and Business Services. In the Manufacturing sector, the decrease of 7% was less than the decrease at the regional, state, and national level.
- Sectors in which job growth compared to the region included Healthcare and Social Assistance and Natural Resources and Mining.

The growth in average total salary in Ontario has outpaced the state and nation:

- In Ontario, the average salary grew by 20% from \$39,685 in 2000 to \$47,552 in 2017, a larger increase than the state and nation (both 10%).
- Ontario's average salary in 2017 was lower than the state and nation, but higher than all other counties except Monroe.

Like the state, region and nation, Ontario experienced a drastic increase in unemployment during and following the Great Recession:

- Unemployment jumped from 4.2% in 2007 to a high of 7.4% in 2010, but has since fallen to 3.9% in 2018, its lowest rate since 2000 (3.6%).
- Ontario's rate in 2018 was on par with the nation, and lower than state (4.1%), region (4.2%), and every other county in the region except Seneca and Yates.

Education

Students in Ontario matched or outperformed their peers on most Common Core-aligned tests and high school Regents:

- In 2018, 42% of Ontario 3rd graders passed the English test, similar to the region (43%), but below the state (51%). For math, 51% of 3rd graders received passing test scores, below the state (54%), but above the region (48%).
- 8th graders surpassed the state, the region and all other counties on the math test (with 55% passing), while 47% of Ontario's 8th graders passed the English test, similar to the state and above the region.

- For both the Common Core Algebra 1 and English Regents test, a higher portion of students in Ontario passed (84% and 88% respectively) than statewide and in the region.
- We note that a substantial number of students did not take state exams in 2018 due to parent concerns about testing in schools. In our region in 2018, 19% of 3rd-8th graders in the region opted not to take the English or Math exams.

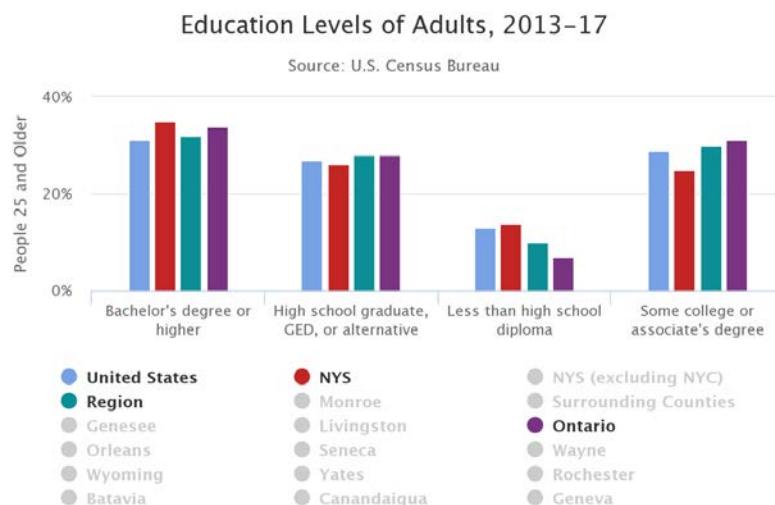
Ontario County has made great progress in prekindergarten participation since 2001, and fares well compared the state and region:

- Ontario County's prekindergarten participation rate grew from 12% in 2001 to 54% in 2017. The growth of 42 points was larger than the region and the state.

Ontario had among the highest graduation rates in the region in 2018 at 90%; this is an increase of 8 points from 2008. The graduation rate in 2018 was above the state (83%) and region (85%).

Ontario County, along with Monroe, consistently had the highest levels of educational attainment in the region.

- In 2013-17, 65% of Ontario County residents 25 and older had attended at least some college, 5 points above the state and national figures. This was up from 57% of residents in 2000.
- In addition, Ontario had a lower share of those with less than a high school diploma (7%) compared to the state, nation, and region.



Overall spending per student by Ontario County school districts has increased 43% since 2000, a smaller increase than the state, region, and every regional county. At \$21,059 in 2017, per-student spending was lower than every regional county.

In 2017, Ontario County spent \$14,844 per student on instructional expenses (spending directly related to a student's classroom experience), among the lower spending counties in the region. Ontario's instructional spending per student has increased 40% since 2000, similar to the region (43%), but much less than the state (60%).

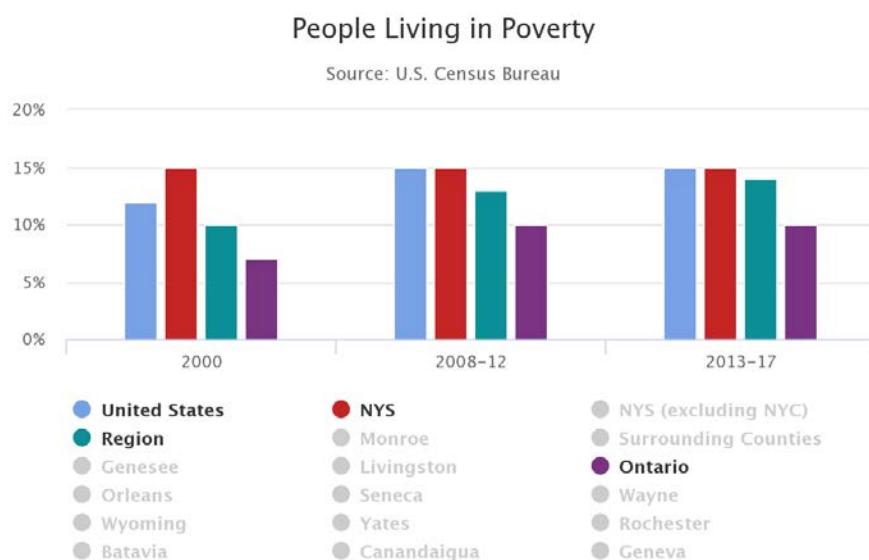
Economic Security

Despite a decrease from 2000, median household income in Ontario was higher than any other county:

- Ontario's median income in 2013-17 was \$61,700, above the nation (\$57,652) and region (\$54,972) but below the state (\$62,765).
- From 2000 to 2013-17, inflation-adjusted median income in Ontario fell by 6%, a greater loss than the state but less than the region and nation.

