

## Historical Population of Counties

This section charts the population of the province and its 18 counties in each decade since the first Census of Canada in 1871.

### Province and Regions

The counties are grouped into four regions and their growth compared. The regions are:

Central - Halifax, Lunenburg, Kings, Hants, Colchester  
 Western - Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens  
 Eastern - Cumberland, Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough  
 Cape Breton - Inverness, Richmond, Victoria, Cape Breton

It is evident from the charts on the first page that the year 1931 was a breakpoint in the growth curve for the province and each of its regions. For the province and the central region, 60 years of slow growth are followed by 70 years of more rapid growth. For the other three regions, decline or stagnation by 1931 is followed by a period of growth.

The table below shows growth rates for the pre- and post-1931 periods. The province and the central region grew by only a quarter or a third in the first period but almost doubled and tripled in the second. The western region went from under 10 percent in the first to about 20 percent growth in the second. The eastern region had a 10 percent increase in both periods. Cape Breton island had the fastest growth in the first period of almost 75 percent but only about 10 percent in the second.

<b>Historical Popn. Trends, Province and Regions</b>					
<b>Popn. Est. ('000) from Chart and Rounded to Nearest 5,000 or 10,000</b>					
<b>Area</b>	<b>1871 Popn.</b>	<b>1931 Popn.</b>	<b>% Change 1871-1931</b>	<b>2001 Popn.</b>	<b>% Change 1931-2001</b>
Province	400	500	25%	900	80%
Central	150	200	33%	550	175%
Western	75	80	7%	95	19%
Eastern	90	100	11%	110	10%
Cape Breton	75	130	73%	145	12%

<b>Regions as Percent of Province (Est. from charts)</b>			
<b>Region</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>2001</b>
Central	38%	39%	61%
Western	20%	16%	11%
Eastern	22%	20%	12%
Cape Breton	20%	25%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%

The second table above and the left-hand charts on the second page following show each regional population as a percent of the provincial population in 1871, 1931 and 2001. In the first 60 year period, Cape Breton increased its share at the expense of the western region. In the second 70 year period, the central

region jumped from 40 to 60 percent of the total, with the decrease in share being greatest in Cape Breton, followed by the eastern and finally the western regions.

The other two charts on the second page show growth in each region relative to an 1871 index of 1.0. The western and eastern regions had the same growth in this index from 1871 to 1901, the eastern was ahead of the western until 1951, following which year the two had the same growth pattern once again. Cape Breton and the central region grew together from 1871 to 1901, then Cape Breton grew faster until 1951, after which year Cape Breton was stable and then declined while the central region soared.

### **Individual Counties**

12 of the 18 counties are examined individually: the four urban-industrial counties, the four largest agricultural-resource counties and the four Strait of Canso area counties.

The third page of charts illustrates the trends in the urban-industrial counties. Halifax grew slowly from about 50 to 100 thousand in 1871-1931, then grew fast to over 350 thousand by 2001. Cape Breton grew from about 25 to 90 thousand in 1871-1931, peaked at about 130 thousand in 1961 and then declined to about 110 thousand in 2001 - the same as its population in 1941.

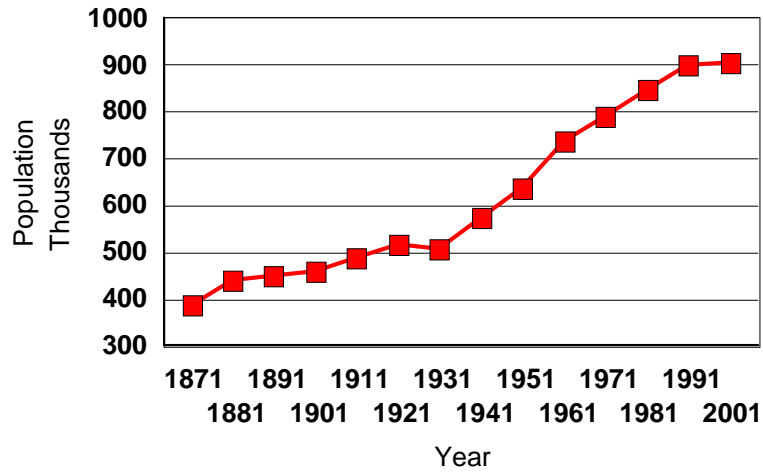
Cumberland grew from about 23 thousand in 1871 to a peak of over 40 thousand in 1921, declined to about 36 thousand in 1931, then grew back its Depression losses and declined again to about 33 thousand in 2001 - close to its 1891 level. Finally, Pictou had three cycles of growth and decline as it went from

about 32 thousand in 1871 to about 39 thousand in 1931 and 47 thousand in 2001 - the same as its 1971 population.

