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POPULATION STRUCTURE AND CHANGE IN PREDOMINANTLY RURAL REGIONS

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HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ In 1996, 31.4 percent of Canada's population lived in predominantly rural regions.
- ◆ Each Atlantic Province, Saskatchewan and the Yukon and Northwest Territories have more than 50 percent of their population living in predominantly rural regions.
- ◆ Rural metro-adjacent regions are the fastest growing rural regions. These regions represent one-half of the population in predominantly rural regions.
- ◆ Predominantly rural regions in Newfoundland and Saskatchewan show continuous population decline.
- ◆ Net migration is strongest toward rural metro-adjacent regions.

Definition of "Predominantly Rural Regions"

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 1994) has defined a "predominantly rural region" as having more than 50 percent of the population living in rural communities where a "rural community" has a population density less than 150 persons per square kilometre. In Canada, the census division has been used to represent "regions" and census consolidated sub-divisions have been used to represent "communities".

"Intermediate regions" have 15 to 49 percent of their population living in a "rural community". "Predominantly urban regions" have less than 15 percent of their population living in a "rural community".

"Predominantly rural regions" are classified as metro-adjacent, non-metro-adjacent and the north, following Ehrensaft and Beeman (1992).



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Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

Population structure

In 1996, 9 million Canadians lived in predominantly rural regions. This represented 31.4 percent of the population (Figure 1). Note the slow shift in population structure toward predominantly urban regions and away from predominantly rural regions. In 1981, 33.6 percent of Canadians lived in predominantly rural regions.

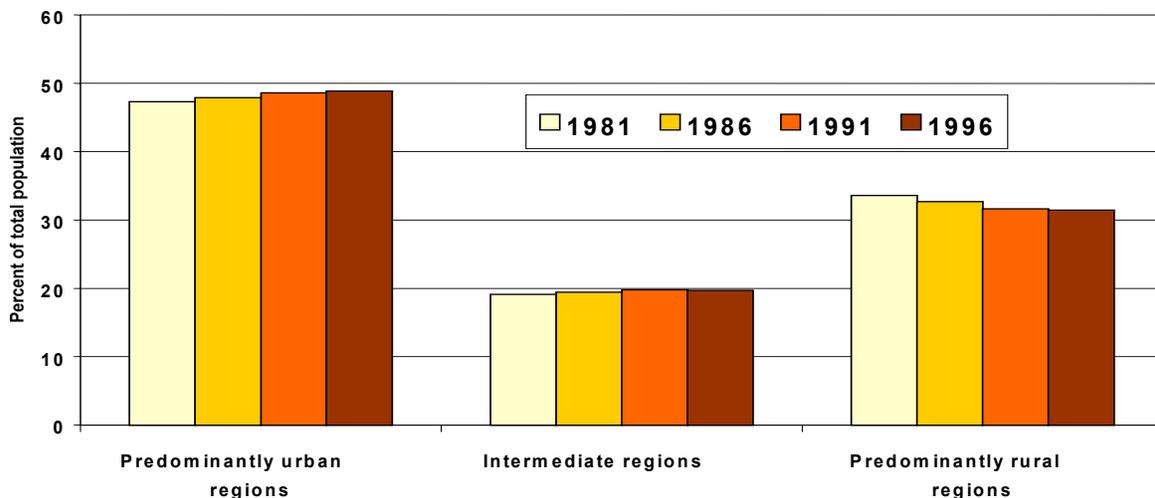
Over the period 1981 to 1996, predominantly urban and intermediate regions increased their population share by 2 and 1 percentage points respectively, while the population share in predominantly rural areas decreased by 2 percentage points.

In the Yukon and Northwest Territories¹, in each Atlantic Province and in Saskatchewan, the predominantly rural population constitutes a majority (Figure 2). In Ontario and Québec, less than one-quarter of the population lives in predominantly rural regions.

¹ In 1999, the Northwest Territories were reorganised into two new areas: Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. In this document, all references to the Northwest Territories include Nunavut.

Figure 1

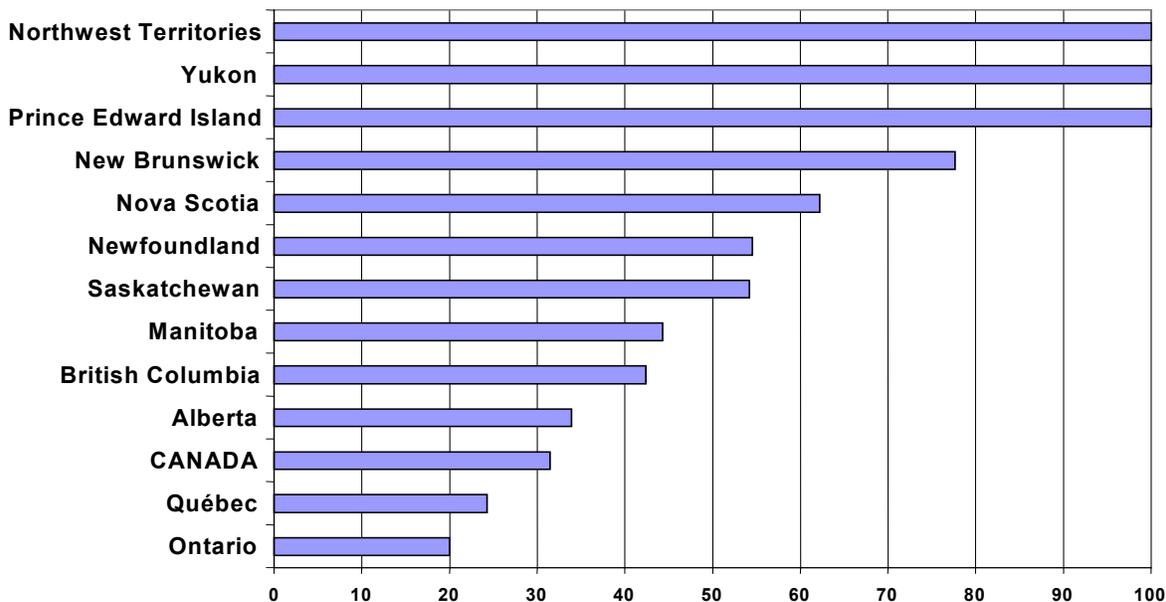
In 1996, 31.4 percent of Canada's population lived in predominantly rural regions



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 1996. A predominantly rural region has over 50 percent of its population living in rural communities. An intermediate region has 15 to 49 percent living in rural communities and a predominantly urban region has less than 15 percent of its population living in rural communities.

Figure 2

Share of population in each province that lives in predominantly rural regions, 1996



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1996. A predominantly rural region has 50 percent or more of its population living in rural communities.

