

*Canada's rural population is growing:
A rural demography update to 2011*

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Canada's rural population is growing: A rural demography update to 2011

An update of:

Bollman, Ray D. and Heather A. Clemenson. (2008) "Structure and Change in Canada's Rural Demography: An Update to 2006." **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 7, No. 7 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE). (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>)

Bollman, Ray D et Heather A. Clemenson. (2008) « Structure et évolution de la démographie rurale du Canada : Mise à jour jusqu'en 2006 » **Bulletin d'analyse: Régions rurales et petites villes du Canada** vol. 7, n° 7(Ottawa: Statistique Canada, N° 21-006-XIF au catalogue) (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=fra>)

Bollman, Ray D. and Heather A. Clemenson (2008) **Structure and Change in Canada's Rural Demography: An Update to 2006 with Provincial Detail** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Agriculture and Rural Working Paper No. 90, Catalogue no. 21-601-MIE) (www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/listpub.cgi?catno=21-601-MIE).

Bollman, Ray D. Heather A. Clemenson. (2008) **Structure et évolution de la démographie rurale du Canada : Mise à jour jusqu'en 2006 incluant les données détaillées par province** (Ottawa: Statistique Canada, Documents de travail sur l'agriculture et le milieu rural N° 90, N° 21-601-MIF au catalogue). (www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/downpub/listpub_f.cgi?catno=21-601-MIF)

Outline

1. Three ways of following rural demography

- a. Nature of community / neighbourhood (census rural areas)
- b. Type of labour market (rural and small town (non-CMA/CA) areas)
- c. Type of region (predominantly rural regions, OECD regional typology)

2. What has the annual data been telling us?

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4. Summary

Take home messages:

1. Rural Canada is growing

- ☐ not everywhere, but Rural Canada is growing**
- ❖ The rural share of total population is declining because**
 - ✓ Urban is growing faster;**
and due to
 - ✓ Successful rural development**
 - At each census, some rural areas have grown and are re-classified as urban.**
 - Sometimes the re-classification is greater than the growth and thus we sometimes see fewer rural people at the end of the period, compared to the number at the beginning of the period.**

2. Rural Canada is:

- growing near cities**
- growing less or declining away from cities**
- some remote areas are growing due to higher Aboriginal birth rates and / or resource development.**

Take home messages:

Rural Canada is growing

Recall the first ``Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin``:

Mendelson, Robert and Ray D. Bollman. (1998) "Rural and Small Town Population is Growing in the 1990s." **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 1, No. 1 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE) (www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1).

Mendelson, Robert and Ray D. Bollman. (1998) "Croissance démographique observée dans les régions rurales et les petites villes dans les années 90." **Bulletin d'analyse: Régions rurales et petites villes du Canada** vol. 1, n° 4 (Ottawa: Statistique Canada, N° 21-006-XIF au catalogue) (www.statcan.gc.ca/francais/freepub/21-006-XIF/free_f.htm).

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Census rural areas and population centres

Census rural areas have with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants and a population density below 400 people per square kilometre. The terminology for all other areas has changed starting with the 2011 census.

Statistics Canada has defined census urban areas using the same methodology based on population size and density since the 1971 Census. An census urban area was defined as having a population of at least 1,000 and a density of 400 or more people per square kilometre.

Starting with the 2011 Census, the **term 'population centre' replaces the term 'census urban area.'** Population centres are classified into one of three population size groups:

- small population centres, with a population of between 1,000 and 29,999
- medium population centres, with a population of between 30,000 and 99,999
- large urban population centres, consisting of a population of 100,000 and over.

A **population centre** is defined as an area with a population of at least 1,000 and a density of 400 or more people per square kilometre. All areas outside population centres continue to be defined as census rural areas. Taken together, population centres and census rural areas cover all of Canada.

Users of the former census urban area concept will be able to continue with their longitudinal analysis using population centres.

For more information, please see the note titled [From urban areas to population centres](#), available on the Statistics Canada website, which explains the new terminology and classification of population centres.

Within census rural areas, population densities and living conditions can vary greatly. Included in census rural areas are:

- . . . small towns, villages and other populated places with less than 1,000 population according to the current census;
- . . . rural fringes of census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations that may contain estate lots, as well as agricultural, undeveloped and non-developable lands ;
- . . . agricultural lands;
- . . . remote and wilderness areas.

Note that both population centres and census rural areas may exist within each of the “higher” geographical groups. Thus, population centres and census rural areas may be used as variables to cross-classify census data within any standard geographic areas such as census subdivisions, census divisions, census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations or census **M**etropolitan area and census agglomeration **I**nfluenced **Z**ones (MIZ).

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Larger urban centres (LUCs) are Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Census Agglomerations (CAs):

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have a built-up core population of 50,000 or more with a total population of 100,000 or more (prior to 2006, the built-up core threshold was 100,000).

Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a built-up core population of 10,000 or more with a total population of less than 100,000 (prior to 2006, a few CAs had a total population over 100,000 if they had less than 100,000 in the built-up core – due to the different definition of a CMA prior to 2006).

Both CMAs and CAs include the total population of neighbouring census subdivisions (CSDs) (i.e., incorporated towns and municipalities) where more than 50% of the employed residents commute (i.e. a measure of social-economic integration) to the built-up core of a specific CMA or CA. More details of the delineation are available from Statistics Canada (2007). {Statistics Canada. (2007)

2006 Census Dictionary (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 92-566)}

{<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/english/census06/reference/dictionary/index.cfm>}

Rural and small town (RST) areas refer to non-CMA/CA areas. RST areas are divided into five types of zones based on the degree of influence (i.e., commuting) to any LUC. These zones are Census Metropolitan and Census Agglomerated Influenced Zones (MIZs) (Statistics Canada, 2007). They are defined as follows:

... **Strong MIZ** includes CSDs where at least 30% of the employed residents commute to any CMA or CA;

... **Moderate MIZ** includes CSDs where 5% to less than 30% of the employed residents commute to any CMA or CA;

... **Weak MIZ** includes CSDs where more than zero but less than 5% of the employed residents commute to any CMA or CA;

... **No MIZ** includes CSDs where none of the employed residents commute to any CMA or CA (or the number of employed residents is less than 40); and

... **RST Territories** refers to the non-CMA/CA parts of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (i.e. the areas outside the CAs of Whitehorse and Yellowknife).

{See du Plessis, Valerie, Roland Beshiri, Ray D. Bollman and Heather Clemenson. (2001) "Definitions of Rural." **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 3, No. 3 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue. no. 21-006-XIE). (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>)}

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OECD Regional Typology is designed to classify Territorial Level 3 (TL3) geographic units according to their degree of rurality. In each country, TL1 refers to the national level, TL2 refers to the province level (in Canada or, for example, the state level in Australia or the United States) and TL3 refers to a subprovincial geographic grid. In Canada, TL3 units are census divisions.

Predominantly urban regions are census divisions where less than 15% of the population lives in an OECD rural community.

Intermediate regions are census divisions where between 15% and 50% of the population lives in an OECD rural community.

Predominantly rural regions are census divisions where more than 50% of the population lives in an OECD rural community. Predominantly rural regions are further classified to recognize diversity among the rural regions.

Rural metro-adjacent regions: predominantly rural census divisions which are adjacent to metropolitan centres.

Rural non-metro-adjacent regions: predominantly rural census divisions which are not adjacent to metropolitan centres.

Rural northern regions: predominantly rural census divisions which are classified as “northern” when Beale Codes were assigned to Canadian census divisions. For details, see du Plessis *et al.* (2001). The 10 Beale Codes were designed for use in the USA. However, they did not include anything like Canada’s north so an eleventh code was added. This extra code includes census divisions that are found entirely, or a majority, above the following lines of parallel in each province: Newfoundland, 50th; Quebec and Ontario, 49th; Manitoba, 53rd; and Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, 54th. As well, rural northern regions include all of the Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. A map is available as Map B3 in Appendix B of the working paper by du Plessis *et al.* (2001). <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/21-601-m/21-601-m2002061-eng.htm>

OECD rural communities: are census consolidated subdivisions (CCSs) with a population density less than 150 persons per km².

{See du Plessis, Valerie, Roland Beshiri, Ray D. Bollman and Heather Clemenson. (2001) “Definitions of Rural.” **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 3, No. 3 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue. no. 21-006-XIE). (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>)}

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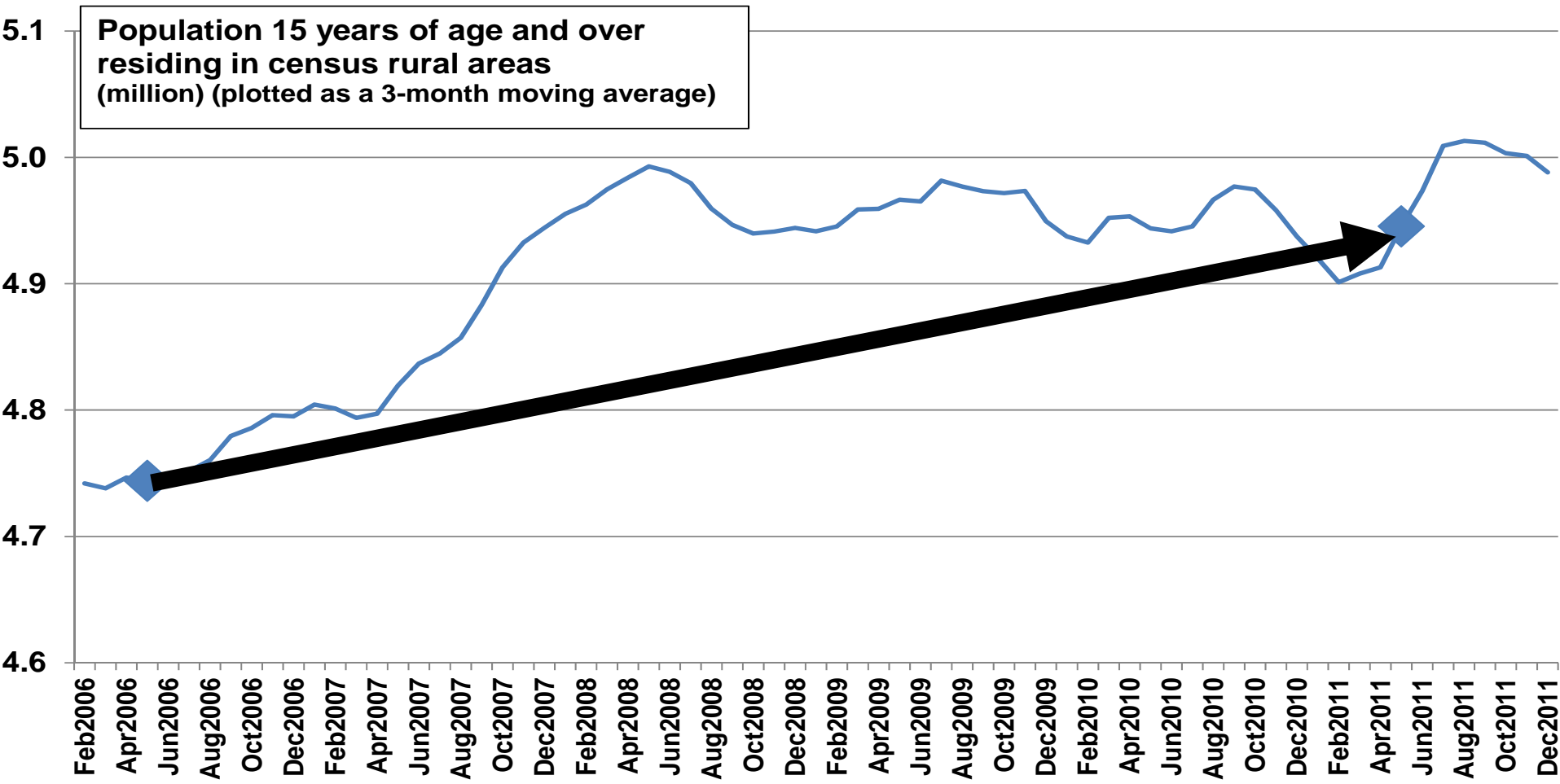
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4. Summary

The population, 15 years of age and over, residing in census rural areas increased **4.2%** from 4.7 million in May, 2006 to 4.9 million in May, 2011, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. CANSIM Table 282-0118.

