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PROFILING COMPETITIVE RURAL REGIONS IN CANADA

A Focus on Self-contained Labour Areas

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Abstract

Enhancing competitiveness of rural regions has become a priority for rural development agencies in Canada and across OECD countries. Competitiveness, as defined by the former federal Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat, is the capacity of a rural area to attract and retain investment, people and jobs while maintaining viable economic activity and stable or rising standards of living for the inhabitants in the area. This study provides a demographic and socio-economic profile of "competitive regions" by focusing on the capacity of a region to retain and attract people, as measured by population change between 2001 and 2006. For this reason, this research used the concept of self-contained labour areas (SLAs) as defined by Munro et al., 2011 and looked at the competitiveness among regions within two peer groups: larger SLAs (population of 100,000 or more) and smaller SLAs (population of less than 100,000). Within each of the two peer groups, three levels of competitiveness were defined based on the average population growth of the peer group. This study provides an overview of the SLAs in the two peer groups and the three competitiveness levels within those groups, together with a demographic and socio-economic profile of these areas.

Highlights

- Overall, competitive regions in 2006 had a higher population size, a higher population density and smaller share of residents residing in rural areas.
- In this study, competitive regions are defined as labour market areas with a population growth greater than their peers. We use two peer groups: smaller regions (with a population under 100,000 individuals); and larger regions (with 100,000 or more residents).
- In 2006, in both smaller and larger peer groups, higher-competitive regions had a higher share of young adults (18 to 24 years of age) and a lower share of seniors (65 years and over). In higher-competitive regions, both age groups were growing more rapidly than in other types of regions.
- Larger higher-competitive regions had a higher share of immigrants in their population.
- Larger higher-competitive regions had a higher share of residents with a higher level of educational attainment. This is particularly true for the share of the population with a university diploma or degree.
- Higher-competitive regions, regardless of size, had a higher employment rate, but only smaller higher-competitive regions had also a lower prevalence of low income families
- Higher-competitive regions, regardless of size, had a higher share of employment in construction as well as in accommodation and food services.
- Larger higher-competitive regions had a lower share of employment in the primary sectors of agriculture, forestry and fishing with a larger share of employment in business services such as finance and insurance and in professional, scientific and technical services.
- Smaller higher-competitive regions had a relatively higher share of employment in mining and oil and gas extraction.

Introduction

Enhancing competitiveness of rural regions is a focus across most OECD countries. Within Canada, the federal Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat has developed a working definition of competitiveness. Competitiveness, in a rural territorial or regional context, can be broadly understood to mean the capacity of a rural area to attract and retain investment, people and jobs while maintaining viable economic activity and stable or rising standards of living for the inhabitants in the area.

The purpose of this research is to provide a demographic and socio-economic profile of "competitive regions", using an operational definition consistent with the approach of the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat. Acknowledging the fact that the concept of competitiveness itself is multifaceted and multidimensional in nature (Malecki 2004; Kitson et al. 2004; Porter et al. 2004), we focus on one dimension of the competitiveness definition: the capacity to retain and attract people, as measured by population change. Moreover, we use the concept of self-contained labour areas to delineate a "region" (Box 1) (Munro et al., 2011).

The overall findings are consistent with previous research on community demographic change across Canada (Alasia 2010; Alasia et al. 2008). In addition, the present analysis emphasizes the regional dimension of the competitiveness challenge. Regions with higher comparative population growth (i.e. competitive in their capacity to attract and retain people) tend to be larger agglomerations with a higher population density and have a smaller share of their residents residing in rural areas (regardless of the definition of rural that is used). Larger and more competitive regions also have a high share of immigrants in their population and a greater share of individuals with a higher level of educational attainment.

The population size and population density of the region, in addition to the size and density of the single community, shapes the demographic trajectories as well as the types of services and jobs that are available to residents (Alasia 2010; McGranahan et al., 2011). The size of the region's population also influences the types of services and jobs that are available to residents. Community boundaries are increasingly blurred and businesses and potential employers look across a labour market area rather than at any particular community when considering labour quality and availability (McGranahan et al., 2011).

Within the peer group of smaller regions (and smaller regions have a higher share of their population living in rural areas), there are some regions with a higher capacity to maintain or increase their population base. In this sense, these are "competitive" regions.

Within each of smaller and larger regions, regions that are relatively competitive on the demographic dimension tend to have a relatively higher share of young adults (15 to 24 years of age) and lower share of seniors (65 years of age and over). Nonetheless, competitive regions reported an increase in the number of seniors over each inter-censal period.

Among the less competitive regions are those that bear the legacy of a past economic era with a higher share of employment in agriculture and a higher share of population with lower levels of educational attainment.

Our Approach

A labour market area, as defined by commuting patterns, is one of the main concepts used in regional planning and analysis to delineate geographic areas with strong social and economic linkages (Goetz 2001; Tolbert and Sizer 1990). Munro et al., 2011) defined 349 self-contained labour areas (SLAs) across Canada using commuting data (Box 1). SLAs are groupings of census subdivisions that have a strong commuting linkage. These geographic delineations have been adopted to identify regions in this study.

The choice of SLAs to assess competitiveness is supported by several reasons. People who live and work within the same labour market area have many things in common. They have a common interest in the economic development of their region as they all share in the impact of the growth or the loss of jobs. They all share a concern for the governance of development issues, even though more than one city/town/municipal governance structure may be involved.

Competitiveness means, essentially, increasing one's market share with regard to an output/outcome of interest. In this report, our focus is on population growth and thus an SLA is increasing its market share if it is growing faster than the average of its peer group, as defined in Box 2. The ability of a region to attract and to retain people indicates both the competitiveness of the region in creating jobs and the competitiveness of a region in terms of being a desirable place to live.

As will be further discussed in the next section, over the last decade, larger agglomerations have generally had higher growth rates (see Alasia 2010, among others). Smaller SLAs, which lack the benefits of agglomeration economies, should be assessed relative to their peers, in our view. They should not be expected to be "competitive" in the same way as larger more agglomerated territorial units.

For these reasons, in this analysis, we looked at competitiveness among regions within two peer groups:

1. larger SLAs (with a total population of 100,000 or more) and
2. smaller SLAs (with a total population of less than 100,000).

BOX 1: Definitions of Geographies: Self-contained Labour Area

The geographic unit of analysis used in this research is the self-contained labour area (SLA), which is defined as a group of two or more census subdivisions (CSDs) (defined in Box 3) where at least 75% of the workers both live and work in the area (Munro et al., 2011). SLAs for Canada were created by grouping together CSDs that presented reciprocally important commuting flows between themselves.

There are 349 self-contained labour areas formed by a cluster of two or more CSDs. These SLAs are 96% self-contained, on average, which is significantly higher than the minimum required level (75%). On average, the resident workforce is 36,000 workers and the resident population is 89,000 inhabitants. The average SLA is comprised of 11 CSDs.

The use of SLAs as our geographic unit of analysis resulted in the exclusion of a small share of Canada's population that was not assigned to one of the 349 SLAs by Munro et al. (2011). Specifically, the 349 delineated SLAs cover 31,262,864 Canadians (Box 1 Table 1).

Box 1 Table 1. Population assigned to a self-contained labour area (SLA), Canada, 2016

	Population Concept	Total Population
a	Total population in 2006 census	31,612,897
b	Total non-institutional population, 2006 (The long-form census questionaire was enumerated only for the non-institutional population and it was the long-form questionaire which included the question on place of residence 5 years earlier, in 2001)	31,241,030
c	Population in the "out-of-scope" census sub-divisions (CSDs) for the purpose of SLA delineation (i.e. there is no commuting or the CSDs are too small to report reliable data on commuting)	128,164
d	Population "in-scope" for delineation into a self-contained labour area (SLA) =a-c	31,484,733
e	Population of isolates (SLAs with 1 census subdivision), excluded from this analysis (i.e. this is some commuting within the CSD but no commuting into or out of the CSD or the CSDs are too small to report reliable data on commuting with another CSD)	221,869
f	Population in SLAs with 2 or more CSDs = d-e	31,262,864
g	Population in 2006 that was not residing in Canada in 2001 (includes those born between 2001 and 2006, immigrants who arrived in the 2001 to 2006 period and other residents in 2006 who were not residents of Canda in 2001)	3,555,773
h	**Population in scope for this study = f-g**	**27,707,091**

BOX 2: Definition of Peer Groups and "Competitive" Regions

For the purpose of this analysis, we define a competitive SLA to be a SLA with a population growth rate between 2001 and 2006 that is higher than the average population growth rate in its peer group.

We define two peer groups on the basis of the total population of the SLA in 2006:

1. a smaller SLA has a population under 100,000 residents; and
2. a larger SLA has a population of 100,000 or more residents.

Although population size is not the only factor that might be used to define a peer group, the population size of the SLA is a crucial element in determining the challenges and opportunities of a region. Since larger regions benefit from various types of agglomeration economies, comparing larger and smaller regions may not give a fair representation of the competitive effort set in place in the region. In establishing a size threshold for the two peer groups, we followed Mendelson and Lefebvre (2003) who concluded that a functional area with a total population of 100,000 or more residents had many "metro functions."

For each of the two peer groups, we defined three levels of competitiveness, which are based on the average population growth of the peer group (Box 2 Table 1). Thus, SLAs in each of the two peer groups have different performance thresholds to be classified as competitive.

Most of the larger SLAs (44 out of 47) had positive population growth. On average, larger SLAs had a higher growth rate (4.5%) compared to smaller SLAs (-2.2%). Neutral-competitive SLAs are defined as having a growth rate within a (relatively) small band around the average growth rate. Among the smaller SLAs, the neutral-competitive group includes SLAs with a population change between -3.9% and 0% in the 2001 to 2006 period. Among the larger SLAs, the neutral-competitive group had a population change between 2% and 6% over the 2001 to 2006 period.

Box 2 Table 1. Definition of peer groups and level of competitiveness of self-contained labour areas (SLAs), Canada, 2006

Competitiveness level	Smaller SLAs (less than 100,000 residents in 2006) (average 5-year growth rate was -2.2%)			Larger SLAs (100,000 or more residents in 2006) (average 5-year growth rate was 4.4%)		
	Size class of population change (2001 to 2006) to be assigned to the competitiveness group	Number of SLAs	Actual range of population change, 2001 to 2006	Size class of population change (2001 to 2006) to be assigned to the competitiveness group	Number of SLAs	Actual range of population change, 2001 to 2006
Lower	Less than -4%	133	-21.5% to -4.0%	Less than 2%	13	-3.1% to 2.0%
Neutral	- 4% to 0%	74	-3.9% to -0.1%	2% to 6%	23	2.1% to 6.0%
Higher	Greater than 0%	95	0.0% to 124.3%	Greater than 6%	11	6.5% to 13.9%

Competitive Regions: An Overview of Two Peer Groups

Functional regions vary remarkably in demographic and economic size. The self-contained labour areas (SLAs) used in this analysis, which are a form of functional regions based on daily commuting interactions, have also remarkably different sizes. This variability represents a challenge for the analysis of comparative performances. Generally, SLAs with higher growth rates have higher population density and tend to be more urbanized while regions with lower population growth tend to have a larger share of rural residents, regardless of the definition of rural that is used.

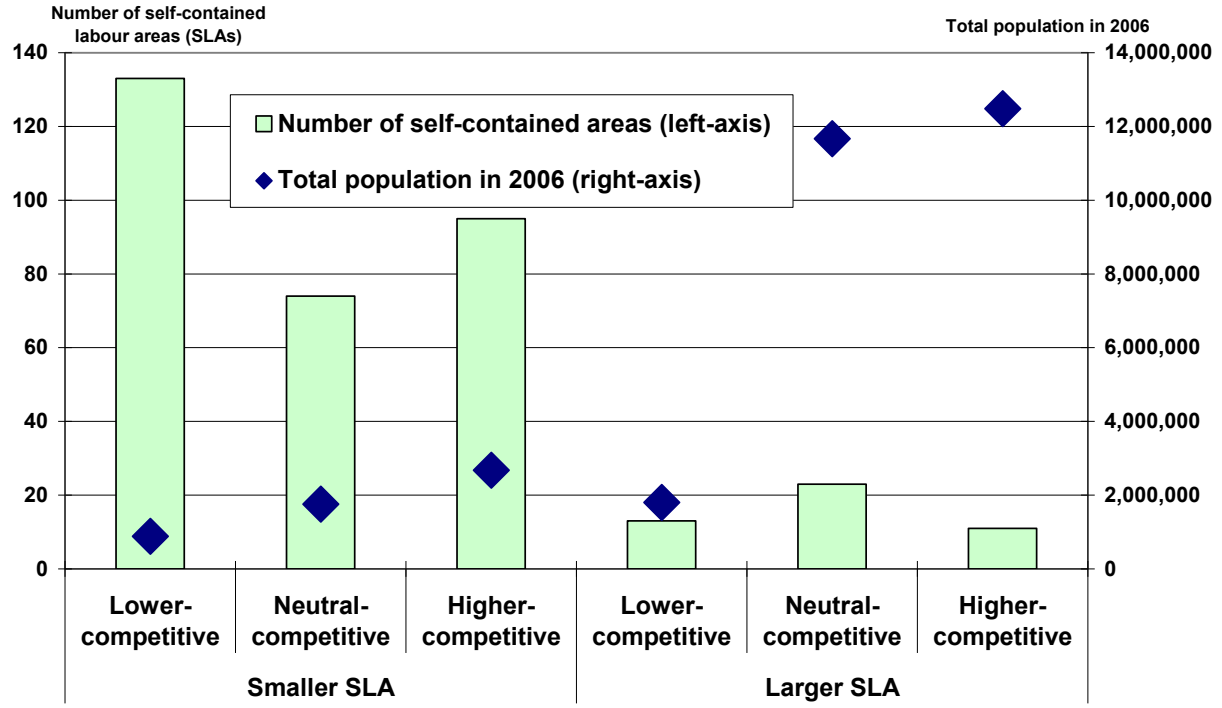
A problem that has been acknowledged in the literature on rural areas, and specifically rural labour markets, is that predominantly rural regions have been treated as residuals (Goetz 2001). The economic trends and characteristics of rural areas are consequently overshadowed by the trends and characteristics of more populated areas. This presents a challenge for many place-based initiatives.

In light of these considerations, the present analysis emphasizes the relative performance of a region within its peer group, making a distinction between larger and typically more urbanized SLAs and smaller and typically more rural SLAs (Box 2). By definition, competitive SLAs are those that grow faster relative to their peer group.

The differences in number and demographic size between the two peer groups are large. In 2006, there were 47 larger SLAs and 302 smaller SLAs (Figure 1). However, approximately 12.5 million Canadians resided in larger higher-competitive SLAs and another 11.7 million resided in larger neutral-competitive SLAs; hence, these two groups of SLAs alone comprised 77% of Canadians. In contrast, the 302 smaller SLAs (86% of all SLAs) represented 18% of the Canadian population in 2006.

For a discussion of the components of the migration flow among the SLA competitiveness groups, see Bollman (2017).

Figure 1. In 2006, 83% of Canadians were living in larger SLAs, while smaller SLAs represented 86% of all SLAs



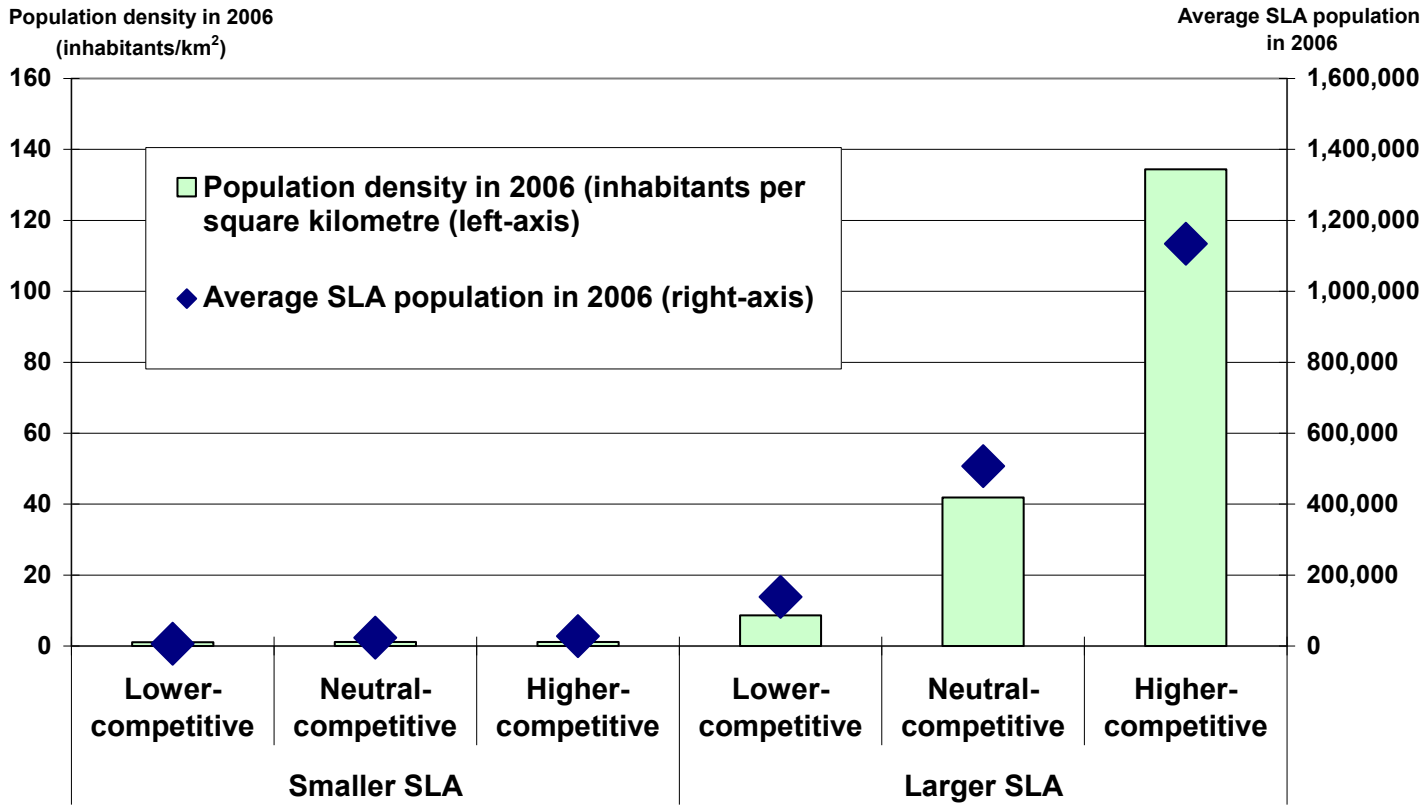
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

Within both smaller SLAs and larger SLAs, the SLAs that were more competitive had, on average, a larger population (Figure 2).

