

Canada

Rural New Brunswick Profile:



A Ten-year Census Analysis (1991 - 2001)

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Foreword

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

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

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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 New Brunswick. 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 New Brunswick.

Research Methods

Two major classification systems form the core analysis in this report. First, the Metropolitan Influenced Zone (MIZ) system, developed by McNiven et al. (2000), is utilized to make distinctions within rural and small town New Brunswick. The four MIZ categories are *Strong*, *Moderate*, *Weak*, and *No MIZ*, with each reflecting progressively greater rurality. Second, a basic comparison between urban centres and rural/small town zones is also presented to capture overall differences 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 four degrees of rurality, for rural and small town New Brunswick as a whole, and for its urban centres.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Population Indicators

In 2001, rural and small town residents comprised nearly one-half (47.7%) of the total New Brunswick population. *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones were the most heavily populated of rural zones, comprising 20.0% and 18.6% of the 2001 provincial population, respectively. Between 1996 and 2001, the provincial population declined by 1.2%. While urban New Brunswick experienced a slight increase in population (0.3%), the rural and small town population declined by 2.7% with losses of 3.5, 2.9 and 1.6% in *Moderate*, *Weak* and *Strong MIZ* zones, respectively. Only *No MIZ* zones, which comprised the smallest share of the provincial population in each census year, had a larger population in 2001 than in 1996 (3.0%).

Though New Brunswick's rural population comprises a much larger share of the total population than is the case Canada wide (47.7% compared to 20.6%), the province experienced a more substantial decline in its rural population after 1996 (of 2.7% compared to a 0.4% decline in the nation's rural population).

Compared to urban New Brunswick, 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 more rapidly than did the province's urban population, though the *No MIZ* population aged the least rapidly in the province.

The share of the population that is Aboriginal increases as level of urban integration declines. Aboriginal representation increased in every geographic zone between 1996 and 2001, with the greatest increase occurring in *No MIZ* zones (of 3.8%).

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 New Brunswick. While differences between the urban and rural populations are apparent, there is often greater variation among the four MIZ categories. *Strong MIZ* zones typically stand out as the most advantaged, while *No MIZ* zones consistently rank among the least advantaged zones in the province.

The use of three consecutive census years permits a review of changes over the decade of the 1990s in rural New Brunswick. Most apparent in this over-time review of the indicators is the continuation of the relative disadvantage of rural zones, when compared to urban New Brunswick, and the continuing advantage of *Strong MIZ* zones compared to *No MIZ* zones of the province. The inter-census analyses also reveal that the relative economic prosperity of the late 1990s is not equally apparent across all geographic zones of the province. The perennially disadvantaged *No MIZ* zones, for example, continue to exhibit economic decline on some indicators in the most recent inter-census period. The results thus indicate substantial disparity between the more advantaged urban centres and the less advantaged rural and small town zones, but also indicate a growing disparity between the increasingly favorable socioeconomic experiences of *Strong MIZ* residents and the decreasing position of those residing in *No MIZ* zones.

Examples of these patterns include the following:

Economic Indicators

- The urban labour force participation (LFP) rate exceeded the rural LFP rate in 2001 (65.5% compared to 60.4%). Within rural New Brunswick, a higher LFP rate was observed in *Strong MIZ* than in *No MIZ* zones and while the rate of the former zones increased between 1996 and 2001, the *No MIZ* rate was roughly the same in 2001, as it was ten years earlier.
- Unemployment rates are lowest in urban New Brunswick (9.1%) and highest in *No MIZ* zones (19.7%). While every other geographic zone exhibited a lower unemployment rate in 2001 than ten years earlier, the unemployment rate in *No MIZ* was the same in 2001 as it was in 1991.

- Personal median incomes are much higher in urban than in rural New Brunswick (\$20,665 compared to \$16,742 in 2001). Of the rural and small town zones, the highest incomes are observed in *Strong MIZ* and the lowest in *No MIZ* zones. *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones were the only zones in the province to exhibit a decline in income between 1996 and 2001, and of these two zones, the decline was most pronounced in *No MIZ* zones.
- While the urban and rural incidence of low income is virtually the same (at just 15%), within rural New Brunswick it ranges from a low of 11.8% in *Strong MIZ* zones to a high of 17.6% in *No MIZ* zones. *No MIZ* were the only zones to have higher incidence of low-income in 2001 than in 1991.
- In 2001, the share of income derived from social transfers was more than twice as large in rural New Brunswick than in urban New Brunswick (21.9% compared to 10.4%). *Strong MIZ* residents had the lowest proportion of social transfer income, while *No MIZ* residents had the highest. *No MIZ* were the only zones to have a higher rate of reliance on social transfer income in 2001 than in 1991.

Education Indicators

- A greater proportion of rural than urban residents over 20 years of age had not completed a high school diploma as recently as 2001 (41.9% compared to 27.1%).
- Urban residents are two times more likely than rural residents to have attained a university degree (16.2% compared to 8.1%). *No MIZ* residents are the least likely in the province to have completed high school and to have attained a university degree.
- In 2001 urban New Brunswick had 21.1 education providers per 1,000 population, compared to just 15.8 in rural zones.

Social Indicators

- *Strong MIZ* zones have the lowest percentage of lone parents in rural New Brunswick (12.5%). In contrast, nearly one-in-five *No MIZ* families are of this type (19.6%).
- Dwelling values are consistently higher in urban than in rural zones of the province and are slightly higher in *Strong MIZ* than in *No MIZ* zones.
- *Strong MIZ* housing is the most affordable in the province, with just 12.2% of household owners spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter in 2001.

Health Care Indicators

- In rural and small town New Brunswick resided lower numbers of health care providers per 1,000 population than in urban regions. Within non-metropolitan New Brunswick, in *Strong MIZ* zones resided the highest proportion of health care providers (26.2 per 1,000 population), yet the lowest proportion of health care professionals (e.g., physicians) in the province (1.7 per 1,000 population).

Residents of rural and small town New Brunswick 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 New Brunswick are, however, equally apparent. Despite moderate improvements in the most disadvantaged *No MIZ* zones, residents of these zones continue, as recently as 2001, to experience conditions of disadvantage relative to the rest of New Brunswick. The MIZ classification system consistently demonstrates that resources and support are increasingly needed as social and economic integration with urban regions decreases. *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 New Brunswick. This report benchmarks the major socio-economic structures and trends in rural New Brunswick. The overall objective is to help improve policy with respect to the economic and social conditions found in rural New Brunswick. Similar documents have been prepared profiling the rural conditions in each of Canada's nine other provinces and three territories.

Rural New Brunswick comprises nearly one-half 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 New Brunswick, 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 New Brunswick exhibit variable population, economic, education, social, and health care characteristics.

The analysis presented here divides rural New Brunswick 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 New Brunswick. To understand the social and economic conditions among residents, 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 New Brunswick experience. Still, they are perhaps not as comprehensive as they could be and adding to them will enrich similar profiles in the future.

Statistics Canada Census data were used for the years 1991, 1996, and 2001 to establish evidence of trends within rural and small town population of New Brunswick. 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 New Brunswick as well as within rural and small town zones of New Brunswick. 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 New Brunswick. Section F summarizes the findings and the Appendix contains a series of tables containing the raw numbers to complement the percentages and ratios depicted in the tables and figures within the main body of the text.

Research Methods

Defining “Rural”

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

The Rural and Small Town (RST) definition is used to demarcate between urban and rural populations.¹ Residents of rural New Brunswick 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 New Brunswick 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 economy².
- 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.

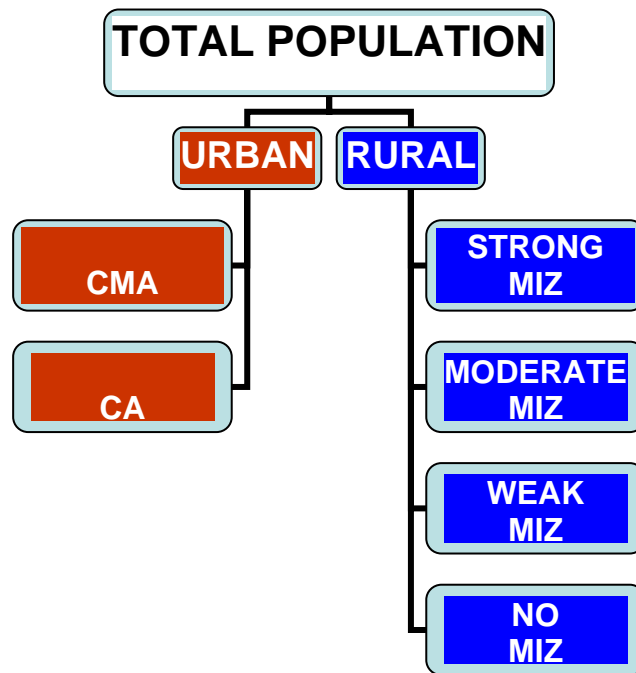
¹ RST is also known as Statistical Area Classification (SAC).

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

3. **Weak MIZ:** More than 0% but less than 5% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any larger urban centre, suggesting that this population is weakly integrated with the urban economy.
4. **No MIZ:** 0% of the employed workforce commutes to the urban core of any larger urban centre (plus any census subdivision that has less than 40 people in its employed labour force), suggesting that this population is not at all integrated with the urban economy.

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

Figure 1: Geographic Zone Model



The MIZ typology is a good proxy for rurality because of its use of commuter flows. These flows are more than just a measure of home to work journeys and access to labour markets since people tend to use services provided in the same regions where they work. Hence, the MIZ classification system is a measure of rural residents' interrelation with urban regions 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 populations 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 New Brunswick residents 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 (housing) values
- 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 by using the population 15 years of age and older in 1991 and 1996 to using the population 20 years of age and older in the 2001 census. As such, level of education is presented for 2001 separately from 1996 and 1991. In instances where a significant change occurred between the 1991 and 1996 census (e.g., Aboriginal identity), data for the earlier year are not presented.

Second, the census data used in this report have been compiled at the Census Subdivision (CSD) level, which is generally equivalent to municipalities. However, the use of CSDs means that this analysis may be affected by area suppression. Designed to protect the confidentiality of individual respondents, area suppression refers to the practice of deleting all characteristic data for 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.³

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

Fourth, the MIZ system, as mentioned, is 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

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

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. Depending on the province, the proportion of Aboriginal people in No MIZ varies between just over 1% and over 67%. Some First 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 (2Hwww.statcan.ca) and click on "Census," then click on "Reference Maps" and then click on "Statistical Area Classification." The exact URL, for English, is
3Hhttp://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ReferenceMaps/n_sac_e.cfm
and for French is
4Hhttp://geodepot.statcan.ca/Diss/Maps/ReferenceMaps/n_sac_f.cfm

For the population count for 1996 and 2001 for the Statistical Area Classification, go to the Statistics Canada website (5Hwww.statcan.ca) and click on "Census," then click on "Data" on the left-hand panel, then click on "Population and Dwelling Counts" and then click on "Statistical Area Classification." The exact URL, for English, is
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 (8Hwww.statcan.ca) and click on "Census," then click on "Data" on the left-hand panel, then click on "Highlight Tables" and then scroll down and click on "Statistical Area Classification" The exact URL, for English, is
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 (11Hwww.statcan.ca) and click on "Census," then click on "Data" on the left-hand panel, then scroll down and click on "Profiles" and then scroll down and click on "Statistical Area Classification". The exact URL in English is
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, residents of rural and small town New Brunswick comprised nearly one-half (47.7%) of the provincial population. *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones were the most populated of the rural zones (comprising 20.0% and 18.6% of the total population, respectively), followed by *Strong MIZ* (6.9%) and *No MIZ* (2.3%) zones.
- After increasing by 1.3% between 1991 and 1996, the rural population declined by 2.7% in the subsequent inter-census period. The greatest population loss during this period occurred in *Moderate* MIZ zones (3.5%), followed by *Weak* (2.9%) and *Strong MIZ* zones (1.6%). The population of New Brunswick's *No MIZ* zones, however, increased by 3.0%.

A.2 New Brunswick - Canada Population Comparison

- New Brunswick has a proportionally larger rural population than does Canada (47.7% compared to 20.6%). Most of this difference can be attributed to the much larger proportions of *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* residents in New Brunswick than in Canada.
- Between 1996 and 2001, the New Brunswick rural population declined to a greater extent than did the Canadian rural population (2.7% compared to 0.4%).

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 provincial population increased between 1991 and 2001, with the age of the rural and small town population increasing more rapidly than the urban population. The *No MIZ* population, however, aged the least rapidly in the province during this period.

A.4 Population Gender Structure

- Rural New Brunswick has a higher proportion of men than urban New Brunswick (with 5.9 more men per 100 women). In 2001, the male-to-female ratio was the highest in *Strong MIZ* zones with 103.3 men per 100 women.

A.5 Aboriginal Identity Population

- Aboriginal representation increases as metropolitan influence decreases, with *No MIZ* zones having by far the largest proportion of Aboriginal individuals (15.5% compared to 3.3% for rural and small town total). Between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of Aboriginal people increased in all of New Brunswick's geographic zones, but most significantly in *No MIZ* zones (by 3.8%).

A.6 Home Language

- In 2001, one-in-five urbanites spoke French most often at home, compared to 40.4% of rural and small town residents. *No MIZ* residents, however, were the least likely in the province to speak French at home (12.3%).

Summary

Following a period of population growth between 1991 and 1996, the rural population of New Brunswick declined between 1996 and 2001. Within rural and small town New Brunswick, population contraction occurred in every zone with the exception of *No MIZ* zones, which grew by 3.0%. Reasons for the different rates of population change within rural New Brunswick in the latter inter-census period may include an increasing Aboriginal population in *No MIZ* zones, and migration from *Strong*, *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones to the province's urban centres.

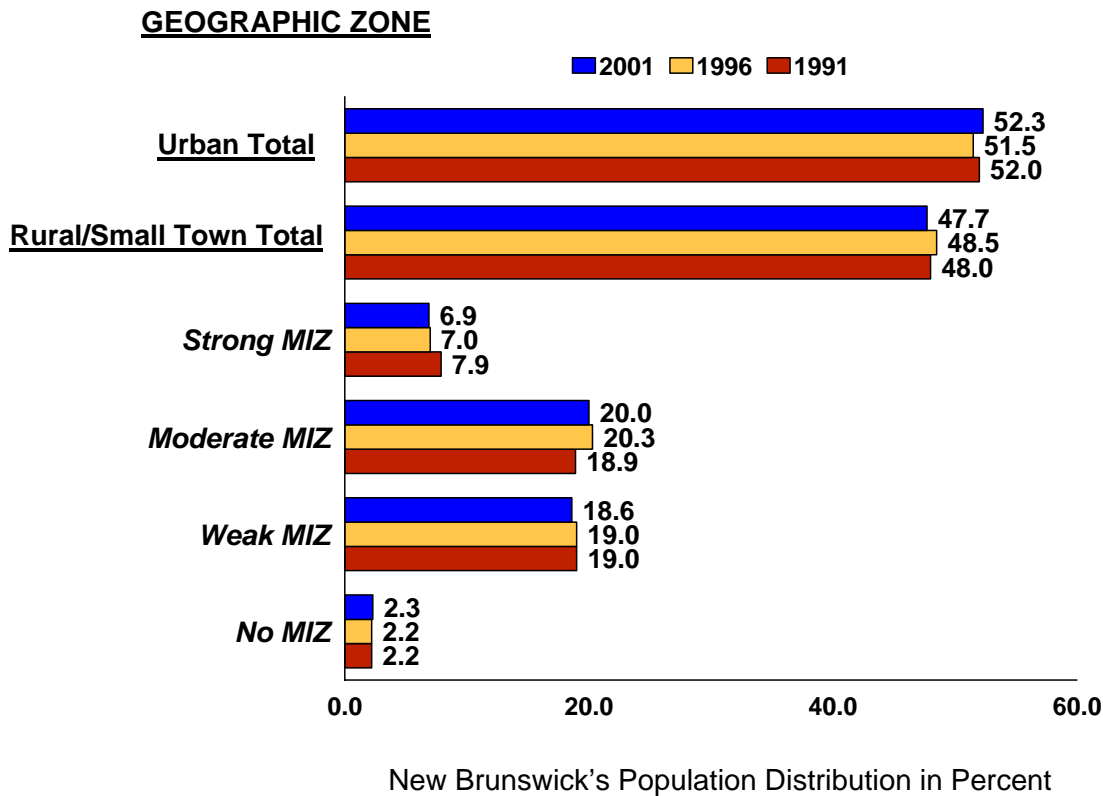
A.1 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND CHANGE

Following a period of population growth in the early 1990s, the rural and small town population of New Brunswick declined between 1996 and 2001 while urban growth continued.

We begin our examination of population by first looking at the proportion of New Brunswick'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 New Brunswick accounted for 47.7% of the total population in 2001 (348,329 of the 729,498 inhabitants of New Brunswick resided in a rural region or a small town – see Appendix Table 1). *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones were the most heavily populated of the rural zones in 2001 (20% and 18.6%, respectively).

Though the share of the provincial population residing in a small town or a rural region remained relatively stable over time, *Strong* and *Weak MIZ* zones were home to a smaller share of the provincial population in 2001 than in 1991, while a slightly larger share resided in *Moderate MIZ* zones in 2001 than was the case ten years earlier. The share of the population residing in *No MIZ* zones did not change over the course of the decade, remaining at just over 2%.

Figure 2: Rural New Brunswick Comprises Nearly One-Half of the Total Population



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.⁴

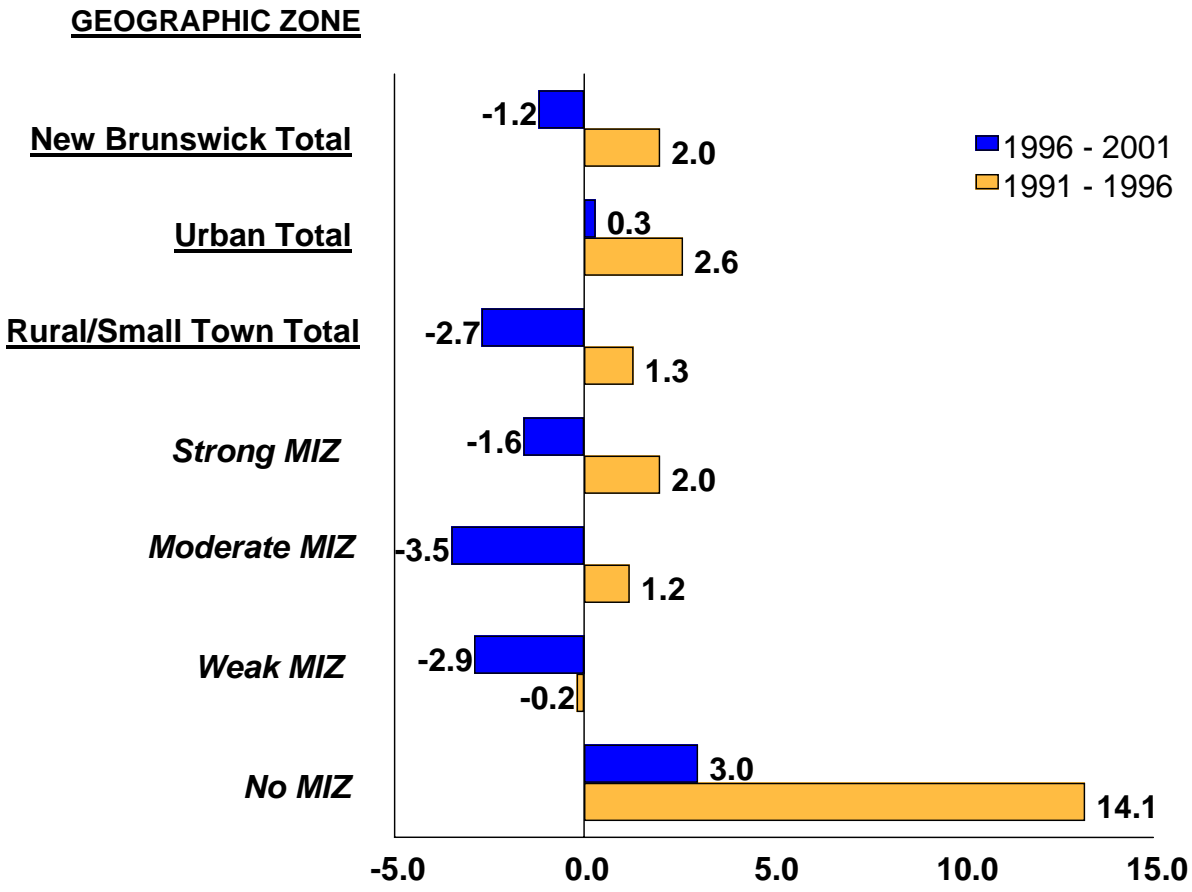
Provincially, population growth of 2.0% occurred between 1991 and 1996, while in the latter half of the 1990s, the population contracted by 1.2%.

