

Analytical document

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth



**Population and dwelling counts,
2011 Census**



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The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Population and dwelling counts, 2011 Census

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Highlights

- On May 10, 2011, 33,476,688 people were enumerated in the census. This is almost twice as many as in 1961 and approximately 10 times as many as in the 1861 Census.
- Between 2006 and 2011, Canada's population grew by 5.9%, up slightly from the previous intercensal period (2001 to 2006), when it grew by 5.4%.
- Canada's population growth between 2006 and 2011 was the highest among G8 countries, as was the case in the previous intercensal period (2001 to 2006).
- Every province and most territories saw its population increase between 2006 and 2011.
- The rate of population growth increased in all provinces and territories between 2006 and 2011, except in Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- Saskatchewan had a strong increase in the growth of its population, going from -1.1% between 2001 and 2006 to 6.7% between 2006 and 2011.
- The rate of population growth has doubled in Yukon and Manitoba since 2006.
- The rate of population growth of Prince Edward Island (+3.2%), New Brunswick (+2.9%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.8%) has increased substantially between 2006 and 2011.
- The rate of Ontario's population growth declined slightly in the past five years to 5.7%, its lowest level since the period between the 1981 and 1986 censuses.
- In Quebec, population growth increased slightly, from 4.3% between 2001 and 2006 to 4.7% between 2006 and 2011.
- In 2011, the population share of the Prairie provinces and British Columbia was 30.7%, for the first time surpassing that of the Atlantic provinces and Quebec combined (30.6%).
- In metropolitan and non-metropolitan Canada, only census metropolitan areas as a group have registered a population growth above the national average since 2006, 7.4% compared with 5.9%.
- In 2011, more than 23.1 million people, or nearly 7 Canadians in 10 (69.1%), were living in one of Canada's 33 census metropolitan areas, an increase compared with 2006 (68.1%).
- Of all census metropolitan areas located in the Prairie provinces and British Columbia, only Winnipeg (+5.1%) and Victoria (+4.4%) had population growth below the national average.
- The rate of population growth in almost all census metropolitan areas located in Ontario slowed between 2006 and 2011.
- Between 2006 and 2011, 10 of 15 census agglomerations with the highest population growth were located in Alberta.

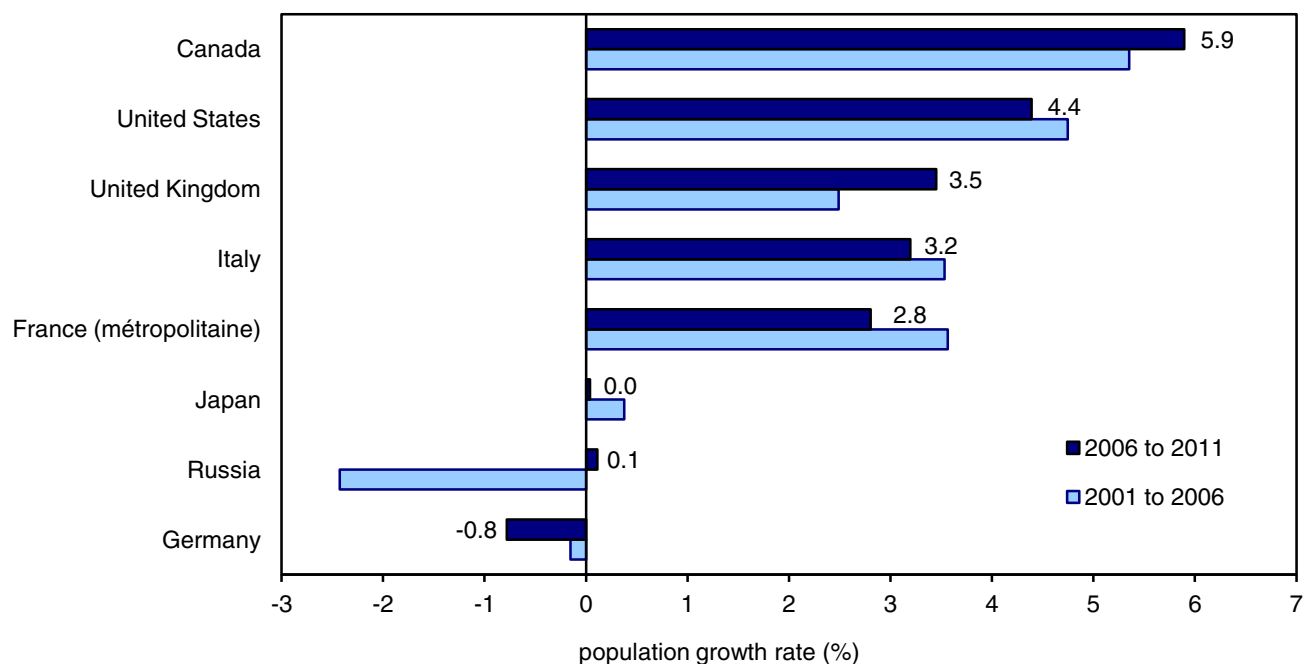
Part 1: National portrait

Highest population growth among the G8 countries

Canada's population grew by 5.9% between 2006 and 2011, up slightly from 5.4% for the previous intercensal period of 2001 to 2006 (Figure 1).

The rate of Canada's population growth between 2006 and 2011 was the highest among the G8 countries,¹ as was the case between 2001 and 2006 (Figure 1). Only two other G8 countries registered an increase in their population growth in recent years: the United Kingdom and Russia.

Figure 1
Population growth rate (in percentage) of the G8 countries, 2001 to 2006 and 2006 to 2011



Sources: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population, and calculation from data of the U.S. Census Bureau – Population Estimates Program, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (Italy), National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (France), United Kingdom Office for National Statistics, Statistics Bureau of Japan, Federal Statistical Office of Germany and Russian Federation Federal State Statistics Service.

Canada's slightly higher population growth since 2006 is a result of small increases in fertility, the number of non-permanent residents² and, to a lesser extent, the number of immigrants.

