

Ontario County Summary*

General Overview

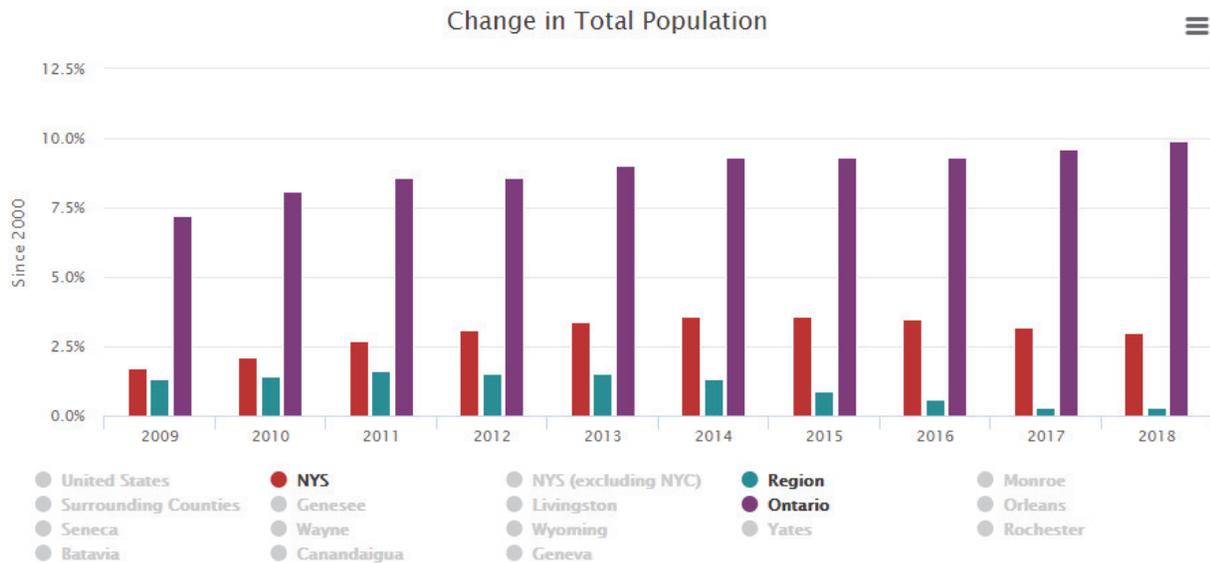
Ontario County, first organized in 1789, is situated southeast of Rochester. Much of Canandaigua Lake and the northwest shore of Seneca Lake are located in Ontario County. Ontario is the second most populous county in the region after Monroe with just under 110,000 residents in 2017.

With a 9.9% increase in residents from 2000 to 2018, 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 109,900 residents in 2018. This growth in population surpassed the growth rate of the region (0.3%) and the state (3.0%). Ontario County was home to 9% of the regional population in 2018.