Population growth occurred in most geographic zones between 1991 and 1996. Urban growth was slightly higher than rural and small town population growth (2.6 compared to 1.3%), though the population growth in *No MIZ* zones was the largest in the province (14.1). In the subsequent five-year period, the rural and small town population fell by 2.7%, while the urban population remained stable (0.3%). The largest population decline occurred in *Moderate MIZ* zones (of 3.5%), followed by *Weak* (2.9%) and *Strong*

⁴ 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 (1.6%) zones. No MIZ population growth continued after 1996, though by only 3.0% compared to the growth of 14.1% five years earlier.

Figure 3: Following a Period of Growth, Most MIZ Zones Exhibit Population Decline Between 1996 and 2001



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

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

A.2 NEW BRUNSWICK – CANADA POPULATION COMPARISON

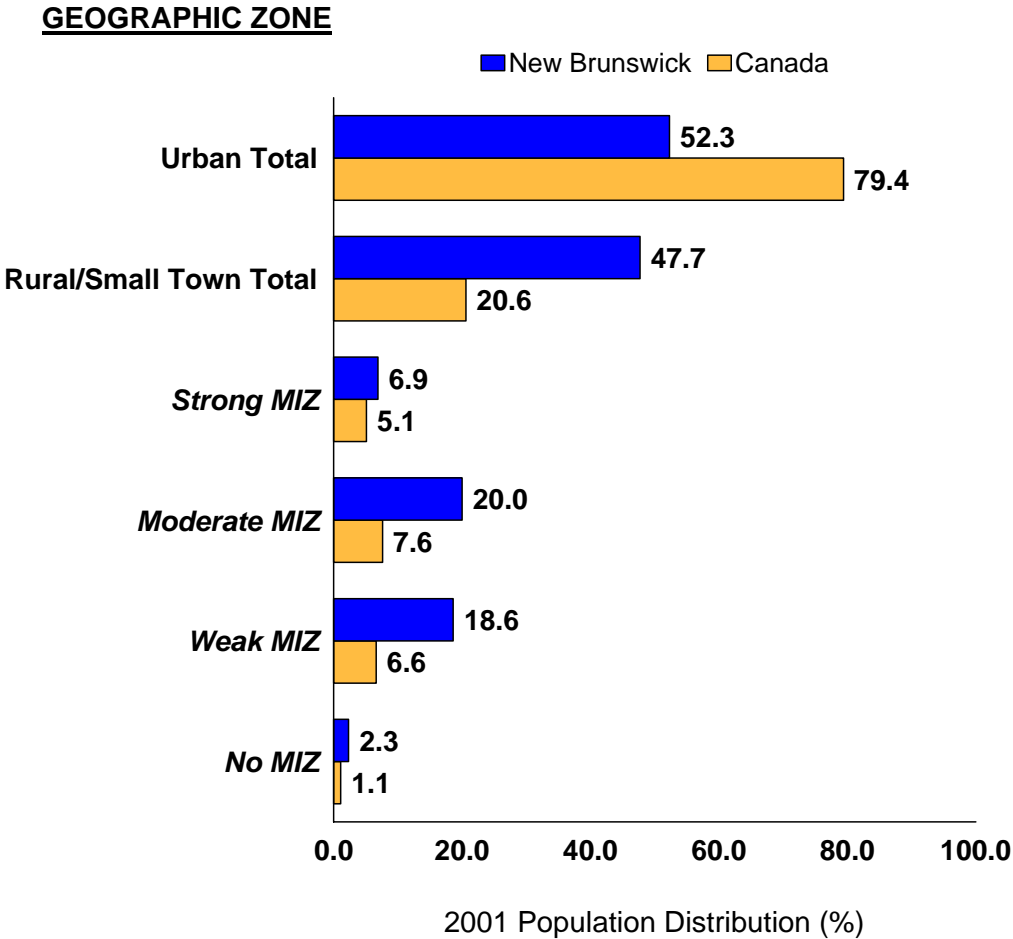
Compared to Canada, New Brunswick has a much larger share of its population residing in rural and small town zones and, in the most recent inter-census period, its rural population declined at a greater rate.

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

Compared to Canada as a whole, New Brunswick has a much larger rural population (47.7% compared to 20.6%). Put another way, while urban New Brunswick comprised 1.6% of the total Canadian urban population, rural New Brunswick contributed 5.6% to the Canadian rural population (see Appendix Table 3). New Brunswick has, in fact, the fourth largest proportion of its population residing in rural and small town zones in Canada, with only Newfoundland, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut having larger rural proportions (Appendix Table 2).

With few exceptions, the distribution of the population within rural and small town zones across Canada follows a pattern whereby the smallest proportion of the population is located in *No MIZ* and *Strong MIZ* zones. New Brunswick follows this trend as well, with only 2.3% of the provincial population residing in *No MIZ* and 6.9% in *Strong MIZ* zones in 2001. Clearly, however, the larger rural proportional population in New Brunswick is mostly a function of the much greater share of the total population residing in *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones of the province than in the country.

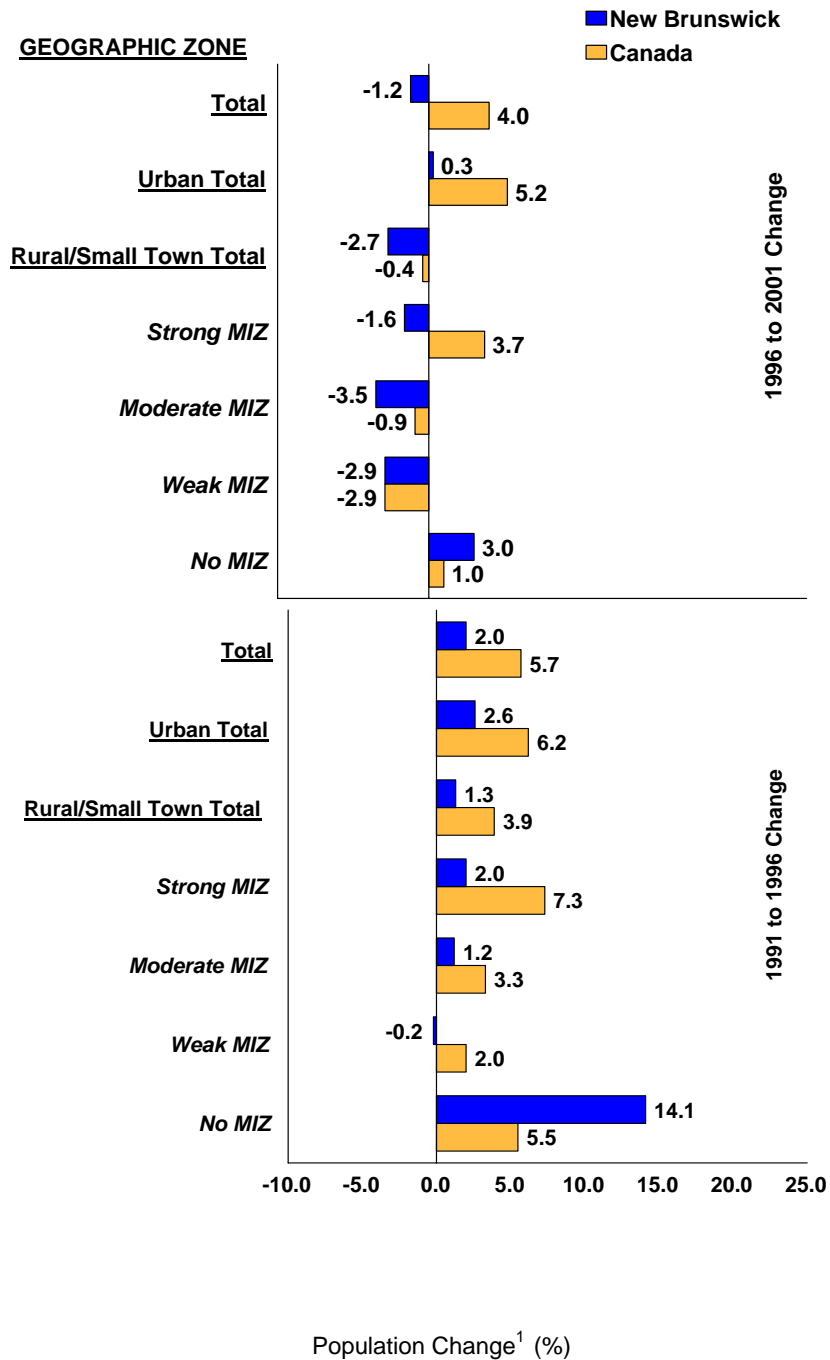
Figure 4: New Brunswick has a Proportionally Larger Rural Population than does Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

Using standardized boundaries, Figure 5 highlights the New Brunswick – 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). The figure demonstrates that compared to the nation, New Brunswick exhibited much weaker population growth in the early 1990s in all but *No MIZ* zones, where the population increased by 14.1% (compared to growth of 5.5% nationally).

Figure 5: New Brunswick's Rural Population Declined at a Much Higher Rate than did the Canadian Rural Population



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

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

Even greater disparity between New Brunswick's population change and that of the nation is observed after 1996. The national population grew by 4.0% between 1996 and 2001, while the population of New Brunswick declined by 1.2%. Canada exhibited much larger urban population growth than did New Brunswick (5.2% compared to 0.3%), and smaller rural and small town population contraction (of 0.4% compared to 2.7%). Much of the disparity in population losses between rural New Brunswick and the country as a whole can be attributed to the larger loss occurring in the heavily populated *Moderate MIZ* zones of the province (of 3.5% compared to 0.9% nationally). Though *Strong MIZ* zones comprise a much smaller share of the rural population (15%) and therefore do not as heavily influence the total rural New Brunswick population contraction as do *Moderate MIZ* zones (which comprise 42% of the rural population), the provincial/national difference in population change in the *Strong MIZ* zone is also noteworthy (contracting by 1.6 points in the province compared to a growth rate of 3.7 points in the nation).

A.3 POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE AND GLOBAL DEPENDENCY RATIO

The rural New Brunswick population has a different 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. Compared to urban New Brunswick, rural zones have a different age structure with slightly higher proportions falling within the lowest and the highest age categories. While 18.3% of rural residents were children in 2001, 17.9% of the urban population was within the same age category. And, while 13.4% of rural New Brunswick residents were seniors, 12.4% of urbanites were of the same age in 2001.

Table 1: Compared to Urbanites, Rural Residents are Slightly More Likely to be Children and Seniors

Population Age Percent Distribution; 2001

Geographic Zone	Total	Children (0-14 years)	Youth (15-24 years)	Young Adults (25-44 years)	Adults (45-64 years)	Seniors (65 years +)
New Brunswick Total	100.0	18.1	13.5	29.9	25.6	12.9
Urban Total	100.0	17.9	13.9	30.4	25.3	12.4
Rural/Small Town Total	100.0	18.3	13.0	29.4	25.9	13.4
Strong MIZ	100.0	18.2	12.5	30.1	27.0	12.2
Moderate MIZ	100.0	18.0	12.8	29.1	26.2	13.9
Weak MIZ	100.0	18.2	13.4	29.4	25.5	13.4
No MIZ	100.0	21.7	12.8	30.1	23.2	12.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

Table 2 presents the 1991 to 2001 age distribution percentage change for each age category and each geographic zone of the province. The table demonstrates that the New Brunswick population as a whole is aging. Between 1991 and 2001, the combined proportion of adults and seniors in the province increased by 7.7 percentage points. In contrast, we observe a decrease in the proportion of the population that are children, youth, and young adults during the same time period (of 7.7 percentage points).

Although an aging trend is also observed for both the urban and rural populations, the rate of aging is greater within rural New Brunswick. The rural and small town population underwent an 8.4 percentage point reduction in the proportion of children, youth, and young adults (compared to 7% in urban areas) and a corresponding 8.6 percentage point increase in the proportion of adults and seniors (compared to 6.9% in urban areas).

Table 2: The Population is Aging in all Geographic Zones of New Brunswick

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
New Brunswick Total	-2.8	-1.7	-1.1	-1.8	-1.0	-0.8	-3.1	-2.2	-0.9	7.0	3.9	3.1	0.7	1.0	-0.3
Urban Total	-2.3	-1.5	-0.8	-1.4	-0.6	-0.8	-3.3	-2.1	-1.2	6.4	3.4	3.0	0.5	0.7	-0.2
Rural/ Small Town Total	-3.3	-2.0	-1.3	-2.3	-1.4	-0.9	-2.8	-2.3	-0.5	7.6	4.4	3.2	1.0	1.2	-0.2
Strong MIZ	-3.0	-2.3	-0.7	-1.7	-1.2	-0.5	-2.7	-2.2	-0.5	7.6	4.7	2.9	0.0	1.0	-1.0
Moderate MIZ	-3.4	-2.1	-1.3	-2.7	-1.2	-1.5	-3.0	-2.5	-0.5	7.6	4.5	3.1	1.5	1.3	0.2
Weak MIZ	-3.9	-2.0	-1.9	-2.1	-1.5	-0.6	-2.8	-2.2	-0.4	7.9	4.5	3.4	0.9	1.1	-0.2
No MIZ	-0.4	0.3	-0.7	-2.7	-2.8	-0.1	-1.3	-0.2	-1.1	5.1	2.5	2.6	-0.7	0.5	-1.2

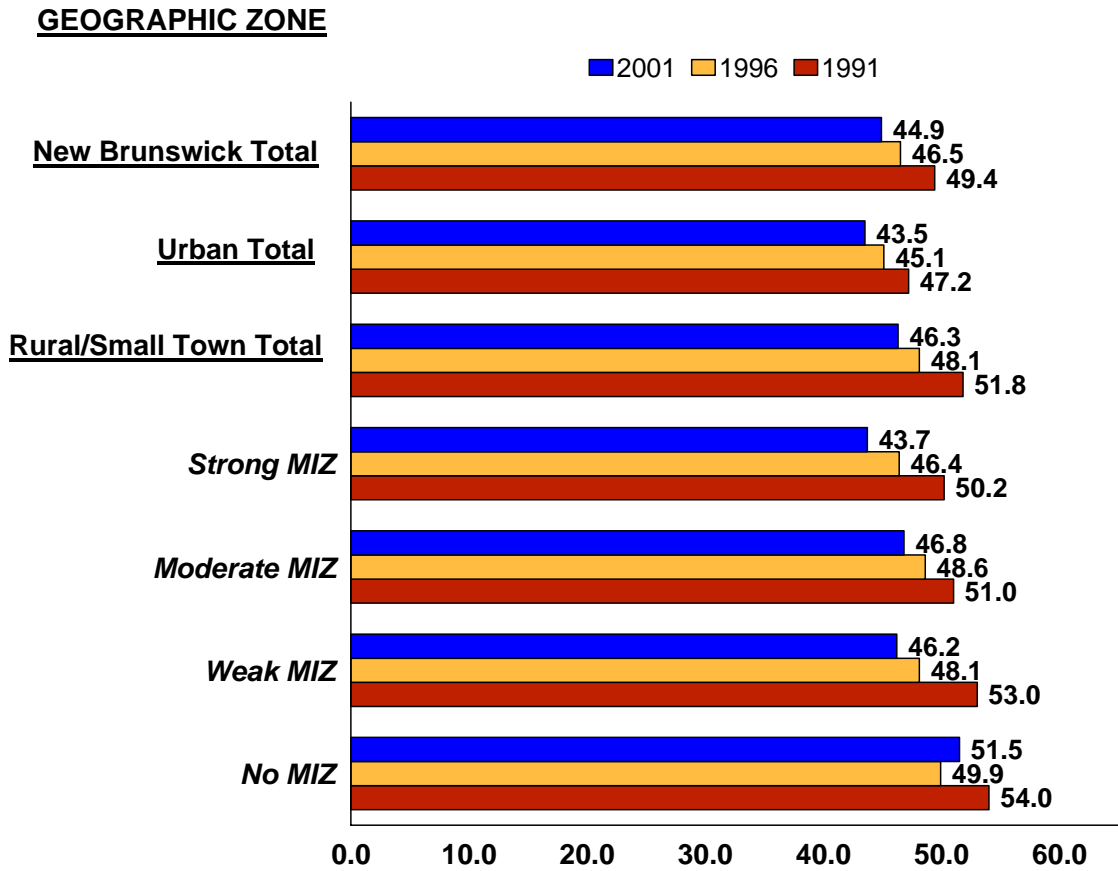
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991

Within rural New Brunswick, the greatest aging trend is observed in *Moderate MIZ* zones, where the age distribution shifted from the child/youth/young adult population to the adult/senior population by 9.1 percentage points. By comparison, *No MIZ* zones, which have the youngest age profile, aged the least rapidly in the province (shifting from the child/youth/young adult population to the adult/senior population by only 4.4 percentage points). Thus, while the population is aging more rapidly in rural than in urban New Brunswick, a great deal of variation is observed in the rates of aging among rural zones.

Since residents of rural New Brunswick 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 residents have a higher global dependency ratio (Figure 6). This ratio measures the proportion of children (aged 0 to 14 years) and seniors (aged 65 years and over) to the working population (aged 15 to 64). In 2001, there were 43.5 children and seniors per 100 urban adults, compared to 46.3 for every 100 rural and small town adults. *No MIZ* zones had the largest dependency ratio at 51.5 dependents per 100 adults. With more dependents to care for, rural and small town adults, and especially *No MIZ* adults, have a greater relative need for services targeted to seniors, children, and families.

Figure 6 also depicts a 1991 to 2001 declining dependency ratio in all geographic zones of the province, reflecting a simultaneous decline in the proportion of the child population during this period (Table 2).

Figure 6: The Rural Population Has a Higher Dependency Ratio than the Urban Population of New Brunswick



Global Dependency Ratio¹: Number of Children and Seniors per 100 Adults

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

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

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 New Brunswick suggests that seniors-related services are in greater relative demand in these zones of the province. Initiatives such as community-based health services and long-term care facilities will have to maintain sufficient capacity to address the demand. This demand is especially applicable to *Moderate MIZ* zones, which not only have the largest proportion of seniors but one that is growing at the fastest rate 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 centres of the province. This need is most intense in *No MIZ* zones, which have the largest proportional child population in the province. Since *No MIZ* residents are also the least likely to be adults (Table 1) and have a comparatively low labour force participation rate (Figure 10), they are 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.

