

Following the phenomenal increase during 1901-11, the intercensal rate of increase dropped during each successive decade until it reached a low of 10.9% during 1931-41 when the reduced birth rates during the economic depression seriously affected population growth. Moreover, immigration during this period was negligible, and as a result there was a net migration loss of about 92,000 persons.

After 1941, the population again registered an accelerated growth, reaching a near-record rate of expansion of 30.2% in 1951-61, nearly three times the rate of increase in 1931-41. Part of the accelerated increase in population after 1941 was accounted for by the addition of Newfoundland in 1949 but the surge in birth rates (commonly referred to as the "baby boom") and the upswing in immigration during the immediate postwar years were the main factors of growth during the period.

After 1956 a steady decline in population growth occurred, reaching a rate of 1.5% per annum in 1966-71. This gradual fall in the growth rate in recent years — the lowest except the depression decade — has evoked special interest mainly because it occurred after the growth

