

# Rural Saskatchewan Profile:



## A Ten-year Census Analysis (1991 - 2001)

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## Foreword

*Rural Saskatchewan Profile* is one of a series of fourteen 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 programmes 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.

The Rural Secretariat owes a debt of gratitude to members of the Profiles Steering Committee. Special thanks to Ray Bollman with Statistics Canada.

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

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## 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 Saskatchewan. 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 Saskatchewan.

### **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 used to make distinctions within rural and small town Saskatchewan. The four MIZ categories are *Strong*, *Moderate*, *Weak*, and *No MIZ*, with each progressively resembling rurality. Second, a basic difference between urban centres and rural/small town zones is also presented to capture overall variance between the two sectors of the province. In total, 20 indicators from Statistics Canada's 2001, 1996, and 1991 Censuses of Population have been calculated and analyzed for each of the four degrees of rurality, for rural and small town Saskatchewan as a whole, and for its urban centres.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

### **Population Indicators**

Rural and small town populations comprise 42.3% of the total Saskatchewan population. Between 1991 and 1996, the rural population contracted by 2.0% and by 3.5% between 1996 and 2001. In contrast, the urban population grew by 1.8 and 0.6% between 1991 and 1996 and between 1996 and 2001, respectively. In the most recent inter-census period, population change varied within rural and small town zones, with the most heavily populated *Weak MIZ* zones experiencing the greatest population decline (4.4%), followed by the least populated *No MIZ* (3.5%) and *Moderate MIZ* (2.6%) zones. *Strong MIZ* zones, on the other hand, increased in population size by 0.8%.

Saskatchewan's rural population comprises a much larger share of the total population than is the case Canada-wide (42.3% compared to 20.6%). Both Canada's and Saskatchewan's rural population contracted between 1996 and 2001, although to a greater extent in Saskatchewan (3.5%) than in Canada (0.4%).

Compared to urban Saskatchewan, rural and small town zones have a more polarized age structure, with slightly higher proportions falling within the lowest (children) and highest (seniors) age categories. Between 1991 and 2001, rural and small town populations aged slightly less rapidly than did the province's urban population. Rural

areas further exhibited a slightly smaller decline in the share of the population comprised of children and a decline in the share of the population that were seniors (compared to an increase in urban Saskatchewan). Nonetheless, *Strong MIZ* populations aged the most rapidly in the province, with the share of the population comprised of children declining over this ten year period by 4.1%, and the share comprised of seniors increasing by 1.6%.

While rural and small town Saskatchewan has a greater share of its population comprised of Aboriginal individuals than does urban Saskatchewan, greater variation exists within rural zones. For example, just one-in-ten *Strong MIZ* residents are of Aboriginal identity, compared to almost one in three *No MIZ* residents. *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones fall between these two extremes, with, respectively, 18.9% and 14.7% of their populations comprised of Aboriginal individuals. Aboriginal representation increased in every geographic zone between 1996 and 2001, with the largest percentage increase occurring in *No MIZ* zones (3.9%).

## **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 Saskatchewan. While differences between the urban and rural population are apparent, there is often greater variation among the four *MIZ* categories. *Strong MIZ* zones typically stand out as being most similar to the more advantaged urban centres, and for some indicators, actually exceed urban centres. *No MIZ* zones consistently rank as the least advantaged zones in rural Saskatchewan.

The use of three consecutive census years permits a review of changes over the decade of the 1990s in rural Saskatchewan. Most apparent in this review of the indicators is the continuation of the relative disadvantage of rural zones over time, when compared to urban Saskatchewan, and the continuing advantage of *Strong MIZ* zones compared to *No MIZ* zones. The gap in economic well-being between *Strong* and *No MIZ* zones, moreover, continued to increase, as *No MIZ* zones were less likely to have benefited from economic improvement characterizing the rest of the province after 1996.

Examples of these patterns include the following:

### Economic Indicators

- High labour force participation and low unemployment rates are consistently found across time in *Strong MIZ* zones, while low labour force participation (LFP) and high unemployment rates are consistently found in the Aboriginal-intensive *No MIZ* zones. Between 1996 and 2001, the *Strong MIZ* LFP rate increased and the unemployment rate declined. *No MIZ* rates, in contrast, did not change.

- Personal median incomes were the highest in urban centres and *Strong MIZ* zones and the lowest in *No MIZ* zones. *No MIZ* exhibited the largest decline in income in the province between 1996 and 2001, while *Strong MIZ* income values increased.
- Populations of *No MIZ* zones received a greater proportion of their income as social transfer than populations of any other geographic zone in 2001. Like their *Strong MIZ* counterparts, however, populations of these economically disadvantaged zones were less likely to rely on this form of income in 2001 than in 1996.

#### Education Indicators

- The lowest level of educational attainment is observed in *No MIZ* zones where 47.5% of the population of at least 20 years of age had not completed high school as recently as 2001. *Strong MIZ* populations were the most likely of all rural and small town populations to have a university degree (7.3%), although they were still much less likely than urban population to have this level of education (16.2%).
- In *Strong MIZ* zones resided not only the highest number of education providers per 1,000 population of the rural zones (18.9 per 1,000 population), but they experienced the largest per 1,000 population increase in providers between 1996 and 2001.

#### Social Indicators

- *No MIZ* zones have the highest incidence of, and experienced the greatest over time growth in lone-parent families (from 9.2% in 1991 to 14.9% in 2001), while the lowest rates were observed in *Strong MIZ* zones (8.5%).
- Despite having housing values that are just two-thirds of the value of *Strong MIZ* housing, *No MIZ* residents are almost as likely as those in *Strong MIZ* to spend a significant portion of their income on shelter costs (9.6% compared to 11.4%).

#### Health Care Indicators

- In Rural and small town Saskatchewan resided lower numbers of health care providers per 1,000 population than in urban regions. In *No MIZ* zones resided by far the fewest number of health care providers per 1,000 population in the province (19.7 per 1,000 population).

Rural and small town Saskatchewanites 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 Saskatchewan are, however, equally apparent. Despite modest improvements on some indicators in the most disadvantaged *No MIZ* zones, populations of these zones continued as recently as 2001 to experience conditions of disadvantage relative to the rest of Saskatchewan. The MIZ classification consistently demonstrates that resources and support are increasingly needed in regions that are the least integrated with urban centres, and that *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 Saskatchewan. This report benchmarks the 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 Saskatchewan. Similar documents have been prepared profiling the rural conditions in each of Canada's 12 other provinces and territories plus one national profile.

Rural Saskatchewanites comprise over 40 percent 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 appropriately capture the conditions of rural Saskatchewan, 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 regions within rural Saskatchewan exhibit variable population, economic, education, social, and health care characteristics.

The analysis presented here divides rural Saskatchewan into four categories, each representing a specific degree of 'rurality.' These four categories are based on the Census **M**etropolitan Area and Census **A**gglomeration **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 Saskatchewan. To understand the social and economic conditions among Saskatchewanites, 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 fully represent the breadth of the Saskatchewan 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 are used for the years 1991, 1996, and 2001 to establish evidence of trends within rural and small town Saskatchewan. It is important to understand, however, that since these data are 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 Saskatchewan as well as within rural and small town Saskatchewan. 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 Saskatchewan. Section F summarizes the findings and the Appendix includes a series of tables containing the raw numbers to compliment 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 populations.<sup>1</sup> Residents of rural Saskatchewan are defined as individuals residing in RST regions 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 Saskatchewan 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 Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Influenced Zones (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 larger urban centre, suggesting that this population is strongly integrated with the urban economy<sup>2</sup>.
2. **Moderate MIZ:** At least 5% but less than 30% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any larger urban centre, suggesting that this population is moderately integrated with the urban economy.
3. **Weak MIZ:** More than 0% but less than 5% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any larger urban centre,

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<sup>1</sup> RST is also known as Statistical Area Classification (SAC).

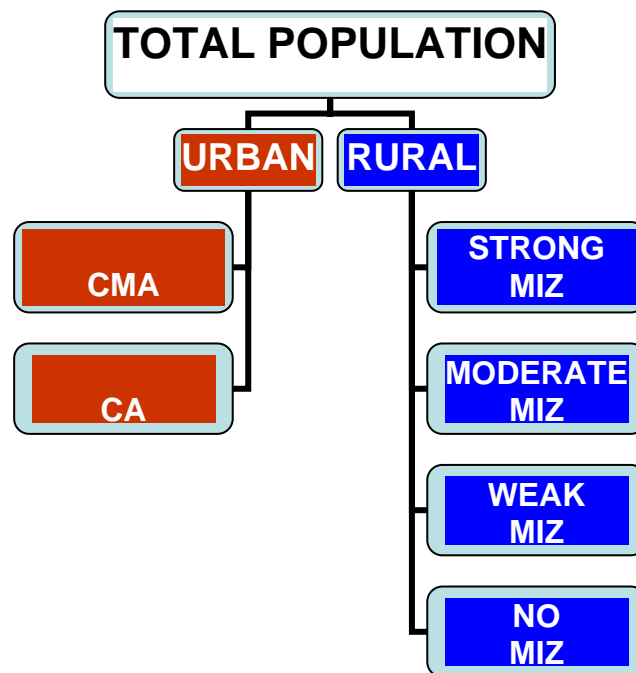
<sup>2</sup> The upper commuting limit of 49% holds for the vast majority of CSD designations. In instances where more than 49% of the employed workforce commutes to more than one CMA or CA, however, the CSD is designated as *Strong MIZ*.

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 larger urban centre (plus any CSD 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 Saskatchewanites as well as among the rural population of the province. The 20 indicators used to measure the population, economic, education, social, and health conditions of Saskatchewanites 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 censuses (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 areas 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.<sup>3</sup>

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 over-ridden since results for 1996 are standardized to 2001 census boundaries for calculating the 1996 to 2001 rate of population growth and the 1991 results are standardized to the 1996 boundaries for calculating the 1991 to 1996 rate of population growth.

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 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 and Aboriginal data everywhere have limited reliability. The proportion of Aboriginal people in No MIZ varies between just over 1% and over 67%. Some First

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<sup>3</sup> The use of the smaller CSDs, as opposed to 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).

Nations, however, do not participate in the census and are therefore not captured. Furthermore, our indicator captures people who self-identify as Aboriginal. Changes over time in that number may be due to changes in birth/death rates but also to a varying 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 (2H[www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)) and click on "Census", then click on "Reference Maps" and then click on "Statistical Area Classification". The exact URL, for English, is

3H[http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ReferenceMaps/n\\_sac\\_e.cfm](http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ReferenceMaps/n_sac_e.cfm)

and for French is

4H[http://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ReferenceMaps/n\\_sac\\_f.cfm](http://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 (5H[www.statcan.ca](http://www.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

6H<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/standard/popdwell/Table-SAC.cfm>

and for French is

7H<http://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 (8H[www.statcan.ca](http://www.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

9H<http://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

10H<http://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 by going to the Statistics Canada website (11H[www.statcan.ca](http://www.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

12H<http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=95F0495XCB2001012>

and for French is

13H<http://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 42.3% of the total population of Saskatchewan. *Weak MIZ* zones were the most populated of the rural zones (comprising 19.8% of the total population), followed by *Moderate* (10.3%), *No* (9.5%), and, finally, *Strong MIZ* (2.7%) zones.
- The population of urban Saskatchewan increased in both inter-census periods, while the rural and small town total fell by 2.0 and 3.5 percentage points between 1991 and 1996 and between 1996 and 2001, respectively. Population contraction occurred in all four MIZ zones in the earlier inter-census period and in three of the four MIZ zones between 1996 and 2001; only *Strong MIZ* experienced population growth after 1996 (of 0.8%).

#### A.2 Saskatchewan – Canada Population Comparison

- Rural Saskatchewan comprises a much larger share of the total population compared to the national rural share (42.3% compared to 20.6%). Most of this difference can be attributed to the much larger proportions of *Weak* and *No MIZ* populations in Saskatchewan than in Canada.
- Between 1996 and 2001, the rural Saskatchewan population declined to a greater extent than did the Canadian rural population, due to smaller *Strong MIZ* growth and greater declines in *Moderate*, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones than in Canada.

#### A.3 Population Age Structure and Global Dependency Ratio

- Compared to the urban population, the rural population has a more polarized age structure with slightly higher proportions falling within the lowest (children) and highest (seniors) age categories.
- The average age of the population in the province increased between 1991 and 2001 with the age of the *Strong MIZ* population increasing the most rapidly.

#### A.4 Population Gender Structure

- Rural Saskatchewan has a higher proportion of men than urban Saskatchewan (with 2.1 more men per 100 women). In 2001, the male-to-female ratio was the highest in *Strong MIZ* zones with 108.0 men per 100 women.

#### A.5 Aboriginal Identity Population

- Aboriginal representation is higher in rural than in urban Saskatchewan with *No MIZ* zones having the largest proportion (27.1% compared to 18.2% for the rural and small town total). Between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of Aboriginal people

increased in all of Saskatchewan's geographic zones, but most significantly in *No MIZ* zones (by 3.9 percentage points).

#### **A.6 Home Language**

- Residents of rural and small town Saskatchewan are slightly more likely than urban dwellers to speak a non-official Canadian language (i.e., not English and not French), perhaps reflecting the use of non-official languages within Aboriginal households.

#### **Summary**

The rural and small town population of Saskatchewan continued to decrease between 1996 and 2001. This decline is accounted for by population losses occurring in three out of four rural zones; only *Strong MIZ* zones exhibited population growth after 1996. These trends in population change reflect strong economic conditions in *Strong MIZ* zones of the province and weaker economic conditions in *Moderate*, *Weak* and, especially, *No MIZ* zones.

## A.1 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND CHANGE

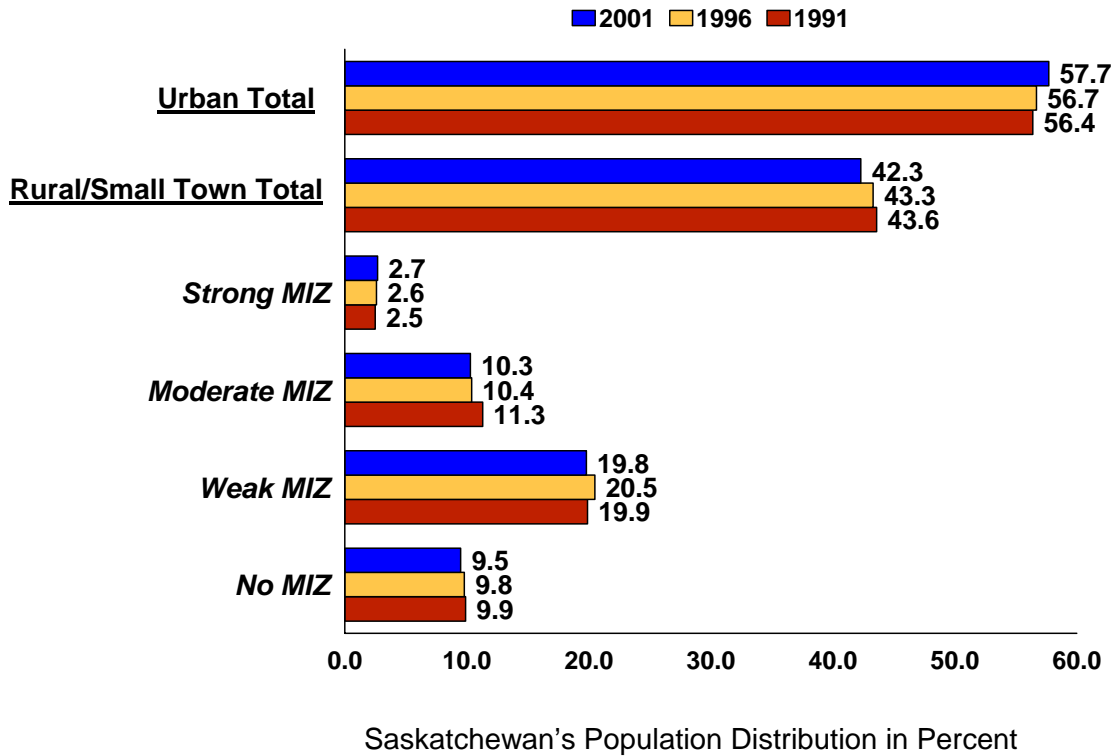
Slight population growth in *Strong MIZ* zones was offset by population contraction in *Moderate, Weak* and *No MIZ* zones for a net population decline in rural and small town Saskatchewan between 1996 and 2001.

We begin our examination of population by first looking at the proportion of Saskatchewan'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 Saskatchewan accounted for 42.3 percent of the total population in 2001 (413,711 of the 978,933 inhabitants of Saskatchewan resided in a rural region or a small town – see Appendix Table 1). In 2001, *Weak MIZ* zones were the most populated of the rural zones (19.8% of Saskatchewan's total population), followed by *Moderate* (10.3%), *No* (9.5%), and finally, *Strong MIZ* (2.7%) zones.

Rural Saskatchewan's share of the total population changed very little over time, decreasing by only 1.3 percentage points between 1991 and 2001. Relative stability is observed for each of the four rural and small town zones, with the exception of a slight decrease in the share of the population residing in *Weak MIZ* zones after 1996 (-0.7%). Since *Weak MIZ* zones are the most populated of all rural zones (with 193,996 residents out of the rural total of 413,711), this decrease contributed the most to the overall decline in the rural and small town total of 1.0 percentage point between 1996 and 2001.

**Figure 2: Rural Saskatchewanites Comprised a Slightly Smaller Share of the Total Population in 2001 than they did in 1991**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



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

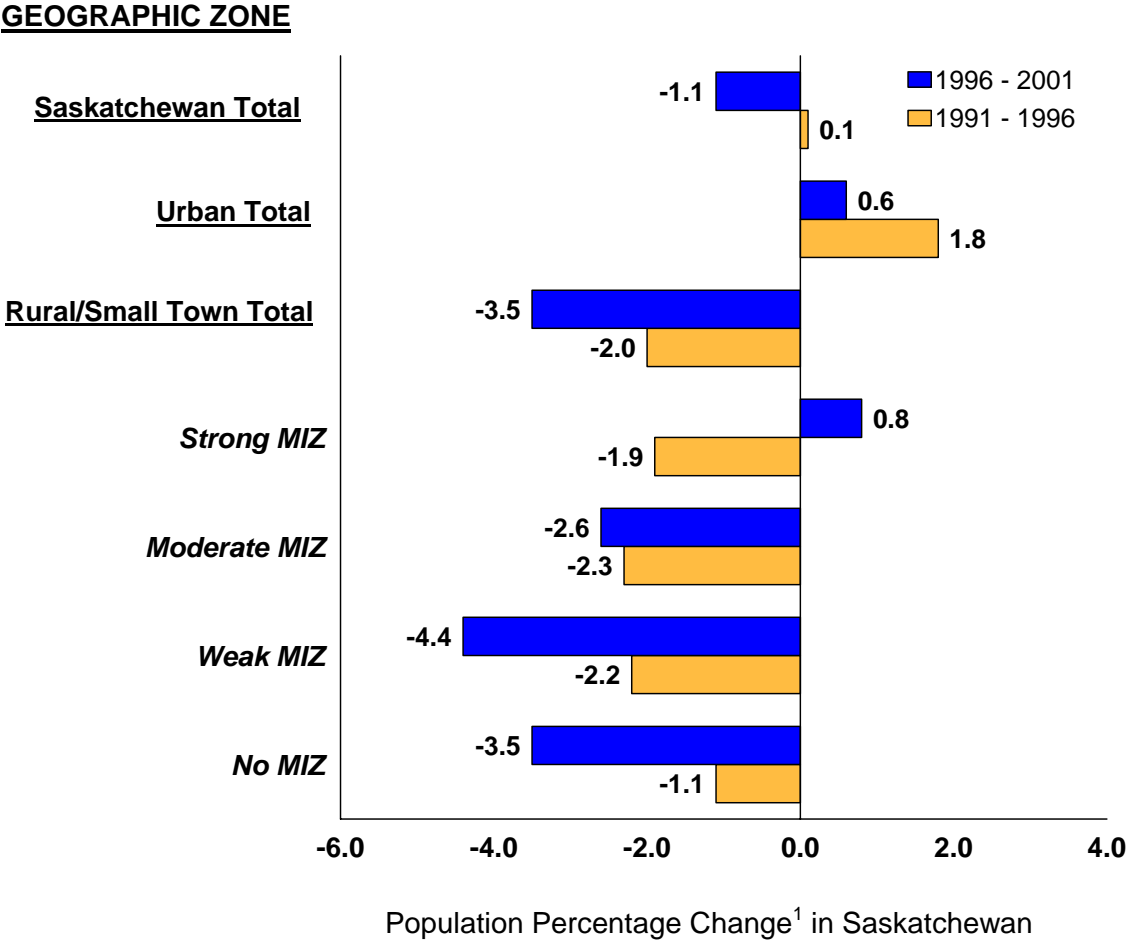
In Figure 3, the inter-census population percentage changes from 1991 to 1996 and from 1996 to 2001 are presented for each geographic zone of the province using constant boundaries.<sup>4</sup>

While the provincial population remained relatively stable throughout the decade, the urban population grew by 1.8 percentage points between 1991 and 1996, and by 0.6 percentage points in the subsequent five-year period. Rural and small town Saskatchewan, in contrast, experienced population contraction of 2.0 percentage points between 1991 and 1996, and 3.5 percentage points between 1996 and 2001. Figure 3 further reveals that while all four rural zones experienced population contraction between 1991 and 1996, only three of the four MIZ zones exhibited a population loss after 1996. The populations of *Moderate*, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones declined during this period by 2.6, 4.4, and 3.5 percentage points, respectively. *Strong*

<sup>4</sup> 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 1991 data are not available in constant (2001) boundaries.