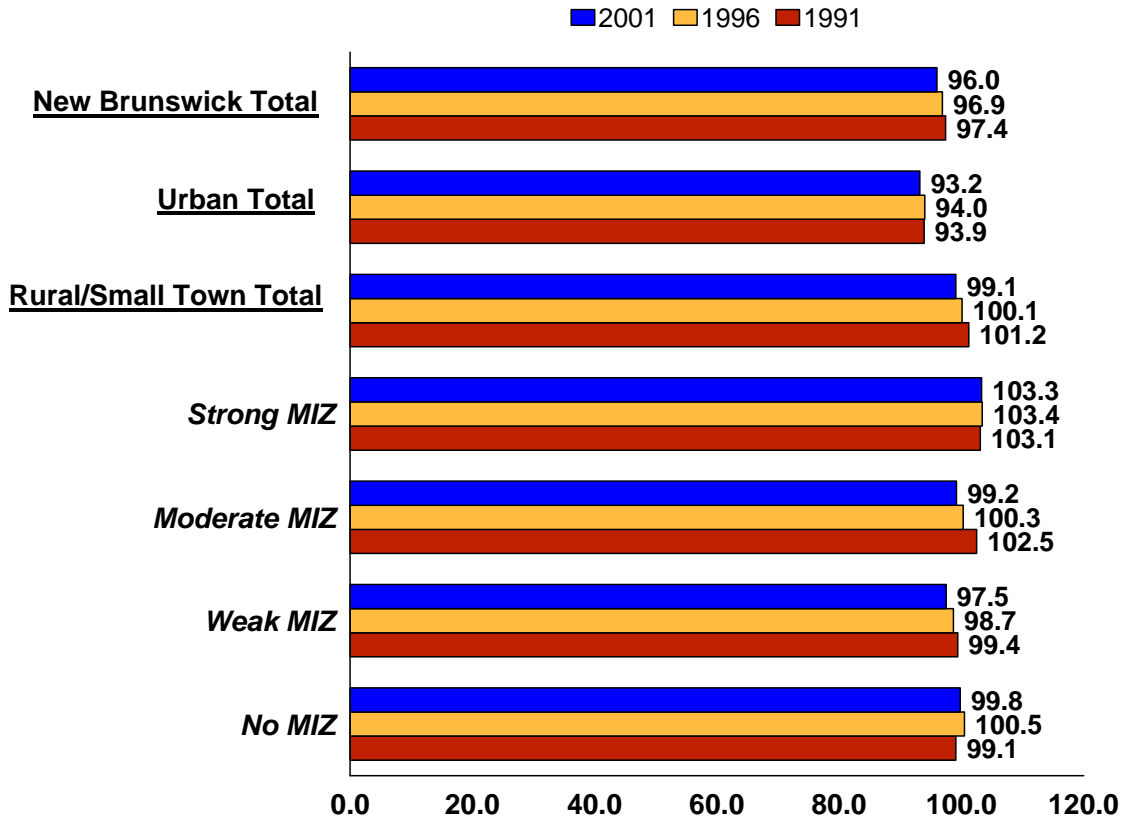
A.4 POPULATION GENDER STRUCTURE

The male-to-female ratio is higher in rural than in urban New Brunswick.

Figure 7 illustrates that the province of New Brunswick has a lower proportion of males than females. A lower ratio is found in urban than in rural New Brunswick, with 93.2 compared to 99.1 men per 100 women. The largest male-to-female ratio is found in *Strong MIZ* zones of the province (103.3 men per 100 women in 2001). The figure also demonstrates that male representation decreased slightly between 1991 and 2001 in all but *Strong* and *No MIZ* zones of the province.

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

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



Gender Ratio: Number of Men per 100 Women in New Brunswick

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

A.5 ABORIGINAL IDENTITY POPULATION⁵

Within rural New Brunswick, Aboriginal representation increases as integration with urban centres declines, with *No MIZ* having by far the largest and most rapidly expanding proportion of Aboriginal citizens.

The Aboriginal population in Canada has experienced significantly greater growth than the general population. In fact, the Aboriginal population is growing at a rate of almost twice that of the Canadian population (Corporate Information Management Directorate, 2000). Further, the Registered Indian population of the Atlantic provinces is projected to grow by 25% between 2000 and 2021 (Indian and Northern Affairs, 2000). Individuals with this ethnic background have specific needs with respect to government services and the demand for these services will likely intensify as the population grows (Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission, 1999).

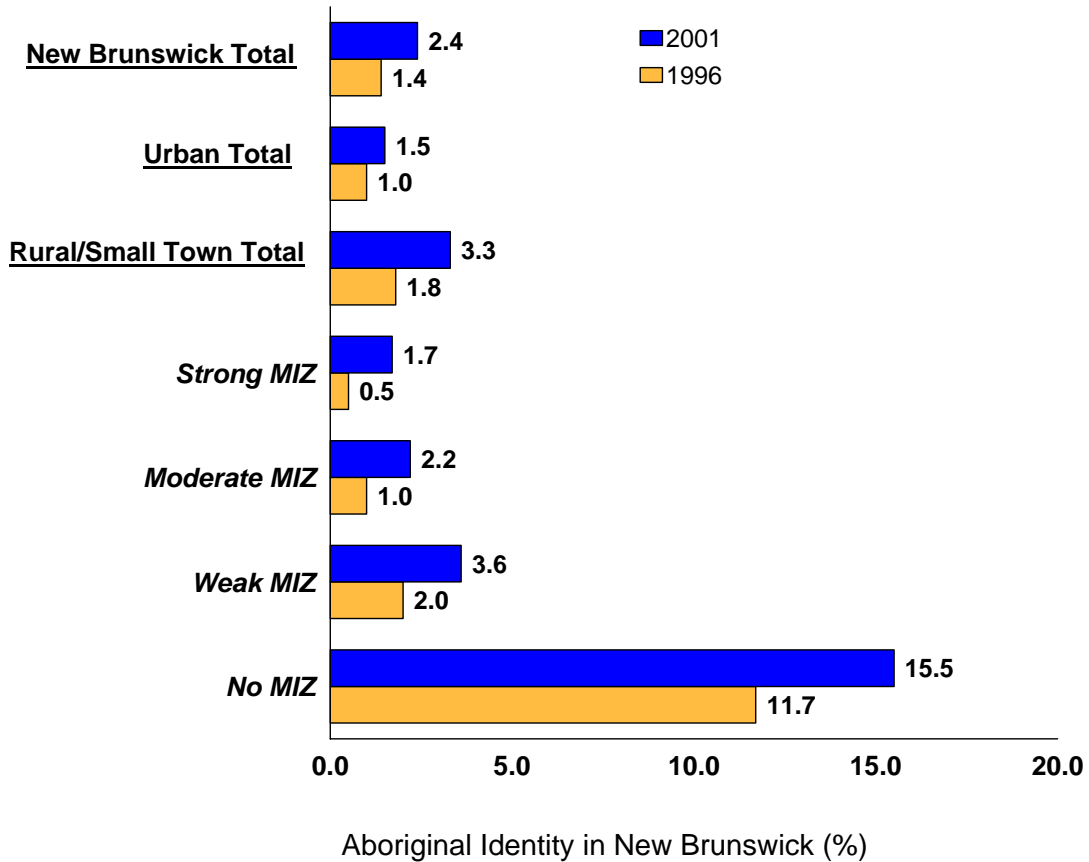
Twice as many Aboriginal individuals resided in New Brunswick's rural zones than in urban centres of the province in 2001 (11,395 compared to 5,595 – see Appendix Table 6). The proportion of the rural population comprised of Aboriginal individuals was also higher, at 3.3% compared to 1.5% of the urban population in 2001 (Figure 8).

Aboriginal representation varies considerably among the four MIZ geographic zones. Independent of census year, it is apparent that the less integrated the zone is with urban centres, the more likely it is to have Aboriginal individuals residing in the community. Though *Weak MIZ* zones had the largest absolute number of Aboriginal individuals in 2001 (4,875), *No MIZ* zones had by far the largest proportion of their population being Aboriginal, with 15.5% of the 16,617 residents in these zones self-identifying as Aboriginal (Appendix Table 6).

⁵ 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).

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

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



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

Figure 9 indicates that, between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of Aboriginal individuals in the province increased by 1.0 percentage point (from 1.4% to 2.4%), with increases occurring in all geographic zones.⁶ The percentage of Aboriginal representation in rural zones was more than double that of urban centres in 2001, and it increased at a greater rate between 1996 and 2001 (of 1.5 compared to 0.5 percentage points; Figure 8).⁷

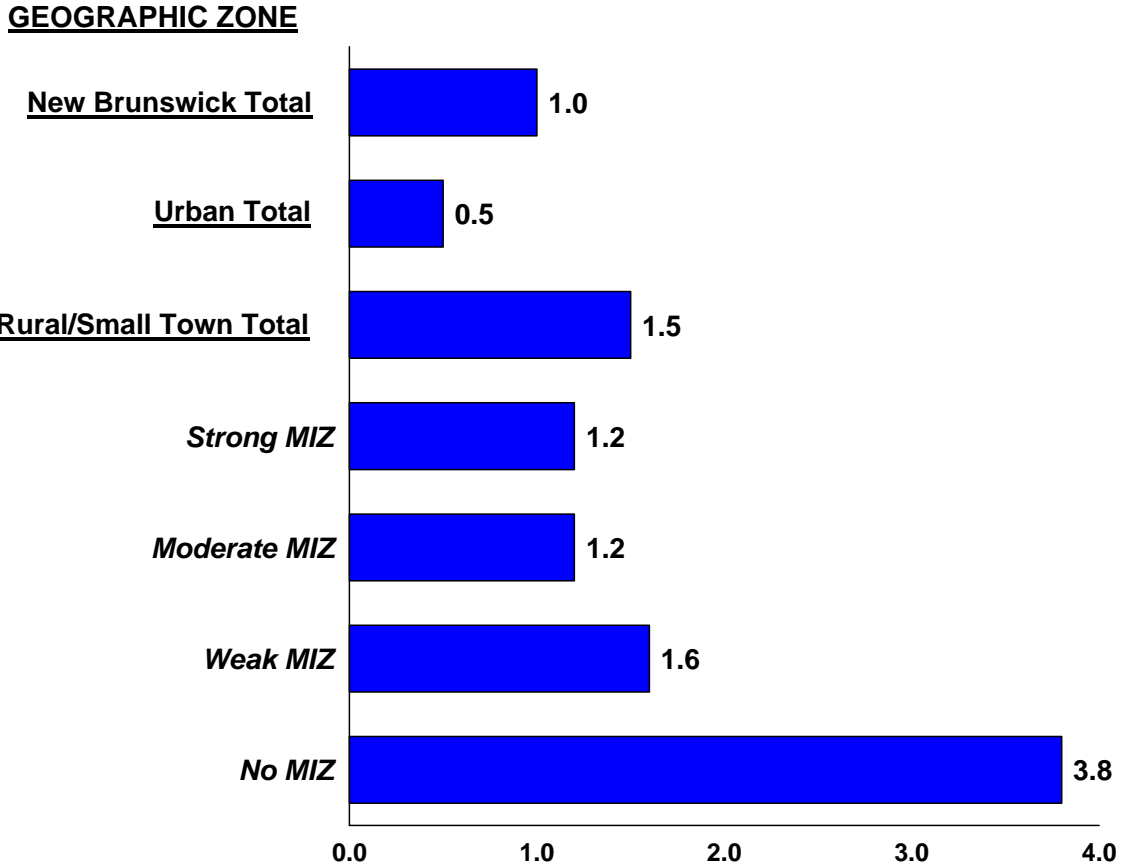
⁶ Aboriginal identity is not presented for 1991 because of significant differences in the definition in this year.

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

Figure 9 also shows that of the geographic zones, *No MIZ* underwent the largest proportional increase in Aboriginal representation between 1996 and 2001 (of 3.8 percentage points). Though *Weak MIZ* zones experienced a proportional increase in their Aboriginal population below that of their *No MIZ* counterparts (only 1.6 compared to 3.8 percentage points), the numerical increase of Aboriginal people in *Weak MIZ* zones was nearly four times higher than in *No MIZ* zones (2,095 compared to 690; Appendix Table 6).

By comparison, Aboriginal representation in *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones was much smaller and increased by only 1.2 percentage points in each zone between 1996 and 2001. Hence, it appears that Aboriginal representation is not only greater in zones with the least urban-influence, but that this is progressively the case over time.

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



1996 to 2001 Percentage Point Change in the Share of the Population that is Aboriginal Within Each Geographic Zone in New Brunswick

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 New Brunswick. Home language can also be used as a proxy for ethnicity. Table 3 presents the proportion of New Brunswick residents 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.

Four notable observations can be made from the data presented in Table 3. First, a larger proportion of urban than rural residents spoke English most often at home (78.1% compared to 58.2% in 2001). *No MIZ* zones were the exception, with 85.6% of residents speaking English most often at home.

Second, nearly one-half of *Weak MIZ* residents spoke French most often at home (48.9% in 2001), compared to just one-in-five urbanites. *Strong MIZ* zones also had a high proportion of French-speaking residents (43.9%), while *No MIZ* zones had the lowest proportion in the province (12.3%).

Third, *No MIZ* residents were the most likely in New Brunswick to speak a non-official language (1.5% compared to 0.7% of the provincial population), perhaps reflecting the higher proportion of Aboriginal individuals in *No MIZ* zones and the propensity for Aboriginal populations to speak non-official languages. Nonetheless, non-official languages are very uncommon in all geographic zones, with between 0.2% and 1.5% speaking a non-official language most often at home.

Table 3: Rural Residents are Two Times as Likely as Urbanites to Speak French Most Often at Home

Home Language¹ Percent Distribution, 2001, 1996, and 1991

Geographic Zone	English			French			Non-official language ²			Multiple Response		
	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total	68.6	68.4	67.8	29.9	30.1	30.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.8
Urban Total	78.1	78.5	78.3	20.3	19.8	20.1	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.9
Rural/ Small Town Total	58.2	57.5	56.8	40.4	41.0	41.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.7
Strong MIZ	54.9	53.8	47.3	43.9	45.1	51.7	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.9	0.9
Moderate MIZ	59.8	59.4	59.7	39.2	39.4	39.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.9	0.8
Weak MIZ	49.5	54.9	55.8	48.9	43.3	42.5	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.6
No MIZ	85.6	75.2	76.8	12.3	22.0	22.7	1.5	1.8	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.3

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

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

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

Finally, the urban data reveal remarkable over-time stability in each of the four language categories. The rural and small town data exhibit overall stability in the proportion of the population speaking a non-official language, but there are notable fluctuations in the proportions speaking English and French over time in some rural zones. Between 1991 and 2001, for instance, the proportion of the *Strong MIZ* population speaking English increased from 47.3% to 54.9%. A similar increase is observed in *No MIZ* zones (from 76.8% in 1991 to 85.6% in 2001). In both zones, these increases were accompanied by decreases in the proportion of the populations speaking French most often at home. *Weak MIZ* zones exhibit the reverse trend, with greater proportions speaking French and smaller proportions speaking English in 2001 than ten years earlier. Finally, the proportion speaking each of the four language categories in *Moderate MIZ* zones is much more stable over time.

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. Population growth occurred in most geographic zones of New Brunswick between 1991 and 1996. Between 1996 and 2001, however, population change occurred at more variable rates between the zones. Our focus in this summary, therefore, is on explaining why the population decreased in *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones more substantially than in *Strong MIZ* zones during the most recent inter-census period and why *No MIZ* zones continued to exhibit population growth.

Strong, *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones experienced population contraction in the most recent inter-census period, as did urban zones. Between 1996 and 2001, much of the total province's population losses were due to inter-provincial migration, with the largest proportions moving from New Brunswick to Ontario, followed by Alberta and Quebec (Statistics Canada, 2002a). While Canadians also migrated into New Brunswick, inter-provincial migration patterns indicate that migrants are most likely to relocate to an urban centre, as opposed to a small town or rural region (Statistics Canada, 2002a). Rural zones of New Brunswick were therefore less likely to have benefited from this in-migration than were the province's urban centres.

These inter- and intra-provincial migration patterns, combined with the relatively weak economic profile of rural New Brunswick (see Section B), suggest that the population losses occurring in New Brunswick's rural zones are most likely attributable to residents leaving the rural regions in search of more promising economic and labour market opportunities, both in the province's urban centres and in other provinces of Canada. 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 also speculate that many young residents of rural New Brunswick relocated to one of the province's city centres, perhaps to fill the growing number of jobs in the service industry (Tables 4 and 5). Finally, the smaller population loss in *Strong MIZ* zones than in *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones might be explained by the much healthier economy in the former zones of the province (Section B).

The population growth observed in *No MIZ* zones in each inter-census period is somewhat surprising, given that these zones consistently exhibit the least favorable economic conditions in the province and the least improvement over time. Population increase in these zones may therefore be due, in large part, to growth in the Aboriginal population. Since we do not observe decreases in the Aboriginal population within any other geographic zones of the province, we can assume that much of the 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 *No MIZ* zones. Though the number of Aboriginal people residing in urban centres is also significant, proportionally speaking, these population trends intensify the demand on children's services in remote regions of New Brunswick, particularly on Indian reserves. Programs such as Aboriginal Head Start and First Nations and Inuit Child Care are in high need especially within *No MIZ* zones, but they are also increasing in demand within *Weak MIZ* zones of the province (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. In addition, as the *No MIZ* population matures and enters the labour force, there may be increased demand for employment and associated services. 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 working age individuals (20 - 64 years of age) increases. 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 New Brunswick highlight the importance of examining the rural sector as a heterogeneous entity. The population decrease in rural New Brunswick masks rural variation in population change 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 lower in rural than in urban New Brunswick. In 2001, *Moderate MIZ* zones had the lowest LFP rate in the province (59.5%).
- In 2001, unemployment rates were substantially higher in all rural zones than in urban regions of the province. The unemployment rate in *No MIZ* zones was more than double the urban rate (19.7% compared to 9.1%).
- Both the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system for the 1991 and 1996 Censuses and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for the 2001 Census reveal that rural and small town residents dominate employment in primary and secondary industries while urbanites are more strongly represented in service industries.
- A slightly greater percentage of rural and small town residents than urbanites were self-employed in 2001 (9.3% compared to 7.9%).

B.2 Income

- Median personal incomes are substantially lower in rural than in urban New Brunswick with *No MIZ* zones exhibiting the lowest median income values in each census year.
- Between 1996 and 2001, median incomes increased in urban and *Strong MIZ* zones but declined in *No MIZ* zones.
- While the urban and rural incidence of low income is virtually the same (at just 15%), within rural New Brunswick it ranges from a low of 11.8% in *Strong MIZ* zones to a high of 17.6% in *No MIZ* zones of the province.
- In all three census years, residents of rural and small town New Brunswick garnered a larger proportion of their income from social transfer payments than did urban citizens. *No MIZ* residents were the most likely in the province to rely on this form of income in 2001 (23.8%).

Summary

These indicators demonstrate the relative economic disadvantage of rural zones of New Brunswick, but they also reveal the relative advantage of *Strong MIZ* compared to *No MIZ* zones. And while the inter-census analyses reveal some indication of improvement since 1996, comparisons across rural zones indicate that zones with the least metropolitan influence are also the least likely to have benefited from a more robust post-1996 economy. In all, the analyses of the indicators over time and among rural zones affirm the economic heterogeneity of rural New Brunswick.

B.1 LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

B.1.1 Labour Force Participation and Unemployment Rates⁸

Labour force participation rates are higher and unemployment rates lower in urban than in rural New Brunswick. Within rural zones, *Strong MIZ* zones have the highest labour force participation and lowest unemployment rates.

In 2001, the New Brunswick labour force had 371,805 members (Appendix Table 8) for a labour force participation (LFP) rate of 63.1% (Figure 10). The urban LFP rate was higher than the rural rate (65.5% compared to 60.4%) and within rural zones, *Strong MIZ* zones had the highest LFP rate (at 62.4%), and *Moderate MIZ* zones had the lowest (59.5%).

