

Charts:

Population in:

- Census rural areas
- Population centres (with 1,000+ inhabitants)

by province, 1851 to 2016

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References:

du Plessis, Valerie, Roland Beshiri, Ray D. Bollman and Heather Clemenson. (2001)
“Definitions of Rural.” **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 3, No. 3
(Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE)
(<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>).

For provincial detail, see:

du Plessis, Valerie, Roland Beshiri, Ray D. Bollman and Heather Clemenson. (2002)
Definitions of Rural (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Agriculture and Rural Working Paper No. 61,
Catalogue no. 21-601-MIE) (<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/28031/1/wp020061.pdf>).

Bollman, Ray D. and Heather A. Clemenson (2008)
Structure and Change in Canada’s Rural Demography: An Update to 2006 with Provincial Detail
(Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Agriculture and Rural Working Paper No. 90, Catalogue no. 21-601-MIE)
(http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2008/statcan/21-601-M/21-601-m2008090-eng.pdf).

Note:

Census rural areas are all areas outside [population centres](#) of 1,000 or more.

Rural and Small Town areas are towns and municipalities outside “Larger Urban Centres” of 10,000 or more (i.e., outside [Census Metropolitan Areas \(CMAs\) \(100,000+ population\) and outside Census Agglomerations \(CAs\) \(10,000-99,999 population\)](#)).

The geographic units for classifying or delineating census rural areas are smaller than the geographic units that are the building blocks for delineating “Rural and Small Town” areas.

Specifically, the geographic unit used to classifying census rural areas (and the corresponding [population centres](#)) is the [dissemination block](#)

Dissemination blocks are smaller units than the geographic units used to delineate “Rural and Small Town areas” and the corresponding “Larger Urban Centres” (specifically, [Census Metropolitan Areas \(CMAs\) and Census Agglomerations \(CAs\)](#)).

The geographic unit used to delineate “Rural and Small Town” and “Larger Urban Centres” is the [census subdivision](#) (CSD) (i.e. incorporated municipality).

Within many census subdivisions, we will find both census rural residents *and* residents of population centres (of 1,000+ residents).

For example, in 2006, there were 6 million census rural residents and 6 million “Rural and Small Town” residents (see on next slide). However, among the 6 million census rural residents, 2 million (1/3) resided within “Larger Urban Centres” (i.e. as part of a CMA or CA) (i.e. not within a “Rural and Small Town” area).

This is important when one is comparing the growth trends for the census rural population and the growth trends for the “Rural and Small Town” population. For example, the overall census rural population may be growing due to the growth in population in census rural areas within “Larger Urban Centres” whereas the overall “Rural and Small Town” population may be declining

Population of Canada by type of labour market (larger urban centre vs rural and small town areas) and by type of community or settlement, 2006			
Type of labour market	Type of community or settlement		
	Population centres (1,000 or more)	Census rural (under 1,000)	All types of communities or settlements
	Population (million)		
Larger Urban Centres (Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) have a total population of 100,000+ and Census Agglomerations (CAs) have a population of 10,000+. Both include neighbouring municipalities where 50+% of the employed population commutes to the CMA or CA)	23	2	26
Rural and Small Town areas (outside Census Metropolitan Areas and outside Census Agglomerations)	2	4	6
All types of labour markets	25	6	32

Source: Statistics Canada. (2008) **Profile for the Statistical Area Classification, 2006 Census of Population** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 94-581-X2006011) (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?lang=eng&catno=94-581-X2006011>)

Charts:

Population levels and trend in census rural areas and population centres (with 1,000+ inhabitants), by province, 1851 to 2016

For Canada, we show a selection of charts.

For each province, we show:

- a. The trend line for the population in population centres (formerly, census urban areas) and in census urban areas;**
- b. The five-year percent change in each population group; and**
- c. Within census rural areas, the trend line for the rural farm population and the rural non-farm population (the data for 2016 will not be available until 2018).**

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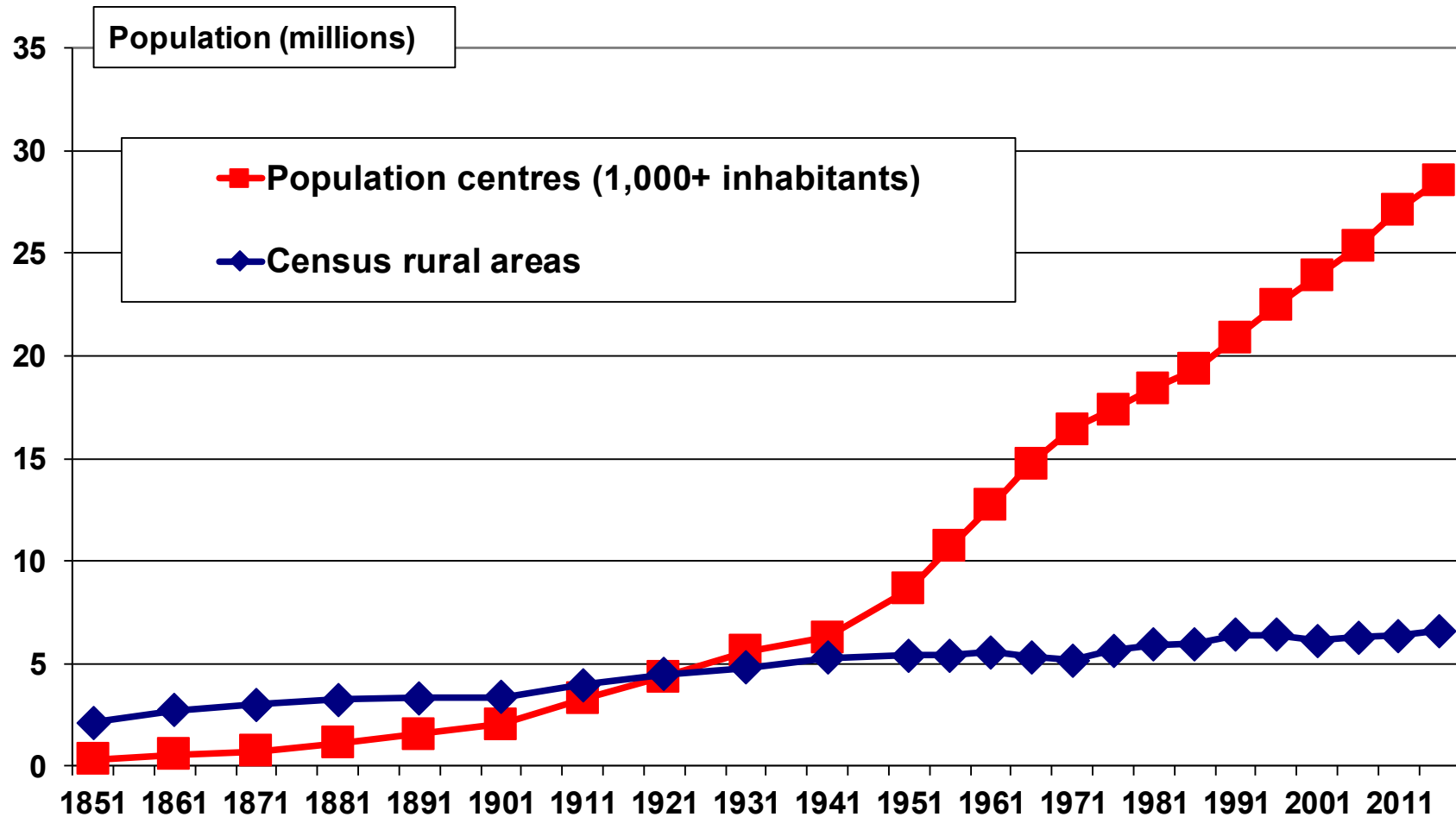
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Distribution of census rural population by province, 2016					
	Year when census rural population became a minority	Total population in 2016	Census rural population in 2016	Percent of population that was census rural in 2016	Provincial census rural population as a percent of Canada's census rural population in 2016
Newfoundland and Labrador	1961	519,718	217,988	42	3.3
Prince Edward Island	still a majority	142,907	78,498	55	1.2
Nova Scotia	1951	923,598	393,629	43	6.0
New Brunswick	1966 to 1981 & 2006 to 2011	747,101	380,919	51	5.8
Quebec	1911	8,164,361	1,591,306	19	24.2
Ontario	1911	13,448,494	1,857,981	14	28.3
Manitoba	1951	1,278,365	343,136	27	5.2
Saskatchewan	1971	1,098,352	364,848	33	5.5
Alberta	1956	4,067,175	667,803	16	10.2
British Columbia	1931	4,648,055	631,776	14	9.6
Yukon	1971	35,874	14,142	39	0.2
Northwest Territories	2006	41,786	15,003	36	0.2
Nunavut	still a majority	35,944	18,344	51	0.3
Canada	1931	35,151,730	6,575,373	19	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2016.

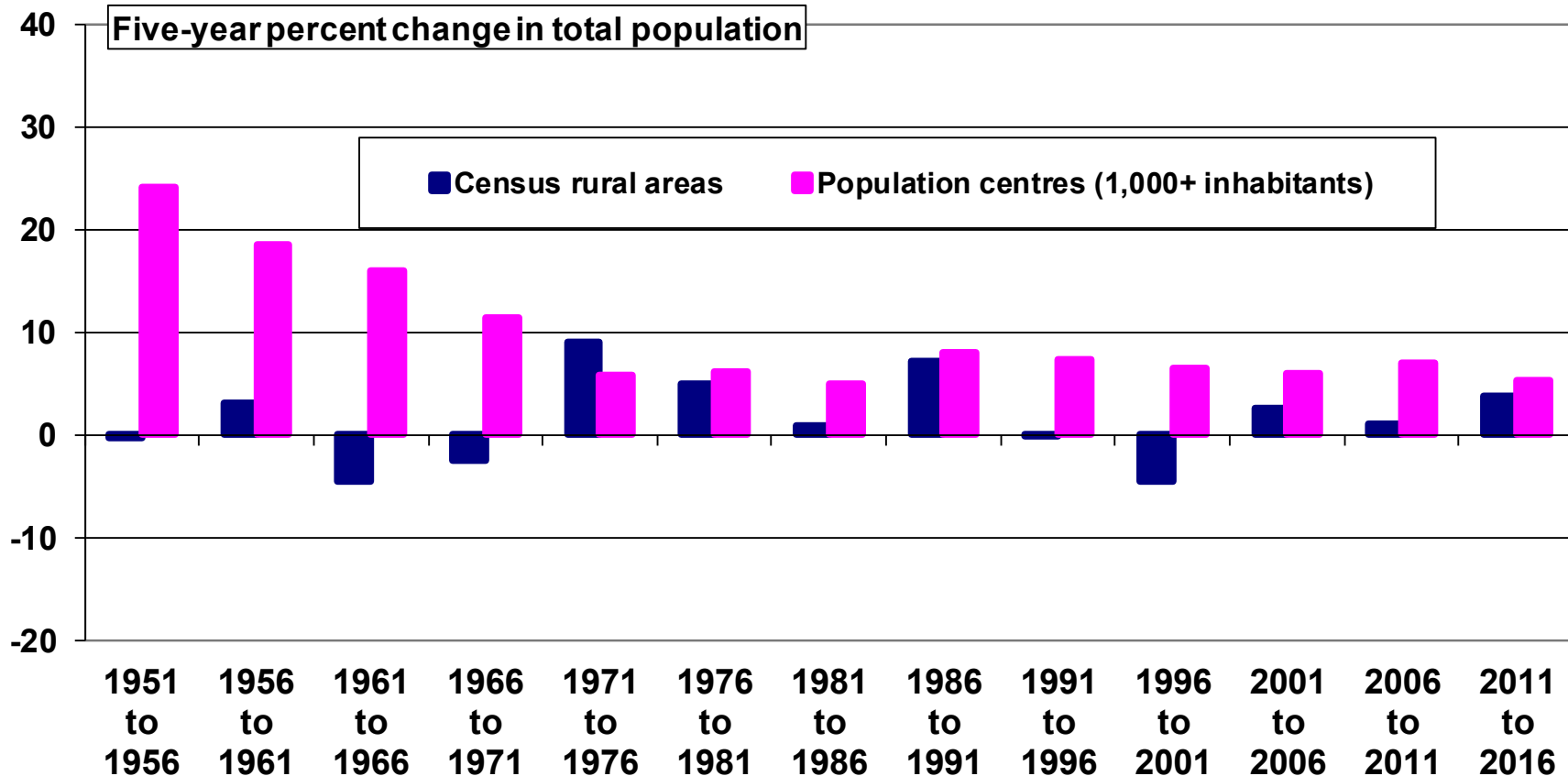
Rural population in Canada became a minority after 1921



Note: Data are tabulated in the boundaries applicable at the time of the given census.

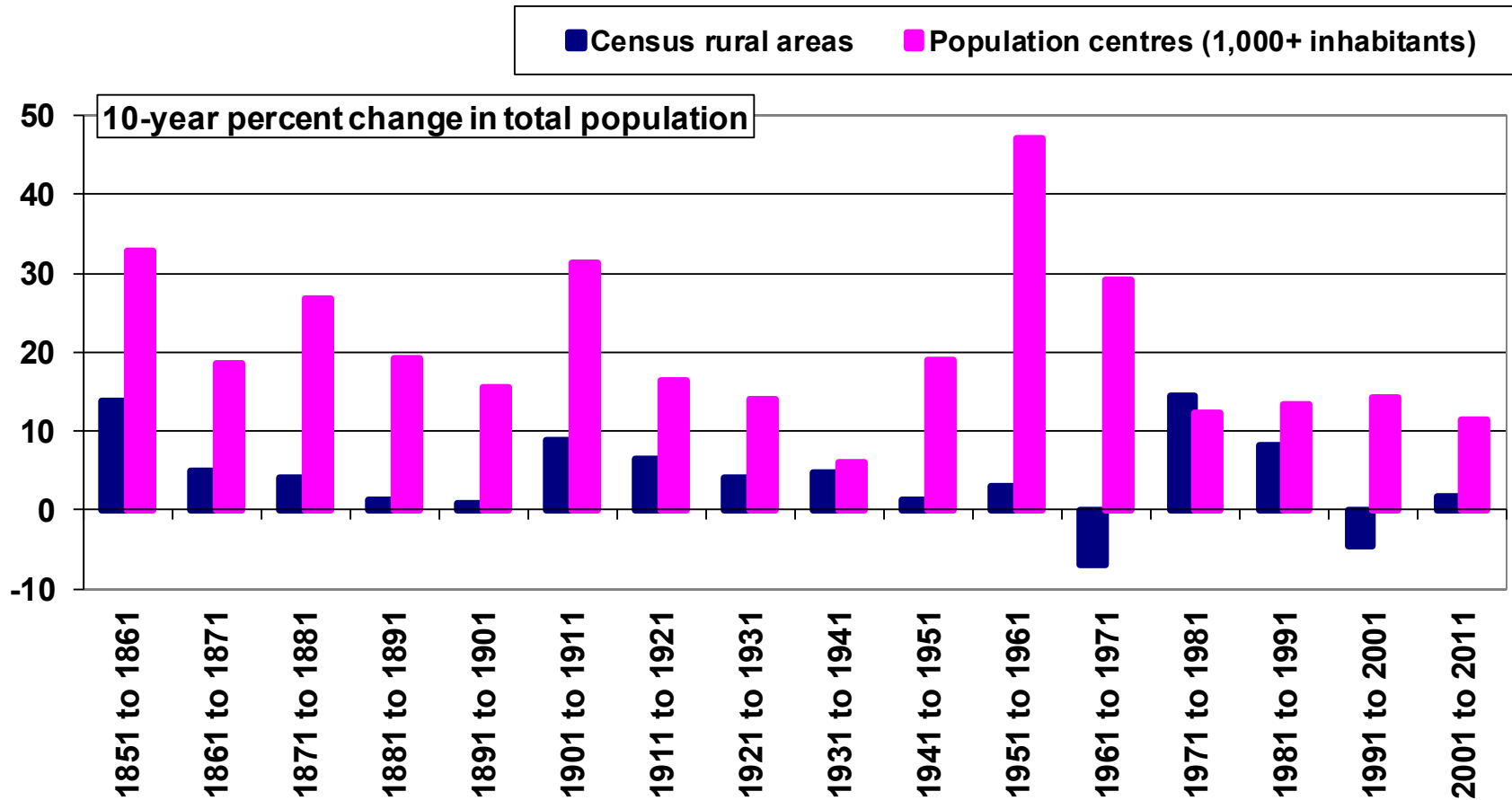
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1851 to 2016.

Canada's census rural population grew in the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s and 2001 to 2016



Note: Data are tabulated in the boundaries applicable at the time of the given census. Thus, the reported change is due to population growth or decline plus the net impact of the re-classification of population between population centres and census rural areas.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 to 2016.

