

POPULATION CHANGE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO: 1996 TO 2001



2001 Census Research Paper Series: Report #1

April, 2002

A report prepared for:



*Northern Ontario
Local Training and
Adjustment Boards*

- Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound
- Sudbury and Manitoulin
- Far Northeast
- North Superior
- Northwest

The Training Boards of Northern Ontario

Population Change in Northern Ontario: 1996 to 2001

2001 Census Research Paper Series: Report #1

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Background to the Report

This study has been prepared for the 6 Local Area Training Boards in Northern Ontario. They are among the 25 Local Area Training Boards established in Ontario in 1994. These Boards were created to assist in assessing the training needs and issues of each area. Each Board is made up of representatives of the key labour market partner groups including primarily business and labour but also including educators and trainers, women, persons with disabilities, francophones, and racial minorities. The Boards also have non-voting representatives from the municipal, provincial, and federal governments. The Boards are sponsored by Human Resources and Development Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Due to the particular economic conditions in Northern Ontario, it is very important for the Northern Boards to properly understand the trends in population occurring in their region. Economic growth in Northern Ontario has been significantly less than the provincial average since the 1970s. Since training is seen as an important development tool by most people in the region, regional Boards are therefore necessarily involved in economic development discussions. Population trends are an indicator of economic development. These trends also have an important impact on future development decisions. It, therefore, becomes very important for the Training Boards of Northern Ontario to understand what population trends exist in their region.

This is the objective of this study. The population statistics for the 2001 Census were released by Statistics Canada in March of this year. This study attempts to show what these new population figures mean for Northern Ontario in light of the mandates of the six Local Area Training Boards.

1.2 Methodology

This report is based on newly released data from the 2001 Census as prepared by Statistics Canada. Data is also used from other Census years as compiled by Statistics Canada.

Section 2: Background to Population Change in Northern Ontario

2.1 Introduction to Northern Ontario

Northern Ontario comprises almost 89% of the land mass of Ontario but represents only 7.4% of the total population of the province (2001 Census). As the region has no legislated boundaries, the definition of the region varies, especially as concerns its southern border. Currently, for the

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purpose of statistical analysis, the federal government has defined Northern Ontario as comprising the Regional Municipality of Greater Sudbury and the following districts: Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Nipissing, and Parry Sound. Prior to 2000, this definition of Northern Ontario was also used by the provincial government for program delivery. In 2000, however, the Ontario government decided to also include the Muskoka District Municipality in its definition of Northern Ontario. This inclusion is somewhat problematic in that the socio-economic characteristics of the Muskoka District Municipality differ from that of the other Districts in Northern Ontario. Despite this, this study will use the provincial definition of Northern Ontario since one of the Northern Ontario Training Boards (LTAB #20) also includes the Muskoka District Municipality.

The history of continuous settlement by non-Natives in Northern Ontario is relatively recent when compared to the rest of Ontario. Settlement in earnest started with the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the late 1870s and 1880s. This was soon followed by the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk and National Transcontinental Railways. Most non-Native communities in the region were initially railway towns.

Following the building of the railways, the region's growth has been driven primarily by the forest industry and by mining. The development of communities were, for the most part, undertaken by large resource extraction corporations based outside the region rather than by local entrepreneurs. This fact has meant that the social and economic structure of this region exhibits several unique characteristics such as:¹

- 1) An overdependence on natural resource exploitation - This has meant a high degree of vulnerability to resource depletion, world commodity prices, corporate policy changes, the boom and bust cycles of the resource industries, changes in the Canadian exchange rate, and changes in government policies regarding Northern Ontario.²
- 2) A high degree of dependency on external forces - The fact that most communities were developed by outside forces means that local entrepreneurship has been more limited than in other areas. This has served as a barrier to the cultivation of an entrepreneurial culture in these communities. This dependence is also seen in the area of political decision-making. Unlike most areas of Ontario, Northern Ontario is made up of Districts instead of Counties. Unlike Counties, Districts do not have regional governments. Northern Ontario is unique in Ontario in that unlike the Counties of Southern Ontario there is no regional government serving as an intermediary between the provincial government and municipalities.³

While all communities in the region share some common characteristics, Northern Ontario can be divided internally into three different types of communities:

Small and Medium-sized cities - Northern Ontario includes 5 cities with over 40,000 inhabitants. They are, in order of size, Sudbury (155,219), Thunder Bay (109,016), Sault Ste. Marie (74,566), North Bay (52,771), and Timmins (43,686).⁴ While these centres are heavily dependent on resource industries they are also relatively diversified in that they tend to be important centers for health, education, and other services for the outlying regions.

Resource Dependent Communities - The vast majority of the remaining non-Native communities in the region are resource dependent communities, or single industry towns, which share many distinct characteristics.⁵ These communities are smaller and less

diversified economically than the small and medium-sized cities. They are much more directly dependent on resource industries.

First Nations Communities - The region of Northern Ontario is unique in terms of its large number of Aboriginal communities. The Aboriginal population makes up almost 8 percent of the population of the region.⁶ The population in the area of the region north of the 50th parallel is almost entirely made up of these communities. First Nations communities face the greatest number of social and economic challenges of all the communities in the region.

