

Religious denominations. Census figures do not measure church membership or the degree of affiliation with a particular religious body. Respondents were asked "What is your religion?" and to enter a specific religious denomination, sect or community, with the opportunity to report "no religion" if so desired. As shown in Table 4.20, three out of every four persons in Canada in 1971 reported one of the three numerically largest denominations — Roman Catholic, United Church or Anglican. Largest relative gains since 1961 occurred in such groups as Jehovah's Witnesses and Pentecostal. None of the major denominations registered numerical declines in the 1961-71 period, but the Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Church groups were among those showing percentage losses relative to the total population.

Country of birth. The proportion of the population born outside Canada ranged from a high of 22% throughout the period 1911-31, following heavy waves of immigration, to a low of 15% in 1951 following a period of lower immigration and rising birth rates. Persons born in the United Kingdom comprised over 11% of the population in 1911 and 1921, but this declined gradually to 4.3% by 1971 in the face of the rising proportions of Canadian-born and immigration from other European countries. Persons born in the latter countries rose from 5.6% of Canada's population in 1911 to 7.8% in 1971 (Table 4.21).

4.3.4 The native peoples

Many centuries before the first European settlers arrived on what is now Canadian soil, this vast country had received immigrants in the prehistoric period. Present-day Inuit (Eskimos) and Indians are the descendants of these early settlers but as a result of heavy immigration by other groups they now represent less than 2% of Canada's population. Administration relating to the affairs of the Indian and Inuit peoples is described in Chapter 3. Demographic data on their numbers and locations, from the 1971 Census of Canada summary figures, show a total of 295,215 native Indian people and 17,550 Inuit. The former figure includes both registered or status Indians and non-status.

From a later source, there were 282,762 persons registered as status Indians by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as of December 31, 1975. These are persons who are entitled to be so registered in accordance with the terms of the Indian Act. They comprise 566 bands who occupy or have access to some 2,216 reserves having a combined area of about 6.2 million acres (2.5 million ha). Membership of these bands is distributed among the provinces and territories as shown in Table 4.22. The 29 Indian bands in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories are located in seven reserves and in 46 settlements that have not been formally designated as reserves. There are presently no Indian bands in Newfoundland.

About two thirds of Canada's roughly 18,000 Inuit reported in the 1971 Census live in communities in the Northwest Territories (11,400), and the remainder mainly in Arctic Quebec (3,800), Labrador (1,000), and Northern Ontario (800). As in the rest of Canada, the Inuit birth rate has been declining, but at a faster rate and from a much higher level. By 1971 the birth rate for the Inuit population in the Northwest Territories had decreased to about 38 per 1,000 as compared with the Canadian average of 17 per 1,000.

4.4 Households and families

4.4.1 Household size and type

A household, as defined in the census, consists of a person or a group of persons occupying one dwelling, usually a family with or without lodgers or employees. However, it may consist of a group of unrelated persons, of two or more families sharing a dwelling, or of one person living alone. The statistics presented in this section pertain to private households only. Collective households such as hotels,