

City Movers: Winners and Losers in Urban Migration, 2001

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One census to the next confirms that Canadians increasingly live in the larger urban areas of the country and very often the bigger cities tend to increase their population by virtue of inflows of persons from smaller urban centers. Patterns of urban sprawl and most notably the attraction just outside of metropolitan areas has also meant that center cities lose out in population exchange with areas outside the region.

Migration between cities is an important factor in modifying the demographics of Canadian urban life but such movement is also indicative of where the population feels that economic prospects are best as well as degrees of what is best described as affordability. As will be observed a bigger city's gain in population tends to come at the loss of a smaller one that may in turn gain at the expense of other less urbanized areas. For example while the Montreal region is a significant net loser in terms of migration to and from and Toronto the declines are somewhat offset by the population gains made against Quebec City that in turn gains against Chicoutimi. But growth just outside urban areas is transforming what were once considered small areas in extensions of urban agglomerations that attract population from cities like Toronto and Vancouver. That which follows will examine which cities are winners and losers on the basis of such population exchange over the 1996-2001 period based on cross-tabulated census data.

In the case of Halifax it enjoyed a modest gain through migration between cities and in particular did well against cities in the Atlantic region. Its biggest net losses were against the cities of Ottawa and Toronto.

Halifax

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Mother Tongue (: Total - Mother tongue	Sex (3): Total - Sex	Age Groups (16): Total - Age groups
	Came to Halifax	Left Halifax	
Canada	48080	40395	+7 685
Abbotsford	40	25	+25
Calgary	1350	2000	-650
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	80	85	-5
Edmonton	805	1045	-240
Greater Sudbury	100	30	+70
Halifax	0	0	-
Hamilton	510	565	-55
Kingston	520	430	+90
Kitchener	220	435	-215
London	370	270	+100
Montréal	1095	1090	+5
Oshawa	120	250	-130
Ottawa - Hull	2175	3370	-1995
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	2045	3155	-1110
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	130	210	-80
Québec	310	240	+70
Regina	180	120	+60
Saskatoon	230	120	+110
Sherbrooke	40	55	-15
St. Catharines - Niagara	235	315	-80
St. John's	1870	775	+1095
Saint John	1180	565	+615
Thunder Bay	60	90	-30
Toronto	3555	4790	-1235
Trois-Rivières	15	30	-15
Vancouver	1620	1330	+290
Victoria	1025	965	+60
Windsor	35	325	-290
Winnipeg	705	595	+110
Non-CMA	29635	20480	+9155

In the case of Quebec City it experienced an important net loss in population third only to Toronto and Vancouver in the cities examined here when viewed from the standpoint of interurban migration. By far its biggest loss came at the expense of Montreal followed by the Outaouais and then Toronto. However it benefited from modest gains against Chicoutimi-Jonquiere and Trois-Rivieres.

Quebec City

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Mother Tongue: Total - Mother tongue	Sex (3): Total - Sex	
	Came to Québec	Left Quebec	
Canada	54790	68135	-13 345
Abbotsford	10	35	-25
Calgary	180	390	-210
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	3170	1535	+1 635
Edmonton	60	400	-340
Greater Sudbury	30	60	-30
Halifax	240	310	-70
Hamilton	40	310	-270
Kingston	190	255	-65
Kitchener	65	175	-110
London	65	75	-10
Montréal	10910	26680	-15 770
Oshawa	10	105	-95
Ottawa - Hull	1500	4400	-2 900
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	360	1680	-1320
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	1140	2720	-1580
Québec	0	0	-
Regina	10	40	-30
Saskatoon	15	0	+15
Sherbrooke	1325	1290	+35
St. Catharines - Niagara	0	50	-50
St. John's	10	20	-10
Saint John	15	30	-15
Thunder Bay	10	10	-
Toronto	325	1875	-1550
Trois-Rivières	1880	1340	+540
Vancouver	295	880	-585
Victoria	140	220	-80
Windsor	50	70	-20
Winnipeg	170	110	+60
Non-CMA	34095	27465	+6630

In the case of Montreal it incurred substantial losses against such cities as Toronto, Ottawa and Calgary but substantially offset these declines through major gains against cities within Quebec and in particular Quebec City, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivieres.