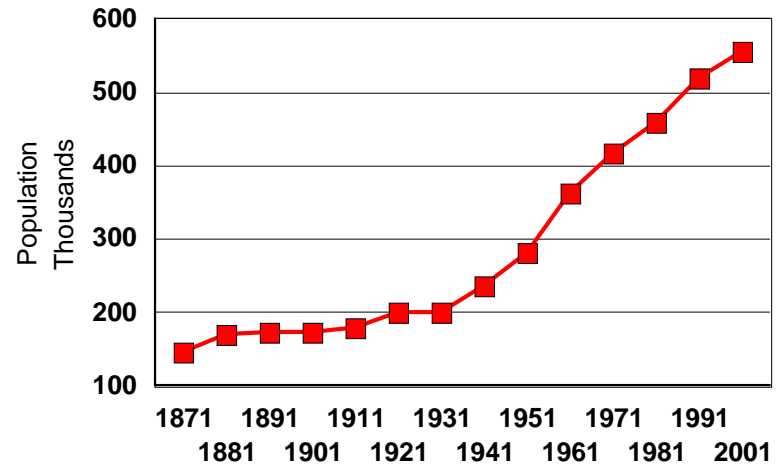
3 of the 4 agricultural-resource counties on the fourth page - Colchester, Kings and Hants - had a cycle of growth and decline in the 1871 to 1901 period, probably due to early over-exploitation of marginal agricultural lands, followed by stability to 1931 and then steady growth. Each had only 20 to 25 thousand throughout 1871 to 1931, then Hants grew to about 40 thousand, Colchester to about 50 thousand and Kings to almost 60 thousand by 2001. Lunenburg grew to 1911, was broadly stable at about 33 thousand with a Depression dip until 1951 and then increased to about 48 thousand by 2001.

On the fifth and final page of charts, Inverness and Richmond on the Island side of the Strait of Canso had parallel trend curves: very early growth followed by steady decline from 1881-91 on past 1931 to 1951, at which time the Canso Causeway probably brought the beginning of several decades of growth, followed by decline since 1971-81. On the Mainland side of the Strait, Guysborough has been declining steadily for a full century from a peak of about 18 thousand to about 10 thousand today. Antigonish declined steadily until 1931, dropping by the same amount in 50 years that it has taken Guysborough a full century, followed by a steady increase to almost 20 thousand today.