Interestingly, however, the average size and density is remarkably more similar for smaller SLAs than for the larger SLAs. The higher-competitive SLAs within the smaller peer group were 4 times larger than the lower-competitive SLAs (28,140 inhabitants compared to 6,629 inhabitants). Within the larger peer group, the higher-competitive SLAs were fully 8 times larger than the lower-competitive SLAs (1,134,527 residents compared to 138,615 residents).

Similarly, smaller SLAs have average population densities close to one person per square kilometre, while larger SLAs have a population density ranging from 9 to 134 persons per square kilometre, for the lower and higher-competitiveness groups, respectively.

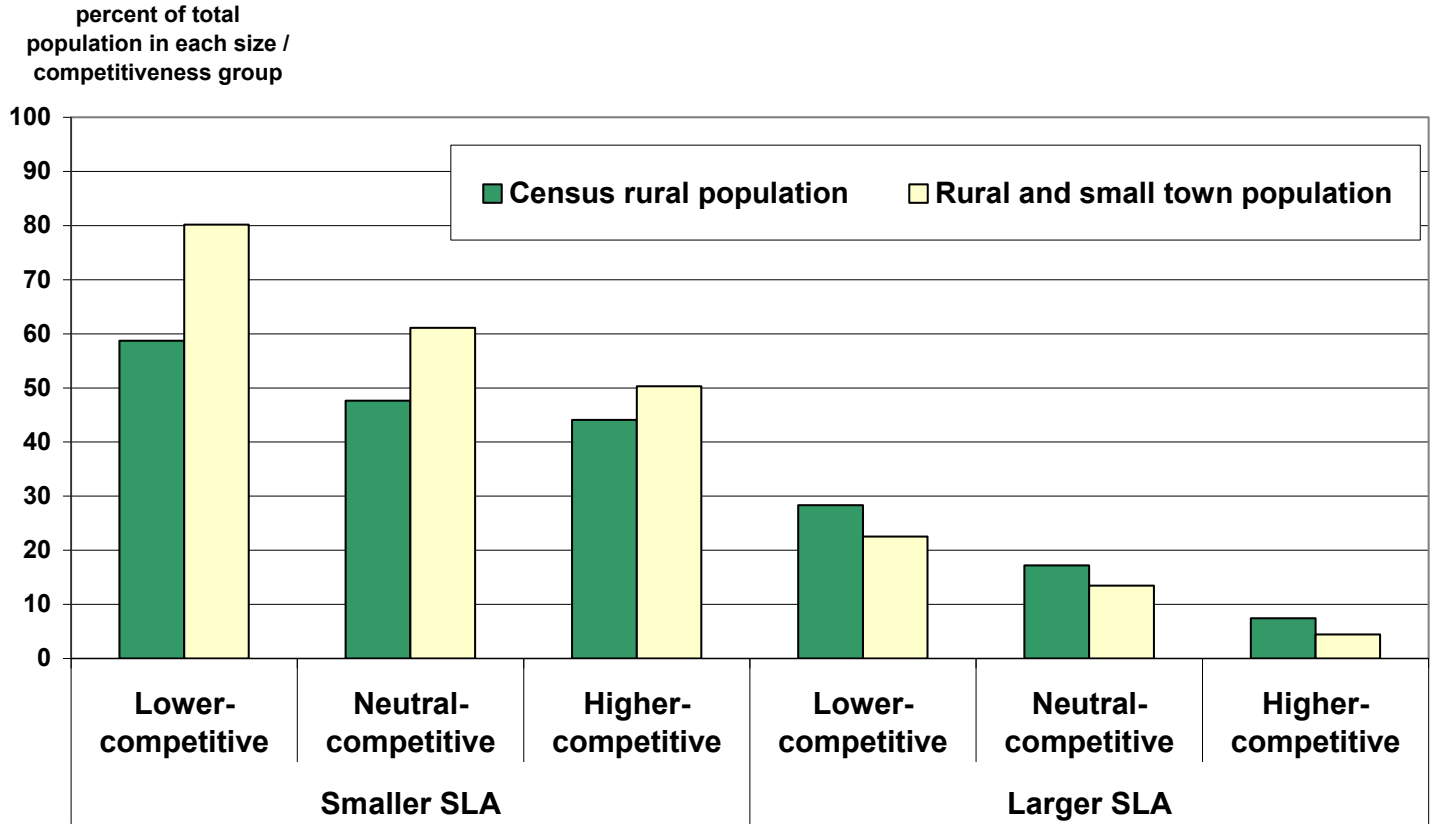
Figure 2. Larger higher-competitive SLAs had a population density of 134 persons per km² with an average population of 1.1 million residents



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

Closely related with the measure of population size and density are the measures of degree of rurality and urbanization. Smaller SLAs tend to be predominantly rural SLAs, by any of the prevailing measures of rurality (Munro et al., 2011). Smaller SLAs have a higher share of their population being rural, using either the census rural measure or the rural and small town measure (Box 3) (Figure 3). Within each of smaller and larger SLAs, lower-competitive SLAs have a higher share of their population living in rural areas.

Figure 3. Smaller and less competitive SLAs had a higher share of population residing in rural areas, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

BOX 3: Definition of Rural Areas

Larger Urban Centres Versus Rural and Small Town Areas

Larger urban centres (LUCs) are Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Census Agglomerations (CAs):

- **Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)** have an urban core population of 50,000 or more with a total population of 100,000 or more.
- **Census Agglomerations (CAs)** have an urban core population of 10,000 or more with a total population of less than 100,000.
- Both CMAs and CAs include the total population of neighbouring census subdivisions (CSDs) (i.e., incorporated towns and municipalities) where more than 50% of the employed residents commute (i.e. a measure of social-economic integration) to the urban core of a specific CMA or CA. More details of the delineation are available from Statistics Canada (2007).

Rural and small town (RST) areas refer to non-CMA/CA areas.

Census Subdivsion

A census subdivision is a municipality (i.e. incorporated town, rural municipality, city, etc. determined by provincial legislation) or its equivalent such as Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories.

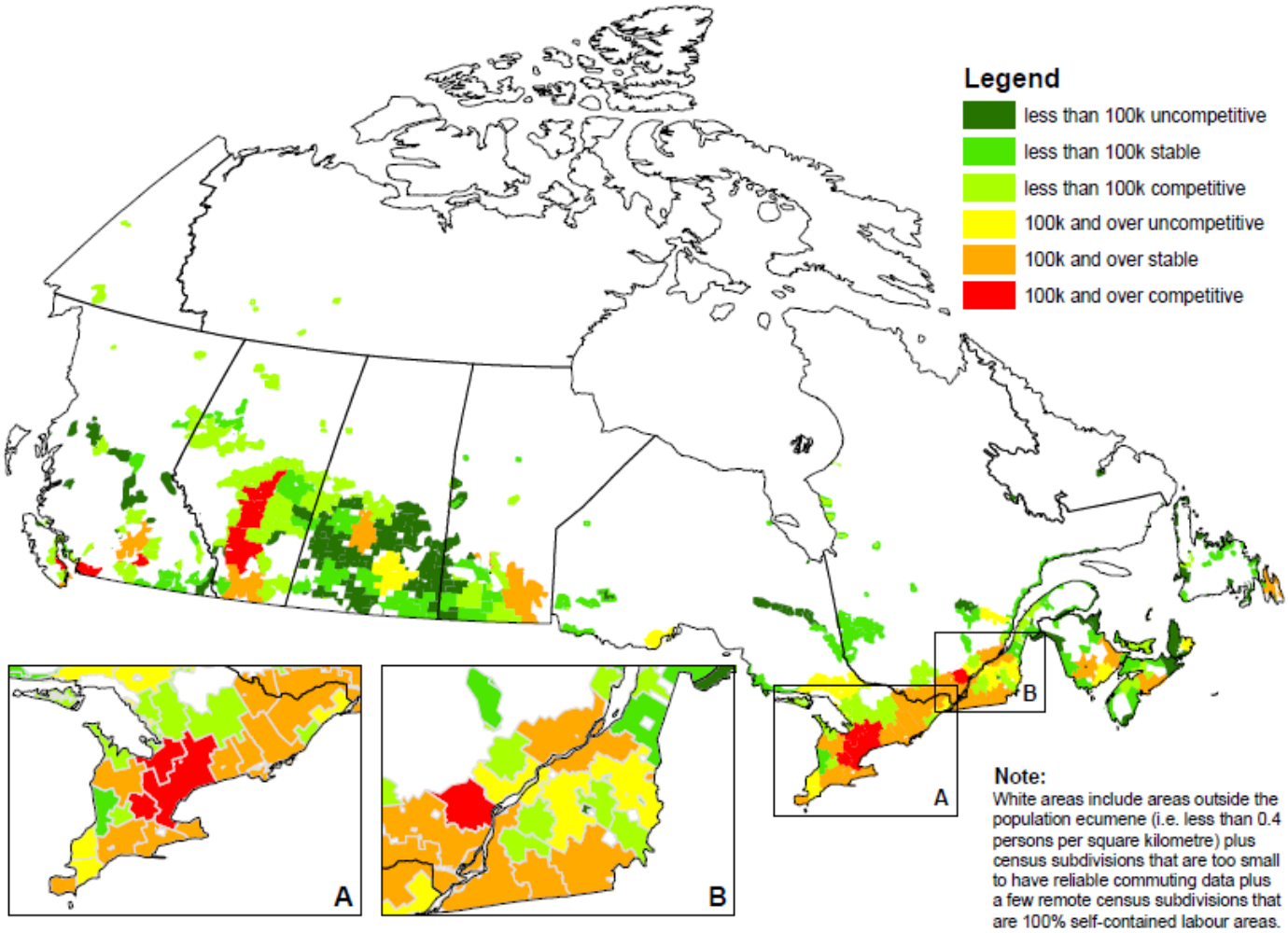
Census Rural and Census Urban Population

Census rural: This is the definition of rural used by Statistics Canada's Census of Population. This definition has changed over time (see Appendix A in du Plessis et al., 2002). Typically, it has referred to the population living outside settlements of 1,000 or more inhabitants. The current definition states that census rural is the population outside settlements with 1,000 or more population with a population density of 400 or more inhabitants per square kilometre.

For details on these definitions, see Statistics Canada (2007).

The spatial distribution of the six competitiveness groups is presented on Map 1. The green shades indicate the smaller SLAs while the yellow to orange shades represent the larger SLAs. The pattern of competitive regions is clearly consistent with the patterns of population growth and decline shown elsewhere (for example, see Map 1 in Mwansa and Bollman 2005). However, it should be recalled once again that the geographic unit of analysis used in this study has unique features in that it highlights a functional element of connectivity among communities within a given functional area, as measured by daily commuting flows.

Map 1. Self-contained labour area (SLA) classification, Canada, 2006



Source: Delineated by author using commuting data from the 2006 Census of Population, Statistics Canada.
Map produced by the Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis Section (RSGA), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, 2010.

Before presenting a demographic and socio-economic profile of these areas, we present some examples of the SLAs included in each group in our typology in order to provide a better sense of the types of labour market areas represented by each category.

Smaller Lower-Competitive SLAs

This group comprises 133 SLAs that had less than 100,000 residents in 2006 and experienced a population loss of at least 4% in the period from 2001 to 2006. The average population change for the SLAs in this group was -9.1% (with a range from -4% to -21.5%). The complete list of SLAs in this group is presented in Appendix Table A1.

Perhaps not surprising, these SLAs are located primarily in somewhat peripheral regions (Map 1). In general, they appear concentrated in the rural hinterlands of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the four Atlantic Provinces. Moreover, the large majority of them do indeed have a small population size (106 out of the 133 had less than 10,000 residents in 2006 and only 4 of these SLAs passed the threshold of 30,000 inhabitants).

Four SLAs reported a population decline of 2,000 or more residents in the 2001 to 2006 period (Table 1). The SLA centred on Antigonish (Nova Scotia) lost 3,348 residents in this period.

Five SLAs reported a population decline of 18% or more (Table 2). Both the Fort St. James (British Columbia) SLA and the Pic Mobert (Ontario) SLA declined by 21.5% in the five-year period from 2001 to 2006.

Table 1. Top 4 smaller lower-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of population decline from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Antigonish (Nova Scotia)	66,807	63,459	-3,348	-5.0
Alnwick to Caraquet (New Brunswick)	44,024	41,850	-2,174	-4.9
Quesnel (British Columbia)	24,141	22,104	-2,037	-8.4
Marathon (Ontario)	11,109	9,072	-2,037	-18.3

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Table 2. Top 5 smaller lower-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of percent decline in population from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Fort St. James (British Columbia)	4,084	3,205	-879	-21.5
Pic Mobert (Ontario)	307	241	-66	-21.5
Central Coast C&D (British Columbia)	1,213	977	-236	-19.5
Marathon (Ontario)	11,109	9,072	-2,037	-18.3
Hodgeville (Saskatchewan)	607	498	-109	-18.0

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Smaller Neutral-Competitive SLAs

These SLAs had less than 100,000 residents in 2006 and experienced a population change of -3.9% to -0.1%. Once again, it is important to emphasize that the competitiveness level is determined here in relation to the average value of the peer group. Among smaller SLAs, the average population change from 2001 to 2006 is -2%. We classified smaller SLAs within 2 percentage points around this average to be "neutral-competitive".

The complete list of these SLAs is in Appendix Table A2. Some of these SLAs appear to contain regional centres that are distant from major metropolitan areas.

Four SLAs had a population decline of more than 1,300 individuals (Table 3). The largest decline (-2,003 persons) was the SLA centred on Prince George (British Columbia).

Five SLAs had a population decline of 3.9% or more (Table 4). The Miramichi (New Brunswick) SLA declined by 4% from 2001 to 2006.

Table 3. Top 4 smaller neutral-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of population decline from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Prince George (British Columbia)	85,972	83,969	-2,003	-2.3
Miramichi (New Brunswick)	41,148	39,511	-1,637	-4.0
Timmins (Ontario)	51,789	50,345	-1,444	-2.8
Castlegar-Trail (British Columbia)	35,044	33,693	-1,351	-3.9

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Table 4. Top 5 smaller neutral-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of percent decline in population from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Miramichi (New Brunswick)	41,148	39,511	-1,637	-4.0
Forestville (Quebec)	12,942	12,437	-505	-3.9
La Tuque (Quebec)	14,059	13,511	-548	-3.9
Dauphin (Manitoba)	19,671	18,910	-761	-3.9
Castlegar-Trail (British Columbia)	35,044	33,693	-1,351	-3.9

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Smaller Higher-Competitive SLAs

These SLAs had less than 100,000 residents in 2006 and experienced a population growth (within the range of 0% to 124%) in the 2001 to 2006 period. The complete list of these SLAs is in Appendix Table A3.

These SLAs appear concentrated in parts of the interior of British Columbia, much of Alberta outside the corridor from Lethbridge to Calgary to Red Deer to Edmonton, in cottage country south of Algonquin Park in Ontario and parts of southern Quebec (Map 1)

Four SLAs reported a population increase of 5,000 or more inhabitants (Table 5). The population growth in the Grande Prairie (Alberta) SLA was 12,738 during the five-year period from 2001 to 2006.

In terms of the rate of growth, four quite small SLAs grew at a faster rate than the Fort McMurray (Alberta) (Table 6). The growth in the Fort McMurray (Alberta) SLA was 23.7% from 2001 to 2006.

Table 5. Top 4 smaller higher-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of population growth from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Grande Prairie (Alberta)	76,513	89,251	12,738	16.6
Fort McMurray (Alberta)	42,496	52,585	10,089	23.7
Medicine Hat (Alberta)	68,480	75,455	6,975	10.2
Drummondville (Quebec)	94,295	99,340	5,045	5.4

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Table 6. Top 5 smaller higher-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of percent growth in population from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Whitefish Bay 32A First Nation-Sioux Narrows-Nester Falls (Ontario)	577	1,294	717	124.3
Shoal Lake (Ontario)	140	231	91	65.0
Cross Lake (Manitoba)	2,544	3,854	1,310	51.5
Ulkatcho-Squinas (British Columbia)	319	395	76	23.8
Fort McMurray (Alberta)	42,496	52,585	10,089	23.7

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Larger Lower-Competitive SLAs

These SLAs had 100,000 or more residents in 2006 and experienced a population change of less than 2% in the 2001 to 2006 period. Once again it should be emphasized that "competitiveness" is relative to the average performance of the peer group. Hence, in spite of the fact that all but three of these SLAs had a positive population change, this change was below the average of the group.

The complete list of these SLAs is in Appendix Table A4. Looking across Canada, this group of SLAs includes Regina, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Chatham-Kent, four SLAs in southern Quebec and Saint John, New Brunswick (Map 1).

Four SLAs reported a population increase of 1,400 or more inhabitants (Table 7). The population growth in the Trois-Rivières (Quebec) SLA was 3,740 from 2001 to 2006. The Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) SLA declined by 3,402 from 2001 to 2006 (Appendix Table A4).

In terms of the rate of population change, the Trois-Rivières (Quebec) SLA grew by 2% (Table 8) and the Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) SLA declined by 3.1% during the study period (Appendix Table A4).

Table 7. Top 3 larger lower-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of population growth from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Trois-Rivières (Quebec)	187,560	191,300	3,740	2.0
Saint-Georges (Quebec)	114,240	115,795	1,555	1.4
Sudbury (Ontario)	171,990	173,445	1,455	0.8

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Table 8. Top 4 larger lower-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of percent growth in population from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Trois-Rivières (Quebec)	187,560	191,300	3,740	2.0
Saint-Georges (Quebec)	114,240	115,795	1,555	1.4
Victoriaville (Quebec)	111,511	112,889	1,378	1.2
North Bay (Ontario)	101,721	102,955	1,234	1.2

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Larger Neutral-Competitive SLAs

These SLAs had 100,000 or more residents in 2006 and experienced a population change of 2% to 6% in the 2001 to 2006 period – within plus or minus 2 percentage points of the average change of 4% among larger SLAs. The complete list of these SLAs is in Appendix Table A5.

