

Historical community demographic patterns

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Highlights

- Few communities (6%) in non-metro census divisions reported population growth in all five-year periods from 1981 to 2011.
- Only 3% of the communities in non-metro census divisions had no population growth in all five-year periods from 1981 to 2011.
- Most non-metro communities had periods of growth and periods of decline from 1981 to 2011.

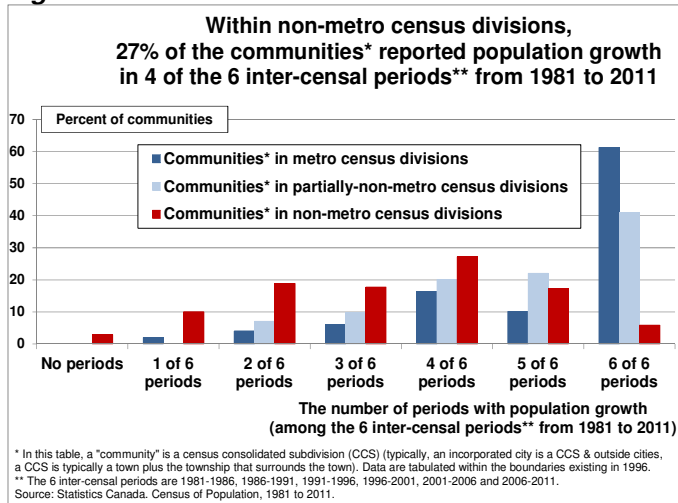
Why consider a historical view?

The pattern of population change in many communities has been on-going for decades. How many communities have a persistent pattern of demographic change? Where are they?

Findings

In two metro census divisions (CDs) - York and Peel - all communities¹ grew in all the six inter-censal periods² from 1981 to 2011. In Table 1, this is shown as 100% of the communities with population growth in six of the six inter-censal periods.

Figure 1



Within non-metro CDs, the modal group of communities (27%) had population growth in four of the six inter-censal periods from 1981 to 2011 (Figure 1). Communities in

non-metro CDs were more likely to have fewer periods of population growth relative to communities in metro CDs.

Table 1

Census Division Identifier	Name of Census Division	In how many periods did the population increase? (among the 6 inter-censal periods ¹ from 1981 to 2011)						Total number of communities ²	
		No periods	1 of 6 periods	2 of 6 periods	3 of 6 periods	4 of 6 periods	5 of 6 periods		6 of 6 periods
		Percent distribution of number of communities ²							
3506	Ottawa						11	89	100
3519	York							100	100
3520	Toronto					33	33	33	100
3521	Peel							100	100
3524	Halton					25		75	100
3525	Hamilton					20	20	60	100
3529	Brant				17	33	17	33	100
3553	Greater Sudbury	14	29	29	29	29	29	100	100
Metro (subtotal)		2	4	6	16	10	61	100	
3502	Prescott and Russell		10	10	40			40	100
3510	Frontenac		7	20	27	20	27	100	100
3511	Lennox & Addington		10		40	30	20	100	100
3515	Peterborough			7	27	47	20	100	100
3518	Durham				13			88	100
3522	Dufferin				17			83	100
3523	Wellington			8	8	42	42	100	100
3526	Nagara		8	17	8	17	50	100	100
3530	Waterloo					14	86	100	100
3534	Elgin		14		14	43	29	100	100
3537	Essex				27	20	27	100	100
3539	Middlesex			27		27	20	27	100
3543	Simcoe			29	29	7	20	73	100
3558	Thunder Bay			29	29	43		100	100
Partially-non-metro (subtotal)		7	10	20	22	41	100		
3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry		8		15	38	23	15	100
3507	Leeds and Grenville					31	50	19	100
3509	Lanark				8	8	50	33	100
3512	Hastings			11	17	22	33	17	100
3513	Prince Edward			14	29	29	14	14	100
3514	Northumberland				11	11	22	56	100
3516	Kawartha Lakes					33	58	8	100
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk					33	33	33	100
3531	Perth	9	27	9			36	18	100
3532	Oxford			20	20		20	40	100
3536	Chatham-Kent		30	30	20	20		100	100
3538	Lambton		18	18	9	45	9	100	100
3540	Huron	6		31	25	19	19	100	100
3541	Bruce			29	29	41		100	100
3542	Grey			13	13	20	27	27	100
3544	Muskoka				33		33	33	100
3546	Haliburton				11	33	44	11	100
3547	Renfrew			8	24	24	36	8	100
3548	Nipissing		20	20		50	10	100	100
3549	Parry Sound			5	14	52	24	5	100
3551	Manitoulin			15	15	15	31	23	100
3552	Sudbury			17	67	17		100	100
3554	Timiskaming		6	38	44	13		100	100
3556	Cochrane		60	20			20	100	100
3557	Algoma			21	21	21	29	7	100
3559	Rainy River		9	18	36	18	18	100	100
3560	Kenora ³							100	100
Non-metro (subtotal)		3	10	19	18	27	17	6	100
Ontario		1	5	12	13	23	22	25	100

1. The 6 inter-censal periods were 1981-1986, 1986-1991, 1991-1996, 1996-2001, 2001-2006 and 2006-2011.

2. In this table, a "community" is a census consolidated subdivision (CCS) (typically, an incorporated city is a CCS & outside cities, a CCS is typically a town plus the township that surrounds the town). Data are tabulated according to 1996 boundaries.

3. In the Kenora census division, all the census subdivisions are assigned to one CCS that covers the entire census division.

Source: Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population, 1981 to 2011.