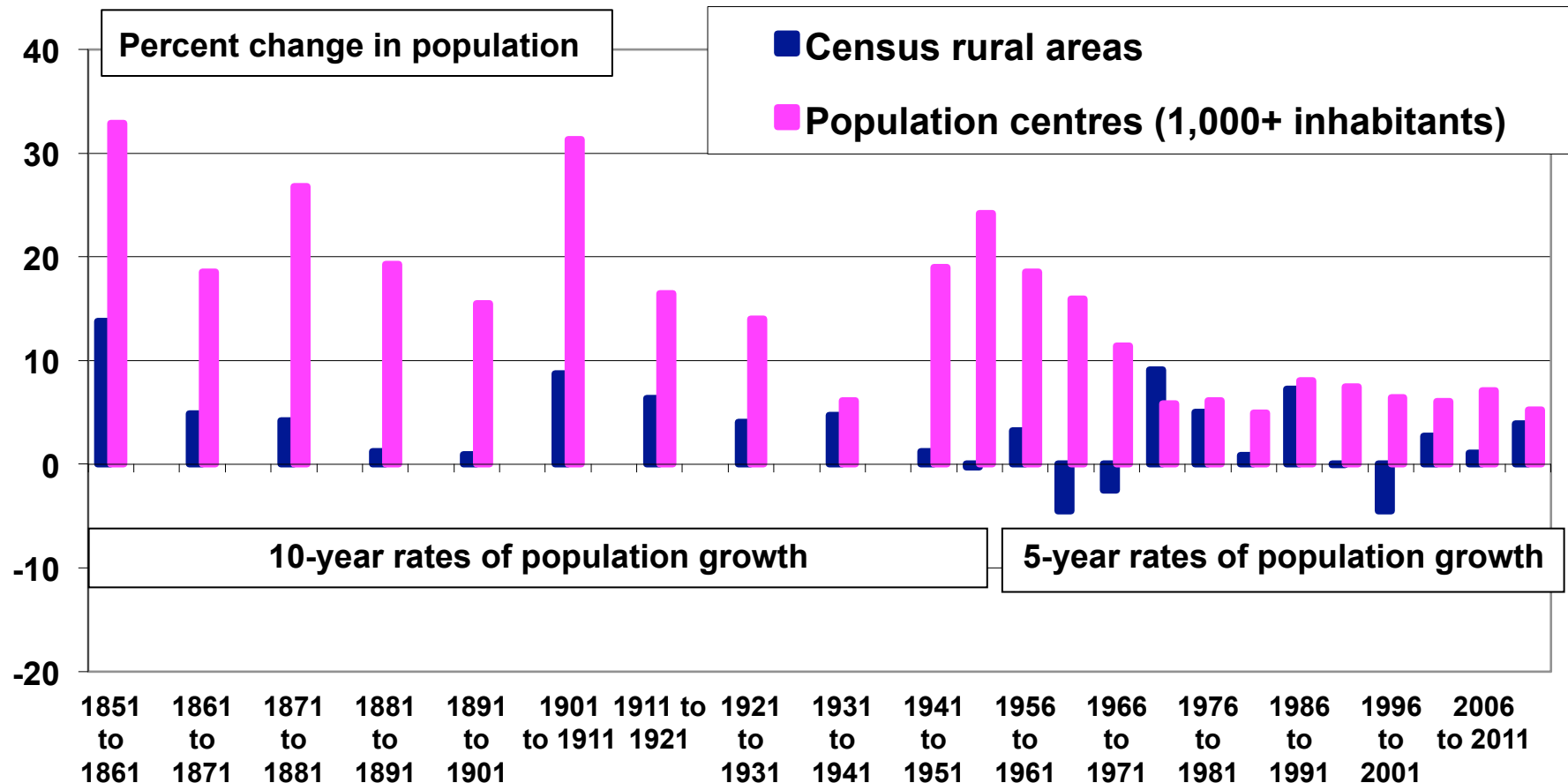
The census rural population has grown in all but 2 decades since 1851, Canada



Note: Data are tabulated in the boundaries applicable at the time of the given census. Thus, the reported change is due to population growth or decline plus the net impact of the re-classification of population between population centres and census rural areas.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 to 2011.

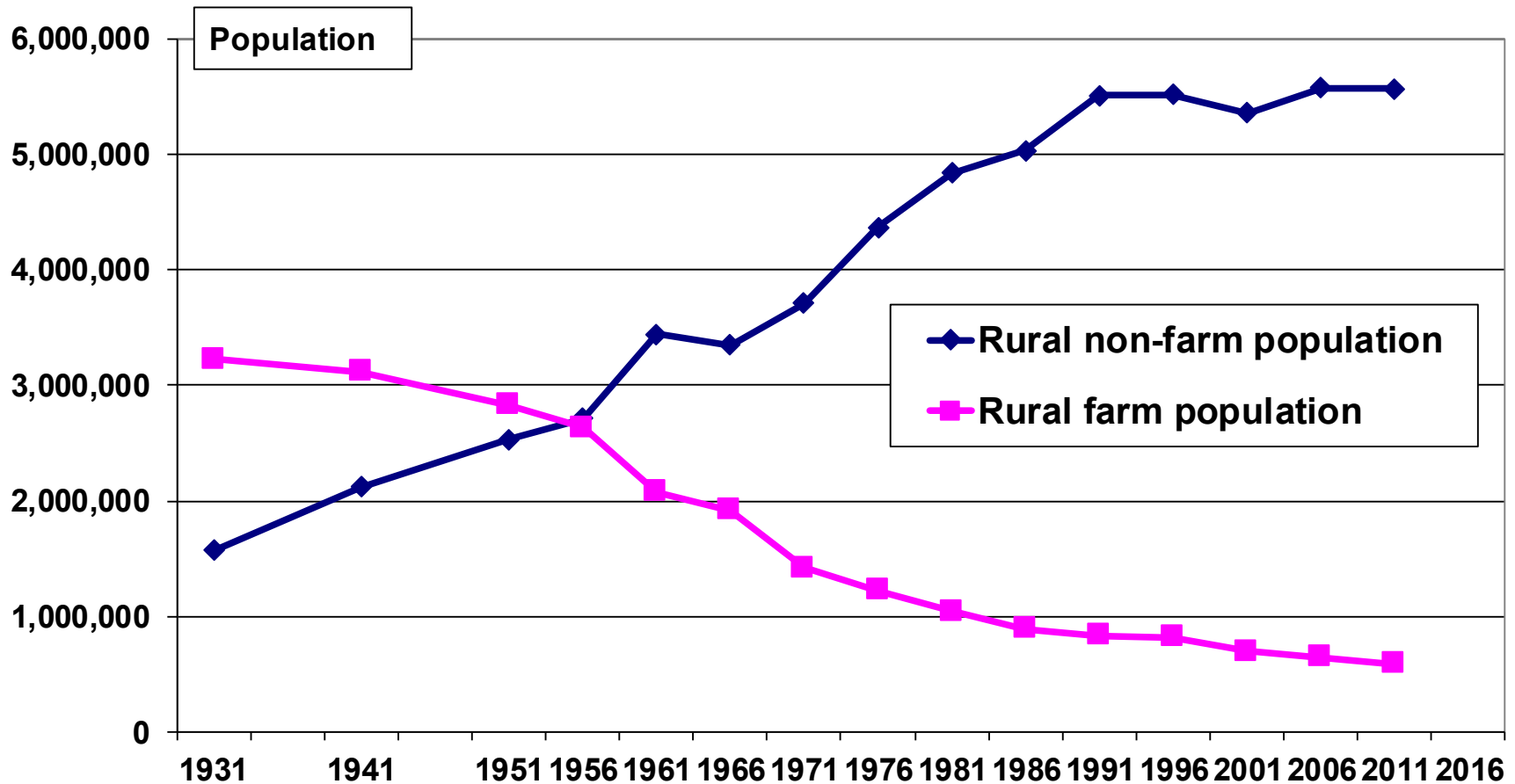
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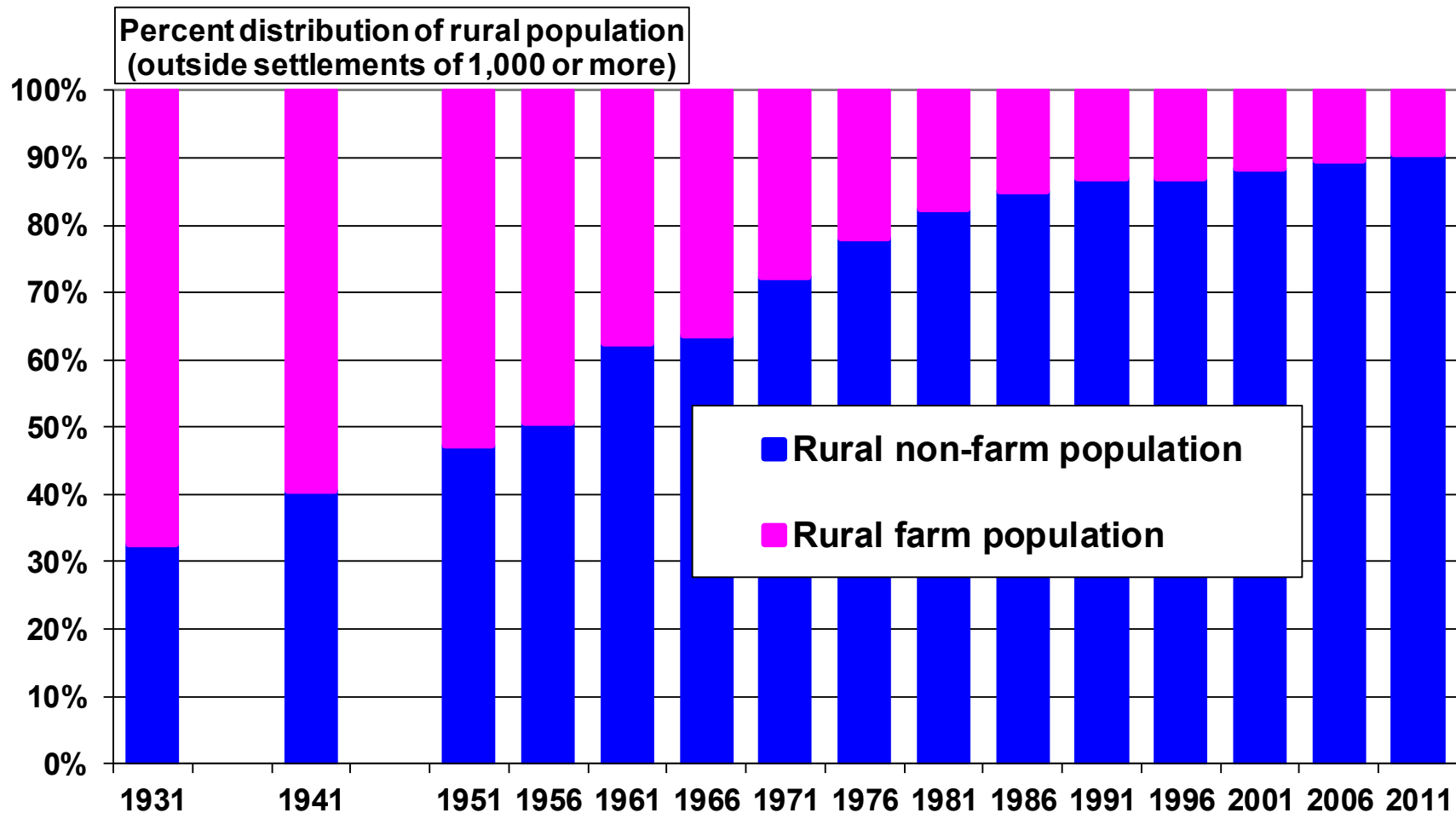
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 to 2016.

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Canada in 1956



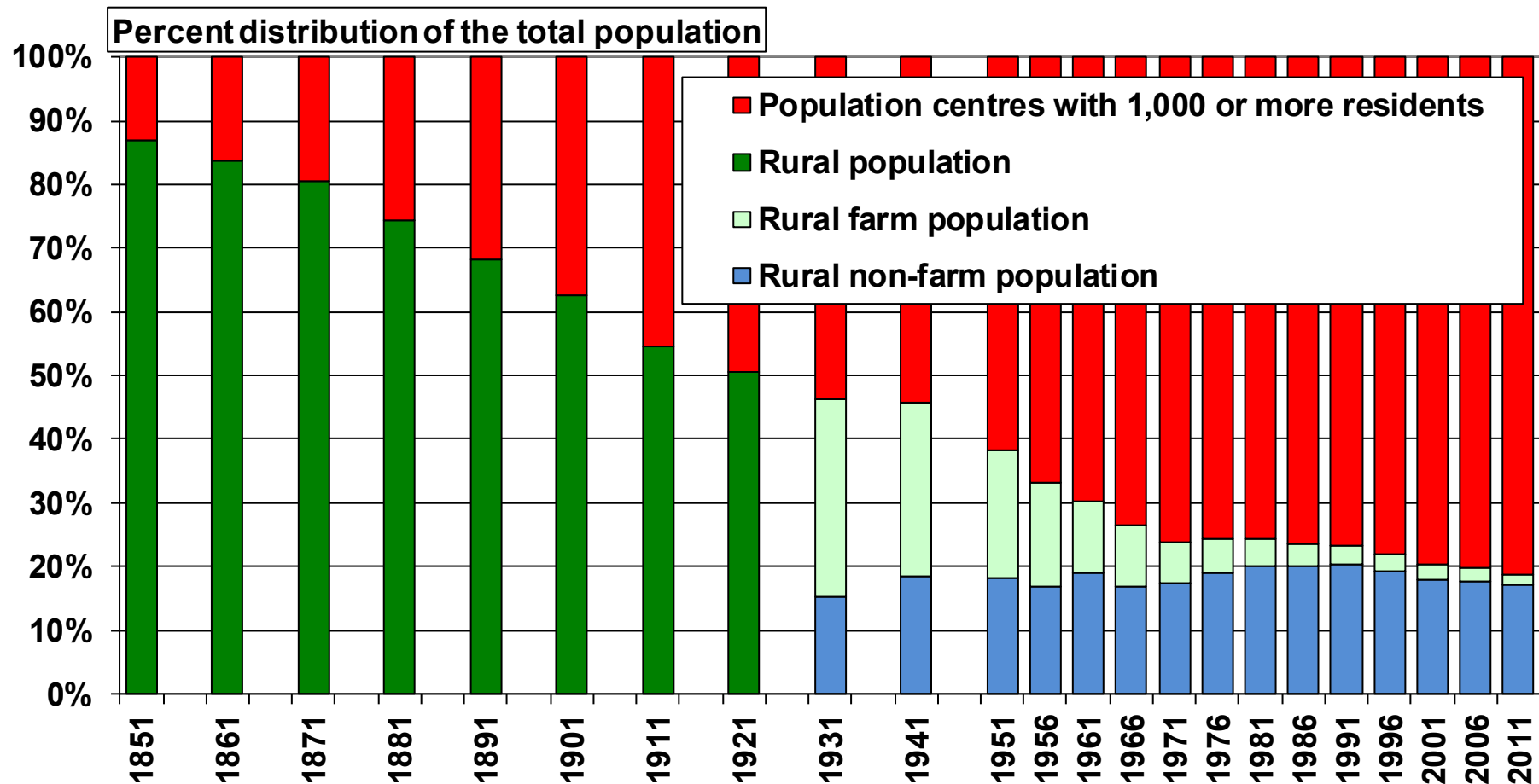
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

**In 1931, 2/3 of rural Canadians lived on a census-farm;
in 2011, 10 percent lived on a census-farm**



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Canada's rural non-farm population has maintained a relatively consistent share of Canada's population in the Post-WWII period



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 to 2016.

The "farm" population refers to all members of a household with a census-farm operator present.

Charts:

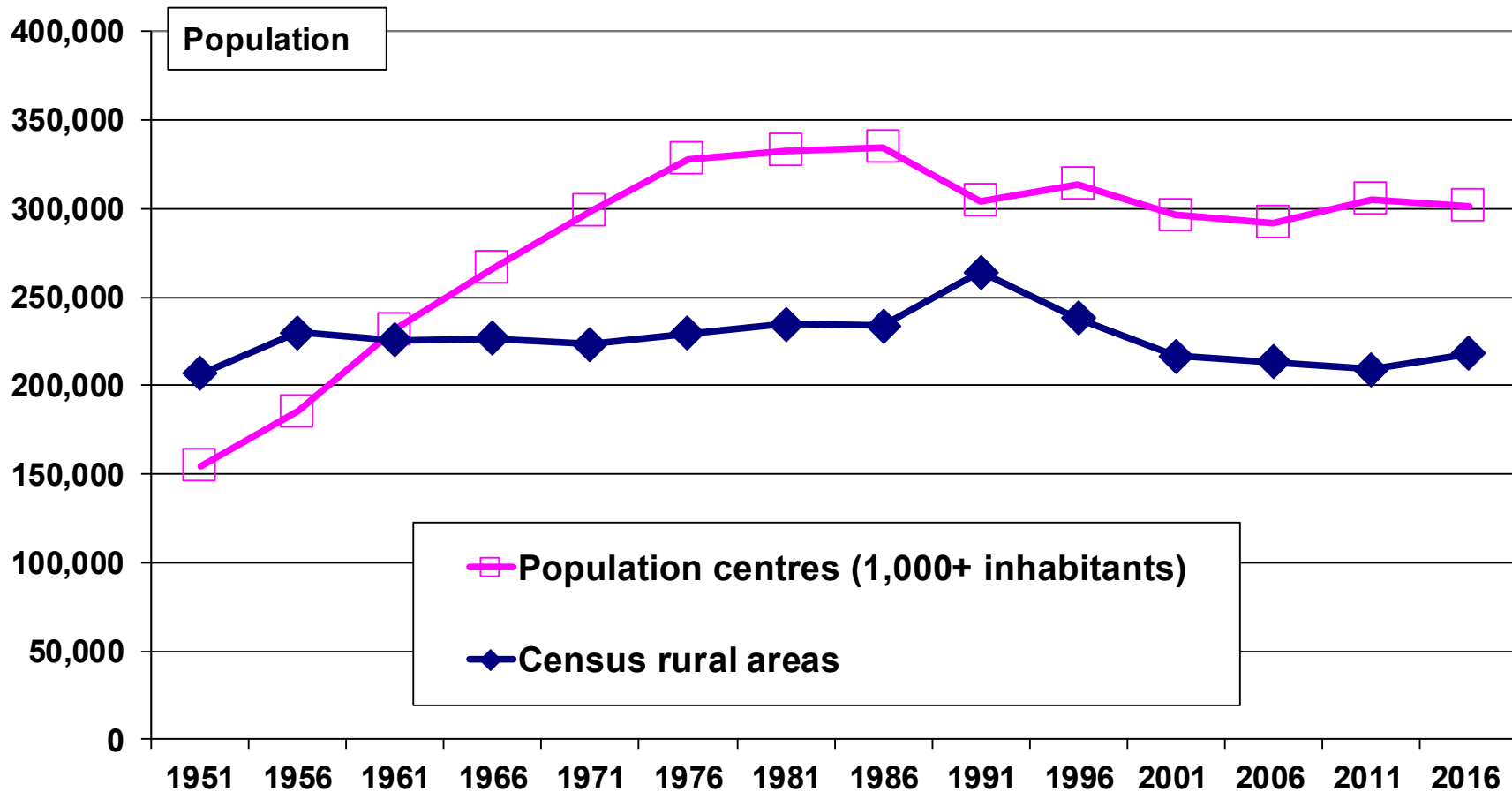
Population levels and trend in census rural areas and population centres (with 1,000+ inhabitants), by province, 1851 to 2016

