

The 20 Years Chart

Compensation increases by province and specialty

HOW TO READ THIS TABLE

This table tells us how different specialties have done in terms of average compensation over a 20-year period for select provinces.

1996 line: Average gross fee-for-service (FFS) payment per physician who received at least \$100,000 in fee-for-service payments for 1995/96

2016 line: Average gross payment per physician who received at least \$100,000 for 2015/16. However, Alberta and Saskatchewan numbers are gross FFS payment because gross payment data is not released at the specialty level for these two provinces.

Up line: Percentage increase over 20 years. Thus “100%” means compensation doubled.

* Data was suppressed because there were between 1 and 4 doctors.

n/a No doctors.

So why are we comparing FFS in 1995/96 to 2015/16 gross payments? Well, pretty much every doctor was FFS in 1995/96 so that was the whole game then and CIHI only began reporting average gross payments at the specialty level in 2014/15. But with the rise of alternate payment plans in the last two decades, gross payments are now the more accurate measure of the totality of full-time doctor compensation. CIHI prepared this data at the request of the *Medical Post* and we cut off all doctors billing less than \$100,000 to try and make this a measure of full-time clinical doctors.

Why not pathology and radiology?

For these specialties, the proportion of funding that comes from the medical care plan versus hospital budgets is not consistent across the country so CIHI does not think it appropriate to include these specialties.

