



Municipalities & Service Provision: Regional Cooperation as a means to Rural Survival

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Outline of Presentation

- Harris Centre Mandate
- Rural Canada
- Newfoundland and Labrador Municipal Cooperation
- Rural-Urban Interaction
- Questions, Discussion



Harris Centre Mandate

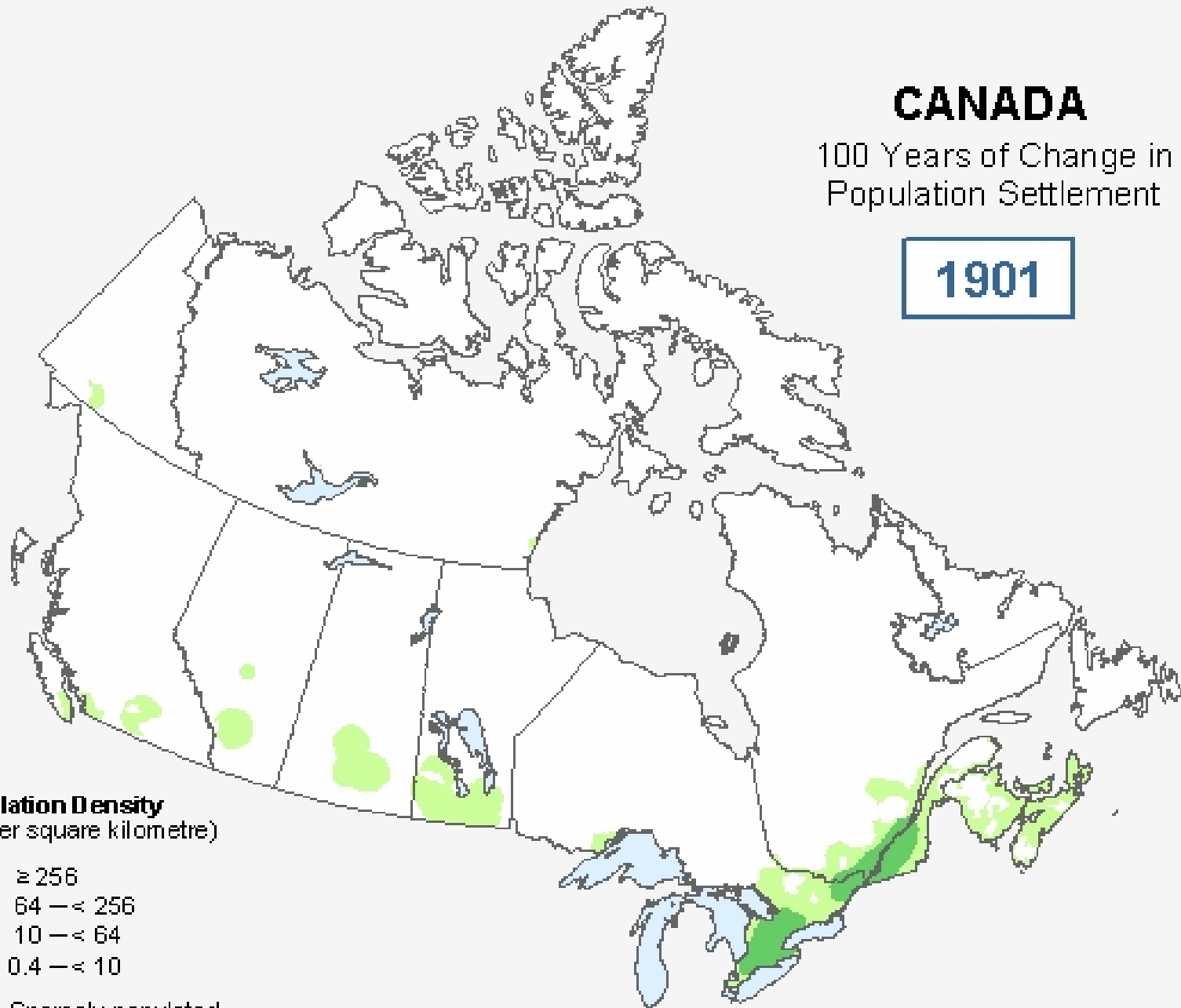
- Coordinate and Facilitate the University's Activities Relating to Regional Policy and Development
- Advise on Building the University's Capacity
- Identify Priority Themes and Projects relating to:
 - **Teaching**
 - **Research**
 - **Outreach**



CANADA

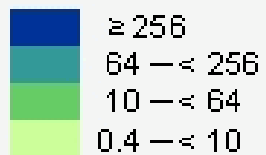
100 Years of Change in
Population Settlement

