

Population Change in Rural Areas

Seminar presented by

Alessandro Alasia

Agriculture Division – Statistics Canada

alessandro.alasia@statcan.gc.ca

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Key points

- Overall, rural population is growing less than urban population (so the share of national population that is classified as rural is declining)
- Most of the rural population decline (absolute and relative) occurs in rural remote areas
- Rural metro-adjacent areas are growing (in some case as fast as urban areas)
- Economic restructuring and agglomeration economies are driving these demographic changes
- Many rural communities are likely to experience further population loss in the future

Why population?

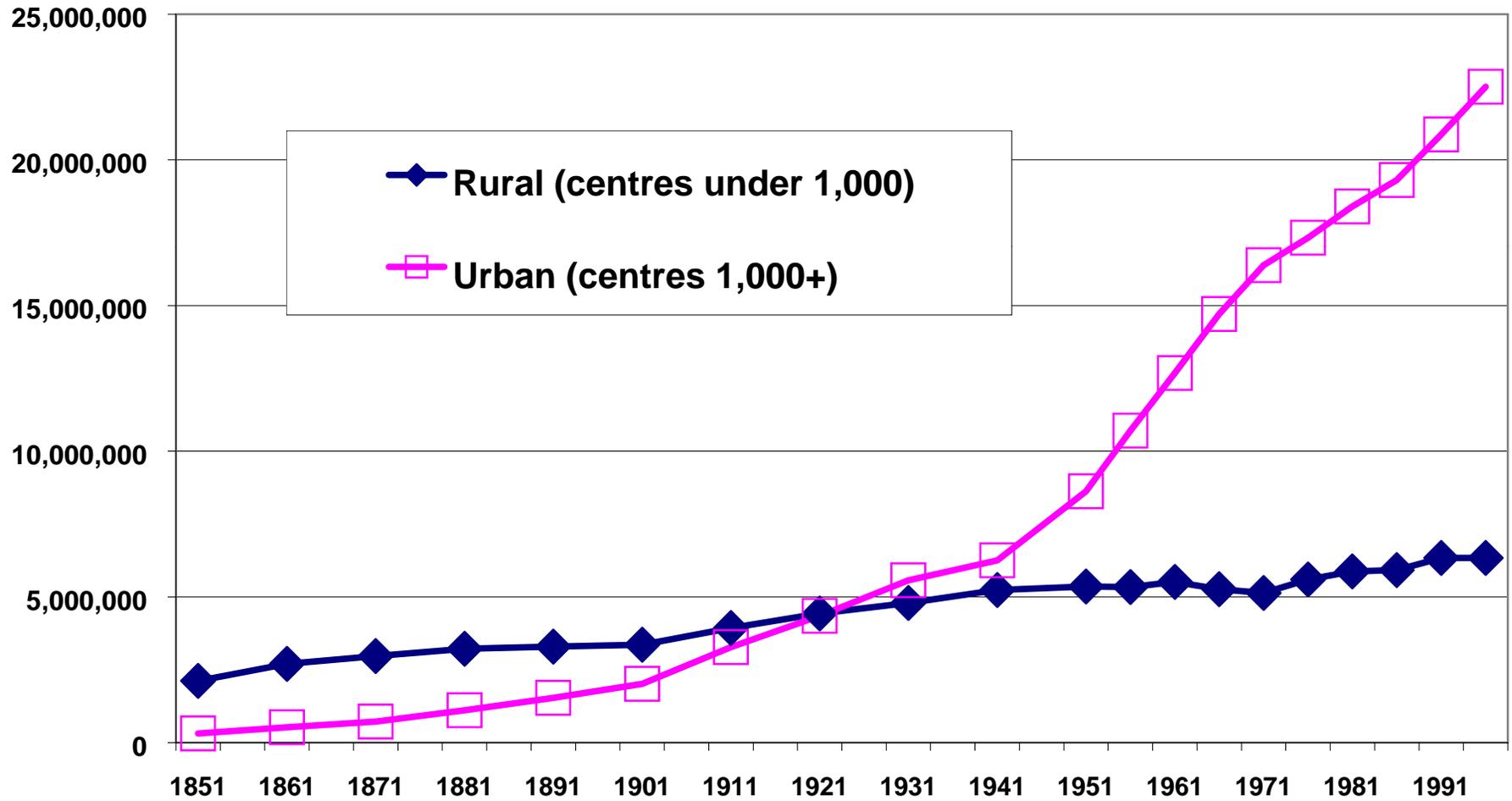
- What is rural development all about?
 - people versus commodities
- What are the key indicators of community well being?
 - Population growth is (generally) good
 - Population decline is (generally) bad
- Demographic trends are a key dimension of rural development policy

Let's have a look at the broad trends

- Rural population trend from 1850s to 2001 in Canada
- Rural population trends across the world



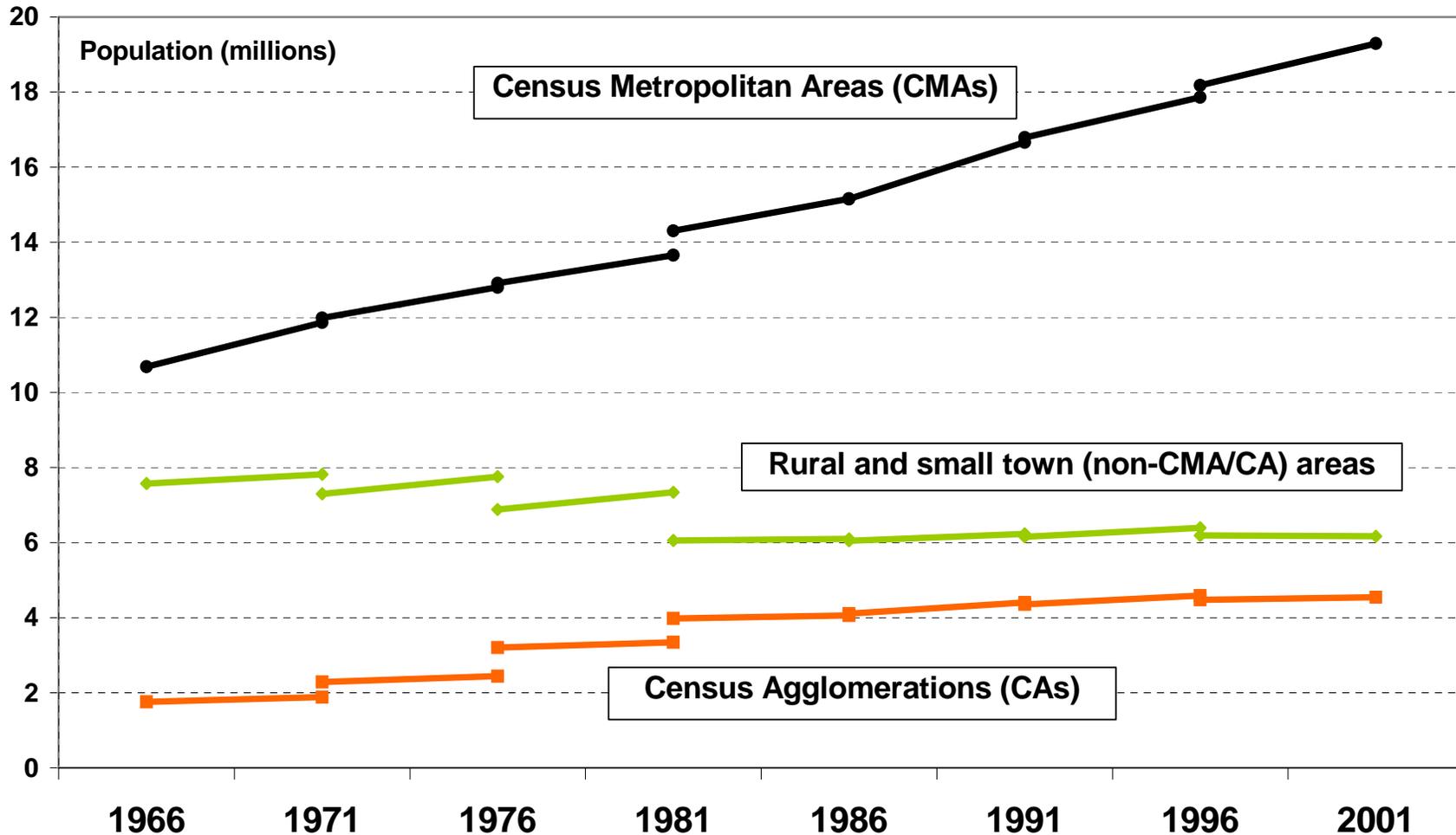
Population trends: Rural minority in Canada in 1931



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 1996.