SPECIALTY		N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	ONT.	MAN.	SASK.	ALTA.	B.C.	AVERAGE
Family medicine	1996: \$174,698 2016: \$269,646 up: 54%	\$199,159 \$305,091 53%	\$162,098 \$259,368 60%	\$179,154 \$293,636 64%	\$217,799 \$363,879 67%	\$167,286 \$343,048 105%	\$191,290 \$303,561 59%	\$186,223 \$364,447 96%	\$187,970 \$273,416 45%	\$191,915 \$317,853 66%	
Internal medicine	1996: \$238,486 2016: \$436,945 up: 83%	\$246,714 \$463,958 88%	\$196,156 \$295,296 51%	\$275,917 \$439,872 59%	\$354,539 \$451,670 27%	\$255,258 \$458,082 79%	\$316,278 \$496,769 57%	\$249,913 \$588,641 136%	\$289,521 \$435,394 50%	\$283,692 \$438,705 55%	
Cardiology	1996: N/A 2016: \$584,346 up: N/A	N/A N/A	N/A \$281,824	N/A \$622,797	N/A \$650,086	N/A \$673,892	N/A \$891,407	N/A \$683,480	N/A \$731,072	N/A \$613,164	
Gastroenterology	1996: N/A 2016: \$469,470 up: N/A	N/A N/A	N/A \$570,206	N/A \$594,988	N/A \$620,404	N/A \$721,966	N/A \$624,139	N/A \$580,685	N/A \$539,637		
Neurology	1996: \$135,390 2016: \$330,510 up: 144%	N/A *	\$164,235 \$330,392 101%	\$219,815 \$392,398 79%	\$295,618 \$337,551 14%	\$206,231 \$381,613 85%	\$231,278 \$368,451 59%	\$224,991 \$471,462 110%	\$254,058 \$339,066 33%	\$237,741 \$343,355 44%	
Psychiatry	1996: \$228,027 2016: \$293,396 up: 29%	\$265,807 \$369,571 39%	\$183,733 \$272,937 49%	\$193,039 \$328,161 70%	\$196,801 \$268,993 37%	\$168,191 \$335,920 100%	\$241,574 \$342,753 42%	\$188,835 \$398,027 111%	\$172,824 \$293,456 70%	\$184,897 \$316,088 71%	
Pediatrics	1996: \$150,401 2016: \$308,160 up: 105%	\$194,707 \$349,670 80%	\$172,208 \$253,640 47%	\$206,666 \$329,349 59%	\$256,123 \$317,349 24%	\$184,301 \$352,301 91%	\$187,732 \$308,691 64%	\$201,029 \$381,913 90%	\$229,465 \$321,331 40%	\$217,779 \$332,683 53%	
Dermatology	1996: * 2016: \$535,696 up: *	* *	\$301,945 \$421,123 39%	\$212,409 \$546,215 157%	\$304,102 \$425,129 40%	\$257,487 \$829,832 222%	\$202,291 \$362,511 79%	\$358,774 \$915,752 155%	\$302,332 \$372,443 23%	\$277,443 \$429,064 55%	
Physical medicine	1996: N/A 2016: * up: *	N/A *	\$161,290 \$245,272 52%	\$159,942 \$342,885 114%	\$223,485 \$312,493 40%	\$118,318 \$402,197 240%	* \$789,940	\$253,063 \$409,867 62%	\$190,868 \$245,589 29%	\$210,957 \$315,155 49%	
Anesthesia	1996: \$174,685 2016: \$430,271 up: 146%	\$156,788 \$340,300 117%	\$178,592 \$335,704 88%	\$179,509 \$350,467 95%	\$218,632 \$456,248 109%	\$124,792 \$423,406 239%	\$191,632 \$335,507 75%	\$225,586 \$430,401 91%	\$197,689 \$406,214 105%	\$202,794 \$438,704 116%	
General surgery	1996: \$248,770 2016: \$375,041 up: 51%	\$330,000 \$466,250 41%	\$243,973 \$393,223 61%	\$271,900 \$471,847 74%	\$298,659 \$489,009 64%	\$228,634 \$528,766 131%	\$232,829 \$424,174 82%	\$270,236 \$545,603 102%	\$283,865 \$472,506 66%	\$264,495 \$485,373 84%	
Thor./card. surg.	1996: \$324,316 2016: \$552,798 up: 70%	N/A N/A	\$287,214 \$429,063 49%	\$272,542 \$510,788 87%	\$455,408 \$631,753 39%	\$302,892 \$550,432 82%	\$471,108 \$927,649 97%	\$471,565 \$850,383 80%	\$398,759 \$658,323 65%	\$328,749 \$600,367 83%	
Urology	1996: \$348,607 2016: \$585,034 up: 68%	* \$397,922	\$220,176 \$510,716 132%	\$267,263 \$479,650 79%	\$325,342 \$513,590 58%	\$237,963 \$477,249 101%	\$276,180 \$466,884 69%	\$277,687 \$659,235 137%	\$348,191 \$506,379 45%	\$293,716 \$495,491 69%	
Orthopedic surgery	1996: \$234,381 2016: \$467,285 up: 99%	* \$467,101	\$292,163 \$369,726 27%	\$278,003 \$385,465 39%	\$299,776 \$483,550 61%	\$218,022 \$467,923 115%	\$319,914 \$602,010 88%	\$283,385 \$547,332 93%	\$257,613 \$433,510 68%	\$266,491 \$455,477 71%	
Plastic surgery	1996: * 2016: \$523,132 up: *	N/A *	\$250,034 \$416,366 67%	\$238,229 \$444,514 87%	\$277,740 \$392,923 41%	\$271,866 \$666,766 145%	\$229,263 \$500,063 118%	\$290,391 \$572,744 97%	\$249,553 \$451,386 81%	\$246,644 \$409,468 66%	
Neurosurgery	1996: * 2016: * up: *	N/A N/A	\$214,453 \$534,445 149%	\$192,912 \$522,121 171%	\$285,939 \$639,470 124%	\$212,947 \$751,094 253%	\$304,088 \$868,139 185%	\$266,925 \$206,964 -22%**	\$299,715 \$631,166 111%	\$265,308 \$581,543 119%	
Ophthalmology	1996: \$317,703 2016: \$807,930 up: 154%	* \$587,965	\$307,850 \$675,592 119%	\$342,394 \$780,617 128%	\$358,074 \$773,604 116%	\$372,970 \$916,754 146%	\$469,572 \$1,176,179 150%	\$372,374 \$1,254,770 237%	\$365,702 \$944,698 158%	\$329,728 \$776,914 136%	
Otolaryngology	1996: \$365,174 2016: \$607,816 up: 66%	* *	\$275,158 \$400,445 46%	\$264,708 \$486,999 84%	\$369,568 \$455,991 23%	\$185,568 \$485,192 161%	\$396,483 \$561,761 42%	\$337,478 \$709,517 110%	\$260,638 \$489,507 88%	\$301,362 \$460,542 53%	
Ob/gyn	1996: \$256,876 2016: \$391,703 up: 52%	\$294,050 \$458,739 56%	\$227,961 \$308,682 35%	\$226,835 \$396,918 75%	\$314,454 \$460,463 46%	\$232,205 \$424,654 83%	\$290,905 \$467,004 61%	\$281,643 \$540,018 92%	\$270,019 \$381,549 41%	\$273,722 \$445,515 63%	
Total specialists (excluding FPs)	1996: \$239,831 2016: \$415,065 up: 73%	\$258,616 \$428,334 66%	\$221,054 \$335,597 52%	\$245,560 \$420,936 71%	\$290,007 \$428,306 48%	\$218,640 \$452,777 107%	\$275,556 \$480,774 74%	\$257,493 \$423,406 109%	\$260,051 \$423,353 63%	\$254,421 \$429,133 69%	
TOTAL DOCTORS	1996: \$203,214 2016: \$350,027 up: 67%	\$218,442 \$355,341 63%	\$188,854 \$298,514 58%	\$207,023 \$351,224 70%	\$251,909 \$396,250 57%	\$192,963 \$395,056 105%	\$223,585 \$387,907 73%	\$215,683 \$431,061 100%	\$216,395 \$342,438 58%	\$220,870 \$371,917 68%	