2.2 Socio-Economic Trends Identified in Previous Environmental Scans

As part of their planning process the Boards are mandated to produce an Environmental Scan for their particular area every year. An Environmental Scan is just one aspect of a broader framework of activities undertaken by the Boards each year. It forms the basis for the Local Boards' planning processes and enables the Boards to engage the community in helping to identify and act upon training and adjustment needs. The primary purposes of an Environmental Scan are:

- to capture underlying shifts, trends and changes in the socio-economic environment of the Board area
- to assess and analyze the training and adjustment needs of the Local Board Area
- to identify opportunities and constraints in the local environment
- to assess previous years results and identify areas needing change

(Taken from the Environmental Scan Template, May, 1999)

Environmental Scans produced by the Boards since 1997 have indicated the following trends in the region:

- The slowing of growth relative to Ontario as a whole
- The decline of Blue Collar industrial jobs and the rise of the Service Sector
- Increasing presence of women in the paid workforce
- The non-Native population is aging at a faster rate than the province as a whole
- Youth Out-migration.
- Absence of new immigrants.
- Levels of education continue to lag behind provincial averages.
- Decrease in the participation rate of males in the labour force.
- Increase in level of self-employment.
- Increase in Aboriginal participation in region

Section 3: Changes in the Population Since 1996

3.1 Population Changes in Canada

Canada as a nation saw its population increase by 4% from 1996 to 2001.⁷ This represents one of the smallest census-to-census growth rates in Canada's history. It is also the first time in 100 years that Canada's growth rate was less than that of the United States. Growth rates varied greatly between provinces with Alberta recording the highest growth rate at 10.3% followed by Ontario at 6.1%. Newfoundland and Labrador saw its population decline by 7% followed by New Brunswick, with a 1.2% decline, and Saskatchewan, with a 1.1% decline. This census showed that for Canada as a whole, immigration was the main source of growth.

Population Change in Northern Ontario: 1996 to 2001

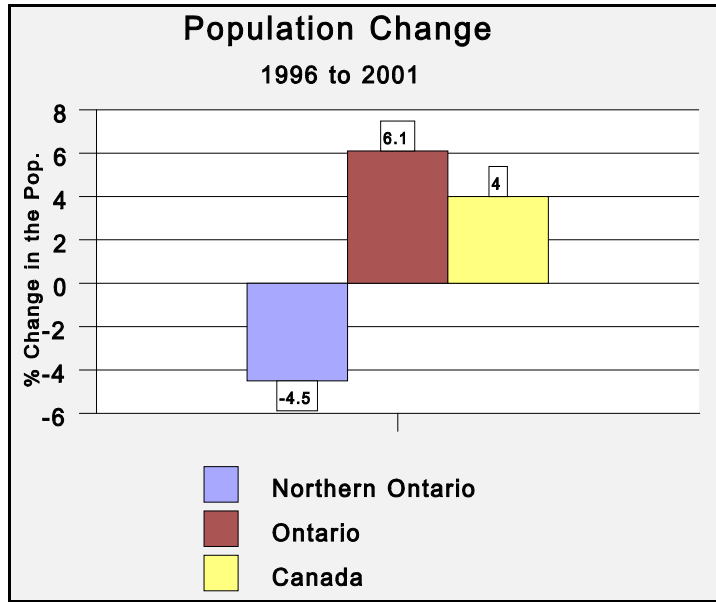


Figure 1

Almost all of Canada's growth in population occurred in large urban centres. In 2001, 79.4% of Canadians lived in an urban area with a population of 10,000 people or more. In 1996 this figure was 78.5%. Looking at urban areas with a population of 100,000 or more, known as Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), Calgary had the highest growth rate at 15.8% followed by Oshawa at 10.2% and Toronto at 9.8%. The two Census Metropolitan Areas in Canada with the largest population decline were the two areas located in Northern Ontario. Greater Sudbury CMA declined by 6% while Thunder Bay declined by 3.7%.

From 1996 to 2001, Canada's population continued to concentrate itself in four broad urban regions: the extended Golden Horseshoe area of Southern Ontario, Montreal and its surroundings, the Lower Mainland of British Columbia and Southern Vancouver Island, and the Calgary-Edmonton corridor. Combined, these regions grew by 7.6%. In 2001, 51% of Canadians now live in these urban regions.

From 1996 to 2001, Canada's population continued to concentrate

3.2 Population Changes in Northern Ontario Compared to the Rest of Canada

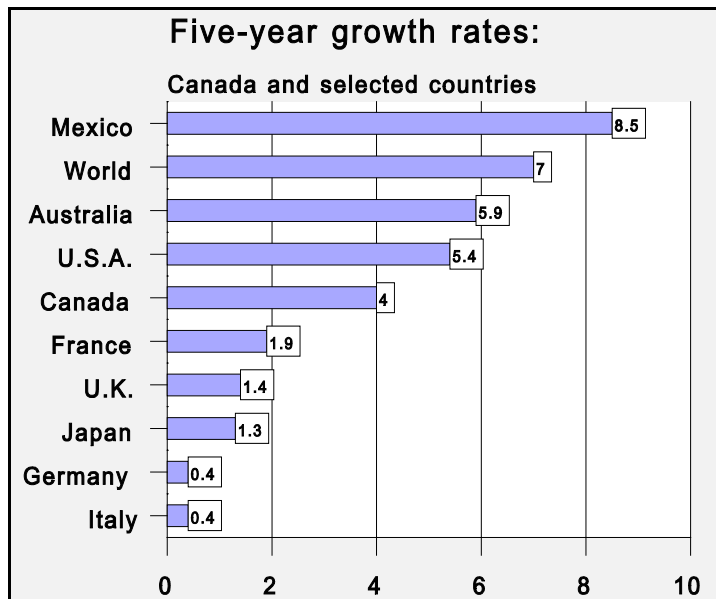


Figure 2 Source: See Statistics Canada, *A Profile of the Canadian Population: Where We Live*, Ottawa, 2001.

The population figures for the census divisions in Northern Ontario are not as reliable as the census divisions in most of Ontario. This is due to the large number of Aboriginal communities which, for various reasons, are improperly counted. If Statistics Canada can not properly count a community, the population of that community is not included in the population totals for that census division. As a result, the population figures for almost all the census divisions in Northern Ontario are incomplete. Another problem which arises is comparing these figures from census year to census year. In 2001, Statistics Canada was much more successful in counting the populations of the Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario than they were in

1996. As a result, many more communities were included in the 2001 Census that were excluded in the 1996 Census. This makes it difficult to compare the figures for 2001 and 1996.

