Canada

Rural Prince Edward Island

Profile:
A Ten-year Census Analysis
(1991 - 2001)

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Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

List of Appendix Tables

Foreword

Rural Prince Edward Island Profile is one of a series of 14 profiles – one for each territory and province plus one national document. These profiles represent one response by the Government of Canada's Rural Secretariat to address a need for better information concerning rural areas. Distance from urban centres and population density are correlated to a number of factors that affect the wellbeing of Canadians. It is hoped that this document will draw attention to areas that require in-depth research. Most importantly, for government policy and programs to meet the particular needs of rural Canadians living in zones of varying degrees of metropolitan influence, government needs to understand the differences between these zones.

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The Rural Secretariat values readers' feedback. Any suggestions or comments may be directed to:

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Profil de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard rurale : une analyse des données de recensement sur dix ans (1991–2001)

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Government of Canada's Rural Secretariat initiated this report to advance its goal in improving government and citizen understanding of rural conditions in the province of Prince Edward Island. This report benchmarks major socio-economic structures and trends regarding rural areas. The overall objective is to help improve policy with respect to the economic and social conditions found in rural Prince Edward Island.

Research Methods

Two major classification systems form the core analysis in this report. First, the Metropolitan Influenced Zone (MIZ) system, developed by McNiven et al. (2000), is utilized to make distinctions within rural and small town Prince Edward Island. The four MIZ categories are *Strong*, *Moderate*, *Weak*, and *No MIZ*, with each reflecting progressively greater rurality. Second, a basic comparison between urban centres and rural/small town zones is also presented to capture overall differences. In total, 20 indicators from Statistics Canada's 2001, 1996 and 1991 Censuses of Population have been calculated and analyzed for each of four degrees of rurality, for rural and small town Prince Edward Island as a whole, and for its urban centres.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Population Indicators

In 2001, rural and small town residents comprised 44.9% of the total Prince Edward Island *population. Moderate MIZ* zones were the most heavily populated of the rural zones (comprising 21.7% of the total population), followed by *Strong* (14.0%), *Weak* (8.6%), and, finally, *No MIZ* (0.5%) zones.

Between 1991 and 1996, population growth is observed in both urban and rural Prince Edward Island. However, between 1996 and 2001, the rural population decreased slightly (by 1.0%), while the urban population continued to increase (by 1.8%). Population change varied considerably within rural and small town zones, ranging from the most consistent growth in *Strong MIZ* zones (of 5.9% and 0.1% in each inter-census period, respectively) to population contraction in *No MIZ* zones (of 10.2% between 1991 and 1996 and of 5.8% between 1996 and 2001).

Prince Edward Island's rural population comprised a much larger share of the total population than was the case Canada wide (44.9% compared to 20.6%). The rural populations of the province and of Canada as a whole grew between 1991 and 1996 (by 2.4% and 3.9% respectively). After 1996, both Canada's and Prince Edward Island's

rural populations contracted, though at a marginally greater rate in Prince Edward Island (1.0%) than in Canada as a whole (0.4%).

Compared to urban Prince Edward Island, rural and small town zones had slightly higher proportions falling within the lowest (children) and highest (seniors) age categories. All but *No MIZ* zones exhibited the same age structure. *No MIZ* zones, while having the largest proportion of children in the province (22.8% compared to the provincial figure of 20.0%), had the smallest proportion of seniors (9.6% compared to 12.8% in the total province). Between 1991 and 2001, the age distribution of both the urban and rural populations became more concentrated in the adult age category, with *Weak MIZ* zones most visibly exemplifying this trend of all rural zones.

Aboriginal individuals comprised a marginally larger share of the urban than the rural and small town population in 2001 (1.2% compared to 0.8%). Within rural zones, Aboriginal representation ranged from a low of 0.3% in *Moderate MIZ* zones to a high of 2.5% in *Weak MIZ* zones. The number of Aboriginal individuals in urban centres nearly doubled between 1996 and 2001, increasing from 455 to 855 individuals, yet the share of the urban population comprised of Aboriginal people increased by just 0.6 percentage points. Within rural and small town Prince Edward Island, Aboriginal representation remained stable in all but *No MIZ* zones, where an increase of 1.5 percentage points is observed.

Economic, Education, Social and Health Care Indicators

Most of the results illustrate a great deal of variation in the economic, education, social, and health care situations within rural and small town Prince Edward Island. While differences between the urban and rural populations are apparent, there was often greater variation among the four MIZ categories. *Strong MIZ* zones were most similar to urban centres, with many indicators revealing conditions of substantial advantage relative to the rest of rural Prince Edward Island. *Weak* and, on many indicators, *No MIZ* zones, in contrast, were among the least advantaged zones in the province, while *Moderate MIZ* zones usually fell somewhere between these extremes.

The use of three consecutive census years permits a review of changes over the decade of the 1990s in rural Prince Edward Island. Most apparent in this over-time review of the indicators is the continuation of the relative disadvantage of rural zones, when compared to urban Prince Edward Island, and the continuing advantage of *Strong MIZ* zones. For some indicators, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones exhibited declining economic well-being between 1996 and 2001 and for other indicators, modest improvements were not sufficient to close the gap between these zones and the more advantaged *Strong MIZ* zones and urban centres.

Examples of this pattern include the following:

Economic Indicators

- Low unemployment rates were consistently found across time in *Strong MIZ* zones, while high unemployment rates were consistently found in *No MIZ* zones.
- Residents of *Strong MIZ* zones were the most likely in rural Prince Edward Island to be employed in the service industries, and in production and government-provided services in particular, while *Weak* and *No MIZ* residents were the least represented in service industry employment in the province.
- Generally, median incomes declined as metropolitan influence weakened, with *Weak MIZ* incomes comprising just 80% of *Strong MIZ* incomes in 2001. *Weak MIZ* were also the only rural zones in the province to exhibit a lower median income in 2001 than in 1991.
- *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones had the highest proportions of low-income residents in the province (15.6% and 17.9%, respectively), and *Strong MIZ* zones had the lowest (7.5%). *Weak* and *No MIZ* were also the only zones in the province to have a higher proportion of low-income residents in 2001 than in 1991 (though urban centres had the same proportion in 2001 as in 1991).
- *Weak MIZ* zones had the highest proportion of residents with incomes derived from social transfer payments in the province (26.5%), followed by *No MIZ* zones (25.1%).

Education Indicators

- The lowest level of educational attainment is observed in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones where, respectively, 53.3% and 51.5% of the population of at least 20 years of age had not completed high school as recently as 2001. *Weak MIZ* residents were also the least likely in Prince Edward Island to have attained some-post-secondary education (8.2%) or a university degree (5.1%) in 2001, and *No MIZ* residents were the least likely to have attained a post-secondary certificate or diploma (17.2%) in this census year. Of the rural zones, *Strong MIZ*, in contrast, had the highest proportions of individuals attaining a post-secondary certificate/diploma (32.4%) or a university degree (10.2%) in 2001.
- *Weak MIZ* zones had the smallest and *Strong MIZ* zones the largest number of per 1,000 population education providers in 2001 (11.7 compared to 13.3 per 1,000 population, respectively).

Social Indicators

- The prevalence of lone-parent families increased as metropolitan influence declined. *No MIZ* zones had the highest incidence of, and experienced the greatest over time growth in lone-parent families (from 9.8% in 1991 to 25.0% in 2001), while the lowest rates are observed in *Strong MIZ* zones (10.6% in 2001).
- *Strong MIZ* zones had the newest housing in the province, with 16.0% of dwellings constructed between 1991 and 2001 compared to 14.9% provincially. *Weak MIZ*

zones were the least likely to have new houses constructed during this period (12.5%).

- Housing values declined as urban influence weakened. Despite declining between 1996 and 2001, *Strong MIZ* housing values continued to be the highest in rural Prince Edward Island in 2001, averaging $20,200 higher (12%) than *No MIZ* housing values.
- Despite having among the lowest housing values in the province, residents of *Weak MIZ* zones were the least able in the province to afford their shelter with 13.5% of household owners spending more than 30% of their income on shelter in 2001.

Health Care Indicators

- In *No MIZ* zones resided the lowest ratio of health care providers to population in the province (14.8 per 1,000 population) and as of 2001, resided no professional health care providers (e.g., physicians). Though substantially fewer health care professionals resided in *Strong MIZ* than in urban centres, the former zones had the highest relative number of professionals residing in rural Prince Edward Island in 2001 (2.4 per 1,000 population).

Residents of rural and small town Prince Edward Island are clearly not equivalent to their urban counterparts with respect to economic prosperity, social well-being, educational attainment and access to health care. The differences that exist within rural and small town Prince Edward Island are, however, equally, if not more, apparent. Despite moderate improvements in the most disadvantaged *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, residents of these zones continue, as recently as 2001, to experience conditions of disadvantage relative to the rest of Prince Edward Island. The MIZ classification system consistently demonstrates that resources and support are increasingly needed as social and economic integration with urban regions decreases. *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones are in a relative position of greater need in terms of supporting policy and programs than are their more integrated *Strong MIZ* counterparts.

Introduction

The Government of Canada's Rural Secretariat initiated this report to advance its goal of improving government and citizen understanding of rural conditions in the province of Prince Edward Island. This report benchmarks the major socio-economic structures and trends in rural Prince Edward Island. The overall objective is to help improve policy with respect to the economic and social conditions found in rural Prince Edward Island. Similar documents have been prepared profiling the rural conditions in each of Canada's nine other provinces and three territories, plus one profile for the whole country.

Residents of rural Prince Edward Island comprise 44.9% of the provincial population. But, this population exhibits considerable variation; ranging from the most remote, sparsely populated, and typically most disadvantaged zones to the more affluent metro-adjacent zones that have established economic and social connections with urban sites. To capture the conditions of rural Prince Edward Island appropriately, therefore, it is important to recognize the diversity and varying degrees of 'rurality' within different rural sectors of the province. Accordingly, a major goal of this report is to examine how geographic zones within rural Prince Edward Island exhibit variable demographic, economic, education, social, and health care characteristics.

The analysis presented here divides rural Prince Edward Island into four categories, each representing a specific degree of 'rurality.' These four categories are based on the Census **M**etropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration **I**nfluenced **Z**ones (MIZ) classification system (McNiven et al., 2000). In addition, the comparison of the CMA/CA population (as defined in the "Research Methods" section below) and the non-CMA/CA population (also called the "rural and small town population") is used to draw distinctions between rural and urban regions of the province.

The Rural and Small Town and MIZ definitions have proven useful for developing the profiles because they have allowed us to describe rurality using broad-brush strokes, highlighting differences between types of rural based on labour market integration as a proxy for rurality. However, it is important to recognize that there are limitations to the MIZ concept. While allowing an analysis and comparison between different types of rural, MIZ glosses over some important differences within each zone. For example in No MIZ, where Aboriginal people comprise a significant proportion of the population, we cannot describe rural non-Aboriginal separately from rural Aboriginal. MIZ also tends to obscure important place-related aspects. The provincial north disappears as a distinct region. Thus, we are describing averages and averages conceal the intra-zone variation.

Accuracy and comprehensiveness were important considerations in selecting the indicators used to examine the characteristics of rural Prince Edward Island. To

understand the social and economic conditions among Prince Edward Islanders, the indicators must be accurate measures of population, economic, education, social, and health care characteristics. Accuracy of the indicators was substantiated by previous research (see, for example, McNiven et al., 2000). Every attempt was also made to select indicators that represent the breadth of the Prince Edward Island experience. Still, they are perhaps not as comprehensive as they could be and adding to them will enrich similar profiles in the future.

Statistics Canada Census data were used for the years 1991, 1996, and 2001 to establish evidence of trends within rural and small town Prince Edward Island. It is important to understand, however, that since these data were compiled from census subdivisions, which may themselves contain a high level of variability, it is inappropriate to apply any of the findings to specific communities.

The report presents a number of findings that, together, paint a picture of diversity, both between urban and rural Prince Edward Island as well as within rural and small town Prince Edward Island. In addition to interpreting the findings individually, attempts are made to make sense of the data on an interrelated basis. In many of these instances, causes for differences in findings are extrapolated from the aggregation of data. These conjectures are, however, tentative since a more definitive causal analysis is beyond the scope of this report.

The following section of the report describes the research methods used in this analysis while subsequent sections (Sections A through E) present the population, economic, education, social, and health care profiles of rural Prince Edward Island. Section F summarizes the findings and the Appendix contains a series of tables containing the raw numbers to complement the percentages and ratios depicted in the tables and figures within the main body of the text.

Research Methods

Defining "Rural"

Two classification systems are used in this report; one to delineate between the rural and urban population and the other to distinguish differences among the rural population of the province.

The Rural and Small Town (RST) definition is used to demarcate between urban and rural population.[1] Residents of rural Prince Edward Island are defined as individuals residing in RST areas that have a population of less than 10,000 and where less than 50% of employed individuals commute to a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or Census Agglomeration (CA) (Statistics Canada, 1999a). Residents of urban Prince Edward Island are those residing in a CMA or CA. CMAs have an urban core population of at least 100,000 and include all neighbouring municipalities where 50% or more of the labour force commutes into the urban core. CAs have an urban core population between 10,000 and 99,999 and abide by the same commuting rules as CMAs (Statistics Canada, 1999a).

To capture varying degrees of rurality among the rural or non-metropolitan population of the province, we use a system developed by McNiven et al. (2000) whereby rural communities are classified into four groups using the Census **M**etropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration **I**nfluenced **Z**ones (**MIZ**). The MIZ classification system (or typology) permits distinctions among rural communities that are masked by the commonly-used CMA/CA and non-CMA/CA dichotomy. MIZ is designed to measure the degree to which all CMAs/CAs influence the rural community, as measured by commuting flows. Rural communities are classified into four MIZ categories based on the proportion of the population commuting to CMAs and CAs as follows:

MIZ Zones for Rural and Small Town (RST):

1. ***Strong MIZ***: Between 30% and 49% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any large urban centre, suggesting that this population is strongly integrated with the urban economy[2].

2. ***Moderate MIZ***: At least 5% but less than 30% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any large urban centre, suggesting that this population is moderately integrated with the urban economy.

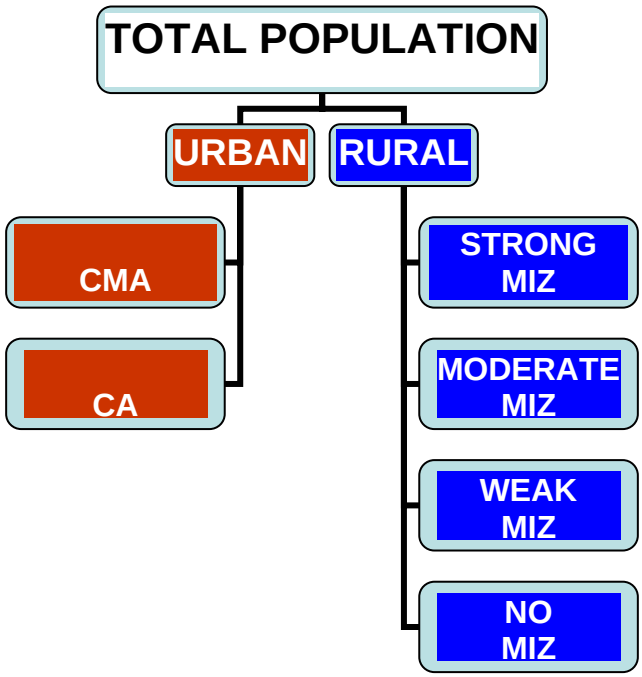
[1] RST is also known as Statistical Area Classification (SAC).
[2] The upper commuting limit of 49% holds for the vast majority of census subdivision (CSD) designations. In instances where more than 49% of the employed workforce commutes to more than one CMA or CA, however, the CSD is designated as *Strong MIZ*.

3. ***Weak MIZ***: More than 0% but less than 5% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any large urban centre, suggesting that this population is weakly integrated with the urban economy.

4. ***No MIZ***: 0% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any large urban centre (plus any census subdivision that has less than 40 people in its employed labour force), suggesting that this population is not at all integrated with the urban economy.

The geographic zones presented for each indicator are depicted in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Geographic Zone Model



The MIZ typology is a good proxy for rurality because of its use of commuter flows. These flows are more than just a measure of home to work journeys and access to labour markets since people tend to use services provided in the same regions where they work. Hence, the MIZ classification system is a measure of rural residents' interrelation with urban centres and reflects both the economic and social connection from rural to urban regions.

Indicators

Using 2001, 1996, and 1991 Census data, several measures of rural life were examined both between rural and urban Prince Edward Island as well as among the rural population of the province. The 20 indicators used to measure the population, economic, education, social, and health care conditions of Prince Edward Islanders by geographic zone are:

Population Indicators:

- Population size
- Age distribution
- Global dependency ratio
- Gender distribution
- Aboriginal identity population
- Home language

Economic Indicators:

- Labour force participation rates
- Unemployment rates
- Industry employment distribution
- Incidence of self-employment
- Median personal income
- Incidence of low income
- Social transfer income as a proportion of total income

Education Indicators:

- Educational attainment
- Number of education providers per 1,000 residents

Social Indicators:

- Incidence of lone-parent families
- Recent housing construction
- Average dwelling value
- Dwelling (housing) affordability

Health Care Indicators:

- Number of health care providers per 1,000 residents

Data Limitations

Since the analyses in this project involve comparisons between 1991, 1996, and 2001 Census data and Statistics Canada changes definitions or compilations for some indicators between census years, only inter-census comparisons of indicators with the same definitions are made. For indicators where changes are significant, results are presented separately. For example, level of education was modified from using the population 15 years of age and older in 1991 and 1996 to using the population 20 years of age and older in the 2001 census. As such, level of education is presented for 2001 separately from 1996 and 1991. In instances where a significant change occurred between the 1991 and 1996 Census (e.g., Aboriginal identity), data for the earlier year are not presented.

Second, the census data used in this report have been compiled at the Census Subdivision (CSD) level, which is generally equivalent to municipalities. However, the use of CSDs means that this analysis may be affected by area suppression. Designed to protect the confidentiality of individual respondents, area suppression refers to the practice of deleting all characteristic data for regions with total populations of less than 40 (Statistics Canada, 1999a). This process may result in minor discrepancies between these numbers and those published by Statistics Canada.[3] While the influence of area suppression on most geographic zones is marginal, it is particularly great in Prince Edward Island's *No MIZ* zones. In instances where a majority of *No MIZ* census subdivisions are suppressed, care has been taken to interpret the data cautiously, and notes have been included to highlight the influence of area suppression on the interpretation of the findings for this geographic zone of Prince Edward Island.

Third, the reclassification of some CSDs to different geographic zones between census years changes the population living in each geographic zone across time. In short, since the CSDs within each geographic zone are not exactly the same between census years some of the over-time changes observed may be a function of this reclassification. Though the total provincial figures are not susceptible to this issue, care should be taken when comparing between census years, within each geographic zone. For the population change data presented in Sections A.1 and A.2, however, CSD reclassification is overridden since the results for 1996 are standardized to 2001 census boundaries for calculating the 1996 to 2001 rate of population change and the 1991 results are standardized to the 1996 boundaries for calculating the 1991 to 1996 rate of population change.

Fourth, the MIZ system is, as mentioned, an appropriate measure of rurality since it incorporates the economic and social connections between smaller communities and larger urban centres. Relying exclusively on size and commuting proportions, however, can result in an over-estimation of the rural designation. For example, in instances where a community has a population of less than 10,000 and is within commuting distance to a CMA or CA, but the local job market is strong

[3] The use of the smaller CSDs, as opposed to census divisions (CDs), as the building blocks of the urban / rural configuration increases the likelihood of area suppression. This limitation is somewhat offset by the ability of CSDs to provide greater precision in population size and commuting flows (McNiven et al., 2000).

and independent such that less than 50% of the population commutes to the nearby urban centre, this community would be designated as rural. Hence, even though the community may have access to the amenities and services of the nearby urban centre, it is designated as rural because of its size and non-commuting patterns.

Fifth, Census data in No MIZ zones have limited reliability. The proportion of Aboriginal people in that zone varies between 25% and over 60%. Some First Nations, however, do not participate in the census and are therefore not captured. Furthermore, our indicator captures people who consider themselves as of Aboriginal ancestry. Over time Increases in that number may be due to higher birth rates but also to a greater number of individuals self-identifying. Then, some of our indicators are derived from Statistics Canada's 20% sample which, in zones with small populations, becomes slightly less reliable.

Lastly, it should be understood that the least integrated MIZ zones are not necessarily the most geographically remote. Since commuting patterns may be for longer periods than just daily commutes (it can be weekly or even less often), individuals in a CSD may commute over greater distances than what is typically observed among daily commuters. Thus, a CSD that is geographically remote from an urban centre may be classified as weakly, moderately, or even strongly integrated with a CMA/CA because of its commuting patterns.

Please note, to see a map of the Statistical Area Classification for Canada in 2001, go to the Statistics Canada website (2Hwww.statcan.ca) and click on "Census," then click on "Reference Maps" and then click on "Statistical Area Classification." The exact URL, for English, is
3Hhttp://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ReferenceMaps/n_sac_e.cfm
and for French is
4Hhttp://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ReferenceMaps/n_sac_f.cfm

For the population count for 1996 and 2001 for the Statistical Area Classification, go to the Statistics Canada website (5Hwww.statcan.ca) and click on "Census," then click on "Data" on the left-hand panel, then click on "Population and Dwelling Counts" and then click on "Statistical Area Classification". The exact URL, for English, is
6Hhttp://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/standard/popdwell/Table-SAC.cfm
and for French is
7Hhttp://www12.statcan.ca/francais/census01/products/standard/popdwell/Table-SAC.cfm

For selected socio-economic characteristics for larger urban centres (CMAs and CAs) and for rural and small town areas (non-CMA/CA areas), go to the Statistics Canada website (8Hwww.statcan.ca) and click on "Census", then click on "Data" on the left-hand panel, then click on "Highlight Tables" and then scroll down and click on "Statistical Area Classification." The exact URL, for English, is
9Hhttp://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/SAC/Page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo=PR&Code=01&Table=1a&StartRec=1&Sort=2&B1=Age&B2=Counts
and for French is
10Hhttp://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/highlight/SAC/Page.cfm?Lang=F&Geo=PR&Code=01&Table=1a&StartRec=1&Sort=2&B1=Age&B2=Counts

A detailed set of socio-economic characteristics by the Statistical Area Classification for the 2001 Census of Population is available for $60. Go to the Statistics Canada website (11Hwww.statcan.ca) and click on "Census", then click on "Data" on the left-hand panel, then scroll down and click on "Profiles" and then scroll down and click on "Statistical Area Classification." The exact URL in English is
12Hhttp://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=95F0495XCB2001012
and for French is
13Hhttp://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/francais/bsolc?catno=95F0495XCB2001012

FINDINGS

A. Population Indicators

KEY FINDINGS

A.1 Population Distribution and Change

- In 2001, rural and small town residents comprised 44.9% of the total population of Prince Edward Island. *Moderate MIZ* zones were the most heavily populated of the rural zones (comprising 21.7% of the total population), followed by *Strong* (14.0%), *Weak* (8.6%), and, finally, *No MIZ* (0.5%) zones[4].
- Between 1996 and 2001 the population of urban Prince Edward Island increased by 1.8%, while the rural and small town total fell by 1.0%. Population contraction of 1.2%, 2.0% and 5.8% occurred in the province's *Moderate*, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, respectively, while the population of *Strong MIZ* zones remained stable during this period.

A.2 Prince Edward Island - Canada Population Comparison

- Rural Prince Edward Island comprised a much larger share of the total population compared to the national rural share in 2001 (44.9% compared to 20.6%). Most of this difference can be attributed to the much larger proportion of *Moderate MIZ* residents in Prince Edward Island than in Canada (21.7% compared to 7.6%).
- The Prince Edward Island rural population declined to a slightly greater extent than did the Canadian rural population (1.0% compared to 0.4%) between 1996 and 2001.

A.3 Population Age Structure and Global Dependency Ratio

- Compared to the urban population, Prince Edward Island's rural population has slightly greater proportions of children and seniors.
- Between 1991 and 2001, the age profile of the urban and rural populations became increasingly concentrated at the adult age category (45 to 64 years of age).

A.4 Population Gender Structure

- While gender parity is observed for the total rural population (with 100.6 men per 100 women), *No MIZ* zones had the highest male-to-female ratio in the province with 109.2 men per 100 women in 2001.

A.5 Aboriginal Identity Population

- In 2001, Aboriginal individuals comprised a very small share of the Prince Edward Island population, ranging from 0.3% in *Moderate MIZ* zones to 2.5% in *Weak MIZ* zones.

[4] This zone had three census subdivisions with only 686 residents in 2001. Therefore, the results from No MIZ zones should be interpreted with caution, especially for over-time changes.

A.6 Home Language

- The vast majority of urban and rural residents spoke English most often at home (97.9% and 96.6%, respectively, in 2001). Rural residents, however, were more likely than urbanites to speak French (3.1% compared to 1.2%), with *Strong MIZ* residents the most likely to do so (4.6%).

