



El recipients by census division

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Highlights

- Labour market performance varies widely across Ontario - 32 of 49 census divisions (CDs) reflect the overall trend of a decline in the number of EI recipients compared to the same period last year. 17 CDs experienced no decrease or an increase, 11 of these are in non-metro Ontario. Among non-metro CDs the change in EI recipients varied widely as evidenced by the extremes of Lambton CD being down 19% and Perth CD being up 13%.

Why look at Employment Insurance recipients?

The change in the number of Employment Insurance (EI) 'regular beneficiaries' is an important dimension of labour market performance. This indicator has limitations but remains an important barometer of economic conditions in a region alongside other measures. A closer look at individual census divisions may illustrate regional differences in performance.

Findings

In Ontario the number of non-metro EI regular beneficiaries has been declining steadily since April 2010. In recent months, the decline (compared to the previous year) was about 5%. (See fact sheet #13 Change in EI Recipients).

32 of 49 CDs reflect the overall trend of decline in the number of EI recipients. This contrasts with 17 CDs which are experiencing no decrease or increase, compared to the same period last year. 11 of the 17 CDs experiencing no decrease or an increase are in non-metro Ontario (Table 1).

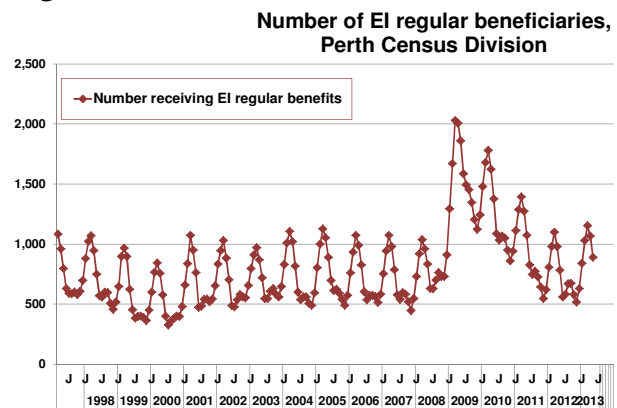
Among the non-metro CDs, there is significant variability in year-over-year change. For example, in May 2013, at the extremes of the range the number of EI recipients was down 19% in the Lambton CD and was up 13% in Perth

CD (Table 1). An additional eight non-metro CDs reported an increase in the number of EI recipients in May 2013.

Lambton and Perth CDs have considerable seasonal variation in the number of EI recipients within any given year. In Perth CD, the number of EI recipients has varied about 500 individuals between the seasonal peak and the seasonal trough within each year (Figure 1). In Lambton CD, the change between peak and trough within any year has been more than 1,000 EI recipients (Figure 2).

Comparisons are made between the same month in the previous year to avoid the issue of seasonality.

Figure 1



Source: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 276-0032. Estimate for each month is a 3-month moving average.

Although Perth CD has shown a recent increase in EI recipients (Figure 3), there was a long period of decline in the number of EI recipients – essentially, all of 2010 and 2011 and 2012. This decline was preceded by a rapid increase in the number of EI recipients in 2008 and 2009.

1 Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits are available to eligible individuals who lose their jobs and are available for and able to work, but can't find a job. The change in the number of regular beneficiaries includes people becoming beneficiaries, people going back to work, and people exhausting their regular benefits. A certain proportion of unemployed people will not qualify for benefits because they have not worked in the past 12 months, their employment is not insured, they left their job voluntarily or did not accumulate enough hours of work to receive benefits. Recently, the definition of regular beneficiaries was expanded to include those receiving regular benefits while participating in employment benefit programs, such as training.

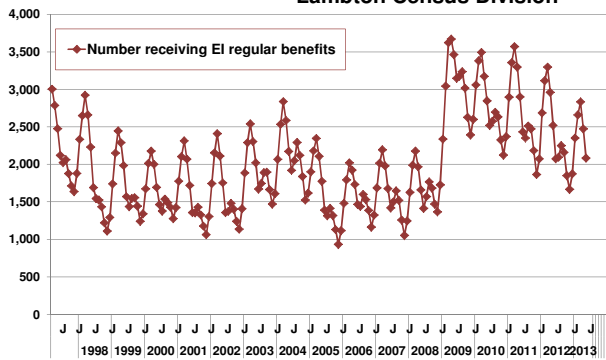
2 Ordinarily, a reduction in EI recipients would suggest an improvement in job opportunities, but will also occur when recipients exhaust their EI benefits. Also, since only salaried workers are (generally) eligible for the EI program, joblessness may be understated in non-metro Ontario as a higher share of the non-metro workforce (12%) is self-employed compared to metro Ontario (10%).