1. The G8, or the 'Group of 8,' is an informal discussion group and economic partnership consisting of eight of the world's most powerful economies: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Canada and Russia.

2. Since 1991, the Census of Canada has enumerated non-permanent residents, who are therefore included in the population counts. Non-permanent residents are people from another country who, at the time of the census, had a work or study permit or were a refugee claimant, as well as family members living with them in Canada.

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Since the beginning of the 2000s, Canada's population growth has been driven mainly by migratory increase, since natural increase, or the difference between births and deaths, now only accounts for about one-third of this growth. Canada's substantial migratory increase largely explains why it ranks first for population growth among the G8 countries. The population growth of the United States and of France, for example, is mainly a result of natural increase, with migratory increase being proportionally lower in those countries.

The document *Population growth in Canada: From 1851 to 2061* in the Census in Brief series, Catalogue no. 98-310-X2011003, sheds light on the growth of Canada's population from 1851 to 2011 and looks ahead to what could happen between now and 2061.

33.5 million Canadians enumerated

On May 10, 2011, 33,476,688 people were enumerated in the census (see Box 1 and Figure 2). This is almost twice as many people as in 1961, when Canada was experiencing a major baby boom. It is also about 10 times as many people as in the 1861 Census, a few years before the signing of the *British North America Act* that created the Canadian Confederation, when 3.2 million people were enumerated in the census.

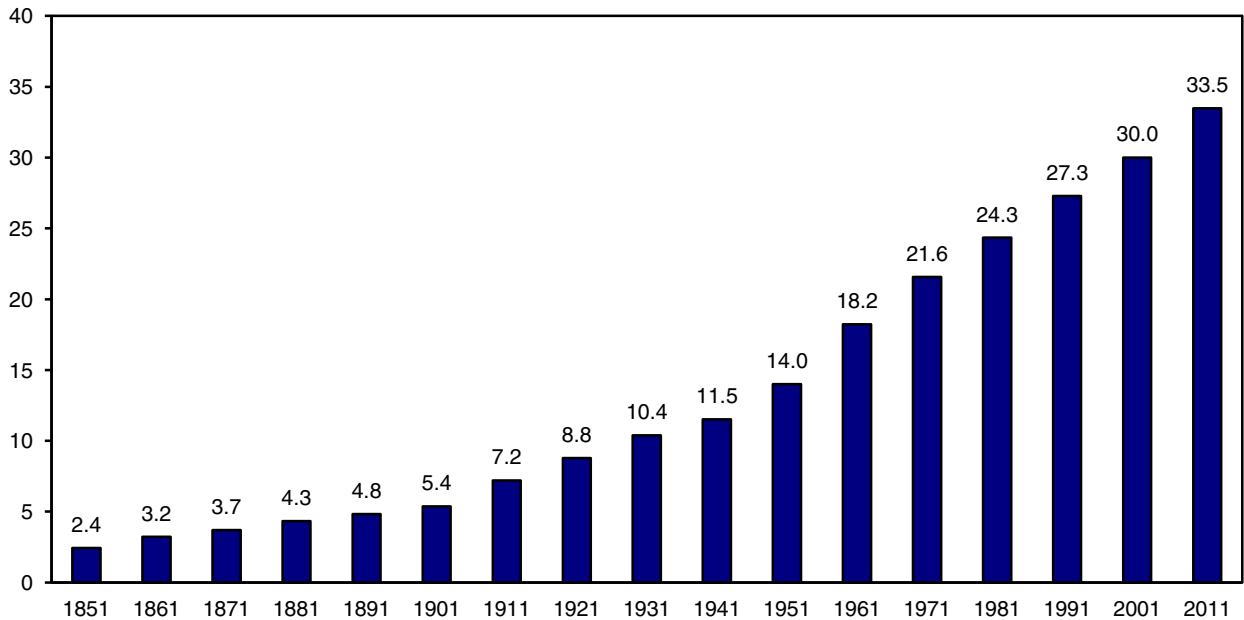
Box 1

The census is designed to conduct a complete count of the population. Inevitably, however, some individuals will not be enumerated (undercoverage) while others, usually less numerous, will be enumerated more than once (overcoverage). To determine the number of people who were missed or counted more than once, Statistics Canada conducts postcensal studies of the coverage of the census population, using representative samples of the population. Results of these studies are usually available approximately two years after the Census Day. They are used, in combination with census figures and other sources, to develop the population estimates produced by Statistics Canada at regular intervals. These population estimates can be used to follow the trends in the Canadian population on a quarterly basis and to understand the underlying components of population change. Thus the population estimates differ from census counts, and are usually higher. Census counts are never adjusted for undercoverage or overcoverage.

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Figure 2
Population of Canada, 1851 to 2011

population (millions)



Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1851 to 2011.

With 33.5 million inhabitants, Canada is the least populous country in the G8. The United States ranks first with 309 million inhabitants in 2010, or nine times as many as Canada (Table 1). Two other G8 countries have populations of more than 100 million, namely Russia and Japan. Emerging market countries such as China and India, with respectively 1.3 billion and 1.2 billion inhabitants, have populations approximately 40 times larger than Canada's. The megacity³ of Tokyo (Japan) alone, with its population of 35 million in 2011, is more populous than Canada.

3. According to the United Nations, a megacity is an urban agglomeration with at least 10 million inhabitants, generally characterized by the presence of major political and economic functions.

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Table 1
Population counts for the G8 countries and other selected countries, 2010 or 2011

G8 countries	Continent	Reference year	Population
United States	North America	2011	311,215,000
Russia	Europe and Asia	2011	142,914,000
Japan	Asia	2011	127,817,000
Germany	Europe	2011	81,745,000
France (métropolitaine)	Europe	2011	63,128,000
United Kingdom	Europe	2010	62,262,000
Italy	Europe	2011	60,702,000
Canada	North America	2011	33,476,688
Emerging market countries ¹	Continent	Reference year	Population
China	Asia	2010	1,339,725,000
India	Asia	2011	1,210,193,000
Brazil	South America	2011	192,376,000
Mexico	North America	2010	112,337,000
South Africa	Africa	2011	50,587,000

Note:

1. This group of countries is having a dialogue with the G8 on various issues.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population, U.S. Census Bureau – Population Estimates Program, Instituto Nazionale di Statistica (Italy), National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (France), United Kingdom Office for National Statistics, Statistics Bureau of Japan, Federal Statistical Office of Germany, Russian Federation Federal State Statistics Service, National Bureau of Statistics of China, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (India), Instituto Brasileiro de Geographia e Estatistica, Instituto Nacional de Estadistica y Geografia (Mexico) and Statistics South Africa.