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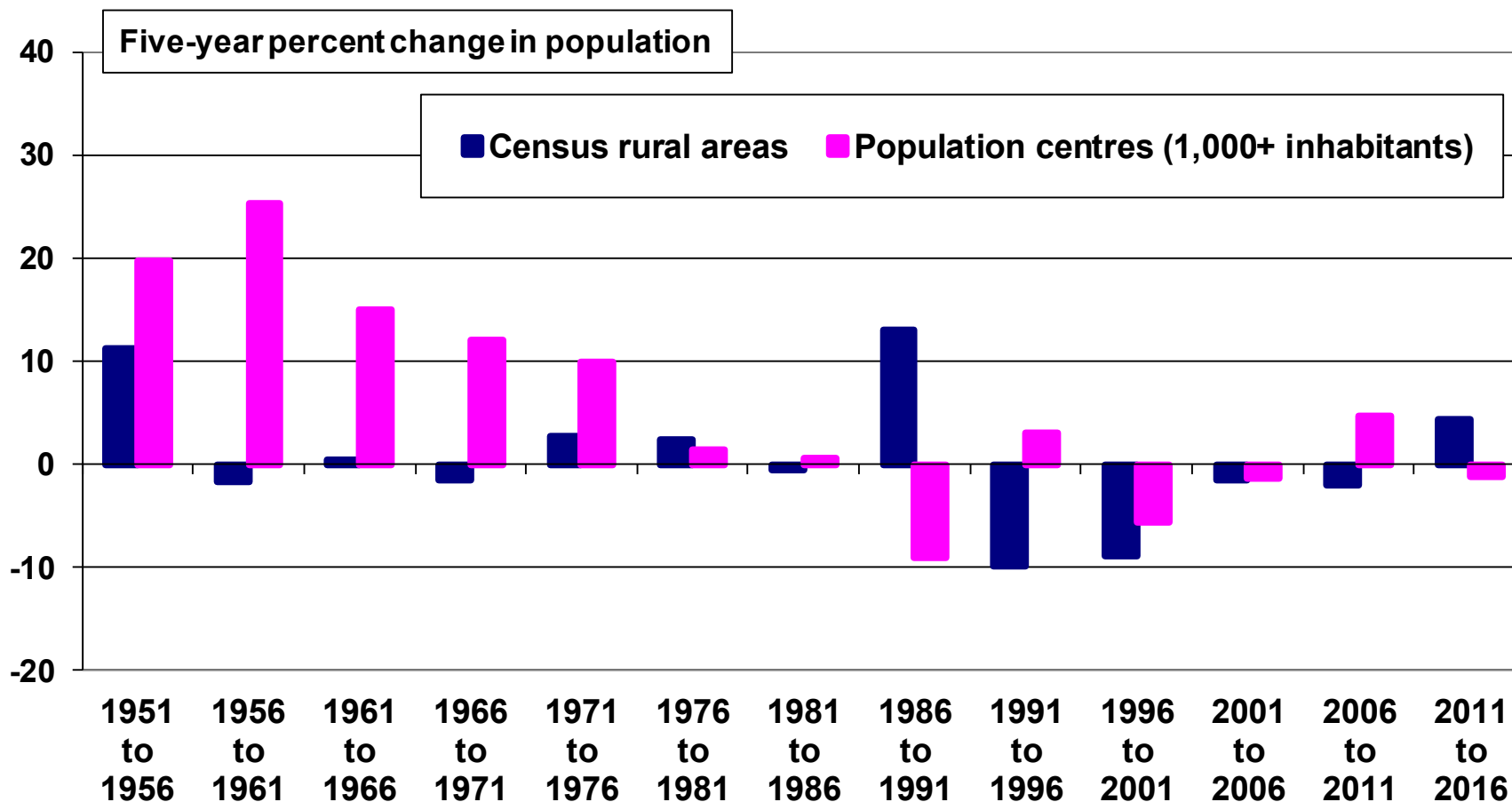
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Population trends: Rural minority in Newfoundland in 1966



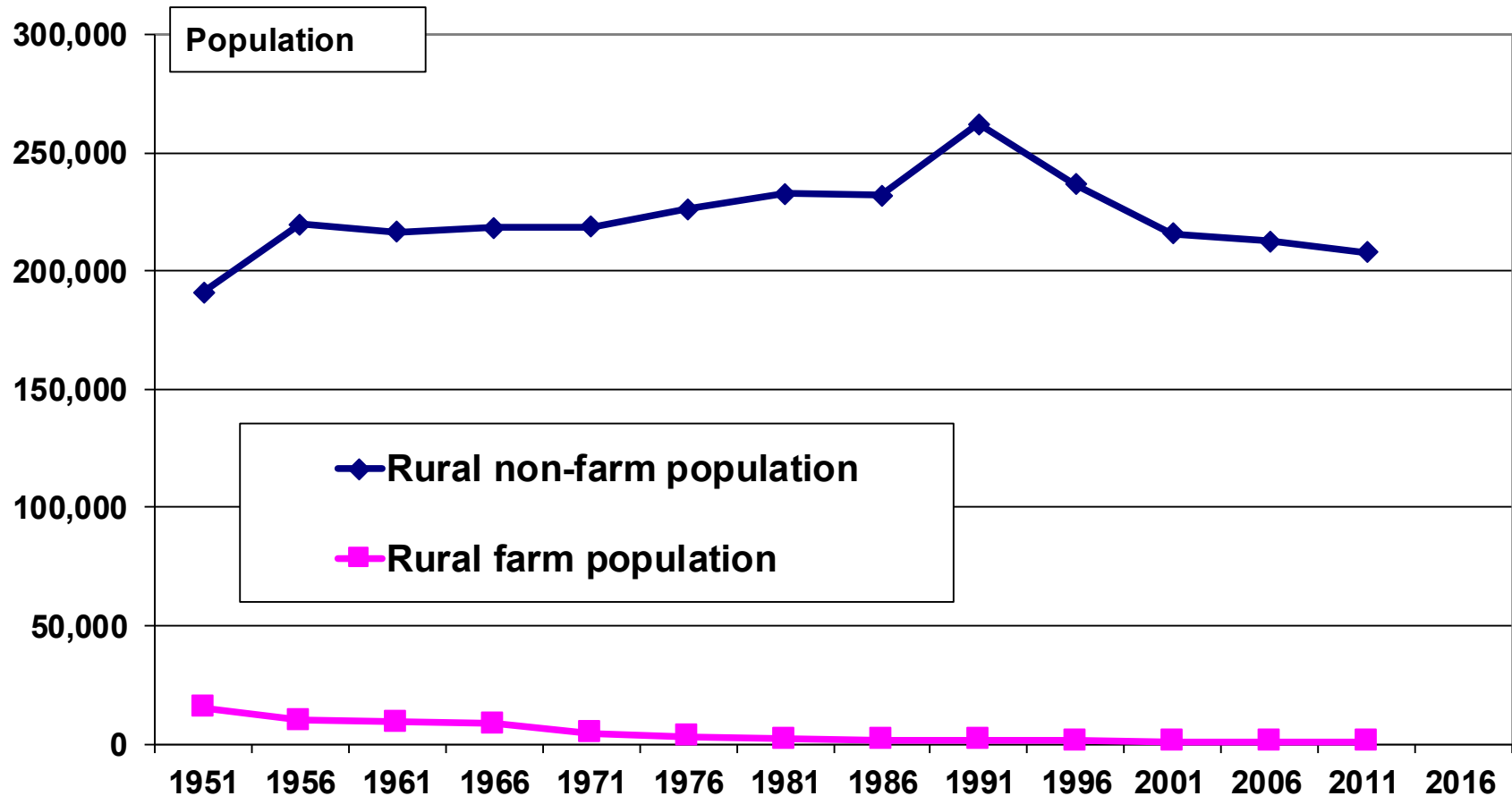
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

Rural population increase in 2016: Newfoundland and Labrador



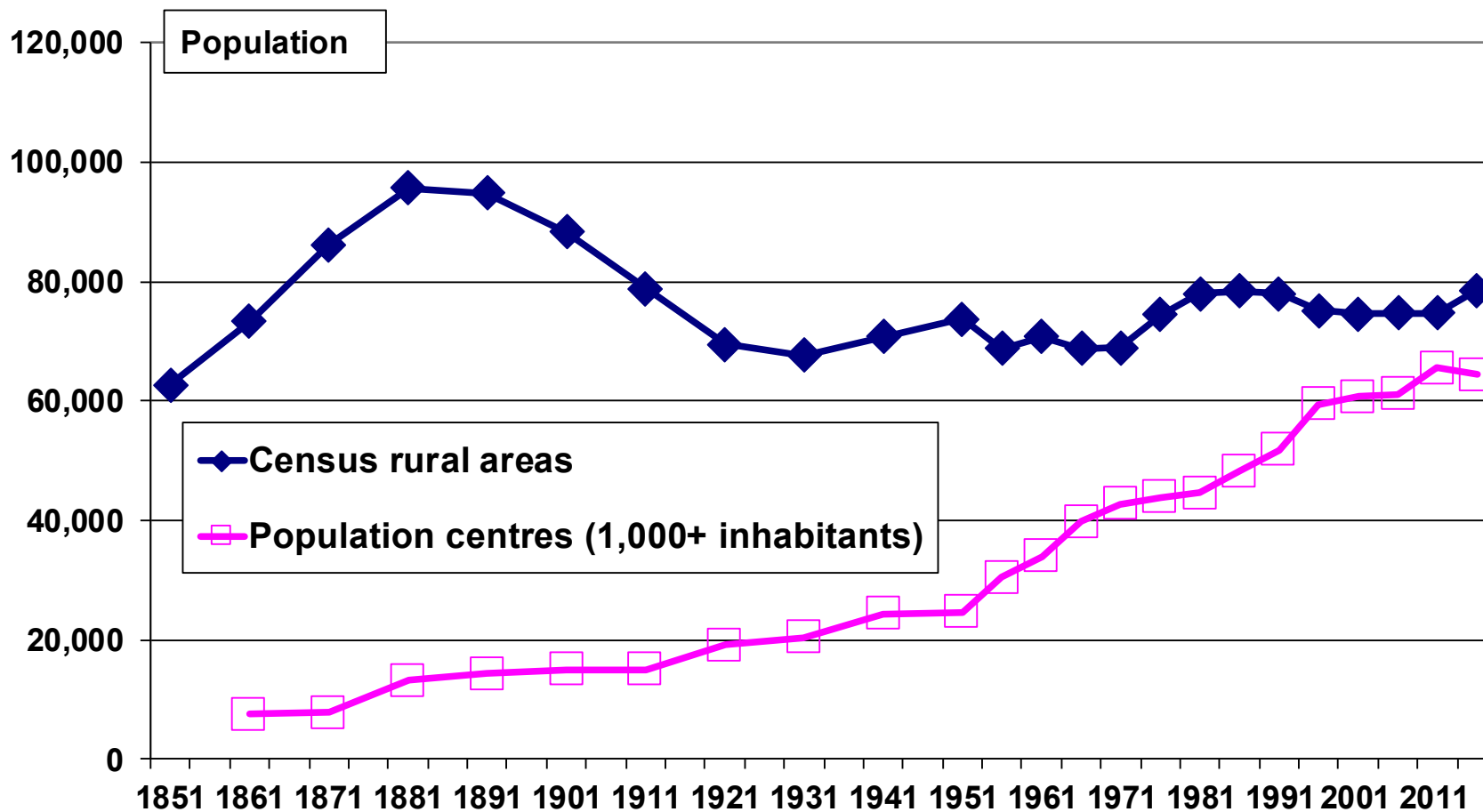
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Newfoundland since 1951



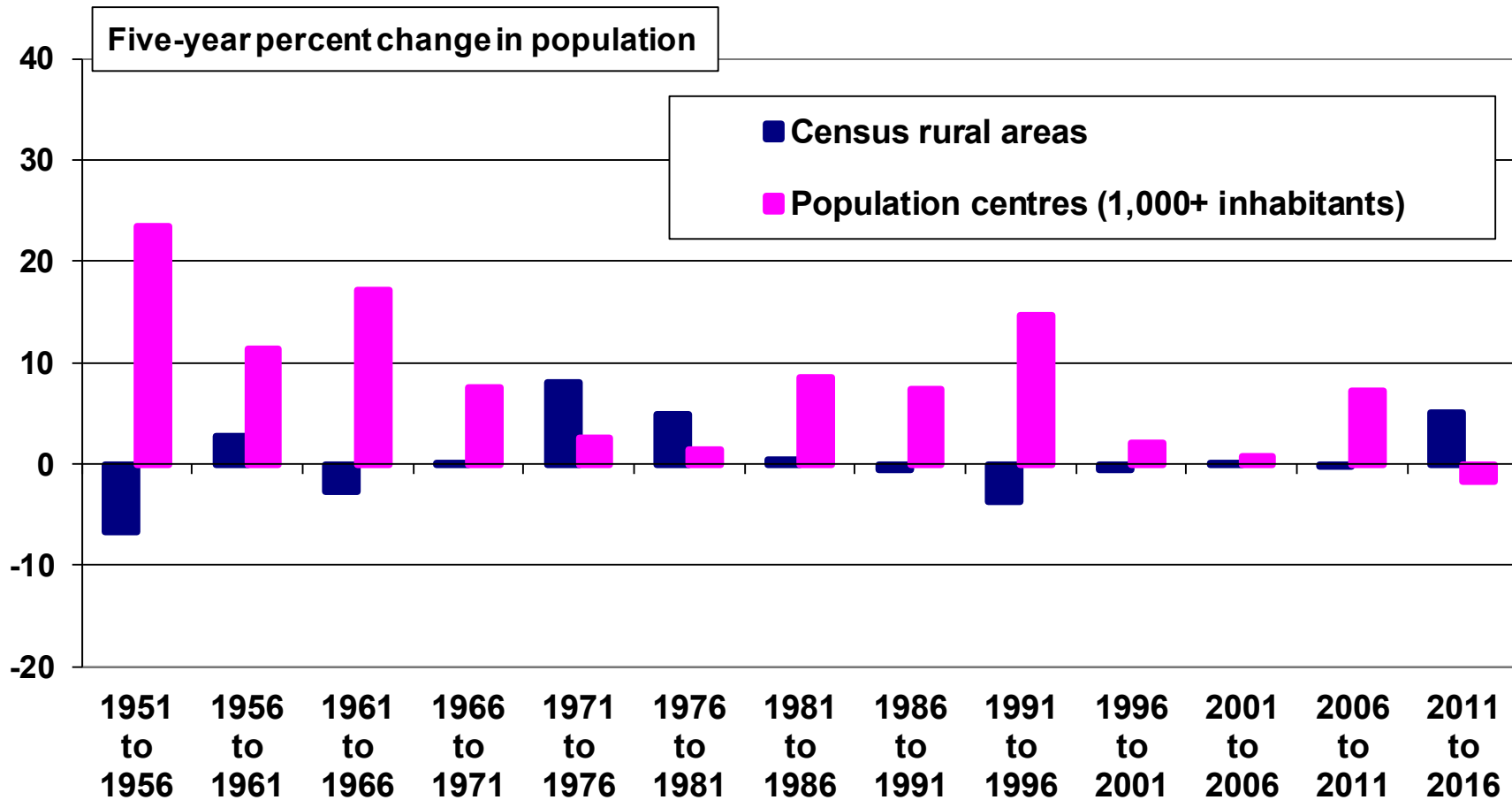
Note: Rural refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more inhabitants.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural majority in Prince Edward Island



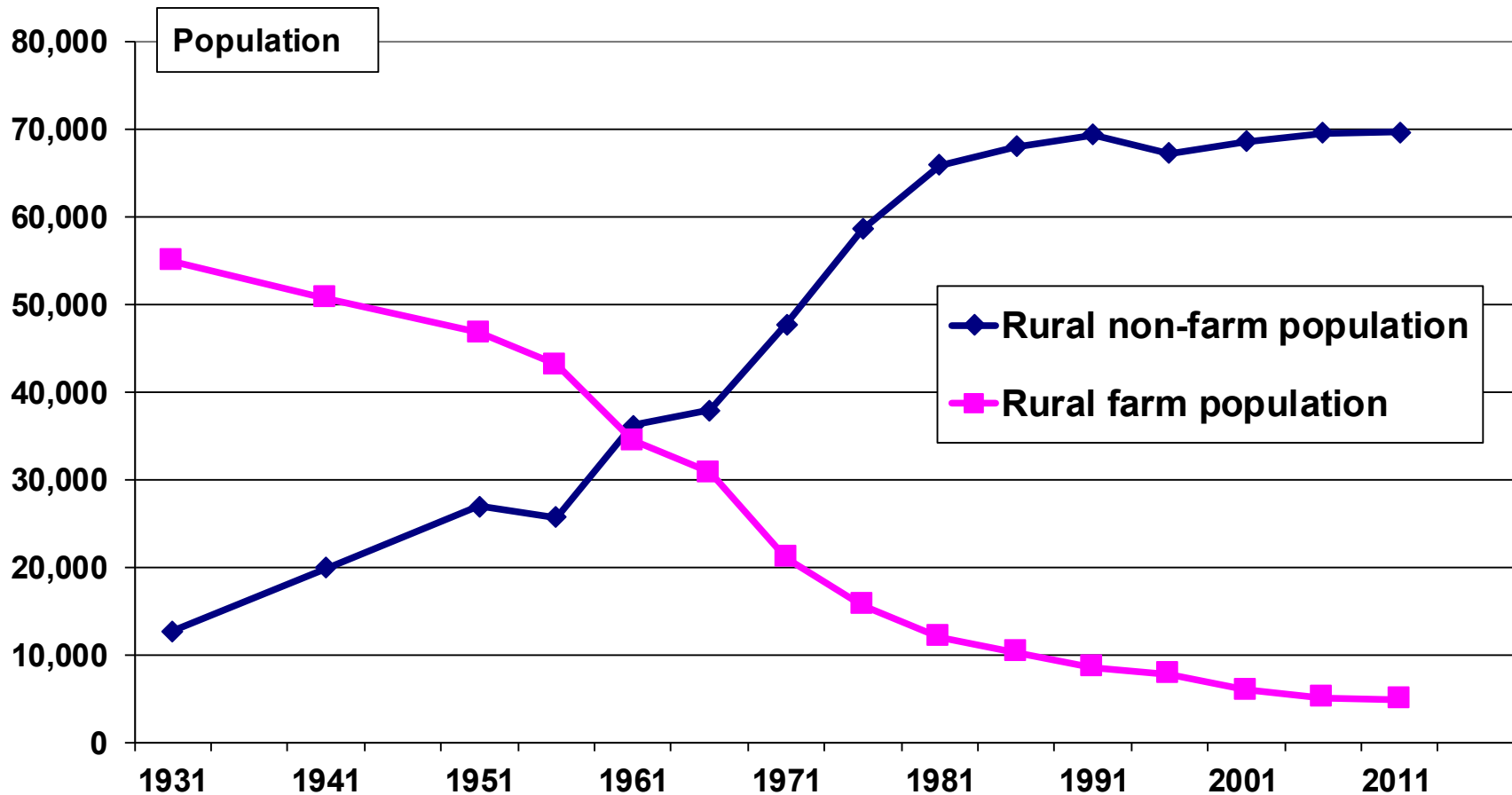
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2016.

