

Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board
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Intra-provincial and inter-provincial migration between 2011 and 2013:
the London Economic Region

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Acknowledgements

This document is exploring the population migration into and out of the London Economic Region (LER) during 2011-2013. The findings help understanding the labour force mobility in the LER during the announced time frame. Any forecasts derived from these findings could help better tailor the regional economic development policies.

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Summary

The present document intends to explore and identify trends associated to the population migration in the London Economic Region (LER) during 2011-2013. Population migration is an important component in understanding the dynamic of the labour force in the region. Conclusions and forecasts resulting from the patterns identified in the present report might help local and regional economic developers customize their policies to limit undesired effects.

Regional economic growth generally results from two main sources, technological progress that leads to improvements in productivity or population growth. The two sources are intertwined and supporting each other. However, the technological change in the LER during 2011-2013 is such a vast topic in itself that it should be left for another report. Thus, the topic of the present analysis is the population migration in the LER within a short time horizon.

The data presented in the analysis suggests:

- The migrating population in-and-out of the LER region has been diminishing lately leading to almost a balance between the *outflow* and the *inflow* of people, excepting for Elgin County;
- Although a diminished *net flow* of migrants in 2012-2013, the intra-provincial appeared larger than inter-provincial migration in-and-out of the LER;
- The immediate neighboring counties and Toronto were among the top locations for intra-provincial migration origins, as well as destinations, for people migrating in-and-out of the LER. Closer geographical locations were more likely to be the source, or destination, of migrating population in the LER;
- Elgin County experienced a *net outflow* of people during the analyzed time frame, while Middlesex and Oxford counties experienced a *net inflow* of people during the analyzed time frame;
- The largest age group of migrants in-and-out the LER was the “25-44 year olds”, which suggests that labour related reasons were among the top driving forces for migration in the region;
- In Elgin County, during 2012-2013 the younger faction of the migrating workforce was more likely to move out of the county while the older faction of the migrating workforce was more likely to move into the county;
- In Middlesex County, during 2012-2013 the younger group of the migrating workforce was more active than the older group of the migrating workforce in moving in-and-out of the county;
- In Oxford County, during 2012-2013 the older workforce was more likely to move into the county while almost no distinguishable differences based on age were determined for the workforce migrating out of the county.

Conclusions:

- Overall the migration in the region was significantly reduced during 2011-2013 compared to the prior year, reflecting a symbiotic relationship with the economic growth of the region during the same period of time. The “great recession” (2008-2009 start) had an inhibiting effect upon the population and labour mobility in the region and the opposite;
- The regional economic policies have to be designed taking into consideration these trends and preventing the damaging effects of the economic brushoffs upon the population growth, and indirectly upon the size and quality of the labour force.

Elgin County

Table 1. Top 20 outflow destinations in 2012-2013 for migrants from Elgin County

Province/ Territory of destination	Census Division of destination (Name)	Total 0-17 years	Total 18-24 years	Total 25-44 years	Total 45-64 years	Total 65+ years	TOTAL	% change 2011-2012 to 2012- 2013
Ontario	Middlesex	313	283	447	211	107	1361	-13.64
Ontario	Oxford	85	60	112	47	27	331	-0.60
Ontario	Haldimand- Norfolk	59	20	35	21	9	144	-30.43
Ontario	Waterloo	22	32	37	16	10	117	-7.87
Ontario	Lambton	22	18	29	24	16	109	-21.01
Ontario	Essex	25	22	35	15	6	103	-0.96
Ontario	Chatham- Kent	25	16	23	20	6	90	-43.75
Ontario	Toronto	8	26	45	7	2	88	14.29
Ontario	Brant	22	8	20	6	6	62	138.46
Ontario	Niagara	7	15	18	7	6	53	20.45
Ontario	Wellington	14	17	6	11	3	51	21.43
Ontario	Hamilton	11	10	16	4	5	46	-2.13
Alberta	Division No. 11	9	9	22	4	2	46	-14.81
Alberta	Division No. 6	5	15	14	6	3	43	7.50
Ontario	Ottawa	4	9	16	10	3	42	2.44
Ontario	Simcoe	4	6	11	12	6	39	-2.50
Ontario	Perth	10	11	7	4	3	35	-2.78
Ontario	Halton	3	5	13	5	3	29	-30.95
Ontario	Bruce	10	2	13	2	0	27	17.39
Alberta	Division No. 2	7	6	6	2	3	24	60
...
Grand total 2012-2013		806	704	1092	550	262	3414	-10.30

Data source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

Table 2. Top 20 inflow location origins in 2012-2013 for migrants coming in Elgin County