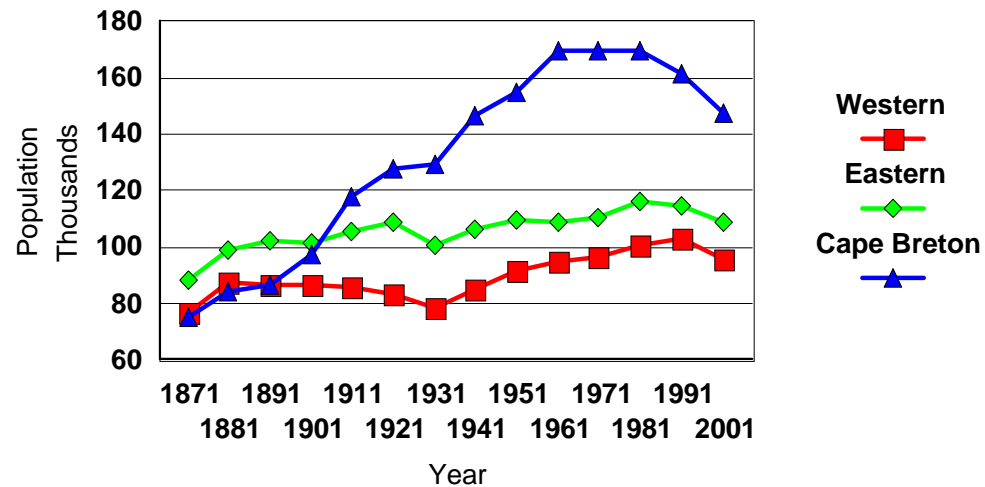
### Provincial Population

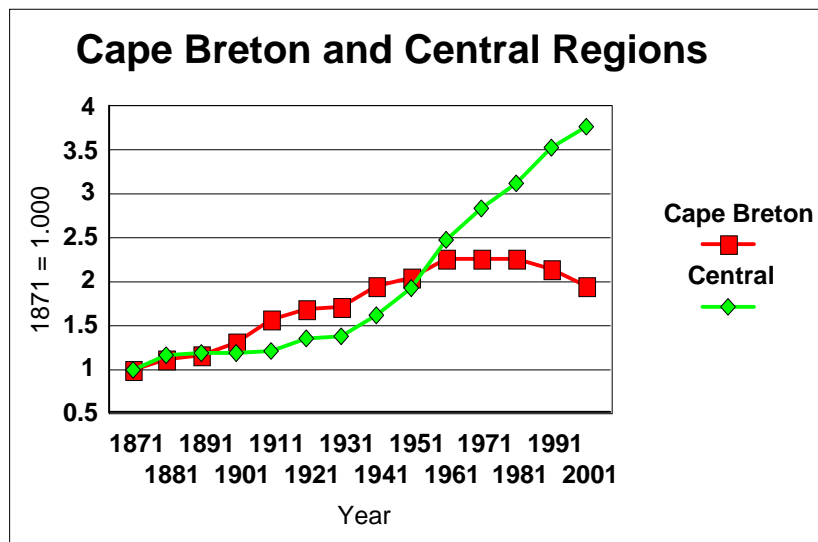
