



built-up area including the largest city and, where applicable, the urban part of surrounding municipalities, the urban fringe and rural fringe. A CA with an urbanized core of 100,000 or more, based on previous census figures, is called a census metropolitan area (CMA). Usually the CMA or CA takes the name of its largest component city.

Metropolitan areas. For census purposes a metropolitan area represents the main labour market of a continuous built-up area having a population of 100,000 or more. The growth of 22 census metropolitan areas over the period 1951-71 appears in Table 4.9. Populations of these areas in earlier censuses were adjusted to conform to the boundaries delineated for the 1971 Census. The 1976 Census population figures have been added, based on 1976 census metropolitan areas. The 1976 Census saw the addition of a 23rd census metropolitan area, Oshawa. Population figures from the 1971 Census have been adjusted to conform to the boundaries delineated for the 1976 Census for this metropolitan area.

The proportion of Canada's population in the major metropolitan centres increased steadily and over one-half (55.7%) resided in the 23 metropolitan areas as defined for the 1976 Census. Calgary CMA showed the highest rate of growth in the period 1971-76 at 16.5%, followed by Kitchener at 14.1% (based on 1976 areas). The greatest gains in numbers were registered by Toronto at 175,058 and Vancouver at 83,996 (based on 1976 areas). The Toronto CMA became the largest in Canada, with a population of 2,803,101, some 7.7% more than in 1971, while Montreal was close behind at 2,802,485, showing a growth of 2.7% since 1971 (Table 4.9).

Because of the growing interest in the expanding metropolitan areas a series of intercensal estimates was begun in 1957. As in the preparation of intercensal population