



Non-metro trends in employment rates to June 2014

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Highlights

- Employment rates in non-metro Ontario are essentially the same as in metro areas. In other provinces, non-metro employment rates are typically lower than metro employment rates.
• For non-metro and metro males (25 to 54 years of age), employment rates are 4 percentage points lower than in the early 2000's.
• For non-metro and metro females (25 to 54 years of age), employment rates have generally increased since the recent economic downturn.
• Employment rates vary considerably across Ontario's economic regions.

Why employment rates?

Employment rates are one indicator of the performance of the labour market. They measure the percent of a population group that is employed. A higher rate indicates a more vibrant economy.

Findings

In Ontario, non-metro employment rates tend to match metro employment rates (Figure 1).

Male employment rates peaked in the early 2000s (88% non-metro in June 2000 and 89% metro in June 2001). For non-metro males, the employment rate declined to 81% in September 2010. Since late 2011, the non-metro male employment rate has been about 84%.

Female employment rates generally increased from below 72% in 1997 to a high of 80% in November 2007 before falling during the economic downturn. The employment rates for females in both metro and non-metro areas have been increasing. Non-metro females have experienced an increase from 77% in 2011 to 79% in June 2014.

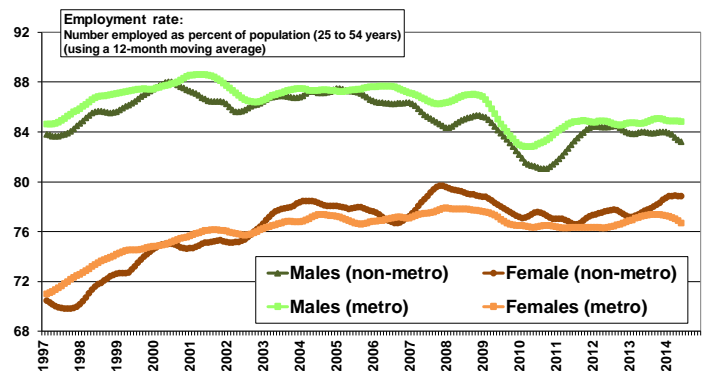
For non-metro males, the within-year fluctuation of employment rates varies by 3 to 7 percentage points (depending upon the year). In the 12 months up to June 2014, 6% of non-metro males were employed for part of the year but not for the full year - in part, due to the seasonal nature of jobs and summer employment of students.

1 This finding differs from the pattern for Canada as a whole: the Canadian pattern shows non-metro employment rates always below metro rates, although the non-metro employment rate in mid-summer often will match the metro rate.

2 This fact sheet focuses on the core age workforce (25-54 years of age). A focus on this core age workforce targets the ability of the labour market to create jobs for available workers by not including individuals 15-24 years and individuals 55+ years who would be expected to have lesser involvement in the labour market.

Figure 1

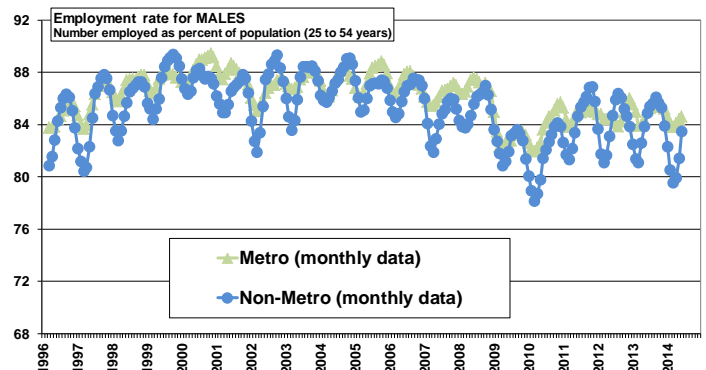
Ontario employment rates: Non-metro males (slightly) below metro male since April, 2005 Non-metro females (slightly) above metro females since Dec., 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0001 and 282-0109.

Figure 2

Ontario MALE employment rates: Non-metro is "often" higher than metro in the peak months and (always) lower than metro in the winter months

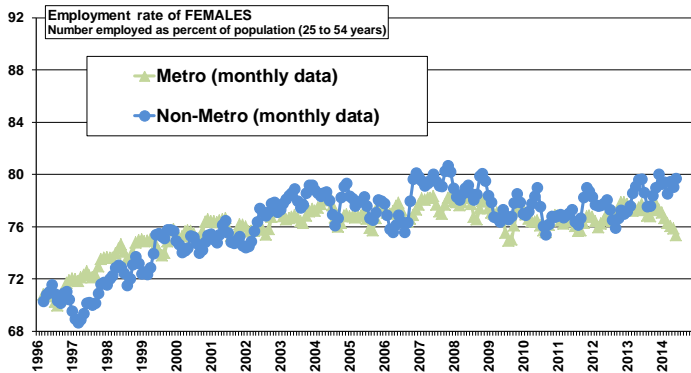


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 026-0001 and 282-0109.

