

quarterly basis. The estimates of population begin with the preceding census counts, to which are added the births of each year and from which the deaths are subtracted; immigrants are added and an estimate of emigrants subtracted. Family allowance statistics showing the number of migrant families by province are used in estimating interprovincial shifts in population. Finally, the next succeeding census serves as a basis for revision of all annual estimates of each intercensal period.

Table 5.6 shows the revised annual population estimates by province for the years 1967 to 1970, and the provisional estimates for 1972. Included in the Table are the actual enumerated counts for the two "benchmark" census years of 1966 and 1971. The estimate for Canada of 21,830,000 population at June 1, 1972 is the result of adding 351,000 births and 118,000 immigrants to the June 1, 1971 Census figure of 21,569,000 and then subtracting 161,000 deaths and a residual of 47,000 representing mainly emigrants.

Cities, towns and villages. As at June 1, 1971, some 65.4% of Canada's population lived in 2,120 centres classified as incorporated cities, towns and villages. These are grouped into 13 broad size categories in Table 5.7. There were only two cities within whose incorporated boundaries the population was over 500,000 (Montreal and Toronto), representing a combined 8.9% of the total population. At the other end of the scale, 1,093 or one half of all incorporated cities, towns and villages had less than 1,000 population, but together they accounted for only 2.1% of Canada's population.

Canadian cities and towns having a population of over 50,000 in 1971 are listed in Table 5.8 together with figures for 1961 and 1966. The date of incorporation to their present status of a city or town is indicated also. Since the population counts for the three census periods relate to the incorporated limits of the city or town at each of these dates, the growth figures are not strictly comparable in those instances where boundary changes due to annexations, etc., have taken place. Asterisks in the table indicate all cases where such changes have occurred.

Metropolitan areas. For census purposes a metropolitan area represents the main labour market of a continuous built-up area having a population of 100,000 or more. The growth of each of the 22 census metropolitan areas can be observed over the period 1951-71 in Table 5.9 where the populations of these areas in earlier censuses have been adjusted to conform to the boundaries delineated for the 1971 Census. For many purposes these figures, which essentially measure the size of Canada's major urban agglomerations, are more meaningful than the data relating only to the incorporated limits of the central cities shown in Table 5.8.

The proportion of Canada's population living in the major metropolitan centres has been steadily increasing in recent years to the point where over one half (55.1%) now reside within the boundaries of the 22 metropolitan areas as defined for the 1971 Census. Calgary showed the highest rate of growth in the most recent 1966-71 period at 22.1%, followed by Edmonton at 16.5%. However, the greatest actual gains were registered by Toronto which increased by 338,000 and by Montreal which gained 172,000. At the same time, Vancouver joined these two metropolitan centres in becoming the third urban agglomeration in Canada to pass the 'over-a-million' population mark.

Because of the growing interest in the expanding population of the larger metropolitan areas of Canada, a series of intercensal estimates was begun in 1957. Table 5.9 includes these estimates for 1972 along with the census counts of 1951-71. As in preparation of intercensal population estimates for provinces, the births occurring in the metropolitan areas between June 1, 1971 and June 1, 1972 were added to the population at the census date and deaths subtracted. Immigrants over this period reporting these metropolitan areas as places of destination were added and allowances made for losses in population by emigration. Also, the net in-movement caused by internal migration was calculated from family allowances and other data.

5.2.2 Population density

At six persons per sq mile in 1971, Canada's crude or average population density still ranks among the lowest in the world. Table 5.10 shows that if the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories were omitted from this calculation, there would be ten persons per sq mile in 1971 compared to eight in 1961 and six in 1951. However, such average density figures over all types of land terrain and open spaces in the country or in individual provinces obscure the high urban densities which can reach close to 20,000 persons per sq mile as in the over-all