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Commentary | May 2024

# The Prosperity Continues: An Updated Snapshot of Temiskaming Shores

**NORTHERN**  
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INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES  
**DU NORD**

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By: William Dunstan

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We recognize and appreciate the historic connection that Indigenous peoples have to these territories. We support their efforts to sustain and grow their nations. We also recognize the contributions that they have made in shaping and strengthening local communities, the province, and Canada.

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This report was made possible through the support of our partner, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. Northern Policy Institute expresses great appreciation for their generous support but emphasizes the following: The views expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Institute, its Board of Directors or its supporters. Quotation with appropriate credit is permissible.

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Editor: Barry Norris

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Published by Northern Policy Institute

874 Tungsten St.

Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 6T6

ISBN: 978-1-77868-169-1



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## About the Author

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William Dunstan graduated with a Bachelor of Public Affairs and Policy Management student at Carleton University in June 2022. During his undergraduate studies, William learned about the wide world of public policy and developed a particular research interest in economic policy and regional development. Professionally, he has worked in several policy-related roles both in the think tank sphere and with the federal government. Originally from Ottawa, William developed a love for Northeastern (or Central) Ontario and the region's high quality of living during his time as an Experience North intern in 2021.



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# Executive Summary

Temiskaming Shores is a community of just under 10,000 people located in Northeastern Ontario. The city is the economic hub for the Lesser Clay Belt region and offers many opportunities to individuals and businesses. Temiskaming Shores has a diverse economy with many residents employed in Health care and social assistance, Retail trade, Manufacturing, Mining and quarrying,<sup>1</sup> and other industries. These other industries include agriculture, which makes a significant contribution to the regional economy, but employs relatively few residents of the City of Temiskaming Shores. Residents also work in many different occupations, with a particularly large share concentrated in Sales and service occupations and Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations.

Recent economic indicators are largely positive; however, some disparities remain between Temiskaming Shores and the national and provincial averages. In the past few years, Temiskaming Shores has seen rising incomes and an increase in the number of businesses. Nevertheless, incomes in Temiskaming Shores remain below the average for Ontario and Canada, as do the labour force participation rate and the employment rate.

A persistent advantage for Temiskaming Shores is the low cost of housing. Affordability can help the city attract and retain more residents, which will be increasingly important given the city has both an aging population and a shrinking working-age population. Continued efforts to be a welcoming community to growing First Nation, Métis, and Inuit and immigrant populations are another way to tackle Temiskaming Shores' demographic challenges.

## Introduction

This profile of the City of Temiskaming Shores provides an overview of various key economic and community indicators. These indicators relate to demographics, the labour force, incomes, housing, and other topics of importance to understanding the state of Temiskaming Shores. This information can be used to assess recent trends and inform decision-making in and affecting the community.

This project was carried out under the Northern Analyst Cooperative (NAC) agreement, which allows members to "time share" a professional policy analyst. By merging Northern Policy Institute's and member organizations' collective resources, the agreement ensures that the smallest municipality or local charity can access high-end skills at an affordable price. This project updates previous community profiles of Temiskaming Shores produced through the NAC program in 2020 and 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada reports employment for the following industry grouping: "Mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction". The author has shortened this label to "Mining and Quarrying" in the context of Temiskaming Shores to avoid confusion for the reader.