1901



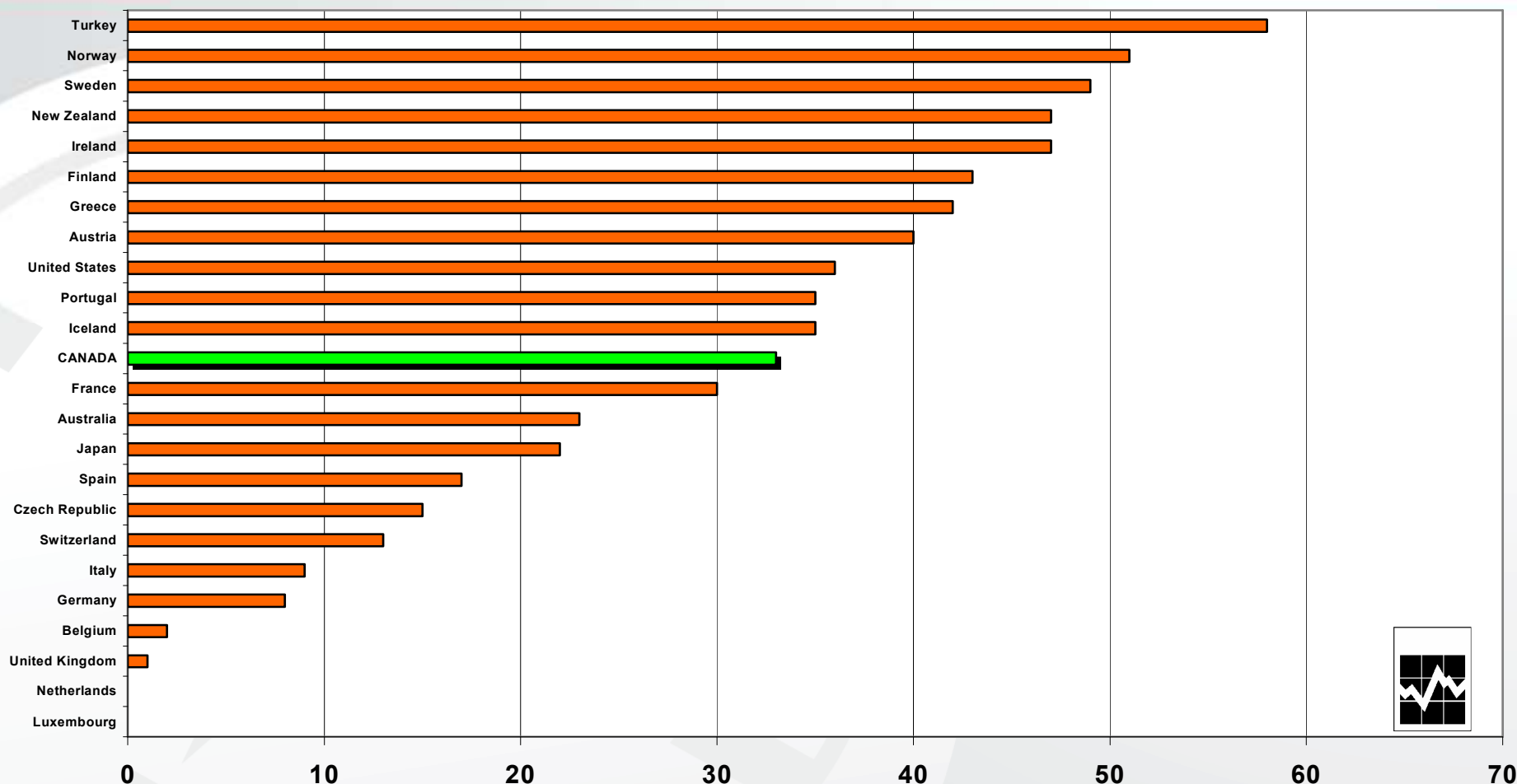
Population Density

(persons per square kilometre)



 Sparsely populated

CANADA RANKS IN THE MIDDLE OF OECD COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF SHARE OF POPULATION IN PREDOMINANTLY RURAL REGIONS



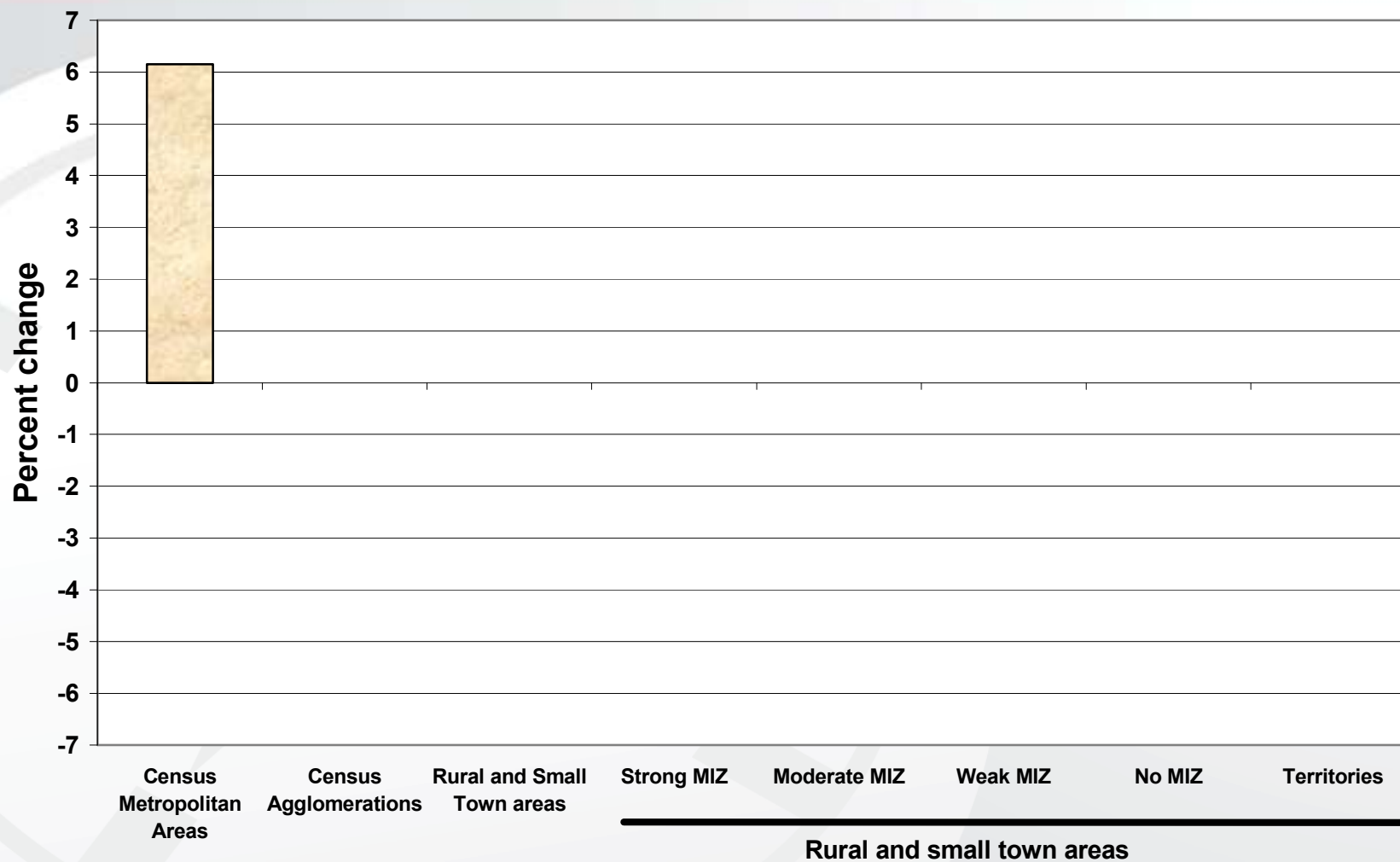
Share of total population in predominantly rural regions, 1991

Source: OECD. 1996. TERRITORIAL INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT: FOCUSING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Paris: OECD), Table 1.1

Canadian data are based on 1986 census division boundaries.



