

Provincial relativity ranking

Last year, for the first time, the Canadian Institute for Health Information released a new and more complete way of examining Canadian doctors' clinical incomes: The FTE metric. This FTE (full-time-equivalent) metric tracks gross clinical payments to doctors, including both fee-for-service (FFS) and alternative payment program (APP) payments.

In the charts at right, we used the 2017/18 FTE metric numbers to examine which provinces had the greatest income relativity variations and which had the least. We did this by taking the top three specialties' average clinical payments and comparing them with the bottom three. For instance, Alberta had the most variation, with the three highest-earning specialties receiving 2.84 times what the three lowest received. Of course, overhead variations mean take-home pay will be different.

—COLIN LESLIE

Ratio of top three earning specialties to bottom three

HIGH

LOW

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 in the FTE metric.

n/a No doctors

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

Source: CIHI

FEATURE

QUEBEC 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$805,200
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$630,015
General surgery	\$619,813
Plastic surgery	\$547,718
Urology	\$531,872
Neurosurgery	\$525,489
Orthopedic surgery	\$525,210
Otolaryngology	\$478,015
Internal medicine	\$476,508
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$462,792
Dermatology	\$453,089
Pediatrics	\$393,440
Psychiatry	\$365,154
Family medicine	\$362,969
Neurology	\$336,062
Physical medicine	\$319,907
2017-2018 relativity score	2.02
2016-2017 relativity score	2.07
2015-2016 relativity score	2.12
2014-2015 relativity score	2.13

1

NEW BRUNSWICK 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$771,040
Urology	\$648,012
Plastic surgery	\$600,906
Dermatology	\$577,403
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$541,085
General surgery	\$536,094
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$531,945
Otolaryngology	\$518,725
Orthopedic surgery	\$442,775
Internal medicine	\$431,098
Neurosurgery	\$418,050
Pediatrics	\$401,390
Psychiatry	\$371,463
Physical medicine	\$354,393
Family medicine	\$333,105
Neurology	\$306,710
2017-2018 relativity score	2.03
2016-2017 relativity score	2.07
2015-2016 relativity score	2.08
2014-2015 relativity score	2.08

2

SASKATCHEWAN 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$1,021,390
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$773,925
Neurosurgery	\$657,503
Urology	\$642,895
General surgery	\$584,659
Plastic surgery	\$568,500
Orthopedic surgery	\$560,509
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$555,692
Otolaryngology	\$550,072
Internal medicine	\$478,951
Dermatology	\$466,130
Pediatrics	\$381,150
Physical medicine	\$374,388
Psychiatry	\$353,586
Neurology	\$348,872
Family medicine	\$319,974
2017-2018 relativity score	2.40
2016-2017 relativity score	2.36
2015-2016 relativity score	2.53
2014-2015 relativity score	2.51

6

MANITOBA 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$1,156,563
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$757,297
Urology	\$690,829
Plastic surgery	\$646,083
Dermatology	\$640,095
General surgery	\$610,692
Neurosurgery	\$576,084
Orthopedic surgery	\$555,795
Otolaryngology	\$533,616
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$506,656
Internal medicine	\$467,028
Physical medicine	\$392,271
Neurology	\$359,307
Family medicine	\$351,811
Psychiatry	\$340,736
Pediatrics	\$330,382
2017-2018 relativity score	2.55
2016-2017 relativity score	2.55
2015-2016 relativity score	2.52
2014-2015 relativity score	2.58

7

BRITISH COLUMBIA 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$936,854
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$654,144
Neurosurgery	\$618,281
Urology	\$589,836
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$533,264
General surgery	\$513,130
Plastic surgery	\$501,699
Orthopedic surgery	\$500,667
Otolaryngology	\$492,509
Internal medicine	\$486,885
Dermatology	\$470,390
Neurology	\$429,845
Pediatrics	\$399,201
Physical medicine	\$383,414
Family medicine	\$301,398
Psychiatry	\$297,581
2017-2018 relativity score	2.25
2016-2017 relativity score	2.29
2015-2016 relativity score	2.30
2014-2015 relativity score	2.20

3

NOVA SCOTIA 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$875,956
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$610,361
Urology	\$584,033
Plastic surgery	\$552,476
Dermatology	\$535,518
Otolaryngology	\$504,272
General surgery	\$487,900
Orthopedic surgery	\$440,509
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$435,983
Neurosurgery	\$374,760
Internal medicine	\$366,049
Pediatrics	\$346,562
Psychiatry	\$300,026
Neurology	\$290,198
Family medicine	\$288,019
Physical medicine	\$233,526
2017-2018 relativity score	2.55
2016-2017 relativity score	n/a
2015-2016 relativity score	2.55
2014-2015 relativity score	2.55

8

FEATURE

ONTARIO 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$724,734
Neurosurgery	\$680,149
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$668,701
Urology	\$525,149
Otolaryngology	\$512,212
General surgery	\$470,543
Orthopedic surgery	\$466,172
Internal medicine	\$433,244
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$430,573
Plastic surgery	\$421,013
Dermatology	\$355,028
Neurology	\$334,329
Physical medicine	\$316,393
Pediatrics	\$312,198
Family medicine	\$298,078
Psychiatry	\$277,284
2017-2018 relativity score	2.34
2016-2017 relativity score	2.29
2015-2016 relativity score	2.32
2014-2015 relativity score	2.27

4

P.E.I. 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$1,146,643
Urology	\$647,729
General surgery	\$539,337
Orthopedic surgery	\$513,348
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$499,120
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	n/a
Neurosurgery	n/a
Dermatology	*
Physical medicine	*
Plastic surgery	*
Otolaryngology	*
Internal medicine	\$427,215
Psychiatry	\$377,743
Pediatrics	\$314,656
Family medicine	\$310,562
Neurology	\$280,202
2017-2018 relativity score	2.58
2016-2017 relativity score	2.48
2015-2016 relativity score	2.22
2014-2015 relativity score	2.15

9

N.L. 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$983,302
Orthopedic surgery	\$748,421
Urology	\$570,418
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$568,063
Neurosurgery	\$553,058
Plastic surgery	\$548,800
Physical medicine	*
Dermatology	\$536,933
Otolaryngology	\$486,159
General surgery	\$467,744
Internal medicine	\$418,348
Neurology	\$417,324
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$387,033
Pediatrics	\$374,289
Psychiatry	\$304,689
Family medicine	\$287,626
2017-2018 relativity score	2.38
2016-2017 relativity score	2.39
2015-2016 relativity score	2.35
2014-2015 relativity score	2.28

5

ALBERTA 2017-2018	
Ophthalmology	\$1,254,402
Thoracic/cardiovascular surgery	\$897,087
Urology	\$715,853
Otolaryngology	\$676,864
Plastic surgery	\$670,895
General surgery	\$637,748
Dermatology	\$618,799
Orthopedic surgery	\$591,427
Internal medicine	\$541,850
Obstetrics/gynecology	\$534,111
Pediatrics	\$413,892
Neurology	\$400,528
Family medicine	\$389,429
Physical medicine	\$377,948
Neurosurgery	\$333,579
Psychiatry	\$328,719
2017-2018 relativity score	2.76
2016-2017 relativity score	2.84
2015-2016 relativity score	2.87
2014-2015 relativity score	2.87

10

Note: Saskatchewan's and Alberta's full-time equivalent figures are calculated using only fee-for-service payments in the numerator.