Scanning across Canada, this group of SLAs includes Lethbridge, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, 9 SLAs in southern and eastern Ontario plus Montreal and Quebec City.

Five SLAs reported a population increase of 25,000 or more inhabitants (Table 9). The population growth was the largest in the Montreal (Quebec) SLA from 2001 to 2006.

In terms of the rate of population change, the Victoria-Saanich (British Columbia) SLA grew by 6% and four other large neutral-competitive SLAs grew by 5.5% to 5.8% (Table 10).

Table 9. Top 4 larger neutral-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of population growth from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Montreal (Quebec)	3,865,803	4,082,055	216,252	5.6
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec)	1,256,610	1,325,477	68,867	5.5
Québec (Quebec)	788,123	821,204	33,081	4.2
Winnipeg (Manitoba)	799,229	825,303	26,074	3.3
London (Ontario)	557,123	582,434	25,311	4.5

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Table 10. Top 5 larger neutral-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of percent growth in population from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Victoria-Saanich (British Columbia)	324,229	343,540	19,311	6.0
Lethbridge (Alberta)	140,894	149,094	8,200	5.8
Montreal (Quebec)	3,865,803	4,082,055	216,252	5.6
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec)	1,256,610	1,325,477	68,867	5.5
Granby (Quebec)	136,550	144,024	7,474	5.5

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Larger Higher-Competitive SLAs

These SLAs had 100,000 or more residents in 2006 and experienced a population change of 6% or more in the 2001 to 2006 period. The complete list of these SLAs is in Appendix Table A6.

These SLAs include the lower Fraser Valley in British Columbia, the Calgary – Red Deer – Edmonton corridor, the area from Kitchener to Toronto to Barrie in Ontario and Joliette, north of Montreal (Map 1).

Three SLAs reported a population increase of 125,000 or more inhabitants (Table 11). The largest population growth was in the Toronto (Ontario) SLA from 2001 to 2006.

In terms of the rate of population change, the Calgary (Alberta) SLA and the Red Deer (Alberta) SLA each grew by more than 13% from 2001 to 2006 (Table 12).

Table 11. Top 3 larger higher-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of population growth from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Toronto (Ontario)	5,729,665	6,229,586	499,921	8.7
Calgary (Alberta)	1,044,200	1,189,008	144,808	13.9
Vancouver (British Columbia)	1,984,955	2,114,321	129,366	6.5

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Table 12. Top 3 larger higher lower-competitive SLAs, ranked by size of percent growth in population from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Calgary (Alberta)	1,044,200	1,189,008	144,808	13.9
Red Deer (Alberta)	176,799	201,148	24,349	13.8
Barrie (Ontario)	317,664	358,183	40,519	12.8

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

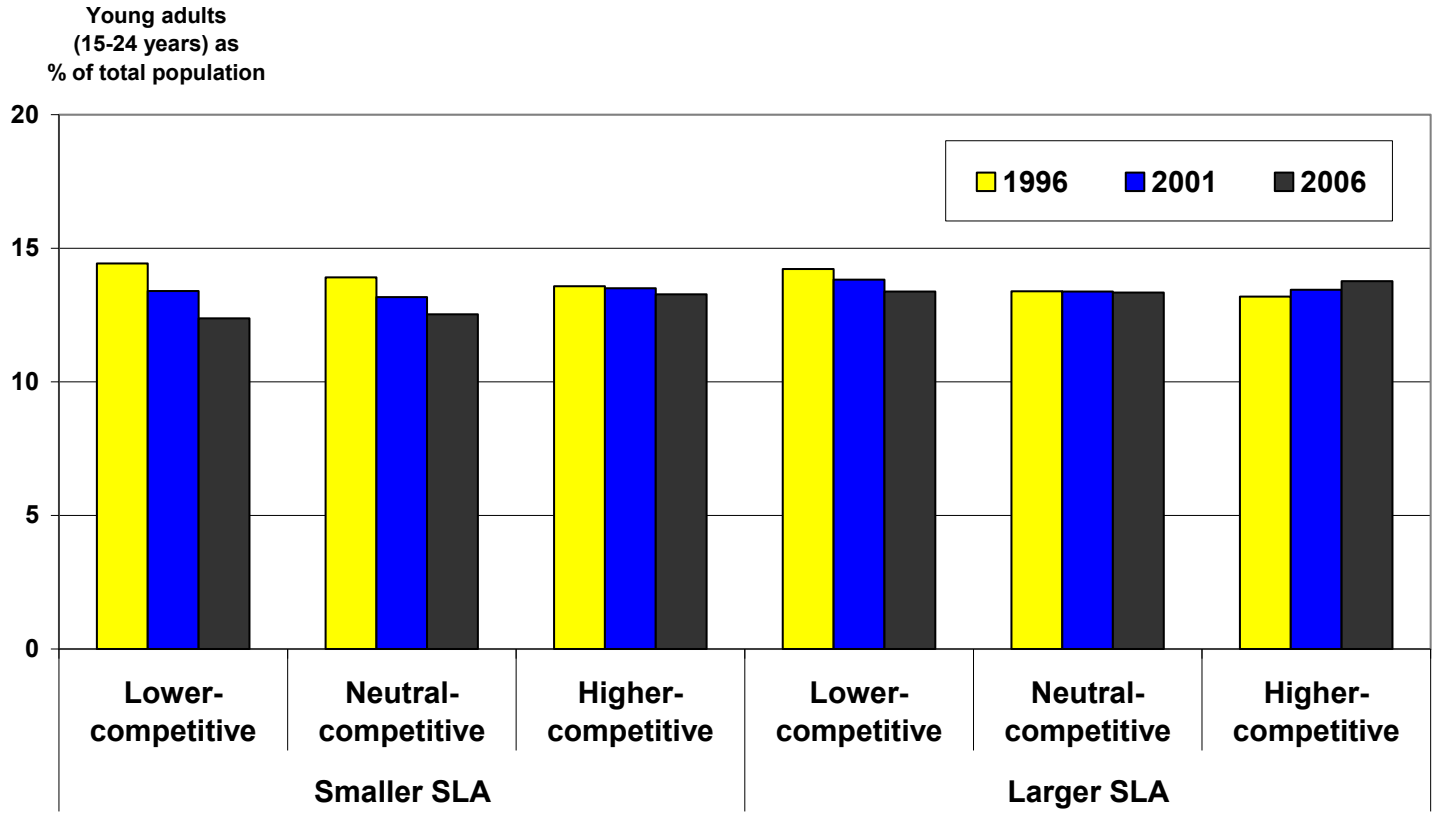
Demographic Profile

There are important demographic gradients across SLA competitiveness groups. In general, less competitive SLAs have fewer young adults and a greater share of seniors (65 years of age and over). However, over the 1996 to 2006 period, larger higher-competitive SLAs are those with the higher percent gains in their older population.

In 1996, lower-competitive SLAs (both in the smaller and larger peer groups) showed a slightly higher share of their population to be young adults (15 to 24 years of age) (Figure 4). However, within smaller lower-competitive SLAs, the share of young adults in the total population declined from 14% in 1996 to 12% in 2006.

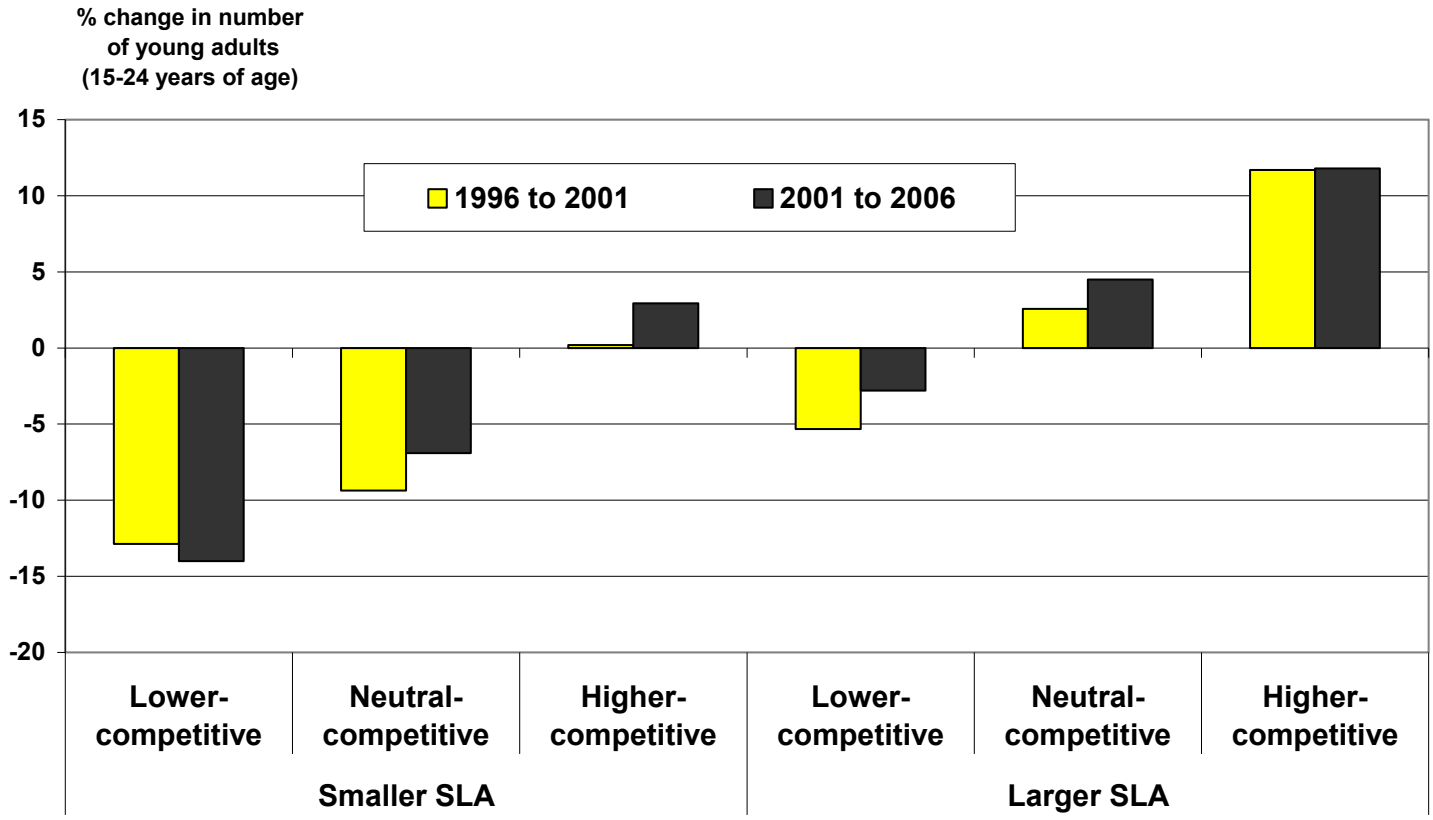
This represented a decline of 13-14% in the number of young adults in each inter-censal period (Figure 5). The decline in the number of young adults is due, in part, to out-migration but also due, in part, to fewer births 15 years previous.

Figure 4. Young adults, as a share of the total population, increased slightly in larger higher-competitive SLAs from 1996 to 2006, Canada



Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca)
The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

Figure 5. In lower-competitive SLAs, there was a decline in the number of young adults in each 5-year period, Canada



Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca)
The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

At the other end of the age scale, smaller lower-competitive SLAs have a higher share of their population that is 65 years of age and over (Figure 6). If aging is measured by the change in the share of the population that is older (Dandy et al., 2008), there were three cases where there was a 1.3 percentage point increase in the share of the population that was 65 years of age or older:

1. from 2001 to 2006 in smaller lower-competitive SLAs;
2. from 1996 to 2001 in smaller neutral-competitive SLAs; and
3. from 1996 to 2001 in larger lower-competitive SLAs (Figure 6).

Thus, by this measure of aging, these three types of SLA were aging the most.

However, if aging is measured as the rate of change in the number of individuals who are 65 years of age and older, then higher-competitive (and, in particular, larger higher-competitive) SLAs showed the highest rate of change in the number of seniors (Figure 7).

As noted by Dandy et al. (2008), aging in terms of an increasing share of the population being older represents an increase in the demand for the younger population to provide support whereas aging in terms of an increasing number of seniors represents an increase in the demand for services needed by seniors (seniors housing, personal care homes, etc.)

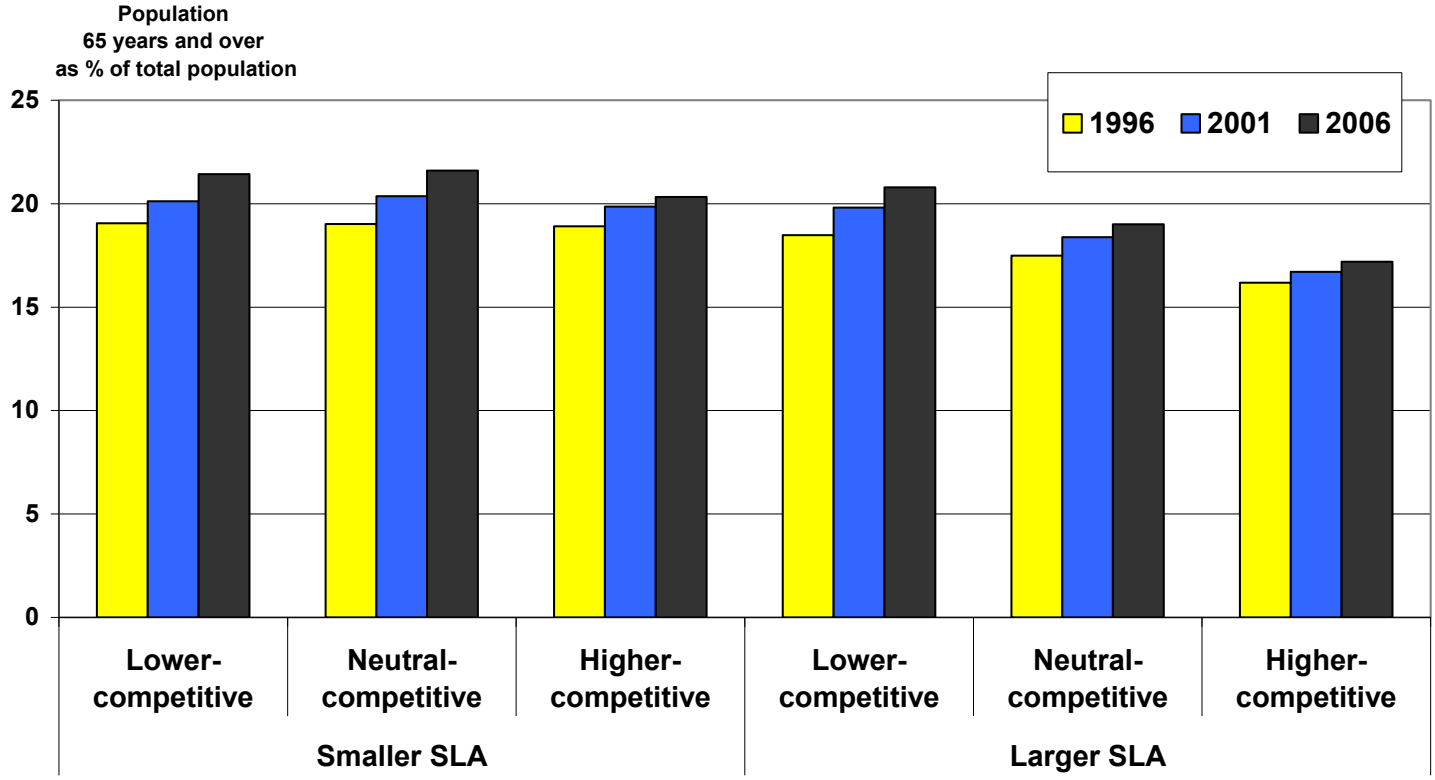
The increase in the number of seniors is due, in part, to the attractiveness of some higher-competitive SLAs for retirees. For example, among the larger higher-competitive SLAs, two SLAs are known as destinations for retirees:

1. the Kelowna-Central Okanagan (British Columbia) SLA; and
2. the Nanaimo (British Columbia) SLA (Appendix Table A6).