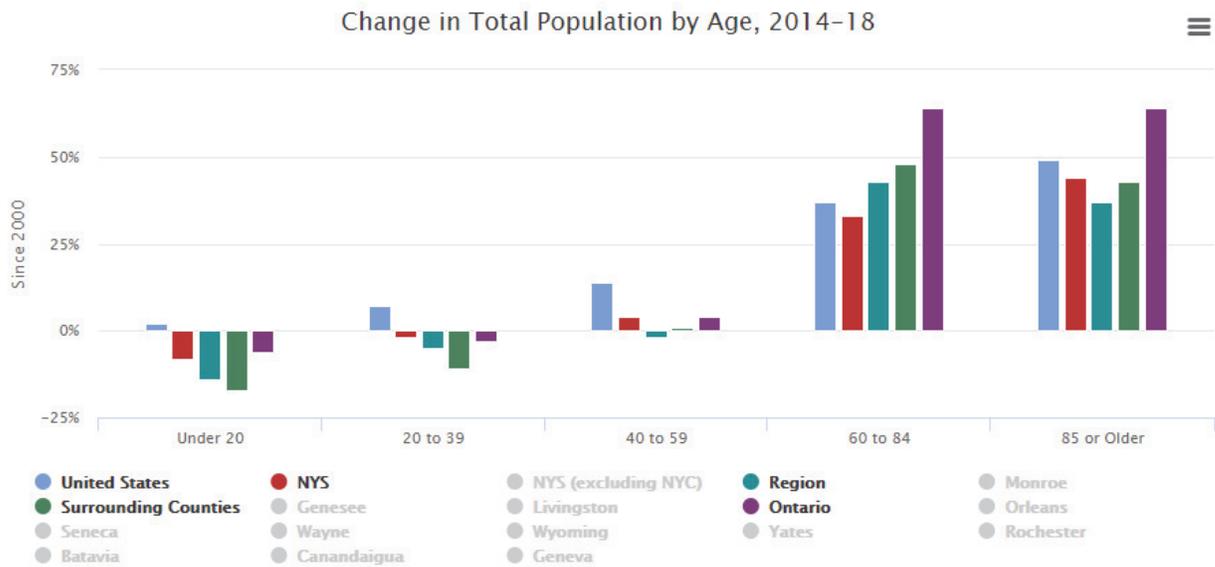


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

*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.

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

- From 2000 to 2014-18, the number of residents 85 and older grew by 64% as well as the number of residents age 60-84 - both larger increases than the state, nation, region, and every county in the region.
- Meanwhile, the number of residents under 20 shrank by 6% from 2000 to 2014-18; this is a smaller decrease than the region and every county in the region.
- The smaller decrease in the younger population and larger increase in the older population relative to the region is reflective of Ontario's comparatively strong overall population growth.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

- In 2014-18, 92% of Ontario residents were white, compared to 3% who were African American, 5% Hispanic, and 1% Asian.
- From 2000 to 2014-18, the Hispanic population grew by 131%, while the Asian population grew by 109% and the African American population rose by 50%. This compares to growth of 6% for white residents.

Community Vitality

In 2018, Ontario had higher tourism spending per resident (\$1,986) than any other county besides Yates, an increase of 8% from 2005. This was higher than the regional rate (\$1,419) but lower than the state excluding NYC (\$2,259). 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.

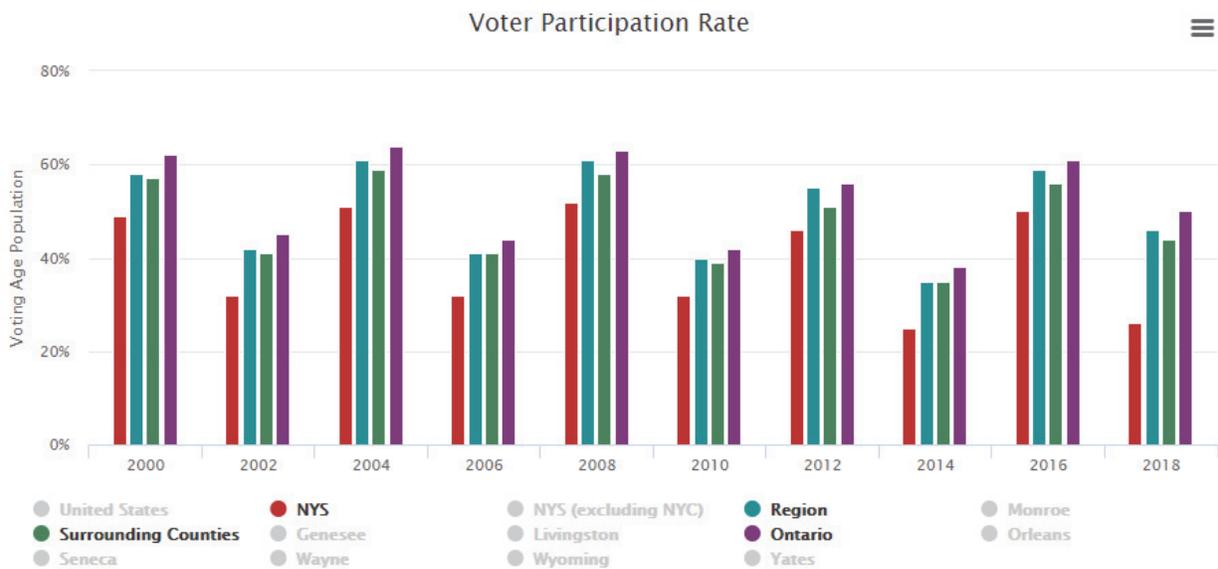


Source: NYS Empire State Development

Per capita recreational spending (\$101) has been flat since 2005. While higher than the region (\$80) Ontario was below the statewide (excluding NYC) figure of \$162.

