

Table 19 indicates little real change in recent years in the proportion of active civilian physicians who are engaged primarily in private practice, but an increased emphasis on specialization is indicated within both the private practice and "Other Work" groups. The increase between 1959 and 1962 in the proportion of physicians who were "interns, residents, fellows" is in line with the trend toward increased specialization and the longer training period involved.

19.—Percentage Distribution of Active Civilian Physicians by Nature of Major Work in which Engaged, 1954, 1959 and 1962

Nature of Major Work	1954 ¹	1959 (estimate)	1962 (estimate)
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
General private practice ²	43.2	39.3	37.7
Specialist private practice ²	29.1	34.7	35.7
Totals, Private Practice².....	72.3	74.0	73.4
Interns, residents and fellows.....	8.3	8.3	9.0
Other Work—			
Non-specialist.....	8.5	5.7	4.7
Specialist.....	10.8	12.0	12.9
Grand Totals.....	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Data prior to 1959 did not take into account certifications by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec. Although designation as a "specialist" did not depend on the holding of formal specialist qualifications, specialization was nevertheless slightly understated in the data prior to 1959, most particularly in Quebec.

² Includes group practice and partnerships.

Earnings.—More than 95 p.c. of the earnings of privately practising physicians and surgeons in Canada were obtained from fees charged for individual items of professional service. As Table 20 shows, average gross earnings in 1963 from fees plus wages and salaries earned incidental to fee practice were \$28,367. This figure was 9 p.c. higher than in 1962 and 39 p.c. above the 1957 figure. The highest average gross earnings in 1963 were reported in Saskatchewan at \$34,031; in Alberta at \$30,902 and Ontario at \$30,442 they were substantially above the national average. Average gross incomes in the remaining provinces were below the national average and ranged downward from \$27,500 in British Columbia to \$21,034 in Newfoundland. Generally, throughout the seven-year period 1957-63, highest average gross earnings have been most consistently reported in Ontario and the westernmost provinces, with Alberta usually having the highest average of all.

The net returns to doctors, after deduction of the expenses of professional fee practice, reveal similar geographic patterns, as seen in Table 20. Net earnings for Canada as a whole averaged \$18,799 in 1963, 8.8 p.c. higher than in 1962 and about 49 p.c. above the 1957 figure. The highest provincial average net income was reported by Saskatchewan doctors at \$21,436 followed by Ontario doctors at \$21,227. The lowest average net income was reported in Newfoundland.