

government and private sponsors. Churches, service organizations, ethnic and immigrant aid groups across the country marshalled their resources to sponsor refugees or assist in helping them. By the end of 1979, some 5,457 voluntary groups had applied to sponsor about 29,233 refugees. Assistance available particularly through voluntary sponsorship and provincial services facilitates the social and economic integration of the refugees into Canadian communities. Sponsorship is providing geographical distribution throughout Canada, including rural areas which normally receive few immigrants. By the end of 1979 refugee aid groups, employers, employment counsellors and language instructors generally assessed the refugees favourably in their attitudes toward integration and becoming self-reliant.

There are Canada employment and immigration offices in more than 60 cities throughout the world, and examination of immigrants and visitors is carried out at more than 500 ports of entry in Canada.

Canada received 109,274 immigrants in 1977-78, a decrease of 23% from 1976-77. The extent of immigration to Canada in any period is affected by conditions at home and abroad. Immigrant arrivals for the period 1952-78 are shown in Table 4.52.

Origin of immigrants. In 1978 Canada received 86,313 immigrants from various countries of origin. Tables 4.53 and 4.54, showing the country of last permanent residence and of citizenship of immigrants, indicate that by world area Europe, Asia, North and Central America, Africa and Australasia contributed a lower proportion of the total immigration in 1978 than in the previous year. The British Isles was the largest source area for immigrants with 11,801 in 1978, followed by the United States with 9,945.

Destination of immigrants. On arrival in Canada, immigrants are asked to state their intended destination. According to these records, Ontario absorbed by far the highest proportion of arrivals during 1978 — 49% of both males and females. Quebec was the second most-favoured province of destination, receiving 17.5% of males and 15.7% of females, followed by British Columbia with 13.7% of males and 14.8% of females. The proportions intending to settle in the Prairie provinces were 17.8% for males and 16.9% for females, and in the Atlantic provinces, 3.0% for males and 2.5% for females. The provincial distribution has changed little from year to year over the past two decades.

Sex, age and marital status. The sex distribution of immigrants for 1974-78 is shown in Table 4.56. In 1978 males constituted 46.4% of the immigrants and adult females 53.6%. The number of female immigrants coming into Canada was higher than the number of male immigrants in every year from 1975 to 1978. Table 4.57 gives the marital status of immigrants, by sex and age group for 1977 and 1978.

Intended occupations. Some 35,211 persons were added to the labour force in 1978 compared with 47,625 in 1977. The remainder, those not destined to the labour force, were mainly dependents of immigrants or close relatives sponsored by individuals in Canada. Persons employed in clerical occupations represented the largest occupations group with 5,000 workers. Other major groups were: product fabricating, and assembling and repairing with 4,127; services with 3,634; professional and technical with 2,963; managerial and administrative with 2,697; and construction with 1,888.

Emigration

4.6.2

Since the only statement a Canadian resident may be required to file on leaving the country is his income tax return, one cannot know the actual number of Canadian residents who emigrate from Canada each year. However, a fairly accurate estimate of the number of Canadian residents who emigrated from Canada in intercensal periods can be obtained by using data from past censuses and statistics on births, deaths and immigration for the intercensal periods (Table 4.59). Preliminary annual estimates of emigration of Canadian residents in postcensal years are obtained from annual statistics on immigration to the United States and to the United Kingdom and an assumed annual volume (48,000) of migration from Canada to all other countries. These preliminary estimates are considered to be less accurate than the estimates for preceding years because of the different method used to obtain them.