Poverty has increased, but remains below the nation, state and region:

- In 2013-17, 10% of Ontario residents had incomes below the poverty line, compared to 15% for the state, 15% for the nation, and 14% for the region. Ontario's poverty rate has remained below that of region, state, nation and all other regional counties since 2000.
- Ontario's poverty rate has risen by 3 points from 2000 to 2013-17, a larger increase than the state (no change), below the region (4 points), and on par with the nation.
- In 2017, 1.2% of residents in Ontario received temporary assistance; lower than the state and region (2.8% and 2.6% respectively). The rate has increased slightly from 1.1% in 2001. Ontario's rate is consistently below the state and region, but above some counties surrounding Monroe.



The rate of disengaged youth in Ontario County was 4% for 2013-17, a lower rate than most other counties in the region and lower than the nation, state (both 7%) and region as a whole (6%).

Ontario County had the lowest rate of households participating in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) in 2013-17 (10%). This rate is 2 points higher than 2008-12. However, it is lower than the rates for the region (14%), state (15%) and nation (13%).

Health

A relatively small share of Ontario residents lack health insurance –similar to most of the regional counties.

- In 2016, 4% of Ontario residents were uninsured; 5 points lower than the rate of 9% in 2008. Ontario's rate of uninsured in 2016 was lower than the nation (10%), state (7%), and the region (5%).

The mortality rate in Ontario has decreased since 2000:

- Ontario's rate in 2016 was 695 per 100,000 residents, higher than the state (624) and similar to the region (685).
- The rate fell by 12% from 2000 to 2016, a much smaller decrease than the state (22%) and slightly smaller than the regional decrease (16%).

Despite more than doubling from 2001 to 2017, the rate of chlamydia infections in Ontario County (29 per 10,000 residents) was lower than the state (59) and regional (52) rates.

In 2017, 6 cases of gonorrhea per 10,000 residents were reported in Ontario County; on par with 2000 and much lower than the region and state (both 17 per 10,000 residents).

In 2016, 0.4 cases of early syphilis per 10,000 residents were reported in Ontario County, lower than the region (0.8) and the state (3.1). The small number of cases in Ontario is similar to that of many of the region's counties, but has doubled since 2014 (0.2).

Housing

In 2013-17, the median home value in Ontario was higher than all other counties in the region. At \$156,600, median home values in Ontario increased 17% from 2000. Though a smaller increase than the state (excluding NYC, 20%), it was on par with the nation (18%) and greater than the region which saw a decrease (-1%).

Ontario's median home value was higher than the other eight counties in the region, but below the nation (\$193,500) and the state (excluding NYC, \$214,390).

In 2013-17, median rent was \$837 in Ontario, little changed from 2000 when it was \$830. This was higher than every regional county in 2013-17, except for Monroe, but still below the nation (\$982) and state (\$1,194).

The ratio of median income to median home value, a measure of housing affordability, was high in Ontario for 2013-17. With a ratio of 2.5, Ontario was among the least affordable counties, below the state (4.7) and nation (3.4), but higher than the region as a whole (2.4). A higher ratio means that housing is less affordable; a ratio above 2 or 3 is considered unaffordable.

In contrast, rent was relatively more affordable in Ontario: 31% of renters' income went to rent in 2013-17, similar to the national rate (32%) and a bit lower than the regional (34%), and statewide (36%) proportions. A rate less than 30% is considered affordable.

Ontario County had a homeownership rate of 73% in 2013-17, higher than the national (64%), regional (68%), and state (54%) rates.

The rate of vacant housing units was 12% in Ontario County for 2013-17, a 20% increase from 2000. Ontario's vacant housing rate is higher than the region as a whole (10%), but on par with the state and nation (both also 12%).

Public Safety

Ontario's rate of serious crimes has fluctuated since 2000, but has decreased overall, in-line with the state, nation, and region:

- In 2017, there were 148 serious crimes per 10,000 residents in Ontario, below the national (275), regional (214) and state (182) rates.
- The rate has decreased 25% since 2000, in contrast to the decreases of 33% or greater in the state, region, and nation.

The rate of violent crime in Ontario rose 9% since 2000 with 12 reported incidents per 10,000 residents in 2017. Ontario's rate for 2017 was less than half of the region (28), the state (36), and the nation (38).

Ontario County had approximately 174 arrests per 10,000 residents in 2017. Arrests in the county saw a decrease of 23% from 2000 (226), and was lower than the region (198) and the state (226).

Ontario County had an incarceration rate of approximately 16 per 10,000 residents in 2017, on par with a few of the other counties in the region (Genesee, Orleans and Yates); all which similarly exceeded the statewide and regional rates (12.3 and 13.7 respectively).

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