

comprised over 11% of the population in 1911 and 1921, but this declined gradually to 4.3% by 1971 because 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 in what is now Canada, the country received immigrants in the prehistoric period. Present-day Inuit 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 summary figures, show a total of 295,215 native Indians and 17,550 Inuit. The former figure includes both registered or status Indians and non-status.

From a later source, there were 288,938 persons registered as status Indians by the Indian affairs and northern development department at December 31, 1976. These persons are entitled to registration in accordance with the terms of the Indian Act. They comprise 568 bands who occupy or have access to some 2,230 reserves having a combined area of about 2.6 million hectares. 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 at present no Indian bands in Newfoundland.

About two-thirds of Canada's 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, motels, institutions of various types (usually considered to contain 10 or more persons unrelated to the household head) have been excluded as well as households outside Canada for the 1971 and 1976 data.

The number of private households in Canada increased to 7.2 million in 1976 from 5.2 million a decade earlier, a gain of 38%. The population rate of increase was considerably lower at 14%. 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 1971-76 period, growth rates ranged from 8.7% in Saskatchewan to 23.9% in British Columbia and 30.2% in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. New Brunswick and Alberta had growth rates higher than the national average of 18.6%.

Households by size. Table 4.23 also shows the average size of households by province for 1966, 1971 and 1976. In the 1976 Census, the average Canadian household had 3.1 persons as compared to 3.5 in 1971 and 3.7 in 1966. In all these censuses, the average number of persons per household was highest in Newfoundland. While the decline in average size of households during 1966-71 was seen mainly in the Maritime provinces and Quebec, a further decline during 1971-76 was realized in all provinces.