

1951, support this contention. Tables 6.1 to 6.3 provide family income comparisons for the 1951-73 period; although the survey coverage excluded farm population until 1965 comparability with later years is not seriously affected in these tables.

The first set of figures in Table 6.1 gives average incomes in terms of current dollars in selected years from 1951 to 1973 for families (as defined in Section 6.1.1). Average family income was \$3,535 in 1951. This average increased by about 50% in the 1951-61 period to \$5,317 in 1961. It increased by 95% in the 1961-71 period and by about 23%, from \$10,368 to \$12,716, between the years 1971 and 1973. However, the purchasing power of the dollar has eroded during these years through increases in the prices of consumer goods. The second set of figures in Table 6.1 takes account of this factor by converting the income data into constant (1961) dollars. Thus it provides a better perspective to examine changes in incomes and shows that there has been a consistent improvement in real incomes over the years since 1951. The data also indicate that improvements in incomes were not restricted to any particular region but were experienced throughout the country. However, the rates of regional increases were such that, as shown in Table 6.2, the relative differentials between incomes in the five main regions tended to persist.

Table 6.3 shows how the size distributions of income, expressed in terms of constant (1961) dollars, have shifted since 1951. The median income of families has consistently moved up so that while 77% of all families received an income of less than \$5,000 in 1951, this proportion decreased to 52% in 1961 and to 26% in 1973. On the other hand, fewer than 3% of all families received an income of \$10,000 or more in 1951 but this proportion more than doubled by 1961 and had increased to 30% by 1973.

### 6.1.3 Major sources of income

The percentage distribution of families by major source of income within income quintiles is shown in Table 6.4 for selected years between 1951 and 1973. Data on income are quite informative when presented in a quintile arrangement. For this type of analysis families are arranged in an ascending order of the size of total income and divided into five equal groups or quintiles. The characteristics (e.g. major sources of income) of each of the five groups are then compared.

Table 6.4 shows that the major source of income of nearly half the families (48.2%) in the lowest income quintile in 1951 was wages and salaries. By 1973 only 35.5% of families in this group gave wages and salaries as their major source of income. In 1951 the main source of income of 26.6% of families in this quintile was government transfer payments; by 1973 this proportion had risen to 45.5%. At the other end of the scale, in the highest quintile for over four fifths of families (85.9%) in 1951 the major source of income was wages and salaries. By 1973 this percentage had risen to 90.0%, whereas the second-largest source of income for this group (net income from self-employment) declined from 11.6% to 7.8% over the period.

### 6.1.4 Provincial income distributions

While family incomes in current (1973) dollars averaged \$12,716 in that year, Table 6.5 shows that at the provincial level they ranged from a low of \$8,572 for families in Prince Edward Island to a high of \$13,942 for families in British Columbia. Ontario families received on the average almost as much, \$13,912.

Family income distributions in 1973 showed almost 60% of more than 5.2 million Canadian families receiving incomes of \$10,000 or over. For Ontario, with approximately 2.0 million families, the corresponding figure was 61.9% and for British Columbia, with an estimated 576,000 families, it was 67.7%. At the other end of the scale only 31.3% of Prince Edward Island's roughly 23,000 families, and 37.1% of Newfoundland's 110,000 families, had incomes at this level.

### 6.1.5 Incomes by family characteristics

Distributions of family incomes are produced for a range of variables representing different income-influencing characteristics of the family or its head. These include such characteristics of the head as sex, age, marital status, employment status, occupation group, and education. Other family characteristics used for classifying incomes include tenure (whether owner or tenant), size of family, number of children, number and combinations of income recipients, and labour force participation of wife. While only three summary classifica-