What is “rural”?

Population trends by type of labour market, Canada



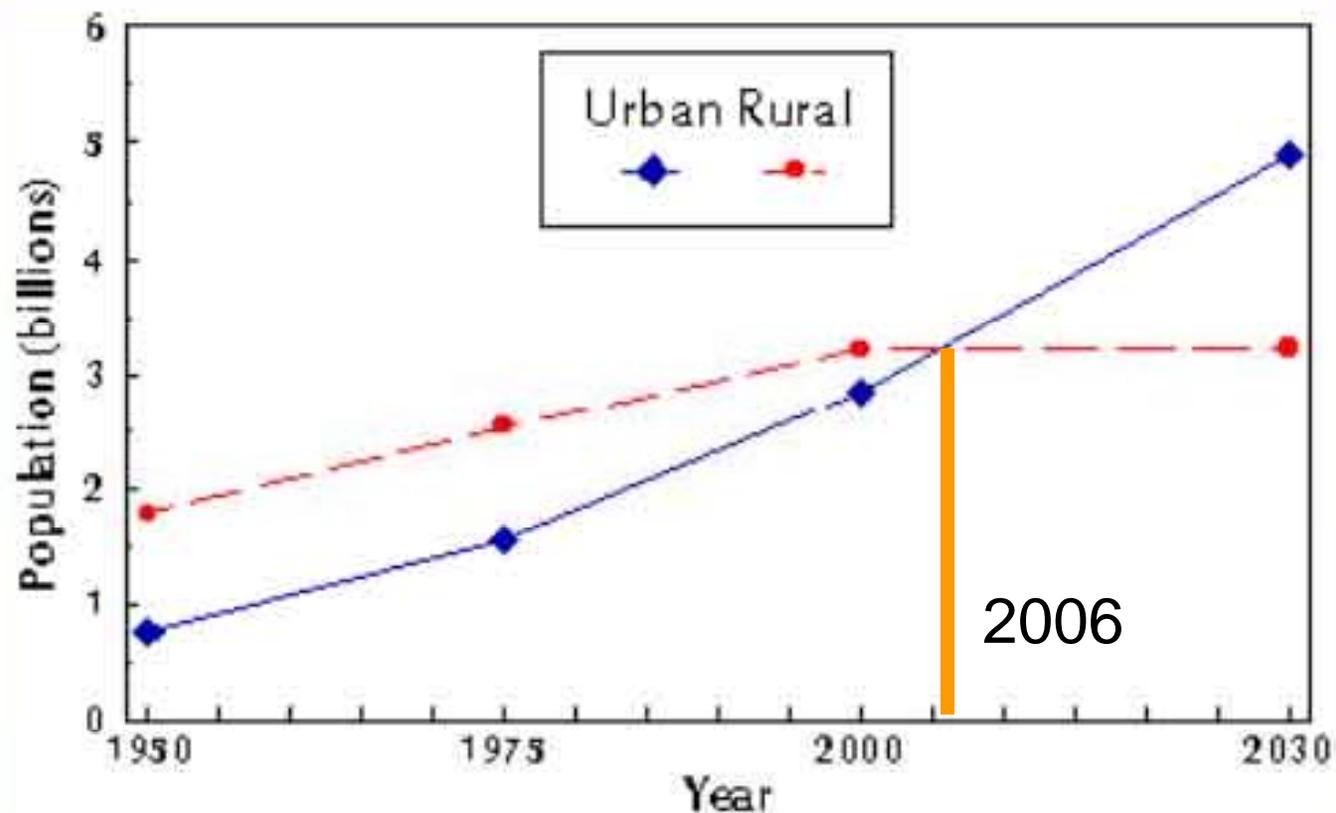
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1966 to 2001. Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have 100,000 or more inhabitants in the urban core and Census Agglomerations (CAs) have 10,000 to 99,999 in the urban core. Both CMAs and CAs include surrounding towns and municipalities where 50 percent or more of the workforce commutes to the urban core. Rural and small town (RST) refers to the population outside Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and outside Census Agglomerations (CAs).

What are the expected trends

“Virtually all the population growth expected at the world level during 2000-2030 will be concentrated in urban areas.”

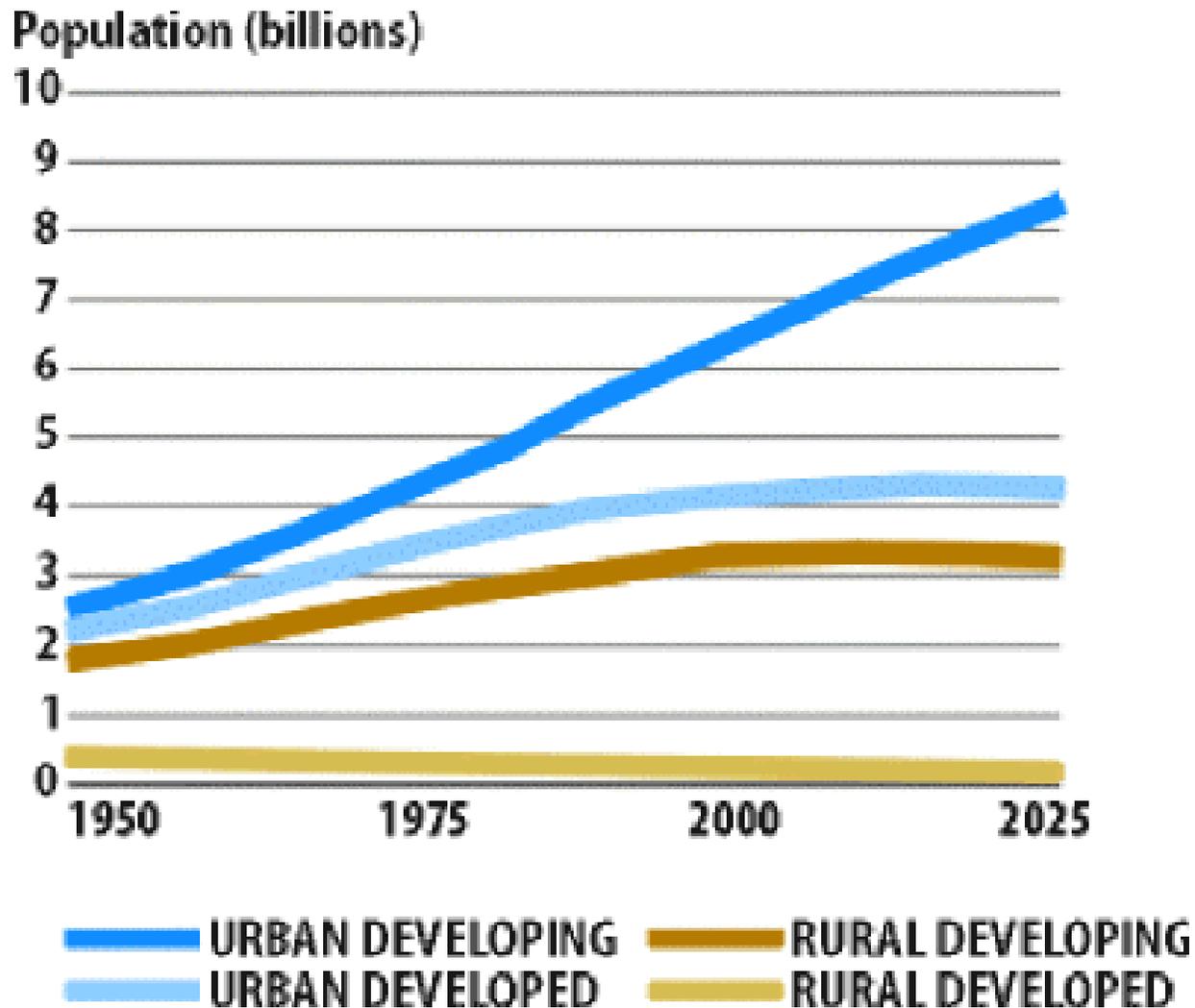
Source: United Nations, 2001. World Urbanization Prospects. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division, UN.