LFP rates in New Brunswick changed little between 1991 and 2001. In most geographic zones, declining LFP rates in the first half of the decade was followed by slight increases in the following five-year period. Overall, Figure 10 reveals only slight differences in LFP rates between the geographic zones and very little over-time change.

Figure 11, in contrast, shows a great deal of variation in unemployment rates both between geographic zones of the province and across time. Perhaps most notable are the high rural unemployment rates in each census year compared to those of urban New Brunswick. In 2001, for instance, the rural unemployment rate was 16.6% compared to a rate of 9.1% in urban regions. Unemployment rates in all rural zones were substantially higher than the urban rate, ranging from a low of 15.2% in *Strong MIZ* zones to a high of 19.7% in *No MIZ* zones in 2001.

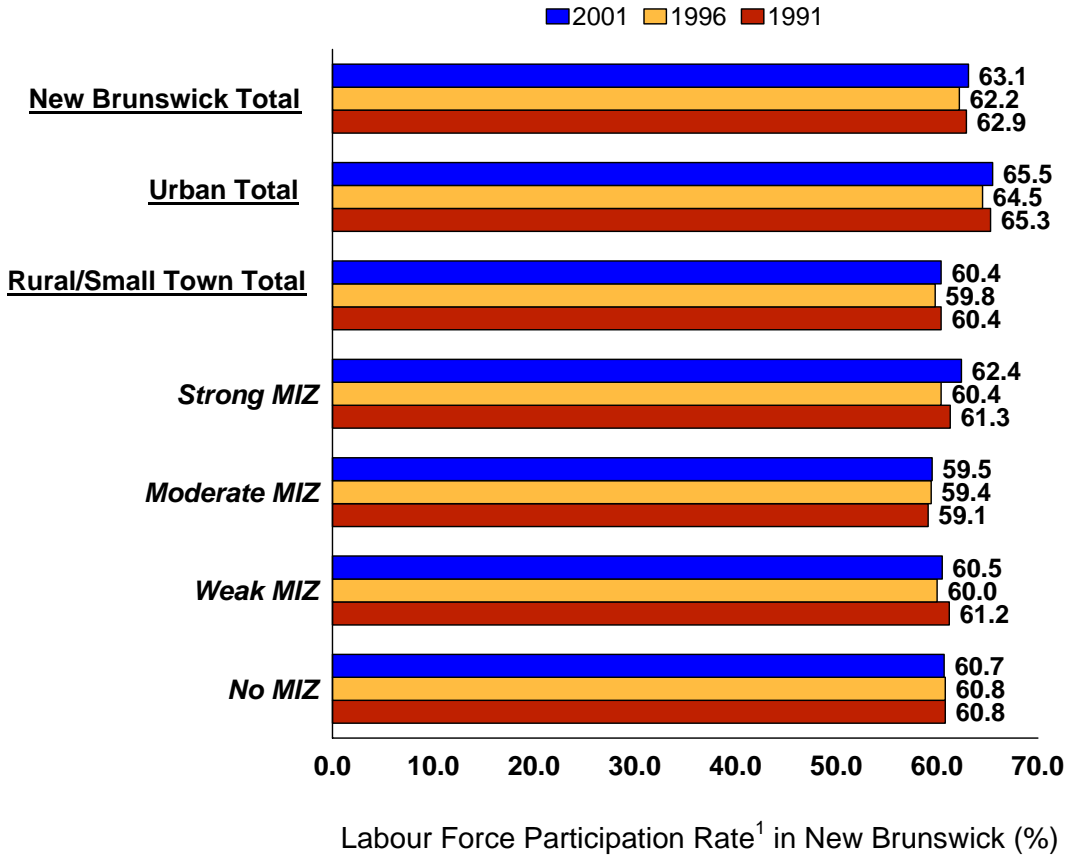
Despite increasing unemployment rates in most zones between 1991 and 1996, the 2001 rates are lower than they were in 1991 in all but one geographic zone of the province. The 2001 unemployment rate in *No MIZ* zones matches the 1991 rate of 19.7%. With a decrease of 3.7% between 1991 and 2001, *Strong MIZ* zones exhibited the largest drop in unemployment rates throughout the province.

Overall, although LFP rates in most zones changed very little over time, unemployment rates decreased somewhat significantly between 1996 and 2001, suggesting a post-1996 strengthening of the labour market across the province.

⁸ 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

Figure 10: *Strong MIZ* Zones Have the Highest Labour Force Participation Rates in Rural New Brunswick

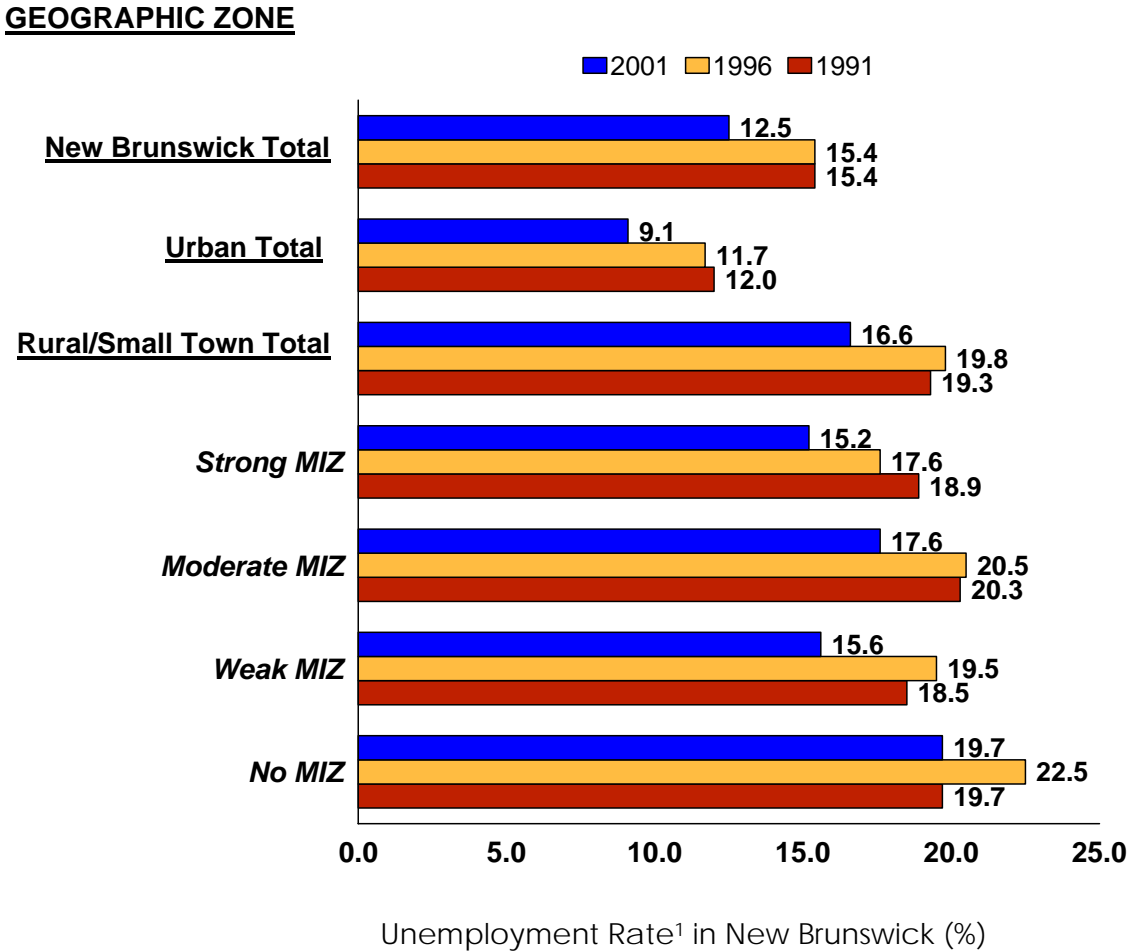
GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



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

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

Figure 11: No MIZ Zones Have the Highest Unemployment Rates in New Brunswick



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001, 1996, and 1991
¹ The Unemployment Rate is based on the ratio of individuals who are currently unemployed to those who are in the labour force.

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 and secondary employment industries and less likely to be employed in service industries.

The New Brunswick 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 6.5% of employment in all New Brunswick industries in 2001. Rural and small town zones, however, eclipsed urban centres in employment in primary industries by a factor of five (11.5% compared to 2.3%). This high representation in primary industries, moreover, is observed for all four MIZ categories. Employment in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting portion of primary employment increases as urban influence declines.

The rural population of New Brunswick is also slightly more likely to be working in construction industries than the urban population (7.0% compared to 5.9%). Table 4 reveals, however, that rural and small town residents are much more likely than their urban counterparts to be employed in manufacturing (17.6% compared to 8.4%), with representation in this industry also increasing as urban influence declines. This category includes food manufacturing establishments such as shellfish transformation plants and two very important vegetable transformation plants, from one large company, that are employing a lot of people in rural New Brunswick. This finding is particularly noteworthy because it implies that rural zones are competitive in an important value-added industry (Beshiri, 2001b). But we should mention that food manufacturing in Atlantic Canada is highly dependant on sustainable natural resources.

In contrast, service jobs are more prevalent in urban centres, accounting for 83.3% of all employment compared to 64% of jobs in rural and small town New Brunswick. Employment in production services (e.g., information and cultural industries, wholesale trade, finance and insurance) is especially lower in rural zones than in urban centres (17.3% compared to 30.1%). The urban-rural difference in employment in consumer services (e.g., retail trade, accommodation and food services) is smaller and the difference in government-provided services (e.g., educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration) is smaller yet.

The overall industry patterns across geographic zones observed in Table 4 are very similar to those of 1991 and 1996, as shown in Table 5 (Appendix Table 11). For example, residents of rural and small town New Brunswick were more likely than their urban counterparts to be employed in each of the primary and secondary industries in each census year. Urbanites were also more highly represented in service industries than were residents of rural and small town zones in both 1991 and 1996.

Table 4: Residents of Rural New Brunswick are Much More Likely than Urbanites to Work in Primary and Secondary Industries

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

Geographic Zone	Total	Primary Industries		Secondary Industries		Service Industries		
		Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction	Construction	Manufacturing	Production Services ²	Consumer Services ³	Government-Provided Services ⁴
New Brunswick Total	100.0	5.6	0.9	6.4	12.6	24.3	24.8	25.5
Urban Total	100.0	1.8	0.5	5.9	8.4	30.1	26.3	27.0
Rural/Small Town Total	100.0	10.1	1.4	7.0	17.6	17.3	23.1	23.6
Strong MIZ	100.0	7.6	1.4	8.7	14.1	20.8	22.6	25.0
Moderate MIZ	100.0	9.8	1.5	7.2	18.1	16.6	23.0	23.8
Weak MIZ	100.0	11.0	1.3	6.3	18.1	16.9	23.6	22.7
No MIZ	100.0	13.8	1.1	6.0	19.2	14.4	20.8	24.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

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

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

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

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

Table 5: Employment in Production and Consumer Service Industries Increased Throughout New Brunswick

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

Geographic Zone	Primary Industries				Secondary Industries				Service Industries					
	Agric., Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting		Mining & Oil & Gas Extraction		Construction		Manufacturing		Production Services ²		Consumer Services ³		Government-Provided Services ⁴	
	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total	6.2	6.1	1.2	1.3	6.8	7.0	13.0	13.7	20.1	19.0	26.3	25.6	26.5	27.4
Urban Total	2.3	2.3	0.7	0.8	6.0	6.0	9.8	10.4	24.7	23.4	28.3	28.0	28.2	29.1
Rural/Small Town Total	10.7	10.4	1.7	1.9	7.6	8.1	16.7	17.7	14.7	13.5	24.0	23.0	24.5	25.5
Strong MIZ	8.8	7.6	1.4	1.4	8.9	10.2	13.3	16.2	18.3	16.2	24.2	22.6	25.2	25.8
Moderate MIZ	10.2	10.5	1.9	2.9	7.6	7.7	17.6	17.7	14.1	13.0	23.4	22.5	25.1	25.7
Weak MIZ	11.6	11.0	1.6	1.2	7.2	7.6	17.1	17.9	14.3	13.1	24.6	23.9	23.6	25.4
No MIZ	13.6	14.9	1.2	1.2	7.4	6.6	15.8	20.7	13.2	12.2	24.7	21.1	24.1	23.3

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

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

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

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

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

Table 5 reveals considerable over-time stability in industry employment in all of New Brunswick's geographic zones. Between 1991 and 1996 in virtually all zones, employment in primary industries and in construction remained stable. Employment in manufacturing was lower in 1996 than in 1991, with the largest declines observed in *Strong* (2.9%) and *No MIZ* (4.9%) zones. Employment in production and consumer services increased, with the most notable increase occurring in consumer services in *No MIZ* zones (of 3.6%). Finally, employment in government-provided services declined slightly in all but *No MIZ* zones, though the percentage of *No MIZ* residents employed in this industry increased by less than one percentage point (0.8%).

B.1.3 Self-Employment

Residents of rural New Brunswick are slightly more likely than urbanites to be self-employed.

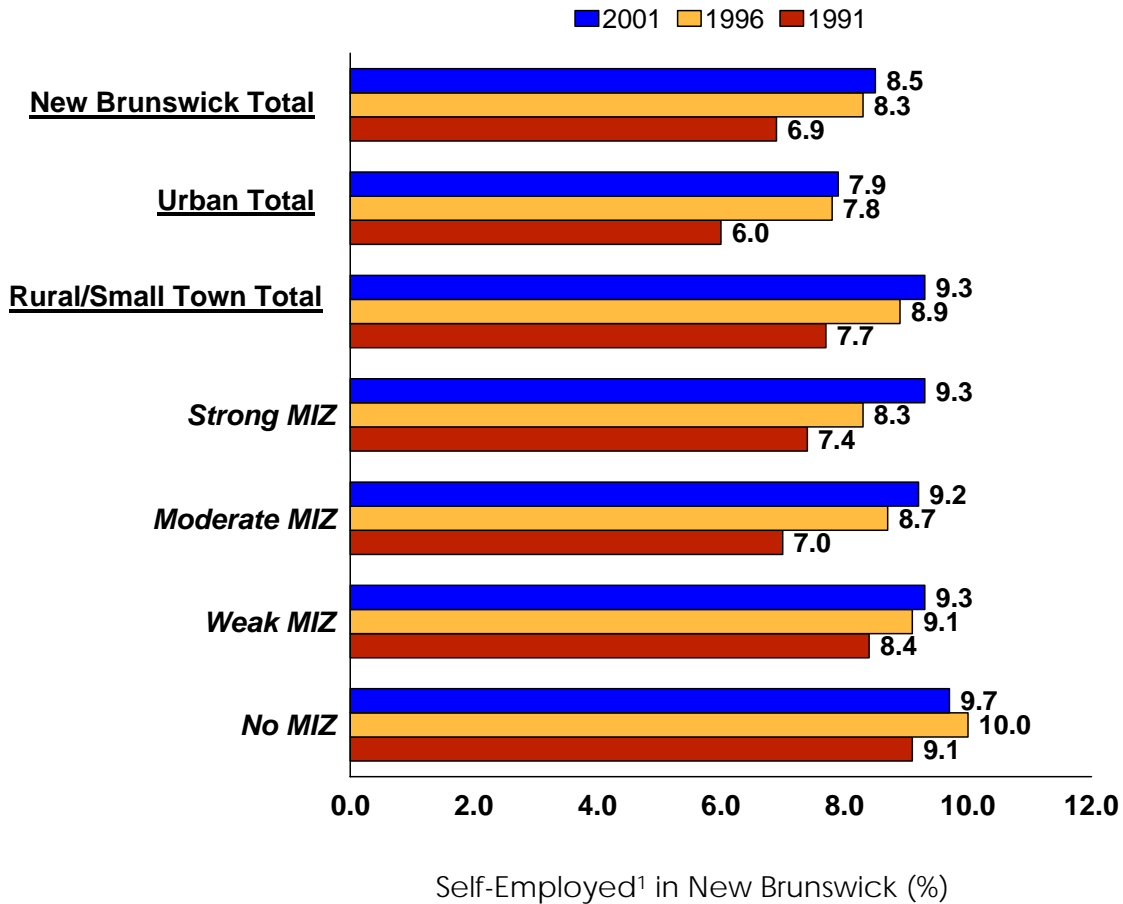
The New Brunswick labour force can also be analyzed by examining the proportion of self-employed individuals versus those who are considered employees. Self-employment includes operating a business or professional practice, doing freelance or contract work, and farming, fishing and trapping. It also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

In 2001, 8.5% of the New Brunswick labour force was self-employed as opposed to working as an employee (Figure 12). Compared to urban citizens, those in rural and small town New Brunswick were slightly more likely to be self-employed (9.3% compared to 7.9%), perhaps reflecting the predominance of farming and forestry in these zones (Table 4), industries largely comprised of self-employed farmers and foresters (du Plessis, 2004). Little variation in self-employment is observed among rural and small town zones, ranging from a low of 9.2% in *Moderate MIZ* zones to a high of 9.7% in *No MIZ* zones of the province.

In every geographic zone of New Brunswick, the percentage of the population that was self-employed increased substantially between 1991 and 1996. While growth in self-employment rates slowed in rural zones between 1996 and 2001, it virtually stopped in urban New Brunswick. Within rural zones, the greatest ten-year increase occurred in *Moderate MIZ* zones (2.2%), followed by an increase of 1.9% in *Strong MIZ*. *No MIZ* was the only geographic zone to exhibit a lower percentage of self-employment in 2001 than in 1996, perhaps reflecting a downward trend in employment in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (Table 5).

Figure 12: Self-employment is Most Prevalent in Rural New Brunswick

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



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

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

B.2 INCOME

Strong MIZ zones have the highest median incomes, the smallest proportion of low-income individuals, and the lowest rate of dependence on social transfer income in rural and small town New Brunswick.

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

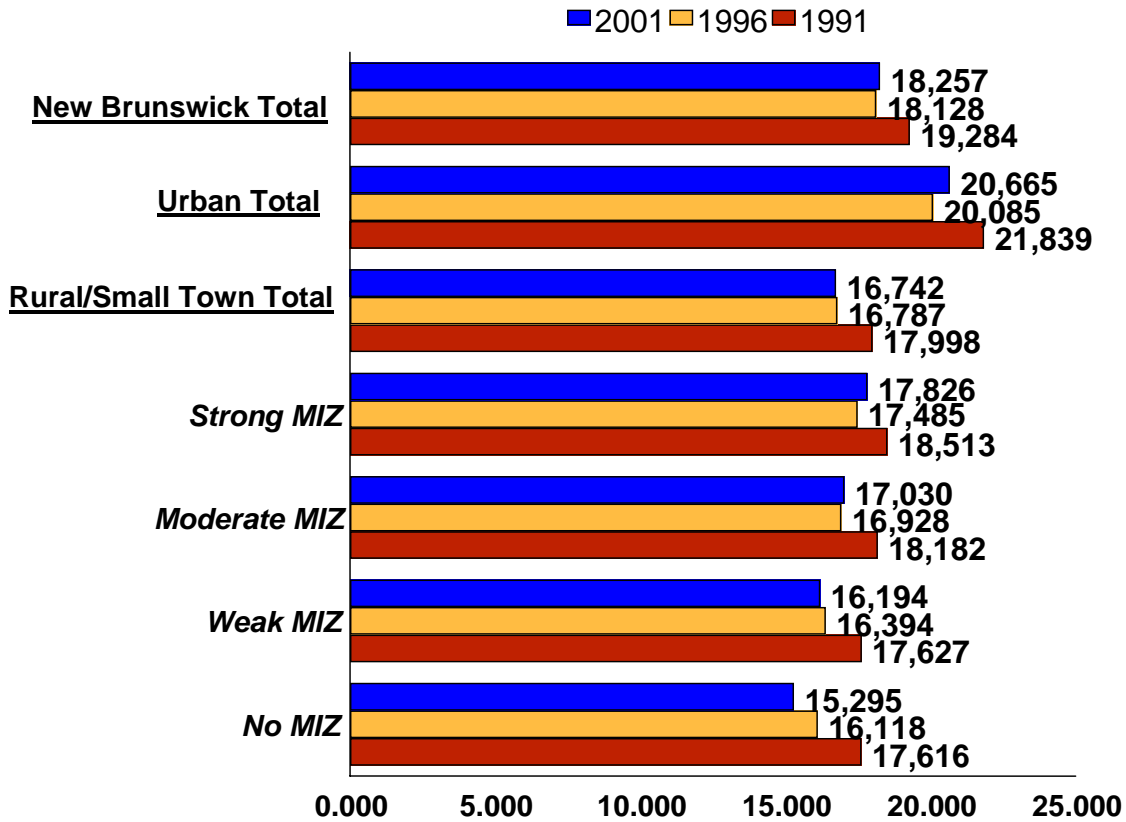
In 2001, the provincial median income was \$18,257, up slightly from the 1996 amount of \$18,128, but still lower than the 1991 figure of \$19,284. At \$20,665, the urban median income was considerably higher in 2001 than the rural and small town value of \$16,742. In fact, in 2001, rural incomes were just 81% of urban incomes.