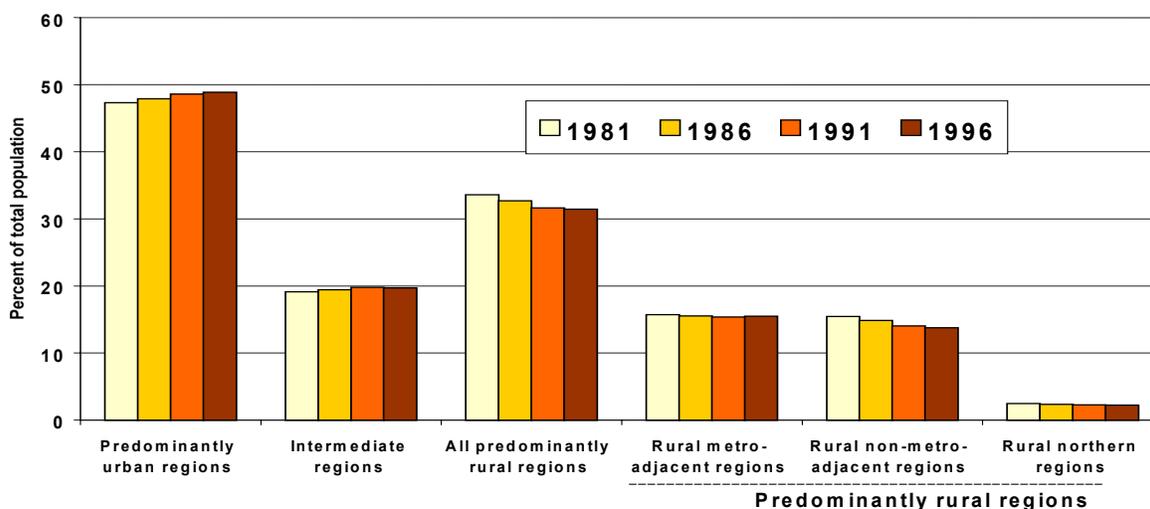
An important context of rurality is the distance to a major city. We have defined three types of predominantly rural regions:

- Rural metro-adjacent regions;
- Rural non-metro-adjacent regions; and
- Rural northern regions.

At the Canada level, 15 percent of the total population lives in rural metro-adjacent regions (Figure 3). This represents one-half of all predominantly rural residents. Rural non-metro-adjacent regions accounted for another 14 percent and rural northern regions accounted for 2 percent. Note the declining share of population in rural non-metro-adjacent regions.

Figure 3

In 1996, 15 percent of Canada's population lived in rural metro-adjacent regions



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 1996. A predominantly rural region has over 50 percent of its population living in rural communities. An intermediate region has 15 to 49 percent living in rural communities and a predominantly urban region has less than 15 percent of its population living in rural communities.

Population change

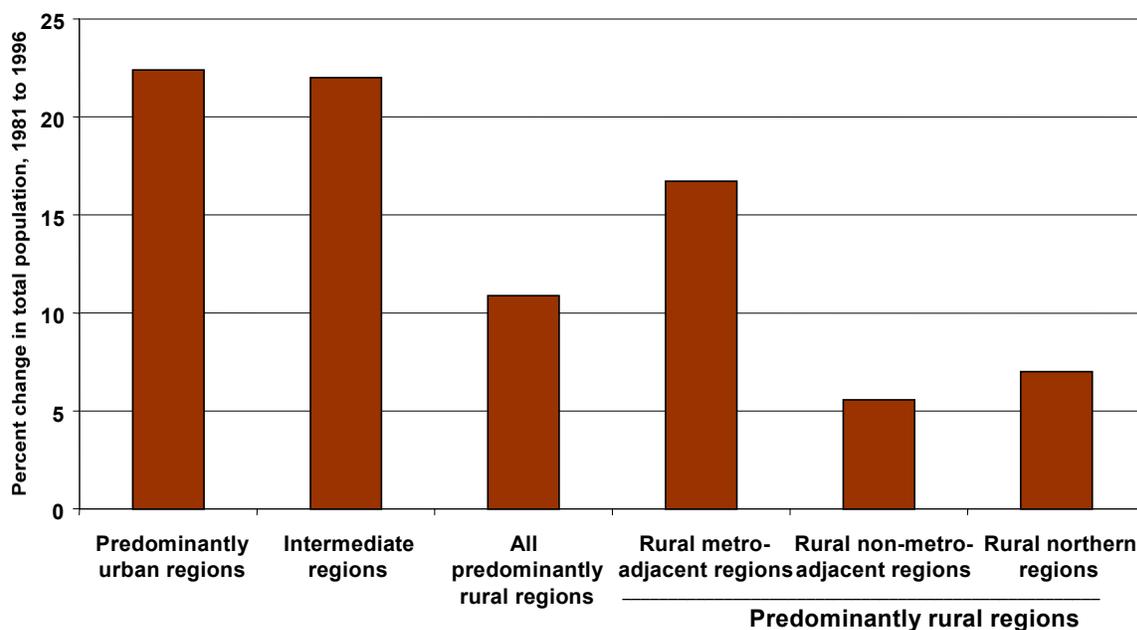
The rural population continues to concentrate in regions near cities. Between 1981 and 1996 the predominantly rural population increased by almost 11 percent (Figure 4). Most of this increase occurred in rural metro-adjacent regions, which increased by almost 17 percent over this 15-year period. The next largest rural population increase was in the rural northern

regions with a 7 percent increase. Rural non-metro-adjacent regions had the smallest gains in population. The predominantly urban and intermediate regions had the highest growth rates of 22 percent.

When we consider each five-year intercensal period, we see that the population in each type of regions has been growing since 1986 (Figure 5). A decline was reported, at the Canada level, only in the 1981 to 1986 period for rural non-metro-adjacent regions and rural northern regions. In the most recent period (1991 to 1996), all rural regions reported growth. Similar to previous periods, the type of rural region with the strongest population growth was the rural metro-adjacent region. In fact, in the 1991 to 1996, rural metro-adjacent regions grew faster than any other type of region (see Map: Population Change from 1991 to 1996).