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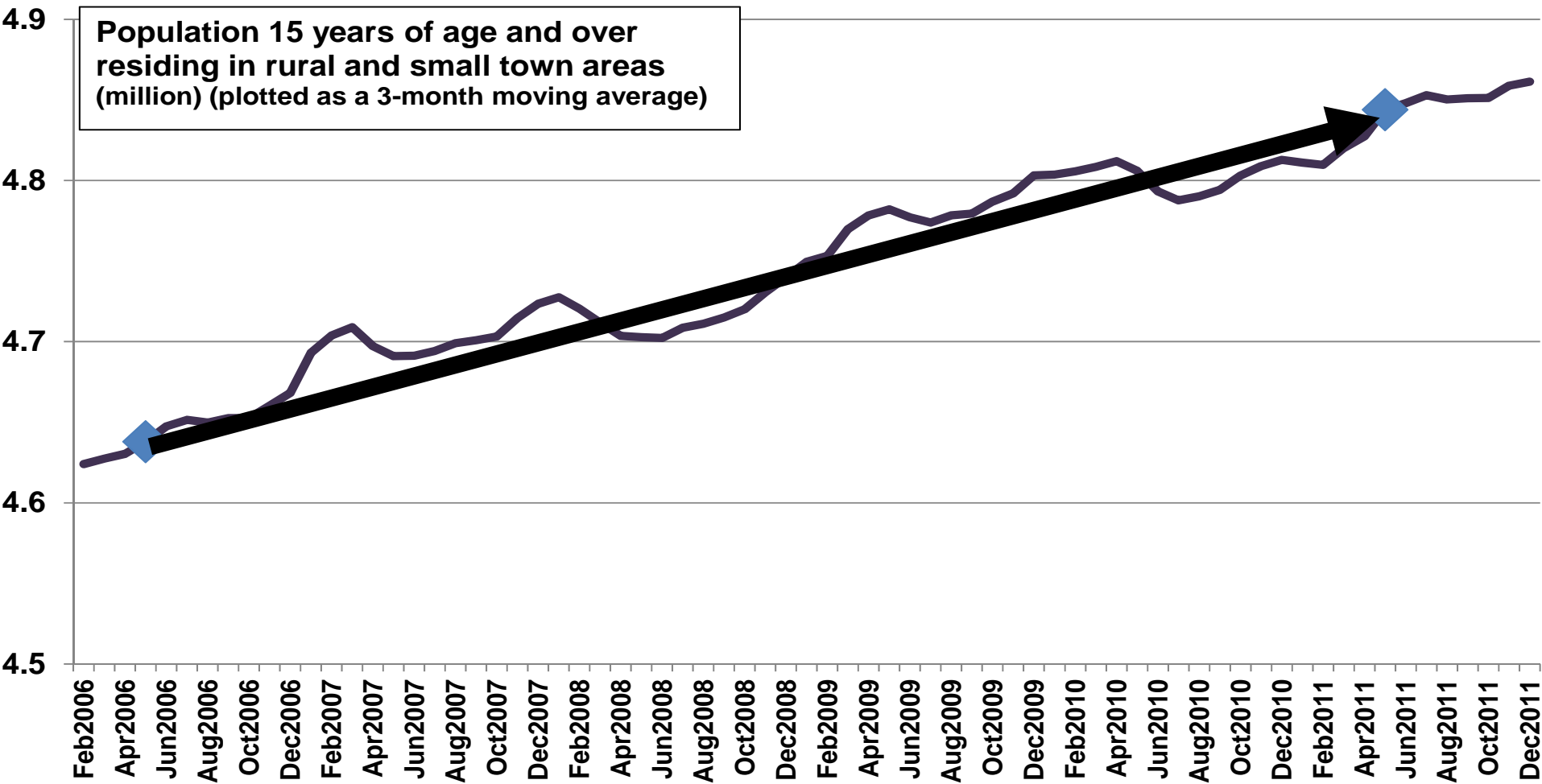
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The population, 15 years of age and over, residing in rural and small town areas increased **4.4%** from 4.63 million in May, 2006 to 4.84 million in May, 2011, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey. CANSIM Table 282-0118.

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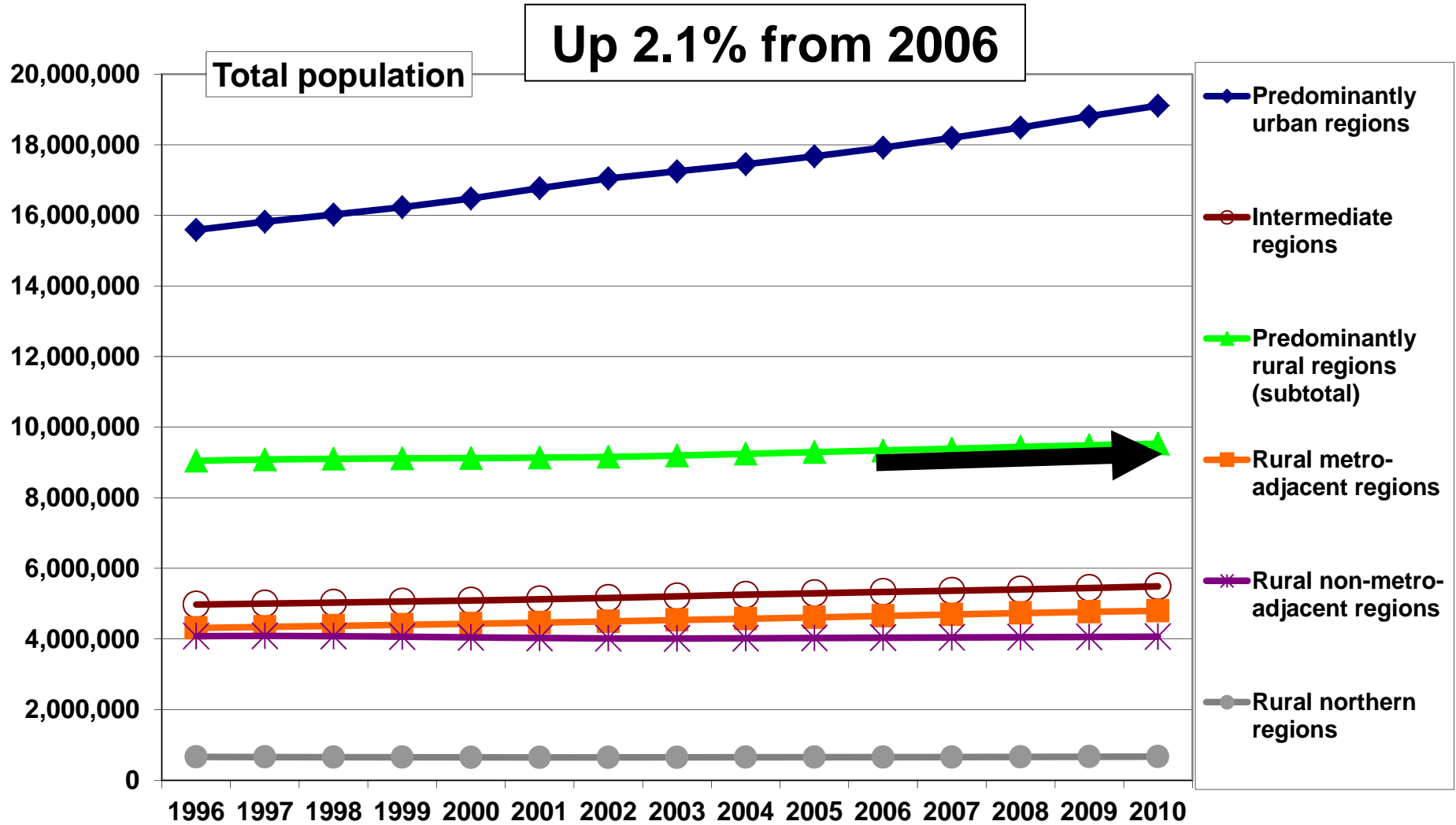
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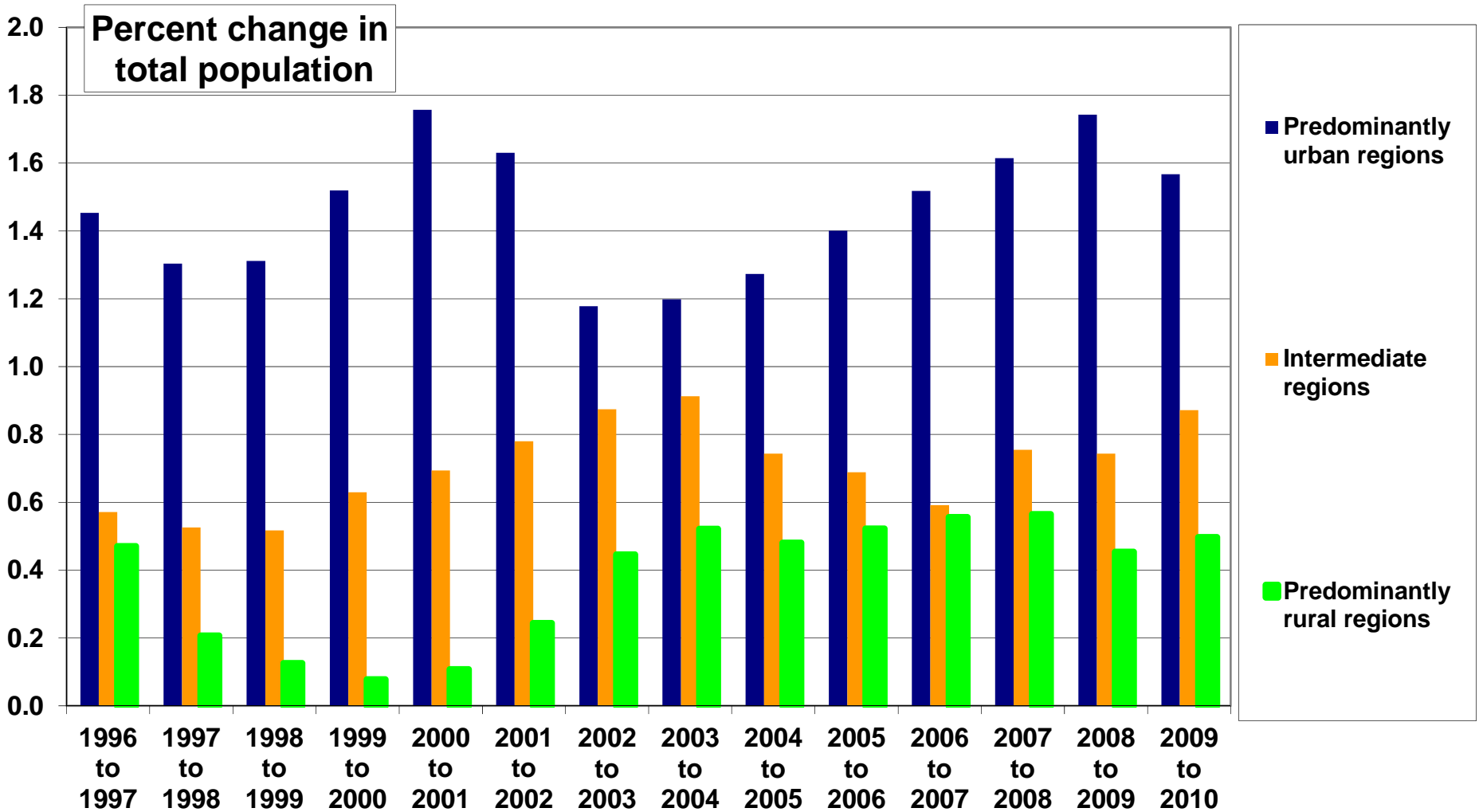
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In 2010, the total population in predominantly rural regions was 9.5 million



Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics. CANSIM Table 051-0052.

Canada's predominantly rural population grew in each year from 1996 to 2010



Source: Statistics Canada. Annual Demographic Statistics. CANSIM Table 051-0052.

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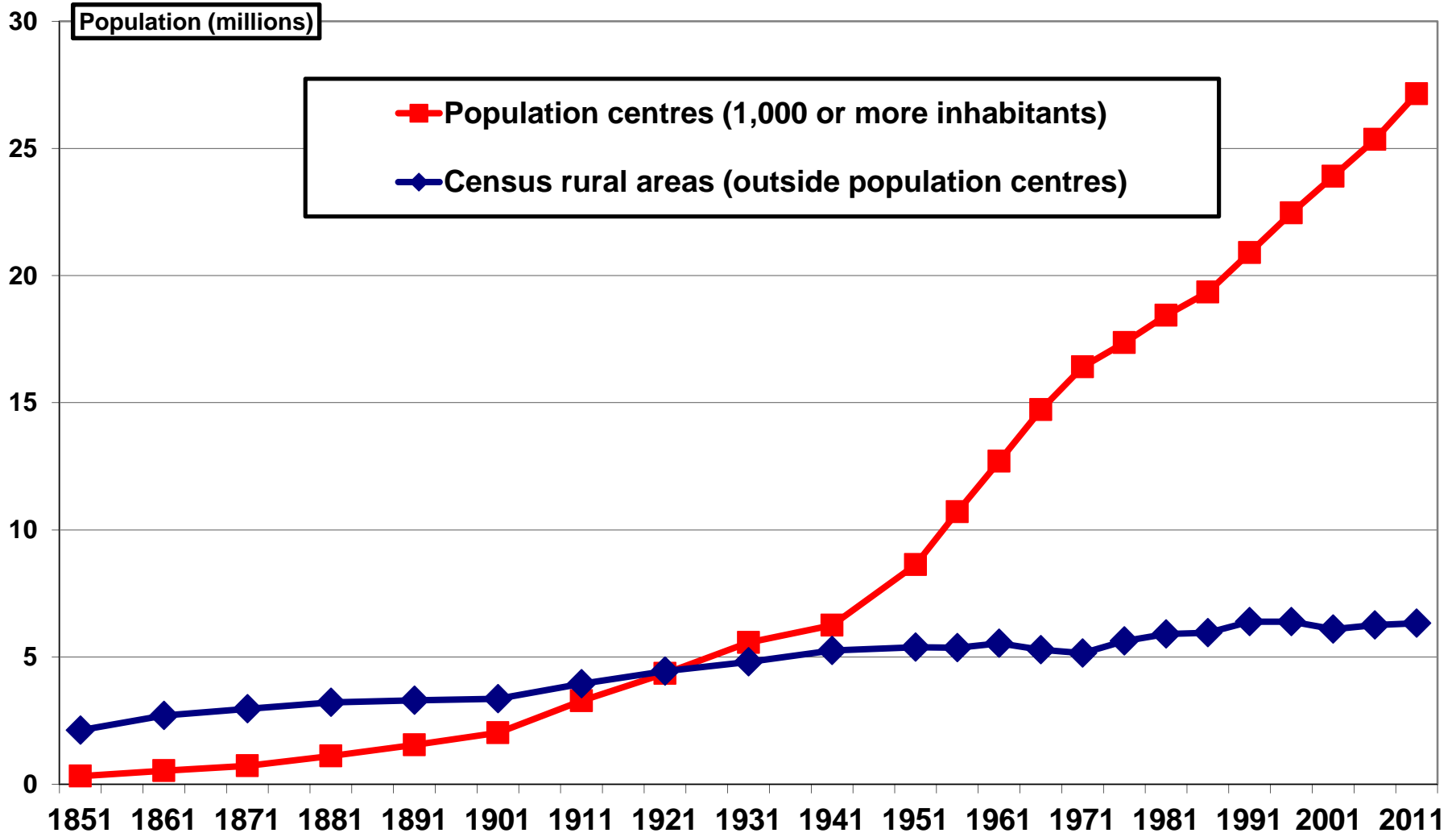
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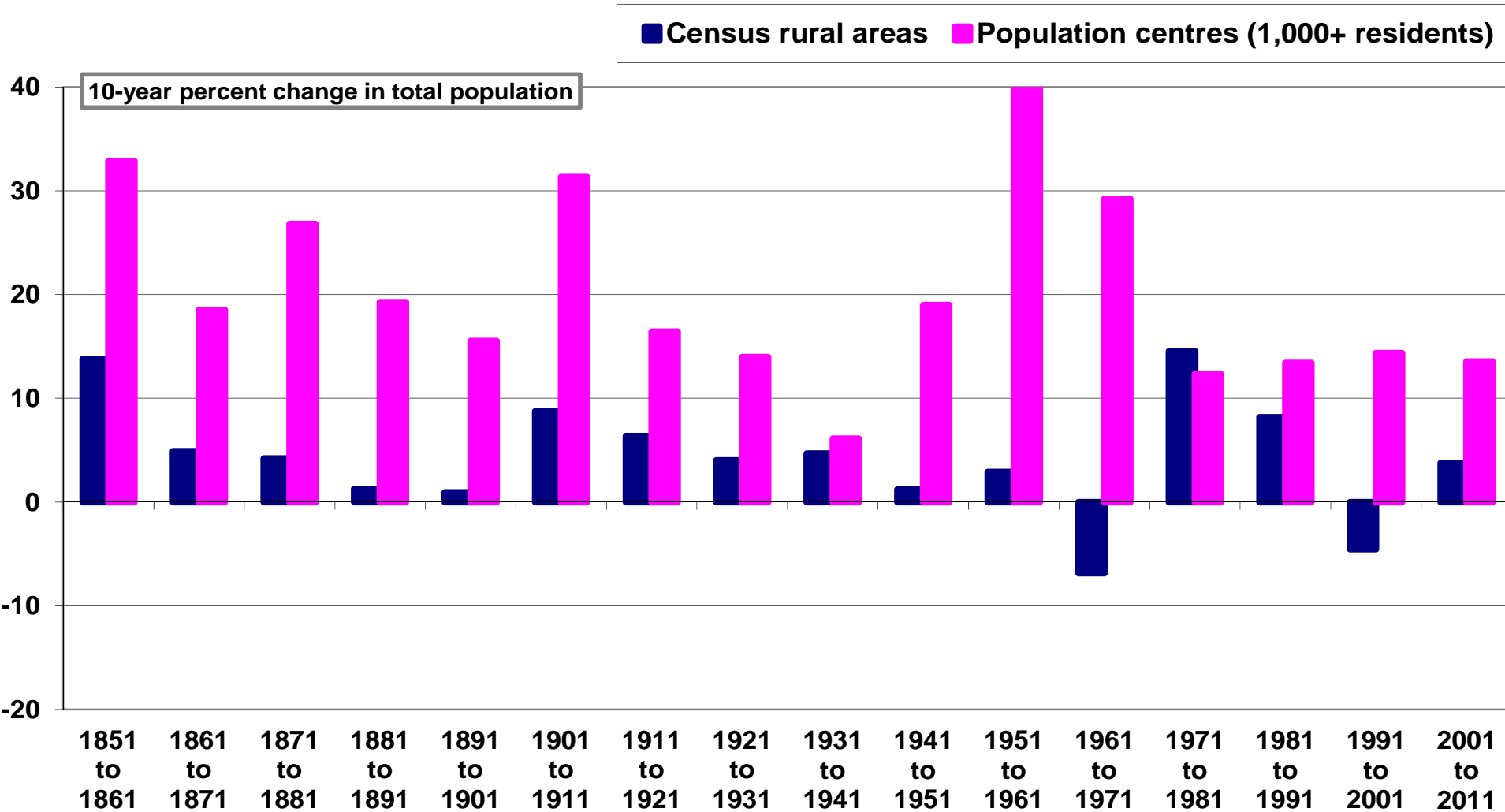
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Rural minority in Canada after 1921