Figure 13 also reveals that median income declines as metropolitan influence weakens, with the *No MIZ* median income being just 86% of the median income in *Strong MIZ* zones in 2001. Further contributing to the relative economic disadvantage of the province's *No MIZ* zones is the steady drop in median income values in each consecutive census year. Unlike *Strong MIZ* and urban zones, which had higher median incomes in 2001 than in 1996, *No MIZ* zones had a median income value in 2001 that was 5.1% lower than five years prior. *Weak MIZ* zones, with the second lowest median income values in the province, also experienced a decline in median income in each inter-census period. One result of the declining income values in the most rural zones is a widening of the gap between the wealthiest and poorest rural residents. In 1991, for instance, *No MIZ* residents had an income of 95 cents for every dollar of income held by *Strong MIZ* residents. By 2001, this ratio declined to just 86 cents per dollar.

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

Figure 13: No MIZ Zones Have the Lowest Median Incomes in the Province

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



Personal Median Yearly Income¹ in Dollars (Thousands)

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

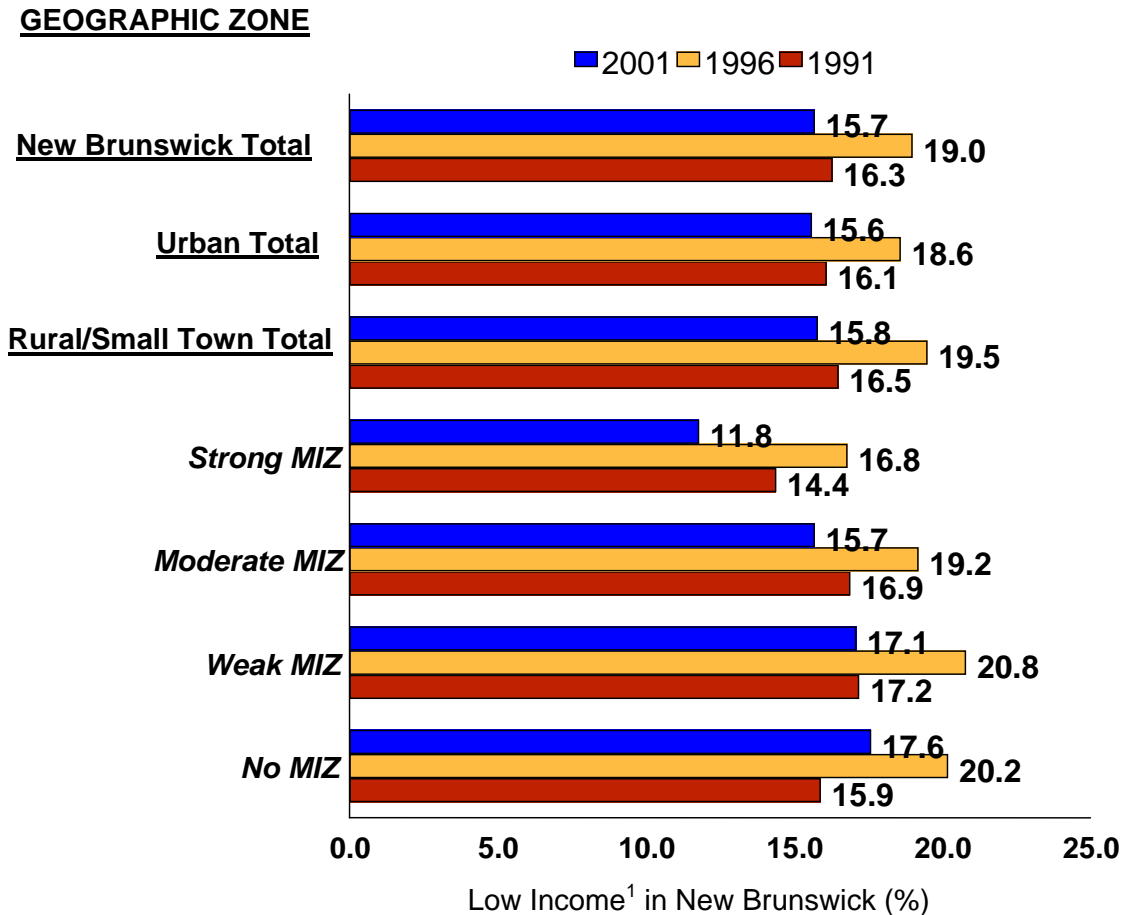
¹ Median income is yearly income for the population aged 15 years and over and is reported in 2000 real dollars.

B.2.2 Incidence of Low Income

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

indicator assumes, quite rightly, that a higher cost of living amount coincides with a higher level of integration with urban centres.¹⁰

Figure 14: No MIZ Zones Had Higher Rates of Low Income in 2001 than in 1991



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

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

¹⁰ A few methodological considerations should be noted with the use of LICOs. First, different levels of the LICO are calculated for each family size class and for each urbanization class. The urbanization classes used for the LICO calculation are different than the rural and urban categories used in this report. For our tabulations, a household is assigned to be below LICO based on the original urbanization coding. We retabulated then the data according to our own rural-urban categories. In addition to these concerns, it should be noted that LICOs are, by Statistics Canada's admission, not a measure of poverty. There is also considerable debate about whether LICOs are a valid measurement of low income (see, for example, Webber (1998)).

Perhaps of all the indicators presented in this report, Figure 14 most clearly demonstrates the importance of examining differences among rural New Brunswick. While the urban and rural incidence of low income is virtually the same (at just over 15%), within rural New Brunswick it ranges from a low of 11.8% in *Strong MIZ* zones to a high of 17.6% in *No MIZ* zones of the province.

The data in Figure 14 also illustrate the strengthening of the New Brunswick economy in the late 1990s with the proportion of low-income individuals decreasing in the entire province between 1996 and 2001. Again, however, the economic disparity between the most and the least integrated rural zones is apparent. While *Strong MIZ* zones had a much lower proportion of low-income residents in 2001 than in 1991 (11.8% compared to 14.4%), a greater proportion of *No MIZ* residents were low income in 2001 than in 1991 (17.6% compared to 15.9%). *Moderate MIZ* zones also had a lower percentage of low-income residents in 2001 than in 1991, while the same percentage of *Weak MIZ* residents were considered low income in 2001 as in 1991.

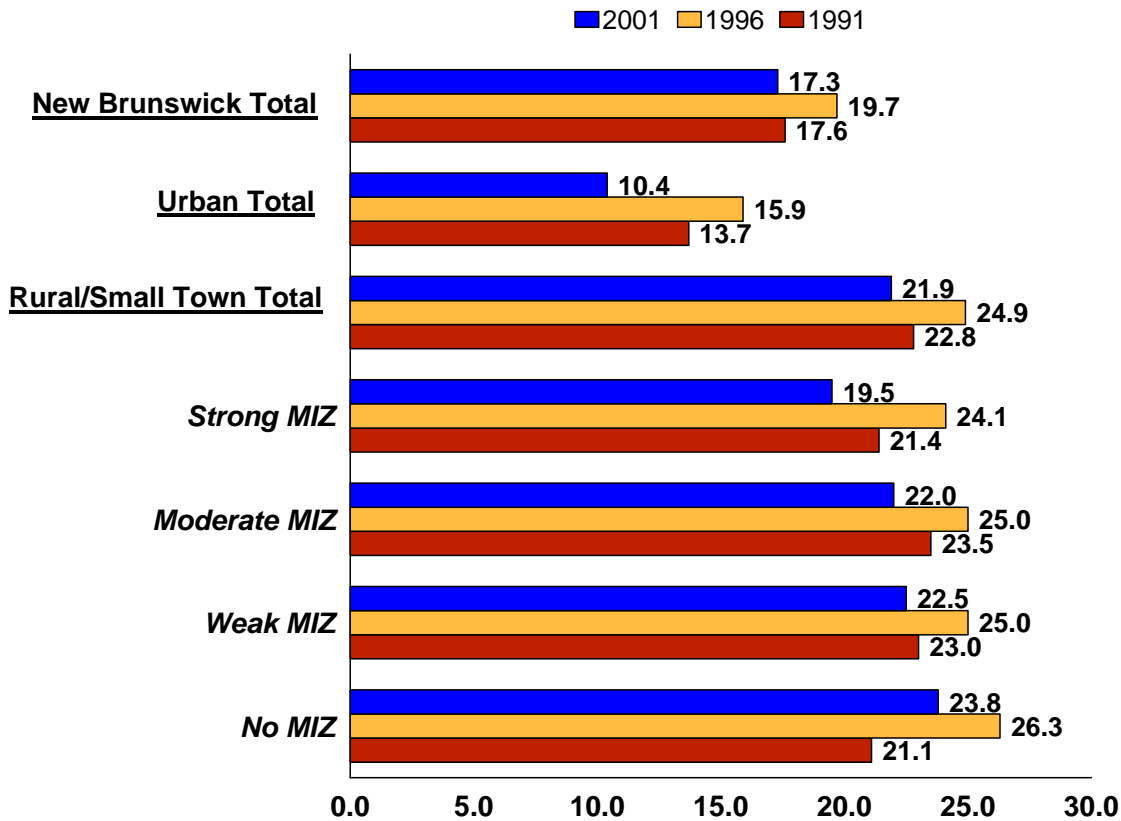
B.2.3 Share of Total Income From Social Transfer Income

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

Figure 15 presents the percentage of total income derived from social transfer payments for each geographic zone and for 2001, 1996, and 1991. Most evident is the fact that residents of rural and small town New Brunswick garnered a larger proportion of their income from government sources than did urban citizens in all three census years. Among the former group, *No MIZ* zones were by far the most likely to rely on social transfer income and were the only zones to undergo an increase between 1991 and 2001 (from 21.1% to 23.8%). *Strong MIZ* residents, in contrast, were the least likely in rural New Brunswick to rely on social transfer income, though they were still considerably more likely than urbanites to do so (19.5% compared to 10.4%). *Strong MIZ* zones also exhibited the greatest decrease in low-income in rural New Brunswick after 1996 (of 4.6%).

Figure 15: Compared to Urbanites, Rural Residents Garner a Larger Share of their Income from Social Transfer Income

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



Percentage of Total Income from Social Transfer Income¹ in New Brunswick

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

¹ Social transfer income refers to all government transfer payments to individuals including Old Age Security, Canadian/Quebec Pension Plans, 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.

These over-time changes could be due to increasing or decreasing unemployment, Old Age Security, Canadian Pension Plan payments, or Child Tax Credits. The decrease in government financial dependence throughout the province is likely a reflection of both decreasing reliance on Employment Insurance because of a reduction in unemployment rates¹¹ (Figure 11) and decreasing reliance on Child Tax Credits as a result of a decrease in the share of the population that are children (Table 2).

¹¹ Some of the decrease in social transfer income between 1996 and 2001 may also reflect unemployment policy reform during this period. The federal Bill C-62, which was introduced in 1996, tripled the minimum

SUMMARY

At the provincial level, all economic indicators demonstrate a more robust economy in the late 1990s compared to the first portion of this decade. Between 1996 and 2001, the provincial labour force participation rate and the provincial median income value increased, while the unemployment rate, the incidence of low income, and dependence on social transfer income declined. Yet these modest improvements were not visible in every geographic zone. For instance, while post-1996 decreases resulted in lower unemployment rates in 2001 than in 1991 in every other geographic zone, the *No MIZ* unemployment rate in 2001 was equal to that of 1991. Shifts in median income values also varied across the province, with urban, *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones exhibiting higher values in 2001 than in 1996, and *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones exhibiting lower values in 2001 than five and ten years earlier. Finally, while the incidence of low income and reliance on social transfer income declined after 1996 in every geographic zone, *No MIZ* were the only zones to have higher rates of both indicators in 2001 than in 1991. Clearly, *No MIZ* zones are the most economically disadvantaged in the province, and these disadvantages appear to be increasing, thus further polarizing the economic distance between *Strong* and *No MIZ* individuals in New Brunswick.

Overall, however, the lower economic standing of rural New Brunswick as a whole should not be overlooked. Despite the more positive economic conditions in rural zones in 2001 compared to five years earlier, the economic disparity between urban and rural residents observed in 1996 continued in 2001 on most indicators. Nonetheless, the rural/urban differences are not as dramatic as those found among the four rural zones. The dominant story of the economic indicators, therefore, is that the disparities between rural zones are as noteworthy (if not more so) as the overall differences between urban and rural zones of New Brunswick.

number of qualifying hours of work to receive benefits and reduced the maximum weeks benefits are provided.

C. Education Indicators

KEY FINDINGS

C.1 Educational Attainment

- *No MIZ* residents are the most likely in the province to have less than high school as their highest level of educational attainment and are the least likely to have attained a university degree.
- Despite improvements in educational attainment throughout the province between 1996 and 2001, residents of rural and small town New Brunswick continue to have lower levels of educational attainment than their urban counterparts.

C.2 Education Providers

- All rural zones have per capita education providers below that of urban centres. Interestingly, *Strong MIZ* zones, which have among the highest education levels of the rural population, have the lowest relative number of teachers and professors in the province (13.2 per 1,000 residents).
- Between 1996 and 2001, per capita education providers decreased in all urban and rural/small town zones of New Brunswick.

Summary

The educational findings presented in this section signal an urban/rural disparity in terms of educational attainment and perhaps also for access to education. First, the lower levels of high school completion among the rural population implies that these residents 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 general trend of decreasing post-secondary educational attainment as MIZ weakens 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 lower proportions with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree.

It is generally accepted that higher educational attainment is associated with higher earnings and an increased level of well-being. As was the case for industry employment, a change to the census in 2001 precludes the ability to directly compare level of education between 2001 and the two earlier census periods.¹² 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, 34.1% of the provincial adult population had less than a high school education in 2001. A higher proportion of rural and small town residents than urbanites had not attained a high school education (41.9% compared to 27.1%), with *Moderate* and *No MIZ* residents slightly more highly represented at this lowest level of education (43% and 43.1%, respectively). Nearly equal proportions (hovering around 15%) of urban and rural and small town residents, however, had a high school diploma, though residents of *No MIZ* zones were the least likely to have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment in 2001 (14%).

Urban residents eclipsed all rural and small town zones in all three post-secondary educational categories. The greatest disparity is found between urban and rural citizens for the highest educational category; as of 2001, 16.2% of urban New Brunswick residents had a university degree compared to only 8.1% of those residing in rural zones. The urban/rural difference in those with a post-secondary certificate/diploma is, however, considerably less. Within rural New Brunswick, *No MIZ* residents were the least likely to have attained a university degree (7.1%) and *Weak MIZ* residents the most likely (8.9%).

¹² 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: Compared to Urbanites, Residents of Rural New Brunswick Have Lower Levels of Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment¹ Percent Distribution, 2001

Geographic Zone	Total	Less Than High School	High School Diploma	Some Post-Secondary	Post-Secondary Cert./Dip.	University Degree
New Brunswick Total	100.0	34.1	14.9	11.3	27.3	12.4
Urban Total	100.0	27.1	14.8	13.1	28.7	16.2
Rural/Small Town Total	100.0	41.9	15.1	9.2	25.7	8.1
Strong MIZ	100.0	40.1	16.2	8.5	28.0	7.2
Moderate MIZ	100.0	43.0	15.0	9.2	25.0	7.7
Weak MIZ	100.0	41.1	14.9	9.4	25.6	8.9
No MIZ	100.0	43.1	14.0	10.1	25.6	7.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

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

Table 7 presents 1996 and 1991 Census data on educational attainment and depicts the same geographic zone trends that were observed in 2001: residents of rural and small town zones were much more likely to have attained less than a high school education, and residents of urban New Brunswick were more likely than those in rural zones to have attended a post-secondary institution. Again, the urban/rural differences are most apparent for university degree holders.

As for over-time changes, Table 7 illustrates province-wide increases in educational attainment. In all geographic zones, smaller proportions of residents had attained less than high school in 1996 than in 1991. While little change is observed for the percentage of the population attaining some post-secondary education, all geographic zones exhibit increases in earning post-secondary certificates and diplomas, with slightly greater increases occurring in rural than urban zones (3.7% compared to 2.0%). Compared to rural zones, however, urban centres underwent a greater percentage increase in the attainment of a university degree between 1991 and 1996 (2.4% compared to 1.1%).

Table 7: Between 1991 and 1996, Educational Attainment Increased in all Geographic Zones

Educational Attainment¹ 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
New Brunswick Total	40.4	45.4	14.7	14.1	9.5	9.5	25.3	22.5	10.2	8.4
Urban Total	33.7	38.3	14.9	14.5	10.9	11.2	26.9	24.9	13.5	11.1
Rural/Small Town Total	47.5	53.2	14.4	13.7	7.9	7.7	23.6	19.9	6.6	5.5
Strong MIZ	47.3	53.1	15.0	13.7	7.3	7.8	25.1	21.0	5.3	4.4
Moderate MIZ	48.9	55.1	13.9	13.6	7.9	7.2	22.9	18.9	6.3	5.1
Weak MIZ	46.1	51.4	14.7	13.6	8.2	8.2	23.7	20.5	7.4	6.3
No MIZ	48.1	52.4	14.2	15.5	7.7	7.2	23.8	19.9	6.3	5.0

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

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

Improvement in educational attainment among the MIZ zones varies somewhat, with *Moderate MIZ* zones exhibiting the greatest percentage decrease in high school incompleteness (6.2%) and *No MIZ* zones exhibiting the greatest increase in attainment of a university degree (1.3%).

While it is clear from these findings that an education gap exists between urban and rural New Brunswick, it is less clear whether the gap is increasing or decreasing over time. For example, rural zones exhibited a greater drop in the percentage of residents attaining less than a high school diploma and a greater increase in the percentage attaining a post-secondary certificate or diploma, while urban centres exhibit a greater percentage increase in attainment of a university degree.

C.2 EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Though decreasing across the province, urban centres have a higher number of education providers per capita than do rural zones.

There are many factors that might contribute to the quality of education. One practice that permits easily quantifiable comparisons is to examine the number of education providers in the region. This is calculated by determining the number of people who are employed as teachers or professors per 1,000 people.¹³ These data are presented in Figure 16 by geographic zone and for 2001, 1996, and 1991 (see also Appendix Table 16).