ESTIMATED AND PROJECTED WORLD URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION 1950-2030 (UN Population Division, 2000)



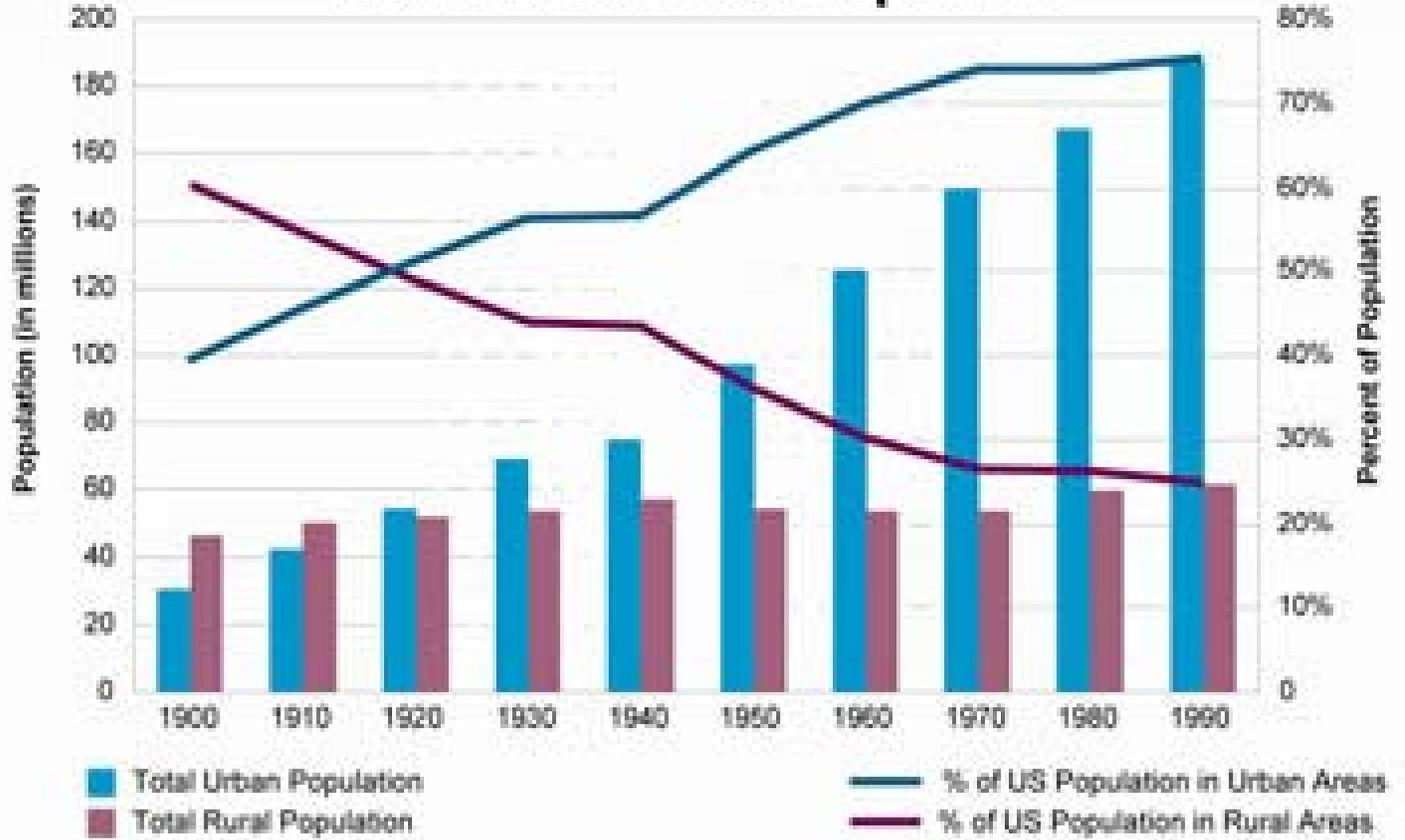
Source: <http://www.ias.unu.edu/proceedings/icibs/ecocity03/papers/burmil/slide-03.jpg>

What is happening in the world?



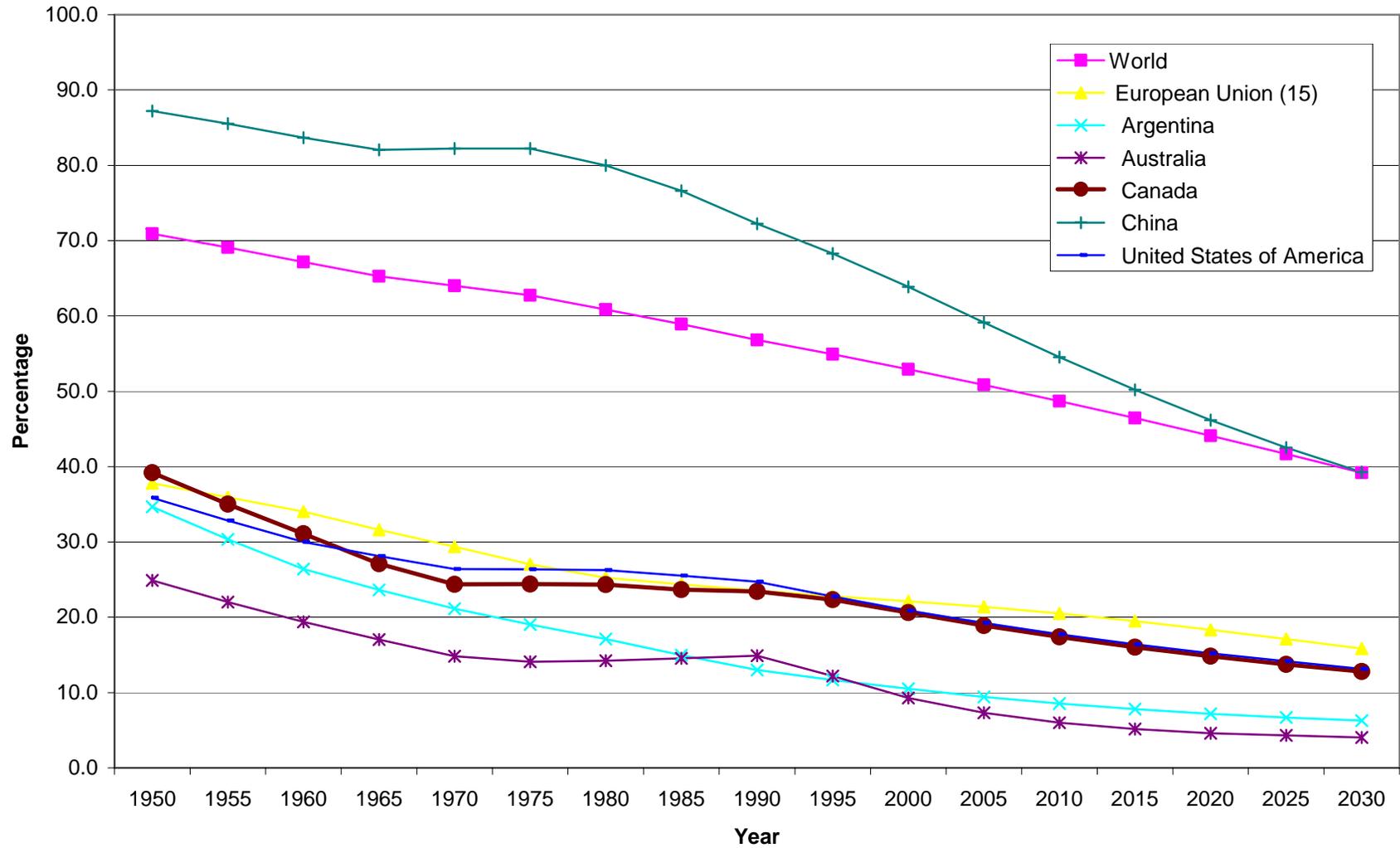
Source: http://images.wri.org/chart_wr9899_hwfg08.gif