Why no comparson—“Up” line—data for cardiology and gastroenterology? Those two specialties were grouped under internal medicine in 1996 so it isn’t possible to compare change over 20 years.

Why no Quebec data? The data-sharing agreements between the government of Quebec and CIHI does not authorize CIHI to release 1995/96 data for Quebec so we excluded the province here. ♦

FPs 20-YEAR REMUNERATION INCREASE	
Manitoba	↑ up 105%
Alberta	↑ up 96%
Ontario	↑ up 67%
N.B.	↑ up 64%
N.S.	↑ up 60%
Sask.	↑ up 59%
N.L.	↑ up 54%
P.E.I.	↑ up 53%
B.C.	↑ up 45%

BIGGEST OVERALL INCREASES	
1.	253% Manitoba neurosurgeons
2.	240% Manitoba physical medicine
3.	239% Manitoba anesthesiologists
4.	237% Alberta ophthalmologists

SMALLEST OVERALL INCREASES	
1.	14% Ontario neurologists
2.	23% Ontario otolaryngologists
3.	23% B.C. dermatologists
4.	24% Ontario pediatricians

INFLATION?

45%

The consumer price index rose 45% between 1996 and 2016.

** Wait. Alberta neurologists’ income fell 22% over 20 years? Probably not. Remember we had to use FFS averages for Alberta and Saskatchewan for 2015/16 numbers and it is known that neurosurgery is a specialty pre-dominately paid through alternative payment plans. So this is surely a false negative as the decrease is more likely due to a shift in payment programs as opposed to less pay per physician. These are the numbers but other Alberta and Saskatchewan results with specialties where there has been a significant shift to alternative payment plans will also be influenced.

ONTARIO

57%

Province with SMALLEST 20-year compensation increase rate

MANITOBA

105%

Province with BIGGEST 20-year compensation increase rate

NEUROLOGY

44%

Specialty with SMALLEST average increase rate

OPHTHALMOLOGY

136%

Specialty with LARGEST average increase rate