



Rural Ontario's Demography: Census Update 2016

March, 2017

Highlights

- **Non-metro Ontario had 2.5 million residents in 2016 – a larger population than in any of Canada's six smaller provinces.**
- **Non-metro areas grew by 2% from 2011 to 2016. In fact, non-metro Ontario has grown in every intercensal period since 1966.**
- **Non-metro Ontario residents comprise 19% of Ontario's population.**
- **This share is declining slowly over time due to:**
 - **slower population growth in non-metro areas, compared to metro areas; and**
 - **the ongoing reclassification of some non-metro areas to metro areas.**
- **In every census period, some non-metro residents are reclassified from a non-metro area to a metro area.**
 - **in some cases, a population centre reaches the threshold to be classified as a metro area (such as Belleville in 2016); and**
 - **in the other cases, a change in commuting patterns to a metro area will cause a locality to become delineated as part of the metro area when the percent of workers who commute surpasses the 50% threshold. For example, in the 2016 census, Kemptville was delineated as part of the Ottawa-Gatineau metro area.**
- **In the 1981 to 2016 period, there was continuous population growth among regions (represented by census divisions) associated with:**
 - **the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area**
 - **the southern Georgian Bay region; and**
 - **the Ottawa-Kingston region.**
- **Also, in the 1981 to 2016 period, there was continuous population growth (generally) in communities (represented by census consolidated subdivisions) associated with:**
 - **the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area;**
 - **the southern Georgian Bay; and**
 - **the Ottawa region.**
- **There is considerable heterogeneity of community population trajectories within each region:**
 - **within growing regions, there are growing communities and there are declining communities;**
 - **within declining regions, there are growing communities and there are declining communities.**
- **A higher share of communities within non-metro census divisions reported population decline from 2011 to 2016. And, over the longer period from 1981 to 2016, a higher share of communities in non-metro census divisions did not grow continuously in these 7 intercensal periods.**

Definitions

The basic building block for all the definitions used in this report is the census subdivision.

A census subdivision (CSD) is an incorporated town or incorporated municipality (or equivalent, such as an Indian Reserve or local government district, etc.).

A census consolidated subdivision (CCS) is a group of adjacent CSDs within the same census division. Generally, a smaller, more densely populated CSD (town, village, etc.) is combined with the surrounding, larger, more rural CSD, in order to create a geographic level between the CSD and the CD.

A census division (CD) is a group of neighbouring municipalities (CSDs) joined together for the purposes of regional planning and managing common services (such as police or ambulance services). (See the rows in Table 2). In Ontario, they typically are counties or former counties. In the text, CDs are classified into three groups:

- (completely) metro CDs (where all component CSDs are part of a CMA (there is one exception));
- partially-non-metro CDs (where some CSDs are delineated as part of a CMA and some CSDs are not delineated as part of a CMA); and
- (completely) non-metro CDs (where no CSDs are delineated as part of a CMA).

A **metro area** includes all the CSDs which are delineated as part of Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) (See the first column of Table 2.).

A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is a grouping of CSDs which has a total population of 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the built-up urban core. A CMA also includes any neighbouring CSD where more than 50% of those with jobs are commuting to the CMA.

A **non-metro area** includes only CSDs outside a CMA. (See the second column of Table 2.)

Within a non-metro area, there are Census Agglomerations and rural and small town areas, which, in turn, are disaggregated in Metropolitan Influenced Zones.

A Census Agglomeration (CA) has a total population of 10,000 to 99,999 and includes any neighbouring CSDs where more than 50% of those with jobs are commuting to the CA.

Rural and small town (RST) areas are comprised of CSDs outside CMAs and outside CAs (i.e., they are non-CMA/CA areas).

RST areas are disaggregated into Metropolitan Influenced Zones (MIZ) where each MIZ is composed of CSDs based on the percent of those employed who commute to a CMA or CA: Strong MIZ (30% or more commute to a CMA or CA); Moderate MIZ (5% to 29%); Weak MIZ (more than 0% up to 5%); and No MIZ (no commuting to a CMA or CA).

1. Introduction

Why an update on rural demography?

The size of the population of rural Ontario and the change in this population is an ongoing public policy concern – at both the provincial and at the local level.

The geographic distribution of a population influences the demand for human services and how these services are delivered. Further, this population distribution impacts the labour force supply, commuting patterns, private sector trade and investment and the need for public infrastructure. While large cities receive a lot of attention and analysis, it is important to consider the sizable population residing in smaller cities, small towns and in rural and remote areas.

Census data indicate that nearly one in five Ontario residents live in a rural context. The total population of rural Ontario is larger than the total population in any of Canada's six smaller provinces, and rural Ontario's 2.5 million residents is equivalent to the combined population living in the metropolitan regions of Hamilton, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, London, St. Catharines-Niagara and Oshawa. In other words, the population of rural Ontario is equivalent to the combined population of 5 of the 14 largest census metropolitan areas in the country. Moreover, rural Ontario and urban Ontario are interdependent because their energy systems, food systems, ecological systems and transportation systems are all interconnected. Hence, it is important that the conditions in all parts of society and the economy be monitored when considering whether changes in any one area require attention and what the policy implications may be for the other areas.

Demographic trends are the foundation for understanding this context. Rural Ontario continues to grow – not everywhere – but the rural Ontario population is growing. Nonetheless, the share of the rural population in Ontario, as a whole, has been slowly declining over time due to three factors:

- rural areas tend to grow more slowly than urban areas;
- population growth in large rural centres over time results in some of them being reclassified as urban; and
- the rural population near a metropolitan area may become delineated as part of the metro area if the share of rural workers who hold a job in the metro area surpasses 50%.

Ontario is diverse and not all northern and southern communities share identical trajectories of change. It is vitally important to examine the population dynamics at different regional scales. For example, in examining several maps included in this update, we note a pattern *within* several census divisions where the township population in the countryside is declining even while small towns in the region are growing – perhaps suggesting the relocation of an older population. While it is beyond the scope of this update to explore all these specific aspects, we do expect that the broad descriptive information presented will provide the back-drop for detailed local and/or regional analysis.

What is rural?

People have many ways of understanding what rural means to them. No statistical definition can capture all the aspects of what makes a place rural.

Two of the most fundamental dimensions of rural places are:

- a) a low population density; or
- b) a long distance to a centre with a higher population density¹; or
- c) both (i.e., if you are living in both dimensions of rurality, you are really rural!).

Smaller communities near a metropolitan centre may have many features of being rural, such as a lack of daycare facilities, but both parents are able to access a metropolitan job. Centres that are distant from a metropolitan centre, even the larger regional service centres in non-metro areas, often lack a full range of higher-order services (e.g., specialized surgery) and have a narrower selection of employment opportunities. Thus, lower density and a longer distance to density are two dimensions of rurality. As noted above, truly rural people live in areas that are rural according to both dimensions.

Choosing the geographies for presenting rural statistics²

For detailed definitions of the various geographic grids for presenting rural statistics, see du Plessis *et al.*³.

Non-metro areas are those outside the commuting zone of [Census Metropolitan Areas \(CMAs\)](#). CMAs have a core population of 50,000 or more and a total population of 100,000 and over that includes the residents in the commuting zone around these centres (where 50% or more of the employed workforce commute into the CMA).

Consequently, non-metro areas are characterized by:

- a population density criterion (i.e., size of locality) of less than 100,000 inhabitants; and
- the distance to density criterion is “outside the commuting zone of a centre of 100,000+ inhabitants” (specifically, where less than 50% of the employed workforce commutes to the CMA).

CMAs have distinctly metro functions⁴. On the other hand, the population in smaller cities tends to have characteristics similar to small towns and rural areas⁵. And although one can always find an urban-to-rural gradient, many of the differences across non-metro areas are less pronounced than the metro vs. non-metro differences. Consequently, our choice for the geographic grid for **Focus on Rural Ontario** is to present statistics looking at the non-metro population, i.e., people in the smaller cities, small towns, and rural and remote areas outside the commuting zone of a metro (CMA) area.

Overview of the report

This Rural Ontario Demographic Update is organized in four sections with a discussion of:

1. the level and trends in the non-metro (non-CMA) population (i.e., the population residing outside a [Census Metropolitan Area \(CMA\)](#) compared to the metro (CMA) population);
2. the population levels in three groups of [census divisions](#). We have classified census divisions according to whether they are completely metro, partially-non-metro or completely-non-metro. The

¹ See Reimer, Bill and Ray D. Bollman. (2010) “Understanding Rural Canada: Implications for Rural Development Policy and Rural Planning Policy.” Chapter 1 in David J.A. Douglas (ed.) **Rural Planning and Development in Canada**. (Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.).

² The definitions used in this report are summarized in Box 1: Definitions.

³ du Plessis, Valerie, Roland Beshiri, Ray D. Bollman and Heather Clemenson. (2001) “Definitions of Rural.” **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 3, No. 3 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE) (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsoic/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>).

⁴ Mendelson, Robert and Janet Lefebvre. (2003) **Reviewing Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) and Census Agglomerations (CA) in Canada According to Metropolitan Functionality** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Geography Working Paper Series No. 2003-001, Catalogue no. 92F0138MIE) (www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/listpub.cgi?catno=92F0138MIE).

⁵ The charts in most of Statistics Canada’s [Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletins](#) show that the population of non-metro smaller cities have characteristics similar to the population of smaller towns and rural areas.

census divisions generally are established by the boundaries of the regions, counties and districts in Ontario (some of which have become single-tier such as Chatham-Kent or the City of Kawartha Lakes).

3. the patterns of growth across census divisions by highlighting the recent 2011 to 2016 experience and also the patterns of growth over the 1981 to 2016 period; and
4. the patterns of growth across [census consolidated subdivisions](#) by, again, highlighting the recent 2011 to 2016 experience and the patterns of growth over the 1981 to 2016 period. Census consolidated subdivisions combine the population of the town and the surrounding townships, each of which are [census subdivisions](#) (i.e., an incorporated town or an incorporated municipality).

Readers will also find two appendices:

- A. Appendix A summarizes the historical trajectory of the number of individuals residing in [population centres](#) (of 1,000 or more residents) and in census rural areas (outside population centres of 1,000 or more) which is a different classification than the one used in the main body of text; and
- B. Appendix B summarizes the level and trend of the population in non-metro areas disaggregated into [Census Agglomerations](#) (CAs) and rural and small town (non-CMA/CA areas) which, in turn are disaggregated into [Metropolitan Influenced Zones](#).

2. Non-metro population: level and trends since 1966

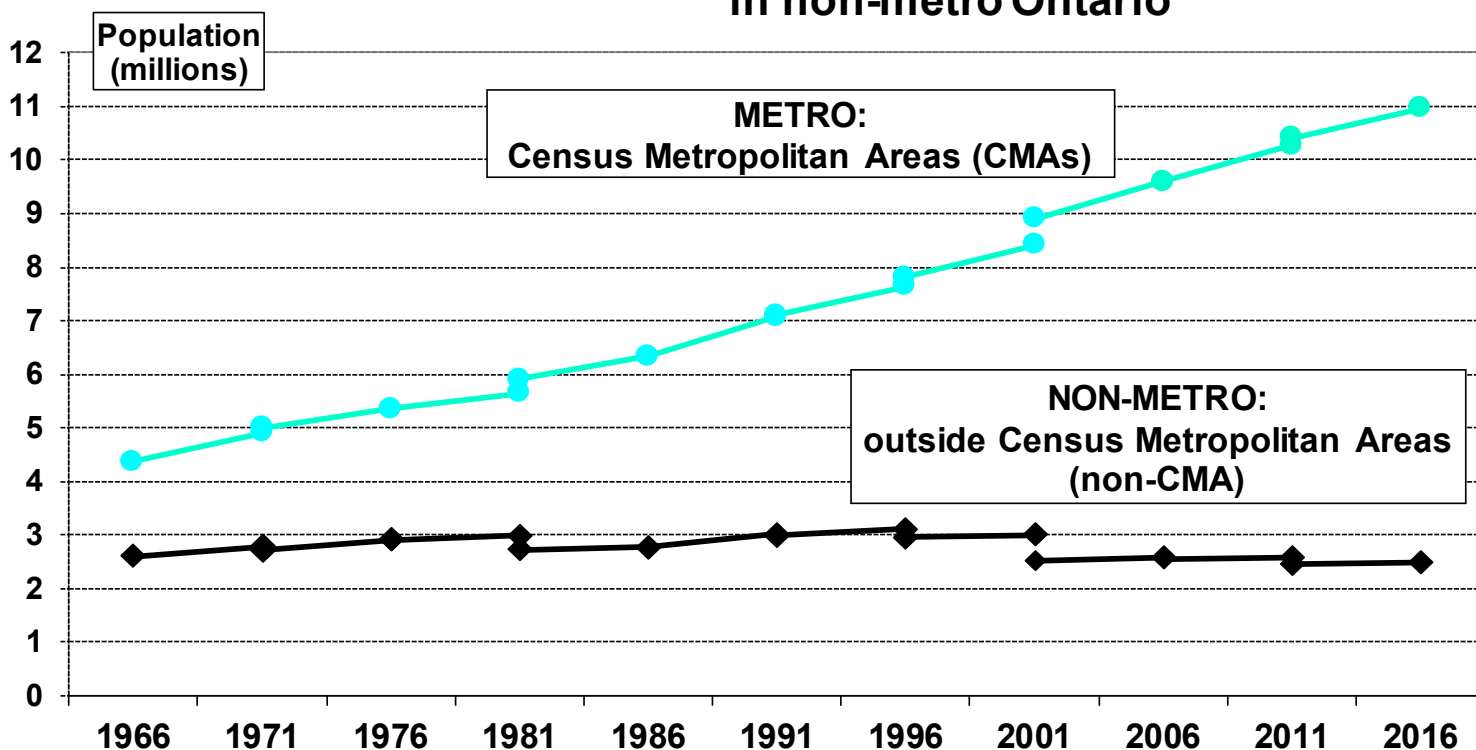
In 2016, 2.5 million Ontario residents were living in a non-metro area, which represented 19% of Ontario's population (Figure 1 and Appendix B Tables B1 and B4).

Non-metro Ontario represents a large number of people in absolute terms. The number is larger than the population than in any one of Canada's six smaller provinces.

The long-run trend in Ontario's non-metro population appears to show little change since 1966 – with 2.6 million residents in 1966 and with 2.5 million residents in 2016 (Figure 1).

Figure 1

In 2016, 2.5 million individuals were living in non-metro Ontario



Note: A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more and includes surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the CMA.

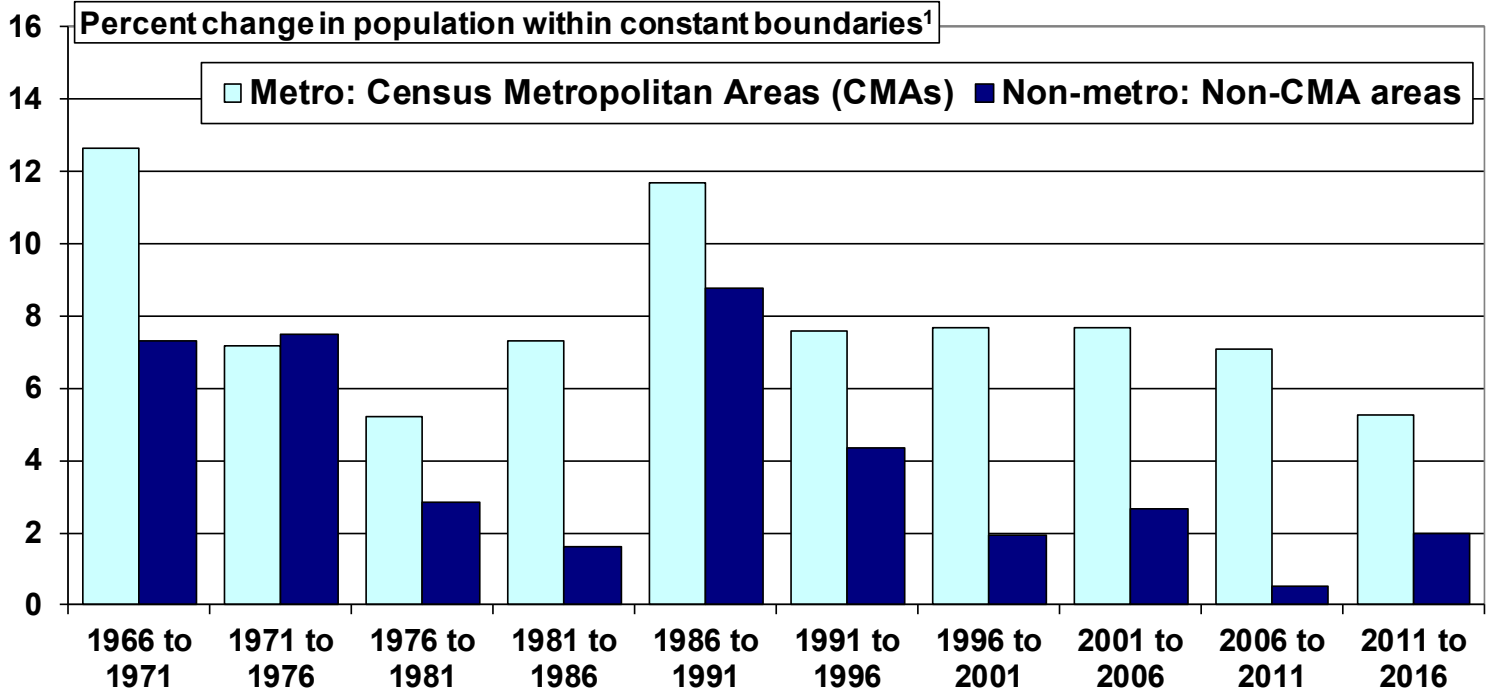
The two data points visible for some years show the adjusted population count (due to reclassification) in order to make comparisons over time within constant boundaries (i.e. within a "constant classification").

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 2016.

Importantly, Ontario's non-metro population has grown in every intercensal period since 1966 (Figure 2 and Appendix B Tables B1 and B4). The non-metro population grew by 2% in the most-recent period, 2011 to 2016. Since 1966, the rate of growth has varied between a high of 8.8% in the 1986 to 1991 period to a low of 0.5% in the 2006 to 2011 period.

Figure 2

Continuous growth in non-metro population, Ontario, 1966 to 2016



¹ Each 5-year change is tabulated within the boundaries applicable to the census at the *end* of the 5-year period.

Note: A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more and includes surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the CMA.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 2016.

How is it possible that the non-metro population is always growing (Figure 2) and the number of non-metro residents has not changed (much) since 1966 (Figure 1)?

The answer is that during most intercensal periods, some non-metro areas become reclassified as metro. This may happen in one of two circumstances:

1. Commuting patterns may change such that more than 50% of the employed residents of a [census subdivision](#) (i.e., an incorporated town or municipality) are now commuting to a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). When this change takes place, the complete population of the census subdivision becomes reclassified as “metro.”
2. Alternatively, a population centre may grow and reach the threshold to be delineated as a [Census Metropolitan Area \(CMA\)](#) and the complete population of the new CMA is reclassified from non-metro to metro.

The important bottom lines are:

- A. The non-metro population is growing (not as fast as metro but, taken together, the non-metro population has always been growing); and
- B. Due to the growth of non-metro areas, some areas are reclassified from non-metro to metro in every intercensal period.
- C. Thus, the share of Ontario’s population classified as non-metro is declining over time due to:
 - a. Slower growth than metro; and due to
 - b. Reclassification of some non-metro areas to metro areas in each intercensal period.

To show the impact of reclassification of population from metro to non-metro, we present Figure 3 where we re-scale the black line of the non-metro population in Figure 1.

Note that the black line is increasing (i.e., has a positive slope) in every intercensal period due to non-metro population growth in every intercensal period.

The size of the gap (i.e., the orange arrow) in each census period shows the number of non-metro residents that are reclassified. For example, between 2011 and 2016, Belleville became classified as a CMA. In Figure 3, we see the 2011 non-metro population was 2.58 million before reclassification and was 2.44 million after reclassification⁶.

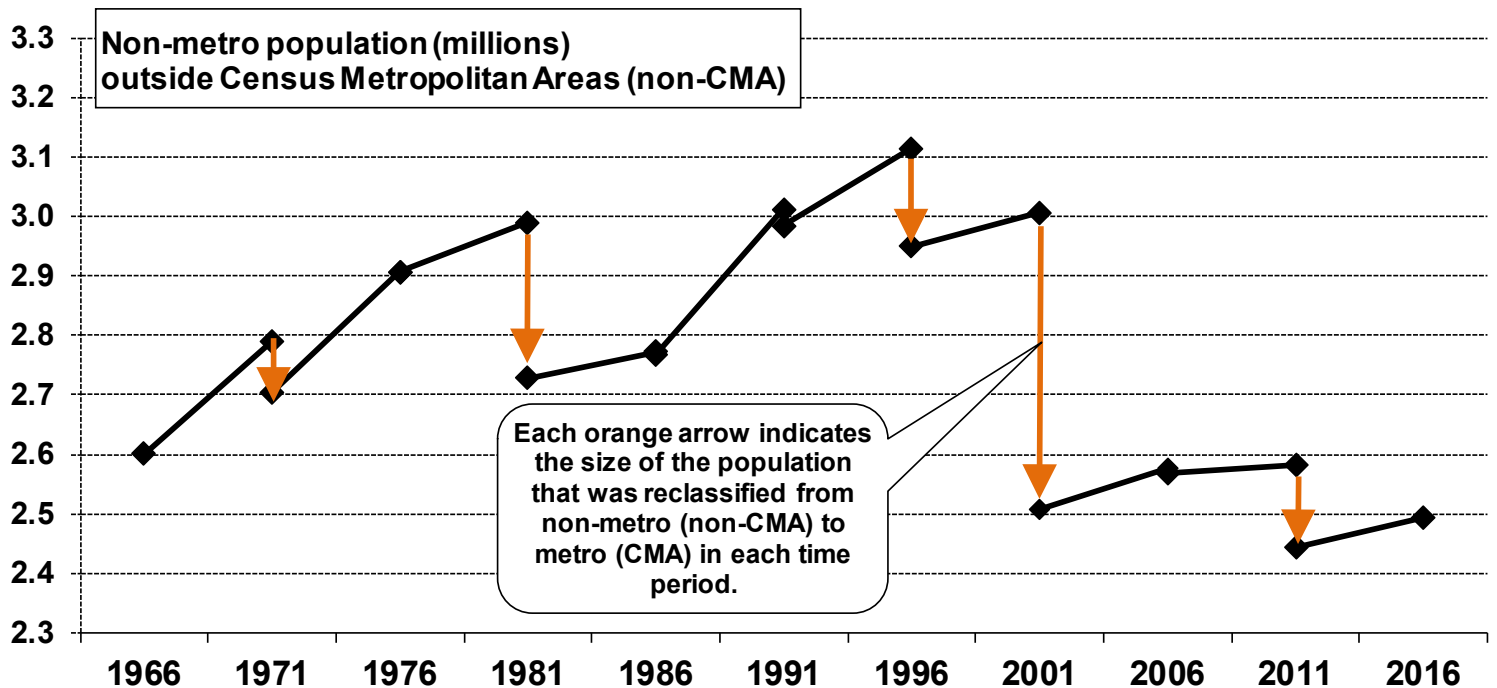
Between 1971 and 2016, 1.2 million non-metro residents in Ontario have been reclassified from non-metro to metro (Figure 3 and Appendix B Table B5). This is not an exodus. The people have not moved. Rather, their locality has been reclassified.

Another way of thinking about these numbers is to consider urbanization over time – particularly in the periphery of the Greater Golden Horseshoe or rural Ottawa. As our larger cities expand and development of housing occurs in the smaller communities in the urban fringe, the outlying places become larger and more integrated with the metro area.

⁶ Belleville, itself, contributed 102 thousand to the reclassification of population from non-metro to metro in 2011. The remainder of the reclassification of population from non-metro to metro was contributed by changes in commuting patterns causing individual census subdivision to be delineated as part of a Census Metropolitan Area. For example, the census subdivision of North Grenville (which includes Kemptville) (with a 2011 population of 15 thousand) became delineated as part of the Ottawa-Gatineau Census Metropolitan Area and the census subdivision of Markstay-Warren (with a 2011 population of 2 thousand) became delineated as part of the Sudbury Census Metropolitan Area.

Figure 3

Ontario's non-metro population has grown in each intercensal period (see slope of black lines) (but reclassification (see orange arrows) from non-metro to metro means there are fewer non-metro residents in 2016 than in 1966)



Note: A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more and includes surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the CMA.

The two data points visible for some years show the adjusted population count (due to reclassification) in order to make comparisons over time within constant boundaries (i.e. within a "constant classification").

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 2016.

Thus, reclassification of population from non-metro to metro is one factor explaining the impression of a flat non-metro population trajectory (the black line) in Figure 1.

Figures 1 and 3 show Ontario's population in non-metro (non-CMA) was 2.5 million (19%) in 2016. Interestingly, this non-metro share was the smallest non-metro share across all provinces – the province with the next-smallest non-metro share was Quebec (29%) (Table 1). However, as noted above, Ontario's non-metro population is large in absolute terms – equal to 24% of Canada's non-metro population. Quebec's non-metro population also represents 24% of Canadian non-metro population.