Growth in census rural population in 2016: Prince Edward Island



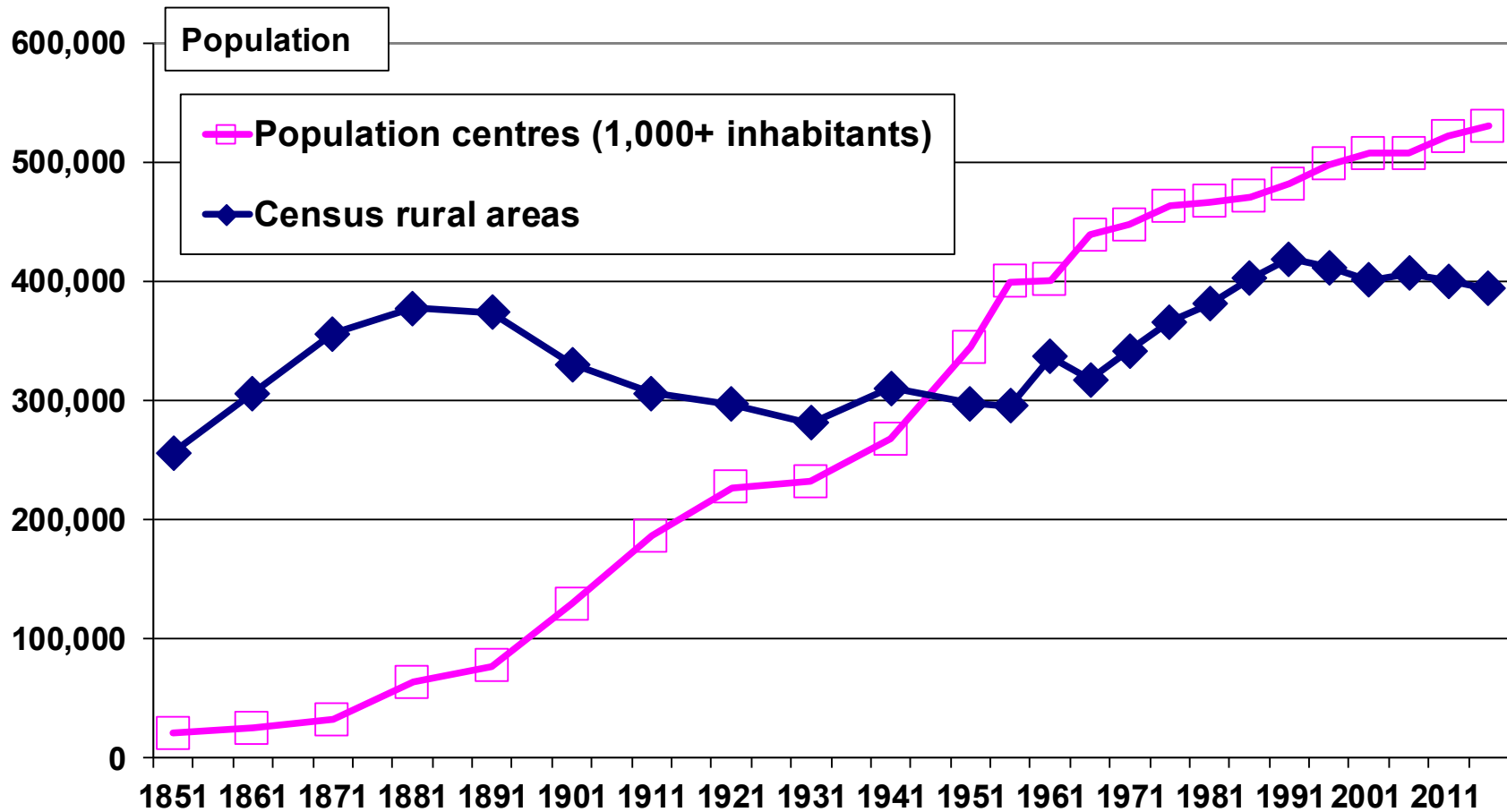
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Prince Edward Island since 1966



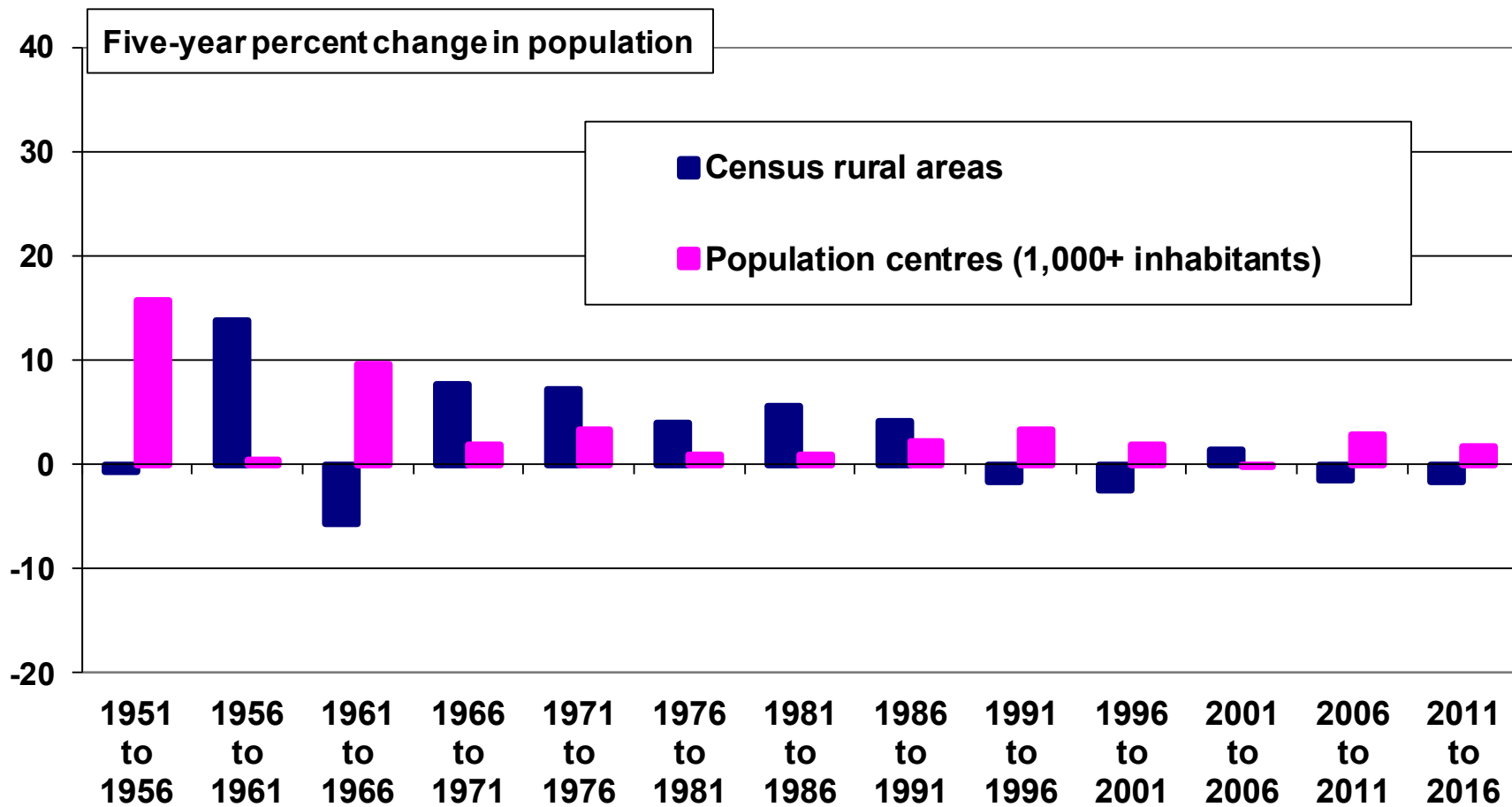
Note "Rural" refers to the residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more inhabitants.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural minority in Nova Scotia in 1951



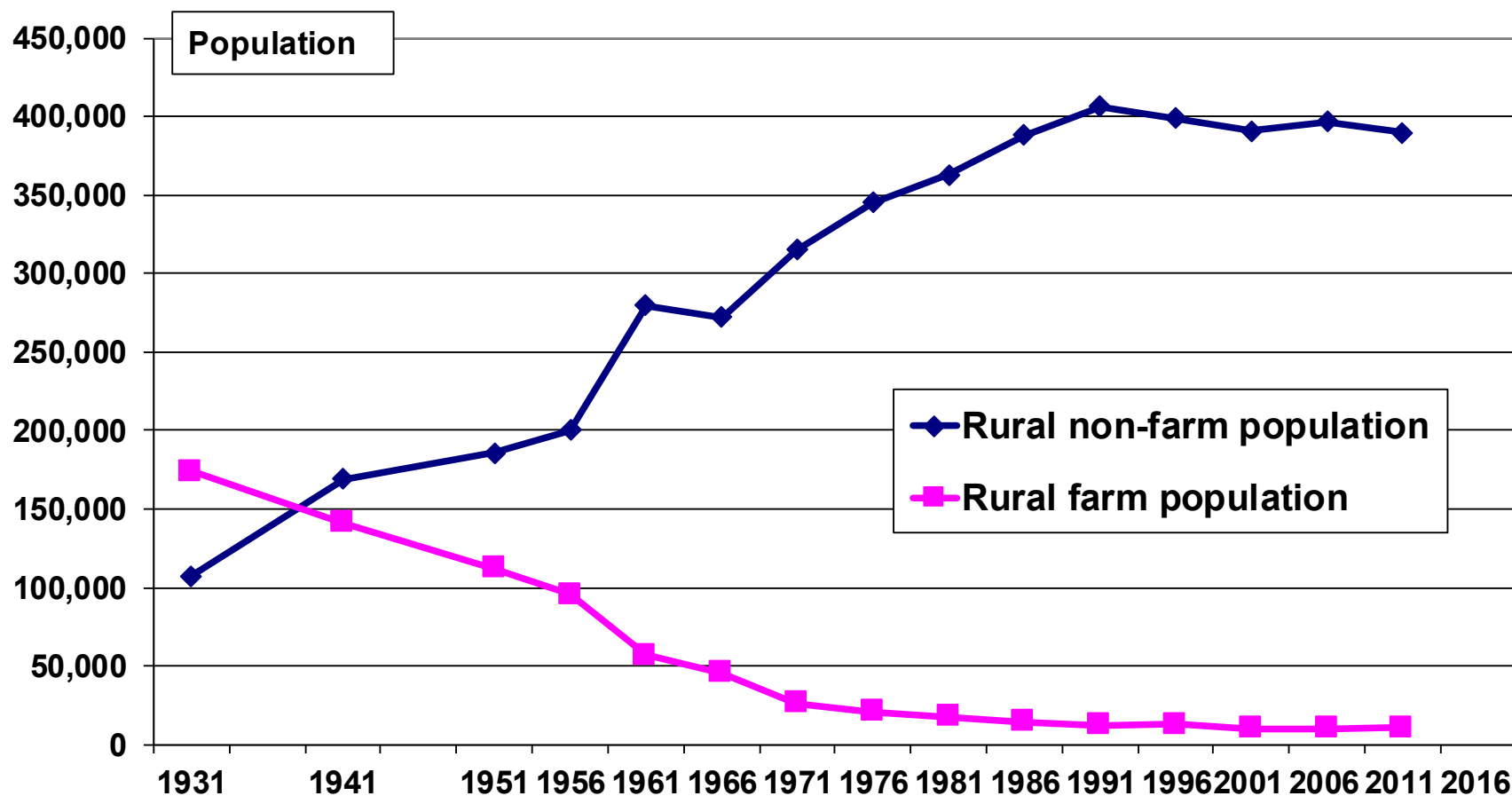
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2016.

Small changes in census rural population since 1991: Nova Scotia



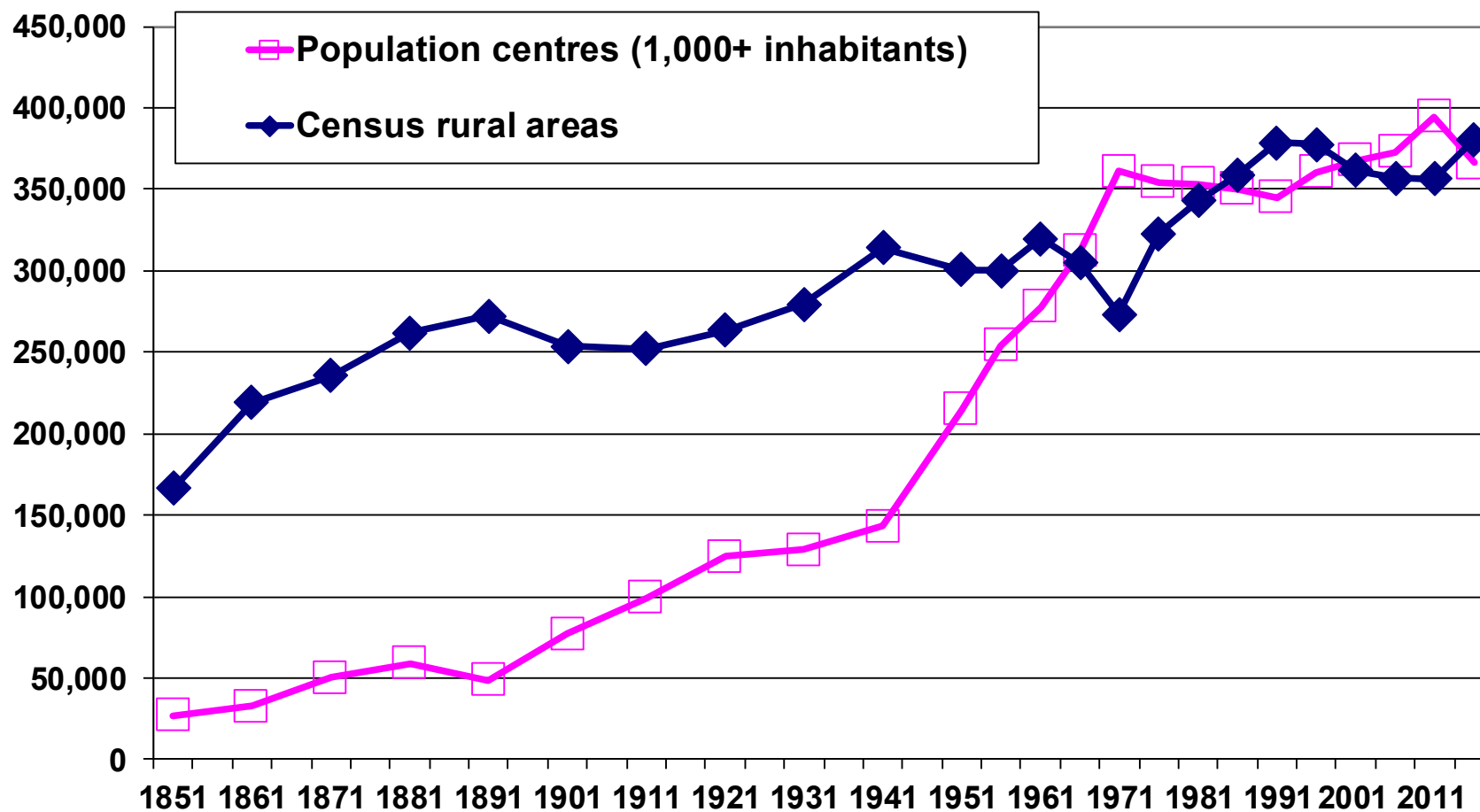
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016..

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Nova Scotia since 1941



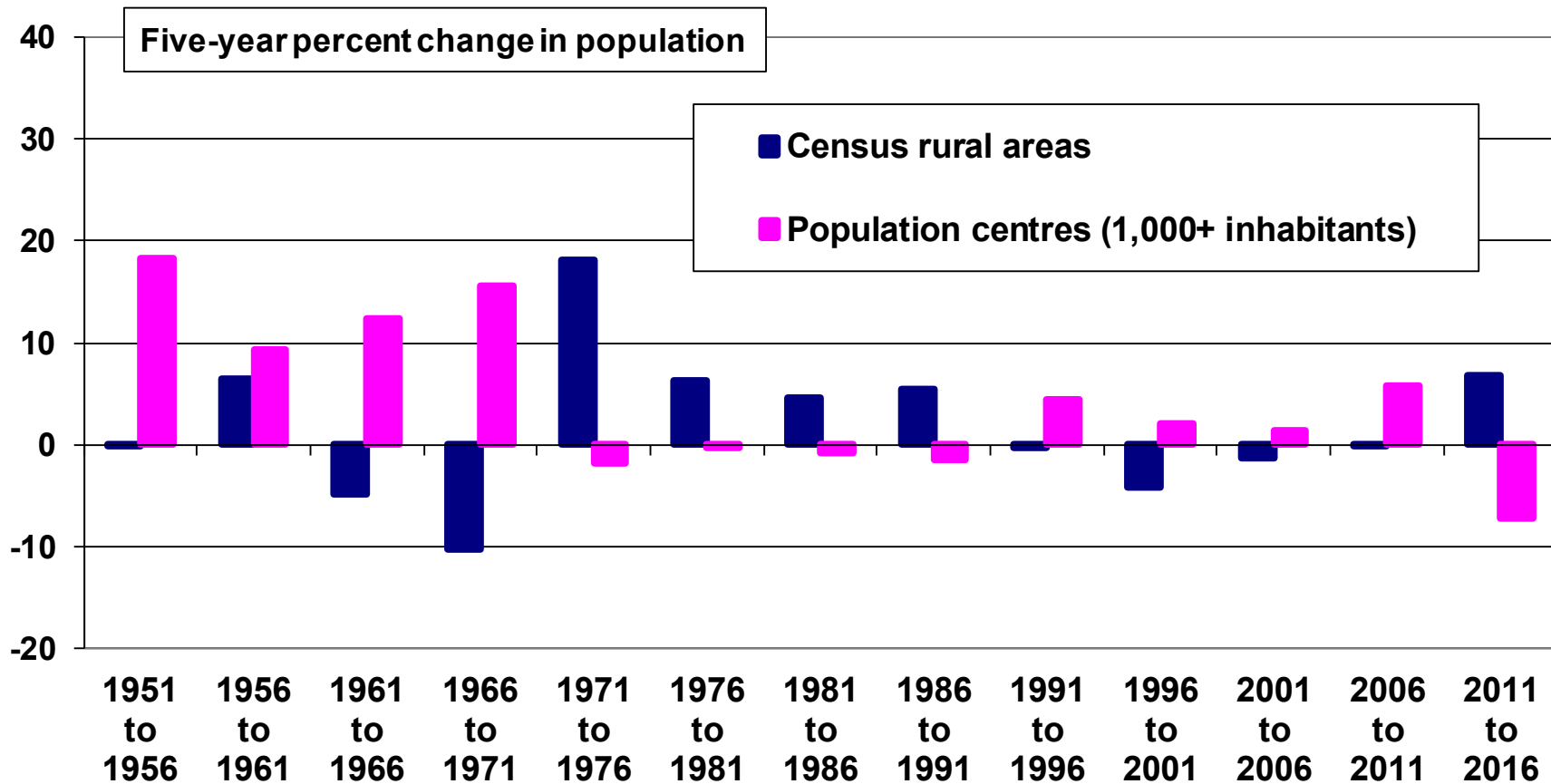
Note: "Rural" refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more inhabitants.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural minority in New Brunswick, 1966 to 1981 and 2001 - 2011