Part 2: Provinces and territories

Higher population growth in all provinces and territories except Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Compared to the previous five-year period (2001 to 2006), the rate of population growth between 2006 and 2011 has increased in all provinces and territories except Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (Figure 3). Furthermore, all provinces and most territories saw its population increase between 2006 and 2011. Two provinces had seen their population decline between 2001 and 2006, namely Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan.

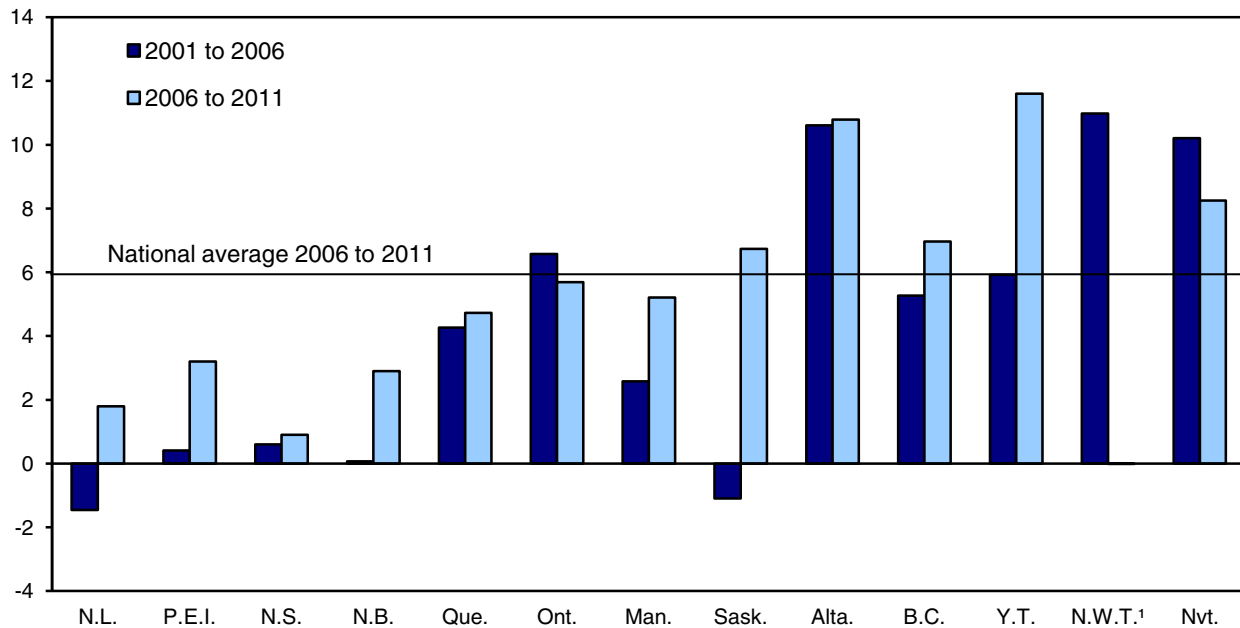
The largest increases in population growth rate were in Saskatchewan, Yukon, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba.

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Of all provinces and territories, Yukon, at 11.6%, has experienced the largest population growth between 2006 and 2011. As in the previous two intercensal periods (1996 to 2001 and 2001 to 2006), Alberta posted the highest population growth among the 10 provinces since 2006 at 10.8%, almost double the national average (+5.9%).

Figure 3
Population growth rate (in percentage) of provinces and territories, 2001 to 2006 and 2006 to 2011

population growth rate (%)



Note:

1. Statistics Canada makes every effort to enumerate Canada's population accurately in the census. Some regions may present greater challenges than others. The population growth rate for the Northwest Territories between 2001 and 2006 must be used with caution, as its net undercoverage in the 2001 Census (8.11%) was higher than the national average (2.99%).

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006 and 2011.

Strong increase in Saskatchewan's population growth

After negative population growth (-1.1%) between 1996 to 2001 and 2001 to 2006, Saskatchewan saw its growth exceed the national average between 2006 and 2011, at 6.7%. This level was the third largest among Canada's provinces, behind two other Western provinces, Alberta (+10.8%) and British Columbia (+7.0%).

With this strong growth, Saskatchewan's population topped 1 million in the 2011 Census, an increase of more than 65,000 people from 2006. Saskatchewan had reached the 1 million mark once before in census history, in 1986.

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

An increased influx of immigrants and interprovincial migratory gains are the main factors behind the turnaround in Saskatchewan.⁴ The province received more than 28,000 immigrants between 2006 and 2011, compared with approximately 9,500 between 2001 and 2006. Saskatchewan also had net gains of almost 12,000 interprovincial migrants in the past five years, whereas it recorded net losses of 35,000 people during the previous intercensal period (2001 to 2006). In the past five years, the natural resources and energy sectors generated economic growth in various regions of this Prairie province, which also had one of Canada's lowest unemployment rates.

Population growth doubled in Yukon and Manitoba

In Yukon and Manitoba, population growth since 2006 was double the rate of the previous intercensal period (2001 to 2006), from 5.9% to 11.6% in Yukon, and from 2.6% to 5.2% in Manitoba.

In Yukon, the rise is related to the increased number of immigrants and non-permanent residents between 2006 and 2011, as well as gains in Yukon's migratory exchanges with Canada's other provinces and territories.

In Manitoba, the increase is mainly due to the fact that the province received twice as many immigrants (more than 64,000), compared to the period from 2001 to 2006 (slightly less than 34,000).