Figure 4

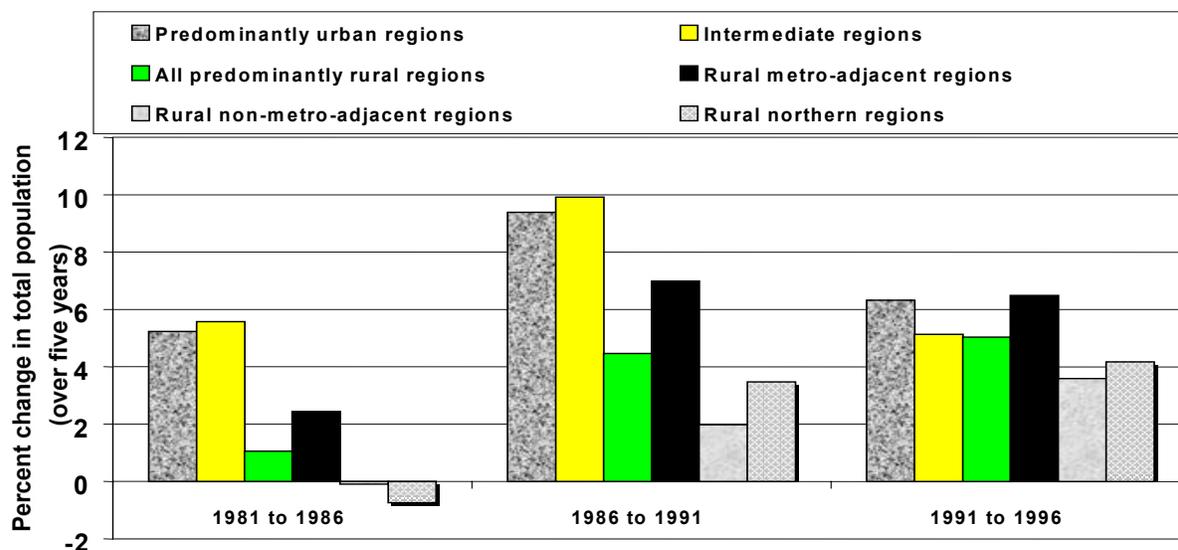
**Rural metro-adjacent areas
grew 17 percent from 1981 to 1996**



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 1996. A predominantly rural region has over 50 percent of its population living in rural communities. An intermediate region has 15 to 49 percent living in rural communities and a predominantly urban region has less than 15 percent of its population living in rural communities.

Figure 5

Population growth from 1991 to 1996 was strongest in rural metro-adjacent regions



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 1996. A predominantly rural region has over 50 percent of its population living in rural communities. An intermediate region has 15 to 49 percent living in rural communities and a predominantly urban region has less than 15 percent of its population living in rural communities.

Among the provinces and territories, between 1981 and 1996, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories had the highest growth of predominantly rural population, 41 percent and 33 percent respectively (Table 1). This was due, in part, to a high birth rate in the Aboriginal population. Among the provinces with a majority predominantly rural population, both Newfoundland and Saskatchewan lost populations in their predominantly rural regions during the 15 year period (-9 percent and -7 percent, respectively). These provinces have natural resource dependent economies that have been shedding labour. As a result, there has been a movement of people to urban centres or out of the province entirely. For the other three Atlantic Provinces – Prince Edward Island increased its predominantly rural population by 10 percent, New Brunswick by 7 percent and Nova Scotia by 1 percent.

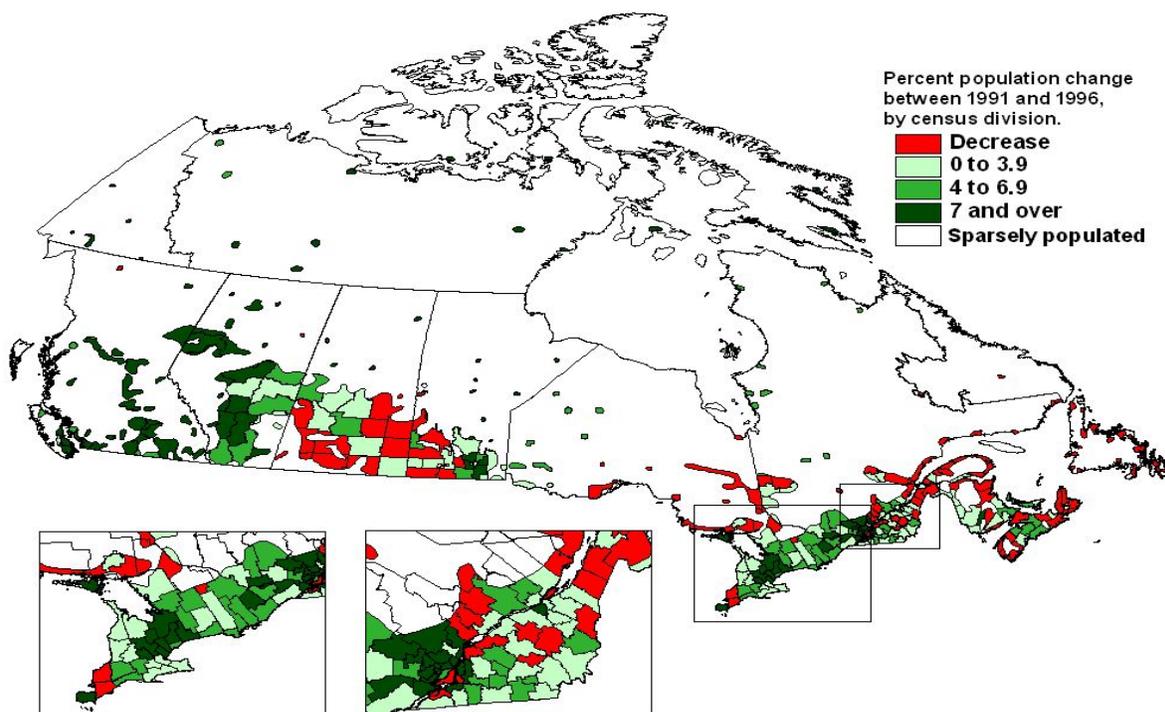
The other provinces, where predominantly urban populations are a majority, all reported population gains in their predominantly rural regions. British Columbia had the greatest increase in predominantly rural regions (28 percent) followed by Ontario (18 percent) and Alberta (14 percent). Most of the gains were made in metro-adjacent regions as people moved to smaller communities within extended commuting distances of larger urban areas. And in the case of Alberta, people moved to resource rich rural areas.

Table 1. Percent change in population in all predominantly rural regions

	1981 to 1986	1986 to 1991	1991 to 1996	1981 to 1996
Northwest Territories	14.2	10.4	11.6	40.8
Yukon	1.3	18.4	10.8	32.9
British Columbia	0.8	11.5	14.2	28.3
Ontario	1.6	10.3	5.6	18.3
Alberta	4.4	2.6	6.1	13.6
CANADA	1.1	4.5	5.0	10.9
Prince Edward Island	3.2	2.4	3.7	9.6
Manitoba	1.5	1.6	3.8	7.0
New Brunswick	2.4	1.9	2.1	6.6
Québec	-1.3	1.4	3.2	3.3
Nova Scotia	1.3	0.4	-0.6	1.1
Saskatchewan	0.6	-5.8	-1.5	-6.7
Newfoundland	-2.0	-2.2	-4.9	-8.8

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 1996.

