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CHAPTER 4 AND ANNEX 3

OF THE HANDBOOK ON RURAL HOUSEHOLD, LIVELIHOOD AND WELL-BEING: STATISTICS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE HOUSEHOLD INCOME.

Paper submitted by the Task Force
on Statistics for Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income*

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IV INVENTORY OF NATIONAL APPROACHES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS

IV.1 Introduction

The need for a new set of statistics or for more detailed information on a specific area generally arises from a shift in policy focus. Rural development statistics are no exception. Over recent years, rural development has become an important policy issue in most countries. Rural areas have suffered employment and population losses. With gains in productivity, fewer and fewer people were necessary to cultivate the land and rear animals. In many rural areas, the number of jobs lost in the agricultural industry has exceeded the number of jobs created in other industries, which led many rural residents to leave the countryside and look for jobs in the towns. Migration from the country into the towns gave rise to new economic and social problems both in urban and rural areas. Creating a rural environment that attracts people and businesses helps to solve both problems in rural areas but also helps to slow down or stop the continuing urbanisation of most countries.

In developed countries, the problems in rural areas are increasingly not directly related to agriculture any more. Especially in countries where agriculture only accounts for a small percentage of both production and employment in rural areas, policy focus has started to move away from a rural policy mainly focussed on agriculture to a policy targeting the wider rural economy and population. On the other hand, in most of the countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and developing countries, rural development has emerged as a distinctive field of policy and practice and of research, which came to be formulated as a result of the general disenchantment with previous approaches to development planning at national and sectoral levels, and it is defined by its concern with equity objectives of various kinds, in the sense that it focuses particularly on poverty and inequality. The term 'Rural Development' ... refers to a distinct approach which is at once broader and more specific than 'agricultural development'. It is broader because it entails much more than the development of agricultural production – for it is in fact a distinct approach to the development of the economy as a whole.¹ The policy issues and their instruments and hence indicators for their monitoring, may therefore differ considerably between developed countries, on the one hand, and CIS and developing countries, on the other. This is important to note when discussing an international core set of indicators to monitor rural development.

This shift in policy focus has been recognised in some countries in the name of the departments/ministries. Examples are the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the United Kingdom, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries in Portugal, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Israel and the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development in Hungary. In other countries, the issues of rural development have been added to the responsibility of the

¹ Source: Harriss J (ed) (1982) *Rural Development: Theories of Peasant Economy and Agrarian Change*, Hutchinson University Library for Africa, London, pages 14-15.

ministry that deals with agricultural policy without a change in name. For example, the United States Department of Agriculture covers rural development issues. Alternatively, rural development can fall into the responsibility of ministries without a link to agriculture, such as the Ministry of the Interior and Health in Denmark or the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication in Sweden or Ministries dedicated to dealing with regional issues such as the Ministry for Regional Development and Regional Authorities in the Czech Republic.

In recent years, international organisations have also taken up work in the area of rural development and its related statistics. Eurostat have recently set up a rural development statistics unit within the directorate that also covers agricultural, food and environmental statistics. In OECD, rural development statistics are covered by the Territorial Indicators Group. Within FAO, rural development falls mainly within the responsibility of the Sustainable Development Section. However, within FAO work on rural development statistics has been carried out at least since the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 1979. Ten year later, FAO published “Guidelines on Socio-Economic Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluating Agrarian Reform and Rural Development” which, as the title indicates, deals with both agricultural and rural indicators (FAO, 1988).

Regardless of where the responsibilities lie, it has been widely recognised that in developed countries rural development statistics need to look far beyond core agriculture. Rural development statistics have to cover not only the wider economic conditions in rural areas but also social and environmental conditions (see for example Hill, 2002). Getting this wider coverage of rural development statistics right is one of the challenges for statisticians working on the creation of a system of rural development statistics.

IV.2 Inventory of national rural development statistics

In the spring of 2003, the UNECE started a project aiming at establishing an inventory on rural development statistics in member countries of the UNECE and OECD. After initial research on the Internet, a questionnaire was sent out to 12 countries (Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States). A summary of the replies of 11 of these countries was presented at the Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics, which was held in Geneva in July 2003.

At this meeting, participants pointed out that rural development statistics should be seen in the larger framework of regional/territorial statistics as demand for statistics on small geographic areas increases. The demand is not limited to rural areas. A system based on statistics for small geographic areas should be built up which would be flexible and accommodate different definitions and different classifications.

During the discussion a need to better understand policy needs emerged. Rural development statistics is the evidence base for rural development policy and therefore policy needs should be at the center of statisticians’ preoccupations. It was mentioned

that with decoupling of subsidies it is likely that there will be more demand for rural development statistics. It is clear that rural development is much broader than agriculture and that a statistical approach needs to be cutting across traditional areas of statistics of which agriculture is one. The possibility was raised that agricultural statisticians could coordinate rural development statistics building on their knowledge in agricultural statistics.

Participants also discussed the usefulness of a standard definition of rural. It was noted that it might be difficult and/or not appropriate to have a standard definition due to the differences between countries. Others expressed the need for some kind of standard pointing out that differences within countries can be larger than those between similar areas of different countries and that demand for internationally comparable data is increasing. There was general agreement though that more work needs to be done on an international level both on the definition of rural and on the rural development indicators.

As a result, UNECE sent the questionnaire to all countries that participated in the meeting. Replies were received from 26 countries. The aim of the questionnaire was to establish which organisations are responsible for rural development policy and rural development statistics, what the aims of the rural development policies are as well as how rural is defined and what kind of statistics are available at present. The question of which specific indicators could be used to satisfy the need for internationally comparable rural development statistics has not yet been addressed by the UNECE project. However, both Eurostat and OECD have carried out work in this area (see for example OECD, 1994 and Hay, 2002).²

The following sections of the present chapter present the results of the questionnaire survey in three sections: the definition of rural, the availability of rural development and related statistics and rural development policy. Annex 3 gives a more detailed summary of the replies by individual countries to the 15 questions in the questionnaire.

IV.3 The definition of rural (questions 2 to 5)

For statisticians working on rural development statistics, one of the first questions to ask is ‘what exactly is rural?’ This might seem a trivial question at first but it turns out to be anything but easy to define. The responses to the UNECE questionnaire showed that there is a large variety of definitions. In several countries more than one definition is used. In these countries, the policy issue to be addressed determines which definition is used. The differences both within the countries and between the countries relate to different variables used to distinguish rural from non-rural but also to different thresholds and basic statistical units.

² As concerns inventories of rural indicators in EU countries, see also Landsis g.e.i.e. Proposal on Agri-Environmental Indicators PAIS, Luxembourg, 2001. Section 3: RURAL DEVELOPMENT, by John Bryden, Aberdeen University; and European Union. Kirsty Hay. RURAL INDICATORS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. Final report (Jan. 2001 – March 2002).

There are two main definition types. One is based on variables applied to administrative areas such as municipalities or larger areas for example 'Kreise' in Germany or counties in the United States. The second type is a settlement-based definition, which looks at built up areas/(urban) land use irrespective of administrative boundaries. The first type is more commonly used than the second type.

Both these basic types of definitions then use specific variables to distinguish rural from non-rural areas. In table IV.1 a rough summary of the replies is given, indicating the most commonly used definition types. For a detailed summary of the definition of rural the reader is referred to annex 3, questions 2 to 5.

Most definitions in use are a combination of two or more variables such as population level and population density or commuting intensity. The variables 'population level' and 'population density' are used most frequently. The way these variables are used to define rural areas differ greatly. In Denmark and the Czech Republic, the number of inhabitants of an administrative area is used on its own. In Germany, the definition is based on the population level of urban centres and the population density of the area surrounding urban centres. In the United States, one definition looks at the population level of urban centres and commuting patterns of the areas surrounding the urban centre. In Switzerland, population level, commuting pattern, population growth rates, built-up area, population/job density and employment in the primary sector are used to delimit agglomerations and isolated towns. All areas outside agglomerations and isolated towns are then considered to be rural. These are but a few examples of how population level and population density are used in definitions of rural areas. Very few countries do not refer to either population level or population density in the definition of rural. One exception is Romania. In Romania, the 'rural' status for a settlement is established by law without explicitly taking into account the demographic size or the population density. Similarly, in Kyrgyzstan, the parliament decides on the status of every settlement.

Even when similar variables are used to distinguish rural from non-rural, the thresholds applied can be very different. For the population level of municipalities, for example, this threshold ranges from 200 (in Denmark) to 2,500 (in Estonia). Several definitions look at the size of urban centres within a certain administrative area e.g. in Germany a threshold is an urban centre of 100,000 inhabitants within a region and in Bulgaria a municipality is only rural if the biggest town has less than 30,000 inhabitants. The examples also show that often rural is defined as the residual of urban.

The third element of the definition is the territorial unit on which the definition is based. Most countries use existing administrative areas as the basic territorial unit. Several countries use statistical subdivisions though, mainly based on the organisation of the population censuses (e.g. Australia, Canada, Ireland). In Denmark and Sweden, the definitions are based on addresses. Such definitions have the advantage of being independent of relatively random administrative borders and of being a flexible basis for summary statistics. This approach is possible in countries like Sweden and Denmark with a wide range of register based statistics. In many countries, statistics at such a low level would require large resources. Rural markers would have to be added

to sample surveys and the results would probably have to be compiled in two different ways – once in the traditional way to derive statistics for administrative areas and once to derive statistics on rural areas. For some statistics, such as those based on administrative records, this might not be possible.

The next question that was addressed was whether there is a need for a definition that distinguishes degrees of rurality. The responses to the questionnaire seem to suggest that there is a need for such a sub-division as more than half of the countries with an official definition of rural use some kind of sub-division of rural areas. The variables used to define degrees of rurality do not necessarily have to be the same as for the rural-non-rural definition e.g. the rural non-rural definition could be based on population level, whereas the sub-division could be based on the distance to an urban centre of a certain size.

IV.4 Current availability of rural development and related statistics (questions 1, 6 to 12)

In many countries more than one organisation collect and produce statistics on rural development reflecting the cross-cutting issues related to rural development. Therefore, it will be not as straightforward as in some other areas to compile an inventory of available statistics and indicators. However, in all countries some, but not necessarily the main, responsibility lies with the national statistical office. In countries that are based on a federal principal the regional statistical offices also play an important role in the collection of rural development statistics (e.g. in Australia, Canada, Germany, Russian Federation). Frequently, ministries also share the responsibilities for statistics on rural development.

The replies to the question of whether there is a core/standard set of indicators to monitor rural development showed that several countries are in the process of developing or are investigating the need for a set of indicators to monitor rural development. In several countries, sets of indicators exist that are directly linked to the monitoring of the EU Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD) and the EU Rural Development Plan. As these programmes are closely linked to agriculture, the indicators are likely to be also closely linked to the part of rural development more closely linked to the agricultural community. One example of a set of indicators for rural development not linked to agricultural policy is the Finnish Rural Indicators project. A list with all the indicators in the Finnish Rural Indicators set can be found in the Annex 3.

The questionnaire also revealed that at present the information on rural development available on the Internet is fairly limited. Several countries indicated that no rural development statistics are at present available on the Internet. In many other cases some regional and/or rural data are available on different sites. Very few countries have information on a dedicated site.

Questions 10 to 12 focused on small area statistics. The questions are summarised in annex 3. The answers show that in the majority of countries the smallest areas for which statistics are currently available are municipalities, which

often correspond to the EU NUTS 5 areas. Nine countries produce statistics for smaller areas. These smaller areas are usually some sub-division related to the organisation or presentation of data of the population census. The reason for including these questions was to get some idea of the feasibility of basing an international standard for the definition of 'rural' on territorial units not linked to administrative areas and/or smaller than a municipality/village. The answers seem to suggest that a definition based on areas that do not correspond to administrative areas would require many countries to produce two sets of statistics – one for the administrative areas for which statistics are currently required and another one for different territorial units which are not based on the current territorial units.

Finally, the questionnaire also asked for the percentage of the population living in rural areas and the percentage of land that is classified as rural, the most basic rural indicators.

These figures are based on the national definitions of 'rural' and therefore the comparability is very limited. At the moment, these data are used for international comparisons (e.g. in the World Urbanization Prospects published by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations), as they are the only ones available. The OECD has developed a definition based on population density and statistics for OECD countries are available based on this definition.

Looking at the data available for Canada, England and the United States, which all have two or more commonly used definitions, it can be seen that the different definition can have sizeable effects on the indicators. For England, the population living in rural areas is either 20 per cent or 28 per cent depending on the definition used. The land in rural areas is 87 per cent or 93 per cent. For the United States, the difference between the two definitions is larger for the land area than for the population. In Canada the rural population varies between 22 and 38 per cent depending on the definition used. It can be seen that the different types of definitions can have a large impact on both the population classed as living in rural areas and the land area covered. In addition, the overlap between the definitions is smaller than could be assumed from looking at these figures. Not all of the 20 per cent of the population classed as rural in the English urban settlement definition are also included in the 28 per cent classed as rural according to the administrative area definition.

Another point worth mentioning is the low figure for land in rural areas in Germany. The reason for the comparatively low figure is that the smallest geographic unit used in the classification is a 'Kreis', an administrative area consisting of several municipalities. All other countries in this sample base their definition on smaller geographic units. Generally, the smaller the basic geographic unit used in the classification, the higher the percentage of land classified as rural.

Due to the lack of comparability of the data, it is difficult to draw any other conclusions from the data presented in the table. The same will be true for every indicator of rural development – whether economic, social or environmental. The effects the definition of rural has on rural indicators in Canada are shown in a research

paper by Valerie du Plessis, Roland Beshiri, Ray Bollman and Heather Clemenson published by Statistics Canada which can be downloaded from the internet

(<http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/21-601-MIE/2002061/21-601-MIE2002061.pdf>).

It would be interesting to carry out similar research on an international level using different national definitions. This would show for example whether the differences in the rural population can be attributed mainly to differences in the definition or mainly to different situation in different countries.

IV.5 Rural development policy (questions 13 to 15)

Even though connected to agricultural policy and often emerging from it, rural development has a much wider scope. Agriculture plays a part in rural development but in some countries only a small and declining part. Hence, rural development policy does not necessarily need to fall within the responsibility of the same organisation as agricultural policy. In different countries, rural development is under the responsibility of different ministries/departments.

In most countries the ministry responsible for agricultural policy is also the major player (e.g. Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Slovakia) – or one of the principal players (e.g. Australia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania) in rural development policy. In other countries, the main responsibility for rural areas falls within the scope of other ministries such as the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication in Sweden, the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in Ireland, the Ministry for the Interior and Health in Denmark and the Ministry for Regional Development and Regional Authorities in the Czech Republic. In several countries regional governments play a major role in developing and implementing rural development policies (e.g. Australia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Russian Federation).

The questionnaire also included questions about the objectives and main themes of rural development policy. The replies show that the focus of rural development varies considerably between countries. In Canada for example, the aim is to improve the well-being of rural citizens. In the United States, the emphasis is also on the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas. In most EU member and acceding countries, rural development is much more closely linked to agricultural policy as rural development falls within the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy. For acceding countries, rural development and agricultural policy aims are set in the Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD). In order to decide on the scope and the focus of rural development statistics, it is important to understand the aims of rural development policy. The

Table IV.1
Rural population and rural land

	What is the percentage of the population that are classified to live in rural areas?	What is the percentage of the total land area that is classified as rural?
Australia	12.84 per cent	99.74 per cent
Bulgaria	43.7 per cent (11.9 per cent in less developed areas)	81.4 per cent
Canada	22 to 38 per cent depending on the definition used	99.8 per cent 'rural' and 95 per cent 'predominantly rural' (OECD definition)
Czech Republic	26.5 per cent	73.7 per cent
Denmark	14.7 per cent	n/a
Estonia	32.6 per cent	98.4 per cent
Finland	43 per cent (27 per cent excluding urban adjacent rural areas)	95 per cent (83 per cent if urban adjacent rural areas)
France	24 per cent	82 per cent
Germany	13.03 per cent	30.35 per cent
Hungary	Narrow definition: 47.35 per cent; broader definition: predominantly rural 31.3 per cent and significantly rural 43.2 per cent	Narrow definition: 88.3 per cent; broader definition: predominantly rural 58.3 per cent and significantly rural 37.7 per cent
Ireland	n/a	n/a
Italy	n/a	n/a
Kyrgyzstan	65 per cent	28.8 (53.9) per cent of the land is agricultural land and land of rural settlements (about 90 per cent of the territory lays higher than 1,500m above sea level).
Latvia	47.5 per cent	98.2 per cent
Lithuania	33.1 per cent	97 per cent
Netherlands	n/a	n/a
Norway	22.3 per cent (population not living in urban settlements)	99.3 per cent (land outside urban settlements)
Romania	45.4 per cent	89 per cent
Russian Federation	27 per cent	n/a
Slovakia	29.9 per cent (OECD definition at NUTS 4) 48 per cent in predominantly rural areas	76.7 per cent (OECD definition 59.5 per cent in predominantly rural areas)
Sweden	35 to 40 per cent	more than 95 per cent
Switzerland	32 per cent	77 per cent (approximately)
Turkey	35.1 per cent	n/a
United Kingdom	n/a	n/a
England	20 per cent (settlement based definition); 28 per cent (ward based definition)	93 per cent (settlement based definition); 87 per cent (ward based definition)
Scotland	30.9 per cent ¹⁾	n/a
Wales	32 per cent	82 per cent
Northern Ireland	n/a	n/a
United States	21 per cent (Census Bureau definition); 20 per cent (ERS definition)	97 per cent (Census Bureau definition); 80.8 per cent (ERS definition)

1) <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/scosett#res>

Source: UNECE rural questionnaire.

focus will be different if the policy is mainly addressed at the agricultural community or generally at the rural community.

