

The capital farm value for the Prairie Region was \$6,700,000,000 in 1961 which was the highest for any region in the country; the Central Region was second with a value of \$5,400,000,000. However, British Columbia had the highest average capital value per farm, amounting to \$32,967; this was followed in order by the Prairie Provinces at \$32,009, the Central Region at \$24,718 and the Atlantic Region at \$12,314 per farm.

For Canada as a whole, the proportion of capital value made up of real estate (land and buildings) increased during the 1951-61 decade from 58.4 p.c. to 65.5 p.c. The relative importance of livestock and poultry declined from 21.2 p.c. to 15.0 p.c. and that of machinery and equipment declined only fractionally to 19.5 p.c. British Columbia had the highest average real estate value in 1961, amounting to \$24,733 per farm, and the Prairie Provinces followed with \$20,393 per farm. The highest average value for machinery and equipment was reported by the Prairie Region at \$7,174, and also for livestock and poultry at \$4,442 per farm. The predominance of the Prairie Provinces in average capital values per farm reflects the large size of farms in this region. On the other hand, capital value per acre of farm land was lower for the Prairie Region than for the other regions.

Age and Residence of Farm Operator.—Some shifting in the relative importance of the various age groups for farm operators was shown during the 1951-61 period. In 1961, 16.7 p.c. of the farm operators were under 35 years of age compared with 21.7 p.c. in 1951. For the age group 45-59 years an opposite trend was shown—38.0 p.c. of the operators were in this group in 1961 compared with 33.3 p.c. in 1951. For the other age groups—35-44 years and 60 years or over—little change was shown, the 1961 proportions being 24.7 p.c. and 20.5 p.c., respectively.

In 1961, 88.3 p.c. of the farm operators reported that they lived on the farm the year round; the proportion was highest in the Atlantic Region (95.7 p.c.) and lowest in the Prairie Region (80.4 p.c.). Also, the proportion of operators classed as non-resident was highest on the Prairies, being 14.0 p.c. of all farms compared with a Canada average of 7.7 p.c. Included in this group in the Prairie Provinces were 29,359 farms, which represented 79.1 p.c. of all non-resident farms in Canada. In Saskatchewan, almost one in every five farms (19.2 p.c.) had a non-resident operator in 1961. This predominance of non-residency in the Prairie Provinces is associated with the type of farming that prevails in the region. Grain farming does not require as much close supervision as most other types with the result that a substantial number of the operators live in adjoining towns and villages and commute to the farm.

Farm Population and Labour Force.—The decreasing number of farms in Canada and the continuing substitution of farm labour by machines has resulted in a declining farm population and a smaller agricultural labour force. The total population on Canadian farms was reported at 2,128,400 persons in 1961 compared with 2,911,996 in 1951. The farm population represented 11.7 p.c. of the total population in 1961, down considerably from 20.8 p.c. in 1951. All provinces recorded decreases in farm population during the decade. In the Atlantic Provinces, the farm population made up 8.8 p.c. of the total population in 1961, ranging from a high of 33.2 p.c. in Prince Edward Island to a low of 2.4 p.c. in Newfoundland; in the Central Region, 9.7 p.c. of the total population was classified as farm population in 1961; in the Prairie Provinces, 24.1 p.c. with a high of 33.0 p.c. for Saskatchewan; and in British Columbia, 5.2 p.c.

A similar trend was shown for the agricultural labour force in relation to the total civilian labour force. For all Canada, the 1961 agricultural labour force totalled 648,966 persons and was 10.0 p.c. of the civilian labour force; the corresponding proportion in 1951 was 15.7 p.c. In 1961, the proportion for the three Prairie Provinces and Prince Edward Island exceeded the national average, whereas for the other provinces it was below the Canada average; Saskatchewan with 36.7 p.c. had the highest proportion. In all provinces the agricultural labour force was smaller in 1961 than it had been in 1951. However, the combined effect of the declining agricultural labour force, improved agricultural technology and increasing mechanization has resulted in a steadily upward trend in output per farm