Also, there are a number of smaller higher-competitive SLAs that are known as retirement destinations:

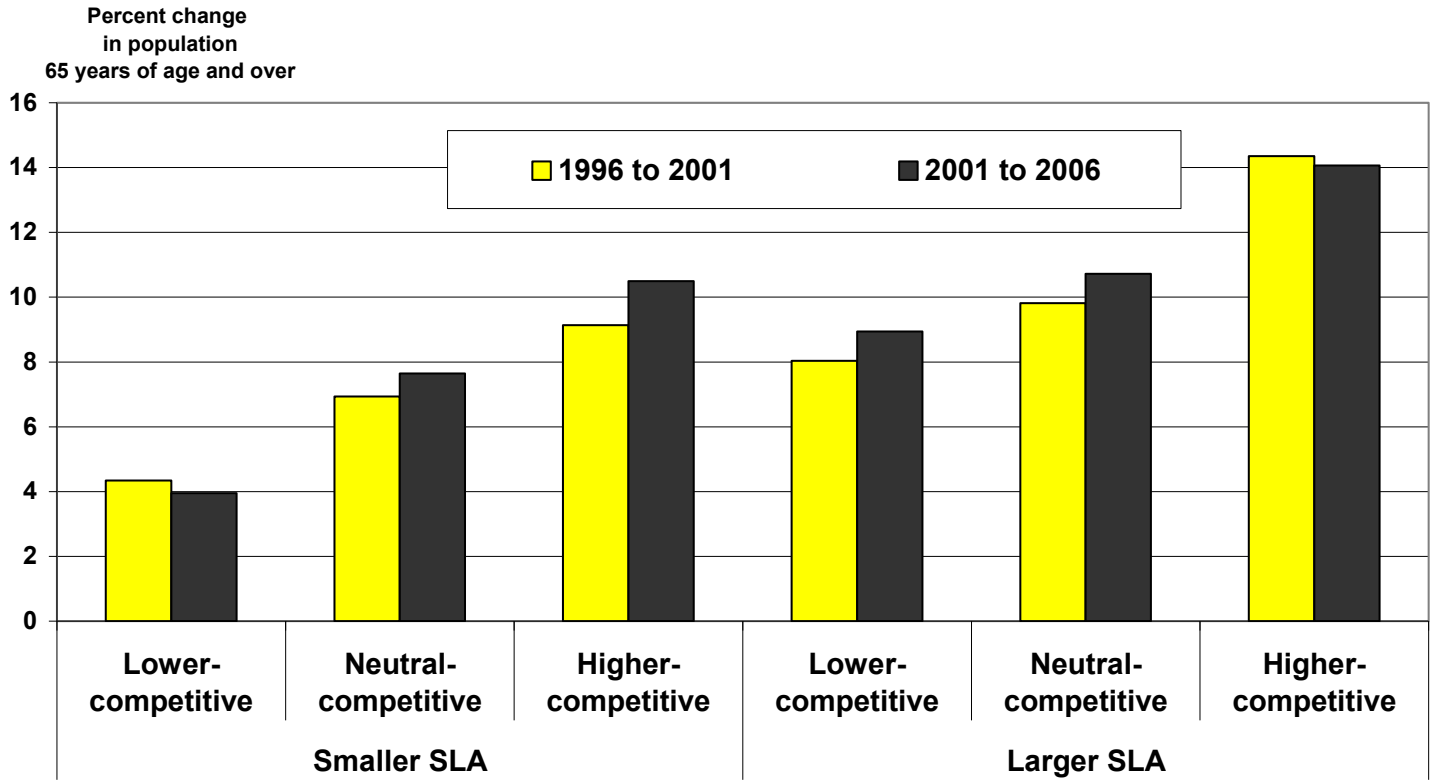
1. Duncan-Ladysmith-Cowichan Valley (British Columbia) SLA;
2. Huntsville-Bracebridge-Gravenhurst (Ontario) SLA;
3. Courtenay-Comox (British Columbia) SLA;
4. Vernon (British Columbia) SLA;
5. Penticton (British Columbia) SLA;
6. Minden Hills-Bancroft-Madawaska Valley (Ontario) SLA;
7. Parry Sound (Ontario) SLA;
8. Canmore (Alberta) SLA;
9. Invermere (British Columbia) SLA; and
10. Osoyoos-Oliver (British Columbia) SLA (Appendix Table A3).

Figure 6. Smaller lower-competitive SLAs have a larger share of their population that is 65 years of age or older, Canada



Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca)
The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

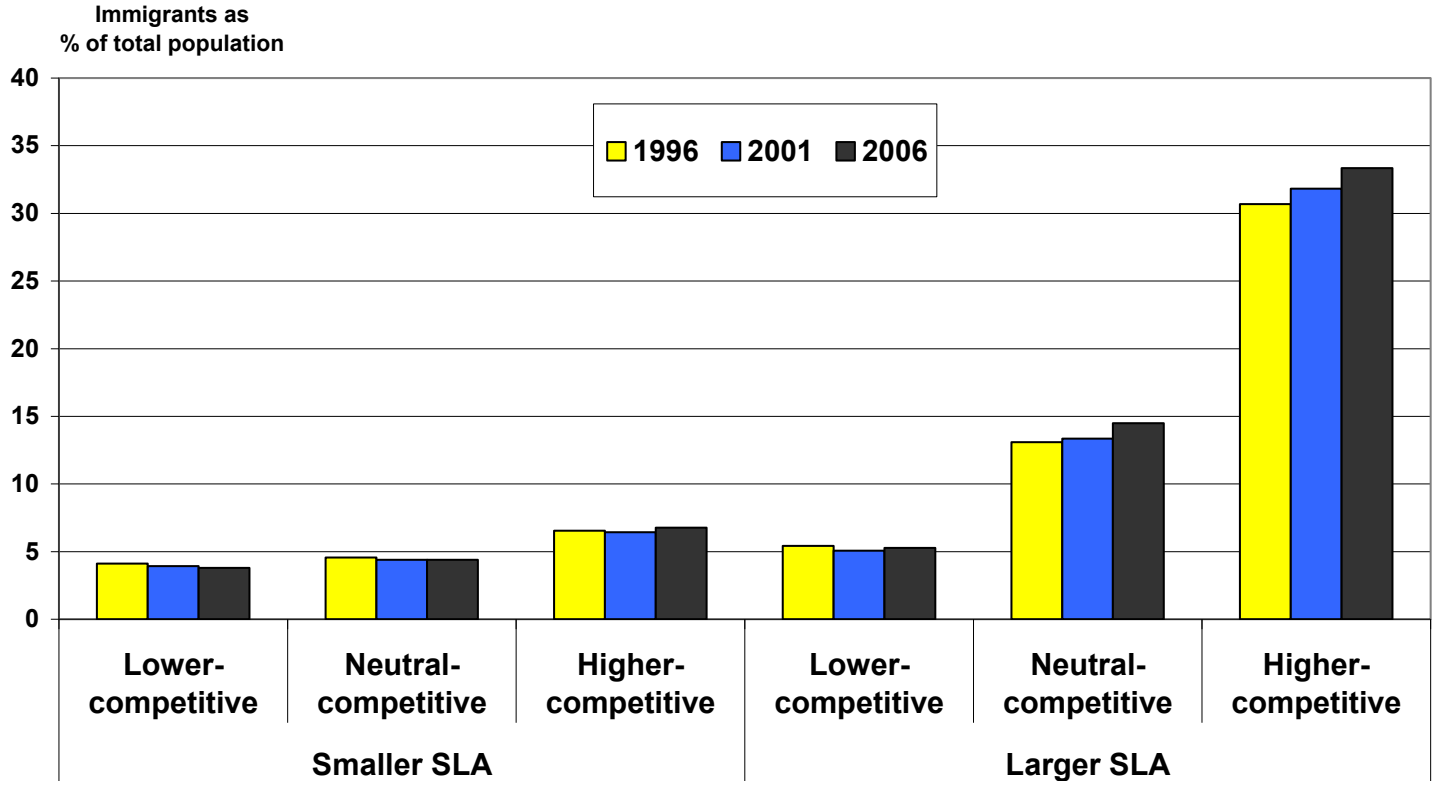
Figure 7. The 65+ population grew by 14% in each 5-year period in larger higher-competitive SLAs, Canada



Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca)
The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

As documented elsewhere (Beshiri and Alfred 2002; Beshiri 2004; Bollman et al. 2007; Beshiri and He 2009), immigrants, and especially recent immigrants, are most likely to be found in the larger cities. In the 1996 to 2006 period, over 30% of the population of larger higher-competitive SLAs were immigrants (Figure 8).

Figure 8. In 2006, immigrants constituted 33% of the population in larger higher-competitive SLAs, Canada



Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca)
The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

From 1996 to 2006, the number of immigrants increased in both inter-censal periods in two groups of SLAs:

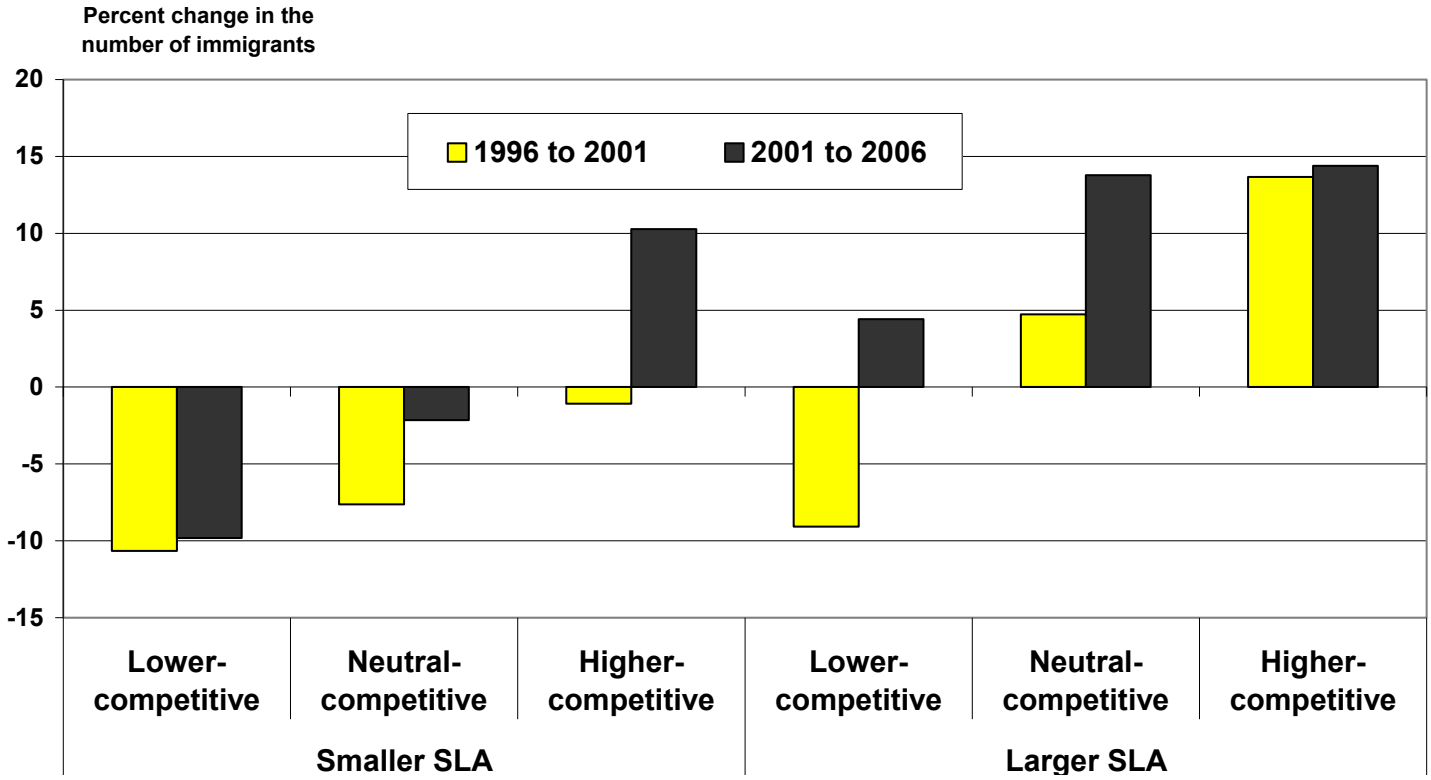
1. larger neutral-competitive SLAs; and
2. larger higher-competitive SLAs (Figure 9).

In contrast, the number of immigrants declined in both periods in two groups of SLAs:

1. smaller lower-competitive SLAs; and
2. smaller neutral-competitive SLAs (Figure 9).

As noted in the earlier reports on immigrants in rural areas (e.g. Beshiri and Alfred 2002), the share of the population who were 'well-established' immigrants (who arrived in Canada before 1961 – see Figure 1 in Beshiri and Alfred 2002) was quite even across the urban-to-rural gradient. Thus, part of the decline in the number of immigrants in smaller less competitive SLAs is certainly due to out-migration but part is also due to the deaths of 'well-established' post-war immigrants who had settled in more-rural areas.

Figure 9. The number of immigrants in larger high-competitive SLAs increased by 14% in each 5-year period, Canada



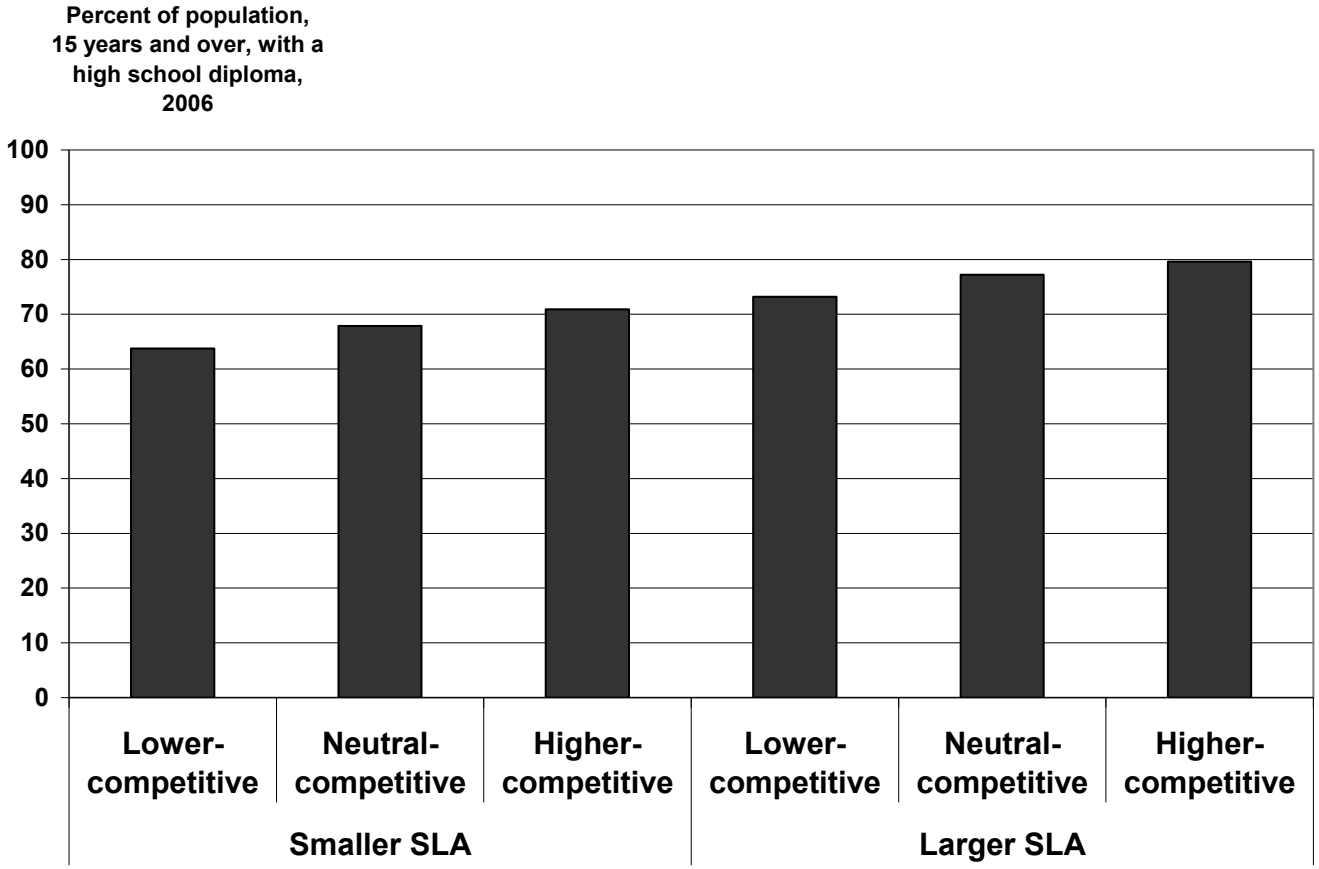
Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca)
The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

Human Capital Profile

Regions with a high level of educational attainment are typically places that grow (see, for example, Bollman, 1999 and Alasia, 2010, among others). Studies have consistently shown this association at both the community and regional level (see Alasia 2010, among others). The findings of this profile are in line with this evidence: more competitive SLAs have a population with a higher level of educational attainment. What is interesting to note, however, is that the gradient is also associated with population size of the SLA.

In larger SLAs and in more competitive SLAs within each population size group, there is a higher share of the population (15 years of age and over) with a high school diploma (Figure 10). The range is from 64% in smaller lower-competitive SLAs to 80% in larger higher-competitive SLAs.

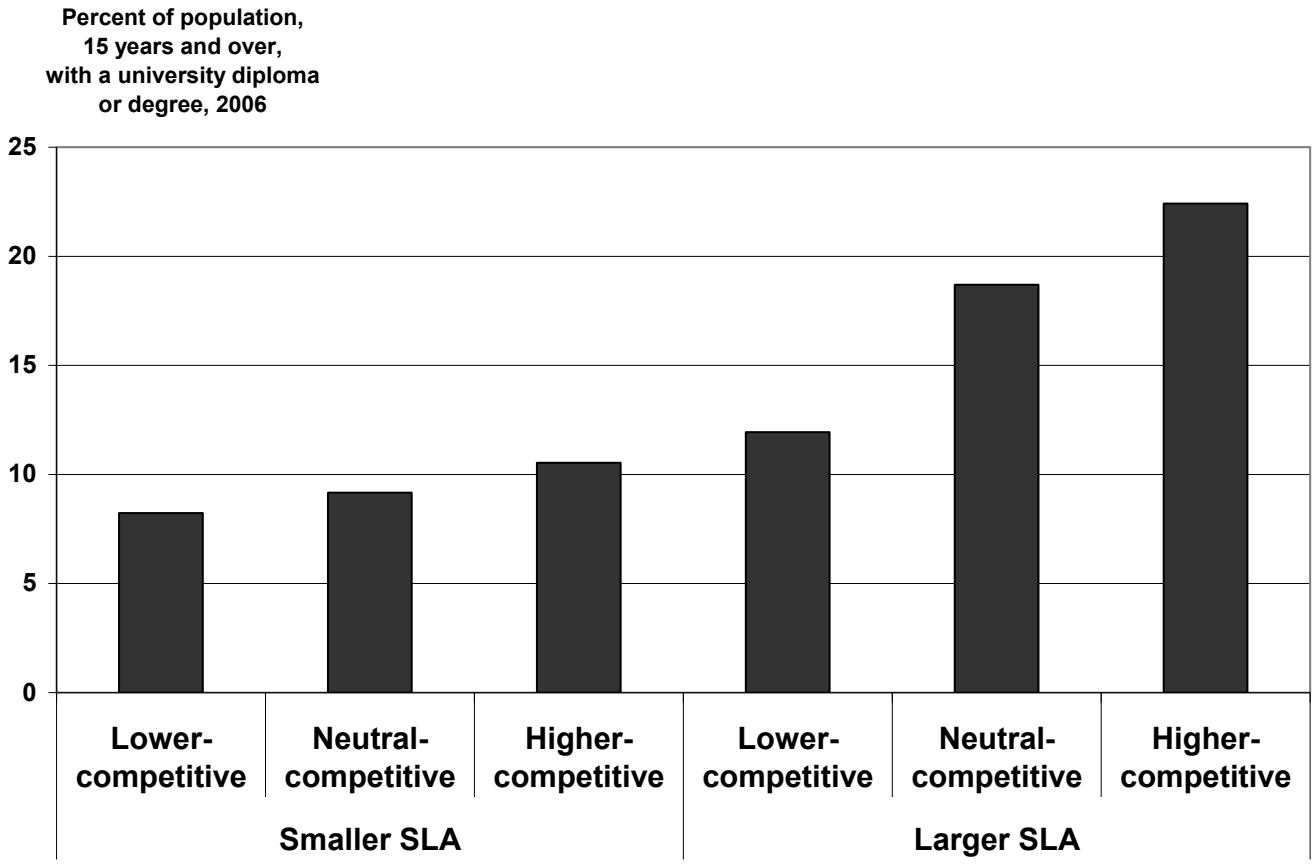
Figure 10. Larger higher-competitive SLAs had 80% of their population (15 years and over) with a high school diploma, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population. 2006

The human capital gradient is steeper for individuals with a university diploma or degree. The range is from 8% in smaller lower-competitive SLAs to 22% in larger higher-competitive SLAs (Figure 11). Although within smaller SLAs, the higher-competitive group had a higher incidence of individuals with a university diploma or degree, the population size of the region is clearly associated with the share of the population reporting a university diploma or degree.