Population Change in Northern Ontario: 1996 to 2001

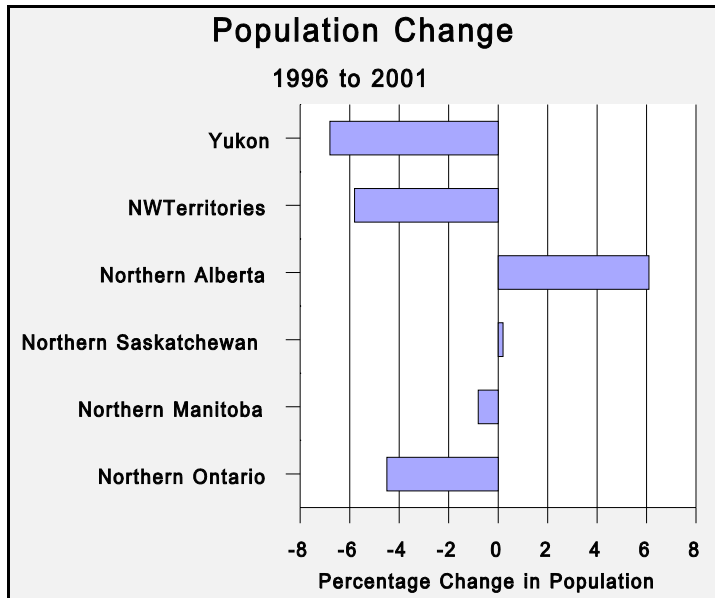


Figure 3

In this study, the population figures for Northern Ontario have been adjusted to try to deal with these inconsistencies. For those communities whose populations were excluded from the 1996 Census, an estimated population figure has been calculated and added to the figure for that census division. This calculation is based on the average change in the population of all those Aboriginal communities which were included in both the 2001 Census and 1996 Census (5.9%). If a community was included in 2001 but not in 1996, a population figure for 1996 was estimated by multiplying the 2001 figure by .941. For those few communities who were included in 1996 but excluded from the 2001

Census, the 1996 population figure was multiplied by 1.059.

Taking into account these adjustments, the population of Northern Ontario in 2001 was 841,288.⁸ From 1996 to 2001 the population of Northern Ontario decreased by 40,232 people or 4.5%.

The population decline experienced by Northern Ontario was similar to that experienced in other resource dependent regions of Canada and the world.⁹ As Figure 3 indicates, there is, however, a considerable amount of variation in growth rates for these regions in Canada. While the Yukon experienced a decline of 6.8% in its population, Northern Alberta experienced an increase of 6.1%.¹⁰

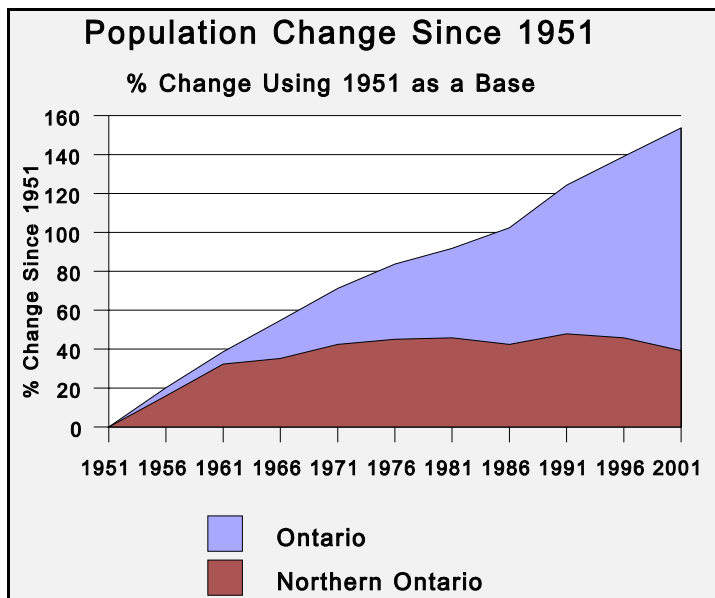


Figure 4

Figure 4 shows the historical trend in the population of Northern Ontario compared to Ontario since 1951.¹¹ Until 1961, growth rates for Northern Ontario were close to that of Ontario as a whole. In 1966 we saw for the first time an important difference in the population growth rates of Ontario and Northern Ontario. From 1966 to 1996, while the population of Ontario continued to grow, the population of Northern Ontario remained more or less stable. The last census showed the largest decrease in the population of Northern Ontario over the past 50 years. In fact, the only other time that the population of Northern Ontario decreased during this period was from 1981 to 1986 when the population

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decreased by 2.3%.

3.3 The Fastest Growing Communities in Northern Ontario

Looking at the census sub-divisions in Northern Ontario, of the 285 for which figures exist, the 39 fastest growing were all Aboriginal communities. Of the 50 fastest growing census sub-divisions, 48 were Aboriginal communities (See Appendix A). As was already mentioned, the average growth rate for the Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario was 5.9%. According to Statistics Canada, most of the growth in these Aboriginal communities was the result of a high birthrate.¹²

Looking first at cities in Northern Ontario, we have already mentioned that the two Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) in Northern Ontario, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, had the largest declines in population of all CMAs in Canada.

Table 1: Cities in Northern Ontario

Census Sub-division	Type of Community	% Change from 1996 to 2001
Dryden	C	-1.1
North Bay	C	-2.9
Kenora	C	-3.2
Thunder Bay	C	-4.1
Greater Sudbury	C	-6.1
Sault Ste. Marie	C	-6.9
Timmins	C	-8
Elliot Lake	C	-12

Table 1 shows that none of the cities in Northern Ontario experienced population increases. The city with the lowest population decrease was Dryden, at -1.1%, followed by North Bay at -2.9%. The cities with the largest declines were Elliot Lake, whose population declined by 12%, and Timmins, with an 8% decline.