Population growth is up in all Atlantic provinces, but still remains below the national average

The population growth rates of Prince Edward Island (+3.2%), New Brunswick (+2.9%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.8%) have each increased substantially between 2006 and 2011.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, population growth was positive for the first time since the period from 1981 to 1986. This increase is attributable to fewer losses in net migratory exchanges with other Canadian provinces and territories as well as to higher numbers of non-permanent residents and, to a lesser extent, to the number of immigrants settling there.

Immigration is the main factor explaining the increase in Prince Edward Island's population growth, with more than 8,100 immigrants having settled there since 2006 compared with slightly more than 1,100 between 2001 and 2006.

The rate of population growth in New Brunswick between 2006 and 2011 is the highest since the intercensal period from 1976 to 1981. Between 2006 and 2011, this province received twice as many immigrants as it did in the previous intercensal period. As well, New Brunswick lost fewer people as a result of interprovincial migration.

In Nova Scotia, the population growth also increased slightly, from 0.6% between 2001 and 2006 to 0.9% between 2006 and 2011.

4. The increase in Saskatchewan's population growth was also due, although to a lesser extent, by a rise in the number of non-permanent residents.

Lowest population growth for Ontario since the 1981 to 1986 period

Ontario's population grew by 5.7% between 2006 and 2011. This is slightly lower than the growth of 6.6% between 2001 and 2006, and the lowest population growth since the period from 1981 to 1986. Nevertheless, this growth was close to the national average. Ontario received approximately 96,000 fewer immigrants in the past five years than in the period 2001 to 2006, and migratory losses to the other provinces and territories were approximately twice as large. Some of Ontario's economic sectors were especially affected, both by structural changes in the Canadian economy and by the global recession of 2008 and 2009. An example of how both of these factors combined in 2008 and 2009 was the auto industry.

Slight increase in the rate of population growth in Quebec

In Quebec, population growth increased slightly, from 4.3% between 2001 and 2006 to 4.7% between 2006 and 2011. Increased numbers of immigrants and non-permanent residents and higher fertility were partly offset by larger losses in interprovincial migration.

The population share of Canada's Western provinces now exceeds that of the Eastern provinces

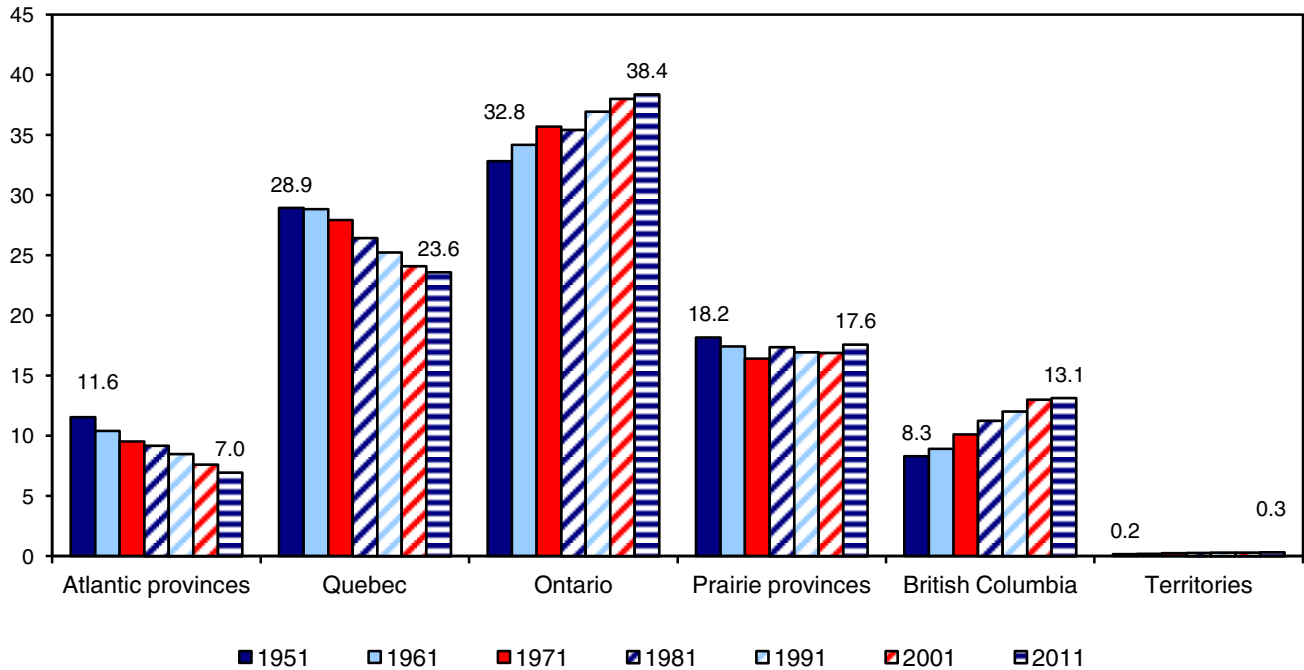
In 2011, the population share of the Prairie provinces and British Columbia combined reached 30.7%, a proportion which for the first time exceeded that of the Atlantic provinces and Quebec combined (+30.6%) (Figure 4). The increased share of the Western provinces since 2006 is essentially due to the population growth of the Prairie provinces, whereas, in the past, was mostly attributable to the growth of British Columbia.

In the last 60 years, the population share of British Columbia and Ontario has steadily increased while that of Quebec and the Atlantic provinces has declined. Consequently, the gap between Quebec and Ontario, for example, has gradually widened, going from four percentage points in 1951 (28.9% versus 32.8%) to nearly 15 percentage points in 2011 (23.6% versus 38.4%).

Essentially, these changes are the result of three factors: interprovincial migration that is often favourable to Western provinces, especially to Alberta and British Columbia; fertility that is generally higher in these provinces (except British Columbia) than the provinces in Eastern Canada; and on average a larger influx of immigrants, especially in Ontario and British Columbia.

Figure 4
Population share of Canada's regions, 1951 to 2011

proportion (%)



Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1951 to 2011.