Summary

Following a period of population growth between 1991 and 1996, the rural population of Prince Edward Island contracted between 1996 and 2001. Within rural and small town Prince Edward Island, population contraction occurred in every zone with the exception of *Strong MIZ* zones, which remained stable. Variable rates of population change within rural Prince Edward Island are largely explained by the respective economies in each of the four MIZ zones.

A.1 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND CHANGE

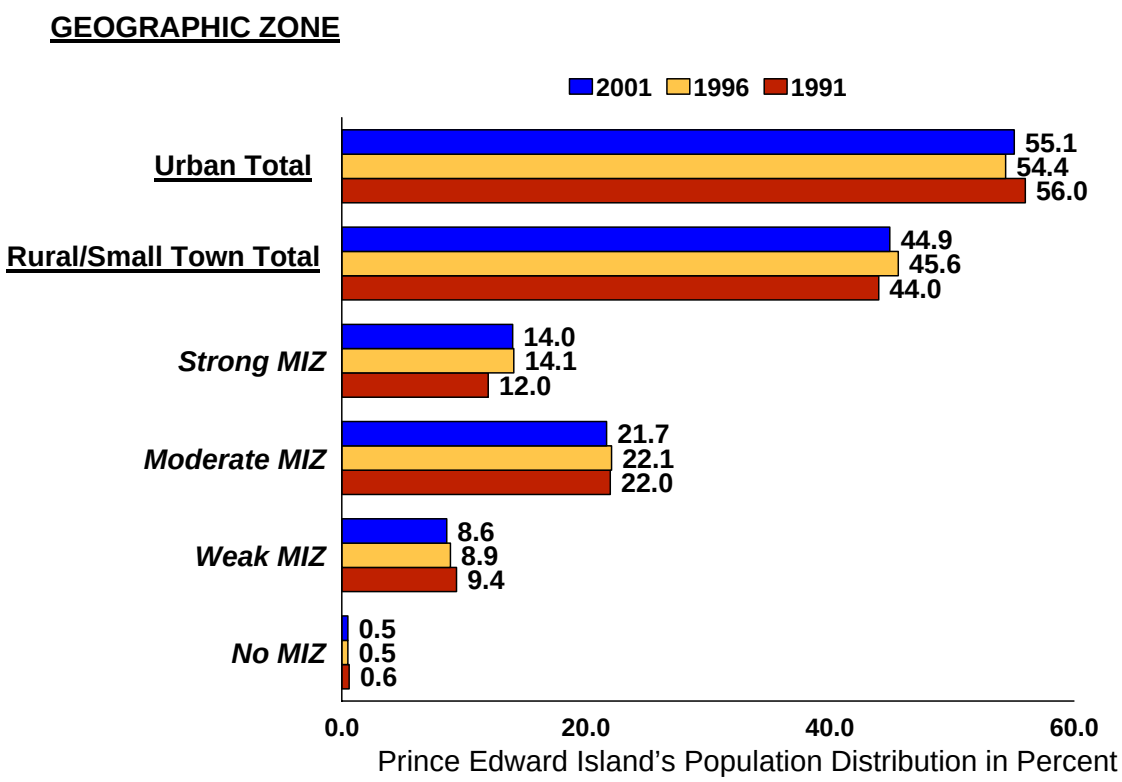
Between 1996 and 2001, rural and small town zones of the province declined in population, while the urban population continued to grow.

We begin our examination of population by first looking at the proportion of Prince Edward Island's population distributed between urban and rural zones and between each of the four MIZ geographic zones in 2001, 1996, and 1991.

Figure 2 demonstrates that rural Prince Edward Island accounted for 44.9% of the total population in 2001 (60,736 of the 135,294 inhabitants of Prince Edward Island resided in a rural region or a small town – see Appendix Table 1). In 2001, *Moderate MIZ* zones were the most populated of the rural zones (21.7%) followed by *Strong* (14.0%), *Weak* (8.6%), and, finally, *No MIZ* (0.5%) zones.

The proportion of the Prince Edward Island population residing in rural and small town zones increased marginally by 0.9 percentage points between 1991 and 2001 (from 44.0% to 44.9%). The increase in the rural share of the population was due entirely to an increase in the share of the population residing in *Strong MIZ* zones (from 12.0% in 1991 to 14.0% in 2001). Since *Strong MIZ* zones are among the most populated of the rural zones (comprising 31% of the 60,736 rural residents provincially in 2001; Appendix Table 1), the influence of this population increase on the total rural increase is substantial.

Figure 2: Rural Prince Edward Island Comprised a Marginally Larger Share of the Total Population in 2001 than in 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

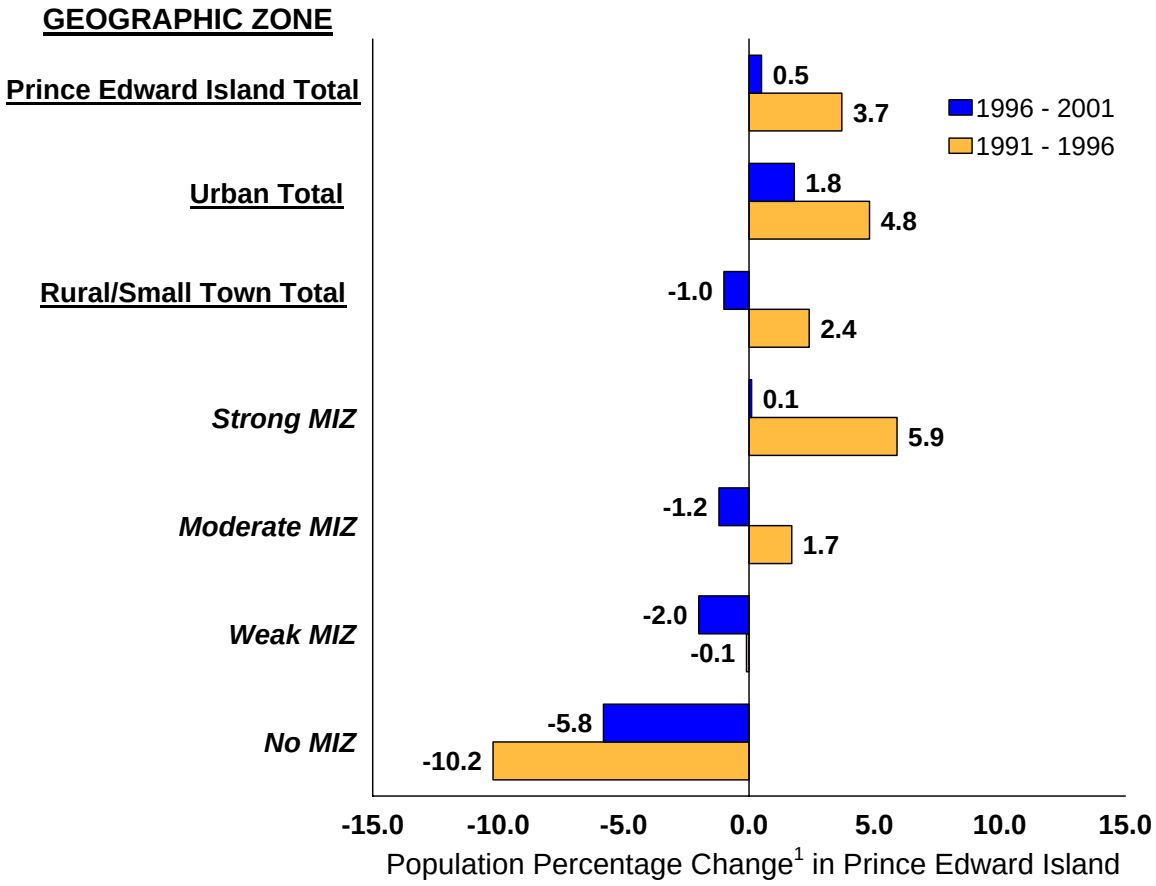
Inter-census population percentage changes (from 1991 to 1996 and from 1996 to 2001) are presented in Figure 3 for each geographic zone of the province using constant boundaries.[5]

Population change in the two inter-census periods and between the seven geographic zones varies somewhat. While the urban population increased in both inter-census periods, rural population growth between 1991 and 1996 was followed by a contraction of 1.0% between 1996 and 2001. A similar over-time pattern of population change is observed for the most heavily populated *Moderate MIZ* zones. However, after increasing by 5.9% between 1991 and 1996, the population in *Strong MIZ* zones remained stable. *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, in contrast, experienced population losses in both inter-census periods, with the most notable being within the latter zones, of 10.2

[5] As mentioned in the Methods Section, constant boundaries are used to override the effects of CSD reclassifications between census years. Population change between 1991 and 2001 is not presented because 1991data are not available in constant (2001) boundaries.

and 5.8%. But, as mentioned before, the No MIZ zone has a very small number or residents. It was 811 in 1991 compared to 686 in 2001, a decrease of 125 persons. In summary, population losses occurred most heavily in *No MIZ* zones of the province, followed by *Weak MIZ* and *Moderate MIZ* zones, while the population in *Strong MIZ* zones increased between 1991 and 2001.

Figure 3: Since 1996, Prince Edward Island's Urban Population has Increased while its Rural Population has Declined



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] 1991 data are adjusted to 1996 boundaries for the calculation of 1991 to 1996 change and 1996 data are adjusted to 2001 boundaries for the calculation of 1996 to 2001 change.

A.2 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND – CANADA POPULATION COMPARISON

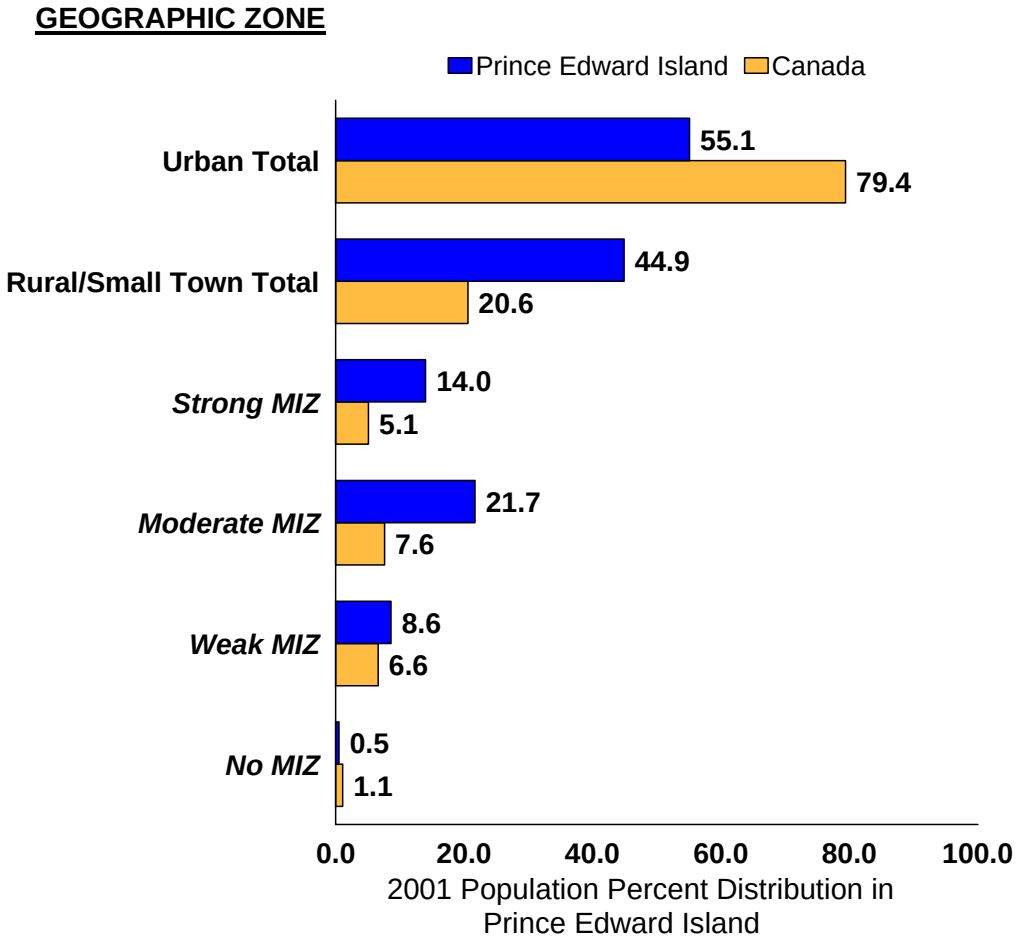
Compared to Canada, Prince Edward Island has a larger share of its population residing in rural and small town zones and its rural population declined at a slightly greater rate.

Having examined Prince Edward Island's population, it is useful to situate these provincial data within the larger Canadian context. Figure 4 presents the population percent distribution across geographic zones for Canada and Prince Edward Island (see Appendix Table 2 for the distributions for each of the 13 provinces and territories).

Compared to Canada as a whole, Prince Edward Island has a larger rural population (44.9% compared to 20.6%). Put another way, while urban Prince Edward Island in 2001 comprised 0.3% of the total Canadian urban population, rural Prince Edward Island contributed 1.0% to the Canadian rural population (see Appendix Table 3). Of Canada's other provinces and territories, only Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut had larger proportions of their population residing in rural and small town zones in 2001 (Appendix Table 2).

With few exceptions, the distribution of the population within rural and small town zones across Canada follows a pattern whereby the smallest proportion of the population is located in *No MIZ* and *Strong MIZ* zones. Prince Edward Island does not follow this pattern, with a greater proportion of the province's population residing in *Strong MIZ* than in *Weak MIZ* zones in 2001 (14.0% compared to 8.6%). As with the nation, the largest proportion of the rural population resides in *Moderate MIZ* zones, though the share residing in Prince Edward Island's *Moderate MIZ* zones is nearly three times greater than for the nation (21.7% compared to 7.6%).

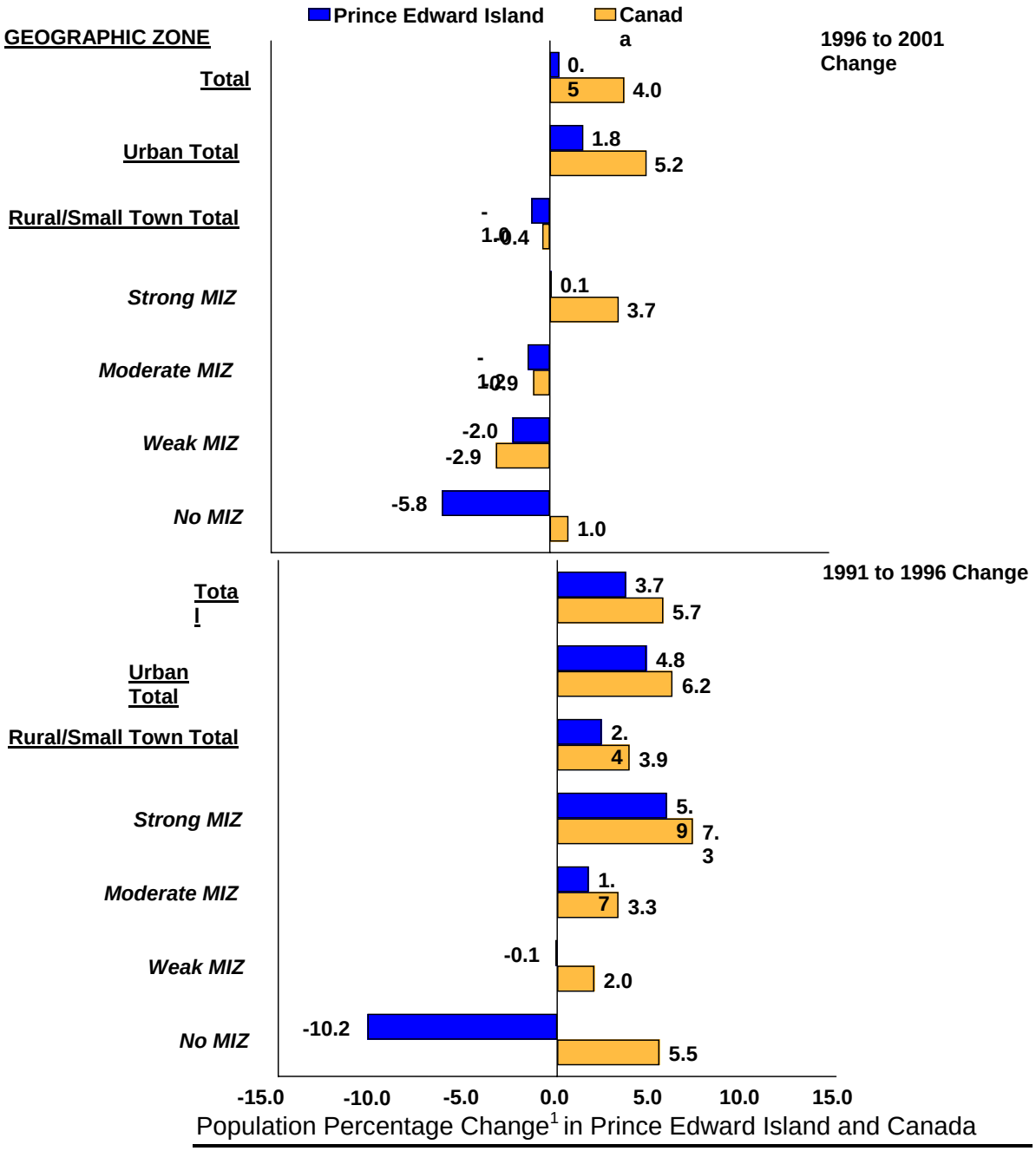
Figure 4: Prince Edward Island has a Proportionally Larger Rural Population than does Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

Using standardized boundaries, Figure 5 highlights the Prince Edward Island – Canada comparison of population percentage change in each geographic zone between 1996 and 2001 and 1991 and 1996 (see Appendix Table 3 for the population change within each province and territory). The figure reveals that like Prince Edward Island, Canada's rural populations increased in the first inter-census period and contracted in the second inter-census period. Figure 5 further reveals that the slightly greater rate of population contraction in the province than the nation between 1996 and 2001 (1.0% compared to 0.4%) is attributed to two differences: the stronger population growth in Canada's *Strong MIZ* zones (3.7% compared to 0.1%) and growth in the nation's *No MIZ* zones compared to population contraction in the province's *No MIZ* zones (1.0% compared to 5.8%).

Figure 5: In Both the Province and the Nation, Rural Population Growth was Followed by Population Contraction



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] 1991 data are adjusted to 1996 boundaries for the calculation of 1991 to 1996 change and 1996 data are adjusted to 2001 boundaries for the calculation of 1996 to 2001 change.

The individual provincial data displayed in Appendix Table 3 further reveal that nine other provinces and territories also experienced rural population contraction between

1996 and 2001. It is notable, however, that Prince Edward Island's rural population contraction was the second smallest of the ten provinces and territories experiencing contraction (Quebec's rural population contraction was the smallest at 0.8%).

A.3 POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE AND GLOBAL DEPENDENCY RATIO

Prince Edward Island's rural population has an age structure with slightly higher proportions of children and seniors.

The changing age structure of a population helps to forecast future demand for services such as education and health care. It can also inform future changes in the labour market structure and contribute to an understanding of how these changes may affect the economy.

Five age groups were used to analyze the age structure of the population. These are: 0-14 years, 15-24 years, 25-44 years, 45-64 years and 65 years of age and over. These categories were chosen because they represent five defined demographic groups: children, youth, young adults, adults, and seniors.

Table 1 presents the percentage distribution of the population in 2001 across each of the five age categories, and for each of the geographic zones (see also Appendix Tables 4 and 5). Compared to urban residents, the rural population of Prince Edward Island has an age structure with slightly higher proportions falling within the lowest and the highest age categories. While 20.9% of rural residents were children in 2001, only 19.3% of individuals residing in urban centres were within the same age category. And, while 13.2% of rural residents were seniors in 2001, 12.4% of urban residents were in the same age category.

Table 1 also reveals variation within rural Prince Edward Island, with the age structure of the population in *No MIZ* zones departing the most significantly from the other rural zones. While *No MIZ* zones had the highest proportion of children in the province in 2001 (22.8%), they had a much lower share of youth than did any other geographic zone (7.3%). These zones also had the highest proportion of young adults and adults (29.4% each) and the lowest proportion of seniors (9.6%) in the province. Thus, the age profile of *No MIZ* zones is one where the population is concentrated in the youngest age group and in the two adult age categories. The age structure observed in *Weak MIZ* zones is also of interest, with the smallest proportion of children in rural zones (20.4%) and the largest proportion of seniors in the province in 2001 (14.8%).

Table 1: Rural Prince Edward Islanders are More Likely than Urbanites to be Children and Seniors

Population Age Percent Distribution; 2001

Geographic Zone	Total	Children (0-14 years)	Youth (15-24 years)	Young Adults (25-44 years)	Adults (45-64 years)	Seniors (65 years +)
Prince Edward Island Total	100.0	20.0	14.2	28.2	24.8	12.8
Urban Total	100.0	19.3	14.8	28.6	24.9	12.4
Rural/Small Town Total	100.0	20.9	13.5	27.7	24.7	13.2
Strong MIZ	**100.0**	**21.2**	**13.2**	**27.7**	**25.1**	**12.8**
Moderate MIZ	**100.0**	**20.9**	**13.6**	**28.2**	**24.4**	**13.0**
Weak MIZ	**100.0**	**20.4**	**14.0**	**26.3**	**24.6**	**14.8**
No MIZ	**100.0**	**22.8**	**7.4**	**29.4**	**29.4**	**9.6**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

Table 2 presents the 1991 to 2001 age distribution percentage change for each age category and each geographic zone of the province. The table demonstrates that the Prince Edward Island population as a whole is increasingly becoming concentrated in the adult age category. Between 1991 and 2001, the combined proportion of children, youth, young adults, and seniors in the province decreased by 6.5 percentage points. In contrast, we observe an increase in the proportion of adults during the same time period of 6.5 percentage points.

The same pattern towards adult concentration is observed in both urban and rural Prince Edward Island, but it is less pronounced in the latter zones. Between 1991 and 2001, the rural and small town population underwent a 5.9 percentage point increase in the proportion of adults, compared to a 6.9 percentage point increase among the urban population. Within rural and small town Prince Edward Island, *Weak MIZ* zones most strongly exemplify the trend towards an increasingly adult population (increasing by 6.5 percentage points). Though *No MIZ* zones also follow this trend, they exhibit somewhat different over-time patterns in the other age categories: having the largest decreases in the province of the youth and senior populations between 1991 and 2001(10.4% and 3.7%, respectively) and increases in the share of the population that is children and young adults (0.6% and 2.2%) compared to decreases in these two age category elsewhere in the province.

