



figure for the cities of Montreal and Toronto. Moreover, the highest provincial densities are not necessarily found among the provinces with the largest populations. For example, the highest average density of any province is that of Prince Edward Island (51 persons per sq mile), which has the smallest population and represents an anomaly resulting from its very limited land area rather than from heavy concentrations of population. In contrast, the far more populous province of British Columbia, with its vast mountainous regions and areas of sparse population, has an average density of only six persons per sq mile.

5.2.3 Urban and rural

The urban population was defined in the 1971 Census as all persons living in incorporated cities, towns and villages with a population of 1,000 or over, as well as in unincorporated places of 1,000 or over having a population density of at least 1,000 per sq mile. Also considered as urban were the built-up fringes of these cities, towns and villages if they met the same criteria of population and density. All the remaining population was classified as rural.

Table 5.11 indicates that over three quarters (76.1%) of Canada's population is living in an urban environment, with the degree of urbanization on a provincial basis ranging from 38.3% in Prince Edward Island to 82.4% in Ontario. In comparison with the national average, only two provinces — Ontario and Quebec — were more highly urbanized. The proportion of urban population fell below 50% in just one case — Prince Edward Island.

The rural population, which accounted for 23.9% of the Canadian total in 1971, is further classified in Table 5.11 as either non-farm or farm. The rural farm population is defined for census purposes as those persons living in rural areas on an agricultural holding of one or more acres with sales of agricultural products amounting to \$50 or more in the previous year. Under this definition, the category of rural non-farm in 1971 accounted for 17.3% of the total population, compared to 6.6% for the rural farm segment.