Part 3: Portrait of metropolitan and non-metropolitan Canada

In metropolitan and non-metropolitan Canada, only census metropolitan areas as a group have experienced a rate of population growth above the national average

Between 2006 and 2011, only census metropolitan areas (CMAs – see Box 2) as a group has grown at a rate above the national average, at 7.4% compared with 5.9% (Table 2). The population living in all other regions of Canada, that is in census agglomerations (CAs) and in regions outside of CMAs and CAs, grew at a rate lower than the national average.

Box 2

According to the geography of the 2011 Census, Canada has 33 [census metropolitan areas \(CMAs\)](#), a number unchanged since 2006, as well as 114 [census agglomerations \(CAs\)](#), up from 111 in 2006 (see Map 1). Five new CAs have been added since 2006: Steinbach (Manitoba) and High River, Strathmore, Sylvan Lake and Lacombe (Alberta). Two CAs in 2006 ceased to be CAs in 2011: La Tuque (Quebec) and Kitimat (British Columbia).

Outside of CMAs and CAs, a distinction can be made between regions located close to CMAs or CAs and those that are remote from such regions. This distinction is based on the concept of [census metropolitan influenced zone \(MIZ\)](#).

Regions located close to CMAs or CAs refer to [census subdivisions \(CSD\)](#) outside CMAs and CAs classified as [strong metropolitan influenced zone \(strong MIZ\)](#) (see Map 2). In those regions, more than 30% of the labour force commutes to work in the CMA or CA.

Regions remote from CMAs and CAs refer to CSDs outside CMAs and CAs classified as either [moderate, weak or no metropolitan influenced zones \(moderate MIZ, weak MIZ or no MIZ\)](#) (see Map 2).

The data presented in this document are based on the final 2011 geographic boundaries.

In 2011, more than 23.1 million people, or nearly 7 Canadians in 10 (69.1%), were living in one of Canada's 33 CMAs, an increase compared with 2006 (68.1%). More than one Canadian in three (35.0%) was living in one of Canada's three largest CMAs, Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver. The population growth of these three CMAs taken together was higher than the other CMAs (7.9% compared to 6.9%) and was due mainly to immigration since each year, a majority of immigrants choose to settle in these areas.

According to the 2011 Census, just over 4.3 million people were living in the 114 census agglomerations (see Box 2), up slightly from the 4.1 million enumerated in 2006 (Table 2). The population growth of these areas (+4.2%) changed slightly from the 2001 to 2006 period and remained below the national average.

Slightly more than six million Canadians were living in regions outside of CMAs and CAs in 2011, accounting for 18.0% of the overall Canadian population, compared with 18.8% in 2006 (Table 2). Regions outside of CMAs and CAs can be divided in three categories, that is, those located close to CMAs or CAs, those located remote from CMAs and CAs, and those located in the territories, excluding the CAs of Yellowknife and Whitehorse.

The majority of the population living outside of CMAs and CAs (72.7%) lived in areas located remote from CMAs and CAs. Between 2006 and 2011, the population growth of regions located close to CMAs or CAs (+4.3%) and those in the territories (+3.8%) remained much higher than that of regions remote from CMAs and CAs (+0.7%).

In the provinces, population growth of regions outside of CMAs and CAs located close to CMAs or CAs is based mostly on internal migration, which is often favourable to them. This is related to the phenomenon of urban spread, since access to nearby large CMAs or CAs is often facilitated by the presence of major roads and public transit lines. Population growth in regions located remote from CMAs and CAs is often lower because many young adults leave these regions to pursue studies or start a career elsewhere in Canada, often in one of the large CMAs.

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In the territories, population growth of regions outside of CAs is driven by higher fertility than elsewhere in Canada.

Table 2
Population (as count and as share of total population) and growth rate of metropolitan and non-metropolitan Canada, 2006 and 2011

Statistical Area Classification	2006		2011		Growth rate	
	Population	%	Population	%	2001 to 2006	2006 to 2011
					%	
Canada	31,612,897	100.0	33,476,688	100.0	5.4	5.9
Census metropolitan areas (CMAs)	21,534,063	68.1	23,123,441	69.1	6.9	7.4
Census agglomerations (CAs)	4,136,342	13.1	4,311,524	12.9	4.0	4.2
Outside of CMAs and CAs	5,942,492	18.8	6,041,723	18.0	1.0	1.7
Close to CMAs or CAs ¹	1,521,507	4.8	1,586,681	4.7	4.7	4.3
Remote from CMAs and CAs ²	4,361,273	13.8	4,393,039	13.1	-0.1	0.7
Territories ³	59,712	0.2	62,003	0.2	8.9	3.8

Notes:

1. Refers to census subdivisions (CSD) outside CMAs and CAs classified as strong metropolitan influenced zone (strong MIZ). See <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/geo010-eng.cfm>.
2. Refers to census subdivisions (CSD) outside CMAs and CAs classified as either moderate, weak or no metropolitan influenced zone (moderate MIZ, weak MIZ or no MIZ). See <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/geo010-eng.cfm>.
3. Excludes CAs of Yellowknife and Whitehorse.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006 and 2011.

Between 2006 and 2011, all census metropolitan areas located in Western Canada have had higher population growth than the national average, except Winnipeg and Victoria

The four Canadian CMAs with the highest rates of population growth since 2006 are located in Western Canada: Calgary (+12.6%), Edmonton (+12.1%), Saskatoon (+11.4%) and Kelowna (+10.8%) (Figure 5). Of all the CMAs located in the Prairie provinces and British Columbia, only Winnipeg (+5.1%) and Victoria (+4.4%) had population growth below the national average.

Among other CMAs with growth exceeding the national average, two were located in the Atlantic provinces (Moncton and St. John's); one was located in Quebec (Québec CMA); another overlaps Quebec and Ontario (Ottawa - Gatineau); and three were located in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe⁵ (Toronto, Brantford⁶ and Oshawa).

5. The Greater Golden Horseshoe is a densely populated and industrialized region in south-central Ontario that includes nine census metropolitan areas.