Table 2: The Populations of Both Urban and Rural Prince Edward Island are Increasingly Becoming Concentrated in the Adult Age Category

Percentage Point Change in Share of Individuals in Each Age Class; 1991-2001, 1996-2001, and 1991-1996

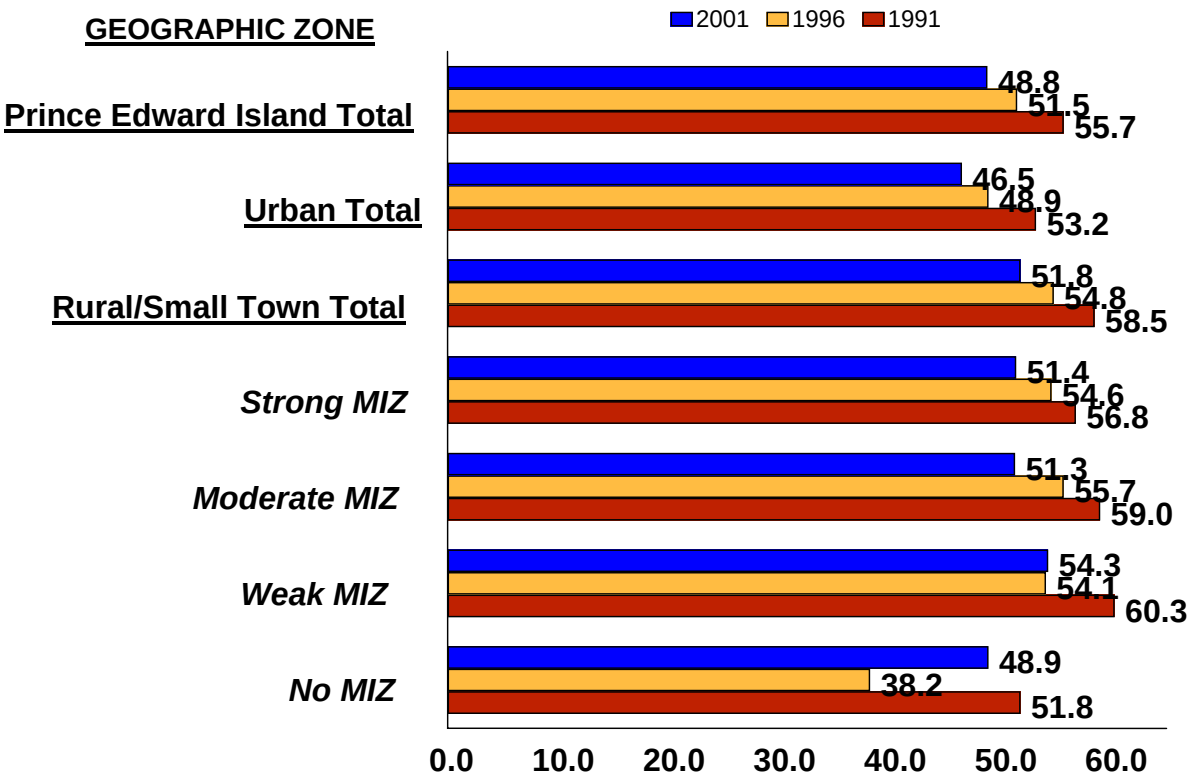
Geographic Zone	Children (0-14 years)			Youth (15-24 years)			Young Adults (25-44 years)			Adults (45-64 years)			Seniors (65+ years)		
	1991 - 2001	1996 - 2001	1991 - 1996	1991 - 2001	1996 - 2001	1991 - 1996	1991 - 2001	1996 - 2001	1991 - 1996	1991 - 2001	1996 - 2001	1991 - 1996	1991 - 2001	1996 - 2001	1991 - 1996
Prince Edward Island Total	-2.6	-1.9	-0.7	-0.8	-0.4	-0.4	-2.7	-1.9	-0.8	6.5	3.5	3.0	-0.4	0.7	-1.1
Urban Total	-2.5	-2.0	-0.5	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3	-3.5	-2.4	-1.1	6.9	3.6	3.3	-0.6	0.8	-1.4
Rural/Small Town Total	-2.7	-1.8	-0.9	-1.3	-0.7	-0.6	-1.8	-1.4	-0.4	5.9	3.4	2.5	-0.2	0.5	-0.7
Strong MIZ	**-2.0**	**-1.2**	**-0.8**	**-0.7**	**-0.6**	**-0.1**	**-2.5**	**-1.5**	**-1.0**	**5.5**	**3.3**	**2.2**	**-0.2**	**-0.2**	**0.0**
Moderate MIZ	**-3.4**	**-2.3**	**-1.1**	**-1.1**	**-0.3**	**-0.8**	**-1.6**	**-1.3**	**-0.3**	**5.8**	**3.6**	**2.2**	**0.1**	**0.4**	**-0.3**
Weak MIZ	**-2.0**	**-1.6**	**-0.4**	**-1.9**	**-1.0**	**-0.9**	**-1.9**	**-1.9**	**0.0**	**6.5**	**3.0**	**3.5**	**-0.4**	**1.7**	**-2.1**
No MIZ	**0.6**	**1.5**	**-0.9**	**-10.4**	**-15.3**	**5.0**	**2.2**	**3.2**	**-1.0**	**6.0**	**6.0**	**0.0**	**-3.7**	**3.2**	**-6.9**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

Since rural Prince Edward Islanders are more likely than urbanites to be children and seniors, they are less likely to be participating in the paid labour force. This age structure means that rural zones of the province have a higher global dependency ratio (Figure 6). This ratio measures the proportion of children (aged 0 to 14 years) and seniors (aged 65 years and over) to the working population (aged 15 to 64).

In 2001, there were 46.5 children and seniors per 100 urban adults, compared to 51.8 for every 100 rural and small town working-age adults. At 54.3 dependents per 100 adults, *Weak MIZ* zones had the largest global dependency ratio in the province and *No MIZ* zones the smallest (48.9%). These different ratios are explained by the much higher proportion of seniors in *Weak MIZ* zones in 2001 (14.8%) and the comparatively low proportion in *No MIZ* zones (9.6%).

Figure 6: Compared to the Urban Population, Prince Edward Island's Rural Population has a Higher Global Dependency Ratio



Global Dependency Ratio[1]: Number of Children and Seniors per 100 Working-Age Adults in Prince Edward Island

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Global dependency ratio is defined as the ratio of children (0-14 years of age) and senior (65 years of age and over) populations to the total working age population (15-64 years of age).

In terms of over-time change, Figure 6 depicts a lower global dependency ratio in 2001 than in 1991 in all geographic zones of the province, reflecting a simultaneous decline in the proportion of the child and senior populations and an increase in the share of the population comprised of adults (Table 2). Nonetheless, having more dependents to care for, rural and small town adults, and especially *Weak MIZ* adults, have a greater relative need for services targeted to seniors, children, and families.

The age distribution findings in Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 6 have important government policy implications with respect to services targeted toward children, teens, adults and seniors. First, the greater proportion of seniors in most rural and small town zones of Prince Edward Island suggests that seniors-related services are in greater relative demand in these zones of the province. Initiatives such as community-based health services and long-term care facilities will have to maintain sufficient capacity to address the demand.

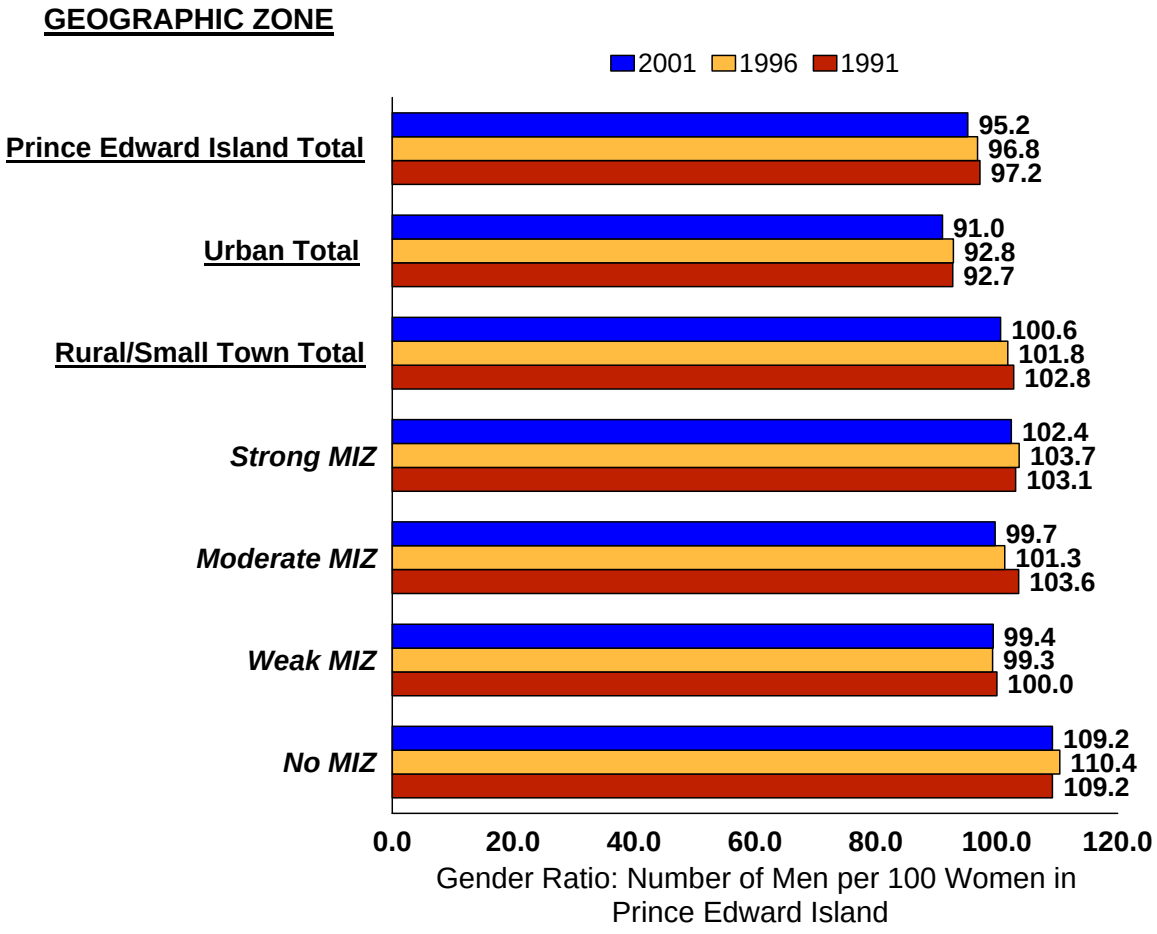
Second, although the proportion of rural Prince Edward Islanders who are children decreased between 1991 and 2001, the higher concentration of children and the higher rural dependency ratios generally, together suggest a greater overall need for children-related services in rural than in urban zones of the province. Further, since residents of *Weak MIZ* zones are slightly less likely than urban residents to be adults (Table 1), and because these zones have the lowest labour force participation rates in Prince Edward Island (Figure 10), they are the least likely to contribute to tax revenues. The provision of services in these zones is, therefore, limited by a comparatively small per capita tax base. These findings might suggest that governments in *Weak MIZ* zones are in slightly greater need of transfer payments.

A.4 POPULATION GENDER STRUCTURE

A much higher male-to-female ratio is observed in rural than in urban zones of Prince Edward Island.

Figure 7 illustrates that in 2001 there were fewer men than women in urban Prince Edward Island (91.0 men per 100 women), but slightly more men than women in rural and small town zones of the province (100.6 men per 100 women). *No MIZ* zones had the highest male-to-female ratio in 2001, with 109.2 men per 100 women, while the lowest rural ratio is observed in *Weak MIZ* zones of the province (99.4 men per 100 women). The figure also demonstrates that male representation decreased slightly across the province between 1991 and 2001, with the exception of *No MIZ* zones where the male-to-female ratio was the same in 2001 as it was in 1991.

Figure 7: The Male-to-Female Ratio is Higher in Rural than in Urban Zones



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

A.5 ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION[6]

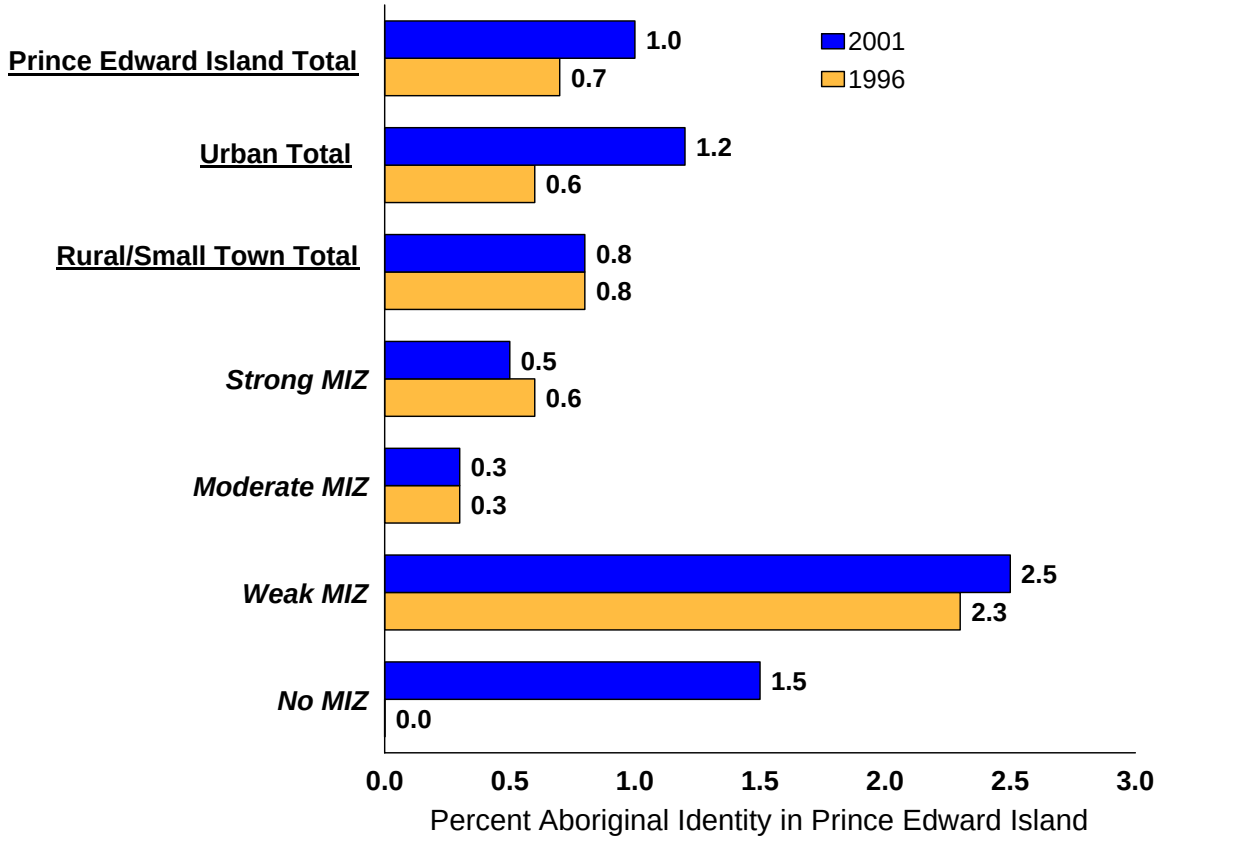
A very small proportion of the Prince Edward Island population is Aboriginal, with the largest share residing in *Weak MIZ* zones of the province.

The Aboriginal population in Canada has experienced significantly greater growth than the general population. In fact, the Aboriginal population is growing at a rate of almost twice that of the Canadian population (Corporate Information Management Directorate, 2000). Further, the Registered Indian population of Atlantic Canada is

[6] Refers to persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo) and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation (Statistics Canada, 1999a).

projected to grow by 25% between 2000 and 2021 (Indian and Northern Affairs, 2000). Individuals with this ethnic background have specific needs with respect to government services and the demand for these services will likely intensify as the population grows (Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission, 1999).

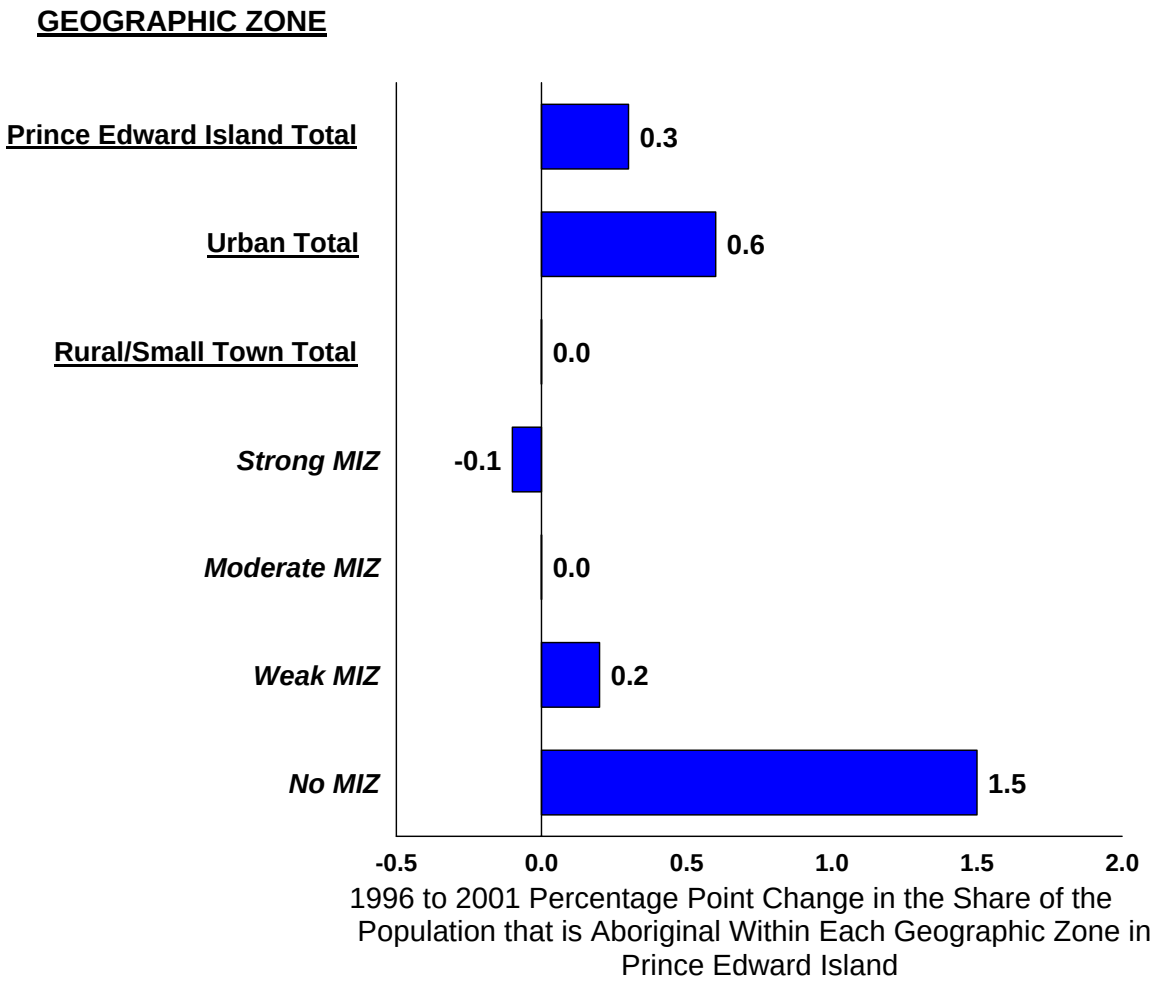
Figure 8: The Share of the Population that is Aboriginal is the Highest in *Weak MIZ* Zones of Prince Edward Island



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001 and 1996

In 2001, just 1.0% of the population of Prince Edward Island was comprised of Aboriginal individuals (Figure 8). Urban centres contained a slightly larger share (1.2%) compared to rural and small town zones (0.8%), as well as a larger absolute number of individuals of Aboriginal identity (855 compared to 495 in rural zones; see Appendix Table 6). With 2.5% of their populations comprised of Aboriginal individuals, *Weak* zones had the largest proportions of Aboriginal individuals in the province in 2001, followed by *No MIZ* zones (1.5%). In terms of absolute numbers, however, there were significantly more Aboriginal people in *Weak* than in *No MIZ* zones in this census year (285 compared to 10).

Figure 9: The Share of the Population that is Aboriginal Increased to a Greater Extent in Urban than in Rural Zones



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001 and 1996

Figure 9 indicates that, between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of Aboriginal individuals in the province remained virtually unchanged (0.3%).[7] The share of the urban population comprised of Aboriginal individuals increased by 0.6 percentage points (from 0.6% to 1.2%). But, in terms of absolute numbers, it increased from 455 Aboriginal individuals in 1996 to 855 in 2001.[8] Figure 9 also shows that *No MIZ* zones underwent the largest proportional increase in Aboriginal representation between 1996 and 2001 (of

[7] Aboriginal identity is not presented for 1991 because of significant differences in the definition in this year.
[8] Some of the increase in the Aboriginal population may be a result of an increasing tendency for individuals to self-report as Aboriginal.

1.5 percentage points). Again, it should be noted that this represents an increase in absolute numbers of just 10 individuals (Appendix Table 6).

A.6 HOME LANGUAGE

By examining the language spoken most often at home, we can garner an indication of the language diversity in rural versus urban Prince Edward Island. Home language can also be used as a proxy for ethnicity. Table 3 presents the proportion of Prince Edward Islanders speaking one of Canada's official languages (English or French), those speaking a non-official language (not English and not French), and those speaking more than one language (multiple languages) most often at home (see also Appendix Table 7).

Table 3 reveals that the vast majority of residents spoke English most often at home in each census year. In 2001, 97.9% of urban and 96.6% of rural Prince Edward Islanders spoke English. The rural population of the province was slightly more likely than the urban population to speak French (3.1% compared to 1.2%), with *Strong MIZ* residents most likely in the province to do so (4.6%). Less than one percent of residents in each geographic zone reported speaking a non-official language or provided multiple responses in each census year.

In terms of over-time change, the data reveal over-time stability in the proportion speaking each of the language categories most often at home for each geographic zone. While a few minor fluctuations can be observed, the data are remarkably consistent over time.

Table 3: Rural Residents are Slightly More Likely than Urban Residents to Speak French

Home Language[1] Percent Distribution, 2001, 1996, and 1991

Geographic Zone	English			French			Non-official language[2]			Multiple Responses		
	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total	97.3	97.1	97.1	2.0	2.2	2.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Urban Total	97.9	97.8	98.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3
Rural/ Small Town Total	96.6	96.2	96.1	3.1	3.5	3.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2
Strong MIZ	**94.8**	**94.7**	**96.7**	**4.6**	**5.1**	**2.9**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0.3**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**0.1**
Moderate MIZ	**97.3**	**96.5**	**95.7**	**2.5**	**3.2**	**4.1**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.2**
Weak MIZ	**97.5**	**97.5**	**96.3**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**3.4**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0.5**	**0.3**
No MIZ	**100.0**	**99.3**	**100.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Home language is based on the language "most often spoken at home" for all three censuses. For the 2001 Census, the home language question asked for the language spoken "most often at home" AND the languages spoken "on a regular basis at home." The 2001 data includes only the language "most often spoken at home" which is the equivalent of "home language" in the 1991 and 1996 censuses.

[2] "Non-official languages" include all languages excluding English and French.

SUMMARY

The above discussion highlights some of the implications for each of the population indicators. We can also, however, explore possible inferences by linking these results together. While the province's urban population exhibited growth throughout the decade of the 1990s, its rural and small town population grew in the first half of the decade, but declined between 1996 and 2001. The focus of this summary is on the shift from population growth to contraction mid-way through the decade in three of four MIZ zones and the continued growth in *Strong MIZ* zones of Prince Edward Island.

Since we observe a reduction in the proportion of children (Table 2) in *Strong MIZ* zones, it is not likely that the population grew throughout the decade because of increased birthrates. Rather, the population increase in these zones must be a result of in-migration. But what, exactly, drew individuals to *Strong MIZ* zones of the province? As it will be demonstrated in Section B, *Strong MIZ* zones have the most prosperous of all rural economies. The in-migration to these zones may also reflect a lifestyle choice to move into semi-rural settings that offer convenient access to urban amenities and employment.

In contrast, the population contraction occurring in *Moderate*, *Weak, and No MIZ* zones between 1996 and 2001 is likely a result of their weaker economies. Although labour market and income improvements are observed in these zones in the latter portion of the 1990s, the fact remains that they are less economically advantaged than their *Strong MIZ* counterparts. Research shows that most of the population losses from rural regions are among individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 (Dupuy et al., 2000). We might speculate that many young residents of these zones relocated to one of the province's city centres, perhaps to fill the growing number of jobs in construction and service industries (Tables 4 and 5).

The different explanations for population change throughout the four MIZ zones of the province highlight the importance of examining the rural sector as a heterogeneous entity. The strong influence of the local economy on changing population in most zones, however, is also clear. Nonetheless, the population decrease that is apparent in rural Prince Edward Island masks a great deal of variation throughout the province in population change and in the underlying causes for these over-time shifts.

B. Economic Indicators

KEY FINDINGS

B.1 Labour Market Indicators

- In 2001, the labour force participation (LFP) rate was 69.0% in both urban and rural Prince Edward Island. At 65.9%, however, *Weak MIZ* zones had the lowest LFP rate in the province.
- Unemployment rates increase as metropolitan influence weakens, with *Strong MIZ* zones having the lowest rural unemployment rate in 2001 (13.0%) and *No MIZ* zones having the highest (19.8%). After 1996, unemployment rates fell in every zone with the exception of *Moderate MIZ*, where the unemployment rate rose by 1.8 percentage points.
- Both the Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system for the 1991 and 1996 Census and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for the 2001 Census reveal that rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders dominate employment in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and in manufacturing industries, while urbanites are more strongly represented in service industries.
- Rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders were more likely than urbanites to be self-employed in 2001 (14.6% compared to 10.7% in 2001).

B.2 Income

- *Weak MIZ* zones had the lowest median income in the province in 2001 ($15,699). This was also the only rural zone to exhibit a lower median income in 2001 than in 1991.
- The proportion of the population considered to be low-income increases as metropolitan influence weakens, with 17.9% of *No MIZ* residents considered low-income in 2001, compared to just 7.5% of those residing in *Strong MIZ* zones. Most geographic zones experienced a decline in the incidence of low-income between 1996 and 2001.
- In all three census years, rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders garnered a larger proportion of their income from social transfer payments than did urban citizens. Among the former group, *Weak MIZ* residents were the most likely to rely on social transfer income in 2001.

Summary

These indicators reveal that *Strong MIZ* zones are the most economically advantaged of the rural zones, surpassing even the province's urban centres on some indictors and showing the most improvement over time. They also reveal that, in many regards, conditions of economic disadvantage increase as metropolitan influence weakens. At the same time, the inter-census analyses reveal some indication of improvement in most geographic zones since 1996, though again, the least urban-influenced zones (*Weak* and *No MIZ*) were the least likely of rural zones to show signs of economic

improvement over time. In all, the analyses of the indicators over time and among rural zones affirm the economic heterogeneity of rural Prince Edward Island.

B.1 LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

B.1.1 Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates

Within rural zones, labour force participation rates generally decrease and unemployment rates increase as metropolitan influence weakens.