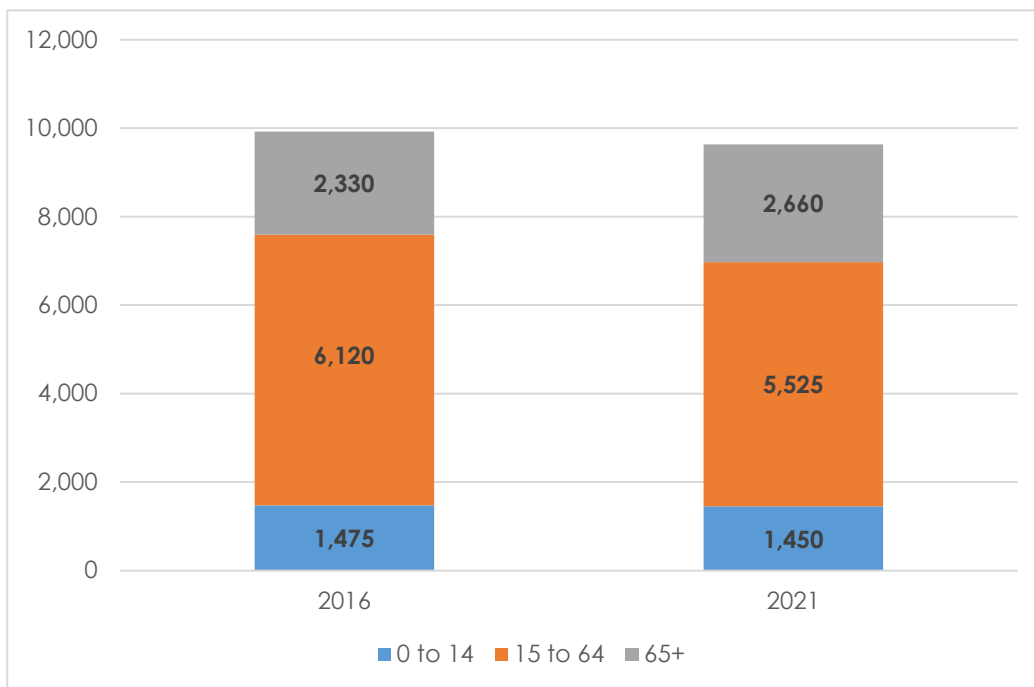


# Demographics

## Population

According to Statistics Canada's Census of Population, Temiskaming Shores' population is both aging and shrinking.<sup>2</sup> In 2021, Temiskaming Shores had a population of 9,634, a slight decline from its 2016 population of 9,920. As shown in figure 1, population change between 2016 and 2021 varied by age group. The number of residents ages 0 to 14 and 15 to 64 shrank, while the population ages 65 and older grew.

**Figure 1: Population, Temiskaming Shores, by Age, 2016 and 2021**



Sources: Statistics Canada (2021, 2023).

These demographic trends present a challenge for Temiskaming Shores. A shrinking population means fewer customers for local businesses. Further, a shrinking working-age population coupled with a growing elderly population means fewer workers available to support a community where health care and other services likely will face increased demand.

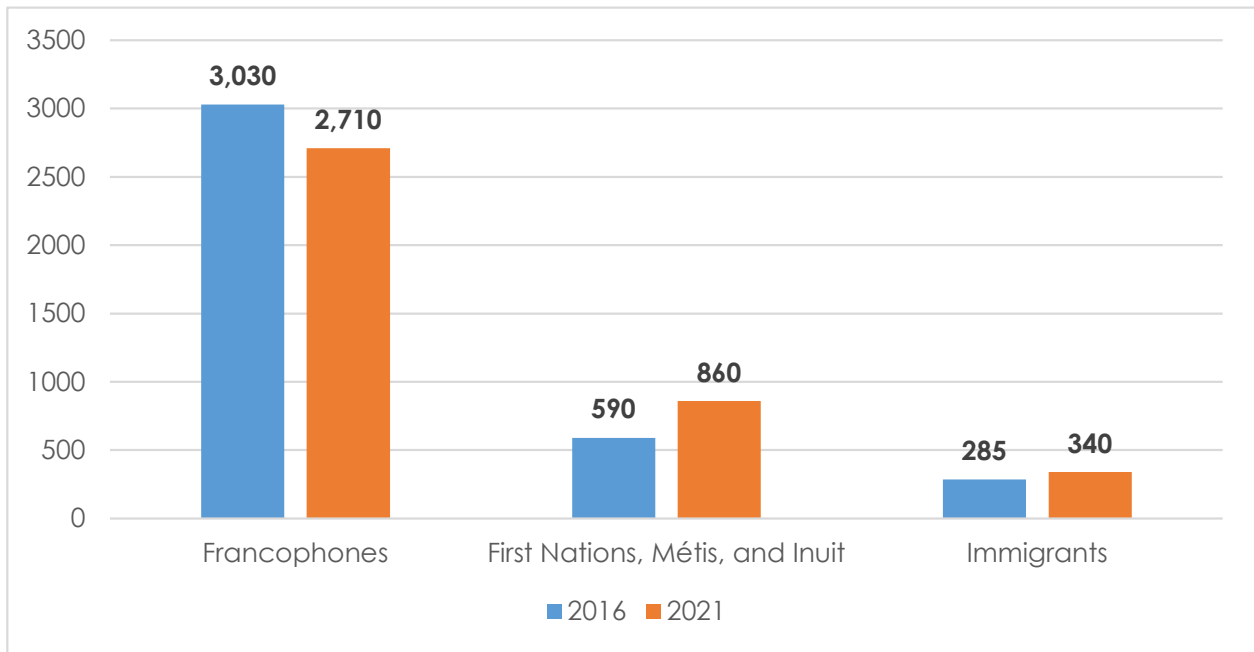
<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, data in this profile come from Statistics Canada's 2016 and 2021 Census Profiles.



## Diversity

Despite an aging and shrinking population, Temiskaming Shores is an increasingly diverse community. As figure 2 shows, a growing number of Temiskaming Shores residents are immigrants or identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit. At the same time, the community continues to be home to many people who speak French as their first official language.