6. The population growth in the CMA of Brantford between 2006 and 2011 must be used with caution due to an incompletely enumerated Indian reserve in 2006 that was enumerated in 2011. Without this addition, the population growth of Brantford would have been 3.8% between 2006 and 2011.

After at least two intercensal periods (1996 to 2001 and 2001 to 2006) in which their respective populations declined, the CMAs of Saint John and Saguenay have experienced positive population growth since 2006.

Population growth up substantially in Saskatchewan's two census metropolitan areas, Saskatoon and Regina

Saskatchewan's two CMAs, Saskatoon and Regina, registered strong increases in their population growth in the past five years compared with the previous intercensal period. In Saskatoon, for example, population growth increased from 3.5% between 2001 and 2006 to 11.4% between 2006 and 2011, the third largest increase among all CMAs after Calgary and Edmonton.

Increased internal migration, mainly from other provinces, as well as an increase in the number of immigrants settling in these two CMAs,⁷ are factors that contributed to this sizable increase in their population growth.

Slower population growth in all Ontario census metropolitan areas except Toronto, Ottawa - Gatineau, Kingston and Brantford⁸

All CMAs in Ontario saw their population grow more slowly between 2006 and 2011, except Toronto, Ottawa - Gatineau, Kingston and Brantford.⁸ For example, the growth of Barrie, which led the way from 1996 to 2001 (+25.1%) and from 2001 to 2006 (+19.2%), fell to 5.6% between 2006 and 2011, a level slightly below the national average of 5.9%.

Only two of the 33 CMAs, both located in Ontario, have seen their population decline since 2006: Thunder Bay and Windsor. Windsor's population growth fell substantially from 5.0% between 2001 and 2006 to -1.3% between 2006 and 2011.

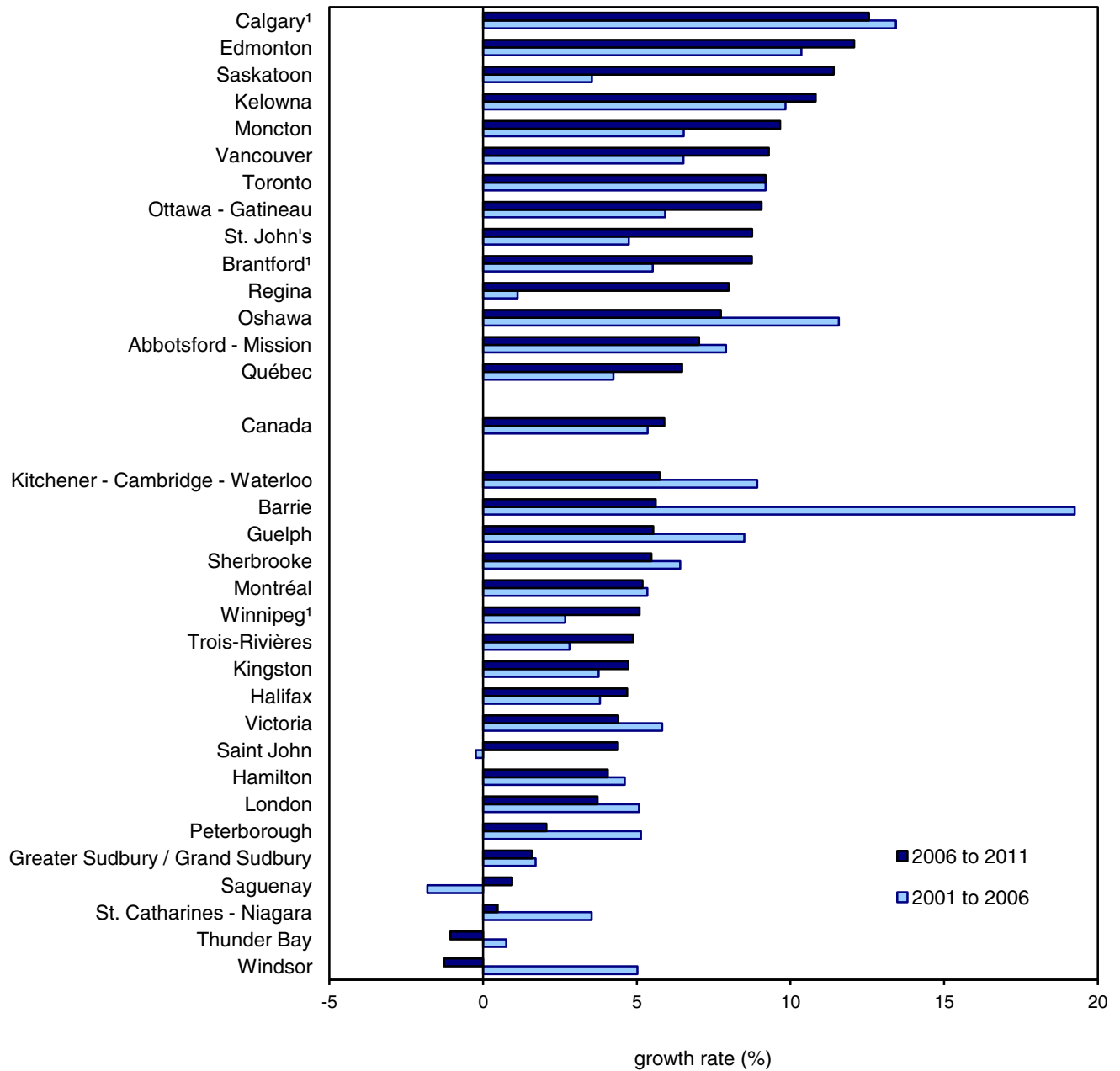
For most CMAs located in Ontario, these changes were mostly due to much smaller gains in net interprovincial migration than in the previous intercensal period.

7. An increase in the number of non-permanent residents also accounts for part of the increase in the population growth of these two CMAs.

8. The population growth in the CMA of Brantford between 2006 and 2011 must be used with caution due to an incompletely enumerated Indian reserve in 2006 that was enumerated in 2011. Without this addition, the population growth of Brantford would have been 3.8% between 2006 and 2011.