Figure 11. Larger higher-competitive SLAs had 22% of their population (15 years and over) with a university diploma or degree, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population. 2006

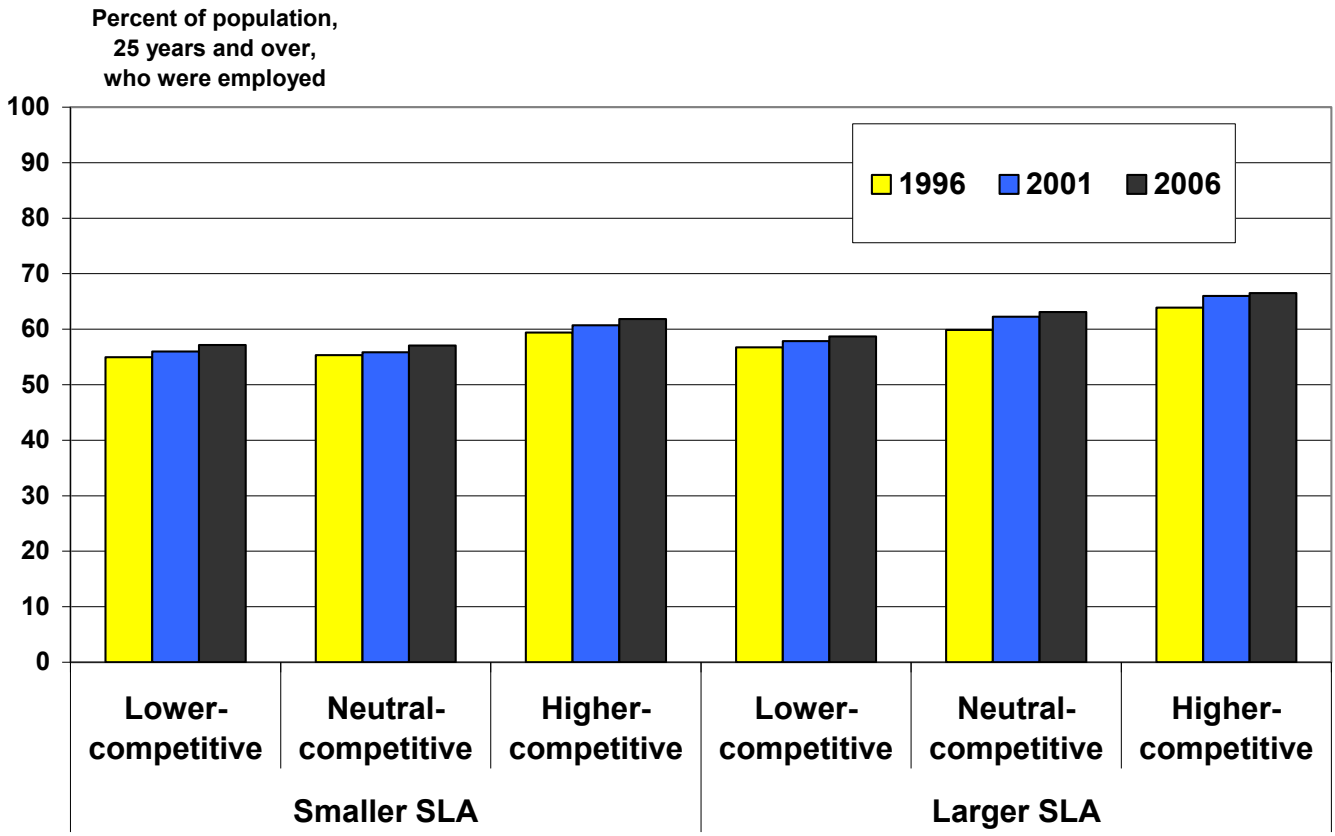
Employment and Low Income

One asset of any region is its potential workforce. In the search for assets that might be valorized, one important place to start is to find productive employment for potential workers. One liability of a region is the share of population in low income conditions. A reduction of the share of economically disadvantaged people is generally associated with an improvement in labour market conditions.

However, it is interesting to note that higher employment rates at the regional level are not always associated with a lower incidence of low income conditions. Larger SLAs present both higher employment rates and a higher incidence of low income[2]. In contrast, smaller higher-competitive SLAs show their real economic strength in this dimension, with a higher employment rate and the lowest incidence of low income conditions. The details are presented below.

In each of 1996, 2001 and 2006, higher-competitive SLAs (whether in the smaller or the larger peer group) reported a higher share of their population being employed (Figure 12). Across the competitiveness groups in 2006, the range was from 57% in smaller lower-competitive SLAs to 67% in larger higher-competitive SLAs.

Figure 12. Higher-competitive SLAs had a higher employment rate, Canada, 1996-2006

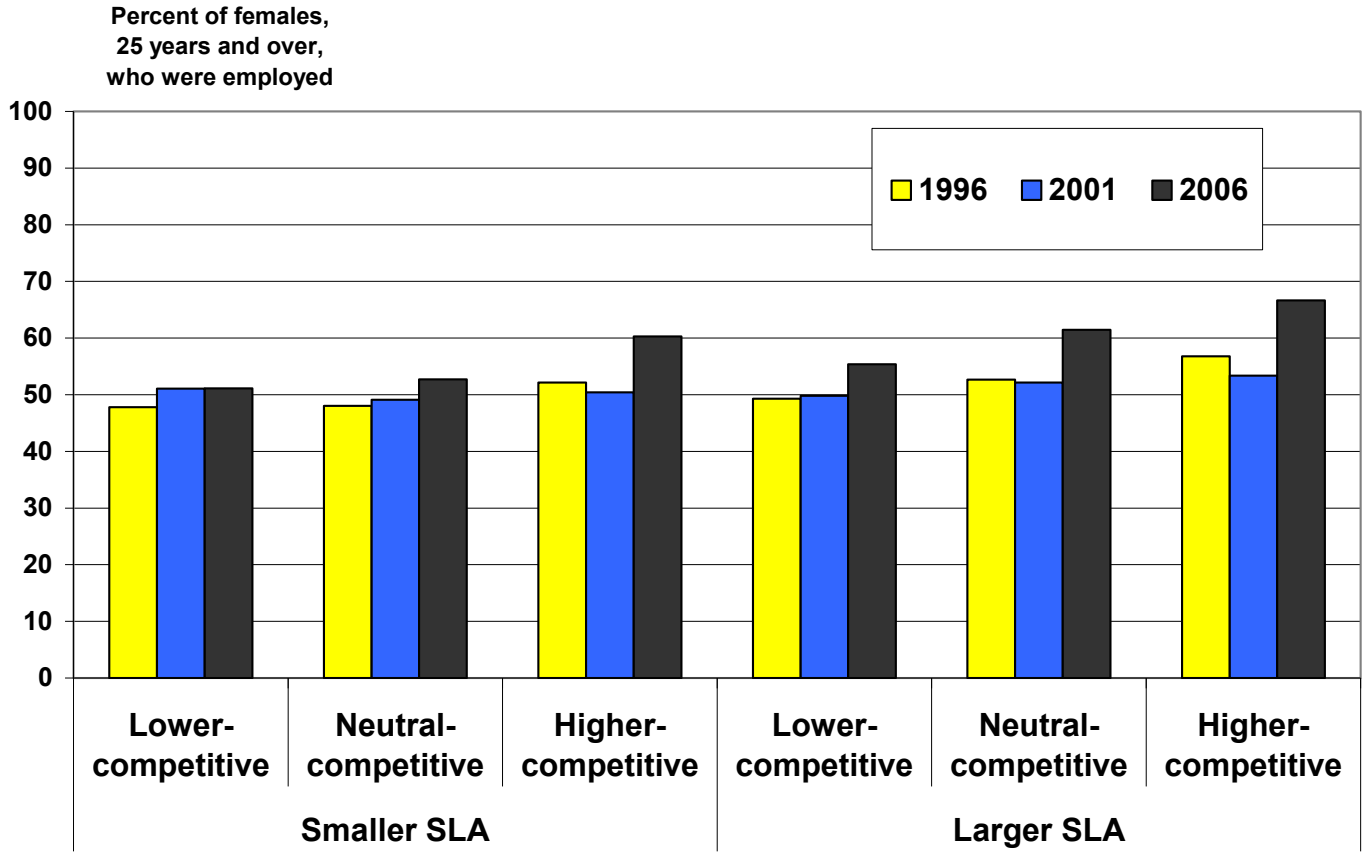


Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca). The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

1. The incidence of "low income" is measured in this study as the percent of economic families with family income below the low income cut-off (Statistics Canada, 2010).

By examining only the female population, the pattern among females is similar to that of the overall employed population 25 year and older. Higher-competitive SLAs (in each of the smaller and larger peer groups) have higher shares of females being employed (Figure 13). In 2006, the range across the SLA groups is also similar – from 51% in smaller lower-competitive SLAs to 67% in larger higher-competitive SLAs.

Figure 13. Higher-competitive SLAs have a higher female employment rate, Canada, 1996-2006



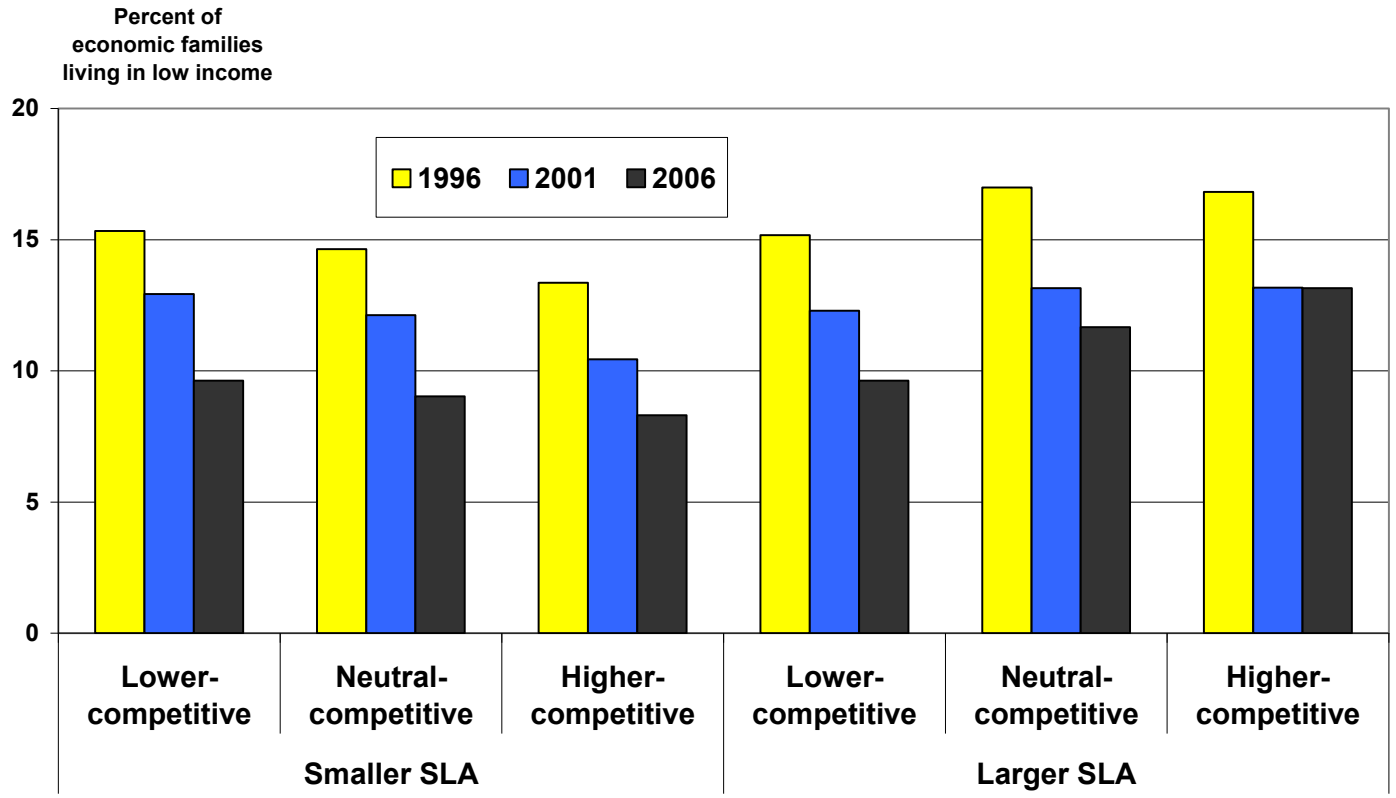
Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca). The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

In the context of a general improvement in employment rates in each type of SLA from 1996 to 2006, we also see that the incidence of families reporting low income has declined over the 1996 to 2006 period (Figure 14).

In 2006, the highest incidence of low income was in the larger higher-competitive SLA group with 13% of economic families living in low income.

In contrast, smaller SLAs show a downward-sloping gradient in the incidence of low income conditions as one moves from the lower to the higher-competitiveness group. In addition to that, the group of smaller higher-competitive SLAs is the SLA group with the lowest incidence of families with low income in each of the three census years. Hence, in 2006, this type of labour area presented some of the strongest economic performance in terms of both a (higher) employment rate and a (lower) incidence of low income.

Figure 14. Larger higher-competitive SLAs had the highest incidence of low income among economic families in 2006



Source: Data originated from the Census of Population and were accessed from the Community Information Database (www.cid-bdc.ca). The data for each census year have been tabulated according to the geographic boundaries applicable in 2006.

Employment by Industry Sector

Employment structure by major industry sectors shows some interesting differences between peer groups and competitiveness levels. We highlight in particular four broad patterns that provide a meaningful characterization of competitiveness potential and challenges:

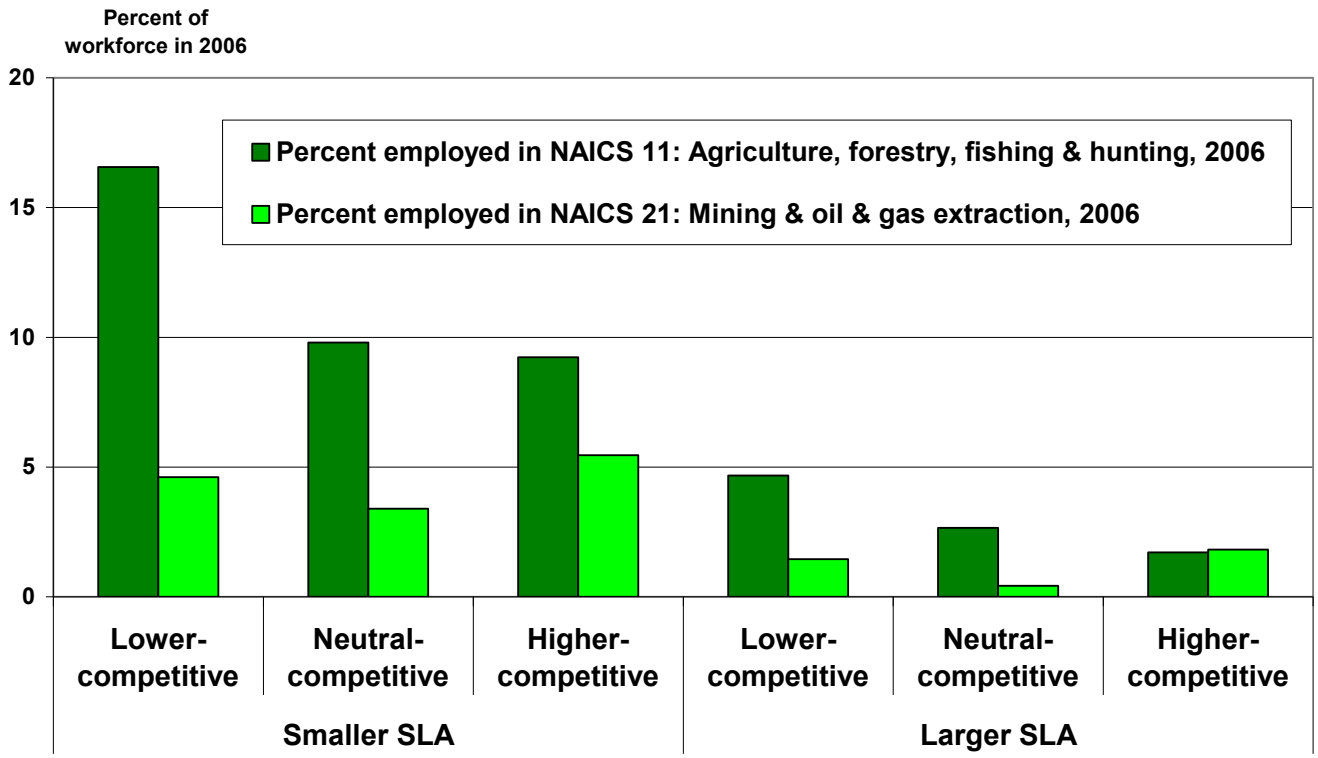
1. Resource sectors are relatively more predominant in smaller SLAs – but smaller higher-competitive SLAs have the highest share of employment in mining, oil and gas extraction;
2. Higher-competitive regions, both larger and smaller, have a higher share of employment in construction (because their population is growing) and in food and accommodation services;
3. Business services are more predominant in larger higher-competitive SLAs; and
4. Manufacturing employment is slightly more intensive in larger SLAs and employment in educational services is relatively higher in larger neutral-competitive and larger higher-competitive SLAs.