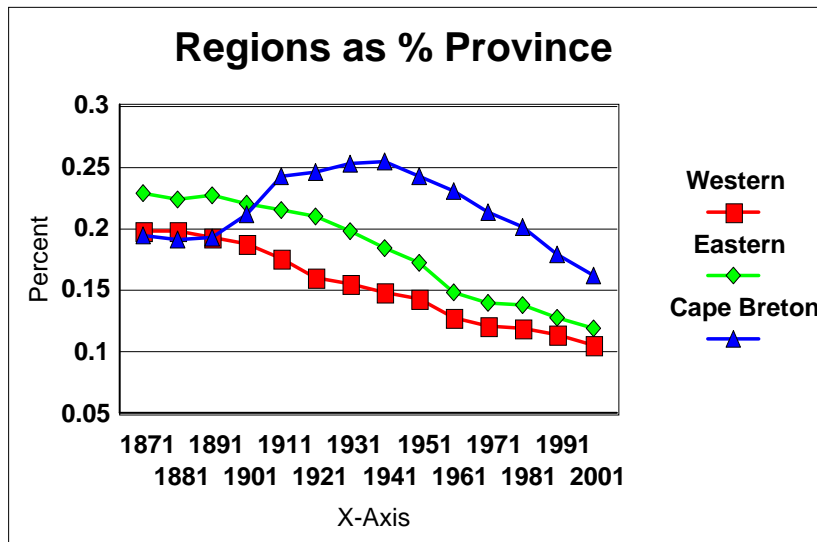
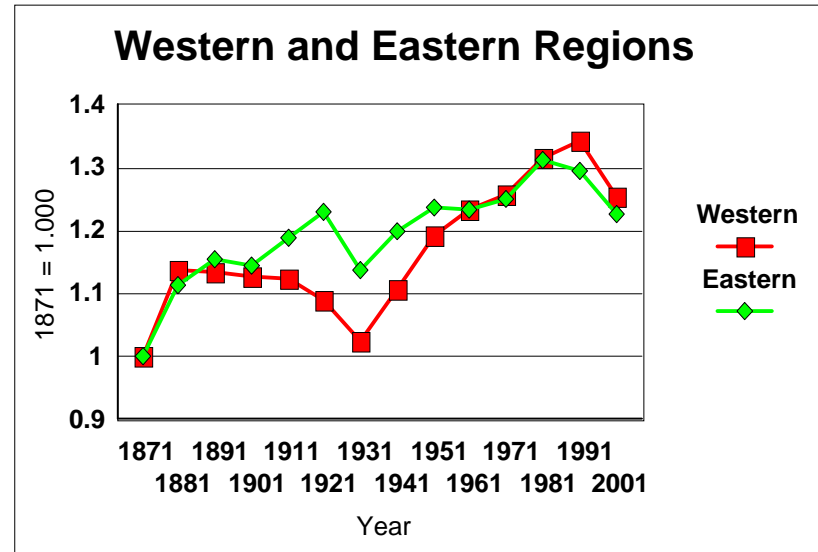
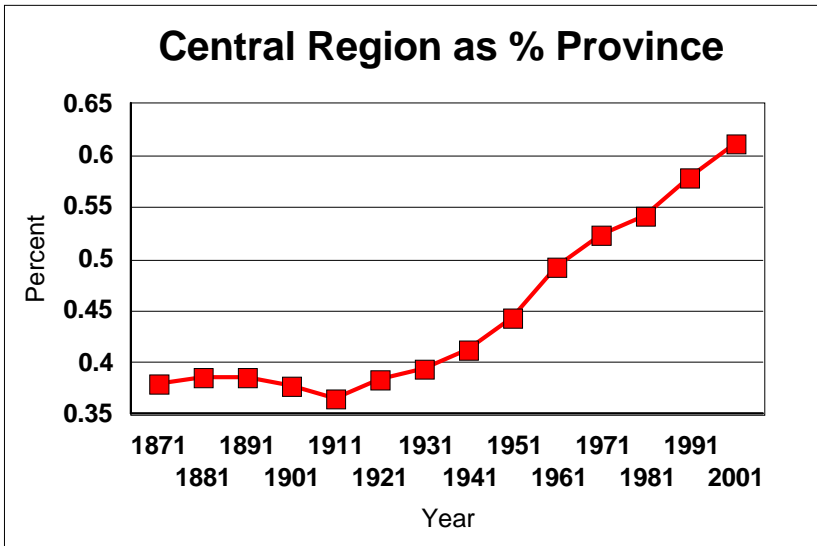