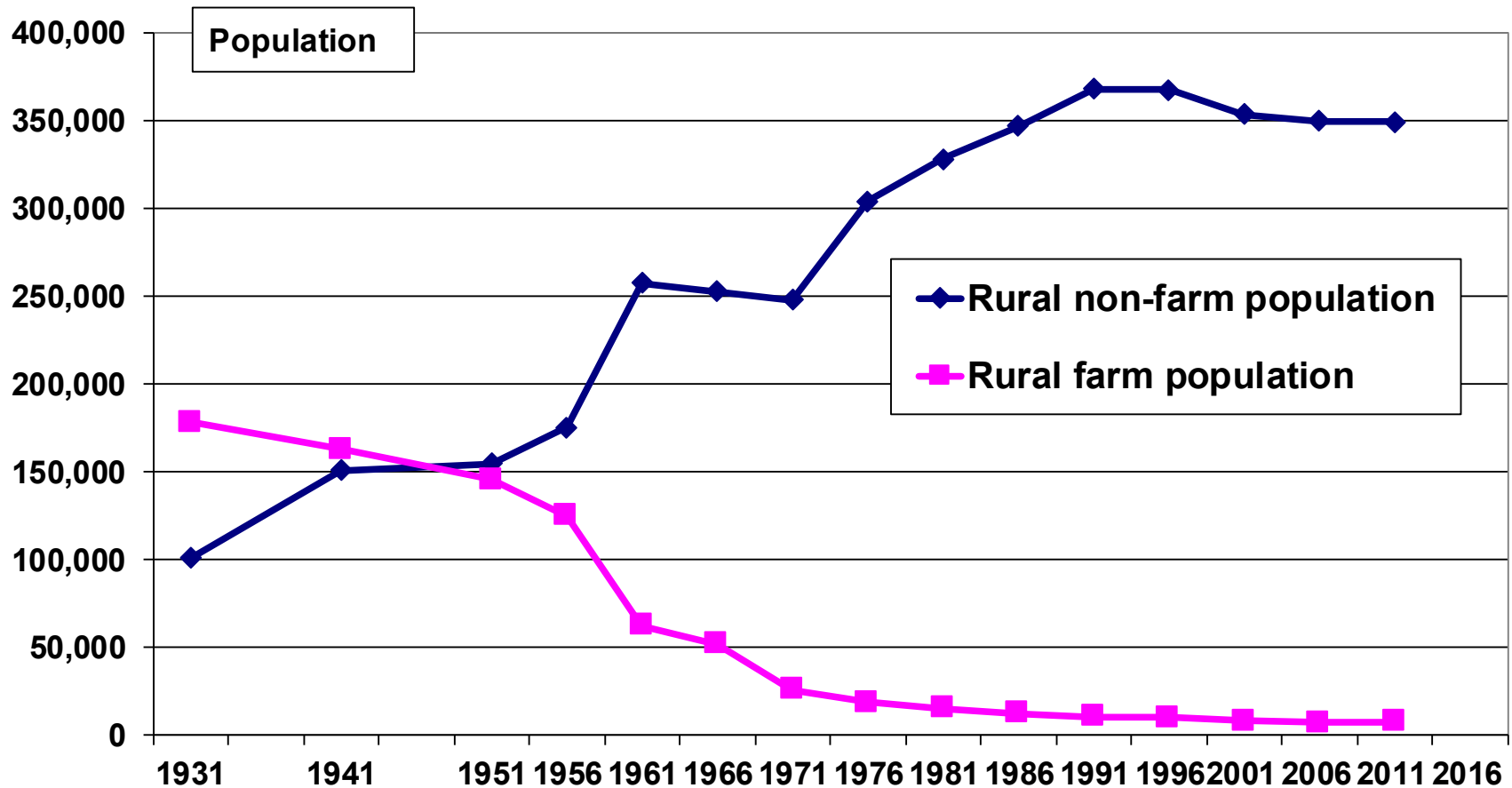
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2016.

Increase in census rural population in 2016: New Brunswick



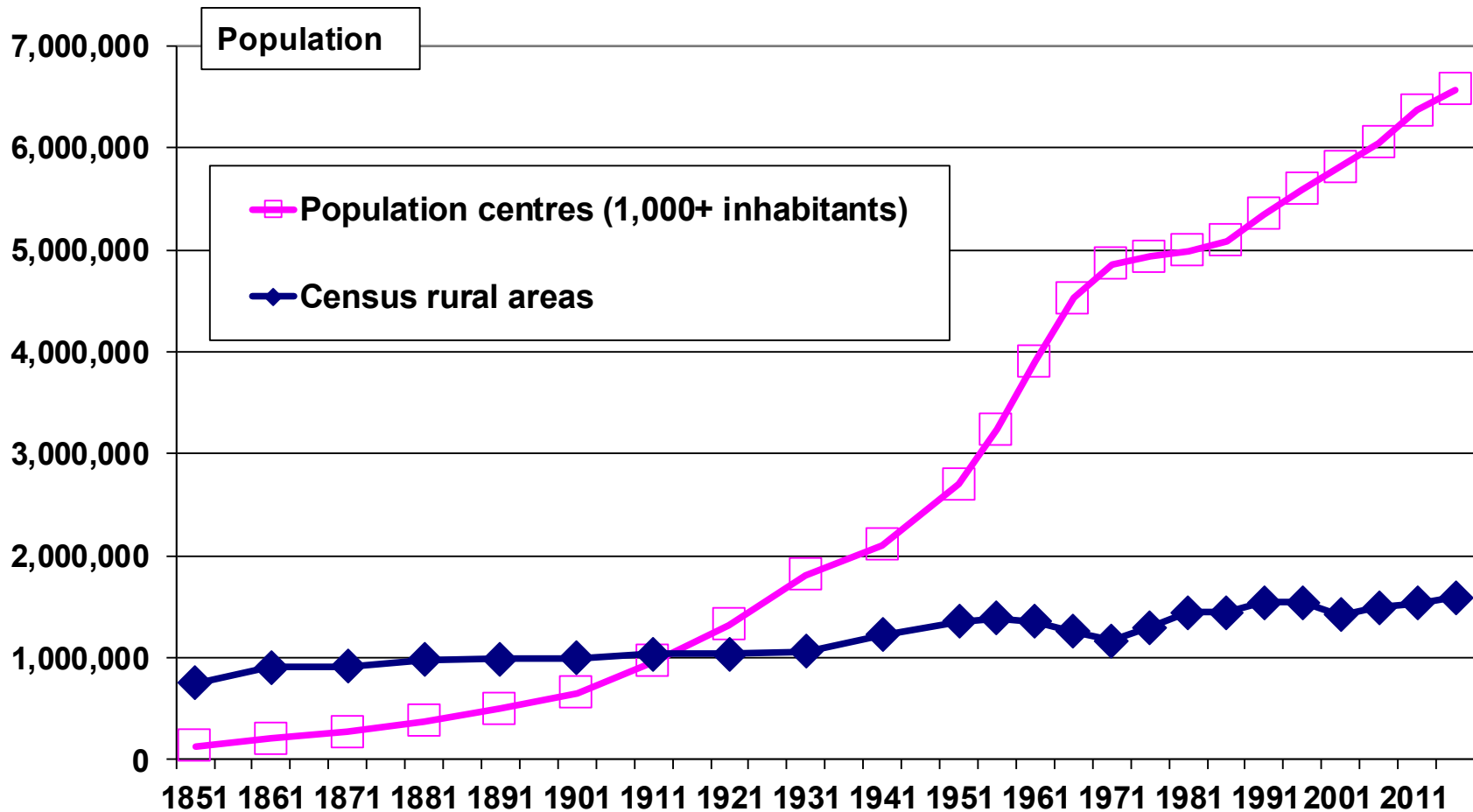
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural New Brunswick since 1951



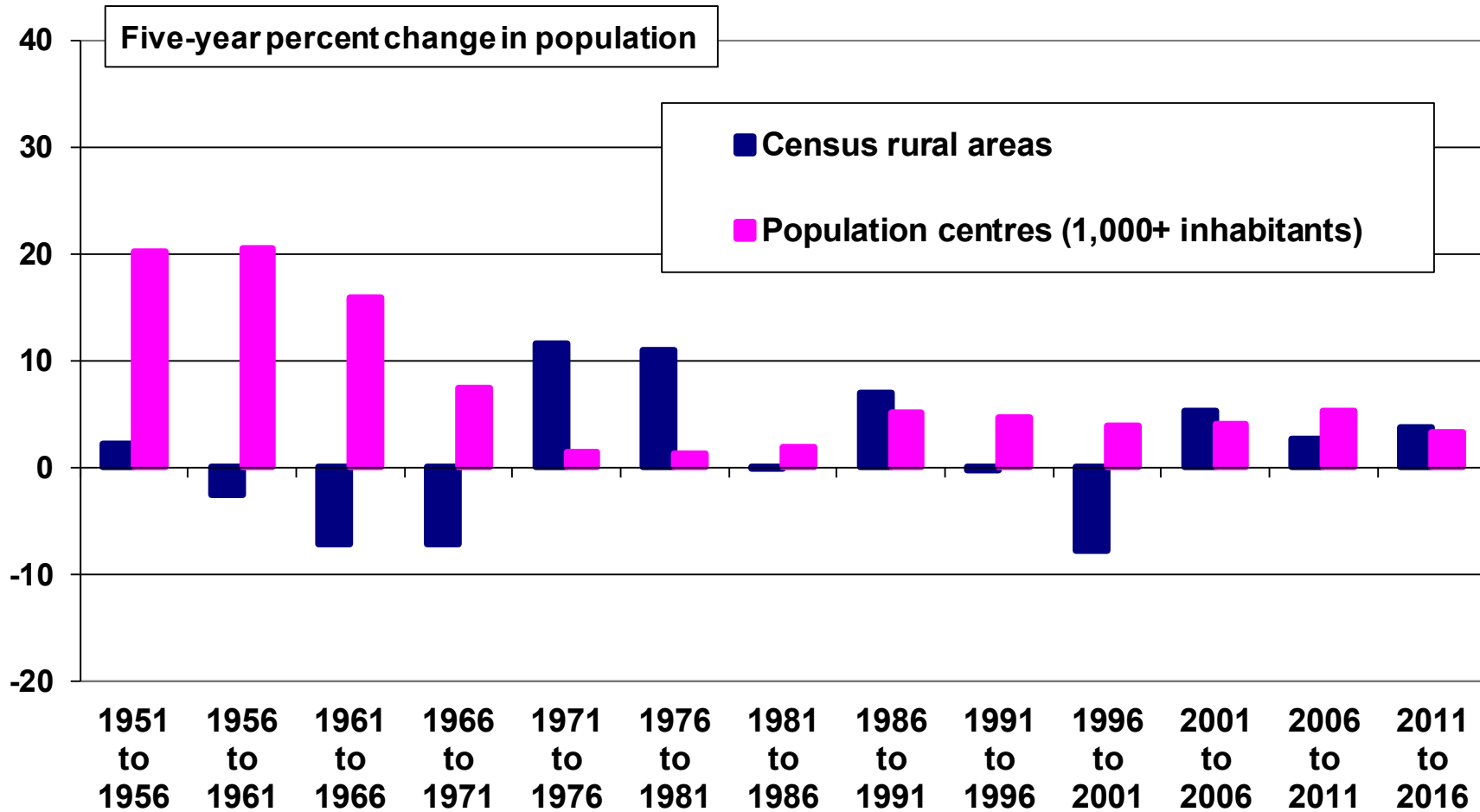
Note: "Rural" refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more inhabitants.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural minority in Quebec in 1921



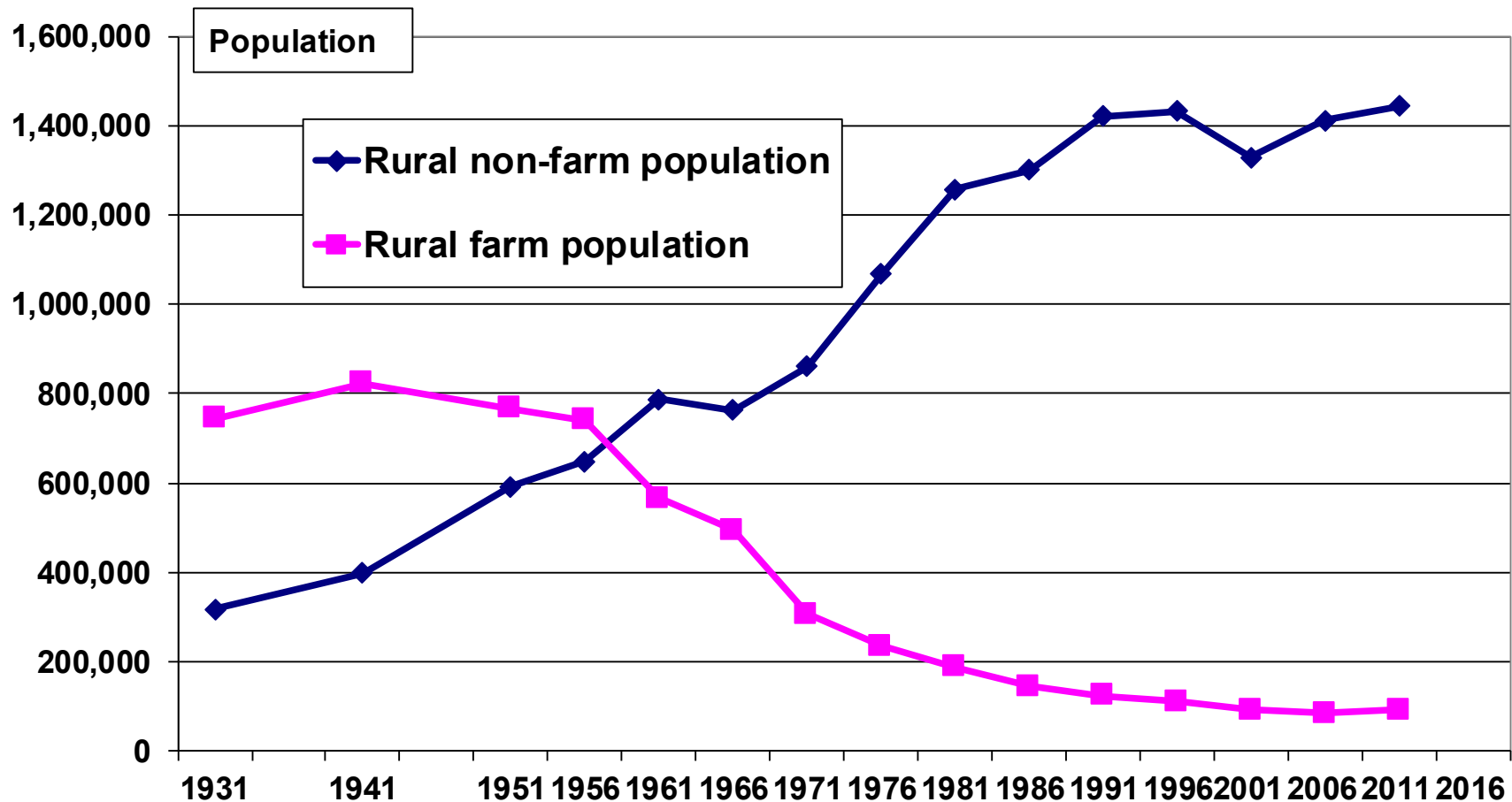
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2016.