In order to determine which general topic areas should be covered by rural development statistics, a question was included about the main themes and policies of rural development policy. The answers generally fall within the following main areas:

- Economic/employment;
- Service provision/Infrastructure;
- Environment;
- Social; and
- Preservation or renewal of rural communities and tradition.

The importance attributed to agriculture differs greatly between countries – ranging from it being a main focus to it only playing a minor part.

IV.6 Next steps

Further discussion is needed on the usefulness of an international standard for the definition of rural. Many countries are at present considering or already working on an official definition of ‘rural’ and on putting together a set of indicators to monitor and evaluate rural development policy. International cooperation and benchmarks would seem useful for countries currently considering these issues on a national basis. Similar problems and issues are likely to come up in different countries. The solutions might not be the same for all countries but information on what has been done in other countries and on international standards, recommendations or guidelines will help to make informed decisions.

As the demand for internationally comparable information is on the rise, some kind of standard both for the definition of rural and for a set of indicators used is desirable. In an increasingly globalized world, policy makers, researchers and the general public are not only interested in statistics showing what is going on in their country but also statistics on how their country compares to other countries such as neighbouring countries or countries with similar environmental, climate, social or political conditions.

IV.7 Case study: Canada

IV.7.1 Introduction

This section will review case studies of rural developments statistics compiled by countries. The intention is that as the web-based Handbook is continuously being updated additional country statistics showing good practise is to be added. For the time being, there is only one case study, which on the other hand is quite extensive, reviewing the rural statistical system in Canada, which in many respects is very advanced and lends itself to detailed analysis of policy issues related to various types of rural areas *vis-à-vis* urban areas and the country as a whole. Much of the results are

published in the *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin*, which is published by Statistics Canada (and available at the Statistics Canada website: www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/free.htm). After reviewing the definitions and typologies used by Statistics Canada, selected results extracted from this Bulletin will be presented, giving good illustrations of what is actually feasible to do, given the availability of a well-developed statistical system based on stringent definitions related to well proven survey methods.

Only a small fraction of the statistics from the various issues of the *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin* is presented here.³ For instance, the detailed statistics broken down by categories such as regions or genders, which are of prime importance for rural development statistics, are, for reason of space, only briefly mentioned here. Readers interested in these breakdowns should consult the original sources.

IV.7.2 Definitions and typologies

“Several alternative definitions of “rural” are used in Canada for national and provincial level policy analysis. The policy issue and the geographical focus being addressed (i.e. local, regional, national or international), leads an analyst to choose one definition over another.” [Vol. 4, No. 8] The definition chosen is of course also depended on available data sources.

“A recent Statistics Canada paper outlines six alternative ways of defining “rural” in Canada (du Plessis et al., 2002). Depending on the definition of rural being applied, there is between 22% and 38% of the Canadian population defined as rural (approximately six to eleven Canadians).

Three definitions will be shown below of which the second is a derivate of the first. The third definition is identical with the OECD definition.

Definition 1: For analysis of metropolitan versus non-metropolitan regions and their sub-categories

This definition is based on census divisions (CDs) as the “building block” for defining regional types [Vol. 4, No. 8]. This typology is equivalent to the Beale Code typology developed by Calvin Beale at the USDA.

Metropolitan regions

50,000 or more people living in urban settlements (where an urban settlement has a population of 2,500 or more inhabitants)

1. **Major metro (central)**: CDs with urban settlements of one million or more (central) (27.1%)
2. **Major metro (fringe)**: CDs with urban settlements of one million or more (fringe) (11.5%)

³ References are made in the text to the various volumes and issues of this periodical without each time mentioning the name of the periodical.

3. **Mid-sized metro**: CD with urban settlements of 250,000 to 999,999 people (21.4%)

Non-Metropolitan regions under 50,000 people living in urban settlements

4. **Small city (metro-adjacent)**: CDs with 20,000 to 49,999 living in urban settlements, adjacent to a metropolitan region.
5. **Small city (non-metro-adjacent)**: CDs with 20,000 to 49,999 living in urban settlements, non-adjacent to a metropolitan region.
6. **Small town (metro-adjacent)**: CDs with 2,500 to 19,999 living in urban settlements, adjacent to a metropolitan region.
7. **Small town (non-metro-adjacent)**: CDs with 2,500 to 19,999 living in urban settlements, non-adjacent to a metropolitan region.
8. **Rural (metro-adjacent)**: CDs with no people in urban settlements with 2,500 or more, adjacent to a metropolitan region.
9. **Rural (non-metro-adjacent)**: CDs with no people in urban settlements with 2,500 or more, non-adjacent to a metropolitan region.
10. **Northern**:

Definition 2: The second typology concerns Rural and Small Town (RST).

This definition focuses on the population living outside the commuting zones of larger urban centres or more specifically outside so-called Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) and Census Agglomerations (CA). The more precise definitions of these concepts are:

- ◆ **Rural and Small Town (RST)** areas have a population of 1 – 9,999 where less than 50% of the employed individuals commute to a CMA/CA and less than 25% commute from a CMA/CA
- ◆ **Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA)** has an urban core of 100,000 or over and includes all neighbouring municipalities where over 50% of more of the labour force commutes into the urban core or more than 25% commute from a CMA/CA
- ◆ **Census Agglomerations (CA)** has an urban core of between 10,000 and 99,999 and abides by the same commuting rule as CMAs.

Definition 3: The third definition is based on the OECD definition

The OECD definition distinguishes between:

- ◆ Predominately urban regions
- ◆ Intermediate regions; and
- ◆ Predominately rural regions

The latter is sub-divided into

- ◆ Metro-adjacent

- ◆ Non-metro-adjacent; and
- ◆ Northern regions

The major data sources for the rural and urban statistics are census data and labour force surveys.

IV.7.3 Results

Below a compilation is presented showing a few examples of results that have been extracted from various issues of the *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin*. These few examples give details about what is possible produce given a well-developed statistical system for rural – urban analysis.

(i) Population issues

Migration to and from rural areas [Vol. 3, No. 6]

Migration is a concern for Rural and Small Town (RST) areas of Canada as rural development is essentially a demographic phenomenon.

In terms of net migration, RST areas were net losers of youth (under 25 years of age) but net gainers of individuals in all age classes from 25 to 69 years of age. Thus, RST areas appeared competitive in attracting migrants in all age classes from 25 to 69 years of age.

Patterns of migration into and out of rural and small town Canada were similar to the patterns reported in the USA. In the 1970s, there was a turnaround of the long standing pattern of rural net out-migration. This was due to both higher in migration and lower out migration. In the 1980s, we also saw the turnaround of the turnaround where the pattern of rural net out-migration returned, caused by lower in migration. In the early 1990s, there was a return to the pattern of the 1970s, namely, rural NET in-migration, but this time due solely to higher RST retention (lower out-migration).

Young adults were the most mobile during the study period. Those aged 20-24 had the highest rates of RST out-migration while those aged 25-29 had the highest rates of RST in-migration. In terms of net migration, RST areas were net losers of youth but net gainers of individuals aged 25-69. RST areas were therefore competitive in attracting migrants of all age classes from 25 to 69 years of age.

Rural youth migration [Vol. 2, No. 3]

By comparing the population structure for RST areas in 1996 to the overall Canadian population structure, one sees that the RST population has a smaller proportion of individuals who are 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 years of age. Is this due to migration? Will these individuals return to RST areas?

Although it can be seen that rural areas tend to have relatively fewer young adults than urban areas, it is difficult to determine the size of the magnitude of this

apparent gap without further analysis. Specifically, how many young adults would we have expected to find in RST areas?

This bulletin calculated an expected 1996 population pyramid using the 1971 population structure (adjusted for expected deaths) and then compared the expected 1996 population pyramid with the actual 1996 population pyramid. A 25-year period was used to allow the youth to leave for education and to return to a rural area. All provinces lost youth from their rural areas between 1971 and 1996. There was a (net) exodus over this time period.

Population structure and change [Vol. 2, No. 2]

In 1981, 33.6% of Canadians lived in predominantly rural regions. By 1996, this share had fallen to 31.4%. However, rural metro-adjacent regions are the fastest growing rural regions. These regions represent one-half of the population in predominantly rural regions. Net migration is strongest toward rural metro-adjacent regions.

The rural population continues to concentrate in regions near cities. Between 1981 and 1996, the predominantly rural population increased by almost 11% (see figure IV.7.1). Most of this increase occurred in rural metro adjacent regions, which increased by almost 17% over this 15-year period. The next largest rural population increase was in the rural northern regions with a 7% increase. Rural non-metro adjacent regions had the smallest gains in population. The predominantly urban and intermediate regions had the highest growth rates of 22%.

Rural and small town population is growing in the 1990s [Vol. 1, No. 1]

Overall, Canada's rural and small town population has grown in each intercensal period since 1976. However, population growth has been higher in "larger urban centres". Thus, the share of Canada's population living in rural and small town areas has declined from 34% in 1976 to 22% in 1996. The other reason for a decline in the rural population share is that some rural areas are classified into "larger urban centres" in each census – both because commuting patterns change which causes the rural community to be classified within the commuting zone of the "larger urban centre" or the rural community grows past the threshold of 10,000 persons in the urban core and becomes classified as a "larger urban centre." In this bulletin, the 5-year growth rates were calculated within constant boundaries – but, invariably, each 5-year period started with fewer rural people due to reclassification.

Rural and small town growth rates vary widely among the provinces. Much of the growth within rural and small town areas is in the small towns. Sub-provincial data show wide regional differences within each province.

Immigrants [Vol.5, No. 4]

Few immigrants reside in predominantly rural regions. In 2001, 28% of the population in predominantly urban regions was made up of immigrants (i.e. residents born outside Canada). The corresponding share for predominantly rural regions was

only 6%. For Canada as a whole, immigrants had the same proportion with high school degree as the total population. In rural regions, on the other hand, immigrants were markedly more educated than the Canadian-born.

Immigrants in rural Canada – preference for urban regions [Vol.4, No. 2]

Immigrants tend to prefer urban regions. In 1996, 17% of Canada's total population were immigrants and 88% of them lived in urban regions. There they made up 27% of the population compared with only 6% of the population in the predominantly rural regions being classified as "immigrants." Another interesting result is that immigrants in predominantly rural areas had a higher level of educational compared with the Canadian born.

In predominantly rural regions, immigrants who arrived before 1981, when compared with Canadian-born had a higher employment rate and had higher incomes. Those immigrants who arrive after 1981 had the opposite result.

(ii) Employment and labour force issues

Seasonal variation in rural employment [Vol. 3, No. 8]

Within each industrial sector (except agriculture), the rural and small town (RST) workforce exhibited a higher amplitude of seasonality than the workforce in larger urban centres (LUCs), over the 1996 to 2000 period.

After accounting for the national average amplitude of seasonality and after accounting for the intensity of rural employment in highly seasonal sectors (such as "primary sector other than agriculture" and "construction"), we calculated that 39% of RST seasonal employment is due to the unique aspects of working in RST areas.

Higher rural seasonality may be due to the fact that RST industries, such as processing and transportation, have stronger links to primary commodity flows.

Employment structure up to 2000 [Vol. 3, No. 4]

Between 1987 and 1994 RST employment grew almost 6% while LUC employment grew nearly 8%. This growth in RST areas was fairly steady with the exception of 1990 91 when there was an overall decline in employment due to the economic recession. Between 1996 and 2000, while both the labour force participation rate and the employment rate in RST areas remained lower than in Larger Urban Centres (LUCs), growth was similar in both regions at just over 5% (see table IV.7.1).

The unemployment rates for RST areas and LUCs declined between 1996 and 2000, but the rate of reduction was slightly less in RST areas.

RST areas had lower labour force participation rates than LUCs for both youth and the general population (see figure IV.7.2). However, up until 1999 the respective

gaps closed. Between 1999 and 2000 the rate for youth and the general population declined in RST areas but continued a steady rise in LUCs.

While there was a general rising trend in the employment rates for the same population groups throughout, there was a large percentage difference between lower rates in RST areas and higher rates in LUCs. There was also a contrast between youth and the general population for each area, with youth having lower employment rates.

There was a smaller discrepancy in unemployment rates between RST areas and LUCs for the two populations than was evident in either the labour force participation or the employment rates. However, both youth and the general population exhibited a steeper decline in the unemployment rate in LUCs (see figure IV.7.2). There was a marked difference in rates between youth and the general population in both areas, with youth averaging more than 5 percentage points higher than the respective general population.

When examining male and female youth in RST areas and LUCs the following results were obtained. The labour force participation rates for these groups. The female rates were lower. The male rates showed little difference between RST areas and LUCs, but the female rates were lower. The male rates showed little difference between RST areas and LUCs, but the female rates exhibited a large discrepancy. Female RST labour force participation averaged 5 percentage points below that in LUCs.

Males in both RST areas and LUCs, and females in LUCs, had similar employment rates. However, females in RST areas had lower rates, averaging approximately 5 percentage points below the other groups.

While all the rates are high (averaging nearly 15%), after 1997 there was a downward trend for all the groups. This decline was steepest for male youth in LUCs. In both RST areas and LUCs, female youth had lower unemployment rates than the respective male population.

At the Canada level, it was seen that both the labour force participation rate and the employment rate in the RST areas were consistently below that of the LUCs. However, the RST areas were matching the LUCs in terms of the increase in employment rates over the five years. Both the RST areas and the LUCs had declining unemployment rates but the reduction was slightly less in the RST areas.

RST and LUC employment patterns of youth and the general population, split between males and females, were also examined. It was found that RST areas had lower labour force participation rates and employment rates and higher unemployment rates. However, the discrepancy with LUCs was relatively smaller for unemployment rates. Youth exhibited lower labour force participation and employment rates and higher unemployment rates than the general population. The variance between youth and the general population was particularly apparent in the unemployment rates with youth averaging 5 percentage points higher. For both youth and the general population the unemployment rate was declining faster in LUCs.

Looking specifically at male and female youth in RST areas and LUCs, females had generally lower labour force participation rates. This is particularly marked in RST areas. A similar pattern is seen in employment rates, with RST females having markedly lower rates than the other groups. However, the LUC female rate was closer to the male employment rates than was apparent in the labour force participation rate. Interestingly, although female youth had relatively less attachment to the labour force (i.e. lower employment rates and lower labour force participation rates), female youth (in both RST areas and LUCs) had lower unemployment rates than either male group.

Employment structure [Vol. 2, No. 6]

In Canada, in 1996, residents of predominantly rural regions contributed about 29% of total employment. This share has been essentially constant since 1981. Among the types of rural regions, rural metro adjacent regions contribute 15%, rural non-metro adjacent regions contribute 12% and rural northern regions contribute 2%. Note that these shares have remained essentially constant over the 1981 to 1996 period.

In the 1991 to 1996 period, the rate of employment growth in each type of rural region was higher than the employment growth in predominantly urban and intermediate regions. Within predominantly rural regions, rural metro adjacent regions showed the strongest rate of employment growth in each inter censal period – however, some of the employment growth of these regions is due to an increasing number of residents commuting to jobs in urban centres.