**Figure 2: Number of Francophones, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples, and Immigrants, Temiskaming Shores, 2016 and 2021**



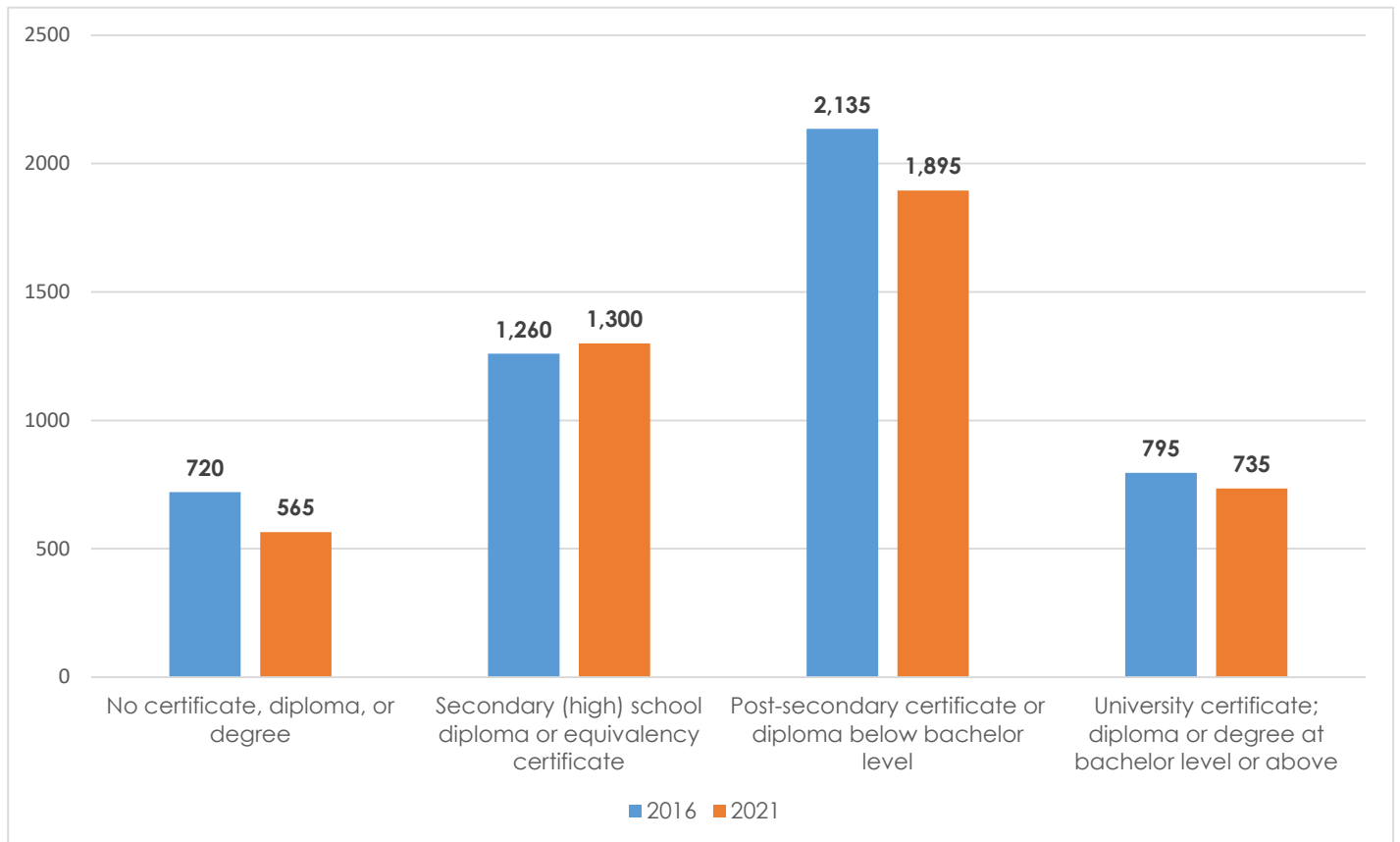
Sources: Statistics Canada (2021, 2023).



# Education

Temiskaming Shores has a well-educated population that provides many skilled workers for local businesses. Figure 3 shows the highest level of education attained by the population ages 25 to 64. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of residents whose highest level of education attained was a high school diploma increased, while the number with no certificate, diploma, or degree or with some level of post-secondary education decreased.

