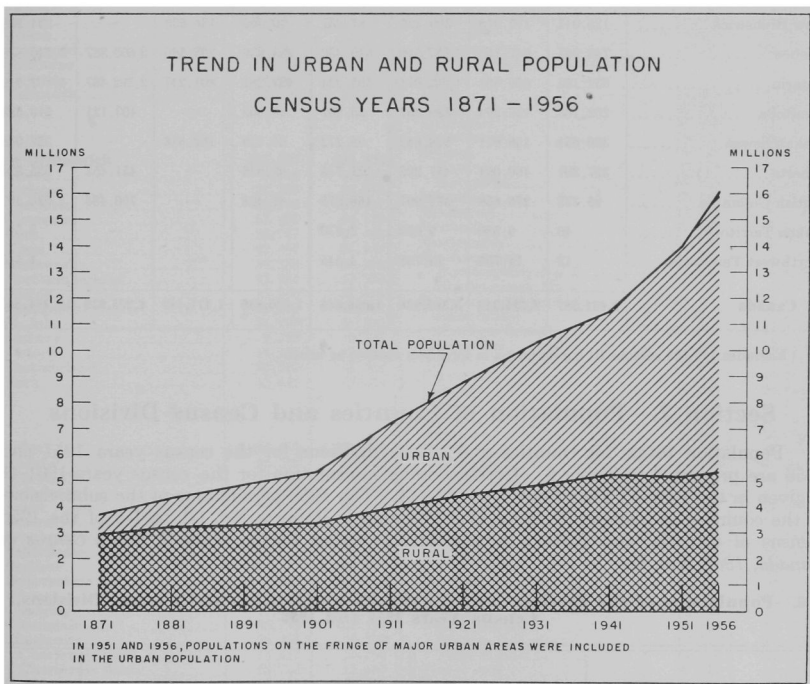


Section 6.—Rural and Urban Population

Before 1951 the population residing within the boundaries of all incorporated cities, towns and villages of a province was classified by the census as urban and the remainder as rural. Since the laws governing incorporation vary among provinces, there was no uniform line of demarcation between the rural and urban population throughout Canada. In the 1951 Census the aggregate number of residents within a given area, rather than provincial legal status, was the main criterion for the rural-urban classification. The population residing in cities, towns and villages of 1,000 or over, whether incorporated or unincorporated, as well as the population of all parts of census metropolitan areas, was defined as urban and that outside such localities as rural. The 1956 Census definition was substantially the same as that used in the Census of 1951 except that the fringe parts of other major urban areas were classed as urban.



A change in the composition of urban size groups was made also for the 1956 Census. At the 1951 Census, each municipality located within the boundaries of a census metropolitan area was allocated to an urban size group according to its own individual size. In 1956, each such municipality was classified to the same urban size group as the total metropolitan area of which it formed a part. In addition, the fringe parts of other major urban areas were included in the tabulations by urban size groups in the same manner as those of census metropolitan areas.