

APPENDIX II

POPULATION

As stated on p. 145 of this volume, summary population data resulting from the 1961 Census, available at Sept. 30, 1962, are given in this Appendix. A short review of population growth during the present century is included, followed by tables showing 1961 rural and urban classifications, populations of incorporated urban centres and metropolitan areas, age and sex distribution, origins, religious denominations and language and mother tongues. Because of limitations of space, these tables are presented without textual comment.

Corresponding figures for previous census years are available from earlier editions of the Canada Year Book and from published census bulletins (see pp. 145-146).

Population Growth.—Canada's population stood at 18,238,000 in 1961 as against 10,377,000 in 1931 and 5,371,000 in 1901. In the first decade of the century, the gain of 34 p.c. was greater than in any censal period up to 1961. Growth was associated with the opening up of the West for settlement and massive immigration from overseas. During the 1901-11 period, about 1,760,000 immigrants entered the country and natural increase amounted to an estimated 1,000,000. As the total increase in population was 1,835,328, it is evident that there was substantial emigration during the period. In the 1911-21 period, population growth dropped to 22 p.c. Military losses in the First World War and losses during the influenza epidemic, which together amounted to about 120,000, were a factor in this decline. Although the flow of immigrants was reduced during the war years, it had been very heavy immediately preceding the War, so that the total number for the period (1,612,000) was very close to that for the previous censal period. However, emigration was also extremely high and the increase in population amounted to 1,581,306, representing 2 p.c. per annum compared with 3 p.c. in the 1901-11 period.

In the decade 1921-31, the rate of increase dropped to 18 p.c. Immigration fell to 1,200,000 and emigration was estimated at 1,000,000. Thus the increase in population, which amounted to 1,588,837, was only 229,000 greater than the natural increase. A feature of this period was the rapid growth of population in Western Canada, partly the result of immigration and partly the result of an influx of people from Eastern Canada. During 1931-41, the population increase was just under 11 p.c. During the depressed conditions of the 1930's, marriage and birth rates were significantly lower and only 150,000 immigrants came to Canada, although, in addition, 75,000 Canadians returned from the United States. Emigration was also much lower than in the previous decades, amounting to an estimated 250,000. Natural increase was only 1,220,000, the crude birth rate falling from 27 per thousand of the population in the 1921-25 period to 24 per thousand in the succeeding four-year period and to 20 per thousand during much of the 1931-41 decade. During 1941-51, population was restored to pre-depression levels. Excluding Newfoundland which became part of Canada in 1949, it amounted to 19 p.c.; including Newfoundland it was 22 p.c. Much of the increase took place in the second half of the decade, reflecting heavy postwar immigration and a sharp rise in the marriage and birth rates.

In the 1951-61 period, the population growth rate at 30.2 p.c. came close to approaching the extremely high rate of the first decade of the century. However, the two periods contrast in many ways. In the early period there was a wider dispersal of population increases as whole regions across the continent were opened up; in the recent period there was a concentration of growth in urban communities although some spreading of population into newly developed northern areas took place. Natural increase accounted for about 75 p.c. of the growth. While there was some decline in the death rate, the trend of natural increase reflected very closely that of the crude birth rate which began to rise during the War and remained high throughout the period. Net immigration accounted for the remainder of the increase; during the decade, 1,542,853 immigrants entered the