In 2001, the Prince Edward Island labour force had 73,635 members (Appendix Table 8) for a labour force participation (LFP) rate of 69.0% (Figure 10). Urban and rural zones shared this LFP rate as well. With one exception, rural LFP rates decline as metropolitan influence weakens, with *Strong*, *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones respectively having LFP rates of 70.1%, 69.4%, and 65.9% in 2001. *No MIZ* zones had a substantially higher LFP rate, of 77.1%. This unusually high rate, combined with the very erratic change over time in *No MIZ* zones, suggests that these data should be interpreted with caution since they are likely affected by the practice of area suppression (see Data Limitations in Methods Section). In all, with this noted exception, labour force participation rates vary only slightly between geographic zones and changed little over time, though a marginally higher rate was observed in 2001 than in 1996 in *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones.

Turning to unemployment rates, Figure 11 demonstrates a similar ranking to the LFP labour market indicator between geographic zones of the province, though with greater variation between urban and rural zones (see also Appendix Table 9)[9]. In 2001, the urban unemployment rate was 6.3 percentage points lower than the rural and small town rate (10.4% compared to 16.7%). *Strong MIZ* zones exhibit the most favorable labour market conditions within rural and small town Prince Edward Island, with an unemployment rate of 13.0%. *No MIZ* zones exhibit the least favorable conditions, with an unemployment rate of 19.8% in 2001, though the extent to which this figure is inflated by area suppression is not known.

In terms of over-time change, unemployment rates decreased in every geographic zone except in *Moderate MIZ* zones, where we observe a higher unemployment rate in each consecutive census year. By 2001, the *Moderate MIZ* unemployment rate was 3.7 percentage points higher than in 1991, while the *Strong MIZ* rate was, for example, 2.4 percentage points lower.[10]

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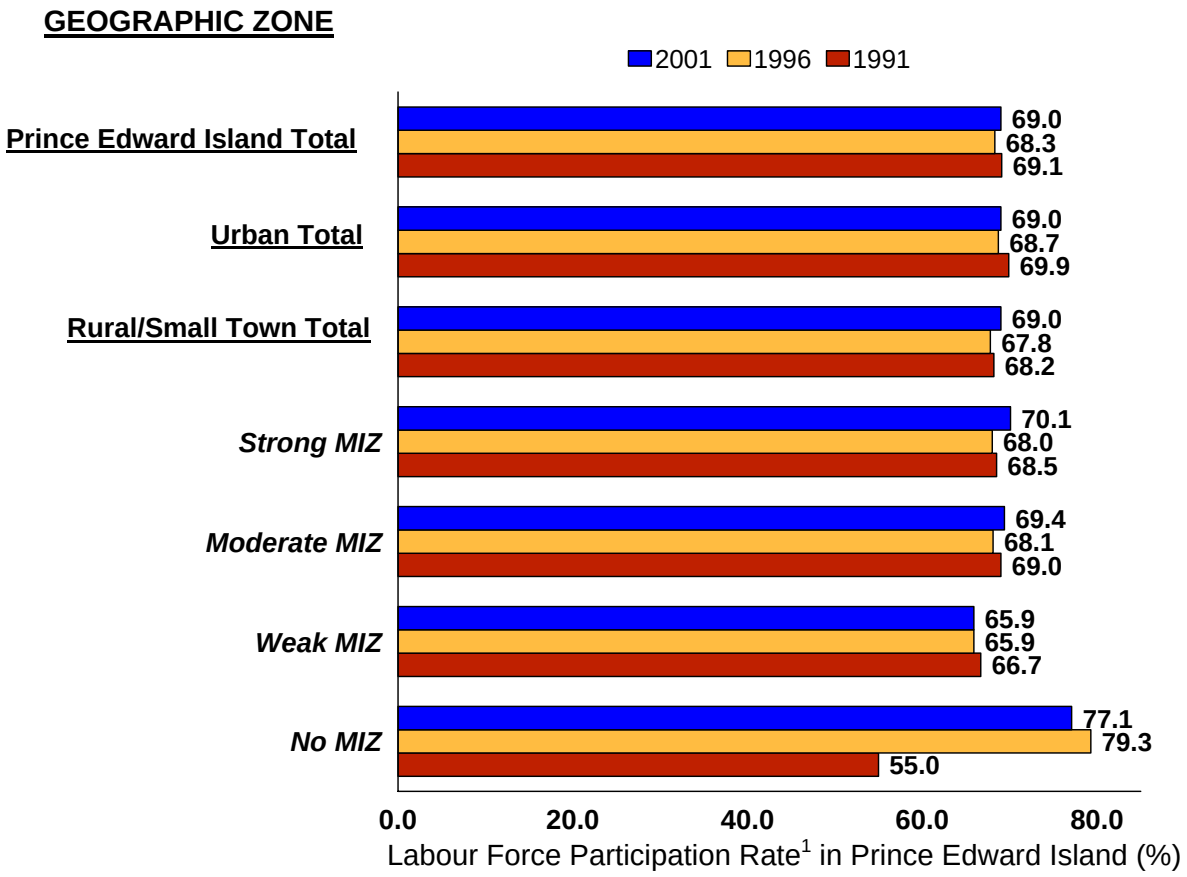
[9] Please note that the data for unemployment and labour force participation refer to one week of each Census year. Potential seasonal fluctuations or random events that affect the data are not considered. However, at this time, no better data source is available

[10] The most drastic decrease in unemployment rates is observed in *No MIZ* zones, where the rate fell from 43.9% in 1991 to 19.8% in 2001. Although again, the extent to which these figures are affected by area suppression is not known.

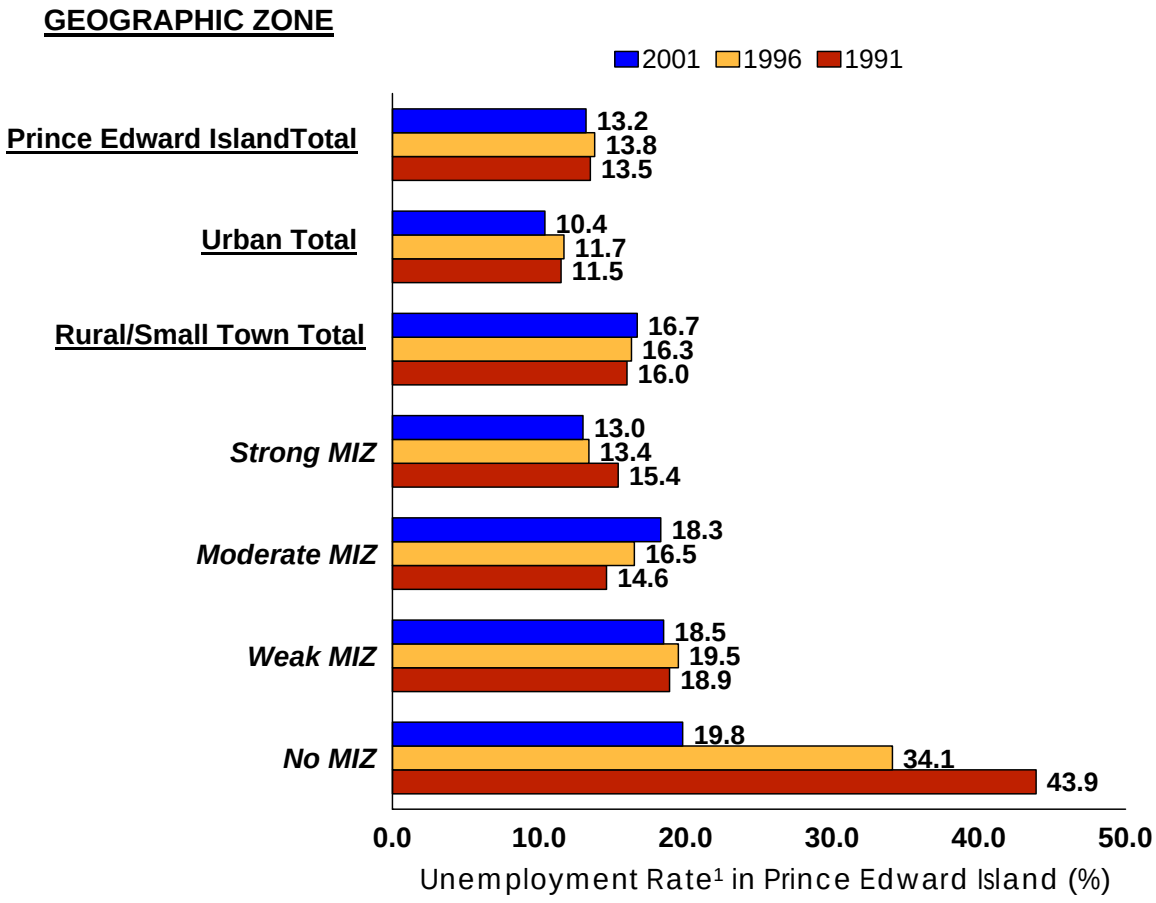
Figure 10: *Weak MIZ* Zones Have the Lowest Labour Force Participation Rates in Prince Edward Island



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] The Labour Force Participation Rate is the ratio of individuals who are currently employed or who are out of work (but looking for work) to the total number of individuals in the population who are over the age of 15.

Figure 11: Unemployment Rates Increase as Metropolitan Influence Declines



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] The Unemployment Rate is based on the ratio of individuals who are currently unemployed to those who are in the labour force.

Overall, the LFP rates and, to an even greater extent, the unemployment rates presented in Figures 10 and 11 demonstrate a wide range of labour market conditions in the province. *Strong MIZ* zones consistently exhibit the most positive rural labour market characteristics and, excluding the questionable labour market data provided for *No MIZ* zones, *Weak MIZ* zones consistently exhibit the least favourable conditions. The notable increase in unemployment rates in *Moderate MIZ* zones also, however, signals deteriorating labour market conditions in these zones of the province. For the most part, the labour market disparity between rural zones with the greatest metropolitan influence and those with less influence appears to be increasing over time.

B.1.2 Industry Employment Distribution

Compared to urbanites, rural individuals are more likely to be working in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting and secondary industries and are less likely to be working in service industries.

The Prince Edward Island labour force can be classified based on the industry in which people are employed. This is determined by assessing the general nature of the business carried out by the individual's employer. In measuring industry employment, the 1991 and 1996 Censuses used the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system, while the 2001 Census adopted the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Comparisons between the two systems are inappropriate and the differences warrant presenting industry employment separately for 2001 and for 1996 and 1991. Beginning with the NAICS system, Table 4 presents seven broad industry categories for each geographic zone of the province for 2001 only (see also Appendix Table 10).

Employment in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting accounted for 13.0% of employment in all Prince Edward Island industries in 2001. Rural and small town areas, however, eclipsed urban centres in employment in these industries by a factor of four (22.5% compared to 5.3%). Employment in this form of primary industry, furthermore, increased as metropolitan influence decreased, with the population in *No MIZ* zones by far the most highly represented in these types of occupations.

Rural employment in manufacturing industries is also double that of urban employment (14.2% compared to 7.7%). Again, the likelihood of working in these industries increased as metropolitan influence decreased. This category includes food manufacturing establishments such as fish plants and two very important potato transformation companies that are employing a lot of people in rural PEI. This finding is particularly noteworthy because it implies that rural zones are competitive in an important value-added industry (Beshiri, 2001b). But we should mention that food manufacturing in Atlantic Canada is highly dependant on a sustainable natural resource. We observe much less variation between geographic zones in employment in mining and oil and gas extraction and in construction industries.

Table 4 also reveals that service jobs are more prevalent in urban regions, accounting for more than eight-in-ten urban jobs (80.4%) compared to just over one-half of jobs in rural and small town Prince Edward Island (54.7%) in 2001. Employment in the typically more lucrative production services (e.g. information and cultural industries, wholesale trade, finance and insurance) is especially lower in rural than in urban regions (12.6% compared to 21.2%), with *No MIZ* residents the least likely in the province to work in this

industry in 2001 (5.0%). The urban/rural difference in employment in consumer services (e.g., retail trade and accommodation and food services) is smaller (28.6% compared to 22.0%), while a significantly larger proportion of urbanites than rural residents were employed in government-provided services (e.g., educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration) in 2001. Within rural Prince Edward Island, the highest proportions of employment in government-provided services are observed in *Strong* (23.0%) and *No MIZ* (21.3%) zones.

The overall industry patterns across geographic zones observed in Table 4 are very similar to those of 1991 and 1996, as shown in Table 5 (Appendix Table 11). For example, rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders were more likely than their urban counterparts to be employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting and in manufacturing industries. The dominance of urban employment in the three service industries is also observed.

In terms of over-time change, we observe only very small changes in the proportion of the population employed in each industry sector. The most notable change in the table, however, is the 1991 to 1996 decline in employment in government-provided services in every geographic zone of the province.

Table 4: Rural Residents are Much More Likely than Urbanites to be Working in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting Industries and in Manufacturing

Percent Employed in Each Industry Sector (NAICS)[1], 2001

		Primary Industries		Secondary Industries		Service Industries		
Geographic Zone	Total	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction	Construction	Manufacturing	Production Services[2]	Consumer Services[3]	Government-Provided Services[4]
Prince Edward Island Total	100.0	13.0	0.3	7.2	10.6	17.4	25.7	25.9
Urban Total	100.0	5.3	0.1	6.5	7.7	21.2	28.6	30.6
Rural/Small Town Total	100.0	22.5	0.5	8.2	14.2	12.6	22.0	20.1
Strong MIZ	**100.0**	**19.8**	**0.4**	**8.0**	**13.0**	**14.1**	**21.8**	**23.0**
Moderate MIZ	**100.0**	**21.9**	**0.3**	**8.7**	**14.6**	**12.2**	**23.3**	**18.8**
Weak MIZ	**100.0**	**27.9**	**1.2**	**7.1**	**15.2**	**11.6**	**19.0**	**18.2**
No MIZ	**100.0**	**32.5**	**0.0**	**6.2**	**16.2**	**5.0**	**17.5**	**21.3**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

[1] Based on the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

[2] Production Services includes utilities, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, information and cultural industries, finance and insurance, real estate and rental and leasing, professional, scientific and technical services, management of companies and enterprises, administrative and support, waste management and remediation services.

[3] Consumer Services includes retail trade, arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food services, and other services.

[4] Government-Provided Services includes educational services, health care and social assistance and public administration.

Table 5: Employment in Government-Provided Services Decreased throughout the Province Between 1991 and 1996

Percent Employed in Each Industry Sector (SIC)[1], 1996 and 1991

	Primary Industries				Secondary Industries				Service Industries					
Geographic Zone	Agric., Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting		Mining & Oil & Gas Extraction		Construction		Manufacturing		Production Services[2]		Consumer Services[3]		Government-Provided Services[4]	
	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total	14.0	14.5	0.2	0.3	7.2	6.6	10.2	10.4	16.1	15.2	27.1	25.2	25.2	27.8
Urban Total	4.9	5.5	0.1	0.1	7.1	6.7	7.4	7.2	17.9	16.8	31.5	29.9	31.0	33.8
Rural/Small Town Total	24.9	25.1	0.3	0.4	7.2	6.6	13.6	14.5	13.9	12.7	21.8	19.8	18.1	20.9
Strong MIZ	20.3	21.5	0.3	0.4	9.5	7.6	10.7	10.6	14.4	14.2	23.9	21.8	20.7	24.0
Moderate MIZ	25.3	24.8	0.1	0.4	6.9	6.5	14.6	15.2	14.0	13.0	21.5	19.5	17.7	20.6
Weak MIZ	30.8	30.7	0.7	0.5	4.3	5.5	15.5	18.4	13.1	9.7	19.7	18.4	15.6	16.8
No MIZ	35.7	37.2	2.4	0.0	5.9	6.5	20.2	16.1	10.7	12.9	14.3	6.5	10.7	21.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996 and 1991

[1] Based on the 1980 Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system.

[2] Production Services includes communication and other utilities, wholesale trade, transportation and storage, finance and insurance, real estate operator and insurance agent, and business services.

[3] Consumer Services includes retail trade, accommodation, food and beverage, and other services.

[4] Government-Provided Services includes educational services, health and social assistance, and government service

B.1.3 Self-Employment

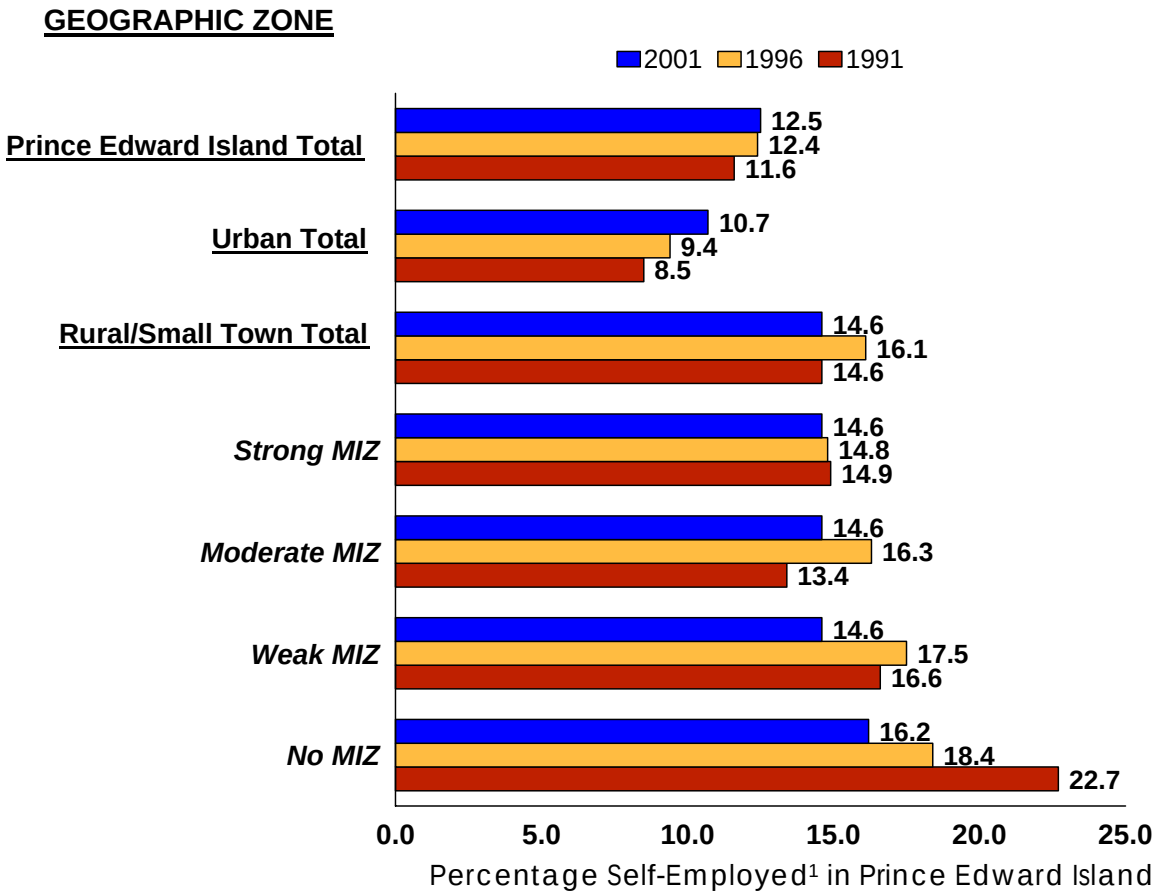
Self-employment is more prevalent in rural than in urban Prince Edward Island.

Prince Edward Island's labour force can also be analyzed by examining the proportion of self-employed individuals versus those who are considered employees. Self-employment includes operating a business or professional practice, doing freelance or contract work, and farming, fishing and trapping. It also includes operating a direct distributorship selling and distributing goods such as cosmetics (Statistics Canada, 1999a).

In 2001, 12.5% of the provincial labour force was self-employed as opposed to working as an employee (Figure 12 and Appendix Table 12). Rural and small town citizens were more likely than urbanites to be self-employed (14.6% compared to 10.7%). The higher incidence of self-employment in rural PEI may be accounted for by the higher proportion of these residents employed in agriculture (Table 4), an industry largely comprised of self-employed farmers (du Plessis, 2004). An equal portion of *Strong*, *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* residents were self-employed in 2001 (all at 14.6%), while a slightly higher percentage of the *No MIZ* population was self-employed in this census year (16.2%).

Between 1991 and 2001, the incidence of self-employment increased in urban centres and in *Moderate MIZ* zones and decreased in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones. The percentage of the self-employed *Strong MIZ* population remained relatively stable over time.

Figure 12: Self-Employment is More Prevalent in Rural Prince Edward Island



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Self-employment is expressed as a ratio to the total labour force 15 years of age and over. Self-employment includes operating a business or professional practice, doing freelance or contract work, and farming, fishing and trapping. It also includes operating a direct distributorship selling and distributing goods such as cosmetics (Statistics Canada, 1999a).

B.2 INCOME

The median incomes of rural Prince Edward Islanders are below those of urban residents. And though the incidence of low income is lower in most rural zones, rural residents are much more likely to rely upon social transfer income.

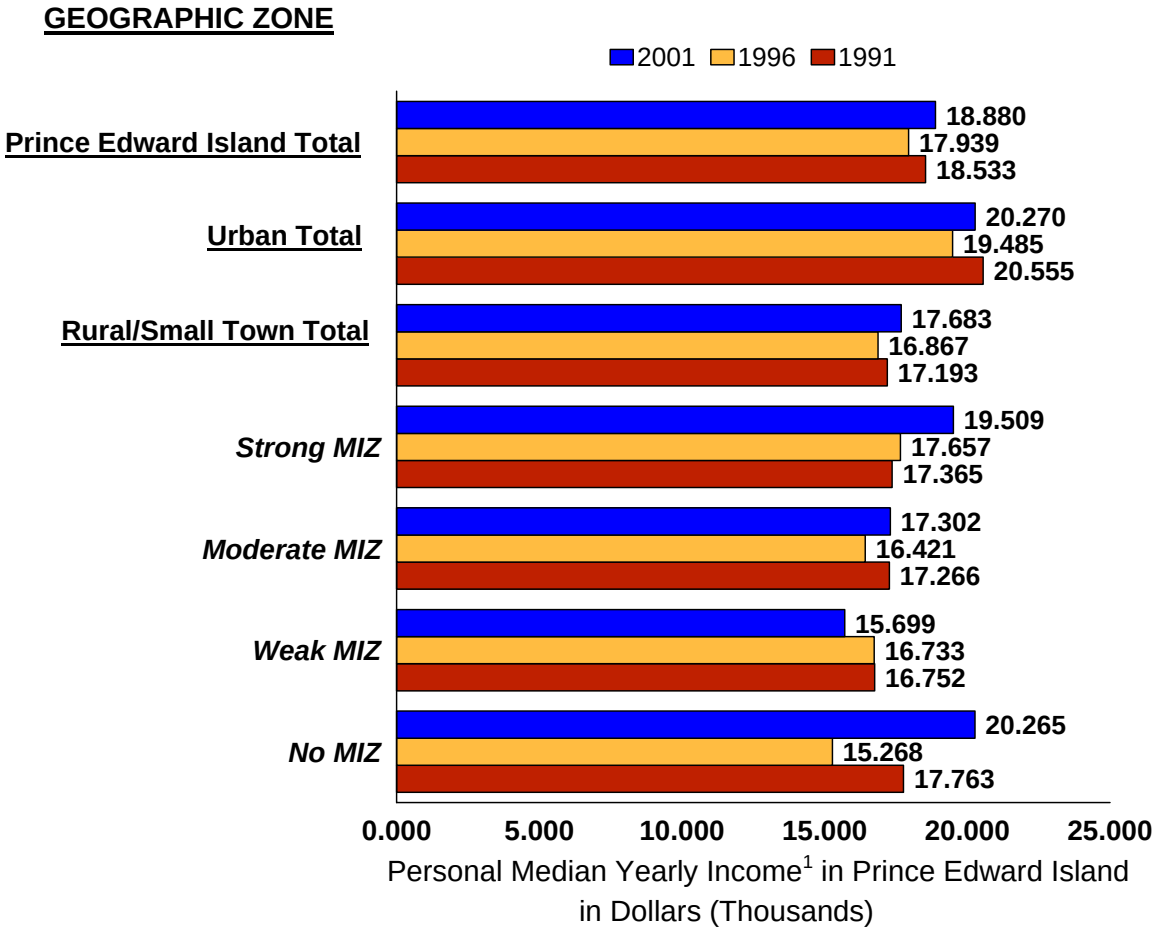
B.2.1 Median Personal Income

Mean income values are commonly used as an estimate of the economic well-being of the inhabitants of a given region. Median personal income is used in this report since it is a more appropriate measure when making comparisons across time.[11] Unlike mean income values, median measures are not as unduly influenced by extreme values, whether high or low. The 1991 and 1996 annual income figures presented in Figure 9 are adjusted to 2000 real dollars.

