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WORKING PAPER #36

Rural and small town population is growing in the 1990s

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Rural and small town population is growing in the 1990s

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Abstract

Rural and small town Canada continues to grow. Rural and small town growth rates vary widely among the provinces. Much of the growth within rural and small town areas is in the small towns. Sub-provincial data show wide regional differences within each province. The population in larger urban centres is growing faster. Thus, the share of Canada's population living in rural and small town areas has declined to 22 percent in 1996. Newfoundland is the only province with over 50 percent of its population living in rural and small town areas.

Introduction

In recent decades, rural and small town Canada has lost population to larger urban centres as a result of technological development in primary sectors. This resulted in the substitution of machines for workers in agriculture, forestry and mining. In addition, jobs in the manufacturing and service sectors have tended to be in metro centres.

To date, there has been little information on the impact of boundary reclassifications for larger urban centres on the measurement of the shift of population from rural and small town areas to larger urban centres.

In this article, we look at the change the rural and small town population in two different ways:

1. we look, over time, at the rural and small town population according to the designation of boundaries for larger urban centres in use during each census. Thus, the change in the rural and small town population will be due to population growth or decline plus losses (or sometimes gains) due to the shift in boundaries of larger urban centres over time; and
2. we hold constant boundaries of larger urban centres between each census period to determine the growth rate of the rural and small town population (before losses, or gains, due to boundary changes are considered).

Methodology

For the purpose of this article, population is considered to be rural and small town (RST) if it is located outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) and Census Agglomerations (CA). In this article, CMAs and CAs are designated as “larger urban centres” (LUC). As defined by Statistics Canada, a CMA consists of an urbanised core having a population of at least 100,000 (on the basis of the population counts from the previous census) plus its main labour market area from its sphere of influence. A CMA defines an urban area's sphere of influence based on the commuting patterns of its labour market. Each CMA consists of one or more census subdivisions (CSD), also known as an incorporated municipality, that lies either wholly or partly within the urbanised core plus CSDs with at least 50 percent of the employed labour force living in the CSD and working in the urbanised core plus CSDs with at least 25 percent of the employed labour force working in the CSD and living in the urbanised core. One example of a component CSD, is the City of Airdrie which is part of the Calgary CMA. Another example is the City of Dartmouth which is part of the Halifax CMA.

A CA defines a smaller urban area's sphere of influence based on the commuting patterns of its labour market. A CA consists of an urbanised core having a population of at least 10,000 (on the basis of the population counts from the previous census). Each CA includes one or more CSDs that meet the same criteria as those that apply to a CMA. One example of a component CSD is the Village of Lakefield, which is part of the Peterborough CA. Another example, is the Town of Cornwall, which is part of the Charlottetown CA.

In the Census of Population publications, “rural” refers to all areas within CSDs that contain population concentrations of less than 1,000 and have population densities of less than 400 per square kilometre, based on the previous census population counts. Thus, the “rural” population living in CSDs within the fringes of CMAs and CAs, which accounts for over a third of the total “rural” population, as published by the Census of Population, is included in the population of larger urban centres (i.e. within CMAs and CAs).

According to previous research into the dynamics of urban-rural growth, there is often an interruption of the trend toward urbanisation. One reason for this interruption is the cyclical pattern of growth rates that exist for rural non-farm populations that occur when urban areas are reclassified from rural to urban (Bollman and Biggs, 1992). Reclassification from rural to urban occurs when rapid population growth in rural areas adjacent to urban areas leads to urban boundary expansion; when rural fringe populations achieve urban density thresholds; and when rural communities achieve

urban population levels (Joseph and Keddie, 1991). When looking at population growth over time on the basis of the current census year boundaries, the effect of boundary changes on shifts in population between large urban centres (LUC) and rural and small town (RST) areas is not taken into account. By imposing the LUC vs. RST designation of one census on the data from the previous census, an estimate of population growth within unchanging geographical boundaries is obtained. Reclassification is almost always defining some rural and small town areas to be larger urban centres. Therefore, this method will yield a smaller estimate of the rural and small town population for the previous census year and a higher rural and small town population growth rate compared to measurements that do not adjust to previous designations of LUC and RST areas (Joseph and Keddie, 1991). By analysing LUC and RST population data using both current and constant census boundaries, it is possible to determine whether or not there is rural and small town population growth despite on-going boundary changes.

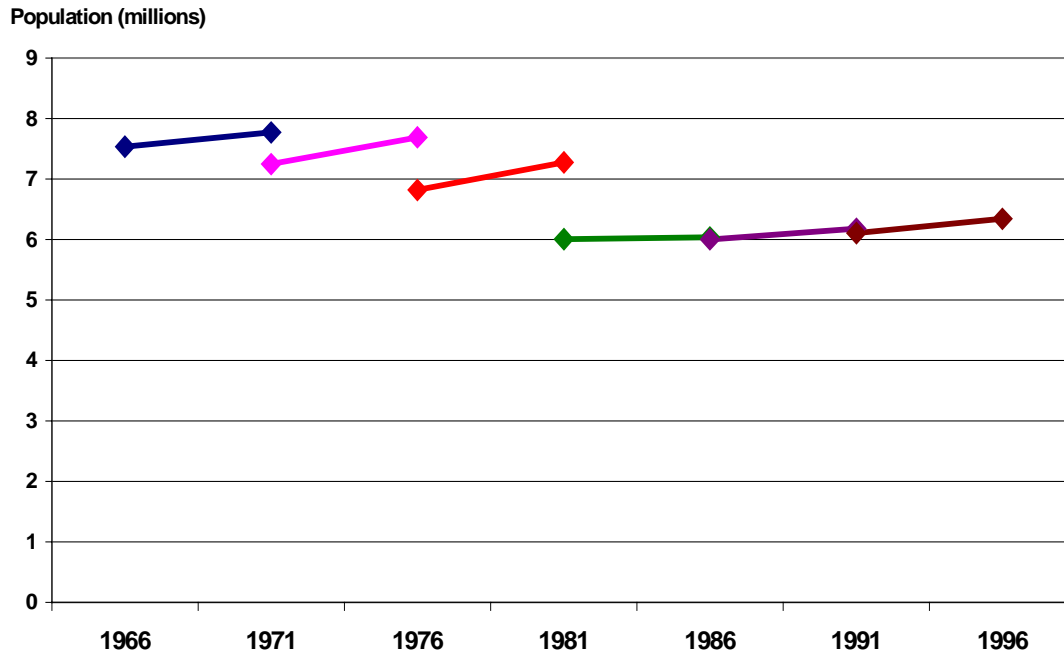
Definition of "Rural and Small Town" Canada

In this bulletin, "Rural and Small Town" (RST) Canada refers to the population living outside the commuting zones of larger urban centres - specifically, outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Census of Agglomerations (CAs). A CMA has an urban core of 100,000 or over and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50 percent or more of the work force commutes into the urban core. A CA has an urban core of 10,000 to 99,999 and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50 percent or more of the work force commutes into the urban core. Thus, RST Canada represents the non-CMA and non-CA population. It includes all the residents outside the commuting zones of larger urban centres. Only a small share of these residents live on farms.

Rural and small town Canada continues to grow

Rural and small town areas experienced a growing population in each intercensal period from 1966 to 1996 at the Canada level (Figure 1). Some regions of Canada continued to lose rural and small town population or to remain the same while other regions gained rural and small town population during this period. Within constant boundaries at the Canada level, there was a 3 percent increase in the rural and small town population during 1986-1991 followed by a 4 percent increase in the rural and small town population during 1991-1996. Most of the growth in the rural and small town population in Canada occurred in Québec and Ontario in the East and British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba in the West.

**Figure 1 Rural and Small Town Population,
Canada, 1966 to 1996**



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.

Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

How to read Figure 1

The Census of Population in 1976 counted 7.7 million people living in rural and small town Canada. The boundaries for Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Census Agglomerations (CAs) were redrawn for the 1981 Census of Population. According to the 1981 boundaries, there were only 6.8 million people living in rural and small town Canada in 1976. The line segment joining 1976 and 1981 boundaries shows the change in rural and small town population according to the (constant) 1981 boundaries.

Similar boundary changes were made in each subsequent census. Each line segment has a positive slope indicating that, for Canada as a whole, the rural and small town population is growing. However, we end up with fewer rural and small town Canadians because of the classification of some municipalities into CMAs and CAs over time.

However, rural and small town Canada lost significant population due to metro reclassification over this period. There was a net transfer of 0.9 million persons from non-metro to metro in 1976 when the 1981 boundaries were applied in 1976 (Figure 1). Similarly, there was a net transfer of 1.3 million persons from non-metro to metro in 1981 when the 1986 boundaries were applied in 1981. There was a smaller net transfer of 32,000 persons from non-metro to metro in 1986 when the 1991 boundaries were

applied in 1986 and 71,000 in 1991 when the 1996 boundaries were applied in 1991. Most of the population transfer occurred in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec between 1976 and 1996 (Table 1). This reclassification caused a significant increase in the number of individuals living in CAs as many centres surpassed the CA boundary threshold over the 1976 to 1996 period.

Thus, if we use “current” boundaries (i.e. we do not adjust for boundary changes and we use the published data), Canada’s rural and small town population decreased by 18 percent over the 1976 to 1996 period. This can be seen in Figure 1 -- compare the 7.7 million rural and small town population in 1976, according to the 1976 definition, with the 6.3 million rural and small town population in 1996, according to the 1996 definition.

However, each line segment in Figure 1 is sloping upward. Thus, within constant boundaries, there was population growth in rural and small town Canada during each intercensal period from 1976 to 1996.

Table 1. Impact of CMA/CA boundary changes on non-CMA/CA population, 1971 to 1996

| | Change to non-CMA/CA Population in | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 1971 | 1976 | 1981 | 1986 | 1991 | | | |
| | Due to boundary changes made in | | | | | | | |
| | 1976 | 1981 | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | Total (’76 to ’96) | Total (’81 to ’96) | Total (’86 to ’96) |
| Newfoundland | -50,319 | -20,675 | -25,618 | 13,082 | 8,489 | -75,041 | -24,722 | -4,047 |
| Prince Edward Island | -14,004 | -17,843 | -6,051 | 24 | 2,824 | -35,050 | -21,046 | -3,203 |
| Nova Scotia | -87,858 | -32,282 | 20,920 | -22,589 | -2,692 | -124,501 | -36,643 | -4,361 |
| New Brunswick | -37,583 | -83,694 | -2,062 | 0 | 6,067 | -117,272 | -79,689 | 4,005 |
| Quebec | -167,339 | -89,507 | -190,436 | 21,810 | -26,373 | -451,845 | -284,506 | -194,999 |
| Ontario | -164,026 | -271,658 | -362,644 | -29,791 | -64,123 | -892,242 | -728,216 | -456,558 |
| Manitoba | -18,419 | -37,397 | -45,953 | 7,243 | -7,353 | -101,879 | -83,460 | -46,063 |
| Saskatchewan | -51,680 | -52,295 | -50,932 | -19,616 | 6,339 | -168,184 | -116,504 | -64,209 |
| Alberta | -7,507 | -1,332 | -307,228 | -22,565 | 519 | -338,113 | -330,606 | -329,274 |
| British Columbia | 75,062 | -267,596 | -298,603 | 20,486 | 5,511 | -465,140 | -540,202 | -272,606 |
| Canada | -523,673 | -874,279 | -1,268,607 | -31,916 | -70,792 | -2,769,267 | -2,245,594 | -1,371,315 |

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1976 to 1996.