In 2018, voter registration in Ontario (86%) was higher than the state (82%), region (83%), and every county in the region. This rate, however, was a decrease of 3 points from 2000.

Voter turnout was higher in Ontario (50%) than every other regional county including the state in the 2018 midterm election. Similar to the region, voter participation for the 2016 presidential election was higher in Ontario (61%).



Source: Federal Elections Commission, New York State Board of Elections

Ontario County’s share of registered borrowers decreased by 35 percentage points since 2000, and library visits have remained steady:

- In 2017, 45% of residents of Ontario’s county library system were registered borrowers, below the state (56%) and region (61%).
- The number of library visits have remained stable in Ontario at 5.7 visits per resident in 2017. This was similar to the region (5.9) and state (5.4).

In 2017, residents in Ontario gave 1.8% of their income as charitable contributions. Total charitable giving in Ontario County increased by 28% from 2011, similar to the increase at the state (29%), but much higher than the region (7%). Ontario donors gave approximately 72 million dollars in 2017, the second highest giving total in the region.

In 2014-18, 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 2014-18.

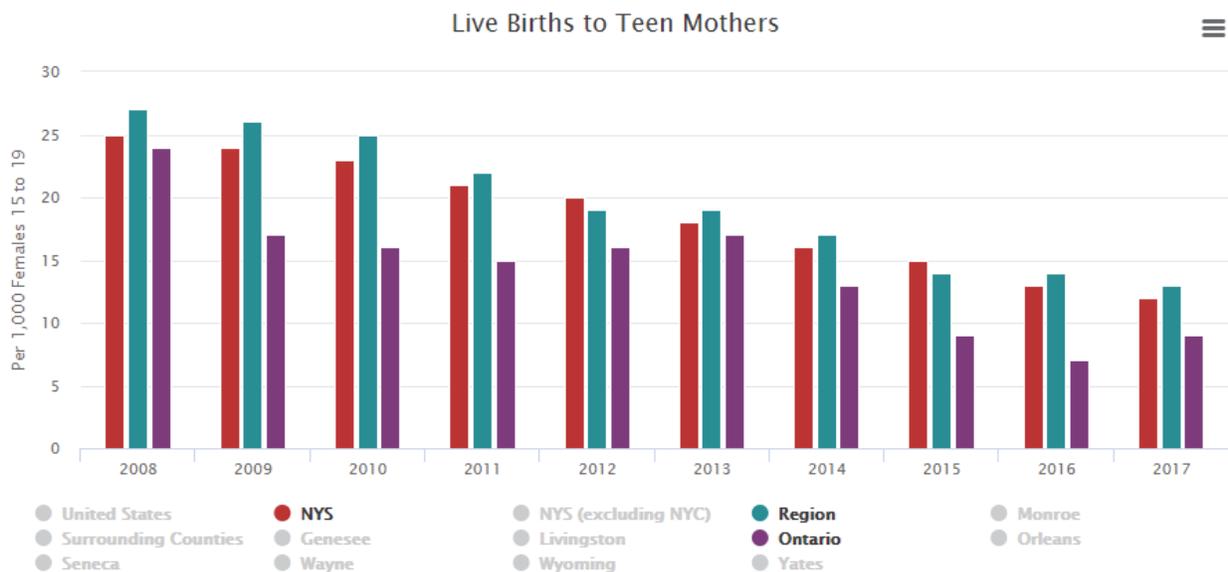
Children and Youth

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

- In 2014-18, 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, 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 2017, the teen pregnancy rate in Ontario was 1.2%, lower than the region (1.9%).
- The teen birth rate continues to decline with a reported 9 live births in 2017 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 67% - the largest decrease of all the region’s counties except Livingston.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New York State Department of Health

In 2017, 6.7% of births in Ontario were of low birth weight babies, below the nation, region and state (all 8%).

