



Components of population change

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Highlights

- **Two non-metro census divisions (CDs) reported population growth in each of the 16 years from 1996 to 2012 due to more individuals moving in compared to those moving out.**
- **Six non-metro CDs are consistently attracting more in-migrants relative to out-migrants.**
- **Four non-metro CDs had more births than deaths in each year from 1996 to 2012 but out-migration prevented population growth in many cases.**

Why look at components of population change?

By looking at the components of population change for a region, regional demographic strengths and weaknesses can be seen

In this [Focus on Rural Ontario](#), we look at two components¹ of population change:

- Natural balance (are births greater than deaths?); and
- Net internal migration (are more people moving to the region relative to the number leaving the region?)

Findings

In the 16 years from 1996 to 2012, only two non-metro census divisions (CDs) showed a population increase in every year - Northumberland and Muskoka (Table 1). This was not due to the natural balance of births relative to deaths. For these 2 CDs, there were more deaths than births in each of the 16 periods. However, population increased because more individuals moved to these CDs than moved out.

Four other non-metro CDs also reported positive net internal migration (i.e. more “in”-movers than “out”-movers) in each of the 16 periods - Leeds and Grenville, Grey, Prince Edward and Haliburton. Similar to Northumberland and Muskoka, they were attractive to migrants and, in three cases, deaths were larger than births in each of the 16 periods. It appears that individuals are moving to and retiring in these regions (or perhaps retiring and then moving to these regions) and then dying in these regions.

These six non-metro CDs are consistently successful in attracting more “in”-migrants relative to their number of “out”-migrants.

In the 1996 to 2012 period, there were four non-metro CDs with more births than deaths in each of the 16 years - Oxford, Perth, Kenora and Cochrane. However, it was not sufficient to generate overall population growth in each of the 16 years. In Cochrane, although there were more births than deaths in each of the 16 years, there was also net out-migration each year and population declined in each of the 16 years in this period.

In the most recent period (from 2011 to 2012), 12 non-metro CDs did have more “in”-migrants than “out”-migrants (showing as a positive net internal migration in the last column of Table 1). Net in-migration was largest in Haliburton where net in-migration contributed 1.6% to the total population in one year. This was followed by Prince Edward (+1.1%), Kawartha Lakes (+0.7%) and Northumberland (0.6%).

At the other end of the scale, the Sudbury CD lost 1.6% of its population due to net out-migration in the one-year period, 2011 to 2012.

Summary

Six non-metro census divisions attracted more “in”-migrants than they lost due to “out”-migration in each of the 16 years from 1996 to 2012. These are “retirement-destination” regions. Five of these census divisions also reported more deaths than births in each of the 16 years.

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.

¹ The contribution of the arrival of immigrants to population growth is reviewed in a subsequent [Focus on Rural Ontario](#).

Table 1

Number of periods of population growth from 1996 to 2012 by census division					
2006 Census Division ID	Census Division (CD) name	During the 16 years from 1996 to 2012:			Net internal ¹ migration as a percent of population, 2011 to 2012
		Number of periods with an increase in population	Number of periods with births greater than deaths	Number of periods with positive net internal ¹ migration into this CD	
Metro census divisions (sorted by number of periods of population growth)					
3519	York	16	16	16	0.5
3524	Halton	16	16	16	1.0
3529	Brant	16	16	15	0.5
3506	Ottawa	16	16	12	0.2
3521	Peel	16	16	10	-0.5
3525	Hamilton	15	16	5	0.2
3520	Toronto	14	16	0	-0.8
3553	Greater Sudbury	6	12	6	-0.1
Partially-non-metro census divisions (sorted by number of periods of population growth)					
3502	Prescott & Russell	16	16	16	0.4
3518	Durham	16	16	16	0.7
3543	Simcoe	16	16	16	1.1
3523	Wellington	16	16	15	0.4
3530	Waterloo	16	16	15	0.3
3522	Dufferin	16	16	14	0.7
3534	Elgin	16	16	12	-0.1
3539	Middlesex	16	16	7	0.1
3515	Peterborough	16	0	16	0.4
3510	Frontenac	15	16	11	0.4
3526	Niagara	15	8	12	0.2
3537	Essex	13	16	6	-0.2
3511	Lennox & Addington	11	3	13	0.0
3558	Thunder Bay	2	12	1	0.1
Non-metro census divisions (sorted by number of periods of population growth)					
3514	Northumberland	16	0	16	0.6
3544	Muskoka	16	0	16	0.4
3532	Oxford	15	16	12	0.5
3507	Leeds & Grenville	14	3	16	0.4
3542	Grey	14	0	16	0.3
3516	Kawartha Lakes	14	0	15	0.7
3547	Renfrew	12	15	9	0.2
3509	Lanark	12	5	15	0.2
3551	Manitoulin	12	3	13	-0.2
3513	Prince Edward	12	0	16	1.1
3546	Haliburton	12	0	16	1.6
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk	11	10	10	-0.2
3512	Hastings	11	6	11	-0.1
3548	Nipissing	10	7	5	0.3
3549	Parry Sound	10	0	15	0.2
3531	Perth	9	16	5	-0.3
3560	Kenora	9	16	0	-0.4
3541	Bruce	8	6	8	0.1
3536	Chatham-Kent	5	14	0	-0.5
3538	Lambton	5	8	3	-0.3
3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	4	4	5	-0.2
3540	Huron	3	9	1	-0.2
3554	Timiskaming	1	2	1	-0.1
3556	Cochrane	0	16	0	-0.3
3559	Rainy River	0	11	0	-0.2
3552	Sudbury	0	6	0	-1.6
3557	Algoma	0	3	1	-0.2

1. "Internal" migration refers to the number of individuals who moved from another census division in Canada into this census division. We calculate "net internal migration" which is the number moving "in" MINUS the number moving "out".

Source: Statistics Canada. **Annual Demographic Statistics**, CANSIM Table 051-0053.