

# NORTHERN ONTARIO OVERVIEW

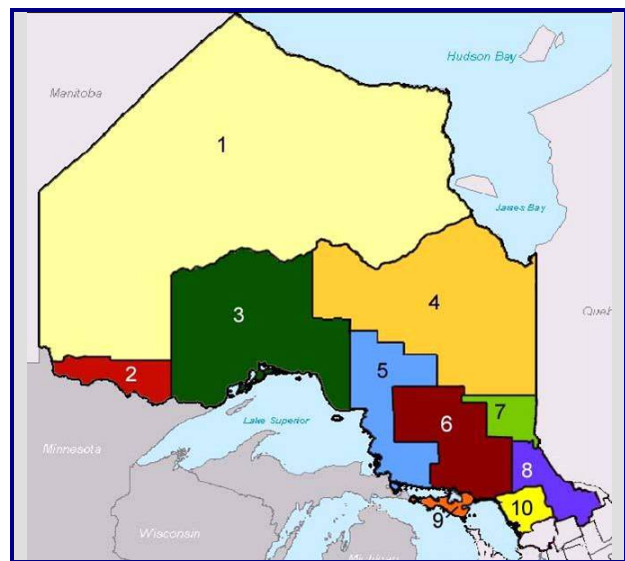


*The vast regions of Northern Ontario are home to a diverse array of businesses operating at the leading edge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century's global economy. From sophisticated wood and paper products to mass-transit vehicles, from fibre-optic-based call centres to remote-control mining equipment, Northern Ontario's products and services are known around the world.*

## Geography

Northern Ontario covers over 800,000 square kilometres, representing nearly 90 percent of the Province of Ontario's land area. It extends across two time zones, from the southern boundary of the District of Parry Sound, north to Hudson Bay and James Bay, and westerly from Quebec to the Manitoba border. The area encompasses vast natural resources, lands and waters, provincial parks, fisheries, and natural wilderness areas that are among the most pristine and beautiful in the world.

Northern Ontario is comprised of 10 territorial districts, 145 municipalities, 102 First Nations, and over 150 unincorporated communities, including 46 Local Services Boards.



- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Kenora      | 7. Timiskaming  |
| 2. Rainy River | 8. Nipissing    |
| 3. Thunder Bay | 9. Manitoulin   |
| 4. Cochrane    | 10. Parry Sound |
| 5. Algoma      |                 |
| 6. Sudbury     |                 |

## Population

Although Northern Ontario comprises approximately 90 percent of the area of Ontario, the population of approximately 809,000 represents only 6 percent of the provincial population.

This large land area and relatively small population results in a population density of approximately 1.0 person per square kilometre, compared to 111 persons per square kilometre in Southern Ontario.

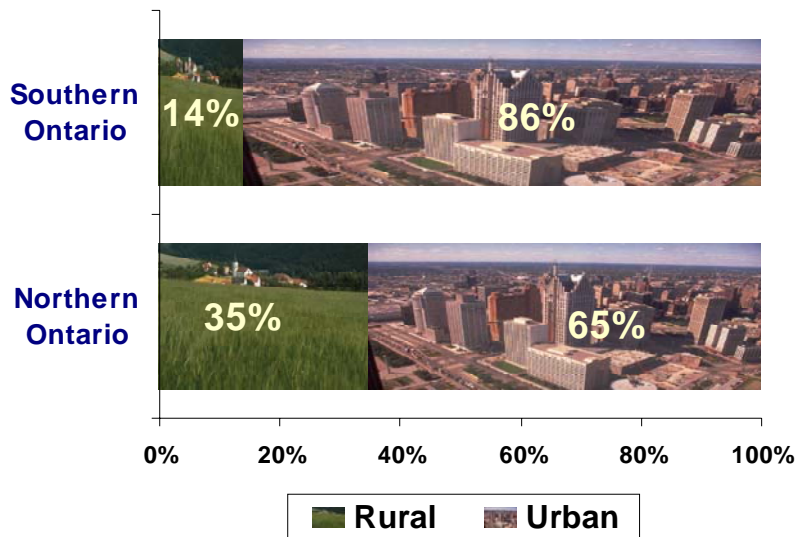
Region	Population 2005	% of Total N. Ont. Population	Land Area (square km)	Population density (persons per square km)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>32,270,507</b>	-	<b>9,012,112.20</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>12,541,410</b>	-	<b>907,655.59</b>	<b>13.8</b>
Algoma District	121,290	15.0%	48,737.22	2.4
Cochrane District	85,913	10.6%	141,243.97	0.6
Kenora District	66,552	8.2%	407,167.33	0.2
Manitoulin District	13,395	1.6%	4,759.63	2.8
Nipissing District	85,362	10.6%	17,064.65	5.0
Parry Sound District	42,179	5.2%	9,222.25	4.5
Rainy River District	22,207	2.7%	15,473.69	1.4
Sudbury District	183,543	23.0%	41,715.50	4.4
Thunder Bay District	153,873	19.0%	103,714.37	1.5
Timiskaming District	34,445	4.3%	13,280.06	2.6
<b>Northern Ontario Total</b>	<b>808,759</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>802,378.67</b>	<b>1.0</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005