US Rural and Urban Population



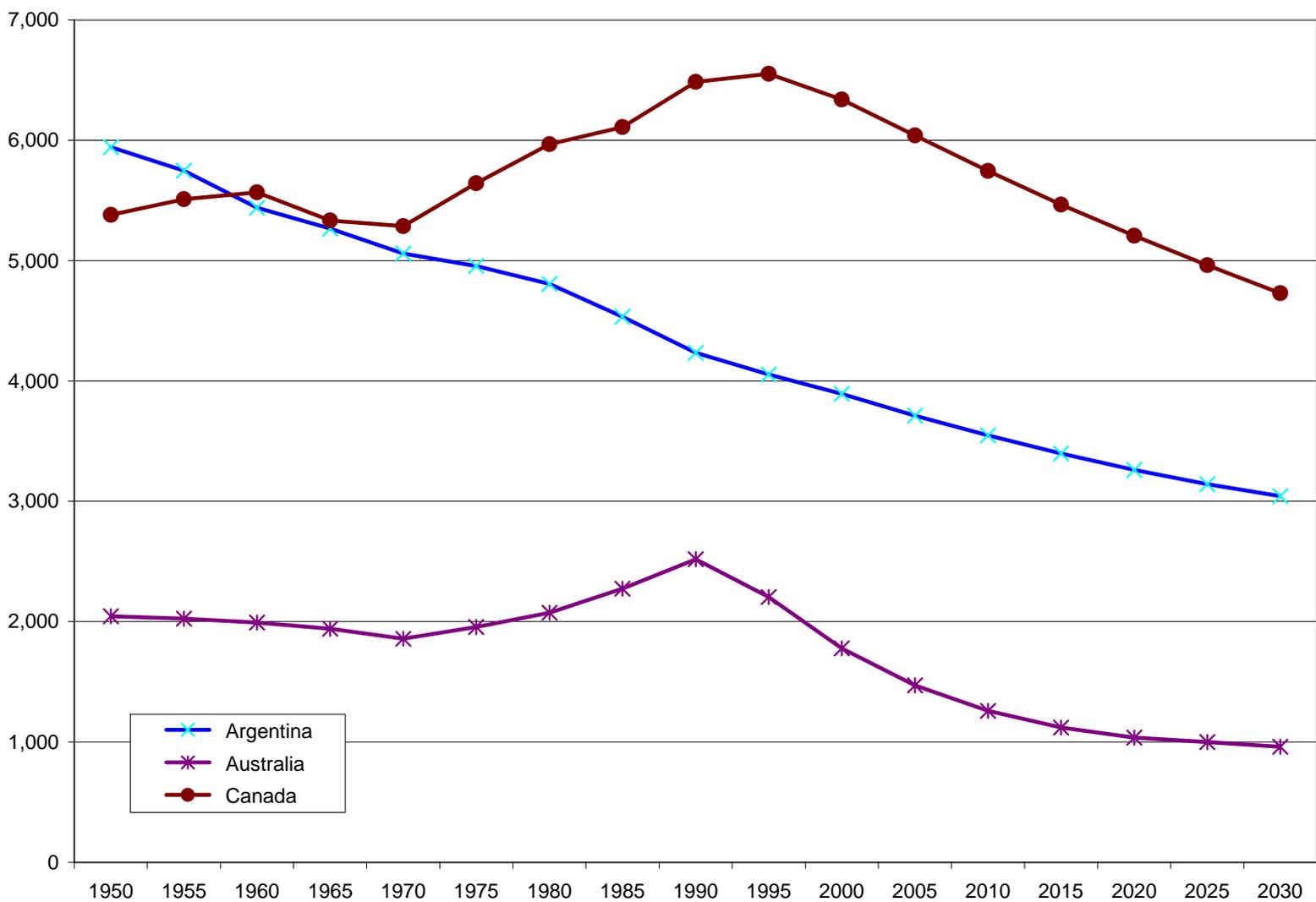
Demographic projections

Share of rural population 1950-2030



Source: FAOSTAT Statistical database online, 2006

Total rural population 1950-2030, Projections



Source: FAOSTAT

Are all rural areas expected to experience demographic decline?

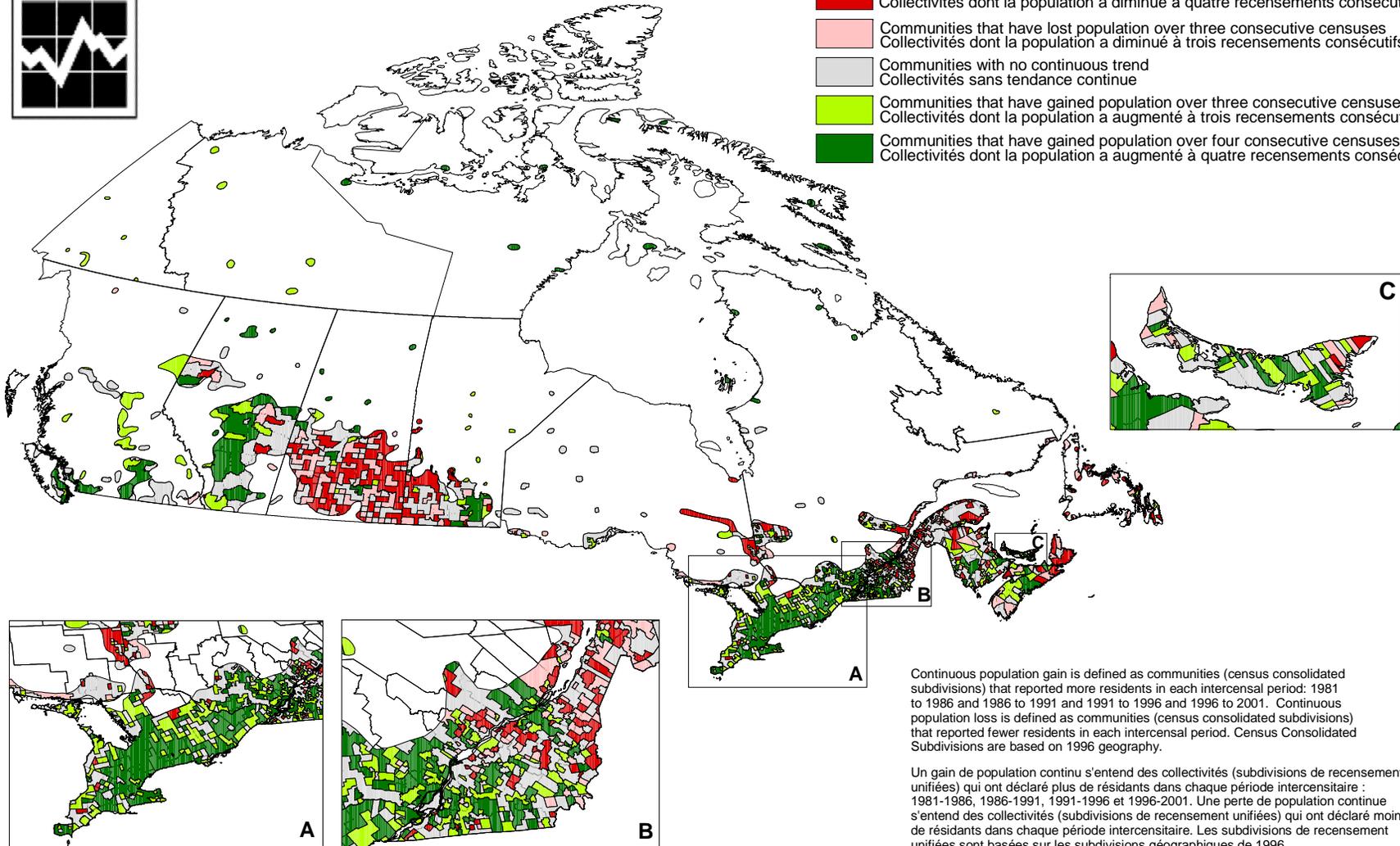
Community population gains and losses over four consecutive censuses, 1981 to 2001

Pertes et gains de population des collectivités sur quatre recensements consécutifs, 1981 à 2001



Legend: / Légende :

- Communities that have lost population over four consecutive censuses
Collectivités dont la population a diminué à quatre recensements consécutifs
- Communities that have lost population over three consecutive censuses
Collectivités dont la population a diminué à trois recensements consécutifs
- Communities with no continuous trend
Collectivités sans tendance continue
- Communities that have gained population over three consecutive censuses
Collectivités dont la population a augmenté à trois recensements consécutifs
- Communities that have gained population over four consecutive censuses
Collectivités dont la population a augmenté à quatre recensements consécutifs



Continuous population gain is defined as communities (census consolidated subdivisions) that reported more residents in each intercensal period: 1981 to 1986 and 1986 to 1991 and 1991 to 1996 and 1996 to 2001. Continuous population loss is defined as communities (census consolidated subdivisions) that reported fewer residents in each intercensal period. Census Consolidated Subdivisions are based on 1996 geography.

