In 2011, 6.2% of Alberta’s population reported an Aboriginal identity, mainly with a First Nations (North American Indian) identity (116,670 individuals) or Métis identity (96,870 individuals).

The Aboriginal identity population in rural and small town areas represented 13.5% of Alberta’s total rural and small town population, compared to a 4.5% share of the population of larger urban centres. Despite these proportions, more people with an Aboriginal identity live in larger urban centres as opposed to rural and small town areas.

Within rural and small town areas, the Aboriginal identity population represented 5.0% of the population in Strong MIZ areas, 16.0% of the population in Moderate MIZ areas, 14.1% of the population in Weak MIZ areas, and 35.4% of the population in No MIZ areas.

Of Alberta’s total Aboriginal identity population, 41.5% resided in rural and small town areas, compared to 19.0% of Alberta’s total population that were residing in rural and small town areas.

**Notes:** CMA is a Census Metropolitan Area as defined by Statistics Canada.

CA is a Census Agglomeration as defined by Statistics Canada.

Aboriginal identity refers to whether the person reported being an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit) and/or being a Registered or Treaty Indian (that is, registered under the Indian Act of Canada) and/or being a member of a First Nation or Indian band.

Rural and small town areas include rural communities that have a population of less than 10,000 and where less than 50% of employed individuals commute to a CMA or CA.

MIZ stands for “Metropolitan Influence Zones” and denotes the level of integration of rural communities with urban economies. It is measured by the percentage of residents who commute to an urban centre for work. An area is classified as Strong MIZ if 30-49 percent of residents commute to work in an urban centre, Moderate MIZ if 5-29 percent commute, Weak MIZ if 1-4 percent commute, and No MIZ if no residents commute.