Table 2: The Top 10 "Growth" Towns in Northern Ontario

Census Sub-division	Type of Community	% Change from 1996 to 2001
Huntsville	T	8.9
Gravenhurst	T	8.7
Latchford	T	7.4
Bracebridge	T	4
Sioux Lookout	T	3.3
St.-Charles	T	1
Mattawa	T	-0.5
Gore Bay	T	-1
French River	T	-1.3
Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	T	-1.6

Table 2 shows that only 6 towns, out of 38, showed a population increase from 1996 to 2001. Of these, 3 are in the Muskokas. As for the rest, Latchford is a small town in Timiskaming, Sioux Lookout is in the District of Kenora, and St.-Charles is in the District of Sudbury.

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Table 3: The Top 10 Growth Townships in Northern Ontario

Census Sub-division	Type of Community	% Change from 1996 to 2001
Bonfield	TP	16.9
Carling	TP	11.7
Calvin	TP	7.3
Whitestone	TP	6.4
Central Manitoulin	TP	6.3
McMurrich/Monteith	TP	5.9
Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional	TP	5.4
Shuniah	TP	5.1
Gillies	TP	5
Prince	TP	4

Of 152 townships in Northern Ontario, 31 showed a growth in population from 1996 to 2001. The fastest growing townships tended to be either in the southern areas of Northern Ontario or in close proximity to a larger urban area.

3.4 Comparing the Training Board Areas of Northern Ontario

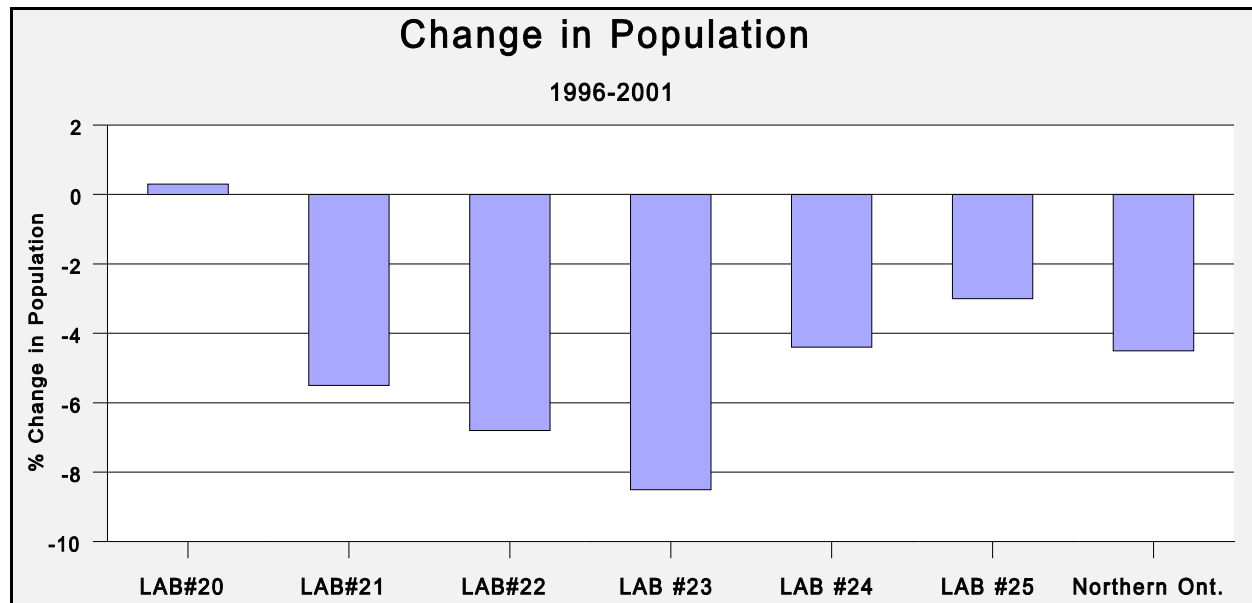


Figure 5

As is shown in Figure 5, only one of the 6 Local Area Training Boards in Northern Ontario increased its population from 1996 to 2001. Local Area Board #20, also known as the Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound Local Training and Adjustment Board, increased by 0.3%. Most of this growth was due to growth in the Muskoka District Municipality. The Local Board with the largest decline in population was Local Board #23, also known as the Far Northeast Training Board. The population in its area declined by 8.5%.

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Table 4: Communities in LAB #20

Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LAB#20		175843	175344	499	0.3
Moose Point 79	R	185	151	34	22.5
Dokis 9	R	196	163	33	20.2
Bonfield	TP	2064	1765	299	16.9
Carling	TP	1063	952	111	11.7
Huntsville	T	17338	15918	1420	8.9
Gravenhurst	T	10899	10030	869	8.7
Calvin	TP	603	562	41	7.3
Whitestone	TP	853	802	51	6.4
Shawanaga 17 (1)	R	174	164	10	6.1
McMurrich/Monteith	TP	766	723	43	5.9
Bear Island 1 ¶¶ (1)	R	162	153	9	5.9
Parry Sound, Unorganized, Centre Part	UNO	2198	2082	116	5.6
Bracebridge	T	13751	13223	528	4.0
East Ferris	TP	4291	4139	152	3.7
Chisholm	TP	1230	1197	33	2.8
Papineau-Cameron	TP	997	973	24	2.5
Nipissing	TP	1553	1524	29	1.9
Lake of Bays	TP	2900	2850	50	1.8
Machar	TP	849	835	14	1.7
Perry	TP	2252	2215	37	1.7
Magnetawan	TP	1342	1324	18	1.4
Seguin	TP	3698	3654	44	1.2
North Himsworth	TP	3177	3168	9	0.3
Naiscoutaing 17A	R	0	0	0	0.0
Nipissing 10	R	1378	1381	-3	-0.2
Muskoka Lakes	TP	6042	6061	-19	-0.3
Mattawa	T	2270	2281	-11	-0.5
McKellar	TP	933	939	-6	-0.6
Mattawan	TP	114	115	-1	-0.9
Strong	TP	1369	1393	-24	-1.7
Powassan	T	3252	3311	-59	-1.8
Parry Sound, Unorganized, North East Part	UNO	185	189	-4	-2.1
McDougall	TP	2608	2674	-66	-2.5
West Nipissing	T	13114	13481	-367	-2.7
North Bay	C	52771	54332	-1561	-2.9
Parry Sound	T	6124	6326	-202	-3.2
Sundridge	VL	983	1019	-36	-3.5
South Algonquin	TP	1278	1333	-55	-4.1
Burk's Falls	VL	940	986	-46	-4.7
South River	VL	1040	1098	-58	-5.3
Ryerson	TP	632	676	-44	-6.5
Joly	TP	290	311	-21	-6.8