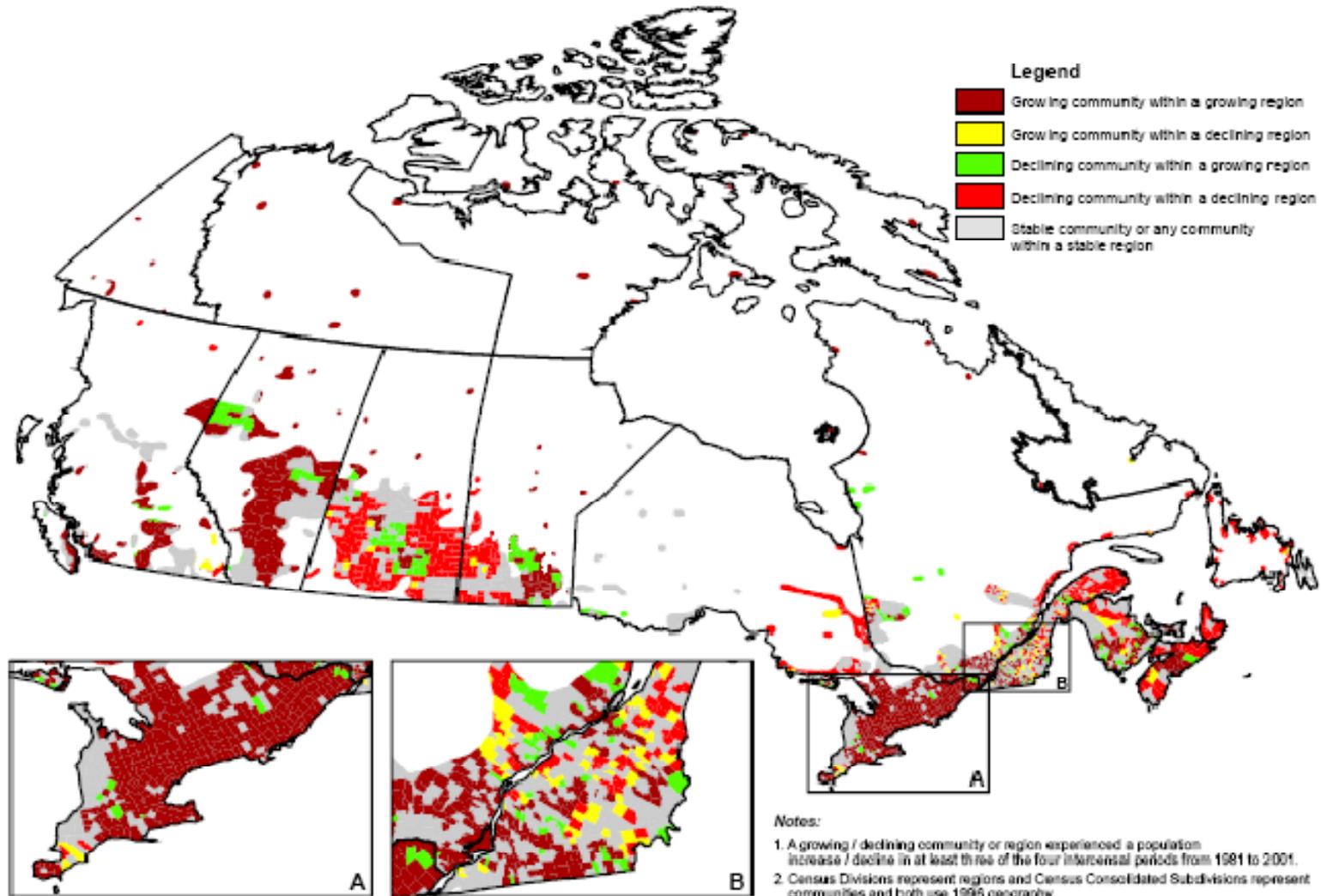
Un gain de population continu s'entend des collectivités (subdivisions de recensement unifiées) qui ont déclaré plus de résidents dans chaque période intercensitaire : 1981-1986, 1986-1991, 1991-1996 et 1996-2001. Une perte de population continue s'entend des collectivités (subdivisions de recensement unifiées) qui ont déclaré moins de résidents dans chaque période intercensitaire. Les subdivisions de recensement unifiées sont basées sur les subdivisions géographiques de 1996.

Communities within regions

- One-third of all 2,607 communities in Canada experienced continuous demographic growth over the 1981 to 2001 period. Another one-third of Canada's communities were in continuous decline over this period.
- Not all communities in growing regions grew. More significantly, not all communities in declining regions declined. Thus, not all communities mirror the demographic trajectory of the region in which they are located.

Communities within regions

Map 1. Growing / Declining communities within growing / declining regions, Canada, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981 - 2001.

Map produced by Spatial Analysis and Geomatics Applications (SAGA), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, 2005

Source: *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Vol. 6, No. 3*

Why is this happening?

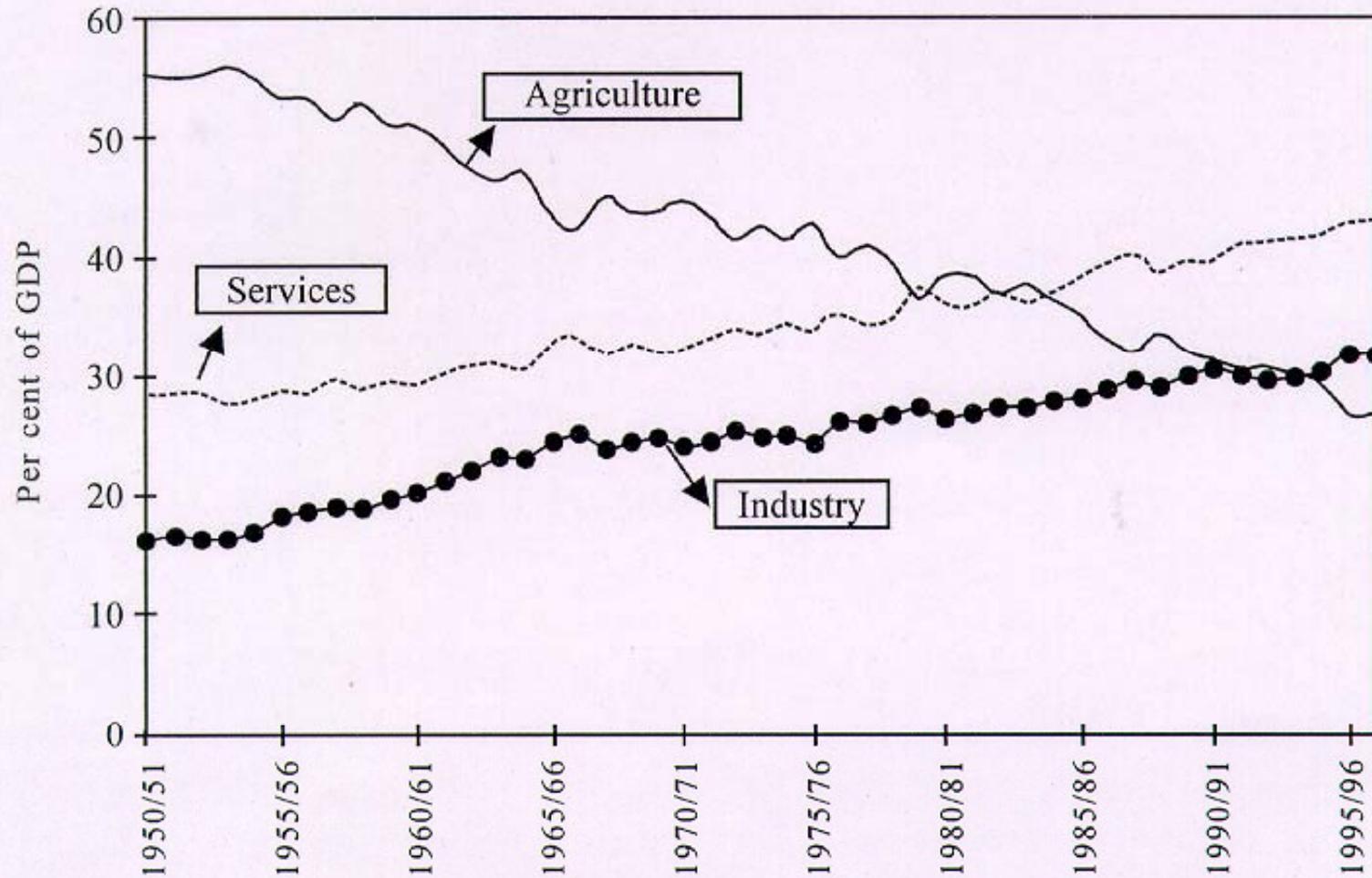
Some theory

- Economic restructuring
 - Agriculture (forestry, fishery, mining) is substituting labour with capital
- Agglomeration economies
- Other factors: amenities are affecting location decision of households and firms

Economic restructuring

-what was the other name for “development”?
 - INDUSTRIALIZATION
- “Colin Clark’s Law” about the shift in employment by industry (Ag.>Manuf.>Services)
- Lewis Model: economic development theory in which “development and growth” are driven by the transfer of surplus labor from the traditional agricultural sector to the modern industrial sector (i.e. from “rural” to “urban”)

Figure 1. Percentage share of the agriculture, industry and services sectors in GDP



Source: National Account Statistics (various years).