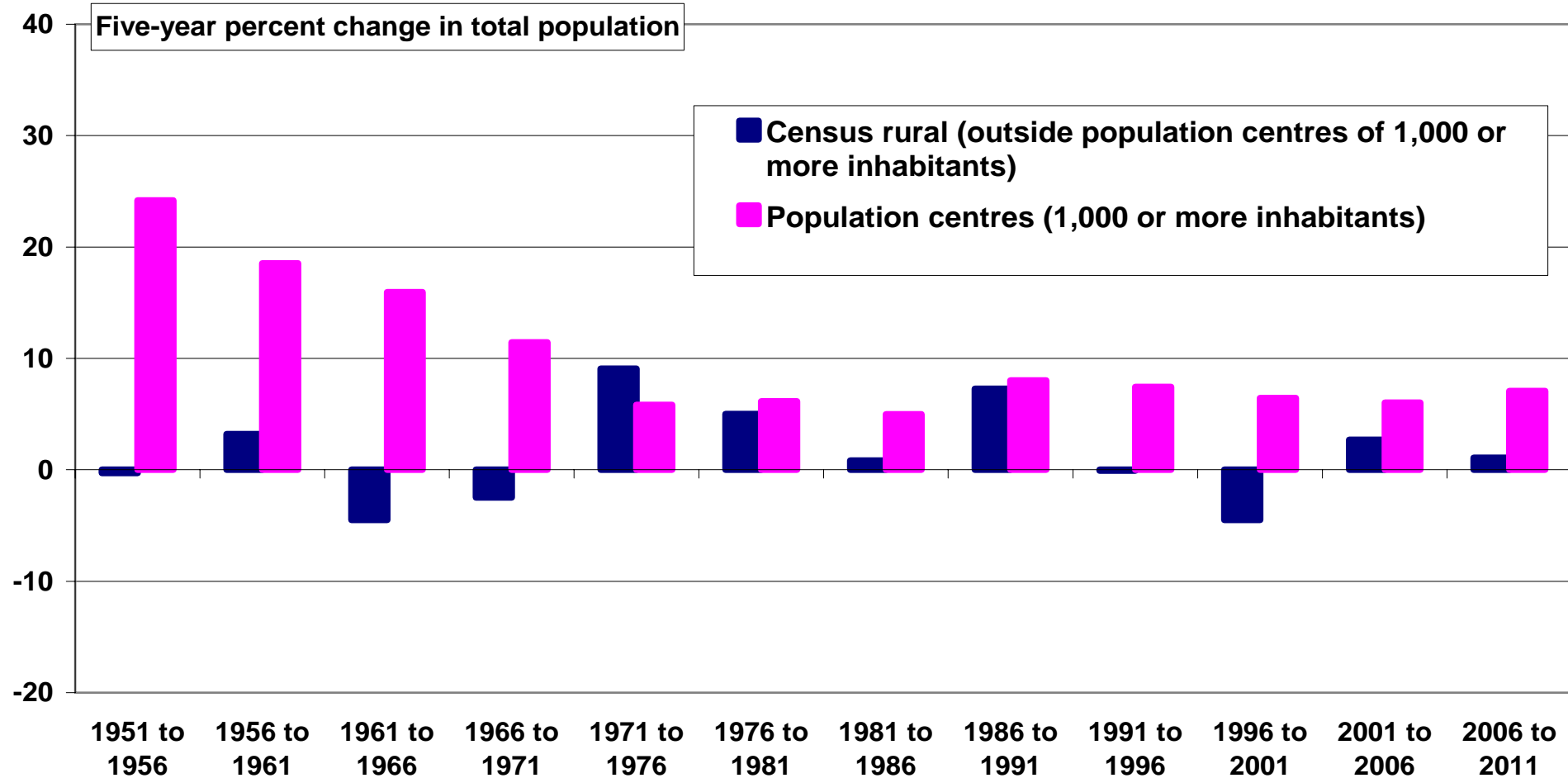
Note: Census rural areas have fewer than 1,000 inhabitants and a population density below 400 people per square kilometre.
Population centres have a population of 1,000 or more and a population density of 400 or more inhabitants per square kilometre.
Data are tabulated in the boundaries applicable at the time of the given census.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 to 2011.

The census rural population has grown in all but two decades since 1851, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2011.

The census rural population grew in the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s and 2001 to 2011



Note: Data are tabulated in the boundaries applicable at the time of the given census. Thus, the reported change is due to population growth or decline plus the net impact of the re-classification of population between population centres and census rural areas.

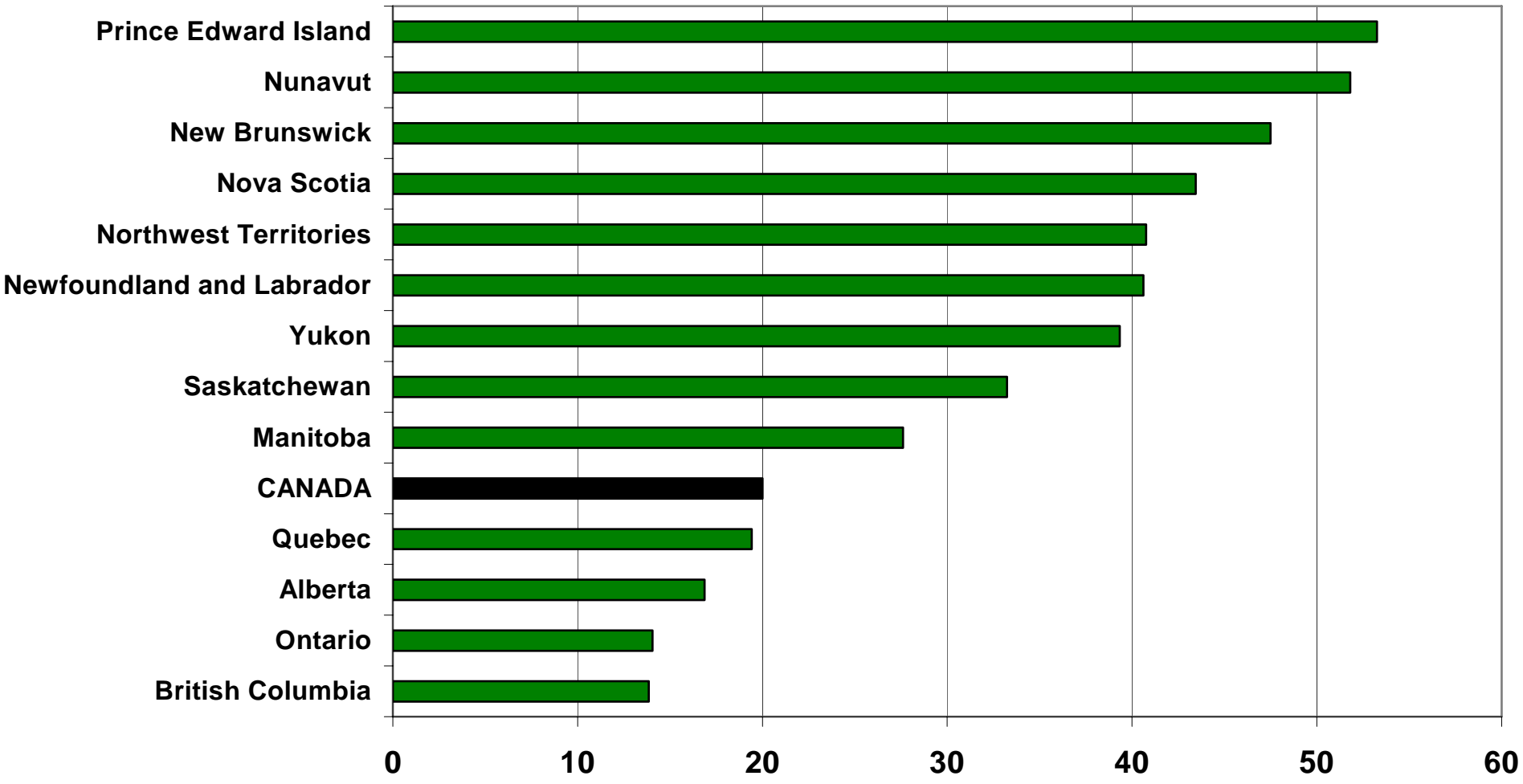
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 to 2011.

Canada's rural population is growing

	1951 to 1956	1956 to 1961	1961 to 1966	1966 to 1971	1971 to 1976	1976 to 1981	1981 to 1986	1986 to 1991	1991 to 1996	1996 to 2001	2001 to 2006	2006 to 2011
	5-year percent change in population in census rural areas											
Newfoundland and Labrador	11	-2	0	-2	3	2	-0	13	-10	-9	-2	-2
Prince Edward Island	-7	3	-3	0	8	5	0	-1	-4	-1	0	-0
Nova Scotia	-1	14	-6	8	7	4	6	4	-2	-3	1	-2
New Brunswick	-0	7	-5	-10	18	6	5	5	-0	-4	-1	-0
Quebec	2	-3	-7	-7	12	11	-0	7	-0	-8	5	3
Ontario	-3	8	-3	-1	14	1	3	12	-2	-3	4	-0
Manitoba	1	-2	-5	-5	2	-4	0	3	3	0	4	2
Saskatchewan	-4	-6	-8	-11	-6	-1	-4	-6	-1	-4	-3	1
Alberta	-1	0	-7	-5	6	11	-4	5	8	3	4	4
British Columbia	0	20	4	14	7	6	-1	7	4	-10	1	1
Yukon	48	-0	-21	-5	19	-2	-0	38	7	-4	4	9
Northwest Territories & Nunavut	11	-5	22	5	19	11	18	30	1	-9	1	-1
Canada	-0	3	-5	-2	9	5	1	7	-0	-4	3	1

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 to 2011.

Nunavut and Prince Edward Island have more than 50% of their population living in census rural areas



Percent of total population living in census rural areas, 2011
(outside population centres of 1,000 or more inhabitants)

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 2011.

Distribution of census rural population by province, 2006					
	Year when census rural population became a minority	Total population in 2011	Population in census rural areas in 2011	Percent of population residing in census rural areas in 2011	Provincial census rural population as a percent of Canada's census rural population in 2011
Newfoundland and Labrador	1961	514,536	208,970	41	3.3
Prince Edward Island	still a majority	140,204	74,661	53	1.2
Nova Scotia	1951	921,727	400,389	43	6.3
New Brunswick	1966 to 1981 & 2006	751,171	356,692	47	5.6
Quebec	1911	7,903,001	1,534,731	19	24.2
Ontario	1911	12,851,821	1,806,036	14	28.5
Manitoba	1951	1,208,268	333,554	28	5.3
Saskatchewan	1971	1,033,381	343,398	33	5.4
Alberta	1956	3,645,257	614,855	17	9.7
British Columbia	1931	4,400,057	609,363	14	9.6
Yukon	1971	33,897	13,335	39	0.2
Northwest Territories	2006	41,462	16,901	41	0.3
Nunavut	still a majority	31,906	16,529	52	0.3
Canada	1931	33,476,688	6,329,414	19	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2011.