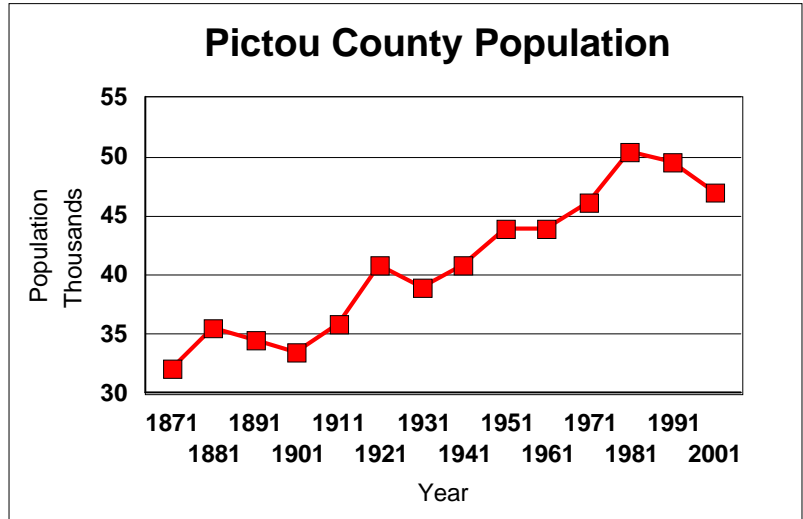
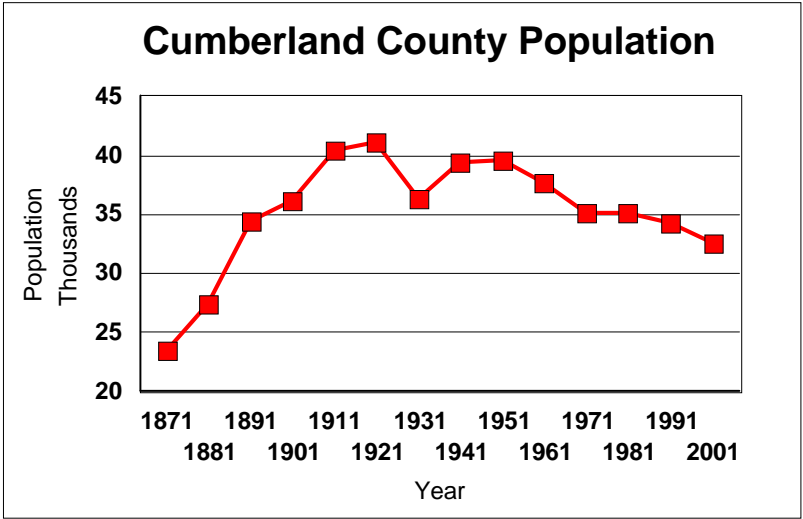
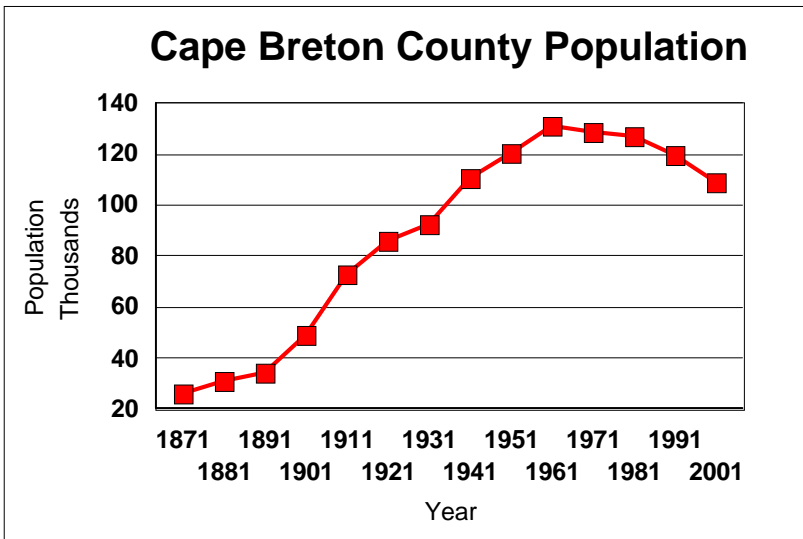
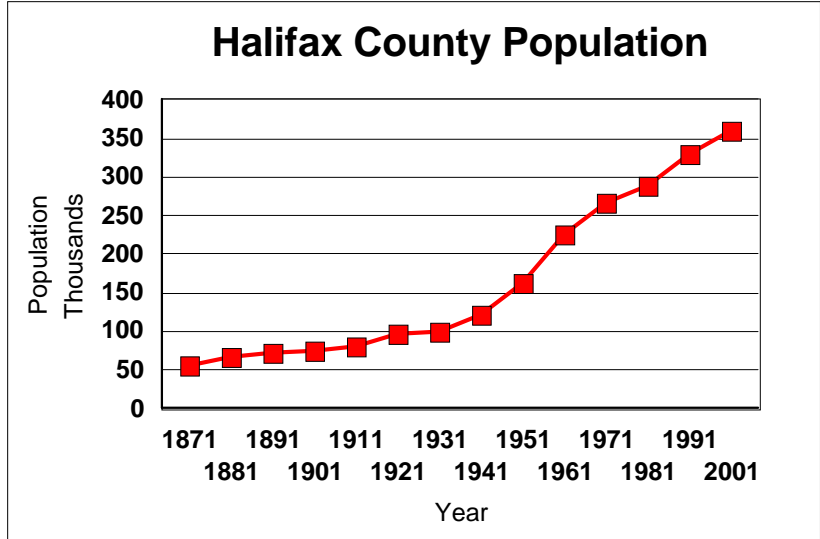
### Central Region Population