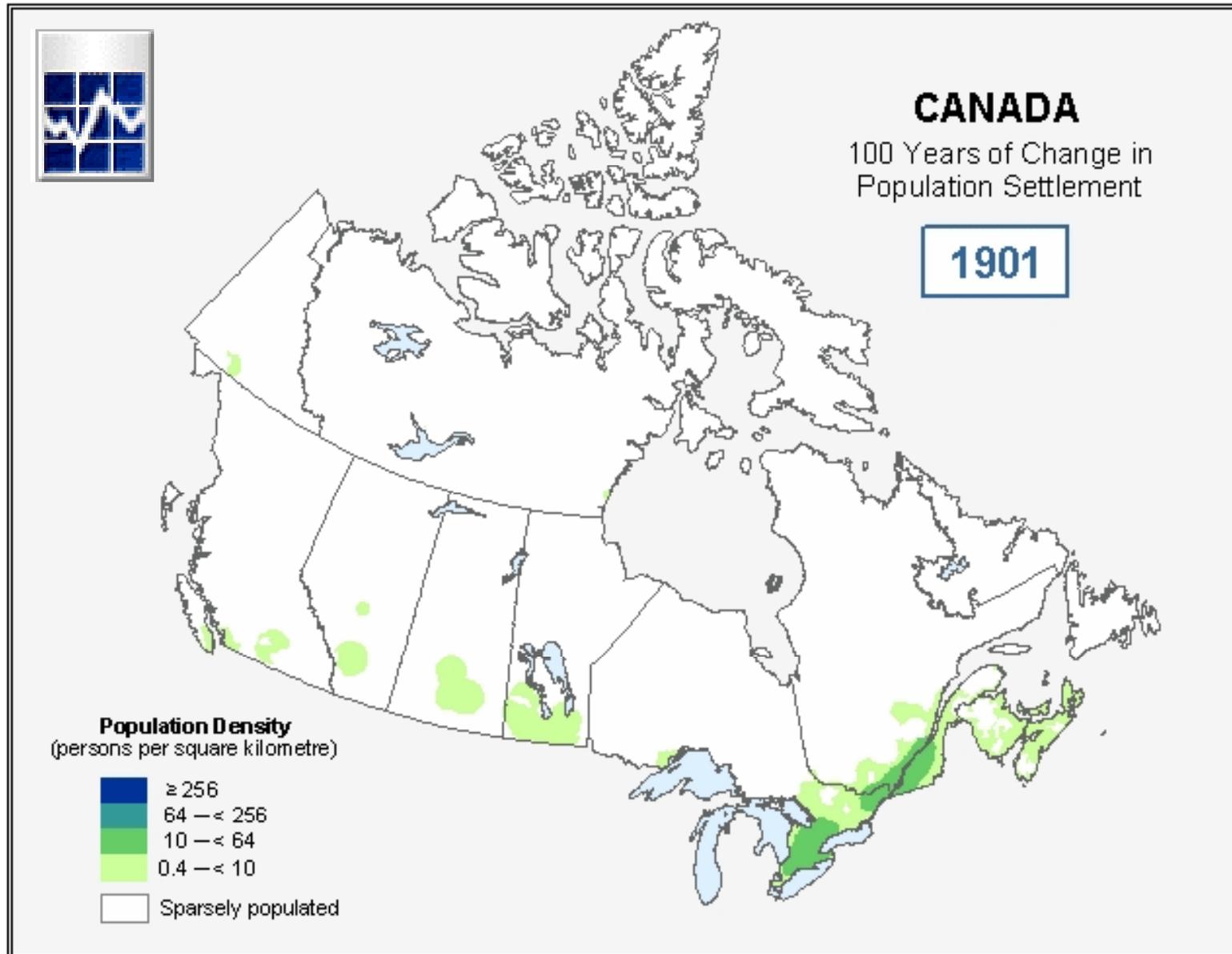
Why do economic activities agglomerate in a small number of places?

- **Agglomeration economies:** benefits realized by clustering together, often associated with the collective use of infrastructure, communications facilities and other services
- **Urbanization economies:** benefits derived from the agglomeration of population, namely common infrastructures (e.g. public transit), the availability and diversity of labor and market size.
- **Industrialization economies:** benefits derived from the agglomeration of industrial activities, such as being their respective suppliers or customers.
- **Localization economies:** benefits derived from the agglomeration of a set of activities near a specific facility, let it be a transport terminal, a seat of government power or a large university.

Distance matters

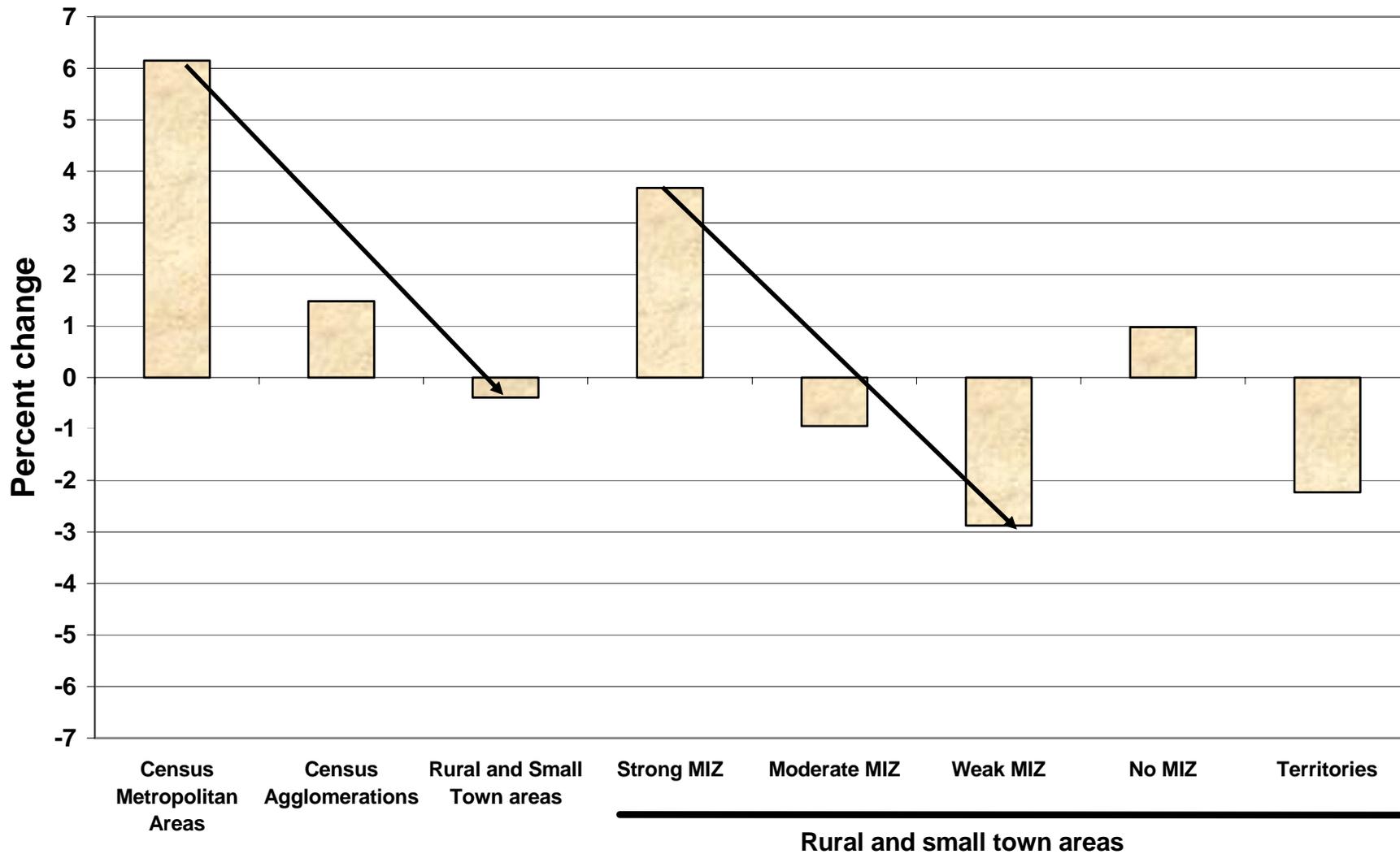
- “Most of the available evidence indicates that geography matters in the new economy. New technologies have changed the spatial scale of the production processes but have not reduced the relevance of space. The declining cost of communication and transportation, combined with scale and agglomeration economies, have reinforced the process of geographic concentration of physical, technological and human resources mainly in favor of large agglomerations.”
- See: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/21-601-MIE/21-601-MIE2005076.pdf>

