

Slightly more than half of provincial population living in rural areas

A [population centre](#) has a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 persons or more per square kilometre, based on population counts from the current census. All areas outside population centres are classified as rural areas. Population centres fall into three groups (small, medium and large) depending on the size of their population.

- According to the 2016 Census, more than four-fifths of Canadians were living in population centres (81.3%). In New Brunswick, roughly half of the population (49.0%) lived in one of the 31 population centres in the province.
- Twenty-eight of the 31 population centres were defined as small population centres (with a population between 1,000 and 29,999); they contained 18.7% of the total population.
- Fredericton and Saint John (medium population centres) were home to 15.8% of New Brunswickers, while 14.5% of the population resided in Moncton, the largest population centre in the province.
- The remaining provincial population lived in rural areas (51.0%). This compared to 18.7% nationally. Among the provinces, only Prince Edward Island was more rural (54.9%) than New Brunswick.