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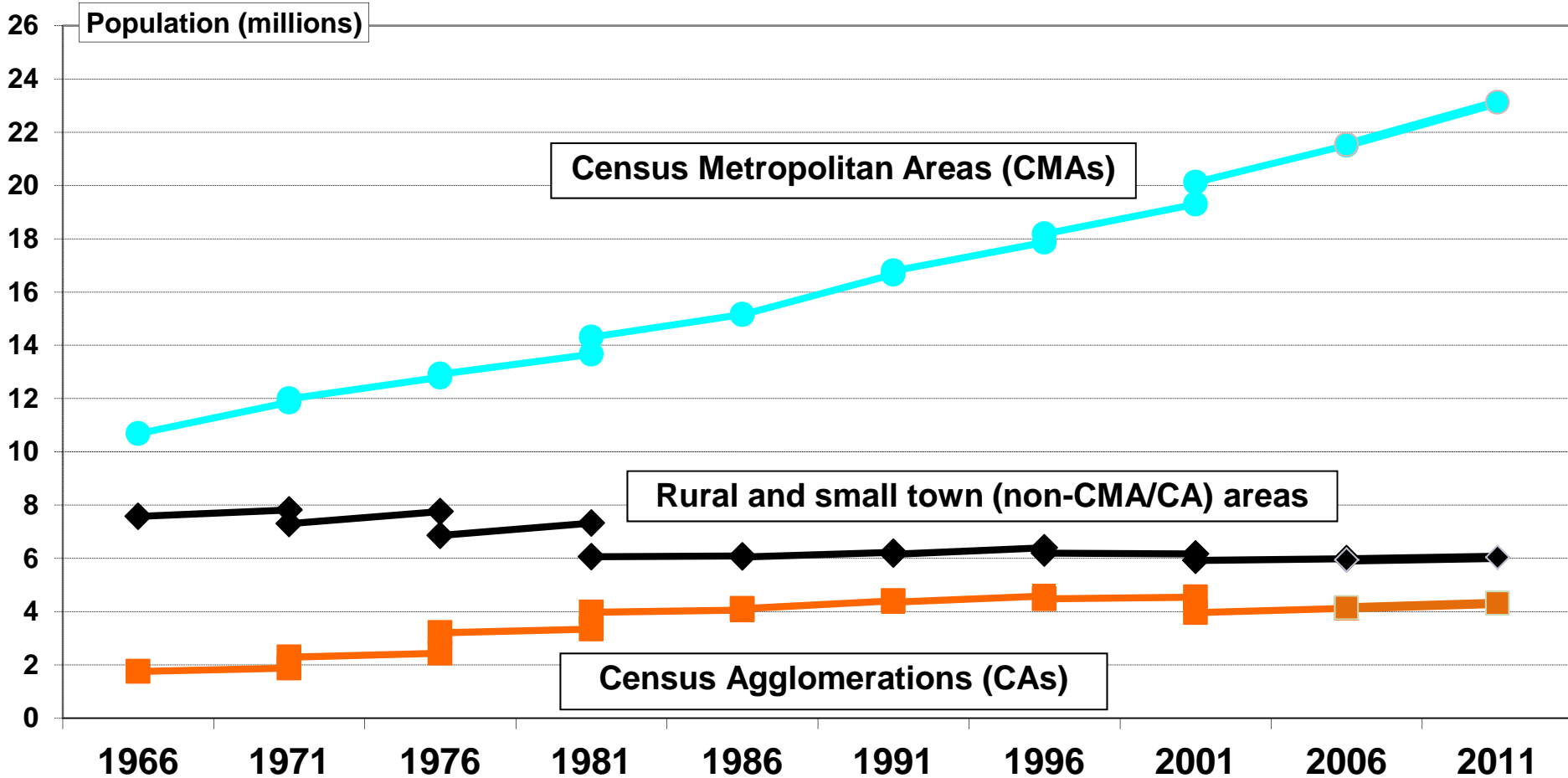
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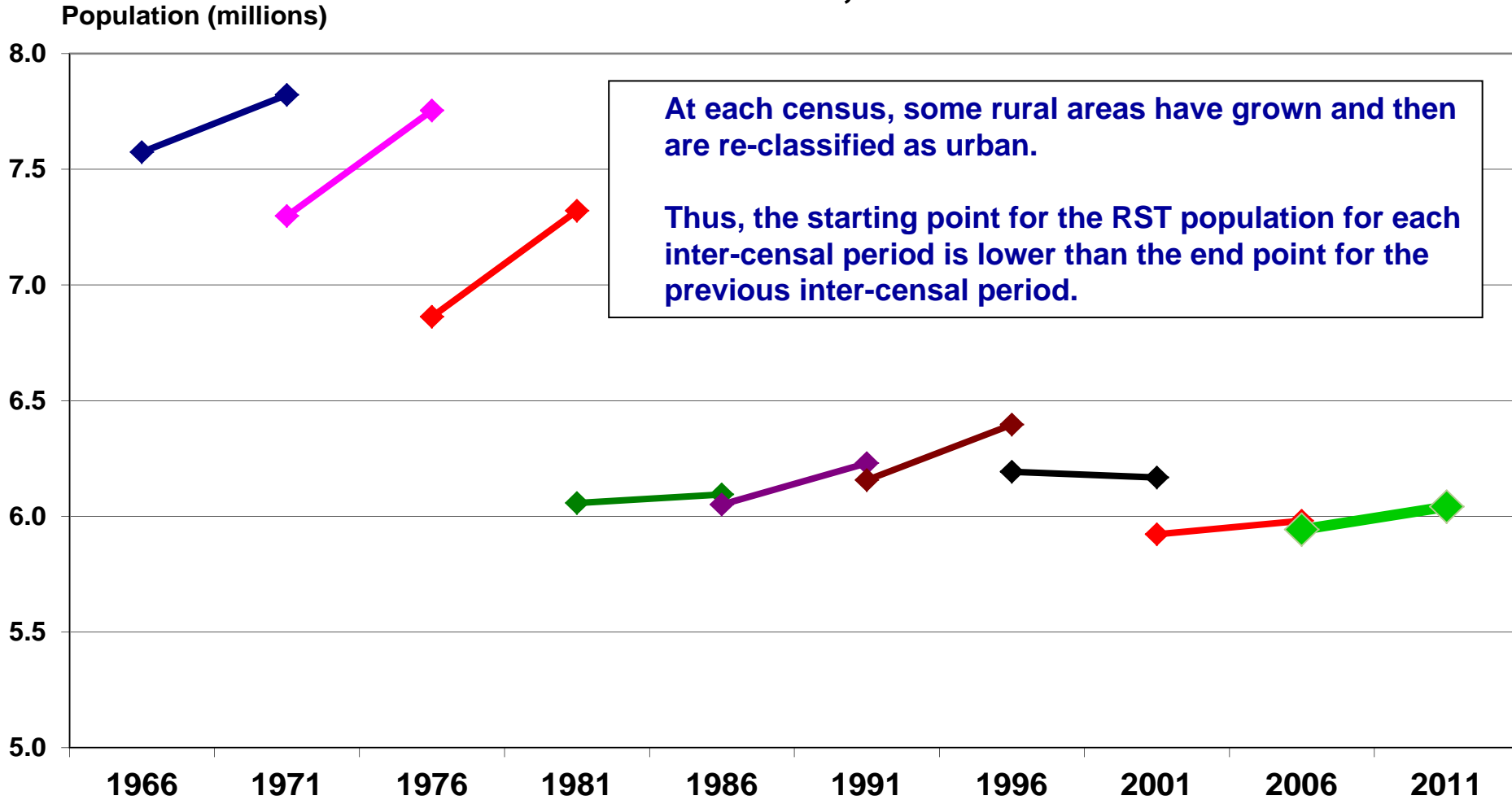
In 2011, 6 million individuals were living in rural and small town areas



Note: In 2006 and 2011, Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have 50,000 or more inhabitants in the built-up core with a total population of 100,000 or more and Census Agglomerations (CAs) have 10,000 or more in the built-up core. Both CMAs and CAs include surrounding towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. Rural and small town (RST) refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (CAs). The two data points for each year show the adjusted population count (due to reclassification) in order to make comparisons over time within constant boundaries.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 2011.

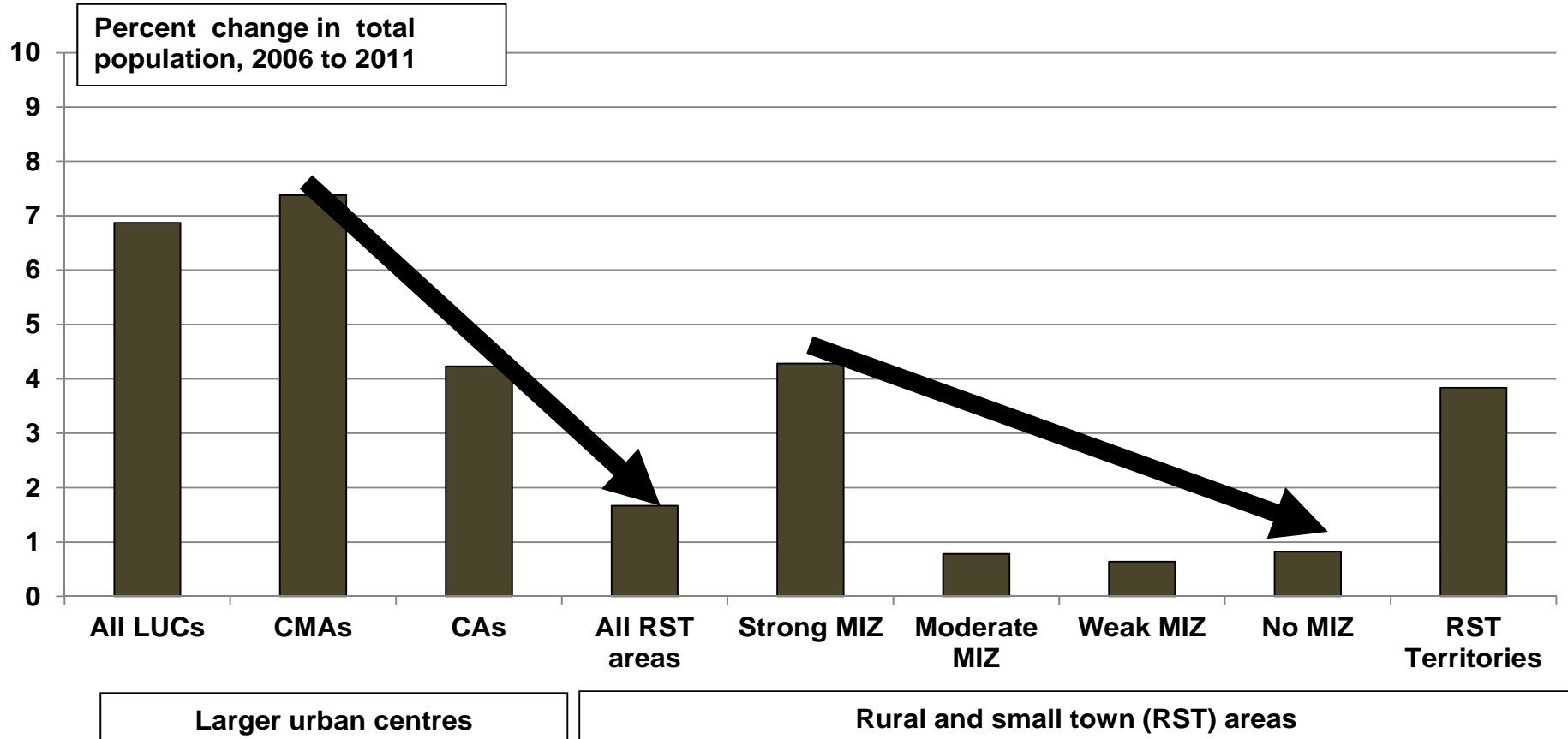
Rural and Small Town Population, Canada, 1966 to 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 2011.

Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (CAs).

**CMA's grew more than CAs --
rural areas with stronger metropolitan influence grew more
(except for the influence of Aboriginal population growth in the RST territories)**



Note: Data are tabulated within boundaries applicable at the time of the given census.

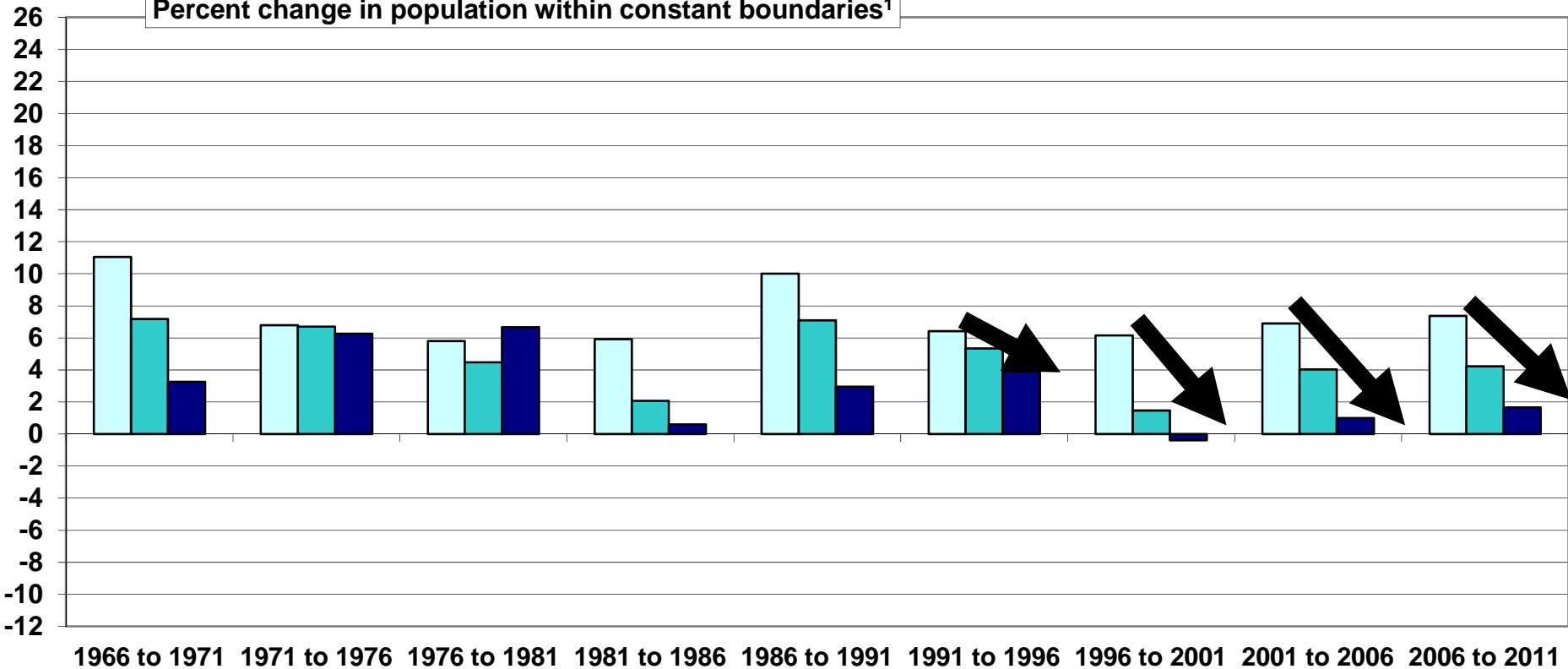
In 2006 and 2011. Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have a population of 100,000 or more (with 50,000 or more in the built-up core) and includes all neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. Census Agglomerations (CAs) have 10,000 or more in the built-up core and includes all neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. Metropolitan Influenced Zones (MIZ) are assigned on the basis of the share of the workforce that commutes to any CMA or CA (Strong metropolitan influenced zone: 30% or more; Moderate metropolitan influenced zone: 5 to 29%; Weak metropolitan influenced zone: 1 to 5%; No metropolitan influenced zone: no commuters).

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991 to 2011.

Larger cities grew more than smaller cities and (except from 1976 to 1981) smaller cities grew more than rural and small town areas, Canada

□ Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) ■ Census Agglomerations (CAs) ■ Rural and Small Town (RST) areas

Percent change in population within constant boundaries¹

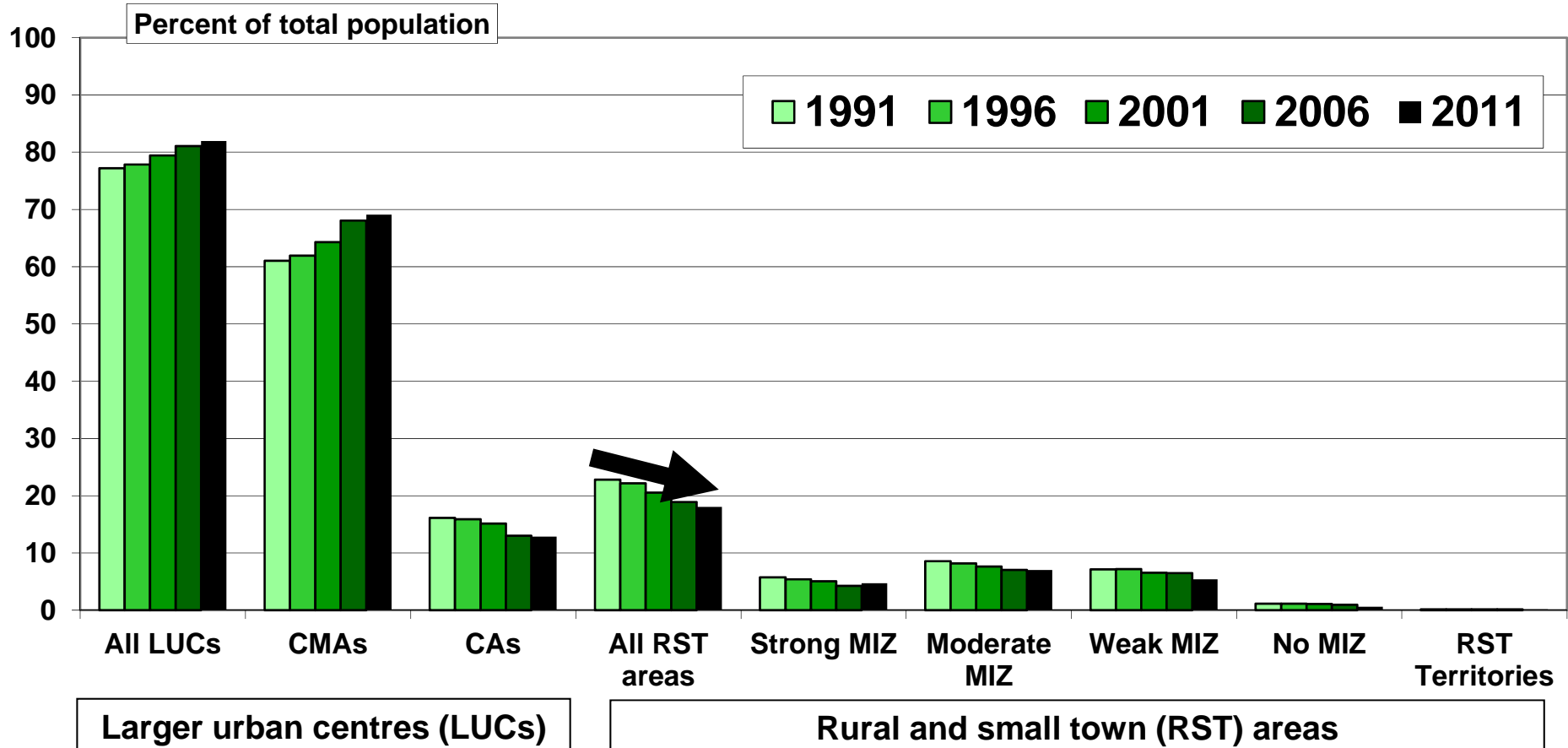


¹ Each 5-year change is tabulated within the boundaries applicable to the census at the end of the 5-year period.

Note: In 2006 and 2011, CMAs have a total population of 100,000 or more (with a built-up core of 50,000 or more) and they include neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. CAs have an urban core of 10,000 or more persons plus neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. RST areas are outside the commuting zones of CMAs and CAs.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 2011.