Note: Population gain or loss due to boundary changes is calculated by subtracting population based on the following year’s census boundaries from the population based on the current year’s census boundaries. For example, the impact of the boundary change in 1976 on the rural and small town population is calculated by subtracting the 1976 population based on 1981 boundaries from the 1976 population based on 1976 boundaries.

Rural and small town growth is largely due to growth in small towns

Within rural and small town Canada, the population of small towns (with a population of 1,000 to 9,999) increased at a greater rate than the "rural" population (in centres less than 1,000 persons) (Table 2). Thus, part of the growth of the rural and small town population represents a continuation of the urbanisation process where the population is increasing in small urban centres.

Table 2. Within Rural and Small Town labour markets, the population growth was in "urban" centres of 1,000 to 9,999, Canada, 1991 - 1996

| Type of areas within CSD | Type of labour market (groupings of CSDs) | | | |
|--|---|------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Larger urban centres | | Rural and small towns | Total |
| | CMA | CA | Non-CMA/CA | |
| Rural area, under 1,000 population | | | | |
| percent change in population, 1991 to 1996 | -2.7 | -0.6 | 0.7 | -0.1 |
| Urban area, population of 1,000 or more | | | | |
| percent change in population, 1991 to 1996 | 8.0 | 5.2 | 6.9 | 7.4 |

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1991 and 1996.

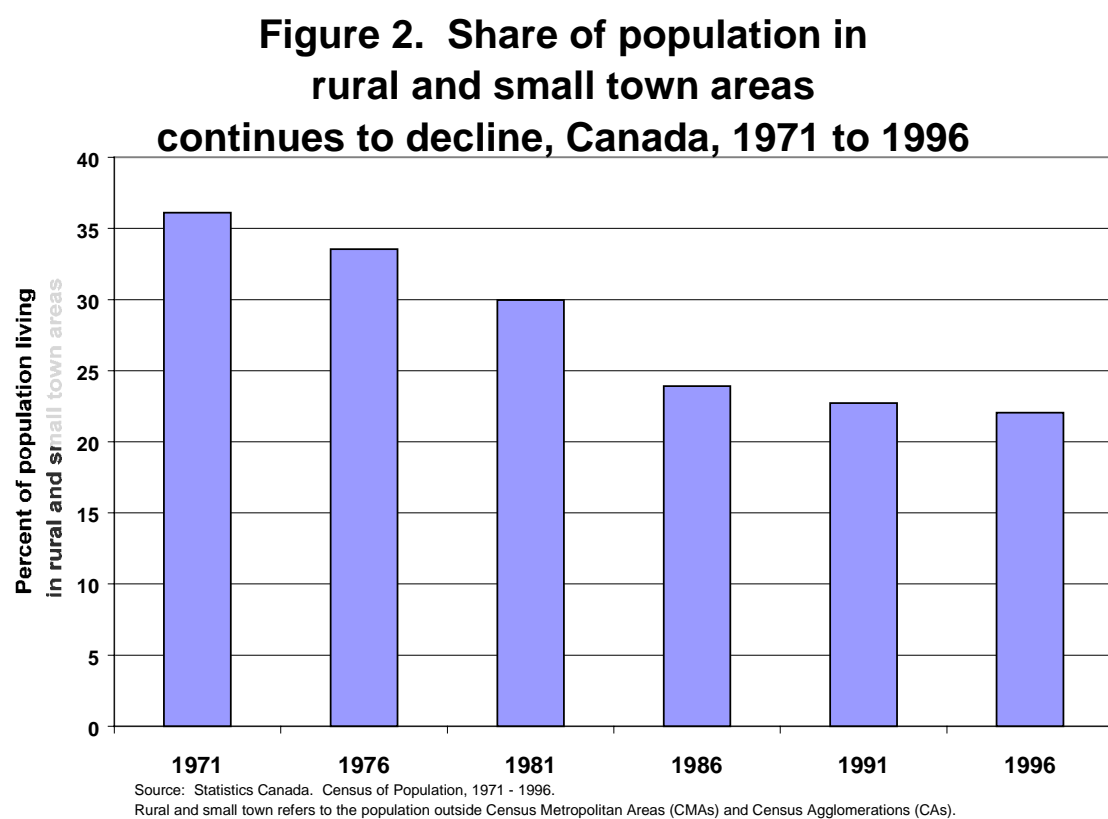
Note: Canada excludes Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Note: These growth rates are calculated with "current" boundaries. Thus, for example, part of the "urban" growth in rural and small town areas is due to the declassification of some CAs between 1991 and 1996. For example, Weyburn, Saskatchewan is included in Saskatchewan's RST population in 1996, but not in 1991, which makes the "urban" component of the Saskatchewan RST population appear to be growing at a greater rate than if boundaries were held constant.

Rural and small town population share continued to decrease between 1991 and 1996

While the population in rural and small town Canada grew in every intercensal period since 1976 (Figure 1 and Table 4), the rural and small town share of the total population decreased in every intercensal period since 1976 (Figure 2). The province with the largest decrease in rural and small town population share between 1991 and 1996 was Ontario (-1 percentage points), followed by Nova Scotia (-0.9 percentage points), Québec (-0.3 percentage points) and Saskatchewan (-0.3 percentage points) (Table 3).

Saskatchewan lost rural and small town population share in every intercensal period since 1976, while Nova Scotia lost rural and small town population share in every intercensal period except 1981-1986. The province with the largest increase in rural and small town population share between 1991 and 1996 was Prince Edward Island (1.6 percentage points), followed by Alberta and New Brunswick (0.5 percentage points) (Table 3).



Between 1976 and 1996, Canada's rural and small town population share declined 11 percentage points. British Columbia and Prince Edward Island had the largest loss in rural and small town share between 1976 and 1996 (-21 percentage points), followed by Saskatchewan (-20 percentage points) and Alberta (-16 percentage points). Québec and Nova Scotia had the smallest loss in share of rural and small town population between 1976 and 1996 (-6 percentage points).

The provinces that had the largest rural and small town population growth also had the smallest share of rural and small town population

While the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Québec had the highest rural and small town population growth between 1991 and 1996 (Table 4), they also had the lowest share of rural and small town population. Except for the province of Alberta in 1981, these provinces had the smallest share of the rural and small town population in every intercensal period between 1976 and 1996 (Table 3). It would seem that the rate of rural and small town population growth has been insufficient to overcome large movements to CMAs and CAs between 1976 and 1996.

Table 3. Ranking of provinces by share of population living in rural and small town areas

| 1971 | | 1976 | | 1981 | | 1986 | | 1991 | | 1996 | |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| P.E.I. | 77 | P.E.I. | 67 | NFDL. | 60 | NFDL. | 55 | NFDL. | 55 | NFDL. | 56 |
| NFDL. | 75 | NFDL. | 64 | Sask. | 56 | N.B. | 49 | N.B. | 48 | N.B. | 48 |
| Sask. | 71 | Sask. | 63 | P.E.I. | 51 | Sask. | 48 | P.E.I. | 44 | P.E.I. | 46 |
| N.B. | 66 | N.B. | 61 | N.B. | 49 | P.E.I. | 45 | Sask. | 44 | Sask. | 43 |
| N.S. | 56 | N.B. | 45 | Alberta | 42 | N.S. | 43 | N.S. | 40 | N.S. | 39 |
| Manitoba | 45 | Manitoba | 43 | N.S. | 41 | Manitoba | 33 | Manitoba | 33 | Manitoba | 33 |
| Alberta | 43 | Alberta | 42 | Manitoba | 39 | Alberta | 27 | Alberta | 25 | Alberta | 26 |
| CANADA | 36 | B.C. | 37 | CANADA | 30 | CANADA | 24 | Quebec | 23 | Quebec | 22 |
| B.C. | 31 | CANADA | 34 | B.C. | 27 | Quebec | 23 | CANADA | 23 | CANADA | 22 |
| Quebec | 30 | Quebec | 28 | Quebec | 27 | Ontario | 16 | Ontario | 16 | B.C. | 15 |
| Ontario | 27 | Ontario | 25 | Ontario | 21 | B.C. | 16 | B.C. | 15 | Ontario | 15 |

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 1996.

Note: Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomeration (CAs).

Using constant boundaries, rural and small town population growth was greatest in British Columbia and Alberta

In the most recent intercensal period (1991 to 1996), the rural and small town population growth in British Columbia (13 percent), Alberta (8 percent), Ontario (5 percent) and Québec (4 percent) was equal to or higher than the Canada average (4 percent) (Table 4). Alberta is the only province to show significant rural and small town population growth in each of the four intercensal periods. While Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick gained rural and small town population, the other two Atlantic provinces of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia lost rural and small town population between 1991 and 1996. Saskatchewan lost significant rural and small town population in each of the last 3 intercensal periods.

Within constant boundaries, British Columbia gained rural and small town population in every intercensal period except 1981-1986, when there was a decrease in the rural and small town population. There were significant increases of 7 and 13 percent in the rural and small town population of British Columbia during the 1986-1991 and 1991-1996 intervals. A large increase in population living in small towns (1,000 to 9,999 population) was mainly responsible for this significant increase between 1991-1996 -- there was an increase in the RST rural (in centres less than 1,000) population (9 percent) and a much larger increase in the RST urban (in centres of 1,000 to 9,999) population (23 percent) during this period (Table 6).