Regarding the first pattern, compared to the Canadian average, with 4% of the workforce employed in agriculture, forestry or the fishery, a relatively higher share of the workforce in smaller lower-competitive SLAs is employed in these primary sectors (17%) (Figure 15). This pattern shows that even when the geographic unit of analysis is a functional labour market area, a high incidence of employment in these primary sectors is associated with areas that face major challenges in retaining or expanding their population base. Although this is not necessarily implying that the economic conditions of the remaining residents are also declining, the erosion of the demographic base has been presented as a critical factor for the sustainability and long-term economic viability of rural areas.

Not all the resource sectors are always associated with a lower level of competitiveness in attracting and retaining population. Smaller SLAs, in general, have a higher share of their workforce employed in mining, oil and gas extraction. And, in fact, the smaller higher-competitive SLAs have the highest share of their workforce (5.5%) employed in these extractive sectors (Figure 15). When SLAs are ranked in terms of their share of employment in mining, oil and gas extraction, 15 SLAs have a share of 20% or greater. Eight SLAs are smaller higher-competitive SLAs:

- 54% in the Fort McMurray (Alberta) SLA;
- 30% in the Red Lake (Ontario) SLA;
- 26% in the Chicken No. 224 First Nation - Stony Rapids (Saskatchewan) SLA;
- 23% in the Hinton-Edson-Drayton Valley (Alberta) SLA;
- 22% in the Tumbler Ridge (British Columbia) SLA;
- 22% in the Brooks (Alberta) SLA;
- 22% in the Grande Prairie (Alberta) SLA; and
- 20% in the Fort St. John (British Columbia) SLA.

Figure 15. In smaller SLAs, a greater share is employed in the primary sectors, Canada, 2006



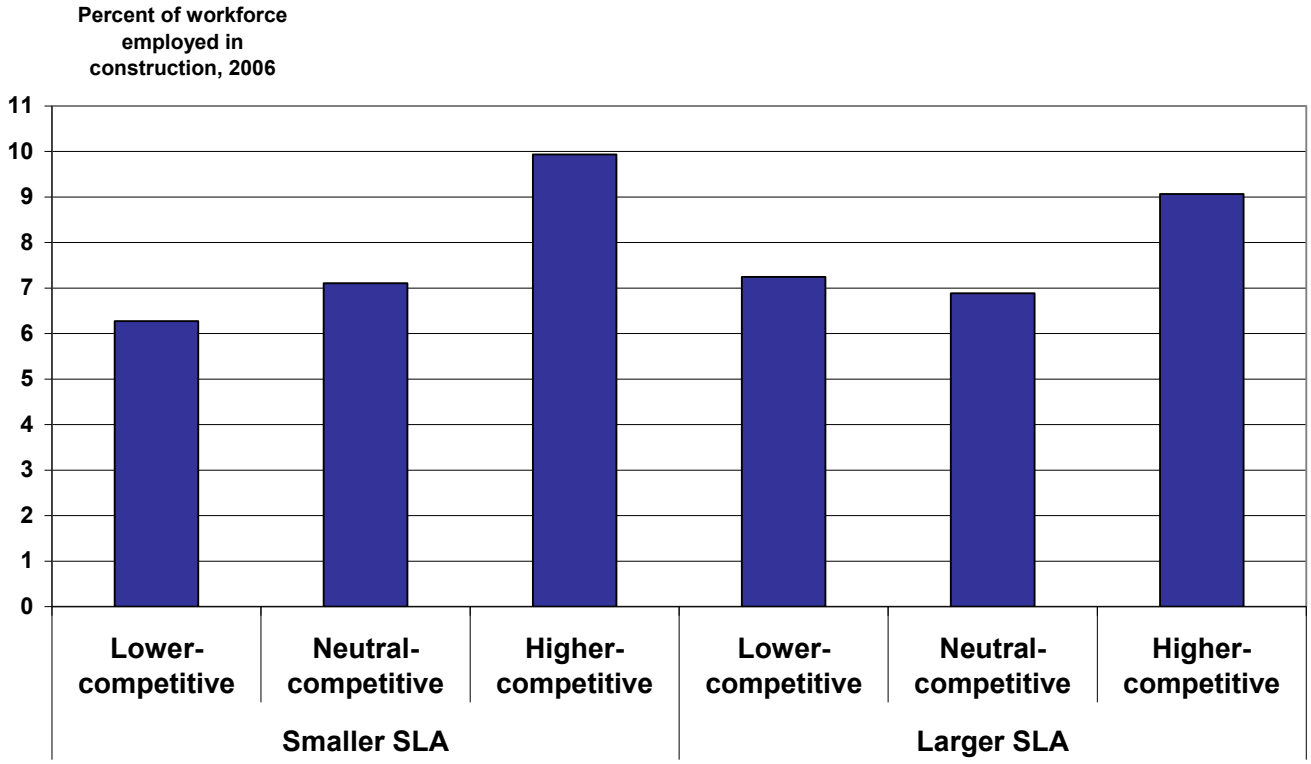
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population. 2006

The second pattern is the type of employment sectors with a greater share in higher-competitive SLAs, regardless of whether they are smaller SLAs or larger SLAs.

By definition, higher-competitive SLAs are growing. Consequently, one finds a higher share of the workforce employed in construction in SLAs that are higher-competitive – 10% in smaller higher-competitive SLAs and 9% in larger higher-competitive SLAs (Figure 16).

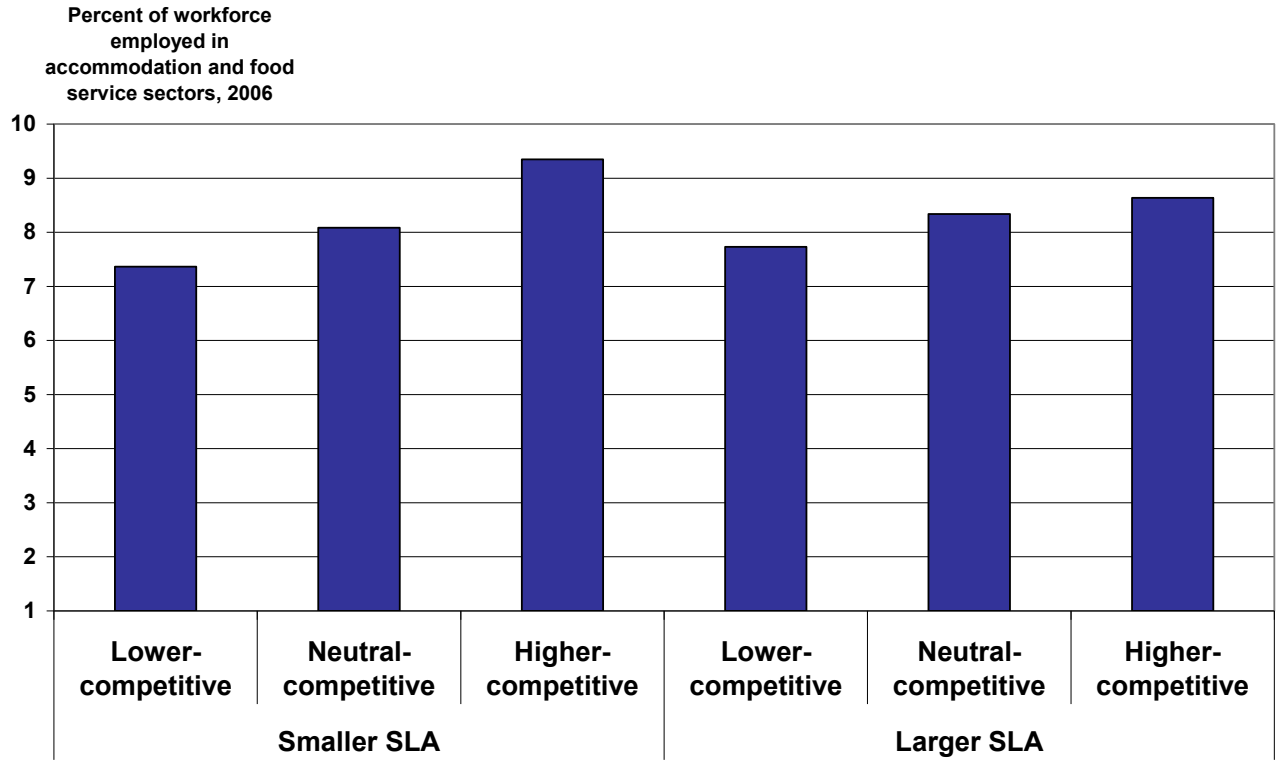
Within each peer group, the higher-competitive SLAs also have a higher share of employment in accommodation and food service sectors – about 9% in each case (Figure 17). This pattern is due, in part, to the presence of amenities that attract visitors.

Figure 16. Smaller higher-competitive (i.e. faster growing) SLAs have a greater workforce share in construction, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

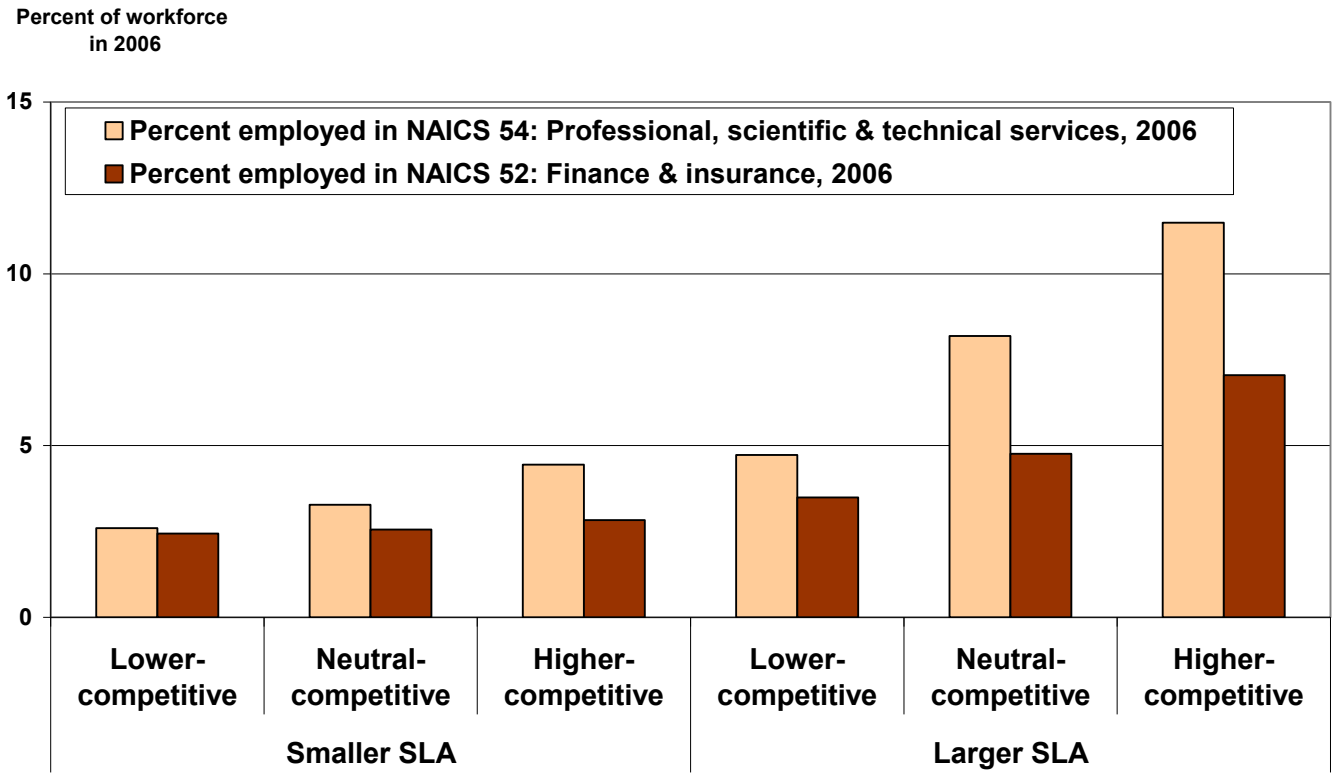
Figure 17. In smaller higher-competitive SLAs, 9.3% were employed in accomodation and food service sectors, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

Another pattern concerns the employment sectors that show a stronger association with population size of the area. Larger higher-competitive SLAs have a greater share of their employment in business services (Figure 18). Specifically, the share employed in finance and insurance is 7% and the share employed in professional, scientific and technical services is 11.5%.

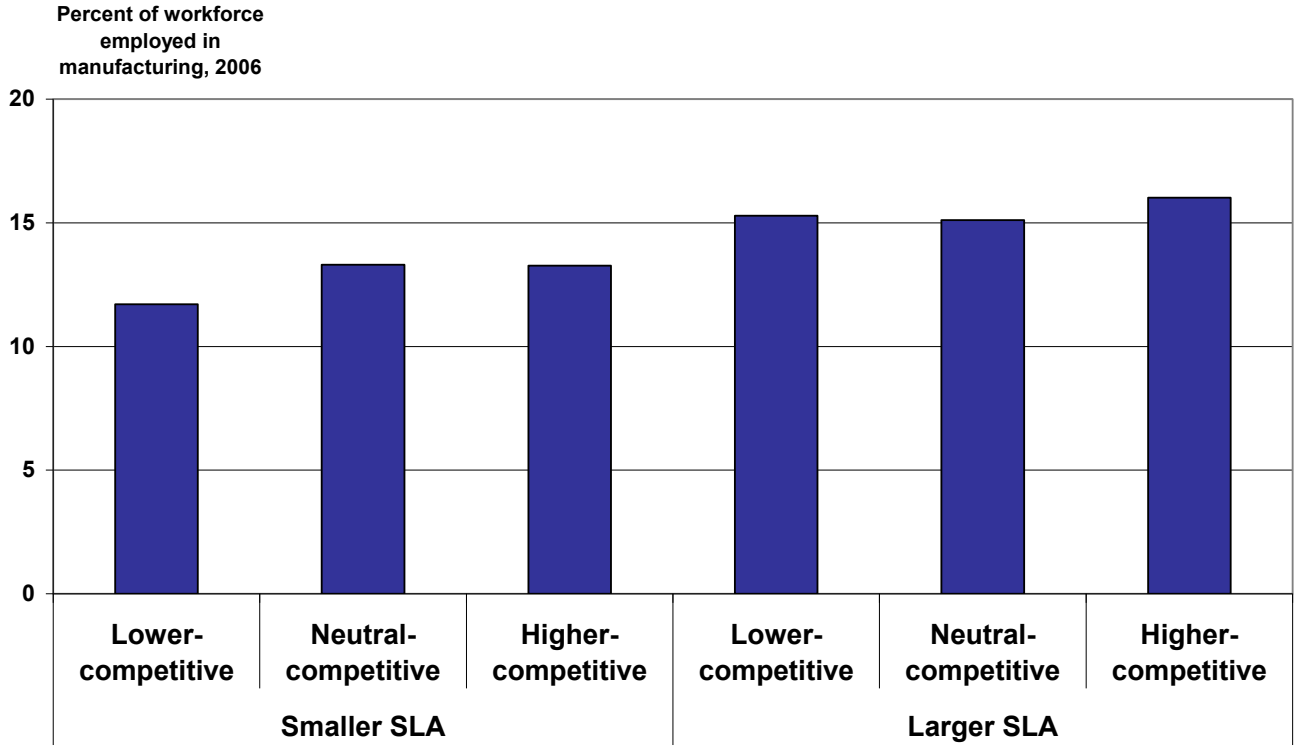
Figure 18. In larger higher-competitive SLAs, a greater share of the workforce was employed in business services, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

The share of employment in manufacturing is greater (about 15%) in larger SLAs – with a slight edge (16%) in larger higher-competitive SLAs (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Larger SLAs have a slightly higher share of the workforce employed in manufacturing, Canada, 2006



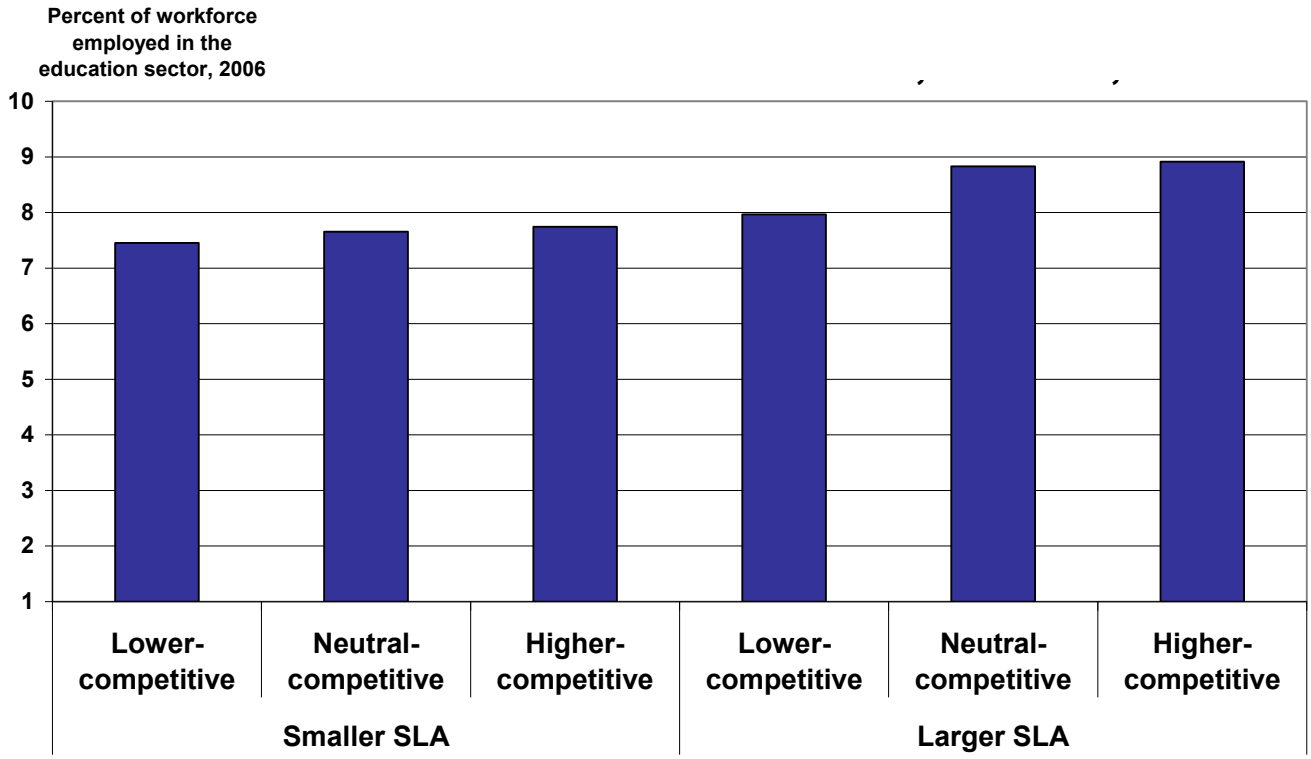
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

In other service sectors such as educational services and health services, we see smaller variations across the competitiveness groupings.