Other results:

- ◆ The retail and wholesale trade sector is the biggest sector for employment in rural and small town Canada and ranks as one of the top two sectors in each province.
- ◆ Manufacturing is also a top sector for employment in rural and small town Canada.
- ◆ Only regions which are adjacent to a major metropolitan centre reported employment growth above the Canadian average in each five year period since 1981.
- ◆ One-half of the regions that reported below average employment growth for three consecutive periods were rural regions that were not adjacent to a metropolitan centre. The lack of access to a metropolitan centre appears to constrain employment growth.

Employment structure in the primary sector [Vol. 2, No. 7]

Today, less than 3% of the workforce has an agricultural occupation and less than 3 percent of the population live on a census farm. Furthermore, employment in rural metro adjacent regions and in rural non-metro adjacent regions remains 2.5 times more intensive in the agriculture industry, compared to the national average. This level of relative intensity has remained essentially the same over the 1981 to 1996 period because, within each type of region, employment grew or declined at essentially the same rate.

Agricultural employment showed modest growth in the 1981 to 1986 period in each type of region. Growth continued in the predominantly urban regions in the 1986 to 1991 period, due in part to continuing growth in demand for nursery and greenhouse products in the vicinity of cities. However, all types of regions experienced a decline in agricultural employment in the 1991 to 1996 period. This decline is driven, in general, by the on going substitution of machinery for labour in agricultural production. Since rural metro adjacent regions and rural non metro adjacent regions are the most agricultural intensive in terms of employment, this across the board decline in the level of employment was felt most strongly in these rural regions.

Employment structure in the manufacturing sector [Vol. 2, No. 8]

Definition of manufacturing sector:

- ◆ **Traditional**: food, beverages, tobacco, rubber, plastic, leather, primary textile, textiles, clothing, wood, furniture and fixtures and paper.
- ◆ **Complex**: printing, primary metals, fabricated metal, machinery, transportation equipment, electrical and electronic, non metallic mineral, refined petroleum and coal, chemical and other manufacturing.

Historically, manufacturing activity in Canada has been concentrated in larger cities. During the 1980s and 1990s, predominantly rural regions were relatively more intensive in “traditional” manufacturing relative to the overall economy. Each type of predominantly rural region appears 10 to 40% more intensive in traditional manufacturing than Canada as a whole. This relative intensity in traditional manufacturing constrained rural employment growth throughout the 1980s – because each type of region experienced a decline in traditional manufacturing employment from 1981 to 1986 and from 1986 to 1991. Employment levels essentially stabilised in the 1991 to 1996 (post recession) period – there were small gains in some regions and small losses in other regions.

Predominantly rural regions are relatively less intensive in complex manufacturing employment, with a location quotient of 60 to 70% in the 1981 to 1996 period. During the 1980s, the location quotient for predominantly rural complex manufacturing increased because its employment declined at a slower pace than the fall in urban complex manufacturing employment. In the 1991 to 1996 period, each type of predominantly rural region reported gains in employment in complex manufacturing whereas predominantly urban and intermediate regions showed only small changes.

Employment patterns in the non-metro workforce [Vol. 1, No. 2]

The growth and decline of non-metro employment varied according to provincial economic activities. For all provinces, except the Prairie provinces, non-metro unemployment rates were generally higher than metro unemployment rates.

Non-metro unemployment rates were less sensitive to economic fluctuations. In a recession, the rise in the unemployment rate was slower in non-metro areas. In economic expansions, the fall in the non-metro unemployment rate was slower.

Employment rates (employment/population ratios) were lower in non-metro labour markets. Generally, the following employment tendencies were observed:

- ◆ leading into recessions, non metro employment grew less rapidly than metro employment;
- ◆ during recessions, employment declined less in non metro areas than in metro centres;
- ◆ during economic recoveries, employment growth was higher in non metro areas than in metro centres;
- ◆ during economic expansions, metro employment growth overtook non metro employment growth.

Self-employment activity [Vol.5, No. 5]

Rural self-employment workers represented 37% of all self-employed workers in Canada in 2001 compared to a population share of 27%. The self-employment activity rate of workers in rural areas outside the commuting range of larger urban centres was more than double the urban rate in 2001.⁴ However, the rural/urban differences in self-employment activity rates are much smaller when farming is excluded. Since the middle of 1990s, the number of rural workers engaged in non-farm self-employment has surpassed the number of farm self-employment workers.

Employment in agri-food industry by type of region [Vol.4.No.8]

Employment in agriculture and the agri-food industry remained at 15% of the total employment over the 1981-1996 period.⁵ While employment in agriculture has fallen the, the agri-food industry has grown faster than the overall economy (see figure IV.7.3).

Employment in agri-food is more than three times the level of employment in agriculture. Primary agriculture saw a decline in employment between 1991 and 1996 while in agricultural services it has grown continuously since 1981. Most employment in the agri-food sector is in the food and beverage service sector and the wholesale/ retail trade of agriculture and food products.

⁴ Self-employment activity rate is a wider concept than self-employment rate because it includes also all employees earning unincorporated self-employment income outside their main job.

⁵ Agriculture includes primary agriculture and agricultural services.

Agri-food includes food processing, agriculture and food products wholesale and retail trade (including equipment and inputs) and food and beverages services.

Employment, which actually should be understood as number of persons engaged, includes paid workers, self-employed workers and unpaid family workers.

Data are available for 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996. Predominantly rural regions are further broken down into rural metro-adjacent regions, rural non-metro-adjacent regions and rural northern regions.

Predominantly rural areas are 30% more intensive in agriculture and agri-food employment than the Canadian average. In agriculture employment alone predominantly rural areas are 2.3 as intensive as the Canadian average but the intensity has been declining over the years (see figure IV.7.3).

Part time employment in rural Canada [Vol.4, No. 1]

Rural and small town (RST) areas have a significantly higher incidence of part time employment than large urban centres (LUC) (see figure IV.7.4). In 1999, it amounted to 15.6 in the former areas and 12.8% in LUC. Following the recession in the early 1990s part time employment increased in both types of areas. It is interesting to note the close correlation between the two series.

The predominately rural areas rural provinces have the highest incidence of part-time employment in their rural areas.

In 1987-1997, the average annual growth in part time employment was 0.1% in RST while it reached 4.6% in the LUC. As for full time employment the RST did even worse – it fell 1.1% per year against and 2.4% growth in LUC. This picture changed radically in 1997-1999. Part time employment surged by 3.1% per year in RST against –0.3% in LUC. Full time employment increased by 3.1% per year in RST while it rose by 2.9% in LUC.

Occupational pattern [Vol.5, No. 6]

Predominantly rural regions have a higher concentration of unskilled occupations, within most industries, compared to predominantly urban regions (see figure IV.7.5). Moreover, during the 1990s, predominantly rural regions tended to become more intensive in unskilled occupations with most industries.

(iii) Income and expenditures

Rural – urban income divide [Vol.4, No. 4]

Between 1992 and 1999, territorial income disparity in Canada increased. However, income disparity due to between-province decreased while within-province disparity increased substantially. The average provincial income is less relevant in explaining the increasing spatial disparity. Disparities between various (OECD) types of regions became more important. Although the changes are not dramatic the geography of income disparities is shifting slowly but steadily from a provincial to a rural – urban divide.

Rural and urban household expenditure patterns for 1996 [Vol. 1, No. 4]

Main conclusions:

- ◆ Rural and urban households spend the same share of their budget on the necessities of food, clothing and shelter but rural households spend more on food and less on shelter.

- ◆ Distance influences rural household expenditure patterns. Rural households spend a higher share on transportation and a lower share on some services (e.g. cablevision, Internet), which are more difficult to access.

In 1996, the total expenditure of an average Canadian household was \$49,054. Rural households spent an average of \$42,620 while urban households had an average spending of \$50,283.

In 1996, rural households spent 13% of their total budgets on food, while urban households spent 12% (see table IV.7.2). This difference could be attributed to the fact that the average household size is moderately larger in rural areas (2.75 persons) than in urban areas (2.58 persons).

Both rural and urban households spent about the same share of their total budgets on clothing in 1996 (4.3%).

In 1996, households in rural areas spent an average of \$6,705 on shelter (16% of their household budgets), while urban households spent an average of \$8,800 (17%). A larger proportion of rural households owned their homes (82%) than urban households (64%). In addition, a larger share of rural homeowners (56%) has no mortgage payments compared to urban homeowners (45%).

Rural households spent an average of \$6,328 on transportation in 1996, 15% of their total expenditure, while urban households spent \$5,990, just 12% of their total expenditure.

Access to recreation services may be more limited in rural areas. In 1996, only 85% of rural households reported spending on recreation services, compared to 94% of urban households. On average, rural households spent \$547 on recreation services, while urban households spent \$1,033.

Rural households spent, on average, \$29 going to the movies compared to \$63 for urban households.

Compared to urban households, rural households spent more on tobacco (the average across all rural households was \$620 and the average across all urban households was \$512).

Measuring income and well-being [Vol. 2, No. 5]

Incomes are lower in rural areas. For the past three decades, rural families have had the lowest average incomes and the most populated areas (100,000 or more) have had the highest incomes.

In 1997, the average income for families living in rural areas was \$48,850 while in areas with a population of 100,000 or more, the average family income was \$59,920 (in constant 1996 dollars).

The income gap between rural areas and smaller urban centres has been falling the most, when we compare rural incomes to the incomes in each urbanisation class. Since 1990, the average income gap between rural areas and cities under 15,000 population fell by 58%. Even against the 100,000 and over urbanisation class, the rural urban income gap has fallen by 20%. By 1997, the average income for a rural family was only \$359 below that of a family living in an urban area with a population less than 30,000.

Through the 1990s, within each community size, the proportion of families with low income has not fluctuated significantly. The proportion of families with income below the LICO is lower in rural areas. The proportion of families with low income is higher in larger cities. For families living in rural areas, the proportion with low income remained at slightly below 10% while for those living in areas with a population of 500,000 and over, the rates ranged from 16 to 18%.

This is an indicator that rural communities are better off than urban communities in the sense that a lower proportion of their residents is restrained in the relative ability to purchase necessities.

Through the 1990s, like the low income rates based on LICO⁶, the incidence of low-income rate based on LIM⁷ have not fluctuated significantly within each community size. However, across different community sizes, LIM rates have exhibited the opposite pattern of LICO rates. Unlike LICO rates, LIM rates are highest for rural families – families in the most populous areas (500,000 and over) have the lowest proportion of families with income less than the LIM. LIM rates for families living in rural areas were approximately 15% while for those living in areas with a population of 500,000 and over, approximately 12% have incomes below LIM.

The average person in rural and small urban areas receives more social transfers per dollar of income and pays less tax per dollar of income than the average urban person. On average, rural and small urban area individuals tend to receive relatively more transfers because:

- ◆ their unemployment rates are higher;
- ◆ there is a higher proportion of children (and thus residents receive more from the child tax credit); and
- ◆ there is a higher proportion of retired people who receive Canada and Quebec Pension Plan benefits.

Rural income disparities [Vol. 3, No. 7]

⁶ LICO (low income cut-offs) are established each year with an adjustment for family size and an adjustment for the urbanization class. See Cotton, Cathy. (2001) **Recent Developments in Low Income Cut-offs** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Income Statistics Division, Catalogue no. 75F002MIE-01003) (www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=75F002M2001003)

⁷ LIM (low income measure) equals one-half of the national median income, adjusted for family size, but with adjustment for urbanization class.

Within each province, incomes in rural regions are lower than the incomes in urban regions. Provinces with above average urban incomes (e.g. Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia) also have above average incomes in their rural regions.

The share of the rural population with low incomes has declined, relative to the share of urban population with low incomes (due largely to an increase in the incidence of low incomes in urban regions).

Thus, rural income disparities are decreasing within most provinces because the rural urban income gap is decreasing; and the incidence of low incomes in rural regions is declining, relatively.

(iv) Social issues

A rural-urban comparison of health indicators [Vol.4.No.6]

A lower proportion of Canadians living in small town regions (non-metro-adjacent), rural regions and northern regions rated their health as “excellent”, compared to the national average (see table IV.7.3).

Health risk factors that are more prevalent in non-metropolitan region population included being overweight and smoking, (see table IV.7.3).

Arthritis/rheumatism was higher than the national average in rural (non-metro-adjacent) regions even after adjusting for age.

Health status and behaviours of Canada’s youth: a rural-urban comparison
[Vol.5, No. 3]

Studies have indicated that the health status of Canadians living in the most rural and remote parts of Canada is lagging behind that of urban areas. To some degree this is a result of demographic differences. However, analysis of the health of well-being of youth (aged 12-17) point at the same result. While 33% of girls in major metro regions rated their health as excellent, only 17% of girls in rural regions and 15% in northern regions rated their health at this level. Some 23% of boys in northern regions rated their health as excellent compared to 36% in major metro regions.

Boys located in small town regions had the highest prevalence of being overweight and obese. Boys in small metro regions had the highest prevalence of heavy drinking. Girls and boys in the northern regions are generally more likely to smoke. Within each type of region, girls are more likely to be smokers than boys. Physical inactivity is generally the same among youth across metro and non-metro regions. Previous studies had shown that that physical activities for the population as a whole is more likely in rural areas.

How far to the nearest physician? [Vol. 1, No. 5]

In 1993, there were only half as many physicians per 1,000 population in rural and small town Canada compared to larger urban centres. However, two thirds of rural and small town Canadians lived within 5 km of a physician. About 7% lived more than 25 km from a physician. In northern remote communities, over two thirds of the population lived more than 100 km from a physician.

Housing conditions [Vol. 2, No. 4]

Households are considered to be “below standard” if their dwellings do not meet one or more of three predetermined standards. The three standards are the suitability, adequacy, and affordability norms:

- ◆ The suitability norm – a suitable dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and make up of the occupying household.
- ◆ The adequacy norm – an adequate dwelling does not, according to its residents, require major repairs.
- ◆ The affordability norm – shelter costs must consume less than 30% of before tax household income.

In 1996, predominantly rural regions had the lowest proportion of households with housing below standards (31%). Among rural areas, there was little variation in the proportion of households with housing below standards. Rural northern regions had the highest proportion (33%), while rural metro adjacent and rural non metro adjacent areas had the lowest proportions (31%) below standards. In contrast, predominantly urban regions had the highest proportion of households that did not meet one (or more) of the three norms of suitability, adequacy or affordability (39%).

Similar patterns are seen provincially as within each province, predominantly rural regions had a smaller proportion of households below standards than in urban regions.

Gender balance [Vol.4, No. 3]

Rural females were less active in the labour market compared to rural males and compared to urban females. They also had a lower share of full time work.

Economic and business conditions were one of the major reasons why females undertook part-time work, which was not the case for rural males who worked part-time.

Rural females worked less paid and unpaid overtime than urban females.

Household Internet and computer use [Vol.5, No. 1], [Vol. 3, No. 5], [Vol. 1, No. 7]

In 1989, 19.4% of Canadians had a computer at home, which increased to 33.2% in 1994. In 1997, the share of Canadian households with computers was 36.4%. At the same time, within rural and small town (RST) areas, the share of individuals with a computer at home increased from 13.9% in 1989 to 22.5% in 1994.

Fewer RST individuals use a computer at work, compared to individuals in larger urban centres.

When in 2000 asked if there was a computer in the home, a lower share of rural and small town individuals lived in a household with a computer, compared to their urban counterparts. Approximately one half of RST residents (48% of RST rural residents and 51% of RST small town residents) responded that they had a computer in the home compared to CMA residents (62%) and CA residents (55%). Thus, rural households are still “lagging” behind in terms of computer ownership – the more rural the area, the lower the share of households owning a computer.

The trend toward the adoption of computers within households is continuing. Between 1989 and 2000, the share of households with a computer has approximately tripled – and this trend exists for rural and urban Canadians (Figure 2). Nevertheless, rural RST areas continue to have a lower share of households with computers. The gap between RST and CMS in terms of the proportion of households with computers was 13 percentage points in 2000 – the same as in 1994.

Overall, household Internet connectivity is lower in rural and small town households than in urban. In 2000, over 45% of individuals in CMAs (see Box 1 for definition) lived in a household with an Internet connection, compared to 30% of individuals in RST rural areas.

This survey indicates the rate of growth of the proportion of households with an Internet connection is similar in metropolitan and non-metropolitan households. Note that the non-metro/metro gap does not appear to be closing appreciably. All areas are increasing their rate of adoption of Internet access but metro areas are maintaining a higher Internet adoption rate.