Province/ Territory of origin	Census Division of origin (Name)	Total 0-17 years	Total 18-24 years	Total 25-44 years	Total 45-64 years	Total 65+ years	TOTAL	% change 2011-2012 to 2012- 2013
Ontario	Middlesex	331	116	498	253	96	1294	-14.48
Ontario	Oxford	102	46	136	60	26	370	36.03
Ontario	Haldimand- Norfolk	65	34	47	37	4	187	-46.88
Ontario	Chatham- Kent	29	11	36	18	16	110	-12.00
Ontario	Waterloo	24	13	35	26	4	102	-17.74
Ontario	Essex	26	12	20	12	5	75	-2.60
Ontario	Toronto	11	6	25	25	5	72	-7.69
Ontario	Peel	5	2	17	24	12	60	7.14
Ontario	Halton	10	4	14	19	5	52	6.12
Ontario	Perth	19	4	17	6	6	52	20.93
Ontario	Wellington	17	6	16	5	3	47	-7.84
Ontario	Lambton	7	11	9	11	8	46	-45.24
Ontario	Simcoe	9	0	11	13	6	39	-25.00
Ontario	York	6	6	6	12	6	36	12.50
Ontario	Hamilton	8	5	11	8	2	34	-20.93
Ontario	Niagara	8	4	12	6	4	34	-20.93
Ontario	Brant	3	9	10	7	1	30	-42.31
British Columbia	Greater Vancouver	5	6	15	2	2	30	50.00
Ontario	Huron	10	0	8	7	4	29	-9.38
Ontario	Durham	4	1	5	6	8	24	-41.46
	
Grand total 2012-2013		782	333	1062	652	282	3111	-14.06

Data source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

The net inter- and intra-provincial flow (in vs. out) of migrants in Elgin County in 2012-2013 was of 303 people (3414 out - 3111 in); increasing by 62.90 percent relative to 2011-2012 year (-186 net flow respectively). Therefore, Elgin County was losing people to other locations in the province as well as to other provinces at a more accelerated rate than before. The numbers weren't large, but some concern should be raised about this evolution.

Overall, one would observe a reduction of the *net migration flow* in-and-out Elgin County when comparing the year-to-year numbers, 2011-2012 to 2012-2013 respectively. Specifically, the *flow out* of Elgin County dropped by 10.30 percent in 2012-2013 relative to 2011-2012 while the *flow in* of migrants in Elgin County also dropped by 14.06 percent on the same year-to-year comparison (see Tables 1 and 2). A slower contraction of the *flow out* of people than the *flow in* of people was observed.

The largest age group for the *outflow* as well as for the *inflow* of people in Elgin County is the “25-44 year olds,” suggesting that work might be a major reason for the migration in-and-out of the county. The second largest group among the migrating workforce (15+ year olds) for the *outflow* was the “18-24 year olds” whereas for the *inflow* is the 45-64 year olds.” One would conclude that more likely the younger migrating workforce was moving out of Elgin County while the older migrating workforce was moving in the county.

Major trends identified from the data:

- Overall the *net flow* of migrants in Elgin County has increased in 2012-2013 relative to 2011-2012 by around 63 percent suggesting an increased mobility of the labour force in the county;
- The *outflow* of migrant population in Elgin County was getting larger recently than the *inflow* of migrant population;
- Younger age *migrating labour force* group was more likely to *move out* of the county while the older age *migrating labour force* group was more likely to *move into* the county;
- The top three destinations by the number of migrating people for *destinations* when *moving out* as well as for the *origins* when *moving into* the county were the neighboring counties, Middlesex, Oxford and Haldimand-Norfolk;

A complete picture of the population movements in Elgin County would be obtained if one aligns these findings to other population component issues e.g. the net flow of immigrants, the number of births and deaths, as well as the net flow of emigrants. However, the intra- and inter-provincial migration is an important demographic component that offers clues on what is happening with the county population and/or labour force wise.

Table 3. Components of the population growth in Elgin County

Geography	Components of population growth	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Elgin, Ontario [3534]	Deaths	753	742	735	761	784
	Immigrants	155	121	202	196	188
	Emigrants	111	72	116	115	117
	Returning emigrants	82	122	79	107	107
	Net temporary emigration	32	20	30	29	29
	Net inter-provincial migration	-116	-52	-204	-226	-261
	Net intra-provincial migration	297	-67	18	-77	-77
	Net non-permanent residents	52	-641	32	25	17

Data source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Table 051-0063

Table 3 suggests that during 2011-2014 the immigration in the county was slowing down while the net emigration stayed flat and at low levels. During the same time frame the net inter-provincial migration was moderately increasing while the net intra-provincial migration increased slightly. The numbers are small, not raising an alarm, but if the trend continues it might become a problem for the workforce within Elgin County.