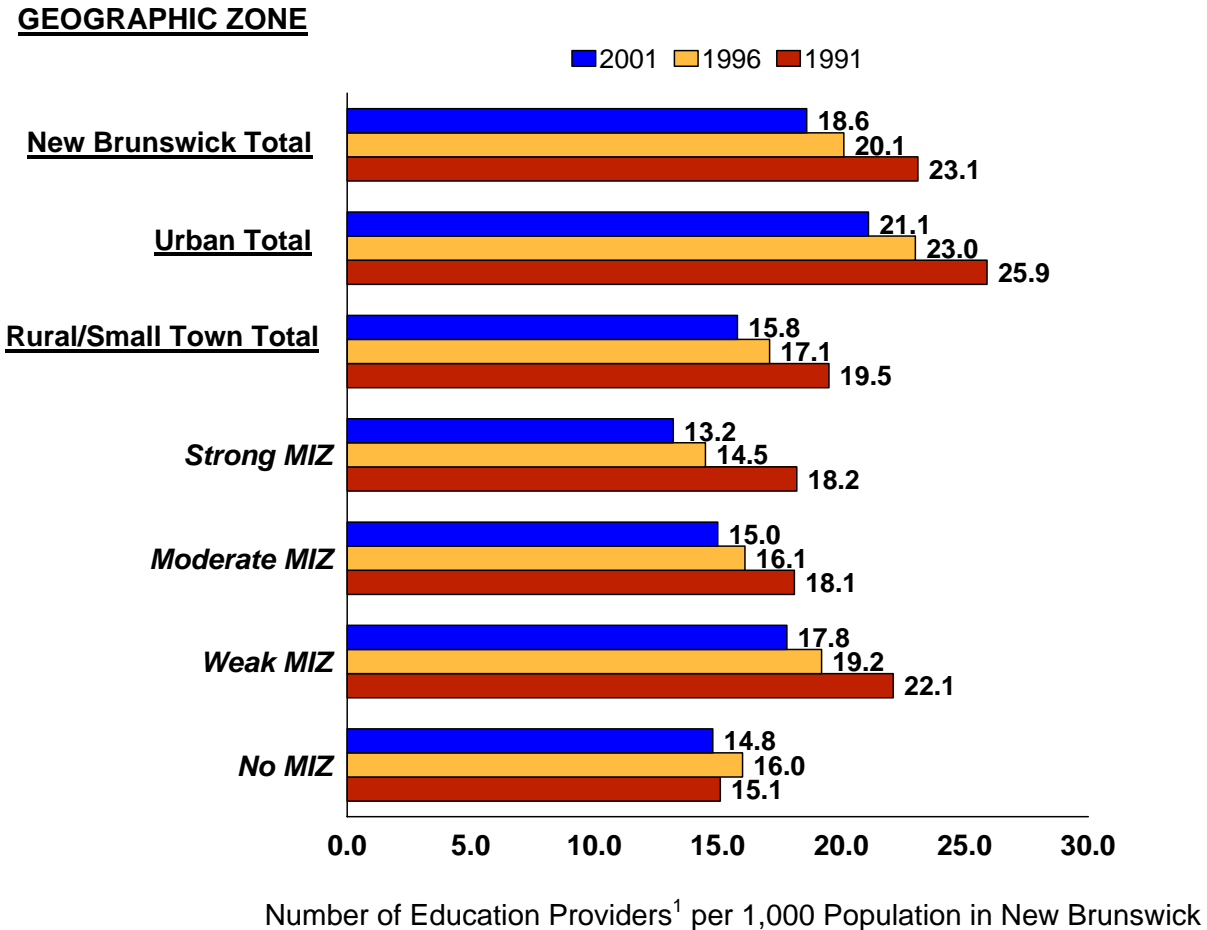
In 2001, the highest number of education providers was observed in urban centres at 21.1 per 1,000 population. All rural zones had education providers below this figure, but *Weak MIZ* zones most closely approximated the urban data (17.8 per 1,000). The lowest levels of education providers are observed in *Strong* (13.2) and *No* (14.8) *MIZ* zones. *Moderate MIZ* zones had a slightly higher number, with 15.0 teachers and professors per 1,000 population.

The number of education providers per capita decreased in nearly all geographic zones of the province between 1991 and 1996 and again between 1996 and 2001. *Strong MIZ* zones had the largest ten-year decrease in the province, with the number of education providers per 1,000 residents falling from 18.2 in 1991 to just 13.2 in 2001. Urban centres experienced the second largest reduction of teachers/professors (4.8 per 1,000 residents), though the urban figures remained above rural figures in every census year. Although undergoing the smallest ten-year decrease (of 0.3 per 1,000), *No MIZ* zones have one of the lowest relative numbers of education providers in the province in each

¹³ 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.

census year. In all, these data suggest that the educational disparity between urban and rural zones is increasing over time, at least in terms of education providers.

Figure 16: Rural New Brunswick Has Fewer Per Capita Education Providers than Urban New Brunswick



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

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

Part of the explanation for the urban/rural difference lies in the propensity for post-secondary institutions (and particularly large universities) to be located in cities rather than in rural zones of New Brunswick. Insofar as the post-secondary system continues to expand in urban centres, so too will the disparity between the number of professors serving urban, as opposed to rural citizens. But since educators are predominantly primary and secondary school teachers, the urban/rural difference is not entirely explained by geography, but also must be a function of true educational disparity. While all geographic zones experienced a reduction in the proportion of children, the

fact remains that rural zones have larger proportions of children than do urban centres, suggesting that the teacher component of the education provider indicator should be higher than it is.

SUMMARY

The education indicators presented in this section signal an 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 New Brunswick 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 highest unemployment rates and the lowest incomes. 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 should 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, which contain the largest, and growing, proportion of children but one of the lowest per capita number of teachers and professors.

Third, the trend of lower post-secondary educational attainment among residents of rural and small town New Brunswick 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 to universities, is implied from these findings. Programs aimed at distance-learning or at encouraging further education, through scholarships, for example, may be of value to residents of rural New Brunswick.

D. Social Indicators

KEY FINDINGS

D.1 Family Structure (Lone-Parent Families)

- Lone-parent families are equally prevalent in urban and rural zones (16.1% in 2001). The incidence of lone-parent families increases, however, as metropolitan influence weakens, with *Strong*, *Moderate*, *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones respectively having 12.5%, 15.5%, 17.6% and 19.6% lone parents in 2001.

D.2 Housing

- In 2001, *No MIZ* individuals were the most likely in the province to be residing in new housing and *Moderate MIZ* residents the least likely (19.9% compared to 13.1% of houses were constructed in these two zones since 1991, respectively).
- Dwelling values are consistently higher in urban than in rural and small town New Brunswick. Little variation is observed within rural New Brunswick, with dwelling values ranging from a high of \$75,300 in *Strong MIZ* zones to a low of \$71,400 in *No MIZ* zones.
- The percentage of New Brunswick households spending significant portions of their income on shelter increased significantly between 1991 and 2001 (from 7.5% to 12.9%). *Strong MIZ* housing was the most affordable in the province, with 12.2% of household owners spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter in 2001.

Summary

Most of the social indicators presented in this section contribute to a recurring finding revealed in this report: urban centres exhibit more favorable conditions than rural and small town zones. The data also reveal important differences among the four MIZ zones, which should not be overlooked when creating social policy.

D.1 FAMILY STRUCTURE (LONE-PARENT FAMILIES)

Though urban and rural families are equally likely to be lone-parent, great variation in the incidence of lone-parent families is observed within rural zones of the province.

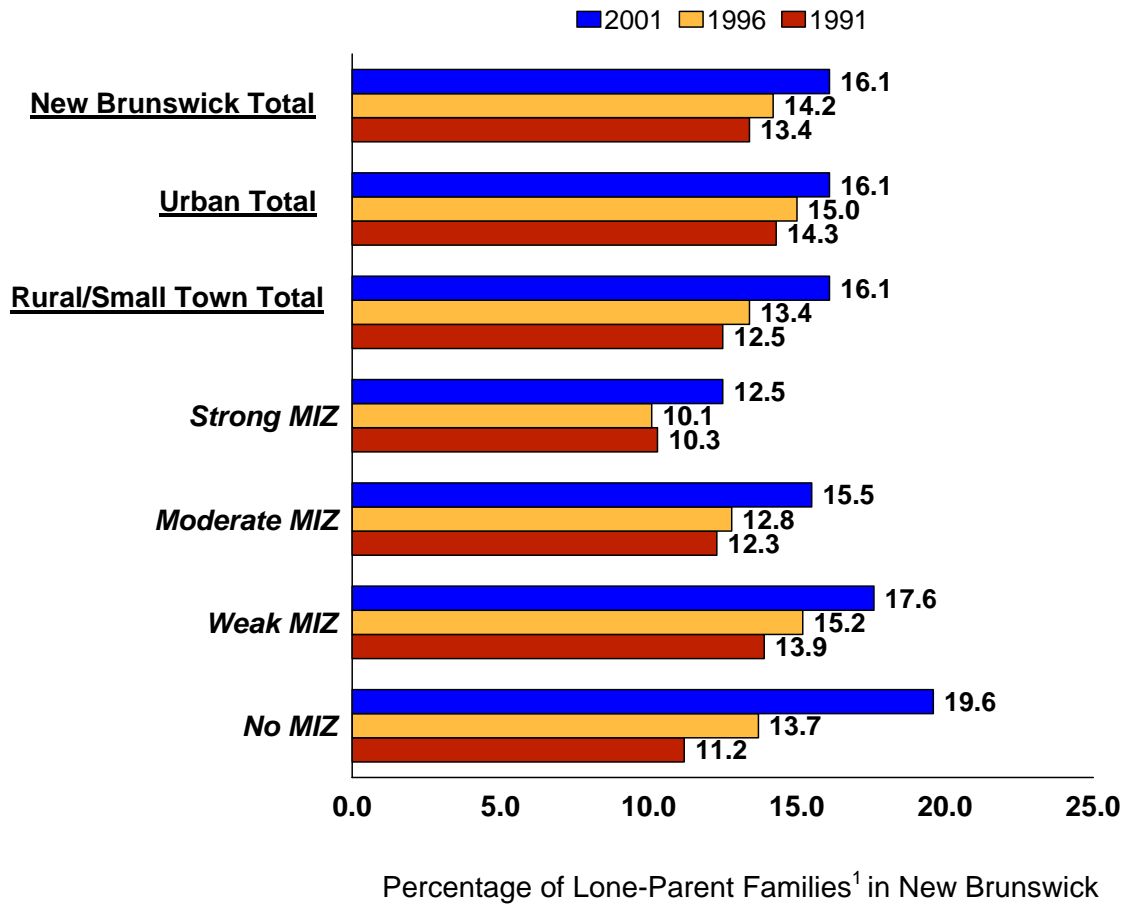
In Canada, as in many countries, family structures have been changing. The frequency of divorce has risen and common-law relationships are increasingly popular (Statistics Canada, 2002). Studies have shown that the growth in lone-parent families has been one of Canada's most significant social trends (Ross et al., 1998). New Brunswick is no exception to this rising trend, where in 2001, 16.1% (Figure 17) of families were lone parent, compared to 15.7% of Canadian families.

Unlike the many indicators presented which portray urban New Brunswick as far more advantaged than rural and small town zones, Figure 17 (and Appendix Table 17) reveals an equal proportion of urban and rural lone-parent families (16.1% in 2001). Within rural New Brunswick, however, greater variation is observed, with *Strong MIZ* zones having the lowest percentage of lone parents in the province in 2001 (12.5%). *Moderate MIZ* zones had a somewhat greater proportion (15.5%), though this figure is still below the provincial average. The proportion of lone-parent families in *Weak MIZ* zones (17.6%), conversely, exceeded the provincial average in 2001, while in *No MIZ* zones, nearly one-in-five families was of this type (19.6%).

Over-time increases in lone-parent families are apparent in all geographic zones. The increase within *No MIZ* zones, however, is the most noteworthy; between 1991 and 2001, the *No MIZ* rate of lone parents increased by 8.4%, compared to increases of 2.2%, 3.2%, and 3.7% in *Strong*, *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones, respectively. The higher 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 the Most Prevalent in No MIZ Zones of New Brunswick

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



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

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

D.2 HOUSING

Housing in rural and urban New Brunswick is equally likely to be newly constructed, but it is less expensive and more affordable in rural than in urban areas.

D.2.1 Recent Housing Construction

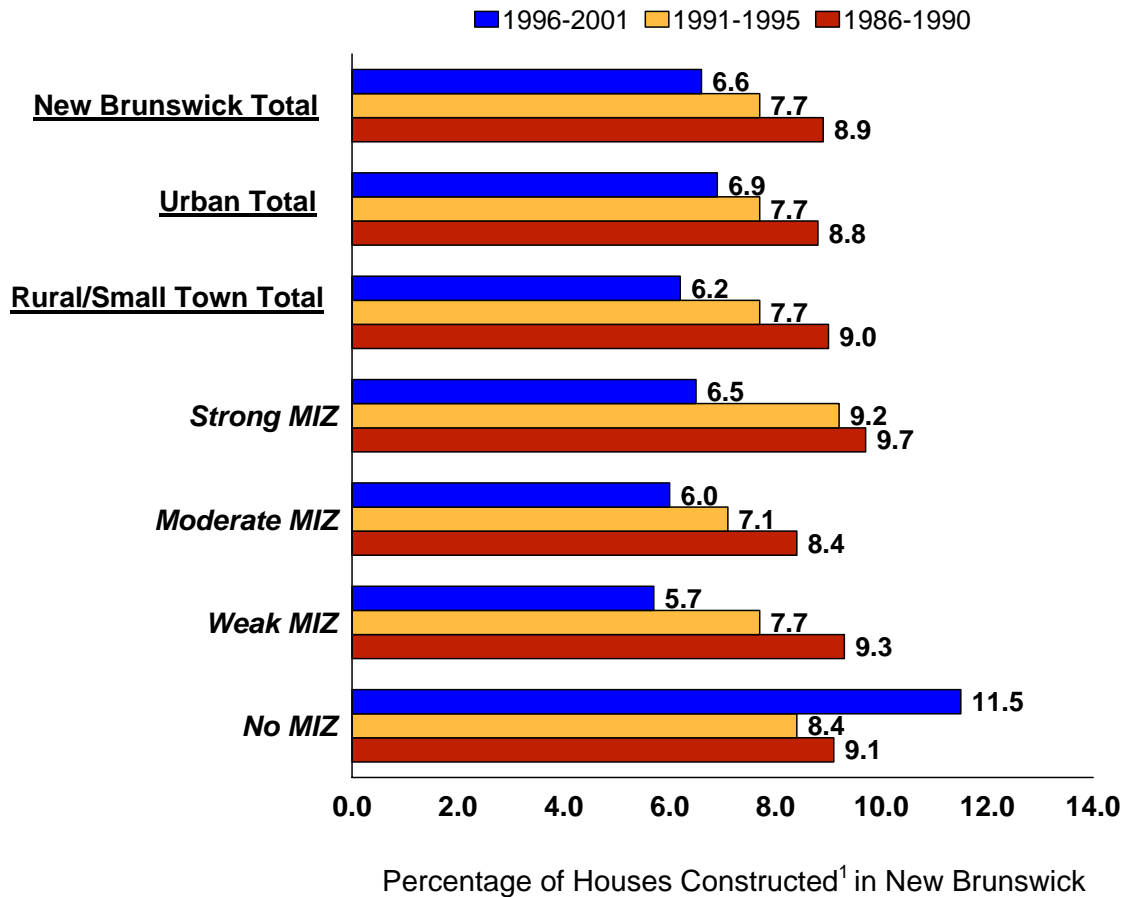
The period of housing construction provides an indication of economic and population growth in the various geographic zones of New Brunswick. The greater the percentage of houses constructed more recently in a region, the greater the likelihood that communities in that zone have experienced economic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

Provincially, 6.6% of dwellings were constructed between 1996 and 2001 (compared to the nation-wide figure of 7.1%). This is about the same rate of construction observed for urban centres and for *Strong*, *Moderate*, and *Weak MIZ* zones. *No MIZ* zones, however, experienced more construction with 11.5% of houses built between 1996 and 2001. Hence, homes in *No MIZ* zones are slightly newer than in other zones of the province. These findings correspond with the *No MIZ* population growth of 3.0% between 1996 and 2001, and the population contraction in *Strong*, *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones during this period (Figure 3).

Another important observation to make from Figure 18 is the smaller proportion of houses constructed in the most recent inter-census period than previously. Again, these data correspond with population trends, with population growth of the early 1990s reflected in the higher levels of housing construction occurring within this time period. The exception to this trend is observed in *No MIZ* zones, where, compared to the most recent inter-census period, a relatively small percentage of new housing construction occurred between 1991 and 1995 (8.4%), despite substantial population growth of 14.1% during the same time period (Figure 3).

Figure 18: Between 1996 and 2001, No MIZ Zones Had the Highest Percentage of New Housing Construction in the Province

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



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

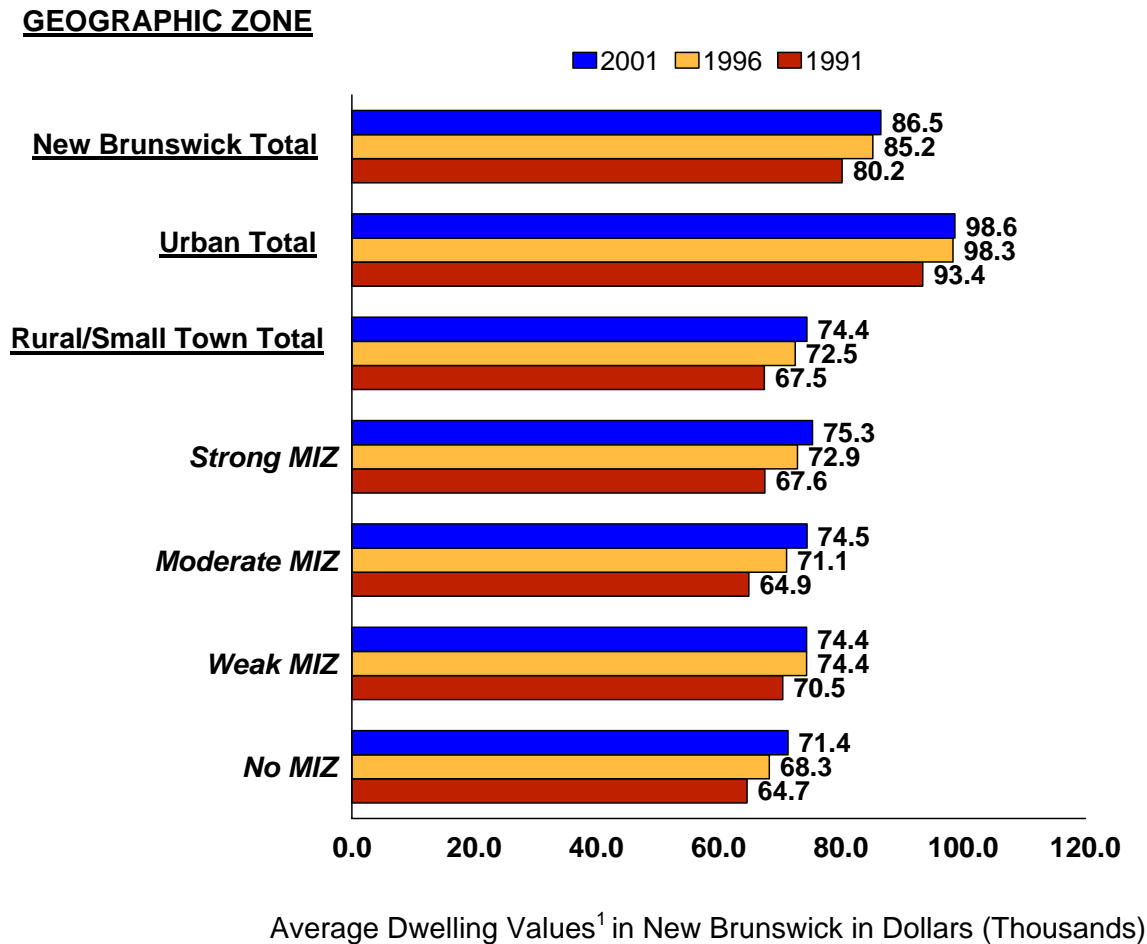
¹ Expressed as a percentage of the total number of occupied private dwellings.