MIZ zones, in contrast, experienced population growth of 0.8 percentage points between 1996 and 2001. Because *Strong MIZ* zones are the least populated of zones, they have little influence on the total rural population change. Conversely, the largest population contraction of 4.4 percentage points occurred within the most densely populated *Weak MIZ* zones, thereby contributing the most weight to the total rural population loss of 3.5 percentage points during this period.

**Figure 3: Saskatchewan's Rural Population Decline Accelerated After 1996**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991  
<sup>1</sup> 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.

While population growth in urban regions and *Strong MIZ* zones of Saskatchewan between 1996 and 2001 is likely attributable to strengthening economies in these geographic zones, the reverse may explain the population contraction occurring in *No MIZ* zones of the province. Unlike *Strong MIZ* zones, *No MIZ* zones, for the most part,



experienced little economic improvement after 1996. The modest economic improvements that occurred in *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones after 1996 were not sufficient to reverse the trend of population loss in these rural zones.

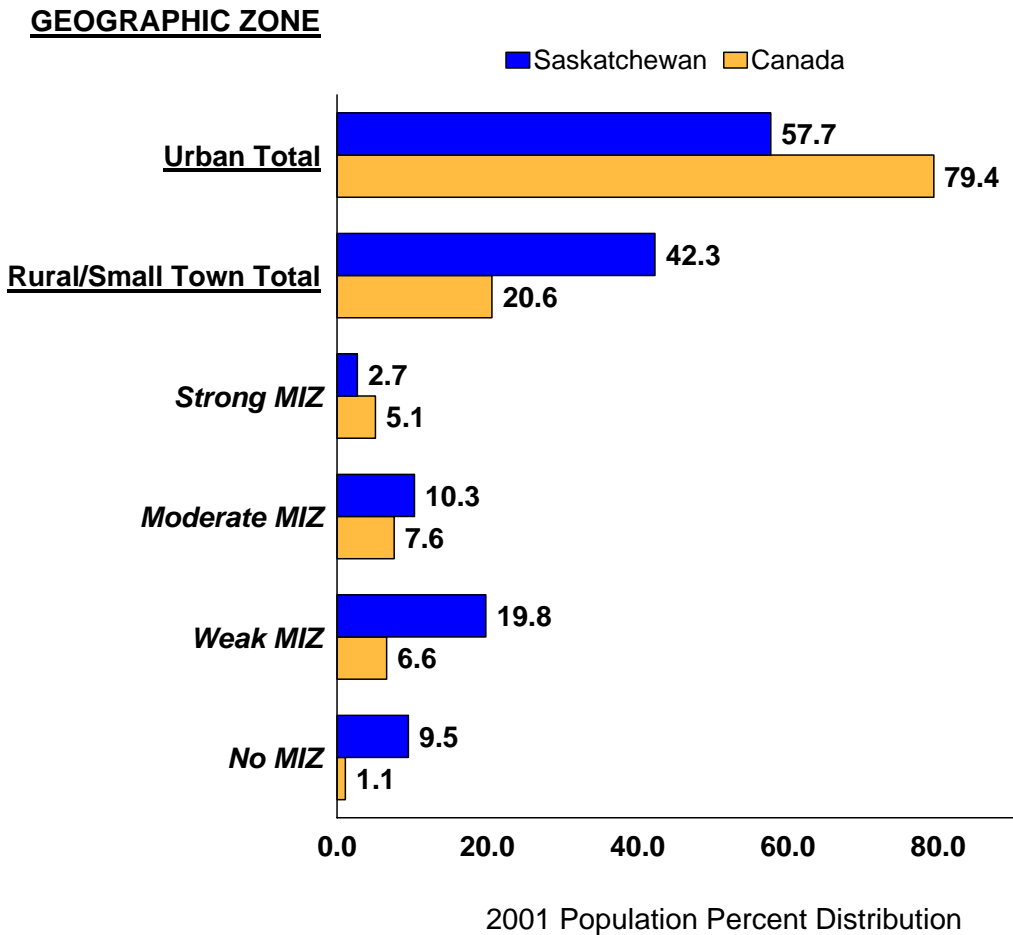
## A.2 SASKATCHEWAN – CANADA POPULATION COMPARISON

Compared to Canada, Saskatchewan has a much higher share of its population residing in rural and small town zones and its rural population declined at a much greater rate.

Having examined Saskatchewan's population, it is fruitful to situate these provincial data within the larger Canadian context. Figure 4 presents the population percent distribution across geographic zones for Canada and Saskatchewan (see Appendix Table 2 for the distributions for each of the 13 provinces and territories). Compared to Canada as a whole, Saskatchewan has a much larger rural population (42.3% compared to 20.6%). Put another way, while urban Saskatchewan comprises 2.4% of the total Canadian urban population, it contributes 6.7% to the Canadian rural population (see Appendix Table 3). In fact, Saskatchewan has a larger proportion of residents living in rural and small town geographic zones than 7 of the nation's provinces and territories (British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and the Yukon: 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 the *Strong MIZ* and *No MIZ* zones. Saskatchewan follows this trend as well, with only 2.7% of the provincial population residing in *Strong MIZ* and 9.5% in *No MIZ* zones in 2001. Though in many provinces *Weak MIZ* zones comprised the largest share of the rural population, only Newfoundland and Nova Scotia exceeded the share of Saskatchewan's *Weak MIZ* population.

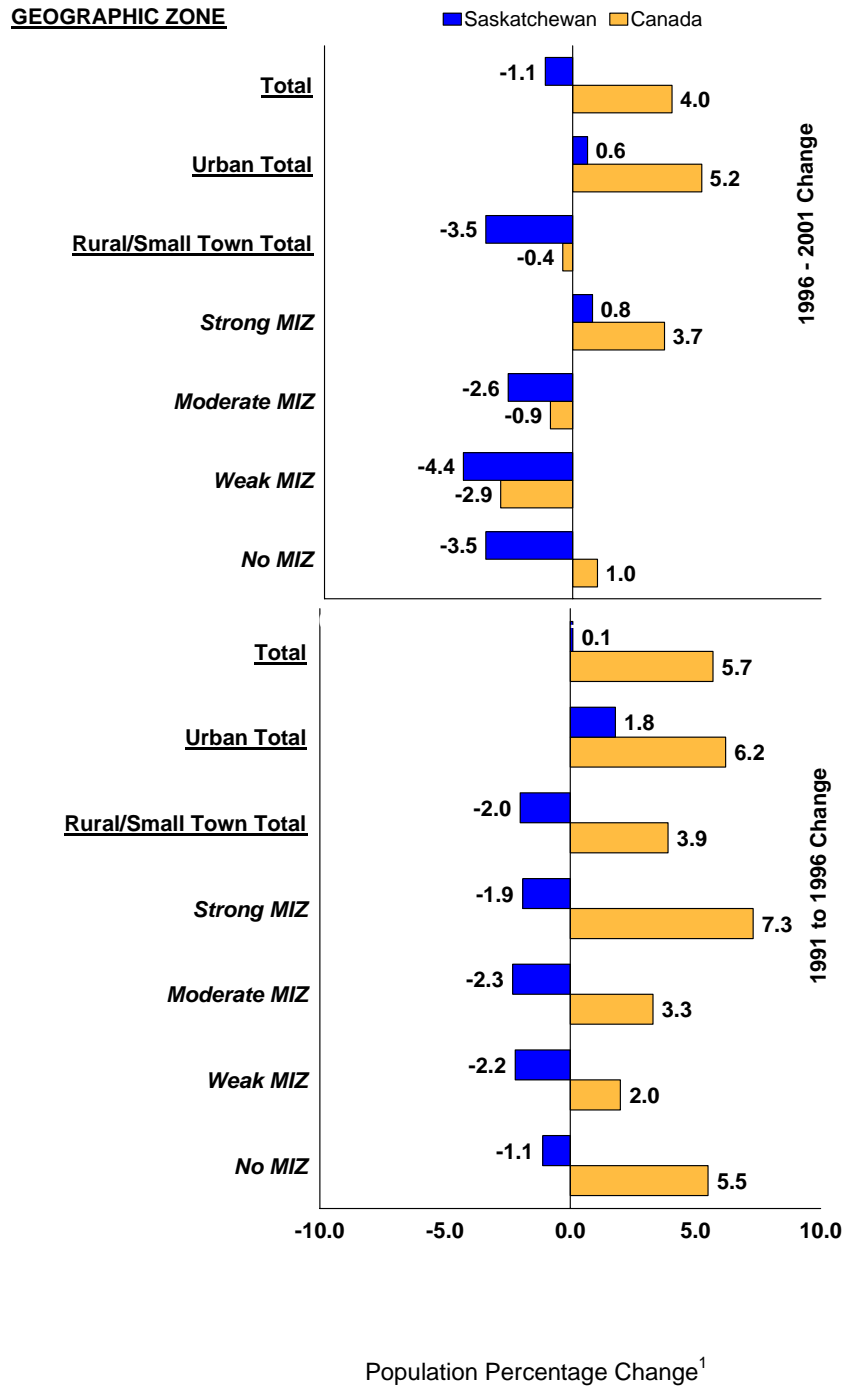
**Figure 4: Saskatchewan's Rural Population Comprises a Larger Share of the Total Population than it does in Canada**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

Using standardized boundaries, Figure 5 highlights the Saskatchewan – Canada comparison of population percentage change in each geographic zone between 1991 and 1996 and 1996 and 2001 (see Appendix Table 3 for the population change within each province and territory). Between 1991 and 1996, the nation experienced population growth in every geographic zone, while Saskatchewan experienced growth only in its urban regions. After 1996, urban growth slowed both nationally and in the province of Saskatchewan. Canada's rural and small town population began to decline after 1996, with contraction in *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones and slowed growth in *Strong* and *No MIZ* zones. Rural Saskatchewan also exhibited greater population contraction after 1996 than in the earlier five-year period, with the exception of *Strong MIZ* zones, where the population increased after 1996, albeit only slightly (+0.8%).

**Figure 5: Saskatchewan's Rural Population Declined at a Greater Rate than the Canadian Rural Population**



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

<sup>1</sup> 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.3 POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE AND GLOBAL DEPENDENCY RATIO

The rural Saskatchewan population has a more polarized age structure than the urban population since greater proportions are 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; namely, 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 Appendix Tables 4 and 5). Compared to urban Saskatchewan, rural zones tend to have a more polarized age structure with slightly higher proportions falling within the lowest and the highest age categories. While 22.6% of rural residents are children, only 20.8% of the urban population is within the same age category. And, while 16.7% of rural residents are seniors, 12.4% of urban residents are in the same age category.

**Table 1: Rural Saskatchewanites are More Likely to be Children and Seniors than are Urban Saskatchewanites**

Population Age Percent Distribution; 2001

<b>Geographic Zone</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Children (0-14 years)</b>	<b>Youth (15-24 years)</b>	<b>Young Adults (25-44 years)</b>	<b>Adults (45-64 years)</b>	<b>Seniors (65 years +)</b>
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	100.0	21.6	14.8	27.2	22.2	14.2
<b>Urban Total</b>	100.0	20.8	15.8	29.4	21.6	12.4
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	100.0	22.6	13.5	24.3	23.0	16.7
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	100.0	21.6	13.0	26.7	25.8	12.9
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	100.0	22.9	13.8	23.8	23.3	16.2
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	100.0	21.6	13.3	24.2	23.0	17.9
<b>No MIZ</b>	100.0	24.6	13.7	24.2	21.9	15.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

Table 2 presents the 1991 to 2001 distribution percentage change for each age category and each geographic zone of the province. The table demonstrates that the Saskatchewan population as a whole is aging. Between 1991 and 2001, the proportion of adults in the population increased by 4.3 percentage points. In contrast, we observe a decrease in the proportion of the population that are children during the same time period (of -2.4%). The proportion of young adults also decreased in the 10-year period (-2.8 percentage points). Since the young adult age category is the most likely to bear children, we might predict even further proportional losses to the children age group in the future.

Although an aging trend is also observed for both the urban and rural populations, the rate of aging is slightly greater within urban Saskatchewan. Between 1991 and 2001, the adult population in urban Saskatchewan increased by 4.7 percentage points, compared to an increase of 3.9 percentage points in rural Saskatchewan. During this period the proportion of the urban population comprised of seniors increased slightly by 0.5 percentage points, while the share of the rural population comprised of seniors decreased slightly (-0.3%). The young adult population, moreover, declined to a greater extent in urban than in rural zones (-3.6% compared to -1.9%, respectively). The decline in the share of the population comprised of children in urban Saskatchewan approximated the decline observed in rural zones, and the youth population remained relatively stable over time throughout the province.

**Table 2: The Proportion of Children and Young Adults is Decreasing Between 1991 and 2001 Throughout the Province**

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
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	-2.4	-1.8	-0.6	0.9	0.3	0.6	-2.8	-2.0	-0.8	4.3	3.0	1.3	0.1	0.4	-0.3
<b>Urban Total</b>	-2.5	-2.0	-0.5	0.8	0.7	0.1	-3.6	-2.3	-1.3	4.7	3.0	1.7	0.5	0.6	-0.1
<b>Rural/ Small Town Total</b>	-2.4	-1.5	-0.9	0.0	-0.1	1.0	-1.9	-1.5	-0.4	3.9	3.1	0.8	-0.3	0.2	-0.5
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	-4.1	-1.7	-2.4	0.0	-1.1	1.1	-2.8	-1.2	-1.6	5.0	4.4	0.6	1.6	-0.3	1.9
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	-2.0	-1.3	-0.7	1.4	0.5	0.9	-2.2	-1.9	-0.3	3.7	2.9	0.8	-0.7	-0.2	-0.5
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	-2.4	-1.5	-0.9	0.7	-0.2	0.9	-1.9	-1.5	-0.4	3.7	2.9	0.8	-0.1	0.4	-0.5
<b>No MIZ</b>	-2.2	-1.7	-0.5	1.0	-0.2	1.2	-1.9	-1.5	-0.4	4.0	3.4	0.6	-0.6	0.1	-0.7

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

Within the rural population, the greatest aging trend was observed in *Strong MIZ* zones, where the share of children and young adults decreased (by 4.1 and 2.8 percentage points, respectively), and the adult and senior populations increased (by 5.0 and 1.6 percentage points, respectively). *Moderate MIZ* zones, conversely, aged the least rapidly, with the smallest decline in the share of the population that were children (-2.0%), the largest increase in youth in the province (+1.4%), and the largest decline in the share of the population that were seniors (-0.7%) between 1991 and 2001.

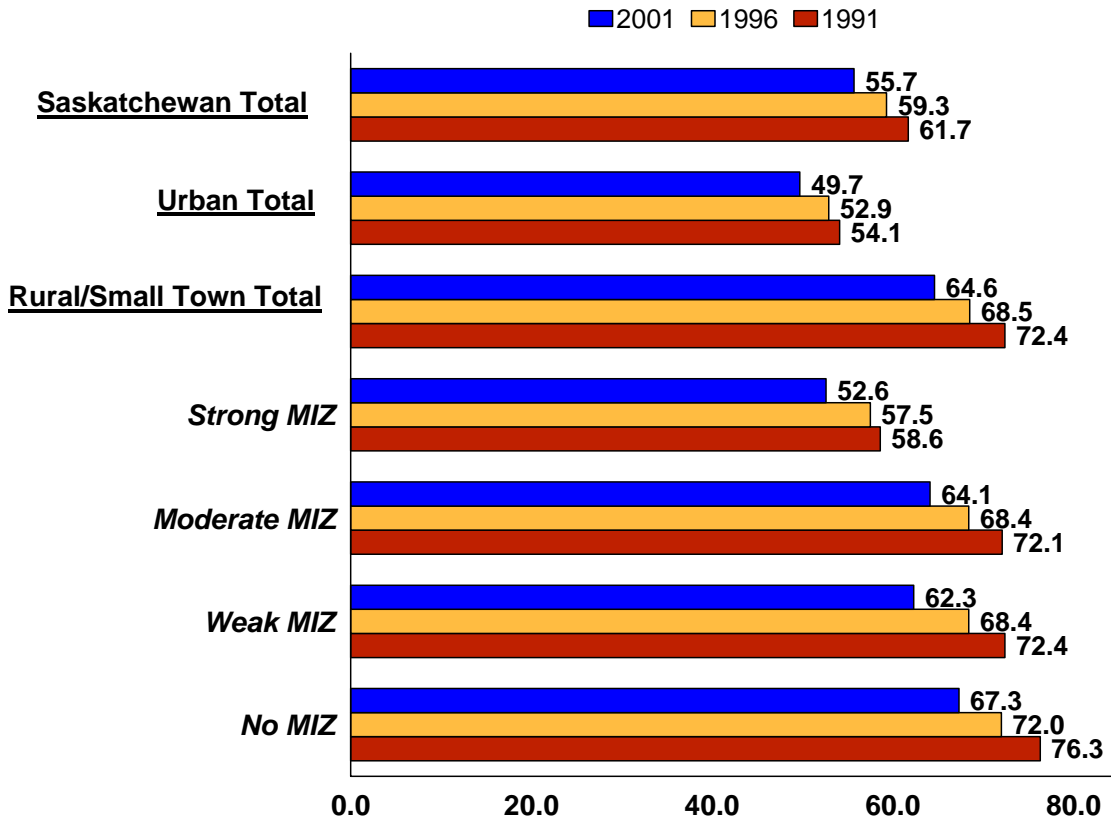
Since residents of rural Saskatchewan are more likely than urban residents to be children and seniors, they are less likely to be participating in the paid labour force. This age structure means that rural Saskatchewan has a higher global dependency ratio (Figure 6). This ratio measures the proportion 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 49.7 children and seniors per 100 urban adults, compared to 64.6 for every 100 rural and small town adults. *No MIZ* zones had the largest dependency ratio at 67.3 dependents per 100 adults. Figure 6 also depicts a declining dependency ratio across time in all geographic regions of Saskatchewan, reflecting a simultaneous decline in the proportion of the child population (Table 2). Still, with more dependents to care for, rural 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 slightly greater proportion of seniors in rural and small town Saskatchewan suggests that seniors-related services are in greater 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. This demand is especially applicable to *Strong MIZ* zones, which have not only the largest proportion of seniors in rural and small town Saskatchewan, but exhibited the largest over-time increase in this age group in the province.

Second, although the proportion of rural residents who are children decreased between 1991 and 2001, the younger age structure and higher dependency ratio suggests a greater overall need for children-related services in rural than in urban Saskatchewan. With the highest proportion of children in the province, *No MIZ* residents are the least likely to be adults (Table 1), and are therefore the least likely to contribute to tax revenues. The provision of services in *No MIZ* zones is, therefore, limited by a comparatively small per capita tax base. These findings might suggest that regional governments in *No MIZ* zones are in greater need of transfer payments.