Growth in census rural population since 2001: Quebec



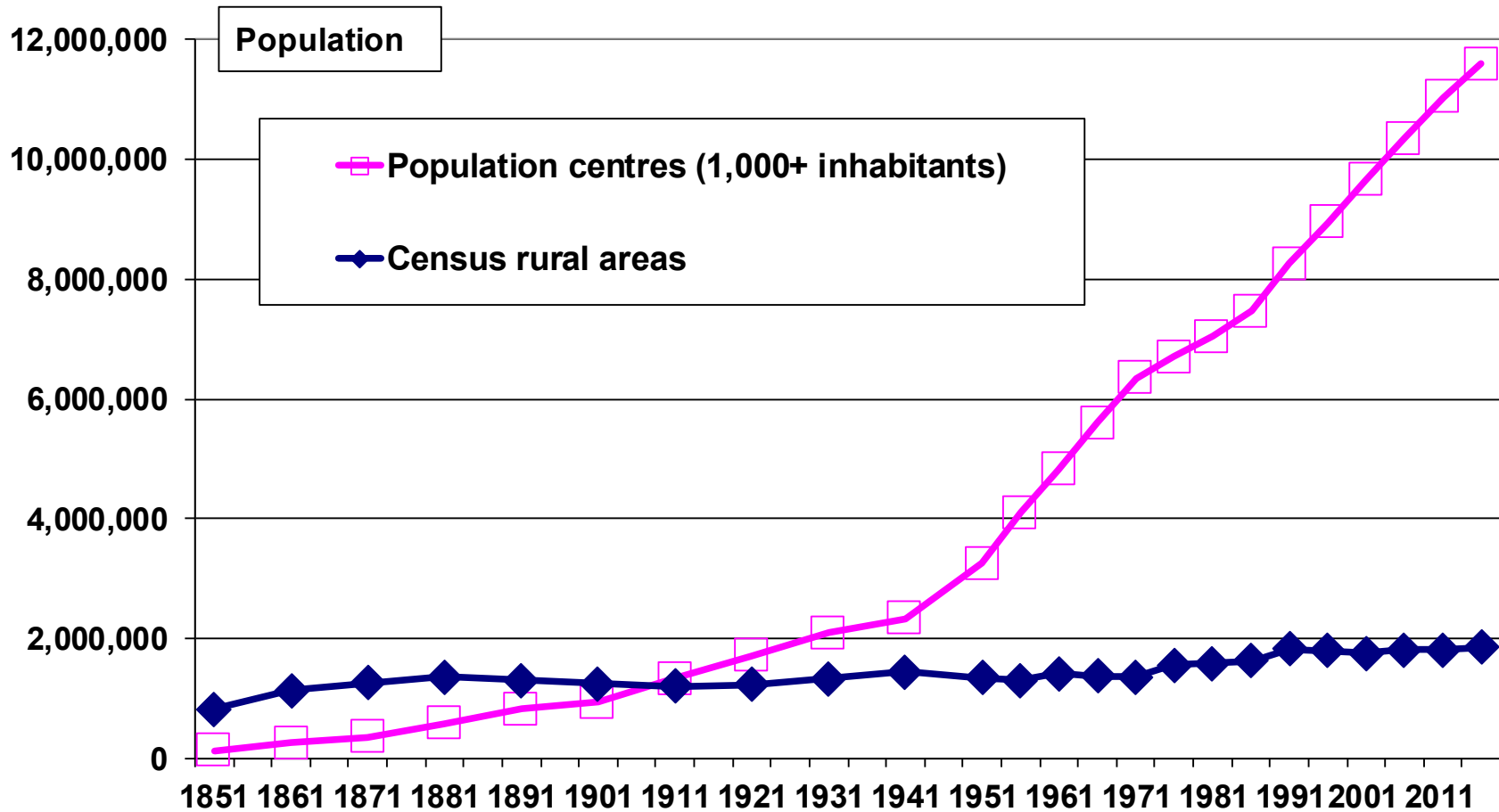
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Québec since 1961



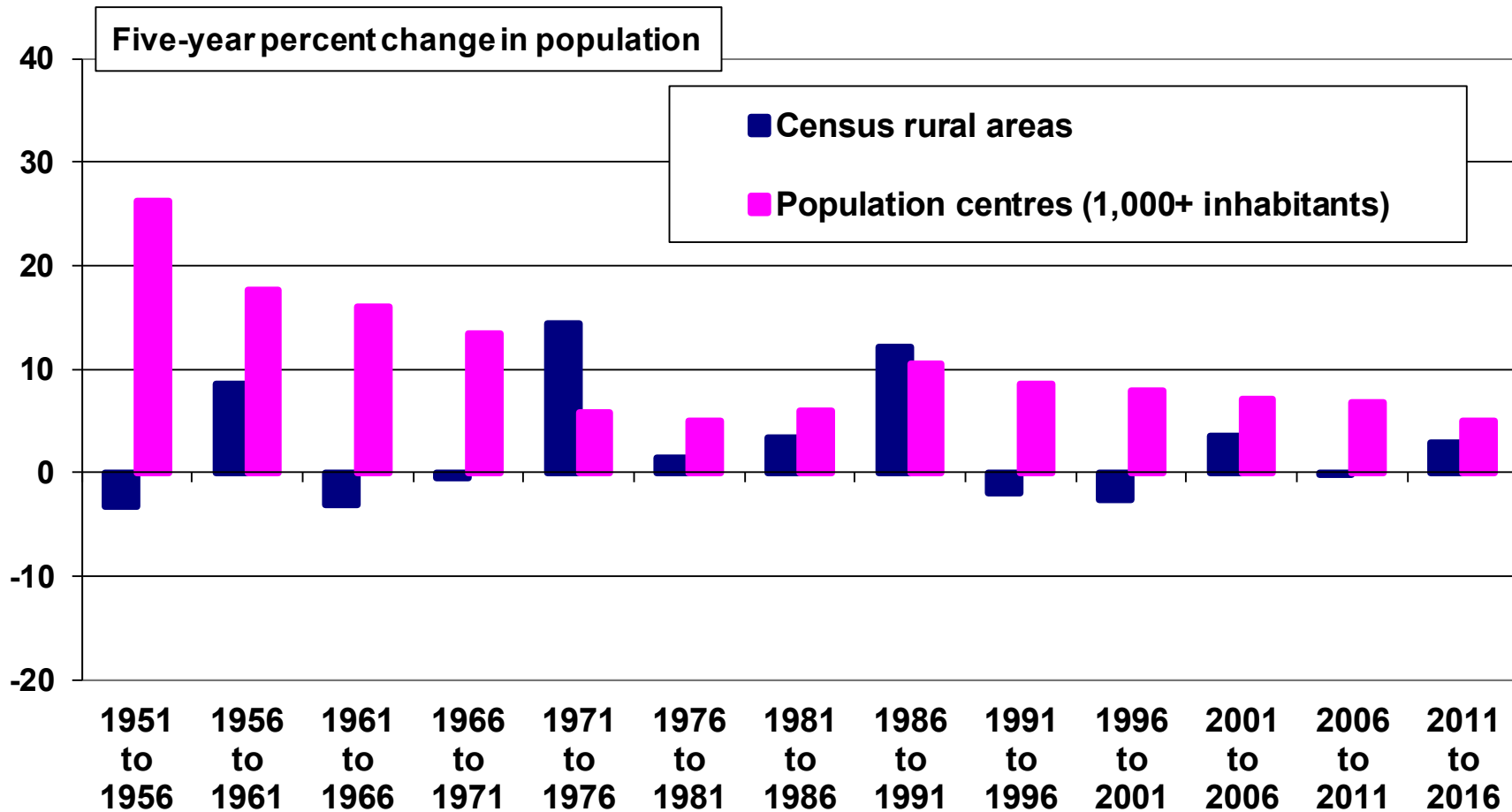
Note: "Rural" refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more inhabitants.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural minority in Ontario in 1911



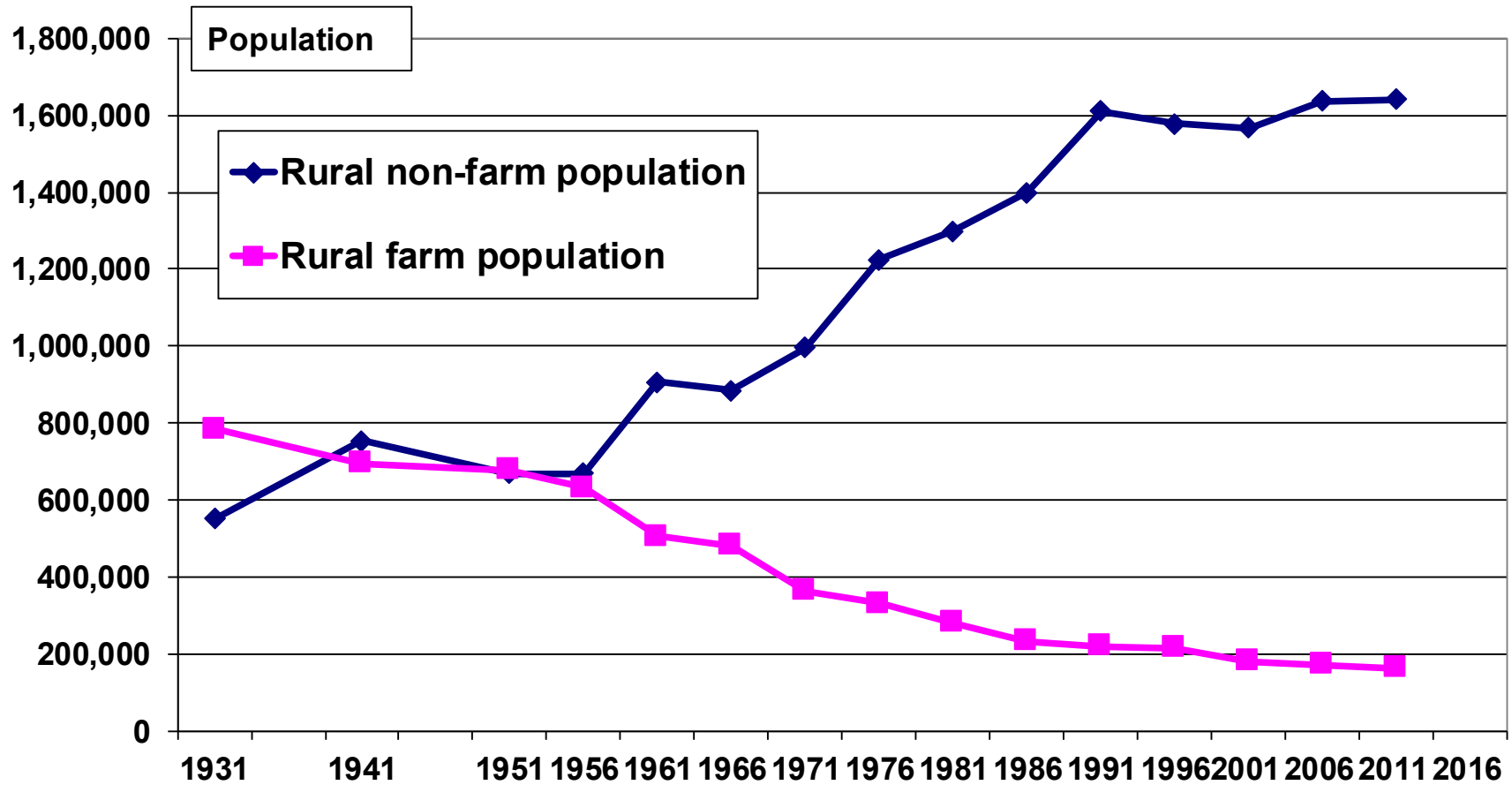
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2016.

Small change in census rural population since 1991: Ontario



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

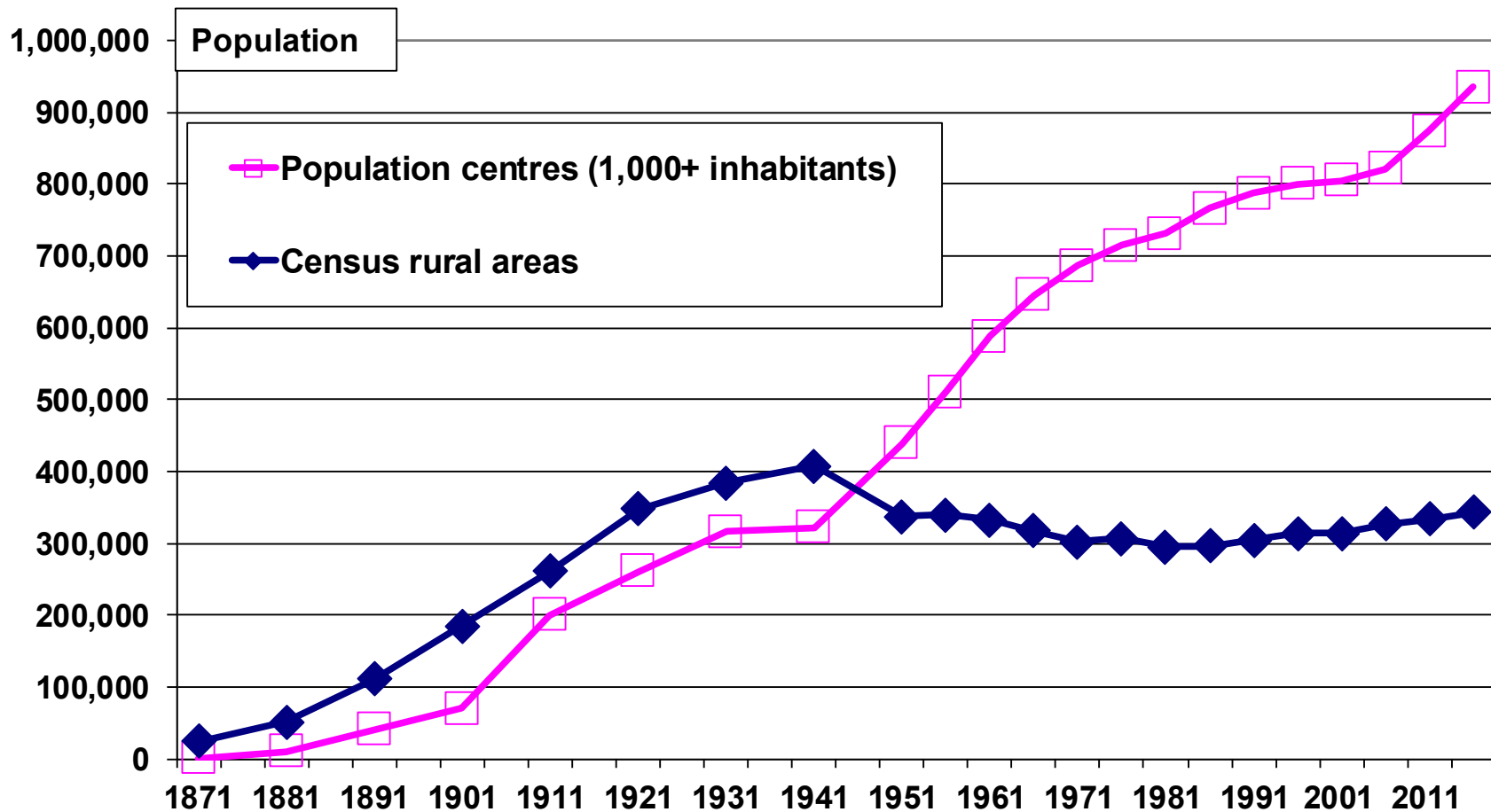
Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Ontario since 1956



Note: "Rural" refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more.

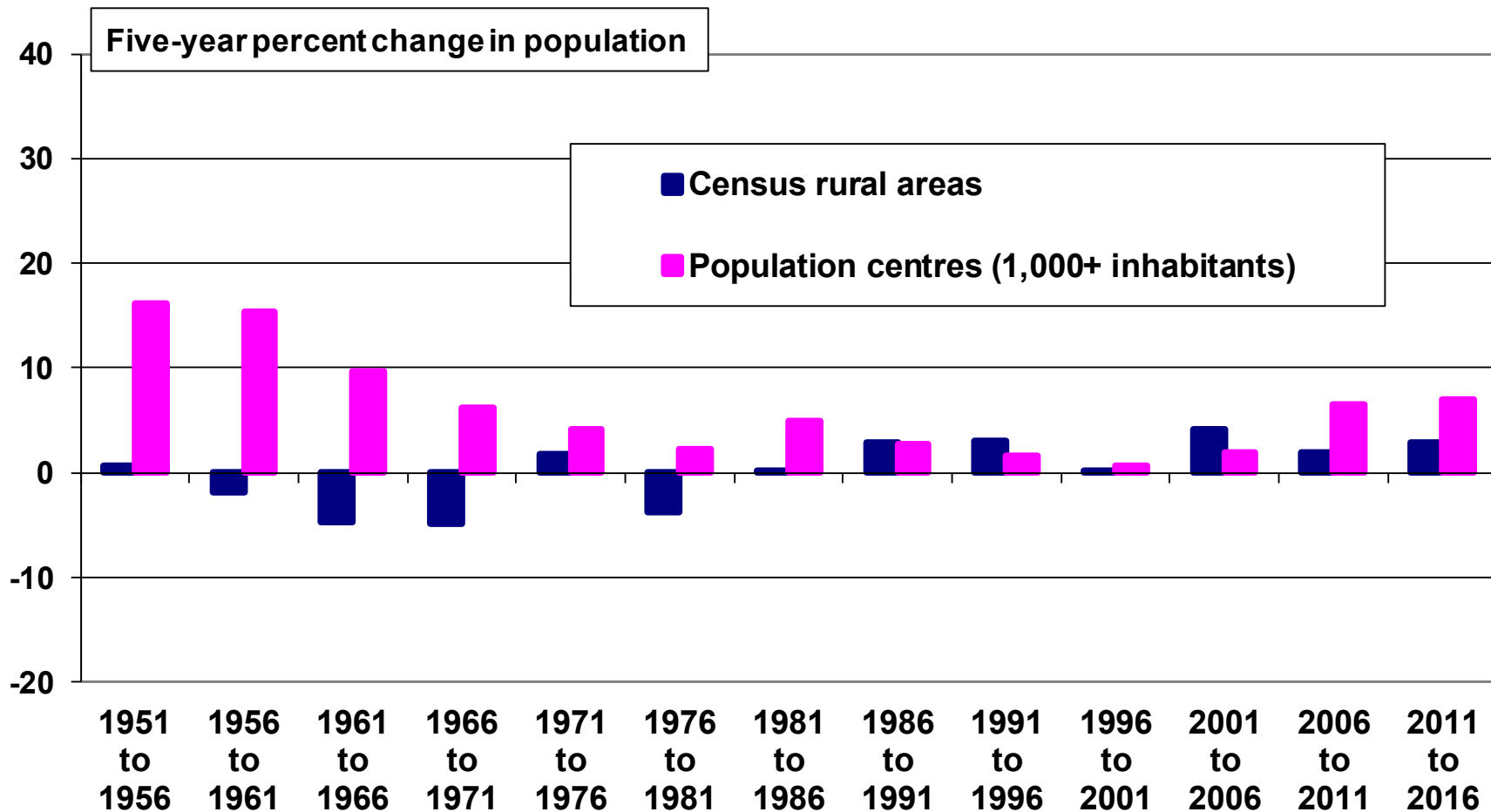
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural minority in Manitoba in 1951



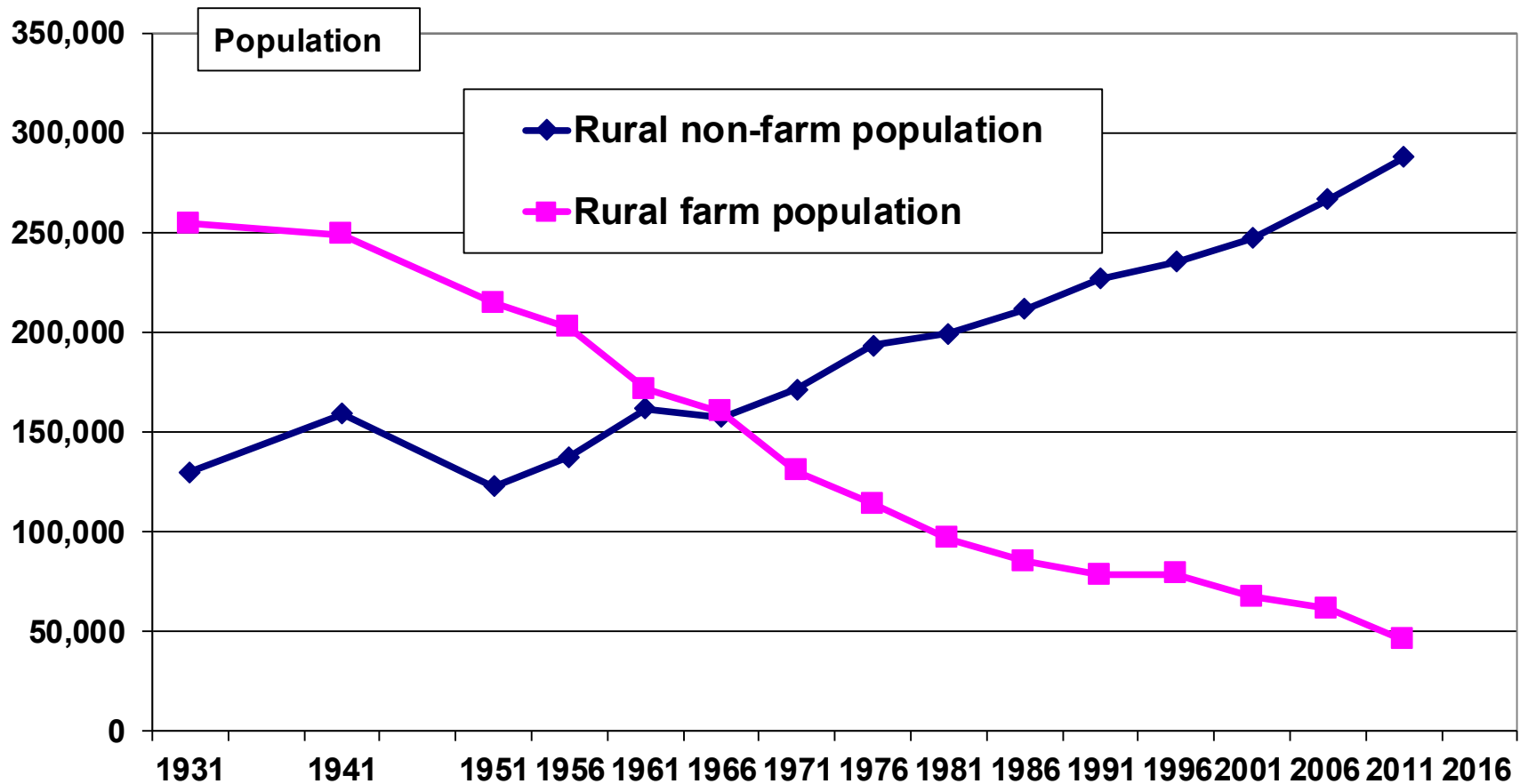
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 2016.