¹ In this Focus on Rural Ontario, we define a "community" as a census consolidated subdivision (CCS) which is a group of adjacent census subdivisions. Generally, the smaller, more densely-populated census subdivisions (towns, villages, etc.) are combined with the surrounding, larger, more rural census subdivision, in order to create a geographic level between the census subdivision and the census division.
² The 6 inter-censal periods are 1981-1986, 1986-1991, 1991-1996, 1996-2001, 2001-2006 and 2006-2011.

Non-metro CDs had only 6% of their communities with population growth in all of the six inter-censal periods. This result was much lower than in partially-non-metro CDs (41% of the communities reported population growth in 6 out of 6 periods) and, in metro CDs where the share with growth in six of six periods was even higher (61%).

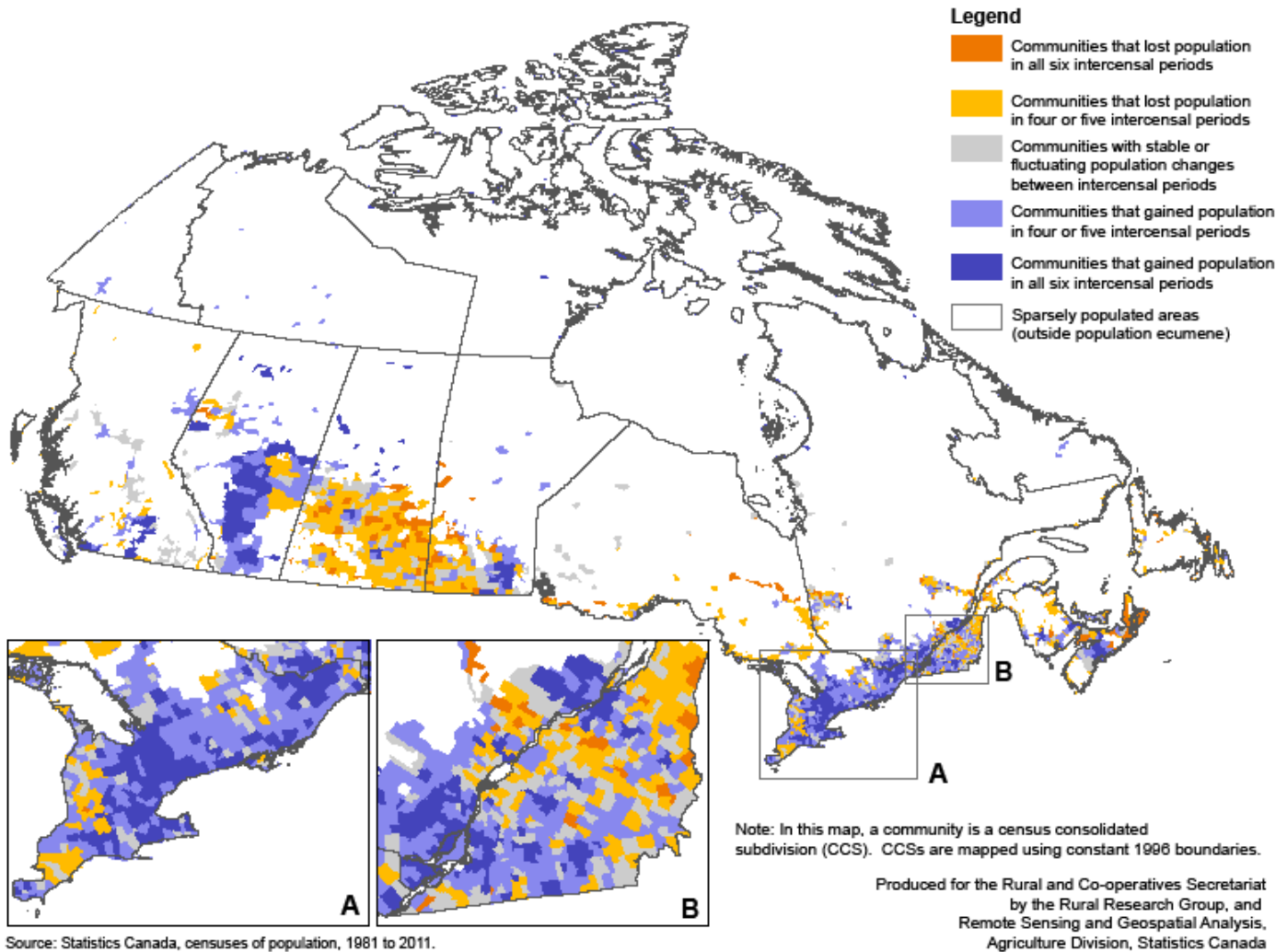
At the other end of the spectrum, 3% of non-metro communities had periods of zero population growth. However, in some CDs, a high proportion of the communities reported continuous population decline. For example, in the Cochrane CD, three of their five census consolidated subdivisions (CCS) had zero periods of population growth from 1981 to 2011.

Communities with continuous population growth were largely associated with the metro centres in the Greater Toronto Area and with Ottawa (Map 1). Elsewhere, some communities showed many periods with growth and other communities showed few periods with population growth.

Summary

A lower share of communities in non-metro census divisions had population growth in every inter-censal period from 1981 to 2011. However, within each census division, there was a wide range of historical population change. Within each census division, some communities were had population growth and some communities did not.

Map 1
Demographic trajectory of communities over the six intercensal periods from 1981 to 2011, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada. (2012) **Place Performance Matters**. Unpublished report prepared for the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat.

For an earlier analysis of these patterns, see Mwansa, Pius and Ray D. Bollman. (2005) "Community demographic trends within their regional context." **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 6, No. 3 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE) (www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1) and Beshiri, Roland and Ray D. Bollman. (2001) "Population Structure and Change in Predominantly Rural Regions." **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 2, No. 2 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE) (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>).

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