STRONG GROWTH IN METRO AREAS AND IN RURAL AREAS STRONGLY INFLUENCE BY METRO AREAS, CANADA, 1996 TO 2001

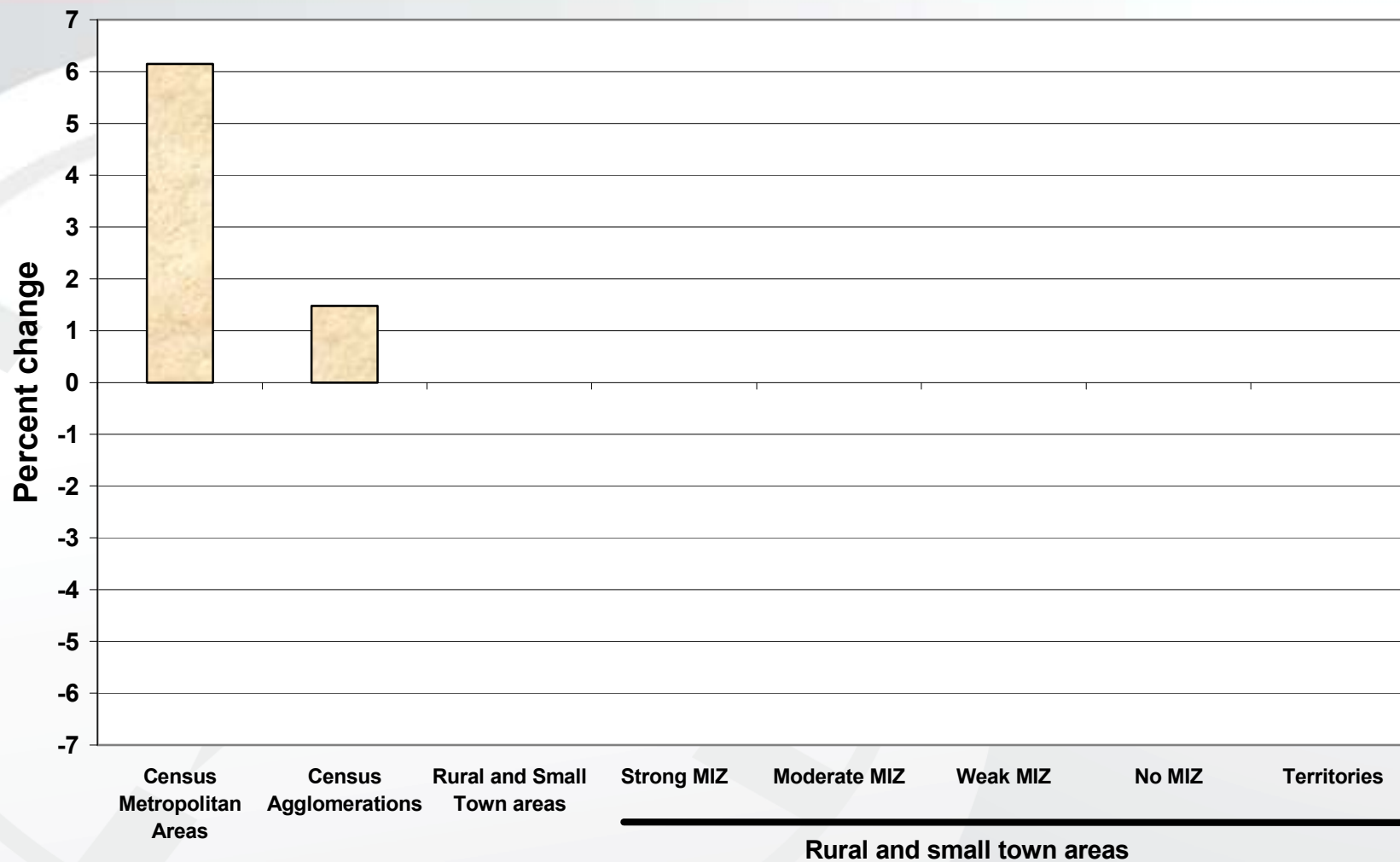


Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1996 - 2001. MIZ refers to Metropolitan Influenced Zone.