Population settlement, 1901-2001





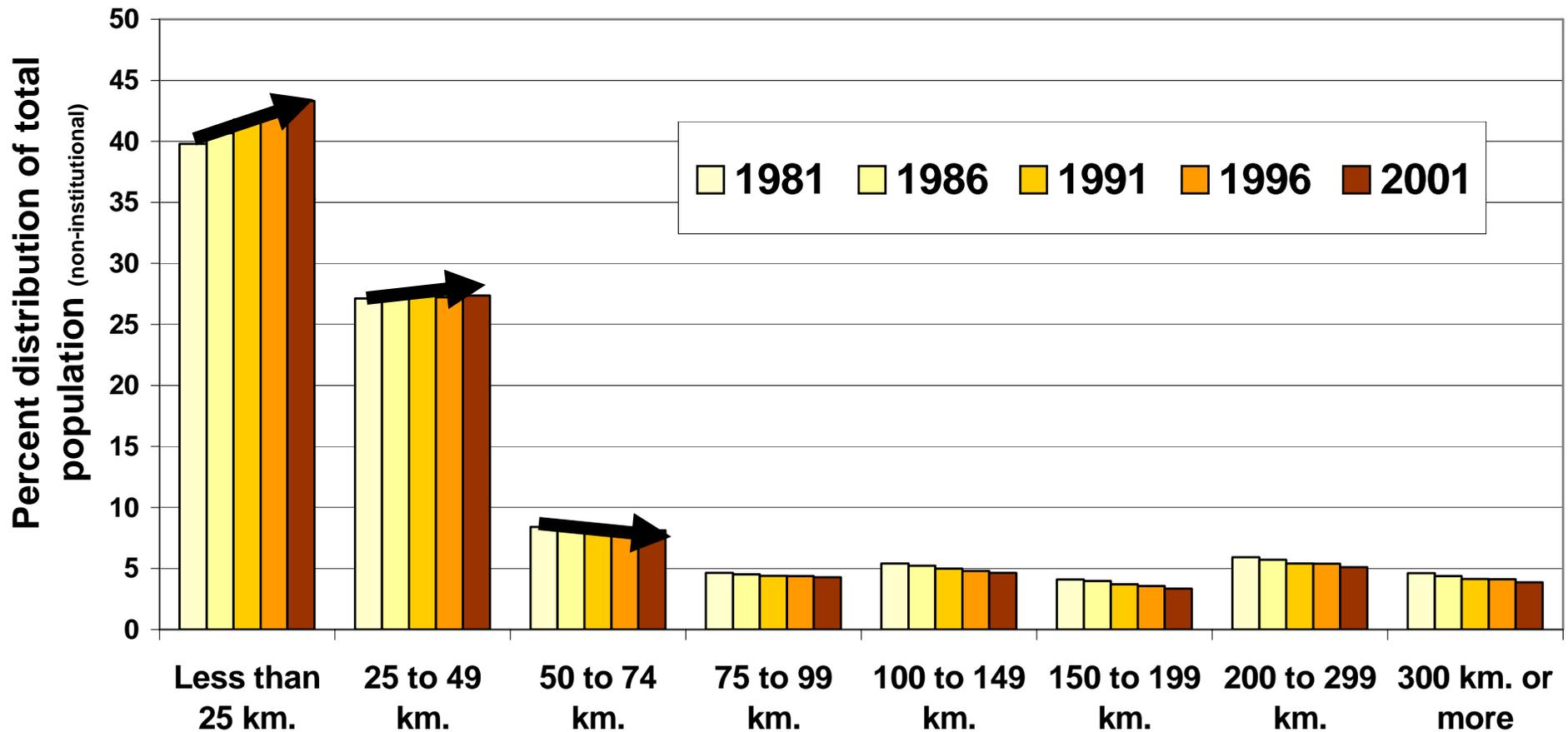
Strong growth in metro areas and in rural areas strongly influenced by metro areas, Canada, 1996 to 2001



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1996 - 2001. MIZ refers to Metropolitan Influenced Zone.



Communities more than 50 km. from a CMA with over 100,000 inhabitants are, on average, not competitive (their share of total population is declining)

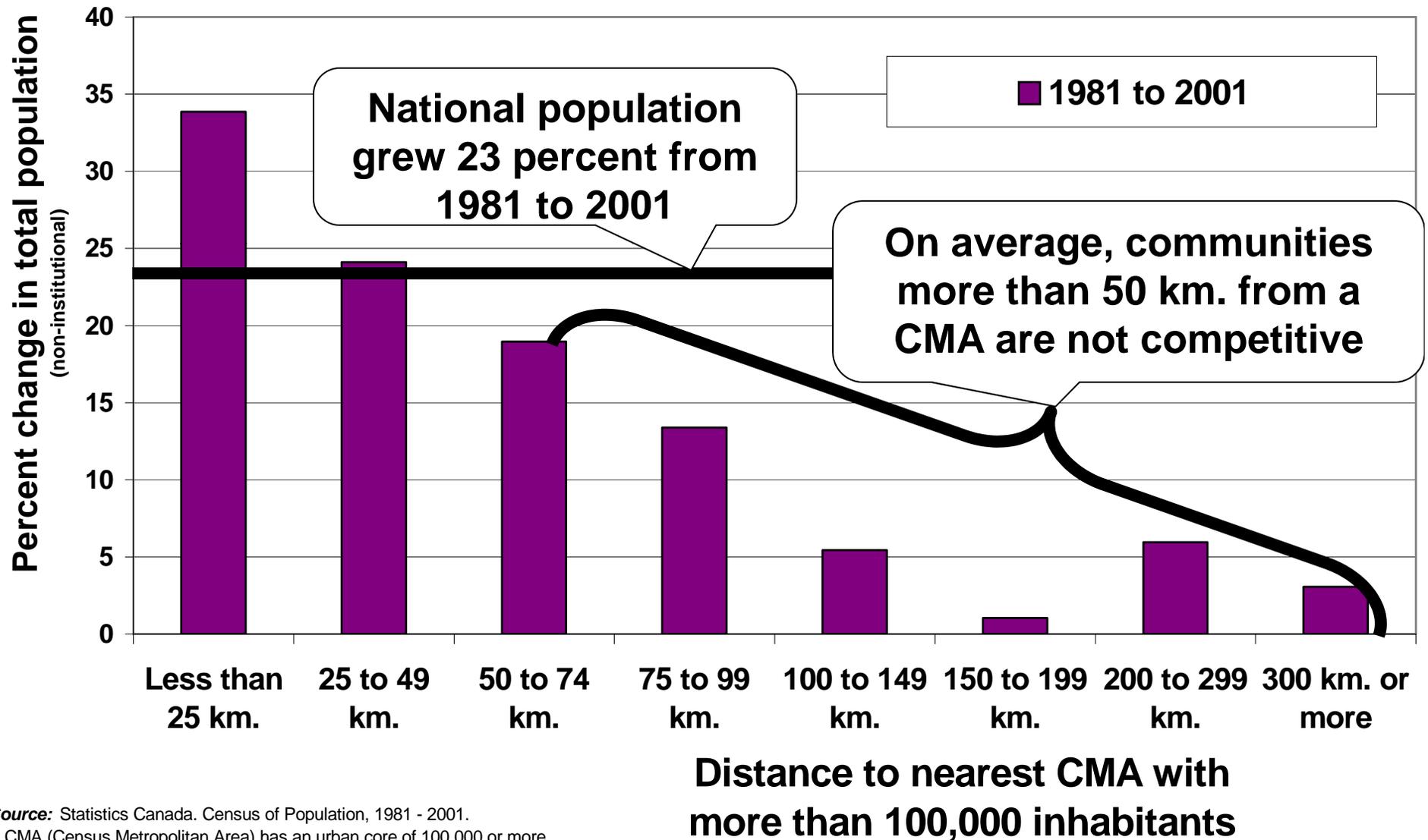


Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 2001.
A CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) has an urban core of 100,000 or more.