Table 1

Metro and non-metro population by province / territory, 2016										
	Metro (CMA)	Non-metro (non-CMA) (outside CMAs) (CAs plus RST)								Total population
		Non-metro (non-CMA)	Census agglomerations (CAs)	Rural and small town (RST) areas						
				All rural and small town (RST) areas	Strong MIZ	Moderate MIZ	Weak MIZ	No MIZ	RST Territories	
Total population, 2016										
Newfoundland and Labrador	205,955	313,761	70,405	243,356	36,172	121,079	60,285	25,820	n.a.	519,716
Prince Edward Island	0	142,907	85,912	56,995	25,323	30,395	460	817	n.a.	142,907
Nova Scotia	403,390	520,208	205,184	315,024	71,638	117,933	124,264	1,189	n.a.	923,598
New Brunswick	271,012	476,089	197,031	279,058	74,455	128,374	73,315	2,914	n.a.	747,101
Quebec	5,760,407	2,403,954	864,450	1,539,504	635,631	653,473	218,326	32,074	n.a.	8,164,361
Ontario	10,956,264	2,492,230	1,106,057	1,386,173	708,869	451,442	189,085	36,777	n.a.	13,448,494
Manitoba	778,489	499,876	131,111	368,765	86,189	127,464	129,490	25,622	n.a.	1,278,365
Saskatchewan	531,576	566,776	175,700	391,076	44,468	145,602	140,600	60,406	n.a.	1,098,352
Alberta	2,831,429	1,235,746	502,663	733,083	174,320	308,929	220,275	29,559	n.a.	4,067,175
British Columbia	3,206,601	1,441,454	901,527	539,927	136,640	227,912	151,751	23,624	n.a.	4,648,055
Yukon	0	35,874	28,225	7,649	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7,649	35,874
Northwest Territories	0	41,786	19,569	22,217	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22,217	41,786
Nunavut	0	35,944	0	35,944	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	35,944	35,944
CANADA	24,945,123	10,206,605	4,287,834	5,918,771	1,993,705	2,312,603	1,307,851	238,802	65,810	35,151,728
Percent distribution of population within each province (row percent)										
Newfoundland and Labrador	40	60	14	47	7	23	12	5	n.a.	100
Prince Edward Island	0	100	60	40	18	21	0	1	n.a.	100
Nova Scotia	44	56	22	34	8	13	13	0	n.a.	100
New Brunswick	36	64	26	37	10	17	10	0	n.a.	100
Quebec	71	29	11	19	8	8	3	0	n.a.	100
Ontario	81	19	8	10	5	3	1	0	n.a.	100
Manitoba	61	39	10	29	7	10	10	2	n.a.	100
Saskatchewan	48	52	16	36	4	13	13	5	n.a.	100
Alberta	70	30	12	18	4	8	5	1	n.a.	100
British Columbia	69	31	19	12	3	5	3	1	n.a.	100
Yukon	0	100	79	21	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	21	100
Northwest Territories	0	100	47	53	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	53	100
Nunavut	0	100	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	100	100
CANADA	71	29	12	17	6	7	4	1	0	100
Percent distribution of population within each geographic class (column percent)										
Newfoundland and Labrador	1	3	2	4	2	5	5	11	n.a.	1
Prince Edward Island	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	n.a.	0
Nova Scotia	2	5	5	5	4	5	10	0	n.a.	3
New Brunswick	1	5	5	5	4	6	6	1	n.a.	2
Quebec	23	24	20	26	32	28	17	13	n.a.	23
Ontario	44	24	26	23	36	20	14	15	n.a.	38
Manitoba	3	5	3	6	4	6	10	11	n.a.	4
Saskatchewan	2	6	4	7	2	6	11	25	n.a.	3
Alberta	11	12	12	12	9	13	17	12	n.a.	12
British Columbia	13	14	21	9	7	10	12	10	n.a.	13
Yukon	0	0	1	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12	0
Northwest Territories	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	34	0
Nunavut	0	0	0	1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	55	0
CANADA	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more and includes surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the CMA.

A Census Agglomeration (CA) has a total population of 10,000 to 99,999 and includes surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the CA. Rural and small town (RST) areas are outside CMAs and outside CAs (i.e. they are non-CMA/CA areas).

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

3. Population in metro census divisions, partially-non-metro census divisions and non-metro census divisions

As noted in the introduction, some annual data for Ontario are published at the [census division](#) level⁷. To summarize these statistics, selected [Focus on Rural Ontario](#) Fact Sheets have grouped census divisions as:

Metro census divisions - where all of the component [census subdivisions](#) (i.e., incorporated towns or incorporated municipalities) within a census division are delineated as part of a metro area (i.e., part of a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA);

Partially-non-metro census divisions - where some component census subdivisions within a census division are delineated as part of a CMA and some are delineated as part of a non-CMA (non-metro) area; and

Non-metro census divisions - where all the component census subdivisions within a census division are delineated outside a CMA.

When we apply this criterion to the results of the 2016 Census of Population, we find:

- metro census divisions have 7.5 million residents;
- partially-non-metro census divisions have 4.2 million residents; and
- non-metro census divisions have 1.7 million residents (Table 2).

We need to carefully distinguish between metro areas and metro census divisions.

Metro *areas* refer to all residents (11 million) in Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) (first column of Table 2) but 7.5 million live in metro *census divisions* (top panel of Table 2) and 3.4 million live in partially-non-metro census divisions (middle panel of Table 2). Thus, the population in the group of metro census divisions are only residents of metro (CMA) areas⁸.

Similarly, we need to distinguish between non-metro areas and non-metro census divisions.

Non-metro *areas* refer to all residents (2.5 million) outside CMAs (second column of Table 2) but 1.7 live in an entirely non-metro *census divisions* (bottom panel of Table 2) and 0.7 million live in partially-non-metro census divisions (middle panel of Table 2). Thus, the population in the group of non-metro census divisions are only residents of non-metro (non-CMA) areas.

Hence, the residents of “partially-non-metro” census divisions are comprised of some residents living in metro areas and some residents living in non-metro areas.

For example, the Simcoe census division is a “partially-non-metro” census division. Within this census division, there are 267,000 residents living in census subdivisions delineated as a metro (CMA) area:

- 197,000 in the Barrie CMA, comprised of:
 - 141,000 in the census subdivision of the City of Barrie;
 - 37,000 in the census subdivision of Innisfil;
 - 10,000 in the census subdivision of Springwater;

⁷ See, for example, Statistics Canada. (Annual) [Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas](#) (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-214).

⁸ There is one exception. The CD of Brant is classified as a metro census division although there is one CSD with a population of 605 that is not delineated as part of a CMA.

- 79,000 in the Toronto CMA, comprised of:
 - 35,000 in the census subdivision of Bradford West Gwillimbury; and
 - 34,000 in the census subdivision of New Tecumseh.

In addition, there are 213,000 residents in the Simcoe census division who are residing in non-metro (non-CMA) areas. This includes the towns and smaller cities ([Census Agglomerations](#)) of Collingwood, Orillia, Midland and Wasaga Beach (summing to about 109, 000) and another approximately 104,000 living in rural and other small town areas within the Simcoe census division.

Thus, overall, the Simcoe census division is “partially-non-metro” – for this census division as a whole, the population is residing in a “partially-non-metro” milieu. However, it is important to remember that for province-level tabulations of “metro” and “non-metro” populations, the 267,000 CMA residents in this CD are classified as residing in a metro area and the 213,000 non-CMA residents are classified as residing in a non-metro area.

In Table 2, the breakdown of the population within each census division is shown in the rows. The population residing in metro areas is shown in the first column and the population residing in non-metro areas is shown in the second column (which is a subtotal of the subsequent columns).

Moving to Table 3, we show the distribution of CSDs in terms of whether or not they are delineated as either part of a CMA or part of a non-CMA area. In 2016, there were 575 CSDs in Ontario (see the second column from the right in Table 3) with:

- 26 CSDs in metro census divisions;
- 200 CSDs in partially-non-metro census divisions; and
- 349 CSDs in non-metro census divisions (Table 3).

Table 2

Population by type of area within each census division, Ontario, 2016

Census Division ID	Name of Census Division, ranked by percent non-metro	Metro (Census Metropolitan Areas) (100,000 and over) (CMAs)	Non-metro (outside Census Metropolitan Areas) (non-CMA) (i.e. CAs + rural and small town)								Total population, 2016	Percent non-metro ¹	
			All Non-metro (non-CMA)	Census Agglomerations (CAs) (10,000 to 99,999)			Rural and small town areas (non-CMA, non-CA) (by Metropolitan Influenced Zone (MIZ))						
				All Census Agglomerations (CAs)	Census Agglomerations (CAs) (50,000 to 99,999)	Census Agglomerations (CAs) (10,000 to 49,999)	All Rural and small town areas	Strong MIZ	Moderate MIZ	Weak MIZ			No MIZ
Metro census divisions													
3506	Ottawa	934,243	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	934,243	0	
3519	York	1,109,909	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,109,909	0	
3520	Toronto	2,731,571	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,731,571	0	
3521	Peel	1,381,739	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,381,739	0	
3524	Halton	548,435	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	548,435	0	
3525	Hamilton	536,917	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	536,917	0	
3553	Greater Sudbury	161,647	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161,647	0	
3529	Brant	134,203	605	-	-	-	605	-	605	-	134,808	0	
Subtotal: Metro census divisions		7,538,664	605	-	-	-	605	-	605	-	7,539,269	0	
Partially-non-metro census divisions													
3530	Waterloo	523,894	11,260	-	-	-	11,260	11,260	-	-	535,154	2	
3526	Niagara	433,388	14,500	-	-	-	14,500	14,500	-	-	447,888	3	
3539	Middlesex	438,132	17,394	-	-	-	17,394	16,775	466	153	455,526	4	
3510	Frontenac	144,204	6,271	-	-	-	6,271	4,373	1,898	-	150,475	4	
3518	Durham	612,472	33,390	-	-	-	33,390	33,259	-	131	645,862	5	
3515	Peterborough	121,721	16,515	-	-	-	16,515	14,036	2,479	-	138,236	12	
3558	Thunder Bay	121,621	24,427	-	-	-	24,427	6,188	4,148	11,290	146,048	17	
3537	Essex	329,144	69,809	49,147	-	49,147	20,662	20,427	-	235	398,953	17	
3512	Hastings	103,472	32,973	-	-	-	32,973	22,749	10,224	-	136,445	24	
3523	Wellington	151,984	70,742	28,191	-	28,191	42,551	11,439	31,112	-	222,726	32	
3534	Elgin	55,937	33,041	-	-	-	33,041	33,041	-	-	88,978	37	
3522	Dufferin	37,509	24,226	-	-	-	24,226	24,226	-	-	61,735	39	
3543	Simcoe	266,626	213,024	109,493	-	109,493	103,531	101,997	1,492	42	479,650	44	
3502	Prescott and Russell	41,032	48,301	10,263	-	10,263	38,038	38,038	-	-	89,333	54	
3511	Lennox & Addington	16,971	25,917	-	-	-	25,917	23,594	2,323	-	42,888	60	
3507	Leeds and Grenville	16,451	84,095	38,553	-	38,553	45,542	34,626	10,916	-	100,546	84	
3552	Sudbury	3,042	18,504	-	-	-	18,504	7,028	11,370	106	21,546	86	
Subtotal: Partially-non-metro CDs		3,417,600	744,389	235,647	-	235,647	508,742	417,556	76,428	11,290	3,468	4,161,989	18
Non-metro census divisions													
3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengary	-	113,429	59,699	-	59,699	53,730	31,301	20,942	1,487	113,429	100	
3509	Lanark	-	68,698	31,451	-	31,451	37,247	16,872	20,375	-	68,698	100	
3513	Prince Edward	-	24,735	-	-	-	24,735	24,735	-	-	24,735	100	
3514	Northumberland	-	85,598	36,193	-	36,193	49,405	36,010	13,395	-	85,598	100	
3516	Kawartha Lakes	-	75,423	75,423	-	75,423	-	-	-	-	75,423	100	
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk	-	109,787	64,044	-	64,044	45,743	45,608	-	135	109,787	100	
3531	Perth	-	76,796	31,465	-	31,465	45,331	23,336	21,995	-	76,796	100	
3532	Oxford	-	110,862	69,531	-	69,531	41,331	41,331	-	-	110,862	100	
3536	Chatham-Kent	-	102,042	102,042	-	102,042	-	-	-	-	102,042	100	
3538	Lambton	-	126,638	96,151	96,151	96,151	30,487	14,845	14,053	1,589	126,638	100	
3540	Huron	-	59,297	-	-	-	59,297	-	46,737	12,560	59,297	100	
3541	Bruce	-	68,147	-	-	-	68,147	-	33,548	34,599	68,147	100	
3542	Grey	-	93,830	31,820	-	31,820	62,010	24,646	37,364	-	93,830	100	
3544	Muskoka	-	60,599	-	-	-	60,599	-	40,575	20,024	60,599	100	
3546	Haliburton	-	18,062	-	-	-	18,062	-	18,062	-	18,062	100	
3547	Renfrew	-	102,394	56,429	-	56,429	45,965	18,290	27,675	-	102,394	100	
3548	Nipissing	-	83,150	61,353	61,353	61,353	21,797	3,125	18,416	256	83,150	100	
3549	Parry Sound	-	42,824	9,025	9,025	9,025	33,799	-	22,560	10,290	42,824	100	
3551	Manitoulin	-	13,255	-	-	-	13,255	-	1,013	10,612	13,255	100	
3554	Timiskaming	-	32,251	-	-	-	32,251	609	5,829	22,563	32,251	100	
3556	Cochrane	-	79,682	41,788	-	41,788	37,894	-	10,322	22,779	79,682	100	
3557	Algoma	-	114,094	88,900	78,159	78,159	25,194	10,271	12,847	1,704	114,094	100	
3559	Rainy River	-	20,110	-	-	-	20,110	-	969	17,244	20,110	100	
3560	Kenora	-	65,533	15,096	-	15,096	50,437	334	7,732	25,420	65,533	100	
Subtotal: Non-metro census divisions		-	1,747,236	870,410	244,688	625,722	876,826	291,313	374,409	177,795	33,309	1,747,236	100
Ontario		10,956,264	2,492,230	1,106,057	244,688	861,369	1,386,173	708,869	451,442	189,085	36,777	13,448,494	19

1. The "percent non-metro" is the percent of the population in a census division that resides in a census subdivision (an incorporated town or municipality) that is "not" delineated as part of a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).

Note: A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more. A Census Agglomeration (CA) has a core population of 10,000 or more and a total population of 10,000 to 99,999. Both include the population in nearby census subdivisions (incorporated towns or incorporated municipalities) where 50% or more of the employed population commutes to the CMA or CA. The entire census subdivision (community) is delineated as part of a CMA or CA or non-CMA/CA area.

Source: Statistics Canada. (2017) **GeoSuite: 2016 Census** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 92-150) (<http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/basolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=92-150-X&chprog=1&lang=eng>).

Table 3

Number of communities (census subdivisions) within each census division, Ontario, 2016														
Census Division ID	Name of Census Division	Number of communities (i.e. number of census subdivisions: incorporated towns or incorporated municipalities)										Total number of census subdivisions, 2016	Percent non-metro ¹	
		Metro (Census Metropolitan Areas) (100,000 and over) (CMAs)	Non-metro (outside Census Metropolitan Areas) (non-CMA)								Total number of census subdivisions, 2016			Percent non-metro ¹
			Non-metro (non-CMA) (subtotal)	Census Agglomerations (CAs) (10,000 to 99,999)			Rural and small town areas (non-CMA/CA) (by Metropolitan Influenced Zone (MIZ))							
Census Agglomerations (CAs) (subtotal)	Census Agglomerations (CAs) 50,000 to 99,999	Census Agglomerations (CAs) 10,000 to 49,999	Rural and small town areas (subtotal)	Strong MIZ	Moderate MIZ	Weak MIZ	No MIZ							
Metro census divisions														
3506	Ottawa	1	0	0			0					1	0	
3519	York	10	0	0			0					10	0	
3520	Toronto	1	0	0			0					1	0	
3521	Peel	3	0	0			0					3	0	
3524	Halton	4	0	0			0					4	0	
3525	Hamilton	1	0	0			0					1	0	
3529	Brant	3	1	0			1		1			4	25	
3553	Greater Sudbury	2	0	0			0					2	0	
Subtotal: Metro census divisions		25	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	26	4	
Partially-non-metro census divisions														
3502	Prescott and Russell	2	6	1	1		5	5				8	75	
3507	Leeds and Grenville	1	12	3	3		9	7	2			13	92	
3510	Frontenac	3	2	0			2	1	1			5	40	
3511	Lennox & Addington	1	3	0			3	2	1			4	75	
3512	Hastings	4	13	0			13	9	4			17	76	
3515	Peterborough	7	4	0			4	3	1			11	36	
3518	Durham	6	3	0			3	2			1	9	33	
3522	Dufferin	2	6	0			6	6				8	75	
3523	Wellington	3	5	1	1		4	1	3			8	63	
3526	Niagara	11	1	0			1	1				12	8	
3530	Waterloo	6	1	0			1	1				7	14	
3534	Elgin	3	5	0			5	5				8	63	
3537	Essex	5	4	2	2		2	1			1	9	44	
3539	Middlesex	5	7	0			7	5	1		1	12	58	
3543	Simcoe	5	16	6	6		10	7	2		1	21	76	
3552	Sudbury	2	13	0			13	4	6		3	15	87	
3558	Thunder Bay	8	25	0			25	2	3	5	15	33	76	
Subtotal: Partially-non-metro CDs		74	126	13	0	13	113	62	24	5	22	200	63	
Non-metro census divisions														
3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengary		8	2	2		6	3	2		1	8	100	
3509	Lanark		9	3	3		6	3	3			9	100	
3513	Prince Edward		1	0			1	1				1	100	
3514	Northumberland		8	2	2		6	4	2			8	100	
3516	Kawartha Lakes		1	1	1		0					1	100	
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk		4	1	1		3	1	1		1	4	100	
3531	Perth		6	1	1		5	3	2			6	100	
3532	Oxford		8	3	3		5	5				8	100	
3536	Chatham-Kent		2	2	2		0					2	100	
3538	Lambton		14	5	5		9	5	3		1	14	100	
3540	Huron		9	0			9		7	2		9	100	
3541	Bruce		11	0			11		5	5	1	11	100	
3542	Grey		9	2	2		7	3	4			9	100	
3544	Muskoka		8	0			8		5	2	1	8	100	
3546	Haliburton		4	0			4		4			4	100	
3547	Renfrew		19	5	5		14	5	9			19	100	
3548	Nipissing		15	5	5		10	3	5		2	15	100	
3549	Parry Sound		30	3	3		27		19	4	4	30	100	
3551	Manitoulin		17	0			17		1	9	7	17	100	
3554	Timiskaming		26	0			26	1	6	8	11	26	100	
3556	Cochrane		23	1	1		22		5	5	12	23	100	
3557	Algoma		32	7	6		25	8	9	3	5	32	100	
3559	Rainy River		26	0			26		1	12	13	26	100	
3560	Kenora		59	1	1		58	2	2	15	39	59	100	
Subtotal: Non-metro census divisions		0	349	44	19	25	305	47	95	65	98	349	100	
Ontario		99	476	57	19	38	419	109	120	70	120	575	83	

1. The "percent non-metro" is the percent of census subdivisions (i.e. incorporated towns or municipalities) in a census division that is "not" delineated as part of a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Note: A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has a core population of 50,000 or more with a total population of 100,000 or more. A Census Agglomeration (CA) has a core population of 10,000 or more and a total population of 10,000 to 99,999. Both include the population in nearby census subdivisions (incorporated towns or incorporated municipalities) where 50% or more of the employed population commutes to the CMA or CA. The entire census subdivision ('community') is delineated as part of a CMA or CA or non-CMA/CA area. Source: Statistics Canada. (2017) **GeoSuite: 2016 Census** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 92-150) (<http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=92-150-X&chroptg=1&lang=eng>).

Due to population growth and due to reclassification, we note some differences in our classification for 2016 (Table 2) compared to the classification based on the 2011 Census of Population (Table 4).

In 2016, compared to 2011, we see:

- The Hastings census division has been reclassified from a non-metro census division to a partially-non-metro census division because Belleville was reclassified from a [Census Agglomeration](#) to a Census Metropolitan Area (i.e., a metro area). This changed the calculated percent non-metro population for the Hastings census division from 100% in 2011 (Table 4) to 24% in 2016 (Table 2).
- The Leeds and Grenville census division has been reclassified from a non-metro census division to a partially-non-metro census division because the census subdivision of North Grenville (which includes Kemptville), which is adjacent to the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA, has had an increase in the share of their workforce commuting to the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA. This share has surpassed the 50% commuting threshold which has caused North Grenville to be delineated as part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA. Hence, the percent non-metro in the Leeds and Grenville census division declined from 100% in 2011 to 84% in 2016.
- The Sudbury census division⁹ has been reclassified from a non-metro census division in 2011 to a partially-non-metro census division in 2016 because the census subdivision of Markstay-Warren, which is adjacent to the Sudbury CMA, has had an increase in the share of their workforce commuting to the Sudbury CMA and since this share has surpassed the 50% commuting threshold, this census subdivision has been delineated as part of the Sudbury CMA. Note that the smaller census subdivision of Whitefish Lake 6 was delineated as part of the Sudbury CMA in 2011. Hence, the percent non-metro in the Sudbury census division declined from 98% in 2011 to 86% in 2016.

A discussion of the population change patterns at the census division level is presented in the next section.

⁹ The Sudbury census division is the census division that which surrounds, but does not include, the Greater Sudbury census division.

Table 4

Population ¹ by type of area within each census division, Ontario, 2011											
Census Division ID	Name of Census Division ranked by percent non-metro	Metro (CMA)	Non-metro (non-CMA) (CA + RST)							Total population, 2011	Percent non-metro ²
			Non-metro (non-CMA) (subtotal)	Census agglomerations (CAs)	Rural and small town (RST) areas						
					Rural and small town (subtotal)	Strong MIZ	Moderate MIZ	Weak MIZ	No MIZ		
Metro census divisions											
3506	Ottawa	883,391	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	883,391	0
3519	York	1,032,524	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,032,524	0
3520	Toronto	2,615,060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,615,060	0
3521	Peel	1,296,814	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,296,814	0
3524	Halton	501,669	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	501,669	0
3525	Hamilton	519,949	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	519,949	0
3553	Greater Sudbury	160,376	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160,376	0
3529	Brant	135,501	534	-	534	-	534	-	-	136,035	0
Subtotal: Metro census divisions		7,145,284	534	-	534	-	534	-	-	7,145,818	0
Partially-non-metro census divisions											
3526	Niagara	417,509	13,837	-	13,837	13,837	-	-	-	431,346	3
3510	Frontenac	143,340	6,398	-	6,398	-	6,398	-	-	149,738	4
3539	Middlesex	419,644	19,507	-	19,507	16,856	1,369	-	1,282	439,151	4
3518	Durham	575,121	33,003	-	33,003	32,910	-	-	93	608,124	5
3530	Waterloo	477,160	29,936	-	29,936	29,936	-	-	-	507,096	6
3515	Peterborough	118,975	15,958	-	15,958	9,146	6,812	-	-	134,933	12
3558	Thunder Bay	121,596	24,461	-	24,461	5,909	3,145	13,906	1,501	146,057	17
3537	Essex	319,246	69,536	49,765	19,771	19,600	171	-	-	388,782	18
3523	Wellington	141,097	67,263	26,693	40,570	10,770	29,800	-	-	208,360	32
3534	Elgin	55,142	32,319	-	32,319	27,162	5,157	-	-	87,461	37
3522	Dufferin	35,521	21,360	-	21,360	21,360	-	-	-	56,881	38
3543	Simcoe	245,324	200,739	95,391	105,348	104,066	1,249	-	33	446,063	45
3502	Prescott and Russell	38,432	46,949	10,551	36,398	36,398	-	-	-	85,381	55
3511	Lennox and Addington	16,221	25,603	-	25,603	7,560	18,043	-	-	41,824	61
Subtotal: Partially-non-metro census divisions		3,124,328	606,869	182,400	424,469	335,510	72,144	13,906	2,909	3,731,197	16
Non-metro census divisions											
3552	Sudbury	394	20,802	-	20,802	5,885	12,414	2,309	194	21,196	98
3501	Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry	-	111,164	58,957	52,207	31,162	21,045	-	-	111,164	100
3507	Leeds and Grenville	-	99,306	39,024	60,282	30,160	30,122	-	-	99,306	100
3509	Lanark	-	65,667	-	65,667	29,180	36,487	-	-	65,667	100
3512	Hastings	-	134,934	92,540	42,394	26,223	8,317	5,348	2,506	134,934	100
3513	Prince Edward	-	25,258	-	25,258	-	25,258	-	-	25,258	100
3514	Northumberland	-	82,126	34,733	47,393	23,392	24,001	-	-	82,126	100
3516	Kawartha Lakes	-	73,214	73,214	-	-	-	-	-	73,214	100
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk	-	109,118	63,175	45,943	44,876	-	-	1,067	109,118	100
3531	Perth	-	75,112	30,886	44,226	16,021	28,205	-	-	75,112	100
3532	Oxford	-	105,719	65,201	40,518	40,518	-	-	-	105,719	100
3536	Chatham-Kent	-	104,075	104,075	-	-	-	-	-	104,075	100
3538	Lambton	-	126,199	89,555	36,644	18,083	18,561	-	-	126,199	100
3540	Huron	-	59,100	-	59,100	-	30,109	28,991	-	59,100	100
3541	Bruce	-	66,102	-	66,102	-	31,628	34,474	-	66,102	100
3542	Grey	-	92,568	32,092	60,476	17,537	42,939	-	-	92,568	100
3544	Muskoka	-	58,047	-	58,047	-	23,372	34,465	210	58,047	100
3546	Haliburton	-	17,026	-	17,026	-	17,026	-	-	17,026	100
3547	Renfrew	-	101,326	40,005	61,321	5,684	53,979	1,658	-	101,326	100
3548	Nipissing	-	84,736	60,179	24,557	4,728	19,749	80	-	84,736	100
3549	Parry Sound	-	42,162	3,864	38,298	5,082	20,581	12,377	258	42,162	100
3551	Manitoulin	-	13,048	-	13,048	-	406	11,847	795	13,048	100
3554	Timiskaming	-	32,634	13,566	19,068	1,549	8,456	8,728	335	32,634	100
3556	Cochrane	-	81,122	43,165	37,957	-	10,599	24,909	2,449	81,122	100
3557	Algoma	-	115,870	91,148	24,722	7,758	10,095	6,058	811	115,870	100
3559	Rainy River	-	20,370	-	20,370	-	563	17,566	2,241	20,370	100
3560	Kenora	-	57,607	15,348	42,259	951	9,341	22,481	9,486	57,607	100
Subtotal: Non-metro census divisions		394	1,974,412	950,727	1,023,685	308,789	483,253	211,291	20,352	1,974,806	100
Ontario		10,270,006	2,581,815	1,133,127	1,448,688	644,299	555,931	225,197	23,261	12,851,821	20

1. This Table was published as Table 1 in "Overview of Ontario's rural geography" Focus on Rural Ontario (June, 2013).

2. The "percent non-metro" is the percent of the population in a census division that resides in a census subdivision (an incorporated town or municipality) that is "not" delineated as part of a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).

