

# AGRICULTURE statistics

## OVERVIEW OF RURAL MANITOBA

### Economic Trends

- Manitoba's rural economy has become very diversified. Although agriculture is an important vital sector, other important industries include manufacturing and mining. The province's central location also makes it an attractive base for a wide variety of services, particularly in transportation and wholesale distribution.
- Agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy. Manitoba's 19.1 million acres of farmland includes 11.6 million acres of cropland and features 19,054 farms with an average farm size of 1,001 acres. Despite the dominance of grain production, agriculture in Manitoba is more diversified than in other Prairie Provinces. Major crops include canola, wheat, barley, oats, rye, and Manitoba dominates Canadian production of flaxseed, sunflower seeds, buckwheat and field peas. In 2010 crop receipts were \$2.75 billion and livestock revenues mainly from hogs and cattle were \$1.74 billion.
- Despite Manitoba's prairie reputation, freshwater fisheries play an important role in the province's economy. Approximately 160,000 licensed anglers annually spend over \$75 million on recreational fishing in pursuit of walleye, pike, perch, catfish, trout, bass and a number of other species. Commercial fishers harvest over 12.5 million kgs of walleye, sauger, whitefish and other species, which generates \$32 million to the provincial economy through sales to international markets by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.
- Close to one-half of Manitoba's total area is officially classified as non-productive forestland. Fifteen areas, containing 21,995 square kilometres are set aside as publicly owned provincial forest, specifically for the production of forest products. The most common tree species, in order of present volume are black spruce, trembling aspen, jack pine, white spruce, balsam poplar and white birch. Balsam fir, tamarack larch, eastern cedar, bur oak, white elm, basswood, cottonwood, Manitoba maple, red pine and white pine are found predominantly in southern Manitoba. The province operates a provincial nursery at Hadashville as part of its program to improve seedling production and reforestation. The forest industry directly employs approximately 9,000 people, harvesting 2 million cubic metres of wood, with pulpwood, sawlogs and oriented strand board wood providing more than 95% of end use. Paper, oriented strand board and sawmilling are the primary wood industries. Secondary industries range from door manufacturing to asphalt roofing and bags.

- Manufacturing is widely diversified throughout rural Manitoba. Particular strengths of this large goods-producing economic sector include food and transportation equipment, machinery, primary metal and metal fabricating, electrical goods, printing and publishing.
- Mining is important to Manitoba's economy with mineral production valued at an estimated \$1.02 billion. Metals accounted for just over 82% of the total value of mineral production followed by industrial minerals (7%) and petroleum (11%). Metals found in Manitoba include nickel, copper, zinc, gold, cadmium and silver. Industrial minerals quarried in Manitoba include a wide variety of raw materials for the construction industry, including silica sand, limestone, granite, stoneware, clay, bentonite, dolomite and peat moss.

## Business Trends

- Smaller communities have relatively more businesses than larger communities in comparison to percentage of the population:

Smaller Communities		Larger Communities	
% population	% of businesses	% population	% of businesses
35	38	65	62

- Among businesses of smaller communities, natural resource businesses had a larger presence, while in larger communities, manufacturing and producer services had a larger presence.
- Percent distribution of businesses (with 1 or more employees) across industry categories:

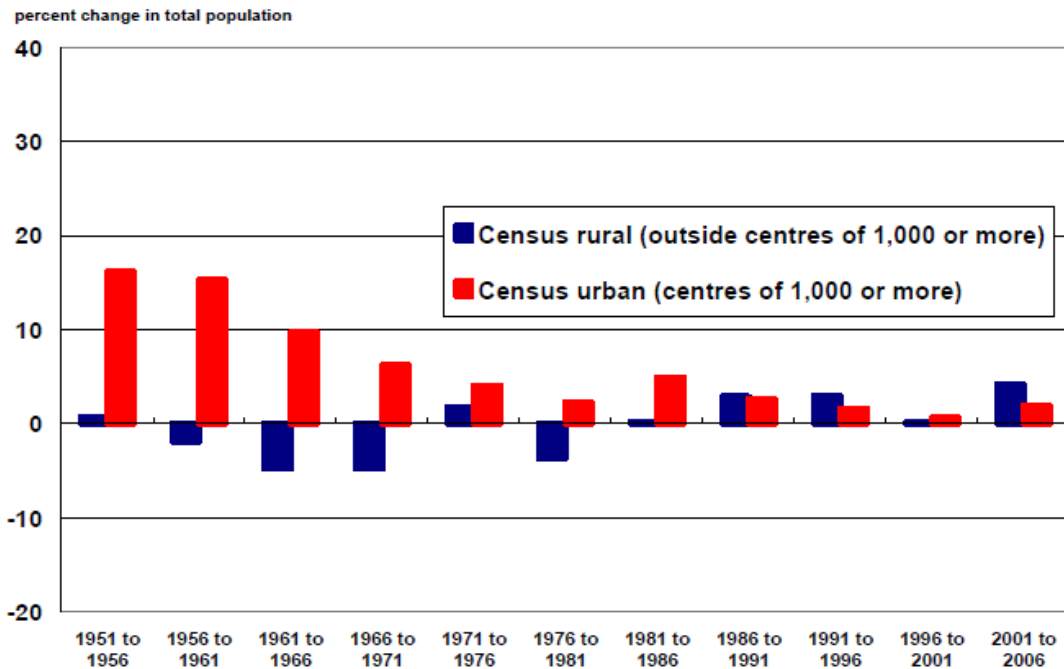
	Agriculture	Other Primary	Manufacturing	Construction	Service sector businesses				
					Distributive	Product	Personal	Social	Other
<b>Smaller communities</b>									
<b>Man</b>	22.6	2.0	3.8	9.9	26.6	8.0	17.8	9.3	61.7
<b>Can</b>	11.4	4.7	5.5	12.2	28.7	10.3	18.7	8.5	66.2
<b>Larger communities</b>									
<b>Man</b>	1.6	0.2	6.9	8.9	29.7	21.5	20.7	10.5	82.4
<b>Can</b>	1.5	1.0	7.4	10.4	28.2	22.2	19.3	10.0	79.7

## Population Trends

- The 2006 Census counted 371,000 Manitobans living in rural and small town areas, representing 29% of the provincial population. This is 5.2% of Canada's rural population. While the rural population has remained relatively stable at the national level, rural regions of Manitoba have shown consistent rural population growth in every 5-year period from 1981 to 2006.
- Population change in Census rural Manitoba from 1951 to 2006:

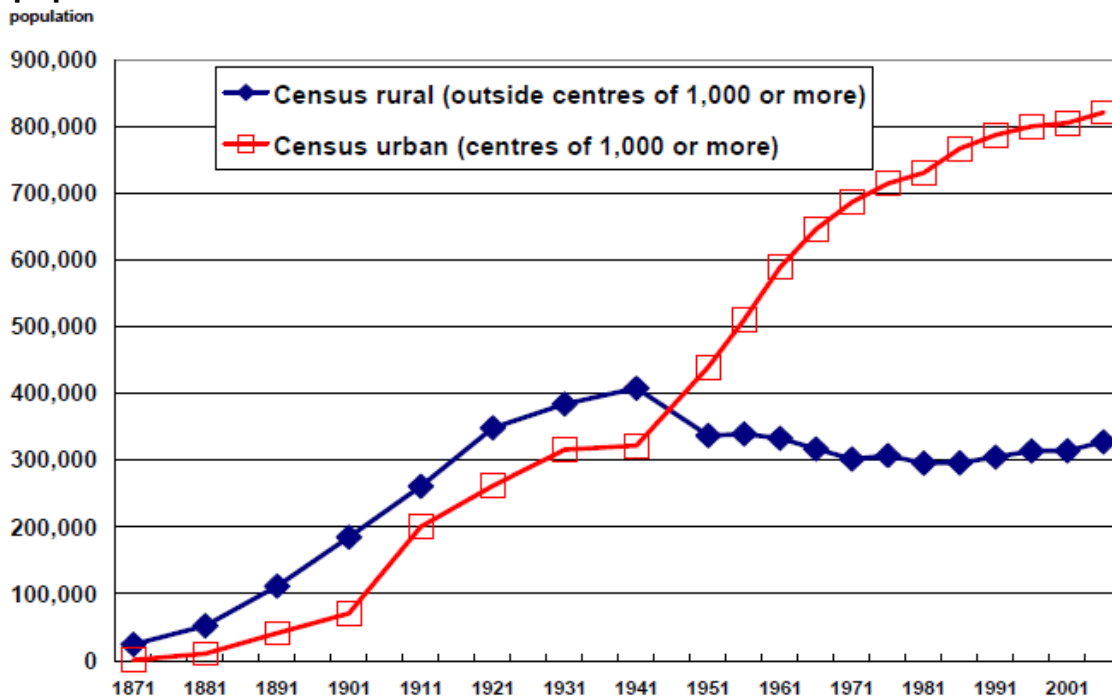
1951 to 1956	1956 to 1961	1961 to 1966	1966 to 1971	1971 to 1976	1976 to 1981	1981 to 1986	1986 to 1991	1991 to 1996	1996 to 2001	2001 to 2006
0.7%	-1.9%	-4.8%	-4.8%	1.7%	-3.7%	0.2%	2.9%	3.0%	0.1%	4.2%