Table 4. Ranking of provinces in terms of growth of population in rural and small town areas

| 1966 to 1971 | | 1971 to 1976 | | 1976 to 1981 | | 1981 to 1986 | | 1986 to 1991 | | 1991 to 1996 | |
|---------------|----|---------------|----|---------------|----|---------------|----|---------------|----|---------------|----|
| B.C. | 16 | B.C. | 21 | Alberta | 22 | Nova Scotia | 3 | Ontario | 9 | B.C. | 13 |
| Ontario | 7 | Alberta | 11 | B.C. | 17 | Alberta | 3 | B.C. | 7 | Alberta | 8 |
| Nova Scotia | 5 | P.E.I. | 9 | CANADA | 7 | N.B. | 2 | Alberta | 3 | Ontario | 5 |
| Newfoundland | 4 | N.B. | 9 | Quebec | 6 | P.E.I. | 1 | CANADA | 3 | Manitoba | 4 |
| CANADA | 3 | CANADA | 6 | N.B. | 4 | Ontario | 1 | Quebec | 2 | CANADA | 4 |
| Alberta | 3 | Nova Scotia | 5 | Ontario | 3 | CANADA | 0 | Manitoba | 1 | Quebec | 3 |
| N.B. | 1 | Ontario | 5 | Nova Scotia | 2 | Manitoba | 0 | Nova Scotia | 0 | P.E.I. | 2 |
| P.E.I. | 1 | Newfoundland | 5 | P.E.I. | 2 | Newfoundland | 0 | N.B. | 0 | N.B. | 1 |
| Quebec | 0 | Quebec | 3 | Saskatchewan | 1 | B.C. | 0 | P.E.I. | 0 | Nova Scotia | -1 |
| Manitoba | -1 | Manitoba | 1 | Newfoundland | 0 | Quebec | -1 | Newfoundland | -3 | Saskatchewan | -2 |
| Saskatchewan | -7 | Saskatchewan | -4 | Manitoba | 0 | Saskatchewan | -1 | Saskatchewan | -7 | Newfoundland | -5 |

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 1996.

Note: Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (CAs).

Note: Population change is calculated within constant "Rural and Small Town" (non-CMA/CA) boundaries.

Alberta's rural and small town population grew in every intercensal period since 1976 (Table 4). In Alberta, the greatest increase took place between 1976 and 1981 (22 percent). There was a 3 percent increase in the rural and small town population during 1986-1991 and an 8 percent increase during 1991-1996. As in British Columbia, there was an increase in the rural and small town rural population (7 percent) and a larger increase in the rural and small town urban (centres of 1,000 to 9,999) population (10 percent) during the 1991-1996 period (Table 6).

When looked at sub-provincially, (**census divisions** made up of counties, regional municipalities, regional districts and numbered divisions) (1), both British Columbia and Alberta had very high rural and small town population growth between 1991 and 1996. In British Columbia, 80 percent of the census divisions had between 5 and 30 percent rural and small town population growth (Table 5). The heaviest population growth took place in the vicinity of the larger metropolitan centres, on lower Vancouver Island,

outside of Vancouver, in south central and central British Columbia, and in the Okanagan valley. There was a considerable decline in the rural and small town population in the vicinity of the Williams Lake and Quesnel C.A.'s (Map). In Alberta, 63 percent of the census divisions had between 5 and 30 percent rural and small town population growth (Table 5). The heaviest population growth took place around the Calgary CMA.

How to read the map

*This map only considers the rural and small town (RST) population in a census division (CD). The shading in each CD indicates the size of the change in the RST population component only. In a few cases, the RST population increased between 1991 and 1996, but the CMA/CA population in the same CD decreased more, leaving a net decrease in the overall population. Two examples are Saskatchewan census division number 12 and Gloucester County in New Brunswick where the larger urban centre (North Battleford and Bathurst, respectively) in the census division declined by more than the RST population increased. For a map of the change in the total population within each census division, refer to page 12 of **A National Overview: Population and Dwelling Counts** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 93-357). Thus, we present here the change in only the RST population within each CD.*

How to Read this Map:
The map shading indicates the change in the Rural and Small Town component of the population in each Census Division. It does not indicate the change in the total population in each Census Division.

Comment lire cette carte :
Les parties ombrées indiquent la variation de la population dans les régions rurales et les petites villes à l'intérieur de chaque division de recensement. Elles ne montrent pas la variation de la population totale dans chaque division de recensement.

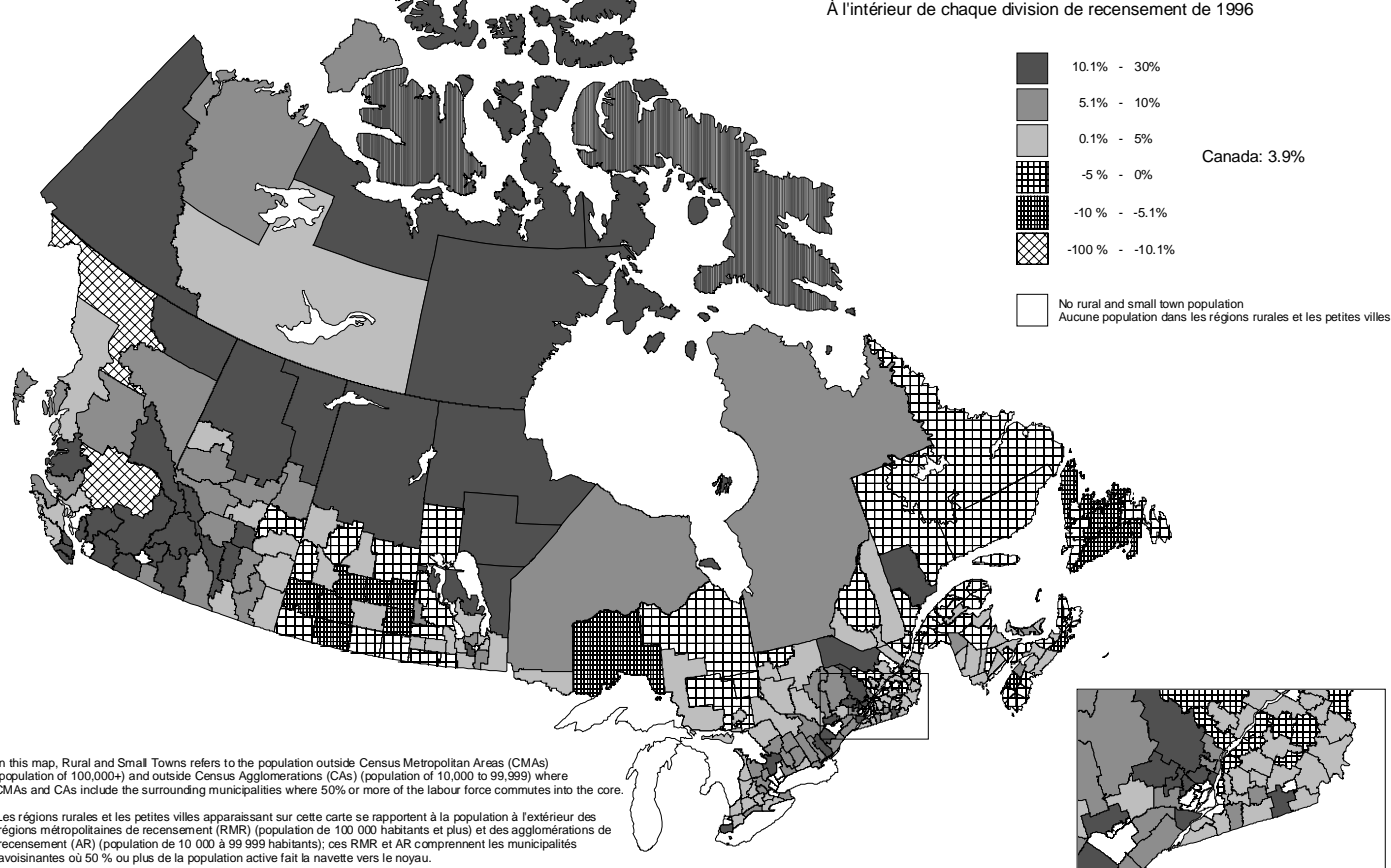
CANADA

Rural and Small Town Population* Change, 1991 to 1996

Within each 1996 Census Division

Variation de la Population dans les Régions Rurales et les Petites Villes*, 1991 à 1996

À l'intérieur de chaque division de recensement de 1996



Source: 1996 Census of Canada.
Produced by the SAGA, Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, 1998.

Source: Recensement du Canada de 1996.
Préparé par l'ASAG, Division de l'agriculture, Statistique Canada, 1998.

Using constant boundaries, rural and small town growth was modest in Ontario and Québec

The RST population in Ontario increased in each intercensal period from 1976 to 1996 (Table 4). There was a 9 percent increase in rural and small town population in the 1986-1991 interval and a smaller increase of 5 percent during the 1991-1996 interval. As in British Columbia and Alberta, an increase in the small town population contributed to the increase in the population growth between 1991-1996. While there was a small decrease in the rural (centres less than 1,000) population (-2 percent), there was an increase of 5 percent in the small town (centres of 1,000 to 9,999) population during this period (Table 6).

Within constant boundaries, Québec gained rural and small town population in every intercensal period except 1981-1986, when there was a decrease in the rural and small town population (Table 4). There was a small increase of 2 percent in the rural and small town population in Québec during the 1986-1991 interval and a larger increase of 4 percent during the 1991-1996 interval. There was a small increase of 1 percent in the population living in small towns (1,000 to 9,999 population) and a similar increase of 2 percent in the RST rural population (in centres less than 1,000 persons) during this period (Table 6).

Table 5. British Columbia and Alberta had the highest share of census divisions (1) reporting large increase in their rural and small town population, 1991 to 1996

Percentage change in rural and small town (non-metro) population within the census division, 1991 to 1996

| | -10.1 to -40 | -5.1 to -10 | -0.1 to -5 | 0.1 to 5 | 5.1 to 10 | 10.1 to 30 | Total (3) |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| ***number of census divisions*** | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| P.E.I. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| N.S. | 0 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 17 |
| N.B. | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| Québec | 1 | 0 | 32 | 34 | 8 | 11 | 86 |
| Ontario | 0 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 19 | 4 | 43 |
| Manitoba | 0 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 22 |
| Saskatchewan | 0 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 18 |
| Alberta | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 19 |
| B.C. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 25 |
| Canada (2) | 3 | 14 | 69 | 86 | 46 | 39 | 257 |
| ***percent distribution of census divisions*** | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland | 0.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| P.E.I. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 66.7 | 33.3 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| N.S. | 0.0 | 11.8 | 58.8 | 23.5 | 5.9 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| N.B. | 0.0 | 0.0 | 35.7 | 57.1 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| Québec | 1.2 | 0.0 | 37.2 | 39.5 | 9.3 | 12.8 | 100.0 |
| Ontario | 0.0 | 2.3 | 7.0 | 37.2 | 44.2 | 9.3 | 100.0 |
| Manitoba | 0.0 | 0.0 | 27.3 | 40.9 | 13.6 | 18.2 | 100.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 0.0 | 33.3 | 38.9 | 22.2 | 0.0 | 5.6 | 100.0 |
| Alberta | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.3 | 31.6 | 36.8 | 26.3 | 100.0 |
| B.C. | 8.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 12.0 | 24.0 | 56.0 | 100.0 |
| Canada (2) | 1.2 | 5.4 | 26.8 | 33.5 | 17.9 | 15.2 | 100.0 |

Source: Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population 1991 and 1996

(1) Census division is the general term applied to areas established by provincial law which are intermediate geographic areas between the municipality and the province. Census divisions represent counties, regional districts and regional municipalities. In Newfoundland, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, provincial law does not provide for these administrative geographic regions. Therefore, census divisions have been created by Statistics Canada in co-operation with these provinces for the dissemination of statistical data.