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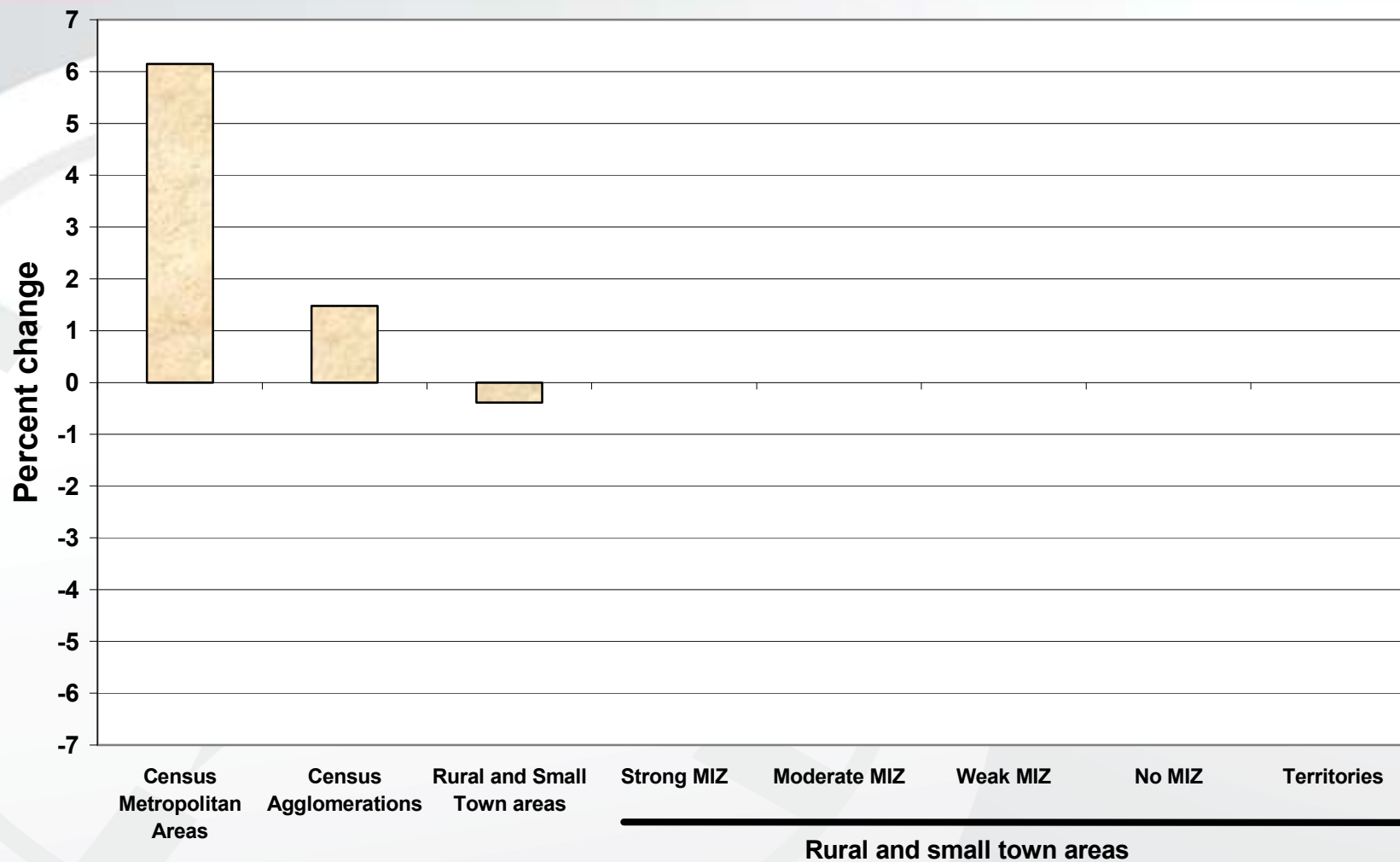