Note: A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more. A Census Agglomeration (CA) has a core population of 10,000 or more and a total population of 10,000 to 99,999. Both include the population in nearby census subdivisions (incorporated towns or incorporated municipalities) where 50% or more of the employed population commutes to the CMA or CA. The entire census subdivision (community) is delineated as part of a CMA or CA or non-CMA/CA area.

Source: Statistics Canada. (2012) GeoSuite: 2011 Census (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 92-150) (<http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=92-150-X&chprog=1&lang=eng>).

4. Census division population change patterns since 1981

We first review the pattern of population change among census divisions in the most recent period – 2011 to 2016.

As a point of reference, Ontario's population growth rate over the 2011 to 2016 period was 4.6% (below the national average of 5%). Partially because of this lower population growth rate, the gap between the Ontario non-metro population growth rate and the metro growth rate narrowed to about 2.6 percentage points, the smallest difference we have witnessed for 20 years (Figure 2).

Among non-metro census divisions (as defined in Table 2), most reported population growth. One census division (Kenora) grew by more than 10% over this five-year period and one census division grew between 5% and 10% (Haliburton) (Figure 4 and Map 1). While the percentage change is high, the total population in these two census divisions in 2016 was 65,000 and 18,000 respectively and therefore the absolute change in the number of people we are observing in those fast-growing areas is not contributing to substantive change in the overall non-metro population.

Fifteen of the non-metro census divisions grew more slowly (0% to 5%). Seven non-metro census divisions experienced a population loss from 2011 to 2016: Prince Edward; Chatham-Kent; Nipissing; Cochrane; Algoma; Rainy River and Timiskaming. Five of the declining census divisions were in northern Ontario and four of these in the north-east. The two southern census divisions which declined are widely separated in the south-eastern and south-western parts of the province.

Canada-wide research has shown that the more dependent a region is on a single primary economic sector (fishing, mining, forestry or agriculture), the more vulnerable it is to population declines¹⁰. This may be an explanatory factor in the case of the four northern CDs which have mining and forestry based communities and the south-western census division of Chatham-Kent which is now more dependent on agriculture after experiencing significant loss of manufacturing employment in the last decade or so. Prince Edward County has a significant tourism sector as well as many seasonal dwellings and it may be that more seasonal, part-time residents are, in effect, displacing permanent residents. This type of cause and effect analysis at a regional level is beyond the scope and purpose of this Demographic Update but a few of the differences in the declining census divisions are noted here to illustrate that, despite the common outcome of population decline, the causes of decline are specific to each place.

Five partially-non-metro census divisions grew by more than 5% from 2011 to 2016 (Waterloo, Durham, Wellington, Simcoe and Dufferin) and these relatively populous areas therefore contributed substantively to overall population growth of partially-non-metro census divisions. By comparison, four metro census divisions grew by more than 5% (Ottawa, Peel, York and Halton).

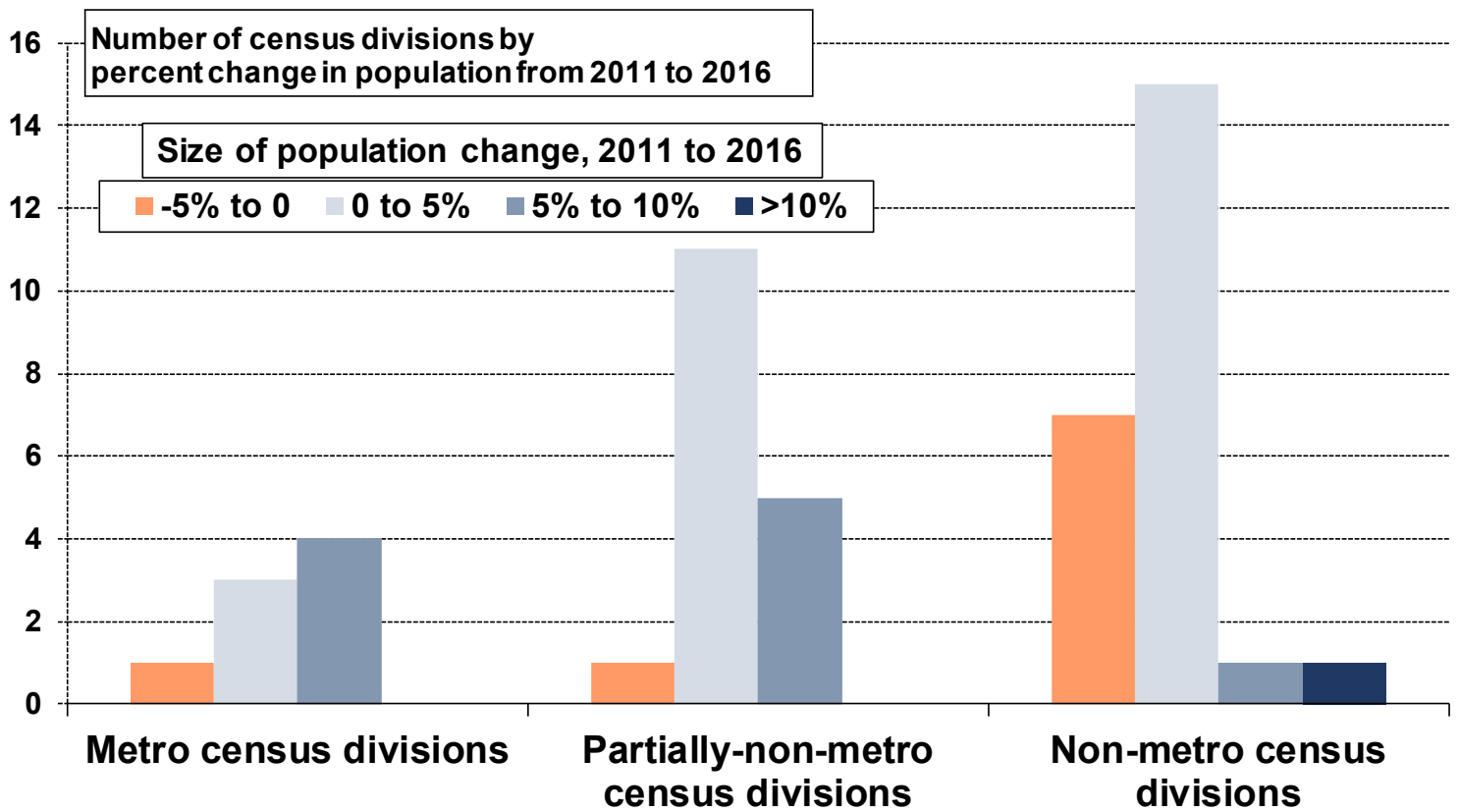
The seven non-metro census divisions with declining population are noted above. In addition, there was a decline in population from 2011 to 2016 in one partially-non-metro census division (Thunder Bay) and in one metro census division (Brant).

Map 1 shows the pattern of 2011 to 2016 population change by census division.

¹⁰ Among (many) others, see Alasia, Alessandro, Ray D. Bollman, John Parkins and Bill Reimer. (2008) [An Index of Community Vulnerability: Conceptual Framework and an Application to Population and Employment Change](#). (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Agriculture and Rural Working Paper no. 88, Catalogue no. 21-601-MIE) and Alasia, Alessandro. (2010) "Population Change Across Canadian Communities: The Role of Sector Restructuring, Agglomeration, Diversification and Human Capital." **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 8, No. 4 (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>).

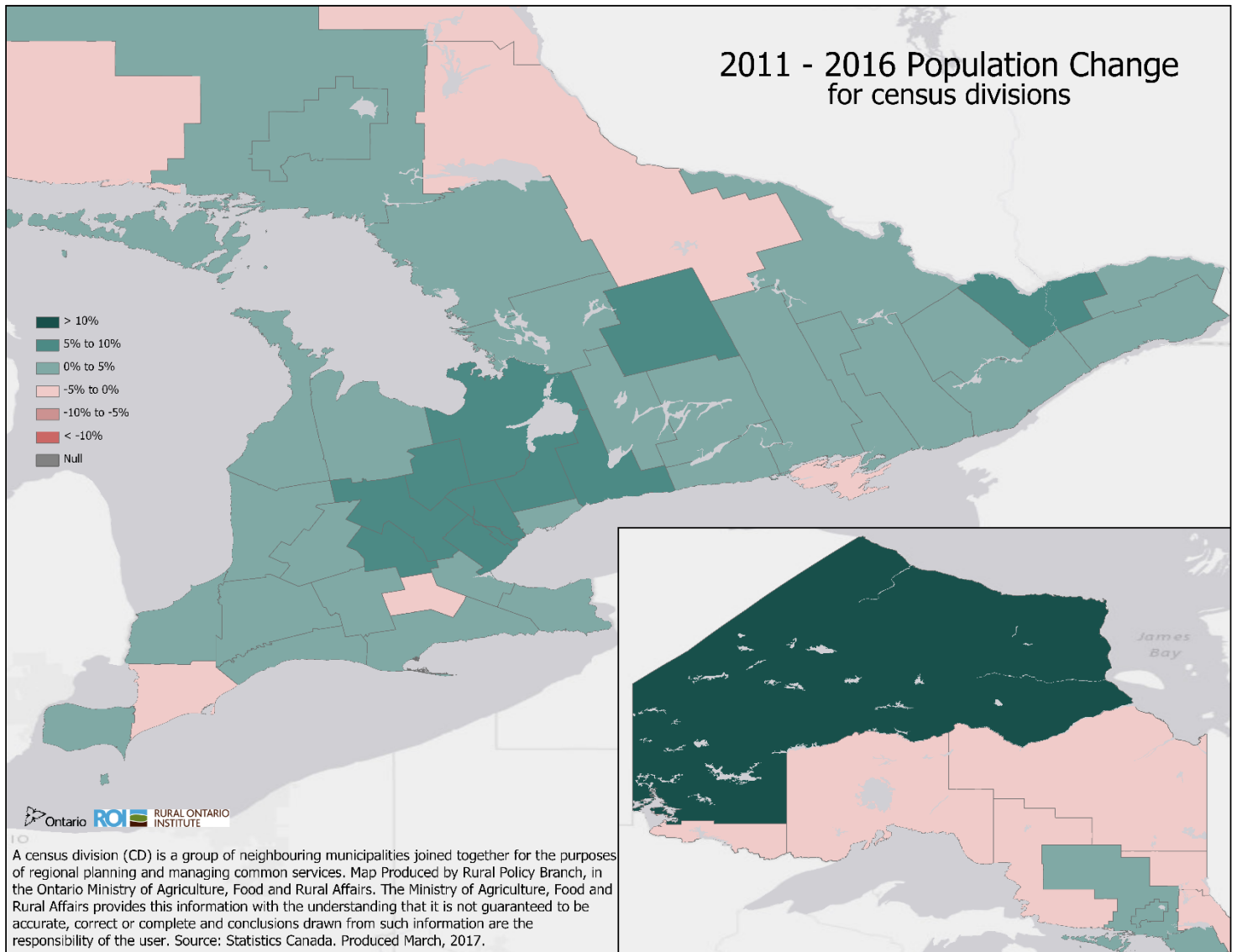
Figure 4

**From 2011 to 2016, 17 non-metro census divisions experienced population growth
(1 with >10% growth, 1 with 5-10% growth and 15 with 0-5% growth)**



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011 to 2016

Map 1: Percent change in population by census division, Ontario, 2011 to 2016



We now move to a discussion of the pattern of population change across census divisions¹¹ over the 1981 to 2016 period.

There are 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016. Among the 24 non-metro census divisions (as classified in 2016, see Table 2), 6 experienced population growth in each of the 7 intercensal periods and another 7 census divisions experienced population growth in 6 of the 7 intercensal periods (Table 5 and Map 2). Thus, over one-half (54%: 25% grew in 7 of 7 periods; 29% grew in 6 of 7 periods) of the non-metro census divisions have experienced a consistent pattern of population growth since 1981. At the other end of the spectrum, 2 census divisions had no population growth in any of the 7 intercensal periods.

As noted, over the 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016:

- 54% of non-metro census divisions grew in 6 or 7 of the 7 intercensal periods. However,
- 88% of metro census divisions grew in 6 or 7 periods; and
- 88% of partially-non-metro census division grew in 6 or 7 periods.

¹¹ The data for the 1981 to 2016 period have been tabulated within the census division boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population. Hence, we use the 1996 census division names when discussing the 1981 to 2016 population patterns.

Table 5

Number of Ontario census divisions by number of intercensal periods with population growth, 1981 to 2016									
Type of census division	Population growth pattern: Number of intercensal periods with population growth, 1981 to 2016								All census divisions
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	Number of census divisions with each population growth pattern								
Metro census divisions						1	1	6	8
Partially-non-metro census divisions			2				2	13	17
Non-metro census divisions	2	1	1	2	4	1	7	6	24
All census divisions	2	1	3	2	4	2	10	25	49
	Percent distribution of number of census divisions with each population growth pattern								
Metro CDs						13	13	75	100
Partially-non-metro CDs			12				12	76	100
Non-metro CDs	8	4	4	8	17	4	29	25	100
All census divisions	4	2	6	4	8	4	20	51	100

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981 to 2016.

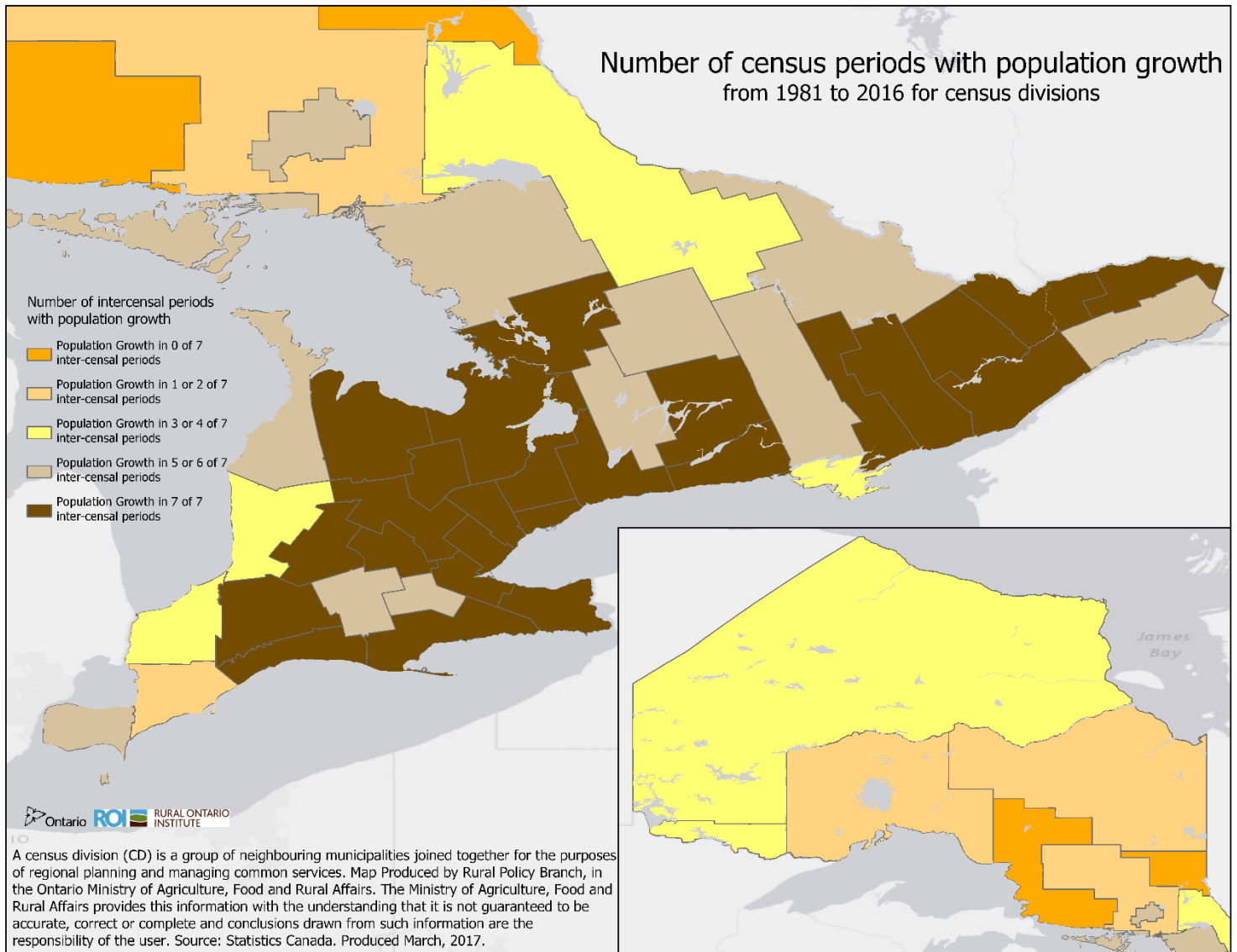
At the other end of the spectrum, 24% of Ontario census divisions grew in less than 5 intercensal periods.

Among these 12 CDs, two were partially-non-metro census divisions (Thunder Bay District and Sudbury District). Ten were non-metro census divisions (Algoma District, Cochrane District, Huron County, Kenora District, Kent County, Lambton County, Nipissing District, Perth County, Rainy River District and Timiskaming District).

The 25 census divisions with continuous growth from 1981 to 2016 (i.e., growth in each of the 7 intercensal periods) are shown in dark brown in Map 2. They are strongly connected with:

- the Greater Golden Horseshoe;
- the southern Georgian Bay region; and
- the Ottawa-Kingston region.

Map 2. Population growth pattern from 1981 to 2016 by census division



(Note that the census data from 1981 to 2016 have been tabulated within the census division boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population and thus this map and the related discussion uses the boundaries and census division names used in 1996.)

5. Census consolidated subdivision population (CCS) change patterns since 1981

A [census consolidated subdivision](#) (CCS) generally consists of an incorporated town (which is itself a [census subdivision](#)) and the surrounding incorporated rural municipality/township (which is also a [census subdivision](#)).

For some analysts, a CCS presents a better definition of a “community” because residents in the countryside surrounding the incorporated town typically use many of the services in the town, such as retail stores, schools, medical services, hockey rinks, churches, etc. In this sense, residents of a CCS may be considered a “community”.

Also, for the purpose of mapping population patterns, each CCS is large enough to be viewed on a map whereas many incorporated towns (that are census subdivisions) are too small for the colour of the characteristics being mapped (e.g., population change) to be discerned.

Before moving to the population growth patterns in CCSs over the 1981 to 2016 period, we present the pattern of population change in the most recent period (2011 to 2016) for the 518 CCSs in Ontario.

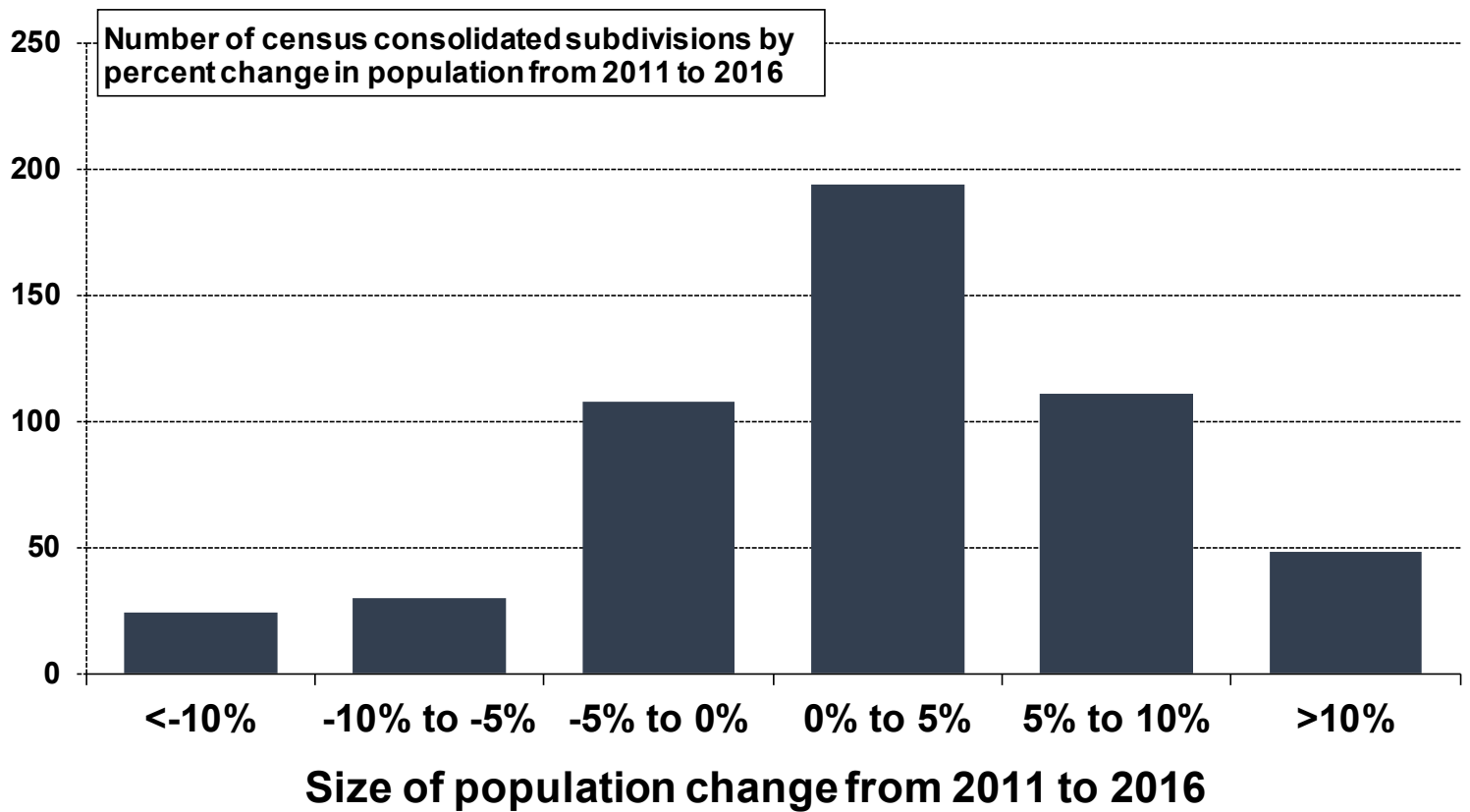
In the 2011 to 2016 period, the typical CCS (“community”) grew by 0% to 5% over the five-year period (194 CCSs) (Figure 5 and Table 6). The pattern of population change across the province from 2011 to 2016 is portrayed in Map 3.

About an equal number of CCSs had a population change on either side of this modal group (0% to 5% population change):

- 108 CCSs reported a population decline of -5% to 0%; and
- 111 CCSs reported a population increase of 5% to 10% over the five-year period.

Figure 5

**From 2011 to 2016, 353 census consolidated subdivisions experienced population growth, Ontario
(48 with >10% growth, 111 with 5-10% growth and 194 with 0-5% growth)**

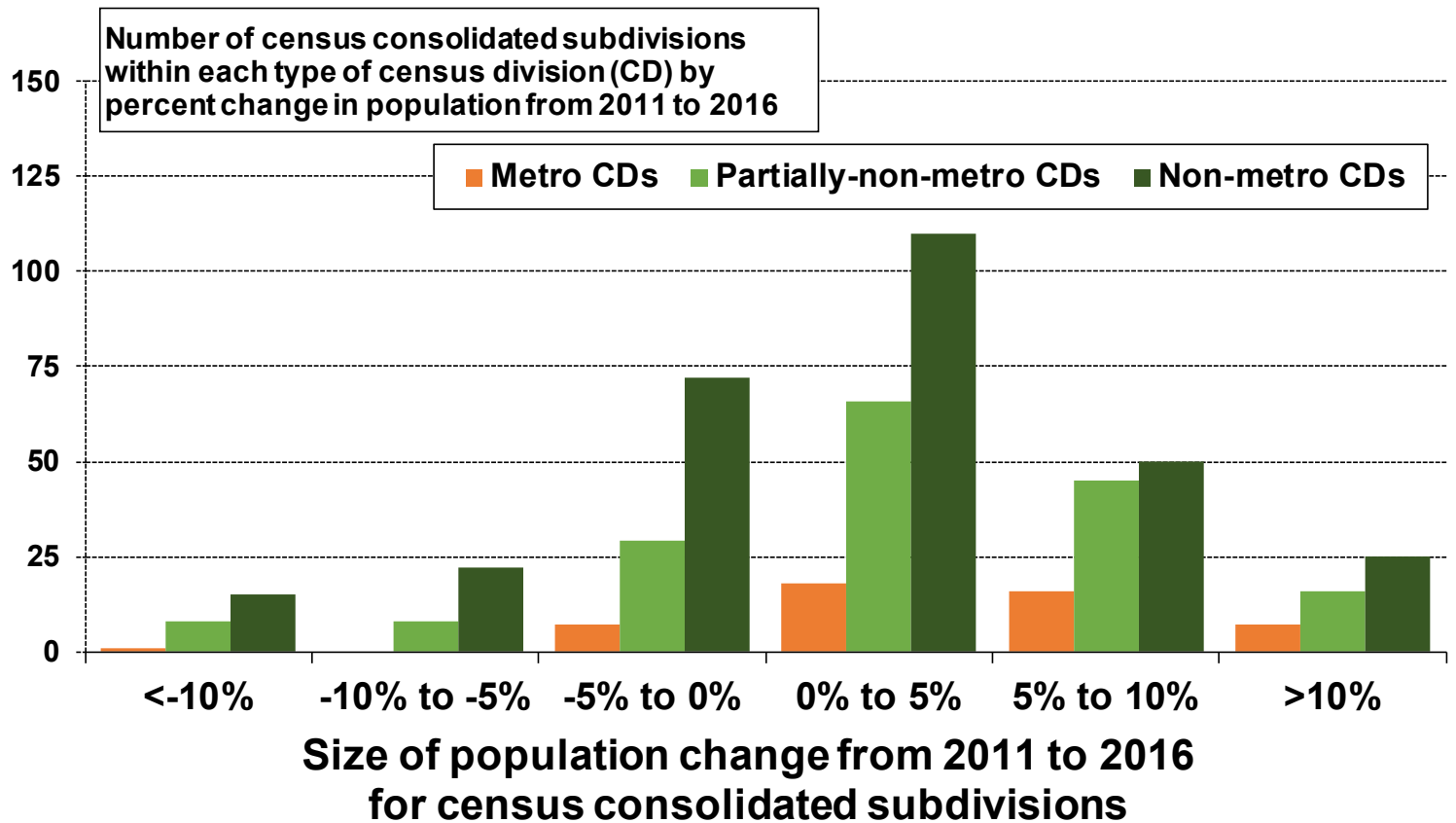


Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011 to 2016

Interestingly, within each type of census division, the modal group of CCSs in terms of 2011 to 2016 population change was the group with small(er) population growth (0% to 5%) (see Figure 6 and Table 6 for the number of CCSs).