In 2011, 18 percent of Canada's population lived in rural and small town areas

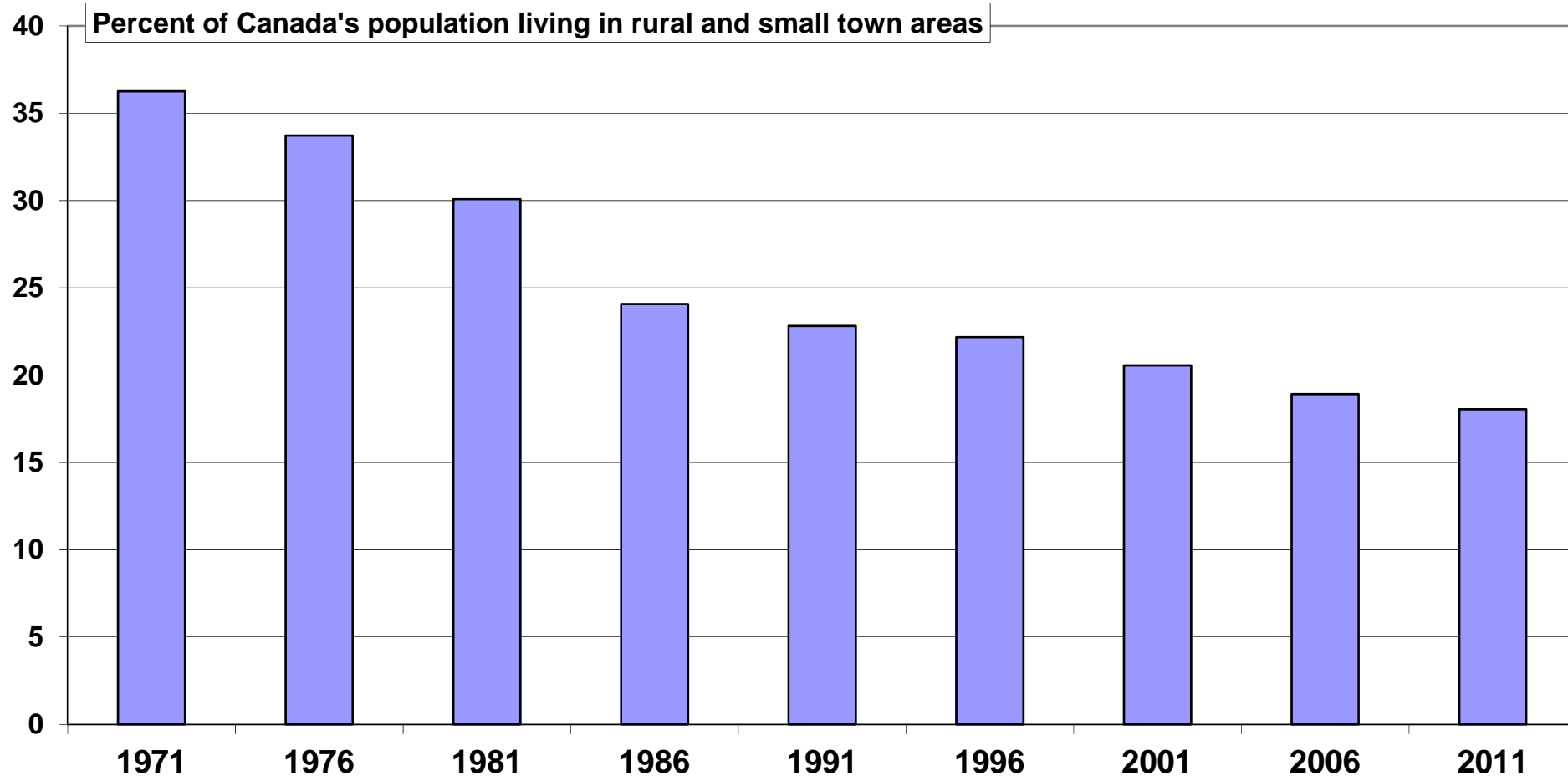


Note: Data are tabulated within boundaries applicable at the time of the given census.

In 2006 and 2011. Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have a population of 100,000 or more (with 50,000 or more in the built-up core) and includes all neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. Census Agglomerations (CAs) have 10,000 or more in the built-up core and includes all neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the workforce commutes to the built-up core. Metropolitan Influenced Zones (MIZ) are assigned on the basis of the share of the workforce that commutes to any CMA or CA (Strong metropolitan influenced zone: 30% or more; Moderate metropolitan influenced zone: 5 to 29%; Weak metropolitan influenced zone: 1 to 5%; No metropolitan influenced zone: no commuters).

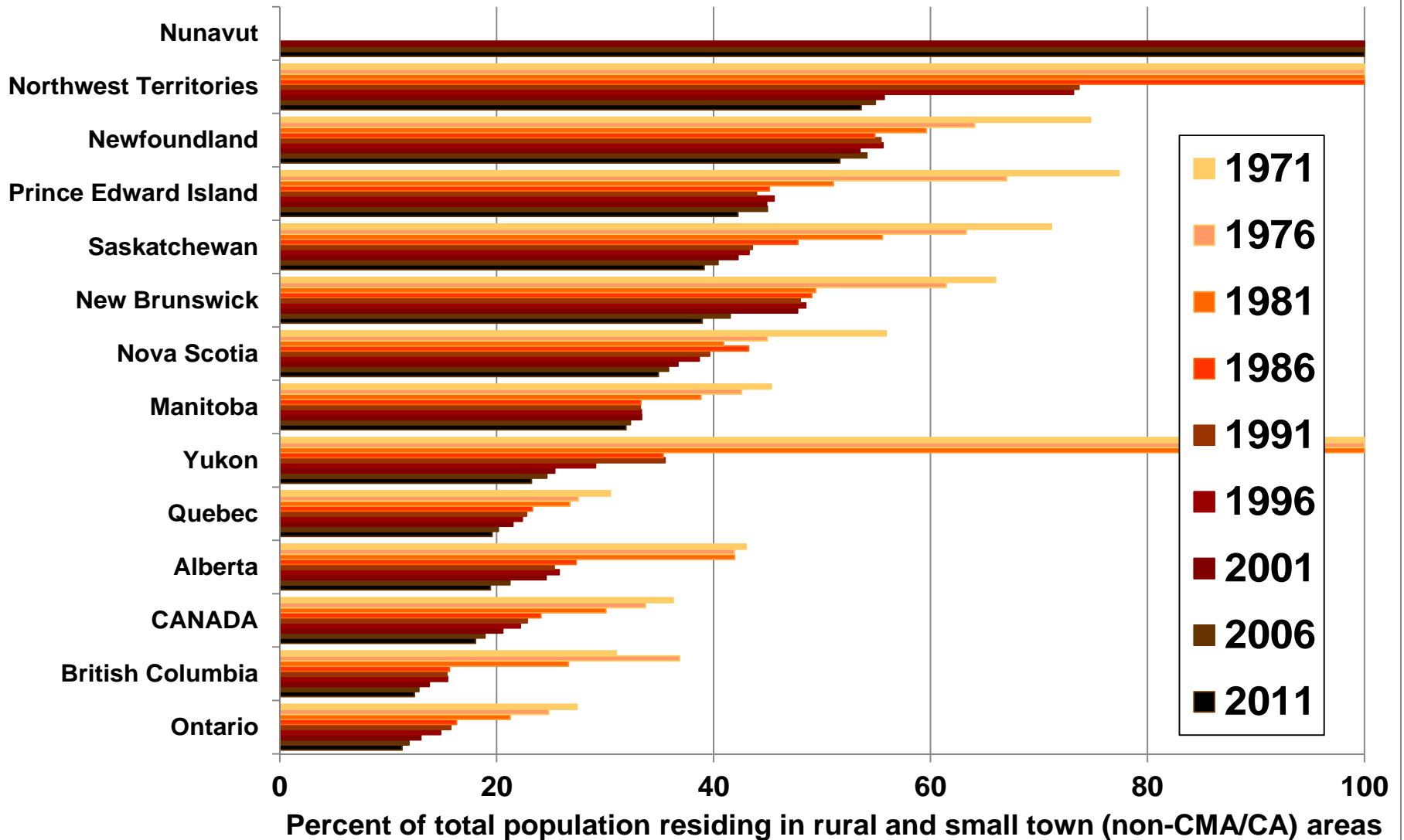
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991 to 2011.

Share of population in rural and small town areas declined to 18% in 2011



Note: Rural and small town refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Census Agglomerations (CAs).
Data are tabulated within the boundaries applicable at the time of the given census.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 2011.

The share of Canada's population residing in RST areas declined from 36% in 1971 to 19% in 2011



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1971 to 2011.

Outline

1. Three ways of following rural demography

- a. Nature of community / neighbourhood (census rural areas)
- b. Type of labour market (rural and small town (non-CMA/CA) areas)
- c. Type of region (predominantly rural regions, OECD regional typology)

2. What has the annual data been telling us?

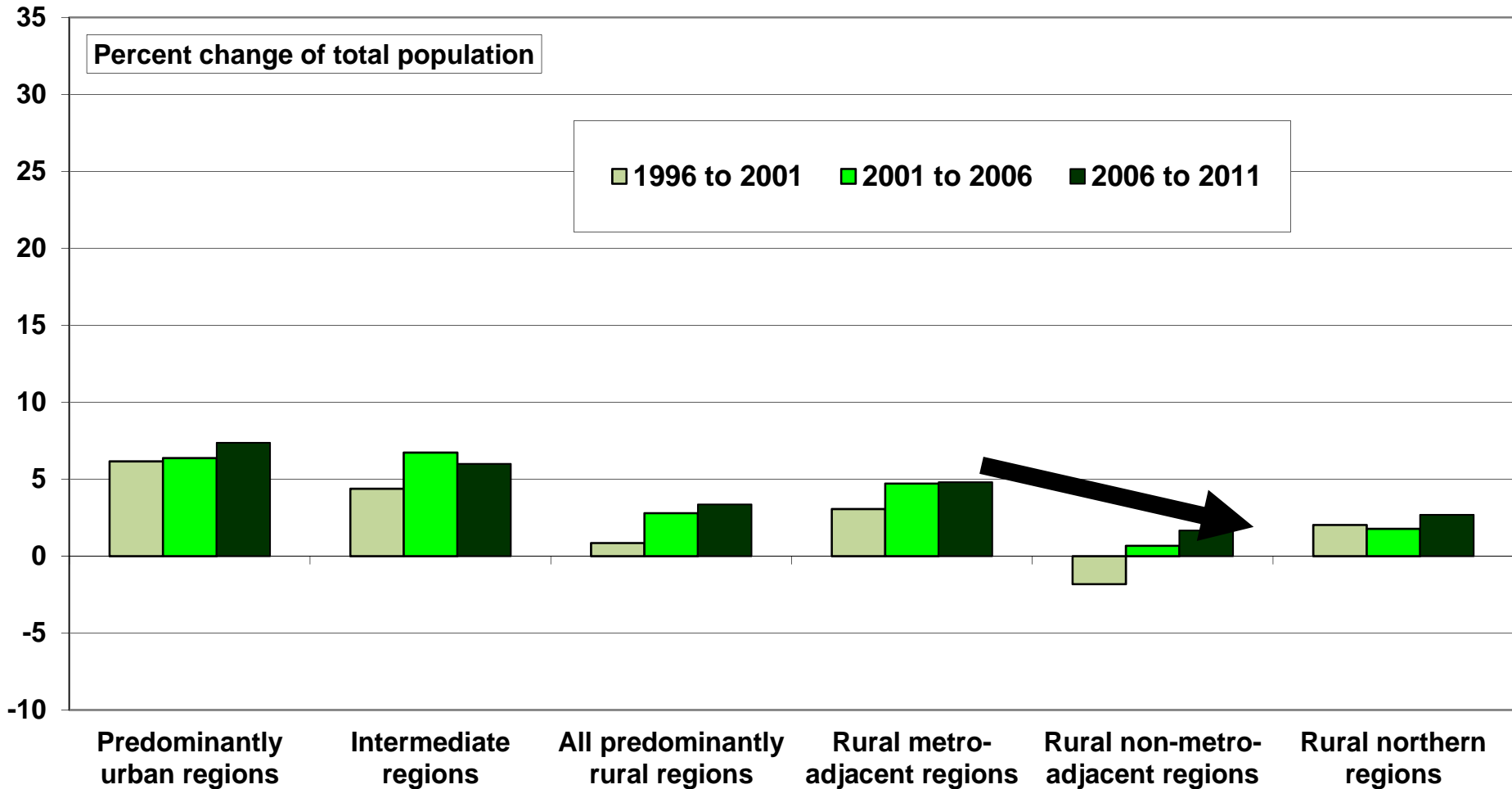
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3. Structure and trends: update with the 2011 Census of Population

