

B. DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

Another important feature in the location of population is the examination of the relative urbanization of the population. The following table shows the distribution of the population as between counties (including town districts) and boroughs (including cities). Although at the present time no new borough can be created unless the population is at least 1,000, there are in existence several boroughs where the population is under 1,000. The table, however, gives some idea of the relative urbanization of the community :—

Table No. 57.—Table showing the Distribution of the Population as between Counties (including Town Districts) and Boroughs (including Cities) at various Censuses from 1881 to 1945

(Excluding Maoris)

Census.	Counties (including Town Districts).	Boroughs (including Cities).	Percentage.		
			Counties.	Boroughs.	Shipboard, &c.
1881	291,238	194,981	59·44	39·80	0·76
1886	327,328	245,612	56·58	42·46	0·96
1891	352,097	270,343	56·18	43·14	0·68
1896	391,735	307,294	55·69	43·69	0·62
1901	417,596	350,202	54·04	45·32	0·64
1906	458,797	424,614	51·63	47·79	0·58
1911	496,779	505,598	49·26	50·14	0·60
1916	501,259	585,306	45·59	53·24	1·17
1921	530,852	681,988	43·55	55·95	0·50
1926	551,457	785,040	41·02	58·39	0·59
1936	601,343	884,282	40·32	59·29	0·39
1945	590,195	1,008,534	36·81	62·89	0·30

Urbanization has proceeded somewhat further in the North Island than in the South Island, as is shown in the following table :—

Table No. 58.—Table showing (a) Total Population in Counties and Boroughs, and (b) Percentage Distribution in Counties and Boroughs, in North and South Islands as at Censuses of 1936 and 1945

	Counties.		Boroughs.		Shipboard, &c.	
	1936.	1945.	1936.	1945.	1936.	1945.
Numbers—						
North Island ..	362,554	375,128	572,190	671,670	4,195	4,186
South Island ..	238,789	215,067	312,092	336,864	1,664	639
Total ..	601,343	590,195	884,282	1,008,534	5,859	4,825
Percentages—						
North Island ..	38·61	35·70	60·94	63·91	0·45	0·39
South Island ..	43·22	38·92	56·48	60·96	0·30	0·12
Total ..	40·32	36·81	59·29	62·89	0·39	0·30

The outstanding feature of the above table is the fall between 1936 and 1945 of 23,722 in the population of counties in the South Island. This subject is discussed in detail a little later in this section. The table also shows that urbanization has proceeded further in the North than in the South Island. In the North Island in 1945, 63·91 per cent. of the population lived in urban areas, an increase of 3 per cent. over the 1936 figure. County areas have shown an equal relative fall. Although this trend has been in operation for many years past, part of the large change in the period between 1936 and 1945 is due to the large numbers coming to the cities for war work.