Figure 6

Within each type of census division, the modal group (or largest group) of census consolidated subdivisions is the group with smaller growth (0 to 5%) from 2011 to 2016, Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011 to 2016

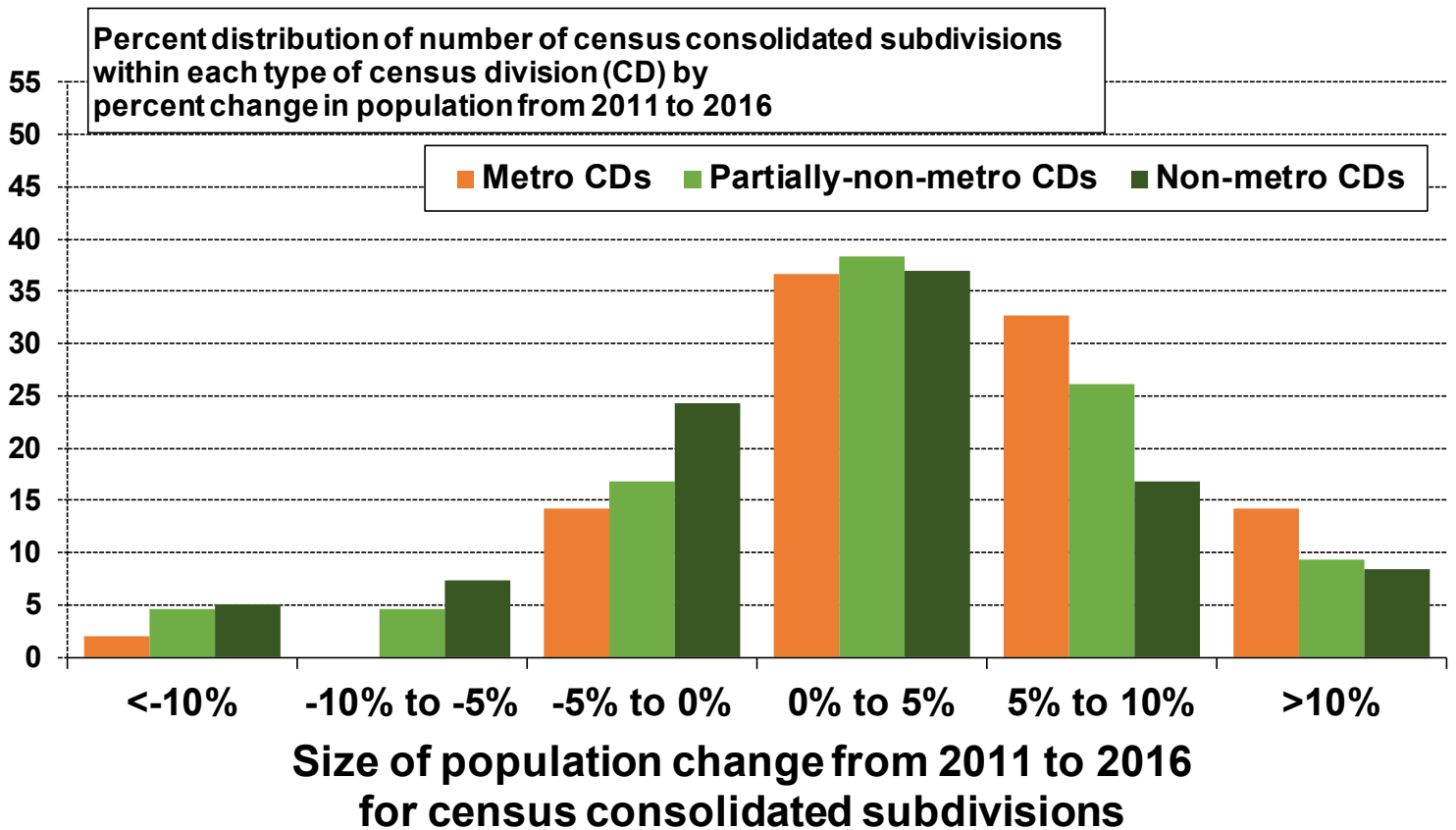
Within each *type* of census division, 37%-38% of the CCSs reported smaller growth (i.e., in the modal group of 0% to 5% growth over this five-year period) (see Figure 7 and Table 7 for the percent distribution of CCSs).

However, the distribution of CCSs by size of 2011-2016 population growth differs among the other size classes of census division population change. Within metro census divisions, 33% of the CCSs grew by 5% to 10% but only 17% of the non-metro CCSs grew by 5% to 10% over this five-year period (Figure 7). Within non-metro census divisions, 24% of the CCSs reported a small population decline (-5% to 0%) but only 14% of the CCSs in metro census division reported this small population decline.

Thus, a higher share of CCSs in non-metro census divisions reported a population decline in the 2011 to 2016 period.

Figure 7

**Within each type of census division,
the modal group (or largest group) of census consolidated subdivisions
is those with smaller growth (0 to 5%) from 2011 to 2016, Ontario**



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011 to 2016

Perhaps obviously, within a census division with higher population growth, we will find a higher share of CCSs with population growth. For example, among *all* census divisions with 5% to 10% population growth (row 16 in Table 7), 41% of the CCSs grew by 5% to 10% (and another 17% grew by 10+%). Among *all* census divisions that declined (-5% to 0%) over the 2011 to 2016 period (row 14 in Table 7), 30% of the CCS declined by -5% to 0% (and another 21% (9% + 12%) reported a population change of less than -5%). Thus, community growth and regional growth are (again perhaps obviously) inter-related.

However, equally important, not every CCS within a census division displays the same population change pattern as we see for the overall census division. Specifically, within growing census divisions, there are CCSs that are declining and within declining census divisions, there are growing CCSs. Figures 6 and 7 and Tables 6 and 7 illustrate the heterogeneity of CCS population change within each type of census division. Within any group of census divisions, there are places that are growing as well as places that are declining. This reinforces the point made in the Introduction – both the local and the regional dynamics matter.

These points are illustrated by comparing the diversity of population change at the CCS level portrayed in Map 3 and the census division level of population change portrayed in Map 1.

Table 6

Number of census consolidated subdivisions by size of population change from 2011 to 2016 - - within census divisions classified by size of population change from 2011 to 2016, Ontario

Row #	Size of census division population change from 2011 to 2016	Size of change of population of census consolidated subdivisions from 2011 to 2016							All census consolidated subdivisions
		<-10%	-10% to -5%	-5% to 0%	0% to 5%	5% to 10%	>10%	No data	
		Number of census consolidated subdivisions							
Metro census divisions									
1	-5% to 0%	1		2	3				6
2	0% to 5%			5	7	5	1		18
3	5% to 10%				8	11	6		25
4	Metro: Total	1		7	18	16	7		49
Partially-non-metro census divisions									
5	-5% to 0%			3	1	3			7
6	0% to 5%	7	8	24	44	24	10		117
7	5% to 10%	1		2	21	18	6		48
8	Partially-non-metro: Total	8	8	29	66	45	16		172
Non-metro census divisions									
9	-5% to 0%	7	10	21	19	7	7	2	73
10	0% to 5%	8	11	51	90	38	15	1	214
11	5% to 10%		1		1	5	2		9
12	>10%						1		1
13	Non-metro: Total	15	22	72	110	50	25	3	297
All census divisions									
14	-5% to 0%	8	10	26	23	10	7	2	86
15	0% to 5%	15	19	80	141	67	26	1	349
16	5% to 10%	1	1	2	30	34	14	0	82
17	>10%	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
18	All census divisions: Total	24	30	108	194	111	48	3	518

Note: Data are tabulated according to the boundaries of census divisions and census consolidated subdivisions used in the 1996 Census of Population.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011 and 2016, special tabulation.

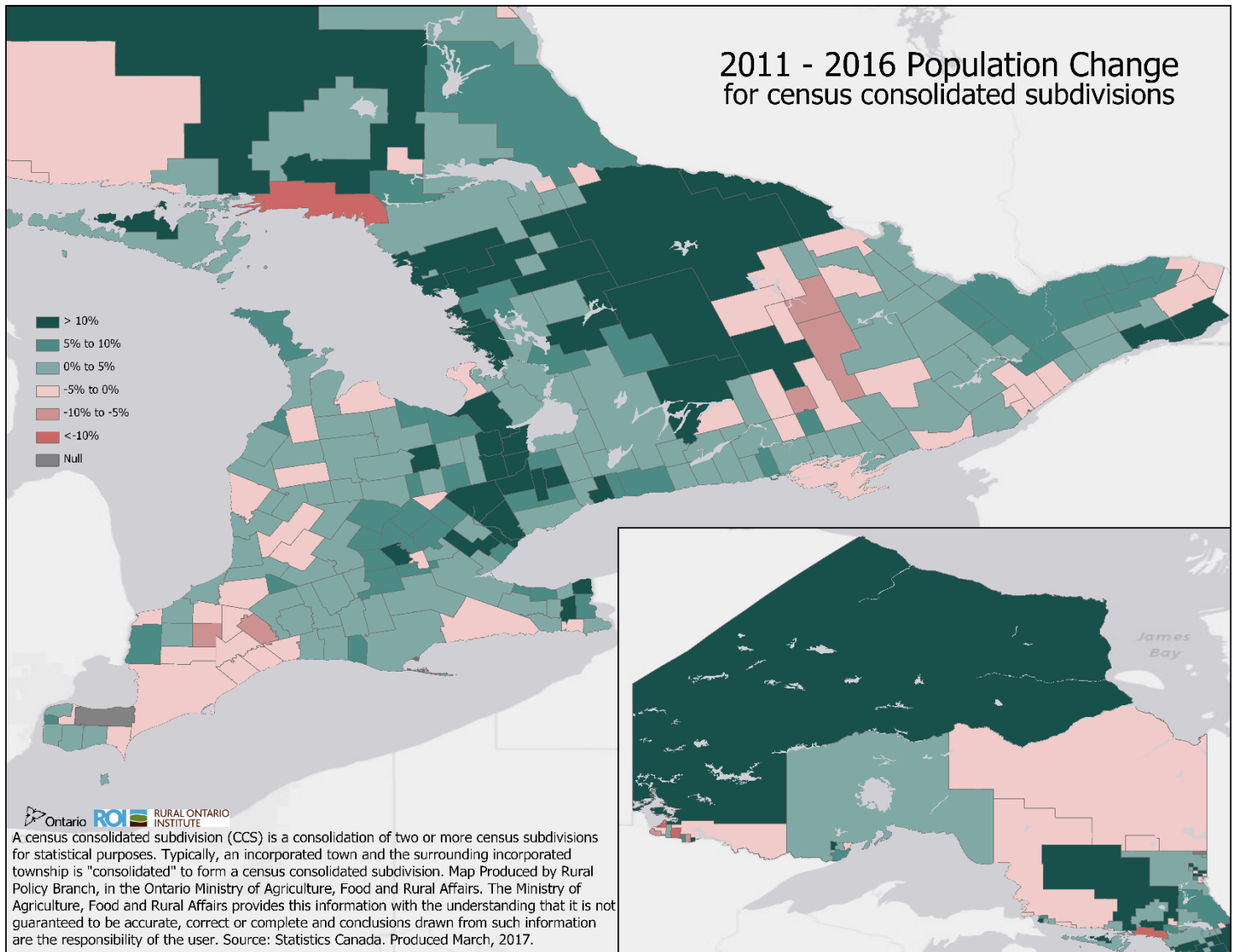
Table 7

Percent distribution of number of census consolidated subdivisions by size of population change from 2011 to 2016 - within census divisions classified by size of population change from 2011 to 2016, Ontario									
Row #	Size of census division population change from 2011 to 2016	Size of change of population of census consolidated subdivisions from 2011 to 2016							
		<-10%	-10% to -5%	-5% to 0%	0% to 5%	5% to 10%	>10%	No data	All census consolidated subdivisions
		Percent distribution of census consolidated subdivisions within each size class of census division population change (row percent)							
	Metro census divisions								
1	-5% to 0%	17	0	33	50	0	0	0	100
2	0% to 5%	0	0	28	39	28	6	0	100
3	5% to 10%	0	0	0	32	44	24	0	100
4	Metro: Total	2	0	14	37	33	14	0	100
	Partially-non-metro census divisions								
5	-5% to 0%	0	0	43	14	43	0	0	100
6	0% to 5%	6	7	21	38	21	9	0	100
7	5% to 10%	2	0	4	44	38	13	0	100
8	Partially-non-metro: Total	5	5	17	38	26	9	0	100
	Non-metro census divisions								
9	-5% to 0%	10	14	29	26	10	10	3	100
10	0% to 5%	4	5	24	42	18	7	0	100
11	5% to 10%	0	11	0	11	56	22	0	100
12	>10%	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
13	Non-metro: Total	5	7	24	37	17	8	1	100
	All census divisions								
14	-5% to 0%	9	12	30	27	12	8	2	100
15	0% to 5%	4	5	23	40	19	7	0	100
16	5% to 10%	1	1	2	37	41	17	0	100
17	>10%	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
18	All census divisions: Total	5	6	21	37	21	9	1	100

Note: Data are tabulated according to the boundaries of census divisions and census consolidated subdivisions used in the 1996 Census of Population.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011 and 2016, special tabulation.

Map 3. Percent change in population by census consolidated subdivision, Ontario, 2011 to 2016



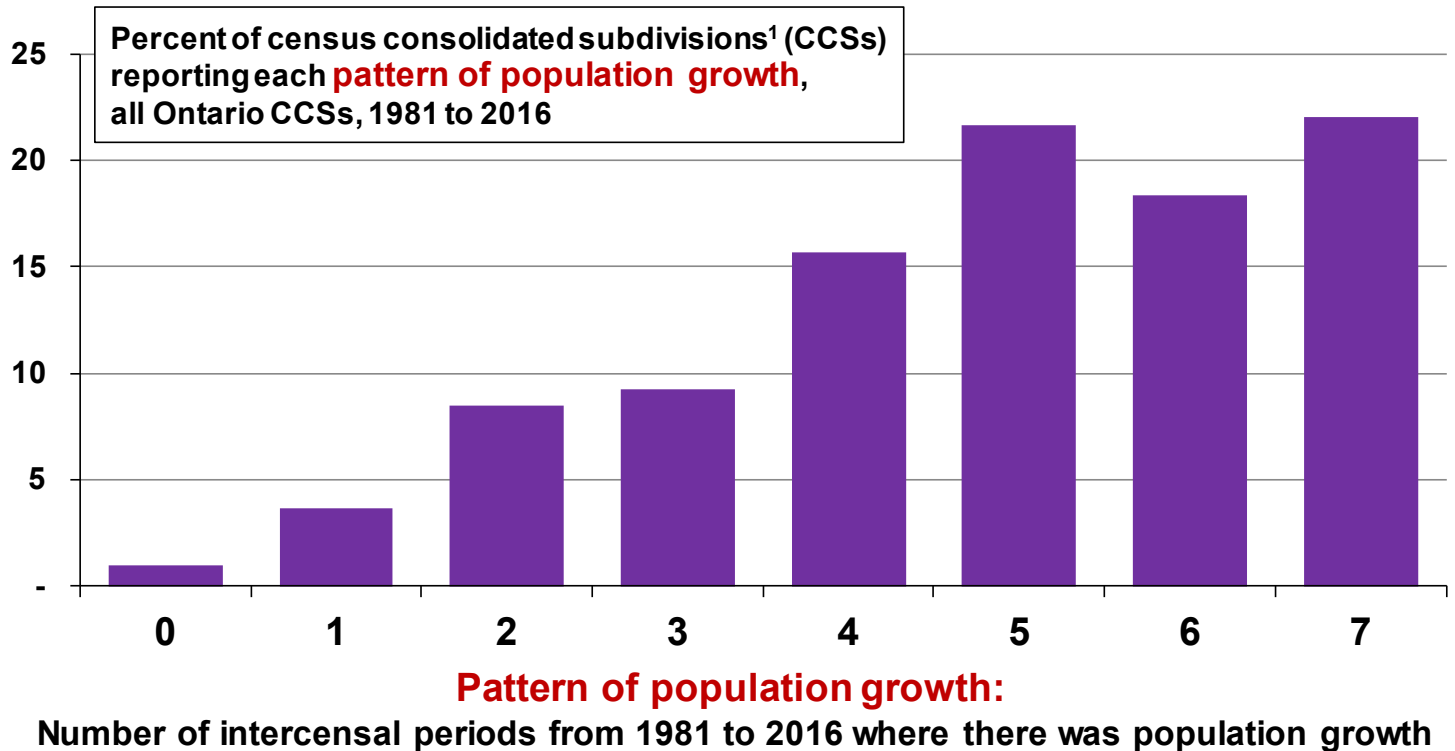
Having looked at the changes in the recent 2011 to 2016 period, we now move to a discussion of the pattern of population growth of CCSs¹² (“communities”) over a more extended period from 1981 to 2016 period.

For Ontario as a whole, 22% of census consolidated subdivisions (numbering 114 CCSs) had population growth in each of the 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016 (Figure 8 and Tables 9 and 10). Another 18% grew in 6 of 7 periods and another 22% grew in 5 of 7 periods. Thus, across Ontario, 62% of CCSs grew in five or more of the 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016.

¹² The data for the 1981 to 2016 period have been tabulated within the census consolidated subdivision boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population. Hence, we use the 1996 census consolidated subdivision names when discussing the 1981 to 2016 population patterns.

Figure 8

22% of Ontario's census consolidated subdivisions¹ experienced a **population growth pattern of population growth in all 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016**

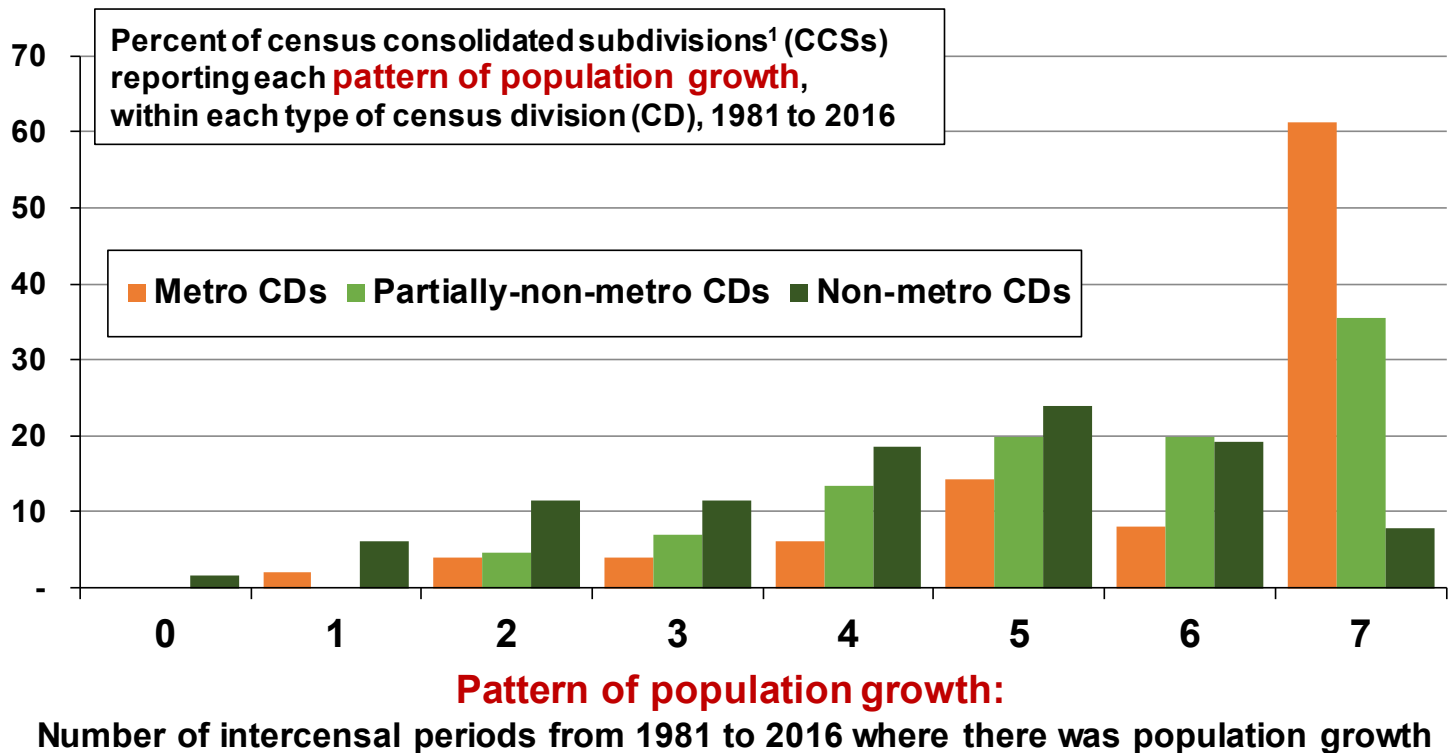


1. A census consolidated subdivision (CCS) is a group of census subdivisions -- typically, an incorporated town and the surrounding rural municipality is "consolidated" to delineate a CCS. Data are tabulated within the CCS boundaries used in 1996.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981 to 2016, special tabulation.

This pattern differed considerably within the different types of census divisions. Within non-metro census divisions, only 8% of the CCSs grew in 7 of the 7 periods, compared to 61% of the CCSs in metro census divisions (Figure 9).

Figure 9

Within Ontario's metro census divisions (CDs), 61% of the census consolidated subdivisions¹ experienced a **population growth pattern** with population growth in all 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016



1. A census consolidated subdivision (CCS) is a group of census subdivisions -- typically, an incorporated town and the surrounding rural municipality is "consolidated" to delineate a CCS. Data are tabulated within the CCS boundaries used in 1996. Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981 to 2016, special tabulation.

Among all non-metro census divisions, 8% of the CCSs grew in 7 of 7 periods (second line from the bottom of Table 10). However, there were 3 non-metro census divisions where one-third or more of their CCSs grew in 7 of 7 periods (the census divisions of Muskoka, Northumberland and Oxford) (Table 10). Similarly, within the group of metro census divisions where, overall, 61% of CCSs reported population growth in 7 of 7 intercensal periods, there were two census divisions with only 33% of their CCSs reporting continuous population growth (the census divisions of Brant and Toronto) (Table 10).

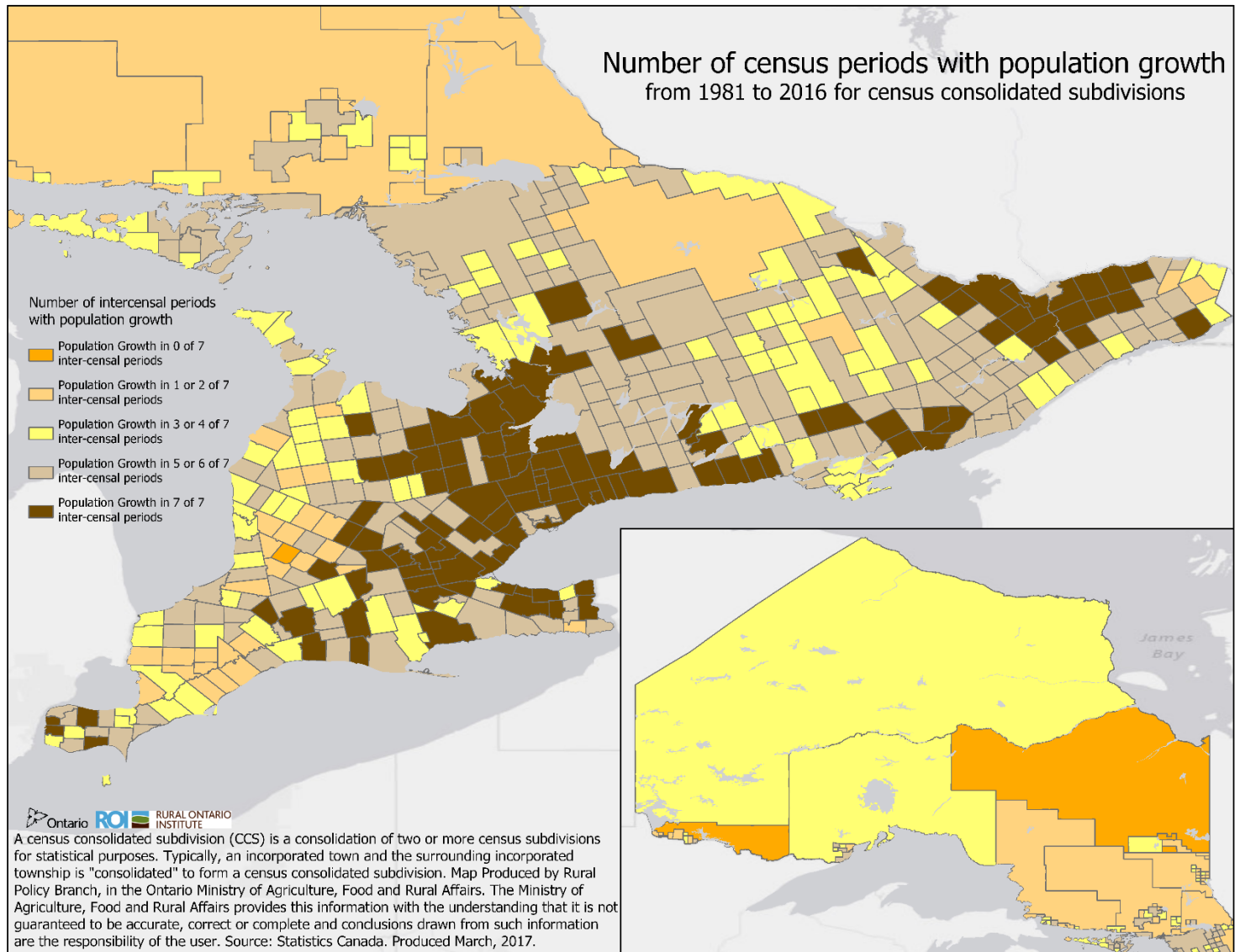
Again, we observe considerable heterogeneity of CCS population change within each type of census division. Within any group of census divisions, there are places that are growing continuously (or nearly continuously) as well as places that are growing only occasionally. This again reinforces the point made in the Introduction – both the local and the regional dynamics matter.