D.2.2 Average Dwelling (Housing) Values

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

As indicated in Figure 19, the average dwelling value in New Brunswick in 2001 was \$86,500. Housing values were, on average, \$24,200 less in rural and small town zones than in urban centres. Within rural New Brunswick, housing values decline slightly as metropolitan influence weakens.

Figure 19: Dwelling (Housing) Values are Higher in Urban Centres than in Rural Zones



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

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

Figure 19 also reveals increasing housing values throughout the province between 1991 and 2001, with larger increases occurring in the first half of the 1990s. For example, urban housing values increased by 5.2% between 1991 and 1996, but by just 0.3% in the five year period that followed. Likewise, rural housing values increased by 7.4% in the first half of the decade, but by just 2.6% between 1996 and 2001. The greater 1991 to 1996 increases in housing values is likely due, in part, to the greater proportion of new housing construction occurring in most geographic zones in the early 1990s compared to the 1996-2001 period. The only exception to this pattern is noted in *No MIZ* zones, where a substantial increase in new housing construction between 1996 and 2001 was not accompanied by an equally substantial increase in housing values.

D.2.3 Dwelling (Housing) Affordability

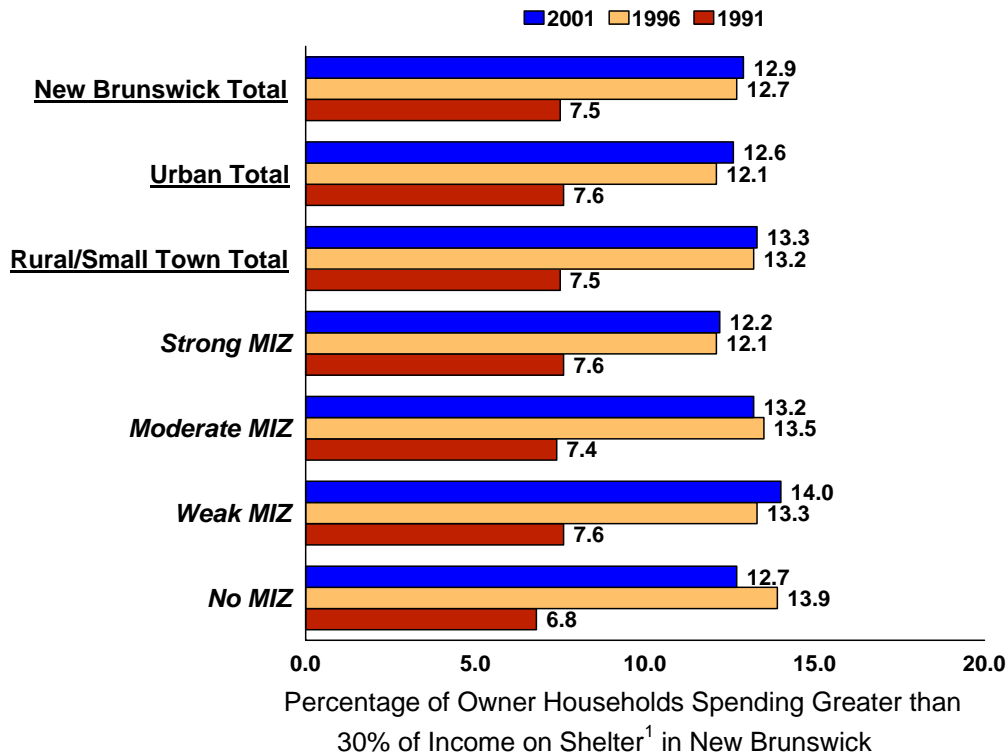
The proportion of household owners spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter costs is generally accepted to be an indicator of housing affordability. Figure 20 highlights the proportion of New Brunswick household owners in each geographic zone spending more than 30% of their income on shelter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

In 2001, almost 13% of household owners in the province exceeded the 30% spending cutoff. 12.6% of urban household owners spent more than 30% of their income on shelter costs, compared to 13.3% in rural New Brunswick. Despite having the highest of the rural housing values (Figure 19) and the second largest percentage of new housing construction (Figure 18), *Strong MIZ* residents were the most able in the province to afford their housing, with just 12.2% spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter costs. *Weak MIZ* residents, conversely, were the least likely of rural residents to afford their housing, despite having the lowest proportion of new housing construction. *Weak MIZ* residents were also much less likely to afford their housing in 2001 than in 1996, perhaps because of their combined housing values and relatively low incomes (Figure 13). *No MIZ* zones, with the lowest housing values, were among the most able to afford their housing in the province.

Figure 20 also reveals over-time increases in the percentage of households spending significant portions of their income on shelter. The increase is most apparent within rural New Brunswick with an increase of 5.8% compared to 5% in cities, between 1991 and 2001. The increase was 4.6% in Strong MIZ zones. Still, Figure 20 clearly demonstrates that housing is becoming less affordable in all geographic zones of New Brunswick, despite relatively stable housing values.

Figure 20: In all Geographic Zones of New Brunswick Housing has Become Less Affordable Over Time

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



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

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

SUMMARY

The social indicators presented in this section contribute to a recurring story line revealed in this report: in many ways urban New Brunswick is considerably more advantaged than rural and small town zones. The data also reveal, in some cases, that the reverse is true, but more importantly once again demonstrate differences among the four MIZ zones. The analyses of MIZ zones as well as urban/rural differences should be considered, therefore, when creating social policy.

For instance, the same percentage of urban and rural families are considered lone parent, but 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 higher than that observed in cities (19.6% in *No MIZ* zones versus 16.1% in urban New Brunswick in 2001).

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 child care 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 high rates of lone-parent families combined with low incomes.

The housing situation for rural New Brunswick is more complex. Urban housing is the most expensive but rural residents are the least able in the province to afford their housing, with a greater proportion of household owners spending greater than 30% of their income on shelter costs.

The data also revealed substantial variation within rural and small town New Brunswick. For example, the housing value/affordability quotient for residents of *Strong MIZ* zones suggests an advantage in these zones; *Strong MIZ* zones have the highest of rural housing values yet the most affordable housing in the province. Residents of the heavily populated *Weak MIZ* zones, conversely, are the least able in rural New Brunswick to afford their housing, despite having the second lowest housing values. This is likely due to a decade of declining median income values in *Weak MIZ* zones (Figure 13). The lower housing values in *No MIZ* zones of the province, however, result in a more affordability housing situation for residents of these zones. On the whole, it appears that housing indicators in rural New Brunswick are strongly influenced by labour market and economic patterns including housing values.

E. Health Care Indicators

KEY FINDINGS

E.1 Health Care Providers

- In 2001, *Strong MIZ* zones had the highest relative number of health care providers in rural New Brunswick (26.2 per 1,000 residents), but the lowest number of health care professionals, such as physicians (1.7 per 1,000 residents). *No MIZ* zones were among the most disadvantaged, with just 1.8 health care professionals per 1,000 residents in 2001.
- The gap in the relative number of urban versus rural health care providers increased from 8.8 in 1996 to 10.0 providers per 1,000 population in 2001.
- Rural zones are also disadvantaged with respect to their access to professional health care providers (e.g. physicians) and must rely more upon the services offered by Registered Nurses (RN's) and other health care individuals.

Summary

The results suggest a health care disadvantage for rural and small town citizens of New Brunswick. The ability of rural residents to access health care is further exacerbated by the greater distance needed to travel to services and specialists that are typically located in urban centres. 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 centers, rural New Brunswick has fewer health care providers per capita.

Access to health services is a concern to all residents of New Brunswick and especially to those residing outside urban centres. One measure of access to health care is the ratio of health care providers to residents in a given region. In this instance, the number of health providers per 1,000 people is used to illustrate accessibility to health services.¹⁴

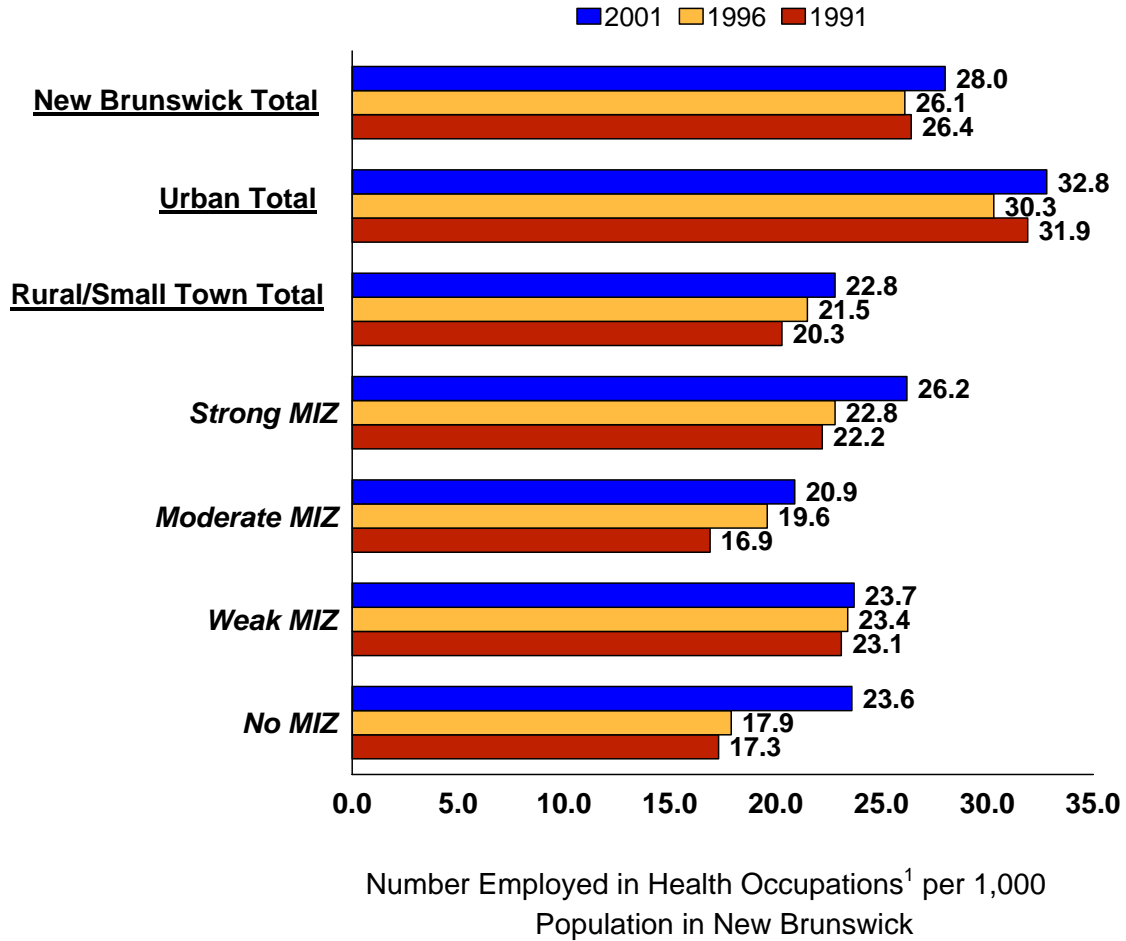
As demonstrated in Figure 21, rural and small town zones had, on average, relatively fewer health care providers than urban centres in 2001 (22.8 compared to 32.8 per 1,000 population; see also Appendix Table 20). Among rural zones, *Strong MIZ* zones had the highest relative number of health care providers in 2001 (26.2), followed by *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones (23.7 and 23.6, respectively). *Moderate MIZ* zones had the smallest relative number of health care providers (20.9).

All urban zones of the province experienced an increase in health care providers between 1991 and 2001. The increase, however, was greater within rural than urban zones (of 2.5 compared to 0.9). Within rural New Brunswick, the greatest ten-year increase in health care providers occurred in *No MIZ* zones, which increased by 6.3 providers per 1,000. *Weak MIZ* zones, in comparison, experienced an increase of just 0.6 health care providers per 1,000 in the decade. Despite these increases, however, the per capita number of health care providers is lower in all rural zones than it is in urban centres of New Brunswick.

¹⁴ 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 New Brunswick

GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



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

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

Table 8 presents a more detailed picture of the type of health care providers per 1,000 people for each geographic zone and for the 2001 and 1996 Censuses only (see also Appendix Table 21).¹⁵

Compared to urban centres, rural and small town zones of New Brunswick had fewer health care providers working in professional occupations, such as physicians in 2001 (6.2 versus 2.9). As we move across the table, the rural disadvantage is still apparent in 2001,

¹⁵ Detailed occupational information on health care providers is not available for 1991.

but not as strikingly. The urban/rural difference in RN Supervisors/RNs was 4.0 per 1,000 population, and only 1.4 and 1.3 for technical providers and assisting occupations, respectively.

Table 8: Per Capita Professional Health Care Providers is Lower in Rural than in Urban New Brunswick

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
New Brunswick Total	4.7	4.0	9.7	11.1	6.7	5.1	7.0	5.9
Urban Total	6.2	5.5	11.6	13.5	7.3	5.9	7.6	5.5
Rural and Small Town Total	2.9	2.4	7.6	8.5	5.9	4.3	6.3	6.3
Strong MIZ	1.7	1.6	8.4	8.7	6.8	3.9	9.2	8.5
Moderate MIZ	2.5	2.1	6.7	7.6	5.2	3.9	6.4	5.9
Weak MIZ	4.1	3.1	8.1	9.3	6.0	5.0	5.4	6.0
No MIZ	1.8	0.9	9.1	9.1	8.8	3.8	4.2	4.4

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

As we move down Table 8, greater variation among rural zones is apparent, and the data provide some context for the over-time changes in providers observed in Figure 21. In 2001, the number of professionals (e.g., physicians) per capita was higher in the more densely-populated *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones than in the less densely-populated *Strong* and *No MIZ* zones. While *Strong MIZ* residents may access the services of health care professionals in urban centres, residents of *No MIZ* zones may be much less likely to do so. At the same time, it is notable that *Strong* and *No MIZ* residents had greater access to RN supervisors/RNs and to technical workers in 2001 compared to residents of *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones. In fact, *No MIZ* zones had the highest number of technical and related occupations in the province (8.8 per 1,000). Together, these findings suggest that rural residents, and especially those residing in *Strong* and *No MIZ* zones, must rely more frequently on lower occupational levels of providers to meet their

health care needs. *Strong MIZ* zones may have the highest number of health care providers per capita in rural New Brunswick, but as Table 8 shows, the complement of health care providers is comprised largely of lower-level providers. *Weak MIZ* zones, while having relatively fewer health care providers than *Strong MIZ* zones (Figure 21), are in a position of greater advantage given the higher relative number of health care professionals such as physicians in these zones (4.2 compared to 1.7 per 1,000 residents).

As for over-time trends, all geographic zones experienced a slight increase in the number of health care professionals per capita, and somewhat larger increases in health care providers working in technical and related occupations. With respect to the latter, the most notable increases occurred in the least advantaged *Strong* and *No MIZ* zones. While *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones experienced increases in these categories of 1.3 and 1.0 providers per 1,000 population respectively, the number increased in *Strong MIZ* zones by 2.9, and by 5.0 per 1,000 in *No MIZ* zones. These increases, while likely not sufficient to compensate for the lower per capita number of health care professionals in *Strong* and *No MIZ* zones, suggest a degree of improvement in access to health care services within the least densely-populated zones of New Brunswick. At the same time, they provide context to the increases in health providers observed in Figure 21; *No MIZ* zones, for example, exhibit a substantial increase in health care providers per capita between 1996 and 2001 (Figure 21), but as Table 8 shows, this increase resulted from higher numbers of technical workers rather than health care professionals such as physicians.

Finally, every geographic zone experienced a reduction in the per capita number of RN Supervisors/RNs between 1996 and 2001, with the exception of *No MIZ*, where the number remained unchanged, while assisting occupations in support of health increased in urban, *Strong* and *Moderate MIZ* zones, and fell in *Weak* and *No MIZ* zones.

SUMMARY

The results from Figure 21 and Table 8 suggest a health care disadvantage for rural and small town citizens of New Brunswick. Not only do rural zones have fewer health care providers per capita, they also have a greater distance to travel to access services and specialists located in urban centres. This further limits the ability of residents of rural New Brunswick to access needed health care services. These concerns are especially problematic for *No MIZ* residents who have the second lowest number of health care professionals such as physicians (1.8 per 1,000 population) and are likely (but not always) required to travel the furthest distance to access health care services. Moreover, 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 more than urban RNs. Although the relatively low number of doctors per capita holds true for all MIZ zones, there is a slightly higher ratio in the more densely populated *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones, perhaps reducing the burden on these physicians somewhat. At the same time, it may be the case that given their close proximity to urban centres, residents of *Strong MIZ* zones may be accessing health care services in urban centres. Still, these findings suggest further investigation would be required to more fully understand the urban/rural disparity in health care providers.

Other aspects of health care must also be considered. For instance, the larger proportion of seniors in 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 rural and small town zones of New Brunswick. Hence, supporting home care programs may be a viable way to promote health and decrease health care costs by delaying or avoiding institutionalization. However, care must be taken to not unduly burden informal caregivers who may lack support because of the isolation of their rural communities.

The wellness of the Aboriginal population should also not be overlooked. Though a significant number of Aboriginal people reside in urban centres of the province, their higher proportional representation in rural zones is an important consideration when assessing health care. 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 Aboriginal people 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

Following a period of modest growth, New Brunswick's rural and small town population declined between 1996 and 2001. Of the rural zones, only *No MIZ* experienced population growth in the latter half of the 1990s. Rural and small town New Brunswick is also aging, and is doing so at a slightly greater rate than the urban population.

The report further demonstrates that the economic, educational, social and health care advantages typifying New Brunswick's urban centres are not equally apparent in all rural zones. Many of these advantages, furthermore, have escalated between 1996 and 2001, but again not equally so across all rural zones. Residents of *Strong MIZ* zones have reaped the same (and, by some measures, even more) benefits from a positive economic cycle as those residing in urban centres. *Moderate* and *Weak MIZ* zones display some positive signs of economic progress. The economic and educational disadvantages found in *No MIZ* zones, however, are not only apparent, but they are increasing relative to the rest of the province. In short, the economic, educational, social, and health care disparities between the most rural and the least rural parts of New Brunswick are growing.

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 New Brunswick.