(2) Does not include the Yukon or Northwest Territories. Data is based on constant 1996 boundaries.

(3) Total census divisions with some rural and small town (non-metro) population in 1996.

Table 6. Within rural and small town markets, the population growth was in "urban" centres of 1,000 or more, 1991 - 1996

| Rural and small town Canada (non-CMA/CA) | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| | Rural (under 1,000) | Small town (1,000 to 9,999) |
| | *** percent change in population, 1991 to 1996 *** | |
| Newfoundland | -9 | 13 |
| Prince Edward Island | 8 | 2 |
| Nova Scotia | -1 | -3 |
| New Brunswick | 2 | 7 |
| Quebec | 2 | 1 |
| Ontario | -2 | 5 |
| Manitoba | -2 | 14 |
| Saskatchewan | -2 | 3 |
| Alberta | 7 | 10 |
| British Columbia | 9 | 23 |
| Canada | 1 | 7 |

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1991 and 1996.

Note: Canada excludes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

When looked at sub-provincially, both Québec and Ontario had significant RST population growth between 1991 and 1996 (Table 5). Québec, however, had more areas in the province where the RST population declined during the same period. While 62 percent of the census divisions in Québec had between 0.1 and 30 percent rural and small town population growth, 38 percent of the subdivisions had a decline in rural and small town population of between -0.1 and -40 percent. In Ontario, 91 percent of the census divisions had between 0.1 and 30 percent rural and small town population growth. As in the western provinces, the heaviest non-metro growth in both Ontario and Québec took place in the vicinity of metropolitan centres. In Québec, a significant number of census divisions in the Gaspé and a smaller number of census divisions between Montreal and Québec City had small declines in rural and small town population between 1991 and 1996. In Ontario, there was a significant decline in the rural and small town population outside of Thunder Bay and smaller declines in rural and small town population outside of Sudbury and Timmins during this period (Map).

Rural and small town population is in decline in Newfoundland and Saskatchewan

Newfoundland and Saskatchewan continued to lose rural and small town population during the 1980s and the early 1990s (Table 4). Newfoundland's rural and small town population declined during every intercensal interval since 1981. In Newfoundland, there was a -3 percent decline in the rural and small town population during 1986-1991 and a -5 percent decline during 1991-1996.

As in Newfoundland, Saskatchewan's rural and small town population declined during every intercensal interval since 1981. In Saskatchewan, there was a -7 percent decline in the rural and small town population during 1986-1991 and a -2 percent decrease during 1991-1996. In each province, the continued decrease in the rural and small town population can be attributed to out migration to larger urban centres within the province and migration to other provinces.

When looked at sub-provincially, both Newfoundland and Saskatchewan had a significant decline in rural and small town population between 1991 and 1996. In Newfoundland, 100 percent of the census divisions had between -0.1 and -10 percent population decline, while in Saskatchewan, 72 percent of the census divisions had between -0.1 and -10 percent population decline (Table 5). The greatest decline in rural and small town population took place in eastern and central Saskatchewan. There was modest growth in the rural and small town population in the vicinity of the Regina and Saskatoon as well as around Yorkton.

Rural and small town population is holding steady in four provinces

The remaining four provinces show essentially a static RST population over the twenty-year period from 1976 to 1996 (Table 4).

Prince Edward Island's rural and small town population increased slightly in every census period since 1976. The rural and small town population of Nova Scotia increased by a small amount during the 1980s but decreased slightly between 1991 and 1996. The rural and small town population in New Brunswick grew by 1 percent during the 1991-1996 interval, partially due to a 5 percent increase in the population in villages and small towns and a smaller 2.5 percent increase in rural areas.

Although Manitoba showed a slight increase in its rural and small town population in each intercensal period from 1976 to 1996, the population growth rates were less than 1 percent from 1976 to 1991 and 4 percent in the 1991 to 1996 period. As in New Brunswick, the recent increase was due to an increase in the small town population (Table 6). Between 1991 and 1996, there was a 2 percent decrease in the RST rural (in

centres under 1,000) population and a 14 percent increase in the RST small town population. Sub-provincially, 73 percent of the census divisions in Manitoba had between 0.1 and 30 percent rural and small town population growth and 27 percent of the census divisions had between -0.1 and -5 percent rural and small town population decline (Table 5). The heaviest rural and small town population growth occurred in the vicinity of Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie as well as on the western edge of the province.

To summarise

At the national level, Canada's rural and small town population grew. Generally, the rural and small town population grew in retirement-destination communities and on the edge of the commuting zones of larger urban centres. Major retirement-destination growth appeared north of Montreal in the Laurentians, north of Toronto in the Muskokas and in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. All major cities in Canada seemed to be influencing growth of the rural and small town population at the edge of their commuting zone – some rural and small town residents were commuting long distances. This was apparent everywhere in southern Ontario, in the lower Fraser Valley and around Calgary and Winnipeg.

However, the rural and small town population was declining in some provinces and regions. The rural and small town population was declining in every region of Newfoundland. Most of the agricultural areas in Saskatchewan were declining – the exceptions were areas with oil and gas extraction and areas with long distance commuting to larger urban centres. The rural and small town areas in the Gaspé region of Quebec continued to decline.

Although there was an overall increase in the number of people, the share of Canada's population living in rural and small town areas was declining. The two main reasons are:

- The population of larger urban centres was growing faster.
- Over time, some rural and small town areas were reclassified into the commuting zone of larger urban centres.

Thus, Canada's rural and small town population now represents only 22 percent of the total population.

However, the rural and small town population represented a significant share of the population in six provinces. Newfoundland was the only province with more than 50 percent of its population living in rural and small town areas. Each of the other Atlantic provinces plus Saskatchewan and Manitoba had over one-third of their population residing in rural and small town areas.

This paper presents a broad summary of rural and small town population trends. Within each province and within each sub-provincial region, there was a wide diversity of patterns of population growth and decline. Small towns such as St. Brieux, Saskatchewan or Winkler, Manitoba or St. Clement and Coaticook in Quebec were examples of growth in places where many neighbouring places were declining.

Notes

(1) Census division is the general term applied to areas established by provincial law which are intermediate geographic areas between the municipality (census subdivision) and the province level. Census divisions represent counties, regional districts, regional municipalities and other types of provincially legislated areas. In Newfoundland, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, provincial law does not provide for these administrative geographic areas. Therefore, Statistics Canada, in co-operation with these provinces, has created these census divisions for the dissemination of statistical data.

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Appendix Table 1. Population Change in CMA, CA and RST Areas, 1966 - 1996, Canada and Provinces

| Province | 1966 | 1971 | 1966-1971 | 1971 | 1971 | 1976 | 1971-1976 | 1971-1976 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Area classification | 71 boundaries | 71 boundaries | constant boundaries | 71 boundaries | 76 boundaries | 76 boundaries | current boundaries | constant boundaries |
| Newfoundland | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 117,533 | 131,814 | 12.2 | 131,814 | 131,814 | 143,390 | 8.8 | 8.8 |
| CA | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 50,319 | 56,937 | n.a. | 13.2 |
| RST | 375,863 | 390,290 | 3.8 | 390,290 | 339,971 | 357,398 | -8.4 | 5.1 |
| Total | 493,396 | 522,104 | 5.8 | 522,104 | 522,104 | 557,725 | 6.8 | 6.8 |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| CA | 22,934 | 25,253 | 10.1 | 25,253 | 39,257 | 38,982 | 54.4 | -0.7 |
| RST | 85,601 | 86,388 | 0.9 | 86,388 | 72,384 | 79,247 | -8.3 | 9.5 |
| Total | 108,535 | 111,641 | 2.9 | 111,641 | 111,641 | 118,229 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| Nova Scotia | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 209,901 | 222,637 | 6.1 | 222,637 | 250,581 | 267,991 | 20.4 | 6.9 |
| CA | 125,749 | 125,188 | -0.4 | 125,188 | 185,102 | 188,106 | 50.3 | 1.6 |
| RST | 420,389 | 441,135 | 4.9 | 441,135 | 353,277 | 372,474 | -15.6 | 5.4 |
| Total | 756,039 | 788,960 | 4.4 | 788,960 | 788,960 | 828,571 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| New Brunswick | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 104,195 | 106,744 | 2.4 | 106,744 | 106,744 | 112,974 | 5.8 | 5.8 |
| CA | 99,633 | 109,100 | 9.5 | 109,100 | 146,683 | 148,133 | 35.8 | 1.0 |
| RST | 412,960 | 418,713 | 1.4 | 418,713 | 381,130 | 416,143 | -0.6 | 9.2 |
| Total | 616,788 | 634,557 | 2.9 | 634,557 | 634,557 | 677,250 | 6.7 | 6.7 |
| Quebec | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 3,271,241 | 3,506,643 | 7.2 | 3,506,643 | 3,502,670 | 3,645,233 | 4.0 | 4.1 |
| CA | 667,491 | 684,368 | 2.5 | 684,368 | 855,680 | 872,994 | 27.6 | 2.0 |
| RST | 1,842,113 | 1,836,753 | -0.3 | 1,836,753 | 1,669,414 | 1,716,218 | -6.6 | 2.8 |
| Total | 5,780,845 | 6,027,764 | 4.3 | 6,027,764 | 6,027,764 | 6,234,445 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Ontario | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 4,360,223 | 4,912,367 | 12.7 | 4,912,367 | 4,998,210 | 5,357,336 | 9.1 | 7.2 |
| CA | 630,121 | 680,682 | 8.0 | 680,682 | 758,865 | 856,551 | 25.8 | 12.9 |
| RST | 1,970,526 | 2,110,057 | 7.1 | 2,110,057 | 1,946,031 | 2,050,578 | -2.8 | 5.4 |
| Total | 6,960,870 | 7,703,106 | 10.7 | 7,703,106 | 7,703,106 | 8,264,465 | 7.3 | 7.3 |
| Manitoba | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 508,759 | 540,262 | 6.2 | 540,262 | 549,808 | 578,271 | 7.0 | 5.2 |
| CA | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 8,873 | 8,152 | n.a. | -8.1 |
| RST | 454,307 | 447,985 | -1.4 | 447,985 | 429,566 | 435,083 | -2.9 | 1.3 |
| Total | 963,066 | 988,247 | 2.6 | 988,247 | 988,247 | 1,021,506 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Saskatchewan | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 248,332 | 267,183 | 7.6 | 267,183 | 267,183 | 284,941 | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| CA | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 51,680 | 53,107 | n.a. | 2.8 |
| RST | 707,012 | 659,059 | -6.8 | 659,059 | 607,379 | 583,276 | -11.5 | -4.0 |
| Total | 955,344 | 926,242 | -3.0 | 926,242 | 926,242 | 921,324 | -0.5 | -0.5 |
| Alberta | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 755,945 | 899,021 | 18.9 | 899,021 | 899,357 | 1,024,145 | 13.9 | 13.9 |
| CA | 27,720 | 28,773 | 3.8 | 28,773 | 35,944 | 43,618 | 51.6 | 21.3 |
| RST | 679,538 | 700,080 | 3.0 | 700,080 | 692,573 | 770,274 | 10.0 | 11.2 |
| Total | 1,463,203 | 1,627,874 | 11.3 | 1,627,874 | 1,627,874 | 1,838,037 | 12.9 | 12.9 |
| British Columbia | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 1,108,353 | 1,278,152 | 15.3 | 1,278,152 | 1,278,152 | 1,384,598 | 8.3 | 8.3 |
| CA | 182,090 | 228,437 | 25.5 | 228,437 | 153,375 | 172,357 | -24.5 | 12.4 |
| RST | 583,231 | 678,032 | 16.3 | 678,032 | 753,094 | 909,653 | 34.2 | 20.8 |
| Total | 1,873,674 | 2,184,621 | 16.6 | 2,184,621 | 2,184,621 | 2,466,608 | 12.9 | 12.9 |
| Canada | | | | | | | | |
| CMA | 10,684,482 | 11,864,823 | 11.0 | 11,864,823 | 11,984,519 | 12,798,879 | 7.9 | 6.8 |
| CA | 1,755,738 | 1,881,801 | 7.2 | 1,881,801 | 2,285,778 | 2,438,937 | 29.6 | 6.7 |
| RST | 7,531,540 | 7,768,492 | 3.1 | 7,768,492 | 7,244,819 | 7,690,344 | -1.0 | 6.1 |
| Total | 19,971,760 | 21,515,116 | 7.7 | 21,515,116 | 21,515,116 | 22,928,160 | 6.6 | 6.6 |

