

Appendix 1: Quick Facts Citations

1. More than 80% of Northern Ontario municipalities have a small tax base, with fewer than 2,000 residents.ⁱ
2. In 2024, seniors made up 23% of the region's population, compared to 18% in Ontario and 19% in Canada.ⁱⁱ
3. There were 10 workers for every 8.4 dependents in Northern Ontario in 2021, significantly higher than the ratio in Ontario (10:6.4) and Canada (10: 6.3).^{iii,iv}
4. In 2021, 8% of households in the region needed major repairs compared to 6% in the province and Canada.^v
5. Northern Ontario has 28 unconnected communities only accessible by air year-round.^{vi, vii}
6. 56.9% of rural households outside the five largest cities (North Bay, Timmins, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Sault Ste. Marie) have access to Internet speeds of at least 50/10 Mbps, compared to 75.9% of households across Northern Ontario, 95.9% in Ontario, and 95.8% in Canada.^{viii}
7. Regional population remains lower than it was in 1991.^{ix,x}
8. 12,391 Francophone immigrants are needed annually for a decade to combat outmigration.^{xi}
9. 68.3% of SMEs report shortage of skilled labour as an obstacle to growth.^{xii}
10. 70.2 % of SMEs report recruiting/retaining skilled employees is an obstacle to growth.^{xiii}
11. Nearly 45% of all entrepreneurs in Northern Ontario are expected to retire within the next 10 years.
12. 93.8% of small and medium-sized businesses in Northern Ontario sell to customers within their local municipality or region, with only 11% engaging in international export.^{xiv}
13. 50.5 % of SMEs cite border obstacles, while 50.1% points to logistical obstacles as reasons for not exporting their products or services.^{xv}
14. Among the small and medium-sized enterprises that do export, 91.9 % of goods and services are headed for the United States.^{xvi}
15. 36.4% of Northern Ontario SMEs report access to financing as a barrier to growth.^{xvii}
16. 24% of all financially remote First Nations in Canada are within the region, with 6 having no identified travel route to a cash source.^{xviii}
17. SMEs requested an average debt financing of \$189,770, far less than the provincial and national averages (\$422,306 and \$437,864 respectively). Despite this, 49.8% had to provide collateral, compared to 48.9% provincially and 47.2% nationally.^{xix}
18. Of the 288 community census subdivisions^{xx} in Northern Ontario, 38 (13%) were reliant on a single industry^{xxi} in 2021.^{xxii}
19. All 38 communities dependent on a single industry were small, rural or remote.^{xxiii}
20. And 31 out of the 38 communities (84%) were First Nation reserves.^{xxiv}
21. Fewer than 2% of businesses in Canada incorporate R&D as part of their business strategy to address economic challenges and opportunities.^{xxv}
22. In 2022, spending on industrial in-house research and development across Ontario reached \$14.0 million, the highest amount of any province.^{xxvi}
23. A smaller proportion of SMEs in Northern Ontario report innovation activity (25.8%) compared to all of Ontario (26.9%) and Canada (27.1%).^{xxvii}
24. The gap between Northern Ontario and Ontario SMEs who are innovators is widest for product innovation (-2.8%).^{xxviii}

25. However, when it comes to process innovation, the rate of Northern Ontario SMEs surpassed that of Ontario (+0.3%).^{xxix}
26. In 2023, only 40.2% of SMEs in Northern Ontario adopted at least one type of advanced technology over the past three years, compared to 52.1% of SMEs across Ontario and 50.9% nationally.^{xxx}
27. In the same year, 68.4% SMEs in the region had an online presence compared to SMEs across Ontario (59.1%) and Canada (59.2%).^{xxxi}

ⁱ Statistics Canada. [Census Profile, 2021: Census subdivisions, Ontario](#)

ⁱⁱ Statistics Canada. [Table 17-10-0152-01 Population estimates, July 1, by census division, 2021 boundaries](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ Based on employment figures.

^{iv} Local Employment Planning Council. [Open to Growth: Exploring dependence and the DDR in Northwestern Ontario.](#)

^v Statistics Canada, [Table 98-10-0243-01 Housing indicators by tenure including presence of mortgage payments and subsidized housing and household type including census family structure off reserve: Canada, provinces and territories, census divisions and census subdivisions.](#)

^{vi} Ontario Newsroom. [Canada and Ontario Support Small Air Carriers Serving Remote First Nations Communities](#)

^{vii} [New measures to support essential air access to remote communities - Canada.ca](#)

^{viii} ISED [High-Speed Internet Access Dashboard](#)

^{ix} Northern Ontario Population data from 1961 to 2001 extracted from: 2010 Southcott Demographic Trends 2011-02 FedNor Challenges and Opportunities Report.

^x Statistics Canada. [Table 15-10-0032-01 Population by first official language spoken and geography, 1971 to 2021](#)

^{xi} Northern Policy Institute. [Exit Signs, Northern Ontario and Francophone Out-Migration.](#)

^{xii} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xiii} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xiv} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xv} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xvi} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xvii} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xviii} Bank of Canada. [Identifying Financially Remote First Nations Reserves](#)

^{xix} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xx} Defined as Census subdivisions which is the general term for municipalities (as determined by provincial/territorial legislation) or areas treated as municipal equivalents for statistical purposes (e.g., Indian reserves, Indian settlements and unorganized territories).

^{xxi} Communities are defined as being dependent on a single industry when 30% or more of the local workforce is employed by that industry (in 2-digit NAICS - North American Industry Classification System).

^{xxii} Vodden, K. and Cunsolo, A. (2021): Rural and Remote Communities; Chapter 3 in Canada in a Changing Climate: National Issues Report, (ed.) F.J. Warren and N. Lulham; Government of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

^{xxiii} Vodden, K. and Cunsolo, A. (2021): Rural and Remote Communities; Chapter 3 in Canada in a Changing Climate: National Issues Report, (ed.) F.J. Warren and N. Lulham; Government of Canada, Ottawa,

Ontario.

^{xxiv} Vodden, K. and Cunsolo, A. (2021): Rural and Remote Communities; Chapter 3 in Canada in a Changing Climate: National Issues Report, (ed.) F.J. Warren and N. Lulham; Government of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

^{xxv} Statistics Canada. [Research and development in Canadian industry: Flash estimates 2023.](#)

^{xxvi} Statistics Canada. [Business enterprise in-house research and development characteristics, by industry group based on the North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\), country of control and provinces and territories](#)

^{xxvii} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xxviii} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xxix} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xxx} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)

^{xxxi} Government of Canada. [Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises - 2023 - Tables: Survey on Financing and Growth of SMEs 2023.](#)