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 New Brunswick. 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 regions 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: Population¹ and Population Percentage Change in New Brunswick 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)
New Brunswick Total	738,133	729,498	-1.2	723,900	738,133	2.0
Urban Total	380,153	381,169	0.3	370,439	380,149	2.6
Rural/Small Town 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	13.2

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

¹Population 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 Distribution¹ in Canada
by Province / Territory and Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996, and 1991**

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

... Continued

Appendix Table 2 Continued
Percent

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

... Continued

Appendix Table 2 Continued
Percent

	2001	1996	1991
Yukon¹	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	74.6	70.9	64.5
Territories	25.4	29.1	35.5
Northwest Territories¹	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	44.3	43.6	41.8
Territories	55.7	56.4	58.2
Nunavut¹	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban Total	0.0	0.0	0.0
Territories	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

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

Appendix Table 3: Population Percentage Change¹ in Canada
By Province / Territory and Geographic Zone; 1996 to 2001 and 1991 to 1996

	1996 (2001 boundaries)	2001 (2001 boundaries)	1996-2001 % Change	1991 (1996 boundaries)	1996 (1996 boundaries)	1991-1996 % Change
Canada	28,846,761	30,007,094	4.0	27,318,076	28,871,473	5.7
Urban Total	22,654,692	23,839,086	5.2	21,140,156	22,449,855	6.2
RST Total	6,192,069	6,168,008	-0.4	6,177,920	6,421,618	3.9
.. Strong MIZ	1,470,493	1,524,579	3.7	1,458,941	1,564,837	7.3
.. Moderate MIZ	2,307,387	2,285,538	-0.9	2,290,094	2,365,371	3.3
.. Weak MIZ	2,027,488	1,969,211	-2.9	2,078,315	2,119,337	2.0
.. No MIZ	330,616	333,847	1.0	329,353	347,361	5.5
.. Territories ²	56,085	54,833	-2.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
New Brunswick	738,133	729,498	-1.2	723,900	738,133	2.0
Urban Total	380,153	381,169	0.3	370,439	380,149	2.6
RST Total	357,980	348,329	-2.7	353,461	357,984	1.3
.. Strong MIZ	51,349	50,527	-1.6	50,342	51,353	2.0
.. Moderate MIZ	150,795	145,567	-3.5	148,540	150,380	1.2
.. Weak MIZ	139,698	135,618	-2.9	140,434	140,113	-0.2
.. No MIZ	16,138	16,617	3.0	14,145	16,138	13.2
Newfoundland/ Labrador	551,792	512,930	-7.0	568,474	551,792	-2.9
Urban Total	244,868	238,538	-2.6	244,889	244,868	0.0
RST Total	306,924	274,392	-10.6	323,585	306,924	-5.1
.. Strong MIZ	19,947	17,804	-10.7	20,770	19,947	-4.0
.. Moderate MIZ	140,596	125,213	-10.9	150,471	140,672	-6.5
.. Weak MIZ	118,960	107,024	-10.0	122,833	119,012	-3.1
.. No MIZ	27,421	24,351	-11.2	29,511	27,293	-7.5
Prince Edward Island	134,557	135,294	0.5	129,765	134,557	3.7
Urban Total	73,225	74,558	1.8	69,885	73,225	4.8
RST Total	61,332	60,736	-1.0	59,880	61,332	2.4
.. Strong MIZ	18,966	18,989	0.1	17,902	18,966	5.9
.. Moderate MIZ	29,713	29,371	-1.2	29,227	29,713	1.7
.. Weak MIZ	11,925	11,690	-2.0	11,940	11,925	-0.1
.. No MIZ	728	686	-5.8	811	728	-10.2
Nova Scotia	909,282	908,007	-0.1	899,942	909,282	1.0
Urban Total	568,062	574,696	1.2	546,052	557,614	2.1
RST Total	341,220	333,311	-2.3	353,890	351,668	-0.6
.. Strong MIZ	21,172	22,209	4.9	28,370	29,777	5.0
.. Moderate MIZ	100,647	98,571	-2.1	101,241	102,422	1.2
.. Weak MIZ	214,691	207,881	-3.2	219,618	214,691	-2.2
.. No MIZ	4,710	4,650	-1.3	4,661	4,778	2.5

... Continued

Appendix Table 3 Continued

	1996 (2001 boundaries)	2001 (2001 boundaries)	1996-2001 % Change	1991 (1996 boundaries)	1996 (1996 boundaries)	1991-1996 % Change
Quebec	7,138,795	7,237,479	1.4	6,895,963	7,138,795	3.5
Urban Total	5,569,642	5,681,453	2.0	5,353,846	5,543,060	3.5
RST Total	1,569,153	1,556,026	-0.8	1,542,117	1,595,735	3.5
.. Strong MIZ	429,851	439,797	2.3	391,396	422,875	8.0
.. Moderate MIZ	800,113	789,980	-1.3	785,081	802,485	2.2
.. Weak MIZ	292,140	279,400	-4.4	313,032	315,625	0.8
.. No MIZ	47,049	46,849	-0.4	52,608	54,750	4.1
Ontario	10,753,573	11,410,046	6.1	10,084,885	10,753,573	6.6
Urban Total	9,291,331	9,925,949	6.8	8,559,726	9,157,435	7.0
RST Total	1,462,242	1,484,097	1.5	1,525,159	1,596,138	4.7
.. Strong MIZ	668,346	695,979	4.1	710,094	756,992	6.6
.. Moderate MIZ	489,985	489,378	-0.1	520,565	539,257	3.6
.. Weak MIZ	278,623	270,527	-2.9	266,562	269,132	1.0
.. No MIZ	25,288	28,213	11.6	27,938	30,757	10.1
Manitoba	1,113,898	1,119,583	0.5	1,091,942	1,113,898	2.0
Urban Total	742,444	746,184	0.5	736,318	742,560	0.8
RST Total	371,454	373,399	0.5	355,624	371,338	4.4
.. Strong MIZ	47,324	48,808	3.1	62,279	45,593	7.8
.. Moderate MIZ	114,608	116,659	1.8	110,237	115,127	4.4
.. Weak MIZ	169,348	167,188	-1.3	167,254	171,105	2.3
.. No MIZ	40,174	40,744	1.4	35,854	39,513	10.2
Saskatchewan	990,237	978,933	-1.1	988,928	990,237	0.1
Urban Total	561,672	565,222	0.6	551,776	561,672	1.8
RST Total	428,565	413,711	-3.5	437,152	428,565	-2.0
.. Strong MIZ	25,788	25,990	0.8	26,511	26,013	-1.9
.. Moderate MIZ	103,051	100,376	-2.6	105,203	102,823	-2.3
.. Weak MIZ	203,012	193,996	-4.4	207,229	202,570	-2.2
.. No MIZ	96,714	93,349	-3.5	98,209	97,159	-1.1
Alberta	2,696,826	2,974,807	10.3	2,545,553	2,696,826	5.9
Urban Total	2,004,641	2,244,336	12.0	1,901,066	2,002,352	5.3
RST Total	692,185	730,471	5.5	644,487	694,474	7.8
.. Strong MIZ	118,425	133,432	12.7	103,035	115,974	12.6
.. Moderate MIZ	190,335	201,612	5.9	158,227	169,300	7.0
.. Weak MIZ	352,527	358,995	1.8	356,885	377,669	5.8
.. No MIZ	30,898	36,432	17.9	26,340	31,531	19.7
British Columbia	3,724,500	3,907,738	4.9	3,282,061	3,724,500	13.5
Urban Total	3,179,571	3,369,035	6.0	2,770,905	3,147,837	13.6
RST Total	544,929	538,703	-1.1	511,156	576,663	12.8
.. Strong MIZ	69,325	71,044	2.5	67,749	77,210	14.0
.. Moderate MIZ	187,544	188,811	0.7	181,119	212,996	17.6
.. Weak MIZ	246,564	236,892	-3.9	236,084	256,500	8.6
.. No MIZ	41,496	41,956	1.1	26,204	29,957	14.3

... Continued

Appendix Table 3 Continued

	1996 (2001 boundaries)	2001 (2001 boundaries)	1996-2001 % Change	1991 (1996 boundaries)	1996 (1996 boundaries)	1991-1996 % Change
Yukon²	30,766	28,674	-6.8	27,797	30,766	10.7
Urban Total	21,808	21,405	-1.8	20,075	21,808	8.6
Territories	8,958	7,269	-18.9	7,722	8,958	16.0
Northwest Territories²	39,672	37,360	-5.8	57,649	64,402	11.7
Urban Total	17,275	16,541	-4.2	15,179	17,275	13.8
Territories	22,397	20,819	-7.0	42,470	47,127	11.0
Nunavut²	24,730	26,745	8.1	21,217	24,712	16.5
Urban Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Territories	24,730	26,745	8.1	21,217	24,712	16.5

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

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

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

Appendix Table 4: Population Age Distribution in New Brunswick by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996, and 1991

Geographic Zone	Percent														
	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
New Brunswick Total	18.1	19.8	20.9	13.5	14.5	15.3	29.9	32.1	33.0	25.6	21.7	18.6	12.9	11.9	12.2
Urban Total	17.9	19.4	20.2	13.9	14.5	15.3	30.4	32.5	33.7	25.3	21.9	18.9	12.4	11.7	11.9
Rural/Small Town Total	18.3	20.3	21.6	13.0	14.4	15.3	29.4	31.7	32.2	25.9	21.5	18.3	13.4	12.2	12.4
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	18.2	20.5	21.2	12.5	13.7	14.2	30.1	32.3	32.8	27.0	22.3	19.4	12.2	11.2	12.2
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	18.0	20.1	21.4	12.8	14.0	15.5	29.1	31.6	32.1	26.2	21.7	18.6	13.9	12.6	12.4
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	18.2	20.2	22.1	13.4	14.9	15.5	29.4	31.6	32.2	25.5	21.0	17.6	13.4	12.3	12.5
<i>No MIZ</i>	21.7	21.4	22.1	12.8	15.6	15.5	30.1	30.3	31.4	23.2	20.7	18.1	12.3	11.8	13.0

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

Appendix Table 5: Population Age in New Brunswick 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
New Brunswick Total¹	130335	144605	151225	97145	105575	110945	215450	234215	238620	184250	158110	134960	92530	87125	88150
Urban Total	67510	72870	74650	52470	54650	56810	114270	122085	124645	95230	82170	70105	46535	43865	44185
Rural/Small Town Total	62835	71735	76510	44675	50915	54050	101175	112135	113865	89015	75930	64800	45995	43265	44000
Strong MIZ	9100	10450	13035	6235	6955	8780	15050	16430	20205	13480	11370	11960	6105	5680	7530
Moderate MIZ	25750	29950	29670	18425	20840	21510	41735	47130	44500	37530	32275	25810	19940	18760	17210
Weak MIZ	24395	27930	30300	17915	20630	21310	39405	43725	44195	34185	29005	24165	17920	16935	17210
No MIZ	3590	3410	3505	2110	2485	2450	4975	4825	4965	3830	3290	2865	2030	1885	2050

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

¹Population 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 Population¹ in New Brunswick
by Geographic Zone; 2001 and 1996**

Geographic Zone	Number	
	2001	1996
New Brunswick Total²	16,990	10,250
Urban Total	5,595	3,850
Rural/Small Town Total	11,395	6,400
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	845	245
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	3,105	1,500
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	4,875	2,780
<i>No MIZ</i>	2,560	1,870

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 7: Home Language¹ Population in New Brunswick
by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number											
	English			French			Non-official language ³			Multiple Response		
	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	493,630	498,845	485,575	215,060	219,390	220,590	4,840	4,070	4,310	6,195	7,325	6,020
Urban Total	293,575	295,125	286,695	76,230	74,360	73,755	2,790	2,075	2,485	3,415	4,080	3,440
Rural/Small Town Total	200,090	203,720	198,755	138,850	145,025	146,725	2,060	2,000	1,780	2,770	3,240	2,485
Strong MIZ	27,420	27,380	28,820	21,910	22,940	31,505	155	100	50	535	465	520
Moderate MIZ	85,790	88,515	81,985	56,215	58,720	53,980	250	385	300	1,180	1,355	1,105
Weak MIZ	57,200	75,845	75,775	56,475	59,870	57,945	1,135	1,215	1,390	805	1,280	815
No MIZ	29,680	11,970	12,175	4,250	3,495	3,595	520	295	40	250	145	45

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

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

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

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

Appendix Table 8: Population Participating in Labour Force¹ in New Brunswick
By Geographic Zone: 2001, 1996 and 1991

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	371,805	364,100	355,695
Urban Total	202,195	195,255	190,495
Rural/Small Town Total	169,605	168,840	165,225
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	25,500	24,435	29,320
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	70,025	70,665	63,745
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	66,235	66,135	64,640
<i>No MIZ</i>	7,845	7,600	7,520

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 9: Population Unemployed¹ in New Brunswick
by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	46,470	56,265	54,730
Urban Total	18,390	22,865	22,815
Rural/Small Town Total	28,085	33,405	31,930
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	3,865	4,290	5,555
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	12,305	14,495	12,960
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	10,365	12,915	11,935
<i>No MIZ</i>	1,545	1,710	1,480

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 10: 2001 Labour Force Population by Industry Sector (NAICS)¹
in New Brunswick by Geographic Zone**

Number

Geographic Zone	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Mining and Oil & Gas Extraction	Construction	Manufacturing	Production Services ²	Consumer Services ³	Government - Provided Services ⁴
New Brunswick Total⁵	20,400	3,240	23,320	45,865	88,670	70,985	112,560
Urban Total	3,585	985	11,705	16,665	59,945	41,850	64,075
Rural/Small Town Total	16,815	2,255	11,610	29,200	28,720	29,130	48,475
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	1,900	285	2,180	3,550	5,235	4,015	7,940
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	6,710	1,025	4,920	12,435	11,400	12,160	20,000
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	7,150	865	4,055	11,730	10,950	11,670	18,335
<i>No MIZ</i>	1,060	85	465	1,475	1,110	1,295	2,205

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

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

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

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 11: 1996 and 1991 Labour Force Population by Industry Sector (SIC)¹ in New Brunswick
by Geographic Zone**

Geographic Zone	Number													
	Agric., Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting		Mining & Oil & Gas Extraction		Construction		Manufacturing		Production Services ²		Consumer Services ³		Government- Provided Services ⁴	
	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total⁵	21,900	21,110	4,095	4,545	23,855	24,235	45,730	47,575	70,700	65,960	92,680	89,135	93,300	95,140
Urban Total	4,410	4,320	1,345	1,500	11,430	11,245	18,460	19,330	46,620	43,640	53,475	52,055	53,315	54,120
Rural/Small Town Total	17,490	16,565	2,755	2,990	12,420	12,845	27,275	28,160	24,075	21,600	39,210	36,650	39,980	40,660
Strong MIZ	2,100	2,150	335	395	2,110	2,910	3,155	4,615	4,345	4,600	5,755	6,430	5,990	7,335
Moderate MIZ	7,005	6,470	1,320	1,755	5,180	4,735	12,060	10,840	9,690	7,950	16,000	13,795	17,200	15,785
Weak MIZ	7,390	6,870	1,010	755	4,585	4,725	10,910	11,215	9,070	8,175	15,635	14,910	15,035	15,860
No MIZ	995	1,072	90	85	545	484	1,155	1,490	970	875	1,810	1,515	1,765	1,680

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 12: Self-Employed¹ Population in New Brunswick
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	31,060	30,175	23,990
Urban Total	15,665	15,185	11,280
Rural/Small Town Total	15,390	14,990	12,465
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	2,325	2,035	2,110
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	6,320	6,145	4,360
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	6,000	6,050	5,320
<i>No MIZ</i>	745	760	675

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 13: Low-Income Population¹ in New Brunswick
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	111,365	137,300	114,870
Urban Total	58,195	69,340	58,150
Rural/Small Town Total	52,985	67,965	56,485
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	5,870	8,550	8,650
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	22,210	28,355	22,625
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	22,505	28,225	22,755
<i>No MIZ</i>	2,400	2,840	2,455

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 14: 2001 Population Educational Attainment¹
in New Brunswick By Geographic Zone**

Geographic Zone	Number				
	Less Than High School	High School Diploma	Some Post-Secondary	Post-Secondary Cert./Dip.	University Degree
New Brunswick Total²	184,015	80,505	60,685	147,065	66,575
Urban Total	76,730	41,885	37,080	81,195	45,830
Rural/Small Town Total	107,280	38,620	23,610	65,875	20,740
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	14,980	6,055	3,170	10,455	2,675
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	46,245	16,110	9,835	26,910	8,330
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	40,990	14,810	9,410	25,495	8,900
<i>No MIZ</i>	5,065	1,650	1,190	3,010	835

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001

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

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

**Appendix Table 15: 1996 and 1991 Population Educational Attainment¹ in New Brunswick
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
New Brunswick Total²	236,155	256,840	85,795	79,840	55,350	53,860	148,075	127,415	59,635	47,350
Urban Total	102,010	111,505	45,135	42,290	33,020	32,585	81,585	72,730	41,040	32,405
Rural/Small Town Total	134,155	145,105	40,665	37,380	22,330	21,035	66,495	54,385	18,595	14,870
Strong MIZ	19,110	25,375	6,085	6,530	2,945	3,715	10,140	10,010	2,155	2,125
Moderate MIZ	58,240	59,195	16,605	14,625	9,385	7,785	27,260	20,300	7,530	5,480
Weak MIZ	50,805	54,090	16,195	14,320	9,045	8,645	26,120	21,630	8,120	6,650
No MIZ	6,010	6,445	1,775	1,905	960	890	2,980	2,445	790	615

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 16: Number of Education Providers¹ in New Brunswick
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	13,370	14,670	16,530
Urban Total	7,925	8,625	9,485
Rural/Small Town Total	5,445	6,055	6,840
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	660	740	1,110
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	2,155	2,405	2,490
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	2,380	2,655	3,000
<i>No MIZ</i>	245	255	240

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 17: Number of Lone-Parent Families in New Brunswick
By Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991**

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001 ¹	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	34,610	29,435	26,545
Urban Total	17,845	15,860	14,440
Rural/Small Town Total	16,765	13,575	12,075
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	1,950	1,520	1,785
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	6,775	5,485	4,660
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	7,080	5,955	5,140
<i>No MIZ</i>	960	615	490

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

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

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

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

Number of Houses			
Geographic Zone	1996 - 2001	1991 - 1995	1986 - 1990
New Brunswick Total¹	18,790	21,950	25,320
Urban Total	10,515	11,725	13,380
Rural/Small Town Total	8,270	10,225	11,935
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	1,230	1,745	1,835
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	3,360	3,980	4,695
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	2,960	3,980	4,835
<i>No MIZ</i>	720	525	570

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

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

Appendix Table 19: Number of Owner Households Spending Greater than 30% of their Income on Shelter¹ in New Brunswick by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Geographic Zone	Number of Households		
	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	54,610	25,130	14,135
Urban Total	31,525	11,810	6,885
Rural/Small Town Total	22,980	13,320	7,220
Strong MIZ	2,670	1,870	1,355
Moderate MIZ	9,610	5,720	2,800
Weak MIZ	9,845	5,145	2,750
No MIZ	855	580	315

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

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

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

Appendix Table 20: Number Employed in Health Occupations¹ in New Brunswick by Geographic Zone; 2001, 1996 and 1991

Geographic Zone	Number		
	2001	1996	1991
New Brunswick Total²	20,190	19,020	18,925
Urban Total	12,340	11,400	11,675
Rural/Small Town Total	7,845	7,615	7,090
<i>Strong MIZ</i>	1,310	1,160	1,350
<i>Moderate MIZ</i>	2,990	2,925	2,330
<i>Weak MIZ</i>	3,165	3,240	3,135
<i>No MIZ</i>	390	285	275

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

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

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

**Appendix Table 21: Number Employed in Health Occupational Categories in New Brunswick
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
New Brunswick Total¹	3,360	2,915	7,010	8,080	4,790	3,735	5,025	4,290
Urban Total	2,340	2,070	4,375	5,070	2,765	2,225	2,855	2,055
Rural and Small Town Total	1,015	845	2,630	3,015	2,025	1,510	2,170	2,235
Strong MIZ	85	80	420	445	340	200	460	435
Moderate MIZ	360	320	965	1,140	745	575	920	885
Weak MIZ	545	430	1,090	1,290	800	685	725	835
No MIZ	30	15	150	145	145	60	70	70

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

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