Distance to nearest CMA with
more than 100,000 inhabitants



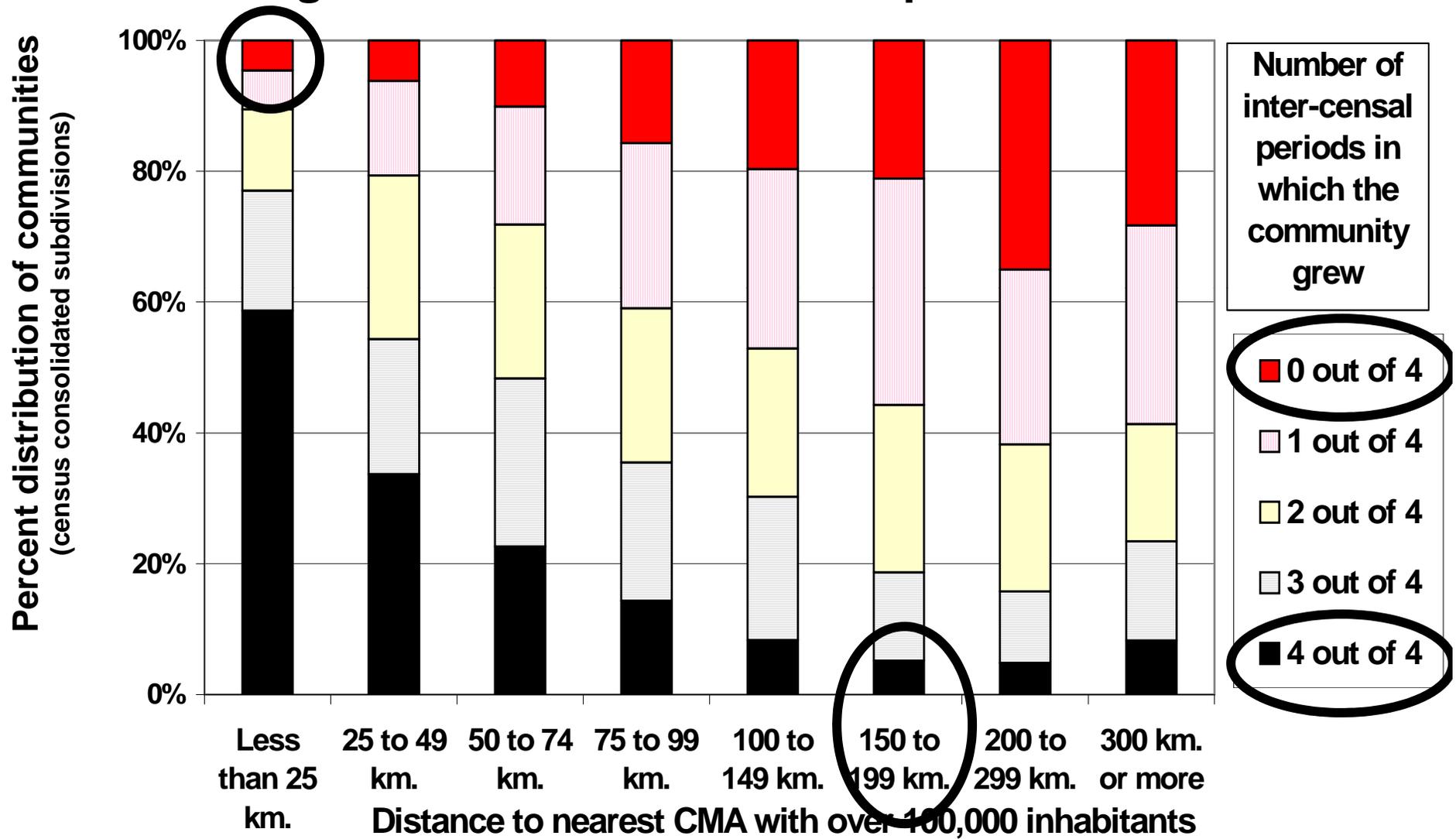
The greater the distance from a metro centre , the lower the rate of population growth, on average, from 1981 to 2001



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 2001.
A CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) has an urban core of 100,000 or more.



For communities within 25 km. of a CMA with over 100,000 inhabitants, 58 percent of the communities grew in 4 of the 4 intercensal periods from 1981 to 2001

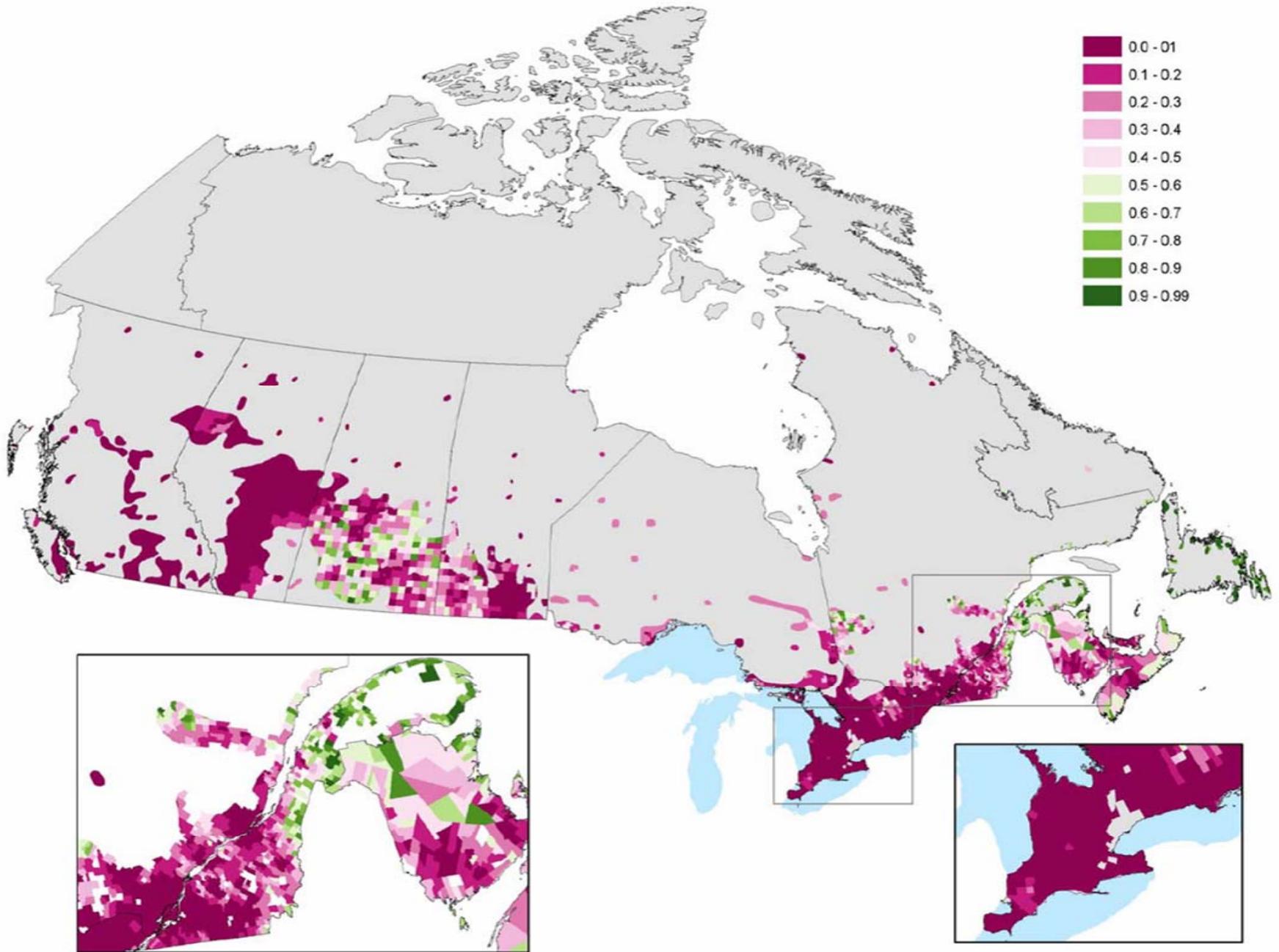


Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1981 - 2001.
A CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) has an urban core of 100,000 or more.

Is this a problem?

- Option 1: Who cares! This is the way things go
- Option 3: striking the right balance
 - Can we do something?
- Option 2: this is a tragedy!! We are losing our rural communities, heritage, culture, etc.

Map 3. Index of community vulnerability to population decline, 2001



Source: Author's computation based on estimation results.

Data sources for your analysis:

- [Statistics Canada](#)
 - [Community profiles](#)
- [Community Information Database](#)
- [FAOSTAT](#)

Our main publications

- [Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin](#)
- [Agriculture and Rural Working Paper Series](#)

Thank you