

Patterns of job growth and decline

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Highlights

- Ontario's non-metro economy has been declining since October, 2012
- In June, 2013, non-metro employment was 3% lower than one year earlier

Why look at employment patterns?

Employment change indicates the health of an economy – are jobs being created or is unemployment on the rise?

Findings

Jobs have been declining in non-metro Ontario for 10 consecutive months¹ – from October, 2012 to June, 2013 (Figure 1).

Note that the non-metro job decline is larger than the 2001 recession and larger than the 2005-2006 recession. The present decline is approaching the depth of the 2009-2010 recession.

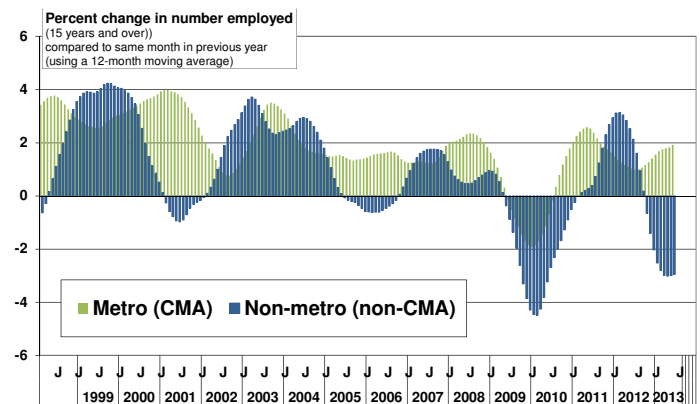
In contrast, metro areas continue to grow – the only period over the last decade with metro job decline was during the 2009-2010 recession².

Overall, Ontario's jobs were 1% higher in June, 2013, compared to the same month in the previous year (Table 1). To determine the pattern of job growth across Ontario, we have shown the data for Economic Regions³ in Table 1. The Economic

Regions of Toronto (and area) and London (and area) are presently leading the job growth in Ontario. Their rates of job growth are equal to or above the provincial level. Two economic regions had a decline of jobs of 6% or more in June, 2013, compared to June, 2012 – Muskoka-Kawartha (down 7%) (Figure 2) and Stratford-Bruce Peninsula (down 6.2%) (Figure 3). Other regions with declines were Kingston-Pembroke (down 2.6%) (Figure 4), Northeast (down 3.3% (Figure 5) and a recent decline in Northwest (down 1.1%) (Figure 6).

Figure 1

Employment in non-metro Ontario in June, 2013 was 3% less than one year earlier



Summary

Employment in non-metro Ontario has been declining for 10 consecutive months (from October, 2012 to June, 2013). The decline is approaching the depth of the 2009-2010 recession.

¹ For all calculations in this **Focus on Rural Ontario**, monthly data are derived from Statistics Canada's most recent Labour Force Survey. The level of employment for each month has been (re)calculated to show the 12-month moving average – specifically, for each month, we have calculated the monthly average for the previous 12 months. For example, for June, 2013, we have summed the estimated level of employment for the 12 months from July, 2012 to June, 2013 and divided by 12. This technique smooths the estimated level of employment for subprovincial areas as the monthly data can be somewhat "noisy" due to the small(er) sample sizes in each month.

² However, not all metro centres are growing. Comparing June, 2013 to June, 2012, jobs have declined in the following CMAs: Kingston, Peterborough, Oshawa, Hamilton, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, Guelph, Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

³ Economic Regions are groups of census divisions. For the list of census divisions in each economic region in Ontario, see page 48 in Statistics Canada. (2012) **Guide to the Labour Force Survey: 2012**. (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 71-543) (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/71-543-g/71-543-g2011001-eng.pdf>).

Economic Regions are classified in Table 1 according to the share of their population in 2011 what was metro (i.e. part of CMA) versus non-metro (i.e. living outside the commuting zone of a CMA).

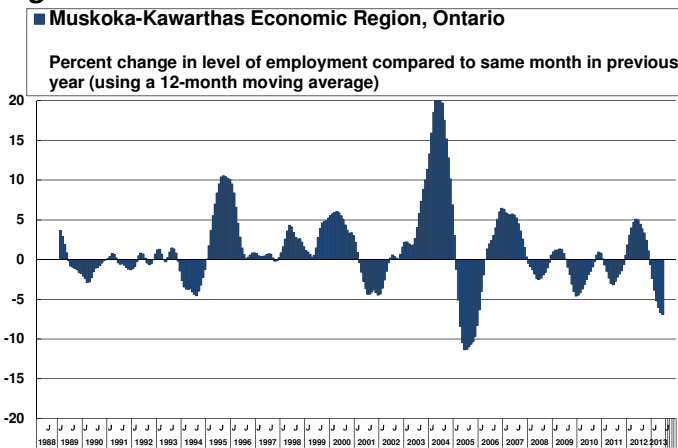
Table 1

Employment change by economic region, June, 2013	
Economic region, sorted by rate of employment change from June, 2012 to June, 2013	Percent change in employment ¹ from June, 2012 to June, 2013
Metro (95+%) Economic Region	
Toronto (and area) Economic Region	3.2
Non-metro (5-32%) Economic Region	
London (and area) Economic Region	1.0
Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula Economic Region	0.2
Kitchener-Waterloo-Barrie Economic Region	0.2
Ottawa (and area) Economic Region	0.0
Non-metro (33-95%) Economic Region	
Windsor-Sarnia Economic Region	0.0
Northwest Economic Region	-1.1
Kingston-Pembroke Economic Region	-2.6
Northeast Economic Region	-3.3
Muskoka-Kawarthas Economic Region	-7.0
Non-metro (95+%) Economic Region	
Stratford-Bruce Peninsula Economic Region	-6.2
Ontario	1.0

1. The data for each of June, 2012 and June, 2013 (for the calculation of employment change) is the average level of employment in the economic region for the previous 12 months (hence, a "12-month moving average").

