

motels, institutions of various types (usually considered to contain 10 or more persons unrelated to the household head) have been excluded.

The number of private households in Canada increased to 6 million in 1971 from 4.5 million a decade earlier, a gain of almost one third. The population rate of increase was considerably lower at 18%. This difference reflects the marked rise in the number of households of only one or two persons. Table 4.23 shows that the rate of growth in the number of households was not uniform across the country. During the 1961-71 period, urban areas experienced 44.6% growth compared to only 1.9% for rural areas. Growth rates ranged from 9.1% in Saskatchewan to 45.4% in British Columbia and 60.2% in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. Quebec, Ontario and Alberta had growth rates higher than the national average.

Households by size. Table 4.23 also shows the average size of households by province for 1961, 1966 and 1971. In the 1971 Census, the average Canadian household had 3.5 persons as compared to 3.7 in 1966 and 3.9 in 1961. In all these censuses, the average number of persons per household was highest in Newfoundland. While the decline in the average size of households during 1961-66 was attributable to mainly two provinces, New Brunswick and Quebec, a further drop in the average size during 1966-71 was realized in all provinces. The average household size in rural areas was 3.9 persons, compared to 3.4 persons in urban areas.

Households by type. All private-type households are divided for census purposes into two basic categories: family households and non-family households. Table 4.24 shows the distribution on this basis for 1961, 1966 and 1971.

Family households increased in number from 3.9 million in 1961 to almost 4.4 million in 1966 and to 4.9 million in 1971, but dropped proportionately from 86.7% in 1961 to 84.5% in 1966 and to 81.7% in 1971. The proportion consisting of two or more families dropped from 3.7% in 1961 to 2.0% in 1971, indicating a decrease in over-crowding in households. Non-family households, on the other hand, increased in number and in proportion to the total number of households; this is mainly attributable to the increase in the proportion of one-person households from 9.3% in 1961 to 11.4% in 1966 and 13.4% in 1971. Thus, new family formation alone was not responsible for the overall increase in the number of households; some family persons and families who previously shared accommodation now maintained their own households.

The distribution of households by type varied significantly with the sex of the head. Only 35.6% (354,565) of the 997,240 households with female heads were family households, compared to 90.8% (4,578,885) for the 5,044,065 households with male heads. Almost half (49.1%, or 489,865) of all female-head households consisted of women living alone. The corresponding figure for households with male heads was only 6.4% (321,970).

Households by age and marital status of head. The upward trend in households headed by persons under 25 years of age is indicated in Table 4.25. Although total households increased by 16.6% between 1966 and 1971, the number of households with heads under 25 years of age grew by 54.0%, reaching 414,470 in 1971 from 269,065 in 1966. By province, this group increased by as much as 72.6% in Manitoba and 63.0% in Newfoundland. Quebec registered the largest growth in households with heads 70 years of age and over, increasing 17.5% to 125,095 in 1971 compared to 106,459 in 1966. Nationally, however, the proportion of households with heads 70 and over declined to 10.3% from 10.7%.

Growth in the number of households analyzed by marital status of head may be seen in Table 4.26. The most significant increase during the 1961-71 period was recorded by households with divorced heads, at 316.9%; the proportion of households with divorced heads more than tripled from 0.6% in 1961 to 1.9% in 1971. At 92.2%, the increase in households with single never-married heads was the next highest. The rate of increase over the decade was 36.4% for households