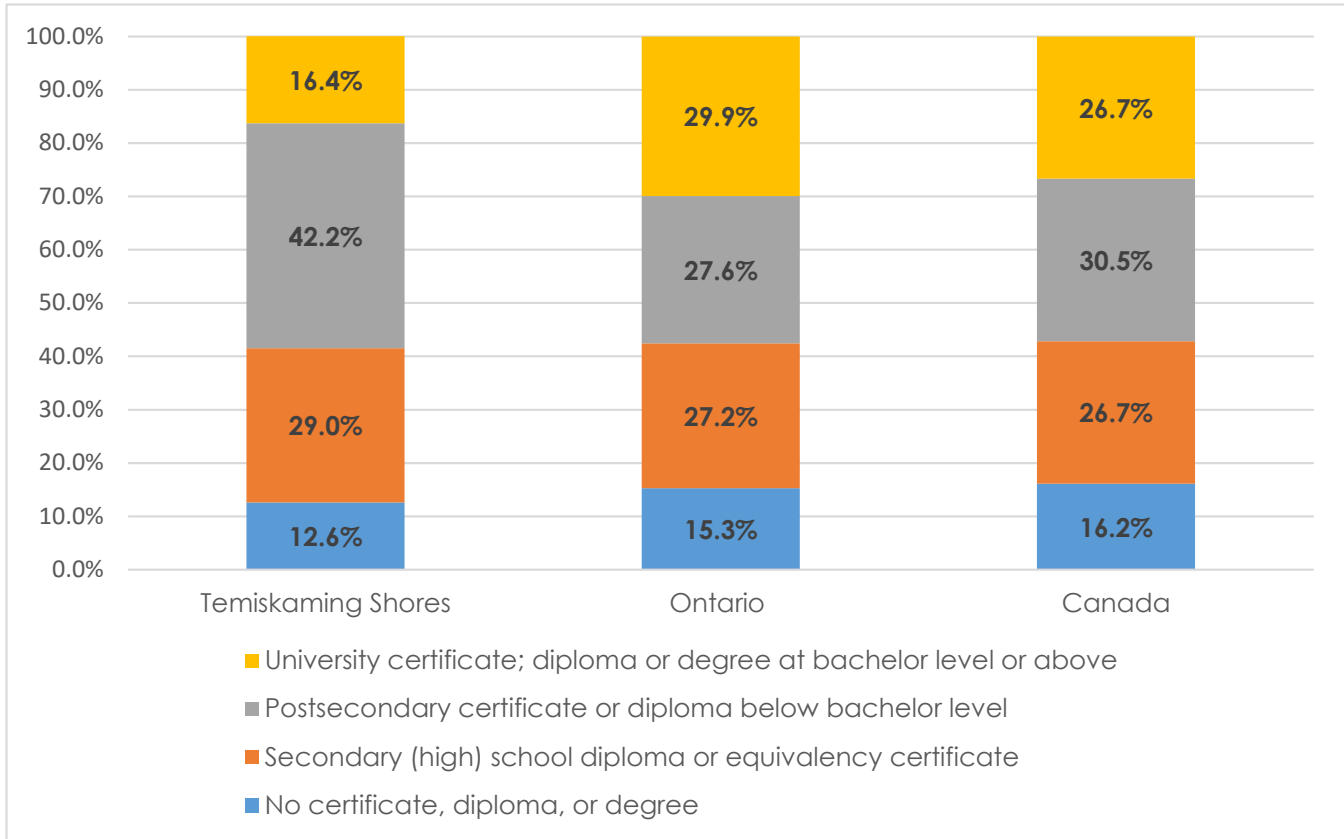
**Figure 3: Highest level of education attained, individuals ages 25–64, Temiskaming Shores, 2016 and 2021**



Sources Statistics Canada (2021, 2023).

As shown in figure 4, educational attainment in Temiskaming Shores exceeds the provincial and national averages for some levels of education but is below average at the highest levels. Temiskaming Shores has a larger share of residents ages 25–64 with at least a high school diploma or equivalent and with some level of post-secondary education than does Ontario or Canada as a whole. By contrast, the city has a significantly fewer share with a university certificate, diploma, or degree at the bachelor's level or above.

**Figure 4: Highest level of education attained, individuals ages 25–64, Temiskaming Shores, Ontario, and Canada, 2021**



Sources Statistics Canada (2023).