Montreal

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Sex (3): Total - Sex	Age Groups (16): Total - Age groups	
	Came to Montreal	Left Montréal	
Canada	170085	182685	-12 600
Abbotsford	115	280	-165
Calgary	1030	5295	-4265
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	5665	1770	+3895
Edmonton	690	1600	-910
Greater Sudbury	200	165	+35
Halifax	1090	1095	-5
Hamilton	645	2155	-1510
Kingston	465	1040	-575
Kitchener	270	1195	-925
London	345	885	-540
Montréal	0	0	-
Oshawa	215	1170	-955
Ottawa - Hull	9190	15375	-6185
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	3950	11105	-7155
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	5240	4265	+975
Québec	26680	10905	+15775
Regina	265	145	+120
Saskatoon	150	195	-45
Sherbrooke	7160	3590	+3520
St. Catharines - Niagara	285	555	-270
St. John's	295	220	+75
Saint John	240	200	+40
Thunder Bay	100	25	+75
Toronto	8060	26400	-18340
Trois-Rivières	4665	2310	+2355
Vancouver	3350	6905	-3555
Victoria	540	890	-350
Windsor	480	885	-405
Winnipeg	960	860	+100
Non CMA	96930	96570	+360

Outaouais was a fairly big gainer behind Calgary on the basis of movement of population between cities. While its single biggest gain was against Montreal, it benefited from gains against most Ontario cities with exception of Toronto. In appendix 2 we look at the movement between Ottawa division-the Ontario section and its outskirts noting that more people moved from Hull to Ottawa than the inverse.

Ottawa

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Mother Tongue (: Total - Mother tongue		
	Came to Ottawa	Left Ottawa	
Canada	89040	66425	+22 615
Abbotsford	65	50	+15
Calgary	2030	2430	-400
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	155	30	+125
Edmonton	1685	1660	+25
Greater Sudbury	1750	475	+1375
Halifax	3155	2045	+1110
Hamilton	1395	1605	-210
Kingston	3165	1960	+1205
Kitchener	1470	1035	+435
London	1895	1170	+725
Montréal	11 105	3950	+7155
Oshawa	610	690	-80
Québec	1680	360	+1320
Regina	610	300	+310
Saskatoon	550	230	+320
Sherbrooke	375	160	+215
St. Catharines - Niagara	560	650	-90
St. John's	1470	210	+1260
Saint John	315	180	+135
Thunder Bay	480	160	+320
Toronto	11 425	13770	-2345
Trois-Rivières	160	30	+130
Vancouver	2 815	3 650	-835
Victoria	1030	1 560	-530
Windsor	600	590	+10
Winnipeg	1590	950	+640
Non-CMA	36900	26505	+10395

While the Toronto Region experienced a population explosion through immigration it suffered population losses on the basis of migration between the cities and this despite substantial gains against Montreal. Its biggest losses were to Hamilton and Oshawa and a series of other mid-sized urban centres in Ontario. While it did better than Ottawa it lost out to the city of Calgary.

Toronto

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Mother Tongue (: Total - Mother tongue	Sex (3): Total - Sex	Age Groups (16): Total - Age groups
	Came to Toronto	Left Toronto	
Canada	213775	258280	-44505
Abbotsford	360	515	-155
Calgary	5060	7465	-2405
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	20	15	+18
Edmonton	4270	3150	+1120
Greater Sudbury	3640	1645	+1995
Halifax	4790	3555	+1235
Hamilton	15210	28505	-13295
Kingston	4895	2875	+2020
Kitchener	9770	11050	-1280
London	10345	7710	+2635
Montréal	26400	8060	+18340
Oshawa	10585	26925	-16340
Ottawa - Hull	14410	12005	+2405
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	13770	11425	+2345
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	640	575	+65
Québec	1875	325	+1550
Regina	1000	315	+685
Saskatoon	1120	360	+760
Sherbrooke	465	110	+355
St. Catharines - Niagara	5250	7490	-2240
St. John's	2325	975	+1350
Saint John	740	695	+45
Thunder Bay	1480	730	+750
Toronto	0	0	-
Trois-Rivières	65	20	+45
Vancouver	14115	13940	+175
Victoria	1570	1980	-410
Windsor	3290	4070	-780
Winnipeg	3825	1835	+1990
Non-CMA	66900	111965	-45065

Winnipeg suffered a modest overall loss with the cities of Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto being the principal beneficiaries.