Growth in census rural population since 1981: Manitoba



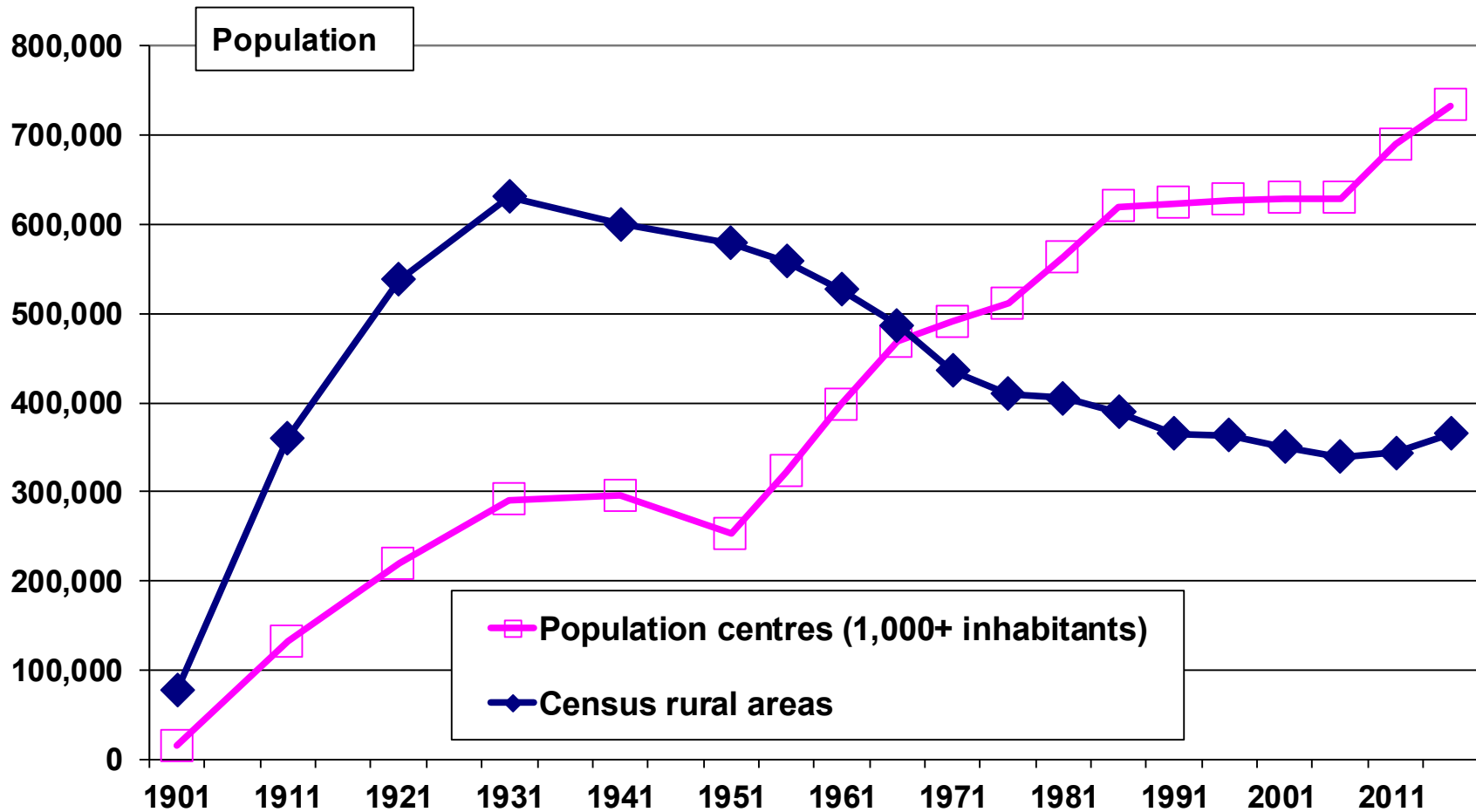
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Manitoba since 1971



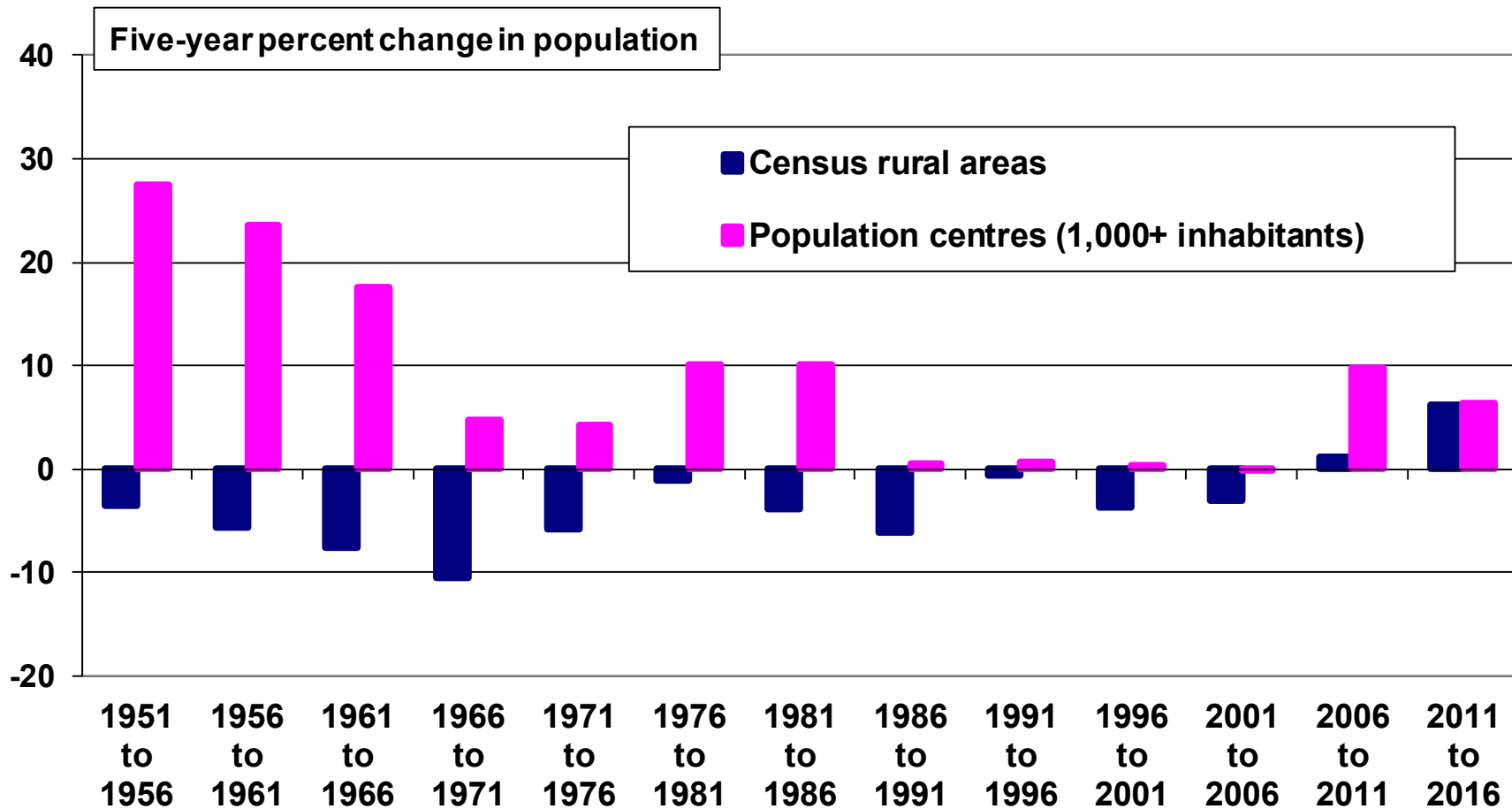
Note: "Rural" refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more inhabitants.
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural minority in Saskatchewan in 1971



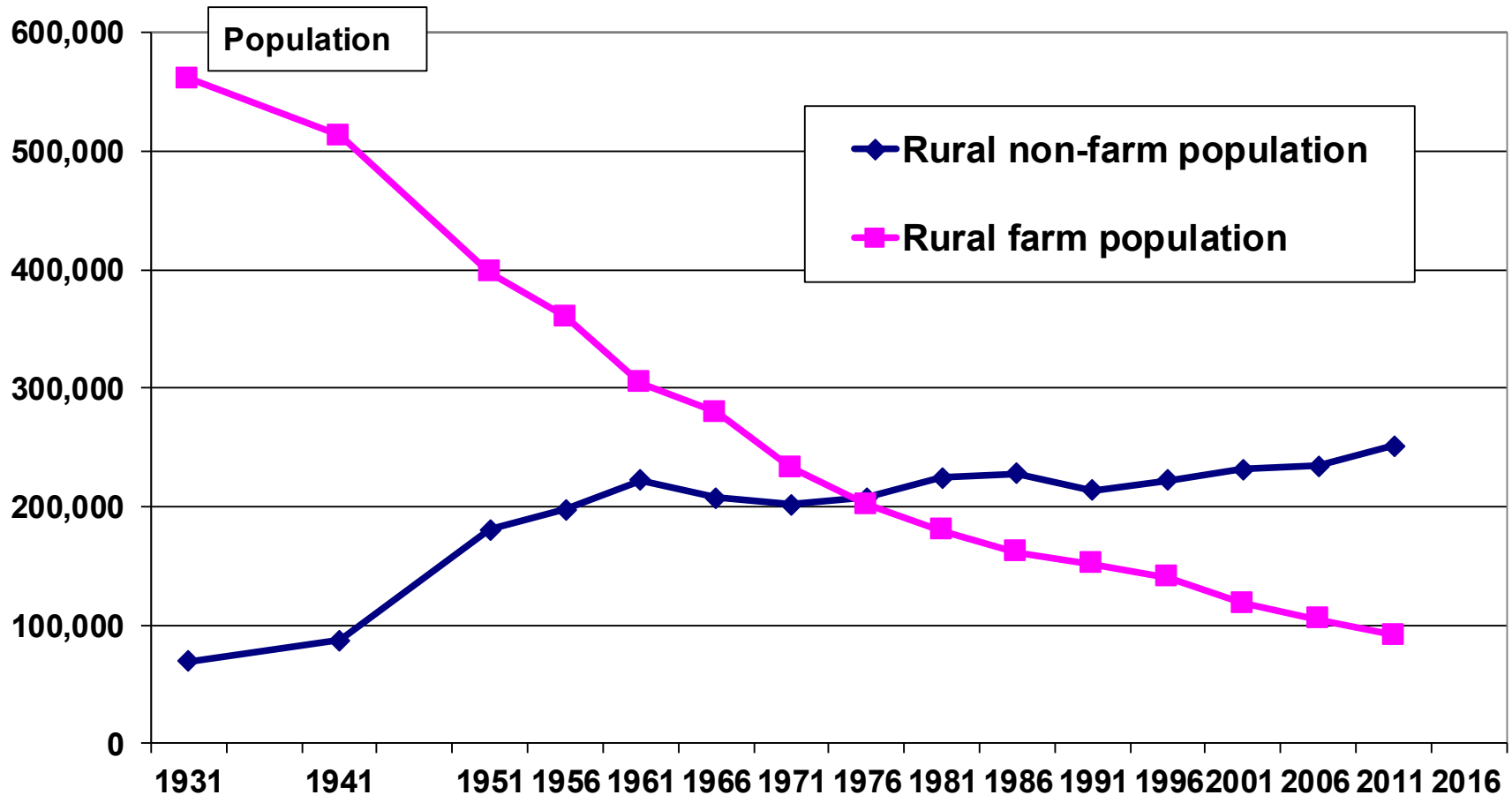
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1901 - 2016.

Growth in census rural population in last two census periods: Saskatchewan



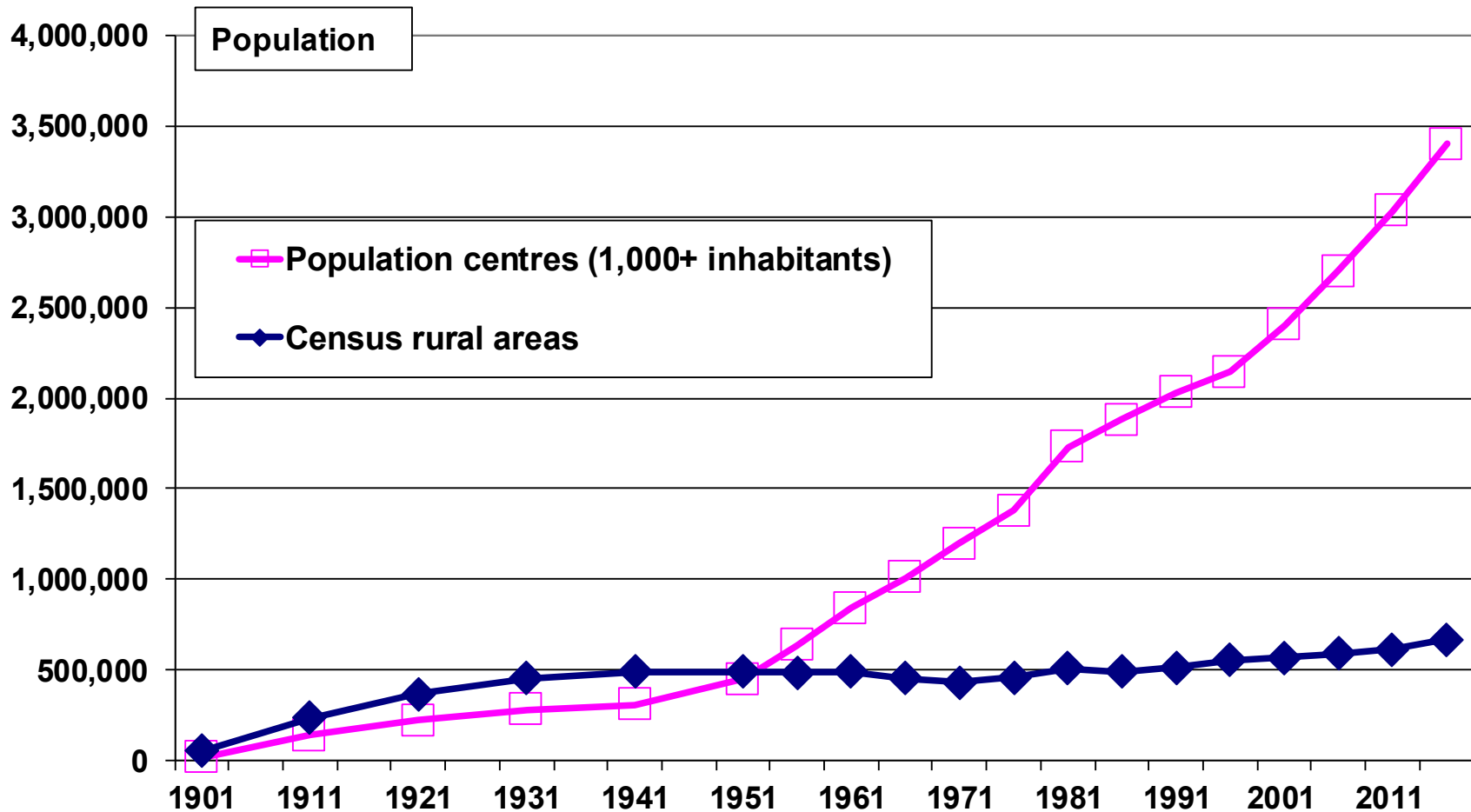
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Saskatchewan in 1981