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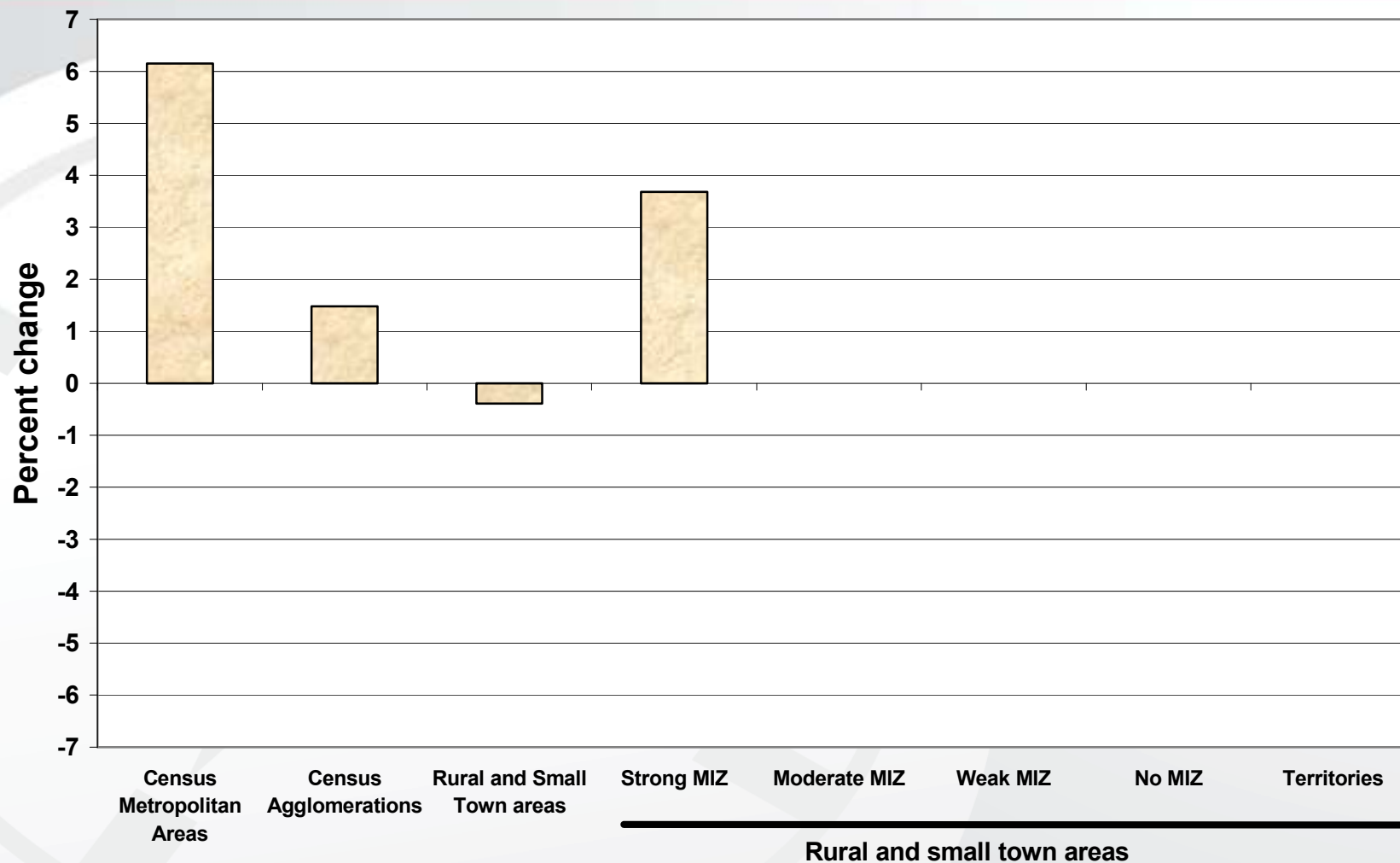
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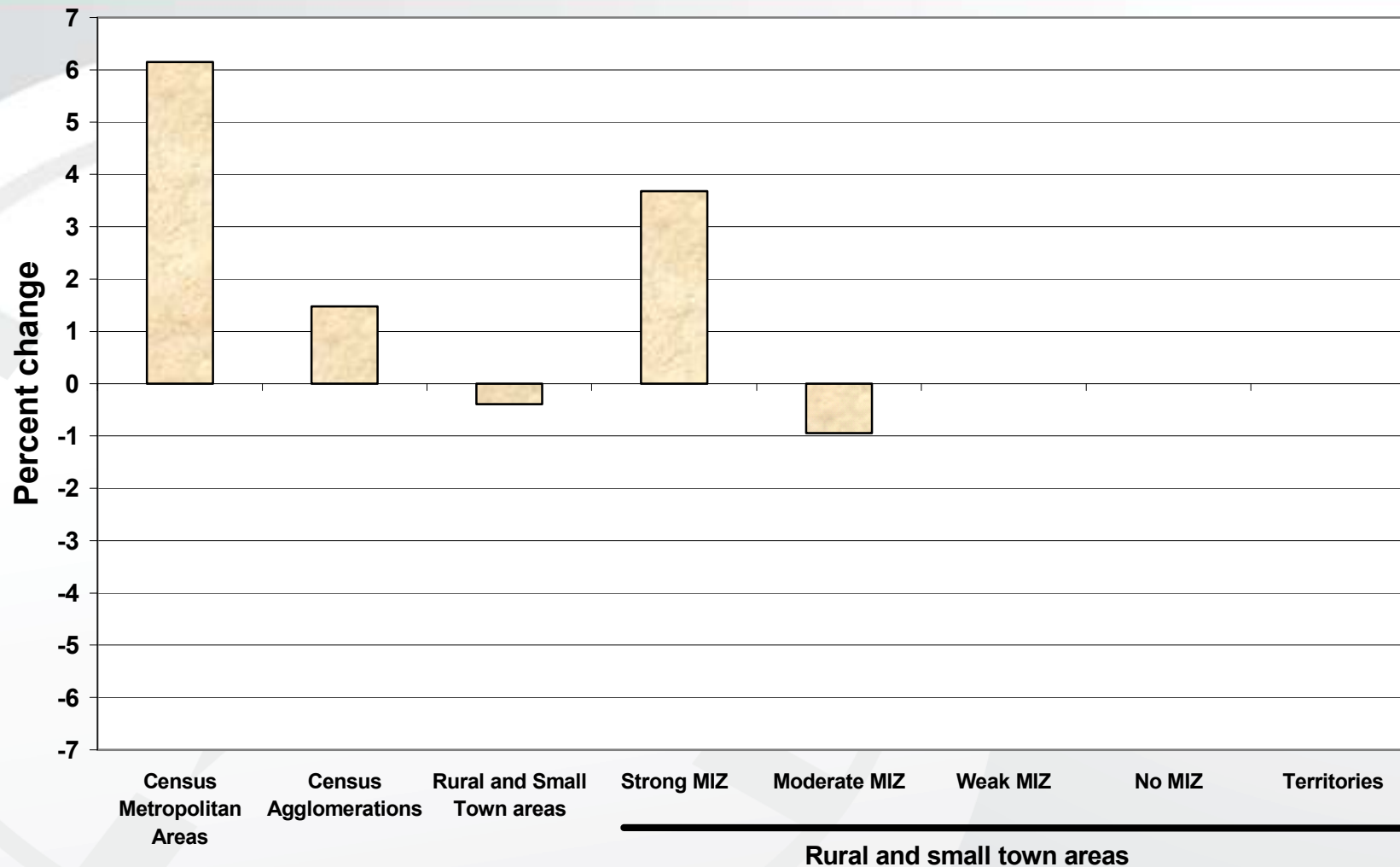


