

### Subsection 2.—Growth and Density of the Population

The population history of Canada, from the first census in 1666 when 3,215 persons were enumerated to the 1956 Census when the figure was 16,080,791, reveals an outstanding rate of population growth. Although each census period contributed to this growth, the periods 1901-11, 1911-21, 1941-51 and 1951-56 merit particular mention.\*

In the first half of the present century, Canada's population increased from 5,371,315 at the beginning of the period to just over 14,000,000 in 1951, or to 13,648,013 if Newfoundland is excluded. In the thirty years up to 1931 the population almost doubled and between 1931 and 1951 another 3,600,000 was added. The most rapid growth took place in the first decade of the century when the population increased by 1,835,000 and the rate of growth was slightly over one-third. Coincident with the settlement of the western provinces, substantial immigration characterized the whole period from the beginning of the century up to the outbreak of World War I; immigrants entering Canada during the first ten years of this period numbered 1,644,147.

Owing partly to the sharp falling off in immigration during the war years and partly to heavier emigration, the rate of increase of Canada's population in the decade 1911-21 was less than in the previous decade; nevertheless, total population advanced by 1,581,000 or about 22 p.c. It should be mentioned that, largely because of the record volume of immigration between 1911 and the outbreak of war, the actual number of immigrants to Canada during this decade was slightly greater than during the period 1901-11, although in terms of total population at the beginning of each of these periods immigration was a relatively less important factor in population growth in the decade 1911-21.

Population growth between 1921 and 1931 was approximately 1,590,000 or only slightly greater than in the previous decade. The rate of increase, at 18 p.c., was less than in the period 1911-21 and only a little more than half the rate recorded in the first decade of the century. Also it is significant that the rate of population growth in Eastern Canada was much closer to the rate of growth in Western Canada than in the period 1901-21. In the decade 1931-41 Canada's population increase, at 11 p.c., was the lowest recorded. Immigration over this decade was not much more than 150,000 or only about one-tenth of the number in each decade since 1901. The depressed conditions existing throughout most of the decade also resulted in a sharp falling off in marriages and in births. As a result, only 1,130,000 persons were added to the population of Canada over this ten-year period.

Despite the almost complete cessation of immigration during World War II, the decade 1941-51 was marked by a record growth in population numbers. Excluding Newfoundland, the increase amounted to 2,141,000. The rate of growth was just over 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

\* An outline of the growth of population in Canada since the beginning of the seventeenth century may be found in Vol. I of the 1931 Census. Other accounts of population growth prior to the present century are included in Vol. I of the 1941 Census and Vol. X of the 1951 Census.

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