

8.—Rural and Urban Populations, by Provinces and Territories, Decennial Censuses 1871-1931 and Numerical Increases 1921-31

Province or Territory	1871		1881		1891		1901	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
P.E. Island.....	86,149	7,872	95,693	13,198	94,823	14,255	88,304	14,955
Nova Scotia.....	355,718	32,082	377,030	63,542	373,403	76,993	330,191	129,383
New Brunswick...	235,381	50,213	262,141	59,092	272,362	48,901 ¹	253,835	77,285
Quebec.....	919,665	271,851	980,515	378,512	988,820	499,715	994,833	654,065
Ontario.....	1,264,854	355,997	1,351,074	575,848	1,295,323	818,998	1,246,969	935,978
Manitoba.....	24,170	1,058	52,015	10,245	111,498	41,008	184,775 ²	70,436 ²
Saskatchewan....	3	-	3	-	3	-	77,013 ²	14,266 ²
Alberta.....	3	-	3	-	3	-	54,489	18,533
British Columbia..	32,977	3,270	40,389	9,070	60,945	37,228	88,478	90,179
Yukon.....	3	-	3	-	3	-	18,077	9,142
N.W.T.....	3	-	3	-	3	-	20,129	-
Royal Canadian Navy.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada.....	2,966,914³	722,343	3,215,303³	1,109,507	3,296,141³	1,537,098	3,357,093	2,014,222
	1911		1921		1931		Numerical Increases in Decade 1921-31	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
P. E. Island.....	78,758	14,970	69,522	19,093	67,653	20,385	- 1,869	1,292
Nova Scotia.....	306,210	186,128	296,799	227,038	281,192	231,654	- 15,607	4,616
New Brunswick...	252,342	99,547	263,432	124,444	279,279	128,940	15,847	4,496
Quebec.....	1,038,934 ⁴	966,842 ⁴	1,038,096	1,322,569	1,060,649	1,813,606	22,553	491,037
Ontario.....	1,198,803 ⁵	1,328,489	1,227,030	1,706,632	1,335,691	2,095,992	108,661	389,360
Manitoba.....	261,029 ⁵	200,365	348,502	261,616	384,170	315,969	35,668	54,353
Saskatchewan....	361,037 ²	131,395 ²	538,552	218,958	630,880	290,905	92,328	71,947
Alberta.....	236,633 ⁶	137,662 ⁶	365,550	222,904	453,097	278,508	87,547	55,604
British Columbia..	188,796	203,684	277,020	247,562	299,524	394,739 ⁷	22,504	147,177
Yukon.....	4,647	3,865	2,851	1,306	2,870	1,360	19	54
N.W.T.....	6,507 ⁵	-	7,988	-	9,723	-	1,735	-
Royal Canadian Navy.....	-	-	485	-	8	-	8	-
Canada.....	3,933,696	3,272,947	4,435,827	4,352,122	4,804,728	5,572,058	368,901	1,219,936

¹ Some of the towns of 1891 were included with rural. ² As corrected in Census Report, Prairie Provinces, 1916. ³ The populations (48,000, 56,446 and 98,967, respectively) in territory now comprised in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and in Yukon and the Northwest Territories was classified as rural in the Censuses of 1871, 1881 and 1891. ⁴ The urban population of 970,791, shown in Vol. I, Census 1911, is reduced to 966,842 by the transfer of the populations of Maniwaki, Martinville, Moisie, St. Bruno, St. Martin and St. Vincent de Paul from urban to rural; by adjustments in area of the villages of St. Anne and Ste. Genevieve; and Extension of Boundaries Act, 1912. ⁵ As changed by Extension of Boundaries Act, 1912. ⁶ Vol. I, Census 1911, places the urban population of Alberta for that year at 141,937. Included in this figure was the population (5,250) of twelve places that, according to the Report of the Municipal Commissioner for Alberta, were not then incorporated. The places so included were Aetna, Banff, Bankhead, Bellevue, Bickerdike, Canmore, Cardiff, Exshaw, Hillcrest, Passburg, Queenston and Elmpark. The correction resulting from this and from other small adjustments, consequent upon more definite knowledge as to incorporated areas, places the urban population for 1911 at 137,662. Similar corrections have been made in the urban and rural figures for the Census of 1901. ⁷ This includes South Vancouver and Point Grey, with 1921 populations of 32,267 and 13,736, respectively, which were then classified as 'rural'. ⁸ Members of the Royal Canadian Navy were counted at their homes in the Censuses of 1931 and 1941.

Population is shown in Table 9 to be increasingly attracted to the larger cities. Thus, not only have cities of over 500,000 population (Montreal and Toronto) increased their proportions to the total, but cities of from 100,000 to 500,000 have increased their aggregate population from 5.90 p.c. of the total to 8.46 p.c., and cities of between 5,000 and 100,000 from 17.68 p.c. to 19.29 p.c. in the decade 1921-31. As will be seen, the large absolute increases in the total population of municipalities of less than 1,000 persons for 1921 and 1931 were due almost entirely to the addition of newly incorporated places.