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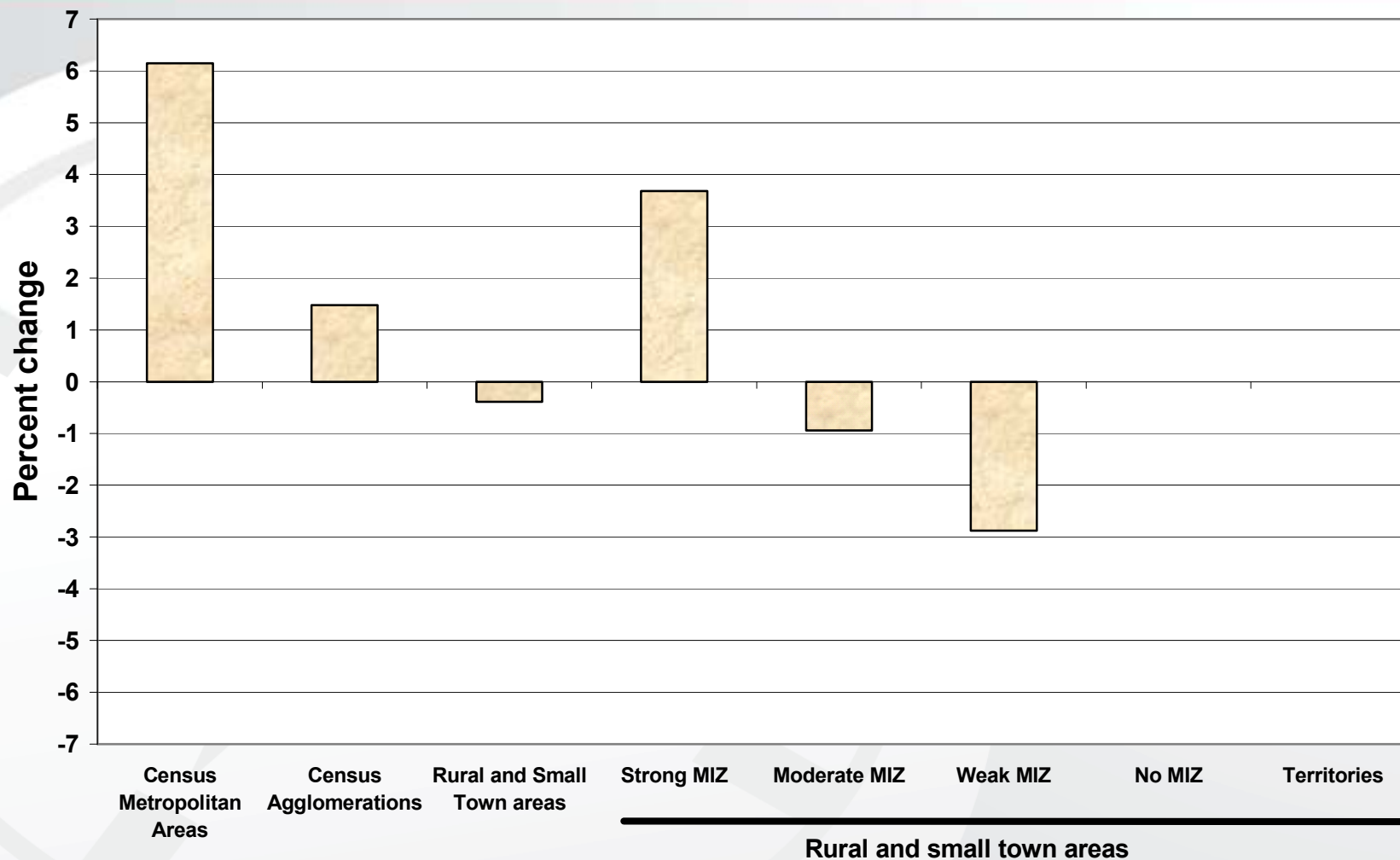


