

Section 3.—Intercensal Estimates of Population

Intercensal estimates of the population serve many uses. They constitute a base for vital statistics rates, per capita figures of production and trade, and other analyses. More recently, they have proved useful for estimates of labour force and other population characteristics on data collected in sample surveys.

Estimates are constructed in the first place for the total population of Canada and each province. It is a requirement that these be made available about the date to which they apply, June 1 of each year. As final figures on the components of population change are not ready at that date, the numbers of births, deaths and immigrants are partly filled in by extrapolation so that a preliminary figure is secured for the June to May interval. To avoid a cumulative error the calculation in effect starts afresh with the latest preceding census for each year's estimates and uses the most up-to-date figures then available. To the census figures are added the births of the intervening years and the deaths are subtracted. Immigrants are added and emigrants are subtracted. On the last item of this calculation there is least information; it is possible to ascertain the number of Canadians entering the United States from United States immigration figures, and sometimes the same for the United Kingdom but no data are available for other countries.

The program of population estimates calls for two figures to be given in respect of each year; one based on preliminary materials, as described above, necessarily involving an extrapolation of birth, death and immigration returns, and the other on final figures subject to no further change which can be made available only when the last item of subsequent information has been secured. This last item is the succeeding decennial census. There is no theoretical gain in making minor adjustments which are within the band of error to which the figures are subject in any case, and such adjustments in practice cause confusion to users. Since estimates for successive years are independently calculated back to the latest census the best estimate of the balance of population change is not obtained by subtracting the figure for one year from that for the year following. As there is much interest attaching to the year-to-year balance, the following statement, which gives all available data on that point, is included.

Year	Calendar-Year Data				Estimated Population as at June 1 ¹
	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Immig- ration	
1941.....	255,224	114,500	140,724	9,325	11,490,000
1942.....	272,184	112,848	159,336	7,576	11,637,000 ²
1943.....	283,423	118,531	164,892	8,502	11,795,000 ²
1944.....	284,220	116,052	168,168	12,793	11,958,000 ²
1945.....	288,730	113,414	175,316	22,711	12,102,000 ²
1946.....	330,732	114,931	215,801	71,691	12,283,000 ²
1947.....	359,094	117,725	241,369	64,127	12,582,000 ²

¹ Exclusive of Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

² These estimates are subject to adjust-

ment as later data are made available.