



## Migrants 18 to 24 years of age

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### Highlights

- For individuals 18 to 24 years of age, every non-metro census division reported a net loss of population due to migration in each year from 2011 to 2016.
- In the context of a net loss, there was still a sizable in-flow (albeit smaller than the out-flow) of individuals 18 to 24 years of age. The Sudbury census division reported an annual rate of in-migration of 7.9% and, in the Haliburton census division, the in-flow rate was 7.6%

### Why look at migration of young adults?

A high proportion of individuals 18-24 years of age pursue post-secondary education and for most rural youth this means leaving their home community. Out-migration of rural youth remains a concern. However, Foster and Main<sup>1</sup> argue that youth retention should not be a policy focus as it may constrain youth from reaching their potential. In addition, it is likely to fail due the myriad factors affecting the migration decisions of young people. Rather, they suggest a focus on supports to leave and supports to return. Other evidence has indicated that return rates after post-secondary education may be higher for rural youth who were actively engaged in their home communities before leaving.

This Fact Sheet<sup>2</sup> will indicate the scope of this dynamic by showing the number who leave (“out-migrants”) and the number who return (“in-migrants”) However, in an average year, the majority of young adults remain in their census division<sup>3</sup>.

### Findings

In an average year from 2010-2011 to 2015-2016, out-migration – specifically, the number of out-migrants to another CD in Canada – was larger than

the number of in-migrants (Table 1). Net migration ranged from -6.5% in the Sudbury CD to a rate of -0.1% per year in the Nipissing CD.

In every case, this net change was composed of notable rates of both in-migration and out-migration. For example, in the case of the Sudbury CD, the rate of in-migration was 7.9% (the highest rate of in-flow among all non-metro CDs) and a rate of out-migration of -14.4% (again, the highest rate of out-flow among all non-metro CDs).

The rate of turnover (i.e., in-migrants plus out-migrants) is relatively large. Again, in the Sudbury CD, 22.3% of young adults will have moved out or moved into the CD in an average year. In other words, just over one in five have moved.

The absolute number of out-migrants and in-migrants in an average year are shown for each CD in Table 1. These numbers indicate the potential annual demand for supports to leave and supports to return. Among non-metro CDs, the largest number of in-migrants and out-migrants of young adults was in the Hastings CD (667 and 898 individuals, respectively, per year). The next highest numbers were an in-flow of 588 young adults in the Renfrew CD and an out-flow of 749 young adults per year in the Haldimand-Norfolk CD.

The largest net loss of young adults was 292 young adults per year in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry CD, followed by the Leeds and Grenville CD, with a net loss of 279 young adults per year.

### Summary

There is a sizeable rate of out-migration and a sizeable rate of in-migration among individuals 18 to 24 years of age. Turnover rates represent the share of young adults who would be the targets of any supports to leave and for supports to return.

<sup>1</sup> Foster, Karen and Hannah Main. (2018) **Finding a Place in the World: Understanding Youth Outmigration from Shrinking Rural Communities** (Halifax: Dalhousie University) (<https://dalspace.library.dal.ca/bitstream/handle/10222/73932/Finding%20a%20Place%20v1.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>).

<sup>2</sup> Earlier results have been shown in the Fact Sheets: “Components of Population Change” (Vol. 1, No. 5, 2013), “Components of Population Change” (Vol. 2, No. 7, 2014), “Non-metro migration: 18 to 24 years of age” (Vol. 2, No. 11, 2014) and “Youth Migration, 2009-2014” (Vol. 3, No. 5, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> Migration data are derived from taxfiler records. The CD of residence is assigned as the place of residence when the tax return is filed (which is the address to which the individual would like the tax refund to be sent). See <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-528-x/2011001/ch/ch7-eng.htm>.

**Table 1**

**Migrants<sup>1</sup>, 18 to 24 years of age, by census division<sup>2</sup>, five-year average<sup>3</sup> for 2010/11 to 2015/16  
(census divisions are ranked by percent net migrants)**

