

Although the number of persons emigrating from Canada varies from one year to another, Table 4.59 shows a general decline since the 1961 Census. During the past 17 years, an average of 82,400 persons emigrated annually with the highest number (111,500) in 1967-68 and the lowest (62,300) in 1972-73. Preliminary estimates for recent years are among the lowest in the period, and indicate only 69,600 emigrants for 1976-77 and 70,200 for 1977-78.

4.6.3 Internal migration

As people move from one place to another within a nation, they set up patterns of migration which differ in intensity and directional flow. These internal movements have marked effects on regional economies and influence future population growth. Thus it is of value to measure these various migration streams, such as from rural to urban centres, from cities to suburbs, and from one province or economic region to another.

Migration by province of birth. Census figures on province of birth shed some light on internal migration flows by comparing the number of persons born in a given province with their present province of residence. Such figures do not indicate the periodicity of the migrating process, and apply only to the Canadian-born population presently living in a given province. Nevertheless they do reflect something of the major patterns of interprovincial movement over the years.

Data from the 1971 Census (Table 4.60) show that Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia were net gainers of Canadian-born migrants from other provinces, while the remaining provinces were net losers (these data were not asked in the 1976 Census). Newfoundland showed only 3.3% of the 1971 population as having been born in another province and Ontario 4.6%, while British Columbia showed the highest number (37.4%). These percentages reflect low rates of Canadian-born migrants to the former two provinces and a high rate to the latter. On the other hand, Saskatchewan-born persons were the most likely to be found living in a province other than that of their birth (40.0%), showing a high rate of migration, while Quebec-born (6.1%) and Ontario-born (7.4%) persons were the least likely reflecting low rates.

Migration by residence five years ago. Perhaps the most useful estimates on internal migration result from questions in national censuses which seek to determine the exact place of residence of each person on the preceding census date five years earlier. From a comparison with the location of their present residence, it is possible to estimate the size, directional flows and characteristics of the migrating population. Such questions were included in the 1961, 1971 and 1976 censuses of Canada. Migration trends as revealed by the 1961 and 1971 censuses were issued in monographs (Statistics Canada Catalogues 99-548 and 99-557), profiles (Statistics Canada Catalogue 99-705) and other studies (Statistics Canada Catalogues 99-513, 99-154, 99-751 and 99-752). A few basic summary results of the 1976 Census, which included questions on place of residence five years earlier at June 1, 1971, are presented in Tables 4.61 and 4.62.

Table 4.61 shows that almost half (48.5%) of Canada's population age 5 and over in 1976 living in a different dwelling than five years earlier, 23.5% had moved within the same municipality and 25.1% had moved from one municipality to another. The last group consisted of 16.5% who moved within the same province, 4.3% from one province to another, 0.9% whose province of residence in 1971 was not stated and 3.4% from outside Canada.

Table 4.62 summarizes the effect of migration on provincial populations for 1971-76. Ontario was the most favoured province of destination for migrants from other provinces (22.3%) but it was also the largest single provincial source of interprovincial migrants (28.0%). This resulted in a net internal migration loss of 52,505 people. Net internal migration losses were also experienced by Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The Maritime provinces, traditional losers in net internal migration, recorded gains along with British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The overall effect of immigration (including returning Canadians) on net migration for 1971-76 was a population gain for each province and territory except Newfoundland and Saskatchewan. Among provinces receiving the largest share of immigrants were Ontario (50.5%), British Columbia (15.9%) and Quebec (15.5%). However, the 1976