**Figure 6: Dependency Ratios are Higher in Rural Saskatchewan than in Urban Saskatchewan**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



Global Dependency Ratio<sup>1</sup>: Number of Children and Seniors per 100 Working Age Adults

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

<sup>1</sup> Global Dependency ratio is defined as the ratio of children (0 to 14 years of age) and senior (65 years of age and over) populations to the total working age population (15 to 64 years of age).

**A.4 POPULATION GENDER STRUCTURE**

**Rural Saskatchewan has a slightly larger male than female population while the reverse is true in urban centres.**

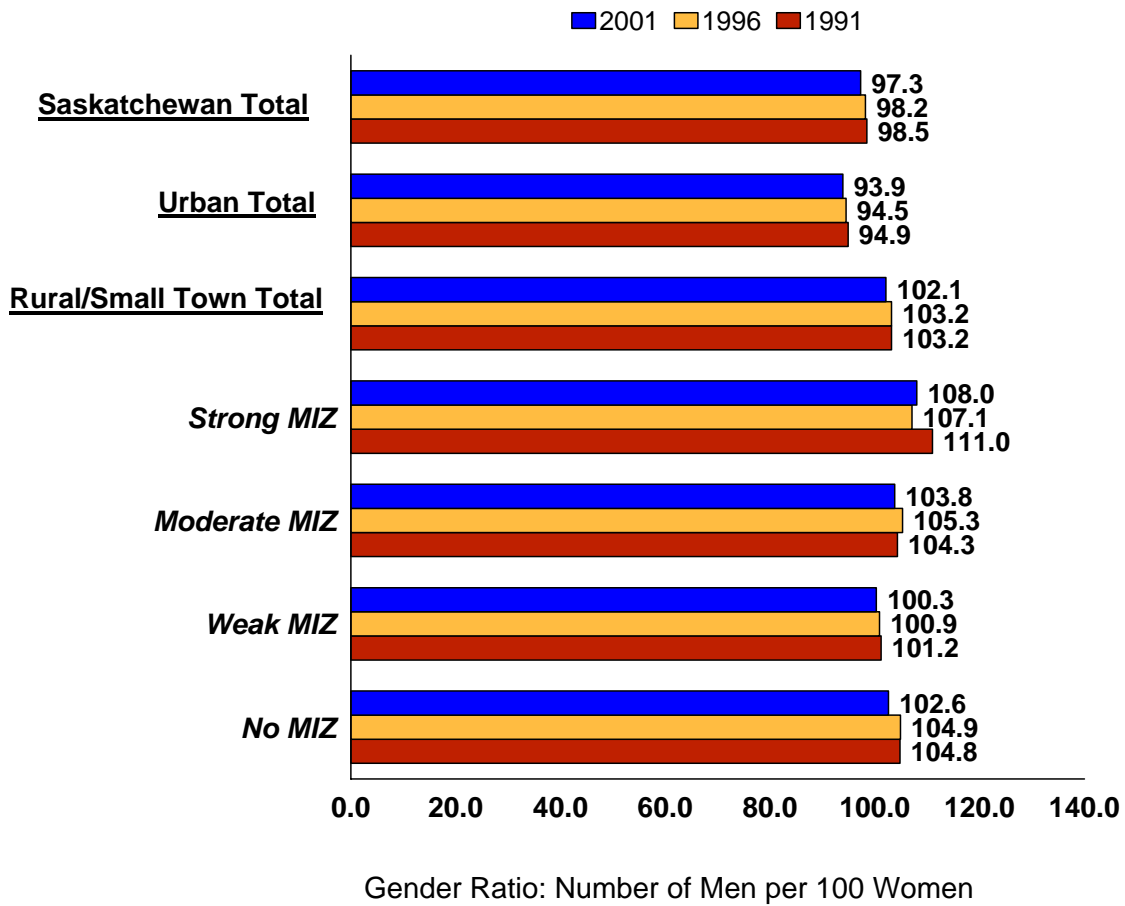
Figure 7 illustrates that, irrespective of census year, the province of Saskatchewan had a fairly equal distribution of men and women. At 102.1 men per 100 women, a slightly higher ratio is found in rural zones compared to urban areas. Although a greater male-to-female ratio is observed in all rural zones, the largest ratio is found in *Strong MIZ* zones of the province (108.0 men per 100 women). The figure also demonstrates that male



representation in all geographic zones of the province decreased between 1991 and 2001.

**Figure 7: Compared to Urban Centres, Rural Zones Have Slightly Higher Proportions of Males**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



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

## A.5 ABORIGINAL IDENTITY<sup>5</sup> POPULATION

Aboriginal representation is higher in rural than in urban Saskatchewan, and is highest in *Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones of the province.

The Aboriginal population in Canada has experienced significantly greater growth than the general population. In fact, the Registered Indian 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 Saskatchewan is projected to grow by 47% over the next 20 years (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).

Though urban centres were home to 43% of the 130,185 Aboriginal people living in Saskatchewan in 2001 (see Appendix Table 6), the proportion of the population self-identifying as Aboriginal was higher in rural Saskatchewan than it was in urban centres (18.2% compared to 10.1%; Figure 8). Aboriginal representation varied considerably among the four MIZ geographic zones. In 2001, nearly one-third of the *No MIZ* population self-identified as Aboriginal (27.1%). Though still higher than that of urban Saskatchewan, somewhat smaller proportions of *Moderate* (18.9%) and *Weak* (14.7%) *MIZ* populations were of Aboriginal identity. Interestingly, *Strong MIZ* zones were home to the smallest share (9.3%) in the province and the smallest absolute number (2,390; see Appendix Table 6) of Aboriginal individuals in the province.

Figure 9 indicates that, between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of Aboriginal individuals in the province increased by 2.1 percentage points (from 11.4% to 13.5%), with increases occurring in all geographic zones.<sup>6</sup> The percentage of Aboriginal representation in rural zones was not only nearly twice as high than in urban centres in 2001, but it also increased at a greater rate between 1996 and 2001 (of 2.8 compared to 1.7 percentage points).<sup>7</sup> Again, however, these proportions mask the fact that a substantial number of Aboriginal individuals reside in Saskatchewan's urban centres.

Figure 9 also shows that compared to the rest of the province, *No MIZ* zones underwent the largest proportional increase in Aboriginal representation between 1996 and 2001 of 3.9 percentage points. Though *Strong MIZ* zones experienced the second largest

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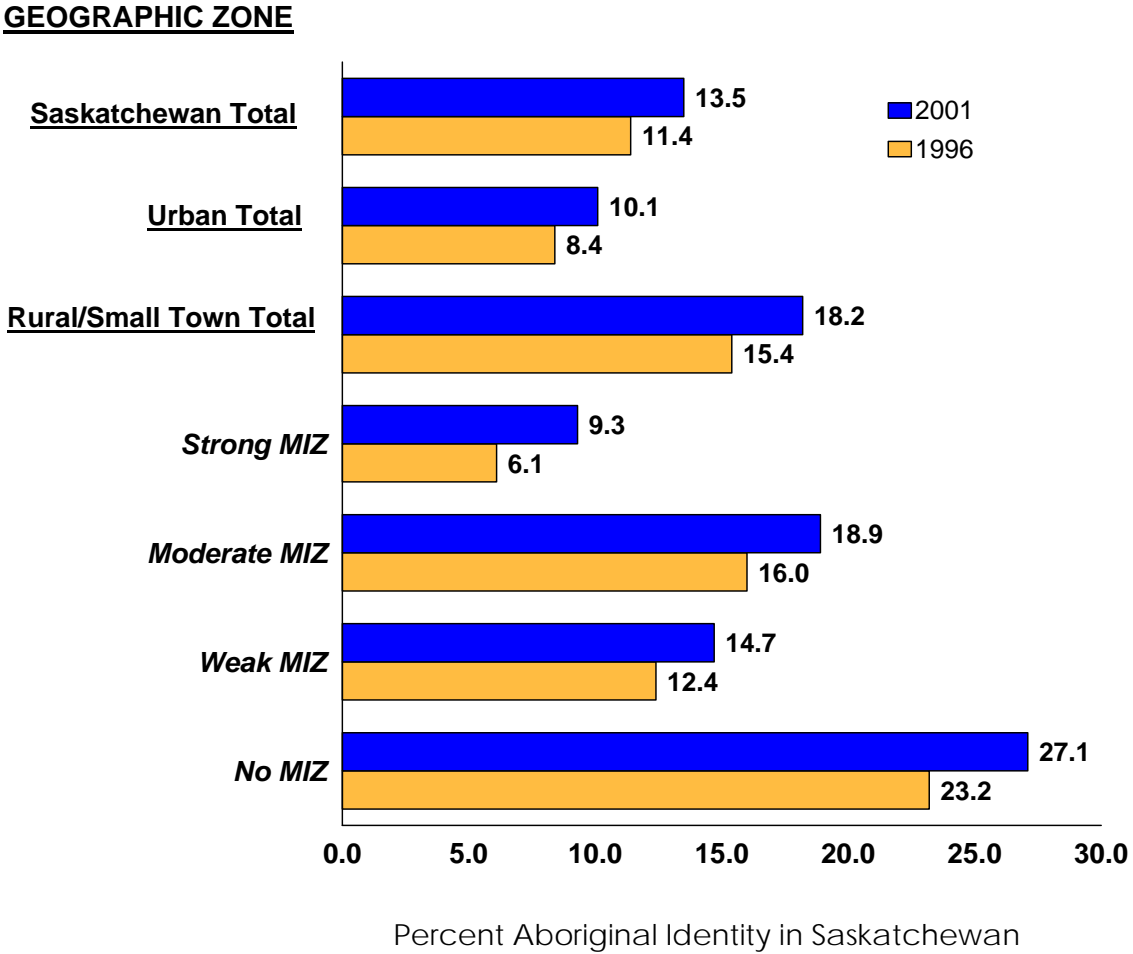
<sup>5</sup> Refers to persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo) and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation (Statistics Canada, 1999a).

<sup>6</sup> Aboriginal identity is not presented for 1991 because of significant differences in the definition in this year.

<sup>7</sup> Some of the increase in the Aboriginal population may be a result of an increasing tendency for individuals to self-report as Aboriginal.

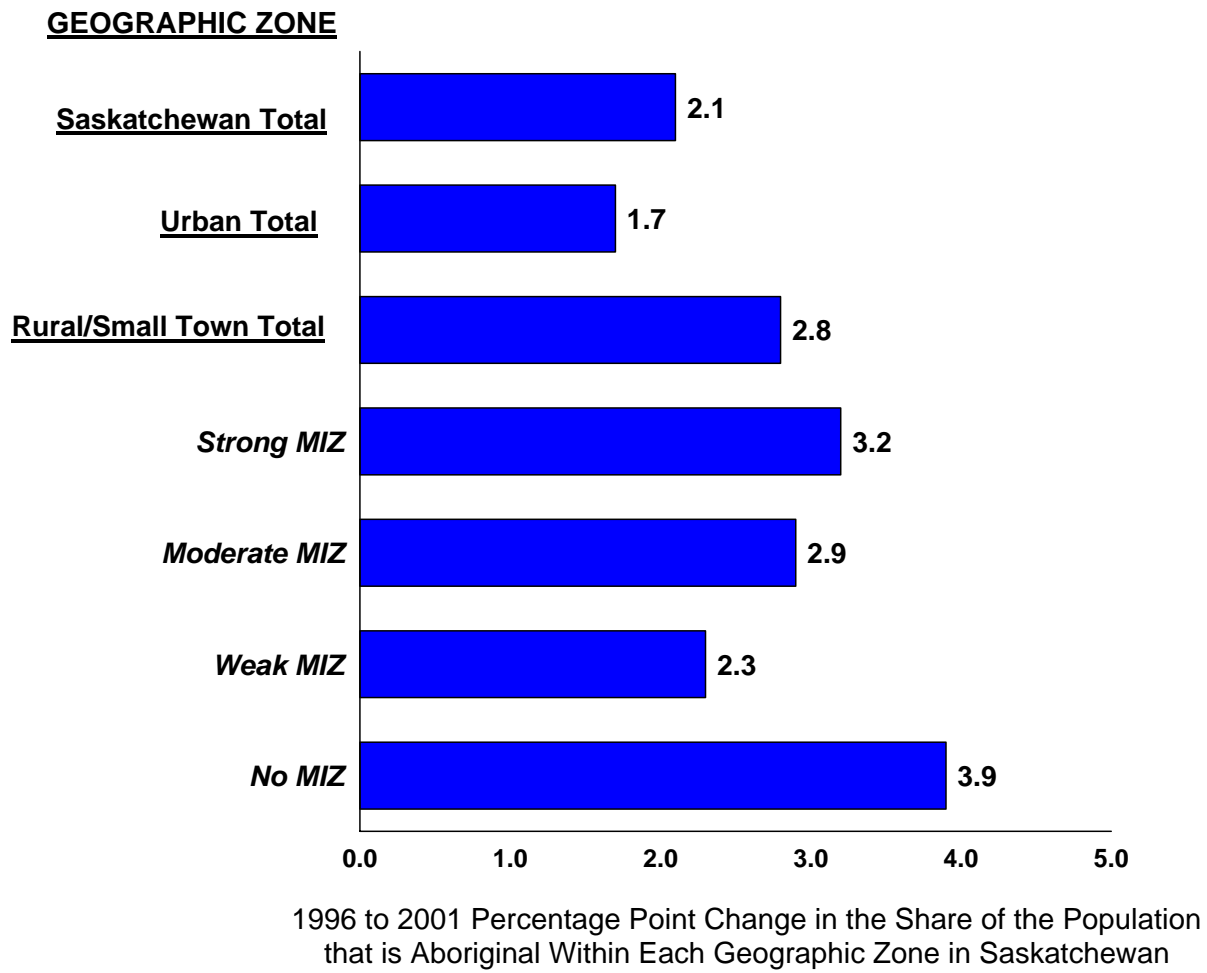
proportional increase in Aboriginal individuals between 1996 and 2001 (of 3.2 percentage points), the numerical increase of Aboriginal people in *Strong MIZ* zones was just 840 (see Appendix Table 6). Aboriginal representation also increased in *Moderate MIZ* zones (by 2.9 percentage points), while *Weak MIZ* zones, despite having the largest absolute number of Aboriginal people in both 1996 and 2001, exhibited the smallest over-time increase in Aboriginal representation (of 2.3 percentage points).

**Figure 8: The Share of the Population that is Aboriginal is by Far the Highest in *No MIZ* Zones**



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

**Figure 9: The Share of the Population that is Aboriginal Increased Most Dramatically in No MIZ Zones**




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

**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 Saskatchewan. Home language can also be used as a proxy for ethnicity. Table 3 presents the proportion of Saskatchewan’s population 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 Appendix Table 7).

Three notable observations can be made from the data presented in Table 3. First, compared to urban dwellers, a slightly larger proportion of rural residents spoke a non-

official language in 2001 (5.6% compared to 2.6%). This is likely due to the higher proportion of Aboriginal individuals in rural Saskatchewan who could be included in the “non-official language” category. For example, the population in *No MIZ* zones, which have the largest proportion of Aboriginal individuals, is the most likely to speak a non-official language (10.4%).

Second, French is a very uncommon home language for residents throughout the province with less than one percent of the population in virtually every geographic zone and in all census years speaking this language.

Finally, with a few minor fluctuations, the data presented in Table 3 are remarkably consistent over time. Between 1991 and 2001, none of the geographic zones experienced a shift of more than 2 percentage points in the proportion of each language category.

**Table 3: Rural Residents of Saskatchewan are More Likely than are Urban Dwellers to Speak a Non-Official Language**

Home Language<sup>1</sup> Percent Distribution, 2001, 1996, and 1991

Geographic Zone	English			French			Non-official language <sup>2</sup>			Multiple Response		
	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	94.7	93.9	93.8	0.5	0.5	0.7	3.9	4.2	4.4	0.9	1.3	1.2
<b>Urban Total</b>	96.2	95.7	95.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.6	2.9	3.1	0.8	1.0	1.0
<b>Rural/ Small Town Total</b>	92.8	91.6	91.8	0.5	0.7	0.8	5.6	6.0	6.0	1.1	1.7	1.4
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	97.5	97.4	97.0	0.7	0.9	0.3	1.5	1.4	1.9	0.4	0.3	0.7
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	94.0	91.5	93.1	0.5	0.9	1.1	4.6	5.8	4.6	0.9	1.7	1.3
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	94.0	93.2	92.3	0.5	0.5	0.8	4.4	4.7	5.4	1.1	1.5	1.5
<b>No MIZ</b>	87.5	86.8	88.1	0.5	0.7	0.8	10.4	10.1	9.6	1.7	2.4	1.5

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> “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. Saskatchewan's rural population declined in every MIZ zone between 1991 and 1996. After 1996, however, *Strong MIZ* zones experienced population growth, while *Moderate*, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones not only continued to decline in population, but did so at an accelerated rate. Our focus in this summary, therefore, is on explaining why the population increased in *Strong MIZ* zones during the most recent inter-census period, while it contracted at an increasing rate in the remaining MIZ zones.

The population growth in *Strong MIZ* zones between 1996 and 2001 is likely a result of net in-migration. But what, exactly, drew individuals to *Strong MIZ* zones of the province? One possibility is the 'pull' of a relatively healthy economy (as depicted in Section B). 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.

The population contraction of *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones is also of interest, and is likely due to a net out-flow of individuals from these zones due to economic conditions that showed only slight improvement after 1996 (Section B). 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 *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* residents relocated to one of the province's city centres, perhaps to fill the growing number of jobs in the production services industry (Section B).

Finally, while *No MIZ* zones experienced the second-largest population loss in the province, these zones also experienced the greatest percentage increase in Aboriginal representation in the province between 1996 and 2001. Since we do not observe decreases in the Aboriginal population within any other geographic zones of the province, we can assume that much of this increase is a function of the relatively high birth rates typically found among Aboriginal people. This high birth rate also means that a greater proportion of the Aboriginal population than non-Aboriginal population are children, thus explaining the higher preponderance of children in, for example, *No MIZ* zones, where nearly one in three residents is Aboriginal. Though the number of Aboriginal people residing in urban centres is still quite high, proportionately speaking, these population trends intensify the demand on children's services in remote regions of Saskatchewan, particularly on Indian reserves. Programs such as Aboriginal Head Start and First Nations and Inuit Child Care are in high need especially in *No MIZ* zones, but they are also increasing in demand within *Moderate MIZ* zones, where the Aboriginal population is not only the second largest in the province, but is increasing in proportion over time (Figure 8). Other programs such as the Canada Pre-Natal Nutrition Program

and the Community Action Program for Children may also feel added pressure in the near future. Indeed, projections over the next 20 years indicate that the registered Indian population is moving into a different phase of the demographic cycle as the proportion of the working age population (20 - 64 years of age) increases (Indian and Northern Affairs, 2000). While still far below the average age of non-Aboriginal people, future demand will increase for services related to employment, housing, and other services required for Aboriginal people to enter the workforce (Indian and Northern Affairs, 2000).

These different explanations for population changes in rural and small town Saskatchewan highlight the importance of examining the rural sector as a heterogeneous entity. Clearly, the declining rural and small town total masks the variation in population change that is apparent among the four MIZ zones, and the underlying causes for these over-time shifts.

## B. Economic Indicators

### KEY FINDINGS

#### B.1 Labour Market Indicators

- Labour force participation (LFP) rates are, on average, lower in rural than in urban regions of Saskatchewan. *Strong MIZ* zones are the exception to this pattern, with the highest LFP rate in the province in 2001 (73.2%). *No MIZ* zones had the lowest LFP rate in 2001 (63.8%).
- At 6.3 percentage points, the rural and small town total unemployment rate was very similar to the urban rate unemployment rate (of 6.4%) in 2001. Greater variation is observed within rural zones, with unemployment rates ranging from a low of 5.0% in *Strong MIZ* zones to a high of 7.8% in *No MIZ* zones of the province.
- Both the SIC industry classification system for the 1991 and 1996 census and the NAICS classification system for the 2001 census reveal that residents of rural and small town Saskatchewan dominate employment in primary industries while urbanites are more strongly represented in service industries.
- While self-employment continued in 2001 to be more prevalent in rural than in urban Saskatchewan, rural residents were less likely to be self-employed in 2001 than in 1991, reflecting, in part, the decline in jobs in agriculture in these zones.