Northern Ontario's rural population comprises more than one third of the total northern population. In Southern Ontario, 13.9 percent of the population lives in rural areas. Within rural areas, population densities and living conditions can vary greatly, from small towns and villages, to rural fringes, to agricultural land, to undeveloped lands, to remote and wilderness areas. (Source: 2001 Census)

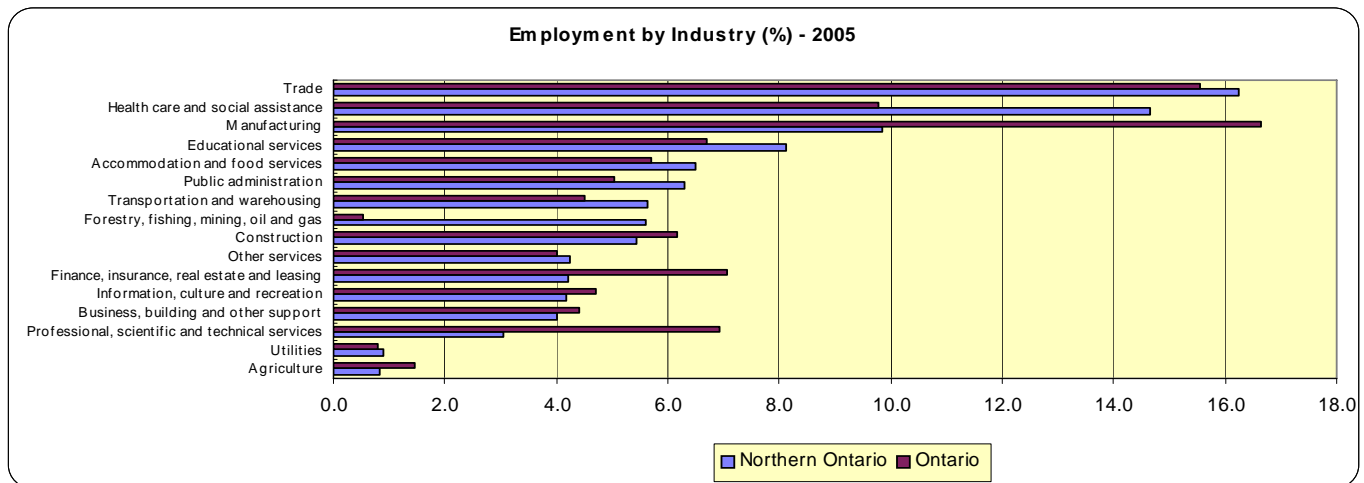
The remaining two-thirds of the North's population lives in urban areas, with close to 86% of the urban population living in the five major cities of Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Sudbury, and North Bay. The population of these five urban centres also comprises over half of the total northern population. (Source: 2001 Census)

### Rural / Urban Population Distribution



Over 147,000 of the province's Francophone population reside in the North, representing 27 percent of the province's Francophone population and 19 percent of the northern population. The North is also home to 102 of the 134 First Nations in Ontario, representing almost half of Ontario's Aboriginal population, at 43 percent, or approximately 80,720. This group represents more than 10 percent of the total population in Northern Ontario. (Source: 2001 Census)