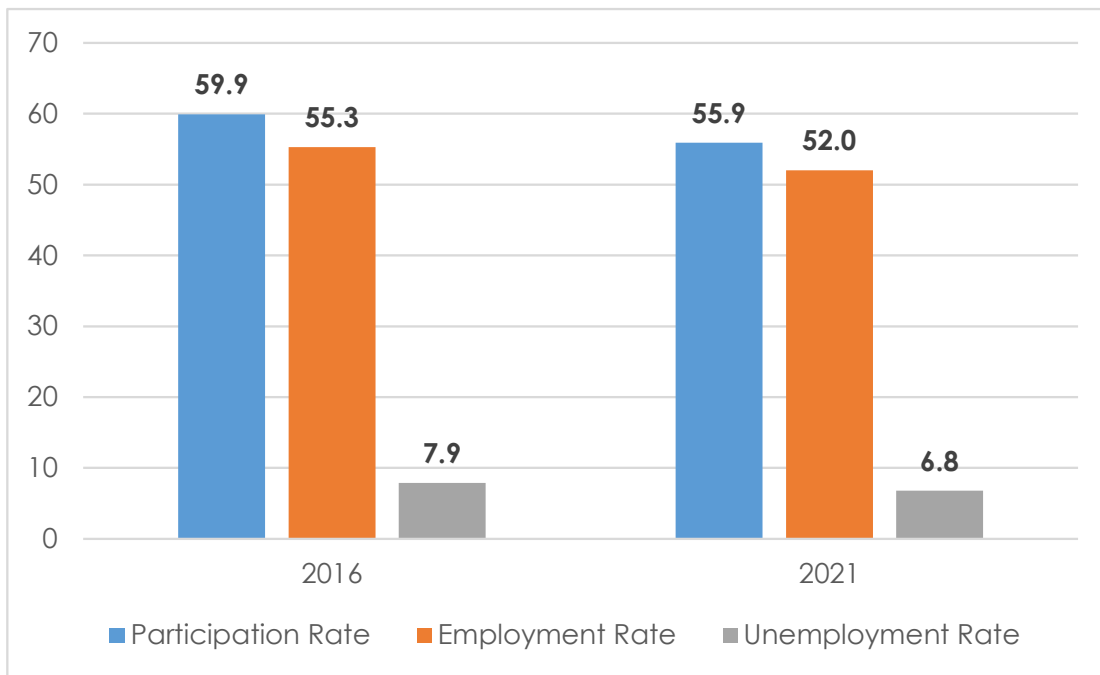


# Labour Force

## Key Labour Market Statistics

Figure 5 presents three key labour market statistics for Temiskaming Shores in 2016 and 2021. The decline in the labour force participation rate reveals that, compared to 2016, a smaller share of working-age individuals in Temiskaming Shores were active in the formal economy in 2021. The unemployment rate fell between 2016 and 2021; however, the fact that the participation and employment rates also fell suggests that this declining unemployment rate is more attributable to people leaving the labour force than to more people finding jobs. It should be noted that the 2021 labour force statistics were collected during the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic disruption, and might not reflect long-term trends.

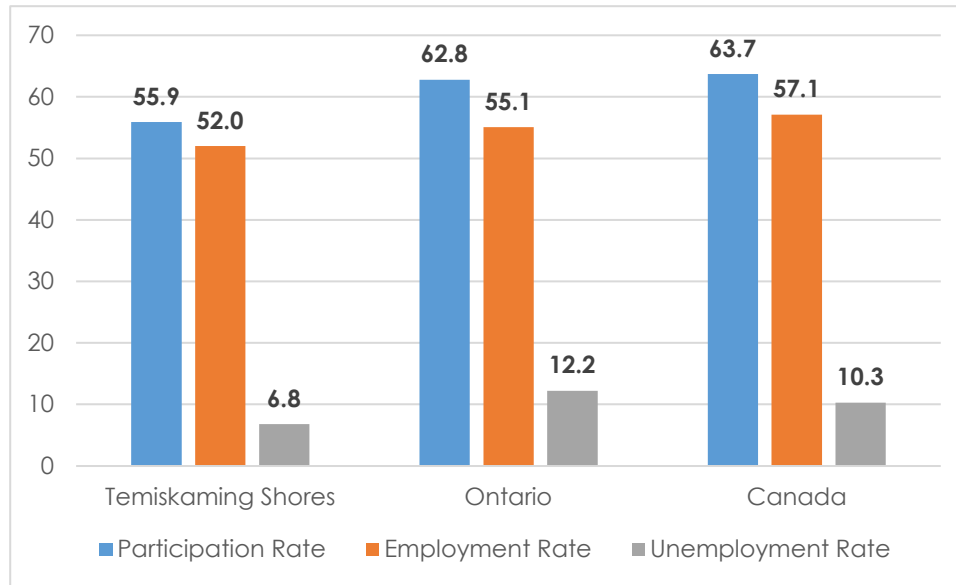
Figure 5: Key labour market statistics, Temiskaming Shores, 2016 and 2021



Sources: Statistics Canada (2021, 2023).

Figure 6 presents the same statistics for 2021 but includes comparisons with Ontario and Canada. Notably, Temiskaming Shores' unemployment rate was significantly lower than the provincial and national averages, but so was its participation rate. This means that Temiskaming Shores had fewer people active in the labour force who could not find work, but also fewer people active in the labour force to begin with.

**Figure 6: Key labour market statistics, Temiskaming Shores, Ontario, and Canada, 2021**



Sources: Statistics Canada (2023).

## The Labour Force, by Occupation

Table 1 lists the number of Temiskaming Shores residents employed in each National Occupational Classification (NOC) category, and what percentage of the employed labour force belongs to each occupational category. Nearly half (47.9 per cent) of the employed labour force work in two fields: Sales and service occupations, and Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations.

**Table 1: Labour Force by Occupational Category, Temiskaming Shores, 2021**

Occupation	Number of people employed	Share of employed labour force (%)
Sales and service occupations	1,150	26.4
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	895	20.5
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	625	14.3
Business, finance and administration occupations	590	13.5
Health occupations	370	8.5
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	270	6.2
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	215	4.9
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	130	3.0
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	75	1.7
Legislative and senior management occupations	35	0.8

Sources: Statistics Canada (2023).

# Commuting

When discussing Temiskaming Shores' labour force, it is important to acknowledge that not all people working in Temiskaming Shores are residents of the community — nor do all residents work in Temiskaming Shores. As illustrated in tables 2 and 3, many people who live in Temiskaming Shores work in other communities, and many people who live in other communities work in Temiskaming Shores.

Table 2 lists the community of residence for people working in Temiskaming Shores in 2021. Temiskaming Shores is a regional hub for business, drawing many workers from surrounding communities, as well as a small number from communities as far away as Toronto. Nearly 35 per cent of individuals working in Temiskaming Shores live outside the community.