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Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	% Change in Population
Parry Island First Nation	R	375	404	-29	-7.2
Kearney	T	773	837	-64	-7.6
Nipissing, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	1856	2016	-160	-7.9
The Archipelago	TP	505	555	-50	-9.0
Armour	TP	1326	1464	-138	-9.4
Georgian Bay	TP	1991	2230	-239	-10.7
Magnetewan 1	R	73	83	-10	-12.0
Temagami	T	893	1027	-134	-13.0
French River 13	R	121	157	-36	-22.9
Henvey Inlet 2	R	15	21	-6	-28.6
Nipissing, Unorganized, South Part	UNO	51	77	-26	-33.8

(1) Adjusted population

Table 4 shows that for Local Area Board #20, growth came from communities in the Muskoka District Municipality. The population in this particular census division grew by 2,643, or 5.2%. The population of the District of Parry Sound decreased by 0.6% while that of the Nipissing District decreased by 2.3%. It is clear that communities in the Board #20 area are benefiting from their relative proximity to the urban centres of Southern Ontario.

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Table 5: Communities in LAB #21

Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LAB#21		186886	197823	-10937	-5.5
Wahnapiitei 11	R	49	26	23	88.5
Zhiibaahaasing 19A (Cockburn Island 19A)	R	34	25	9	36.0
Whitefish Lake 6	R	333	256	77	30.1
Sucker Creek 23	R	310	266	44	16.5
Wiwemikong Unceded 26	R	2427	2154	273	12.7
Duck Lake 76B	R	107	100	7	7.0
Sudbury, Unorganized, North Part (adjusted)	UNO	2079	1947	132	6.8
Central Manitoulin	TP	1907	1794	113	6.3
M'Chigeeng 22 (West Bay 22) (1)	R	729	686	43	6.3
Sheguiandah 24 (1)	R	121	114	7	6.1
Sheshegwaning 20 (1)	R	88	83	5	6.0
Billings	TP	551	538	13	2.4
St.-Charles	T	1245	1233	12	1.0
Gordon	TP	473	470	3	0.6
Assiginack	TP	931	926	5	0.5
Whitefish River (Part) 4	R	0	0	0	0.0
Zhiibaahaasing 19 (Cockburn Island 19)	R	0	0	0	0.0
Gore Bay	T	898	907	-9	-1.0
Tehkummah	TP	367	371	-4	-1.1
French River	T	2810	2847	-37	-1.3
Burpee and Mills	TP	362	368	-6	-1.6
Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands	T	2531	2573	-42	-1.6
Espanola	T	5449	5796	-347	-6.0
Greater Sudbury	C	155219	165336	-10117	-6.1
Nairn and Hyman	TP	420	456	-36	-7.9
Sables-Spanish Rivers	TP	3245	3535	-290	-8.2
Baldwin	TP	624	694	-70	-10.1
Markstay-Warren	T	2627	2967	-340	-11.5
Whitefish River (Part) 4	R	268	308	-40	-13.0
Barrie Island	TP	50	60	-10	-16.7
Manitoulin, Unorganized, West Part	UNO	204	245	-41	-16.7
Killarney	T	428	738	-310	-42.0
Cockburn Island	TP	0	2	-2	-100.0
Manitoulin, Unorganized, Mainland (1) Adjusted population	UNO	0	2	-2	-100.0

Local Area Board #21, also known as the Sudbury and Manitoulin Training and Adjustment Board, includes the District of Manitoulin, the Greater Sudbury Area, and most of the District of Sudbury. As a whole, the area experienced a population decline of 5.5%. Most of this decline came from the Sudbury urban area which declined by 6.1%. Using the adjustments mentioned above, we can see that the overall population of Manitoulin Island remained virtually unchanged from 1996 to 2001.¹³ Growth in the Aboriginal communities was able to offset any decline in the

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non-Aboriginal communities. Overall the District of Sudbury had a population decline of just over 4%. Despite this, the process of “suburbanization” had meant some growth in communities surrounding the city of Sudbury.

Table 6: Communities in LAB #22

Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LAB#22		117195	125770	-8575	-6.8
Mississagi River 8	R	360	328	32	9.8
Serpent River 7	R	323	295	28	9.5
Gros Cap 49	R	61	57	4	7.0
Garden River 14 (1)	R	859	808	51	6.3
Sagamok	R	870	819	51	6.2
Thessalon 12	R	123	116	7	6.0
Tarbutt and Tarbutt Additional	TP	466	442	24	5.4
Prince	TP	1010	971	39	4.0
Jocelyn	TP	298	294	4	1.4
Hilton	TP	258	255	3	1.2
Algoma, Unorganized, South East Part	UNO	0	0	0	0.0
Rankin Location 15D ¶	R	¶	¶	0	0.0
Goulais Bay 15A ¶	R	¶	¶	0	0.0
Missanabie 62	R	0	0	0	0.0
Algoma, Unorganized, North Part (adjusted)	UNO	6104	6156	-52	-0.8
Dubreuilville	TP	967	990	-23	-2.3
St. Joseph	TP	1201	1235	-34	-2.8
White River	TP	993	1022	-29	-2.8
Plummer Additional	TP	671	693	-22	-3.2
Bruce Mines	T	627	653	-26	-4.0
Huron Shores	TP	1794	1877	-83	-4.4
Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Additional	TP	1452	1521	-69	-4.5
Laird	TP	1021	1073	-52	-4.8
Thessalon	T	1386	1485	-99	-6.7
Sault Ste. Marie	C	74566	80054	-5488	-6.9
Shedden	TP	816	899	-83	-9.2
Blind River	T	3969	4374	-405	-9.3
Johnson	TP	658	729	-71	-9.7
Michipicoten	TP	3668	4145	-477	-11.5
Elliot Lake	C	11956	13588	-1632	-12.0
Hilton Beach	VL	174	213	-39	-18.3
North Shore	TP	544	678	-134	-19.8