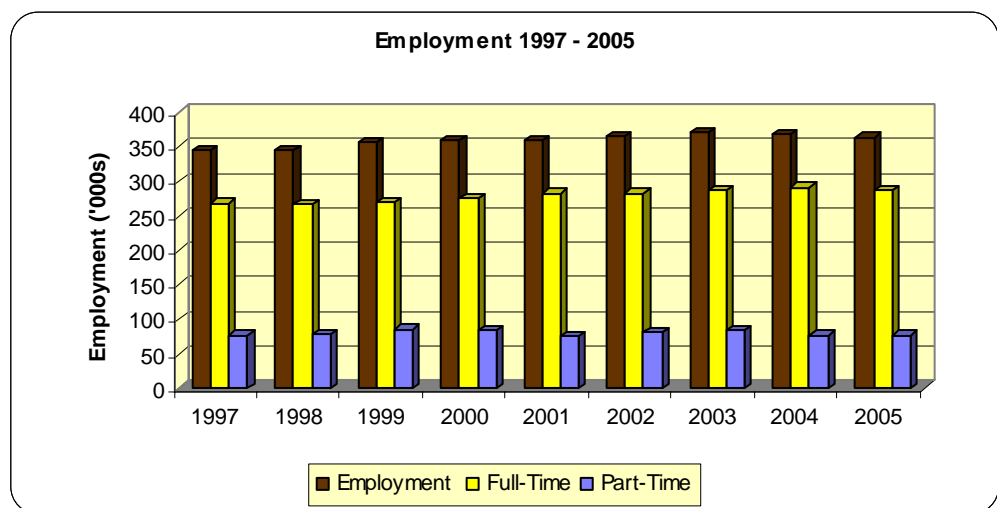
# Employment



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2005

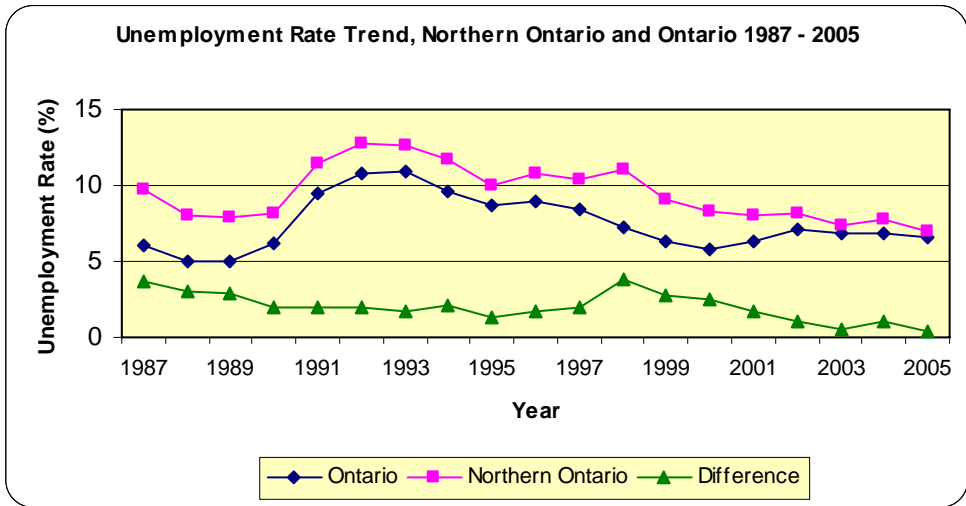
Northern Ontario's employment distribution by industry varies from that of Ontario as a whole. Many northern communities remain reliant on primary industry sectors such as mining and forestry. These sectors accounted for close to 6.0% of the North's total employment in 2005, compared to only 0.5% for the Province. Northern Ontario is also more reliant on public sector employment, including public administration, education and health care. The educational services, public administration, and health care and social assistance sectors accounted for 29% of the North's total employment in 2005, compared to 21.5% for the province. At 16.6%, the manufacturing sector employs the largest percentage of the Ontario population. In Northern Ontario, the sector accounts for 10% of total employment. The trade sector accounts for the largest share of employment in Northern Ontario (16.3%), which is similar to the share for the province as a whole (15.6%).

From 1997 to 2005, employment in Northern Ontario increased from approximately 344,700 in 1997 to 364,100 in 2005. The gain in employment over the last 8 years was mostly due to increases in full-time work. Since 1997, full-time employment increased by more than 18,000 workers. Over the same time period, part-time employment increased by 1,100 workers.



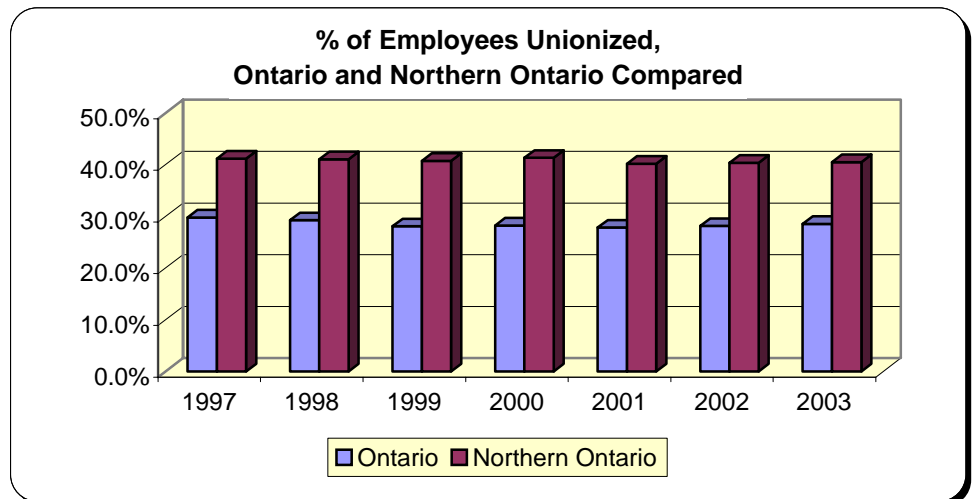
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Since a high of 12.8% in 1992, Northern Ontario's unemployment rate has dropped by 5.8 percentage points compared to a 4.2 percentage point drop in Ontario's unemployment rate over the same time period. On average, Northern Ontario's unemployment rate has been 2 percentage points higher than Ontario's over the last 19 years. Over time, the gap between the unemployment rate for Northern Ontario and for the Province has decreased from a high of 4.0 percentage points in 1998, to only 0.4 percentage points in 2005, the lowest differential in the past 19 years.



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Employees in Northern Ontario are more unionized than employees in Ontario as a whole. In 2003, 40.5% of Northern employees were unionized compared to 28.5% of employees in the province. From 1997 to 2003, unionization rates for Northern Ontario have been approximately 12 percentage points higher than in Ontario. Unionization rates in both Ontario and in Northern Ontario have declined since 1997. Northern Ontario's unionization rates have dropped by 0.7 percentage points while Ontario's unionization rates have dropped slightly more during the same time period (1.2 percentage points).



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey Extract

November 2006