Population Change from 1991 to 1996, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada. Demography Division. CANSIM II (Table 051-0015)
Map produced by the Spatial Analysis and Geomatics Applications section (SAGA), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, 2000

Components of population change

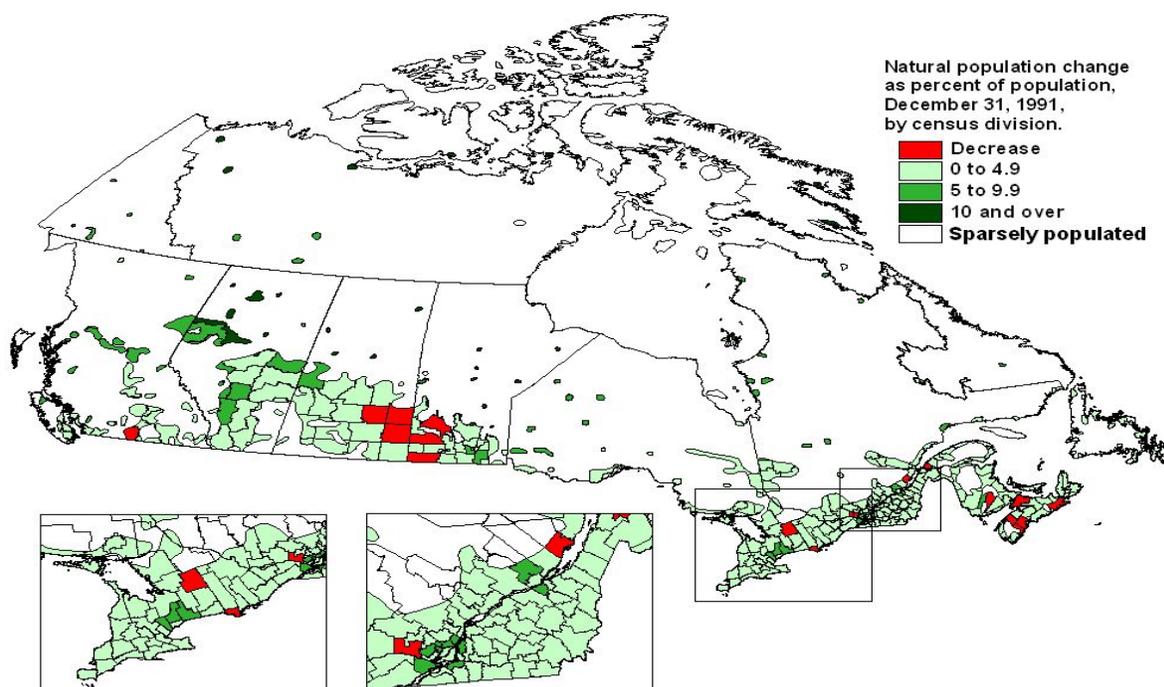
While population change describes the overall increase or decrease of populations, it does not describe the two determinants of population change. Populations change as a result of a combination of the natural balance (birth minus deaths) and net migration (movement into an area minus movement out of an area). A positive or negative natural balance may be a result of the population structure (e.g. an ageing population) or health status. The movement of people may suggest how real or perceived economic opportunities are or how important amenities are in an area.

1. Natural balance

Canada's population increased by 1.6 million between 1991 and 1996². About 70 percent of the increase was attributed to natural increase, the remainder to in-migration (see Appendix).

At the sub-provincial level, almost 6 percent of Canada's census divisions had a negative natural balance in the 1991 to 1996 period – that is, there were more deaths than births in these census division (Map: Natural Population Change). These were all predominantly rural

Natural Population Change (Births minus Deaths), 1991 to 1996, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, CANSIM II (Table 051-0015)
Map produced by the Spatial Analysis and Geomatics Applications section (SAGA), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, 2000

² The natural balance was calculated for regions only for the 1991 to 1996 period as data on births and deaths for the constant 1996 census division boundaries were not readily available for earlier years.

regions. About half of these census divisions (e.g., the Okanagan region in British Columbia and the Haliburton region and Prince Edward County in Ontario) have a disproportionately high elderly population and a low population of young people. These areas are retirement destinations and population decline was avoided because in-migration was large enough to counter the negative natural balance. However, the rest of these census divisions (largely in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia) also suffered net population out-migration (discussed below) – thus their population decline was due to both a negative natural balance and out-migration.

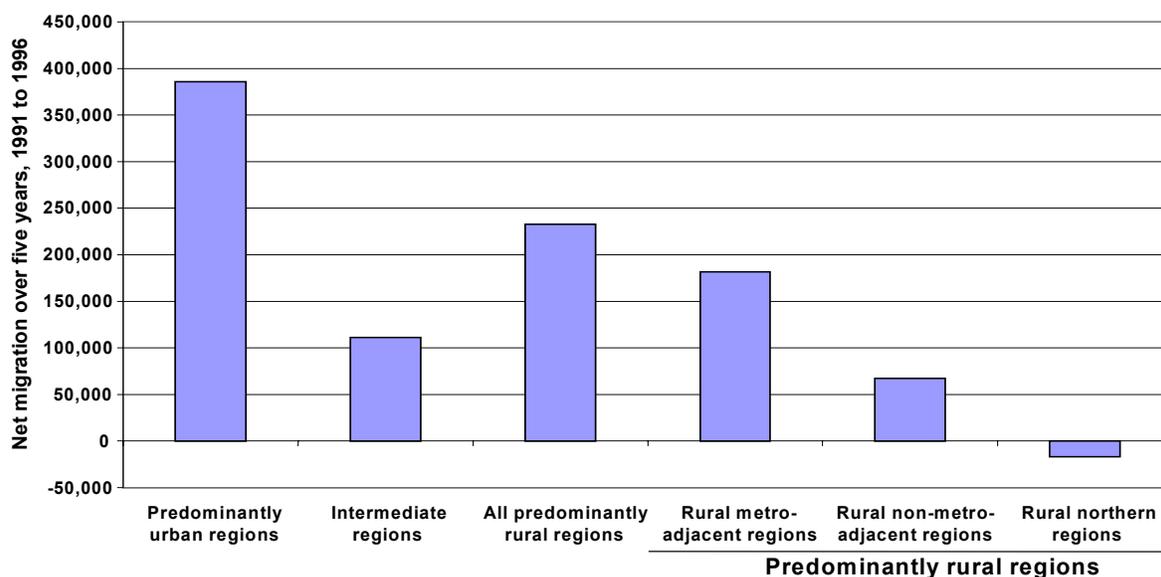
2. Net migration

Net migration (the difference between the rate of in-migration and the rate of out-migration) is the second component of population change.

