

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 classified 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.

3.—Rural Population classified by Farm and Non-farm, and Urban Population classified by Size Group, by Province, Census 1956

Province or Territory	Rural			Urban Size Groups				
	Farm ¹	Non-farm	Total	1,000 to 9,999	10,000 to 29,999	30,000 to 99,999	100,000 or Over	Total
Newfoundland.....	10,138	219,684	229,822	84,036	23,225	77,991	—	185,252
Prince Edward Island.....	43,112	25,703	68,815	13,763	16,707	—	—	30,470
Nova Scotia.....	95,381	200,242	295,623	103,996	22,551	—	272,547	399,094
New Brunswick.....	125,011	175,315	300,326	87,957	30,300	136,033	—	254,290
Quebec.....	740,387	647,153	1,387,540	649,356	288,039	293,556	2,009,887	3,240,838
Ontario.....	632,153	669,861	1,302,014	605,924	403,281	801,247	2,292,467	4,102,919
Manitoba.....	202,163	137,294	339,457	55,907	45,555	—	409,121	510,583
Saskatchewan.....	360,651	198,011	558,662	98,272	61,118	162,613	—	322,003
Alberta.....	327,201	160,091	487,292	121,745	62,626	—	451,453	635,824
British Columbia.....	95,338	276,659	371,997	168,575	67,428	—	790,464	1,026,467
Yukon Territory.....	40	9,680	9,720	2,570	—	—	—	2,570
Northwest Territories.....	12	14,756	14,768	4,545	—	—	—	4,545
Canada.....	2,631,587	2,734,349	5,365,936	1,996,646	1,020,830	1,471,440	6,225,939	10,714,855

¹ Excludes 115,168 persons living on farms in localities classed as urban.

Populations of Counties and Census Divisions.—Population totals for counties and census divisions for the census years 1951 and 1956 are presented in Table 4. Corresponding information for the census years 1901-41 is given in the 1952-53 Year Book at pp. 137-141. The 1956 populations of the subdivisions of the counties and census divisions may be found in Bulletins Nos. 1-1 to 1-5 of the 1956 Census of Canada (Catalogue Nos. 92-501 to 92-505), and further details for the earlier census years in *Ninth Census of Canada, 1951, Vol. I.*