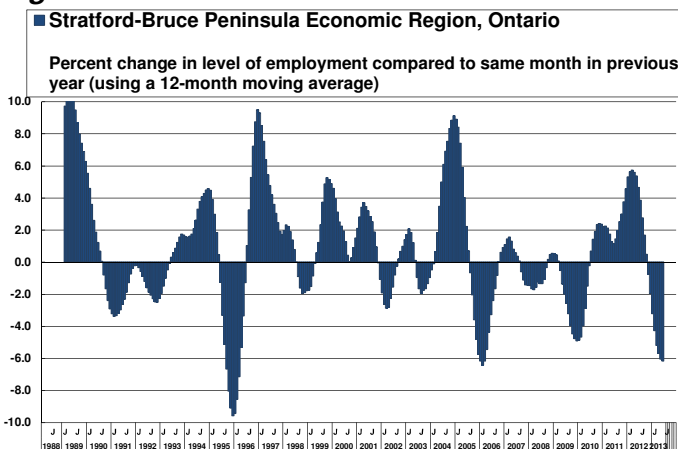
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0054.

Figure 2



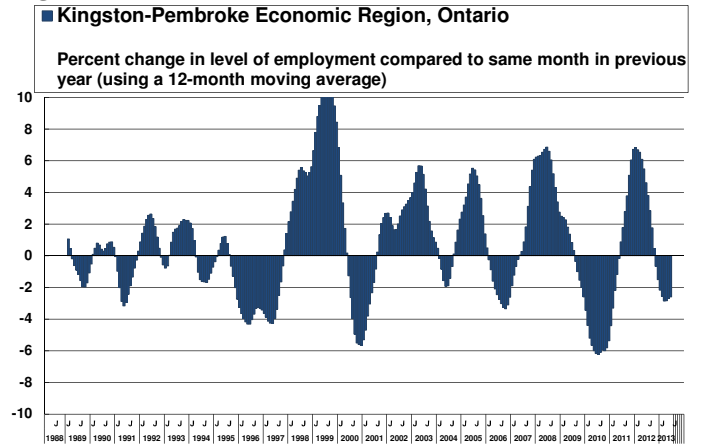
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0054.

Figure 3



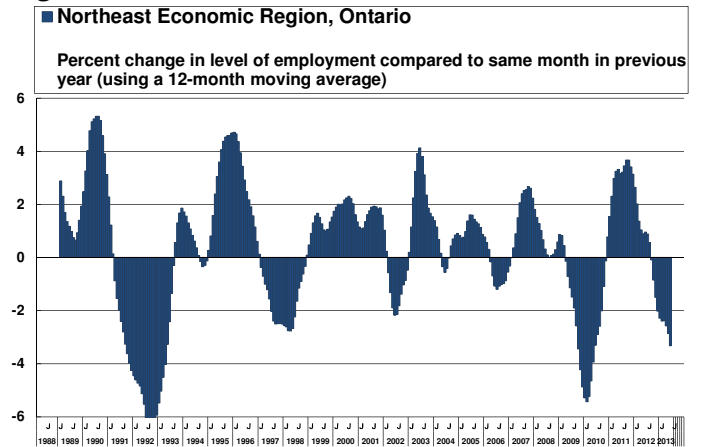
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0054.

Figure 4



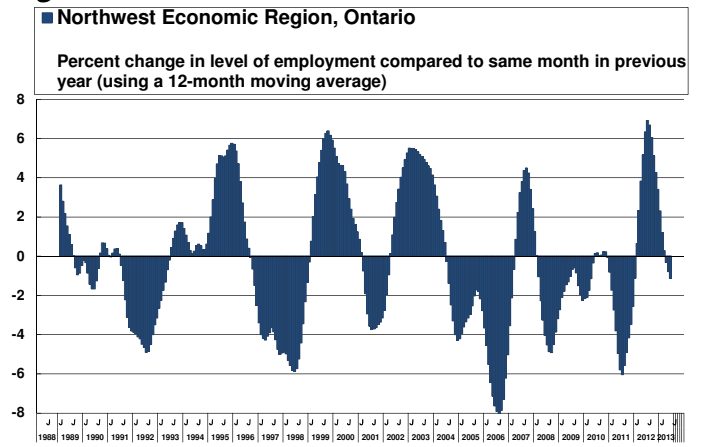
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0054.

Figure 5



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

Figure 6



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

The Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges the work of Ray Bollman in preparing this edition of [Focus on Rural Ontario](#). Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to NRagetlie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.