Winnipeg

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Mother Tongue (: Total - Mother tongue	Sex (3): Total - Sex	Age Groups (16): Total - Age groups
	Came to Winnipeg	Left Winnipeg	
Canada	48760	56735	-7975
Abbotsford	285	265	+20
Calgary	2265	7030	-4765
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	60	10	+50
Edmonton	1925	3235	-1310
Greater Sudbury	95	100	-5
Halifax	595	705	-110
Hamilton	295	540	-245
Kingston	200	290	-90
Kitchener	300	380	-80
London	450	440	+10
Montréal	855	960	-105
Oshawa	165	155	+10
Ottawa - Hull	1090	1720	-630
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	950	1590	-640
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	140	125	+15
Québec	110	170	-60
Regina	935	895	40
Saskatoon	925	830	+95
Sherbrooke	45	15	+30
St. Catharines - Niagara	190	340	-150
St. John's	115	15	+100
Saint John	50	130	-80
Thunder Bay	1095	295	+800
Toronto	1835	3825	-1990
Trois-Rivières	0	0	0
Vancouver	2865	5180	-2315
Victoria	570	1090	-520
Windsor	90	285	-195
Winnipeg	0	0	0
Non-CMA	31360	27840	+3520

Edmonton proved to be one of the biggest gainers in population on the basis of movement between cities despite the fact that it lost population against Calgary and to a lesser extent Toronto while beating Vancouver on the basis of such migratory exchange.

Edmonton

Geography: Canada (01) 20000		Sex (3): Total - Sex	Age Groups (16): Total - Age groups
	Came to Edmonton	Left Edmonton	
Canada	107695	78530	+29165
Abbotsford	865	435	+430
Calgary	10975	15505	-4530
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	0	0	0
Edmonton	0	0	0
Greater Sudbury	435	120	+315
Halifax	1045	805	+240
Hamilton	735	475	+260
Kingston	545	385	+160
Kitchener	345	505	-160
London	715	430	+285
Montréal	1600	690	+910
Oshawa	130	150	-20
Ottawa - Hull	1795	1815	-20
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	1660	1685	-25
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	140	130	+10
Québec	400	60	+340
Regina	1975	460	+1515
Saskatoon	2650	1290	+1360
Sherbrooke	45	50	-5
St. Catharines - Niagara	385	240	+145
St. John's	1620	250	+1370
Saint John	490	145	+345
Thunder Bay	450	145	+305
Toronto	3150	4270	-1120
Trois-Rivières	15	0	+15
Vancouver	7880	6210	+1670
Victoria	1985	1675	+310
Windsor	230	235	-5
Winnipeg	3235	1925	+1310
Non-CMA	63985	40235	+23750

The biggest winner was Calgary and it did so with particular successes against Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon.

Calgary

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Mother Tongue (: Total - Mother tongue	Sex (3): Total - Sex	Age Groups (16): Total - Age groups
	Calgary		
Canada	139410	82420	+56990
Abbotsford	1225	505	+720
Calgary	0	0	0
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	10	15	-5
Edmonton	15505	10975	+4530
Greater Sudbury	450	140	+310
Halifax	2000	1350	+650
Hamilton	740	720	+20
Kingston	495	480	+15
Kitchener	640	470	+170
London	1055	480	+575
Montréal	5295	1030	+4265
Oshawa	565	185	+380
Ottawa - Hull	2560	2150	+410
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	2430	2030	+400
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	130	120	+10
Québec	390	180	+210
Regina	4185	1135	+3050
Saskatoon	4240	1630	+2610
Sherbrooke	60	45	+15
St. Catharines - Niagara	345	250	+95
St. John's	1440	360	+1080
Saint John	665	125	+540
Thunder Bay	1095	160	+935
Toronto	7465	5060	+2405
Trois-Rivières	20	0	+20
Vancouver	13210	6695	+6515
Victoria	3140	2015	+1125
Windsor	375	410	-35
Winnipeg	7030	2265	+4765
Non-CMA	65205	43605	+21600

Vancouver was one of the bigger losers in the exchange of population with other cities between 1996 and 2001. It lost primarily to Calgary and then Abbotsford. It gained against Montreal, Winnipeg and Victoria while losing to many smaller cities.

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Mother Tongue (: Total - Mother tongue	Sex (3): Total - Sex	Age Groups (16): Total - Age groups
	Came to Vancouver	Left Vancouver	
Canada	120885	141410	-20525
Abbotsford	7415	12450	-5035
Calgary	6695	13210	-6515
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	55	75	-20
Edmonton	6210	7880	-1670
Greater Sudbury	205	155	+50
Halifax	1330	1620	-290
Hamilton	1475	1445	+30
Kingston	685	740	-55
Kitchener	1020	760	+260
London	1625	950	+675
Montréal	6905	3350	+3555
Oshawa	360	685	-325
Ottawa - Hull	3940	3105	+835
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	3650	2815	+835
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	295	285	+10
Québec	880	295	+585
Regina	1305	580	+725
Saskatoon	1365	1210	+155
Sherbrooke	100	130	-30
St. Catharines - Niagara	410	700	-290
St. John's	605	255	+350
Saint John	290	235	+55
Thunder Bay	615	150	+465
Toronto	13940	14115	-175
Trois-Rivières	45	25	+20
Vancouver	0	0	0
Victoria	8830	7490	+1340
Windsor	545	745	-200
Winnipeg	5180	2865	+2315
Non-CMA	48860	66205	-17345