Middlesex County

Table 4. Top 20 outflow destinations in 2012-2013 for migrants from Middlesex County

Province/ Territory of destination	Census Division of destination (Name)	Total 0-17 years	Total 18-24 years	Total 25-44 years	Total 45-64 years	Total 65+ years	TOTAL	% change 2011-2012 to 2012-2013
Ontario	Toronto	120	354	701	145	53	1373	-15.04
Ontario	Elgin	331	116	498	253	96	1294	-14.47
Ontario	Lambton	117	83	194	180	82	656	-6.29
Ontario	Oxford	144	79	245	135	44	647	-19.73
Ontario	Waterloo	96	125	257	74	39	591	-18.82
Alberta	Division No. 6	112	102	260	41	9	524	7.60
Ontario	Essex	99	59	166	76	30	430	-11.89
Ontario	Peel	96	69	167	57	27	416	-14.58
Alberta	Division No. 11	88	88	180	43	8	407	36.58
Ontario	Ottawa	53	76	151	46	26	352	-12.87
Ontario	Huron	62	34	85	85	50	316	-28.99
Ontario	Hamilton	72	55	113	41	18	299	-13.58
Ontario	Halton	57	30	120	43	23	273	-9.00
Ontario	Simcoe	45	41	86	62	25	259	-7.17
British Columbia	Greater Vancouver	44	56	131	15	12	258	-15.41
Ontario	Perth	50	31	99	44	26	250	11.61
Ontario	York	36	40	98	43	30	247	-9.85
Ontario	Chatham- Kent	51	27	82	57	27	244	-19.74
Ontario	Durham	46	38	64	39	9	196	-4.39
Ontario	Niagara	31	38	58	26	24	177	-12.81
	
Grand total 2012- 2013		2205	2007	4861	1965	841	11879	-11.70

Data source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

Table 5. Top 20 inflow location origins in 2012-2013 for migrants coming in Middlesex County [persons]

Province/ Territory of origin	Census Division of origin (Name)	Total 0-17 years	Total 18-24 years	Total 25-44 years	Total 45-64 years	Total 65+ years	TOTAL	% change 2011-2012 to 2012- 2013
Ontario	Elgin	313	283	447	211	107	1361	-13.64
Ontario	Toronto	219	148	541	185	96	1189	-9.03
Ontario	Oxford	154	153	304	144	74	829	1.97
Ontario	Lambton	129	159	261	112	92	753	-4.32
Ontario	Peel	139	84	227	109	46	605	-8.61
Ontario	Waterloo	96	96	225	98	38	553	-18.68
Ontario	Essex	93	129	207	83	40	552	-14.02
Ontario	Chatham- Kent	74	127	140	48	33	422	-8.86
Ontario	Huron	71	77	120	69	47	384	-50.19
Ontario	Halton	53	57	116	57	43	326	12.41
Ontario	Perth	47	60	118	60	20	305	-11.08
Ontario	York	36	80	109	46	20	291	-13.65
Ontario	Hamilton	53	47	125	40	18	283	-17.73
Ontario	Ottawa	47	40	110	54	24	275	-8.64
Ontario	Niagara	27	71	85	34	29	246	-20.39
Ontario	Simcoe	32	44	77	36	26	215	-20.07
Ontario	Durham	44	51	72	28	19	214	-5.31
Ontario	Wellington	52	34	85	16	26	213	-9.36
British Columbia	Greater Vancouver	32	32	103	33	9	209	-31.48
Ontario	Brant	40	44	54	25	15	178	4.09
	
Grand total 2012-2013		2312	2291	4545	1896	1082	12126	-14.42

Data source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

The *net flow* of migrants (in vs. out) in Middlesex County during 2012-2013 was of 247 people (12,126 in – 11,879 out) indicating that more people are *coming in* than *going out* of the county; dropping by 65.50 percent relative to 2011-2012 year (716 = 14,169 in – 13,453 out respectively).

The largest age group migrating in and out of Middlesex County was the “25-44 year olds,” leading us to the same connotation to the labour market reasons. With a slight difference from the “0-17 year olds,” the “18-24 year olds” group of migrants in and out of Middlesex County is the second largest group (see Tables 4 and 5). In a simple language and somewhat expected, the younger age cohort was more mobile than the older labour force migrating group in Middlesex County during 2011-2013.