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

- In 2014-18, 32% 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 6-point increase from 2000 was less than the region (8 points), but more than the state (3 points) and nation (5 points).

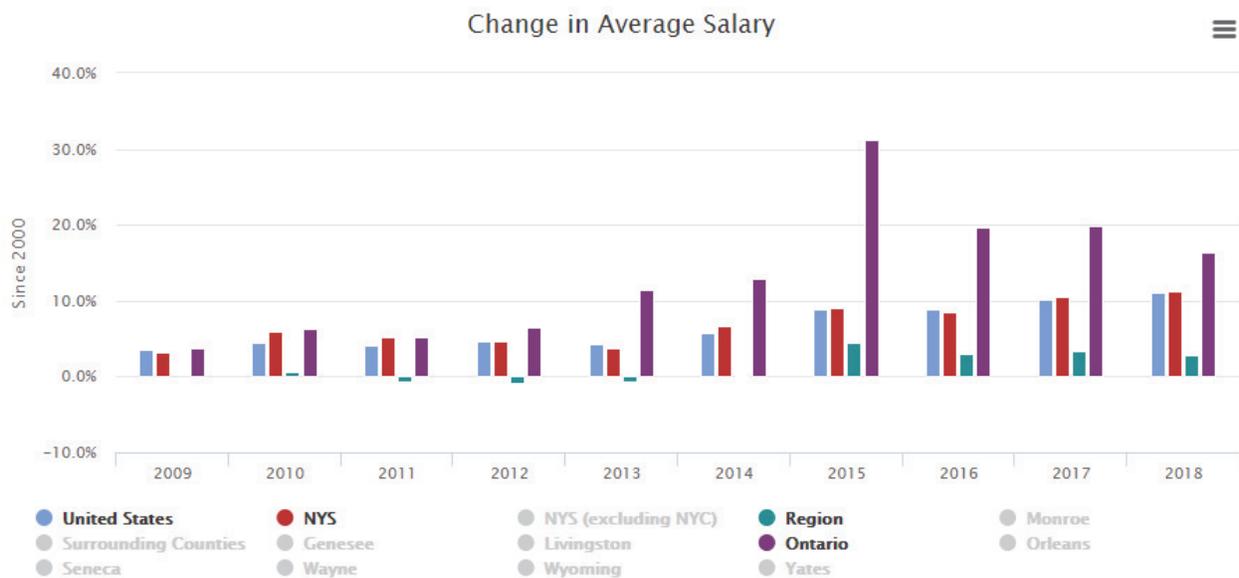
Economy

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

- Total jobs increased by 1.4% from 2017 to 2018 and grew by 16% since 2001, lower than the state (22%) and nation (21%) but well above the region (5%) during that period.
- Sectors in which job growth outperformed the region and most individual counties include Health Care and Social Assistance, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. In the Manufacturing sector, the decrease of 5% was less than the decrease at the regional, state, and national level.

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

- In Ontario, the average salary grew by 16% from \$40,655 in 2000 to \$47,291 in 2018, a larger increase than the state and nation (both 11%).
- Ontario’s average salary in 2018 was lower than the state and nation, but higher than all other counties except Monroe.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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, lower than state (4.1%) and regional (4.2%) rates, 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 2019, 44% of Ontario 3rd graders passed the English test, similar to the region (44%), but below the state (52%). For math, 51% of 3rd graders received passing test scores, below the state (55%), but above the region (49%).
- 8th graders surpassed the state, the region and all other counties except Wyoming on the math test (with 60% passing), while 49% 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 (85% and 88% respectively) than statewide and in the region.

We note that a substantial number of students did not take state exams in 2019 due to parent concerns about testing in schools. In our region in 2019, 15% of 3rd-8th graders in the region opted not to take the English exam and 16% opted not to take the Math exam.

Ontario County has made progress in prekindergarten participation since 2008, and fares well compared to the state and region:

- Ontario County's prekindergarten participation rate grew from 34% in 2008 to 51% in 2018. Ontario's rate was similar to the state and above the region (45%).

Ontario had among the highest graduation rates in the region in 2019 at 89%; this is an increase of 5 points from 2009. The graduation rate in 2019 was above the state (83%) and region (86%).

