

Section 5.—Racial Origins

See note under Section 2.

Section 6.—Religions

See note under Section 2.

Section 7.—Birthplaces

See note under Section 2.

Section 8.—Rural and Urban Population*

For the purposes of the census the population residing in cities, towns and incorporated villages has been defined as urban, and that outside of such localities as rural. In Canada, the laws of the various provinces differ in regard to the population necessary before a municipality may be incorporated as urban, the laws of Saskatchewan, for example, making provision that 100 people actually resident on an area not greater than 640 acres may claim incorporation as a village, while the Ontario law now requires that villages asking for incorporation shall have a population of 750 on an area not exceeding 500 acres. Thus, the line of demarcation between rural and urban population is not at all uniformly drawn throughout the Dominion, so far as comparable aggregations of population are concerned, and the distinction made between 'rural' and 'urban' population is a distinction of provincial legal status rather than of size of aggregations of population within limited areas.

A table published at p. 147 of the 1934-35 Year Book gives the rural and urban populations, by provinces and sex, and divides the incorporated urban centres into two groups, viz., under one thousand, and one thousand or over, thereby allowing a closer comparison than is possible from Table 9.

A summary comparison between urbanization in Canada in 1931 and in the United States in 1930 will be found at p. 63 of the 1941 Year Book. This data will be brought up to the 1941 Census in the 1943 Year Book.

On the basis of the census classification, it is apparent from Table 8 that in the decade 1921-31, as in the previous one, urban communities absorbed nearly 77 p.c. of the total increase in population, with the result that the urban population of Canada in 1931 exceeded the rural by 767,330. Out of every 1,000 persons in the country, 463 were resident, on June 1, 1931, in rural and 537 in urban communities, as compared with 505 in rural and 495 in urban communities on June 1, 1921; 546 in rural and 454 in urban communities in 1911; 625 in rural and 375 in urban communities in 1901; and 682 in rural and 318 in urban communities in 1891.

All the larger cities have in their neighbourhoods growing 'satellite' towns or other densely settled areas in close economic relationship with the central municipality. This phenomenon is, to-day, of increasing importance largely as a result of the greater ease and speed of transportation by motor vehicle. It has, therefore, been considered advisable to calculate the total populations resident in what the United States census authorities call the "metropolitan districts". On this basis the total populations of the larger cities at the Census of 1931 were as follows: Greater Montreal, 1,000,159; Greater Toronto, 808,864; Greater Vancouver, 308,340; Greater Winnipeg, 284,295; Greater Ottawa (including Hull), 175,988; Greater Quebec, 166,435; Greater Hamilton, 163,710; Greater Windsor, 110,385; Greater Halifax, 74,161; and Greater Saint John, 55,611.†

* Statistics of rural and urban, in so far as the 1941 census data are available at the time of going to press, will be found in Appendix III.

† See 1931 Census Monograph No. 6, *The Rural and Urban Composition of the Canadian Population*, by S. A. Cudmore and H. G. Caldwell.