The intra-provincial migration seemed to have been larger than inter-provincial migration during 2011-2013 in Middlesex County. If one attempts to reconcile with other components of the population growth in Middlesex County (Table 6), he or she would notice that Middlesex was losing people to other

provinces while gaining people from the province of Ontario, evolving towards a balance. Furthermore, one would notice a slowdown of immigration into the county and a flat dynamic of emigration. Overall, the population growth during 2009-2014 in Middlesex County has been slowed, a situation that can be damaging for the future economic growth of the county.

Table 6. The population growth components in Middlesex County [persons]

Geography	Components of population growth	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Middlesex, Ontario [3539]	Deaths	3,276	3,278	3,253	3,376	3,503
	Immigrants	2,907	2,321	2,319	2,370	2,278
	Emigrants	895	764	833	899	909
	Returning emigrants	591	532	525	538	538
	Net temporary emigration	252	204	203	222	222
	Net inter-provincial migration*	-391	-347	-548	-1,014	-1,129
	Net intra-provincial migration*	717	621	1,259	1,248	1,248
	Net non-permanent residents	459	497	804	638	411

Data source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Table 051-0063

Note: The slight discrepancies between the numbers provided in Table 6 for the marked rows (*) and the earlier presented results from Tables 4 and 5 were developed by the rounding procedures employed by Statistics Canada.

Major trends identified from the data:

- Overall during 2011-2013, more people were *migrating in* than *out* of Middlesex County; results coming from a slightly larger *net intra-provincial* than *net inter-provincial* migration. However, the *net flow* of migrants during 2012-2013 was diminished relative to 2011-2012.
- The main age group of the migrating population in-and-out of Middlesex County during 2012-2013 was “25-44 year olds.” The next largest labour force (15+ year olds) migrating group has been the “18-24 year olds” group, suggesting that the younger migrating labour force group was more likely to move in-and-out of the county during 2011-2013.
- The top three location origins for people migrating in the county during 2012-2013 were Elgin, Toronto and Oxford whereas the top three location destinations for people migrating out were Toronto, Elgin and Lambton.

Oxford County

Table 7. Top 20 outflow destinations in 2012-2013 for migrants from Oxford County (persons)

Province/ Territory of destination	Census Division of destination (Name)	Total 0-17 years	Total 18-24 years	Total 25- 44 years	Total 45- 64 years	Total 65+ years	TOTAL	% change 2011-2012 to 2012-2013
Ontario	Middlesex	154	153	304	144	74	829	1.97
Ontario	Waterloo	141	82	235	68	47	573	2.50
Ontario	Haldimand- Norfolk	118	50	129	53	27	377	-11.50
Ontario	Elgin	102	46	136	60	26	370	36.03
Ontario	Brant	57	37	102	40	22	258	-9.47
Ontario	Perth	70	34	82	39	12	237	12.32
Ontario	Toronto	10	18	64	11	7	110	-25.68
Ontario	Hamilton	15	24	35	9	4	87	11.54
Ontario	Niagara	25	15	25	10	11	86	32.31
Ontario	Wellington	12	8	29	18	7	74	7.25
Ontario	Simcoe	16	11	14	17	7	65	-2.99
Ontario	Peel	9	3	20	14	9	55	52.78
Ontario	Lambton	15	5	21	10	4	55	-5.17
Ontario	Halton	7	3	21	16	7	54	-3.57
Ontario	Essex	16	13	15	5	5	54	-30.77
Alberta	Division No. 6	7	17	23	5	2	54	25.58
Ontario	Chatham- Kent	17	3	13	7	5	45	-27.42
Ontario	Bruce	7	5	15	14	2	43	72
Ontario	Huron	7	5	7	17	6	42	-16
Ontario	Ottawa	4	15	13	4	2	38	-19.15
	
Grand total 2012-2013		942	656	1485	721	358	4162	3.40

Data source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

Table 8. Top 20 inflow location origins in 2012-2013 for the migrants coming in the Oxford County

