

Anglican. Largest relative gains since 1961 occurred in such groups as Jehovah's Witnesses and Pentecostal. None of the major denominations registered numerical declines in the 1961-71 period, but the Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Church groups were among those showing percentage losses relative to the total population.

Country of birth. The proportion of the population born outside Canada ranged from a high of 22% in the period 1911-31 to a low of 15% in 1951 following a period of lower immigration and rising birth rates. Persons born in the United Kingdom 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.

4.3.4 The native peoples

Many centuries before the first European settlers arrived, the country that is now Canada 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 295,898 persons registered as status Indians by the Indian affairs and northern development department at December 31, 1977. These persons are entitled to registration in accordance with the terms of the Indian Act. They comprise 573 bands who occupy or have access to some 2,233 reserves having a combined area of about 2.6 million hectares. Membership of these bands is distributed among the provinces and territories (Table 4.22). The 29 Indian bands in Yukon and Northwest Territories are located on 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. 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 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.

Tables 4.23 - 4.26 give summary statistics showing, among other details, growth in the number of households, a trend to smaller household groups and an increase in one-person households; there were increases of nearly 453% in households with divorced heads, of over 99% in the number of households with never-married heads, and of 41% in the number with younger heads (under 25).

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