The use of Internet has been perceived as a crucial medium for residents in rural and remote areas to reduce the costs of distance. Analysis have shown that within each age class, for each level of educational level and within each income group, members of rural households were less likely to use Internet compared to their urban counterparts. Canadian data show that rurality per se is still an independent constraint on Internet use. On the positive side, however, households outside the top 15 metropolitan areas with children under 18 years of age are more likely to access Internet compared to similar households in the top 15 metropolitan areas.

(v) Business structures and economic growth issues

Economic diversification [Vol.4.No.7]

Rural non-metro-adjacent regions show the widest range in the level of economic diversification and specialization (measured by the Herfindahl Index of Concentration). However, within each type of region, diversification varies widely across regions.

The producer services sector [Vol.3, No. 1]

The producer services sector (finance & real estate and business services) is a growing sector. Although the employment in predominantly rural regions grew faster than in urban they still have a very low share of their employment in this sector. Predominantly urban areas are 20% more intensive in producer services compared to the national average while predominantly rural are only 60% as intensive.

The composition of business establishments in smaller and larger communities in Canada [Vol. 1, No. 3]

There was a large number of new business starts in both smaller and larger communities in the 1993 to 1996 period. Smaller communities have relatively more businesses and are more likely to have smaller businesses. Service industry businesses dominate in both smaller and larger communities

Producer service businesses have a relatively lower presence in smaller communities while distributive services, personal services and social services are almost equally spread across smaller and larger communities.

In Canada, while smaller communities had a population share of 35%, their business share was 38%. This contrasts with larger communities, which had a population share of 65% and a business share of only 62%.

In Canada, small businesses (with 4 employees) made up the overwhelming majority of total businesses in both smaller and larger communities in 1996. However, small businesses were relatively more prevalent in smaller communities. In smaller communities, almost 65% of the businesses had 1 to 4 employees and 82% had fewer than 10 employees. This contrasts with larger communities where 56% of the business had 1 to 4 employees and 74% had fewer than 10 employees.

Factors associated with local economic growth [Vol. 1, No. 6]

Main conclusions:

- ◆ A higher education level in a community provided only a weak boost to employment growth during the 1980s.
- ◆ Communities that were relatively specialised in primary sector employment and traditional manufacturing employment were relatively disadvantaged in the 1980s.
- ◆ The type of region in which a community was located had a substantial impact on the rate of local economic growth. Communities in regions influenced by metropolitan centres benefited relative to other communities.
- ◆ A higher unemployment rate in a community in 1981 did not indicate an excess supply of labour that would attract employers. In fact, wage rates grew less in these communities and thus these communities fell further behind during the 1980s.
- ◆ Communities with a higher share of population with low incomes experienced higher economic growth in the 1980s, relative to the average community. These communities were catching up to the average community during the 1980s.

- ◆ There was a wide variability in community growth patterns in the 1980s. Many communities achieved economic growth in spite of the factors identified here that constrained growth for the average community.

It should be noted that the correlation between measures of educational attainment in the community and measures of local economic growth is generally weak. A higher level of community average years of schooling was associated with a lower rate of growth of average hourly wage rates. Community aggregate earnings grew less in communities with a higher level of education because the lower growth in wages was not offset by the growth of employment and/or the growth of hours worked. Note however that communities with a higher average years of schooling did report higher employment growth, compared to the average community.

Another measure of the community's human capacity was also considered – the share of the population with low educational attainment and the share with high educational attainment. The results indicate that both areas with a lower educational attainment and areas with higher education attainment were associated with a higher rate of growth of employment in the 1980s. Communities with low skilled workers (as indicated by a high share of individuals with a lower level of education) were able to attract jobs during the 1980s and were also able to increase their wage level during this period. Thus, communities with a higher share of population with lower education levels had significant association with a higher growth in aggregate community earnings.

Studies in the United States (e.g. Killian and Parker, 1991) found no significant association between community employment growth and community education levels, if the industrial structure of employment and the type of region were taken into account. In this study, we have controlled for the industrial structure of employment and the type of region and we do obtain a positive (albeit weak) association between employment growth and education levels. Thus, during the 1980s, Canadian communities, but not communities in the United States, appeared to benefit from high community education levels. Employment specialisation in the primary sectors was associated with lower growth in all measures of community development outcomes. Community specialisation in traditional manufacturing was significantly associated with lower employment growth and with lower growth in aggregate community earnings.

(vi) Educational issues

Rural and urban educational attainment

Education has a crucial role to play in community development. A better educated labour force can improve the community's capacity to attract or generate economic opportunities and to translate those opportunities into higher-valued employment. However, in some cases rural areas provide limited job opportunities for skilled workers. Education therefore provides lower return on investment and consequently individuals have lower incentives to continue their schooling unless they plan to migrate out of the rural area.

In aggregate terms, predominately rural regions have followed the educational shifts that have taken place in the country as a whole. However, predominately rural regions have not closed the gap in the structure of educational attainment. Measurements for 1981 and 1996 showed that the gap in educational attainment between urban and rural regions persisted, (see table IV.7.4 and figure IV.7.6). In fact the gap in average years of schooling has tended to widen. It should be noted, however, that part of the observed spatial differences is due to the economic and demographic differences among regions. Another important observation is that there are large variations within each type of region.

(vii) Territorial issues

Urban consumption of agriculture land

Of the total amount of land converted to urban uses between 1971 and 1996, about half, or 5.9 thousand square kilometres, was dependable agricultural land.

Urban uses have consumed 12 thousand square kilometres of land since 1971. One half of this was “dependable” farmland.

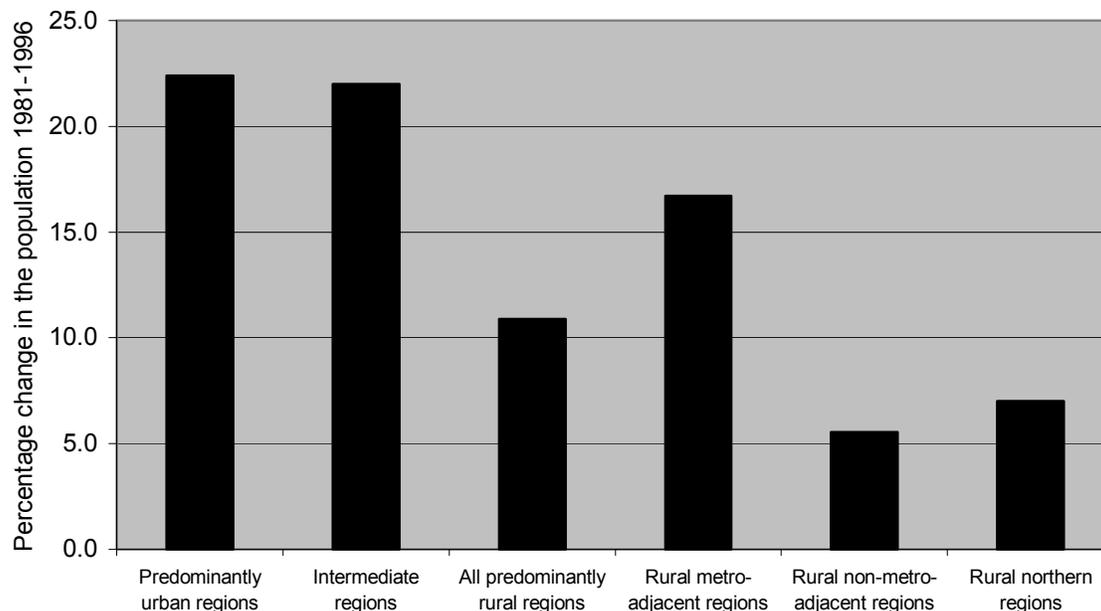
The urban consumption of agricultural land is partly due to the growing urban population and it is partly due to higher land consumption by each new urban dwelling.

III.7.4 Concluding remarks

The selection of results shown above gives a good illustration of how rural areas perform *vis-à-vis* urban areas in a large range of areas. It can certainly provide a good basis for policy decision on rural development issues. However, for a complete picture, additional information could be added for the following areas:

- ◆ Land and typology issues, including amenities
- ◆ Recreation and tourism
- ◆ Communication infrastructure
- ◆ Cultural activities
- ◆ Crime rate
- ◆ Analysis out outliers: identification successful and unsuccessful communes and areas and analysis of factors behind the results.

Figure IV.7.1
Percentage population change by types of regions, 1981-1996



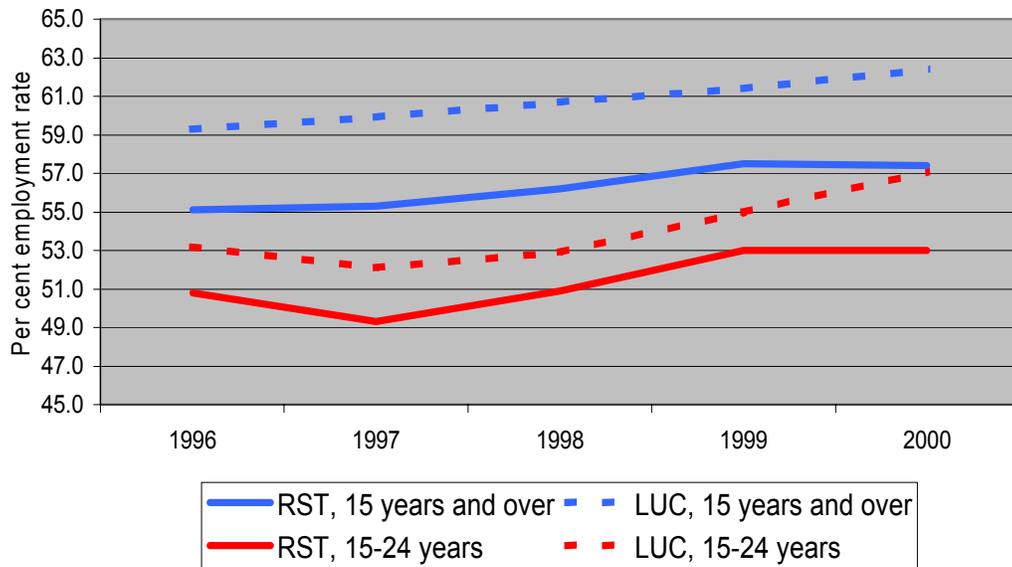
Source: Rural and Small Town Canada Bulletin, Vol.2, No. 2.

Table IV.7.1
Employment level and rate and unemployment rate in larger urban centres and rural and small town, 1996 and 2000

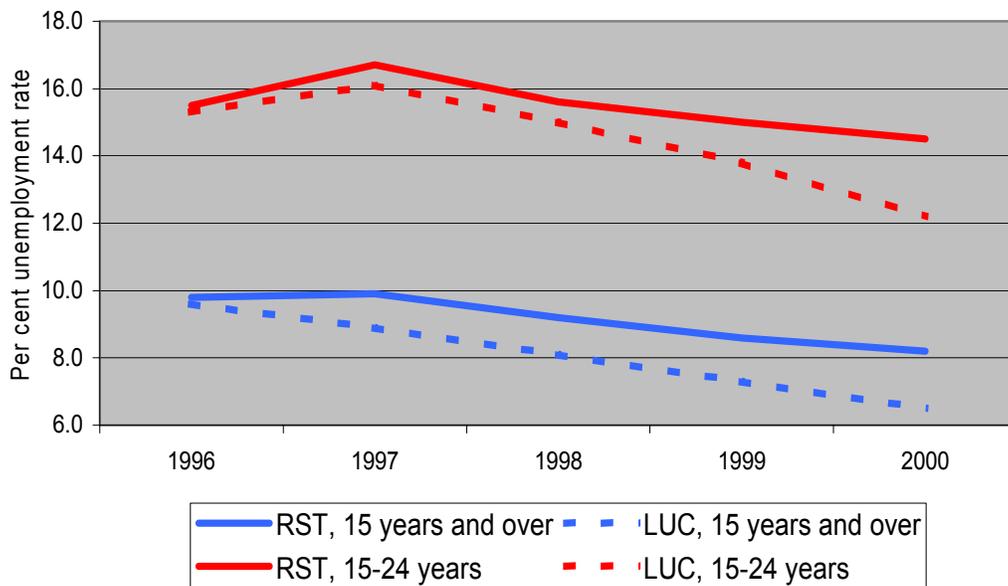
	1996	2000	% change
<i><u>Employment level</u></i>			
Larger urban centres	8,191,200	8,960,700	9.4
Rural and small town	1,913,100	2,104,200	10.0
<i><u>Employment rate (percent)</u></i>			
Larger urban centres	76.8	80.7	
Rural and small town	73.4	77.1	
Difference	3.4	3.6	
<i><u>Unemployment rate (percent)</u></i>			
Larger urban centres	8.6	5.4	
Rural and small town	9.1	7.2	
Difference	0.5	1.8	

Source: Rural and Small Town Canada Bulletin, Vol.3, No. 4.

Figure IV.7.2
 Employment and unemployment rates by age groups and type of geographical area,
 1996-2000
 (RST = rural and small town areas; LUC = larger urban centres)



Source: Rural and Small Town Canada. Vol. 3, No. 4.



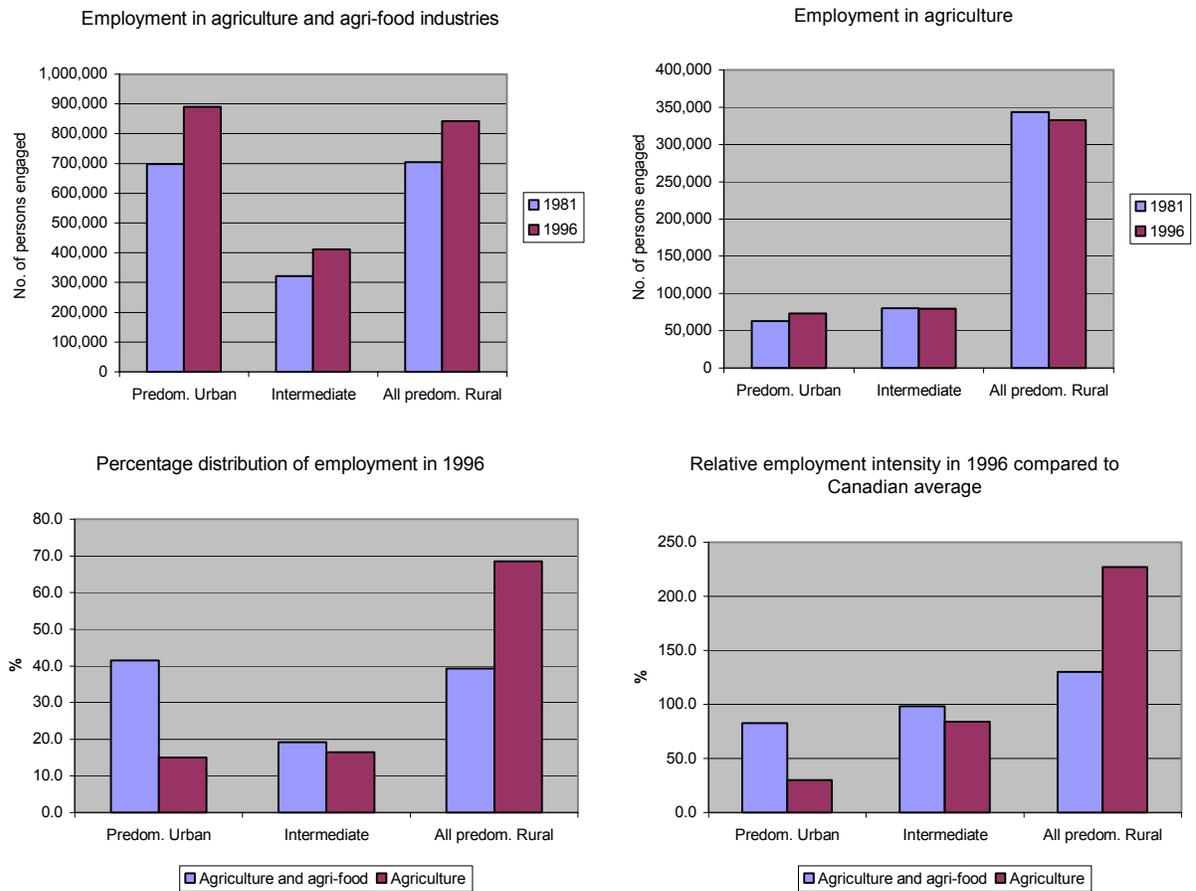
Source: Rural and Small Town Canada. Vol. 3, No. 4.