The pattern of CCS population dynamics is portrayed in Map 4.

As noted in the equivalent map for census divisions (i.e., Map 2), the CCS pattern of strong population dynamics (in Map 4) (i.e., the dark brown showing population growth in each of the 7 intercensal periods) is associated with:

- the Greater Golden Horseshoe (generally, but we see only a patchwork of dark brown in Map 4 for the Golden Horseshoe);
- the southern Georgian Bay region (again, generally, but again we see a patchwork of dark brown in Map 4); and
- the Ottawa region.

Map 4. Population growth pattern from 1981 to 2016 by census consolidated subdivision



(Note that the census data from 1981 to 2016 have been tabulated within the census consolidated subdivision boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population and thus this map and the related discussion uses the boundaries and census consolidated subdivision names used in 1996.)

Within each CD, the number of CCSs with each population growth pattern is shown in Table 9. There were 24 CCSs¹³ with growth in only zero or one of the 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016. Among these 24 CCSs, 23 were in non-metro census divisions. The percent distribution of these CCSs within each census division is shown in Table 10.

¹³ Five CCSs with 0 periods of growth and 19 CCSs with one period of growth.

Within metro CDs, the 20 CCSs with the highest population growth had an average five-year population growth averaging from 7.6% to 39.1% from 1996 to 2016 (Table 11, top panel). Among these 20 CCS, 18 grew in each of the 7 intercensal periods. Among metro CDs, the 20 CCSs with the lowest population growth, the range of average five-year change was from 5.2% to -3.7% (Table 11, bottom panel). Six of these 20 CCSs actually grew their population in 7 or 7 intercensal periods. However, five of these 20 CCSs in metro CDs grew in less than 4 of the 7 intercensal periods.

Within partially-non-metro CDs, the CCSs with the highest population growth had five-year population growth rates, on average over the 1996 to 2016 period, ranging from 8.7% to 24.6% (Table 12, top panel). All of the 20 CCSs with the lowest growth actually experienced a decline in population over the 1996 to 2016 period (a population change of -0.9% to -7.4%) (Table 12, bottom panel).

Within non-metro CDs, the CCSs with the highest growth rates, on average in each five-year period, had growth rates from 5.7% to 14% during the 1996 to 2016 period (Table 13, top panel). These 20 CCSs reported population growth in 4 or more of the 7 intercensal periods. And, the 20 CCSs with a declining population reported a population change of -3.6% to -11.8% in the average five-year period from 1996 to 2016 (Table 13, bottom panel). Most reported population growth in less than 3 of the 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016.

Thus, as noted earlier, there is a wide range of population trajectories among CCSs within each of metro, partially-non-metro and non-metro CDs.

Table 9

Number of census consolidated divisions by population growth pattern , Ontario, 1981 to 2016									
Name of census division (name used in 1996)	Population growth pattern: Number of intercensal periods with population growth, 1981 to 2016								All census consolidated subdivisions
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	Number of census consolidated subdivisions with each population growth pattern								
Metro census divisions									
Brant County				1	1	2		2	6
Halton Regional Municipality						1		3	4
Hamilton-Wentworth Reg. Mun.					1		1	3	5
Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.							1	8	9
Peel Regional Municipality								3	3
Sudbury Regional Municipality		1	2	1	1	2			7
Toronto Metropolitan Mun.						2	2	2	6
York Regional Municipality								9	9
Metro (subtotal)		1	2	2	3	7	4	30	49
Partially-non-metro census divisions									
Dufferin County					1		1	4	6
Durham Regional Municipality						1		7	8
Elgin County			1		1	1	2	2	7
Essex County				1	4	4	2	4	15
Frontenac County				3	2	5	2	3	15
Leeds & Grenville U.C.					2	8	5	1	16
Hastings County				3	6	2	5	2	18
Lennox and Addington County		1			1	5	1	2	10
Middlesex County			3	1	2	2	5	2	15
Niagara Regional Municipality			1		1	2	2	6	12
Peterborough County					2	4	6	3	15
Prescott & Russell U.C.			1	1	1	3		4	10
Simcoe County					1		3	11	15
Sudbury District		2	4						6
Thunder Bay District			1	3			3		7
Waterloo Regional Municipality							1	6	7
Wellington County					1	2	4	5	12
Partially-non-metro (subtotal)			10	16	25	42	39	62	194
Non-metro census divisions									
Algoma District		2	2	1	5	3	1		14
Bruce County			3	5	4	5			17
Cochrane District	3		1		1				5
Grey County			1	2	1	3	4	4	15
Haldimand-Norfolk Reg. Mun.				1	1		3	1	6
Haliburton County					1	3	4	1	9
Huron County		1	4	2	5	3	1		16
Kenora District					1				1
Kent County		2	3	3		2			10
Lambton County		1	2	2	2	4			11
Lanark County					2	1	7	2	12
Manitoulin District		2		2	3	4	2		13
Muskoka District Municipality					2	1	1	2	6
Nipissing District		2	2		2	3	1		10
Northumberland County					2		3	4	9
Oxford County				1	1		1	2	5
Parry Sound District			1		5	10	5		21
Perth County	1	1	3				4	2	11
Prince Edward County				2	3		2		7
Rainy River District	1	1	4	1	3	1			11
Renfrew County				4	6	9	4	2	25
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry U.C.		1		1	1	5	3	2	13
Timiskaming District		5	6	3	2				16
Victoria County						6	6		12
Non-metro (subtotal)	5	18	32	30	53	63	52	22	275
All census consolidated subdivisions	5	19	44	48	81	112	95	114	518

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981 to 2016, special tabulation.

Table 10

Percent distribution of number of census consolidated divisions by population growth pattern , Ontario, 1981 to 2016									
Name of census division (name used in 1996)	Population growth pattern: Number of intercensal periods with population growth, 1981 to 2016								All census consolidated subdivisions
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	Percent distribution of number of census consolidated subdivisions with each population growth pattern								
Metro census divisions									
Brant County				17	17	33		33	100
Halton Regional Municipality						25		75	100
Hamilton-Wentworth Reg. Mun.					20		20	60	100
Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.							11	89	100
Peel Regional Municipality								100	100
Sudbury Regional Municipality		14	29	14	14	29			100
Toronto Metropolitan Mun.						33	33	33	100
York Regional Municipality								100	100
Metro (subtotal)		2	4	4	6	14	8	61	100
Partially-non-metro census divisions									
Dufferin County					17		17	67	100
Durham Regional Municipality						13		88	100
Elgin County			14		14	14	29	29	100
Essex County				7	27	27	13	27	100
Frontenac County				20	13	33	13	20	100
Leeds & Grenville U.C.				0	13	50	31	6	100
Hastings County				17	33	11	28	11	100
Lennox and Addington County			10		10	50	10	20	100
Middlesex County			20	7	13	13	33	13	100
Niagara Regional Municipality			8		8	17	17	50	100
Peterborough County					13	27	40	20	100
Prescott & Russell U.C.			10	10	10	30	0	40	100
Simcoe County					7		20	73	100
Sudbury District			33	67					100
Thunder Bay District			14	43		43			100
Waterloo Regional Municipality							14	86	100
Wellington County					8	17	33	42	100
Partially-non-metro (subtotal)			5	8	13	22	20	32	100
Non-metro census divisions									
Algoma District		14	14	7	36	21	7		100
Bruce County			18	29	24	29			100
Cochrane District	60		20	0	20				100
Grey County			7	13	7	20	27	27	100
Haldimand-Norfolk Reg. Mun.				17	17	0	50	17	100
Haliburton County					11	33	44	11	100
Huron County		6	25	13	31	19	6		100
Kenora District					100				100
Kent County		20	30	30	0	20			100
Lambton County		9	18	18	18	36			100
Lanark County					17	8	58	17	100
Manitoulin District		15		15	23	31	15		100
Muskoka District Municipality					33	17	17	33	100
Nipissing District		20	20		20	30	10		100
Northumberland County					22		33	44	100
Oxford County				20	20		20	40	100
Parry Sound District			5		24	48	24		100
Perth County		9	27				36	18	100
Prince Edward County				29	43		29		100
Rainy River District		9	36	9	27	9			100
Renfrew County				16	24	36	16	8	100
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry U.C.		8		8	8	38	23	15	100
Timiskaming District		31	38	19	13				100
Victoria County						50	50		100
Non-metro (subtotal)	2	7	12	11	19	23	19	8	100
All census consolidated subdivisions	1	4	8	9	16	22	18	22	100

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981 to 2016, special tabulation.

Table 11
Within METRO census divisions, ranking of census consolidated subdivisions by the 5-year average percent change in population, 1996 to 2016

CCS ID (1996)	Name of Census Division (1996)	Name of Census Consolidated Subdivision (1996)	Population (with 1996 boundaries)					5-year percent change		Number of periods with population growth, 1981 to 2016	Number of periods with population growth, 1996 to 2016
			1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2011 to 2016	1996 to 2016 (average)		
20 census consolidated subdivisions with the HIGHEST average 5-year percent change in population, 1996 to 2016: METRO census divisions											
3524009	Halton Regional Municipality	Milton	32,104	31,470	53,939	84,402	110,183	30.5	39.1	5	3
3525009	Hamilton-Wentworth Reg. Mun.	Glanbrook	10,564	12,150	15,293	22,701	29,861	31.5	30.2	6	4
3519044	York Regional Municipality	Whitchurch-Stouffville	19,835	22,005	24,390	37,552	45,837	22.1	24.5	7	4
3519028	York Regional Municipality	Vaughan	132,549	182,020	238,866	288,301	306,233	6.2	23.9	7	4
3521010	Peel Regional Municipality	Brampton	268,251	325,425	433,745	523,911	593,643	13.3	22.2	7	4
3506027	Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.	Goulbourn	19,267	23,595	28,583	36,320	39,420	8.5	19.8	7	4
3519038	York Regional Municipality	Richmond Hill	101,725	132,030	162,704	185,541	195,022	5.1	18.0	7	4
3506030	Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.	Kanata	47,909	58,635	70,078	80,781	91,396	13.1	17.6	7	4
3519036	York Regional Municipality	Markham	173,383	208,615	261,573	301,785	328,966	9.0	17.5	7	4
3525014	Hamilton-Wentworth Reg. Mun.	Ancaster	23,403	27,490	33,232	36,911	40,557	9.9	14.8	7	4
3506004	Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.	Cumberland	47,367	52,420	62,689	74,644	81,141	8.7	14.5	7	4
3521024	Peel Regional Municipality	Caledon	39,893	50,595	57,063	59,445	66,497	11.9	13.9	7	4
3519046	York Regional Municipality	Aurora	34,857	40,170	47,629	53,203	55,445	4.2	12.4	7	4
3524001	Halton Regional Municipality	Oakville	128,405	144,735	165,613	182,746	193,832	6.1	10.9	7	4
3506012	Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.	Nepean	115,100	124,880	138,441	156,121	170,765	9.4	10.4	7	4
3519048	York Regional Municipality	Newmarket	57,125	65,785	74,295	79,978	84,224	5.3	10.3	7	4
3506001	Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.	Osgoode	15,904	17,610	20,336	22,239	23,285	4.7	10.1	7	4
3524015	Halton Regional Municipality	Halton Hills	42,390	48,185	55,289	59,008	61,151	3.6	9.7	7	4
3519049	York Regional Municipality	King	18,223	18,535	19,472	19,894	24,512	23.2	8.0	7	4
3524002	Halton Regional Municipality	Burlington	136,976	150,835	164,415	175,553	183,314	4.4	7.6	7	4
20 census consolidated subdivisions with the LOWEST average 5-year percent change in population, 1996 to 2016: METRO census divisions											
3520004	Toronto Metropolitan Mun.	Toronto	653,734	676,365	681,029	730,885	797,729	9.1	5.2	7	4
3519054	York Regional Municipality	East Gwillimbury	19,770	20,555	21,069	22,473	23,991	6.8	5.0	7	4
3525030	Hamilton-Wentworth Reg. Mun.	Flamborough	57,162	62,175	63,922	64,999	66,941	3.0	4.1	7	4
3529004	Brant County	Brantford	91,251	92,950	97,342	101,087	105,690	4.6	3.7	7	4
3520008	Toronto Metropolitan Mun.	North York	589,653	608,275	624,624	650,508	673,172	3.5	3.4	6	4
3529001	Brant County	Onondaga	1,650	1,755	1,865	1,849	1,869	1.1	3.2	5	3
3520001	Toronto Metropolitan Mun.	Scarborough	558,960	593,295	607,876	626,518	632,098	0.9	3.1	7	4
3520019	Toronto Metropolitan Mun.	Etobicoke	328,718	338,120	335,363	348,829	366,491	5.1	2.8	6	3
3520006	Toronto Metropolitan Mun.	East York	107,822	115,195	112,144	115,303	117,927	2.3	2.3	5	3
3506018	Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.	Rideau	12,444	12,700	12,960	13,171	13,175	0.0	1.4	7	4
3529011	Brant County	Burford	5,858	5,975	6,065	6,354	6,188	-2.6	1.4	5	3
3506014	Ottawa-Carleton Reg. Mun.	Ottawa	342,582	356,705	346,961	355,762	360,231	1.3	1.3	6	3
3553028	Sudbury Regional Municipality	Valley East	23,537	22,370	22,640	23,978	24,432	1.9	1.0	5	3
3553012	Sudbury Regional Municipality	Walden	10,292	10,100	10,158	10,564	10,698	1.3	1.0	5	3
3525018	Hamilton-Wentworth Reg. Mun.	Hamilton	322,352	331,135	329,835	330,228	330,105	0.0	0.6	4	2
3553001	Sudbury Regional Municipality	Nickel Centre	13,017	12,680	12,629	13,232	13,177	-0.4	0.3	3	1
3520014	Toronto Metropolitan Mun.	York	146,534	150,255	143,117	143,898	145,502	1.1	-0.1	5	3
3553024	Sudbury Regional Municipality	Rayside-Balfour	16,050	15,040	14,359	14,557	15,703	7.9	-0.4	4	2
3553007	Sudbury Regional Municipality	Sudbury	92,059	85,355	88,708	88,508	88,181	-0.4	-1.0	2	1
3529009	Brant County	Oakland	1,377	1,335	1,369	1,374	1,316	-4.2	-1.1	3	2
3553019	Sudbury Regional Municipality	Onaping Falls	5,277	4,890	4,742	4,874	4,751	-2.5	-2.5	1	1
3553035	Sudbury Regional Municipality	Capreol	3,817	3,485	3,433	3,286	3,281	-0.2	-3.7	2	0

Note: Data are tabulated within the boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 2016, special tabulation.

Table 12

Within PARTIALLY-NON-METRO census divisions, ranking of census consolidated subdivisions by the 5-year average percent change in population, 1996 to 2016

CCS ID (1996)	Name of Census Division (1996)	Name of Census Consolidated Subdivision (1996)	Population (with 1996 boundaries)					5-year percent change		Number of periods with population growth, 1981 to 2016	Number of periods with population growth, 1996 to 2016
			1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2011 to 2016	1996 to 2016 (average)		
20 census consolidated subdivisions with the HIGHEST average 5-year percent change in population, 1996 to 2016:											
PARTIALLY-NON-METRO census divisions											
3543064	Simcoe County	Wasaga Beach	8,698	12,415	15,029	17,478	20,675	18.3	24.6	7	4
3515046	Peterborough County	Galway and Cavendish	765	665	1,179	1,217	1,308	7.5	18.7	6	3
3518005	Durham Regional Municipality	Ajax	64,430	73,755	90,167	109,600	119,677	9.2	16.9	7	4
3543042	Simcoe County	Barrie	79,191	103,710	128,383	135,370	141,123	4.2	16.1	7	4
3543014	Simcoe County	Bradford West Gwillimbury	20,213	22,230	24,054	28,082	35,325	25.8	15.2	7	4
3518009	Durham Regional Municipality	Whitby	73,794	87,415	111,184	122,022	128,377	5.2	15.2	7	4
3522019	Dufferin County	Melancthon	6,397	6,915	8,044	8,652	11,101	28.3	15.1	7	4
3512001	Hastings County	Tyendinaga	5,360	5,565	5,894	8,491	8,595	1.2	13.8	6	4
3512071	Hastings County	Carlow	430	395	486	364	570	56.6	11.6	4	2
3537031	Essex County	Anderdon	5,730	6,335	7,759	8,050	8,650	7.5	11.1	7	4
3518017	Durham Regional Municipality	Clarington	60,615	69,835	77,874	84,600	92,013	8.8	11.0	7	4
3543007	Simcoe County	New Tecumseth	22,902	26,145	27,701	30,234	34,242	13.3	10.6	7	4
3543017	Simcoe County	Innisfil	24,711	28,665	31,175	33,183	36,877	11.1	10.6	7	4
3530020	Waterloo Regional Municipality	Wilmot	13,831	14,865	17,097	19,223	20,545	6.9	10.5	7	4
3537034	Essex County	LaSalle	20,566	25,285	27,600	28,643	30,180	5.4	10.3	7	4
3537051	Essex County	Maidstone	22,260	24,730	28,333	30,023	32,409	7.9	9.9	7	4
3530035	Waterloo Regional Municipality	Woolwich	17,325	18,200	19,658	23,140	25,006	8.1	9.7	6	4
3539034	Middlesex County	London	4,996	5,640	6,483	7,073	7,170	1.4	9.6	6	4
3510029	Frontenac County	Bedford	1,112	1,225	1,644	1,473	1,516	2.9	9.2	6	3
3543068	Simcoe County	Tiny	8,688	9,070	10,868	11,302	12,058	6.7	8.7	6	4
20 census consolidated subdivisions with the LOWEST average 5-year percent change in population, 1996 to 2016:											
PARTIALLY-NON-METRO census divisions											
3539049	Middlesex County	West Williams	2,707	2,705	2,597	2,747	2,601	-5.3	-0.9	4	1
3534024	Elgin County	Southwold	6,781	6,880	7,188	6,728	6,484	-3.6	-1.0	4	2
3507006	Leeds & Grenville U.C.	Augusta	12,106	11,865	11,690	11,714	11,575	-1.2	-1.1	4	1
3558004	Thunder Bay District	Thunder Bay	113,662	109,020	109,130	108,339	107,924	-0.4	-1.3	2	1
3539006	Middlesex County	Ekfrid	4,496	4,455	4,310	4,237	4,212	-0.6	-1.6	2	0
3558024	Thunder Bay District	Oliver	2,711	2,670	2,541	2,537	2,535	-0.1	-1.6	3	0
3537062	Essex County	Tilbury West	1,777	1,845	1,732	1,680	1,631	-2.9	-2.1	3	1
3539001	Middlesex County	Mosa	2,138	2,115	2,019	2,070	1,962	-5.2	-2.1	2	1
3511011	Lennox and Addington County	South Fredericksburgh	1,197	1,215	1,278	1,143	1,092	-4.5	-2.1	4	2
3502012	Prescott & Russell U.C.	Caledonia	1,474	1,425	1,411	1,416	1,329	-6.1	-2.5	2	1
3558016	Thunder Bay District	O'Connor	739	725	720	685	663	-3.2	-2.7	3	0
3534040	Elgin County	Aldborough	5,573	5,465	5,349	5,157	4,995	-3.1	-2.7	2	0
3552093	Sudbury District	Sudbury, Unorganized, North Part	17,114	16,590	15,575	15,234	15,275	0.3	-2.8	2	1
3552020	Sudbury District	The Spanish River	3,332	2,945	2,845	2,911	2,932	0.7	-3.0	3	2
3510032	Frontenac County	Oso	1,413	1,460	1,345	1,335	1,237	-7.3	-3.2	3	1
3512032	Hastings County	Elzevir and Grimsthorpe	1,550	1,370	1,369	1,316	1,303	-1.0	-4.1	3	0
3512058	Hastings County	Faraday	4,192	4,130	3,240	3,162	3,423	8.3	-4.3	3	1
3558090	Thunder Bay District	Thunder Bay, Unorganized	34,900	32,880	30,639	28,666	28,685	0.1	-4.7	3	1
3511038	Lennox and Addington County	Denbigh, Abinger and Ashby	717	715	658	588	527	-10.4	-7.3	2	0
3539054	Middlesex County	McGillivray	2,905	2,855	2,738	2,320	2,126	-8.4	-7.4	2	0

Note: Data are tabulated within the boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 2016, special tabulation.

Table 13

Within NON-METRO census divisions, ranking of census consolidated subdivisions by the 5-year average percent change in population, 1996 to 2016

CCS ID (1996)	Name of Census Division (1996)	Name of Census Consolidated Subdivision (1996)	Population (with 1996 boundaries)					5-year percent change		Number of periods with population growth, 1981 to 2016	Number of periods with population growth, 1996 to 2016
			1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2011 to 2016	1996 to 2016 (average)		
20 census consolidated subdivisions with the HIGHEST average 5-year percent change in population, 1996 to 2016: NON-METRO census divisions											
3549009	Parry Sound District	Christie	537	605	817	818	884	8.1	14.0	6	4
3546034	Haliburton County	Sherborne and Others	487	540	599	662	700	5.7	9.5	5	4
3509014	Lanark County	South Sherbrooke	732	840	945	859	1,018	18.5	9.2	6	3
3551094	Manitoulin District	Manitoulin, Unorg., West Part	270	325	381	333	361	8.4	8.4	4	3
3514001	Northumberland County	Murray	7,355	8,155	9,218	10,230	10,063	-1.6	8.3	6	3
3547006	Renfrew County	Bagot and Blythfield	1,371	1,630	2,052	1,719	1,787	4.0	8.1	6	3
3546021	Haliburton County	Stanhope	1,200	1,285	1,377	1,509	1,621	7.4	7.8	6	4
3531006	Perth County	North Easthope	2,169	2,190	2,509	2,725	2,868	5.2	7.3	6	4
3514006	Northumberland County	Brighton	9,022	9,450	10,258	10,928	11,844	8.4	7.1	7	4
3507056	Leeds & Grenville U.C.	Oxford-on-Rideau	10,148	10,845	11,192	11,911	13,302	11.7	7.0	7	4
3509024	Lanark County	Beckwith	13,945	15,130	15,840	16,704	18,288	9.5	7.0	7	4
3509011	Lanark County	North Burgess	1,269	1,370	1,586	1,568	1,649	5.2	6.9	6	3
3549096	Parry Sound District	Parry Sound, Unorg., Centre Part	3,760	4,135	4,994	4,749	4,823	1.6	6.8	5	3
3549039	Parry Sound District	Hagerman	489	535	690	547	595	8.8	6.6	4	3
3541062	Bruce County	Eastnor	1,993	2,015	2,139	2,063	2,529	22.6	6.6	5	3
3557014	Algoma District	Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional	442	470	388	396	534	34.8	6.4	6	3
3514016	Northumberland County	Haldimand	4,450	4,765	5,198	5,409	5,636	4.2	6.1	7	4
3516036	Victoria County	Carden	887	890	1,040	898	1,079	20.2	5.9	5	3
3546014	Haliburton County	Lutterworth	927	980	1,114	937	1,125	20.1	5.9	6	3
3542042	Grey County	Collingwood	5,667	6,115	6,840	6,453	7,025	8.9	5.7	6	3
20 census consolidated subdivisions with the LOWEST average 5-year percent change in population, 1996 to 2016: NON-METRO census divisions											
3536021	Kent County (Ontario)	Howard	5,903	5,605	5,283	5,089	5,087	0.0	-3.6	2	0
3547019	Renfrew County	Brudenell and Lyndoch	791	745	786	853	659	-22.7	-3.6	4	2
3531018	Perth County	Fullarton	1,662	1,660	1,529	1,499	1,420	-5.3	-3.8	2	0
3536011	Kent County (Ontario)	Raleigh	5,566	5,085	5,114	4,676	4,730	1.2	-3.9	3	2
3554036	Timiskaming District	Armstrong	1,530	1,345	1,277	1,354	1,278	-5.6	-4.2	2	1
3556092	Cochrane District	Cochrane, Unorg., North Part	36,776	33,440	32,133	30,937	30,909	-0.1	-4.2	0	0
3540034	Huron County	Hullett	1,878	1,795	1,701	1,618	1,576	-2.6	-4.3	2	0
3557095	Algoma District	Algoma, Unorganized, North Part	33,960	32,000	30,139	28,754	28,420	-1.2	-4.3	1	0
3531021	Perth County	Hibbert	1,348	1,305	1,268	1,200	1,124	-6.3	-4.4	0	0
3538012	Lambton County	Brooke	2,894	2,785	2,661	2,548	2,411	-5.4	-4.5	3	0
3536031	Kent County (Ontario)	Zone	2,029	1,985	1,968	1,840	1,684	-8.5	-4.5	1	0
3559016	Rainy River District	La Vallee	1,130	1,070	1,067	988	938	-5.1	-4.5	2	0
3540042	Huron County	Grey	2,036	1,945	1,825	1,785	1,662	-6.9	-4.9	2	0
3559024	Rainy River District	Chapple	1,170	1,145	1,117	1,094	946	-13.5	-5.0	2	0
3556031	Cochrane District	Iroquois Falls	5,714	5,220	4,729	4,600	4,527	-1.6	-5.6	0	0
3559041	Rainy River District	Atwood	1,281	1,260	1,184	1,085	998	-8.0	-6.0	2	0
3554012	Timiskaming District	Haileybury	4,875	4,540	4,083	3,856	3,766	-2.3	-6.2	1	0
3556014	Cochrane District	Black River-Matheson	3,249	2,905	2,644	2,420	2,458	1.6	-6.6	2	1
3538006	Lambton County	Dawn	1,595	1,435	1,294	1,177	1,090	-7.4	-9.1	2	0
3554058	Timiskaming District	McGarry	1,015	790	674	595	609	2.4	-11.6	1	1

Note: Data are tabulated within the boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 2016, special tabulation.

