

Grounds for divorce. A cause for divorce can be mentioned singly in a decree or in combination with others. Table 4.52 indicates that in 1974 "separation for not less than 3 years" was the most frequent cause of divorce, accounting for 33.8% of all causes reported. This was followed by adultery (29.4%), mental cruelty (16.2%), and physical cruelty (13.8%).

Dependent children. Of the 45,019 divorces granted in 1974, 41.3% involved no dependent children. Table 4.53 shows increases in the proportion of divorces involving dependent children from 55.4% in 1971 to 58.7% in 1974. Almost two out of every five of the latter cases involved one child only, and almost one third of them involved two children.

Duration of marriage. The duration of marriage in 15.5% of the divorces in Canada in 1974 was less than five years, and in 43.7% of the cases it was less than 10 years. The short-term trend over four years indicates a relative shortening of the average marriage period before divorce. Table 4.54 shows that in 1971 only 14.4% of the divorces involved marriages of less than five years duration and 39.6% to those of less than 10 years. The median duration of marriage for 1971 divorces was 12.6 years, as compared to 11.7 in 1974.

Marital status. More than nine out of every 10 persons divorced in 1974 were single at the time of their marriage, i.e. representing a first divorce. Slightly over 5% of the divorces were to persons who were divorced at the time of their last marriage, and a little less than 2% to those who were widowed. (Table 4.55)

Migration

4.9

Sections 4.5 to 4.8 were concerned with the vital components of population change (fertility, mortality, nuptiality). In addition to these factors, the flows of population across national borders (immigration and emigration) also affect the country's growth and demographic structure. This section provides data on the numbers and characteristics of immigrants entering Canada (Tables 4.56 to 4.62), as well as estimates of the numbers of emigrants leaving (Table 4.63). The relative influence of net migration (the excess of immigrants over emigrants) compared to natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) in past growth rates of Canada over the period 1851-1971 is shown in Table 4.2.

On the subject of internal migration within Canada, some estimates of total net migration by province in the 1961-71 period are given in Table 4.5. Demographic studies resulting from the 1971 Census will provide detailed analyses of the most recent trends on internal migration within Canada as did the monographs from the 1961 Census. Brief summary data from the 1971 Census are provided in Tables 4.64 to 4.66.

Immigration

4.9.1

There are three principal objectives of Canada's immigration policy: to stimulate economic growth and encourage social and cultural development; to encourage family reunion; and to alleviate the plight of refugees through humanitarian programs. Immigration law, regulations and practice are designed to protect Canadian national security, public health and economic and social welfare by excluding people whose presence in Canada would endanger these interests.

The Immigration Regulations describe the standards immigrants must meet to qualify for admission. Since 1967 Canada's immigration policies have been based on non-discrimination and universality. Considered are such things as the applicant's occupational skills, training, ability and personal initiative.

On January 1, 1973 the Minister of Manpower and Immigration introduced regulations designed to control the employment and long-term visits of non-immigrants, and since November 5, 1972 persons seeking permanent residence in Canada have been required to apply at an immigration office outside Canada.