In 2001, the provincial median income was $18,880, up slightly from both the 1996 and 1991 amounts of $17,939 and $18,533, respectively. At $20,270, the 2001 urban median income was considerably higher than the rural and small town value of $17,683. Within rural and small town zones, and with the exception of *No MIZ* zones[12], median incomes decline as metropolitan influence weakens. Not only was the 2001 *Strong MIZ* median income one of the highest in rural Prince Edward Island, but *Strong MIZ* were the only zones in the province to exhibit higher median incomes in each consecutive census year. In contrast, the *Weak MIZ* median income was the lowest in the province, and was lower in 2001 than in 1991. Overall, these data suggest growing income disparity between the wealthiest and poorest rural Prince Edward Islanders.

[11] Mean is also commonly known as the average. Median is equivalent to the 50th percentile.
[12] While *No MIZ* zones exhibited the highest of rural incomes in 2001 ($20,265) and the greatest increase between 1996 and 2001, the effects of area suppression upon these data are not known.

Figure 13: Median Incomes Generally Decline as Metropolitan Influence Weakens



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Median income is yearly income for the population aged 15 years and over and is reported in 2000 real dollars.

B.2.2 Incidence of Low Income

Another measure used to illustrate the relative economic well-being of residents within each geographic zone of the province is the share of the population with low incomes (as measured by the percent of the population living in households with incomes below the low-income cut-off (LICO)). This indicator refers to the proportion of individuals with incomes below the cost of basic necessities including food, shelter, and clothing. Along with family size, level of urbanization is factored into the estimated costs of necessities for each census individual, thereby determining the low-income cut-off value. The

indicator assumes, quite rightly, that a higher cost of living amount coincides with a higher level of integration with urban centres.[13]

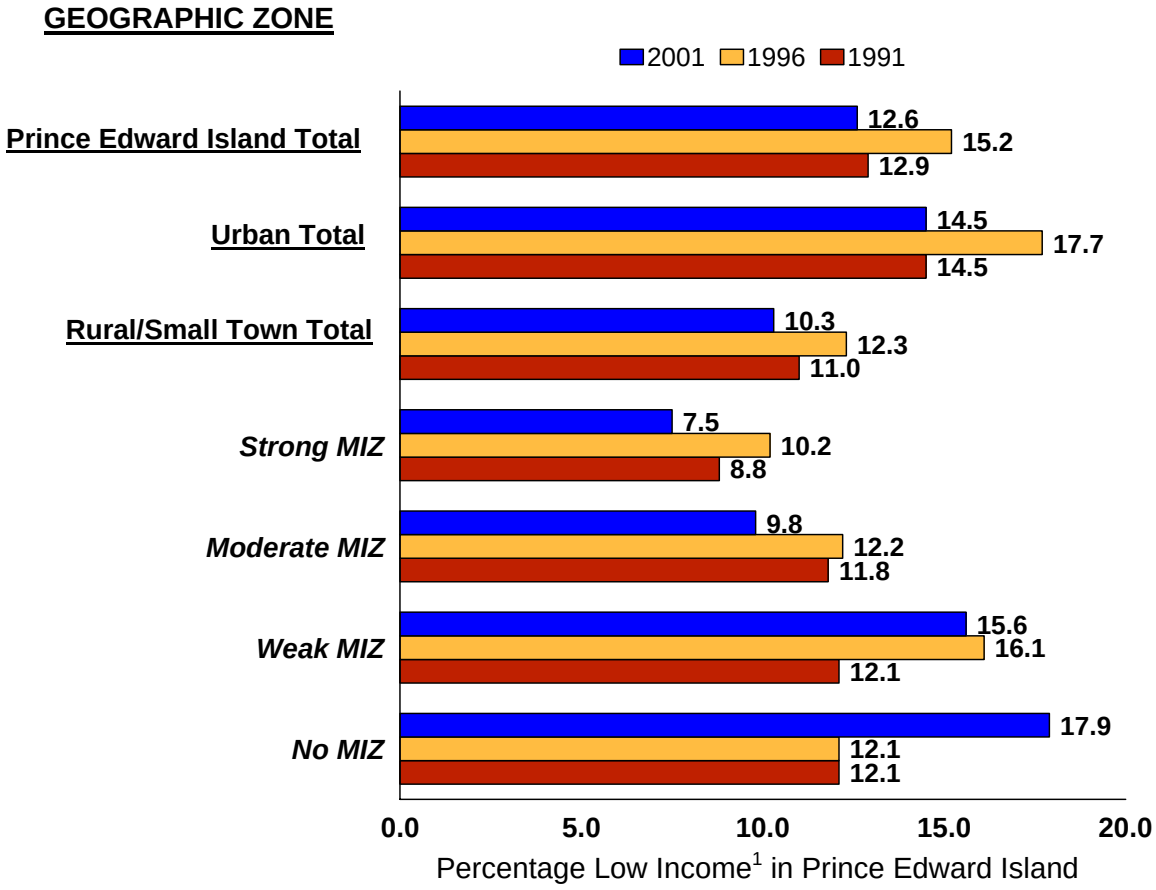
Figure 14 reveals that the incidence of low income is higher in urban than in rural and small town zones as a whole (see also Appendix table 13). In 2001, 14.5% of the urban population was considered low income, compared to the rural total of 10.3%. Within rural Prince Edward Island, however, only *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones had smaller proportions of low-income individuals than did urban centres (of 7.5% and 9.8%, respectively). With 15.6% and 17.9% of their populations considered low-income, respectively, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones had the highest proportions of in the province.

The data in Figure 14 illustrate the strengthening of the Prince Edward Island economy in the late 1990s with the proportion of low-income individuals decreasing in all but *No MIZ* zones of the province between 1996 and 2001.[14] The greatest decrease occurred in urban centres (of -3.2%), followed closely by decreases in *Strong* (2.7%) and *Moderate* (2.4%) *MIZ* zones. That one of the least economically-advantaged zones (*Weak MIZ*) had just 0.5% fewer low-income individuals in 2001 than in 1996 suggests that the gap between the least and the most advantaged rural zones of Prince Edward Island not only continues to exist, but is perhaps increasing over time.

[13] A few methodological considerations should be noted with the use of LICOs. First, different levels of the LICO are calculated for each family size class and for each urbanization class. The urbanization classes used for the LICO calculation are different than the rural and urban categories used in this report. For our tabulations, a household is assigned to be below LICO based on the original urbanization coding and then we retabulated the data according to our own rural-urban categories. In addition to these concerns, it should be noted that LICOs are, by Statistics Canada's admission, not a measure of poverty. There is also considerable debate about whether LICOs are a valid measurement of low income (see, for example, Webber (1998)).

[14] Once again, the marked increase in the share of the *No MIZ* population considered low-income between 1996 and 2001(of 5.6%) is likely an effect, at least in part, of area suppression.

Figure 14: *Weak* and *No MIZ* Zones Have the Highest Incidence of Low Income in the Province



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] The incidence of low income is calculated as the number of individuals living in a household with an income below the low-income cut-off (LICO) divided by the total number of individuals. The LICO is a level of income where households are judged to be in straitened circumstances, on the basis of the income required to provide food, clothing and shelter.

B.2.3 Share of Total Income From Social Transfer Income

We can also gain an indication of the relative economic conditions for each geographic zone of Prince Edward Island by examining source of income. Larger proportions of incomes garnered from social transfer payments, as opposed to employment income or personal investments, in a region, suggest greater economic dependency for that particular region.

Figure 15 presents the percentage of total income derived from social transfer payments for each geographic zone and for 2001, 1996, and 1991, and reveals that rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders garnered a larger proportion of their

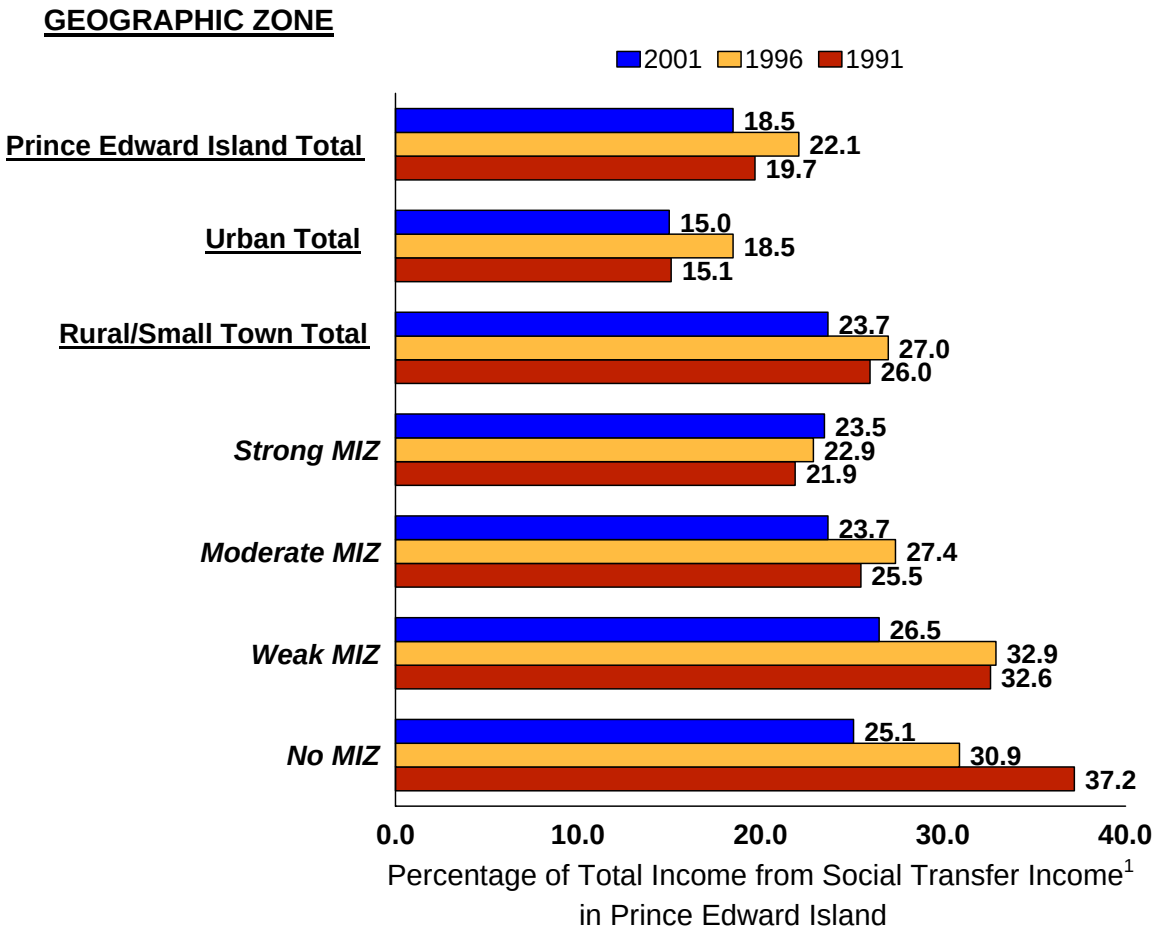
income from government sources than did urban citizens in all three census years. Little variation is observed within rural Prince Edward Island in 2001, with reliance upon this form of income ranging from a low of 23.5% in *Strong MIZ* zones to a high of 26.5% in *Weak MIZ* zones of the province.

Figure 15 reveals greater variation among geographic zones in terms of over-time change. A trend of increasing reliance upon social transfer income in the early 1990s is observed in virtually all geographic zones of the province, while the pattern is mixed thereafter. Decreasing reliance on social transfer payments occurred in urban centres and in all but *Strong MIZ* zones of the province in the 1996 to 2001 inter-census period.

These over-time changes could be due to increasing or decreasing Employment Insurance, Old Age Security, Canadian Pension Plan payments, or child tax credits. The 1996 to 2001 decrease in government financial dependence in most geographic zones is likely a reflection of both decreasing reliance on unemployment insurance because of a reduction in unemployment rates[15] (Figure 11) and/or decreasing reliance on child tax credits as a result of a decrease in the share of the child population (Table 2). An explanation for the steady increase in reliance on this form of income in *Strong MIZ* zones is less apparent, given that unemployment rates and the proportion of children and seniors in these zones declined between 1991 and 2001.

[15] Some of the decrease in social transfer income between 1996 and 2001 may also reflect unemployment policy reform during this period. The federal Bill C-62, which was introduced in 1996, tripled the minimum number of qualifying hours of work required to receive benefits and reduced the maximum weeks benefits are provided.

Figure 15: Reliance Upon Social Transfer Income Declined in All but *Strong MIZ* Zones of the Province Between 1996 and 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Social transfer income refers to all government transfer payments to individuals including Old Age Security, Canadian/Quebec Pension Plans, Employment Insurance and Child Tax Credits and is expressed as a ratio of the amount of government transfer payments to the total average income among the population 15 years and older.

SUMMARY

The analyses of economic indicators presented in this report suggest that to some extent, residents of rural and small town Prince Edward Island experience less favorable economic conditions compared to their urban counterparts. In 2001, urban centres had the lowest unemployment rates, the greatest representation in service industries, among the highest median incomes, and the lowest rates of reliance upon government income in the province. Moreover, with few exceptions, economic conditions were observed to decline as metropolitan influence weakened. Residents of *Strong MIZ*

zones were found to be the most economically similar to urbanites. In 2001, *Strong MIZ* zones had the highest LFP rate and the lowest incidence of low income in the province as well as the lowest unemployment rate and lowest rate of reliance on social transfer income of the four rural zones. Slightly less favorable conditions were observed in *Moderate MIZ* zones, followed by *Weak MIZ* zones, which, on some indicators, were found to be the most economically disadvantaged in the province.

Not only were zones with greater metropolitan influence generally found to exhibit the strongest economic conditions in rural Prince Edward Island, they were also the most likely to exhibit patterns of development and growth in the latter half of the 1990s and on some indicators, showed greater improvement than the province's urban centres. For example, urban centres exhibited lower unemployment rates in 2001 than in 1991, but little or no improvement in median income and low income and reliance upon social transfer income. *Strong MIZ* zones, on the other hand, not only had higher LFP and lower unemployment rates in 2001 than ten years earlier, but also had higher median incomes and lower proportions of low-income individuals in the most recent census year. *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones were less likely to benefit from a stronger economy in the late 1990s. In fact, the only indicator on which *Weak MIZ* zones fared significantly better in 2001 than in 1991 was reliance upon social transfer income.

Despite some improvements over time, however, it remains the case that rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders are less economically advantaged than their urban counterparts, and that within rural zones, *Strong MIZ* zones are the most advantaged and *Weak MIZ* zones (and in some cases *No MIZ* zones) the least advantaged. The dominant story of the economic indicators, therefore, is that the disparities between rural zones are just as significant (if not more so) than the overall differences between urban and rural zones of Prince Edward Island.

C. Education Indicators

KEY FINDINGS

C.1 Educational Attainment

- Rural Prince Edward Islanders were less likely than their urban counterparts to have received a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree in 2001 (35.3% compared to 48.8%). The lowest levels of educational attainment are observed in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones where 53.3% and 51.5%, respectively, of the population of at least 20 years of age had not completed high school as recently as 2001.

- Over-time improvements in educational attainment were observed to be greater in urban than in rural and small town Prince Edward Island.

C.2 Education Providers

- All rural zones have per capita education providers below those of urban centres. *Weak MIZ* zones had the lowest number of education providers in the province in 2001 (11.7 per 1,000 population).
- The urban/rural disparity in per capita education providers decreased between 1991 and 2001.

Summary

The findings presented in this section suggest that the disparity between urban and rural citizens continues in terms of educational attainment and perhaps also for access to education. The lower levels of high school completion among rural Prince Edward Islanders is of concern, as it implies they will have more difficult labour market experiences, including perhaps unemployment and lower incomes. The trend of lower post-secondary educational attainment in rural Prince Edward Island implies a geographical and economic deterrent of access to institutions of higher learning. Finally, the lower number of per capita education providers in rural zones of the province is also noteworthy, as it may influence the education provided in these zones.

C.1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Compared to the urban population, rural residents are more likely to have less than a high school diploma and less likely to have earned a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

It is generally accepted that higher educational attainment is associated with higher earnings and an increased level of well-being. As was the case for industry employment, a change to the census in 2001 precludes the ability to directly compare level of education between 2001 and the two earlier census periods.[16] Table 6 presents the highest level of educational attainment achieved by all geographic zones of the province for 2001 and Table 7 presents the same indicator for 1996 and 1991 (see also Appendix Tables 14 and 15).

Beginning with Table 6, in 2001, 33.8% of the provincial adult population had less than a high school education. A higher proportion of rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders than urbanites had not attained a high school education (42.0% compared to 27.3%), with *Weak* and *No MIZ* residents the most highly represented at this lowest level of education (53.3% and 51.5%, respectively). Rural residents were slightly more likely than urban residents to have attained a high school diploma in 2001 (12.3% compared to 10.6%).

Urban Prince Edward Islanders were more highly represented than rural residents in each of the three categories of post-secondary education. Just 10.5% of rural residents had attained some post-secondary education in 2001, compared to 13.3% of urbanites. Although at 14.1%, the percentage of *No MIZ* residents with this level of education slightly exceeded the urban figure. Residents of rural Prince Edward Island were also less likely than their urban counterparts to have attained a post-secondary certificate or diploma from a college or technical institute in 2001 (27.6% compared to 32.2%), and urbanites were more than twice as likely as those in rural zones to have attained a university degree (16.6% compared to 7.7%).

Within rural and small town Prince Edward Island, *Strong MIZ* zones had the highest levels of educational attainment, with the smallest proportions attaining less than high school (35.7%) and the greatest proportions completing a post-secondary certificate/diploma (32.4%) or a university degree (10.2%). With the lowest rates of high school completion and the lowest proportions attaining some post-secondary

[16] The data provided for 1991 and 1996 are for individuals aged 15 and over, while the 2001 Census data are provided for those 20 years of age and over.

education or a university degree, *Weak MIZ* zones had the lowest levels of educational attainment in the province in 2001.

Table 6: Educational Attainment is Lower in Rural than in Urban Prince Edward Island

Educational Attainment[1] Percent Distribution, 2001

Geographic Zone	Total	Less Than High School	High School Diploma	Some Post-Secondary	Post-Secondary Cert./Dip.	University Degree
Prince Edward Island Total	100.0	33.8	11.4	12.0	30.1	12.6
Urban Total	100.0	27.3	10.6	13.3	32.2	16.6
Rural/Small Town Total	100.0	42.0	12.3	10.5	27.6	7.7
Strong MIZ	**100.0**	**35.7**	**10.3**	**11.3**	**32.4**	**10.2**
Moderate MIZ	**100.0**	**41.2**	**13.0**	**10.8**	**27.8**	**7.1**
Weak MIZ	**100.0**	**53.3**	**13.7**	**8.2**	**19.7**	**5.1**
No MIZ	**100.0**	**51.5**	**11.1**	**14.1**	**17.2**	**7.1**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

[1] 2001 educational attainment data are provided for the population 20 years of age and over.

Table 7 presents 1996 and 1991 Census data on educational attainment and depicts the same geographic zone trends that were observed in 2001: rural Prince Edward Islanders were more likely than urban dwellers to have less than a high school education, with the likelihood increasing as metropolitan influence decreases. In both census years, a greater percentage of urban than rural residents had attended a post-secondary institution and within rural Prince Edward Island, those living in *Strong MIZ* zones had the highest levels of education, while *Weak* and *No MIZ* residents had the lowest. In 1996, as in 2001, the exception to these trends is the higher proportion of *No MIZ* residents attaining some post-secondary education (11.4% in 1996). And again, the urban/rural differences are most apparent for university degree holders.

Table 7: Educational Attainment Increased at a Slightly Greater Rate Among the Urban than the Rural Population Between 1991 and 1996

Educational Attainment[1] Percent Distribution, 1996 and 1991

Geographic Zone	Less Than High School		High School Diploma		Some Post-Secondary		Post-Secondary Cert./Dip.		University Degree	
	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total	41.6	43.1	10.4	12.2	9.9	10.9	27.5	25.4	10.6	8.5
Urban Total	33.8	35.3	9.8	11.8	11.5	12.7	30.6	29.3	14.2	10.9
Rural/Small Town Total	50.9	52.3	11.1	12.6	7.9	8.9	23.8	20.7	6.3	5.6
Strong MIZ	**44.2**	**45.5**	**10.6**	**12.4**	**8.9**	**9.5**	**28.3**	**25.0**	**7.9**	**7.6**
Moderate MIZ	**51.3**	**51.8**	**11.1**	**12.4**	**7.8**	**9.2**	**23.5**	**21.3**	**6.3**	**5.4**
Weak MIZ	**59.7**	**61.2**	**11.7**	**13.9**	**6.3**	**7.5**	**18.0**	**13.8**	**4.4**	**3.7**
No MIZ	**64.9**	**83.2**	**11.4**	**5.0**	**11.4**	**5.0**	**10.5**	**6.7**	**1.8**	**0.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996 and 1991

[1] 1996 and 1991 educational attainment data are provided for the population 15 years of age and over.

As for over-time changes, Table 7 generally illustrates province-wide increases in educational attainment with smaller proportions having less than a high school diploma and larger proportions earning a post-secondary certificate, degree, or diploma. Still, the urban/rural gap in educational attainment increased slightly between 1991 and 1996. While the percentage of the urban population in the two credential-earning post-secondary educational categories increased between 1991 and 1996 by a combined 4.6 percentage points, the increase is only 3.8 percentage points among the rural population.

Within rural Prince Edward Island, however, greater over-time variation is observed. While the 1991 to 1996 combined increase in the two post-secondary categories was only 3.8 and 3.6 percentage points in *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones, respectively, it was 4.9 and 6.0 percentage points in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones of the province, respectively. Once again, however, the educational data presented for *No MIZ* zones should be interpreted with care, since the practice of area suppression has a large influence in these zones.

Overall, these findings suggest that rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders are educationally disadvantaged compared to their urban counterparts and that the disparity between the two major regions is increasing. Within rural zones, *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones have higher levels of education than *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, with the disparities decreasing between the two former and two latter zones between 1991 and 1996.

C.2 EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Urban centres have a significantly higher number of education providers per 1,000 population compared to rural zones.

There are many factors that might contribute to the quality of education. One practice that permits easily quantifiable comparisons is to examine the number of education providers in the region. This is calculated by determining the number of people who are employed as teachers or professors per 1,000 people.[17] These data are presented in Figure 16 by geographic zone and for 2001, 1996, and 1991 (see also Appendix Table 16).

[17] It should be understood that education providers are designated to the geographic area where they reside and not where they teach. As such, the per capita education providers in each zone may not accurately represent the number of educators serving the population in the zones.

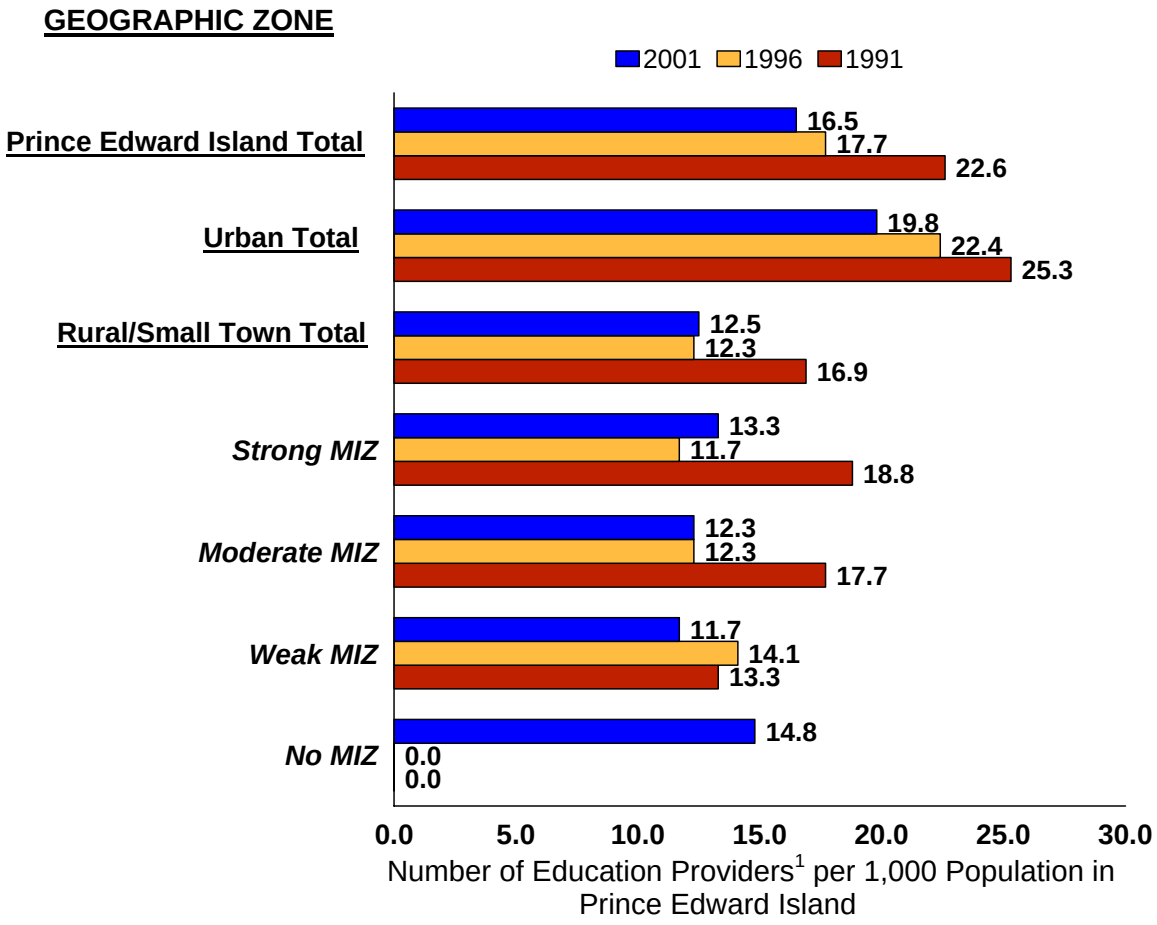
The number of education providers per 1,000 residents was higher in urban centres than in rural and small town zones in each census year. In 2001 there were 19.8 education providers per 1,000 population in Prince Edward Island's urban centres, compared to just 12.5 per capita in the province's rural zones. As with educational attainment, moreover, the number of education providers per capita decreased as metropolitan influence weakened, with *Strong*, *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones having, respectively, 13.3, 12.3, and 11.7 education providers per 1,000 population in 2001. The exception to this trend is observed in *No MIZ* zones, where there were 14.8 providers per capita in this census year.