For females in non-metro areas, the within-year variability in employment rates is less than for males - ranging between 2 and 4 percentage points in any given year since 2008 (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Ontario FEMALE employment rates:
Non-metro is higher than metro in the peak months and the same as metro in the winter months



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0001 and 282-0109.

A look across Ontario’s economic regions

Data across Economic Regions (ERs) refer to all individuals 15+ years and are not directly comparable to the results shown above.³

Averaged over the 12 months up to June 2014, the employment rate varied between a high of 66% in the Kitchener-Waterloo ER to a low of 54% in the Muskoka-Kawarths ER (Table 1). The lower rate for the latter ER would be due, in part, to the higher share of the population who are retired but are included in the calculation of the employment rate.

In the non-metro ER of Stratford-Bruce Peninsula, the June 2014 employment rate was 61% - equivalent to the Ontario average and slightly above the 60% level in this ER during the economic downturn in 2009 (Figure 4).

The second lowest employment rate (55%), after the Muskoka-Kawarths ER, was in the Northeast ER - a slight increase from the 54% level during the economic downturn (Figure 5).

Summary

Non-metro and metro male and female employment rates tend to follow a similar pattern.

During the last few years, the male employment rate has not increased whereas the female employment rate has been increasing slightly.

Non-metro employment rates remain below pre-recession levels.

Employment rates vary considerable across Ontario’s economic regions.

Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges financial support from OMAFRA and the County of Wellington. Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to NRagetlie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.

³ As noted in Footnote #2, the levels and trends for all individuals 15 years and over would differ from the core age workforce, especially due to the increase in the share of the population that is 55 years and over.

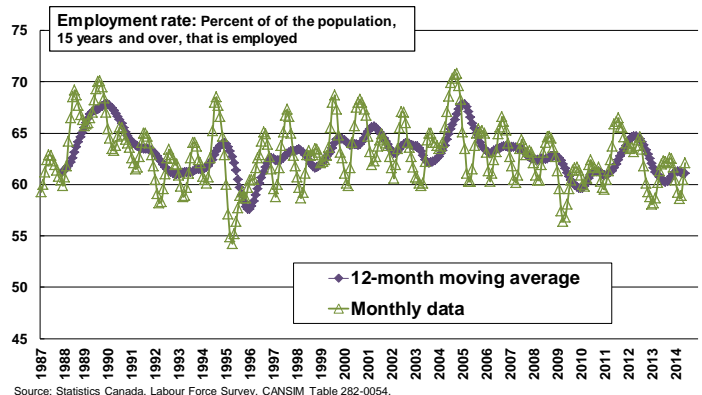
Table 1

Employment Rate by Economic Region	
Economic Region (ER), sorted by employment rate	Employment Rate for population 15+ years (average for 12 months up to June, 2014)
Metro (95+%) Economic Region	
Toronto (and area) ER	62
Non-metro (5-32%) Economic Region	
Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie ER	66
Ottawa (and area) ER	64
London (and area) ER	59
Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula ER	59
Non-metro (33-95%) Economic Region	
Northwest ER	58
Windsor-Sarnia ER	57
Kingston-Pembroke ER	56
Northeast ER	55
Muskoka-Kawarths ER	54
Non-metro (>95%) Economic Region	
Stratford-Bruce Peninsula ER	61
Ontario	61

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0054.

Figure 4

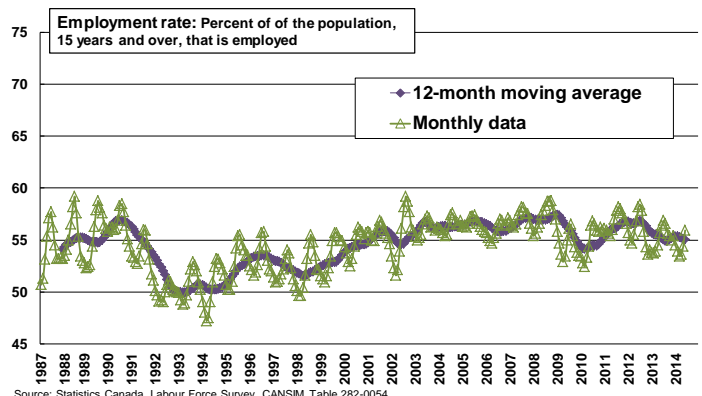
Employment rate: Stratford - Bruce Peninsula Economic Region



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0054.

Figure 5

Employment rate: Northeast Ontario Economic Region



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0054.