In the 1991 to 1996 period, rural northern regions lost 16 thousand people due to net migration – that is, 16 thousand more people left the north than moved to the north (Figure 6). Above, we noted that the natural balance in the north was high due to high Aboriginal birth rates -- this was the reason for their population growth during the 1991 to 1996 period. Rural metro-adjacent regions attracted 182 thousand people on a net basis. Rural non-metro-adjacent regions attracted less than half this amount (67 thousand) on a net basis.

Figure 6

Rural metro-adjacent regions gained 182,000 people and northern regions lost 16,000 people due to net migration

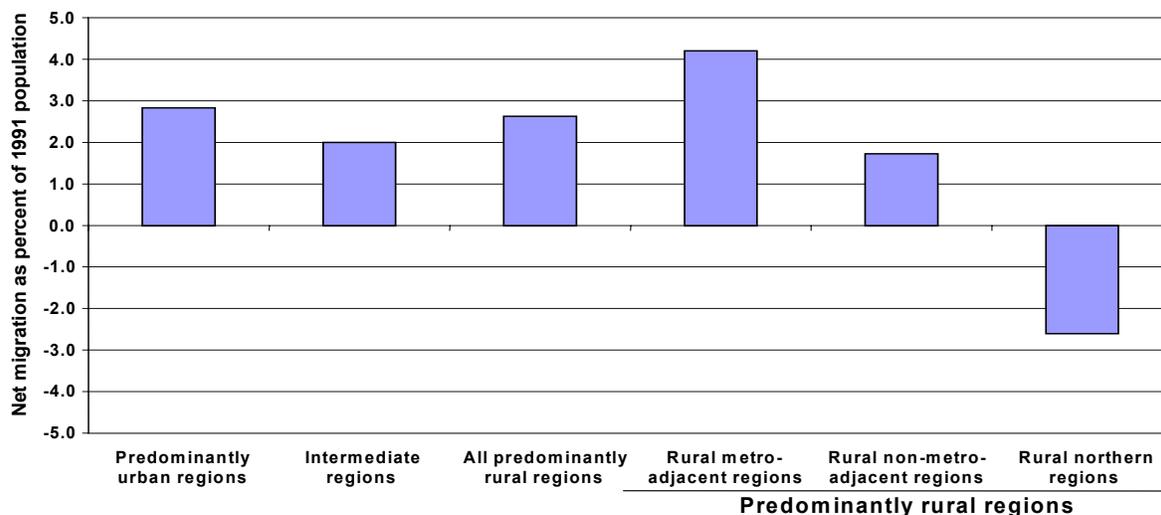


"Net migration" is calculated as population change (1996 population minus 1991 population) minus natural balance (births minus deaths) using data from Statistics Canada, Annual Demographic Statistics, Cat. No. 91-213 and CANSIM II, Table 051-0015. Net migration includes international migration and inter-regional migration within Canada.

When net migration is considered in terms of the rate of migration (i.e., net migration as a percent of the 1991 population), then we see that rural metro-adjacent regions had the highest rate of net in-migration (4.2 percent) and only rural northern regions had net out-migration (-2.6 percent) (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Northern regions lost 2.6 percent of their population due to net migration between 1991 and 1996

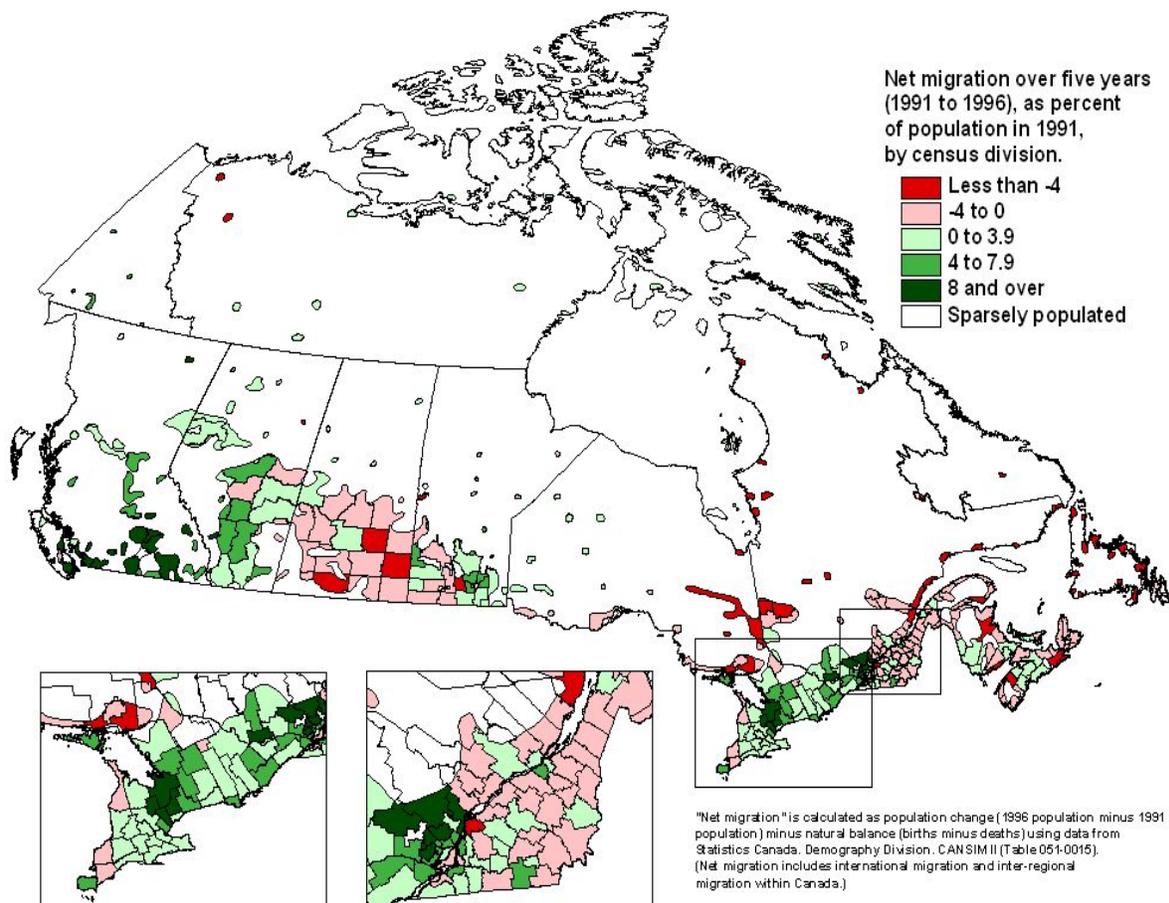


"Net migration" is calculated as population change (1996 population minus 1991 population) minus natural balance (births minus deaths) using data from Statistics Canada Annual Demographic Statistics, Cat. No. 91-213 and CANSIM II, Table 051-0015. Net migration includes international migration and inter-regional migration within Canada.