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Figure 5
Population growth rate (in percentage) of census metropolitan areas, 2001 to 2006 and 2006 to 2011



Note:

1. Data to be interpreted with caution due to incompletely enumerated Indian reserves in 2006 that were enumerated in 2011, or enumerated Indian reserves in 2006 that were incompletely enumerated in 2011.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006 and 2011.

Ten of the 15 census agglomerations with the strongest population growth between 2006 and 2011 are located in Alberta

From 2006 to 2011, 10 of the 15 census agglomerations posting the highest population growth were located in Alberta (Table 3). As in the period between 2001 and 2006, Okotoks (Alberta), was the census agglomeration with the largest population growth between 2006 and 2011, at 42.9%. Wood Buffalo (Alberta), which ranked second for growth between 2001 and 2006, was again in second place between 2006 and 2011, with 27.1%.

Table 3
Census agglomerations with the highest population growth between 2006 and 2011

Rank	Name	Province/Territory	Population		Growth rate 2006 to 2011 (%)
			2006	2011	
1	Okotoks	Alberta	17,150	24,511	42.9
2	Wood Buffalo	Alberta	52,643	66,896	27.1
3	Steinbach	Manitoba	11,066	13,524	22.2
4	High River	Alberta	10,716	12,920	20.6
5	Strathmore	Alberta	10,280	12,305	19.7
6	Sylvan Lake	Alberta	10,703	12,762	19.2
7	Grande Prairie	Alberta	47,107	55,032	16.8
8	Cold Lake	Alberta	11,991	13,839	15.4
9	Squamish	British Columbia	15,256	17,479	14.6
10	Lloydminster	Alberta	27,023	30,798	14.0
11	Whitehorse	Yukon	22,898	26,028	13.7
12	Chilliwack	British Columbia	82,465	92,308	11.9
13	Lethbridge	Alberta	95,196	105,999	11.3
14	Collingwood	Ontario	17,290	19,241	11.3
15	Camrose	Alberta	15,630	17,286	10.6

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2006 and 2011.

Twelve of the 15 census agglomerations registering a decrease in their population between 2006 and 2011 were located in Ontario, Quebec or the Atlantic provinces

Of the 15 census agglomerations registering a decrease in their population between 2006 and 2011, 12 were located in Ontario, Quebec or the Atlantic provinces (Table 4). Thompson in Manitoba, Chatham-Kent in Ontario and Cape Breton in Nova Scotia had decreases in excess of 4.0%.

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Table 4
Census agglomerations with the lowest population growth between 2006 and 2011

Rank	Name	Province/Territory	Population		Growth rate 2006 to 2011 (%)
			2006	2011	
1	Thompson	Manitoba	13,446	12,839	-4.5
2	Chatham-Kent	Ontario	108,589	104,075	-4.2
3	Cape Breton	Nova Scotia	105,928	101,619	-4.1
4	Baie-Comeau	Quebec	29,674	28,789	-3.0
5	Prince Rupert	British Columbia	13,392	13,052	-2.5
6	Edmundston	New Brunswick	22,471	21,903	-2.5
7	Shawinigan	Quebec	56,408	55,009	-2.5
8	Miramichi	New Brunswick	28,773	28,115	-2.3
9	Bathurst	New Brunswick	34,106	33,484	-1.8
10	Matane	Quebec	18,709	18,368	-1.8
11	Kawartha Lakes	Ontario	74,561	73,214	-1.8
12	Elliot Lake	Ontario	11,549	11,348	-1.7
13	Brockville	Ontario	39,668	39,024	-1.6
14	Dolbeau-Mistassini	Quebec	16,257	16,019	-1.5
15	Williams Lake	British Columbia	18,760	18,490	-1.4

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2006 and 2011.

Part 4: Portrait of municipalities (census subdivisions)

The census is the only data source that provides a statistical portrait of the population of all municipalities in Canada, also called [census subdivisions \(CSDs\)](#).

Table 5 shows, by province and territory, the most populous municipalities in 2011. Among these municipalities are the central municipalities⁹ of census metropolitan areas, such as Toronto (Ontario), Montréal (Quebec) and Calgary (Alberta), but also other large municipalities such as Mississauga (Ontario), Surrey (British Columbia), Laval (Quebec), Longueuil (Quebec) and Burnaby (British Columbia).

9. The central municipality ([census subdivision](#)) of a CMA or CA most often is the one that lends its name to the CMA or CA. All other municipalities within the boundaries of the CMA or CA are considered peripheral to the central municipality.

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Table 5
Most populous municipalities (census subdivisions) by province and territory, 2011

Name	Population	Growth rate 2006 to 2011 (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador		
St. John's	106,172	5.5
Conception Bay South	24,848	13.1
Mount Pearl	24,284	-1.6
Prince Edward Island		
Charlottetown	34,562	7.4
Summerside	14,751	1.7
Stratford	8,574	21.1
Nova Scotia		
Halifax	390,096	4.7
Cape Breton	97,398	-4.7
Lunenburg	25,118	-0.2
New Brunswick		
Saint John	70,063	3.0
Moncton	69,074	7.7
Fredericton	56,224	11.3
Quebec		
Montréal	1,649,519	1.8
Québec	516,622	5.2
Laval	401,553	8.9
Gatineau	265,349	9.6
Longueuil	231,409	0.9
Ontario		
Toronto	2,615,060	4.5
Ottawa	883,391	8.8
Mississauga	713,443	6.7
Brampton	523,911	20.8
Hamilton	519,949	3.1

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Name	Population	Growth rate 2006 to 2011 (%)
Manitoba		
Winnipeg	663,617	4.8
Brandon	46,061	11.0
Springfield	14,069	8.3
Saskatchewan		
Saskatoon	222,189	9.8
Regina	193,100	7.7
Prince Albert	35,129	2.9
Alberta		
Calgary	1,096,833	10.9
Edmonton	812,201	11.2
Strathcona County	92,490	12.1
British Columbia		
Vancouver	603,502	4.4
Surrey	468,251	18.6
Burnaby	223,218	10.1
Richmond	190,473	9.2
Abbotsford	133,497	7.4
Yukon		
Whitehorse	23,276	13.8
Northwest Territories		
Yellowknife	19,234	2.9
Nunavut		
Iqaluit	6,699	8.3

Source: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2006 and 2011.