Table IV.7.2
Household expenditures by expenditure categories in urban and rural areas,
1986 and 1996 (constant 1996 dollars)

	Urban		Rural	
	1986	1996	1986	1996
<i>Per cent of total expenditures</i>				
Food	14.1	11.9	15.4	13.4
Clothing	6.3	4.3	6.4	4.3
Shelter	16.5	17.5	14.2	15.7
Total	36.9	33.7	36.0	33.4
<i>Expenditure in \$ per household</i>				
Private transportation	4,194	5,415	4,430	6,113
Public transportation	468	576	202	215
Total	4,662	5,990	4,632	6,328
<i>Per cent of transportation expenditures</i>				
Private transp.	90	90	96	97
Public transp.	10	10	4	3
Total	100	100	100	100
<i>Expenditure per household in constant 1996 dollars</i>				
Tobacco products and smoker's supplies	734	512	795	619
Alcoholic beverages	927	627	750	562

Source: Rural and Small Town Canada Bulletin, Vol.1, No. 4.

Figure IV.7.3
Employment in agriculture and agri-food in Canada by type of regions



Source: Statistics Canada, Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Vol.4, No.8.

Table IV.7.3

Selected health indicators by type of region

	Self-rated health (excellent)	Body mass index (overweight)	Smoking (daily/ occasionally)	Arthritis/ Rheumatism
Major metro (central)	26.9	26.5	21.6	13.4
Major metro (fringe)	28.6	32.8	27.5	14.3
Mid-sized metro	25.3	32.7	25.5	16.0
Small metro	24.9	35.4	28.3	16.8
Small city: metro adjacent	25.8	35.2	29.4	16.2
Small city: non-metro adjacent	24.0	35.7	26.7	16.4
Small town: metro adjacent	24.5	36.8	29.1	16.3
Small town: non-metro adjacent	21.9	37.1	29.5	15.9
Rural: metro adjacent	19.3	45.3	26.5	14.7
Rural: non-metro adjacent	20.2	42.3	32.0	18.4
Northern	20.8	41.9	32.7	16.1
Canada	25.6	32.4	25.9	15.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 6

Note: Bolded grey cells indicate significantly different than the national average.

Table IV.7.4

Percentage distribution of population (25 to 54 years of age) by level of educational attainment, Canada

Type "predominantly"

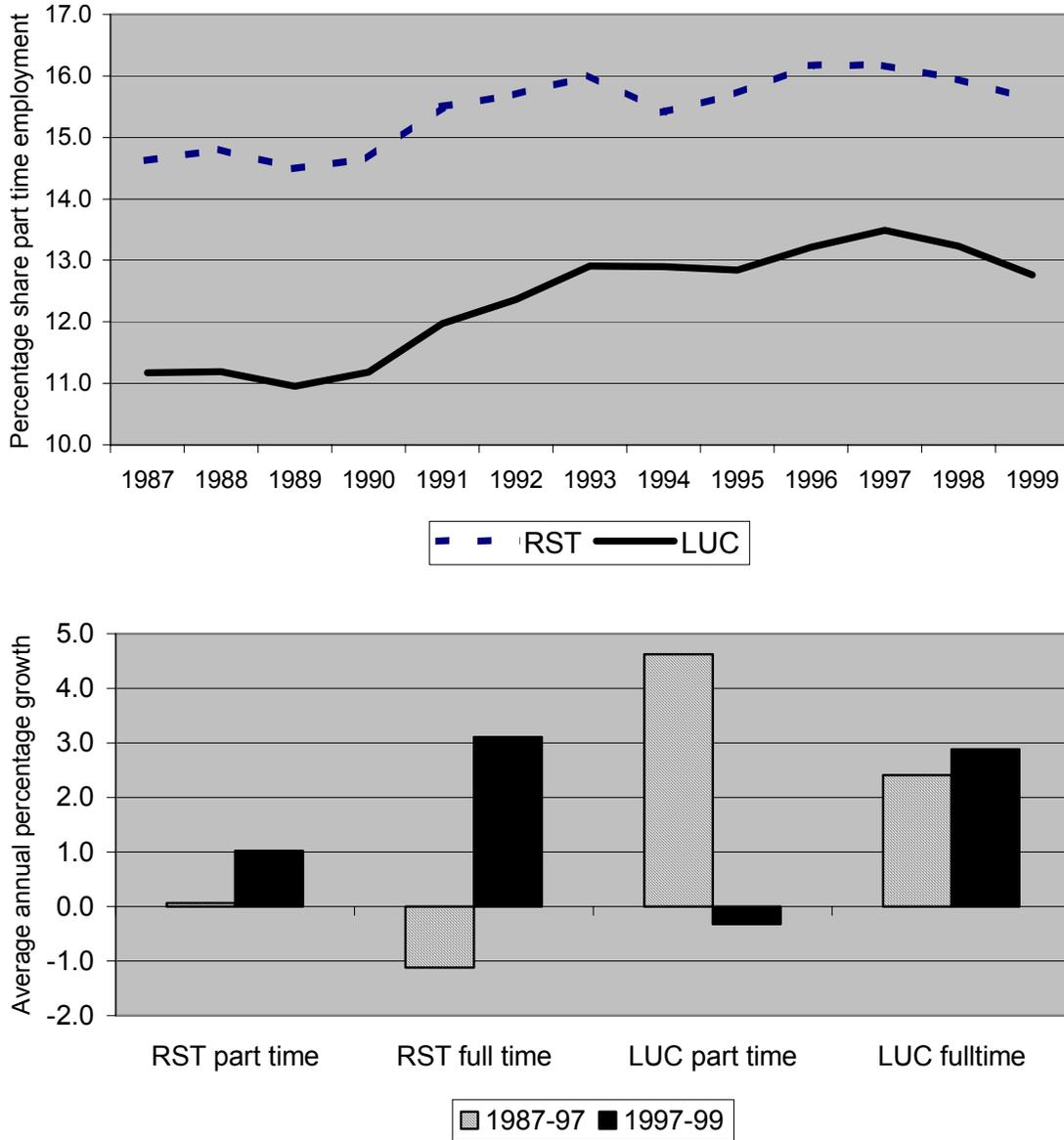
Type "High school certificate (no post secondary)"

	Less than grade 9		Grade 9-13 (no certificate)		High school certificate (no post secondary)		Some secondary	
	1981	1996	1981	1996	1981	1996	1981	1996
Predominantly urban	14.7	5.5	22.4	17.2	13.4	14.6	49.6	62.8
Intermediate	16.9	5.5	26.1	21.1	14.2	16.5	42.9	56.9
Rural metro-adjacent	18.2	6.3	30.2	25.6	12.6	16.8	38.9	51.2
Rural non-metro-adjacent	23.1	9.5	29.4	27.5	12.3	15.8	35.2	47.1
Rural northern	24.6	11.7	27.6	26.6	10.2	12.7	37.5	49.0
Canada	17.0	6.3	25.4	20.7	13.2	15.4	44.4	57.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Vol.4, No.5.

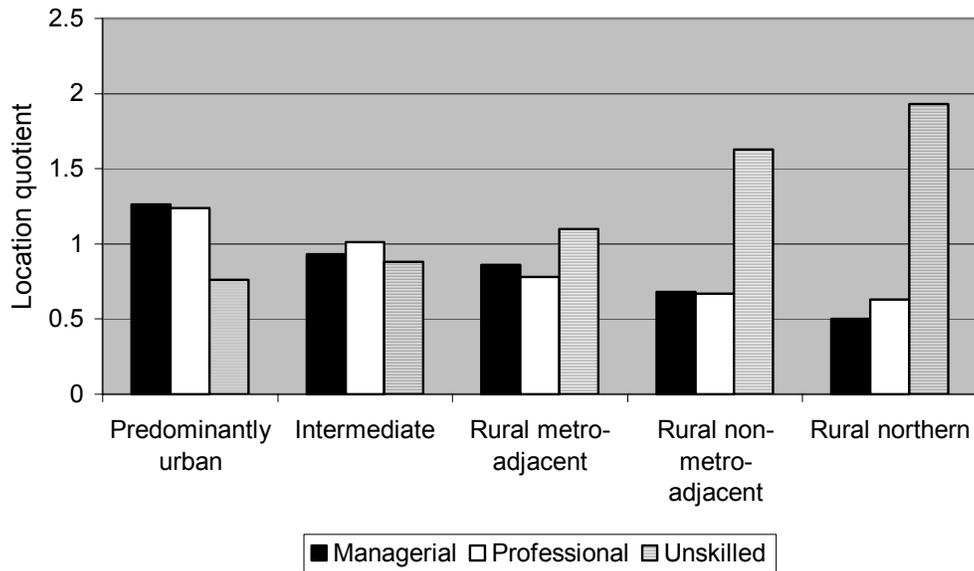
Figure IV.7.4

- (a) Percentage share part time employment in RST and LUC in Canada in 1987-1999
- (b) Annual average percentage change in part time and full employment in 19987-97 and 1997-99
(RST = rural and small town areas; LUC = larger urban centres)



Source: Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 1.

Figure IV.7.5
Intensity of occupation by type of occupation and region in 2001, expressed in location quotient⁸

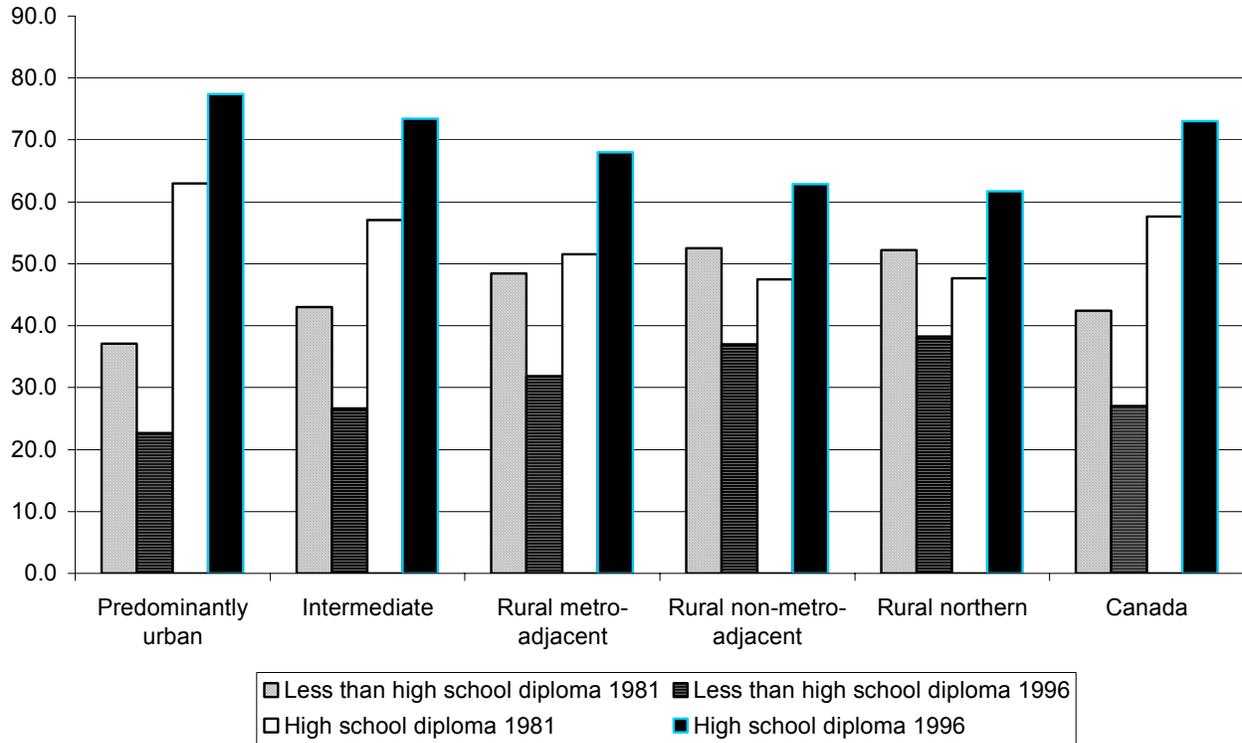


Source: Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Vol.5, No. 8

⁸ The ratio of the percent of total regional employment in a given occupational skill level divided by the percent of total employment in that occupational skill level in the nation as a whole.

Figure IV.7.6

Percentage distribution of population (25 to 54 years of age) by level of educational attainment, Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, Vol.4, No.5.

References

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- Du Plessis, Valerie, Roland Beshiri, Ray Bollman, Heather Clemenson (2002). "Definitions of "Rural"", Agriculture and Rural Working Paper Series, Working Paper No. 61, Ottawa. (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/21-601-MIE/2002061/21-601-MIE2002061.pdf>)
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- Statistics Canada "Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol.5, No.8."
- Statistics Canada "Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol.4, No.1."
- Statistics Canada "Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol.4, No.5."
- Statistics Canada "Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol.4, No.6."

Statistics Canada "Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol.4, No.8."

Statistics Canada "Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol.1, No.4."

Statistics Canada "Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol.3, No.4."

Statistics Canada "Rural and Town Canada Analysis Bulletin Vol.2, No.2."

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Vogel, F.(2002) "Future issues for Agricultural Statistics."
Discussion paper, November 2002.

Information on rural development and related statistics available on Internet for selected countries

Australia

Australian Bureau of Statistics (small area statistics under Themes – Regional Statistics)

www.abs.gov.au/

Bulgaria

Ministry of Agriculture

www.mzgar.government.bg/mz_eng/default.asp

Canada

Canadian Rural Partnership:

www.rural.gc.ca

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin:

www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/free.htm

Statistics Canada – community profiles:

www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm

Statistics Canada - Definition of Rural:

www.statcan.ca/english/IPS/Data/21-601-MIE2002061.htm

Denmark

Statbank Denmark:

www.statistikbanken.dk/

Estonia

Statistical Office (regional statistics on local government units, county and NUTS 3 level)

www.stat.ee/

France

INSEE (statistics on rural and urban zones):

www.insee.fr (rubrique ‘territoire’)

Germany

Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning

www.bbr.bund.de/

Federal Statistical Office

www.destatis.de/themen/d/thm_regional.htm

Hungary

Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development

www.fvm.hu/english/annex2.pdf

Kazakhstan

Agency of Statistics

www.stat.kz

Kyrgyzstan

Statistical Office

www.stat.kg**Latvia**

Central Statistical Bureau (Agricultural Census and Population Census data)

www.csb.lv/**Lithuania**

Statistics Lithuania (regional and agricultural statistics)

www.std.lt**Norway**

Statistics Norway (regional statistics)

www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/02**Russian Federation**

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

www.aris.ru/DBASE/ (Russian)

Goskomstat Russia

www.gks.ru/ <http://www.gks.ru/eng/>

Institute of Agricultural Marketing

www.apkmarket.ru/ <http://www.apkmarket.ru/aboute.html>**Switzerland**

Federal Statistical Office (Scattered information)

www.bfs.admin.ch**United Kingdom**

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/default.htm>

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>

Scotland

www.scotland.gov.uk

Wales

www.wales.gov.uk**United States**

United States Census Bureau

www.census.gov/

Bureau of Labor Statistics

www.bls.gov/

Bureau of Economic Analysis

www.bea.gov/

Economic Research Service

www.ers.usda.gov/

National Agricultural Statistics Service

www.nass.usda.gov/

Annex 3

Results of UNECE survey on methods used for measuring rural development statistics
in UNECE and OECD member countries

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire

Rural Development Statistics

- 1) Which organisation(s) is/are responsible for statistics on rural areas?
- 2) What variable(s) is/are used to distinguish rural from non-rural areas?
- 3) Are there any subdivisions of rural areas relating to the degree of rurality?
- 4) What is the threshold value that classifies an area as rural?
- 5) What is the smallest territorial unit/area on which the definition of rural is based i.e. postcode areas, community districts, communities, districts or regions?
- 6) What is the percentage of the population that are classified to live in rural areas?
- 7) What is the percentage of the total land area that is classified as rural?
- 8) Is there a set of core indicators used to monitor rural development policy?
- 9) Can rural development statistics be found on the Internet and if so where?

Availability of statistics for small areas

- 10) What is the smallest area for which statistics are available and what is the average size of this area (e.g. average population size, average area, range of population sizes or range of area)?
- 11) What statistics are available for this smallest area?
- 12) Are statistics on urban settlements/urban land use available?

