

2.—Land Area and Density of Population by Province, Decennial Census Years 1931-51 and 1956

Note.—Certain population density figures in this table have been revised since published in Census Reports, as a result of changes in land areas.

Province or Territory	Land Area in Sq. Miles	Population, 1931		Population, 1941		Population, 1951		Population, 1956	
		Total	Per Sq. Mile	Total	Per Sq. Mile	Total	Per Sq. Mile	Total	Per Sq. Mile
Newfoundland ¹	143,045	361,416	2.53	415,074	2.90
Prince Edward Island...	2,184	88,038	40.31	95,047	43.52	98,429	45.07	99,285	45.46
Nova Scotia.....	20,402	512,846	25.14	577,962	28.33	642,584	31.50	694,717	34.05
New Brunswick.....	27,835	408,219	14.67	457,401	16.43	515,697	18.53	554,616	19.93
Quebec.....	523,860	2,874,662	5.49	3,331,882	6.36	4,055,681	7.74	4,628,378	8.84
Ontario.....	344,092	3,431,683	9.97	3,787,655	11.01	4,597,542	13.36	5,404,933	15.71
Manitoba.....	211,775	700,139	3.31	729,744	3.45	776,541	3.67	850,040	4.01
Saskatchewan.....	220,182	921,785	4.19	895,992	4.07	831,728	3.78	880,665	4.00
Alberta.....	248,800	731,605	2.94	796,169	3.20	939,501	3.78	1,123,116	4.51
British Columbia.....	359,279	694,263	1.93	817,861	2.28	1,165,210	3.24	1,398,464	3.89
Canada (Exclusive of the Territories)....	2,101,454	10,363,210	5.29²	11,489,713	5.87²	13,984,329	6.65³	16,049,288	7.64³
Yukon Territory.....	205,346	4,230	0.02	4,914	0.02	9,096	0.04	12,190	0.06
Northwest Territories..	1,253,438	7,316	0.01	12,028	0.01	16,004	0.01	19,313	0.02
Canada.....	3,560,238	10,376,786	3.04⁴	11,506,655	3.37⁴	14,009,429	3.93³	16,080,791	4.52³

¹ Includes Labrador. ² Calculated on the basis of 1,958,409 sq. miles which excludes the land area of Newfoundland. ³ Includes Newfoundland. ⁴ Calculated on the basis of 3,417,193 sq. miles which excludes the land area of Newfoundland.

Subsection 3.—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.

Table 3 presents the rural and urban population by province or territory for 1956. The rural population is further classified by farm and non-farm residence and the urban population by size of locality.