

Table 17 shows the natural increase and the total population increase according to the census for Canada and the provinces in the periods 1931-41, 1941-51 and 1951-56. The difference between the natural increase and the total increase in population during a period represents the difference between inward and outward movements, i.e., net migration. The net migration data shown for provinces indicate the net movement of population arising partly from interchange of population between provinces and partly from persons entering and leaving the country.

The earlier movement of population on the North American Continent from east to west has not been apparent since the 1920's. Although British Columbia has continued to show population gains from migration since 1931, much of this gain has been at the expense of the Prairie Provinces. While the three Prairie Provinces lost by migration about 248,000 persons between 1931 and 1941 and somewhat more from 1941 to 1951, they gained in the period 1951-56. Manitoba lost over 109,000 population between 1931 and 1951 but only 152 persons between 1951 and 1956. Saskatchewan has been a consistent loser since 1931, losing on the average over 15,000 a year during the 1930's, almost 20,000 a year during the 1940's and just under 8,000 a year during the 1950's. Alberta lost over 40,000 persons in the decade 1931-41 but only about 7,000 in the next decade and gained close to 65,000 in the five years 1951-56. British Columbia gained through migration at the rate of about 8,000 persons a year during the 1930's, about 23,000 a year during the 1940's and about 27,000 a year in the first half of the 1950's. On an absolute basis, Ontario received more people through migration than did British Columbia but, in relation to its larger population, the gain was only about one-third as important. Most of Ontario's growth through migration was from immigration rather than interprovincial movement of population. Quebec had a slight loss between 1931 and 1951 and a considerable gain in the next five years. Nova Scotia gained population through migration during the 1930's but has been losing ever since; the Maritimes as a whole lost 138,000 persons over the quarter-century.

17.—Numerical Changes in the Population of the Provinces through Natural Increase and Migration 1931-41, 1941-51 and 1951-56

Province	Natural Increase			Population Increase according to Census			Net Migration		
	1931-41	1941-51	1951-56	1931-41	1941-51	1951-56	1931-41	1941-51	1951-56
Nfld.....	52,892	53,658	+766
P.E.I.....	9,681	15,802	8,920	7,009	3,382	856	-2,672	-12,420	-8,064
N.S.....	57,268	103,512	63,156	65,116	64,622	52,133	+7,848	-38,890	-11,023
N.B.....	59,359	99,904	59,812	49,182	58,296	38,919	-10,177	-41,608	-20,893
Que.....	459,211	736,058	474,516	457,220	723,799	572,697	-1,991	-12,259	+98,181
Ont.....	278,488	505,034	431,913	355,972	809,887	807,391	+77,484	+304,853	+375,478
Man.....	78,083	107,510	73,651	29,605	46,797	73,499	-48,478	-60,713	-152
Sask.....	131,752	135,106	85,978	-25,793	-64,264	48,937	-157,545	-199,370	-37,041
Alta.....	106,405	150,303	119,307	64,564	143,332	183,615	-41,841	-6,971	+64,308
B.C.....	41,100	116,527	98,006	123,598	347,349	233,254	+82,498	+230,822	+135,248
Canada¹.....	1,221,787	1,972,394	1,471,766	1,129,869	2,141,358	2,071,362	-91,918	+168,964	+599,596

¹ Includes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.