In the case of Victoria it benefited from a modest net increase as it made small net gains against most cities with the exception of Vancouver, Calgary and to a lesser degree Edmonton.

Geography: Canada (01) 20000	Mother Tongue (: Total - Mother tongue	Sex (3): Total - Sex	Age Groups (16): Total - Age groups
	Came to Victoria	Left Victoria	
Canada	41630	39365	+2265
Abbotsford	445	360	+85
Calgary	2015	3140	-1125
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	20	20	0
Edmonton	1675	1985	-310
Greater Sudbury	105	10	+95
Halifax	965	1025	-60
Hamilton	385	200	+185
Kingston	260	295	-35
Kitchener	160	285	-125
London	385	295	+90
Montréal	890	540	+350
Oshawa	90	270	-180
Ottawa - Hull	1615	1160	+455
Ottawa - Hull (Ont. part - Partie Ont.)	1560	1030	+530
Ottawa - Hull (Que. part - Partie Qué.)	55	125	-70
Québec	220	140	+80
Regina	310	210	+100
Saskatoon	540	220	+320
Sherbrooke	65	25	+40
St. Catharines - Niagara	110	155	-45
St. John's	170	105	+65
Saint John	25	105	-80
Thunder Bay	205	40	+165
Toronto	1980	1570	+410
Trois-Rivières	40	10	+30
Vancouver	7490	8830	-1340
Victoria	0	0	0
Windsor	110	90	+20
Winnipeg	1090	570	+520
Non-CMA	20265	17725	+2540

Appendix 1

	Came to Montreal Island	Left - Montreal Island	Net Gain or Loss
Canada	158810	198260	-39450
Communauté-Urbaine-de- Québec	13675	4385	+9290
La Région-Sherbrookoise	4585	1920	+2665
Le Haut-Richelieu	2040	2180	-140
La Vallée-du-Richelieu	4010	4335	-325
Champlain	13125	15015	-1890
Lajemmerais	3750	4140	-390
L'Assomption	5800	7135	-1335
Les Moulins	4605	7230	-2625
Laval	16225	25825	-9600
Roussillon	6160	8025	-1865
Vaudreuil-Soulanges	5105	8360	-3255
Deux-Montagnes	2650	3615	-965
Thérèse-De Blainville	4145	5640	-1495
La Rivière-du-Nord	2120	2925	-805
Communauté-Urbaine-de- l'Outaouais	2980	2410	+570
Ottawa Division	3125	8545	-5420
Toronto Division	4850	14340	-9490
Greater Vancouver Regional District	2720	6025	-3305

Appendix 2

	Came to Ottawa Division	Left Ottawa Division	Net Gain or Loss
Canada	96 870	73 515	+23 355
Comm Urban Outaouais-Qc	7 065	5 520	1 545
Montreal	8 545	3 125	5 420
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry United Counties	3235	2090	+1 145
Prescott and Russell United Counties	4485	4 370	+115
Ottawa Division			
Leeds and Grenville United Counties	2170	2 815	-645
Lanark County	2495	3 330	-835
Frontenac County	3000	1 925	1 075
Durham Regional Municipality	945	990	-45
York Regional Municipality	1 170	1 290	-120
Toronto Division	7 205	8 645	-1 440
Peel Regional Municipality	1 690	2 215	-525
Greater Vancouver Regional District	2815	3 645	

Appendix 3

	Came to Toronto Core	Left Toronto Core
Canada	163035	298435
Durham Regional Municipality	10705	36520
York Regional Municipality	19365	74825
Toronto Division	0	0
Peel Regional Municipality	23070	61735
Dufferin County	525	1495
Wellington County	2470	3560
Halton Regional Municipality	5225	11540
Hamilton Division	4425	5925
Niagara Regional Municipality	2810	4405
Haldimand-Norfolk Regional Municipality	275	625
Brant County	730	860
Waterloo Regional Municipality	5270	5185
Middlesex County	5980	3895
Grey County	775	1645