#### B.2 Income

- Median personal incomes were lower in rural and small town zones than in urban Saskatchewan in all three census years. Within rural zones, incomes were the highest in *Strong MIZ* zones and the lowest in *No MIZ* zones in 2001.
- A greater percentage of urban than rural residents were considered low income in 2001 (17.1% compared to 13.8%, respectively). Between 1991 and 2001, the incidence of low income decreased throughout the province, with the greatest decline occurring in *Strong MIZ* zones (-8.2%) and the smallest declines occurring in *Weak* (-3.1%) and *No MIZ* zones (-3.0%).
- Compared to urbanites, rural and small town residents garnered a larger proportion of their income from social transfer payments in all three census years. Within rural Saskatchewan, *No MIZ* residents were the most likely and *Strong MIZ* residents the least likely to rely on social transfer income in 2001 (20.8% compared to 13.6% of their total income).

#### Summary

These indicators demonstrate the relative economic disadvantage of rural zones of Saskatchewan, but they also reveal the relative advantage of *Strong MIZ* compared to *No MIZ* zones. Moreover, the data show considerable economic improvement in the



former zones since 1996, while economic conditions in *No MIZ* zones continue, for the most part, to deteriorate.

## B.1 LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

### B.1.1 Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates<sup>8</sup>

*Strong MIZ* zones have the highest labour force participation and lowest unemployment rates in the province, while *No MIZ* zones have the lowest labour force participation and highest unemployment rates.

In 2001, the Saskatchewan labour force had 512,240 members (Appendix Table 8) for a labour force participation (LFP) rate of 67.8% (Figure 10). The urban LFP rate was somewhat higher than the rural rate (69.0% compared to 66.1%), although the highest rate in the province was observed for *Strong MIZ* zones (73.2%). *No MIZ* zones exhibited the lowest LFP rates in the province in each census year.

Figure 10 reveals slightly lower LFP rates in most geographic zones in 1996 than in 1991, followed by modest increases in the subsequent inter-census period. As a result of these fluctuations, the 2001 LFP rate in most geographic zones closely resembled the LFP rates of ten years earlier. The only exception to this pattern is the *Strong MIZ* LFP rate, which was 3.7 percentage points lower in 2001 than in 1991. Nonetheless, LFP rates in *Strong MIZ* zones remained the highest in the province in each census year.

The unemployment rates observed in Figure 11 reveal greater variation among geographic zones and between inter-census periods (see also Appendix Table 9). While the 2001 rural and small town unemployment rate of 6.3% closely approximates the urban rate (of 6.4%), unemployment rates within rural Saskatchewan ranged from a low of 5.0 percentage points in *Strong MIZ* to a high of 7.8 percentage points in *No MIZ* zones.

Higher unemployment rates in 1996 than in 1991, throughout rural Saskatchewan, attest to the weakening of the rural labour market in the first half of the 1990s. The urban unemployment rate, in contrast, declined during this period (from 8.0 to 7.5 percentage points). After 1996, unemployment rates decreased by 1.1, 1.3, 0.7 percentage points, respectively, in urban, *Strong* and *Weak MIZ* zones. *Moderate* and *No MIZ* unemployment rates remained virtually unchanged.

Overall, the combination of increasing LFP and decreasing unemployment rates in most geographic zones suggest a modest strengthening of the Saskatchewan economy

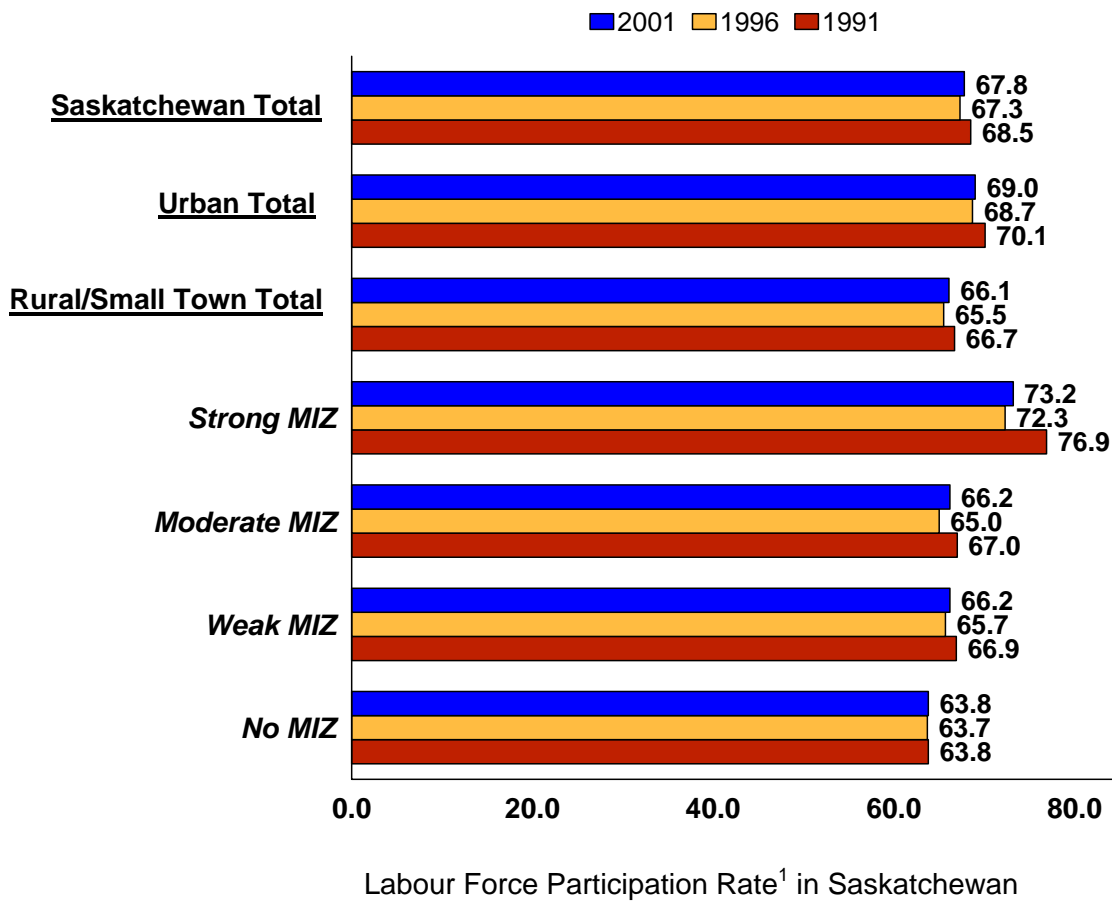
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<sup>8</sup> Please note that the data for unemployment and labour force participation refer to one week of each Census year. Potential seasonal fluctuations or random events that affect the data are not considered. However, at this time, no better data source is available

after 1996. Residents of *No MIZ* zones, however, are the least likely to have benefited from a stronger labour market, with LFP rates as low in 2001 as in 1991, and an unemployment rate that rose substantially between 1991 and 1996, but failed to decline thereafter.

**Figure 10: Strong MIZ Zones Have the Highest Labour Force Participation Rates in Saskatchewan**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**

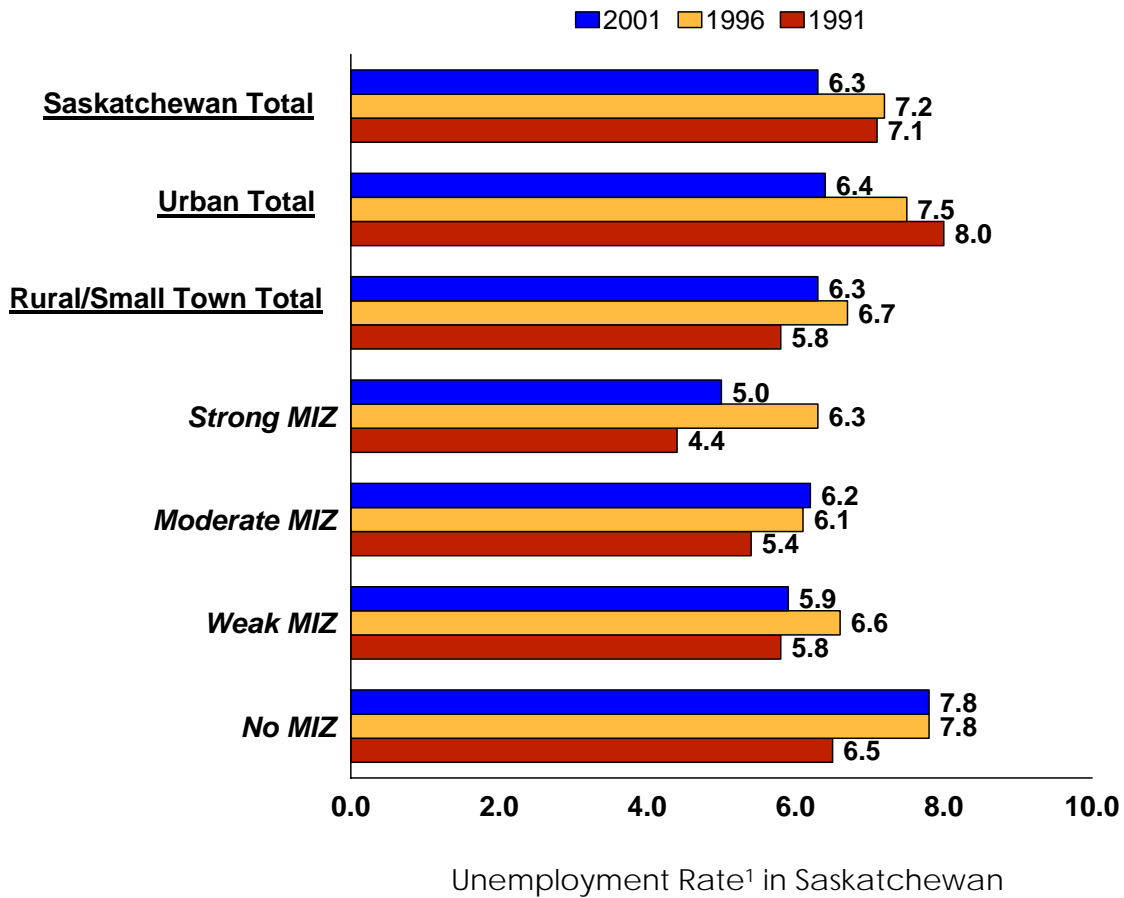


Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991

<sup>1</sup> 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: No MIZ Zones Have the Highest Unemployment Rates in Saskatchewan**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



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

<sup>1</sup> The Unemployment Rate is based on the ratio of individuals who are currently unemployed to those who are in the labour force.

**B.1.2 Industry Employment Distribution**

Compared to urbanites, rural individuals in all four MIZ zones are significantly more likely to be working in primary industries and significantly less likely to be employed in service industries.

The Saskatchewan labour force can be classified by 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).

Primary industry employment (including agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining and oil and gas extraction) accounted for 17.3% of employment in all Saskatchewan industries in 2001. Rural and small town zones, however, eclipse urban centres in employment in primary industries by a factor of seven (35.3% compared to 4.9%). This high representation in primary industries, moreover, is observed for all four MIZ categories.

We observe much less variation between geographic zones in employment in secondary industries (manufacturing and construction), than for primary industries. But Table 4 reveals that service industry jobs are more prevalent in urban centres, accounting for more than eight in ten jobs (83.6%) compared to just over one-half (55.3%) of jobs in rural and small town Saskatchewan. Employment in production services (e.g., communications, wholesale trade, finance and insurance) is especially lower in rural zones than in urban centres (15.7% compared to 27.6%), as is employment in government provided services (e.g., educational, health and social assistance, and government services) (20.6% compared to 27.2%). The urban/rural difference in employment in consumer services (e.g., retail trade, accommodation, food and beverage) is slightly smaller (19.0% compared to 27.8%).

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 (and Appendix Table 11). For example, residents of rural and small town Saskatchewan were more likely than their urban counterparts to be employed in both types of primary industries. The dominance of urban employment in service industries (81.2% in both 1991 and 1996) is also observed.

Table 5 also shows that between 1991 and 1996, employment in agriculture, fishing and hunting declined in all rural zones. Since the majority (87.7%) of rural primary industry employment is in agriculture, part of the explanation for the decrease in these industries is because of the substitution of machinery for labour in agricultural production (Beshiri, 2001a). Minor increases in mining and oil and gas extraction employment in three of the four MIZ zones, conversely, resulted in an overall rural and small town increase in these types of primary industry employment.

**Table 4: Rural Saskatchewanites are Much More Likely than Urban Saskatchewanites to be Working in Primary Industries**

Percent Employed in Each Industry Sector (NAICS)<sup>1</sup>, 2001

Geographic Zone	Total	Primary Industries		Secondary Industries		Service Industries		
		Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction	Construction	Manufacturing	Production Services <sup>2</sup>	Consumer Services <sup>3</sup>	Government Provided Services <sup>4</sup>
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	100.0	14.4	2.9	5.4	5.8	22.8	24.2	24.5
<b>Urban Total</b>	100.0	3.1	1.8	5.5	7.0	27.6	27.8	27.2
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	100.0	31.0	4.3	5.2	4.2	15.7	19.0	20.6
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	100.0	26.6	4.6	6.3	4.9	18.5	19.8	19.4
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	100.0	34.5	3.8	5.5	3.4	14.9	17.8	20.1
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	100.0	28.6	4.4	4.8	4.7	16.5	20.3	20.7
<b>No MIZ</b>	100.0	33.7	4.7	5.4	3.5	14.0	17.4	21.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

<sup>2</sup> 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 services and waste management and remediation services.

<sup>3</sup> Consumer Services includes retail trade, arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food services, and other services.

<sup>4</sup> Government Provided Services includes educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration.

**Table 5: Between 1991 and 1996, Employment in Primary Industries Decreased in Rural Saskatchewan**

Percent Employed in Each Industry Sector (SIC)<sup>1</sup>, 1996 and 1991

Geographic Zone	Primary Industries				Secondary Industries				Service Industries					
	Agric., Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting		Mining & Oil & Gas Extraction		Construction		Manufacturing		Production Services <sup>2</sup>		Consumer Services <sup>3</sup>		Government Services <sup>4</sup>	
	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	16.3	18.6	2.4	2.4	5.0	5.2	6.3	5.4	20.1	19.3	25.3	24.3	24.5	24.8
<b>Urban Total</b>	3.8	4.2	1.8	1.8	5.4	5.8	7.8	7.0	24.1	24.1	29.6	28.9	27.5	28.2
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	33.7	38.7	3.3	3.1	4.3	4.3	4.4	3.2	14.6	12.6	19.4	18.0	20.3	20.1
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	30.7	39.6	3.0	2.4	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.8	16.0	14.8	19.8	17.4	20.6	16.3
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	38.1	43.2	3.1	2.5	4.9	4.4	3.5	2.6	13.2	11.6	17.1	15.8	20.2	19.9
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	30.8	35.6	3.4	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.0	3.6	15.3	13.2	21.0	19.4	20.4	20.8
<b>No MIZ</b>	36.2	40.1	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.6	2.7	14.0	12.0	18.3	17.6	20.1	19.6

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

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1980 Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system.

<sup>2</sup> Production Services includes communication and other utilities, wholesale trade, transportation and storage, finance and insurance, real estate operator and insurance agent, and business services.

<sup>3</sup> Consumer Services includes retail trade, accommodation, food and beverage, and other services.

<sup>4</sup> Government Provided Services includes educational services, health and social assistance, and government service.

Employment in construction industries remained stable in rural Saskatchewan between 1991 and 1996, while employment in manufacturing industries increased from 3.2% to 4.4%, implying that rural and small town zones are competitive in important value-added industries (Beshiri, 2001b).

Though employment in production and consumer services increased in all rural zones between 1991 and 1996, employment in government-provided services remained stable. An exception to the latter pattern is found in Strong MIZ zones in which government-provided services employment increased from 16.3% to 20.6%.

### B.1.3 Self-Employment

**The rural and small town Saskatchewan population is three times more likely than urbanites to be self-employed.**

The Saskatchewan 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).

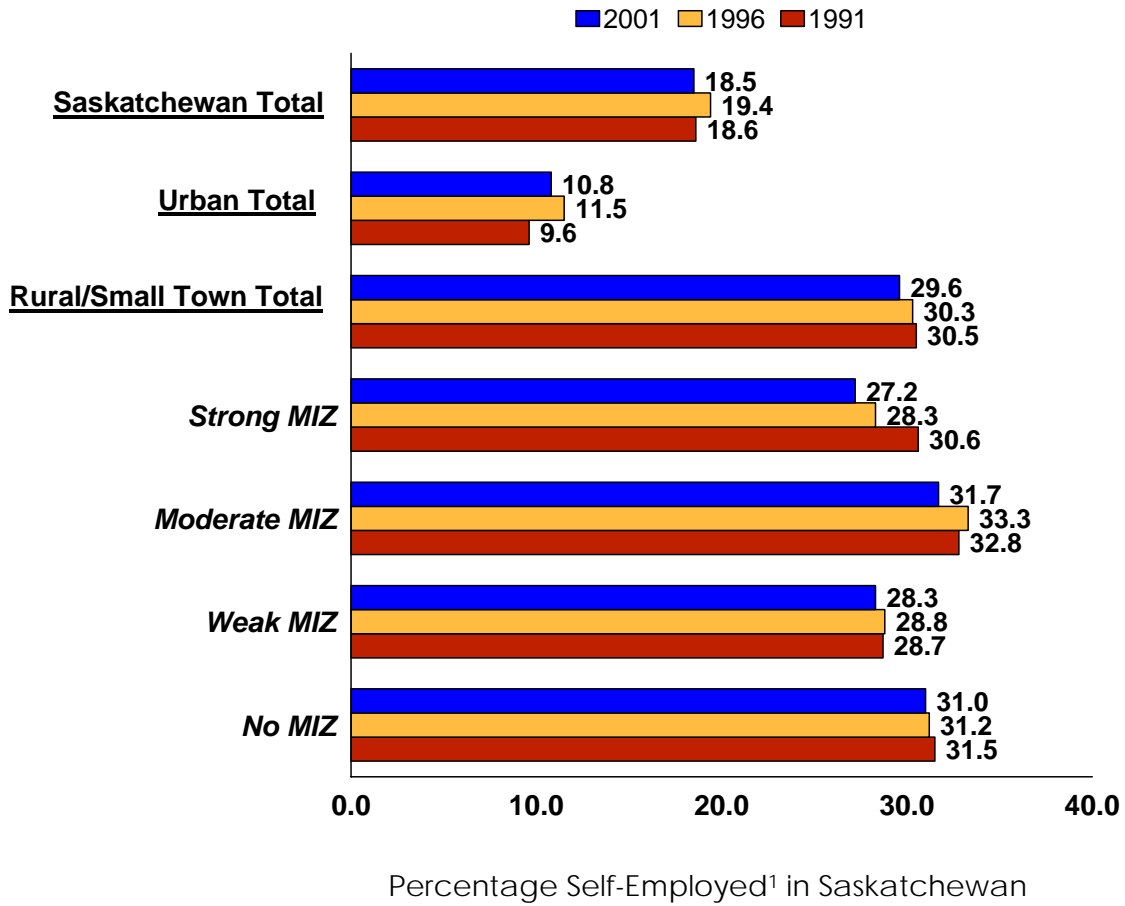
In 2001, 18.5% of the Saskatchewan labour force was self-employed as opposed to working as an employee (Figure 12 and Appendix table 12). Compared to urban citizens, residents of rural and small town Saskatchewan were three times more likely to be self-employed (29.6% compared to 10.8%). Among rural and small town zones, *Moderate MIZ* individuals were the most likely to be self-employed in 2001 (31.7%), and *Strong MIZ* residents were the least likely (27.2%). The higher incidence of self-employment in *Moderate MIZ* zones may be accounted for by the higher proportion of these residents employed in primary industry and in agriculture in particular (Table 4), where the majority of workers are self-employed (du Plessis, 2004). The relatively high proportion of jobs in production services might also explain the lower self-employment rate in *Strong MIZ* zones of the province.

