

Rural Proportion of Population Declines

A **population centre** has a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 persons or more per square kilometre based on the current census population count.

The term '**population centre**' replaces the term '**urban area**'. Population centres are classified into three groups:

- Small (between 1,000 and 29,999 population);
- Medium (between 30,000 and 99,999 population);
- Large (more than 100,000 population).

Rural areas include all territory lying outside population centres. Taken together, population centres and rural areas cover all of Canada.

- According to the 2011 Census, roughly 357,000 New Brunswickers were living in rural areas. This number has been steadily decreasing since 1991. Consequently, the proportion of New Brunswickers who live in rural areas has been dropping and in 2011 fell to 47.5%.
- The population living outside of rural areas in New Brunswick has been gradually rising. Twenty years ago, this group represented 47.7% of the total population; in 2011 it represented 52.5%.
- The size of the rural population varied greatly from one province or territory to another in 2011, ranging from 14% to 53%. Prince Edward Island (53%) and Nunavut (52%) were the only jurisdictions where the share of the rural population exceeded 50%.
- All jurisdictions saw the rural proportion of their population decline between 2006 and 2011. For all of Canada, this proportion fell below 1 in 5 Canadians in 2011, to 18.9%.