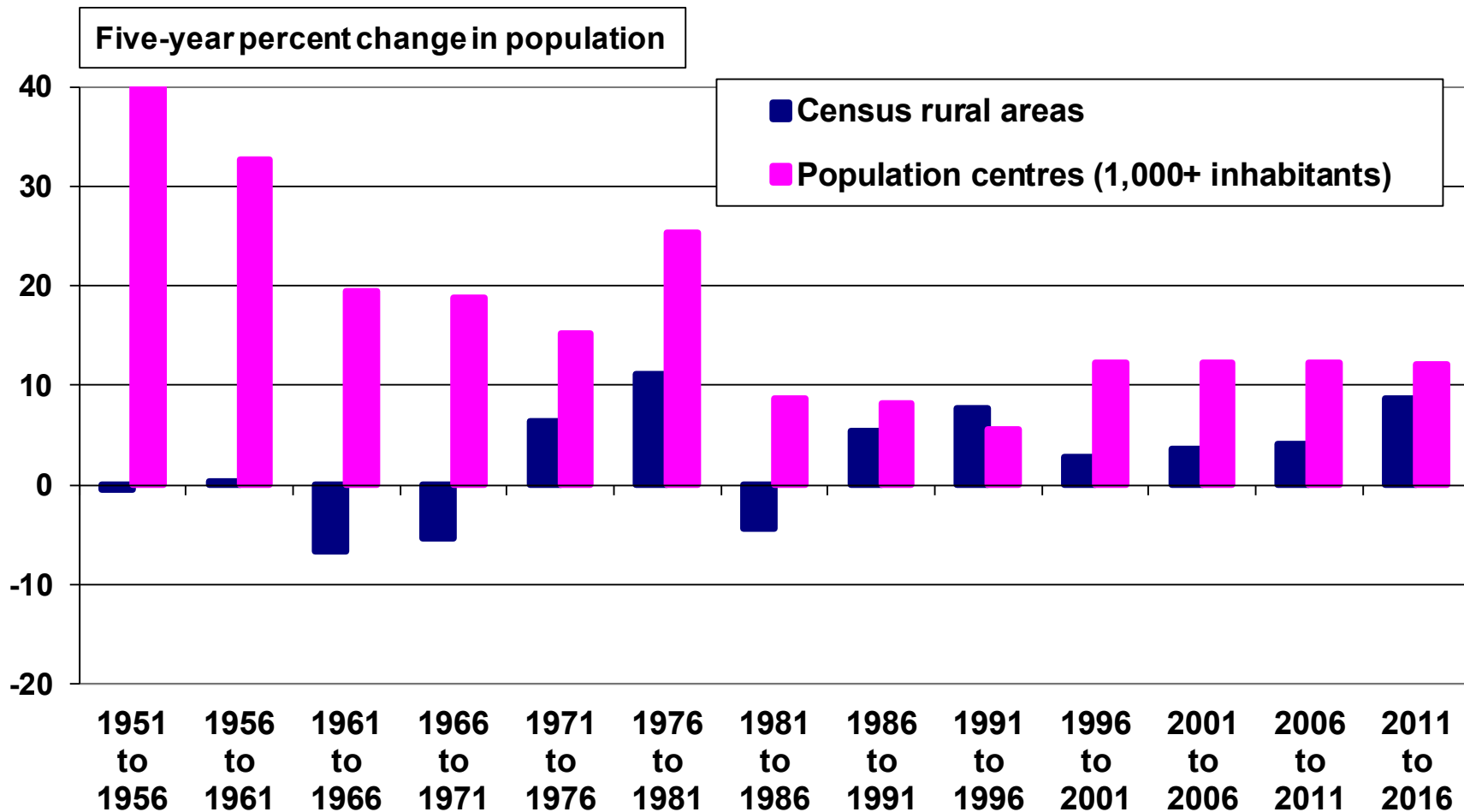
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural minority in Alberta in 1956



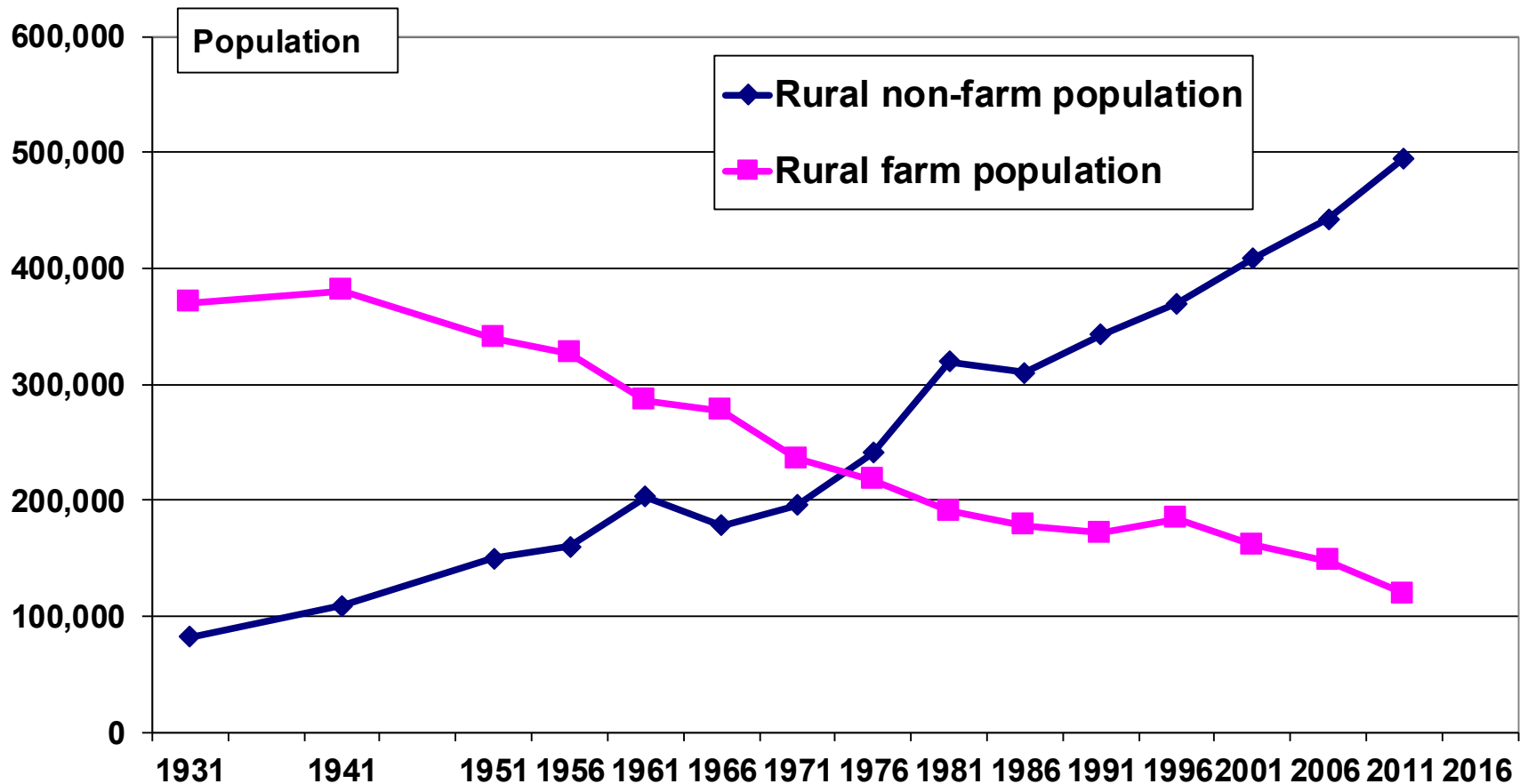
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1901-2016.

Growth in census rural population since 1986: Alberta



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

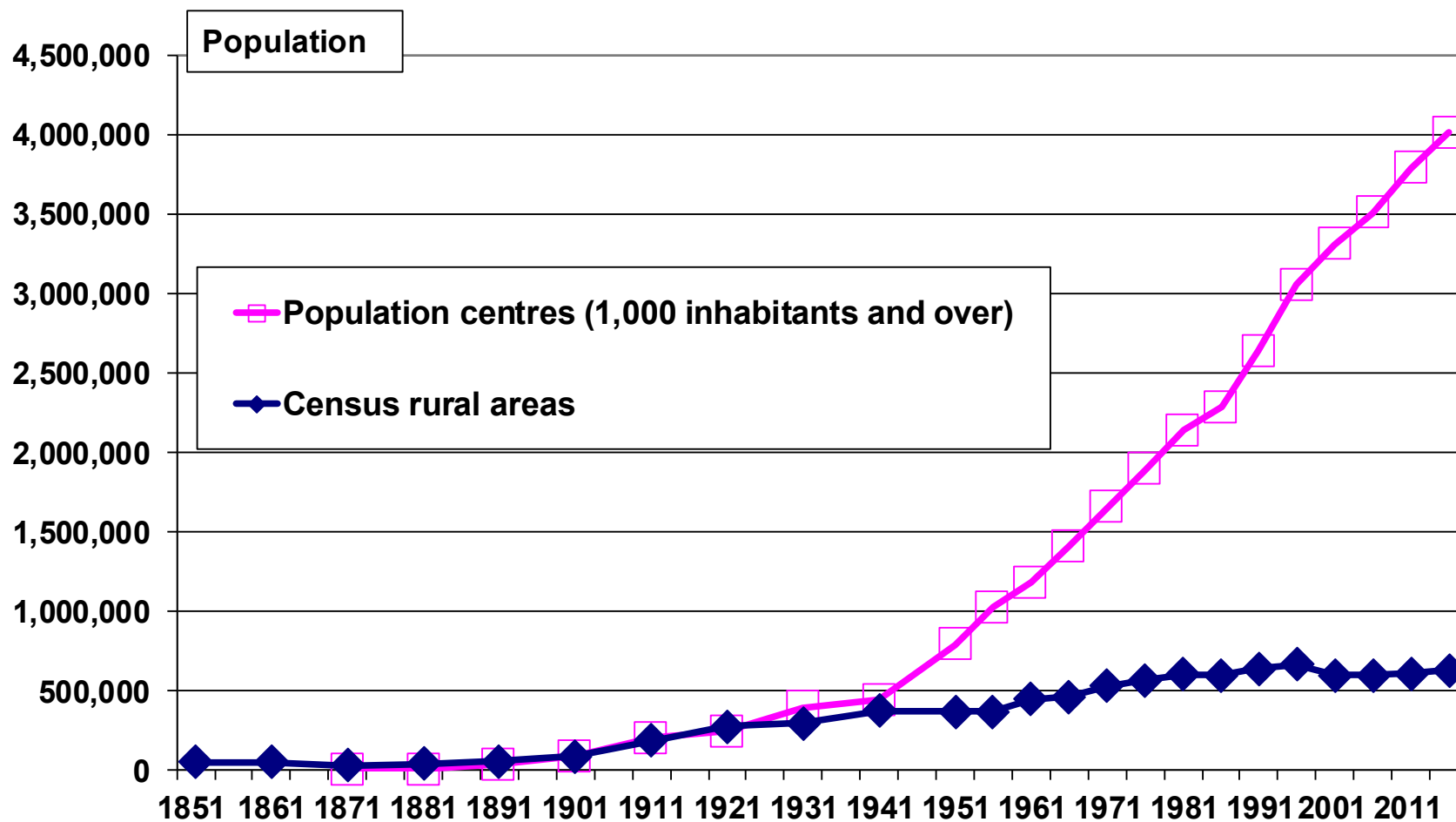
Rural population: Farmer minority in rural Alberta since 1976



Note: "Rural" refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more inhabitants.

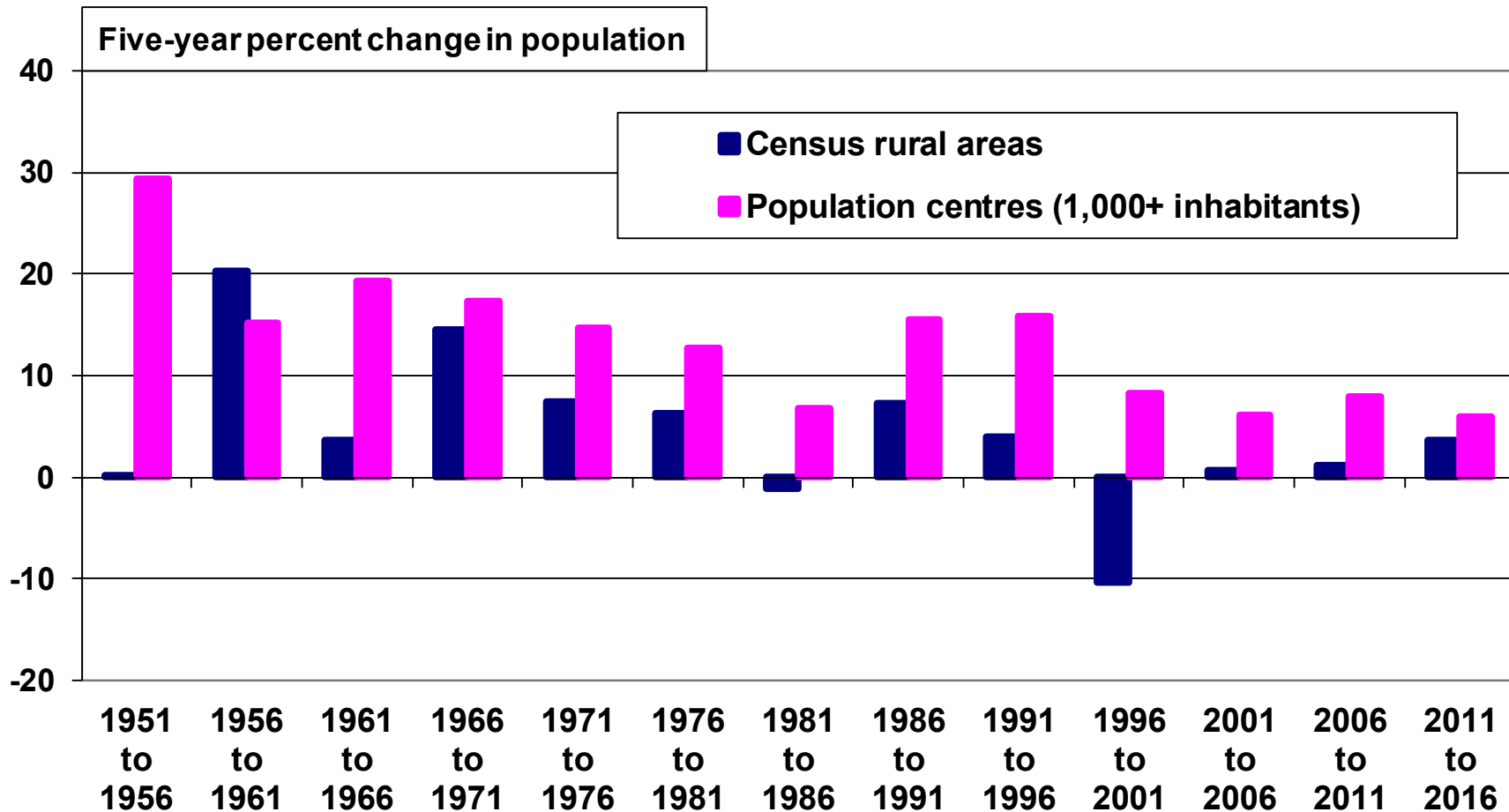
Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

Population trends: Rural minority in British Columbia in 1931



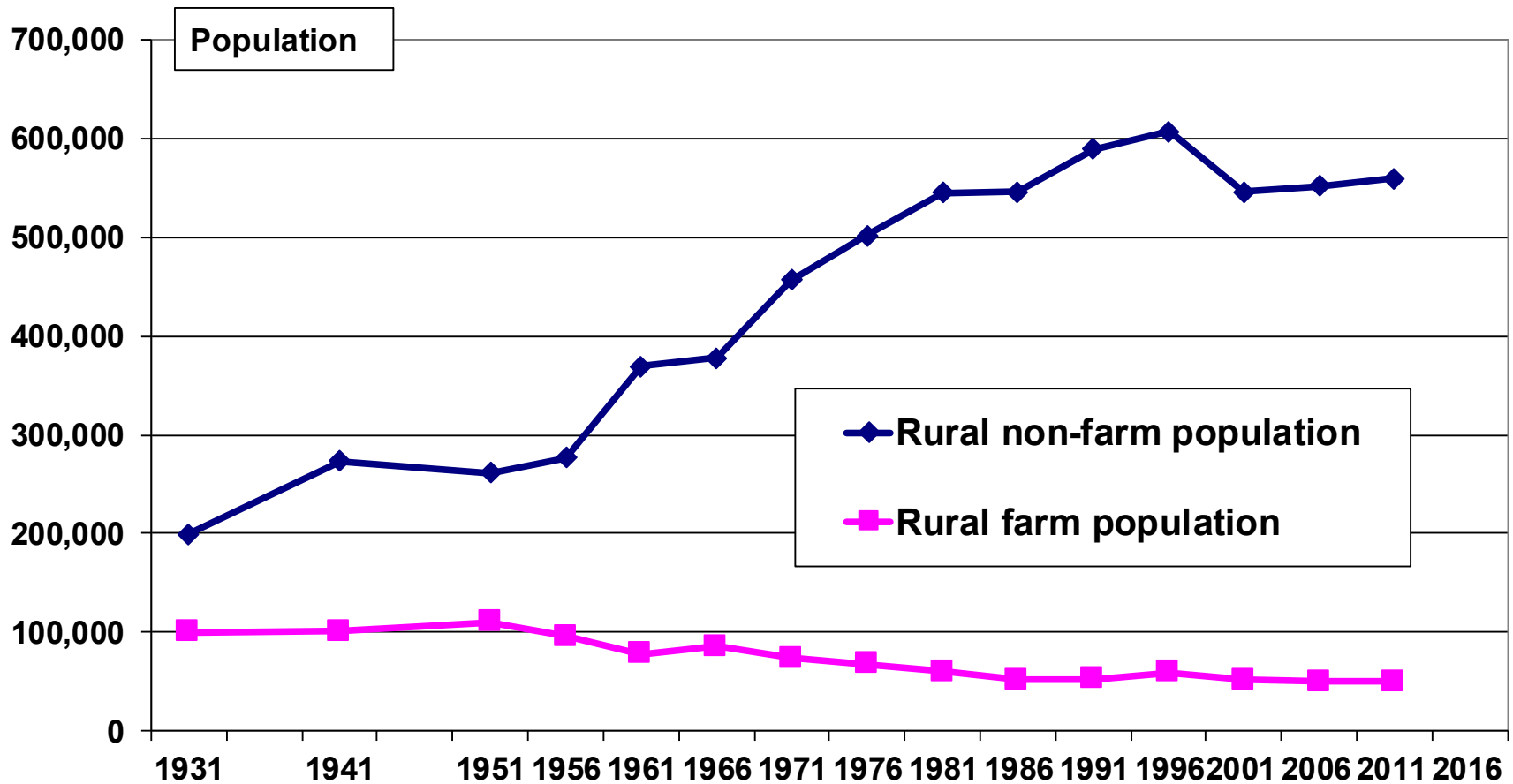
Source: Statistics Canada - Census of Population, 1851 - 2016

Growth in census rural population (except in two periods: 1981-1986 and 1996-2001): British Columbia



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1951 - 2016.

Rural population: Farmer minority in rural British Columbia since 1931



Note: "Rural" refers to residents outside population centres of 1,000 or more.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1931 - 2011.