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

3 Note that an increase in EI recipients also occurred in three partially-non-metro CDs and in three metro CDs.

**Figure 2**

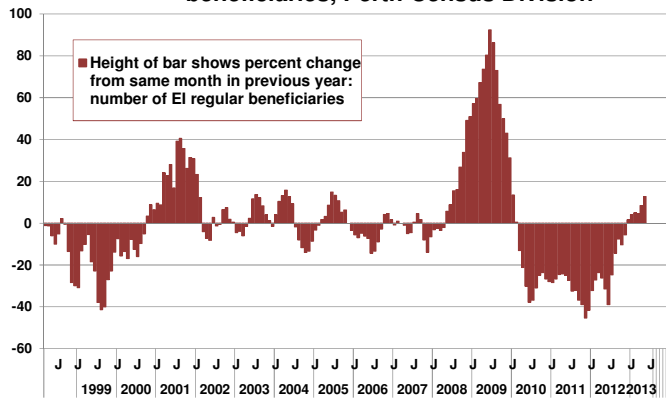
**Number of EI regular beneficiaries, Lambton Census Division**



Source: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 276-0032. Estimate for each month is a 3-month moving average.

**Figure 3**

**Recent increase in number of EI regular beneficiaries, Perth Census Division**

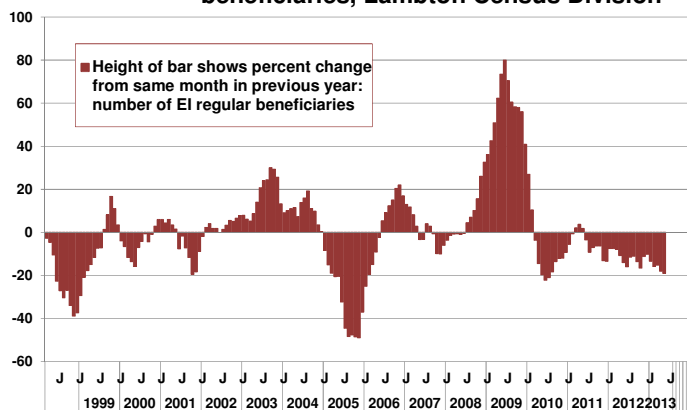


Source: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 276-0032. Estimate for each month is a 3-month moving average.

Lambton CD also showed the spike of EI recipients in 2008-2009 and has shown (almost) a consistent decline in EI recipients since the beginning of 2010 (Figure 4).

**Figure 4**

**Continuous decrease in number of EI regular beneficiaries, Lambton Census Division**



Source: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 276-0032. Estimate for each month is a 3-month moving average.

**Table 1**

**Change in number of Employment Insurance "regular beneficiaries", Ontario, May, 2012 to May, 2013**

Census Division number	Census Division	Percent change in number of Employment Insurance "regular beneficiaries", comparing the average for the 3-months ending May, 2013 with the same calculation for May, 2012)
<b>Metro census divisions, ranked by rate of change in the number of Employment Insurance "regular beneficiaries"</b>		
3529	Brant	-10
3520	Toronto	-4
3519	York	-3
3521	Peel	-3
3506	Ottawa	-2
3525	Hamilton	0
3524	Halton	2
3553	Greater Sudbury	18
<b>Partially non-metro census divisions, ranked by rate of change in the number of Employment Insurance "regular beneficiaries"</b>		
3558	Thunder Bay	-18
3515	Peterborough	-12
3534	Elgin	-12
3539	Middlesex	-12
3522	Dufferin	-8
3523	Wellington	-8
3526	Niagara	-4
3510	Frontenac	-3
3511	Lennox and Addington	-2
3543	Simcoe	-2
3530	Waterloo	-1
3537	Essex	0
3518	Durham	2
3502	Prescott and Russell	7
<b>Non-metro census divisions, ranked by rate of change in the number of Employment Insurance "regular beneficiaries"</b>		
3538	Lambton	-19
3554	Timiskaming	-16
3556	Cochrane	-13
3551	Manitoulin	-12
3512	Hastings	-11
3542	Grey	-9
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk	-9
3560	Kenora	-8
3509	Lanark	-6
3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	-5
3507	Leeds and Grenville	-4
3552	Sudbury	-3
3516	Kawartha Lakes	-3
3544	Muskoka	-2
3532	Oxford	-1
3549	Parry Sound	-1
3546	Haliburton	0
3514	Northumberland	0
3559	Rainy Rive	1
3536	Chatham-Kent	1
3547	Renfrew	1
3548	Nipissing	2
3540	Huron	2
3557	Algoma	5
3541	Bruce	7
3513	Prince Edward	11
3531	Perth	13

Source: Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 027-0032.

**Summary**

There is an overall, ongoing decline in the number of EI recipients across non-metro Ontario. However, within non-metro Ontario, there is a wide range in the performance of the labour market, as indicated by the number and change of EI recipients in a CD.

Change in the number of EI recipients is only one indicator of the performance of the local labour market. Specific data for a region may be accessed via your local workforce planning board:

<http://www.workforceplanningontario.ca>.