Self-employment remained relatively stable in Saskatchewan between 1991 and 2001. With the exception of a slight increase in *Moderate MIZ* zones between 1991 and 1996, self-employment generally declined in rural and small town Saskatchewan over the course of the decade, while this form of employment rose slightly in urban centres in the first half of the 1990s and declined over the subsequent five-year period.



**Figure 12: Self-Employment is More Prevalent in Rural Saskatchewan**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



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

<sup>1</sup> 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

Despite having lower median incomes and greater reliance on social transfer income, Saskatchewan's rural zones have smaller proportions of low income individuals than do urban centres.

### 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.<sup>9</sup> Unlike mean income values, median measures are not as unduly influenced by extreme values, whether high or low. The 1991 and 1996 income figures presented in Figure 13 are adjusted to 2000 real dollars.

In both 2001 and 1996, the provincial median income was just over \$19,600, down slightly from the 1991 amount of \$20,444. Median incomes vary somewhat across geographic zones of the province, with urban centres reporting higher income values than all four measures of rurality in every census year. Within rural Saskatchewan, median incomes ranged from a low of \$15,981 in *No MIZ* zones to a high of \$19,796 in *Strong MIZ* zones in 2001. *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* incomes fell between these values in 2001, at \$16,424 and \$17,732, respectively.

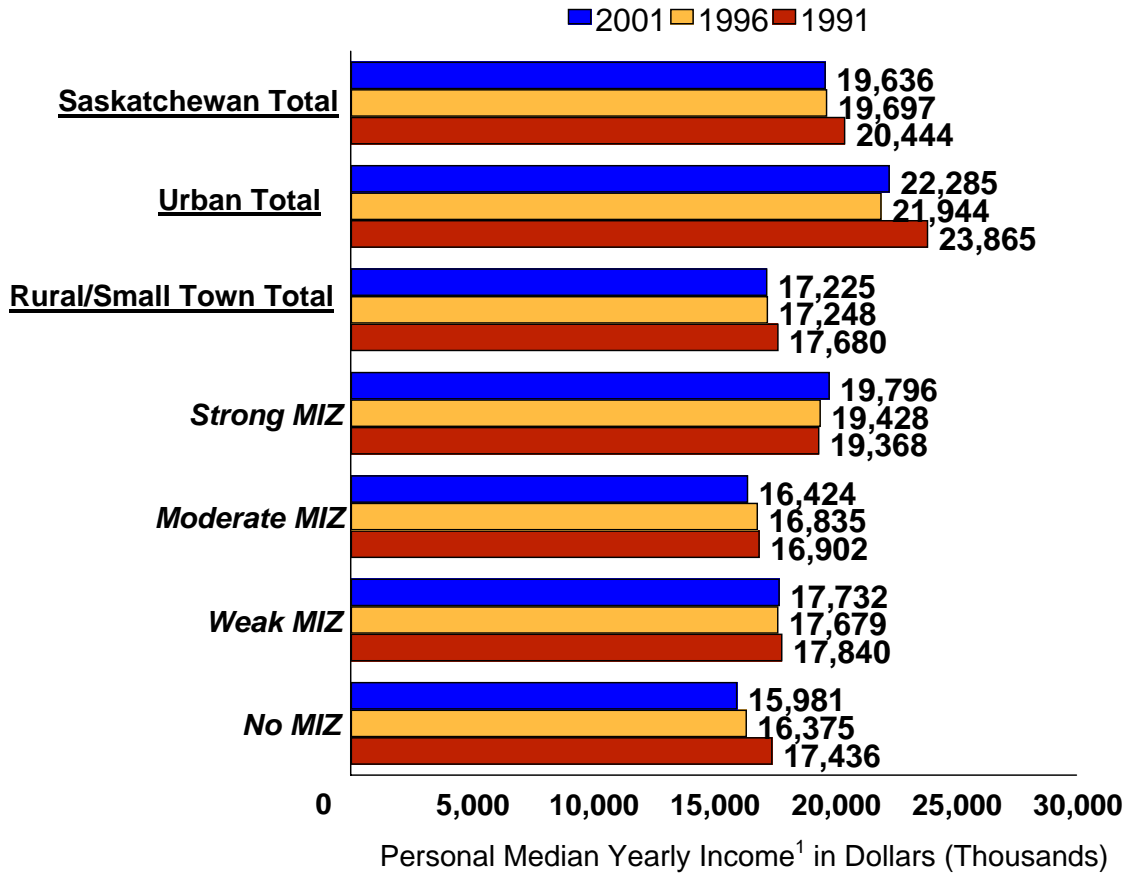
For the most part, Figure 13 shows little change in median income over time. A few shifts within rural zones of the province, however, are notable. First, the relatively healthy *Strong MIZ* economy is further illustrated by the observation that this was the only zone in the province to exhibit higher median incomes in each inter-census period. Second, *No MIZ* zones, in contrast, had not only the lowest median incomes in the province in each census year, but the largest ten-year decline in median income in the province (of \$1,455 or 8.3%). Overall, these data suggest a situation of growing income disparity between rural zones of the province.

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<sup>9</sup> Mean is also commonly known as the average. Median is equivalent to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**Figure 13: The Gap Between *Strong* and *No MIZ* Median Incomes is Increasing**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



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

<sup>1</sup> Median income is for the population aged 15 years and over in 2001 real dollars.

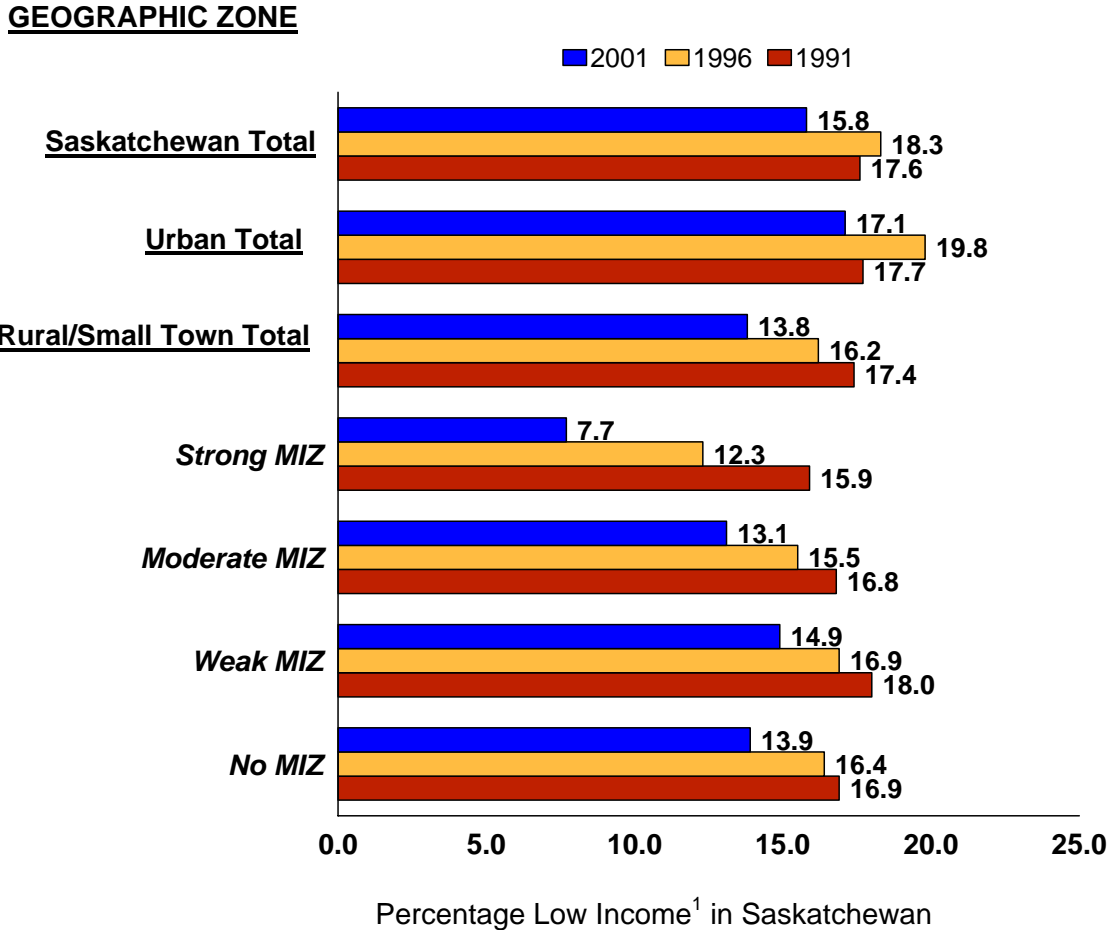
**B.2.2 Incidence of Low Income**

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-offs (LICO's)). 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.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> A few methodological considerations should be noted with the use of LICO's. 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 have retabulated the data according to our own rural-urban categories. In addition to these

Figure 14 reveals that the incidence of low income is higher in urban than in rural and small town zones of the province (see also Appendix table 13). In 2001, 17.1% of urban residents were considered low income, compared to 7.7% of residents in *Strong MIZ*, 13.1% in *Moderate MIZ*, 14.9% in *Weak MIZ*, and 13.9% in *No MIZ* zones.

**Figure 14: Low-Income Individuals are More Prevalent in Urban Saskatchewan than in Rural Zones**



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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Provincially, the incidence of low income increased between 1991 and 1996, but declined between 1996 and 2001. This trend is also observed in urban centres, while the

concerns, it should be noted that LICO's are, by Statistics Canada's admission, not a measure of poverty. There is also considerable debate about whether LICO's are a valid measurement of low income (see, for example, Webber (1998)).

percentage of rural and small town residents considered low income declined in each inter-census period.<sup>11</sup> Of the rural zones, the largest 10-year decrease occurred in the most economically advantaged *Strong MIZ* zones (-8.2%). *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones, with the highest incidence of low income in rural Saskatchewan, exhibited the smallest 10-year decline, of just 3.1% and 3.0%, respectively.

### **B.2.3 Share of Total Income from Social Transfer Income**

We can also gain an indication of the relative economic conditions of each geographic zone of Saskatchewan by examining source of income. If a group of people derives a relatively greater percentage of income from social transfer payments, as opposed to employment income or personal investments, this suggests greater economic dependency for members of that group.

Figure 15 presents the percentage of total income derived from social transfer payments for each geographic zone and for 2001, 1996, and 1991. Most evident is the fact that rural and small town Saskatchewanites garnered a larger proportion of their income from government sources than did urban citizens in all three census years. Among the former group, *Strong MIZ* zones were the least likely to rely on social transfer income in 2001 (13.6%), with a proportion similar to that of urban centres (11.9%). Relative to residents of other MIZ Zones, *No MIZ* residents derived the largest proportion of their income from social transfer payments (20.8%).

In every geographic zone, residents were less likely to depend upon social transfer income in 2001 than in 1996, though in most zones dependence was higher in 2001 than ten years earlier. Of the rural and small town zones, the most economically advantaged *Strong MIZ* zones had the greatest decrease in dependence on social transfer income since 1996 (-1.8% percentage points). *No MIZ* zones, in contrast, continued in 2001 to be the most economically disadvantaged in the province, with the lowest median incomes (Figure 13), the smallest decline in low income (Figure 14) and one of the smallest post-1996 decreases in social transfer income in the province (-0.7%) (Figure 15).

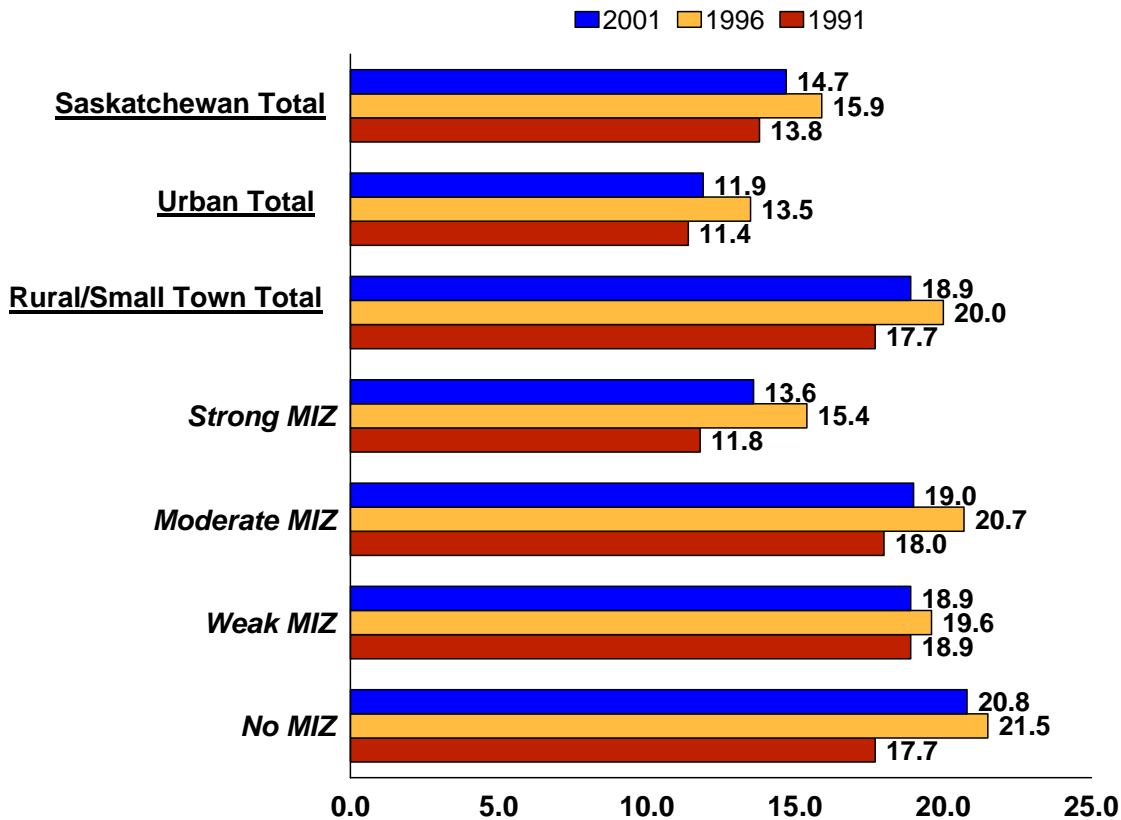
These over-time changes could be due to increasing or decreasing unemployment, old age security, Canadian Pension Plan payments, or child tax credits. The post-1996 decrease in dependence on social transfer income is likely a reflection of both decreasing unemployment insurance as a result of decreasing unemployment rates in most geographic zones of the province<sup>11</sup> (Figure 11) and a decrease in child tax credits as a result of the decrease in the share of the population that are children (Table 2).

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<sup>11</sup> The fact that households located on Indian reserves are excluded from the LICO designation but are included in the percentage calculations of low income individuals, may in part explain the lower than expected rates of low income in some rural zones.

**Figure 15: Rural Saskatchewanites Garner a Larger Share of their Income from Social Transfer Payments than do Urban Saskatchewanites**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



Percentage of Total Income from Social Transfer Income<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan

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

<sup>1</sup> Social transfer income refers to all government transfer payments to individuals including Old Age Security, Canadian/Québec Pension Plans, Unemployment 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**

Several indicators demonstrate the slightly more robust economic conditions of the late 1990s and early 2000s throughout the geographic zones compared to the first portion of the decade. For example, after declining between 1991 and 1996, LFP rates in most geographic zones increased in the latter half of the 1990s. Unemployment rates in the more prosperous urban, *Strong* and *Weak MIZ* zones declined after 1996 as well, though in *Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones this was not the case. Median incomes also increased in some geographic zones, after declining between 1991 and 1996, and decreases in the

incidence of low income were greater in the 1996 to 2001 period than in the earlier five-year span. Finally, in most zones, a smaller proportion of income was derived from social transfer payments in 2001 than in 1996.

Throughout this economic indicator analysis, a number of distinctions between provincial geographic zones have been highlighted. We observe a very healthy economy in *Strong MIZ* zones that consistently exhibits a pattern of development and growth. In fact, for some indicators, residents of these zones show a level of economic well-being that surpasses urban centres (i.e., LFP and unemployment rates). *Weak MIZ* zones also display positive signs of economic progress from 1996 to 2001. In contrast, the data for *Moderate* and particularly for *No MIZ* zones suggests that residents of these zones have not reaped the same benefits from this positive economic cycle as those residing in other parts of the province. Both zones continue in 2001 to have the lowest LFP rates in the province, and were the only zones to exhibit either stable or increasing unemployment rates between 1996 and 2001. Residents of these zones are also the most likely in the province to rely on income from self-employment, likely reflecting the predominance of primary industry employment in these zones. *Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones also had the lowest median income values in each census year, and were the only rural zones to exhibit lower income values in 2001 than in 1996. *No MIZ* zones, finally, were one of the least likely of the rural zones to experience a decrease in the incidence of low income over the ten-year period, and are the most likely in the province to depend upon social transfer income. While there were a few signs of improvement within these two zones (including ten-year net decreases in the incidence of low income), *Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones remain by far the most economically disadvantaged in the province. Moreover, these disadvantages appear to be increasing, thus further polarizing the economic distance between *Strong* and *No MIZ* individuals.

## C. Education Indicators

### KEY FINDINGS

#### C.1 Educational Attainment

- Residents of Saskatchewan's rural and small town zones have lower levels of education compared to individuals in urban centres, and this educational disparity is increasing over time.
- The lowest educational attainment is observed in *No MIZ* zones where 47.5% of the population of at least 20 years of age had not completed high school as recently as 2001.

#### C.2 Education Providers

- All rural zones have per capita education providers below that of urban centres. Of the rural zones, *Strong MIZ* zones had the highest number of education providers per 1,000 residents (18.9) and *Moderate MIZ* zones had the lowest in 2001 (15.8).
- Per capita education providers decreased throughout the province between 1991 and 1996. The numbers continued to drop in *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones, and increased in urban, *Strong* and *No MIZ* zones between 1996 and 2001.

#### Summary

The educational findings presented in this section signal a growing urban/rural disparity in terms of educational attainment and perhaps also for access to education. First, the lower levels of high school completion among residents of rural and small town Saskatchewan implies they will have more difficult labour market experiences such as unemployment and lower incomes. Second, the lower per capita education providers in rural zones of the province may influence the education provided in these zones. Third, the trend of lower post-secondary educational attainment in rural and small town Saskatchewan and in *No MIZ* zones in particular implies a geographical and economic deterrent of access to institutions of higher learning.



## C.1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Compared to urbanites, rural residents have lower levels of high school completion and are less likely to have attained a university 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.<sup>12</sup> 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, 35.2% of the provincial adult population had less than a high school diploma. A higher proportion of rural and small town Saskatchewanites than urbanites (44.8% compared to 28.3%) had not attained a high school diploma, with *No MIZ* residents by far the most highly represented in this lowest educational category (47.5%). Nearly equal proportions (between 10 and 11 percent) of urban and rural and small town residents, however, had attained a high school diploma (but no post secondary education), and little variation is observed within MIZ zones.

Urban residents eclipse the rural and small town zones in all three post-secondary educational categories. The greatest disparity is found between urban and rural zones for the highest educational category; as of 2001, 16.2% of urban Saskatchewanites had a university degree compared to only 6.9% of those residing in rural zones. The urban/rural difference in those with a post-secondary certificate/diploma is, however, much smaller (2.8%).

Within rural Saskatchewan we see a familiar pattern whereby *Strong MIZ* citizens are the most likely to have attended a post-secondary institution and *No MIZ* residents are the least likely. In fact, those residing in *Strong MIZ* zones are as likely as urbanites to have attained a certificate or diploma from a college or technical institute (28.3% compared to 28.5%). *No MIZ* residents, conversely, are the least represented in the province in each of the three post-secondary education categories and are most likely to have not received a high school diploma (47.5%).

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<sup>12</sup> 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.

**Table 6: Rural Saskatchewanites Have Lower Levels of Educational Attainment than Urban Saskatchewanites**

Educational Attainment<sup>1</sup> Percent Distribution, 2001

Geographic Zone	Total	Less Than High School	High School Diploma	Some Post-Secondary	Post-Secondary Cert./Dip.	University Degree
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	100.0	35.2	10.8	14.3	27.4	12.3
<b>Urban Total</b>	100.0	28.3	11.1	15.9	28.5	16.2
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	100.0	44.8	10.4	12.1	25.7	6.9
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>No MIZ</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

<sup>1</sup> 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 similar geographic zone trends as those observed in 2001: rural residents were less likely than urban residents to have completed high school, and a greater proportion of urbanites had attained some post-secondary education, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, or a university degree.