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- b. Type of labour market (rural and small town (non-CMA/CA) areas)
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4. Summary

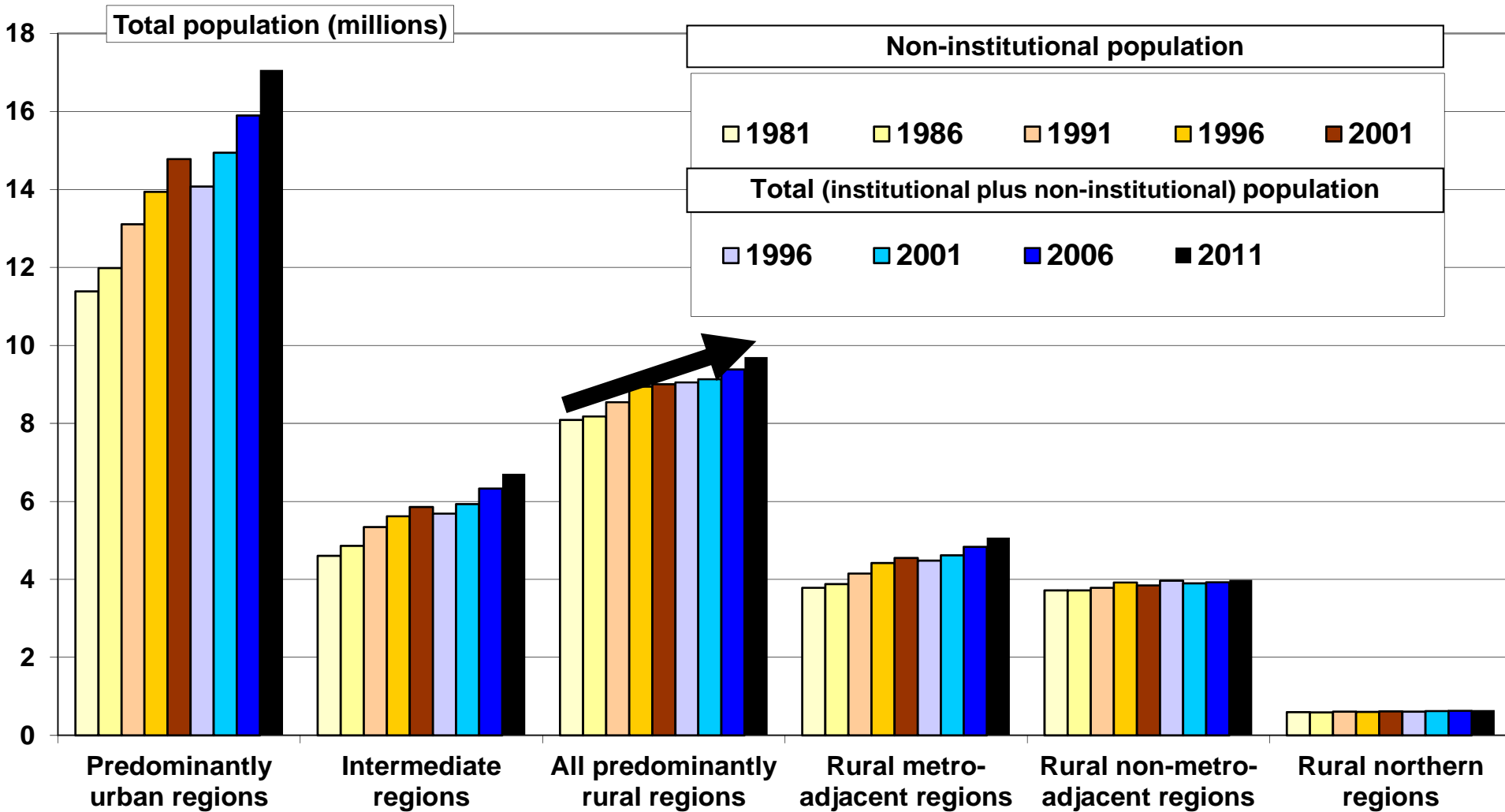
Within predominantly rural regions, metro-adjacent regions have grown faster, Canada, 1996 to 2011



Predominantly rural regions

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 to 2011.

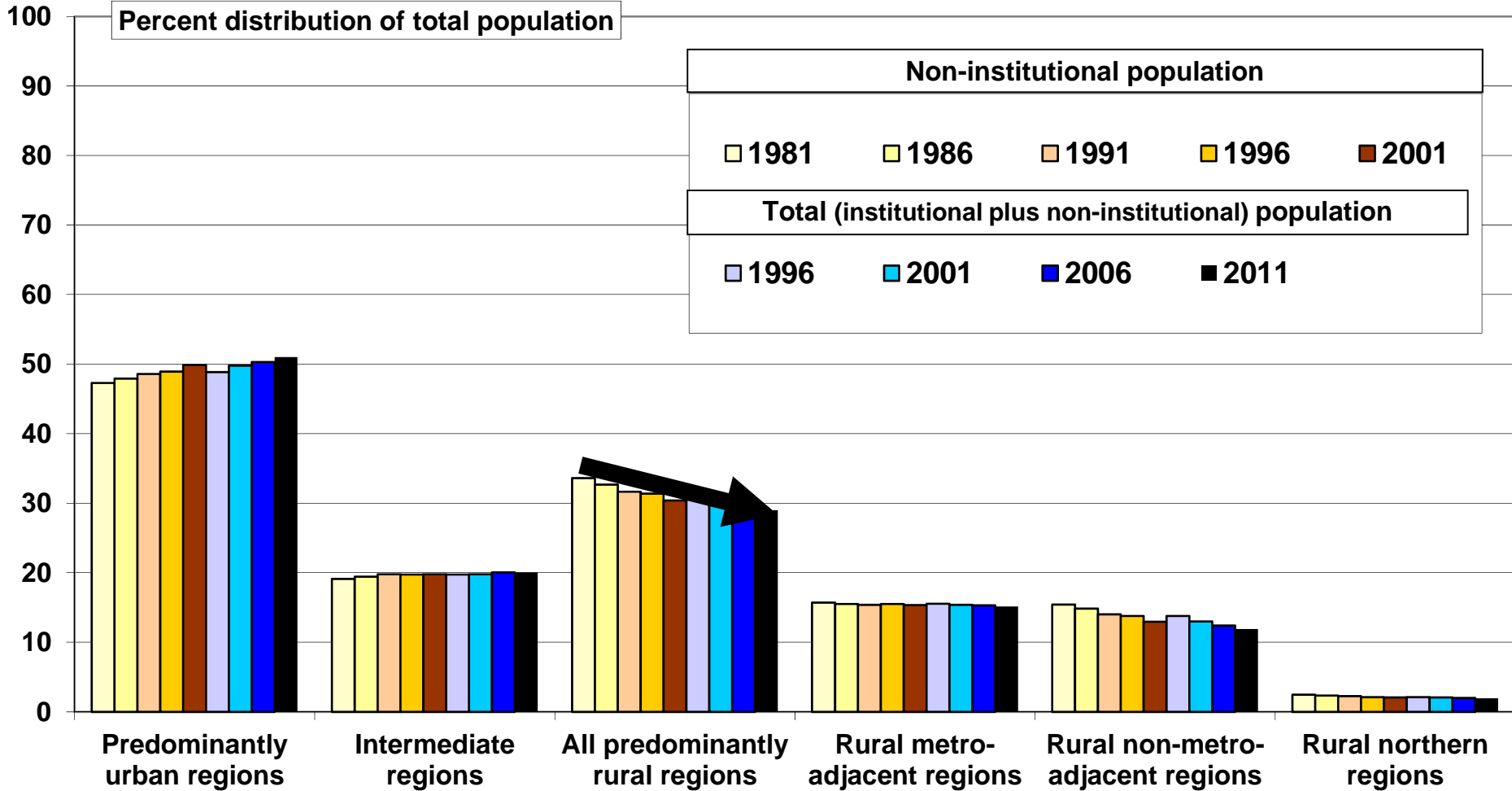
Growing population in predominantly rural regions, Canada



Note: Data are tabulated within constant 1996 boundaries.
 Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 to 2011.

Predominantly rural regions

In 2011, the share of population in predominantly rural regions was 29%, Canada



Note: Data are tabulated within constant 1996 boundaries.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 to 2011.

Predominantly rural regions

	Percent of population residing in predominantly rural regions			
	1996	2001	2006	2011
Newfoundland and Labrador	54	53	51	49
Prince Edward Island	100	100	100	100
Nova Scotia	62	60	59	58
New Brunswick	78	78	77	77
Quebec	24	24	23	23
Ontario	20	19	19	18
Manitoba	44	44	45	45
Saskatchewan	54	53	52	51
Alberta	34	33	32	31
British Columbia	42	41	40	39
Yukon	100	100	100	100
Northwest Territories	100	100	100	100
Nunavut	100	100	100	100
CANADA	31	30	30	29

Source: Statistic Canada. Census of Population. 1996 to 2011.

Outline

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Take home messages:

1. Rural Canada is growing

- ☐ not everywhere, but Rural Canada is growing**
- ❖ The rural share of total population is declining because**
 - ✓ Urban is growing faster;**
and due to
 - ✓ Successful rural development**
 - At each census, some rural areas have grown and are re-classified as urban.**
 - Sometimes the re-classification is greater than the growth and thus we sometimes see fewer rural people at the end of the period, compared to the number at the beginning of the period.**

2. Rural Canada is:

- growing near cities**
- growing less or declining away from cities**
- some remote areas are growing due to higher Aboriginal birth rates and / or resource development.**

*Canada's rural population is growing:
A rural demography update to 2011*

Questions / Discussion

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