Rural Development Policy

- 13) Which organization(s) is/are responsible for rural development policy?
- 14) What are the aims/objectives of rural development policies?
- 15) What are the main themes of rural development?

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 1

Which organisation(s) is/are responsible for statistics on rural areas?	
Australia	Australian Bureau of Statistics (responsible for national statistics for all areas including rural areas); Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE), State Government agencies and some Industry Associations also collect statistics on various aspects of rural activity.
Bulgaria	National Statistical Institute; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Canada	Statistics Canada; other federal agencies; provincial, territorial and local agencies;
Czech Republic	Czech Statistical Office (Agricultural and Environment, Family Accounts and Population Statistics)
Denmark	Statistics Denmark; Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Estonia	Statistical Office
Finland	Statistics Finland; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (joint Finnish Rural Indicators Project)
France	INSEE; Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs
Germany	Federal and Regional Statistical Offices
Hungary	Hungarian Central Statistical Office; Tax and Financial Control Administration; Research and Information Institute for Agricultural Economics; Institute for Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Ireland	Central Statistics Office Ireland
Italy	Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria/National Institute for Agricultural Economics (INEA), Istituto per Studi, Ricerche e Informazioni sul Mercato Agricolo/Institute for Analysis, Research and Information on the Agricultural Market (ISMEA); Istituto Nazionale di Statistica/National Statistical Institute (ISTAT)
Kazakhstan	Agency of Statistics
Kyrgyzstan	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic
Latvia	Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
Lithuania	Statistics Lithuania
Netherlands	Statistics Netherlands
Norway	Statistics Norway
Romania	National Institute of Statistics; Ministry of Development and Prognosis; Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; Ministry of Education and Research; Ministry of Health and of the Family; Life Quality Research Institute; Institute of Agrarian Economy
Russian Federation	Local statistical committees are responsible for statistics on rural areas. Local data are aggregated in regional, territorial and republican committees and in Goskomstat for the country as a whole.
Slovakia	Statistical Office of Slovakia
Sweden ¹⁾	National Rural Development Agency; Swedish Board of Agriculture
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Statistical Office (Agricultural Statistics Section, Spatial Data Section and Population Census)
Turkey	Regional Statistics Division of the State Institute of Statistics
United Kingdom	Defra and Devolved Departments responsible for Rural Affairs/Development; Office for National Statistics; Countryside Agency; Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; and others
United States	U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Economic Research Service; National Agricultural Statistics Service

1) no official statistics for rural areas, thus no responsible organisation but some information provided by these organisations

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 2

What variable(s) is/are used to distinguish rural from non-rural areas?	
Australia	Population density and population level; remoteness from services and goods
Bulgaria	Population density and population level in the biggest town of the municipalities
Canada	Population level and population density; population level and intensity of commuting to a major urban centre within a labour market radius; population density; population level
Czech Republic	Number of permanent residents in the municipality (population level)
Denmark	Population level of municipalities
Estonia	Administrative distribution; population level
Finland	Various i.e. Urban Network Study
France	Number of jobs and commuting pattern
Germany	Population level of urban centres and population density of surrounding areas of urban centres
Hungary	Population level and population density at settlement level
Ireland	Population level
Italy	Population density (no single official definition though)
Kazakhstan	Population level and share of population engaged in agriculture
Kyrgyzstan	The status of every settlement/village is defined by Jogurky-Kenesh - the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic
Latvia	In Latvia the rural area is the total land area excluding urban areas. Rural areas will be in the Draft Law on Agriculture and Rural Development which is not yet approved by the Cabinet of Ministers).
Lithuania	Population level, characteristics of towns
Netherlands	No official statistics to monitor rural policy yet. Discussions started with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality on possible definitions. Possibly for different aims of rural development policy different definitions of rurality are appropriate.
Norway	At present there is no official definition of rural/non-rural in Norwegian statistics. However, Norway has a Standard Classification of Municipalities based on industry, population density and centrality.
Romania	The 'rural' status for a settlement is established by law without taking into account the demographic size or population density
Russian Federation	Various variables among others types of activities i.e. crop and livestock production
Slovakia	Population density and population level; municipalities that have no urban status and have got a characteristic settlement and economical structure based on agriculture, forestry and that have got less developed infrastructure.
Sweden	Population level of settlement
Switzerland	All the areas outside isolated towns and agglomerations are considered as rural (population level, commuting pattern, population growth rates, built-up area, population/job density and employment in the primary sector are used delimit agglomerations and isolated towns).
Turkey	Population level
United Kingdom	A variety of definitions, including one based on settlement size and one based on socio-economic variables
England	A variety of definitions, including one based on settlement size and one based on socio-economic variables
Scotland	Population density; settlement size
Wales	All rural except for a small list of communities in towns and cities that were deemed to be entirely non-rural; population density
Northern Ireland	n/a
United States	Population level of urban centre and commuting pattern; Population density

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire

Question 3

Are there any subdivisions of rural areas relating to the degree of rurality?	
Australia	No subdivision for rural area definition but subdivision of remoteness division (major cities, inner regional, outer regional, remote, very remote)
Bulgaria	Yes (mountainous, rural and less developed rural areas)
Canada	Yes, both major rural definitions currently used in Canada have subdivisions.
Czech Republic	Yes.
Denmark	No.
Estonia	No.
Finland	Yes.
France	Yes.
Germany	Yes.
Hungary	Yes.
Ireland	No.
Italy	No.
Kazakhstan	Not clear.
Kyrgyzstan	No (except high mountain rural population)
Latvia	No.
Lithuania	n/a
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	No official subdivision. However, rural areas may for example be classified according to level of centrality.
Romania	Yes.
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	Yes.
Sweden	Yes.
Switzerland	No, not yet (but subdivision in agricultural, wooden and unproductive area)
Turkey	Yes.
United Kingdom	Yes. England Yes. Scotland Yes. Wales Division into severely disadvantaged, disadvantaged and other but this is not really related to the degree of rurality. Northern Ireland n/a
United States	Yes.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 4

What is the threshold value that classifies an area as rural?		
Australia	Rural/urban definition	There is not distinct threshold as such, since rural areas are defined at those areas other than Urban centre. Smaller Urban Centres are conglomerations with Census Collection Districts with a total population of 1,000 or more and containing a discernible urban pattern of population distribution such as formed streets, etc. Thus, an approximate threshold is 1,000 people.
	Remoteness definition	n/a
Bulgaria		Population density of less than 150 people per square kilometre and the biggest town of the municipality of less than 30,000 inhabitants.
Canada	OECD Definition	A region is defined as rural if 50 per cent or more of the population live in a community with less than 150 people per square kilometre.
	Rural and Small Town Methodology	Areas under 10,000 people outside the commuting zone of a Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Area
Czech Republic		Less than 2,000 residents in the municipality
Denmark		Areas that are not urban (all villages of 200 and more inhabitants are defined as urban).
Estonia		2500 inhabitants
Finland		n/a
France		Settlements with less than 2,000 inhabitants
Germany		Regions with a population density of 100 inhabitants per square kilometre with an urban centre of 100,000 and more and regions with a population density of below 150 inhabitants per square kilometre without a urban centre of 100,000 or more.
Hungary	Narrow definition	Less than 120 inhabitants per square kilometre or under 10,000 residential population at settlement level.
	Broader definition	Predominantly rural at NUTS IV level if 50 per cent of residential population live in a settlement with a population density of under 120 inhabitants per square kilometre and significantly rural if 15 to 50 per cent live in a settlement with a population density of under 120 inhabitants per square kilometre.
Ireland		Outside clusters with a population of more than 1,500 inhabitants
Italy		100 inhabitants per square kilometre
Kazakhstan		A village with at least 50 people of which at least half is engaged in agriculture production
Kyrgyzstan		No threshold as rural is defined by the parliament.
Latvia		n/a
Lithuania		Small towns (population less than 3000) and villages (other residential areas having no characteristic features of towns) are attributed to rural residential areas.
Netherlands		n/a
Norway		No official definition, thus no official threshold.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire

Question 4 (concluded)

Romania		No threshold as rural is defined by law without taking the demographic size or population density into account
Russian Federation		n/a
Slovakia		100 inhabitants per square kilometre; rural settlement is a municipality with less than 5000 permanent residents.
Sweden		All settlements with less than 1000 inhabitants are rural.
Switzerland		Agglomerations of 20,000 or more inhabitants and isolated towns of 10,000 or more are considered urban. To delimit agglomerations, the number of jobs (at least 2,000) and the commuting pattern (of the economically active population 85 per cent or more work in the agglomeration). Commuting pattern, population growth rates, built-up area, population/job density and employment in the primary sector are used to decide if municipalities are part of an agglomeration or not.
Turkey		Less than 2,000 inhabitants.
United Kingdom		n/a England All areas outside settlements with a population of 10,000 or more. Scotland All areas outside settlements with a population of 10,000 or more. Wales All areas are rural except those of a small list of communities in towns and cities that were deemed to be entirely non-rural; 150 people per square kilometre Northern Ireland n/a
United States	Census Bureau Definition	The Census Bureau classifies as "urban" all territory, population, and housing units located within an urbanized area (UA) or an urban cluster (UC). It delineates UA and UC boundaries to encompass densely settled territory, which consists of core census block groups or blocks that have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile and surrounding census blocks that have an overall density of at least 500 people per square mile.
	ERS Metro and non-metro classification	Non-metropolitan areas that contain (1) core counties with one or more central city of at least 50,000 residents or with a Census Bureau - defined urbanized area (and a total metro area population of 100,000 or more), and (2) fringe counties that are economically tied to the core counties. Non-metropolitan counties are outside the boundaries of metro areas and have no cities with as many as 50,000 residents.
	Official Federal definition	Rural areas comprise places (incorporated or unincorporated) with fewer than 2,500 residents and open territory.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 5

What is the smallest territorial unit/area on which the definition of rural is based i.e. postcode areas, community districts, communities, districts or regions?	
Australia	Census Collection District i.e. census enumeration area.
Bulgaria	Municipality i.e. well-defined system settlements/villages around a municipality centre (municipalities consist of between 1 and 134 villages).
Canada	Census sub-division (CSD); Census consolidated sub-division (CCS); Census division (CD)
Czech Republic	Municipality
Denmark	Address
Estonia	Municipalities but the Territory of Estonian Administrative Division Act divides rural municipalities further into settlements.
Finland	Municipalities (NUTS 5)
France	Municipality (NUTS 5)
Germany	Kreis (NUTS 3)
Hungary	Settlement (NUTS 4)
Ireland	District Electoral Division (DED)
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	A village with at least 50 people of which at least half is engaged in agriculture production
Kyrgyzstan	Village
Latvia	Parishes and rural areas
Lithuania	Post code areas
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	No official definition of rural, however, density and centrality variable is mostly applied at municipality level.
Romania	Village/municipality
Russian Federation	Farm, village, selo (rural town)
Slovakia	Municipality
Sweden	Geographical coordinates/address
Switzerland	Community (municipality)
Turkey	Village.
United Kingdom	Land parcel/address; Ward; in future: Census Output Area (COA); Unit postcode; county England Land parcel/address; Ward; in future: Census Output Area (COA) Scotland Unit postcode Wales County (NUTS 3) Northern Ireland n/a
United States	Census block (Census Bureau definition); County (ERS definition)

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 6

What is the percentage of the population that are classified to live in rural areas?	
Australia	12.84 per cent
Bulgaria	43.7 per cent (11.9 per cent in less developed rural areas)
Canada	22 to 38 per cent depending on the definition used
Czech Republic	26.5 per cent
Denmark	14.7 per cent
Estonia	32.6 per cent
Finland	43 per cent (27 per cent excluding urban adjacent rural areas)
France	24 per cent
Germany	13.03 per cent
Hungary	Narrow definition: 47.35 per cent; broader definition: predominantly rural 31.3 per cent and significantly rural 43.2 per cent
Ireland	n/a
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	n/a
Kyrgyzstan	65 per cent
Latvia	47.5 per cent
Lithuania	33.1 per cent
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	22.3 per cent (population not living in urban settlements)
Romania	45.4 per cent
Russian Federation	27 per cent
Slovakia	29.9 per cent (OECD definition at NUTS 4 48 per cent in predominantly rural areas)
Sweden	35 to 40 per cent
Switzerland	32 per cent
Turkey	35.1 per cent
United Kingdom	n/a
England	20 per cent (settlement based definition); 28 per cent (ward based definition)
Scotland	30.9 per cent ¹⁾
Wales	32 per cent
Northern Ireland	n/a
United States	21 per cent (Census Bureau definition); 20 per cent (ERS definition)

1) <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/scosett#res>

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 7

What is the percentage of the total land area that is classified as rural?	
Australia	99.74 per cent
Bulgaria	81.4 per cent
Canada	99.8 per cent 'rural' and 95 per cent 'predominantly rural' (OECD definition)
Czech Republic	73.7 per cent
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	98.4 per cent
Finland	95 per cent (83 per cent if urban adjacent rural areas)
France	82 per cent
Germany	30.35 per cent
Hungary	Narrow definition: 88.3 per cent; broader definition: predominantly rural 58.3 per cent and significantly rural 37.7 per cent
Ireland	n/a
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	31.7 per cent of total land use is for agriculture
Kyrgyzstan	28.8 (53.9) per cent of the land is agricultural land and land of rural settlements (about 90 per cent of the territory lays higher than 1,500m above sea level).
Latvia	98.2 per cent
Lithuania	97 per cent
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	99.3 per cent (land outside urban settlements)
Romania	89 per cent
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	76.7 per cent (OECD definition 59.5 per cent in predominantly rural areas)
Sweden	more than 95 per cent
Switzerland	77 per cent (approximately)
Turkey	n/a
United Kingdom	n/a England 93 per cent (settlement based definition); 87 per cent (ward based definition) Scotland n/a Wales 82 per cent Northern Ireland n/a
United States	97 per cent (Census Bureau definition); 80.8 per cent (ERS definition)

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 8

Is there a set of core indicators used to monitor rural development policy?	
Australia	Not at present but work is underway. The Australian Government is investigating the feasibility of a whole-of-government framework to attempt to measure rural/regional policy and outcomes and indicators will be developed in support of this.
Bulgaria	There is a core set of indicators to monitor the implementation of the Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD).
Canada	No official core set of indicators. An integrated Canadian national rural database is currently considered as a developmental component of the National Framework of Rural Policies (NFRP). Sets of indicators for monitoring rural communities usually start with the major variables for demography, labour force, income and health status but each list differs.
Czech Republic	There is no specific set of indicators used only for rural areas. There are several key indicators surveyed jointly in both, rural and urban areas, but they are not strictly divided according to rural or urban area.
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	The most comprehensive system for monitoring and evaluating has been developed for the Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD). The indicators used for monitoring the programme are agreed with the Monitoring Committee of the SAPARD that regularly reviews the programme progress on the basis of these indicators.
Finland	Yes, there are the indicators of the Finnish Rural Indicators project. See appendix.
France	Legislation is in preparation and should come into force end of 2003. Indicators should then be set up to monitor this policy.
Germany	Indicators to monitor the EU rural development plan agreed between EU and Member States.
Hungary	Set of indicators is being developed in relation with the National Development Plan, Agricultural and Rural Development Operational Programme and the National Rural Development Plan.
Ireland	Under development. ¹⁾
Italy	n/a

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**Question 8 (concluded)**

Kazakhstan	The development is monitored by the Agency for Statistics through individual farm accounting on the approved form and the collection of statistical data twice a year from each farm record. It questions members of farms about all social issues and gathers information on current plantings, farms' own property (cattle, poultry and buildings) and sampling data on crop and livestock output. Information for State-owned agricultural enterprises is compiled on the basis of State statistical reporting.
Kyrgyzstan	No but there are a few indicators used for monitoring rural development these include poverty and extreme poverty levels, poverty gap and severity, gini coefficient, children school enrolment, adult literacy level, life expectancy, unemployment level, access to drinking water, access to medical service, average per capita calorie intake.
Latvia	The Ministry of Agriculture uses a set of indicators for drawing up the Rural Development Plan.
Lithuania	No.
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	No.
Romania	There is a set of core indicators used in monitoring rural areas (see 'Carta Verde of rural development in Romania' by the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the European Commission).
Russian Federation	The following indicators can be used for monitoring rural development policy: income levels, employment/unemployment, prices of goods and services, the level of development of social, market and utilities infrastructure.
Slovakia	Not yet. There are plans to use data from the Ministry of Agriculture, from the payment agency and from beneficiaries to monitor rural development policy.
Sweden	No.
Switzerland	No, not yet.
Turkey	In the Household Labour Force Survey settlements with 20,000 or less are defined as rural. Numbers of persons employed in rural areas by sex, age, educational status etc are gathered regularly.
United Kingdom	No. England No. Scotland n/a Wales Yes. The main sections are demographics, economy, agriculture, education, health, personal social services, local government finance, housing, transport, law and order, environment, tourism, deprivation, etc. Northern Ireland n/a
United States	No.