(1) Adjusted population

As is seen in Table 6, Local Area Board #22, whose area comprises most of the District of Algoma, lost 8,575 people between 1996 and 2001, or 6.8% of its population. Most of the loss occurred in the city of Sault Ste. Marie which declined by 6.9%. Other notable losses were in Elliot Lake, which lost 12% of its population, and Michipicoten, which, due to the closure of the Algoma mining operations, lost 11.5% of its population. Table 6 also shows that the six fastest

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growing census sub-divisions were all Aboriginal communities. Besides these six communities, the only other census sub-divisions in the Board 20 area that had an increase in population were four townships relatively close to Sault Ste. Marie which all had a high percentage of lakefront property.

Table 7: Communities in LAB #23

Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LAB #23		126502	138185	-11683	-8.5
Oba	LSB	10	5	5	100.0
Chapleau 75	R	93	60	33	55.0
New Post 69A	R	105	71	34	47.9
Abitibi 70	R	127	92	35	38.0
Chapleau 74A	R	33	24	9	37.5
Constance Lake 92	R	723	596	127	21.3
Matachewan 72	R	61	53	8	15.1
Factory Island 1	R	1430	1286	144	11.2
Latchford	T	363	338	25	7.4
Mattagami 71 (1)	R	166	156	10	6.4
Coleman	TP	550	534	16	3.0
Attawapiskat 91A	R	1293	1258	35	2.8
Evanturel	TP	506	493	13	2.6
Moose Factory 68 ¶	R	¶	0	0	0.0
Casey	TP	421	421	0	0.0
Timiskaming, Unorganized, East Part	UNO	0	0	0	0.0
Flying Post 73	R	0	0	0	0.0
New Post 69	R	0	0	0	0.0
Mountbatten 76A	R	0	0	0	0.0
Hudson	TP	490	501	-11	-2.2
James	TP	467	483	-16	-3.3
Chapleau	TP	2832	2934	-102	-3.5
Chamberlain	TP	348	361	-13	-3.6
Hearst	T	5825	6049	-224	-3.7
New Liskeard	T	4906	5112	-206	-4.0
Cochrane	T	5690	5955	-265	-4.5
Mattice-Val Côté	TP	891	935	-44	-4.7
Hilliard	TP	241	253	-12	-4.7
Harris	TP	518	553	-35	-6.3
Englehart	T	1595	1703	-108	-6.3
Timiskaming, Unorganized, West Part	UNO	3275	3506	-231	-6.6
Haileybury	T	4543	4875	-332	-6.8
Opasatika	TP	325	349	-24	-6.9
Dymond	TP	1181	1270	-89	-7.0
Charlton	T	276	297	-21	-7.1
Smooth Rock Falls	T	1830	1982	-152	-7.7
Gogama	LSB	467	506	-39	-7.7
Kapuskasing	T	9238	10036	-798	-8.0

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Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	% Change in Population
Hornepayne	TP	1362	1480	-118	-8.0
Timmins	C	43686	47499	-3813	-8.0
Val Rita-Harty	TP	1022	1112	-90	-8.1
Harley	TP	557	608	-51	-8.4
Iroquois Falls	T	5217	5714	-497	-8.7
Thornloe	VL	120	132	-12	-9.1
Moonbeam	TP	1201	1322	-121	-9.2
Fauquier-Strickland	TP	678	747	-69	-9.2
Black River-Matheson	TP	2912	3222	-310	-9.6
Kerns	TP	360	400	-40	-10.0
Dack	TP	426	478	-52	-10.9
Cobalt	T	1229	1401	-172	-12.3
Armstrong	TP	1223	1398	-175	-12.5
Kirkland Lake	T	8616	9905	-1289	-13.0
Brethour	TP	157	181	-24	-13.3
Sultan	LSB	96	113	-17	-15.0
Gauthier	TP	128	152	-24	-15.8
Peawanuck	S-E	193	239	-46	-19.2
Larder Lake	TP	790	982	-192	-19.6
Cochrane, Unorganized, North Part	UNO	2949	3702	-753	-20.3
McGarry	TP	787	1015	-228	-22.5
Matachewan	TP	308	402	-94	-23.4
Foleyet	LSB	268	363	-95	-26.2
Fort Albany (Part) 67	R	441	601	-160	-26.6
Cochrane, Unorganized, South East Part	UNO	21	29	-8	-27.6
Moosonee	T	936	1939	-1003	-51.7
Cochrane, Unorganized, South West Part	UNO	0	2	-2	-100.0

(1) Adjusted population

Local Area Board #23, also known as the Far Northeast Training and Adjustment Board, comprises the Districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming and small parts of the Districts of Kenora, Algoma, and Sudbury. As a whole, the area declined by 11,863, or 8.5% from 1996 to 2001. The census sub-division which showed the largest decline in absolute numbers was the city of Timmins, which declined by 3,813 people or 8%. Next came Kirkland Lake which had a decline of 1,289 people or 13% of its population, followed by Moosonee, which lost 1,003 people or 51.7% of its population. There were 13 census sub-divisions which showed a growth in population from 1996 to 2001. Of these, 9 were Aboriginal communities.