**Table 2: Number of people working in Temiskaming Shores, by community of residence, 2021**

Community of residence	Number working in Temiskaming Shores
Temiskaming Shores	2,565
Cobalt	185
Timiskaming, Unorganized, West Part	155
Harris	120
Hudson	110
Armstrong	105
Casey	85
Coleman	85
Englehart	80
Kerns	65
Temagami	50
Harley	45
Hilliard	35
Charlton and Dack	30
Latchford	30
Évanturel	25
Greater Sudbury	20
Kirkland Lake	20
Timiskaming	20
James	15
Notre-Dame-du-Nord	15
Chamberlain	10
North Bay	10
Oro-Medonte	10
Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues	10
Toronto	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,910</b>

Sources: Statistics Canada (2023).



Table 3 lists the community of work for residents of Temiskaming Shores. The majority (83 per cent) work in the community. A few hundred residents work in nearby communities such as Kirkland Lake and Englehart, while a smaller number work in communities farther away, such as Greater Sudbury and Cochrane. Comparing tables 2 and 3, one can see that more people travel from other communities to Temiskaming Shores for work than vice versa (1,345 non-resident workers compared with 540 residents working in other communities).

**Table 3: Community of work, residents of Temiskaming Shores, 2021**

Community of work	Number of Temiskaming Shores residents
Temiskaming Shores	2,565
Kirkland Lake	110
Englehart	90
Matachewan	75
Armstrong	70
Thornloe	50
James	45
Cobalt	30
Notre-Dame-du-Nord	20
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	20
Temagami	10
Timiskaming, Unorganized, West Part	10
Cochrane	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,105</b>

Sources: Statistics Canada (2022c).



# Industries

Temiskaming Shores has a diversified economy, with residents employed in a variety of industries. Table 4 shows the number of Temiskaming Shores residents employed in each industry, and the share of the employed labour force that works in each industry. The five largest industries in Temiskaming Shores by number of employees are: Health care and social assistance, Retail trade, Educational services, Construction, and Manufacturing.

**Table 4: Employment, by industry, Temiskaming Shores, 2021**

Industry	Number of people employed	% of employed labour force
Health care and social assistance	695	15.9
Retail trade	655	15.0
Educational services	420	9.6
Construction	395	9.1
Manufacturing	290	6.7
Accommodation and food services	265	6.1
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	255	5.8
Other services (except public administration)	230	5.3
Public administration	215	4.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	200	4.6
Transportation and warehousing	190	4.4
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	110	2.5
Information and cultural industries	90	2.1
Wholesale trade	80	1.8
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	70	1.6
Finance and insurance	70	1.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	60	1.4
Utilities	50	1.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	25	0.6
Management of companies and enterprises	0	0

Sources: Statistics Canada (2023).

## Business Counts

Table 5 shows the number of business locations<sup>3</sup> in Temiskaming Shores between 2016 and 2022.<sup>4</sup> This total is further broken down by number of employees. As of 2022, Temiskaming Shores had 1,197 businesses, its highest number since 2018. Since 2020, more businesses have entered the Temiskaming Shores economy than have exited. Additionally, in 2022, 71 businesses in Temiskaming Shores had 20 or more employees, the most of any year over the period. In the same year, however, 60 per cent of businesses in Temiskaming Shores had no employees. This category of businesses includes self-employed people and employers who did not have employees in the last 12 months (Statistics Canada 2022a). Among businesses with employees, 69 per cent had fewer than 10.

**Table 5: Count of business locations by number of employees, Temiskaming Shores, 2016–22**

Number of employees	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Without employees	709	690	748	697	676	693	723
1–4	266	270	252	250	244	233	224
5–9	98	100	91	100	99	102	102
10–19	76	74	73	68	72	64	77
20–49	34	34	30	37	34	41	42
50–99	15	19	20	21	18	17	19
100+	14	12	12	10	11	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,197</b>

Source: Canadian Business Counts (various years).

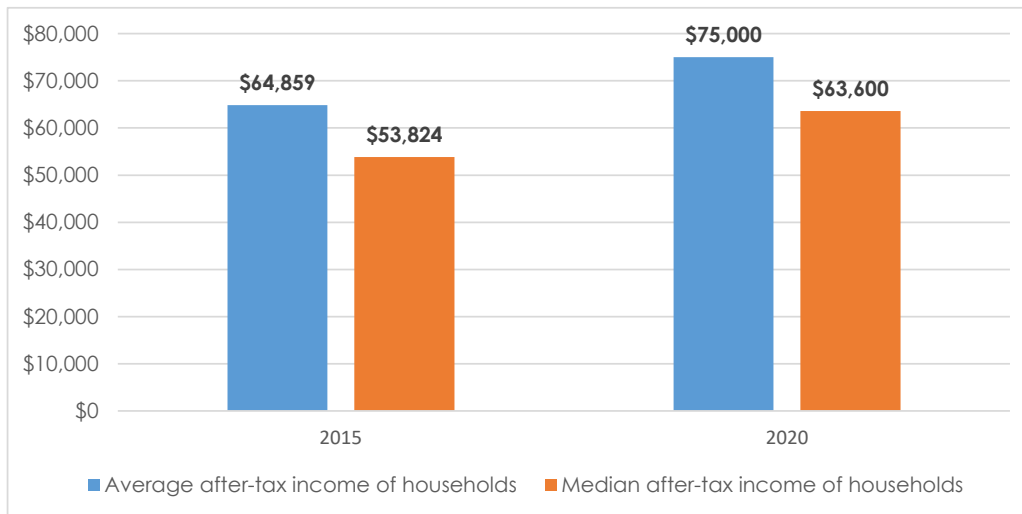
<sup>3</sup> As a statistical unit, a business location is defined as "production unit at a single geographical location at which or from which economic activity is conducted and for which, at a minimum, employment data are available" (Statistics Canada 2019).