6. A note on Northern Ontario

The purpose of this section is to review the discussion above with an eye (or a “lens”) on Northern Ontario.

Northern Ontario, as designated by the Government of Ontario, is comprised of the 10 census divisions¹⁴ noted in Table 14.

From Table 2, we see that 7 of the 10 northern census divisions (CDs) are classified (in 2016) as non-metro CDs, two are partially-non-metro CDs (Thunder Bay and Sudbury District) and one is a metro CD (named “Sudbury Regional Municipality” in 1996 (Table 14) and now named “Greater Sudbury” (Table 2)).

From Map 2, we see that the Kenora CD was the only CD with a population growth greater than 10% in the 2011 to 2016 period.

From Table 5, we note that 12 Ontario CDs grew in less than 5 of the 7 intercensal periods. Among these 12 CDs, 8 are northern Ontario CDs (Thunder Bay District, Sudbury District, Algoma District, Cochrane District, Kenora District, Nipissing District, Rainy River District and Timiskaming District) (Table 14). Thus, only 2 northern CDs (Manitoulin and Sudbury Regional Municipality) grew in 5 or 6 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016 and none grew in 7 of 7 intercensal periods (Map 2).

Table 14

Population trends for census divisions (CDs) in northern Ontario, 1981 to 2016													
CD ID (1996)	Census Division name (1996)	Total population					5-year percent change in total population					Number of intercensal periods with population growth, 1981 to 2016	1996 to 2016 percent change in population
		1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	1996 to 2001	2001 to 2006	2006 to 2011	2011 to 2016	Average 5-year change, 1996 to 2016		
Census divisions sorted by number of intercensal periods with population growth													
3551	Manitoulin District	11,413	12,570	12,935	13,353	13,537	10	3	3	1	4	6	19
3553	Sudbury Regional Municipality	164,049	153,920	156,669	158,999	160,223	-6	2	1	1	-1	5	-2
3560	Kenora District	63,335	61,770	64,429	57,527	65,533	-2	4	-11	14	1	4	3
3548	Nipissing District	84,832	82,905	84,688	84,736	83,160	-2	2	0	-2	0	4	-2
3559	Rainy River District	23,163	22,145	21,554	20,450	20,110	-4	-3	-5	-2	-3	3	-13
3558	Thunder Bay District	157,619	150,860	149,063	146,057	146,048	-4	-1	-2	0	-2	2	-7
3552	Sudbury District	25,457	24,310	22,685	22,263	22,546	-5	-7	-2	1	-3	2	-11
3556	Cochrane District	93,240	85,245	82,503	81,122	79,682	-9	-3	-2	-2	-4	1	-15
3557	Algoma District	125,455	118,565	117,461	115,870	114,206	-5	-1	-1	-1	-2	0	-9
3554	Timiskaming District	37,807	34,440	33,283	32,634	32,251	-9	-3	-2	-1	-4	0	-15
Total		786,370	746,730	745,270	733,011	737,296	-5	0	-2	1	-2		-6

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 to 2016.

Similarly, none of the census consolidated subdivisions (CCS) in northern Ontario grew in 7 of 7 intercensal periods (Map 4). Over the 1981 to 2016 period:

- among the 5 CCSs in Ontario with continuous decline from 1981 to 2016 (i.e., grew in 0 of 7 intercensal periods), 4 were in northern Ontario (Tables 9 and 15);

¹⁴ As noted earlier, the data for census divisions and census consolidated subdivisions have been tabulated within the boundaries used in the 1996 Census of Population and thus we use the names used in the 1996 Census of Population.

- within metro CDs, among the 20 CCSs with the smallest population growth (or greatest decline) from 1996 to 2016, 7 of the 20 were in northern Ontario (Tables 11 and 15);
- within partially-non-metro CDs, among the 20 CCSs with the largest population decline, 6 of the 20 were in northern Ontario (Tables 12 and 15); and
- within non-metro CDs, among the 20 CDs with the largest population decline, 10 of the 20 were located in northern Ontario (Tables 13 and 15)

The distribution of the population within each CD by CCS pattern of population change shows that 50% of the population in northern Ontario in 2016 was residing in a CCS with only 2 periods of population growth during the 7 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2016 (Table 16). An additional 15% of northern Ontario's population resides in CCS that grew in fewer intercensal periods (7% in CCSs with 0 of 7 periods of growth and 8% in CCSs with 1 of 7 periods of population growth).

Thus, CCSs ("communities") in northern Ontario are less likely to grow than southern CCSs.

Table 15

Distribution of communities (census consolidated subdivisions) in each census division by number of intercensal periods with population growth, Northern Ontario, 1981 to 2016											
CD ID (1996)	Name of census division (1996)	Number of intercensal periods with population growth									All census consolidated subdivisions
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	No data	
		Number of census consolidated subdivisions within each census division									
3548	Nipissing District		2	2		2	3	1			10
3551	Manitoulin District		1		2	3	4	2		1	13
3552	Sudbury District			2	4						6
3553	Sudbury Regional Municipality		1	2	1	1	2				7
3554	Timiskaming District		5	5	3	2				1	16
3556	Cochrane District	3		1		1					5
3557	Algoma District		2	2	1	5	3	1			14
3558	Thunder Bay District			1	3		3				7
3559	Rainy River District	1	1	4	1	3	1				11
3560	Kenora District					1					1
Total		4	12	19	15	18	16	4	0	2	90
		Percent distribution of census consolidated subdivisions within each census division									
3548	Nipissing District		20	20		20	30	10			100
3551	Manitoulin District		8		15	23	31	15		8	100
3552	Sudbury District			33	67						100
3553	Sudbury Regional Municipality	0	14	29	14	14	29				100
3554	Timiskaming District	0	31	31	19	13				6	100
3556	Cochrane District	60		20		20					100
3557	Algoma District		14	14	7	36	21	7			100
3558	Thunder Bay District			14	43	0	43				100
3559	Rainy River District	9	9	36	9	27	9				100
3560	Kenora District					100					100
Total		4	13	21	17	20	18	4	0	2	100

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 to 2016.

Table 16

Distribution of communities (census consolidated subdivisions) in each census division by number of intercensal periods with population growth, Northern Ontario, 1981 to 2016											
CD ID (1996)	Name of census division (1996)	Number of intercensal periods with population growth									All census consolidated subdivisions
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	No data	
		2016 Population in census consolidated subdivisions with each population growth pattern									
3548	Nipissing District		3,353	60,575		2,496	15,445	1,291			83,160
3551	Manitoulin District		35		809	2,129	6,090	4,474			13,537
3552	Sudbury District			16,415	6,131						22,546
3553	Sudbury Regional Municipality		4,751	91,462	13,177	15,703	35,130				160,223
3554	Timiskaming District		21,959	7,998	1,100	1,189					32,251
3556	Cochrane District	35,436		2,458		41,788					79,682
3557	Algoma District		29,310	76,429	1,609	2,717	3,607	534			114,206
3558	Thunder Bay District			107,924	31,883		6,241				146,048
3559	Rainy River District	14,183	45	3,297	51	1,565	969				20,110
3560	Kenora District					65,533					65,533
Total population		49,619	59,453	366,558	54,760	133,120	67,482	6,299	-	-	737,296
		Percent distribution of 2016 population in census consolidated subdivisions by population growth pattern									
3548	Nipissing District		4	73		3	19	2			100
3551	Manitoulin District			0	6	16	45	33			100
3552	Sudbury District			73	27						100
3553	Sudbury Regional Municipality		3	57	8	10	22	0			100
3554	Timiskaming District		68	25	3	4					100
3556	Cochrane District	44		3		52					100
3557	Algoma District		26	67	1	2	3				100
3558	Thunder Bay District			74	22		4				100
3559	Rainy River District	71		16		8	5				100
3560	Kenora District					100					100
Total		7	8	50	7	18	9	1	0	0	100

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 to 2016.

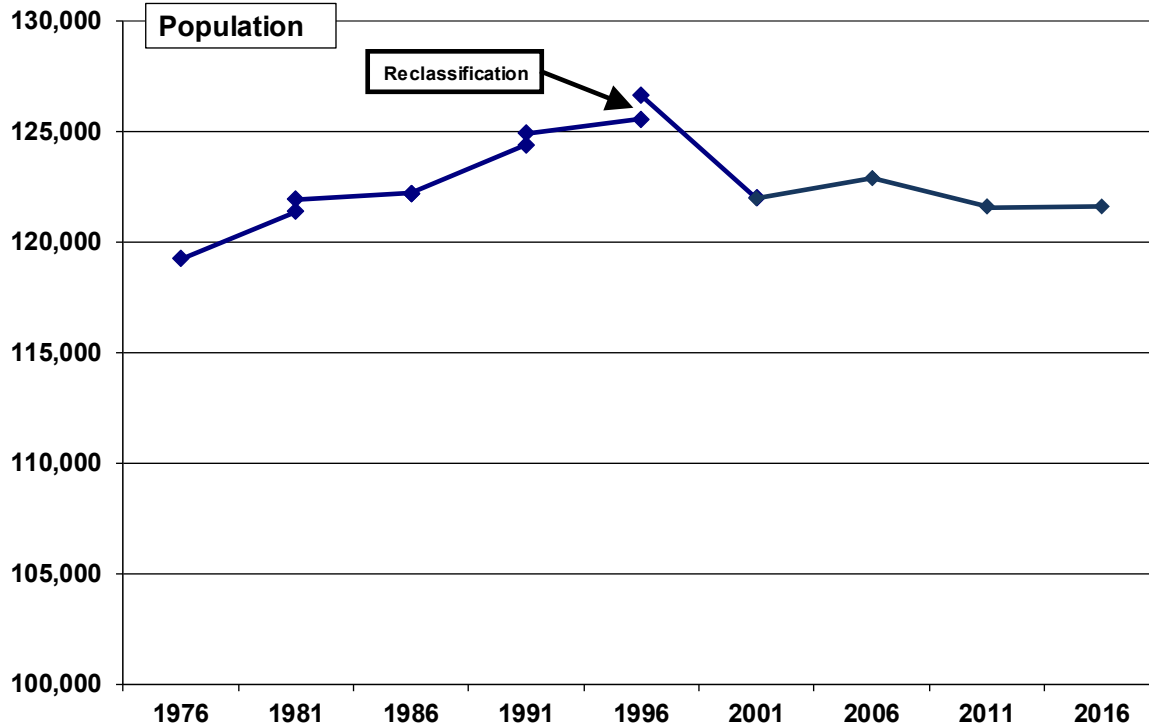
One feature of northern Ontario is that the two Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have not exhibited strong population growth compared to the population growth of (most but not all) CMAs in southern Ontario. The Thunder Bay CMA has varied between 120,000 and 125,000 inhabitants over the 1981 to 2016 period (Figure 10). The Greater Sudbury CMA has varied between 155,000 and 165,000 residents over the 1981 to 2016 period (Figure 11).

As noted earlier, regions with a heavier reliance on natural resources (agriculture, forestry, mining, etc.) are challenged because:

- Over time, labour-saving technological change means more and more production (of agriculture, lumber/paper or minerals) is generated with less and less labour; and
- Communities relatively reliant on these sectors are challenged to find alternative goods (e.g., manufactured products) or alternative services (e.g., tourism services, web-design services, accounting services, etc.) to export from the north in order to maintain employment levels.

Figure 10

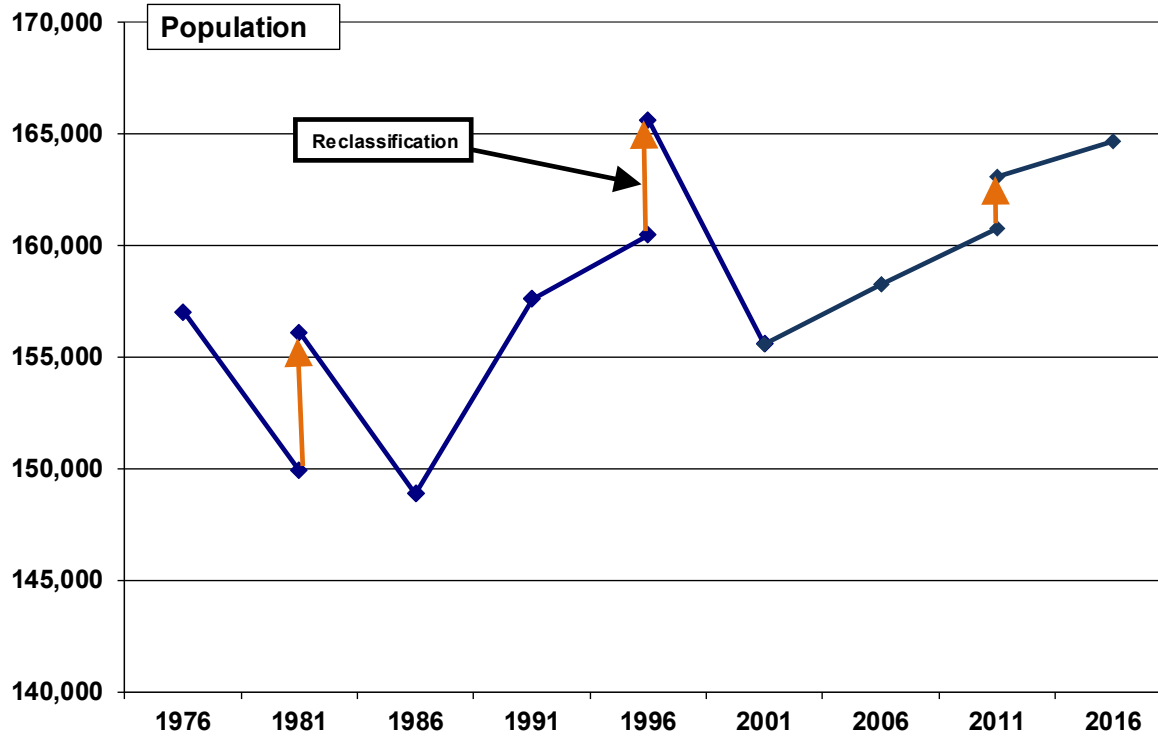
Population of the Thunder Bay CMA



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1976 - 2016.

Figure 11

Population of the Greater Sudbury CMA



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1976 - 2016.

7. Summary

Ontario has a large non-metro population. In 2016, there were 2.5 million inhabitants in Ontario who resided non-metro areas (i.e., outside the commuting zone of Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)). This population is larger than any of the 6 smallest provinces of Canada. This population is equivalent to the combined size of 5 of the top 14 metropolitan areas in Canada

Ontario's non-metro population has grown in every intercensal period since 1966. The rate of growth from 2011 to 2016 was 2%.

In 2016, the non-metro population of Ontario comprised 19% of Ontario's total population.

Importantly, in every census period, some non-metro residents are reclassified from a non-metro area to a metro area. This happens in two different ways. In some cases, a population centre reaches the threshold to be classified as a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) (such as Belleville in 2016) and the complete population of this centre is reclassified from non-metro to metro. In the other cases, a change in commuting patterns will increase the share of the workers in a census subdivision (i.e., an incorporated town or municipality) who are employed in a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). When this share surpasses 50%, the entire population of the census subdivision becomes delineated as part of the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). That is, the entire population of the census subdivision is reclassified from non-metro to metro.

Thus, over time, the share of Ontario's population residing in non-metro areas has slowly declined because:

- the non-metro population is growing more slowly than the metro population; and
- there is ongoing reclassification of population from non-metro to metro due to the growth of non-metro centres causing them to be reclassified a metro areas and due to the changing commuting patterns causing neighbouring towns and municipalities becoming delineated as part of a metro area.

Ontario residents live, work and play in regions in the sense that many commute long(er) distances to access jobs or services. We use data at the census division level to portray the regional patterns of population dynamics. We find that residents of census divisions in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the southern Georgian Bay region and the Ottawa-Kingston region have experienced continuous population growth in the 1981 to 2016 period. This population dynamic will drive, and is driven by, the changes in the labour market and changes in the provision of services.

Ontario residents also live, work and play in local communities in the sense that much of daily life is local – such as attending school or places of worship, shopping for groceries, etc. Generally, the population dynamics of community population change (as represented by census consolidated subdivisions) show the same pattern of a higher likelihood of continuous community population growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the southern Georgian Bay region and the Ottawa region.

However, there is considerable heterogeneity in the community-level population dynamics. We find dynamic community population trajectories in growing regions and in declining regions. Similarly, we find declining communities in both growing regions and in declining regions.

Nonetheless, a higher share of communities within non-metro census divisions reported population decline from 2011 to 2016 and, over the longer period from 1981 to 2016, a higher share of communities in non-metro census divisions did not grow continuously in these 7 intercensal periods.

Appendix A

Historical trends: rural residents outside population centres since 1851

To see the long-run demographic structure in Ontario, we present the trend in the inhabitants living in [population centres](#) (defined as a settlement with 1,000 or more inhabitants) and in census rural areas (outside population centres).

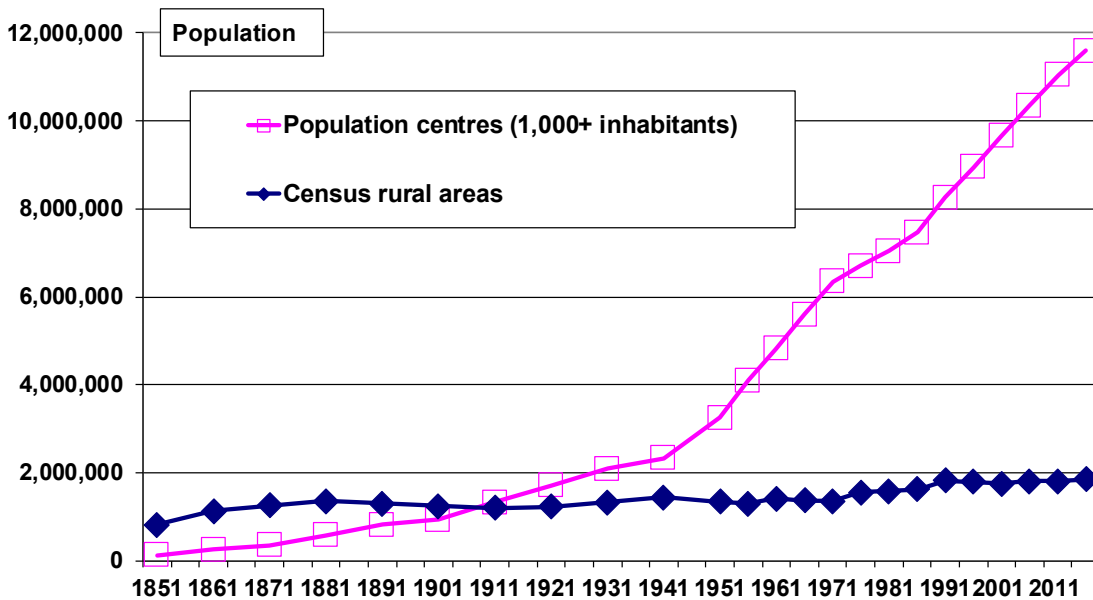
In 1851, 86% of Ontario's population was rural (outside population centres of 1,000 or more) (Figure A1 and Table A1).

The rural population remained a majority within Ontario until 1911.

In 2016, the rural population outside population centres of 1,000 or more numbered 1.8 million (14% of Ontario's population)

Figure A1

Population trends: Rural minority in Ontario in 1911

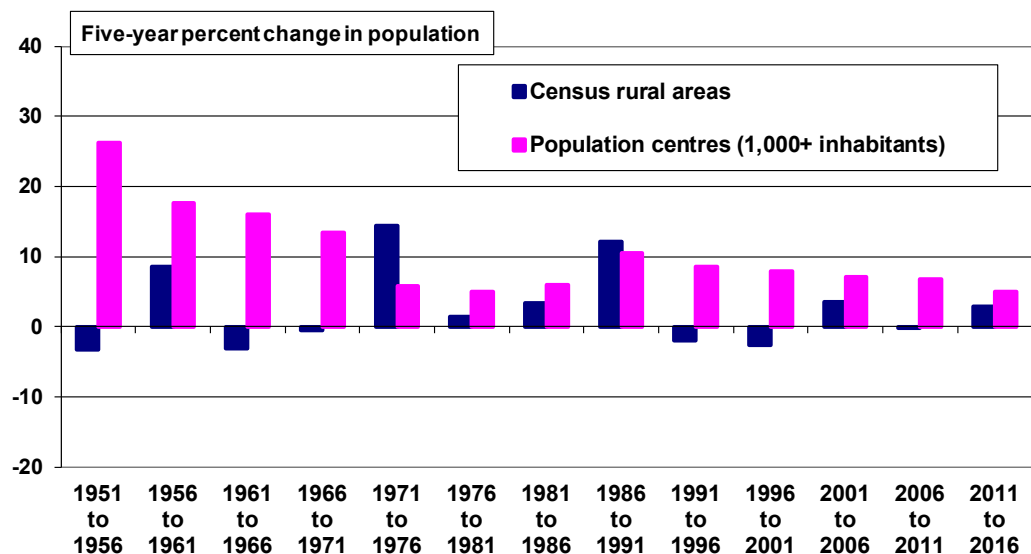


Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2016.

Since 1991, there have been small changes in the level of the census rural population (both increases and decreases have been recorded) (Figure A2).

Figure A2

Small change in census rural population since 1991: Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

- **Census rural population residing on a census-farm**

A census-farm is any agricultural holding with agricultural products for sale. Over one-half of these holdings are part-time or hobby enterprises that are too small to support a family without one or more family members working off the farm.

Within the census rural population of Ontario (i.e., outside population centres of 1,000 or more), the population residing on a census-farm in 1931 was 786,000 (Figure A3 and Table A1) which was larger than the number of census rural residents who were not residing on a census-farm (133,000).

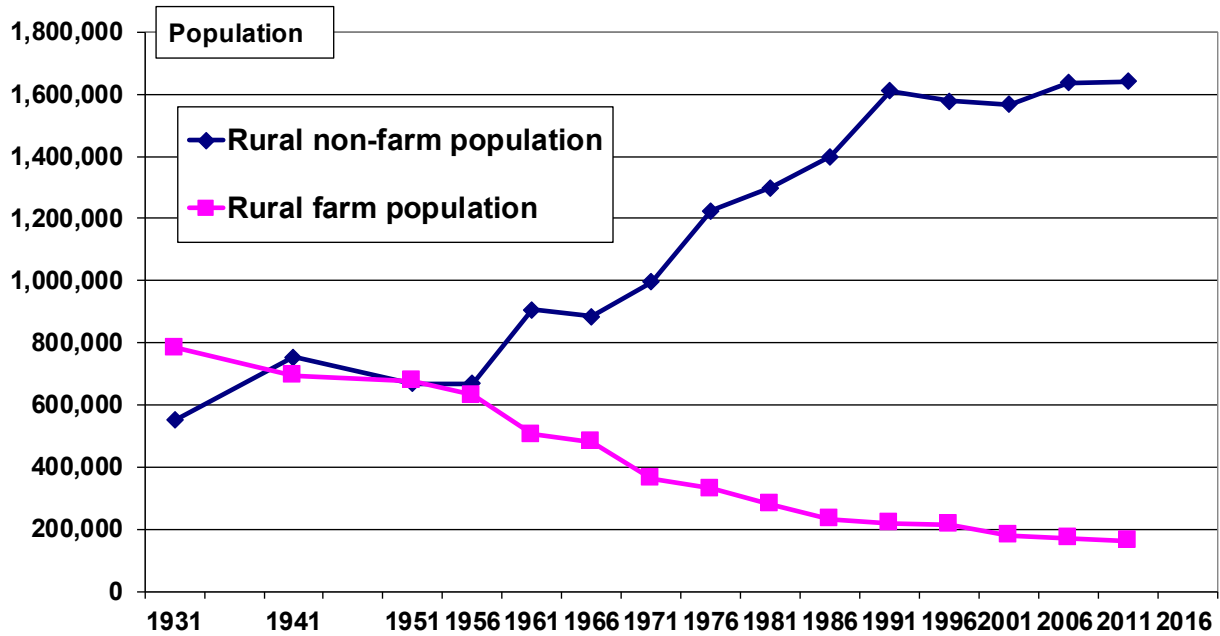
- **Rural non-farm population**

However, in 1961, we see a sharp divergence where the rural non-farm population (i.e., the population in census rural areas who do not live in the household of a census-farm operator) started to increase and the census rural population residing on a census-farm started to decrease.

Over the years, rural residents would have noticed a smaller and smaller share of students, church members, municipal councilors, etc., who are living on a farm.