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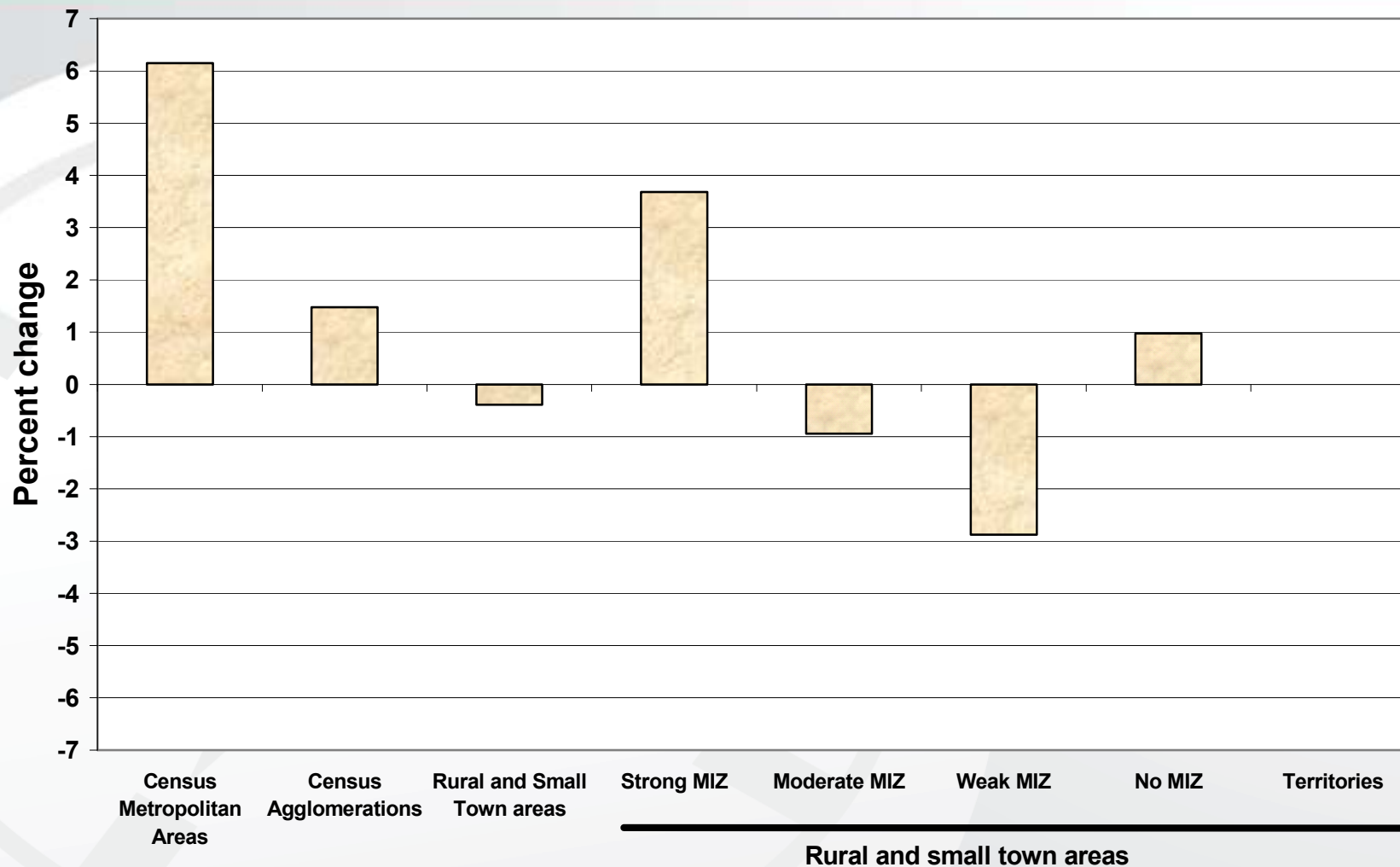
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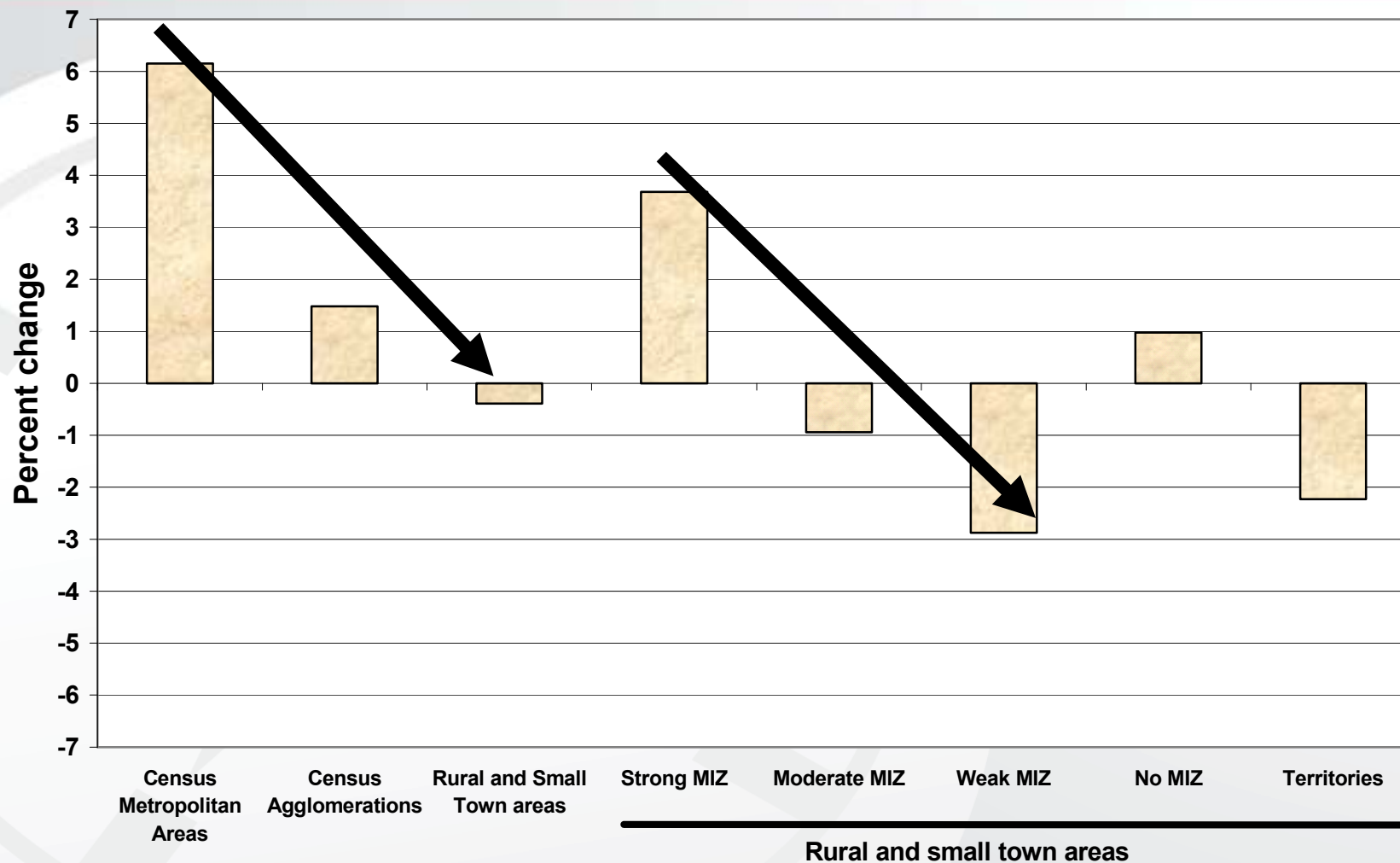
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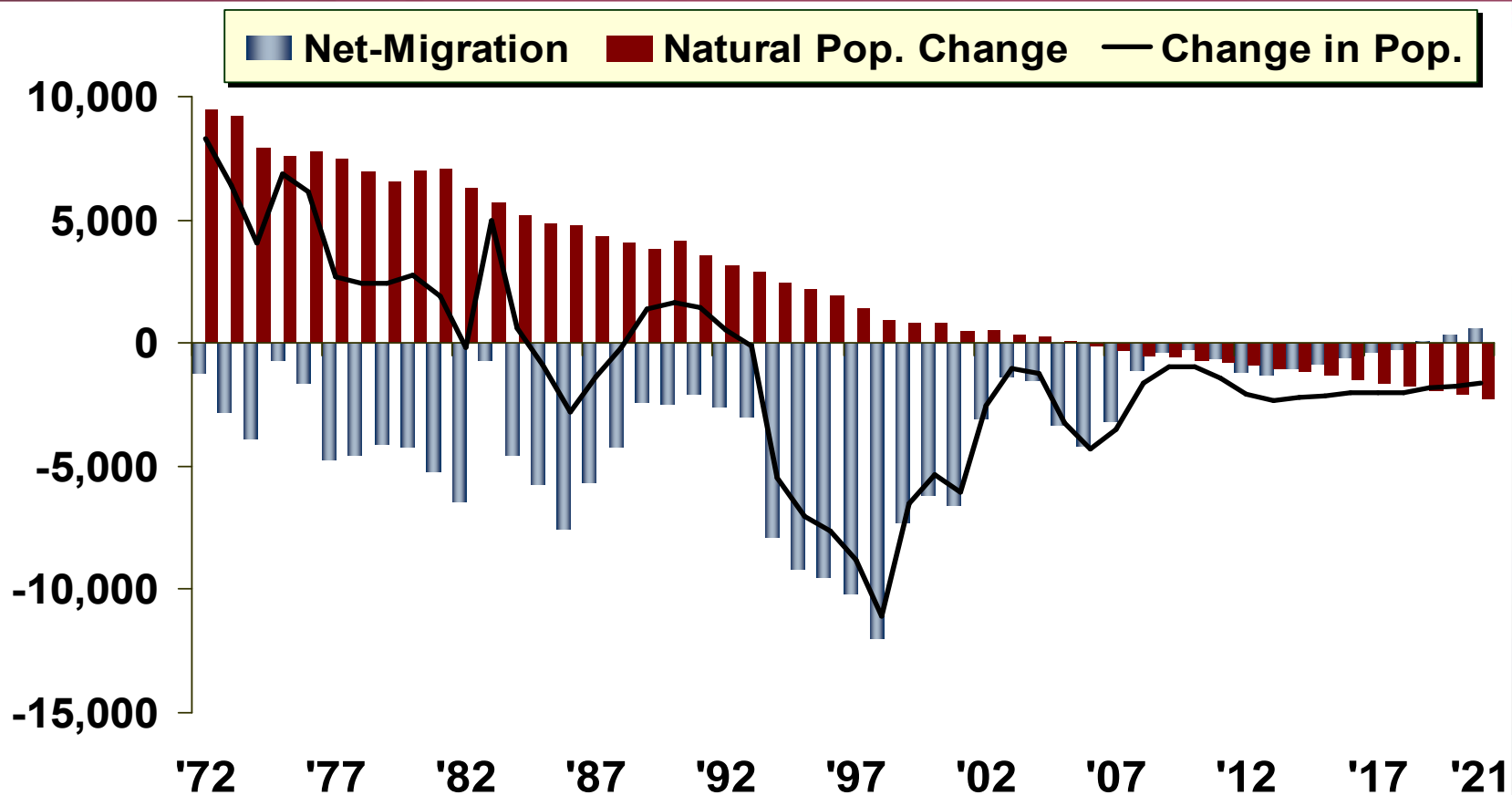
Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF)