<sup>4</sup> The Canadian Business Counts are an administrative dataset. Accordingly, the addition and deletion of firms depends on administrative burden. Therefore, although these business counts can be used to identify general trends, they should not be treated as exact, time-series data.

# Incomes

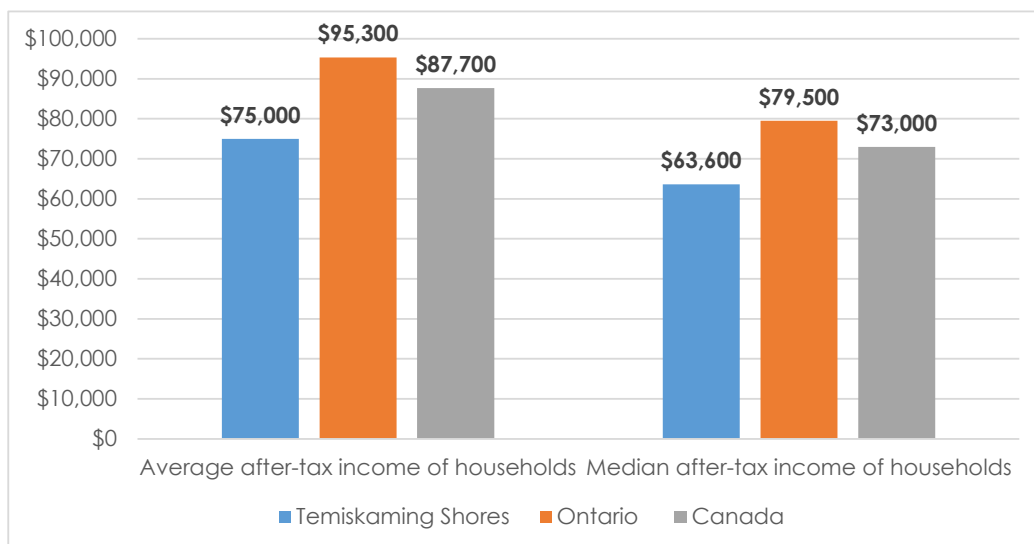
Incomes increased in Temiskaming Shores between 2015 and 2020, but remained below the provincial and national averages, although, as discussed below, these lower incomes were partially offset by the reduced cost of housing. To measure the incomes that households have at their disposal, this profile uses the statistics of average and median after-tax household income.<sup>5</sup> Figure 7 shows these statistics for Temiskaming Shores in 2015 and 2020. Figure 8 shows these statistics for Temiskaming Shores, Ontario, and Canada in 2020.

**Figure 7: Average and median after-tax household income, Temiskaming Shores, 2015 and 2020**



Sources: Statistics Canada (2021, 2023).

**Figure 8: Average and median after-tax household income, Temiskaming Shores, Ontario, and Canada, 2020**



Sources: Statistics Canada (2023).

<sup>5</sup> "Average" is calculated by adding together all of the individual values (in this case, income) and dividing this total by the number of cases or observations (in this case, households). "Median" is the middle value, where half the values are larger and half are smaller. The median is often used in addition or in place of the average because it is less influenced by outliers: small numbers of extremely high or low values.

# Housing

One of Temiskaming Shores' greatest advantages is its low cost of housing. Residents of Temiskaming Shores spend less on housing than the provincial and national average, both in raw terms and as a share of income. Figure 9 compares the median and average values of dwellings in Temiskaming Shores, Ontario, and Canada in 2021. In Temiskaming Shores, dwelling values — which are reflected in housing prices — are more than 90 per cent lower than the Ontario average.

