

Youth migration, 2009-2014

Vol. 3, No. 5 Oct. 2015

Highlights

- From 2009 to 2014, 26 of 27 non-metro census divisions (CDs) lost youth (15 to 19 years of age) and young adults (20 to 24 years of age) due to migration.
- For all non-metro taken together as a group, young adults 25 to 29 years of age and 30-34 years of age are not returning to non-metro CDs, on a net basis.
- Nonetheless, in the 2009 to 2014 period, 13 of 27 non-metro CDs did attract young adults 25 to 29 years of age (and 11 of 27 CDs attracted young adults 30-34 years of age).

Why look at youth migration?

Many rural communities are concerned about youth out-migration. Typically, communities responding to this concern will focus on strategies to attract young adults back to their communities after the youth have attained education and / or world experience.

Findings

For non-metro census divisions (CDs) as a whole, the net out-migration of youth 15-19 years of age has ranged from a loss of 26,320 youth in the 1996 to 2001 period to a loss of 13,312 in the 2009 to 2014 period (Figure 1)¹. This net out-migration represented 19% of youth 15-19 years of age in 1996 and 9% of youth in 2009.

The pattern is similar for young adults who were 20 to 24 years of age. Non-metro CDs lost individuals in this age group in each five-year period from 1996 to 2014 (Figure 2). Specifically, the net loss due to out-migration of young adults (20-24 years) ranged from 16,816 from 1998 to 2003 to a loss of 10,798 in the 2001 to 2006 period

Figure 1

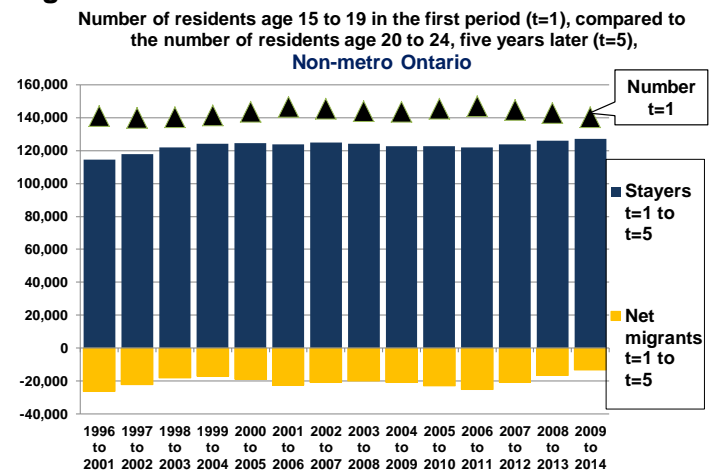
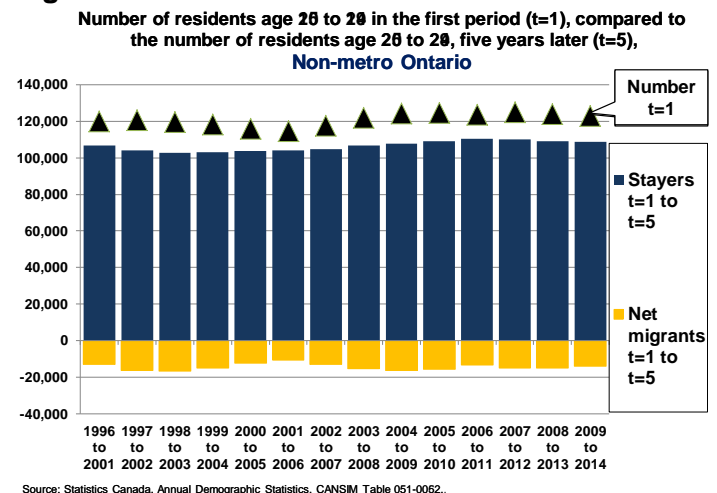


Figure 2



¹ Each bar in Figure 1 refers to a 5-year period. The last bar refers to the period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2014. The triangle (for 2009 or t=1) shows the initial population (15-19 years) was 140,339; the blue bar shows the population 5 years later that was 20-24 years in 2014 was 127,027 (labelled as (net) stayers from t=1 to t=5). The yellow bar is the difference between the height of the triangle (t=1) and the blue bar (t=5). Non-metro youth net migration was -13,312 from 2009 to 2014. By "net" migration, we mean that more individuals moved out than moved into non-metro CDs during this period.

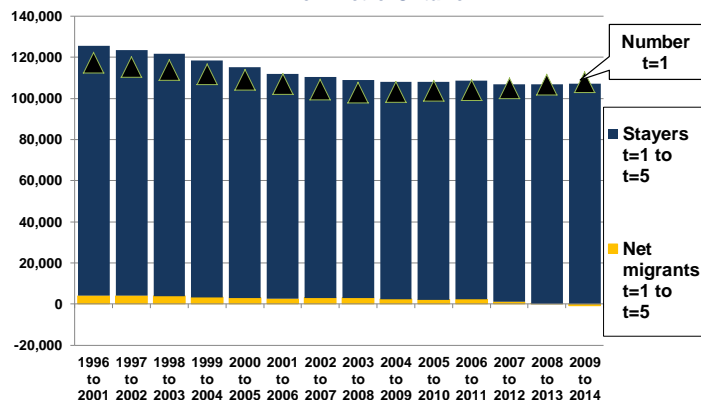
The pattern changes for young adults who were 25-29 years of age. On average, non-metro CDs have

been experiencing no net loss, and no net gain, of individuals in this age group (i.e. the yellow bar is very small in Figure 3). The picture for young adults 30-34 is essentially the same (i.e. the yellow bar is very small in Figure 4).