As for over-time changes, Table 7 illustrates province-wide increases in educational attainment. In all geographic zones, smaller proportions of individuals had less than high school in 1996 than in 1991, and greater proportions of individuals had attained a post-secondary certificate or diploma or a university degree. Of the geographic zones, *No MIZ* zones exhibit the least over-time improvement with, for example, the smallest increase in the percentage of the population attaining a university degree (0.3%).

These findings suggest that despite improvements in educational attainment in rural Saskatchewan, the educational disparity between urban and rural regions continues. Again, moreover, this disparity is greatest in the zones least integrated with urban Saskatchewan.

**Table 7: Between 1991 and 1996 Educational Attainment Increased in All Geographic Zones**

Educational Attainment<sup>1</sup> 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
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	43.1	45.7	10.6	11.1	10.8	10.7	25.6	23.8	9.8	8.6
<b>Urban Total</b>	36.0	37.9	11.1	11.8	12.6	12.7	27.2	25.9	13.1	11.8
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	52.6	56.1	9.9	10.2	8.4	8.1	23.5	21.0	5.6	4.6
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	47.9	50.0	11.6	13.1	9.8	8.4	25.3	24.3	5.3	4.3
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	53.2	55.9	9.8	10.6	8.3	8.2	22.9	20.5	5.8	4.7
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	51.7	55.6	9.7	10.0	8.4	8.2	24.1	21.3	6.0	4.8
<b>No MIZ</b>	55.0	58.7	10.1	9.6	8.1	7.5	22.4	20.1	4.4	4.1

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

<sup>1</sup> 1996 and 1991 educational attainment data are provided for the population 15 years of age and over.

## C.2 EDUCATION PROVIDERS

***Strong MIZ zones have the highest number of education providers per capita in rural Saskatchewan, and were the only zones to exhibit an increase in per capita providers between 1991 and 2001.***

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<sup>13</sup>. These data are presented in Figure 16 by geographic zone and for 2001, 1996, and 1991 (see also Appendix Table 16).

In 2001, the highest number of per capita education providers is observed in urban centres at 22.9 per 1,000 residents. All rural zones have per capita education providers below this figure. Interestingly, *Strong MIZ* zones not only most closely approximate urban centres in educational attainment (Tables 6 and 7), but also in the number of education providers (18.9 compared to 22.9 per capita). The lowest number of per capita teachers and professors in the province is observed for *Moderate MIZ* zones, where in 2001 there were just 15.8 educators per 1,000 residents. *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones exhibit similar numbers of education providers, at 17.3 and 17.4 providers per 1,000 residents respectively.

Although the number of education providers per capita decreased in all geographic zones of the province between 1991 and 1996, Figure 16 reveals a mixed pattern between the 1996 and 2001 Census years. Education providers per capita increased slightly in urban and *No MIZ* zones after 1996, although neither increase raised the number of education providers per capita to the levels observed in 1991. The number of education providers per capita increased substantially in *Strong MIZ* zones, on the other hand, raising the number of education providers by 4.1 per 1,000 residents between 1996 and 2001. Finally, both *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones exhibited decreases in education providers per capita in each inter-census period. These data add further evidence to the earlier conclusion that the educational disparity between urban and most rural regions is increasing over time. *Strong MIZ* zones, however, are the exception to this pattern, at least in terms of education providers.

Part of the explanation for the urban/rural differences lies in the propensity for post-secondary institutions (and particularly large universities) to be located in cities rather than in rural zones of Saskatchewan. Insofar as the post-secondary system continues to expand in urban centres, so too will the disparity between the number of professors

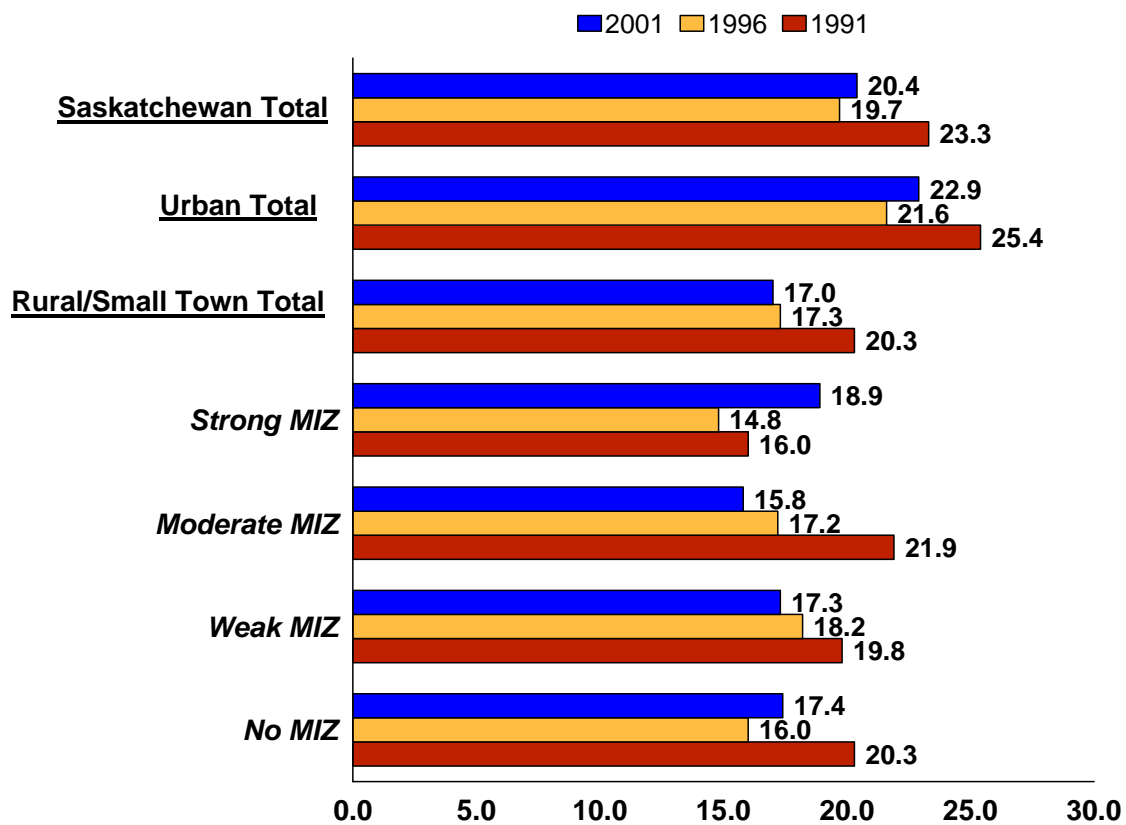
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<sup>13</sup> It should be understood that education providers are designated to the geographic area where they reside and not where they teach. As such, the per capita education providers in each zone may not accurately represent the number of educators serving the population in the zones.

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 all MIZ zones experienced a reduction in the proportion of children, the fact remains that rural zones 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: Rural Saskatchewan Has Fewer Per Capita Education Providers than Urban Saskatchewan**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



Number of Education Providers<sup>1</sup> per 1,000 Population in Saskatchewan

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

<sup>1</sup> The number of individuals working in Statistics Canada's occupational classification category of 'teachers or professors' per 1,000 people.

## SUMMARY

The education indicators presented in this section signal a growing urban/rural disparity in terms of educational attainment and perhaps also for access to education. This disparity, moreover, explains 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 residents of rural and small town Saskatchewan 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 *No MIZ* residents who have the lowest levels of high school completion, the lowest LFP and highest unemployment rates, and the lowest incomes 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 lower number of education providers per capita in rural zones of the province suggests this finding be more fully explored since the implications for educational quality are not clear. For example, these findings imply that classroom sizes may be, on average, larger in *No MIZ* zones, since they have one of the largest proportions of children combined with one of the lowest per capita number of teachers and professors.

Third, the 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 zones likely impose a barrier to attending university, perhaps compelling individuals to choose the typically less expensive route of enrolling in college or technical institutes. Further research that examines the implications of increasing access among rural residents to post-secondary institutions, and especially 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 residents of rural and small town Saskatchewan.

## D. Social Indicators

### KEY FINDINGS

#### D.1 Family Structure (Lone-Parent Families)

- In 2001, lone-parent families were more prevalent in urban centres than in rural zones of the province (18.1% compared to 12.7%). The incidence of lone-parent families increases, however, as metropolitan influence weakens, with *Strong*, *Moderate*, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones respectively having 8.5%, 12.2%, 12.5% and 14.9% lone parents.

#### D.2 Housing

- In 2001, *Strong* and *No MIZ* individuals were slightly more likely than other residents to be residing in new housing (5.7% and 5.6% of houses were constructed in these zones, respectively, since 1996, compared to 4.8% of houses provincially).
- Dwelling values were higher in urban than in rural and small town Saskatchewan in each Census year. Within rural zones, *Strong MIZ* had the highest dwelling values in 2001 (\$83,100) while *No MIZ* zones had the lowest values in the province (\$51,800).
- The percentage of Saskatchewan households spending significant portions of their income on shelter nearly doubled between 1991 and 2001 (increasing from 6.3% to 11.5%). Within rural Saskatchewan, *Strong MIZ* residents were most likely and *No MIZ* residents the least likely to be spending significant portions of their income on shelter in 2001 (11.4% compared to 9.7%).

#### 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 suggests that housing indicators are strongly influenced by economic indicators.

## D.1 FAMILY STRUCTURE (LONE-PARENT FAMILIES)

In 2001, rural and small town residents were less likely than their urban counterparts to reside in a lone-parent family. *No MIZ* zones, however, had a higher percentage of this family structure in 2001 than any other rural zone.

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). Saskatchewan is no exception to this rising trend, with 15.8% of families considered lone-parent in 2001 (a figure equivalent to the national average of 15.7%).

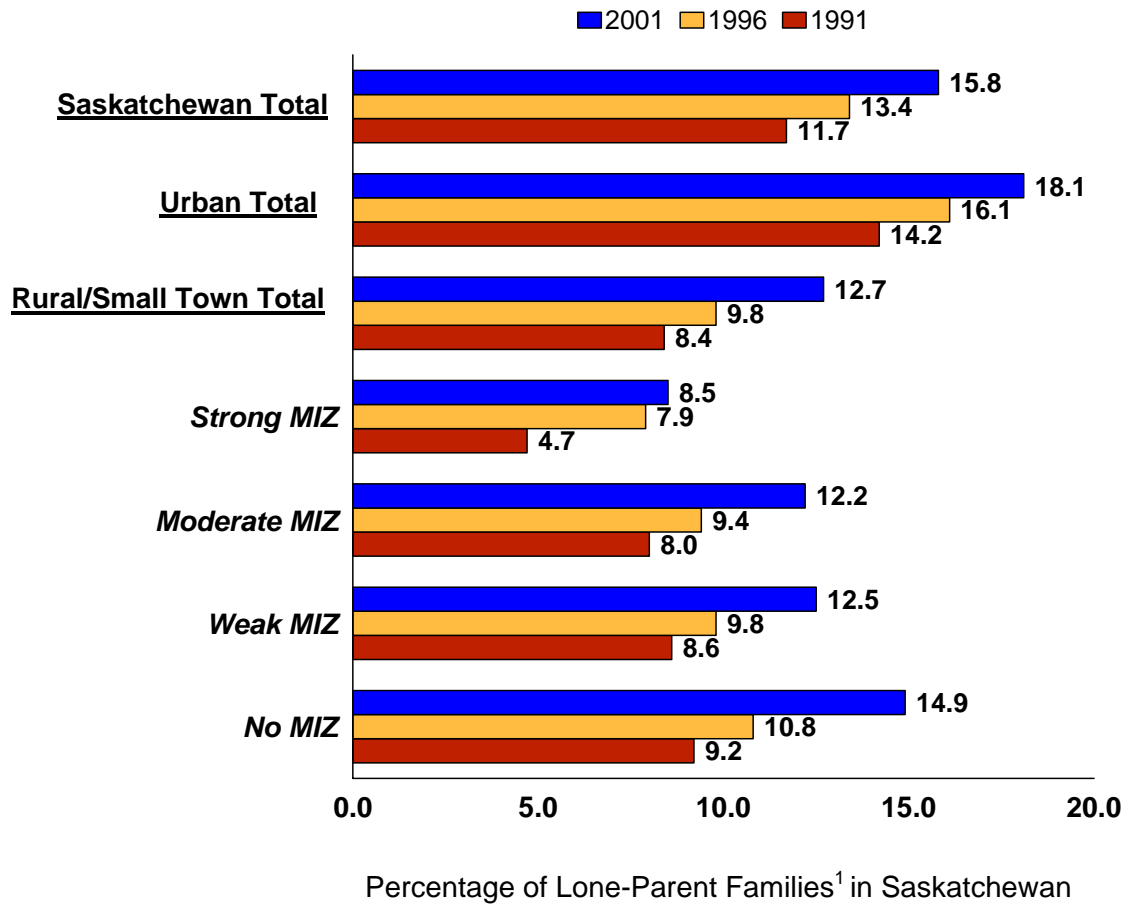
Figure 17 (Appendix Table 17) reveals that, compared to rural and small town Saskatchewan, lone-parent families are more prevalent in urban centres (18.1% compared to 12.7%). Among rural zones, the incidence of lone-parent families is higher in the more rural zones with *Strong*, *Moderate*, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones respectively having 8.5%, 12.2%, 12.5% and 14.9% lone parents.

Over-time increases in lone-parent families are apparent in all geographic zones, with the most significant increases occurring in *Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones. While between 1991 and 2001 the share of urban families that were lone-parent families increased by 3.9 percentage points, the share increased more in most rural zones: up by 3.8% and 3.9% in *Strong* and *Weak MIZ* zones, respectively, *Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones had 4.2% and 5.7% more lone-parent families, respectively, in 2001 than in 1991. The higher and growing incidence of lone-parent families in *No MIZ* zones may reflect the high rates of this family structure among Aboriginal people living in Canada (26.6%; Corporate Information Management Directorate, 2000). Further, the higher incidence combined with the larger proportion of children in *No MIZ* zones increases the likelihood that lone parents in these zones cope with running larger families than elsewhere in the province.



**Figure 17: Lone-Parent Families are Most Prevalent in No MIZ Zones of Rural Saskatchewan**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



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

<sup>1</sup> A change to the measurement of lone-parent families in 2001 marginally inflates the percentage in this year.

## D.2 HOUSING

*Strong MIZ zones have the newest and the most expensive housing in rural and small town Saskatchewan.*

### 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 Saskatchewan. 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).

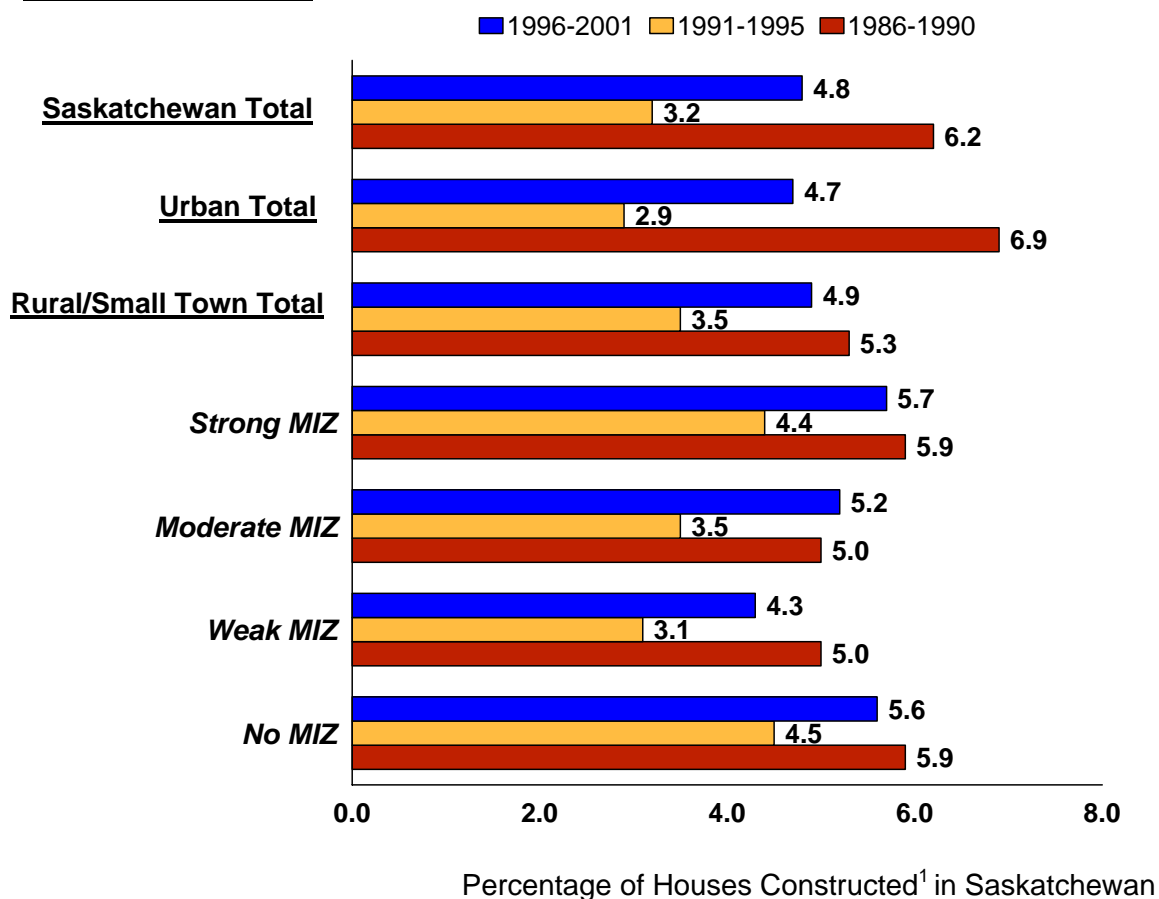
Provincially, 4.8% of dwellings were constructed between 1996 and 2001 (compared to the nation-wide figure of 7.1%). That new home construction was below the national average in every zone of Saskatchewan is likely attributable to the population decline observed during the 1996-2001 period (Figure 3), as well as the stagnant or decreasing median income values in some Saskatchewan zones during this period (Figure 13).

As a whole, the percentage of dwellings constructed in rural areas during this most recent period is comparable to that of urban zones (4.9% compared to 4.7%, respectively). *Strong* and *No MIZ* had the highest rates of newly constructed homes in the province at 5.7% and 5.6%, respectively.

A second observation to make from Figure 18 is the greater proportion of houses constructed between 1996 and 2001 than between 1991 and 1995. Again, these data demonstrate the strengthening of the Saskatchewan economy after 1996. *No MIZ* residents were the least likely to benefit from an increase in construction during this period, however, with the lowest percentage increase in the province (of +1.1%).

**Figure 18: Strong MIZ Zones Had the Largest Percentage of Houses Constructed Between 1996 and 2001**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



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

<sup>1</sup> Expressed as a percentage of the total number of occupied private dwellings.