The share of employment in educational services is somewhat greater in larger neutral-competitive and larger higher-competitive SLAs – 9% in each case (Figure 20). These SLAs contain Canada's large metropolitan centres (Appendix Tables A5 and A6). The presence of larger universities is one factor causing the larger share of employment in educational services.

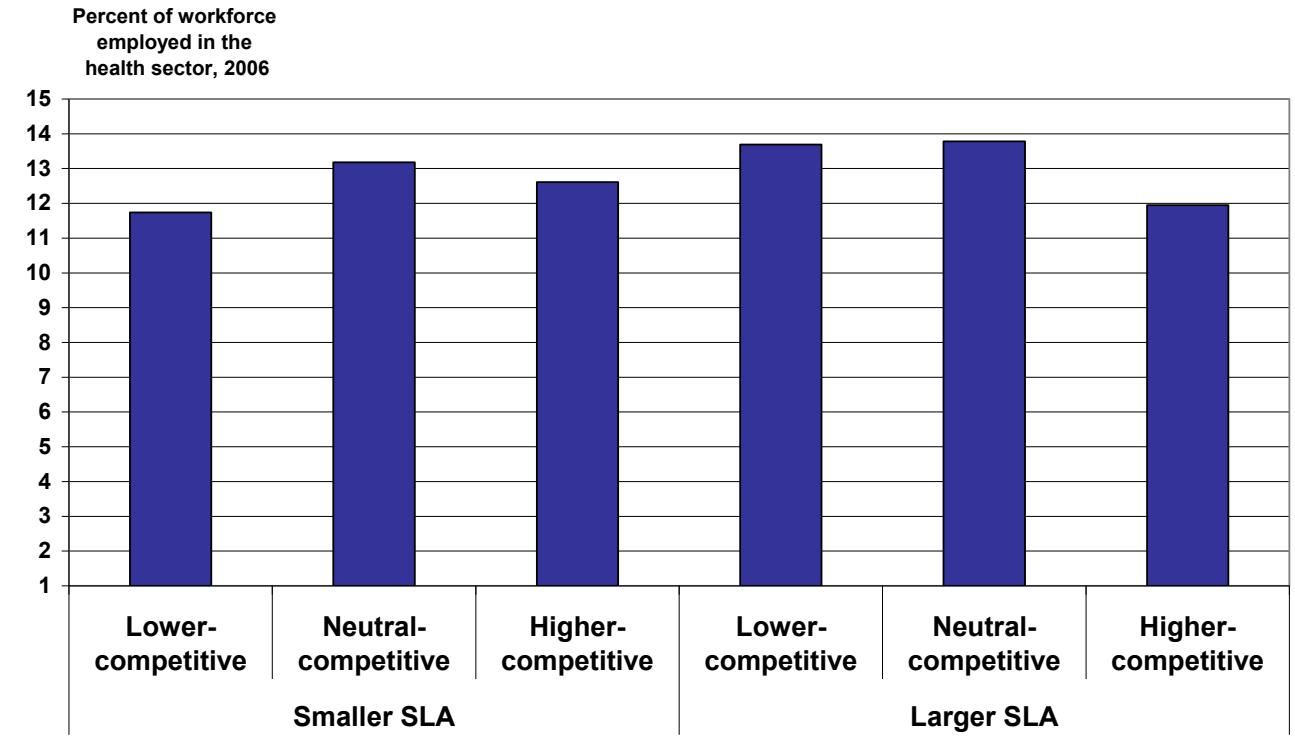
The share of the workforce in health services ranges from 12% in larger higher-competitive SLAs to 14% in larger neutral-competitive SLAs (Figure 21).

Figure 20. In larger more competitive SLAs, 8.8% were employed in educational sector, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

Figure 21. In larger less competitive SLAs, 13.7% were employed in the health sector, Canada, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2006.

Conclusions

Enhancing competitiveness of rural regions has become a priority for rural development agencies in Canada and across OECD countries. In this report, we offer a profile of regions in Canada, using an operational definition of competitiveness that reflects the working definition delineated by the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat. It is important to emphasize that we focus on one dimension of the multi-faceted concept of "competitiveness". Specifically we look at whether regions are competitive in retaining and attracting population, as measured by population change between 2001 and 2006.

We used self-contained labour areas as the geographic unit of analysis. We classified the self-contained labour areas into two peer groups (with smaller and larger populations) and defined three competitiveness groups (lower, neutral and higher) within each peer group based on the average growth of the group. This classification implicitly recognizes that population size (i.e., an agglomeration) is a key factor in shaping economic opportunities and challenges of a region. Hence, a comparison of economic competitiveness performance should be made within peer groups of regions.

Overall, regions with the highest comparative population growth between 2001 and 2006 (i.e., they were competitive in their capacity to attract and retain people) tended to be larger agglomerations (one million inhabitants or more) with a higher population density (over 120 people per square kilometre). These regions are the least rural by any of the prevailing definitions of rural. Larger higher-competitive regions have also a high share of immigrant population and greater incidence of individuals with a higher educational attainment.

This analysis shows that there are some distinguishing features that are common to all competitive regions (smaller and larger). Generally, competitive regions had a higher share of young adults (age 18 to 24) and a lower share of seniors (65 years and over), but they are also the type of regions that, on average, are gaining the most people in these age cohorts.

Regions with a smaller population had a higher share living in rural areas. Among these regions, there was a group with a relatively high competitiveness performance in their capacity to maintain or increase their population base.

Smaller higher-competitive regions have a relatively higher share of employment in mining, oil and gas extraction. Moreover, while all higher-competitive regions have higher employment rates, only the smaller higher-competitive regions combine this condition with relatively lower prevalence of families living in low income.

Larger higher-competitive regions had a greater share of residents with a higher level of educational attainment. This is particularly true for the share of the population with a university diploma or degree. This type of SLA also had a smaller share of employment in the primary sectors of agriculture, forestry and the fishery and a higher share of employment in business services such as finance and insurance services and professional, scientific and technical services.

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Appendices

Appendix Table A1

Smaller lower-competitive self-contained labour areas, ranked by change in the number of residents from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	SLA identification number	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Antigonish (Nova Scotia)	7645	66,807	63,459	-3,348	-5.0
Alnwick to Caraquet (New Brunswick)	7605	44,024	41,850	-2,174	-4.9
Marathon (Ontario)	7585	11,109	9,072	-2,037	-18.3
Quesnel (British Columbia)	7378	24,141	22,104	-2,037	-8.4
Prince Rupert (British Columbia)	5421	15,302	13,392	-1,910	-12.5
Bathurst (New Brunwsick)	6497	39,308	37,435	-1,873	-4.8
Williams Lake (British Columbia)	7445	25,148	23,452	-1,696	-6.7
Campbellton (New Brunswick/Quebec)	7601	31,139	29,507	-1,632	-5.2
Yorkton (Saskatchewan)	7547	33,764	32,327	-1,437	-4.3
Terrace (British Columbia)	7548	20,775	19,402	-1,373	-6.6
Grand Falls (New Brunswick)	7510	28,475	27,212	-1,263	-4.4
Crowsnest Pass-Fernie-Sparwood (Alberta/British Columbia)	7453	21,411	20,168	-1,243	-5.8
Marystown (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7392	15,096	13,859	-1,237	-8.2
Melfort (Saskatchewan)	7497	17,743	16,508	-1,235	-7.0
Edmundston (New Brunswick)	7436	28,173	27,002	-1,171	-4.2

Dolbeau-Mistassini (Quebec)	7252	27,830	26,671	-1,159	-4.2
Smithers (British Columbia)	7575	17,347	16,251	-1,096	-6.3
Stephenville (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7225	18,916	17,832	-1,084	-5.7
Esterhazy-Moosomin-Langenburg (Saskatchewan)	7638	16,222	15,168	-1,054	-6.5
Port Hardy (British Columbia)	7516	6,167	5,148	-1,019	-16.5
Wynyard-Foam Lake (Saskatchewan)	7560	7,105	6,141	-964	-13.6
Bonavista (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7364	8,614	7,685	-929	-10.8
Humboldt (Saskatchewan)	7526	14,043	13,143	-900	-6.4
Assiniboia (Saskatchewan)	7632	7,663	6,775	-888	-11.6
Fort St. James (British Columbia)	7519	4,084	3,205	-879	-21.5
Hearst-Cochrane (Ontario)	7152	10,414	9,541	-873	-8.4
Kapuskasing (Ontario)	6622	12,464	11,594	-870	-7.0
Vanderhoof (British Columbia)	7598	11,170	10,363	-807	-7.2
Nipawin (Saskatchewan)	7618	10,701	9,898	-803	-7.5
Swan River (Manitoba)	7412	11,396	10,621	-775	-6.8
Chandler-Percé (Quebec)	7278	16,613	15,851	-762	-4.6
Greenstone (Ontario)	7403	6,044	5,323	-721	-11.9
Shippagan (New Brunswick)	6834	12,156	11,447	-709	-5.8

Barrington-Shelburne (Nova Scotia)	7551	16,231	15,544	-687	-4.2
Tisdale (Saskatchewan)	7444	8,548	7,891	-657	-7.7
Labrador City-Wabush (Newfoundland and Labrador)	6957	10,283	9,660	-623	-6.1
Twillingate (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7394	7,292	6,708	-584	-8.0
Kamsack (Saskatchewan)	4935	3,863	3,297	-566	-14.7
Cochrane (Ontario)	7562	7,520	6,960	-560	-7.4
Flin Flon (Manitoba/ Saskatchewan)	6403	10,554	10,010	-544	-5.2
Wadena (Saskatchewan)	7508	5,547	5,004	-543	-9.8
Port au Choix (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7522	5,429	4,911	-518	-9.5
Hazelton (British Columbia)	7124	3,518	3,003	-515	-14.6
Thompson-Nicola A (British Columbia)	4267	4,399	3,897	-502	-11.4
Happy Valley-Goose Bay (Newfoundland and Labrador)	6624	9,654	9,176	-478	-5.0
Kindersley (Saskatchewan)	7530	7,894	7,420	-474	-6.0
Chibougamau (Quebec)	7625	10,270	9,799	-471	-4.6
Springdale (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7333	5,120	4,655	-465	-9.1
Unity-Wilkie (Saskatchewan)	7509	5,790	5,330	-460	-7.9
Wainwright (Alberta)	7210	10,552	10,109	-443	-4.2
Hanna (Alberta)	7010	5,501	5,091	-410	-7.5
Fraser-Fort George (British Columbia)	7557	3,963	3,555	-408	-10.3
Port McNeill (British Columbia)	6950	4,051	3,663	-388	-9.6

St. Lunaire-Griquet to Raleigh (Newfoundland and Labrador)	6948	2,425	2,041	-384	-15.8
Outlook (Saskatchewan)	7626	5,288	4,910	-378	-7.1
Grenfell-Wolseley-Broadview (Saskatchewan)	7464	5,237	4,863	-374	-7.1
Biggar (Saskatchewan)	5471	3,705	3,332	-373	-10.1
Shaunavon (Saskatchewan)	7613	4,372	4,002	-370	-8.5
Nakusp (British Columbia)	6530	3,677	3,324	-353	-9.6
Rosetown (Saskatchewan)	6666	4,515	4,163	-352	-7.8
Grand Bank-Fortune (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7372	4,576	4,261	-315	-6.9
Sioux Lookout (Ontario)	7554	7,747	7,435	-312	-4.0
Harbour Breton (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7338	2,681	2,376	-305	-11.4
Gravelbourg (Saskatchewan)	7073	2,732	2,429	-303	-11.1
Fogo (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7316	2,733	2,458	-275	-10.1
Hudson Bay (Saskatchewan)	5030	3,275	3,005	-270	-8.2
Lillooet (British Columbia)	7062	3,734	3,467	-267	-7.2
Melita-Deloraine (Manitoba)	7533	4,485	4,232	-253	-5.6
Redvers (Saskatchewan)	7054	2,298	2,048	-250	-10.9
Ituna (Saskatchewan)	7466	1,826	1,577	-249	-13.6
Baie Verte (Newfoundland and Labrador)	4652	2,483	2,239	-244	-9.8
Miniota-Hamiota (Manitoba)	6941	2,992	2,750	-242	-8.1

Havre-Saint-Pierre (Quebec)	7420	4,211	3,970	-241	-5.7
Central Coast C&D (British Columbia)	4946	1,213	977	-236	-19.5
Falher (Alberta)	4647	1,460	1,234	-226	-15.5
Strathclair-Shoal Lake (Manitoba)	7211	3,108	2,887	-221	-7.1
Bella Bella (British Columbia)	7057	1,420	1,201	-219	-15.4
Watrous-Young (Saskatchewan)	6977	2,842	2,627	-215	-7.6
Preeceville (Saskatchewan)	7344	2,793	2,585	-208	-7.4
Roblin (Manitoba)	6628	3,998	3,802	-196	-4.9
St. Mary's-St. Vincent's-St. Stephen's (Newfoundland and Labrador)	4544	1,554	1,367	-187	-12.0
Roddickton-Englee (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7122	1,903	1,721	-182	-9.6
Russell (Manitoba)	6765	4,054	3,873	-181	-4.5
Watson (Saskatchewan)	7404	2,219	2,040	-179	-8.1
Spiritwood (Saskatchewan)	7474	4,310	4,133	-177	-4.1
Oyen (Alberta)	7130	3,001	2,826	-175	-5.8
Eston (Saskatchewan)	4564	1,572	1,398	-174	-11.1
Côte-Nord-du-Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent (Quebec)	7532	2,127	1,954	-173	-8.1
Ashcroft-Cache Creek (British Columbia)	7184	2,870	2,701	-169	-5.9
Kipling-Kisbey (Saskatchewan)	6807	2,035	1,869	-166	-8.2
LaScie-Brent's Cove (Newfoundland and Labrador)	4447	1,321	1,159	-162	-12.3
Davidson (Saskatchewan)	4751	1,679	1,522	-157	-9.4
Norris Point to Parson's Pond (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7058	2,215	2,064	-151	-6.8

Kerrobert (Saskatchewan)	4322	1,376	1,226	-150	-10.9
Elrose (Saskatchewan)	4468	1,081	932	-149	-13.8
Ramea (Newfoundland and Labrador)	4186	928	781	-147	-15.8
Saint-Michel-du-Squatec (Quebec)	7487	2,608	2,468	-140	-5.4
St. Alban's (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7193	3,051	2,915	-136	-4.5
Abbey-Lancer (Saskatchewan)	4379	785	653	-132	-16.8
Jackson's Arm (Newfoundland and Labrador)	6992	1,098	981	-117	-10.7
Edam (Saskatchewan)	4246	848	735	-113	-13.3
Leader (Saskatchewan)	6752	1,503	1,391	-112	-7.5
Central Butte (Saskatchewan)	7134	790	679	-111	-14.1
Hodgeville (Saskatchewan)	4422	607	498	-109	-18.0
Bengough (Saskatchewan)	7341	783	674	-109	-13.9
Hartney (Manitoba)	4460	942	833	-109	-11.6
Whitewood (Saskatchewan)	4532	1,759	1,651	-108	-6.1
Triton-Brighton (Newfoundland and Labrador)	4355	1,335	1,232	-103	-7.7
Beechy (Saskatchewan)	4590	769	671	-98	-12.7
Imperial (Saskatchewan)	4429	533	439	-94	-17.6
Lytton (British Columbia)	4444	539	457	-82	-15.2
Luseland (Saskatchewan)	4386	942	860	-82	-8.7
Cut Knife (Saskatchewan)	4710	1,004	922	-82	-8.2
Chaplin (Saskatchewan)	4694	452	373	-79	-17.5

Dinsmore (Saskatchewan)	4424	581	503	-78	-13.4
Mankota (Saskatchewan)	4496	804	732	-72	-9.0
L'Anse-au-Loup-Forteau (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7542	1,112	1,041	-71	-6.4
Pic Mobert (Ontario)	4369	307	241	-66	-21.5
Winnipegosis (Manitoba)	6423	1,307	1,242	-65	-5.0
Ogema (Saskatchewan)	4306	677	613	-64	-9.5
Climax (Saskatchewan)	7050	715	655	-60	-8.4
Hawke's Bay (Newfoundland and Labrador)	4193	531	473	-58	-10.9
Natashquan (Quebec)	7393	1,127	1,074	-53	-4.7
Saint-Julien (Quebec)	4361	731	679	-52	-7.1
Minton (Saskatchewan)	4303	310	259	-51	-16.5
Cadillac (Saskatchewan)	4309	352	302	-50	-14.2
Neilburg-Marsden (Saskatchewan)	7068	1,208	1,158	-50	-4.1
Craik (Saskatchewan)	4640	745	696	-49	-6.6
Ponteix (Saskatchewan)	4228	905	860	-45	-5.0
R.M.'s of Hart Butte & Happy Valley (Saskatchewan)	4304	485	446	-39	-8.0
Cow Head (Newfoundland and Labrador)	4192	712	682	-30	-4.2
Tugaske (Saskatchewan)	4236	365	338	-27	-7.4
Major-Smiley (Saskatchewan)	4470	413	388	-25	-6.1