Forty-seven percent of the census divisions had net out-migration (Map: Net Migration). These census divisions were mainly rural and found in the North; in southern Saskatchewan; southern Manitoba and Winnipeg; southwestern and northern Ontario; Quebec's Eastern Townships, Gaspé and the North Shore areas; and most of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Areas with net in-migration were found around Montreal and southwestern Quebec; eastern and central Ontario; around Winnipeg, in northern Saskatchewan; in most of Alberta; and especially coastal and interior British Columbia.

There were 90 census divisions (31 percent) that experienced the best combination – increasing natural balance and net in-migration. These rural census divisions were located on Vancouver Island and interior British Columbia; northern and central Alberta; northern Saskatchewan; parts of southern Manitoba; along the coast of Lake Erie; north of Toronto and Montreal; Prince Edward Island; north of Halifax in Nova Scotia; and the areas of Moncton and Fredericton in New Brunswick.

Net Migration, 1991 to 1996 , Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, CANSIM II (Table 051-0015)

Map produced by the Spatial Analysis and Geomatics Applications section (SAGA), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, 2000

Differences among and within provinces

The national overview belies some of the population variability that exists at the provincial level (see Appendix). The Atlantic Region population, as a whole, managed to remain stable during the 1981 to 1996 period. While most of their predominantly rural regions lost people, urban regions – intermediate Nova Scotia and New Brunswick – gained people. Newfoundland was the only province to lose population whereas each of the other Atlantic Provinces had a natural increase that surpassed their out-migration. Prince Edward Island differed by having a net in-migration into its rural regions, which helped to maintain the overall increase in the Atlantic predominantly rural population. New Brunswick’s metro-adjacent rural region was the only other rural region to have a positive net migration in Atlantic Canada.

While all of Quebec’s regions gained in population, only its metro-adjacent rural regions had (substantial) net in-migration. The other regions had out-migration but grew in population due to natural increase.

In Ontario and Alberta, only the rural northern regions had a net out-migration, while in Saskatchewan it was the opposite – only the remote regions had a net in-migration. In Alberta out-migration accounted for the population loss in its rural northern regions, while Ontario's northern region was maintained by births. Manitoba's northern regions and its predominantly urban region (i.e., Winnipeg) both showed out-migration as well.

Within each province, there is also considerable variability among communities in terms of population gains and losses. Map (Community population losses and gains over three consecutive censuses, 1981 to 1996) shows communities (defined as census consolidated subdivisions) that either gained population over three consecutive censuses or lost population over three consecutive censuses. It shows that rural communities grew over the 15 year period in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, coastal and interior British Columbia, central and northern Alberta, central Manitoba, south-central Ontario, south Quebec, about half of the area of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and a few out-ports in Newfoundland. However, in regions that show continuous population decline (such as the agricultural regions of Saskatchewan), there are some communities that did not decline in each intercensal period – these are the white areas on the map.

Summary

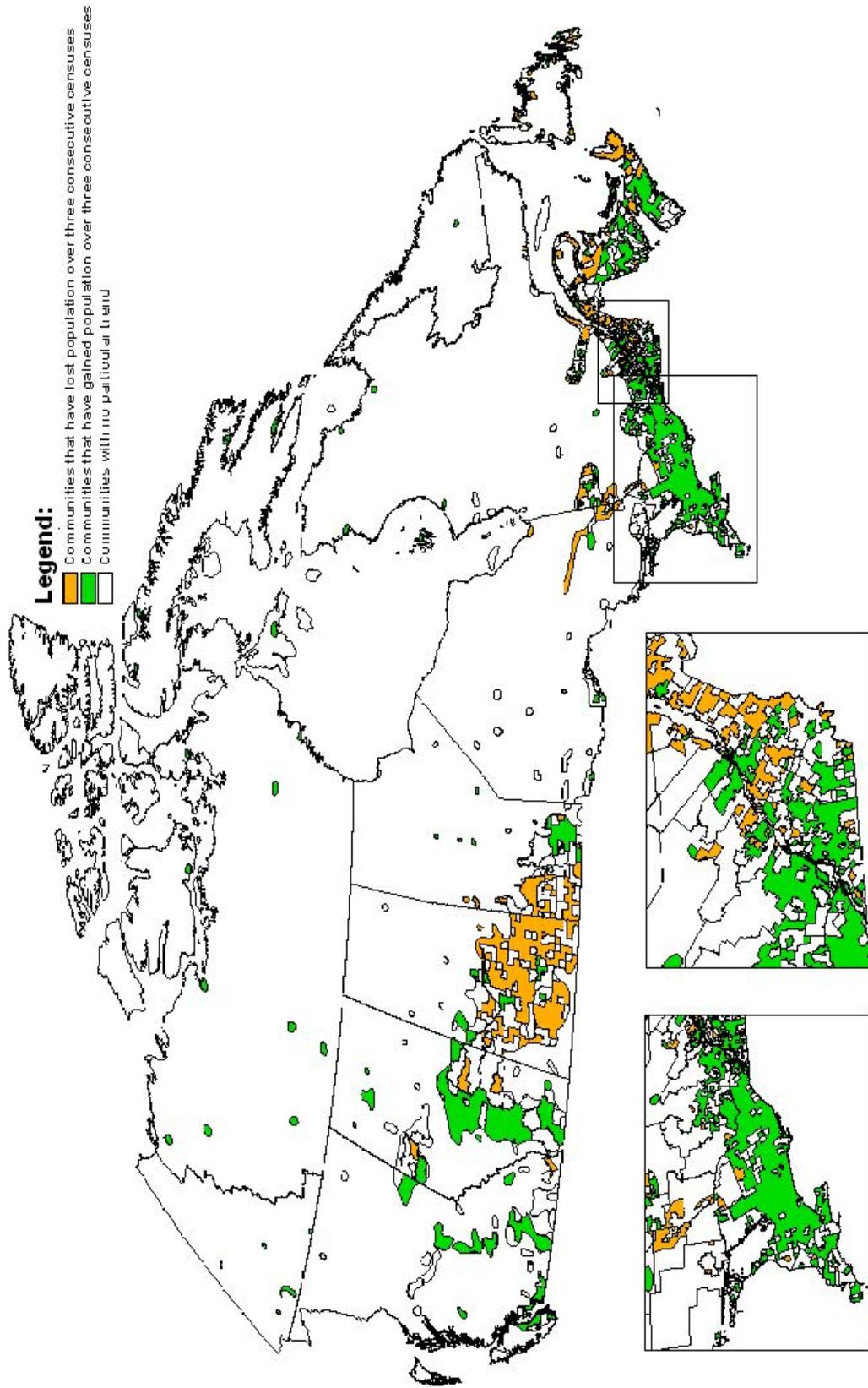
In 1996, 31.4 percent of Canada's population lived in predominantly rural regions. Each Atlantic Province, Saskatchewan and the Yukon and Northwest Territories have more than 50 percent of their population living in predominantly rural regions. Rural metro-adjacent regions are the fastest growing rural regions. These regions represent one-half of the population in predominantly rural regions. Predominantly rural regions in Newfoundland and Saskatchewan show continuous population decline. Net migration is strongest toward rural metro-adjacent regions.