Population Change in Northern Ontario: 1996 to 2001

Table 8: Communities in LAB #24

Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	% Change in Population
LAB #24		153129	160102	-6973	-4.4
Pic Mobert North	R	167	67	100	149.3
Gull River 55	R	252	159	93	58.5
Webequie	S-E	600	443	157	35.4
Aroland 83	R	346	271	75	27.7
Fort Hope 64	R	1001	801	200	25.0
Lake Helen 53A	R	274	238	36	15.1
Lansdowne House	S-E	270	235	35	14.9
Long Lake 58	R	382	345	37	10.7
Pays Plat 51	R	65	61	4	6.6
Rocky Bay 1 (1)	R	197	185	12	6.5
Osnaburgh 63A (1)	R	187	176	11	6.3
Pic River 50 (1)	R	346	326	20	6.1
Whitesand ¶ (1)	R	122	115	7	6.1
Shuniah	TP	2466	2346	120	5.1
Gillies	TP	522	497	25	5.0
Ginoogaming First Nation	R	231	222	9	4.1
Conmee	TP	748	729	19	2.6
Lac des Mille Lacs 22A1	R	0	0	0	0.0
Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (Savant Lake) ¶	R	¶	¶	0	0.0
Oliver Paipoonge	TP	5862	5907	-45	-0.8
Red Rock	TP	1233	1258	-25	-2.0
O'Connor	TP	724	739	-15	-2.0
Needing	TP	2049	2102	-53	-2.5
Thunder Bay	C	109016	113662	-4646	-4.1
Thunder Bay, Unorganized	UNO	6223	6534	-311	-4.8
Dorion	TP	442	472	-30	-6.4
Marathon	T	4416	4791	-375	-7.8
Fort William 52	R	599	661	-62	-9.4
Nipigon	TP	1964	2210	-246	-11.1
Summer Beaver	S-E	276	317	-41	-12.9
Manitouwadge	TP	2949	3395	-446	-13.1
Greenstone	T	5662	6530	-868	-13.3
Terrace Bay	TP	1950	2324	-374	-16.1
Schreiber	TP	1448	1788	-340	-19.0
Pic Mobert South	R	140	195	-55	-28.2
Seine River 22A2	R	0	1	-1	-100.0

(1) Adjusted population

Local Area Board #24 is also known as the North Superior Training Board. It comprises the District of Thunder Bay and several Aboriginal communities just north of the boundaries of the District of Thunder Bay. This area showed a decline in population of 6,973 people, or 4.4%. Most of the decline came in the city of Thunder Bay which declined by 4,646 people or 4.1%. Other communities with notable declines were Schreiber, which declined by 19% as a result of a

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mine closure, and Terrace Bay, which declined by 16.1%. Statistics Canada lists the newly formed community of Greenstone as being the community with a population over 5,000 which had the largest decline in Canada from 1996 to 2001. This decline is improbable however and most likely due to a miscalculation on the part of Statistics Canada. Of the 36 census sub-divisions in the LAB #24 area, 17 increased in population from 1996 to 2001. Among these 17 census sub-divisions, 14 were Aboriginal communities. The other 3 were suburb communities of the city of Thunder Bay.

Table 9: Communities in LAB#25

Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	%Change in Population
LAB #25		81733	84296	-2563	-3
Big Island Mainland 93	R	85	9	76	844.4
The Dalles 38C	R	118	34	84	247.1
Northwest Angle 33B	R	97	35	62	177.1
Wapekeka 2	R	329	209	120	57.4
Cat Lake 63C	R	428	275	153	55.6
Sabaskong Bay 35D	R	346	234	112	47.9
Wawakapewin (Long Dog Lake)	R	31	21	10	47.6
North Spirit Lake	R	231	157	74	47.1
Weagamow Lake 87	R	697	475	222	46.7
Sachigo Lake 1	R	443	305	138	45.2
Kasabonika Lake	R	740	520	220	42.3
Shoal Lake (Part) 39A	R	330	241	89	36.9
Wabigoon Lake 27	R	153	113	40	35.4
Wabauskang 21	R	51	39	12	30.8
Poplar Hill	R	373	290	83	28.6
Rat Portage 38A	R	182	142	40	28.2
Rainy Lake 18C	R	81	66	15	22.7
Rainy Lake 17A	R	200	163	37	22.7
Kingfisher Lake 1	R	368	302	66	21.9
Deer Lake	R	756	628	128	20.4
Slate Falls	S-E	156	132	24	18.2
Eagle Lake 27	R	211	181	30	16.6
Kee-Way-Win	R	265	237	28	11.8
Couchiching 16A	R	595	533	62	11.6
Fort Severn 89	R	401	362	39	10.8
Whitefish Bay 34A (1)	R	46	43	3	7.0
Whitefish Bay 33A (1)	R	48	45	3	6.7
Big Grassy River 35G	R	176	165	11	6.7
Seine River 23A	R	230	216	14	6.5
Osnaburgh 63B (1)	R	283	266	17	6.4
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Aaki 84 (Big Trout Lake) (1)	R	435	409	26	6.4
Kenora 38B (1)	R	119	112	7	6.3
Pikangikum 14 ¶ (1)	R	1239	1170	69	5.9
Marten Falls 65 ¶ (1)	R	216	204	12	5.9
Sandy Lake 88	R	1704	1611	93	5.8