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

Twelve of the 15 municipalities with the highest population growth between 2006 and 2011 are located in CMAs or CAs

Of the 15 municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more that posted the largest population increases in the last 5 years, only 3 were located outside of CMAs and CAs: La Broquerie (Manitoba), Blackfalds (Alberta), and Marieval (Quebec) (Table 6). However, these three municipalities are all located close to a CMA or CA, Steinbach, Red Deer and Montréal respectively.

Table 6
Municipalities (census subdivisions) with the highest population growth between 2006 and 2011

Rank	Municipality	Name of CMA or CA (Province/Territory)	Population		Growth rate 2006 to 2011 (%)
			2006	2011	
1	Milton	Toronto (Ont.)	53,889	84,362	56.5
2	Martensville	Saskatoon (Sask.)	4,978	7,716	55.0
3	Whitchurch-Stouffville	Toronto (Ont.)	24,390	37,628	54.3
4	Sainte-Brigitte-de-Laval	Québec (Que.)	3,790	5,696	50.3
5	Chestermere	Calgary (Alta.)	9,923	14,824	49.4
6	Warman	Saskatoon (Sask.)	4,769	7,084	48.5
7	Beaumont	Edmonton (Alta.)	8,961	13,284	48.2
8	Airdrie	Calgary (Alta.)	28,927	42,564	47.1
9	Leduc	Edmonton (Alta.)	16,967	24,279	43.1
10	Okotoks	Okotoks (Alta.)	17,150	24,511	42.9
11	La Broquerie	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Man.)	3,659	5,198	42.1
12	Paradise	St. John's (N.L.)	12,584	17,695	40.6
13	Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac	Montréal (Que.)	11,311	15,689	38.7
14	Blackfalds	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Alta.)	4,618	6,300	36.4
15	Marieval	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Que.)	7,527	10,094	34.1

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2006 and 2011.

Between 2006 and 2011, four municipalities in a CMA had population growth exceeding 50%. Two are located in the Toronto CMA (Milton and Whitchurch-Stouffville), one is located in the Saskatoon CMA (Martensville), and the fourth is in the Québec CMA (Sainte-Brigitte-de-Laval).

The Canadian Population in 2011: Population Counts and Growth

The fifteen municipalities with the largest decreases were all located in regions outside of CMAs and CAs

Among Canada's 709 municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more in 2011, 161, or 23% of these, had their population decreased in the last 5 years. The 15 municipalities with the largest decreases were all located in regions outside of CMAs and CAs, and 13 were located remote from a CMA and a CA (Table 7). Thunder Bay Unorganized and Hearst (Ontario) and Inverness Subdivision A (Nova Scotia) have each lost approximately 10% of their population since 2006.

Table 7
Municipalities (census subdivisions) with the lowest population growth between 2006 and 2011

Rank	Municipality	Name of CMA or CA (Province/Territory)	Population		Growth rate 2006 to 2011 (%)
			2006	2011	
1	Thunder Bay, Unorganized	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Ont.)	6,585	5,909	-10.3
2	Inverness, Subd. A	Outside of CMAs and CAs (N.S.)	5,859	5,280	-9.9
3	Hearst	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Ont.)	5,620	5,090	-9.4
4	Lac la Biche County	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Alta.)	9,123	8,402	-7.9
5	Kitimat	Outside of CMAs and CAs (B.C.)	8,987	8,335	-7.3
6	Dryden	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Ont.)	8,195	7,617	-7.1
7	Digby	Outside of CMAs and CAs (N.S.)	7,986	7,463	-6.5
8	Shippagan	Outside of CMAs and CAs (N.B.)	5,370	5,032	-6.3
9	Clare	Outside of CMAs and CAs (N.S.)	8,813	8,319	-5.6
10	Yarmouth	Outside of CMAs and CAs (N.S.)	7,162	6,761	-5.6
11	The Blue Mountains	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Ont.)	6,825	6,453	-5.5
12	Kings, Subd. D	Outside of CMAs and CAs (N.S.)	5,499	5,201	-5.4
13	Brock	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Ont.)	11,979	11,341	-5.3
14	Annapolis, Subd. A	Outside of CMAs and CAs (N.S.)	6,342	6,008	-5.3
15	La Tuque	Outside of CMAs and CAs (Que.)	11,821	11,227	-5.0

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2006 and 2011.

The document *The Census: A tool for planning at the local level*, Catalogue no. 98-310-X2011003, in the Census in Brief series and the *Census Profile*, Catalogue no. 98-316-X, provide additional information at the local area level.

Additional information

Additional information on specific geographies can be found in the Highlight Tables, Catalogue no. 98-310-X2011002, as well as in the new census product *Focus on Geography Series*, Catalogue no. 98-310-X2011004.

Box 3 Definitions

Census metropolitan area (CMA) and census agglomeration (CA)

Area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. A census metropolitan area must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the core. A census agglomeration must have a core population of at least 10,000.

Census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ)

Category assigned to a municipality **not included** in either a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). A municipality within a province is assigned to a census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ) category depending on the percentage of its resident employed labour force that commute to work in the core of any CMA or CA. A separate category is assigned to the municipalities in the territories that are not part of a CA.

Census subdivisions (CSDs) outside CMAs and CAs are assigned to the following MIZ categories:

- Strong metropolitan influenced zone
- Moderate metropolitan influenced zone
- Weak metropolitan influenced zone
- No metropolitan influenced zone
- Territories (outside CAs)

Census subdivision (CSD)

Area that is a municipality or an area that is deemed to be equivalent to a municipality for statistical reporting purposes (e.g., as an Indian reserve or an unorganized territory). Municipal status is defined by laws in effect in each province and territory in Canada.

Note to reader

To obtain a copy of all the thematic maps accompanying this document, refer to the following link: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-310-x/98-310-x2011001-eng.cfm>

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Map 2 – Statistical Area Classification, 2011