1) See paper submitted for the Food and Agriculture Meeting held in Geneva 2-4th July 2003.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 9

Can rural development statistics be found on the Internet and if so where?	
Australia	Some small area statistics on www.abs.gov.au (themes then regional statistics). There is concern however that rural/regional statistics are not visible enough on the ABS website and the home page is currently being redeveloped to include a regional portal.
Bulgaria	Not yet but database is under construction. Some information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture www.mzgar.government.bg
Canada	No systematic collection on a given site but three (partial) views are available at: a) the Canadian Rural Partnership www.rural.gc.ca b) The Rural & Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletins at www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/free.htm c) community profiles of census data at www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm
Czech Republic	No.
Denmark	Population data etc can be found at www.statistikbanken.dk
Estonia	Rural development statistics/regional statistics are available on the homepage of the Statistical Office at www.stat.ee at local government unit, county and NUTS 3 level.
Finland	No.
France	Statistics on rural and urban zones can be found at www.insee.fr under 'territoire'.
Germany	Information on the publication 'Aktuelle Daten zur Entwicklung der Städte, Kreise und Gemeinden' (up-to-date information on the development of towns, districts and municipalities) at www.bbr.bund.de . Information on regional data at www.destatis.de/themen/d/thm_regional.htm
Hungary	No data available on the website of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. Some selected data are available at the Internet site of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the supplement of Hungary's SAPARD Plan at www.fvm.hu/english/annex2.pdf
Ireland	n/a
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	www.stat.kz
Kyrgyzstan	www.stat.kg
Latvia	Yes, the Agricultural Census 2001 and Population Census 2000 data base are available at http://www.csb.lv/

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 9 (concluded)

Lithuania	www.std.lt/: General statistics - agricultural statistics by county (NUTS 3); Population and social statistics - average annual number of rural population, main indicators of employed population and earnings by economic activity; Agriculture - main indicators of agricultural activity; Environment - water consumption according to needs.
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	No rural statistics as such but regional statistics can be found at http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/02
Romania	No.
Russian Federation	Yes: Ministry of agriculture www.aris.ru/DBASE/ ; Goskomstat Russia www.gks.ru/ ; Agro-industrial complex Market www.apkmarket.ru
Slovakia	No.
Sweden	No.
Switzerland	Scattered information can be found under www.bfs.admin.ch
Turkey	The press releases and the results of the Household Labour Force Survey are available on the website of the State Institute of Statistics www.die.gov.tr
United Kingdom	Defra Internet site under construction at www.defra.gov.uk/esg/work_htm/publications/cs/ruralinfo_web/default.asp . Small area statistics at www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk
England	see United Kingdom
Scotland	n/a
Wales	Yes, in the report 'Statistical Focus on Rural Wales' (http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/compendia/2001/sb49-2001/sb49-2001.htm), in the Rural Development Plan and in the statistics by Local Authority area on the Local Government Data Unit website http://www.lgdu-wales.gov.uk/
Northern Ireland	n/a
United States	Data related to rural development can be found at a) U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov b) Bureau of Labor Statistics at www.bls.gov c) Bureau of Economic Analysis www.bea.gov d) Economic Research Service www.ers.usda.gov e) National Agricultural Statistics Service www.nass.usda.gov

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 10

What is the smallest area for which statistics are available and what is the average size of this area (e.g. average population size, average area, range of population sizes or range of area)?	
Australia	Census Collection District (CD) i.e. census enumeration area (average size in rural areas 100 dwellings, in urban areas 220 dwellings, area ranges from under 1,000 square metres to 230,000 square metres)
Bulgaria	Municipality (well defined system of settlements/villages around a municipality centre which may be a bigger village or a small town; between 1 and 134 villages).
Canada	Census subdivision (CSD) which are generally incorporated towns and incorporated municipalities. There are 5,600 CSDs with a population range from 0 to 2.38 million (average about 5,360).
Czech Republic	Municipalities.
Denmark	Addresses.
Estonia	Local Government Unit (average population 5494 with Tallinn, 3903 without Tallinn, range 56 to 396879; average area 176 square kilometres, range 1.8 to 582 square kilometre).
Finland	Sub-regional units (NUTS 4).
France	Municipalities.
Germany	Municipalities (average population about 5,900).
Hungary	Settlements (municipality?) (average population about 3230).
Ireland	District Electoral Division (DED) (average population 1096)
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	Private and state-owned farms
Kyrgyzstan	Districts, villages; for agricultural statistics usually the county within a district (between 4,000 and 20,000 inhabitants)
Latvia	Parishes (NUTS 5)
Lithuania	Rural settlement (village) (average size 53 inhabitants, range from 1 to 4700); Rural municipality (average size 24.4 thousand inhabitants, range 6.6 to 83.6 thousand inhabitants; average land area 135.3 thousand hectares, range 43.6 to 220.9 thousand hectares)
Netherlands	District (average population about 1500, range 0 to 30,000; average area 3 square kilometre, range from under 1 to 130 square kilometres); for statistics for funding purposes: statistics based on territorial unit of 500m square
Norway	Basic (statistical) units (subdivision of municipalities, there are about 14,000 basic statistical units in Norway; they are a flexible basis for the work with and presentation of regional statistics)
Romania	Villages (average population about 800)
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	Municipality (average population 1844, range 10 to 117227)
Sweden	Individuals/households.
Switzerland	Hectare or commune - depending on the statistics.
Turkey	Village (average population about 640)
United Kingdom	Census Output Areas (average population about 250)
England	
Scotland	
Wales	Electoral districts; Small Agricultural Area for agricultural statistics (about 1000 farms)
Northern Ireland	
United States	Census Blocks (there are 7,017,427 census blocks)

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**Question 11**

What statistics are available for this smallest area?	
Australia	Every five years, full range of variables from the Census of Population and Housing (demographics, employment, income, characteristics of dwellings). In non-census years data are only available for larger spatial units. Very few economic variables are available for small areas but agricultural commodity data are available for Statistical Local Areas every five years and for Statistical Divisions in other years.
Bulgaria	Data for age structure, inhabitants, area, population density, employment/unemployment levels, education level etc.
Canada	All Census of Population variables, however, data for census subdivisions with fewer than 200 inhabitants are typically suppressed for questions in the long questionnaire which contains the major variables on educational attainment, labour force participation, income etc.
Czech Republic	Only a limited number of indicators such as population, land area, social and cultural variables, health service and trade possibilities and for some environmental matters such as water supply network, public sewage system, waste collection.
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	The Estonian Rural Development Database contains official statistics on population, stock of urban streets and local roads at the local government unit level. It also contains non-official data on entrepreneurs, local budget revenue and expenditure, income tax, state budgetary relief fund, appropriations for investment, local government debt, dwelling completions, non-residential building completions, subsistence allowances, registered unemployed and the number and areas of fires. Non-official data on the number of schools and students, local land stock, main indicators on libraries and distance of local government unit from the capital and the county centre will be added soon.
Finland	The indicators of the Finnish Rural Indicators project which relate to population and migration, structure and function of the economy, living conditions and welfare, sustainable development.
France	Population census data, agricultural census data, municipality inventory, business survey results, services and facilities available to inhabitants of the municipalities, movements of inhabitants in municipalities lacking facilities.
Germany	Various statistics are available for municipalities, others for Kreise (districts) details can be found at www.brandenburg.de/statreg/regio-stat-katalog_2003.pdf
Hungary	There are about 400 variables collected annually for each settlement.
Ireland	Population statistics, agricultural statistics.
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	Individual farm records.
Kyrgyzstan	Statistics on agriculture, wages, population number, selected variables of transport statistics, finances are produced at the level of rural councils. The population census data are available by each town, urban-type settlement and village.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 11 (concluded)

Latvia	Some agricultural, population and social statistics.
Lithuania	Rural settlements - number of population; Rural municipality - majority of agricultural, demographic and social statistics; Total municipality - majority of agricultural, demographic, social, industry, transport and service statistics.
Netherlands	Population data (number, gender, age class, population density, household composition, immigrants (first and second generation) from non-western countries); address density; residences (number and average value for tax); income (average per head, average per person receiving income, persons with high income (percentage), persons with low income (percentage), persons aged 15 to 64 with social security as main source of income (percentage); land area and total area (including water); land use (e.g. urban and rural area, traffic, built-up, semi-built-up recreational, agricultural, forest, nature).
Norway	Mainly population statistics. Furthermore, coordinates or basic statistical unit code identify most enterprises in the Business Register and almost all agricultural holdings are identified by coordinates.
Romania	Various statistics which can be found in the settlement/locality file.
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	Statistics on a limited number of indicators are available (population, land acreage, social and cultural facilities, health service and trade possibilities etc) and for some environmental matters (water supply network, public sewage system, water waste treatment, waste collection, expenditures on environmental protection).
Sweden	Examples: number of inhabitants, number of households, migration, age distribution, educational level, unemployment, disposable income.
Switzerland	For the hectare Swiss land use statistics; for the commune/municipality the population, agricultural and enterprise statistics as well as the Swiss land use statistics.
Turkey	Social, demographic and economic characteristics of population are available for villages from the 2000 Population Census. Information about age and sex structure, literacy, fertility, labour force, occupation, economic activity and employment status is also available.
United Kingdom England Scotland Wales Northern Ireland	Census data, some survey data will be made available at this level. Data for Electoral Districts are only available for data collected in the 2001 Population census. Most socio-economic indicators are only reliable at the Local Authority Level.
United States	Basic population and housing data. More information available at census tract level.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**Question 12**

Are statistics on urban settlements/urban land use available?	
Australia	Yes, the full range of Census of Population and Housing variables is available for urban settlements.
Bulgaria	Yes, on urban municipalities.
Canada	Yes, data are available for urban settlements, but urban land use data is only available from specialised surveys on a case by case basis.
Czech Republic	Statistics on urban settlement and land use are available (in the statistical office and the cadastral office)
Denmark	Yes.
Estonia	Yes, on urban municipalities.
Finland	One of the area types is rural areas.
France	Yes, at the level of municipalities to follow the development of the different zones which are recalculated after every population census. At a more aggregated level through the LUCAS surveys.
Germany	Yes, updated every four years.
Hungary	Yes.
Ireland	n/a
Kazakhstan	A sample survey is held for urban settlements once a year.
Kyrgyzstan	Yes.
Latvia	Yes.
Lithuania	Yes, demographic statistics and urban land use statistics.
Netherlands	Yes, land use statistics are produced every 3 or 4 years. Delineating urban settlements on the basis of urban land use statistics is a research project for the next months. In principle, coding addresses to urban settlements is possible and is also subject to research.
Norway	Yes.
Romania	Yes.
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	Yes, statistics on urban settlement and urban land use are available in the cadastral office/land registry and in the statistical office.
Sweden	n/a
Switzerland	Yes.
Turkey	No. However, a project is under way on Land Use by Using CORINE methodology. The aim of the project is to classify 44 classes of land use as applied in the CORINE project. At the end of this project some information on urban settlements will be available.
United Kingdom	Yes. England Yes. Scotland n/a Wales Yes. Northern Ireland n/a
United States	Yes, some data are available.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 13

Which organization(s) is/are responsible for rural development policy?	
Australia	At federal level mainly the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia (AFFA - responsible for agricultural policy which impacts significantly on rural areas) and the Department for Transport and Regional Services (responsible for regional development in general and this includes rural areas). Economic development in rural/regional Australia is devolved to State/Territory Governments.
Bulgaria	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
Canada	The federal Rural Secretariat had the task of co-ordinating the federal approach to rural development because all government departments have policies and programs directed to rural citizens. Similarly, each provincial government has a lead agency with a mandate to co-ordinate the approach of provincial government ministries to rural development. Finally, there are regional and rural development groups within most provinces.
Czech Republic	Ministry for regional development and regional authorities.
Denmark	Ministry for the Interior and Health
Estonia	Ministry of Agriculture
Finland	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Rural Policy Committee
France	Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs
Germany	The 16 federal Länder governments have the main responsibility for rural development policy. Within the Länder governments, it is the Ministries with responsibility for agriculture, regional policies, environment, protection of nature and transport that influence rural development most directly.
Hungary	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Ireland	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
Italy	The 20 Italian Regions
Kazakhstan	Ministry of Agriculture.
Kyrgyzstan	At present, on the instructions of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and in pursuance of the goals of the Comprehensive Development Framework the Kyrgyz Republic has started to prepare a set of documents aimed at comprehensive rural development. Almost all ministries and agencies are preparing relevant documents in their respective fields.
Latvia	Ministry of Agriculture

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**Question 13 (concluded)**

Lithuania	Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for rural development policy; Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is responsible for social aspects including rural areas; Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for coordinating National Regional Policy.
Netherlands	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning and the Environment; Ministry of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Employment; Regional Governments/Provinces (at NUTS 2 level).
Norway	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (main responsibility and co-ordination); Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Fisheries; Ministry of Transport and Communication; Ministry of Trade and Industry.
Romania	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Ministry of Public Finance; Inter-ministry Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.
Russian Federation	Republics, territories and regions and coordinated by the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture.
Slovakia	Ministry of Agriculture
Sweden	Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication.
Switzerland	Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)
Turkey	State Planning Organization (SPO) is responsible for project planning; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs is responsible for monitoring rural projects.
United Kingdom	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and devolved Departments. England Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Scotland Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department Wales Welsh Assembly Government Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department Northern Ireland Department for Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland
United States	The Rural Development (RD) Mission Area of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) operates as the main rural development programs in the United States. However, other Federal development programs critical to rural development are operated by other Federal and State agencies. USDA-RD is responsible for co-ordinating the rural aspects of these programs, to the extent this is possible. USDA also participates in and supports the National Rural Development Partnership, which includes representatives of Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations with an interest in rural development.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 14

What are the aims/objectives of rural development policies?	
Australia	To improve the economic performance of rural and regional areas so that the potential for them to contribute to the wealth and competitiveness of Australia as a nation is maximised.
Bulgaria	The main objectives of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan are: (1) Improvement of the efficiency of agricultural production and promotion of a competitive food-processing sector by better market and technological infrastructure and strategic investment policies ultimately aimed at reaching EU standards (2) Sustainable rural development consistent with the best environmental practices through the introduction of diversification of economic activity and establishment of the necessary infrastructure. This in turn will improve the living standards of rural communities, generate fairer income and open up employment opportunities.
Canada	Generally to improve the well-being of rural communities.
Czech Republic	Rural development means creating of administrative and economic conditions to support the rural area residents in their harmonised development of healthy environment, in their care about natural and cultural worth of rural landscape and in the development of environment-friendly systems of farming.
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	The main objective of the pre-accession programme for agricultural and rural development (SAPARD) is to contribute to the implementation of acquis communautaire concerning the common agricultural policy and related policies and to solve priority and problems for the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas in Estonia.
Finland	The Rural Policy Committee has been structured around five permanent priorities: (1) reform of the economic activities in rural areas (2) development of know-how and human resources (3) strengthening the existing service network (4) development of the quality of the residential environment and community structure in rural areas (5) sustainable utilisation of natural resources
France	n/a
Germany	The directive Nr 1257/1999 put the main focus on the promotion of the multifunctionality of agriculture. However, increasing emphasis was also given to non-agricultural activities, aspects of sustainability and the employment.
Hungary	(1) More competitive economy (2) Better utilisation of human resources (3) Better quality environment, more balanced regional development.
Ireland	Improving the physical, economic and social conditions of people living in the open countryside, in coastal areas, towns and villages and in smaller urban centres outside of the five major urban areas.
Italy	Enhance the competitiveness and viability of rural areas (the objectives stated in the regulations of the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy)
Kazakhstan	The achievement of dynamic growth of the sectoral economy, ensuring an improvement in the standard of living of the rural population. The Government has adopted a State Agrifood Programme for 2003-2005 and a State Programme for the Development of Rural Areas in 2004-2010.
Kyrgyzstan	Development of small towns and remote districts.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 14 (continued)

