
Children under 15 years: Change by census division¹

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Highlights

- From 2011 to 2016, seven non-metro census divisions reported an increase in the number of children under 15 years of age.
- The fastest increase (8.3%) was in the Bruce census division during this time period.
- On the other hand, 17 non-metro census divisions had a decrease in the number of children under 15 years of age from 2011 to 2016.
- The fastest decrease (-6.8%) was in the Prince Edward census division.

Why look at children under 15 years?

Demographic change drives a change in demand for both physical infrastructure and social programs. A change in the number of children could require a change in physical infrastructure (such as schools and sports facilities) and a change in social programming and services (such as teachers, pediatricians and music/drama instructors).

Findings

Overall, in Ontario from 2010 to 2016 the number of children under 15 years of age increased by 1.2% (see the orange line in Figure 1).

Among non-metro census divisions (CDs)¹, there was a wide range in the change of the number of children under 15 years of age.

Seven of 24 non-metro CDs had an increase in the number of children, with the largest increase (8.3%) taking place in the Bruce CD.

The remaining 17 non-metro CDs reported a decline in the number of children under 15 years of age. Four CDs reported a decline of more than 4% from 2011 to 2016 (Rainy River, Haliburton, Chatham-Kent and Prince Edward). The 5-year decline in the Prince Edward CD was -6.8%.

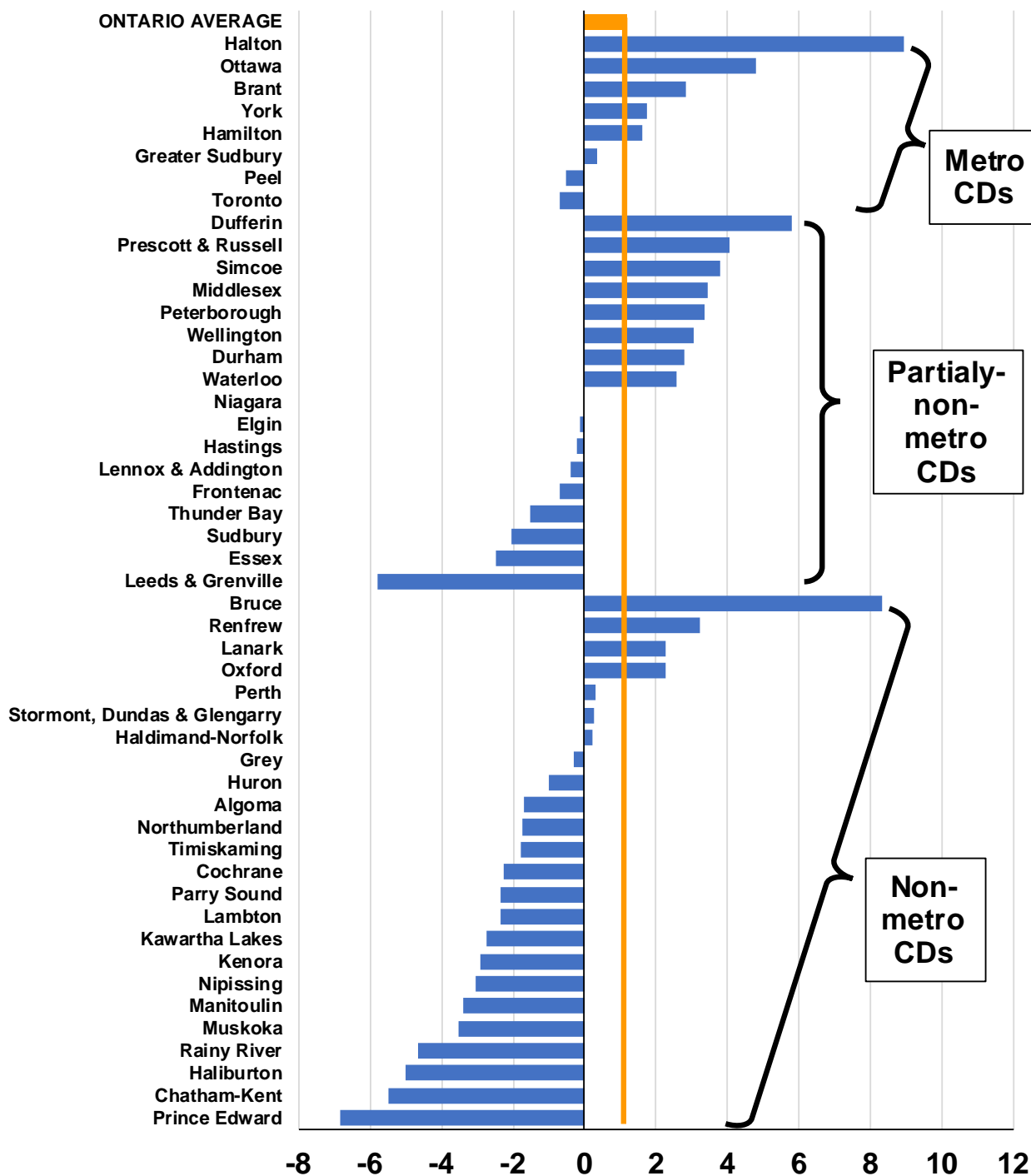
Discussion

The wide range in the pace of change across non-metro CDs in the number of children under 15 years of age implies a wide range in the pace of the needed adjustments to both physical infrastructure and social program investment to adjust to this demographic change.

Some non-metro census divisions are facing a demand to expand the physical and social infrastructure needed by children, while other areas could be facing a need to downsize their infrastructure.

¹ Defined in "[Rural Ontario's Demography: Census Update 2016](#)." **Focus on Rural Ontario**

Figure 1 Ranking of census divisions by PERCENT CHANGE in the number of children under 15 years of age, Ontario, 2011 to 2016



Percent change in population under 15 years of age, 2011 to 2016
 [census subdivisions, within each census division, are excluded from the calculation of change if there was incomplete age data in 2011 or 2016]

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2016, Table 98-400-X2016004.

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ⁱ This is a companion to the *Focus on Rural Ontario* Fact Sheet entitled “Children under 15 years: Change by census subdivision.”