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Community population losses and gains over three consecutive censuses, 1981 to 1996



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991 and 1996
Map produced by the Spatial Analysis and Geomatics Applications section (SAGA), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, 2000

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletins (Cat. No. 21-006-XIE)

Volume 1

No. 1: Rural and Small Town Population is Growing in the 1990s

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No. 2: Employment Patterns in the Non-Metro Workforce

Robert Mendelson

No. 3: The Composition of Business Establishments in Smaller and Larger Communities in Canada

Robert Mendelson

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Ray D. Bollman

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Volume 2

No. 1: Factors Associated with Female Employment Rates in Rural and Small Town Canada

Esperanza Vera-Toscano, Euan Phimister and Alfons Weersink

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 2

Appendix Table 1. Population change showing natural balance and net migration, by type of region, Canada and Provinces

Type of region	Census of Population data				Data from the annual estimates program of the Demography Division, Statistics Canada										
	Pop-ulation 1981	Pop-ulation 1986	Pop-ulation 1991	Pop-ulation 1996	Pop-ulation (1) 1991	Pop-ulation (1) 1996	Births 1991 to 1996	Deaths 1991 to 1996	Natural Balance 1991 to 1996	Pop-ulation Change 1991 to 1996	Net Migration 1991 to 1996	Natural Balance	Net Migration	Pop-ulation Change	
														*** as a percent of 1991***	
CANADA	24,083,540	25,022,000	26,994,036	28,528,115	28,030,864	29,671,892	1,935,898	1,024,375	911,523	1,641,028	729,505	3.3	2.6	5.9	
Predominantly urban regions	11,389,130	11,985,370	13,110,350	13,939,995	13,608,051	14,493,267	967,399	467,818	499,581	885,216	385,635	3.7	2.8	6.5	
Intermediate regions	4,604,615	4,861,585	5,343,675	5,618,015	5,557,461	5,839,105	370,206	199,688	170,518	281,644	111,126	3.1	2.0	5.1	
All predominantly rural regions	8,089,795	8,175,045	8,540,010	8,970,105	8,865,352	9,339,520	598,293	356,869	241,424	474,168	232,744	2.7	2.6	5.3	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	3,783,375	3,875,860	4,146,870	4,415,860	4,326,693	4,618,129	268,644	178,986	109,658	291,436	181,778	2.5	4.2	6.7	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	3,714,745	3,711,875	3,785,405	3,921,120	3,907,197	4,063,306	249,908	161,201	88,707	156,109	67,402	2.3	1.7	4.0	
Rural northern regions	591,675	587,310	607,735	633,125	631,462	658,085	59,741	16,682	43,059	26,623	-16,436	6.8	-2.6	4.2	
NEWFOUNDLAND	563,755	564,005	563,945	547,165	579,525	560,584	32,027	19,524	12,503	-18,941	-31,444	2.2	-5.4	-3.3	
Intermediate regions	236,470	243,185	250,280	248,785	258,269	255,723	14,639	9,214	5,425	-2,546	-7,971	2.1	-3.1	-1.0	
All predominantly rural regions	327,285	320,820	313,665	298,380	321,256	304,861	17,388	10,310	7,078	-16,395	-23,473	2.2	-7.3	-5.1	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	270,320	266,270	258,470	246,550	246,550	251,910	13,776	9,072	4,704	-12,796	-17,500	1.8	-6.6	-4.8	
Rural northern regions	56,965	54,550	55,195	51,830	56,550	52,951	3,612	1,238	2,374	-3,599	-5,973	4.2	-10.6	-6.4	
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (2)	121,220	125,095	128,100	132,855	130,312	136,188	8,885	5,746	3,139	5,876	2,737	2.4	2.1	4.5	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	59,600	62,395	66,020	69,330	67,540	71,357	4,571	2,999	1,572	3,817	2,245	2.3	3.3	5.7	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	61,620	62,700	62,080	63,525	62,772	64,831	4,314	2,747	1,567	2,059	492	2.5	0.8	3.3	
NOVA SCOTIA	839,810	864,150	890,940	899,965	915,068	931,235	56,595	38,139	18,456	16,167	-2,289	2.0	-0.3	1.8	
Intermediate regions	286,085	303,395	327,890	340,165	337,085	352,153	23,281	11,119	12,162	15,068	2,906	3.6	0.9	4.5	
All predominantly rural regions	553,725	560,755	563,050	559,800	577,983	579,082	33,314	27,020	6,294	1,099	-5,195	1.1	-0.9	0.2	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	267,575	269,845	270,825	270,860	277,443	279,749	16,213	13,063	3,150	2,306	-844	1.1	-0.3	0.8	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	286,150	290,910	292,225	288,940	300,540	299,333	17,101	13,957	3,144	-1,207	-4,351	1.0	-1.4	-0.4	
NEW BRUNSWICK	689,370	701,840	716,490	729,630	745,546	752,995	44,790	28,939	15,851	7,449	-8,402	2.1	-1.1	1.0	
Predominantly urban regions	84,555	81,190	80,145	78,035	83,609	80,803	5,538	4,170	1,368	-2,806	-4,174	1.6	-5.0	-3.4	
Intermediate regions	73,755	76,655	81,795	85,220	84,974	87,484	5,456	3,124	2,332	2,510	178	2.7	0.2	3.0	
All predominantly rural regions	531,060	543,995	554,550	566,375	576,963	584,708	33,796	21,645	12,151	7,745	-4,406	2.1	-0.8	1.3	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	258,145	270,200	281,785	293,060	292,031	302,547	17,834	10,733	7,101	10,516	3,415	2.4	1.2	3.6	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	272,915	273,795	272,765	273,315	284,932	282,161	15,962	10,912	5,050	-2,771	-7,821	1.8	-2.7	-1.0	
