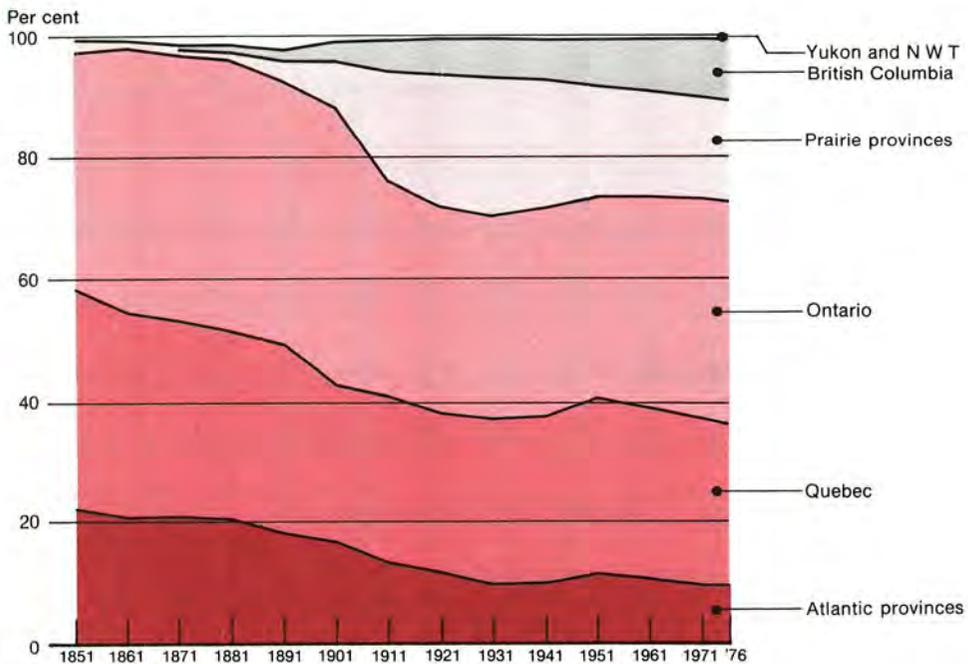


Distribution of population by region, 1851-1976



Note: Atlantic includes Newfoundland from 1951.

3.5, according to the electoral district boundaries established by the 1976 Representation Order.

Historically, a census of population was taken every 10 years, in 1851 and thereafter, and this pattern was continued after Canada's Confederation in 1867. Thus the 1981 Census is the 12th in a series of decennial censuses since Confederation.

Quinquennial census. In 1956 a new census was added, to keep statistical information abreast of the demographic and socio-economic factors that form the foundation for decision making in both private and public sectors. These censuses would be taken every fifth year between decennial censuses.

For the third quinquennial census, every person whose usual place of residence on June 1, 1976 was in Canada was asked questions covering age, sex, marital status, relationship to head of household, and mother tongue (the language first learned and still understood). Housing type and tenure were asked for each household. Sampling was also used; persons 15 and over of every third private household provided answers for school attendance, level of schooling, labour force activity and migration (place of residence five years ago).

Plans for the 1981 Census incorporated questions on the topics for the 1976 Census as well as inquiries concerning fertility, language use, occupation, industry, income, and a series of questions on housing.

The census is a principal source of information for measuring social and economic change, and for detecting those needs which necessitate the development and implementation of policies and programs such as regional development, health and welfare programs, education facilities, immigration, low income housing and transportation networks.