Appendix Table 1. Population Change in CMA, CA and RST Areas, 1966 - 1996, Canada and Provinces (continued)

| Province | | 1976 | 1976 | 1981 | 1976-1981 | 1976-1981 | 1981 | 1981 | 1986 | 1981-1986 | 1981-1986 |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Area classification | 76 boundaries | 81 boundaries | 81 boundaries | current boundaries | constant boundaries | 81 boundaries | 86 boundaries | 86 boundaries | current boundaries | constant boundaries |
| Newfoundland | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 143,390 | 145,400 | 154,820 | 8.0 | 6.5 | 154,820 | 154,835 | 161,901 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| | CA | 56,937 | 75,602 | 74,457 | 30.8 | -1.5 | 74,457 | 100,060 | 94,624 | 27.1 | -5.4 |
| | RST | 357,398 | 336,723 | 338,404 | -5.3 | 0.5 | 338,404 | 312,786 | 311,824 | -7.9 | -0.3 |
| | Total | 557,725 | 557,725 | 567,681 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 567,681 | 567,681 | 568,349 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | CA | 38,982 | 56,825 | 59,949 | 53.8 | 5.5 | 59,949 | 66,000 | 69,482 | 15.9 | 5.3 |
| | RST | 79,247 | 61,404 | 62,557 | -21.1 | 1.9 | 62,557 | 56,506 | 57,168 | -8.6 | 1.2 |
| | Total | 118,229 | 118,229 | 122,506 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 122,506 | 122,506 | 126,650 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Nova Scotia | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 267,991 | 267,991 | 277,727 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 277,727 | 277,727 | 295,990 | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| | CA | 188,106 | 220,388 | 222,920 | 18.5 | 1.1 | 222,920 | 202,000 | 199,723 | -10.4 | -1.1 |
| | RST | 372,474 | 340,192 | 346,795 | -6.9 | 1.9 | 346,795 | 367,715 | 377,462 | 8.8 | 2.7 |
| | Total | 828,571 | 828,571 | 847,442 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 847,442 | 847,442 | 873,175 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| New Brunswick | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 112,974 | 112,974 | 114,048 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 114,048 | 121,012 | 121,265 | 6.3 | 0.2 |
| | CA | 148,133 | 231,827 | 238,117 | 60.7 | 2.7 | 238,117 | 233,215 | 240,228 | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| | RST | 416,143 | 332,449 | 344,238 | -17.3 | 3.5 | 344,238 | 342,176 | 347,942 | 1.1 | 1.7 |
| | Total | 677,250 | 677,250 | 696,403 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 696,403 | 696,403 | 709,435 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Quebec | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 3,645,233 | 3,751,326 | 3,821,628 | 4.8 | 1.9 | 3,821,628 | 4,041,354 | 4,142,154 | 8.4 | 2.5 |
| | CA | 872,994 | 856,408 | 894,691 | 2.5 | 4.5 | 894,691 | 865,401 | 868,718 | -2.9 | 0.4 |
| | RST | 1,716,218 | 1,626,711 | 1,722,084 | 0.3 | 5.9 | 1,722,084 | 1,531,648 | 1,521,588 | -11.6 | -0.7 |
| | Total | 6,234,445 | 6,234,445 | 6,438,403 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 6,438,403 | 6,438,403 | 6,532,460 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Ontario | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 5,357,336 | 5,357,336 | 5,635,892 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5,635,892 | 5,896,478 | 6,328,626 | 12.3 | 7.3 |
| | CA | 856,551 | 1,128,209 | 1,156,916 | 35.1 | 2.5 | 1,156,916 | 1,258,974 | 1,289,659 | 11.5 | 2.4 |
| | RST | 2,050,578 | 1,778,920 | 1,832,299 | -10.6 | 3.0 | 1,832,299 | 1,469,655 | 1,483,410 | -19.0 | 0.9 |
| | Total | 8,264,465 | 8,264,465 | 8,625,107 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 8,625,107 | 8,625,107 | 9,101,695 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| Manitoba | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 578,271 | 578,217 | 584,842 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 584,842 | 592,061 | 625,304 | 6.9 | 5.6 |
| | CA | 8,152 | 45,603 | 42,922 | 426.5 | -5.9 | 42,922 | 81,656 | 83,891 | 95.4 | 2.7 |
| | RST | 435,083 | 397,686 | 398,477 | -8.4 | 0.2 | 398,477 | 352,524 | 353,820 | -11.2 | 0.4 |
| | Total | 1,021,506 | 1,021,506 | 1,026,241 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1,026,241 | 1,026,241 | 1,063,015 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Saskatchewan | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 284,941 | 284,984 | 318,523 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 318,523 | 348,284 | 387,186 | 21.6 | 11.2 |
| | CA | 53,107 | 105,359 | 111,667 | 110.3 | 6.0 | 111,667 | 132,838 | 140,083 | 25.4 | 5.5 |
| | RST | 583,276 | 530,981 | 538,123 | -7.7 | 1.3 | 538,123 | 487,191 | 482,351 | -10.4 | -1.0 |
| | Total | 921,324 | 921,324 | 968,313 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 968,313 | 968,313 | 1,009,620 | 4.3 | 4.3 |
| Alberta | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 1,024,145 | 1,027,667 | 1,249,800 | 22.0 | 21.6 | 1,249,800 | 1,366,848 | 1,456,791 | 16.6 | 6.6 |
| | CA | 43,618 | 41,428 | 49,645 | 13.8 | 19.8 | 49,645 | 239,825 | 262,137 | 428.0 | 9.3 |
| | RST | 770,274 | 768,942 | 938,279 | 21.8 | 22.0 | 938,279 | 631,051 | 646,897 | -31.1 | 2.5 |
| | Total | 1,838,037 | 1,838,037 | 2,237,724 | 21.7 | 21.7 | 2,237,724 | 2,237,724 | 2,365,825 | 5.7 | 5.7 |
| British Columbia | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 1,384,598 | 1,384,598 | 1,501,664 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 1,501,664 | 1,509,633 | 1,636,276 | 9.0 | 8.4 |
| | CA | 172,357 | 439,953 | 491,369 | 185.1 | 11.7 | 491,369 | 782,003 | 795,873 | 62.0 | 1.8 |
| | RST | 909,653 | 642,057 | 751,434 | -17.4 | 17.0 | 751,434 | 452,831 | 451,216 | -40.0 | -0.4 |
| | Total | 2,466,608 | 2,466,608 | 2,744,467 | 11.3 | 11.3 | 2,744,467 | 2,744,467 | 2,883,365 | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| Canada | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 12,798,879 | 12,910,493 | 13,658,944 | 6.7 | 5.8 | 13,658,944 | 14,308,232 | 15,155,493 | 11.0 | 5.9 |
| | CA | 2,438,937 | 3,201,602 | 3,342,653 | 37.1 | 4.4 | 3,342,653 | 3,961,972 | 4,044,418 | 21.0 | 2.1 |
| | RST | 7,690,344 | 6,816,065 | 7,272,690 | -5.4 | 6.7 | 7,272,690 | 6,004,083 | 6,033,678 | -17.0 | 0.5 |
| | Total | 22,928,160 | 22,928,160 | 24,274,287 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 24,274,287 | 24,274,287 | 25,233,589 | 4.0 | 4.0 |

