

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Study: Canada's rural demography

1851 to 2006

Canada's rural population, namely people who live outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres, has remained fairly stable at about 6 million since 1981.

However, stronger growth among the population of larger urban centres has meant that these 6 million people represent a smaller share of Canada's total population. In 2006, their share had declined to about 19% of Canada's population, compared with 20% in 2001.

Between 2001 and 2006, the population in rural and small town areas grew by 1%. This was much slower than the growth of 6.4% in larger urban centres.

Within these rural and small town areas, population growth was highest during this five-year period in areas strongly linked to urban centres (+4.7%). In areas weakly linked to urban centres, the population declined 1.4%.

Each province showed a similar pattern. In zones that were less linked to urban centres, the population declined more, or growth was slower.

However, in both Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador, the overall rural and small town population has been declining since 1986.

Although the 1.4 million rural and small town inhabitants in Ontario represented a relatively small share of Ontario's total population, they constituted 24% of Canada's total rural and small town population in 2006. Quebec's share of the total rural and small town population was slightly higher at 25%.

**Note:** This study uses three different definitions of rural Canada to profile the structure of Canada's rural population, and updates the population data to 2006. The term "rural and small town" refers to those areas outside of urban centres of 10,000 or more population and where less than 50% of the labour force commutes to an urban centre for work.

The study "Structure and change in Canada's rural demography: An update to 2006" is now available as part of the *The Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin*, 1851 to 2006, Vol. 7, no. 7 (21-006-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ray D. Bollman (613-951-3747; [ray.bollman@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:ray.bollman@statcan.gc.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Charitable donors

2007

Canadian taxfilers reported making charitable donations surpassing \$8.6 billion in 2007, up 1.4% from 2006. At the same time, the number of donors fell 0.9% to just under 5.7 million. Data are based on income tax returns filed for 2007.

Nationally, 24% of all taxfilers claimed charitable donations, slightly lower than in previous years. Manitoba had the highest percentage who declared a donation, at 27%, followed by Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, all at 26%. Manitoba and Ontario have had the highest and second highest proportions, respectively, for more than a decade.

Among donors in 2007, the median donation was \$250, meaning that half of the donors gave more than \$250 and half less. This was unchanged from 2006, unlike in prior years when the median donation had consistently increased.

The median increased in all provinces and territories, except Quebec and Ontario, where it remained stable.

Donors in Nunavut reported a median donation of \$470, the highest among the provinces and territories for the eighth consecutive year. Donors in Prince Edward Island had the second highest median at \$360, followed by those in Alberta with \$350.

Among census metropolitan areas, donors in Abbotsford, British Columbia, had by far the highest median donation at \$620, the fifth year in a row that they have led the way. Donors in Kelowna followed with a median of \$370, slightly ahead of those in Vancouver with \$360.

**Note:** Canadians contribute in many ways to charitable organizations. These particular data include only amounts given to charities and approved organizations for which official tax receipts were provided and claimed on tax returns. It is possible to carry donations forward for up to five years after the year in which they were made. Therefore, donations reported for the 2007 taxation year could include donations that were made in any of the five previous years. According to tax laws, taxfilers are permitted to claim both their donations and those made by their spouses to get better tax benefits. Consequently, the number of persons who made charitable donations may be higher than the number who claimed tax credits.

Available on CANSIM: tables 111-0001 to 111-0003.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4106.**

The databank *Charitable Donors* (13C0014, various prices) is now available for Canada, the provinces and territories, cities, towns, census metropolitan areas, census divisions, federal electoral districts, forward

sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code) and letter carrier routes. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: 1-866-652-8444; fax: 613-951-4745; [saadinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:saadinfo@statcan.gc.ca)), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

## Charitable donations

	2007	2006 to 2007	2007	2006 to 2007	2007	2007
	Donors		Donations			Taxfilers claiming a donation
	number	% change	\$ thousands	% change	median in \$	%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5,698,880</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>8,648,660</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>24</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	82,740	-0.8	78,735	-1.1	340	21
Prince Edward Island	26,660	-0.7	28,870	1.7	360	26
Nova Scotia	157,420	-2.1	190,870	-6.4	310	23
New Brunswick	124,840	-2.1	150,695	-7.8	300	22
Quebec	1,282,210	-0.3	814,945	4.5	130	22
Ontario	2,291,180	-1.9	4,024,030	-1.6	310	26
Manitoba	229,180	-1.8	387,680	-4.9	330	27
Saskatchewan	183,870	0.7	275,830	3.6	320	26
Alberta	601,460	0.2	1,383,715	7.3	350	24
British Columbia	708,490	0.5	1,299,305	7.6	340	23
Yukon	4,680	4.7	5,940	12.2	250	21
Northwest Territories	4,530	-2.8	5,545	-0.6	250	17
Nunavut	1,610	-1.2	2,505	-4.0	470	10

## New products

**Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin:**  
**"Structure and change in Canada's rural**  
**demography: An update to 2006", 1851 to 2006,**  
Vol. 7, no. 7  
**Catalogue number 21-006-XWE**  
(free).

**Employment, Earnings and Hours, August 2008,**  
Vol. 86, no. 8  
**Catalogue number 72-002-XIB**  
(free).

**All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.**

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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