

3.—Numerical Changes in the Population of the Provinces through Natural Increase and Migration 1941-51, 1951-56 and 1956-61

Province	Natural Increase			Population Increase according to Census			Net Migration		
	1941-51	1951-56	1956-61	1941-51	1951-56	1956-61	1941-51	1951-56	1956-61
Nfld.	51,851	59,145	...	53,658	42,779	...	+1,807	-16,366
P.E.I.	15,802	8,959	8,662	3,382	856	5,344	-12,420	-8,103	-3,318
N.S.	103,512	63,133	65,160	64,622	52,133	42,290	-38,890	-11,000	-22,870
N.B.	99,904	59,774	59,687	58,296	38,919	43,320	-41,608	-20,855	-16,367
Que.	736,058	476,627	521,673	723,799	572,697	630,833	-12,259	+96,070	+109,160
Ont.	505,034	430,386	523,107	809,887	807,391	831,159	+304,853	+377,005	+308,052
Man.	107,510	73,684	76,006	46,797	73,499	71,646	-60,713	-185	-4,360
Sask.	135,106	86,030	86,294	-64,264	48,937	44,516	-199,370	-37,093	-41,778
Alta.	150,303	120,961	144,234	143,332	183,615	208,828	-6,971	+62,654	+64,594
B.C.	116,527	98,206	125,585	347,349	233,254	230,618	+230,822	+135,048	+105,033
Canada¹	1,972,394	1,473,211	1,674,987	2,141,358	2,071,362	2,157,456	+168,964	+598,151	+482,469

¹ Includes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The earlier movement of population in Canada 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 267,000 persons between 1941 and 1951, they gained 25,000 in the period 1951-56 and 18,000 in the period 1956-61. Manitoba lost almost 61,000 people between 1941 and 1951 but only 5,000 persons since then. Saskatchewan has been a consistent loser since 1941, losing on the average almost 20,000 a year during the 1940's and around 8,000 a year during the 1950's. Alberta lost only about 7,000 in the decade 1941-51 and gained close to 65,000 in each of the five-year periods 1951-56 and 1956-61. British Columbia gained through migration at the rate of about 23,000 a year during the 1940's, about 27,000 a year in the first half of the 1950's and 21,000 annually in the 1956-61 period. 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 1941 and 1951 and a considerable gain in the next ten years, due also to immigration. The Maritimes as a whole lost 175,000 persons over the quarter-century.

Subsection 2.—Density of Population

Table 4 shows the density of population in the different provinces and territories of Canada in the census years 1951, 1956 and 1961. Omitting the Yukon and Northwest Territories where population density is exceedingly low, there were 8.66 persons per square mile in Canada as a whole in 1961 compared with 6.65 per square mile in 1951. The greatest increase in the ten years was shown by Ontario where there were 4.76 more persons per square mile, followed by Nova Scotia with an increase of 4.62. However, it should be remembered that all provinces with the exception of the Maritimes have large areas almost devoid of population and that concentrations in other areas are very high.