In the most recent period (2009 to 2014), every non-metro CD lost youth 15-19, on a net basis, due out-migration (except for Nipissing) (Table 1). Also, over one-half of partially-non-metro CDs (8 of 14 CDs) lost youth in this period.

Figure 3

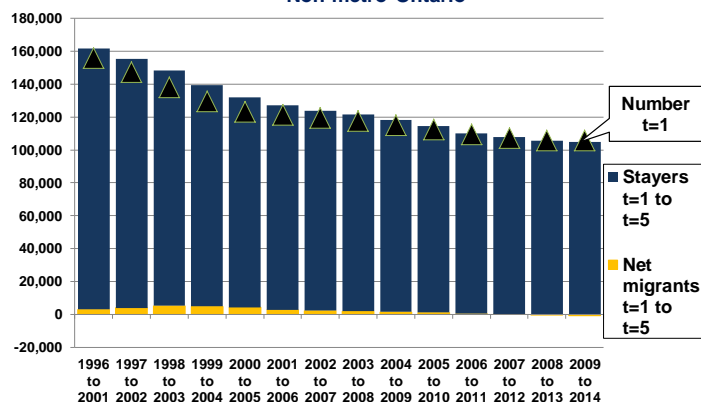
Number of residents age 25 to 29 in the first period (t=1), compared to the number of residents age 30 to 34, five years later (t=5),
Non-metro Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics, CANSIM Table 051-0062.

Figure 4

Number of residents age 30-34 in the first period (t=1), compared to the number of residents age 35 to 39, five years later (t=5),
Non-metro Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics, CANSIM Table 051-0062.

Similarly, for young adults 20 to 24, every non-metro CD (except Renfrew) experienced net out-migration (i.e. more moved out of the CD than moved in). However, the migration pattern is somewhat different for young adults who are 25 to 29 and 30 to 34. Almost one-half of the non-metro CDs experienced net in-migration of individuals in these age groups from 2009 to 2014. Specifically, net migration was positive in 13 of 27 CDs for the 25 to 29 age group and net migration was positive in 11 of 27 CDs in the 30 to 34 age group.

Summary

Almost all non-metro CDs lost youth 15-19 and young adults 20-24 in the period from 2009 to 2014. For young adults 25-29 and 30-34, nearly one-half of non-metro CDs were able to attract more individuals than they lost due to migration.

Table 1

Net change in population of young adults from 2009 to 2014 by census division, Ontario

Name of census division	"Net" change in population from 2009 to 2014			
	Pop. 15-19 yr in 2009	Pop. 20-24 yr in 2009	Pop. 25-29 yr in 2009	Pop. 30-34 yr in 2009
Metro census divisions				
Brant	loss	loss	GAIN	GAIN
Greater Sudbury	GAIN	loss	loss	gain
Halton	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN
Hamilton	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN
Ottawa	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN
Peel	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN
Toronto	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN	gain
York	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN	GAIN
Partially-non-metro census divisions				
Dufferin	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	GAIN
Durham	loss	gain	GAIN	GAIN
Elgin	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	LOSS
Essex	GAIN	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS
Frontenac	GAIN	GAIN	loss	loss
Lennox & Addington	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	GAIN
Middlesex	GAIN	GAIN	LOSS	gain
Niagara	GAIN	LOSS	LOSS	loss
Peterborough	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN
Prescott & Russell	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	GAIN
Simcoe	loss	gain	GAIN	GAIN
Thunder Bay	loss	LOSS	loss	gain
Waterloo	GAIN	GAIN	gain	GAIN
Wellington	GAIN	GAIN	gain	GAIN
Non-metro census divisions				
Algoma	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS	loss
Bruce	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	gain
Chatham-Kent	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS
Cochrane	LOSS	LOSS	gain	loss
Grey	LOSS	LOSS	loss	loss
Haldimand-Norfolk	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS
Haliburton	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	LOSS
Hastings	LOSS	LOSS	gain	gain
Huron	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS
Kawartha Lakes	LOSS	LOSS	loss	gain
Kenora	LOSS	LOSS	loss	LOSS
Lambton	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS
Lanark	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	gain
Leeds & Grenville	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	gain
Manitoulin	LOSS	LOSS	loss	GAIN
Muskoka	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	GAIN
Nipissing	gain	LOSS	LOSS	gain
Northumberland	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	gain
Oxford	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	GAIN
Parry Sound	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	GAIN
Perth	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS	loss
Prince Edward	LOSS	LOSS	loss	loss
Rainy River	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS	LOSS
Renfrew	LOSS	GAIN	gain	loss
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	LOSS	LOSS	gain	loss
Sudbury	LOSS	LOSS	loss	LOSS
Timiskaming	LOSS	LOSS	GAIN	loss

Note: lower-case "loss" is a loss of less than 2% and lower-case "gain" is a gain of less than 2% over the 5-year period.

Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics, CANSIM Table 051-0062.

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.