- 4 “rurals”
 1. Rural *Adjacent* (metropolitan regions)
 2. Rural *Non-Adjacent* (mostly primary resource)
 3. Rural *Remote* (mostly single industry, plus aboriginal)
 4. Rural recreational / retirement / amenities

Change in Total Population

Newfoundland and Labrador, 1972 to 2021p



Statistics Canada; Economics and Statistics Branch,
Department of Finance



Newfoundland and Labrador Municipalities



- 286 incorporated municipalities; 182 local service districts; 137 unincorporated
- 1 CMA (St. John's & surrounding communities)
- 3 CAs (Grand Falls-Windsor, Bay Roberts and Corner Brook)
- 8 4000 and over (Gander, HVGB, Lab City, Stephenville, Marystown, Clarenville, Deer Lake, Channel-Port Aux Basques)

Urban-Rural Disparities

- Population change
- Loss of youth
- Employment
- Income
- Infrastructure
- Services
- Political voice
- Crime
- Natural resources/environments





Municipalities N&L



**Community
Cooperation
Resource
Centre**



Municipal Sustainability

Why the CCRC?

- Population and tax base decline, loss of MOGs
- Growth in/increasing use of some regional centres
- Increasing standards (e.g. Walkerton, waste)
- Gap in municipal data and policy research
- Evolving public service models (regionalization – encouraged vs. imposed, networks, downloading)
- Low municipal election candidacy
- Capacity gaps (e.g. planning)
- President's Task Force Report (2004/05)

“Regional Cooperation”

Encompasses other terms such as:

- Community partnerships
- Regional service delivery arrangements
- Inter-municipal cooperation
- Service sharing partnerships
- In some cases amalgamation/
mergers, regional councils or
governments



Photo by Gerald Peddle

CCRC Mandate

To be a catalyst for developing viable and sustainable communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, **actively supporting** regional cooperation through the provision of:

- **information,**
- **research and analysis,**
- **training/education,**
- **facilitation and advisory services**



Photo by Gerald Peddle



2003: 52% reported sharing services

2007: 76%



Examples of Municipal Cooperation in NL

- Animal control
- Economic and tourism development
- Emergency communications
- Equipment sharing
- Fire protection
- Lobbying/advocacy – joint councils
- Recreation
- Planning
- Transportation
- Waste management
- Watershed/natural resources management
- Water supply





Types of Regional Cooperation Arrangements

1. Informal assistance/support
2. (Mutual) aid – formal/written
3. Contracted/purchase of service
4. Formation of a joint service provider
 - Incorporated or unincorporated
5. Joint Councils
6. New municipal structures (merge/amalgamation)
7. Legislative options: Regional Councils or Service Boards



Challenges

- #1. Community rivalries and differences:
urban-rural tensions
 - #2. Geography
 - #3. Resources
- Reaching agreement on a fair sharing of benefits, costs and decision-making structures/processes



CRRF-FCM Research Project

Rural-Urban Linkages are multiple and complex

- Trade and commerce
 - Goods, Finance, Services, People, Information
- Functional integration
 - Carbon sequestration, water protection, recreation
- Institutional integration
 - Health, education, social economy, NGOs, family
- Common environments
 - Water, air, climate
- Common identities
 - Local, regional, national, international



Project components

- 1) Identify and map (GIS) linkages between communities in “regions”, particularly urban and rural relationships
- 2) Assess governance mechanisms used to manage these relationships, identify gaps, investigate alternatives
- 3) Assess the contribution of community linkages to sustainability and create a “labour market attractiveness index”
- 4) Collaboration, communication, application



Rural-Urban Interaction in NL: Understanding and Managing Functional Regions



- CRRF-FCM Alliance
- MNL CCRC
- Memorial University – Harris Centre and Department of Geography
- University of Kentucky – Rural Studies
- Provincial and federal agencies
- Participating communities and regions

Funding: CA/NL Labour Market Development Agreement



N&L Case Studies: Key Success Factors



- Communication
- Building relationships, sense of community
- Leadership and commitment – time and resources
- Necessity (need)
- Agreements – not always written
- Persistence/patience
- Provincial/government support
- Equity/fairness in benefits, costs & governance
- Cooperative spirit: respect, inclusion



Comments?
Questions?
Suggestions?