In terms of over-time change, the number of education providers per capita decreased in both urban and rural zones of the province. In the most recent inter-census period, however, the number continued to decrease in urban zones, while it remained relatively stable in rural Prince Edward Island. As a result, the urban/rural disparity in per capita education providers decreased from 8.4 education providers per 1,000 residents in 1991 to 7.3 in 2001.

Due to a very large decline in per capita education providers in *Strong MIZ* zones between 1991 and 1996, disparity within rural and small town Prince Edward Island also decreased between 1991 and 2001. The difference in education providers between *Strong* and *Weak MIZ* zones decreased between 1991 and 2001 from 5.5 to 1.6 per capita education providers.

Part of the explanation for the urban/rural differences lies in the propensity for Prince Edward Island's post-secondary institutions to be located in urban rather than rural regions of the province. Insofar as the post-secondary system continues to expand in urban centres, so too will the disparity between the number of professors serving urban as opposed to rural citizens. But since educators are predominantly primary and secondary school teachers, the urban/rural difference is not entirely explained by geography, but also must be a function of true educational disparity. While most geographic zones experienced a reduction in the proportion of children, the fact remains that all rural zones of the province have larger proportions of children than urban centres, suggesting that the teacher component of the education provider indicator should be higher than it is.

Figure 16: Compared to Urban Centres, Rural and Small Town Zones have Fewer Education Providers Per 1,000 Population



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] The number of individuals working in Statistics Canada's occupational classification category of 'teachers or professors' per 1,000 people.

SUMMARY

The indicators presented in this section reveal a gap in educational attainment and in the number of per capita education providers between Prince Edward Island's urban centres and rural and small town zones. While all zones exhibited some improvement in educational attainment over time, improvement was more evident in the province's urban centres than in its rural zones. And despite reductions in each census year, urban centres continue, as recently as 2001, to have a substantially higher number of education providers per capita compared to rural and small town zones. The greater improvements observed within rural zones, furthermore, were insufficient to overcome the urban/rural disparity in terms access to education. These disparities, moreover, explain some of the urban/rural differences found for the economic and labour market

indicators presented in Section B. First, the lower levels of high school completion among rural Prince Edward Islanders implies more difficult labour market experiences such as unemployment, long work hours and, of course, lower incomes. This relationship is borne out with these data, but especially for the populations in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, which are the most likely to have less than a high school diploma. *Weak MIZ* zones have the lowest labour force participation rate, one of the highest unemployment rates, and the lowest median incomes in the province. *No MIZ* zones have the highest unemployment rate and the highest incidence of low income in the province. The economic benefits of providing programs that encourage school attendance and completion such as mentoring, tutoring, peer support, and parental involvement might be further examined.

Second, the general trend of decreasing post-secondary educational attainment as metropolitan influence weakens, implies a geographical and economic deterrent of access to institutions of higher learning. The educational attainment data presented in this report suggest that for rural residents, colleges and technical institutes are more easily accessible than are universities. Previous studies have found that individuals living further away from a university are more likely to attend a non-university post-secondary institution, if they choose to continue their education (Frenette, 2002). It is, therefore, possible that the distance from universities (most of which are housed in urban centres) is a deterrent to attending, whereas it may not have such an influence on attending other educational institutions. Other factors, such as family income, also influence post-secondary choices. The lower incomes in rural Prince Edward Island likely impose a barrier to attending university, perhaps compelling individuals to choose the typically less expensive route of enrolling in colleges or technical institutes. Further research that examines the implications of increasing access among rural residents to post-secondary institutions, and especially to universities, is implied from these findings. Programs aimed at distance-learning or at encouraging further education, through scholarships, for example, may be of value to rural Prince Edward Islanders.

Finally, lower numbers of education providers per capita in rural zones of the province suggests this finding should be more fully explored since the implications for educational quality are not clear. For example, the relationship between per capita education providers, class size, and the number of school-age children needs to be investigated further, given that our findings imply that classroom sizes may vary between MIZ zones. Classroom sizes may be, on average, larger in rural zones of the province since they have the largest proportions of children combined with the lowest per capita number of teachers and professors.

D. Social Indicators

KEY FINDINGS

D.1 Family Structure (Lone-Parent Families)

- In 2001, lone-parent families were more prevalent in urban than in rural Prince Edward Island (18.6% compared to 13.8%). The incidence of lone-parent families, however, increases as metropolitan influence weakens, with *Strong, Moderate, Weak* and *No MIZ* residents having, respectively, 10.6%, 14.4%, 16.6%, and 25.0% lone-parent families in 2001.

D.2 Housing

- In 2001, urban and *Strong MIZ* individuals were the most likely of all Prince Edward Islanders to be residing in new housing (15.6% and 16.0% of houses were constructed in these zones, respectively, since 1991, compared to 14.9% provincially).

- Dwelling values are consistently higher in urban than in rural and small town Prince Edward Island. Within rural Prince Edward Island, *Strong MIZ* zones have the highest dwelling values, while *Weak* and *No MIZ* have the lowest.

- In 2001, 13.5% of *Weak MIZ* household owners were spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs, compared to 11.1% of the total rural and small town population and 12.5% of the urban population.

- The percentage of Prince Edward Island households spending significant portions of their income on shelter increased throughout the province between 1991 and 2001, with the largest increases occurring in *Strong* and *Weak MIZ* zones (of 6.6% and 10.0%, respectively).

Summary

The social indicators presented in this section contribute to a recurring finding revealed in this report: although urban/rural differences are apparent, the considerable variation among rural zones should also be considered when creating social policy. The data also suggest that intra-rural disparities in housing indicators follow the patterns of intra-rural disparities in economic indicators.

D.1 FAMILY STRUCTURE (LONE-PARENT FAMILIES)

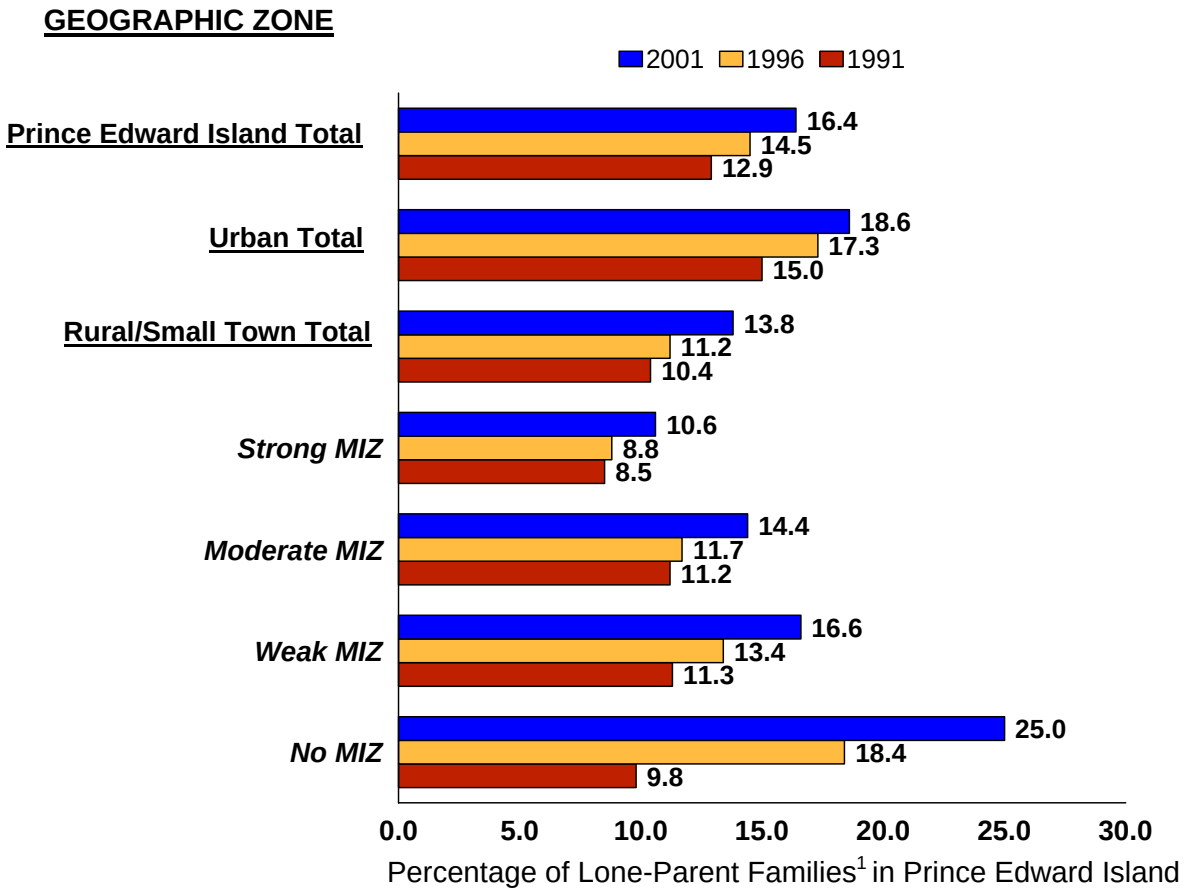
Compared to urban regions, a smaller proportion of rural and small town families are lone-parent. *No MIZ* zones, however, have the highest percentage of lone-parent families in the province.

In Canada, as in many countries, family structures have been changing. The frequency of divorce has risen and common law relationships are increasingly popular (Statistics Canada, 2002). Studies have shown that the growth in lone-parent families has been one of Canada's most significant social trends (Ross et al., 1998). Prince Edward Island is no exception to this rising trend, with 16.4% (Figure 17) of families considered lone-parent in 2001, compared to 15.7% of Canadian families.

Figure 17 (Appendix Table 17) reveals that, compared to rural and small town Prince Edward Islanders, lone-parent families were more prevalent in urban centres in 2001 (18.6% compared to 13.8%). Within rural zones, the incidence of lone-parent families increases as metropolitan influence weakens, with *Strong*, *Moderate*, and *Weak MIZ* zones having, respectively, 10.6%, 14.4%, and 16.6% lone-parent families in 2001. *No MIZ* zones had the highest proportion of lone-parent families in the province (25.0%).

Over-time increases in lone-parent families are apparent in all geographic zones. The increase within *No MIZ* zones, was 15.2 percentage points between 1991 and 2001. But as mentioned previously, this finding is based on a small number of observations since there were less than 700 residents in the No MIZ zone in 2001. *Strong MIZ* zones, on the other hand, exhibit not only the lowest proportion of lone-parent families in the province, but also the smallest percentage increase in this family structure between 1991 and 2001 (of 2.1 percentage points).

Figure 17: Lone-Parent Families are the Most Prevalent in Urban Centres of PEI



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] A change to the measurement of lone-parent families in 2001 marginally inflates the percentage in this year.

D.2 HOUSING

Compared to urban housing, rural housing is older, less expensive, and slightly more affordable.

D.2.1 Recent Housing Construction

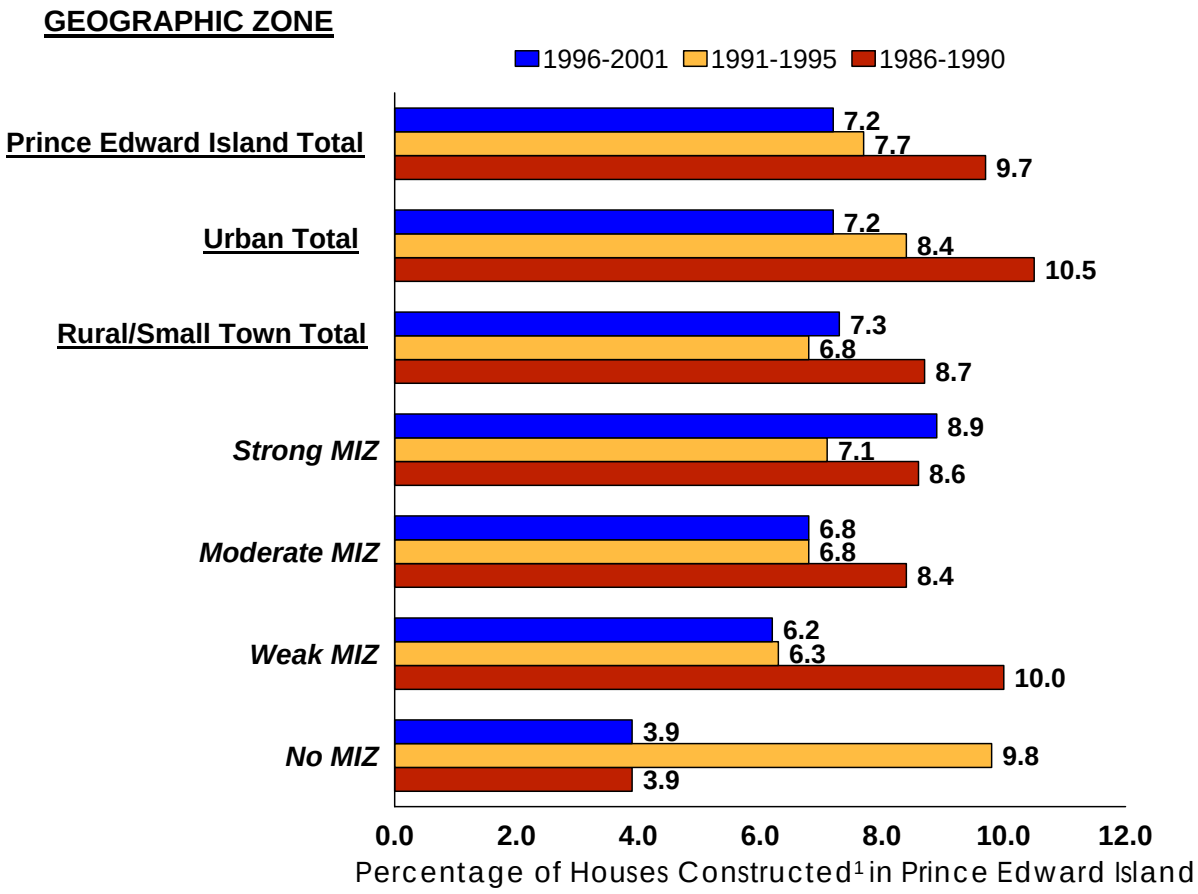
The period of housing construction provides an indication of economic and population growth in the various geographic zones of Prince Edward Island. The greater the percentage of houses constructed more recently in a region, the greater the likelihood that communities in that region have experienced economic and population growth. Figure 18 presents the percentage of houses constructed between 1996 and 2001, 1991 and 1995, and 1986 and 1990 for each geographic zone (see also Appendix Table 18).

The percentage of dwellings constructed between 1991 and 2001 was slightly higher in urban centres than in rural zones (15.6% compared to 14.1%). Although with 16.0% of dwellings constructed over this ten year period, *Strong MIZ* residents were the most likely in the province to be residing in newly constructed dwellings in 2001. *Moderate* and *No MIZ* residents were equally likely to be residing in newly constructed housing, with 13.6% and 13.7% of dwellings constructed during the 1990s, respectively. Finally, *Weak MIZ* residents were the least likely in the province to be residing in newly constructed housing, with 12.5% of dwellings constructed since 1991.

That residents of *Strong MIZ* zones are the most likely in rural Prince Edward Island to be residing in recently constructed housing is not surprising, given that these were the only rural zones to exhibit population growth between 1991 and 2001 (Figure 3). Nor is it surprising that *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones experienced comparatively low proportions of new housing construction after 1991, given the population contraction occurring in *Moderate MIZ* zones in the latter half of the 1990s and the steady contraction in the *Weak MIZ* population throughout the decade.

The decline in the Prince Edward Island economy during the early 1990s is also evident in Figure 18, as we observe a reduction in new-home construction in nearly every geographic zone of the province between 1991 and 1995, compared to the earlier five year period. It is also notable, but not surprising, that only *Strong MIZ* zones exhibited an increase in housing construction after 1995, given that these zones were the most likely to exhibit signs of economic improvement after 1996.

Figure 18: Urban Centres and *Strong MIZ* Zones Had the Largest Percentage of Houses Constructed Between 1991 and 2001



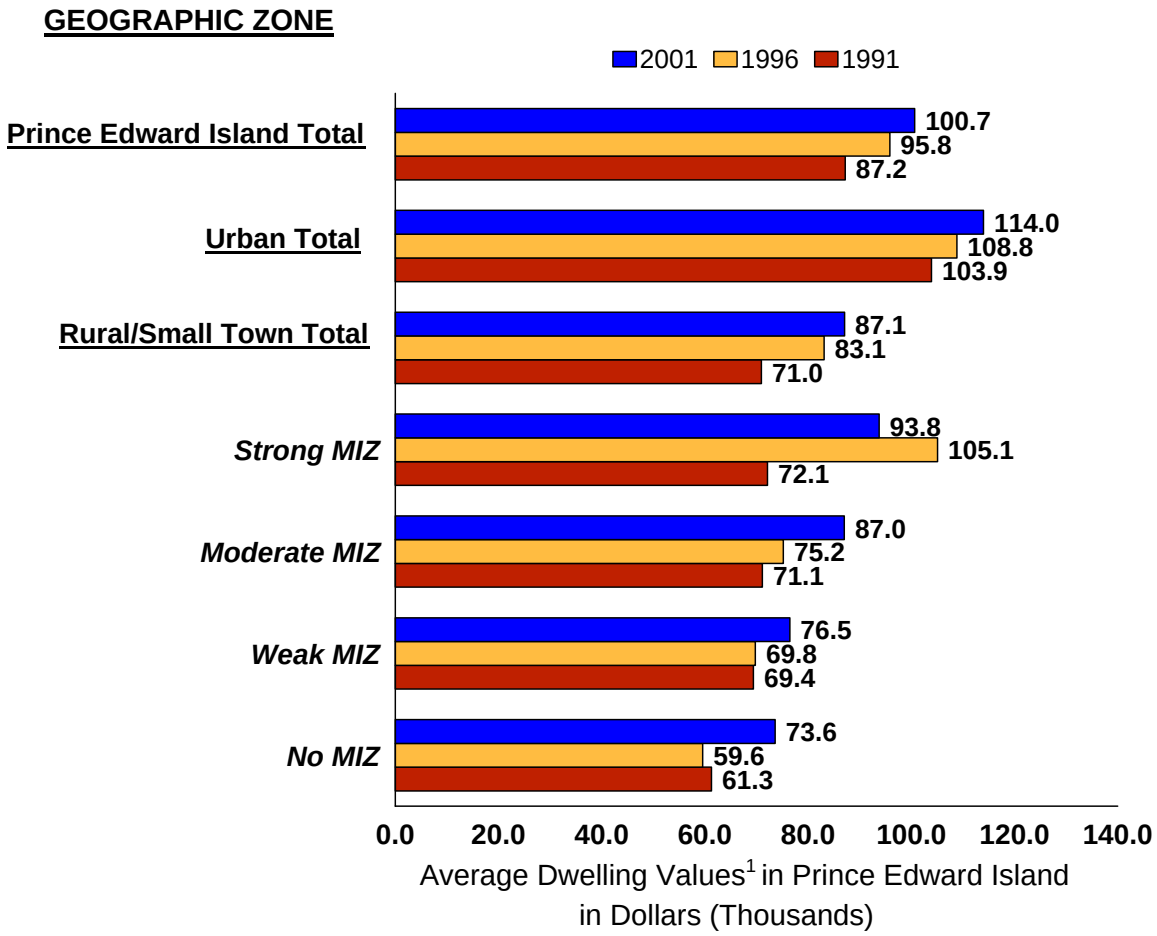
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991
[1] Expressed as a percentage of the total number of occupied private dwellings.

D.2.2 Average Dwelling (Housing) Values

Dwelling cost is a relevant indicator of prosperity and may illustrate the ability of a family or individual to purchase 'big-ticket' items.

As indicated in Figure 19, the average dwelling value in Prince Edward Island in 2001 was $100,700. Housing values were, on average, $26,900 less (or 24% lower) in rural and small town zones than in urban centres. As with many indicators presented in this report, dwelling values are observed to decline as metropolitan influence weakens, with dwelling values in *No MIZ* zones being 12% lower than the value of dwellings in *Strong MIZ* zones in 2001 ($73,600 compared to $93,800).

Figure 19: In 2001, Rural Dwellings (Houses) were Valued 24% Lower than Urban Dwellings



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Average dwelling (housing) values are for owner-occupied non-farm, non-reserve dwellings and are reported in 2001 real dollars.

Figure 19 also reveals that while housing values in most geographic zones changed relatively little in the first half of the 1990s, in *Strong MIZ* zones the values rose from $72,100 in 1991 to $105,100 in 1996. This increase in value may be partly explained by a reduction in new house construction, while the demand remained stable during the same period. The supply of new houses decreases while the demand stays the same so the price increases. In the same way, value decreased when new dwelling construction increased after 1996. A more in depth study about general economic conditions and the real estate market in PEI during the last decade would shed more light on these findings.

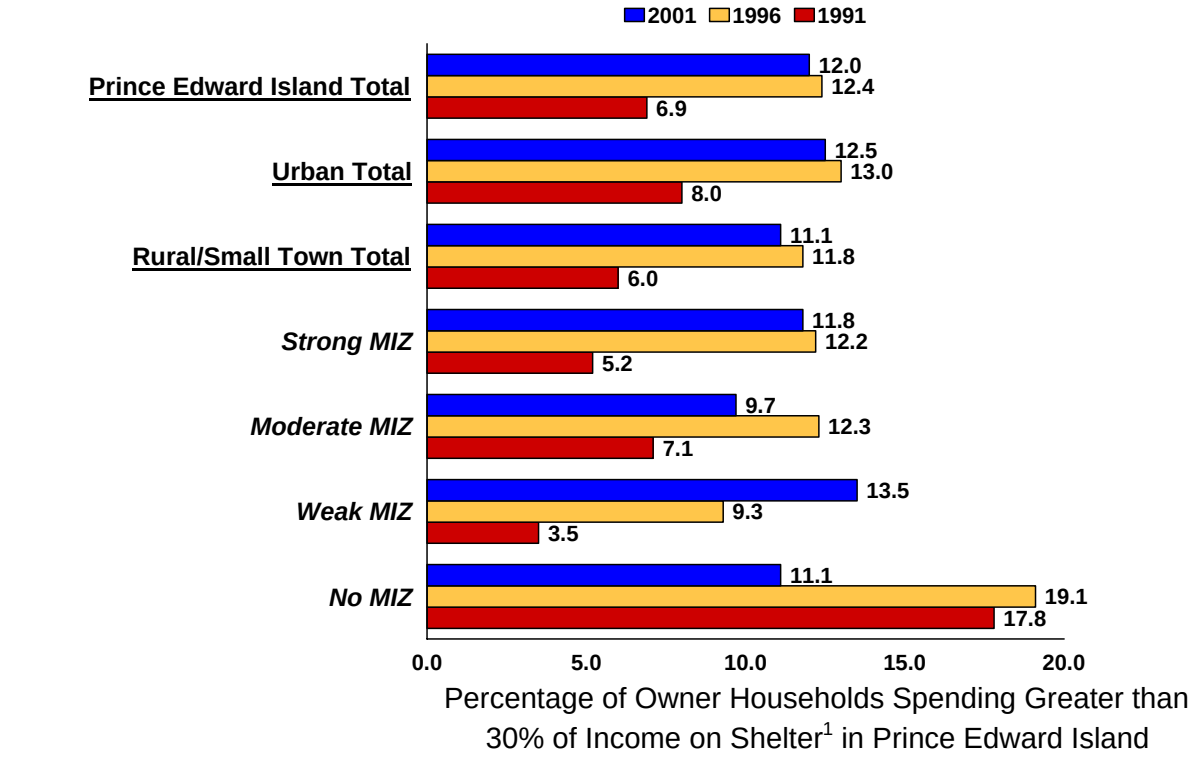
D.2.3 Dwelling (Housing) Affordability

The proportion of household owners spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter costs is generally accepted to be an indicator of housing affordability. Figure 20 highlights the proportion of Prince Edward Island household owners in each geographic zone spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs (see also Appendix Table 19).