Province/ Territory of origin	Census Division of origin (Name)	Total 0-17 years	Total 18-24 years	Total 25-44 years	Total 45-64 years	Total 65+ years	TOTAL	% change 2011-2012 to 2012- 2013
Ontario	Waterloo	202	105	311	183	54	855	3.01
Ontario	Middlesex	144	79	245	135	44	647	-19.73
Ontario	Haldimand- Norfolk	96	76	113	82	37	404	-22.31
Ontario	Elgin	85	60	112	47	27	331	-0.60
Ontario	Brant	85	39	112	57	23	316	-25.47
Ontario	Perth	52	33	73	25	22	205	-1.44
Ontario	Peel	34	10	52	31	20	147	38.68
Ontario	Toronto	16	13	42	26	18	115	-9.45
Ontario	Wellington	20	15	35	25	17	112	-9.68
Ontario	Halton	11	5	30	25	23	94	22.08
Ontario	Hamilton	23	12	40	11	8	94	-29.85
Ontario	Niagara	24	6	32	15	12	89	-8.25
Ontario	Simcoe	20	4	23	18	10	75	25
Ontario	Essex	19	11	31	2	1	64	18.52
Ontario	Chatham- Kent	16	7	18	12	6	59	-25.32
Ontario	Huron	10	11	17	8	6	52	-38.82
Ontario	Lambton	10	0	19	12	5	46	-13.21
Ontario	Durham	8	3	13	9	4	37	-27.45
Ontario	Grey	4	8	4	6	10	32	77.78
Ontario	Hastings	10	3	7	5	5	30	130.77
	
Grand total 2012-2013		955	552	1451	850	428	4236	-12.12

Data source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

Overall, the inter- and intra-provincial migration results in Oxford County show a contraction of the net flow (in vs. out) by 90.69 percent between 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, from 795 people (4,820 in – 4,025 out) to 74 people (4236 in – 4,162 out) respectively. This is the result of 12.12 percent contraction of the *inflow* of migrants during the same year-to-year comparison while only 3.4 percent contraction of the *outflow* of migrants within the same time frame comparison. This data indicates that the county was gaining people, but at a slower pace lately.

The “25-44 years” old migrants remained the main stream of people moving in-and-out of the county, proving further that the main reason for moving is work. However, the second largest age group of migrants flowing in and out the county was the “0-17 year olds” group. During 2012-2013, the third largest age group of migrants flowing in was the “45-64 year olds.” For the migrants *flowing out* of

Oxford County there are small differences in size between the “45-64 year olds” and the “18-24 year olds” groups. Therefore, in workforce terms more of the older workers were moving into the county than younger workers while there were small differences between young and old workforce moving out of Oxford County during 2012-2013.

Table 9 connects the net inter- and intra-provincial migration with other components of the population growth. Consequently, the data suggests that the number of immigrants entering the county was increasing during 2011-2014 time frame, at a slow pace whereas the emigration was remaining flat at minimal levels. Due to aging population phenomenon, the number of deaths in the county was growing. Putting everything together, one would conclude that the population growth was minimal during the announced time horizon, results that would be discouraging if interested in encouraging economic growth.

Table 9. The components of population growth in Oxford County

Geography	Components of population growth	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Oxford, Ontario [3532]	Deaths	892	956	945	981	1,011
	Immigrants	107	109	58	140	134
	Emigrants	87	84	112	99	99
	Returning emigrants	75	68	60	62	62
	Net temporary emigration	25	23	28	25	25
	Net inter-provincial migration	-150	-142	-80	-183	-207
	Net intra-provincial migration	555	514	875	257	258
	Net non-permanent residents	23	0	37	31	21

Data source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, Table 051-0063

Major trends identified from the data:

- Overall, during 2012-2013 Oxford County has suffered a major contraction in the net migration within the county (in vs. out) compared to 2011-2012. Oxford County has been gaining people due to a larger flow of migrants *coming in* than migrants *leaving* the county;
- The “45-64 years” old people were more likely to be among the migrants *flowing in* during 2012-2014 in Oxford County than “18-24 year olds”;
- The top three counties with the largest migrating populations into and out of Oxford County were Middlesex, Waterloo and Haldimand-Norfolk.

Conclusions

The migration results during 2011-2013 in the London Economic Region show a great dynamic of population mobility. Although the overall trend was toward a contraction of the net migration in the region, the flows of population in-and-out, inter- and intra-provincial, were large enough to indicate an intense activity and significant demographic challenge. The regional labour market is definitely one of the major forces that shaped the population movements in the LER. The younger as well as the older factions of the workforce in the region behaved somewhat differently by county. Finding work and/or commuting less were possibly two major reasons for labour force mobility during this time frame, but others may have influenced these results as well, e.g. quality of life (access to education, health care, transportation, culture, etc.). The recessionary time and in particular the economic growth in the region has also contributed to the population mobility in the LER during these years. Major employers have been disappearing from the region, while others have been rising within the same time frame.

The single sources of economic growth are the increasing productivity (technology) and the population growth. This is why it is important to follow the migrating populations and determine their characteristics, origins and destinations. Through carefully designed economic and demographic policies unintended effects could be identified and turned into advantageous regional development.

