

Subsection 7.—Ethnic Groups and Birthplaces

Ethnic Groups.—A population made up of diverse ethnic groups gives rise to political, social and economic problems quite different in nature from those of one with a more homogeneous ethnic composition. These problems are mitigated, however, to the extent that certain groups are more easily integrated than others. It is equally true that the different backgrounds of various ethnic groups lend variety and diversity to the national life.

The two basic groups in the Canadian population are the French and British Isles ethnic groups. The influence of the French in Canada covers a longer period and, with the exception of the 1921 Census, this group has always exceeded in number any of the components of the British Isles ethnic group.

In 1961, each person was asked the question: "To what ethnic or cultural group did you or your ancestor (on the male side) belong on coming to this Continent?". The language spoken at the time by the person, or his paternal ancestor, was used as an aid in determining the person's ethnic group. The classification is given for 1961 in Table 15 with comparative figures for 1951 and 1941. Information on ethnic group was not collected in the 1956 or 1966 Censuses.

15.—Distribution of the Population by Ethnic Group, Census Years 1941, 1951 and 1961

Ethnic Group	1941 ¹	1951	1961	
	No.	No.	No.	p.c.
British Isles	5,715,904	6,709,685	7,996,669	43.8
English.....	2,968,402	3,630,344	4,195,175	23.0
Irish.....	1,267,702	1,439,635	1,753,351	9.6
Scottish.....	1,403,974	1,547,470	1,902,302	10.4
Other.....	75,826	92,236	145,841	0.8
Other European	5,526,964	6,572,889	9,657,195	53.0
Austrian.....	37,715	32,231	106,535	0.6
Belgian.....	29,711	35,148	61,382	0.3
Czech and Slovak.....	42,912	63,959	73,061	0.4
Danish.....	37,439	42,671	85,473	0.5
Finnish.....	41,683	43,745	59,436	0.3
French.....	3,483,038	4,319,167	5,640,346	30.4
German.....	464,682	619,995	1,049,599	5.8
Greek.....	11,692	13,966	56,475	0.3
Hungarian.....	54,598	60,460	126,220	0.7
Icelandic.....	21,050	23,307	30,623	0.2
Italian.....	112,625	152,245	450,351	2.5
Jewish.....	170,241	181,670	173,344	1.0
Lithuanian.....	7,789	16,224	27,629	0.2
Netherlands.....	212,863	264,267	429,679	2.4
Norwegian.....	100,718	119,266	148,681	0.8
Polish.....	167,485	219,845	323,517	1.8
Romanian.....	24,689	23,601	43,805	0.2
Russian.....	83,708	91,279	119,188	0.7
Swedish.....	85,396	97,780	121,757	0.7
Ukrainian.....	305,929	395,043	473,337	2.6
Yugoslavic.....	21,214	21,404	68,587	0.4
Other.....	9,787	35,616	88,190	0.5
Asiatic	74,064	72,827	121,753	0.7
Chinese.....	34,627	32,528	58,197	0.3
Japanese.....	23,149	21,663	29,157	0.2
Other.....	16,288	18,636	34,399	0.2
Other Origin	189,723	354,028	462,630	2.5
Native Indian and Eskimo.....	125,521	165,607	220,121	1.2
Negro.....	22,174	18,020	32,127	0.2
Other and not stated.....	42,028 ²	170,401	210,382	1.2

¹ Excludes Newfoundland.

² Includes 35,416 half-breeds.