In 2001, 12.0% of household owners in the province exceeded this 30% spending cutoff, with urbanites being slightly more likely than their rural counterparts to spend this amount on housing (12.5% compared to 11.1%). In fact, the differences in housing affordability between geographic zones are quite small and do not correspond with the larger differences in housing values. For instance, despite having the largest proportion of new houses (Figure 18) and the highest housing values in rural Prince Edward Island (Figure 19), *Strong MIZ* residents were less likely their *Weak MIZ* counterparts to exceed the 30% spending cutoff (11.8% compared to 13.5%). With the second lowest housing values in the province, housing affordability in Weak MIZ zones is better explained by their relatively low median incomes (Figure 13).

With the exception of *No MIZ* zones, in which area suppression and a small number of residents likely explain the reversed trend, the percentage of Prince Edward Island households spending significant portions of their income on shelter increased in every geographic zone between 1991 and 2001. *Weak MIZ* zones experienced the greatest ten-year increase (10.0%), with less substantial increases occurring in *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones (6.6% and 2.6% respectively). These data contribute further evidence that *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* residents are in the best position in rural Prince Edward Island in terms of housing, and that *Weak MIZ* residents are in the least favorable position. Despite relatively stable housing values and little new housing construction, *Weak MIZ* housing is becoming much less affordable over time.

Figure 20: In 2001, *Weak MIZ* Households Were the Most Likely to Spend Greater Than 30% of Their Income on Shelter



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Refers to total household income which is spent on shelter costs for owners only (not renters) and refers to payments for electricity, fuel, water, municipal services, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees.

SUMMARY

The social indicators presented in this section contribute to a recurring story line revealed in this report: although urban/rural differences are apparent, considerable variation within rural and small town Prince Edward Island should also be considered when creating social policy.

For instance, the percentage of lone-parent families is generally higher in urban centres than in rural settings, however, in zones with higher metropolitan influence, the incidence is relatively low.

Research suggests that the growing trend of lone-parent families is of significance. For example, the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (Ross et al., 1998) found that when measuring behavioural outcomes such as emotional disorders and aggression, children in lone-parent family situations fared relatively poorly, compared to the general population of children. In addition, parents in these situations may experience further barriers when raising children, including an increased likelihood of poverty. This economic factor may be just as instrumental in the development patterns of children as is their family situation (Ross et al., 1998). Therefore, programs designed to mediate these effects are advisable. Possible examples include childcare support or subsidies, and financial support for low-income single parents. It is also essential that early intervention is emphasized, as poor performance in social and academic arenas is not likely to resolve itself with age, and may, in fact, worsen (Ross et al., 1998). These recommendations are especially pertinent to *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones where we see high, and increasing, proportions of lone-parent families combined with the relatively unfavorable economic conditions.

The housing situation for rural Prince Edward Islanders is more complex but also demonstrates rural variability. In the zones with the greatest metropolitan influence, housing is generally newer and housing values are higher, yet residents of these zones are among the most likely in the province to be able to afford their shelter. *Weak MIZ* residents, conversely, are in the least favorable position provincially, with the smallest proportion of new housing construction since 1991, relatively low housing values, and yet the least affordable housing in rural Prince Edward Island. The marked increase in the proportion of *Weak MIZ* residents spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter costs, moreover, reflects the finding that *Weak MIZ* median incomes are not only the lowest in the province, but are decreasing over time. On the whole, it appears that housing indicators in rural Prince Edward Island are strongly influenced by the pattern of greater labour market and economic advantage demonstrated by *Strong MIZ* zones and the disadvantages evident among residents of *Weak MIZ* zones.

E. Health Care Indicators

KEY FINDINGS

E.1 Health Care Providers

- Compared to urban centres, rural and small town zones had fewer health care providers per 1,000 population in 2001 (23.2 compared to 32.9). The urban/rural gap in health care providers decreased from 14.8 in 1991 to 9.7 providers per 1,000 inhabitants in 2001.
- In 2001, *No MIZ* zones had the fewest health care providers per capita in the province (14.8 per 1,000 residents).
- Rural zones are also disadvantaged with respect to their access to professional health care providers (e.g., physicians) and must rely more upon the services offered by Registered Nurses (RNs) and other health care individuals.

Summary

The results suggest a health care disadvantage for rural and small town citizens of Prince Edward Island (and particularly for *No MIZ* zones). The ability of rural residents to access health care is further compromised by the greater distance needed to travel to services and specialists that are typically located in urban zones. Access to adequate health care among the Aboriginal population residing in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones of the province is of particular concern.

E.1 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Compared to urban centres, rural Prince Edward Island has fewer health care providers per capita.

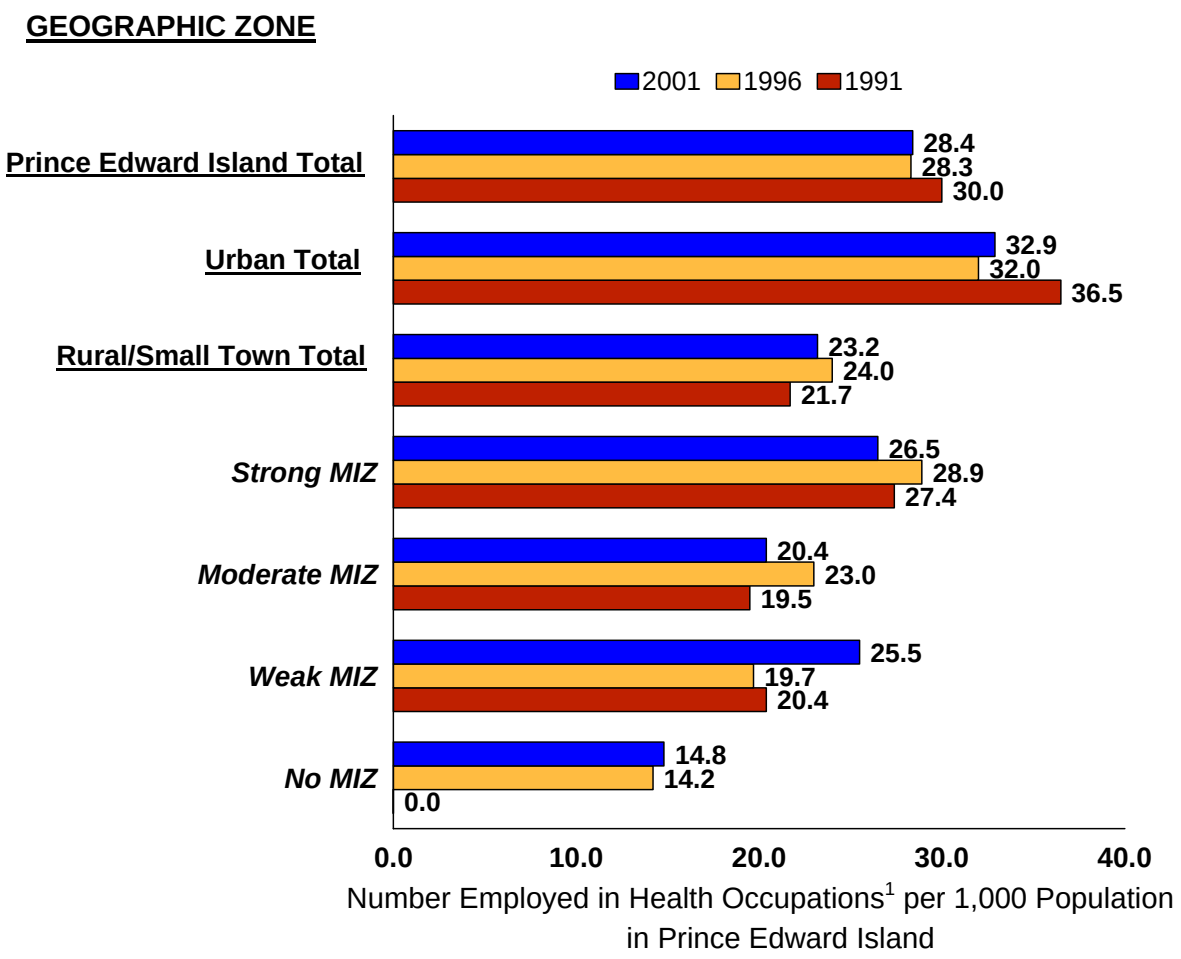
Access to health services is a concern to all Prince Edward Islanders and especially to those residing outside urban centres. One measure of access to health care is the number of health care providers per capita in a given region. In this instance, the number of health care providers per 1,000 people is used to illustrate accessibility to health services. [18]

As demonstrated in Figure 21, in 2001, the number of health care providers in urban centres was considerably higher than in rural Prince Edward Island (32.9 compared to 23.2; see also Appendix Table 20). Among rural zones, the highest number of health care providers per 1,000 inhabitants was in *Strong MIZ* (26.5), followed by *Weak* (25.5) and *Moderate MIZ* zones (20.4). *No MIZ* zones had the smallest number of per capita health care providers in the province (14.8).

Between 1991 and 2001, the ratio of health care providers declined in urban centres (by 3.6 per 1,000 population) and increased in rural zones of the province (by 1.5 per 1,000 population). As a result, the urban/rural gap in the number of per capita health care providers decreased from 14.8 in 1991 to 9.7 in 2001. The most significant 1991-to-2001 increase in number of health care providers is found in *Weak MIZ* zones (from 20.4 in 1991 to 25.5 providers per 1,000 population in 2001).

[18] It should be understood that health care providers are designated to the geographic area where they reside and not where they work. As such, the per capita health care providers in each zone may not accurately represent the number of providers serving the population of that zone.

Figure 21: The Relative Number of Health Care Providers is Lower in Rural than in Urban Prince Edward Island



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] The number of individuals working in Statistics Canada's occupational classification category of 'health occupations' per 1,000 people.

Table 8 presents a more detailed picture of the type of health care providers per capita for each geographic zone and for the 2001 and 1996 Censuses only (see also Appendix Table 21).[19]

Compared to urban centres, rural and small town zones had fewer health care providers working in professional occupations such as physicians in 2001 (5.9 versus 1.9 per 1,000 population). As we move across the table, the rural disadvantage was still apparent in the relative number of RN Supervisors/RNs, with 3.2 fewer providers in rural

[19] Detailed occupational information on health care providers is not available for 1991.

than in urban zones (8.3 compared to 11.5 per 1,000 population). The difference in technical providers was slightly less, with rural zones having 2.9 fewer providers per 1,000 population compared to urban centres. Finally, rural zones had a slightly higher number of workers in assisting occupations compared to urban centers in 2001 (7.0 compared to 6.3 per 1,000 population).

Table 8: The Ratio of Professional Health Care Providers is Lower in Rural than in Urban Prince Edward Island

Number Employed in Health Occupational Categories per 1,000 People, 2001 and 1996

	Professional Occupations		RN Supervisors & RNs		Technical & Related Occupations		Assisting Occupations in Support of Health	
Geographic Zone	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001	1996
Prince Edward Island Total	4.1	4.3	10.0	11.3	7.7	5.6	6.6	7.2
Urban Total	5.9	5.2	11.5	12.2	9.0	6.9	6.3	7.6
Rural and Small Town Total	1.9	3.2	8.3	10.1	6.1	4.1	7.0	6.5
Strong MIZ	**2.4**	**2.1**	**9.0**	**12.4**	**7.2**	**5.8**	**8.0**	**8.2**
Moderate MIZ	**1.7**	**4.4**	**6.5**	**9.0**	**4.5**	**3.4**	**7.4**	**6.1**
Weak MIZ	**1.7**	**2.1**	**9.5**	**9.0**	**8.6**	**2.1**	**4.3**	**5.5**
No MIZ	**0.0**	**0.0**	**29.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**14.2**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001 and 1996

As we move down Table 8, we observe a slight advantage in terms of access to health care professionals in *Strong MIZ* zones of the province (2.4 compared to 1.7 in *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones and 0.0 in *No MIZ* zones, per 1,000 population), though this figure is still far below that of urban Prince Edward Island. Aside from the very high number of RN supervisors and RNs observed in *No MIZ* zones (which may reflect area suppression), *Weak MIZ* zones exhibited the highest relative numbers of RN Supervisors/RNs and technical workers in rural zones in 2001 (9.5 and 8.6 per 1,000 population, respectively). The number of workers in assisting occupations, however, declined as metropolitan influence weakened, and ranged from 8.0 per 1,000 population in *Strong MIZ* to 0.0 per 1,000 population in *No MIZ* zones of the province in 2001.

Conditions of relative disadvantage in rural zones of the province are further observed when looking at changes in the number of providers in each occupational category over time. Between 1996 and 2001, the number of health care professionals in rural Prince Edward Island declined by 1.3 per 1,000 population, with decreases occurring in three of the four MIZ zones. The per capita number of RN Supervisors/RNs also declined during this period in rural Prince Edward Island as a whole, though the number increased slightly in *Weak MIZ* zones of the province in the latter half of the 1990s. *Weak MIZ* zones also incurred the greatest increase in the number employed in technical occupations (from 2.1 in 1996 to 8.6 in 2001, per 1,000 population), while *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones exhibited less noteworthy increases in this occupational category. Finally, the relative number of assisting occupations changed little over time, decreasing slightly in *Strong* and *Weak MIZ* zones and increasing slightly in *Moderate MIZ* zones of the province.

SUMMARY

The results from Figure 21 and Table 8 suggest a health care disadvantage for rural and small town citizens of Prince Edward Island. Not only do rural and small town zones have fewer health care providers per 1,000 population, they also have a greater distance to travel to access services and specialists located in urban centres. This further limits the ability of residents of rural Prince Edward Island to access needed health care services. These concerns are especially problematic for *No MIZ* residents, who have the lowest number of health care providers per capita and are frequently (but not always) required to travel the furthest distance to access health care services. In 2001, *No MIZ* zones had 14.8 health care providers per 1000 population, none of whom were health care professionals, such as doctors. The lower number of professionals in rural zones as a whole is of concern (of 1.9 per 1,000 residents compared to the urban figure of 5.9), as it may put a strain on those physicians who choose to practice in these geographic zones. This is especially the case when one considers that the majority (over 80%) of consultations with health care providers are with physicians (Statistics Canada, 1999b). There may also be an extra burden placed on other health care providers such as rural RNs who, no doubt, are relied upon to fulfill the health care needs of rural residents more than urban RNs. Finally, it should be noted that rural residents living near urban centres may well be accessing the health service there. Still, the findings suggest further investigation would be required to understand more fully the urban/rural disparity in health care providers.

Other aspects of health care must also be considered. For instance, the larger proportion of seniors in rural zones, and in *Weak MIZ* zones in particular, places greater demand on home care services such as personal care, housework, and meal preparation, all of which play into the wellness of the elderly. Use of these services,

however, is influenced by other factors. Individuals with low incomes and education levels, for example, are more likely to use home care services (Statistics Canada, 1999b). Both of these characteristics are found predominantly in *Weak MIZ* zones. Hence, supporting home care programs may be a viable way to promote health and decrease health care costs by delaying or avoiding institutionalization. However, care must be taken to not unduly burden informal caregivers who may lack support because of the isolation of their rural communities.

The wellness of the Aboriginal population should also not be overlooked. Though Aboriginal people are more likely to reside in urban centres of the province, their comparatively high proportional representation in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones of the province is an important consideration when assessing health care. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the health of Aboriginal Canadians is well below that of other citizens. Aboriginal people have higher rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer, and are more likely to be exposed to infectious diseases such as hepatitis, meningitis, and HIV/AIDS, to name a few (Kinnon, 2002). The distance required to access health care may limit the ability of Aboriginal people in many rural communities to access needed health care services. Access to adequate health care among the Aboriginal population residing in rural Prince Edward Island is therefore worthy of further investigation.

F. Conclusions

Following a period of population growth in the early 1990s, the rural and small town population declined slightly after 1996, as did its share of the total provincial population. Within rural and small town Prince Edward Island, the population of *Strong MIZ* zones stabilized in the latter half of the 1990s after a period of strong growth in the earlier five-year period. *Moderate MIZ* also grew in population size between 1991 and 1996, but experienced population contraction in the latter half of the decade. *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, in contrast, exhibited population decline in each inter-census period. Positive economic conditions in *Strong MIZ* and to a lesser extent, *Moderate MIZ* zones likely explain the attraction to these zones and hence, the population stability of *Strong MIZ* and the comparatively slight net population losses of *Moderate MIZ* zones. Less favorable economic conditions in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, no doubt, underlie the population decreases in these two zones of the province.

The report further demonstrates that the economic, educational, social, and health care advantages typifying Prince Edward Island's urban centres are not equally apparent in all rural zones. Some of these advantages, furthermore, have escalated between 1996 and 2001, but not equally so across all rural zones. *Strong MIZ* zones have reaped the same (and, by some measures, even more) benefits from a positive economic cycle as those residing in urban centres and *Moderate MIZ* zones display some positive signs of economic progress. The improvements in economic, educational, social and health care characteristics found in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, however, have not been sufficient to close the gap between these most disadvantaged zones and the more economically well-off *Strong MIZ* zones. A single exception to this pattern is the decreasing intra-rural gap in educational attainment between *Strong/Moderate MIZ* zones and *Weak/No MIZ* zones that occurred between 1991 and 1996.

The conclusion that the degree of urban integration influences the conditions within the respective zones is an important one, but we have little understanding of the precise mechanisms underlying this relationship. Are, for example, populations that commute to jobs in urban centres better off simply because they are working in more stable and lucrative industries, or are there other intervening factors that influence economic conditions? What underlies the fact that less urban integration typically correlates with poorer educational and social conditions? Further research that attempts to identify the precise nature of urban influence on these conditions would help clarify our understanding of rural Prince Edward Island.

As we have repeatedly noted, moreover, the practice of area suppression means that much of the data provided in this report for *No MIZ* zones may be questionable. Future research should therefore attempt to estimate the quality of the data, especially in the less heavily populated zones of the province.

Lastly, an important objective of this document is to provide information that will inform policy makers with respect to the economic and social conditions found in rural Prince Edward Island. Some of these policy implications have been noted throughout the report. Perhaps the single most important implication of this analysis, however, is that decision makers should recognize the range of conditions across the four MIZ zones of the province when drafting policy and implementing programs. The MIZ classification system consistently demonstrates that resources and support are increasingly needed as economic and social integration with urban communities decreases. Being the least integrated with urban centres, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones are in a relative position of greater need in terms of supporting policy and programs than are their more integrated *Strong MIZ* counterparts.

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APPENDIX:

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

This Appendix contains the numbers used to calculate the data presented in the charts and tables in the text. The numbers are reported within each geographic zone for each of the census years -- 1991, 1996 and 2001. In some cases, census subdivisions (CSDs) (incorporated towns and municipalities) were classified to a different MIZ zone in one census, compared to another census. Thus, in the text, we calculated the proportion of individuals within each MIZ zone with a particular characteristic, such as the unemployment rate. In the text, we did not calculate the change in the number of unemployed within a MIZ zone over time. Readers should be cautioned that such a calculation, using the data provided here, would need to include two components: (a) the actual change in the number of unemployed individuals; AND (b) the change in the number of unemployed individuals in a zone that was due to a CSD being reclassified into this zone or being reclassified out of this zone. The calculation of population change removes the impact from reclassification by using "constant boundaries" for the 1991 to 1996 calculation of population change and for the 1996 to 2001 calculation of population change.

Appendix Table 1: Population[1] and Population Percentage Change in Prince Edward Island by Geographic Zone; 1996 to 2001 and 1991 to 1996

Geographic Zone	1996 Population (2001 Boundaries)	2001 Population (2001 Boundaries)	% Change (1996 – 2001)	1991 Population (1996 Boundaries)	1996 Population (1996 Boundaries)	% Change (1991 – 1996)
Prince Edward Island Total	134,557	135,294	**0.5**	129,765	134,557	**3.7**
Urban Total	73,225	74,558	**1.8**	69,885	73,225	**4.8**
Rural/Small Town Total	61,332	60,736	**-1.0**	59,330	61,332	**2.4**
Strong MIZ	**18,966**	**18,989**	**0.1**	**17,902**	**18,966**	**5.9**
Moderate MIZ	**29,713**	**29,371**	**-1.2**	**29,227**	**29,713**	**1.7**
Weak MIZ	**11,925**	**11,690**	**-2.0**	**11,940**	**11,925**	**-0.1**
No MIZ	**728**	**686**	**-5.8**	**811**	**728**	**-10.2**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial total because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 2: Population Percent Distribution[1] in Canada
by Province / Territory and Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Percent

	2001	1996	1991
Canada	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	79.4	77.8	77.2
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**20.6**	**22.2**	**22.8**
.. Strong MIZ	5.1	5.4	5.8
.. Moderate MIZ	7.6	8.2	8.6
.. Weak MIZ	6.6	7.2	7.1
.. No MIZ	1.1	1.2	1.1
.. Territories[1]	0.2	0.2	0.2
Prince Edward Island	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	55.1	54.4	56.0
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**44.9**	**45.6**	**44.0**
.. Strong MIZ	14.0	14.1	12.0
.. Moderate MIZ	21.7	22.1	22.0
.. Weak MIZ	8.6	8.9	9.4
.. No MIZ	0.5	0.5	0.6
Newfoundland/Labrador	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	46.5	44.4	44.6
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**53.5**	**55.6**	**55.4**
.. Strong MIZ	3.5	3.6	3.4
.. Moderate MIZ	24.4	25.5	24.3
.. Weak MIZ	20.9	21.6	22.2
.. No MIZ	4.7	5.0	5.5
Nova Scotia	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	63.3	61.3	60.4
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**36.7**	**38.7**	**39.6**
.. Strong MIZ	2.4	3.3	3.2
.. Moderate MIZ	10.9	11.3	11.3
.. Weak MIZ	22.9	23.6	24.6
.. No MIZ	0.5	0.5	0.5
New Brunswick	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	52.3	51.5	52.0
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**47.7**	**48.5**	**48.0**
.. Strong MIZ	6.9	7.0	7.9
.. Moderate MIZ	20.0	20.3	18.9
.. Weak MIZ	18.6	19.0	19.0
.. No MIZ	2.3	2.2	2.2

Appendix Table 2 Continued

Percent

	2001	1996	1991
Quebec	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	78.5	77.6	77.3
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**21.5**	**22.4**	**22.7**
.. Strong MIZ	6.1	6.0	6.1
.. Moderate MIZ	10.9	11.2	11.4
.. Weak MIZ	3.9	4.4	4.4
.. No MIZ	0.6	0.8	0.8
Ontario	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	87.0	85.2	84.2
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**13.0**	**14.8**	**15.8**
.. Strong MIZ	6.1	7.0	7.5
.. Moderate MIZ	4.3	5.0	5.8
.. Weak MIZ	2.4	2.5	2.2
.. No MIZ	0.2	0.3	0.3
Manitoba	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	66.6	66.7	66.8
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**33.4**	**33.3**	**33.2**
.. Strong MIZ	4.4	4.1	5.2
.. Moderate MIZ	10.4	10.3	9.2
.. Weak MIZ	14.9	15.4	15.6
.. No MIZ	3.6	3.5	3.2
Saskatchewan	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	57.7	56.7	56.4
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**42.3**	**43.3**	**43.6**
.. Strong MIZ	2.7	2.6	2.5
.. Moderate MIZ	10.3	10.4	11.3
.. Weak MIZ	19.8	20.5	19.9
.. No MIZ	9.5	9.8	9.9
Alberta	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	75.4	74.3	74.7
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**24.6**	**25.7**	**25.3**
.. Strong MIZ	4.5	4.3	4.5
.. Moderate MIZ	6.8	6.3	6.4
.. Weak MIZ	12.1	14.0	13.4
.. No MIZ	1.2	1.2	1.0
British Columbia	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	86.2	84.5	84.6
Rural and Small Town (RST) Total	**13.8**	**15.5**	**15.4**
.. Strong MIZ	1.8	2.1	2.5
.. Moderate MIZ	4.8	5.7	5.4
.. Weak MIZ	6.1	6.9	6.8
.. No MIZ	1.1	0.8	0.7

Appendix Table 2 Continued

Percent

	2001	1996	1991
Yukon[1]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	74.6	70.9	64.5
Territories	**25.4**	**29.1**	**35.5**
Northwest Territories[1]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	44.3	43.6	41.8
Territories	**55.7**	**56.4**	**58.2**
Nunavut[1]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	0.0	0.0	0.0
Territories	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991, 1996, and 2001

[1] The statistical area classification for the northern territories does not specify MIZ zones. "Territories" is the equivalent of "Rural and Small Town Total."