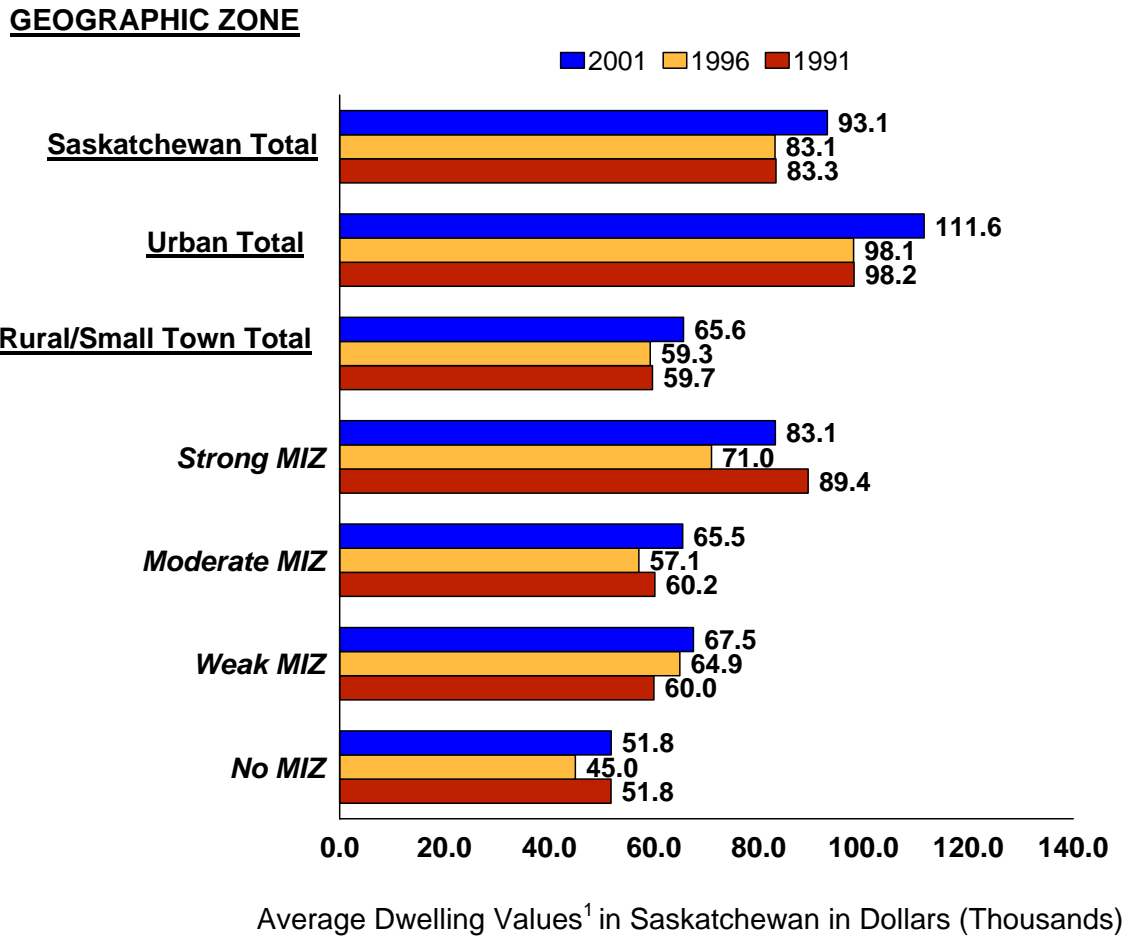
**D.2.2 Average Dwelling (Housing) Values**

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 Saskatchewan in 2001 was just over \$93,000. Housing values were, on average, \$46,000 less in rural and small town zones than in urban centres. Yet again, considerable variation exists among the four MIZ categories. In 2001, housing values were highest in *Strong MIZ* zones (\$83,100), though this figure was still well below the urban average. *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones exhibit similar average dwelling values (\$65,500 and \$67,500, respectively), while the *No MIZ* average cost for housing was much lower at \$51,800.

Figure 19 also reveals higher dwelling values in every geographic zone in 2001 than in 1996, a finding that corresponds with increases in dwelling construction between 1996 and 2001. Despite these increases, the average dwelling value in *Strong MIZ* zones in 2001 was below the average value in 1991, and in *No MIZ* zones, 2001 values were equal to values of ten years prior. And while *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* dwelling values increased between 1991 and 2001 (by 8.8% and 12.5%, respectively), these increases were still below the increase in urban values during the same period (+13.6%). Hence, not only are dwelling values higher in urban than in rural zones, but the values within urban centers have increased more substantially in the past 10 years.

**Figure 19: Dwelling (Housing) Values are Highest in Urban and Strong MIZ Zones**



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996 and 1991  
<sup>1</sup> Average dwelling (housing) values are for owner-occupied, non-farm, non-reserve dwellings and are reported in 2001 real dollars.

### D.2.3 Dwelling (Housing) Affordability

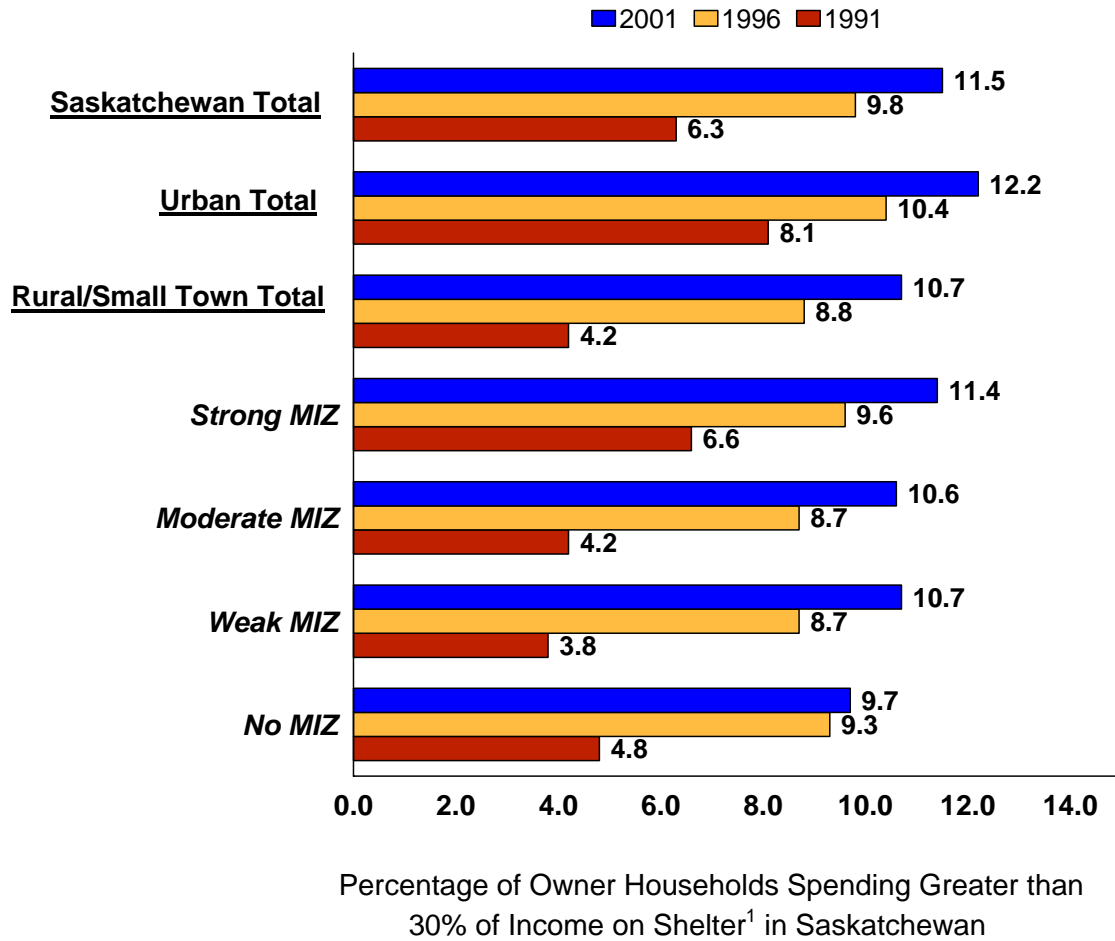
The proportion of household owners spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter costs is generally accepted to be an indicator of housing affordability. Figure 20 highlights the proportion of Saskatchewan household owners in each geographic zone spending more than 30% of their income on shelter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

In 2001, 11.5% of household owners in the province exceeded this 30% spending cutoff. A greater proportion of urban residents spent this amount on housing than did those in rural and small town Saskatchewan (12.2% compared to 10.7%), somewhat reflecting the higher housing values in urban centres (Figure 19). The percentage of household owners spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter in the four rural zones also corresponds to average housing values in each zone, with *Strong MIZ* residents the most likely to exceed this limit (11.4%), followed by *Weak MIZ* (10.7%) and *Moderate MIZ* (10.6%) residents. *No MIZ* residents were the least likely to exceed the 30% cut-off (9.7%) and had the lowest housing values in the province. However, band housing on Indian Reserves is excluded in this calculation.

Between 1991 and 2001, the percentage of Saskatchewan household owners spending significant portions of their income on shelter nearly doubled (from 6.3% in 1991 to 11.5% in 2001). Increases are most pronounced in *Moderate MIZ* (+6.4%) and *Weak MIZ* (+6.9%) zones, where housing values increased by 8.8 and 12.2 percentage points, respectively, in this ten-year period. Of interest is the observation that average housing values in *No MIZ* zones do not correspond with their affordability in the same way as they do for other geographic zones. Despite having lower housing values in 1996 than in 1991, and similar values in 2001 (Figure 19), smaller proportions of *No MIZ* residents were able to afford their housing in 2001 (Figure 20). This is in part because their incomes are relatively lower (Figure 13). Moreover, while housing values are considerably lower in *No MIZ* than in *Strong MIZ* zones, only a slightly greater percentage of *No MIZ* residents were able to afford their shelter costs in 2001. Together, these findings suggest that shelter is becoming less affordable for residents of rural and small town Saskatchewan, and that the housing advantage once found within the most rural zones may be disappearing.

**Figure 20: Urbanites are More Likely than Rural Residents to Spend More than 30% of their Income on Shelter**

**GEOGRAPHIC ZONE**



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

<sup>1</sup> 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. Band housing on Indian Reserves is excluded.

**SUMMARY**

The social indicators presented in this section continue to reveal urban/rural differences, but perhaps more importantly, depict conditions of inequality among the four rural and small town zones of the province.

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. In contrast, the percentage of lone-parent families in zones that experience no metropolitan influence is much closer to that observed in cities (14.9% in *No MIZ* zones versus 18.1% in urban Saskatchewan).

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, the 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 *No MIZ* zones where we see a combination of increasing rates of lone-parent families and the lowest median incomes in the province.

The housing situation for rural Saskatchewan also demonstrates variability: despite having the lowest housing values in the province, residents of *No MIZ* zones are only slightly less likely to be unable to afford their shelter than are residents in Strong MIZ. Strong MIZ zones have a high share of households with difficulties to afford their shelter. However, this is more due to higher priced homes than to lower incomes. This, combined with the over-time increase in those residents exceeding the 30 percent cut off, suggests that incomes in some rural zones have not sufficiently increased to offset increasing housing prices. On the whole, it appears that housing indicators in rural Saskatchewan 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 *No MIZ* zones.

## E. Health Care Indicators

### KEY FINDINGS

#### E.1 Health Care Providers

- The number of health care providers per capita in urban Saskatchewan exceeds the per capita number in each of the four rural and small town zones. The gap in the number of urban versus rural health care providers increased from 8.7 in 1996 to 10.8 per 1,000 in 2001.
- *No MIZ* zones have by far the lowest ratio of per capita health care providers in the province (19.7) per 1,000 residents and exhibited one of the smallest increases in providers between 1991 and 2001 (of 1.6 providers per 1,000).
- 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 RN's and other health care individuals.

#### Summary

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



## E.1 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Compared to urban centres, rural Saskatchewan has fewer health care providers per capita.

Access to health services is a concern to all residents of Saskatchewan 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 providers per 1,000 people is used to illustrate accessibility to health services.<sup>14</sup>

As demonstrated in Figure 21, rural and small town zones had, on average, fewer health care providers per 1,000 residents than urban centres in 2001 (24.7 compared to 35.5 per 1,000 population; see also Appendix Table 20). Among rural zones, the highest per capita number of health care providers in 2001 was in *Weak MIZ* (27.9), followed by *Strong MIZ* (24.0) and *Moderate MIZ* (23.7) zones. *No MIZ* zones had the fewest health care providers per 1,000 population (19.7).

With the exception of *Strong MIZ*, all geographic zones of the province experienced an increase in health care providers between 1991 and 2001. Virtually all of the decrease in *Strong MIZ* health providers occurred between 1991 and 1996, when the number of providers dropped from a level nearly on par with urban centres to one more closely approximating the 1996 rural average (from 30.6 to 24.0 per 1,000 residents).

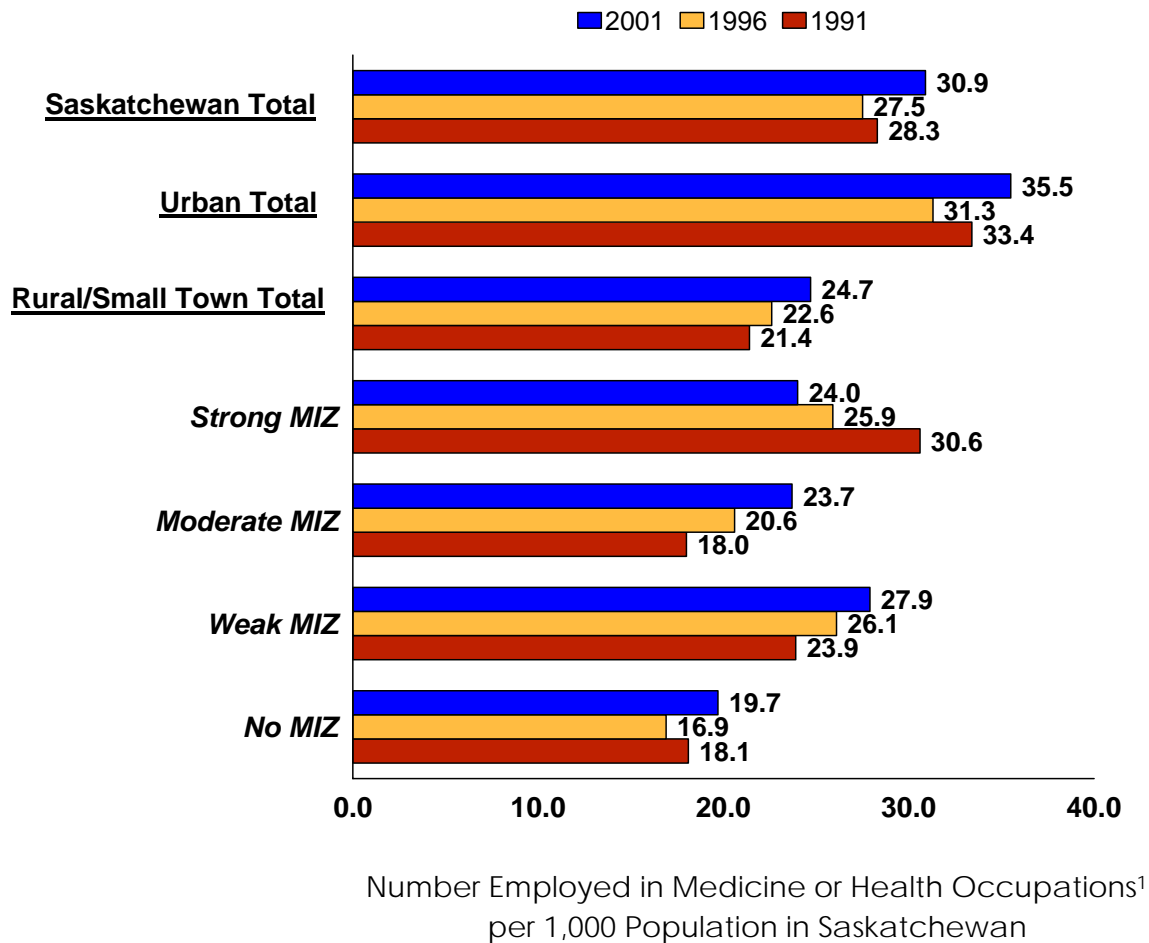
As has been the case with many indicators in this report, Aboriginal-intensive *No MIZ* zones were the least advantaged in terms of health care providers per 1,000 population in each census year. *No MIZ* zones, in fact, had close to fifty percent fewer providers per 1,000 residents than urban centres had in each of the three census years. These most disadvantaged zones also exhibited one of the smallest ten-year increases in providers, increasing by 1.6 health care providers per capita between 1991 and 2001, compared to an urban increase of 2.1 and an average rural increase of 3.3 providers per 1,000 residents. These data suggest not only disparity in access to health care services in the most rural regions of Saskatchewan, but that this disparity is increasing.

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<sup>14</sup> 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: Per Capita Health Care Providers is Lower in Rural than in Urban Saskatchewan**

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



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

<sup>1</sup> 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).<sup>15</sup>

Compared to urban centres, rural and small town zones of Saskatchewan had substantially fewer health care providers working in professional occupations such as

<sup>15</sup> Detailed occupational information on health care providers is not available for 1991.

physicians in 2001 (7.1 versus 2.4 per 1,000 residents). As we move across Table 8, the rural disadvantage is still apparent in 2001, but not as strikingly. The urban/rural difference in RN Supervisors/RNs and technical providers is 3.3 and 3.7 per 1,000 residents, respectively, and the number of assisting occupations per capita in rural zones (10.1 per 1,000 residents) actually exceeds the per capita number in urban centres (9.3 per 1,000 residents).

**Table 8: Per Capita Number of Professional Health Care Providers is Lower in Rural than in Urban Saskatchewan**

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

Geographic Zone	Professional Occupations		RN Supervisors & RNs		Technical & Related Occupations		Assisting Occupations in Support of Health	
	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001	1996	2001	1996
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	5.1	4.2	8.9	9.8	7.2	5.8	9.6	7.7
<b>Urban Total</b>	7.1	5.7	10.3	11.2	8.8	7.2	9.3	7.2
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	2.4	2.3	7.0	8.0	5.1	4.0	10.1	8.3
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	1.9	3.0	8.4	10.5	5.3	5.5	8.2	6.1
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	2.3	1.6	6.8	7.7	5.0	3.7	9.6	7.6
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	3.1	3.1	7.4	8.9	6.1	4.7	11.3	9.3
<b>No MIZ</b>	1.5	1.1	6.1	5.5	3.4	2.5	8.6	7.7

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

As we move down Table 8 to the figures for rural and small town Saskatchewan, we observe the highest per capita number of professionals in *Weak MIZ* zones (3.1 per 1,000 residents) and the lowest in *No MIZ* zones (1.5 per 1,000 residents). The low number of health care professionals in *Strong MIZ* zones in 2001 is somewhat surprising, given that, as Table 8 shows, these zones had one of the highest per capita numbers of health care professionals in the province in 1996 (3.0). *Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones, however, remain among the least advantaged in the province in terms of numbers of health care professionals per 1,000 inhabitants.

*Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones also have the lowest per capita number of RNs, RN Supervisors, and technical workers in the province, and the per capita number of health care workers in assisting occupations in *No MIZ* zones is one of the lowest in the province. These findings suggest that not only must residents of *Moderate* and *No MIZ* zones rely more frequently on lower occupational levels of providers to meet their health care needs, but also that these lower occupational levels of providers are present in lower per capita numbers than in zones with greater metropolitan influence.

As for over-time trends, all but RN Supervisors and RNs increased in most geographic zones. The greatest per capita reduction of RN Supervisors / RNs occurred within the *Strong MIZ* zones (-2.1 per 1,000 residents), although this health care occupational loss was offset by an increase in per capita assisting health care workers (+2.1 per 1,000 residents).

## **SUMMARY**

The results from Figure 21 and Table 8 suggest a health care disadvantage for rural and small town citizens of Saskatchewan. Not only do rural zones have fewer health care providers per capita, their residents 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 Saskatchewan 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 likely (but not always) required to travel the furthest distance to access health care services. In 2001, *No MIZ* zones had 19.7 health care providers per 1,000 people, only 1.5 of whom were health care professionals such as doctors. Such a low number of per capita doctors may put a strain on those 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 RNs who, no doubt, are relied upon to fulfill the health care needs of rural residents much more than are urban RNs.

Other aspects of health care must also be considered. For instance, the larger proportion of seniors in the *MIZ* zones 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 most predominantly in *No 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. Aboriginal people are more likely to reside in rural zones of the province, and this is especially the case in *No MIZ* zones, where, as shown in Figures 8 and 9, Aboriginal people comprise a large and growing proportion of the population.

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 the Aboriginal population in many rural communities to access needed health care services. Access to adequate health care among the Aboriginal population residing in rural zones of the province is therefore worthy of further investigation.

## F. Conclusions

The rural and small town share of the total Saskatchewan population is decreasing. With the exception of slight growth in *Strong MIZ* zones after 1996, each of the rural population zones underwent population contraction since 1991, with larger losses occurring in the most recent inter-census period. Rural and small town Saskatchewan is also aging, and the proportion of the rural population comprised of Aboriginal individuals is increasing over time.