Latvia	(1) Promotion of dynamic development of rural economy, thus ensuring the increase in the level of welfare of the rural population (2) Maintenance of the population living in rural areas and ensuring the availability of various social infrastructure services in rural territory equivalent to the level available in towns (3) Ensuring the sustainable and efficient utilisation of rural resources by maintaining and preserving a tended and biologically diverse rural environment and landscape for future generations.
Lithuania	According to the Law on Regional development of the Republic of Lithuania (adopted in 2000) the main aims are to reduce the social and economic inequality between the regions and within the regions and to stimulate the equal and stable development of all regions. The Law on Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Lithuania (2002) gives legal basis for the main principles of agricultural and rural development. It seeks to create cooperated and competitive agricultural sector oriented towards the market; to increase in agricultural income and to improve the quality of life of rural people as well as to meet their individual, social, economic and cultural needs; to ensure that high quality and safe agricultural and food products reach the market; to expand exports of agricultural and food products; to guarantee as high as possible self-sufficiency of agricultural and food products; to develop a sustainable food industry in which integrated agriculture has a main share; to save the environment by using agri-environmental methods and to induce sustainable use of renewable resources.
Netherlands	Objective for rural development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality: The creation of a living and sustainable countryside, allowing space for the various functions of living, work and recreation; to enhance liveability while preserving the existing qualities of the countryside. This is realised through the four policy fields of agriculture, nature, recreation and landscape.
Norway	To maintain the central features of the population settlement pattern and to have equal living conditions throughout the country.
Romania	The strategic objective proposed by the PNADR (Plan National of agriculture and rural development?) are the following: the sustainable development of agri-food competitive sector by modernisation and improvement of processing and marketing of agricultural and fish products; the increasing of the living standard in rural areas by the improvement and development of social infrastructure and by defining and establishing good agricultural practice as a need for a sustainable agriculture and rural development; the development of rural economy by establishing and modernising buildings for private agricultural and forest exploitations, the development and diversification of economic activities, in order to maintain and/or create alternative/additional incomes and new employment; the development of human resources by improving professional training of agricultural producers and forest owners and by building institutional capacity consolidation.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 14 (concluded)

Russian Federation	The social components of reforms in agriculture is one of the most important objectives of rural development policy.
Slovakia	The improvement of the quality of life of the rural population, provision of sufficient number of jobs and adequate income. To preserve environment and sustainable development for rural areas.
Sweden	Good living conditions and development opportunities for rural areas and rural populations.
Switzerland	The Confederation's policy in respect of spatial and transport planning, sustainable development and the alpine conservation convention has been prepared and implemented by the Federal Office for Spatial Planning since 1 June 2000. The remit of the Federal Office includes the following: (1) Strategies for spatial and transport planning and for sustainable development (2) Principles for spatial planning, general and leisure traffic, sustainable development and the alpine conservation (3) Liaison between federal authorities on projects affecting land use and transport (4) Collaboration with the cantons in all official tasks (5) Assisting with coordination to solve problems connected with agglomeration policy and equalisation measures in rural areas (6) Information (7) Monitoring spatial planning from a legal viewpoint.
Turkey	The aims of rural development are to support and encourage rural activities to increase income of the rural population by diversification and intensification of agricultural activities; to encourage agro-industry and finally to increase capacity building in those areas.
United Kingdom	<p>England The target is to reduce the gap in productivity between the least well performing quartile of rural areas and the English median by 2006, and improve the accessibility of services for rural people. The evidence for poor economic and social conditions in some rural areas is both compelling and measurable. Our target is to lay solid foundations to achieve sustainable and long term regeneration in these areas.</p> <p>Scotland n/a</p> <p>Wales (1) To create a stronger agriculture and forestry sector (2) To improve the economic competitiveness of rural communities and areas (3) To maintain and protect the environment and rural heritage</p> <p>Northern Ireland n/a</p>
United States	Rural development policies have a variety of objectives. The general aim is to improve quality of life in rural areas. More specifically, USDA's RD programs cover infrastructure, business, and housing assistance, plus several comprehensive assistance programs, including the rural empowerment zone program.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire
Question 15

What are the main themes of rural development?	
Australia	Two over-arching themes are evident in Australian regional/rural policy: (1) place-based issues of economic growth and development and ultimate competitiveness, and the concomitant natural resource management and environmental impact issues (sustainable development) (2) socially focussed issues - the quality of life and well being of people who reside in rural/regional/remote Australia
Bulgaria	Land improvement; setting up of farm relief management services; marketing of quality products; renovation and development of villages and protection and conservation of rural heritage; agricultural water resource management; financial engineering; encouragement for tourist and craft activities; development and improvement of infrastructure connected with the development of agriculture
Canada	Creating a favourable environment for rural development by improving infrastructure; supporting the renewal of communities through innovation; support building community capacity potential.
Czech Republic	Development of agricultural activities and processing of the production; reestablishment of handicrafts, trade and business activities and services and tourism; support and development of employment opportunities; improvement of the municipality facilities for residents (schools, health services, etc.); maintenance of the public open space (including care of lawns and water areas)
Denmark	Economic activities and environmental aspects.
Estonia	Promotion of rural entrepreneurship; living conditions in rural areas; infrastructure and land improvements; private forestry and cooperative activities; research, training and advisory system.
Finland	According to the Rural Policy Committee outlines for rural policy are: there is a wide range of economic activities in the rural areas; the possibility to use modern information technology should be made available to everybody, the development of the environment for innovation in rural areas is one of the cornerstones in rural policy, multifunctional agriculture and pluriactive farms are special characteristics of the Finnish rural areas; the connection between culture and development is understood and recognised in all rural development work; curbing and reducing the differentiation of municipalities; in order to for the rural policy to succeed in securing the viability of the rural areas, watertight development systems are needed not only in the municipalities but also at the level of villages and sub-regional units; new means to advance the justice to the citizens and equality between the regions should be found for regional development; the urban, interaction and rural policies constitute an extensive and functioning whole for the regional development that is the best suited for the Finnish conditions
France	n/a
Germany	Improvement of the competitiveness of the agricultural sector; rural development; environment and compensatory measures
Hungary	Modernisation of agricultural production; improving human conditions of production; modernisation of food processing; improving the economic potential of rural areas; increasing employment; making rural areas more attractive; maintenance of agricultural land use in areas with unfavourable conditions and under environment protection restrictions; environment-friendly agricultural production, landscape protection and agricultural environment protection; maintaining the economic, ecological and social role of forests.
Ireland	Vibrant sustainable communities; sufficient income and employment opportunities; adequate access to education, training and social and other services and infrastructure; effective participation in structures and decision-making processes in an inclusive society; a situation where cultural identity including language, traditions and a sense of community are valued and retained; sustainable development and respect for the environment.

Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire

Question 15 (continued)

Italy	Investment in competitiveness, rural viability, quality of life and sustainable agriculture, animal welfare, food quality.
Kazakhstan	Ensuring food security. Formulation of an effective agribusiness system. Increase in the volumes of sales of agricultural produce and products from its processing. Rationalization of measures of State support for agricultural production. Identifying rural human settlements according to basic socio-economic development indicators. Classification of rural human settlements and monitoring according to criteria of socio-economic prospects. Measures for investment in the building, repair and reconstruction of social and engineering infrastructure facilities. Programmes to stimulate the resettlement of rural dwellers. Measures to stimulate the development of economic activities and income growth for the inhabitants of promising rural areas. Design of a model for effective rural settlement and the conduct of measures for its implementation.
Kyrgyzstan	(1) Development of effective local governments (2) Social development of local communities (3) Development of rural social and engineering infrastructure (4) Provision of sustainable growth in rural areas
Latvia	see appendix 3
Lithuania	Investment in primary agricultural activity: reconstruction and equipment of farm buildings, purchase of agricultural machinery, creation of specialized farming; investment in agricultural and fish products processing and development of marketing; development and diversification of farm activities: stimulation of small businesses, processing of agricultural product produced on farm, rural tourism, non-traditional economic activities in rural areas; diversification of farm activities including processing; development of rural infrastructure for general use; development of forestry, of forestry infrastructure, afforestation of non-agricultural land; stimulation of ecological farming; professional agricultural training; support for preservation and breeding of rare fish, for breeding and seed farming, for purchase of seeds and pedigree material; support for establishment of young farmers; registration and identification of farm animals; creation and introduction of agricultural information system, development and consultation services; development of food quality control, veterinary and plant protection control including border control; development of food quality control, veterinary and plant protection control including border control; direct payments for declared crop area of cereal, flax, rape, rich in starch potatoes and other agricultural crops, in animal production direct payments for suckling cows, ewes and animals to be slaughtered and to dairy farms; compensatory payments for farming in areas not favourable to farming
Norway	Development in population, economic development in general, business investments, establishment of new enterprises, employment/unemployment, service provisions, infrastructure.
Netherlands	Our most important policy tasks regarding the physical quality of the rural area are: putting the water system in order; realising the National Ecological Network; making agriculture more sustainable and more in tune with the wishes of society; preserving and developing a valuable living environment; specific tasks regarding specific landscapes (sandy areas, grasslands in the peatlands area and the riverlands).
Romania	The measures proposed by the SAPARD Regulations is as follows: processing and marketing of agricultural and fisheries products; improving the structures for quality veterinary and plant health controls, foodstuffs and consumer protection; development and improvement of rural infrastructure; management of water resources for agriculture; investment in agricultural holdings; setting up producer groups; agri-environmental measures; development and diversification of economic activities, multiple activities, alternative income; forestry; improving the vocational training; technical assistance.
Russian Federation	The main directions of rural development are defined in the Federal programme 'Social development in rural areas until 2010'.

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Slovakia	SAPARD: Priority 1 Improvement of the agricultural production sector including food industry (measures: Investment in agricultural enterprises, improvement of processing and marketing of agricultural and fish products, setting up of producer groups) Priority 2 Sustainable rural development (measures: diversification activities in rural areas, forestry, agricultural production methods designed to protect the environment and maintain the countryside, land consolidation) Priority 3 Development of human activities (measures: development of human resources, technical assistance)
Switzerland	Decentralised settlement and conservation of the cultural heritage of the landscape; assisting with coordination to solve problems connected with agglomeration policy and equalisation of measures in rural areas.
Sweden	n/a
Turkey	Employment, rural infrastructure, human resources, settlement patterns, organisational arrangements, sustainability of rural development.
United Kingdom	n/a
England	The white paper focuses on: investing in quality services (schools, education and child care places, health care, internet access); improvements in service delivery (extended service provision by post offices, cash machines, support schemes for village shops, pubs and garages, etc.); affordable homes; better transport; rejuvenating market towns and creating a thriving modern economy; new future for traditional industries (i.e. agriculture); ensuring that everyone can enjoy the countryside (tourism); protecting what makes the countryside special (environment)
Scotland	n/a
Wales	(1) Income and employment of people found on farms (2) The environmental aspects of land use. The most significant strands of the Rural Development Plan for Wales are (1) support for farmers in disadvantaged areas (2) agri-environmental payments. Less important strands are the investment on farms for improving the holding and on-farm diversification, improving processing and marketing of agricultural products, forestry. Support for non-agricultural businesses and community development is not strong.
Northern Ireland	n/a
United States	Sustainable community development; 'bottom-up' policies in the sense that they support the community's own plans and goals for development, rather than a policy solution imposed by a higher level of government; Federal assistance targeted to places that need help the most; Federal assistance should 'leverage' assistance from other sources to get 'the most for the buck'

Annex A: The indicators of the Finnish Rural Indicators project.POPULATION AND MIGRATION

Population density, inhabitants/km²
Distribution of population by types of area, %
Increase of population
Excess of births
Internal net-migration, total
Internal net-migration by age group
Area's population as percentage of whole Mainland Finland's population
Population by sex and age group
Men's relative proportion of population aged 25-64
Demographic dependency ratio
Summer residents' relative proportion of regular population (summer residents refers to the total number of persons in the household-dwelling units of free-time residence owners)
Free-time residences per 1000 inhabitants

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE ECONOMY

Number of labour force
Proportion of labour force in the population of working age
Economic dependency ratio
Unemployment rate, total
Change of unemployment rate
Workplaces by industry
Change of number of all workplaces
Ratio between number of jobs in an area and number of employed living in an area
Number of commuters (commuters are defined as persons who cross the municipal border to get from their place of residence to their place of work)
Percentage of commuters to employed living in an area
Net-commuting
Net income flow of commuting
Value added, whole country = 100
Value added per capita, whole country = 100
Number of establishments of enterprises by size category of personnel
Number of establishments of enterprises per 1000 inhabitants
Number of establishments of enterprises by industry
Number of enterprise openings and closures by industry
Number of active farms
Average area of arable land of active farms, ha
Average income subject to state taxation of farms by source of income
Commercial roundwood removals of private forests, m³
Local income tax rate in municipal taxation
Average total tax revenues of municipalities per inhabitant

LIVING CONDITION AND WELFARE

Average income subject to state taxation per income recipient
Persons in receipt of living allowance as percentage of population
Population aged 15 years or over by level of education

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Arable land under cultivation and uncultivated arable land of all farms
Organic farms as percentage of all active farms
Organically farmed area as percentage of all arable land of active farms

Annex B: Latvia - Answer to Question 15:**Main Themes**

Economic activities not related with the agriculture, forestry or fishery (in line with the National Programme for the Development of Small and Medium Size Enterprises, National Employment Plan, the actions listed in the action strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture for the years 2003-2005, etc.):

- efficiently utilises all resources available in rural environment, thus contributing to the employment and welfare of the rural population;
- maintains and develops the rural environment as an attractive life, work and recreational place for everyone;
- ensures the flexibility of rural economy with respect to the changes in the foreign and domestic markets, and maintains a stable welfare standard of the rural population.

Tourism (in line with the Rural Tourism Development Programme)-

- ensures the availability of the cultural and historical heritage and landscape qualities featuring the rural environment of Latvia to everyone;
- ensures the good quality and environmentally adequate economic infrastructure for the needs of mobility, communications and economic activity of the population (in line with the Regional Development Law);
- improves, enhances and diversifies the professional skills of the rural population (in line with the National Employment Plan and the Strategy for Investments to Welfare Sector for the Years 2003-2007 and the Concept for Crediting of Students)
- creates and supports the groups / organisations of economic cooperation promoting and supporting the economic development of rural areas, involving socially outcast groups of population in business activity thus reducing the poverty in line with the Commercial Law of the Republic of Latvia, Cooperative Societies Law, Agricultural Law, the Strategy for Investments to Welfare Sector for the Years 2003-2007).

The measures implemented and/or planned for implementation under the objective 'Maintenance of population in rural areas and ensuring the availability of various social infrastructure services in rural territory equivalent to the level available in towns' are aimed at:

- rationalising and developing the services of social infrastructure (education and training systems, healthcare and social security systems, culture, etc.) and tending and maintaining the historical and cultural values / heritage (in line with the National Investment Programme);
- creating and supporting the local initiatives for the activation of economic and social life in the territory, encouraging the cooperation among inhabitants in the implementation of social and economic activities in the territory, and minimising the outcast of various social groups in rural villages / communities;
- establishing and supporting various social matters groups / organisations for dealing with social assistance issues and initiation of economic activities in rural territories (in line with the Strategy for Investments to Welfare Sector for the Years 2003-2007);
- improving and rationalising the operations of local administrative, regional authorities by securing the exchange of information and minimising the outcast of informative character in the periphery (in line with the Regional Development Law of the Republic of Latvia and the Administrative-Territorial Reform Law).

The attainment of the objective - *Ensuring the sustainable and efficient utilisation of rural resources by maintaining and preserving a tended and biologically diverse rural environment and landscape for future generations* – is supported by adoption of certain Regulatory enactments and strategic documents – laws of the Republic of Latvia, Cabinet Regulations, and by implementation of the National Biodiversity Programme (1999). Latvia has ratified different international conventions, and is proceeding with the harmonisation of its national legislation with the Directives of the European Union in the sphere of environment, with a view to:

- ensuring, in all kinds of economic activity, an environmentally friendly management meeting the environmental requirements to cause a minimum negative impact on the ecology of rural environment (nature, air, climate, soil, water) and maintaining a tended landscape characteristic to the countryside of Latvia;
- preserving, protecting and promoting the variety of wildlife populations, species and biotopes recognised both nationally and internationally;
- protecting and maintaining the historical, cultural and landscape (reserves, nature parks, coastline, etc.) values recognised both nationally and internationally.
- protecting, enhancing and promoting the local origin breeding animals of important breeds of agricultural animals and cultivated plants, which are recognised as endangered populations both nationally and internationally.