Appendix Table 3: Population Percentage Change[1] in Canada

By Province / Territory and Geographic Zone; 1996 to 2001 and 1991 to 1996

	1996 (2001 boundaries)	2001 (2001 boundaries)	1996-2001 % Change	1991 (1996 boundaries)	1996 (1996 boundaries)	1991-1996 % Change
Canada	**28,846,761**	**30,007094**	**4.0**	**27,318,076**	**28,871,473**	**5.7**
Urban Total	22,654,692	23,839,086	5.2	21,140,156	22449855	6.2
RST Total	**6,192,069**	**6,168,008**	**-0.4**	**6,177,920**	**6,421,618**	**3.9**
.. Strong MIZ	1,470,493	1,524,579	3.7	1,458,941	1,564,837	7.3
.. Moderate MIZ	2,307,387	2,285,538	-0.9	2,290,094	2,365,371	3.3
.. Weak MIZ	2,027,488	1,969,211	-2.9	2,078,315	2,119,337	2.0
.. No MIZ	330,616	333,847	1.0	329,353	347,361	5.5
.. Territories[2]	56,085	54,833	-2.2	n.a.	n.a	n.a.
Prince Edward Island	**134,557**	**135,294**	**0.5**	**129,765**	**134,557**	**3.7**
Urban Total	73,225	74,558	1.8	69,885	73,225	4.8
RST Total	**61,332**	**60,736**	**-1.0**	**59,880**	**61,332**	**2.4**
.. Strong MIZ	18,966	18,989	0.1	17,902	18,966	5.9
.. Moderate MIZ	29,713	29,371	-1.2	29,227	29,713	1.7
.. Weak MIZ	11,925	11,690	-2.0	11,940	11,925	-0.1
.. No MIZ	728	686	-5.8	811	728	-10.2
Newfoundland/ Labrador	**551,792**	**512,930**	**-7.0**	**568,474**	**551,792**	**-2.9**
Urban Total	244,868	238,538	-2.6	244,889	244,868	0.0
RST Total	**306,924**	**274,392**	**-10.6**	**323,585**	**306,924**	**-5.1**
.. Strong MIZ	19,947	17,804	-10.7	20,770	19,947	-4.0
.. Moderate MIZ	140,596	125,213	-10.9	150,471	140,672	-6.5
.. Weak MIZ	118,960	107,024	-10.0	122,833	119,012	-3.1
.. No MIZ	27,421	24,351	-11.2	29,511	27,293	-7.5
Nova Scotia	**909,282**	**908,007**	**-0.1**	**899,942**	**909,282**	**1.0**
Urban Total	568,062	574,696	1.2	546,052	557,614	2.1
RST Total	**341,220**	**333,311**	**-2.3**	**353,890**	**351,668**	**-0.6**
.. Strong MIZ	21,172	22,209	4.9	28,370	29,777	5.0
.. Moderate MIZ	100,647	98,571	-2.1	101,241	102,422	1.2
.. Weak MIZ	214,691	207,881	-3.2	219,618	214,691	-2.2
.. No MIZ	4,710	4,650	-1.3	4,661	4,778	2.5
New Brunswick	**738,133**	**729,498**	**-1.2**	**723,900**	**738,133**	**2.0**
Urban Total	380,153	381,169	0.3	370,439	380,149	2.6
RST Total	**357,980**	**348,329**	**-2.7**	**353,461**	**357,984**	**1.3**
.. Strong MIZ	51,349	50,527	-1.6	50,342	51,353	2.0
.. Moderate MIZ	150,795	145,567	-3.5	148,540	150,380	1.2
.. Weak MIZ	139,698	135,618	-2.9	140,434	140,113	-0.2
.. No MIZ	16,138	16,617	3.0	14,145	16,138	14.1

. . . Continued

Appendix Table 3 Continued

	1996 (2001 boundaries)	2001 (2001 boundaries)	1996-2001 % Change	1991 (1996 boundaries)	1996 (1996 boundaries)	1991-1996 % Change
Quebec	**7,138,795**	**7,237,479**	**1.4**	**6,895,963**	**7,138,795**	**3.5**
Urban Total	5,569,642	5,681,453	2.0	5,353,846	5,543,060	3.5
RST Total	**1,569,153**	**1,556,026**	**-0.8**	**1,542,117**	**1,595,735**	**3.5**
.. Strong MIZ	429,851	439,797	2.3	391,396	422,875	8.0
.. Moderate MIZ	800,113	789,980	-1.3	785,081	802,485	2.2
.. Weak MIZ	292,140	279,400	-4.4	313,032	315,625	0.8
.. No MIZ	47,049	46,849	-0.4	52,608	54,750	4.1
Ontario	**10,753,573**	**11,410,046**	**6.1**	**10,084,885**	**10,753,573**	**6.6**
Urban Total	9,291,331	9,925,949	6.8	8,559,726	9,157,435	7.0
RST Total	**1,462,242**	**1,484,097**	**1.5**	**1,525,159**	**1,596,138**	**4.7**
.. Strong MIZ	668,346	695,979	4.1	710,094	756,992	6.6
.. Moderate MIZ	489,985	489,378	-0.1	520,565	539,257	3.6
.. Weak MIZ	278,623	270,527	-2.9	266,562	269,132	1.0
.. No MIZ	25,288	28,213	11.6	27,938	30,757	10.1
Manitoba	**1,113,898**	**1,119,583**	**0.5**	**1,091,942**	**1,113,898**	**2.0**
Urban Total	742,444	746,184	0.5	736,318	742,560	0.8
RST Total	**371,454**	**373,399**	**0.5**	**355,624**	**371,338**	**4.4**
.. Strong MIZ	47,324	48,808	3.1	62,279	45,593	7.8
.. Moderate MIZ	114,608	116,659	1.8	110,237	115,127	4.4
.. Weak MIZ	169,348	167,188	-1.3	167,254	171,105	2.3
.. No MIZ	40,174	40,744	1.4	35,854	39,513	10.2
Saskatchewan	**990,237**	**978,933**	**-1.1**	**988,928**	**990,237**	**0.1**
Urban Total	561,672	565,222	0.6	551,776	561,672	1.8
RST Total	**428,565**	**413,711**	**-3.5**	**437,152**	**428,565**	**-2.0**
.. Strong MIZ	25,788	25,990	0.8	26,511	26,013	-1.9
.. Moderate MIZ	103,051	100,376	-2.6	105,203	102,823	-2.3
.. Weak MIZ	203,012	193,996	-4.4	207,229	202,570	-2.2
.. No MIZ	96,714	93,349	-3.5	98,209	97,159	-1.1
Alberta	**2,696,826**	**2,974,807**	**10.3**	**2,545,553**	**2,696,826**	**5.9**
Urban Total	2,004,641	2,244,336	12.0	1,901,066	2,002,352	5.3
RST Total	**692,185**	**730,471**	**5.5**	**644,487**	**694,474**	**7.8**
.. Strong MIZ	118,425	133,432	12.7	103,035	115,974	12.6
.. Moderate MIZ	190,335	201,612	5.9	158,227	169,300	7.0
.. Weak MIZ	352,527	358,995	1.8	356,885	377,669	5.8
.. No MIZ	30,898	36,432	17.9	26,340	31,531	19.7

. . . Continued

Appendix Table 3 Continued

	1996 (2001 boundaries)	2001 (2001 boundaries)	1996-2001 % Change	1991 (1996 boundaries)	1996 (1996 boundaries)	1991-1996 % Change
British Columbia	**3,724,500**	**3,907,738**	**4.9**	**3,282,061**	**3,724,500**	**13.5**
Urban Total	3,179,571	3,369,035	6.0	2,770,905	3,147,837	13.6
RST Total	**544,929**	**538,703**	**-1.1**	**511,156**	**576,663**	**12.8**
.. Strong MIZ	69,325	71,044	2.5	67,749	77,210	14.0
.. Moderate MIZ	187,544	188,811	0.7	181,119	212,996	17.6
.. Weak MIZ	246,564	236,892	-3.9	236,084	256,500	8.6
.. No MIZ	41,496	41,956	1.1	26,204	29,957	14.3
Yukon[2]	**30,766**	**28,674**	**-6.8**	**27,797**	**30,766**	**10.7**
Urban Total	21,808	21,405	-1.8	20,075	21,808	8.6
Territories	**8,958**	**7,269**	**-18.9**	**7,722**	**8,958**	**16.0**
Northwest Territories[2]	**39,672**	**37,360**	**-5.8**	**36,343**	**39,672**	**9.2**
Urban Total	17,275	16,541	-4.2	15,179	17,275	3.8
Territories	**22,397**	**20,819**	**-7.0**	**21,164**	**22,397**	**5.8**
Nunavut[2]	**24,730**	**26,745**	**8.1**	**21,217**	**24,712**	**16.5**
Urban Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Territories	**24,730**	**26,745**	**8.1**	**21,217**	**24,712**	**16.5**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991, 1996, and 2001

[1] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial / Canadian total because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Census Subdivision.

[2] The statistical area classification for the northern territories does not specify MIZ zones. "Territories" is the equivalent of "Rural and Small Town Total."

Appendix Table 4: Population Age Distribution in Prince Edward Island by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996, and 1991

Percent

Geographic Zone	Children (0-14 years)			Youth (15-24 years)			Young Adults (25-44 years)			Adults (45-64 years)			Seniors (65 years +)		
	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total	20.0	21.9	22.6	14.2	14.6	15.0	28.2	30.1	30.9	24.8	21.3	18.3	12.8	12.1	13.2
Urban Total	19.3	21.3	21.8	14.8	14.9	15.2	28.6	31.0	32.1	24.9	21.3	18.0	12.4	11.6	13.0
Rural/Small Town Total	20.9	22.7	23.6	13.5	14.2	14.8	27.7	29.1	29.5	24.7	21.3	18.8	13.2	12.7	13.4
Strong MIZ	**21.2**	**22.4**	**23.2**	**13.2**	**13.8**	**13.9**	**27.7**	**29.2**	**30.2**	**25.1**	**21.8**	**19.6**	**12.8**	**13.0**	**13.0**
Moderate MIZ	**20.9**	**23.2**	**24.3**	**13.6**	**13.9**	**14.7**	**28.2**	**29.5**	**29.8**	**24.4**	**20.8**	**18.6**	**13.0**	**12.6**	**12.9**
Weak MIZ	**20.4**	**22.0**	**22.4**	**14.0**	**15.0**	**15.9**	**26.3**	**28.2**	**28.2**	**24.6**	**21.6**	**18.1**	**14.8**	**13.1**	**15.2**
No MIZ	**22.8**	**21.3**	**22.2**	**7.3**	**22.7**	**17.7**	**29.4**	**26.2**	**27.2**	**29.4**	**23.4**	**23.4**	**9.6**	**6.4**	**13.3**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

Appendix Table 5: Population Age in Prince Edward Island by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996, and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	Children (0-14 years)			Youth (15-24 years)			Young Adults (25-44 years)			Adults (45-64 years)			Seniors (65+ years)		
	2001	**1996**	**1991**	**2001**	**1996**	**1991**	**2001**	**1996**	**1991**	**2001**	**1996**	**1991**	**2001**	**1996**	**1991**
Prince Edward Island Total[1]	26,695	29,105	29,365	18,920	19,360	19,430	37,580	40,025	40,140	33,110	28,320	23,775	17,070	16,070	17,080
Urban Total	14,110	15,305	15,260	10,815	10,730	10,625	20,885	22,295	22,495	18,245	15,335	12,575	9,105	8,325	9,075
Rural/Small Town Total	12,580	13,805	14,070	8,105	8,630	8,810	16,705	17,730	17,645	14,870	12,975	11,255	7,965	7,745	7,995
Strong MIZ	3,985	4,220	4,095	2,490	2,605	2,465	5,225	5,510	5,345	4,725	4,110	3,465	2,405	2,450	2,305
Moderate MIZ	6,095	6,865	7,090	3,955	4,120	4,275	8,215	8,725	8,665	7,105	6,160	5,415	3,785	3,725	3,745
Weak MIZ	2,355	2,575	2,710	1,615	1,750	1,930	3,045	3,305	3,420	2,840	2,530	2,190	1,715	1,530	1,840
No MIZ	155	150	175	50	160	140	200	185	215	200	165	185	65	45	105

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian Census Subdivision.

Appendix Table 6: Aboriginal Population[1] in Prince Edward Island
by Geographic Zone; 2001 and 1996

Number

Geographic Zone	2001	1996
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	1,345	950
Urban Total	855	455
Rural/Small Town Total	495	495
Strong MIZ	**100**	**120**
Moderate MIZ	**95**	**105**
Weak MIZ	**285**	**265**
No MIZ	**10**	**0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001 and 1996

[1] Refers to persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo) and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation (Statistics Canada, 1999a).

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 7: Home Language[1] Population in Prince Edward Island
by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	English			French			Non-official language[2]			Multiple Response		
	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total [3]	129,795	128,985	124,435	2,710	2,910	2,930	565	545	370	315	415	360
Urban Total	71,585	70,450	67,345	870	780	805	480	475	290	180	280	200
Rural/Small Town Total	58,155	58,530	56,980	1,840	2,135	2,105	80	70	65	155	130	120
Strong MIZ	17,860	17,875	16,910	865	965	505	60	25	55	60	20	25
Moderate MIZ	28,345	28,560	27,740	740	935	1,195	20	45	10	50	55	60
Weak MIZ	11,280	11,405	11,550	235	230	405	0	0	0	45	60	35
No MIZ	670	695	780	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

[1] Home language is based on the language "most often spoken at home" for all three censuses. For the 2001 Census, the home language question asked for the language spoken "most often at home" AND the languages spoken "on a regular basis at home." The 2001 data includes only the language "most often spoken at home."

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian Census Subdivision.

[3] "Non-official languages" include all languages excluding English and French.

Appendix Table 8: Population Participating in Labour Force[1] in Prince Edward Island By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	73,635	70,820	68,285
Urban Total	40,745	38,920	37,335
Rural / Small Town Total	32,885	31,900	30,910
Strong MIZ	**10,410**	**9,975**	**9,270**
Moderate MIZ	**15,995**	**15,470**	**15,165**
Weak MIZ	**6,070**	**6,010**	**6,145**
No MIZ	**405**	**440**	**330**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] The Labour Force Participation Rate is the ratio of individuals who are currently employed or who are out of work (but looking for work) to the total number of individuals in the population who are over the age of 15.

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 9: Population Unemployed[1] in Prince Edward Island
by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	9,700	9,755	9,215
Urban Total	4,220	4,540	4,300
Rural / Small Town Total	5,480	5,215	4,950
Strong MIZ	**1,350**	**1,340**	**1,430**
Moderate MIZ	**2,925**	**2,555**	**2,215**
Weak MIZ	**1,125**	**1,175**	**1,160**
No MIZ	**80**	**150**	**145**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] The Unemployment Rate is based on the ratio of individuals who are currently unemployed to those who are in the labour force.

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 10: 2001 Labour Force Population by Industry Sector (NAIC)[1] in Prince Edward Island by Geographic Zone

Number

Geographic Zone	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction	Construction	Manufacturing	Production Services[2]	Consumer Services[3]	Government-Provided Services[4]
Prince Edward Island Total[5]	9,450	210	5,270	7,750	12,670	18,710	18,870
Urban Total	2,135	45	2,610	3,115	8,580	11,560	12,335
Rural / Small Town Total	7,315	165	2,660	4,640	4,115	7,145	6,530
Strong MIZ	**2,040**	**45**	**825**	**1,340**	**1,450**	**2,250**	**2,370**
Moderate MIZ	**2,470**	**45**	**1,385**	**2,315**	**1,940**	**3,685**	**2,980**
Weak MIZ	**1,675**	**70**	**425**	**915**	**700**	**1,140**	**1,095**
No MIZ	**130**	**0**	**25**	**65**	**20**	**70**	**85**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

[1] Based on the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAIC).

[2] Production Services includes utilities, wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, information and cultural industries, finance and insurance, real estate and rental and leasing, professional, scientific and technical services, management of companies and enterprises, and administrative and support waste management and remediation services.

[3] Consumer Services includes retail trade, arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services.

[4] Government-Provided Services includes educational services, healthcare and social assistance, public administration, and other services.

[5] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 11: 1996 and 1991 Labour Force Population by Industry Sector (SIC)[1] in Prince Edward Island
by Geographic Zone

Number

Geographic Zone	Agric., Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting		Mining & Oil & Gas Extraction		Construction		Manufacturing		Production Services[2]		Consumer Services[3]		Government-Provided Services[4]	
	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[5]	9,705	9,755	150	205	4,970	4,450	7,095	7,040	11,190	10,275	18,840	17,010	17,465	18,720
Urban Total	1,865	2,010	55	45	2,695	2,435	2,800	2,630	6,800	6,115	11,970	10,895	11,765	12,345
Rural/Small Town Total	7,845	7,530	100	130	2,270	1,980	4,295	4,345	4,385	3,805	6,865	5,935	5,700	6,250
Strong MIZ	**2,010**	**1,930**	**30**	**35**	**940**	**680**	**1,060**	**955**	**1,430**	**1,275**	**2,370**	**1,955**	**2,050**	**2,155**
Moderate MIZ	**3,855**	**3,630**	**20**	**65**	**1,050**	**950**	**2,230**	**2,230**	**2,135**	**1,905**	**3,270**	**2,850**	**2,690**	**3,015**
Weak MIZ	**1,820**	**1,855**	**40**	**30**	**255**	**330**	**915**	**1,110**	**775**	**585**	**1,160**	**1,110**	**920**	**1,015**
No MIZ	**150**	**115**	**10**	**0**	**25**	**20**	**85**	**50**	**45**	**40**	**60**	**20**	**45**	**65**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996 and 1991

[1] Based on the 1980 Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system.

[2] Production Services includes communication and other utilities, wholesale trade, transportation and storage, finance and insurance, real estate operator and insurance agent, and business services.

[3] Consumer Services includes retail trade, accommodation, food and beverage, and other services.

[4] Government-Provided Services includes educational services, health and social assistance, and government services.

[5] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 12: Self-Employed[1] Population in Prince Edward Island By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	9,090	8,785	7,805
Urban Total	4,340	3,655	3,130
Rural/Small Town Total	4,760	5,140	4,455
Strong MIZ	**1,505**	**1,480**	**1,360**
Moderate MIZ	**2,310**	**2,515**	**2,010**
Weak MIZ	**880**	**1,050**	**1,010**
No MIZ	**65**	**80**	**75**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] Self-employment includes operating a business or professional practice, doing freelance or contract work, and farming, fishing and trapping. It also includes operating a direct distributorship selling and distributing goods such as cosmetics (Statistics Canada, 1999a).

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 13: Low-Income Population[1] in Prince Edward Island
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	16,735	20,035	16,230
Urban Total	10,470	12,620	9,720
Rural/Small Town Total	5,995	7,415	6,265
Strong MIZ	**1,350**	**1,905**	**1,450**
Moderate MIZ	**2,810**	**3,595**	**3,305**
Weak MIZ	**1,765**	**1,835**	**1,430**
No MIZ	**70**	**85**	**80**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] The incidence of low income is calculated as the number of individuals living in a household with an income below the low-income cut-off (LICO) divided by the total number of individuals. The LICO is a level of income where households are judged to be in straitened circumstances, on the basis of the income required to provide food, clothing and shelter.

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 14: 2001 Population Educational Attainment[1] in Prince Edward Island By Geographic Zone

Number

Geographic Zone	Less Than High School	High School Diploma	Some Post-Secondary	Post-Secondary Cert./Dip.	University Degree
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	32,630	10,975	11,625	29,100	12,190
Urban Total	14,615	5,695	7,115	17,255	8,880
Rural/Small Town Total	18,025	5,280	4,515	11,840	3,310
Strong MIZ	**4,805**	**1,380**	**1,525**	**4,365**	**1,375**
Moderate MIZ	**8,550**	**2,705**	**2,245**	**5,770**	**1,480**
Weak MIZ	**4,405**	**1,135**	**680**	**1,625**	**420**
No MIZ	**255**	**55**	**70**	**85**	**35**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

[1] 2001 educational attainment data are provided for the population 20 years of age and over.

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 15: 1996 and 1991 Population Educational Attainment[1] in Prince Edward Island by Geographic Zone

Number

Geographic Zone	Less Than High School		High School Diploma		Some Post-Secondary		Post-Secondary Cert./Dip.		University Degree	
	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	43,150	42,510	10,810	12,030	10,225	10,800	28,520	25,035	11,040	8,370
Urban Total	19,185	18,845	5,585	6,300	6,515	6,780	17,340	15,605	8,060	5,820
Rural/Small Town Total	23,960	23,570	5,220	5,680	3,715	3,995	11,190	9,320	2,985	2,525
Strong MIZ	**6,485**	**6,115**	**1,555**	**1,665**	**1,305**	**1,275**	**4,150**	**3,360**	**1,155**	**1,015**
Moderate MIZ	**11,660**	**11,350**	**2,535**	**2,710**	**1,775**	**2,005**	**5,330**	**4,655**	**1,425**	**1,175**
Weak MIZ	**5,450**	**5,610**	**1,065**	**1,275**	**570**	**685**	**1,640**	**1,265**	**400**	**335**
No MIZ	**370**	**495**	**65**	**30**	**65**	**30**	**60**	**40**	**10**	**0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1996 and 1991

[1] 1996 and 1991 educational attainment data are provided for individuals 15 years of age and over.

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 16: Number of Education Providers[1] in Prince Edward Island
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	2,205	2,355	2,900
Urban Total	1,450	1,610	1,740
Rural/Small Town Total	755	750	1,005
Strong MIZ	**250**	**220**	**330**
Moderate MIZ	**360**	**365**	**515**
Weak MIZ	**135**	**165**	**160**
No MIZ	**10**	**0**	**0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] The number of individuals working in Statistics Canada's occupational classification category of teachers or professors.

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 17: Number of Lone-Parent Families in Prince Edward Island
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	2001[1]	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	6,305	5,200	4,375
Urban Total	3,890	3,360	2,730
Rural/Small Town Total	2,410	1,840	1,630
Strong MIZ	**580**	**455**	**405**
Moderate MIZ	**1,220**	**925**	**855**
Weak MIZ	**555**	**425**	**350**
No MIZ	**55**	**35**	**20**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] A minor change in the measurement of lone-parent families in 2001 marginally inflates the percentage in this year.

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 18: Number of Houses Constructed Between 1996 and 2001, 1991 and 1995, and 1986 and 1990 in Prince Edward Island by Geographic Zone

Number of Houses

Geographic Zone	1996 - 2001	1991 - 1995	1986 – 1990
Prince Edward Island Total[1]	3,680	3,915	4,945
Urban Total	2,060	2,405	3,020
Rural/Small Town Total	1,615	1,510	1,925
Strong MIZ	**610**	**490**	**590**
Moderate MIZ	**720**	**720**	**895**
Weak MIZ	**270**	**275**	**435**
No MIZ	**10**	**25**	**10**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 19: Number of Owner Households Spending Greater than 30% of Income on Shelter[1] in Prince Edward Island
by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number of Households

Geographic Zone	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	9,835	4,130	2,270
Urban Total	6,455	2,140	1,260
Rural/Small Town Total	3,220	1,985	1,015
Strong MIZ	**935**	**625**	**265**
Moderate MIZ	**1,410**	**1,025**	**595**
Weak MIZ	**860**	**290**	**115**
No MIZ	**15**	**45**	**40**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] Refers to total household income spent on shelter costs for owners only (not renters) and refers to payments for electricity, fuel, water and municipal services.

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 20: Number Employed in Health Occupations[1] in Prince Edward Island by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Number

Geographic Zone	2001	1996	1991
Prince Edward Island Total[2]	3,795	3,765	3,845
Urban Total	2,410	2,305	2,505
Rural/Small Town Total	1,395	1,460	1,290
Strong MIZ	**500**	**545**	**480**
Moderate MIZ	**595**	**680**	**565**
Weak MIZ	**295**	**230**	**245**
No MIZ	**10**	**10**	**0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

[1] The number of individuals working in Statistics Canada's occupational classification category of 'health occupations.'

[2] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.

Appendix Table 18: Number Employed in Health Occupational Categories in Prince Edward Island; by Geographic Zone; 2001 and 1996

Number

Geographic Zone	Professional Occupations		RN Supervisors & RNs		Technical & Related Occupations		Assisting Occupations in Support of Health	
	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001	1996
Prince Edward Island Total[1]	550	575	1,340	1,500	1,030	740	880	950
Urban Total	435	375	845	880	660	495	460	550
Rural/Small Town Total	115	195	500	615	370	250	420	395
Strong MIZ	**45**	**40**	**170**	**235**	**135**	**110**	**150**	**155**
Moderate MIZ	**50**	**130**	**190**	**265**	**130**	**100**	**215**	**180**
Weak MIZ	**20**	**25**	**110**	**105**	**100**	**25**	**50**	**65**
No MIZ	**0**	**0**	**20**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10**

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001 and 1996

[1] Population figures for urban and rural do not add up to the provincial totals because data are suppressed if there are fewer than 40 residents in any Canadian census subdivision.