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Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	%Change in Population
LAB #25		81733	84296	-2563	-3
Sioux Lookout	T	5336	5165	171	3.3
Machin	TP	1143	1117	26	2.3
Lac Seul 28	R	702	697	5	0.7
Chapple	TP	910	909	1	0.1
Wunnumin 2	R	0	0	0	0.0
Lake Of The Woods 31G	R	0	0	0	0.0
Neskantaga	R	0	0	0	0.0
Long Sault 12	R	48	48	0	0.0
Shoal Lake (Part) 40	R	0	0	0	0.0
Seine River 23B	R	0	¶ 0		0.0
MacDowell Lake	S-E	0	0	0	0.0
Sachigo Lake 2	R	0	0	0	0.0
Wapekeka 1	R	0	0	0	0.0
Whitefish Bay 32A ¶	R	¶ ¶	0		0.0
Rainy River, Unorganized	UNO	1605	1614	-9	-0.6
Dryden	C	8198	8289	-91	-1.1
Ear Falls	TP	1150	1170	-20	-1.7
Rainy Lake 26A	R	93	95	-2	-2.1
Emo	TP	1331	1366	-35	-2.6
Rainy River	T	981	1008	-27	-2.7
Dawson	TP	613	631	-18	-2.9
English River 21	R	454	468	-14	-3.0
Kenora	C	15838	16365	-527	-3.2
Ignace	TP	1709	1782	-73	-4.1
Kenora, Unorganized	UNO	7631	7981	-350	-4.4
La Vallee	TP	1073	1130	-57	-5.0
Fort Frances	T	8315	8790	-475	-5.4
Morley	TP	447	478	-31	-6.5
Alberton	TP	956	1027	-71	-6.9
Atikokan	TP	3632	4043	-411	-10.2
Manitou Rapids 11	R	191	213	-22	-10.3
Wunnumin 1	R	407	455	-48	-10.5
Neguaguon Lake 25D	R	207	233	-26	-11.2
Red Lake	T	4233	4778	-545	-11.4
Shoal Lake 34B2	R	140	164	-24	-14.6
Bearskin Lake	R	363	428	-65	-15.2
Lake of the Woods	TP	330	436	-106	-24.3
Lake Of The Woods 37	R	99	134	-35	-26.1
Pickle Lake	TP	399	544	-145	-26.7
Sioux Narrows Nestor Falls	TP	577	794	-217	-27.3
Islington 29	R	388	598	-210	-35.1
Muskrat Dam Lake	R	61	217	-156	-71.9
Saug-a-Gaw-Sing 1	R	10	107	-97	-90.7
Fort Albany (Part) 67	R	0	1004	-1004	-100.0

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Community	Type of Community	2001	1996	Change in Population	%Change in Population
LAB #25		81733	84296	-2563	-3
Rainy Lake 17B	R	0	7	-7	-100.0
Agency 1	R	0	67	-67	-100.0

(1) Adjusted population

Local Area Board #25 is also known as the Northwest Training and Adjustment Board. It is comprised of the District of Rainy River and most of the District of Kenora. From 1996 to 2001 its population declined by 2,563 people, or 3%. Most of this loss occurred in the Aboriginal community of Fort Albany (Part) 67 which is listed as having lost its entire population of 1,004 people from 1996 to 2001. Important losses also occurred in Red Lake, which lost 11.4% of its population, and the city of Kenora, which lost 527 people, or 3.2% of its population. Of 82 census sub-divisions in this area, 40 increased in population from 1996 to 2001. Of these 40, 37 were Aboriginal communities. Sioux Lookout, the only town in Northwestern Ontario to increase in population from 1996 to 2001, owes its increase to its importance as a service centre for surrounding Aboriginal communities.

Section 4: Observations

There appears to be four main population trends occurring in Northern Ontario. The largest trend is a general decline in population. This decline is occurring in the major urban areas of the region as well as the non-Aboriginal resource dependent communities of the region. There does not appear to be much of an overall difference in rates of decline based on the main economic activity of the region. Pulp and paper towns, sawmill towns, and mining towns all decreased in size although the extent of the decrease varied from community to community.

The next trend is seen in the relatively high rates of growth due to natural increase in the Aboriginal communities of the region. Overall, the average rate of growth for these communities was 5.9% in Northern Ontario. While this growth rate was slightly less than the 6.1% growth rate for Ontario, it was substantially higher than the 4% growth rate for Canada.

Another trend is a slow increase in the "cottage country" communities closest to the major urban areas of Southern Ontario. This is clearly seen in the Muskoka District Municipality but also in some communities in the District of Parry Sound.

Finally, some growth is seen in the suburban areas surrounding the largest urban centres of Northern Ontario. Those townships with lakefront seem to have the most growth.

Notes

- ¹. This has been pointed out by several government studies undertaken over the past 30 years including the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment (the Fahlgren Report) and the Task Force on Resource Dependent Communities in Northern Ontario (the Rosehart Report).
- ². For an elaboration on these points see Dadgostar et al, 1992, p.2.
- ³. For a detailed discussion of this aspect of Northern Ontario see McBride et al., 1993.
- ⁴. Canada, 2001 Census.
- ⁵. An elaboration on these unique characteristics can be found in Randall and Ironsides, 1996.
- ⁶. Census population statistics for First Nations communities tend to be less reliable than those for non-Native communities.
- ⁷. The information for this section comes from the document A Profile of the Canadian Population: Where We Live produced in 2002 by Statistics Canada. (Catalogue:96F0030X1E010012001) The document can be found on the web at http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Highlights/Highlights_e.cfm.
- ⁸. This number excludes six Aboriginal communities which were not properly enumerated in either 2001 or 1996.
- ⁹. See Southcott, Chris. "Spatially-Based Social Differentiation in Canada's Future: Trends in Urban/Non-Urban Differences in the Next Decade" in Social Differentiation: Patterns and Processes, D. Juteau (ed.) Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002.
- ¹⁰. Northern Manitoba is defined as census divisions 19, 21, 22, and 23. Northern Saskatchewan is defined as census divisions 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Northern Alberta is defined as census divisions 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19.
- ¹¹. These figures include the adjusted figures for the change from 1996 to 2001 that were mentioned in the text. The figures for the other census years were not adjusted.
- ¹². Statistics Canada, A Profile of the Canadian Population: Where We Live, Ottawa, 2001, p.8.
- ¹³. Statistics Canada lists the population of the District of Manitoulin as increasing by 7.9% between 1996 and 2001. This increase is due to the addition of several Aboriginal communities that were not included in the 1996 Census.