

18 p.c. or about the same rate as was recorded in the census decade following World War I. Including Newfoundland, the rate of growth of the Canadian population in the period 1941-51 was 22 p.c., raising the Canada total as of June 1, 1951 to just over 14,000,000.

During the first five years of the second half of the present century Canada experienced an outstanding development of its economic resources. Reflecting this expansion, population, which in the ten years preceding the 1956 Census had risen by 3,374,000 or 27.4 p.c.,* continued to increase at a high rate over the years between the 1951 and 1956 Censuses. Slightly more than 2,000,000 persons were added to the population of Canada in this period, a 14.8-p.c. increase in five years, raising the total population to 16,080,791 on June 1, 1956. Net immigration accounted for almost 30 p.c. of the total increase in population since the 1951 Census, and natural increase for slightly over 70 p.c. In no comparable period of time in the past was the absolute size of net immigration as large as in this five-year period. In terms of the relative contribution of net immigration to population growth, only in the first decade of the century—when it accounted for 40 p.c. of the total population increase—did this element play a more important role than in the years since 1951.†

The record of population growth by provinces since 1901 given in Table 1 indicates the rapid expansion that took place in the Prairie Provinces up to 1921 and the slowing down in growth that followed during the 1920's and was greatly accentuated during the period 1931-56. It also shows that the Maritime Provinces as a group showed only a slight gain in population between 1901 and 1931—Prince Edward Island actually losing about 15,000 people over this period—and although a somewhat greater growth was experienced from 1931-51, another slow down occurred between the latter year and 1956; that the rate of population increase in Quebec by decades over the fifty years 1901-51 was consistently greater than in Ontario, the larger gains in the latter province resulting from net migration being more than offset by the higher rate of natural increase in Quebec, but that Ontario had taken the lead by 1956; and that the population of British Columbia recorded consistent and, in some decades, spectacular growth.

* Exclusive of Newfoundland since this province did not come into Confederation until 1949.

† More detailed information on the elements of population growth may be found in 1956 Census Report No. 3-1 *Growth of Population in Canada*. See also Section 2, pp. 195-197 for Intercensal Surveys.

1.—Numerical Distribution of Population by Province, and Percentage Change from Preceding Census, Decennial Census Years 1901-51 and 1956

NOTE.—Populations for the decennial census years 1871, 1881 and 1891 are given in the 1956 Year Book, p. 149. The populations of the Prairie Provinces in 1906, 1916, 1926, 1936 and 1946 will be found in the 1951 edition, p. 131.

Province or Territory	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1956
NUMERICAL DISTRIBUTION							
Newfoundland.....	1	1	1	1	1	361,416	415,074
Prince Edward Island..	103,259	93,728	88,615	88,038	95,047	98,429	99,285
Nova Scotia.....	459,574	492,338	523,837	512,846	577,962	642,584	694,717
New Brunswick.....	331,120	351,889	387,876	408,219	457,401	515,697	554,616
Quebec.....	1,648,898	2,005,776	2,360,510	2,874,662	3,331,882	4,055,681	4,628,378
Ontario.....	2,182,947	2,527,292	2,933,662	3,431,683	3,787,655	4,597,542	5,404,933
Manitoba.....	255,211	461,394	610,118	700,139	729,744	776,541	850,040
Saskatchewan.....	91,279	492,432	757,510	921,785	895,992	831,728	880,665
Alberta.....	73,022	374,295	588,454	731,605	796,169	939,501	1,123,116
British Columbia.....	178,657	392,480	524,582	694,263	817,861	1,165,210	1,398,464
Yukon.....	27,219	8,512	4,157	4,230	4,914	9,096	12,190
Northwest Territories..	20,129	6,507	8,143	9,316	12,028	16,004	19,313
Canada.....	5,371,315	7,206,643	8,787,919^a	10,376,786	11,506,655	14,009,429	16,080,791

For footnotes, see end of table.