The report further demonstrates that the economic, educational, social and health care advantages typifying Saskatchewan's urban centres are not equally apparent in all rural zones. Many indicators reveal the advantages of metropolitan influence, with *Strong MIZ* zones surpassing even their urban counterparts on some indicators. For example, *Strong MIZ* zones had the highest LFP rates, the lowest unemployment rates and the lowest incidence of low income in the province in 2001. *Strong MIZ* residents also had, on average, the highest levels of educational attainment in rural and small town Saskatchewan, the lowest percentage of lone-parent families in the province, and the highest housing values in rural zones in 2001.

While *Strong MIZ* zones exhibit largely favorable characteristics, it must be kept in mind that these zones comprise just 2.7% of Saskatchewan's population, and that greater urban/rural disparities emerge from the data when considering zones that are more representative of rural Saskatchewan. Nearly one in five Saskatchewanites, indeed, reside in the least advantaged *Moderate* and the Aboriginal-intensive *No MIZ* zones, and it is in these zones that we find the highest unemployment rates, the lowest personal median incomes, the lowest levels of educational attainment and the fewest education providers per capita. These zones also have the lowest housing values in the province, a proportion of citizens unable to afford their housing that is only slightly smaller than in *Strong MIZ* and urban centres, and the lowest per capita number of health care providers in the province.

Many indicators, finally, portray *No MIZ* zones as the least advantaged in Saskatchewan. With the largest proportions of children and the highest proportion of Aboriginal people in the province, residents of zones with the least metropolitan influence are perhaps the most vulnerable of Saskatchewanites. The lowest LFP rates, highest unemployment rates, and the lowest median incomes in the province are found in *No MIZ* zones, as are the lowest levels of educational attainment, the highest proportion of lone-parent families, and housing values that are low, but unaffordable for an increasing number of citizens.

The conclusion that *No MIZ* zones are the most disadvantaged of geographic regions is an important one, but we have no indication of the source of this outcome. It is well documented that Aboriginal populations endure a high level of disadvantage no matter where they reside. In the case of *No MIZ* zones, lack of metropolitan influence is

confounded with a high proportion of Aboriginal people. Further research into this issue, therefore, would help clarify our understanding of rural conditions in Saskatchewan.

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 Saskatchewan. 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, *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<sup>1</sup> and Population Percentage Change in Saskatchewan** 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)
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	990,237	978,933	<b>-1.1</b>	988,928	990,237	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Urban Total</b>	561,672	565,222	<b>0.6</b>	551,776	561,672	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	428,565	413,711	<b>-3.5</b>	437,152	428,565	<b>-2.0</b>
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	<b>27,788</b>	<b>25,990</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>26,511</b>	<b>26,013</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	<b>103,051</b>	<b>100,376</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>105,203</b>	<b>102,823</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	<b>203,012</b>	<b>193,996</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>207,229</b>	<b>202,570</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<b>No MIZ</b>	<b>96,714</b>	<b>93,349</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>98,209</b>	<b>97,159</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

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

<sup>1</sup>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 in Canada  
by Province / Territory and Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996, and 1991**

	Percent		
	2001	1996	1991
<b>Canada</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	79.4	77.8	77.2
<b>Rural and Small Town (RST) Total</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.8</b>
.. 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 <sup>2</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	57.7	56.7	56.4
<b>Rural and Small Town (RST) Total</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>43.6</b>
.. 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
<b>Newfoundland/Labrador</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	46.5	44.4	44.6
<b>Rural and Small Town (RST) Total</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>55.4</b>
.. 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
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	55.1	54.4	56.0
<b>Rural and Small Town (RST) Total</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>44.0</b>
.. 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
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	63.3	61.3	60.4
<b>Rural and Small Town (RST) Total</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>39.6</b>
.. 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

... Continued

Appendix Table 2 Continued  
Percent

	2001	1996	1991
<b>New Brunswick</b>	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
<b>Quebec</b>	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
<b>Ontario</b>	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
<b>Manitoba</b>	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
<b>Alberta</b>	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
<b>British Columbia</b>	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

... Continued

Appendix Table 2 Continued  
Percent

	2001	1996	1991
<b>Yukon<sup>1</sup></b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	74.6	70.9	64.5
Territories	25.4	29.1	35.5
<b>Northwest Territories<sup>1</sup></b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	44.3	43.6	41.8
Territories	55.7	56.4	58.2
<b>Nunavut<sup>1</sup></b>	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

<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> 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
<b>Canada</b>	<b>28,846,761</b>	<b>30,007,094</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>27,318,076</b>	<b>28,871,473</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Urban Total	22,654,692	23,839,086	5.2	21,140,156	22,449,855	6.2
<b>RST Total</b>	<b>6,192,069</b>	<b>6,168,008</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>6,177,920</b>	<b>6,421,618</b>	<b>3.9</b>
.. 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 <sup>2</sup>	56,085	54,833	-2.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	<b>990,237</b>	<b>978,933</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>988,928</b>	<b>990,237</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Urban Total	561,672	565,222	0.6	551,776	561,672	1.8
<b>RST Total</b>	<b>428,565</b>	<b>413,711</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>437,152</b>	<b>428,565</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
.. 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
<b>Newfoundland/ Labrador</b>	<b>551,792</b>	<b>512,930</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>568,474</b>	<b>551,792</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Urban Total	244,868	238,538	-2.6	244,889	244,868	0.0
<b>RST Total</b>	<b>306,924</b>	<b>274,392</b>	<b>-10.6</b>	<b>323,585</b>	<b>306,924</b>	<b>-5.1</b>
.. 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
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	<b>134,557</b>	<b>135,294</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>129,765</b>	<b>134,557</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Urban Total	73,225	74,558	1.8	69,885	73,225	4.8
<b>RST Total</b>	<b>61,332</b>	<b>60,736</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>59,880</b>	<b>61,332</b>	<b>2.4</b>
.. 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
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<b>909,282</b>	<b>908,007</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>899,942</b>	<b>909,282</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Urban Total	568,062	574,696	1.2	546,052	557,614	2.1
<b>RST Total</b>	<b>341,220</b>	<b>333,311</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>353,890</b>	<b>351,668</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
.. 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

... Continued

Appendix Table 3 Continued

	<b>1996</b> (2001 boundaries)	<b>2001</b> (2001 boundaries)	<b>1996-2001</b> <b>% Change</b>	<b>1991</b> (1996 boundaries)	<b>1996</b> (1996 boundaries)	<b>1991-1996</b> <b>% Change</b>
<b>New Brunswick</b>	<b>738,133</b>	<b>729,498</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>723,900</b>	<b>738,133</b>	<b>2.0</b>
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
<b>Quebec</b>	<b>7,138,795</b>	<b>7,237,479</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>6,895,963</b>	<b>7,138,795</b>	<b>3.5</b>
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
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>10,753,573</b>	<b>11,410,046</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>10,084,885</b>	<b>10,753,573</b>	<b>6.6</b>
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
<b>Manitoba</b>	<b>1,113,898</b>	<b>1,119,583</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1,091,942</b>	<b>1,113,898</b>	<b>2.0</b>
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
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>2,696,826</b>	<b>2,974,807</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>2,545,553</b>	<b>2,696,826</b>	<b>5.9</b>
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
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>3,724,500</b>	<b>3,907,738</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3,282,061</b>	<b>3,724,500</b>	<b>13.5</b>
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

... Continued



Appendix Table 3 Continued

	<b>1996</b> (2001 boundaries)	<b>2001</b> (2001 boundaries)	<b>1996-2001</b> <b>% Change</b>	<b>1991</b> (1996 boundaries)	<b>1996</b> (1996 boundaries)	<b>1991-1996</b> <b>% Change</b>
<b>Yukon<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>30,766</b>	<b>28,674</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>27,797</b>	<b>30,766</b>	<b>10.7</b>
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
<b>Northwest Territories<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>39,672</b>	<b>37,360</b>	<b>-5.8</b>	<b>36,343</b>	<b>39,672</b>	<b>9.2</b>
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
<b>Nunavut<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>24,730</b>	<b>26,745</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>21,217</b>	<b>24,712</b>	<b>16.5</b>
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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Saskatchewan by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996, and 1991**

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
<b>Saskatchewan Total</b>	21.6	23.4	24.0	14.8	14.5	13.9	27.2	29.2	30.0	22.2	19.2	17.9	14.2	13.8	14.1
<b>Urban Total</b>	20.8	22.8	23.3	15.8	15.1	15.0	29.4	31.7	33.0	21.6	18.6	16.9	12.4	11.8	11.9
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	22.6	24.1	25.0	13.5	13.6	12.6	24.3	25.8	26.2	23.0	19.9	19.1	16.7	16.5	17.0
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	21.6	23.3	25.7	13.0	14.1	13.0	26.7	27.9	29.5	25.8	21.4	20.8	12.9	13.2	11.3
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	22.9	24.2	24.9	13.8	13.3	12.4	23.8	25.7	26.0	23.3	20.4	19.6	16.2	16.4	16.9
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	21.6	23.1	24.0	13.3	13.5	12.6	24.2	25.7	26.1	23.0	20.1	19.3	17.9	17.5	18.0
<b>No MIZ</b>	24.6	26.3	26.8	13.7	13.9	12.7	24.2	25.7	26.1	21.9	18.5	17.9	15.7	15.6	16.3

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

**Appendix Table 5: Population Age in Saskatchewan by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996, and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number														
	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
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>1</sup></b>	207630	228485	237465	142850	141190	137640	262390	284705	296990	213525	187075	176930	136755	135155	139930
<b>Urban Total</b>	115595	126415	128305	87905	83680	82670	163370	175390	182145	119855	102910	93060	68875	65240	65475
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	92040	102070	108755	54940	57505	54810	99025	109325	114270	93675	84165	83360	67885	69905	74120
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	5530	5900	5280	3340	3575	2660	6835	7075	6050	6610	5430	4265	3305	3350	2330
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	22690	24695	27920	13730	13575	13885	23635	26155	29105	23115	20735	21910	16075	16690	18865
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	41195	46210	49735	25300	26955	26085	46245	51415	54040	43830	40225	39985	34095	34905	37205
<b>No MIZ</b>	22605	25255	25820	12585	13400	12180	22290	24685	25075	20120	17780	17200	14410	14970	15720

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

<sup>1</sup>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 Identity Population<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan  
by Geographic Zone; 2001 and 1996**

Geographic Zone	Number	
	2001	1996
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	130,185	111,245
<b>Urban Total</b>	55,955	46,260
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	74,235	64,985
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>1,550</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>18,775</b>	<b>16,295</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>28,125</b>	<b>24,860</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>22,280</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> Population in Saskatchewan  
by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number											
	English			French			Non-official language <sup>3</sup>			Multiple Response		
	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	912,395	917,065	915,210	4,405	5,380	6,350	37,525	41,390	42,580	8,830	12,780	11,895
<b>Urban Total</b>	534,370	529,650	518,970	2,200	2,530	2,745	14,720	15,900	16,605	4,305	5,545	5,680
<b>Rural/ Small Town Total</b>	376,535	387,415	394,505	2,195	2,850	3,550	22,705	25,490	25,790	4,550	7,235	6,125
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	24,960	24,680	19,660	170	220	55	380	345	385	90	85	145
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	93,210	93,245	103,120	525	885	1,165	4,555	5,950	5,070	850	1,770	1,435
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	178,750	186,070	184,180	1,040	1,095	1,550	8,355	9,485	10,810	2,100	3,065	3,030
<b>No MIZ</b>	79,615	83,415	87,545	460	650	780	9,415	9,710	9,525	1,510	2,315	1,515

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

<sup>1</sup> 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."

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> "Non-official languages" include all languages excluding English and French.

**Appendix Table 8: Population Participating in Labour Force<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan  
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	512,240	503,500	506,295
<b>Urban Total</b>	303,655	293,270	291,265
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	208,585	210,230	214,460
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>14,715</b>	<b>14,040</b>	<b>11,590</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>50,695</b>	<b>50,190</b>	<b>55,485</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>98,890</b>	<b>100,880</b>	<b>101,065</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>44,290</b>	<b>45,130</b>	<b>46,320</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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: Unemployed<sup>1</sup> Labour Force in Saskatchewan  
by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	32,505	36,210	35,820
<b>Urban Total</b>	19,305	22,080	23,410
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	13,195	14,135	12,395
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>735</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>505</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>3,165</b>	<b>3,085</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>5,830</b>	<b>6,645</b>	<b>5,865</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>3,025</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> The Unemployment Rate is based on the ratio of individuals who are currently unemployed to those who are in the labour force.

<sup>2</sup> 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 (NAICS)<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan  
by Geographic Zone**

Geographic Zone	Number						
	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction	Construction	Manufacturing	Production Services <sup>2</sup>	Consumer Services <sup>3</sup>	Government Services <sup>4</sup>
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>5</sup></b>	72,735	14,450	27,235	29,380	114,760	121,955	123,485
<b>Urban Total</b>	9,165	5,535	16,555	20,835	82,515	82,925	81,225
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	63,570	8,915	10,675	8,545	32,255	39,045	42,250
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>2,890</b>	<b>2,830</b>
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	<b>17,245</b>	<b>1,875</b>	<b>2,770</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>7,415</b>	<b>8,875</b>	<b>10,040</b>
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	<b>27,895</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>4,680</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>16,095</b>	<b>19,780</b>	<b>20,170</b>
<b>No MIZ</b>	<b>14,555</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>6,045</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>9,210</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Consumer Services includes retail trade, arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food services, and other services.

<sup>4</sup> Government Provided Services includes educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration.

<sup>5</sup> 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)<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan  
by Geographic Zone**

Geographic Zone	Number													
	Agric., Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting		Mining & Oil & Gas Extraction		Construction		Manufacturing		Production Services <sup>2</sup>		Consumer Services <sup>3</sup>		Government Services <sup>4</sup>	
	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>5</sup></b>	80,560	93,180	12,035	11,995	24,470	25,775	31,235	26,990	99,385	96,645	124,930	121,555	120,825	123,720
<b>Urban Total</b>	10,910	11,960	5,160	5,240	15,525	16,630	22,210	20,175	69,165	69,240	84,740	83,025	78,875	80,860
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	69,655	80,880	6,865	6,560	8,945	8,920	9,030	6,710	30,205	26,380	40,190	37,485	41,940	41,895
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	4,240	4,480	415	275	685	530	680	545	2,215	1,670	2,730	1,970	2,845	1,850
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	18,820	23,245	1,520	1,340	2,415	2,370	1,725	1,410	6,510	6,260	8,465	8,480	9,965	10,710
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	30,595	35,095	3,340	3,170	4,055	4,190	5,025	3,550	15,260	13,030	20,930	19,095	20,240	20,530
<b>No MIZ</b>	15,990	18,060	1,595	1,775	1,790	1,830	1,605	1,205	6,200	5,420	8,065	7,940	8,885	8,805

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

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1980 Standard Industry Classification (SIC) system.

<sup>2</sup> Production Services includes communication and other utilities, wholesale trade, transportation and storage, finance and insurance, real estate operator and insurance agent, and business services.

<sup>3</sup> Consumer Services includes retail trade, accommodation, food and beverage, and other services.

<sup>4</sup> Government Provided Services includes educational services, health and social assistance, and government services.

<sup>5</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> Population in Saskatchewan  
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	93,065	97,525	93,000
<b>Urban Total</b>	32,250	33,735	27,695
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	60,805	63,775	64,335
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>3,975</b>	<b>3,510</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>15,820</b>	<b>16,715</b>	<b>17,965</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>27,610</b>	<b>29,025</b>	<b>28,590</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>13,405</b>	<b>14,065</b>	<b>14,270</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan  
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	144,435	170,450	163,835
<b>Urban Total</b>	94,370	109,070	94,830
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	44,895	61,380	62,860
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>2,840</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>9,990</b>	<b>13,760</b>	<b>15,480</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>25,510</b>	<b>31,545</b>	<b>32,840</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>7,710</b>	<b>13,030</b>	<b>11,700</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan  
By Geographic Zone**

Geographic Zone	Number				
	Less Than High School	High School Diploma	Some Post-Secondary	Post-Secondary Cert./Dip.	University Degree
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	238,445	73,405	96,990	185,450	83,530
<b>Urban Total</b>	112,280	44,190	62,880	113,050	64,070
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	126,170	29,210	34,115	72,395	19,470
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	7,140	2,105	2,345	5,100	1,315
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	30,260	6,770	8,460	17,575	4,785
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	59,495	13,880	16,035	34,890	9,565
<b>No MIZ</b>	29,280	6,455	7,270	14,835	3,800

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

<sup>1</sup> 2001 educational attainment data are provided for the population 20 years of age and over.

<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan  
by Geographic Zone**

Geographic Zone	Number									
	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
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	322,390	337,905	79,555	82,090	80,950	79,285	191,555	175,680	73,685	63,705
<b>Urban Total</b>	153,700	157,390	47,655	48,910	53,875	52,860	116,140	107,570	55,845	48,855
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	168,690	179,175	31,900	32,705	27,075	25,795	75,420	66,980	17,840	14,610
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	9,315	7,450	2,260	1,955	1,900	1,245	4,920	3,625	1,035	635
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	41,025	46,030	7,535	8,760	6,445	6,790	17,650	16,890	4,485	3,885
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	79,420	83,530	14,970	15,070	12,965	12,390	36,970	32,060	9,180	7,160
<b>No MIZ</b>	38,930	42,165	7,130	6,920	5,760	5,370	15,870	14,405	3,135	2,930

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

<sup>1</sup> 1996 and 1991 educational attainment are for individuals 15 years of age and over.

<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan  
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	19,660	19,255	22,775
<b>Urban Total</b>	12,705	11,950	13,810
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	6,950	7,305	8,725
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>485</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>325</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>2,425</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>3,955</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>2,020</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> The number of individuals working in Statistics Canada's occupational classification category of teachers or professors.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Saskatchewan  
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001 <sup>1</sup>	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	42,065	34,930	30,240
<b>Urban Total</b>	27,755	23,925	20,470
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	14,310	11,005	9,465
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>650</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>260</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>2,335</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>6,610</b>	<b>5,265</b>	<b>4,555</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>3,695</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>2,315</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> A minor change in the measurement of lone-parent families in 2001 marginally inflates the percentage in this year.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Saskatchewan by Geographic Zone**

Geographic Zone	Number of Houses		
	1996 - 2001	1991 - 1995	1986 - 1990
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>1</sup></b>	18,060	11,980	23,645
<b>Urban Total</b>	10,480	6,450	15,435
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	7,580	5,530	8,205
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>535</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>560</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,865</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>3,225</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>3,755</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>2,030</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number of Households		
	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	27,100	21,615	15,935
<b>Urban Total</b>	17,820	14,070	10,800
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	4,540	7,545	5,125
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>380</b>
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>1,325</b>
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>2,185</b>
<b>No MIZ</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>1,235</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Medicine or Health Occupations<sup>1</sup> in Saskatchewan by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>2</sup></b>	29,805	26,885	27,640
<b>Urban Total</b>	19,725	17,305	18,180
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	10,085	9,580	9,185
<b><i>Strong MIZ</i></b>	<b>615</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>620</b>
<b><i>Moderate MIZ</i></b>	<b>2,355</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1,995</b>
<b><i>Weak MIZ</i></b>	<b>5,315</b>	<b>5,205</b>	<b>4,770</b>
<b><i>No MIZ</i></b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>1,800</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> The number of individuals working in Statistics Canada's occupational classification category of 'health occupations.'

<sup>2</sup> 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 21: Number Employed in Health Occupational  
Categories in Saskatchewan  
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
<b>Saskatchewan Total<sup>1</sup></b>	4,925	4,130	8,620	9,585	6,970	5,670	9,290	7,510
<b>Urban Total</b>	3,935	3,175	5,745	6,200	4,870	3,965	5,180	3,975
<b>Rural/Small Town Total</b>	995	955	2,875	3,385	2,100	1,715	4,110	3,530
<b>Strong MIZ</b>	50	75	215	265	135	140	210	155
<b>Moderate MIZ</b>	225	160	675	780	500	375	955	775
<b>Weak MIZ</b>	585	620	1,415	1,785	1,155	945	2,160	1,860
<b>No MIZ</b>	135	105	565	530	310	240	795	740

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.