- Manitoba's rural population grew faster than the urban population during the period of 1986 to 1996 as well as between 2001 and 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1951 to 2006.

- Historic population trend in Manitoba from 1871 to 2001:



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1851 to 2006.

- Since the last Census period, Steinbach and Winkler have had the fastest population growth with 19.9% and 14.6% respectively, as well as the R.M. of Stanley with 24.3%.
- During the same time period, the fastest population decline occurred in Flin Flon with a decrease of 6.8%.

<b>Community</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>% change (2001- 2006)</b>
Alonsa	1,446	1,641	-11.9
Russell	1,428	1,587	-1
Pipestone	1,419	1,567	-9.4
Roblin	1,672	1,818	-8
Melita	1,051	1,111	-5.4
Virden	3,010	3,109	-3.2
Dauphin	7,906	8,085	-2.2
Morris	2,662	2,723	-2.2
Portage la Prairie (city)	12,728	12,976	-1.9
Killarney	2,199	2,221	-1
Neepawa	3,298	3,325	-0.8
Carberry	1,502	1,513	-0.7
Waywayseecappo First Nation	1,127	1,135	-0.7
Boissevain	1,497	1,495	0.1
Carman	2,880	2,831	1.7
Beausejour	2,823	2,772	1.8
Ste. Anne	4,509	4,427	1.9
Minnedosa	2,474	2,426	2
Dauphin	2,328	2,273	2.4
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation	1,079	1,050	2.8
Sandy Bay 5	2,518	2,446	2.9
Souris	1,772	1,716	3.3
Sifton	796	766	3.9
Brandon	41,511	39,716	4.5
Rivers	1,193	1,119	6.6
Morden	6,571	6,159	6.7
Aexander	2,978	2,780	7.1
Altona	3,709	3,434	8
Winkler	9,106	7,943	14.6
Steinbach	11,066	9,227	19.9
St. Laurent	1,454	1,172	24.1
Niverville	2,464	1,921	28.3

- In 2006, immigrants accounted for 6.9% of the total population of Manitoba's rural and small towns of which 1.7% were new immigrants who have arrived since 2001. The 2006 Census determined that recent immigrants are more likely to migrate into rural and small town areas; however, compared to all rural and small town residents, they are also more likely to migrate out of those areas.
- In rural and small towns throughout Canada, there are relatively more immigrants born in Northern and Western Europe and the United States. Manitoba also has a long-established Central/South American immigrant population. Since many areas of rural Manitoba are experiencing a natural decline in the population and out-migration, eroding infrastructure, a decreasing economic base and a loss of long-held social capital, some rural communities are increasingly recruiting immigrants to meet labour requirements.
- Winkler and Steinbach regions have successfully created jobs over recent decades and they have been able to attract a critical mass of people with a Mennonite ethnic origin to join their community. In the Winkler area, recent immigrants accounted for about 5% of the region's population. As a result, the Winkler and Steinbach areas had the highest share of new immigrants seen in any predominantly rural region in the country. These two regions ranked 6th and 11th in Canada in terms of the share of the total population that were new immigrants.
- Food processing plants such as Maple Leaf in Brandon face difficulties maintaining a work force from local areas to fill lower paying, labour intensive and physically demanding positions. The result has been to hire immigrants and refugees from Africa, Asia, and Central America to fulfill the labour requirements
- Immigrants born in Western Asia and the Middle East, represent 0.2% of Canada's overall rural and small town population. In Manitoba, this group represents a significant population change as 53% of the immigrants from Western Asia and the Middle East arrived in the province as new immigrants between 2001 and 2006.

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