Appendix Table 1. Population Change in CMA, CA and RST Areas, 1966 - 1996, Canada and Provinces (concluded)

| Province | | 1986 | 1986 | 1991 | 1986-1991 | 1986-1991 | 1991 | 1991 | 1996 | 1991-1996 | 1991-1996 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Area Classification | 86 boundaries | 91 boundaries | 91 boundaries | current boundaries | constant boundaries | 91 boundaries | 96 boundaries | 96 boundaries | current boundaries | constant boundaries | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 161,901 | 161,901 | 171,859 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 171,859 | 171,848 | 174,051 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| | CA | 94,624 | 81,542 | 81,520 | -13.8 | 0.0 | 81,520 | 73,041 | 70,817 | -13.1 | -3.0 |
| | RST | 311,824 | 324,906 | 315,096 | 1.0 | -3.0 | 315,096 | 323,585 | 306,924 | -2.6 | -5.1 |
| | Total | 568,349 | 568,349 | 568,475 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 568,475 | 568,474 | 551,792 | -2.9 | -2.9 |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | CA | 69,482 | 69,458 | 72,709 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 72,709 | 69,885 | 73,225 | 0.7 | 4.8 |
| | RST | 57,168 | 57,192 | 57,056 | -0.2 | -0.2 | 57,056 | 59,880 | 61,332 | 7.5 | 2.4 |
| | Total | 126,650 | 126,650 | 129,765 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 129,765 | 129,765 | 134,557 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| Nova Scotia | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 295,990 | 295,922 | 320,501 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 320,501 | 320,501 | 332,518 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| | CA | 199,723 | 222,380 | 222,859 | 11.6 | 0.2 | 222,859 | 225,551 | 225,096 | 1.0 | -0.2 |
| | RST | 377,462 | 354,873 | 356,582 | -5.5 | 0.5 | 356,582 | 353,890 | 351,668 | -1.4 | -0.6 |
| | Total | 873,175 | 873,175 | 899,942 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 899,942 | 899,942 | 909,282 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| New Brunswick | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 121,265 | 121,265 | 124,981 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 124,981 | 125,838 | 125,705 | 0.6 | -0.1 |
| | CA | 240,228 | 240,228 | 251,525 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 251,525 | 244,601 | 254,444 | 1.2 | 4.0 |
| | RST | 347,942 | 347,942 | 347,394 | -0.2 | -0.2 | 347,394 | 353,461 | 357,984 | 3.0 | 1.3 |
| | Total | 709,435 | 709,435 | 723,900 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 723,900 | 723,900 | 738,133 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Quebec | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 4,142,154 | 4,142,154 | 4,436,174 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 4,436,174 | 4,519,426 | 4,693,265 | 5.8 | 3.8 |
| | CA | 868,718 | 846,908 | 891,301 | 2.6 | 5.2 | 891,301 | 834,420 | 849,795 | -4.7 | 1.8 |
| | RST | 1,521,588 | 1,543,398 | 1,568,490 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 1,568,490 | 1,542,117 | 1,595,735 | 1.7 | 3.5 |
| | Total | 6,532,460 | 6,532,460 | 6,895,965 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 6,895,965 | 6,895,963 | 7,138,795 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Ontario | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 6,328,626 | 6,333,439 | 7,073,420 | 11.8 | 11.7 | 7,073,420 | 7,100,762 | 7,639,013 | 8.0 | 7.6 |
| | CA | 1,289,659 | 1,314,637 | 1,422,183 | 10.3 | 8.2 | 1,422,183 | 1,458,964 | 1,518,422 | 6.8 | 4.1 |
| | RST | 1,483,410 | 1,453,619 | 1,589,282 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 1,589,282 | 1,525,159 | 1,596,138 | 0.4 | 4.7 |
| | Total | 9,101,695 | 9,101,695 | 10,084,885 | 10.8 | 10.8 | 10,084,885 | 10,084,885 | 10,753,573 | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| Manitoba | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 625,304 | 625,304 | 652,354 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 652,354 | 660,450 | 667,209 | 2.3 | 1.0 |
| | CA | 83,891 | 76,648 | 76,614 | -8.7 | 0.0 | 76,614 | 75,868 | 75,351 | -1.6 | -0.7 |
| | RST | 353,820 | 361,063 | 362,977 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 362,977 | 355,624 | 371,338 | 2.3 | 4.4 |
| | Total | 1,063,015 | 1,063,015 | 1,091,945 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 1,091,945 | 1,091,942 | 1,113,898 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Saskatchewan | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 387,186 | 387,186 | 401,715 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 401,715 | 402,641 | 412,708 | 2.7 | 2.5 |
| | CA | 140,083 | 159,699 | 156,397 | 11.6 | -2.1 | 156,397 | 149,135 | 148,964 | -4.8 | -0.1 |
| | RST | 482,351 | 462,735 | 430,813 | -10.7 | -6.9 | 430,813 | 437,152 | 428,565 | -0.5 | -2.0 |
| | Total | 1,009,620 | 1,009,620 | 988,925 | -2.0 | -2.0 | 988,925 | 988,928 | 990,237 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Alberta | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 1,456,791 | 1,445,479 | 1,593,957 | 9.4 | 10.3 | 1,593,957 | 1,595,165 | 1,684,225 | 5.7 | 5.6 |
| | CA | 262,137 | 296,014 | 307,625 | 17.4 | 3.9 | 307,625 | 305,901 | 318,127 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| | RST | 646,897 | 624,332 | 643,968 | -0.5 | 3.1 | 643,968 | 644,487 | 694,474 | 7.8 | 7.8 |
| | Total | 2,365,825 | 2,365,825 | 2,545,550 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 2,545,550 | 2,545,553 | 2,696,826 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| British Columbia | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 1,636,276 | 1,635,954 | 1,890,399 | 15.5 | 15.6 | 1,890,399 | 1,890,487 | 2,135,952 | 13.0 | 13.0 |
| | CA | 795,873 | 775,709 | 886,017 | 11.3 | 14.2 | 886,017 | 880,418 | 1,011,885 | 14.2 | 14.9 |
| | RST | 451,216 | 471,702 | 505,645 | 12.1 | 7.2 | 505,645 | 511,156 | 576,663 | 14.0 | 12.8 |
| | Total | 2,883,365 | 2,883,365 | 3,282,061 | 13.8 | 13.8 | 3,282,061 | 3,282,061 | 3,724,500 | 13.5 | 13.5 |
| Canada | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | CMA | 15,155,493 | 15,148,604 | 16,665,360 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 16,665,360 | 16,787,118 | 17,864,646 | 7.2 | 6.4 |
| | CA | 4,044,418 | 4,083,223 | 4,368,750 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 4,368,750 | 4,317,784 | 4,546,126 | 4.1 | 5.3 |
| | RST | 6,033,678 | 6,001,762 | 6,177,303 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 6,177,303 | 6,106,511 | 6,340,821 | 2.6 | 3.8 |
| | Total | 25,233,589 | 25,233,589 | 27,211,413 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 27,211,413 | 27,211,413 | 28,751,593 | 5.7 | 5.7 |

Source: Statistics Canada. Censuses of Population, 1971 to 1996.

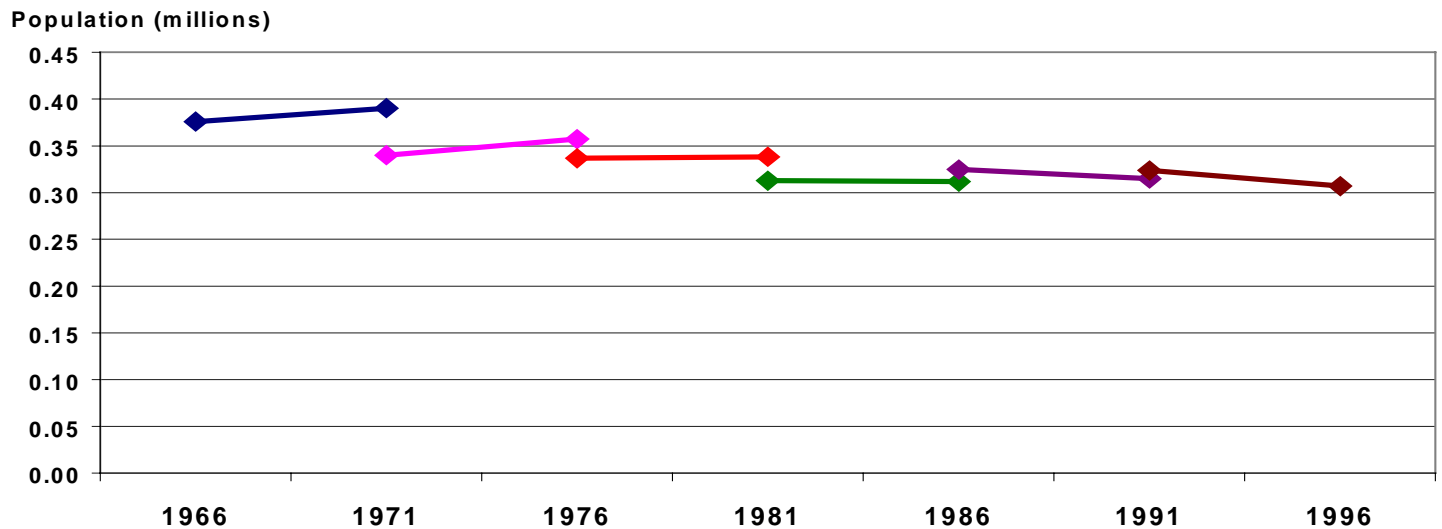
Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have an urban core of 100,000 or more people and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50 percent or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core.

Census Agglomerations (CAs) have an urban core of 10,000 to 99,999 people and includes all neighbouring municipalities where 50 percent or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core.

Rural and Small Town (RST) areas refer to the non-CMA and the non-CA population.

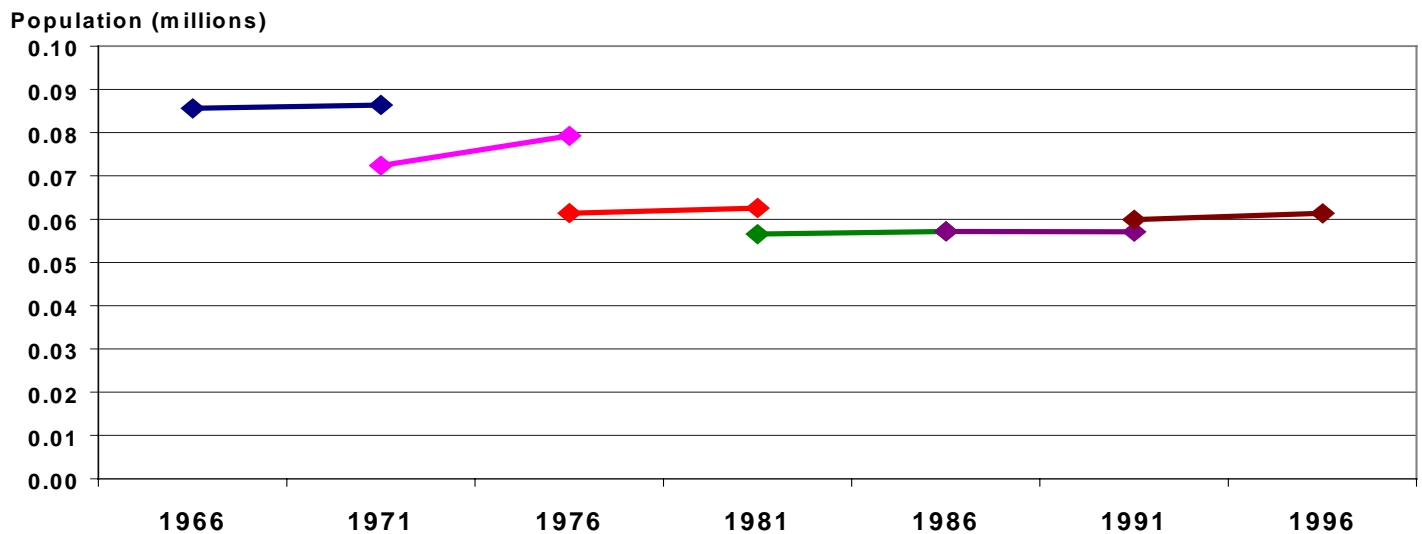
It is the population outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres.