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

- In 2014-18, 67% of Ontario County residents 25 and older had attended at least some college, 7 points above the state and 6 points above the national figure. This was up from 56% 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 \$21,477 in 2018, per-student spending was lower than every regional county.

In 2018, Ontario County spent \$15,652 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 44% since 2000, similar to the region (45%), but less than the state (60%).

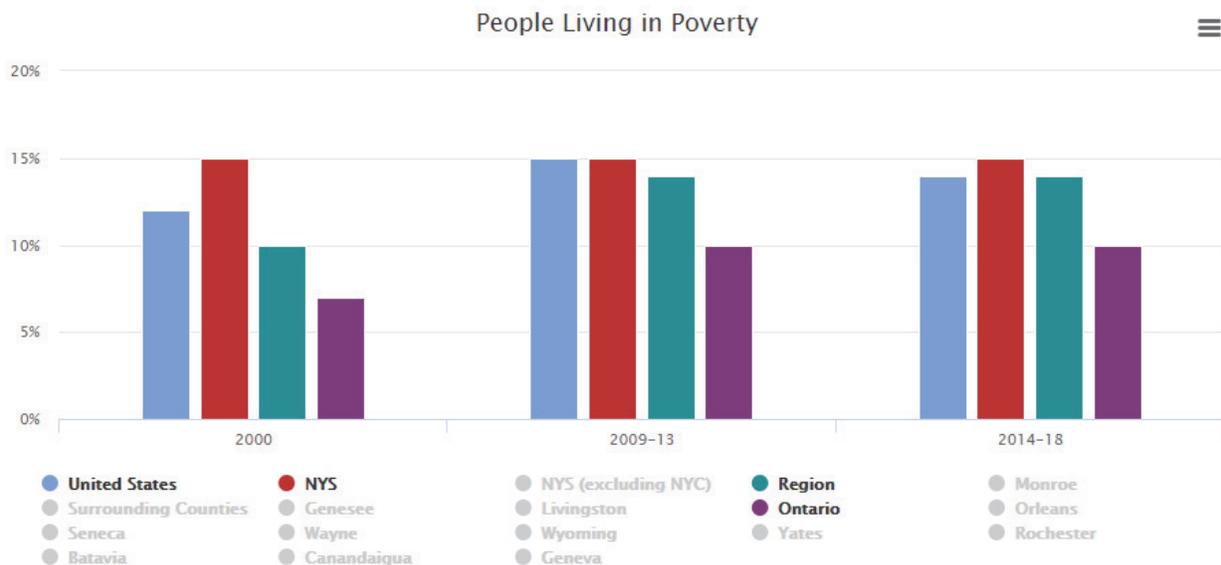
Economic Security

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

- Ontario's median household income in 2014-18 was \$63,359, above the nation (\$60,293) and region (\$57,350) but below the state (\$65,323).
- Since 2000, inflation-adjusted median household 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 2014-18, 10% of Ontario residents had incomes below the poverty line, compared to 15% for the state and 14% for the nation and 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 since 2000, a larger increase than the state (no change) and nation (2 points) and below the region (4 points).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In 2018, 1.3% of residents in Ontario received temporary assistance; lower than the state and region (2.7% and 2.3% 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.

Ontario County had the lowest rate of households participating in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) in 2014-18 (10%) and is lower than the rates for the region (14%), state (15%) and nation (12%).

Health

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

- In 2018, 4% of Ontario residents were uninsured; 5 points lower than the rate of 9% in 2008. Ontario’s rate of uninsured in 2018 was lower than the nation (10%), state (6%), and the region (5%).

The mortality rate in Ontario has decreased since 2000:

- Ontario’s rate in 2017 was 675 per 100,000 residents, higher than the state (610) and a bit below the region (700).
- The rate fell by 14% from 2000 to 2017, a much smaller decrease than the state (24%) and equal to the regional decrease (14%).

In 2017, there were 23 doctors per 10,000 residents in Ontario, double the rate for the surrounding counties (11 per 10,000 residents).

