

Estimating suburban population growth: A study of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA, 1996-2016

Emily Goldney, March 2018

Æ μ š] À ^ μ u u Œ Ç

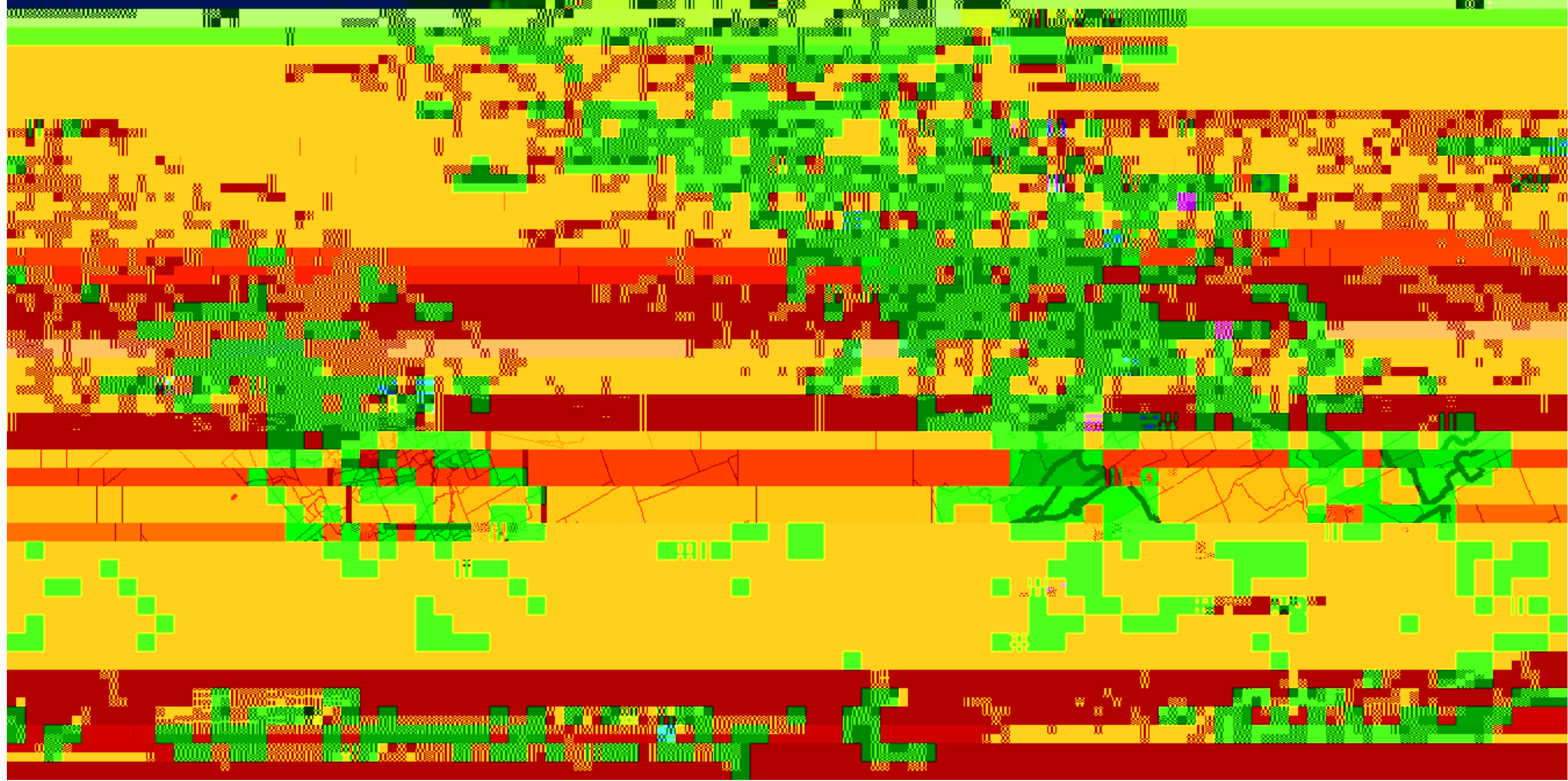
Research Objective

The purpose of this project was to determine the proportion of Ottawa-Gatineau Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) residents living in less sustainable forms of suburban development and to determine how growth management policies are achieving their targets.

Method

This report applied the classification model and suburban definitions established by the Canadian Suburbs research program (Gordon & Janzen, 2013) to data from the 2016 Statistics Canada Census, to classify each of Ottawa-Gatineau census tract (CT)s as an active core, exurban area, transit suburb, or automobile suburb (See Map 1) . This was accomplished using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software.

This report found that most Ottawa-Gatineau residents lived in less sustainable forms of development; 76% of the CMA population, over 1 million people, lived in automobile suburbs or exurbs. The good news is that temporal trend analysis found that the share of CMA population growth of the automobile suburbs decreased from 1996-2016, while that of the active cores i



not offset by construction of new units, and continuing population increases in less sustainable exurban and automobile-dependent suburbs.

Primary Limitations and Future Considerations

The trends outlined in this report are based on two 10-year time intervals only: Caution should therefore be used in interpreting the temporal trends revealed through this study, as due to the limited data points the trends could simply represent temporal anomalies.

Further research should be done to extend the analysis of census data further into the past, and this study should be repeated in the future. This will allow for verification of the existence of trends, and will allow projects may also wish to conduct an additional level of analysis by compare results to those of Canadian CMAs

The definition of suburbs used for this report is meant to be a working definition only. Care must be taken when interpreting the results of this study to be aware of how suburb was defined for the misinterpretation of results based on a different perception of what constitutes a suburb.