Rural and Small Town Population, Newfoundland, 1966 to 1996



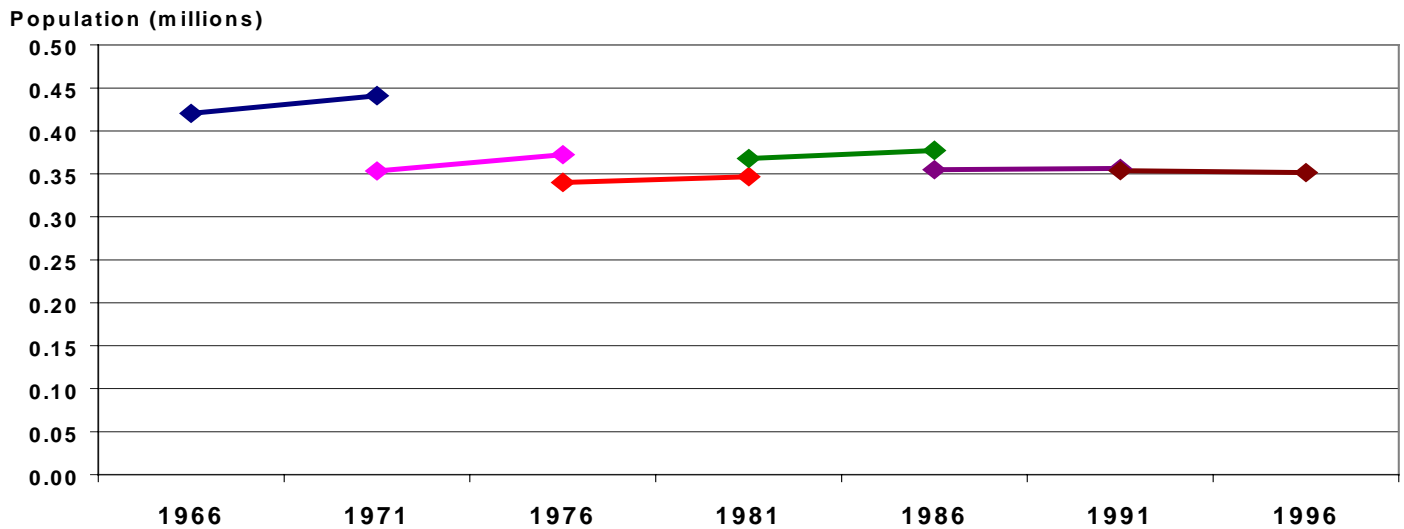
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.
Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)
and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

Rural and Small Town Population, Prince Edward Island, 1966 to 1996



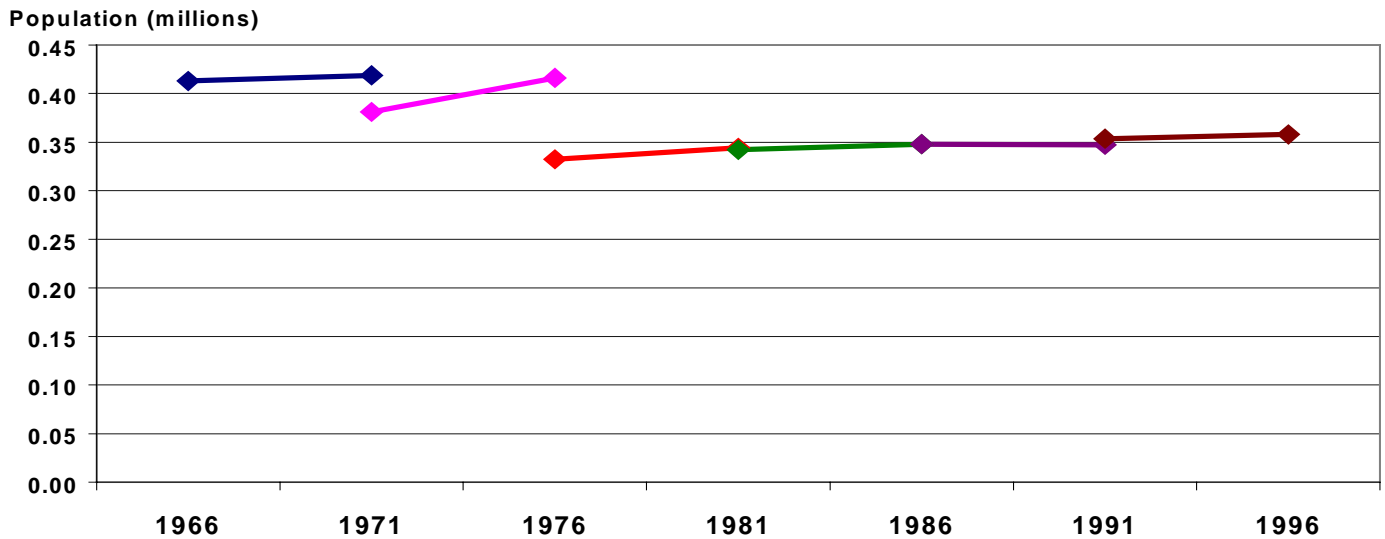
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996,
Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs)
and outside Census Agglomeration (Cas).

Rural and Small Town Population, Nova Scotia, 1966 to 1996



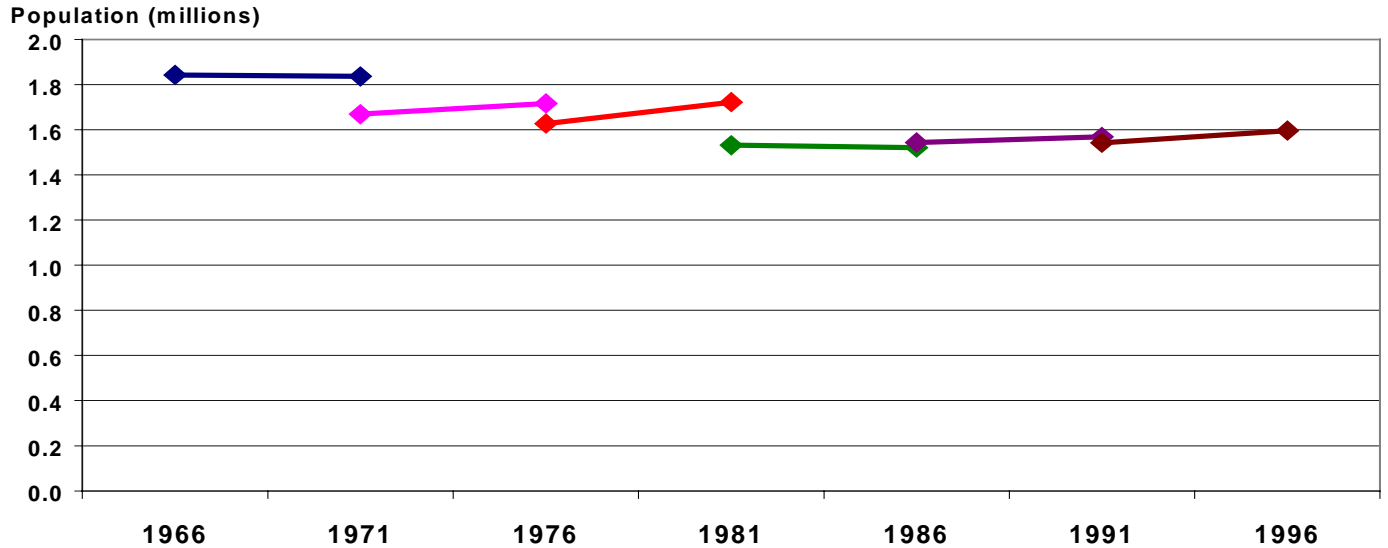
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.
Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

Rural and Small Town Population, New Brunswick, 1966 to 1996



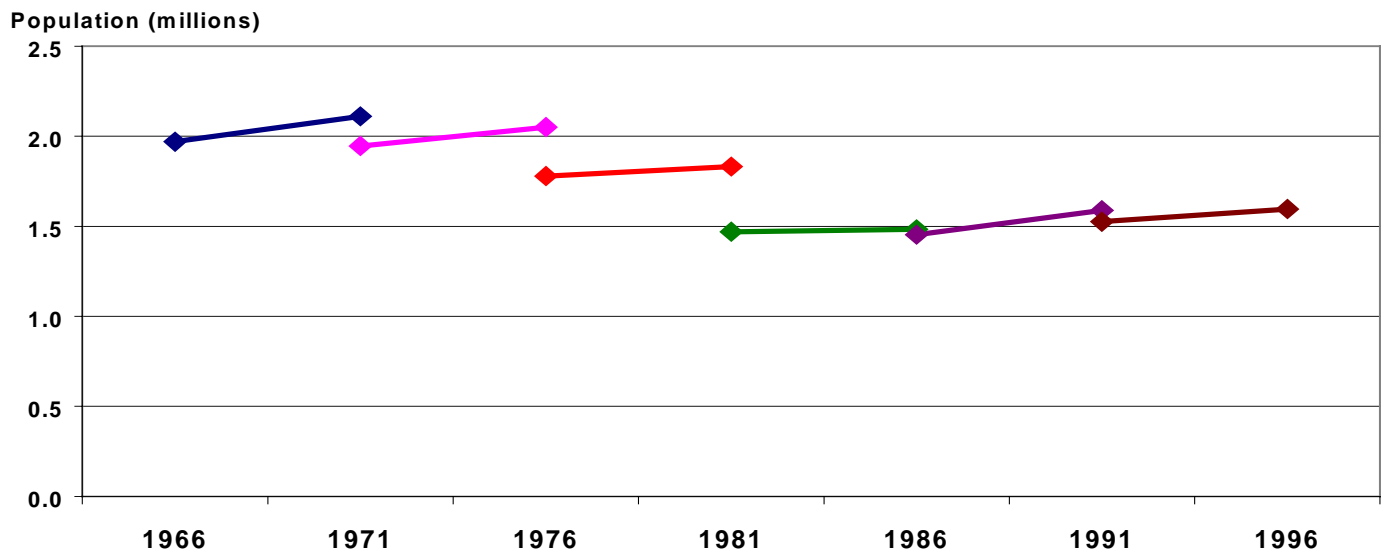
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.
Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