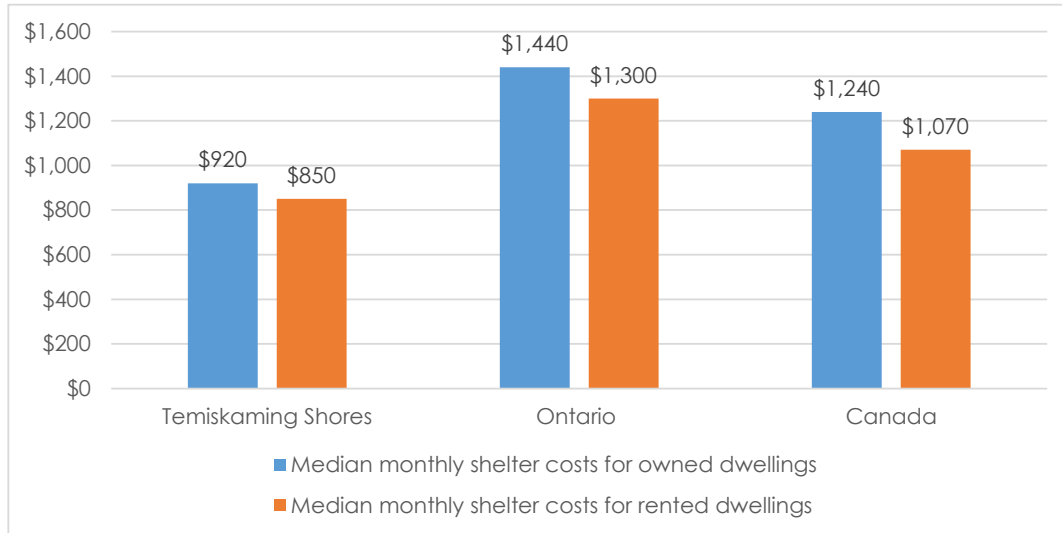
**Figure 9: Average and Median Value of Dwellings in Temiskaming Shores, Ontario, and Canada, 2021**



Sources: Statistics Canada (2023).

Figure 10 compares median monthly shelter costs for owned and rented dwellings for the same three geographies in 2021.<sup>6</sup> Once again, Temiskaming Shores offers a significant cost advantage to residents: for both owners and renters, median shelter costs in Temiskaming Shores are more than 40 per cent below the Ontario average.

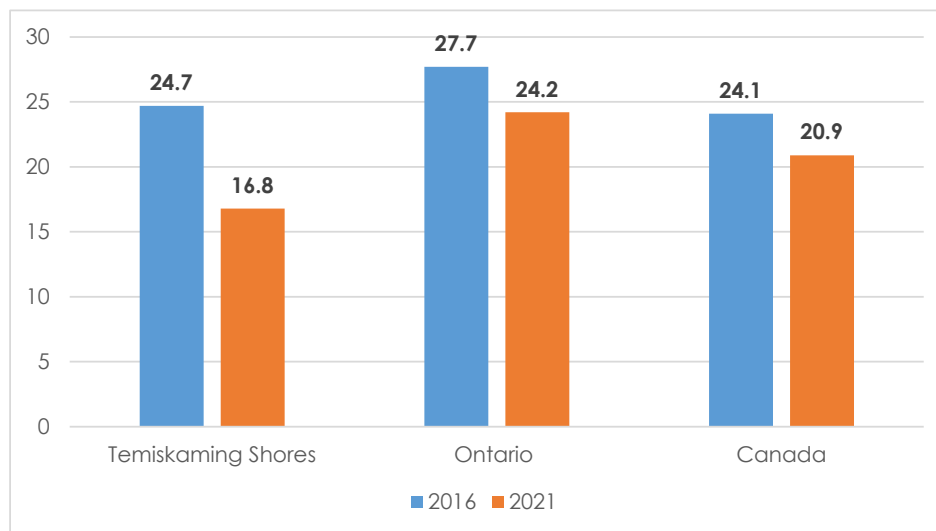
**Figure 10: Median monthly shelter costs, Temiskaming Shores, Ontario, and Canada, 2021**



Sources: Statistics Canada (2023).

Figure 11 shows that, as a share of residents' incomes, Temiskaming Shores saw its advantage in housing affordability grow between 2016 and 2021. In 2016, the share of Temiskaming Shores residents spending 30 per cent or more of their income on shelter was below the Ontario average and very slightly above the national average. In 2021, it was further below the Ontario average and below the national average.

**Figure 11: Share of residents spending 30 per cent or more of their income on shelter costs, Temiskaming Shores, Ontario, and Canada, 2021**



Sources: Statistics Canada (2021, 2023).

<sup>6</sup> "Shelter costs for owner households include, where applicable, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees, along with the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services. For renter households, shelter costs include, where applicable, the rent and the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services" (Statistics Canada 2022b).



## Conclusion

Temiskaming Shores has strong prospects for continued growth. As the business hub for its region, Temiskaming Shores has a diversified economy that draws workers from other communities. People looking to move to the community can take advantage of its many economic opportunities and low cost of living. Businesses looking to invest in Temiskaming Shores can access a well-educated and bilingual workforce.

Nevertheless, the community faces modest economic challenges. First, an aging population and a shrinking working-age population likely will make it increasingly difficult for local businesses to find labour and customers. Further, among the working-age population in Temiskaming Shores, labour force participation and employment rates are below the provincial and national averages.

To achieve its economic potential, Temiskaming Shores needs to attract and retain more residents and improve the economic participation of its existing population. This should include continued efforts to be a welcoming community for its growing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit and immigrant populations. In promoting Temiskaming Shores as a good place to live and work, the city can point to the low cost of housing, among other community advantages.



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