Census Division identifier	Name of Census Division	Number of migrants <sup>1</sup> , 18 to 24 years of age (average per year <sup>3</sup> , 2010/11 to 2015/16)				Migrants <sup>1</sup> as a PERCENT of number of individuals 18 to 24 years of age (average per year <sup>3</sup> , 2010/11 to 2015/16)			
		IN-migrants (per year)	OUT-migrants (per year)	NET migrants (per year)	Total turnover (IN + OUT migrants) (per year)	IN-migrants (per year)	OUT-migrants (per year)	NET migrants (per year)	Total turnover (IN + OUT migrants) (per year)
<b>Metro<sup>4</sup> census divisions (ranked by percent NET migrants)</b>									
3519	York	3,669	-5,126	-1,457	8,795	3.3	-4.6	-1.3	8.0
3521	Peel	4,302	-5,880	-1,579	10,182	2.9	-4.0	-1.1	6.9
3524	Halton	2,157	-2,643	-486	4,800	4.4	-5.4	-1.0	9.7
3529	Brant	625	-719	-94	1,344	4.6	-5.3	-0.7	9.9
3553	Greater Sudbury	770	-765	5	1,536	4.9	-4.8	0.0	9.7
3525	Hamilton	2,304	-2,069	235	4,373	4.1	-3.7	0.4	7.7
3506	Ottawa	4,656	-3,349	1,307	8,005	4.7	-3.4	1.3	8.1
3520	Toronto	12,875	-9,144	3,731	22,019	4.7	-3.3	1.3	8.0
<b>Partially-non-metro<sup>4</sup> census divisions (ranked by percent NET migrants)</b>									
3534	Elgin	368	-657	-289	1,026	4.5	-8.0	-3.5	12.5
3502	Prescott and Russell	360	-621	-261	981	4.4	-7.7	-3.2	12.1
3511	Lennox and Addington	267	-344	-77	610	7.5	-9.7	-2.2	17.3
3522	Dufferin	368	-458	-91	826	5.9	-7.4	-1.5	13.3
3537	Essex	826	-1,309	-482	2,135	2.0	-3.2	-1.2	5.2
3526	Niagara	1,320	-1,710	-390	3,030	3.1	-4.1	-0.9	7.2
3518	Durham	2,393	-2,812	-419	5,205	3.6	-4.2	-0.6	7.8
3558	Thunder Bay	475	-514	-39	990	3.4	-3.7	-0.3	7.1
3543	Simcoe	2,224	-2,344	-121	4,568	4.9	-5.1	-0.3	10.0
3515	Peterborough	791	-778	14	1,569	5.9	-5.8	0.1	11.7
3530	Waterloo	2,528	-2,283	245	4,811	4.6	-4.1	0.4	8.7
3523	Wellington	1,304	-1,200	104	2,504	5.9	-5.4	0.5	11.4
3539	Middlesex	2,416	-2,045	372	4,461	4.9	-4.1	0.8	9.0
3510	Frontenac	1,346	-1,030	317	2,376	8.1	-6.2	1.9	14.3
<b>Non-metro<sup>4</sup> census divisions (ranked by percent NET migrants)</b>									
3552	Sudbury	123	-224	-102	347	7.9	-14.4	-6.5	22.3
3559	Rainy River	53	-137	-84	191	2.8	-7.4	-4.5	10.2
3549	Parry Sound	204	-323	-118	527	6.7	-10.6	-3.9	17.4
3513	Prince Edward	110	-180	-70	290	5.6	-9.2	-3.5	14.8
3507	Leeds and Grenville	370	-649	-279	1,019	4.4	-7.7	-3.3	12.1
3509	Lanark	278	-461	-183	738	4.9	-8.2	-3.3	13.1
3540	Huron	203	-373	-170	576	3.8	-7.0	-3.2	10.8
3551	Manitoulin	56	-90	-34	146	4.9	-7.9	-3.0	12.7
3501	Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	323	-615	-292	938	3.2	-6.0	-2.8	9.2
3554	Timiskaming	122	-199	-76	321	4.4	-7.2	-2.8	11.6
3536	Chatham-Kent	321	-576	-256	897	3.4	-6.2	-2.7	9.6
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk	471	-749	-278	1,220	4.6	-7.3	-2.7	11.9
3556	Cochrane	257	-450	-193	707	3.5	-6.1	-2.6	9.6
3541	Bruce	261	-407	-146	667	4.6	-7.2	-2.6	11.8
3514	Northumberland	354	-532	-178	885	5.1	-7.6	-2.5	12.6
3538	Lambton	363	-634	-271	996	3.0	-5.3	-2.2	8.3
3516	Kawartha Lakes	355	-489	-134	844	5.7	-7.8	-2.1	13.5
3512	Hastings	667	-898	-230	1,565	5.5	-7.4	-1.9	12.9
3557	Algoma	293	-462	-170	755	2.9	-4.6	-1.7	7.4
3542	Grey	483	-599	-116	1,083	5.9	-7.3	-1.4	13.1
3560	Kenora	229	-330	-101	559	3.1	-4.5	-1.4	7.7
3531	Perth	351	-453	-102	804	4.7	-6.1	-1.4	10.8
3532	Oxford	559	-690	-131	1,249	5.5	-6.8	-1.3	12.3
3546	Haliburton	93	-106	-13	199	7.6	-8.7	-1.1	16.3
3547	Renfrew	588	-631	-43	1,219	6.5	-7.0	-0.5	13.6
3544	Muskoka	298	-318	-20	616	5.9	-6.3	-0.4	12.2
3548	Nipissing	536	-545	-9	1,081	6.6	-6.7	-0.1	13.2

1. In this table, a "migrant" refers to internal-to-Canada migrants. Thus, immigrants and emigrants are not included. In this table, a migrant is an individual who resided in a different census division<sup>2</sup> at the end of the year, compared to their place of residence at the beginning of the year<sup>3</sup>.

2. A census division (CD) is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as a county, a municipalité régionale de comté or a regional district) or their equivalents. CDs are intermediate geographic areas between the province / territory and the municipality (census subdivision). Data for each CD includes all embedded (incorporated and unincorporated) localities in the CD.

3. Data for each 12-month period refers to the period July 1 of a given year to June 30 of the following year. This table shows the 5-year average from 2010/11 to 2015/16.

4. A metro CD has all of its component census subdivisions (CSDs) delineated as part of a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) (centre of 100,000 or more). A partially-non-metro CD has some component CSDs being within a CMA and some CSDs being outside a CMA. A non-metro CD has all of its components CSDs being outside a CMA.

Source: Statistics Canada. (2018) **Annual Demographic Statistics: Subprovincial areas, July 1, 2017**

(Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-214), special tabulation.

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