Figure 3

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Ontario since 1956



Note: "Rural" refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Appendix Table A1

Farm versus Non-farm and Census Rural Population versus Population in Population Centres, Ontario, 1851 - 2016

	Total farm population			Total non-farm population			Total population			Rural farm population as a percent of total census rural population	Percent of farm population that resides in population centres	Census rural population as a percent of the total population	Five-year percent change in total population	
	Population centres (1,000+ inhabitants)	Census rural areas	Total	Population centres (1,000+ inhabitants)	Census rural areas	Total	Total	Population centres (1,000+ inhabitants)	Census rural areas				Population centres (1,000+ inhabitants)	Census rural areas
	=(1)+(2)			=(4)+(5)			=(3)+(6)	=(1)+(4)	=(2)+(5)				=(2)/(9)*100	=(1)/(3)*100
1851						952,004	133,463	818,541			86			
1861						1,396,091	258,192	1,137,899			82	47	20	
1871						1,620,851	355,997	1,264,854			78	19	6	
1881						1,926,922	575,848	1,351,074			70	31	3	
1891						2,114,321	818,998	1,295,323			61	21	-2	
1901						2,182,947	935,978	1,246,969			57	7	-2	
1911						2,527,292	1,328,489	1,198,803			47	21	-2	
1921						2,933,662	1,706,632	1,227,030			42	14	1	
1931	15,410	785,550	800,960	2,080,582	550,141	2,630,723	3,431,683	2,095,992	1,335,691	59	2	39	11	4
1941	9,736	694,684	704,420	2,328,897	754,338	3,083,235	3,787,655	2,338,633	1,449,022	48	1	38	6	4
1951	24,735	678,043	702,778	3,226,364	668,400	3,894,764	4,597,542	3,251,099	1,346,443	50	4	29	20	-4
1956	50,995	632,153	683,148	4,051,924	669,861	4,721,785	5,404,933	4,102,919	1,302,014	49	7	24	26	-3
1961	18,791	505,699	524,490	4,804,738	906,864	5,711,602	6,236,092	4,823,529	1,412,563	36	4	23	18	8
1966	16,330	481,695	498,025	5,577,110	885,735	6,462,845	6,960,870	5,593,440	1,367,430	35	3	20	16	-3
1971	28,073	363,640	391,713	6,315,557	995,840	7,311,397	7,703,105	6,343,630	1,359,480	27	7	18	13	-1
1976	9,600	331,510	341,110	6,698,920	1,224,435	7,923,355	8,264,465	6,708,520	1,555,945	21	3	19	6	14
1981	8,917	279,826	288,743	7,038,115	1,298,249	8,336,364	8,625,107	7,047,032	1,578,075	18	3	18	5	1
1986	7,940	232,790	240,730	7,461,480	1,399,485	8,860,965	9,101,695	7,469,420	1,632,275	14	3	18	6	3
1991	6,175	220,505	226,680	8,247,667	1,610,538	9,858,205	10,084,885	8,253,842	1,831,043	12	3	18	11	12
1996	5,755	215,475	221,230	8,952,986	1,579,357	10,532,343	10,753,573	8,958,741	1,794,832	12	3	17	9	-2
2001	5,180	180,905	186,085	9,657,367	1,566,594	11,223,961	11,410,046	9,662,547	1,747,499	10	3	15	8	-3
2006	7,165	171,410	178,575	10,343,970	1,637,737	11,981,707	12,160,282	10,351,135	1,809,147	9	4	15	7	4
2011	11,465	163,435	174,900	11,034,320	1,642,601	12,676,921	12,851,821	11,045,785	1,806,036	9	7	14	7	0
2016				13,448,494	1,857,981	15,306,475	15,306,475	11,590,513	3,715,962	9	7	14	5	3

Source: Canada. Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population, 1851 - 2016.

Since 1981, the "census rural" population refers to persons living outside population centres with 1,000 population AND outside areas with 400 persons per square kilometre. Previous to 1981, the definitions differed slightly but consistently referred to populations outside population centres of 1,000 population.

Note that in order to be consistent with the other data, the 1976 farm population is presented for all agricultural holdings with gross sales of \$50 or more in the previous year.

Published data for the 1976 farm population refer to the population on agricultural holdings with sales of \$1,200 or more in the previous year.

Appendix B

Charts and tables showing the level and trends in population for “Rural and Small Town Areas”

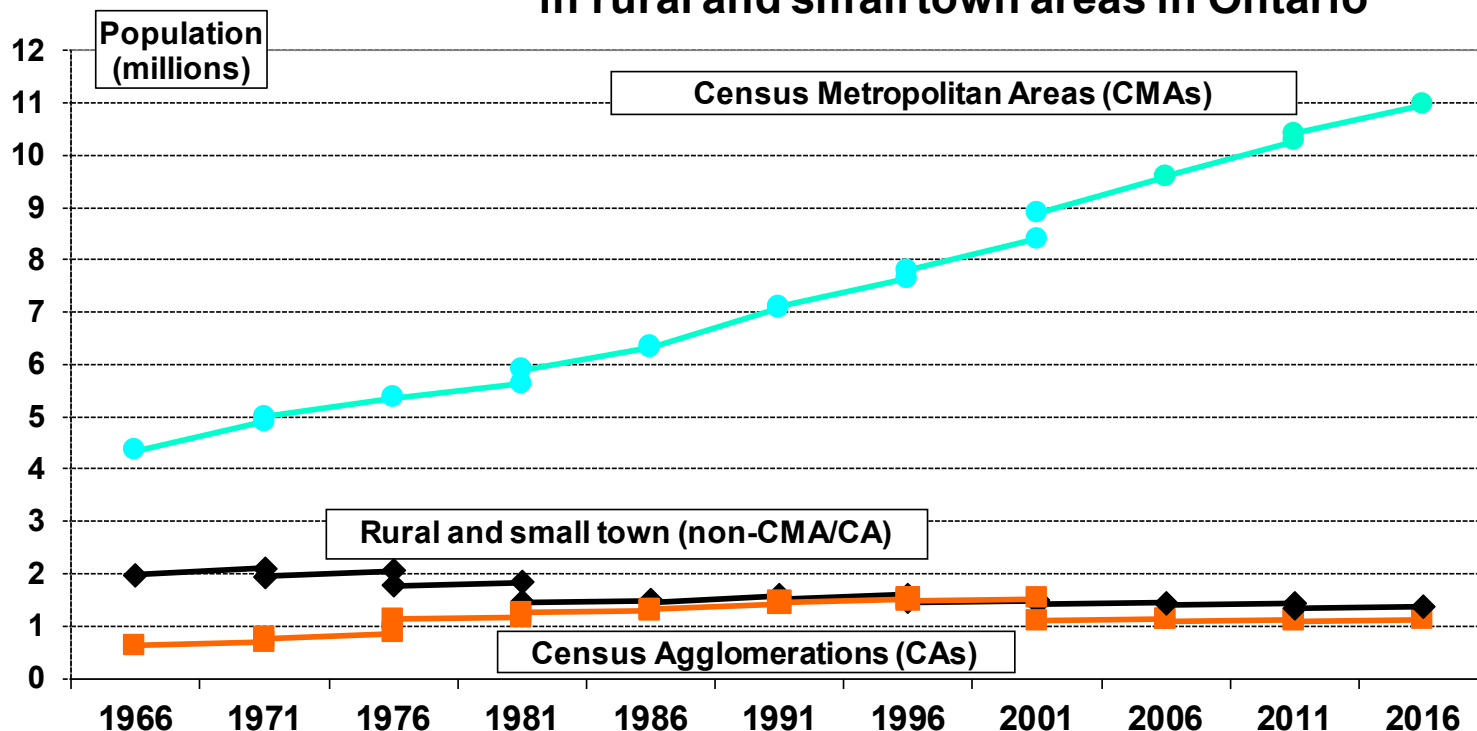
Most of the discussion in the report has focused on the non-metro population and on the population change patterns since 1981.

The objective of this appendix is to briefly describe some of the changes within non-metro areas – specifically for smaller cities ([Census Agglomerations](#)) and for each [Metropolitan Influenced Zone](#) within rural and small town areas (i.e., in areas outside centres of 10,000 or more)

In 2016, the population in metro areas (Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)) was 2.5 million; the population of Census Agglomerations (CAs) was 1.1 million and the “rural and small town” population (outside CMAs and CAs) was 1.4 million (Figure B1 and Table B1).

Figure B1

In 2016, 1.4 million individuals were living in rural and small town areas in Ontario



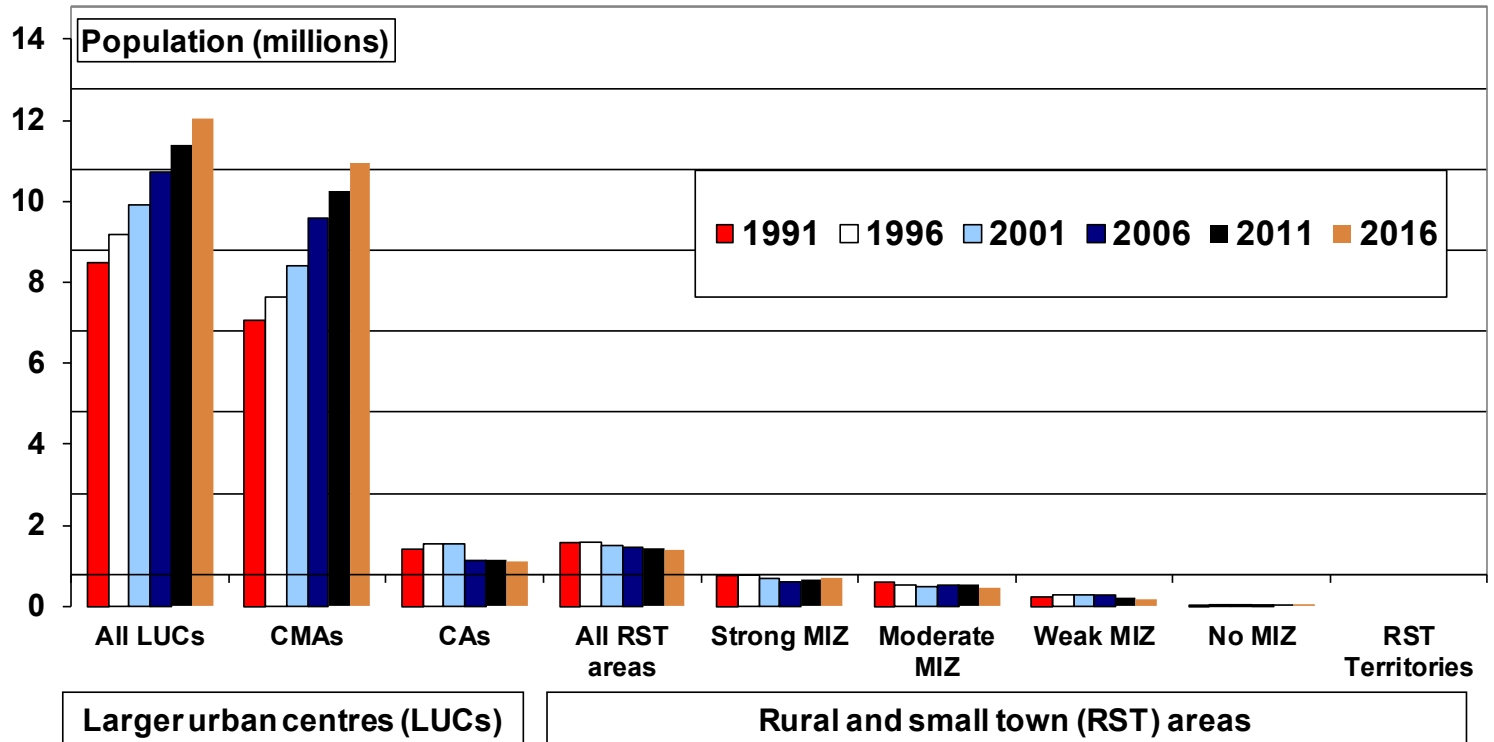
Note: Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more and Census Agglomerations (CAs) have 10,000 or more in the urban core. Both CMAs and CAs include surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core. Rural and small town (RST) refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (CAs). The two data points visible for some years show the adjusted population count (due to reclassification) in order to make comparisons over time within constant boundaries.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 2016.

Within RST areas, the largest MIZ zone is the Strong MIZ zone (Figure B2 and Table B1).

Figure B2

In 2016, Ontario's rural and small town population was 1.4 million



Note: Data are tabulated within boundaries applicable at the time of the given census.

A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more. Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a population of 10,000 to 99,999. Both CMAs and CAs include surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the CMA or CA. Metropolitan Influenced Zones (MIZ) are assigned on the basis of the share of the workforce that commutes to any CMA or CA (Strong metropolitan influenced zone: 30% or more; Moderate metropolitan influenced zone: 5 to 29%; Weak metropolitan influenced zone: 1 to 5%; No metropolitan influenced zone: no commuters).

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991 to 2016.

Table B1

Population structure and change in metro and non-metro areas (disaggregated into Census Agglomerations and Rural and Small Town areas, by Metropolitan Influenced Zone) Ontario, 1986 to 2016

	Population												Percent distribution of population						Percent change											
	within 1991 boundaries		within 1996 boundaries		within 2001 boundaries		within 2006 boundaries		within 2011 boundaries		within 2016 boundaries		within 1991 boundaries	within 1996 boundaries	within 2001 boundaries	within 2006 boundaries	within 2011 boundaries	within 2016 boundaries	1986 to 1991	1991 to 1996	1996 to 2001	2001 to 2006	2006 to 2011	2011 to 2016						
	1986	1991	1991	1996	1996	2001	2001	2006	2006	2011	2011	2016	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2006	2011	2011	2016	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016		
Metro areas (CMAs)	6,333,439	7,073,420	7,100,762	7,639,013	7,804,030	8,403,738	8,901,673	9,584,840	9,591,529	10,270,006	10,408,279	10,956,264	70	70	70	71	73	74	78	79	79	80	81	81	11.7	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.1	5.3
Non-metro areas (non-CMAs)	2,768,255	3,011,465	2,984,123	3,114,560	2,949,543	3,006,308	2,508,373	2,575,442	2,568,753	2,581,815	2,443,542	2,492,230	30	30	30	29	27	26	22	21	21	20	19	19	8.8	4.4	1.9	2.7	0.5	2.0
Census agglomerations	1,314,637	1,422,183	1,458,964	1,518,422	1,487,301	1,522,211	1,094,168	1,127,437	1,128,614	1,133,127	1,094,874	1,106,057	14	14	14	14	14	13	10	9	9	9	9	8	8.2	4.1	2.3	3.0	0.4	1.0
Rural and small town (RST)	1,453,618	1,589,282	1,525,159	1,596,138	1,462,242	1,484,097	1,414,205	1,448,005	1,440,139	1,448,688	1,348,668	1,386,173	16	16	15	15	14	13	12	12	12	11	10	10	9.3	4.7	1.5	2.4	0.6	2.8
Strong MIZ	670,192	756,056	710,094	756,992	668,346	695,979	594,823	615,909	631,410	644,299	689,439	708,869	7	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	12.8	6.6	4.1	3.5	2.0	2.8
Moderate MIZ	545,276	587,096	520,565	539,257	489,985	489,378	526,565	535,477	554,062	555,931	446,688	451,442	6	6	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	3	3	7.7	3.6	-0.1	1.7	0.3	1.1
Weak MIZ	205,430	218,108	266,562	269,132	278,623	270,527	266,116	263,137	232,107	225,197	188,269	189,085	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	6.2	1.0	-2.9	-1.1	-3.0	0.4
No MIZ	32,720	28,022	27,938	30,757	25,288	28,213	26,701	33,482	22,560	23,261	24,272	36,777	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-14.4	10.1	11.6	25.4	3.1	51.5
Total	9,101,694	10,084,885	10,084,885	10,753,573	10,753,573	11,410,046	11,410,046	12,160,282	12,160,282	12,851,821	12,851,821	13,448,494	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	10.8	6.6	6.1	6.6	5.7	4.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1986 to 2016.

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have 50,000 or more in the built-up core (100,000 or more prior to 2006) and includes all neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core.

Census Agglomerations (CAs) in 2006 and 2011 have a built-up core of 10,000 or more with a total population of less than 100,000 and includes all neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core (prior to 2006, a few CAs had a total population over 100,000 if they had less than 100,000 in the built-up core – due to the different definition of a CMA prior to 2006).

Metropolitan Influenced Zones (MIZ) are assigned on the basis of the share of the workforce that commutes to any CMA or CA (Strong MIZ: 30-49%; Moderate MIZ: 5-29%; Weak MIZ: 1-5%; No MIZ: no commuters).

The data for the 1991 and 1996 MIZ have been adjusted to be consistent with the 2001 protocol whereby non-CMA/CA towns and municipalities in the Territories were not allocated to a MIZ classification.

The designation of MIZ for 1991 and 1996 were obtained from Sheila Rambeau and Kathleen Todd. (2000) **Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Influenced Zones (MIZ) with census data** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Geography Working Paper Series No. 2000-1, Catalogue No. 92F0138ME)

(www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/downpub.cgi?catno=92F0138ME). Note that the Rambeau and Todd designation of MIZ for 1991 used the preliminary 1996 CMA/CA delineations, but still using 1991 boundaries. For this table, we have re-imposed the 1991 CMA/CA delineation and we have assigned "strong MIZ" in 1991 for towns or municipalities that had been coded into a CMA/CA for 1996.

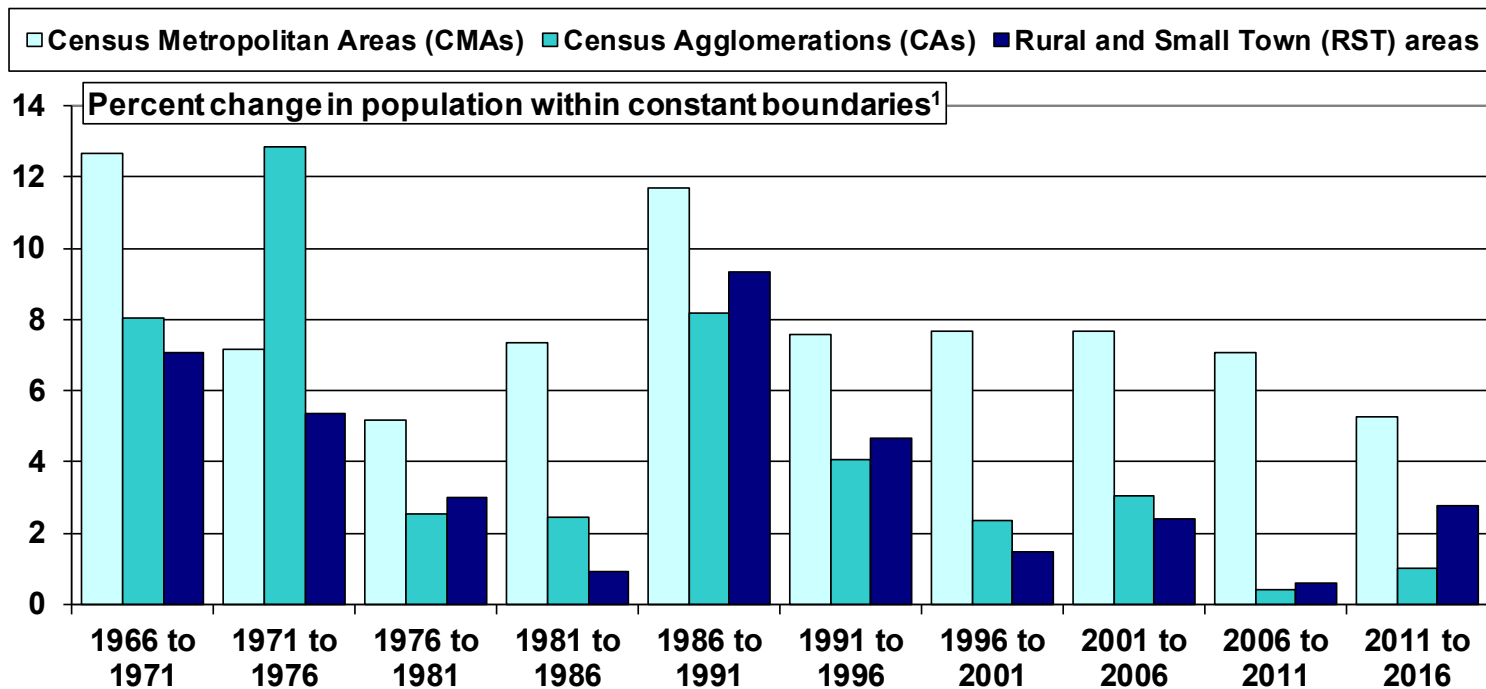
The designation of MIZ for 2001 was obtained from Statistics Canada. **GeoSuite, 2001 Census** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 92F0085XCB).

As shown in Figure B3 (with detail in Table B1), in each five-year period since 1966, there has been continuous population growth in each of:

- Metro areas (Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs));
- Non-metro areas (outside Census Metropolitan Areas (non-CMA areas)); and in each of the components of non-metro areas:
 - Census Agglomerations;
 - Rural and small town areas; and the components of:
 - Strong Metropolitan Influenced Zones (MIZ);
 - Moderate MIZ (except 1996 to 2001);
 - Weak MIZ (except the 3 intercensal periods from 1996 to 2011); and
 - No MIZ (except in 1986 to 1991 period).

Figure B3

Continuous growth in rural and small town population, Ontario



¹ Each five-year change is tabulated within the boundaries applicable to the census at the end of the five-year period.
 Note: A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more. Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a population of 10,000 to 99,999. Both CMAs and CAs include surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the CMA or CA. RST areas are outside the commuting zones of CMAs and CAs.
 Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 2016.

The Canadian context of population growth in the CMA, CA and RST areas of each province is shown in Table B2.

Table B2**Percent change in population with constant boundaries for CMAs, CAs and RST areas, Canada, 1966 to 2016**

	1966 to 1971	1971 to 1976	1976 to 1981	1981 to 1986	1986 to 1991	1991 to 1996	1996 to 2001	2001 to 2006	2006 to 2011	2011 to 2016
Canada										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	11.0	6.8	5.8	5.9	10.0	6.4	6.2	6.9	7.4	6.2
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	7.2	6.7	4.5	2.1	7.1	5.3	1.5	4.0	4.2	3.3
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	3.3	6.3	6.7	0.6	3.0	3.9	-0.4	1.0	1.7	1.4
Newfoundland										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	12.2	8.8	6.5	4.6	6.2	1.3	-0.7	4.7	8.8	4.6
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	0.0	13.2	-1.5	-5.4	0.0	-3.0	-7.3	1.3	1.1	2.5
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	3.8	5.1	0.5	-0.3	-3.0	-5.1	-10.6	-5.6	-2.7	-2.2
Prince Edward Island										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	10.1	-0.7	5.5	5.3	4.7	4.8	1.8	1.8	7.3	4.8
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	0.9	9.5	1.9	1.2	-0.2	2.4	-1.0	-1.3	-1.9	-2.1
Nova Scotia										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	6.1	6.9	3.6	6.6	8.3	3.7	4.7	3.8	4.7	3.3
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	-0.4	1.6	1.1	-1.1	0.2	-0.2	-4.3	-1.0	-1.7	-2.1
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	4.9	5.4	1.9	2.7	0.5	-0.6	-2.3	-1.8	-1.7	-2.1
New Brunswick										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	2.4	5.8	1.0	0.2	3.1	-0.1	-2.4	3.1	7.1	1.0
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	9.5	1.0	2.7	3.0	4.7	4.0	1.6	0.5	3.2	0.4
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	1.4	9.2	3.5	1.7	-0.2	1.3	-2.7	-2.5	-0.8	-2.6
Quebec										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	7.2	4.1	1.9	2.5	7.1	3.8	2.5	5.1	5.5	4.1
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	2.5	2.0	4.5	0.3	5.2	1.8	-0.7	3.3	3.7	2.6
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	-0.3	2.8	5.9	-0.6	1.6	3.5	-0.8	2.2	2.7	0.7
Ontario										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	12.7	7.2	5.2	7.3	11.7	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.1	5.3
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	8.0	12.9	2.5	2.4	8.2	4.1	2.3	3.0	0.4	1.0
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	7.1	5.4	3.0	0.9	9.3	4.7	1.5	2.4	0.6	2.8
Manitoba										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	6.2	5.2	1.1	5.6	4.3	1.0	0.6	2.7	5.1	6.6
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	0.0	-8.1	-5.9	2.7	0.0	-0.7	-0.6	2.7	8.3	8.3
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	-1.4	1.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	4.4	0.5	2.4	4.7	3.2
Saskatchewan										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	7.6	6.6	11.8	11.2	3.8	2.5	1.5	2.4	9.9	12.2
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	0.0	2.8	6.0	5.5	-2.1	-0.1	-1.7	-1.1	5.8	4.0
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	-6.8	-4.0	1.3	-1.0	-6.9	-2.0	-3.5	-4.7	3.7	0.1
Alberta										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	18.9	13.9	21.6	6.6	10.3	5.6	12.2	11.9	12.3	14.1
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	3.8	21.3	19.8	9.3	3.9	4.0	10.8	15.7	13.4	9.9
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	3.0	11.2	22.0	2.5	3.1	7.8	5.5	3.8	4.1	3.7
British Columbia										
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)	15.3	8.3	8.5	8.4	15.6	13.0	7.6	6.7	8.7	6.6
Census Agglomerations (CAs)	25.5	12.4	11.9	1.8	14.2	14.9	1.7	3.5	5.3	4.4
Rural and Small Town (RST) areas	16.3	20.8	17.0	-0.4	7.2	12.8	-1.1	0.8	0.8	2.2

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1976 to 2016.

Interestingly, for one-half (5 of 10) intercensal periods shown for Ontario in Figure B3 (and Table B2), Ontario's rural and small town population actually grew faster than the population in the smaller cities (Census Agglomerations).