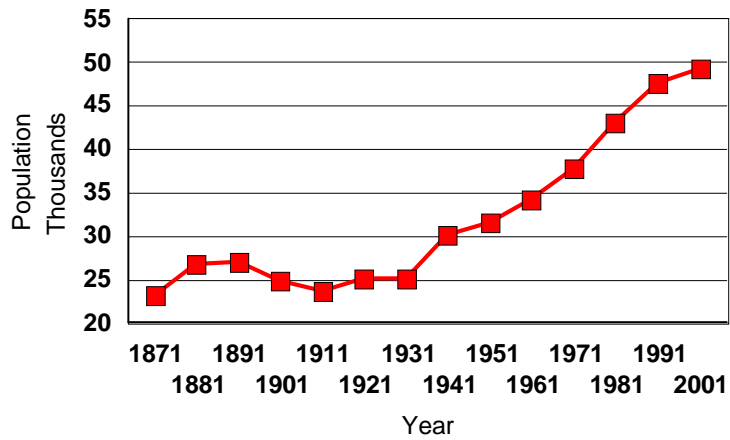
### Regional Population



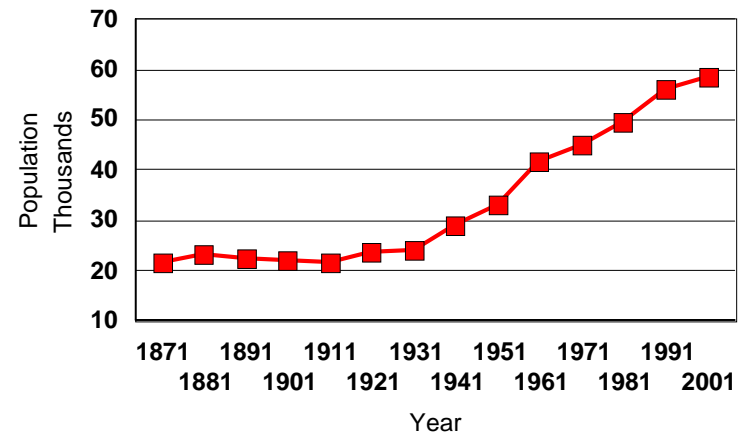




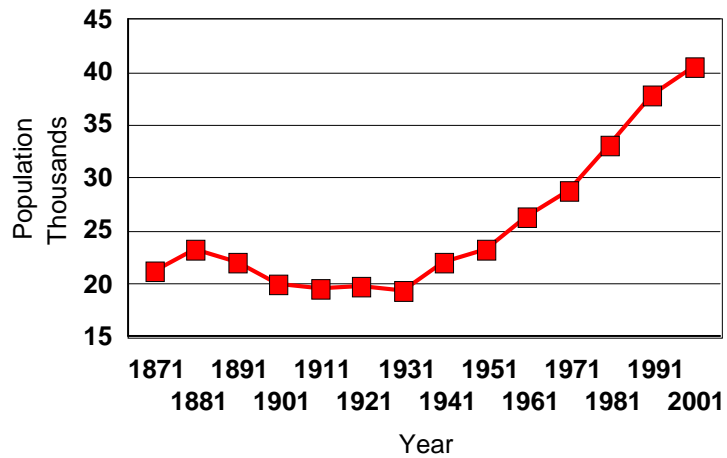
### Colchester County Population



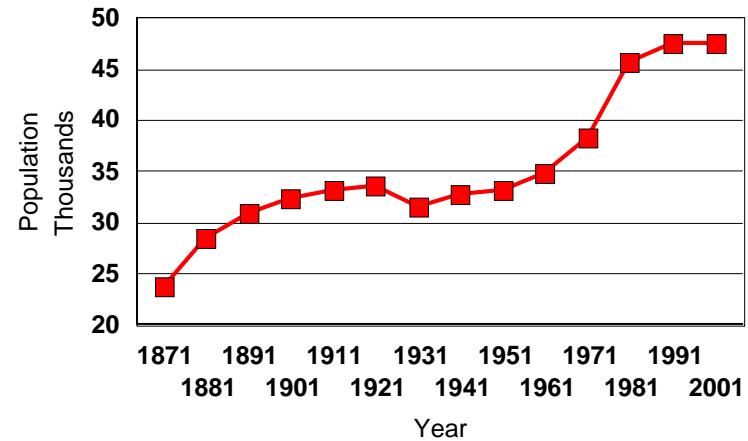
### Kings County Population



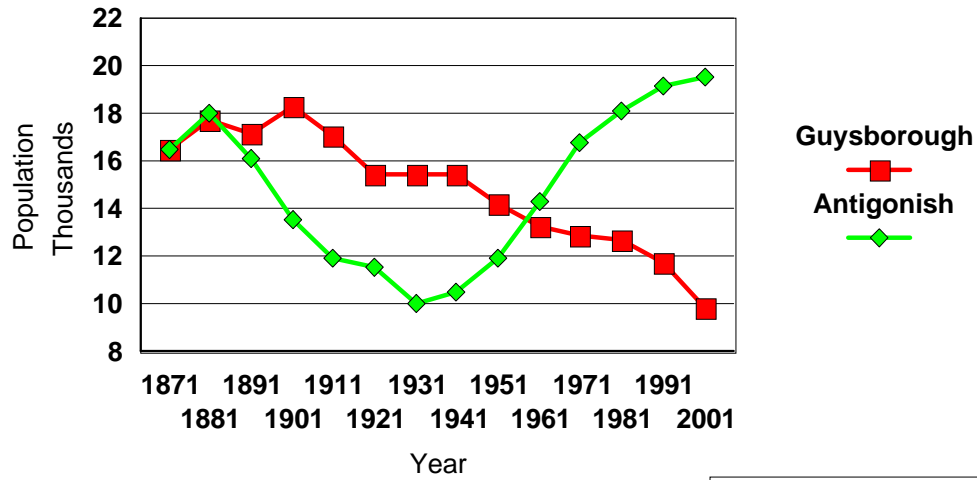
### Hants County Population



### Lunenburg County Population



### Mainland Strait Counties



### Island Strait Counties