Rural and Small Town Population, Quebec, 1966 to 1996



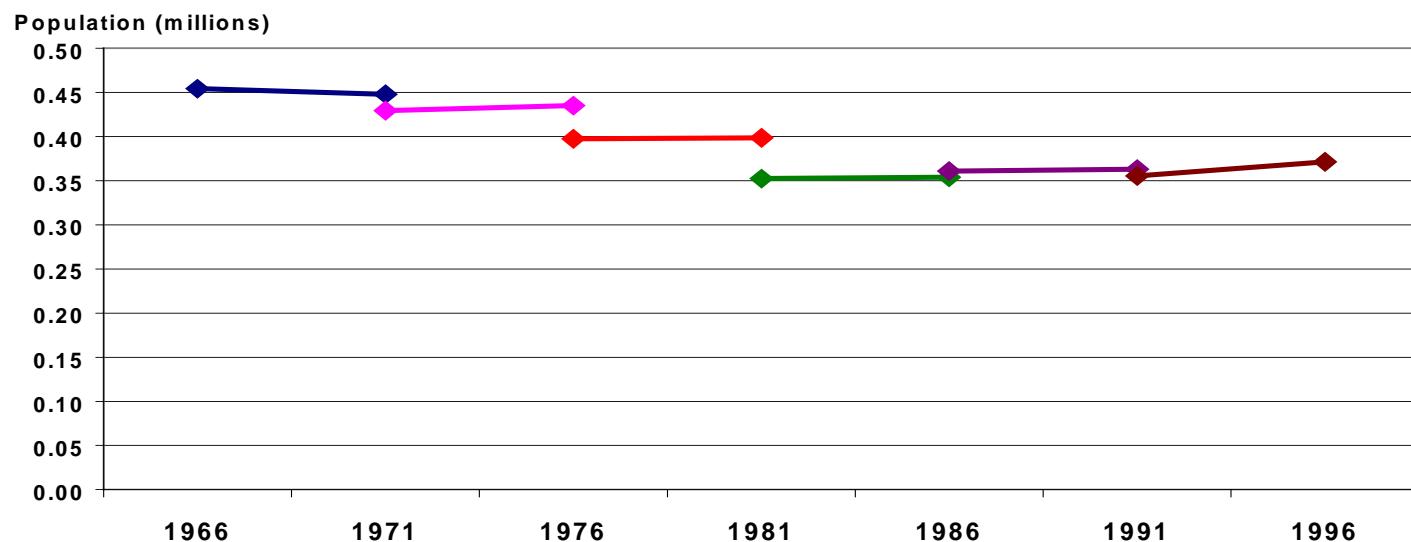
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.
Rural and Small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

Rural and Small Town Population, Ontario, 1966 to 1996



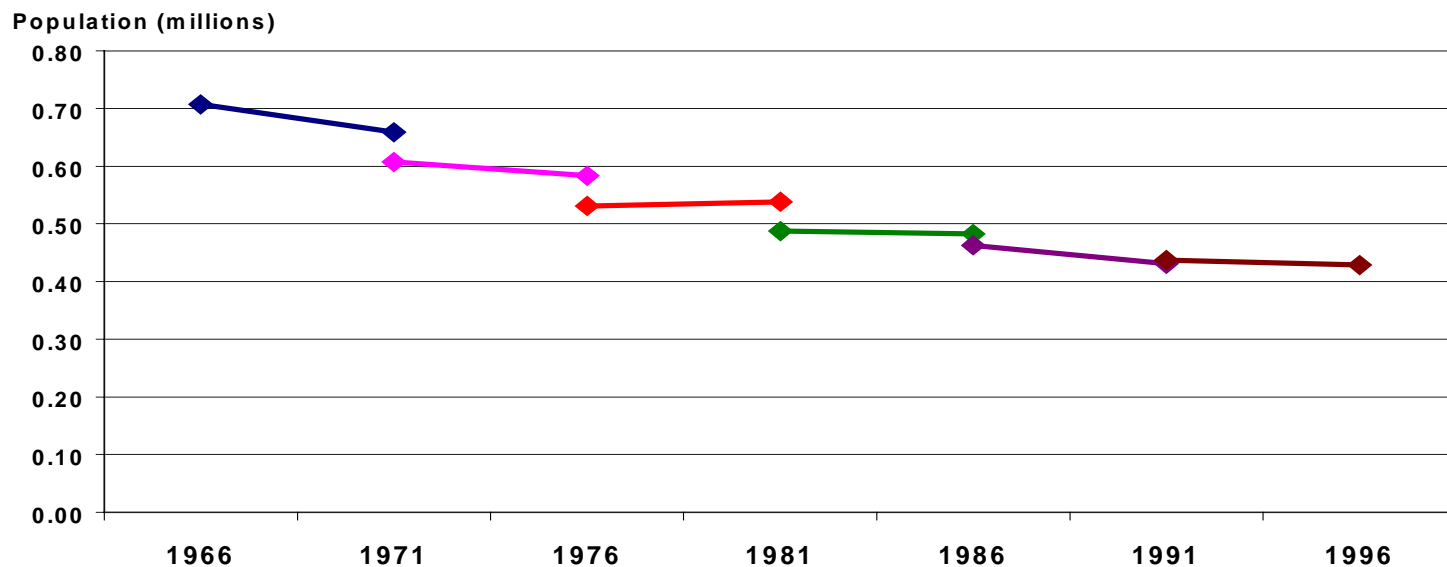
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.
Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

Rural and Small Town Population, Manitoba, 1966 to 1996



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.
Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

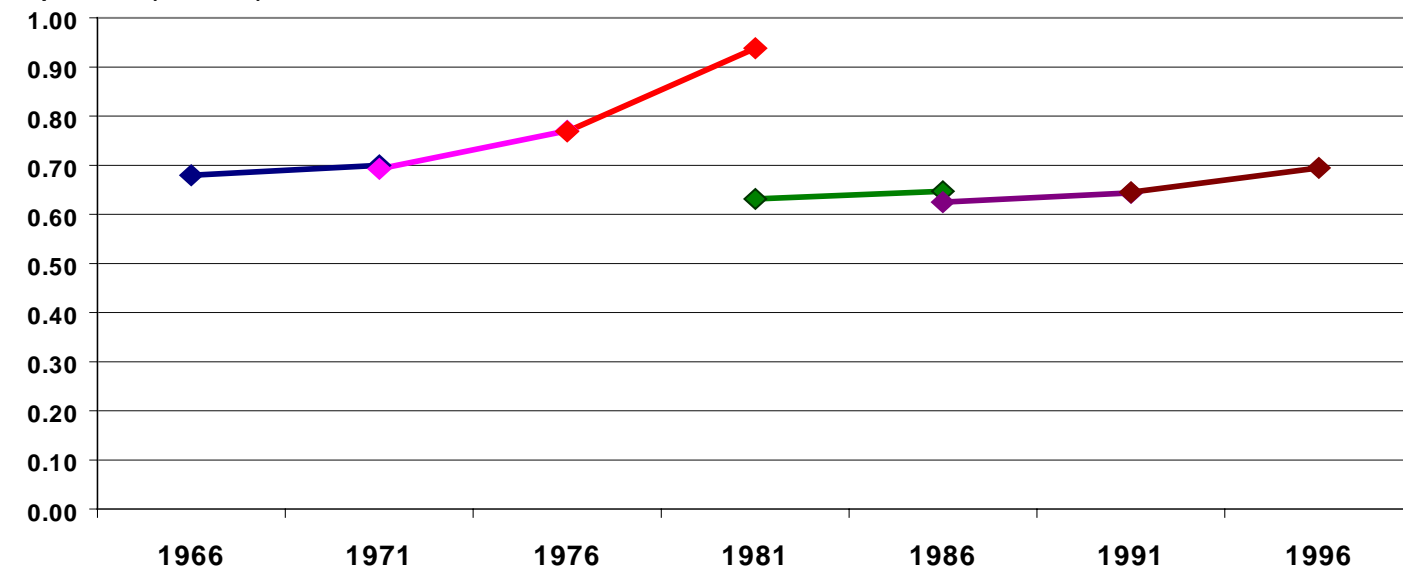
Rural and Small Town Population, Saskatchewan, 1966 to 1996



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.
Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

Rural and Small Town Population, Alberta, 1966 to 1996

Population (millions)

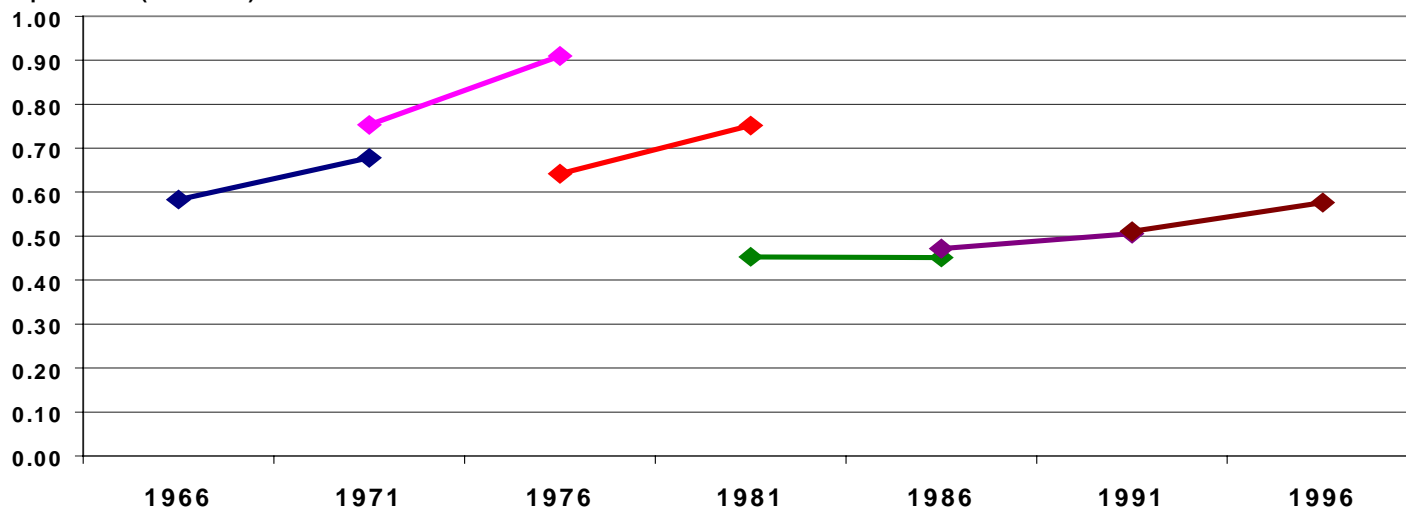


Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.

Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).

Rural and Small Town Population, British Columbia, 1966 to 1996

Population (millions)



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 1996.

Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (Cas).



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