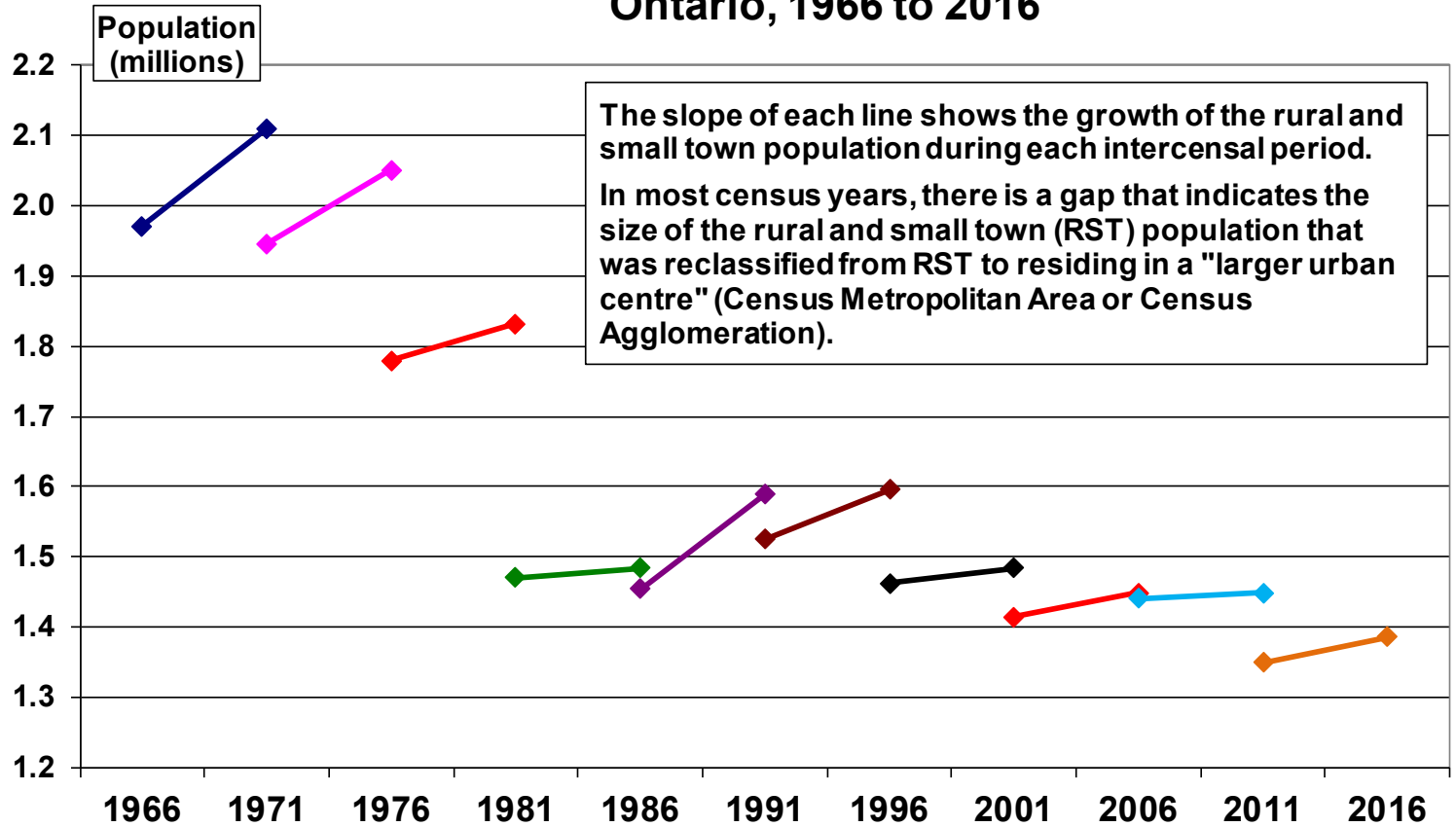
However, in all periods but one (1971 to 1976), the population growth in each of Census Agglomerations and in rural and small town areas was less than the growth in metro (CMA) areas in Ontario.

This slower growth in RST areas compared to larger urban centres is one factor causing the slow decline in the share of the population in Ontario's population that resides in rural and small town areas – down from 16% in 1986 to 10% in 2016 (Figure B5 and Table B1).

The other factor is the reclassification of rural and small town (RST) areas into Census Agglomerations or metro (CMA) areas (Figure B4). In Table B1, compare, for example, the 2011 RST population using 2011 boundaries (1.4 million) with the 2011 RST population in 2016 boundaries (1.3 million). Ontario's RST population declined by 100,000 in 2011 due to reclassification (as discussed in the main text of this report).

Figure B4

Rural and Small Town Population, Ontario, 1966 to 2016

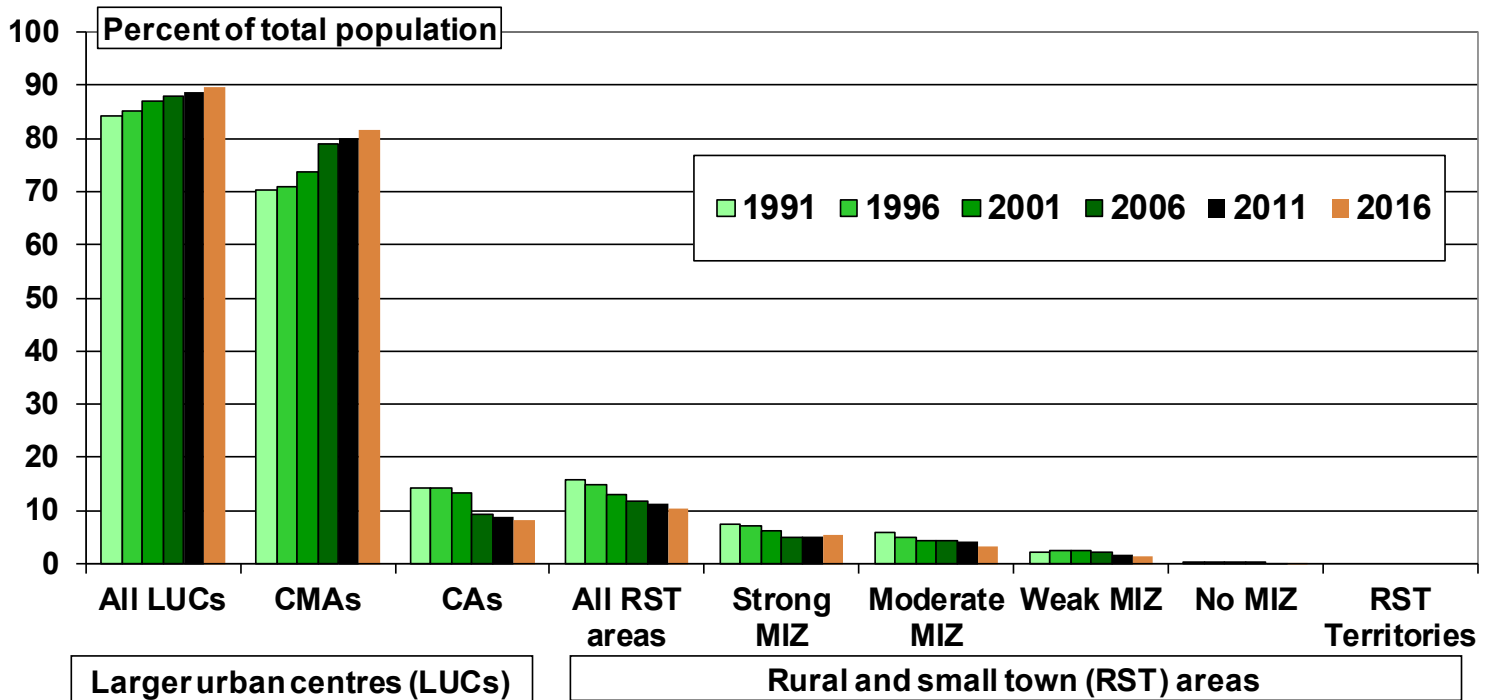


Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 2016.

Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (CAs).

Figure B5

In 2016, 10 percent of Ontario's population lived in rural and small town areas



Note: Data are tabulated within boundaries applicable at the time of the given census.

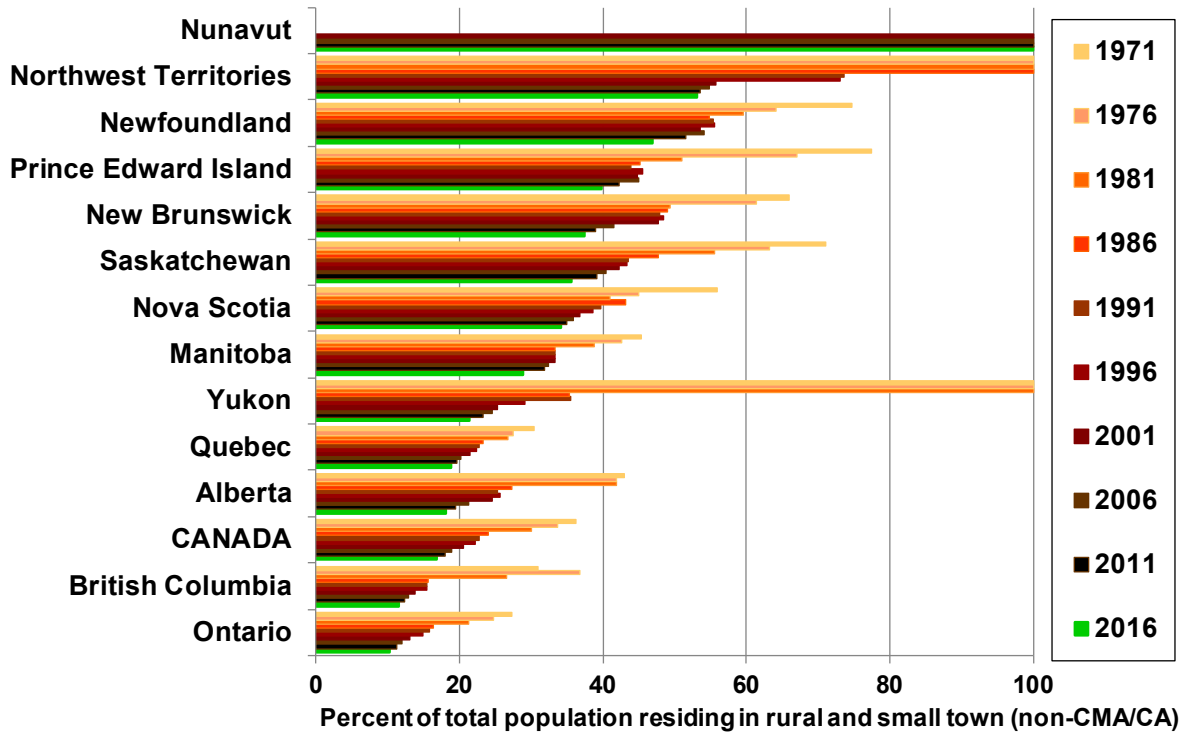
A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has 50,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core with a total population of 100,000 or more. Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a population of 10,000 to 99,999. Both CMAs and CAs include surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the CMA or CA. Metropolitan Influenced Zones (MIZ) are assigned on the basis of the share of the workforce that commutes to any CMA or CA (Strong metropolitan influenced zone: 30% or more; Moderate metropolitan influenced zone: 5 to 29%; Weak metropolitan influenced zone: 1 to 5%; No metropolitan influenced zone: no commuters). Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991 to 2016.

The provinces in Figure B6 are ranked in terms of the share of their population residing in RST areas in 2016 (data are in Table B3). Ontario has the smallest share (10%) compared to each of the other provinces.

Note that the length of bars becomes shorter for each census period from 1971 to 2016 – the *share* of the rural and small town population has been declining over time, even though the absolute number of people living in these areas has been increasing (in most provinces).

Figure B6

The share of Canada's population residing in RST areas declined from 36% in 1971 to 17% in 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 2016.

Table B3

Percent of population living in rural and small town areas, Canada and Provinces, 1971 to 2016										
	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Newfoundland	74.8	64.1	59.6	54.9	55.4	55.6	53.5	54.1	51.7	46.8
Prince Edward Island	77.4	67.0	51.1	45.1	44.0	45.6	44.9	45.0	42.2	39.9
Nova Scotia	55.9	45.0	40.9	43.2	39.6	38.7	36.7	35.8	34.9	34.1
New Brunswick	66.0	61.4	49.4	49.0	48.0	48.5	47.7	41.5	38.9	37.4
Quebec	30.5	27.5	26.7	23.3	22.7	22.4	21.5	20.1	19.6	18.9
Ontario	27.4	24.8	21.2	16.3	15.8	14.8	13.0	11.9	11.3	10.3
Manitoba	45.3	42.6	38.8	33.3	33.2	33.3	33.4	32.3	31.9	28.8
Saskatchewan	71.2	63.3	55.6	47.8	43.6	43.3	42.3	40.4	39.1	35.6
Alberta	43.0	41.9	41.9	27.3	25.3	25.8	24.6	21.2	19.4	18.0
British Columbia	31.0	36.9	26.6	15.6	15.4	15.5	13.8	12.8	12.4	11.6
Yukon	100.0	100.0	100.0	35.3	35.5	29.1	25.4	24.6	23.2	21.3
Northwest Territories	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	73.7	73.2	55.7	54.9	53.6	53.2
Nunavut	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
CANADA	36.3	33.7	30.1	24.1	22.8	22.2	20.6	18.9	18.0	16.8

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 2016.

Note: Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (CAs).

Table B4 – Part One (1966-1981)

Population Level and Change in Metro areas (Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)) and in Non-metro areas (outside CMA areas), and showing the population in Census Agglomerations (CAs) and in Rural and Small Town (RST) areas, Ontario and Canada, 1966-1981													
	Five-year percent change			Five-year percent change					Five-year percent change		Five-year percent change		
	1966	1971	1966-1971	1971	1971	1976	1971-1976	1971-1976	1976	1976	1981	1976-1981	1976-1981
	1971 boundaries	1971 boundaries	constant boundaries	1971 boundaries	1976 boundaries	1976 boundaries	current boundaries	constant boundaries	1976 boundaries	1981 boundaries	1981 boundaries	current boundaries	constant boundaries
Ontario													
Metro (CMA)	4,360,223	4,912,367	12.7	4,912,367	4,998,210	5,357,336	9.1	7.2	5,357,336	5,357,336	5,635,892	5.2	5.2
Non-metro (non-CMA)	2,600,647	2,790,739	7.3	2,790,739	2,704,896	2,907,129	4.2	7.5	2,907,129	2,907,129	2,989,215	2.8	2.8
.. CA	630,121	680,682	8.0	680,682	758,865	856,551	25.8	12.9	856,551	1,128,209	1,156,916	35.1	2.5
.. RST	1,970,526	2,110,057	7.1	2,110,057	1,946,031	2,050,578	-2.8	5.4	2,050,578	1,778,920	1,832,299	-10.6	3.0
Total	6,960,870	7,703,106	10.7	7,703,106	7,703,106	8,264,465	7.3	7.3	8,264,465	8,264,465	8,625,107	4.4	4.4
Canada													
Metro (CMA)	10,684,482	11,864,823	11.0	11,864,823	11,984,519	12,798,879	7.9	6.8	12,798,879	12,910,493	13,658,944	6.7	5.8
Non-metro (non-CMA)	9,330,398	9,703,488	4.0	9,703,488	9,583,792	10,193,726	5.1	6.4	10,193,726	10,082,112	10,684,233	4.8	6.0
.. CA	1,755,738	1,881,801	7.2	1,881,801	2,285,778	2,438,937	29.6	6.7	2,438,937	3,219,383	3,363,598	37.9	4.5
.. RST	7,574,660	7,821,687	3.3	7,821,687	7,298,014	7,754,789	-0.9	6.3	7,754,789	6,862,729	7,320,635	-5.6	6.7
Total	20,014,880	21,568,311	7.8	21,568,311	21,568,311	22,992,605	6.6	6.6	22,992,605	22,992,605	24,343,177	5.9	5.9

Source: Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population, 1971 to 2016.

Since 2006, Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have a built-up core of 50,000 or more people and a total population of 100,000 or more and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core.

Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a built-up core of 10,000 or more people and a total population of 10,000 - 99,999 and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core.

Rural and Small Town (RST) areas refer to the non-CMA and the non-CA population. It is the population outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres.

Table B4 – Part Two (1981-1991)

Population Level and Change in Metro areas (Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)) and in Non-metro areas (outside CMA areas), and showing the population in Census Agglomerations (CAs) and in Rural and Small Town (RST) areas, Ontario and Canada, 1981-1991										
	Five-year percent change					Five-year percent change				
	1981	1981	1986	1981-1986	1981-1986	1986	1986	1991	1986-1991	1986-1991
	1981 boundaries	1986 boundaries	1986 boundaries	current boundaries	constant boundaries	1986 boundaries	1991 boundaries	1991 boundaries	current boundaries	constant boundaries
Ontario										
Metro (CMA)	5,635,892	5,896,478	6,328,626	12.3	7.3	6,328,626	6,333,439	7,073,420	11.8	11.7
Non-metro (non-CMA)	2,989,215	2,728,629	2,773,069	-7.2	1.6	2,773,069	2,768,256	3,011,465	8.6	8.8
.. CA	1,156,916	1,258,974	1,289,659	11.5	2.4	1,289,659	1,314,637	1,422,183	10.3	8.2
.. RST	1,832,299	1,469,655	1,483,410	-19.0	0.9	1,483,410	1,453,619	1,589,282	7.1	9.3
Total	8,625,107	8,625,107	9,101,695	5.5	5.5	9,101,695	9,101,695	10,084,885	10.8	10.8
Canada										
Metro (CMA)	13,658,944	14,308,232	15,155,493	11.0	5.9	15,155,493	15,148,604	16,665,360	10.0	10.0
Non-metro (non-CMA)	10,684,233	10,034,945	10,153,836	-5.0	1.2	10,153,836	10,160,725	10,631,499	4.7	4.6
.. CA	3,342,653	3,977,248	4,059,618	21.4	2.1	4,059,618	4,110,176	4,401,854	8.4	7.1
.. RST	7,341,580	6,057,697	6,094,218	-17.0	0.6	6,094,218	6,050,549	6,229,645	2.2	3.0
Total	24,343,177	24,343,177	25,309,329	4.0	4.0	25,309,329	25,309,329	27,296,859	7.9	7.9

Source: Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population, 1971 to 2016.

Since 2006, Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have a built-up core of 50,000 or more people and a total population of 100,000 or more and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core.

Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a built-up core of 10,000 or more people and a total population of 10,000 - 99,999 and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core.

Rural and Small Town (RST) areas refer to the non-CMA and the non-CA population. It is the population outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres.

Table B4 – Part Three (1991-2001)

Population Level and Change in Metro areas (Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)) and in Non-metro areas (outside CMA areas), and showing the population in Census Agglomerations (CAs) and in Rural and Small Town (RST) areas, Ontario and Canada, 1991-2001										
						Five-year percent change			Five-year percent change	
	1991	1991	1996	1991-1996	1991-1996	1996	1996	2001	1996-2001	1996-2001
	1991 boundaries	1996 boundaries	1996 boundaries	current boundaries	constant boundaries	1996 boundaries	2001 boundaries	2001 boundaries	current boundaries	constant boundaries
Ontario										
Metro (CMA)	7,073,420	7,100,762	7,639,013	8.0	7.6	7,639,013	7,804,030	8,403,738	10.0	7.7
Non-metro (non-CMA)	3,011,465	2,984,123	3,114,560	3.4	4.4	3,114,560	2,949,543	3,006,308	-3.5	1.9
.. CA	1,422,183	1,458,964	1,518,422	6.8	4.1	1,518,422	1,487,301	1,522,211	0.2	2.3
.. RST	1,589,282	1,525,159	1,596,138	0.4	4.7	1,596,138	1,462,242	1,484,097	-7.0	1.5
Total	10,084,885	10,084,885	10,753,573	6.6	6.6	10,753,573	10,753,573	11,410,046	6.1	6.1
Canada										
Metro (CMA)	16,665,360	16,787,118	17,864,646	7.2	6.4	17,864,646	18,178,597	19,296,926	8.0	6.2
Non-metro (non-CMA)	10,631,499	10,509,741	10,982,115	3.3	4.5	10,982,119	10,668,164	10,710,168	-2.5	0.4
.. CA	4,401,854	4,353,038	4,585,209	4.2	5.3	4,585,213	4,476,095	4,542,160	-0.9	1.5
.. RST	6,229,645	6,156,703	6,396,906	2.7	3.9	6,396,906	6,192,069	6,168,008	-3.6	-0.4
Total	27,296,859	27,296,859	28,846,761	5.7	5.7	28,846,765	28,846,761	30,007,094	4.0	4.0

Source: Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population, 1971 to 2016.

Since 2006, Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have an a built-up core of 50,000 or more people and a total population of 100,000 or more and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core.

Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a built-up core of 10,000 or more people and a total population of 10,000 - 99,999 and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core.

Rural and Small Town (RST) areas refer to the non-CMA and the non-CA population. It is the population outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres.

Table B4 – Part Four (2001-2011)

Population Level and Change in Metro areas (Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)) and in Non-metro areas (outside CMA areas), and showing the population in Census Agglomerations (CAs) and in Rural and Small Town (RST) areas, Ontario and Canada, 2001-2011										
						Five-year percent change			Five-year percent change	
	2001	2001	2006	2001-2006	2001-2006	2006	2006	2011	2006-2011	2006-2011
	2001 boundaries	2006 boundaries	2006 boundaries	current boundaries	constant boundaries	2006 boundaries	2011 boundaries	2011 boundaries	current boundaries	constant boundaries
Ontario										
Metro (CMA)	8,403,738	8,901,673	9,584,840	14.1	7.7	9,584,840	9,591,529	10,270,006	7.1	7.1
Non-metro (non-CMA)	3,006,308	2,508,373	2,575,442	-14.3	2.7	2,575,442	2,568,753	2,581,815	0.2	0.5
.. CA	1,522,211	1,094,168	1,127,437	-25.9	3.0	1,127,437	1,128,614	1,133,127	0.5	0.4
.. RST	1,484,097	1,414,205	1,448,005	-2.4	2.4	1,448,005	1,440,139	1,448,688	0.0	0.6
Total	11,410,046	11,410,046	12,160,282	6.6	6.6	12,160,282	12,160,282	12,851,821	5.7	5.7
Canada										
Metro (CMA)	19,296,926	20,121,461	21,508,575	11.5	6.9	21,508,575	21,534,063	23,123,441	7.5	7.4
Non-metro (non-CMA)	10,710,168	9,885,633	10,104,322	-5.7	2.2	10,104,322	10,078,834	10,353,247	2.5	2.7
.. CA	4,542,160	3,963,237	4,122,982	-9.2	4.0	4,122,982	4,136,342	4,311,524	4.6	4.2
.. RST	6,168,008	5,922,396	5,981,340	-3.0	1.0	5,981,340	5,942,492	6,041,723	1.0	1.7
Total	30,007,094	30,007,094	31,612,897	5.4	5.4	31,612,897	31,612,897	33,476,688	5.9	5.9

Source: Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population, 1971 to 2016.

Since 2006, Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have an a built-up core of 50,000 or more people and a total population of 100,000 or more and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core.

Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a built-up core of 10,000 or more people and a total population of 10,000 - 99,999 and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core.

Rural and Small Town (RST) areas refer to the non-CMA and the non-CA population. It is the population outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres.

Table B4 – Part Five (2001-2011)

				Five-year percent change		
				2011-2016	2011-2016	
		2011	2011	2016	2011-2016	2011-2016
		2011 boundaries	2016 boundaries	2016 boundaries	current bound-aries	constant bound-aries
Ontario						
Metro (CMA)		10,270,006	10,408,279	10,956,264	6.7	5.3
Non-metro (non-CMA)		2,581,815	2,443,542	2,492,230	-3.5	2.0
.. CA		1,133,127	1,094,874	1,106,057	-2.4	1.0
.. RST		1,448,688	1,348,668	1,386,173	-4.3	2.8
Total		12,851,821	12,851,821	13,448,494	4.6	4.6
Canada						
Metro (CMA)		23,123,441	23,488,393	24,945,123	7.9	6.2
Non-metro (non-CMA)		10,353,247	9,988,295	10,206,605	-1.4	2.2
.. CA		4,311,524	4,150,389	4,287,834	-0.5	3.3
.. RST		6,041,723	5,837,906	5,918,771	-2.0	1.4
Total		33,476,688	33,476,688	35,151,728	5.0	5.0

Source: Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population, 1971 to 2016.

Since 2006, Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have an a built-up core of 50,000 or more people and a total population of 100,000 or more and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core.

Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a built-up core of 10,000 or more people and a total population of 10,000 - 99,999 and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core.

Rural and Small Town (RST) areas refer to the non-CMA and the non-CA population. It is the population outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres.

Table B5

Impact of CMA/CA boundary changes on rural and small town (non-CMA/CA) population, 1971 to 2016																	
	Change to non-CMA/CA population in									In the period from 1991 to 2016, the total impact on Canada's Rural and Small Town population (the non-CMA/CA population) due boundary changes / changes in delineation was a transfer of 796 thousand residents from RST to CMA/CA							
	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011								
	due to boundary changes made in									Total (1976 to 2016)	Total (1981 to 2016)	Total (1986 to 2016)	Total (1991 to 2016)	Total (1996 to 2016)	Total (2001 to 2016)	Total (2006 to 2016)	Total (2011 to 2016)
	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016								
Newfoundland	-50,319	-20,675	-25,618	13,082	8,489	0	15,596	-571	-16,886	-76,902	-26,583	-5,908	19,710	6,628	-1,861	-1,861	-17,457
Prince Edward Island	-14,004	-17,843	-6,051	24	2,824	0	1,124	-700	-1,036	-35,662	-21,658	-3,815	2,236	2,212	-612	-612	-1,736
Nova Scotia	-87,858	-32,282	20,920	-22,589	-2,692	-10,448	0	0	0	-134,949	-47,091	-14,809	-35,729	-13,140	-10,448	0	0
New Brunswick	-37,583	-83,694	-2,062	0	6,067	-4	-37,368	-8,275	-5,878	-168,797	-131,214	-47,520	-45,458	-45,458	-51,525	-51,521	-14,153
Quebec	-167,339	-89,507	-190,898	21,810	-26,373	-26,582	-68,512	-12,725	-19,610	-579,736	-412,397	-322,890	-131,992	-153,802	-127,429	-100,847	-32,335
Ontario	-164,026	-271,658	-362,644	-29,791	-64,123	-133,896	-69,892	-7,866	-100,020	-1,203,916	-1,039,890	-768,232	-405,588	-375,797	-311,674	-177,778	-107,886
Manitoba	-18,419	-37,397	-45,953	7,243	-7,353	116	-10,561	-3,153	-28,446	-143,923	-125,504	-88,107	-42,154	-49,397	-42,044	-42,160	-31,599
Saskatchewan	-51,680	-52,295	-50,932	-19,616	6,339	0	-3,268	-1,064	-13,703	-186,219	-134,539	-82,244	-31,312	-11,696	-18,035	-18,035	-14,767
Alberta	-7,507	-1,332	-307,228	-22,565	519	-2,289	-58,181	-18,103	-668	-417,354	-409,847	-408,515	-101,287	-78,722	-79,241	-76,952	-18,771
British Columbia	75,062	-285,377	-298,603	20,486	5,511	-31,734	-14,550	13,609	-17,570	-533,166	-608,228	-322,851	-24,248	-44,734	-50,245	-18,511	-3,961
Canada	-523,673	-892,060	-1,269,069	-31,916	-70,792	-204,837	-245,612	-38,848	-203,817	-3,480,624	-2,956,951	-2,064,891	-795,822	-763,906	-693,114	-488,277	-242,665

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1976 to 2016.

Note: Population gain or loss due to boundary changes is calculated by subtracting population based on the following year's census boundaries from the population based on the current year's census boundaries. For example, the impact of the boundary change in 1976 on the rural and small town population is calculated by subtracting the 1976 population based on 1981 boundaries from the 1976 population based on 1976 boundaries.