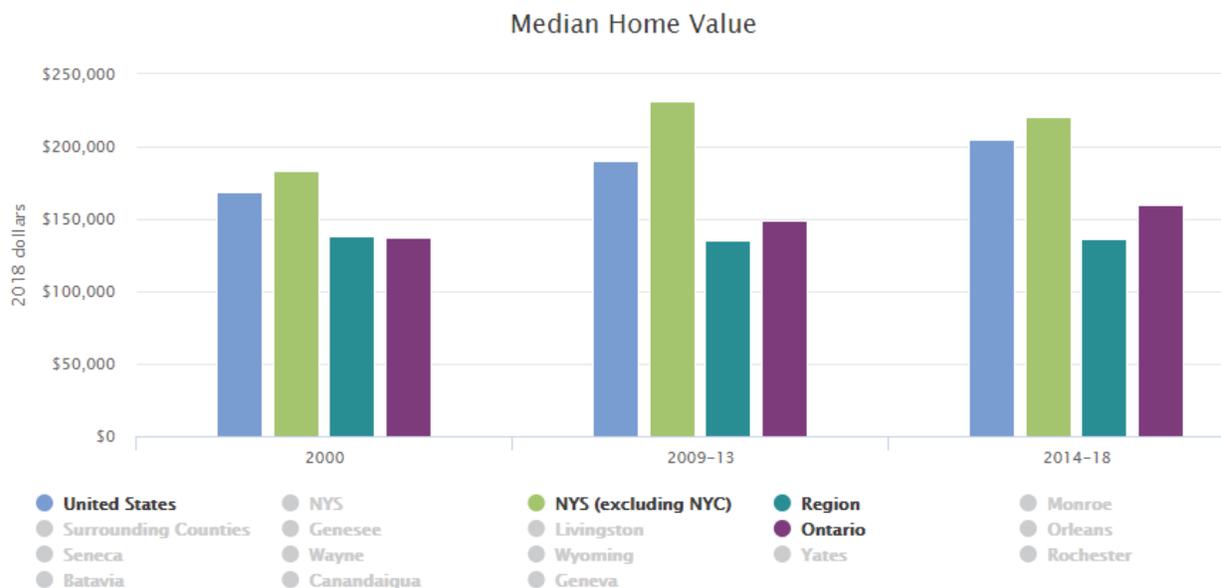
Ontario experienced mixed results for reported cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections:

- The rate of chlamydia infections has more than doubled since 2001. In 2018, Ontario had 30 cases per 10,000 residents, lower than the state (61) and regional (55) rates.
- In 2018, Ontario County reported 7 gonorrhea cases per 10,000 residents in the region. Ontario’s rate was much lower than the region and the state (18 and 19 per 10,000 residents respectively).

Housing

In 2014-18, the median home value in Ontario was higher than all other counties in the region:

- At \$160,000, median home values in Ontario increased 17% from 2000. Ontario’s median home value was higher than the other eight counties in the region, but below the nation (\$204,900) and the state (excluding NYC, \$220,304).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In 2014-18, median rent was \$875 in Ontario, little changed from 2000 when it was \$850. This was higher than every regional county in 2014-18, except for Monroe, but still below the nation (\$1,023) and state (\$1,240).

The ratio of median income to median home value, a measure of housing affordability, was high in Ontario for 2014-18. With a ratio of 2.5, Ontario was among the least affordable counties, below the state (4.6) and nation (3.4), and similar to 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 2014-18, 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 74% in 2014-18, higher than the national (64%), regional (68%), and state (54%) rates.

The rate of vacant housing units was 12% in Ontario County for 2014-18, a 2 point 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 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 2018, there were 132 serious crimes per 10,000 residents in Ontario, below the national (257), regional (190) and state (178) rates.
- The rate has decreased 33% since 2000, lower than the decreases of 46% in region, 42% in the state, and 38% nationally.

The rate of violent crime in Ontario rose 10% since 2000 with 12 reported incidents per 10,000 residents in 2018. Ontario's rate for 2018 was half of the region's rate (24) and lower than the state (35), and the nation (37).

Ontario County had approximately 176 arrests per 10,000 residents in 2018. Arrests in the county saw a decrease of 22% from 2000 (225), and was lower than the region (188) and the state (209).

Ontario County had an incarceration rate of approximately 15 per 10,000 residents in 2018, above the statewide and regional rates (12 and 13 respectively).

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