

Section 4.—Rural and Urban Population

Prior to 1951, the population residing within the boundaries of all incorporated cities, towns and villages of a province was classified 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 size of population 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.

Table 10 presents the rural and urban population, by province or territory, for the years 1941 and 1951. For comparative purposes the rural and urban population has been tabulated by both the 1941 and 1951 rural-urban definitions. The rural is further classified by farm and non-farm residence and the urban by size of locality in Table 11.

10.—Rural and Urban Population, by Province, 1941 and 1951

Province or Territory	1941 Definition ¹				1951 Definition ¹			
	Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban	
	1941	1951	1941	1951	1941	1951	1941	1951
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland . . .	262,509	257,039	59,310	104,377	202,820	206,621	118,999	154,795
P. E. Island	70,707	70,807	24,340	27,622	74,078	73,744	20,969	24,685
Nova Scotia	310,422	344,865	267,540	297,719	288,900	297,753	289,062	344,831
New Brunswick . . .	313,978	348,185	143,423	167,512	282,290	300,686	175,111	215,011
Quebec	1,222,198	1,326,883	2,109,684	2,728,798	1,274,935	1,358,363	2,056,947	2,697,318
Ontario	1,449,022	1,844,316	2,338,633	2,753,226	1,196,161	1,346,443	2,591,494	3,251,099
Manitoba	407,871	392,112	321,873	384,429	370,066	336,961	359,678	439,580
Saskatchewan	600,846	461,047	295,146	370,681	703,710	579,258	192,282	252,470
Alberta	489,583	451,313	306,586	488,188	530,640	489,826	265,529	449,675
British Columbia . .	374,467	550,158	443,394	615,052	268,607	371,739	549,254	793,471
Yukon Territory . . .	3,117	5,478	1,797	3,618	3,871	6,502	1,043	2,594
N.W.T.	12,028	16,004	—	—	10,618	13,280	1,410	2,724
Canada	5,254,239²	6,063,207	6,252,416²	7,941,222	5,003,876²	5,381,176	6,502,779²	8,628,253

¹ For differences in the definition of "rural" and "urban" as used in the 1941 and 1951 Censuses, see text above. ² Totals for Canada do not include Newfoundland; figures shown for that Province are from the 1945 Census of Newfoundland.

11.—Rural Population classified by Farm and Non-Farm, and Urban Population classified by Size Group, by Province, 1951

Province or Territory	Rural			Urban				Total ²
	Farm ¹	Non-Farm	Total	1,000 to 9,999	10,000 to 29,999	30,000 to 99,999	100,000 or over	
				No.	No.	No.	No.	
Newfoundland . . .	15,456	191,165	206,621	100,375	—	52,873	—	154,795
P. E. Island	46,757	26,987	73,744	8,798	15,887	—	—	24,685
Nova Scotia	112,135	185,618	297,753	166,121	61,802	116,906	—	344,831
New Brunswick . . .	145,771	154,915	300,686	86,906	76,430	50,779	—	215,011
Quebec	766,910	591,453	1,358,363	750,433	504,523	247,548	1,185,536	2,697,318
Ontario	678,043	668,400	1,346,443	714,343	463,404	764,448	1,307,751	3,251,099
Manitoba	214,435	122,526	336,961	93,965	109,036	—	235,710	439,580
Saskatchewan	398,279	180,979	579,258	86,379	41,504	124,557	—	252,470
Alberta	339,955	149,871	489,826	120,700	39,311	—	288,691	449,675
British Columbia . .	109,919	261,820	371,739	157,333	180,240	109,707	344,833	793,471
Yukon Territory . . .	44	6,458	6,502	2,594	—	—	—	2,594
N.W.T.	28	13,252	13,280	2,724	—	—	—	2,724
Canada	2,827,732	2,553,444	5,381,176	2,290,674	1,492,137	1,466,848	3,362,521	8,628,253

¹ Exclusive of 84,264 persons living on farms in localities classed as urban.

² Includes a few metropolitan area parts with fewer than 1,000 population.