QUEBEC	6,369,080	6,454,485	6,810,295	7,045,085	7,064,735	7,274,019	457,938	255,718	202,220	209,284	7,064	2.9	0.1	3.0	
Predominantly urban regions	3,405,440	3,479,070	3,718,070	3,842,210	3,858,877	3,966,508	257,741	137,635	120,106	107,631	-12,475	3.1	-0.3	2.8	
Intermediate regions	1,307,320	1,341,220	1,435,580	1,492,595	1,486,982	1,540,487	94,304	53,489	40,815	53,505	12,690	2.7	0.9	3.6	
All predominantly rural regions	1,656,320	1,634,195	1,656,645	1,710,280	1,718,876	1,767,024	105,893	64,594	41,299	44,148	6,849	2.4	0.4	2.8	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	653,670	657,145	688,385	727,120	729,487	766,187	45,193	27,865	17,328	36,700	19,372	2.4	2.7	5.0	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	923,045	899,280	891,345	904,570	910,261	920,230	53,769	34,639	19,130	9,969	-9,161	2.1	-1.0	1.1	
Rural northern regions	79,605	77,770	76,915	78,590	79,128	80,607	6,931	2,090	4,841	1,479	-3,362	6.1	-4.2	1.9	
ONTARIO	8,534,270	9,001,150	9,977,065	10,642,785	10,427,621	11,100,876	738,275	381,428	356,847	673,255	316,408	3.4	3.0	6.5	
Predominantly urban regions	4,427,050	4,705,955	5,155,915	5,514,185	5,375,574	5,740,865	397,747	178,974	218,773	365,291	146,518	4.1	2.7	6.8	
Intermediate regions	2,311,735	2,470,840	2,809,500	3,003,870	2,940,112	3,136,763	199,535	107,262	92,272	196,651	104,379	3.1	3.6	6.1	
All predominantly rural regions	1,795,485	1,824,355	2,011,650	2,124,730	2,111,935	2,223,248	140,993	95,191	45,802	111,313	65,511	2.2	3.1	5.3	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	1,210,215	1,247,795	1,392,860	1,487,770	1,462,664	1,557,063	98,868	65,314	33,554	94,399	60,845	2.3	4.2	6.5	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	430,140	431,285	467,525	481,580	488,793	502,955	29,782	24,053	5,729	14,162	8,433	1.2	1.7	2.9	
Rural northern regions	155,130	145,275	151,265	155,380	160,478	163,230	12,343	5,824	6,519	2,752	-3,767	4.1	-2.3	1.7	
MANITOBA	1,013,500	1,049,120	1,079,390	1,100,290	1,109,594	1,134,346	82,348	46,416	35,932	24,752	-11,180	3.2	-1.0	2.2	
Predominantly urban regions	558,430	587,415	610,265	613,205	626,796	631,274	44,633	25,476	19,157	4,478	-14,679	3.1	-2.3	0.7	
All predominantly rural regions	455,070	461,705	469,125	487,085	482,798	503,072	37,715	20,940	16,775	20,274	3,499	3.5	0.7	4.2	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	177,530	186,520	198,020	208,485	204,599	216,034	14,219	7,832	6,387	11,435	5,048	3.1	2.5	5.6	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	216,600	210,810	207,155	210,505	212,972	217,140	14,887	11,277	3,610	4,168	558	1.7	0.3	2.0	
Rural northern regions	60,940	64,375	63,950	68,095	65,227	69,898	8,609	1,831	6,778	4,671	-2,107	10.4	-3.2	7.2	
SASKATCHEWAN	956,660	996,900	976,020	976,625	1,002,688	1,019,459	71,063	41,157	29,906	16,791	-13,115	3.0	-1.3	1.7	
Intermediate regions	389,250	426,290	438,630	447,380	450,039	466,495	32,991	15,479	17,512	16,456	-1,056	3.9	-0.2	3.7	
All predominantly rural regions	567,410	570,610	537,390	529,245	552,629	552,964	38,072	25,678	12,394	335	-12,059	2.0	-2.2	0.1	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	243,715	247,160	235,215	231,595	242,345	242,551	15,888	10,988	4,900	206	-4,694	2.0	-1.9	0.1	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	298,260	297,990	275,465	266,565	283,141	278,229	17,537	14,027	3,510	-4,912	-8,422	1.2	-3.0	-1.7	
Rural northern regions	25,435	25,460	26,710	31,085	27,143	32,184	4,647	663	3,984	5,041	1,057	14.7	3.9	18.6	
ALBERTA	2,213,655	2,340,260	2,519,195	2,669,205	2,592,551	2,780,639	201,337	76,773	124,564	188,088	63,524	4.8	2.5	7.3	
Predominantly urban regions	1,417,580	1,509,425	1,666,560	1,764,815	1,708,839	1,830,696	128,949	45,892	83,057	121,857	38,800	4.9	2.3	7.1	
All predominantly rural regions	796,075	830,835	852,635	904,390	883,712	949,943	72,388	30,881	41,507	66,231	24,724	4.7	2.8	7.5	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	509,295	527,470	548,010	584,565	588,605	613,979	43,617	21,875	21,742	45,374	23,632	3.8	4.2	8.0	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	253,500	265,835	266,995	283,360	276,367	298,441	25,435	8,419	17,016	22,074	5,058	6.2	1.8	8.0	
Rural northern regions	33,280	37,550	37,630	36,465	38,740	37,523	3,336	587	2,749	-1,217	-3,966	7.1	-10.2	-3.1	
BRITISH COLUMBIA	2,713,610	2,849,600	3,247,505	3,689,740	3,373,399	3,882,043	232,289	128,648	103,641	508,644	405,003	3.1	12.0	15.1	
Predominantly urban regions	1,496,075	1,622,315	1,879,395	2,127,545	1,954,356	2,243,121	132,791	75,671	57,120	288,765	231,645	2.9	11.9	14.8	
All predominantly rural regions	1,217,535	1,227,285	1,368,110	1,562,195	1,419,043	1,638,922	99,498	52,977	46,521	219,879	173,358	3.3	12.2	15.5	
Rural metro-adjacent regions	403,630	407,330	465,750	543,075	481,979	568,662	32,241	18,317	13,924	86,683	72,759	2.9	15.1	18.0	
Rural non-metro-adjacent regions	702,195	713,000	791,380	902,210	822,713	948,076	57,345	32,098	25,247	125,363	100,116	3.1	12.2	15.2	
Rural northern regions	111,710	106,955	110,980	116,910	114,351	122,184	9,912	2,562	7,350	7,833	483	6.4	0.4	6	