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Appendix Table A2

Smaller neutral-competitive self-contained labour areas, ranked by change in the number of residents from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	SLA identification number	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Prince George (British Columbia)	6482	85,972	83,969	-2,003	-2.3
Miramichi (New Brunswick)	7574	41,148	39,511	-1,637	-4.0
Timmins (Ontario)	7481	51,789	50,345	-1,444	-2.8
Castlegar-Trail (British Columbia)	7298	35,044	33,693	-1,351	-3.9
Temiskaming Shores-Kirkland Lake (Ontario)	7639	34,809	33,643	-1,166	-3.3
Vegreville (Alberta)	7468	40,582	39,520	-1,062	-2.6
Kenora (Ontario)	7611	33,264	32,204	-1,060	-3.2
Clare-Digby (Nova Scotia)	7371	31,409	30,356	-1,053	-3.4
Lunenburg (Nova Scotia)	7525	59,196	58,247	-949	-1.6
The Battlefords (Saskatchewan)	7279	26,370	25,424	-946	-3.6
Rouyn-Noranda (Quebec)	7641	62,236	61,306	-930	-1.5
Roberval-Saint-Félicien (Quebec)	7434	32,839	31,921	-918	-2.8
Woodstock (New Brunswick)	7489	33,042	32,129	-913	-2.8
Gander (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7651	34,995	34,158	-837	-2.4
Clarenville (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7388	21,584	20,781	-803	-3.7
Peace River (Alberta)	7635	26,887	26,100	-787	-2.9
Dauphin (Manitoba)	7568	19,671	18,910	-761	-3.9
Fort Frances (Ontario)	7647	20,995	20,305	-690	-3.3
Val-d'Or (Quebec)	7642	41,847	41,163	-684	-1.6
Amqui-Causapscal (Quebec)	7119	18,616	17,935	-681	-3.7
Huron County (Ontario)	7473	62,823	62,183	-640	-1.0

Elliott Lake (Ontario)	7610	18,623	17,988	-635	-3.4
Moose Jaw (Saskatchewan)	7470	39,059	38,437	-622	-1.6
Baie-Comeau (Quebec)	7619	32,641	32,031	-610	-1.9
Alma (Quebec)	6672	50,303	49,694	-609	-1.2
Estevan (Saskatchewan)	7623	16,651	16,043	-608	-3.7
Yarmouth (Nova Scotia)	6928	26,725	26,122	-603	-2.3
Montmagny (Quebec)	7589	41,513	40,917	-596	-1.4
Carleton-sur-Mer to Paspébiac (Quebec)	7435	29,007	28,422	-585	-2.0
Cranbrook-Kimberley (British Columbia)	7190	32,578	32,003	-575	-1.8
Swift Current (Saskatchewan)	7545	25,082	24,529	-553	-2.2
La Tuque (Quebec)	7457	14,059	13,511	-548	-3.9
Forestville (Quebec)	7653	12,942	12,437	-505	-3.9
Weyburn (Saskatchewan)	7636	14,971	14,481	-490	-3.3
Sackville-Port Elgin (New Brunswick) to Amherst-Springhill-Oxford (Nova Scotia)	7189	43,312	42,823	-489	-1.1
Dégelis-Cabano (Quebec)	7553	19,305	18,837	-468	-2.4
Killarney-Boissevain (Manitoba)	7628	13,486	13,034	-452	-3.4
New Glasgow-Pictou (Nova Scotia)	7374	46,965	46,513	-452	-1.0
Grand Falls-Windsor (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7515	25,992	25,583	-409	-1.6
Portage la Prairie (Manitoba)	7655	26,455	26,048	-407	-1.5
Amos (Quebec)	7356	24,730	24,343	-387	-1.6
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (Quebec)	7460	12,136	11,785	-351	-2.9

Tignish-Alberton-O'Leary (Prince Edward Island)	7138	13,248	12,905	-343	-2.6
Virden (Manitoba)	7496	10,189	9,858	-331	-3.2
Gaspé (Quebec)	7573	17,374	17,061	-313	-1.8
Ville-Marie (Quebec)	7302	11,239	10,952	-287	-2.6
Nelson (British Columbia)	6491	22,314	22,034	-280	-1.3
Port aux Basques (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7276	7,903	7,648	-255	-3.2
Golden (British Columbia)	6190	7,155	6,908	-247	-3.5
Kedgwick-Saint-Quentin (New Brunswick)	7247	7,086	6,858	-228	-3.2
Creston-Central Kootenay (British Columbia)	6861	12,949	12,726	-223	-1.7
La Malbaie-Clermont (Quebec)	7239	16,291	16,070	-221	-1.4
Treherne-Somerset (Manitoba)	7366	6,182	5,989	-193	-3.1
Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario)	7634	95,396	95,223	-173	-0.2
Pincher Creek (Alberta)	7587	8,625	8,453	-172	-2.0
St. Stephen (New Brunswick)	7654	22,467	22,297	-170	-0.8
Matane (Quebec)	7171	21,978	21,814	-164	-0.7
Powell River (British Columbia)	7179	19,052	18,900	-152	-0.8
The Pas (Manitoba)	6832	10,717	10,568	-149	-1.4
Provost-Macklin (Alberta/ Saskatchewan)	7306	7,123	7,015	-108	-1.5
Grand Forks (British Columbia)	7449	12,224	12,127	-97	-0.8
Chetwynd (British Columbia)	7414	6,772	6,676	-96	-1.4
Maple Creek (Saskatchewan)	6976	3,850	3,757	-93	-2.4
Sept-Îles (Quebec)	7595	35,692	35,600	-92	-0.3
Carlyle (Saskatchewan)	7517	5,927	5,859	-68	-1.1

Carnduff (Saskatchewan)	7200	2,249	2,188	-61	-2.7
Queen Charlotte (British Columbia)	7230	1,788	1,729	-59	-3.3
Oxbow-Alameda (Saskatchewan)	7206	1,921	1,877	-44	-2.3
Thompson (Manitoba)	7550	14,468	14,430	-38	-0.3
Trout River to Woody Point Bonne Bay (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7402	1,258	1,234	-24	-1.9
Lynn Lake (Manitoba)	7446	1,212	1,191	-21	-1.7
Masset-Skeena (British Columbia)	7572	2,687	2,681	-6	-0.2
South Brook (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7197	912	907	-5	-0.5
Wabasca-Calling Lake-Opportunity Municipal District (Alberta)	6937	4,576	4,572	-4	-0.1

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Appendix Table A3

Smaller higher-competitive self-contained labour areas, ranked by change in the number of residents from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	SLA identification number	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Grande Prairie (Alberta)	7614	76,513	89,251	12,738	16.6
Fort McMurray (Alberta)	6748	42,496	52,585	10,089	23.7
Medicine Hat (Alberta)	7583	68,480	75,455	6,975	10.2
Drummondville (Quebec)	6975	94,295	99,340	5,045	5.4
Duncan-Ladysmith-Cowichan Valley (British Columbia)	7280	71,140	75,942	4,802	6.8
Huntsville-Bracebridge-Gravenhurst (Ontario)	7660	63,677	67,772	4,095	6.4
Courtenay-Comox (British Columbia)	5998	52,653	56,655	4,002	7.6
Vernon (British Columbia)	6903	62,060	65,783	3,723	6.0
Midland (Ontario)	7617	43,242	46,770	3,528	8.2
Lloydminster (Alberta/ Saskatchewan)	7593	47,897	51,035	3,138	6.6
Yellowknife (Northwest Territories)	7659	19,496	22,367	2,871	14.7
Fort St. John (British Columbia)	6099	28,004	30,674	2,670	9.5
Winkler-Morden-Altona (Manitoba)	7565	49,214	51,663	2,449	5.0
Hinton-Edson-Drayton Valley (Alberta)	7643	40,140	42,364	2,224	5.5
Squamish (British Columbia)	7318	28,101	30,315	2,214	7.9
Brandon (Manitoba)	7652	70,189	72,400	2,211	3.2
Sechelt-Gibsons (British Columbia)	7351	25,575	27,739	2,164	8.5
Penticton (British Columbia)	7422	56,658	58,820	2,162	3.8

Salmon Arm (British Columbia)	7315	41,254	43,345	2,091	5.1
Saint-Hyacinthe (Quebec)	7303	94,943	96,945	2,002	2.1
Owen Sound (Ontario)	7383	59,933	61,864	1,931	3.2
Whitecourt (Alberta)	7603	49,671	51,521	1,850	3.7
Minden Hills-Bancroft-Madawaska Valley (Ontario)	7644	39,222	40,916	1,694	4.3
High Level (Alberta)	7407	12,938	14,578	1,640	12.7
Whitehorse (Yukon)	7405	21,590	23,191	1,601	7.4
Mont-Laurier (Quebec)	7579	33,456	34,999	1,543	4.6
Maniwaki (Quebec)	7622	16,864	18,311	1,447	8.6
Campbell River (British Columbia)	7433	38,589	40,004	1,415	3.7
Cold Lake to Bonnyville (Alberta)	7385	28,200	29,564	1,364	4.8
Cross Lake (Manitoba)	5161	2,544	3,854	1,310	51.5
Athabasca (Alberta)	7650	18,898	20,198	1,300	6.9
Kings-West Hants-Kentville (Nova Scotia)	7490	87,277	88,557	1,280	1.5
Parry Sound (Ontario)	7226	17,645	18,721	1,076	6.1
Rocky Mountain House (Alberta)	6265	18,269	19,215	946	5.2
Rimouski (Quebec)	7361	73,363	74,232	869	1.2
Brockville (Ontario)	6173	55,643	56,426	783	1.4
Brooks (Alberta)	7240	21,685	22,452	767	3.5
Whitefish Bay 32A First Nation-Sioux Narrows-Nester Falls (Ontario)	7074	577	1,294	717	124.3
Truro (Nova Scotia)	6581	49,307	50,023	716	1.5
Camrose (Alberta)	7646	42,854	43,560	706	1.6
Tumbler Ridge (British Columbia)	7531	2,827	3,419	592	20.9
Rivière-du-Loup (Quebec)	7627	64,114	64,694	580	0.9
Canmore (Alberta)	7485	22,895	23,470	575	2.5

Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island)	7648	86,785	87,317	532	0.6
Chisasibi (Quebec)	4215	3,467	3,972	505	14.6
Invermere (British Columbia)	6716	8,608	9,108	500	5.8
Stratford (Ontario)	6579	61,620	62,090	470	0.8
Corner Brook (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7538	38,382	38,834	452	1.2
Drumheller (Alberta)	7552	22,042	22,453	411	1.9
Summerside (Prince Edward Island)	6979	34,526	34,931	405	1.2
Osoyoos-Oliver (British Columbia)	7431	15,137	15,541	404	2.7
Manitoulin Island (Ontario)	7657	8,923	9,262	339	3.8
Fort Nelson (British Columbia)	7607	6,073	6,394	321	5.3
Mistissini (Quebec)	4211	2,597	2,897	300	11.6
Red Lake (Ontario)	7577	5,383	5,679	296	5.5
Siglunes to St. Laurent (Manitoba)	7427	7,214	7,504	290	4.0
Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Quebec)	5184	12,824	13,091	267	2.1
Waswanipi (Quebec)	4210	1,261	1,473	212	16.8
Princeton (British Columbia)	7571	5,175	5,363	188	3.6
Hay River (Northwest Territories)	7153	3,779	3,957	178	4.7
One Hundred Mile House (British Columbia)	7324	14,988	15,144	156	1.0
Lac-Mégantic (Quebec)	7426	18,305	18,450	145	0.8
Mount Waddington-Alert Bay (British Columbia)	7484	1,469	1,607	138	9.4
Port Alberni (British Columbia)	7656	29,434	29,560	126	0.4

Chicken No. 224 First Nation - Stony Rapids (Saskatchewan)	7176	1,243	1,364	121	9.7
Wemindji (Quebec)	4214	1,095	1,215	120	11.0
Prince Albert (Saskatchewan)	7543	69,151	69,270	119	0.2
Norway House (Manitoba)	7649	9,280	9,387	107	1.2
Pelican Narrows (Saskatchewan)	4436	1,843	1,941	98	5.3
Burns Lake-Woyenne (British Columbia)	6575	6,567	6,663	96	1.5
Shoal Lake (Ontario)	4415	140	231	91	65.0
Slave Lake (Alberta)	5914	9,484	9,568	84	0.9
Stettler (Alberta)	6331	11,156	11,236	80	0.7
Jasper (Alberta)	7103	4,552	4,629	77	1.7
Ulkatcho-Squinas (British Columbia)	4401	319	395	76	23.8
Nemiscau (Quebec)	4212	566	642	76	13.4
Kawawachikamach-Schefferville (Quebec)	7498	1,229	1,299	70	5.7
Kaslo (British Columbia)	6552	2,532	2,597	65	2.6
Chitek Lake-Pelican Lake (Saskatchewan)	4244	756	818	62	8.2
Dawson (Yukon)	7541	4,563	4,615	52	1.1
Meadow Lake (Saskatchewan)	7640	12,156	12,205	49	0.4
Whapmagoostui-Kuujjuarapik (Quebec)	7566	1,333	1,380	47	3.5
Grand Rapids (Manitoba)	5585	946	987	41	4.3
Dawson Creek (British Columbia)	5930	17,444	17,482	38	0.2
Eastmain (Quebec)	4213	613	650	37	6.0
Roseau River (Manitoba)	4416	661	693	32	4.8

Sandy Bay 5 First Nation-Lakeview (Manitoba)	7123	2,830	2,860	30	1.1
Baie-Saint-Paul (Quebec)	7320	13,166	13,190	24	0.2
Coronation (Alberta)	7630	6,586	6,606	20	0.3
Thetford Mines (Quebec)	7156	45,231	45,250	19	0.0
Coryatsaqua-Babine (British Columbia)	4349	316	324	8	2.5
Consul (Saskatchewan)	4308	548	555	7	1.3
High Prairie (Alberta)	7236	9,362	9,368	6	0.1
Val Marie (Saskatchewan)	4230	615	616	1	0.2
Shawinigan (Quebec)	7245	78,370	78,371	1	0.0

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Appendix Table A4

Larger lower-competitive self-contained labour areas, ranked by change in the number of residents from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	SLA identification number	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Trois-Rivières (Quebec)	7331	187,560	191,300	3,740	2.0
Saint-Georges (Quebec)	7549	114,240	115,795	1,555	1.4
Sudbury (Ontario)	7578	171,990	173,445	1,455	0.8
Victoriaville (Quebec)	7395	111,511	112,889	1,378	1.2
North Bay (Ontario)	7506	101,721	102,955	1,234	1.2
Sarnia (Ontario)	7159	125,128	126,326	1,198	1.0
Cornwall-Glengary-Stormont-Dundas (Ontario)	6815	102,667	103,630	963	0.9
Chatham-Kent (Ontario)	7491	109,552	110,467	915	0.8
Thunder Bay (Ontario)	7540	132,122	132,969	847	0.6
Regina (Saskatchewan)	7584	220,593	221,367	774	0.4
Saint John (New Brunswick)	7612	141,379	141,224	-155	-0.1
Saguenay (Quebec)	7343	166,760	163,702	-3,058	-1.8
Cape Breton (Nova Scotia)	7328	109,330	105,928	-3,402	-3.1

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Appendix Table A5

Larger neutral-competitive self-contained labour areas, ranked by change in the number of residents from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	SLA identification number	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Montreal (Quebec)	7608	3,865,803	4,082,055	216,252	5.6
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec)	7600	1,256,610	1,325,477	68,867	5.5
Québec (Quebec)	7455	788,123	821,204	33,081	4.2
Winnipeg (Manitoba)	7586	799,229	825,303	26,074	3.3
London (Ontario)	7555	557,123	582,434	25,311	4.5
Victoria-Saanich (British Columbia)	7582	324,229	343,540	19,311	6.0
Windsor (Ontario)	7471	374,719	393,115	18,396	4.9
St. Catharines-Niagara (Ontario)	7544	410,574	427,421	16,847	4.1
Halifax (Nova Scotia)	7658	380,864	395,080	14,216	3.7
Sherbrooke (Quebec)	7423	239,844	252,496	12,652	5.3
Brantford-Norfolk-Haldimand (Ontario)	7535	243,088	253,931	10,843	4.5
Moncton (New Brunswick)	7597	171,169	180,151	8,982	5.2
Peterborough (Ontario)	7564	187,091	195,681	8,590	4.6
Lethbridge (Alberta)	7620	140,894	149,094	8,200	5.8
Saskatoon (Saskatchewan)	7467	240,077	247,683	7,606	3.2
Granby (Quebec)	7416	136,550	144,024	7,474	5.5
Kingston (Ontario)	7249	194,099	200,951	6,852	3.5
St. John's (Newfoundland and Labrador)	7616	231,968	238,565	6,597	2.8
Belleville-Prince Edward (Ontario)	7357	146,268	152,224	5,956	4.1
Kamloops (British Columbia)	7624	105,291	109,077	3,786	3.6
Fredericton (New Brunswick)	7410	118,990	122,466	3,476	2.9

Kincardine to Grey Highlands (Ontario)	7629	121,632	124,295	2,663	2.2
Petawawa-Pembroke-Renfrew-Shawville (Ontario/Quebec)	7482	99,871	102,330	2,459	2.5

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

Appendix Table A6

Larger higher-competitive self-contained labour areas, ranked by change in the number of residents from 2001 to 2006

Name of self-contained labour area (SLA)	SLA identification number	Population in 2001	Population in 2006	Change in population, 2001 to 2006	Percent change in population, 2001 to 2006
Toronto (Ontario)	7633	5,729,665	6,229,586	499,921	8.7
Calgary (Alberta)	7609	1,044,200	1,189,008	144,808	13.9
Vancouver (British Columbia)	7440	1,984,955	2,114,321	129,366	6.5
Edmonton (Alberta)	7504	940,602	1,037,442	96,840	10.3
Kitchener-Guelph (Ontario)	7602	595,307	647,719	52,412	8.8
Barrie (Ontario)	7559	317,664	358,183	40,519	12.8
Red Deer (Alberta)	7581	176,799	201,148	24,349	13.8
Abbotsford-Chilliwack (British Columbia)	7507	235,661	255,167	19,506	8.3
Kelowna-Central Okanagan (British Columbia)	6826	147,739	162,276	14,537	9.8
Nanaimo (British Columbia)	7537	128,945	140,729	11,784	9.1
Joliette (Quebec)	7599	132,924	144,219	11,295	8.5

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2001 and 2006.

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