



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 4.9 includes these estimates for 1973 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, 1973 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.

4.2.2 Population density

At six persons a sq mile in 1971, Canada's crude or average population density still ranks among the lowest in the world. Table 4.10 shows that if the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories were omitted from this calculation, there would be 10 persons a 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 a sq mile as in the over-all figure for the cities of Montreal and Toronto. Moreover, the highest provincial densities are not necessarily found among the provinces with the largest populations. For example, the highest average density of any province is that of Prince Edward Island (51 persons a sq mile), which has the smallest population and represents an anomaly resulting from its very limited land area rather than from heavy concentrations of population. In contrast, the far more populous province of British Columbia, with its vast mountainous regions and areas of sparse population, has an average density of only six persons a sq mile.