

76% of these reported British as one component of their ethnic origin.

Among those who provided a single response to ethnic origin, the largest group was British, 40.2% of the population. French was the second largest group at 26.7% followed by German (4.7%), Italian (3.1%) and Ukrainian (2.2%).

Newfoundland had the largest proportion of its population with a common ethnic background, over 92% reporting British as the sole ethnic heritage. In Quebec just over 80% identified French as the sole ethnic background. At the other extreme the population of Saskatchewan, with 38% British origin, was the least concentrated in a single origin.

Northwest Territories was the only area where the largest ethnic designation was neither British nor French, but native peoples.

**Religious denominations.** In 1981 the 11.4 million Catholics formed 47.3% of the population and 9.9 million Protestants 41.2%. The remaining population was divided among those with no religious preference, 7.4%, Eastern Orthodox, 1.5%, Jewish, 1.2% and other small groups 1.3%.

Two provinces were predominantly Catholic, Quebec with 88.2% of its population and New Brunswick with 53.9%. All other provinces had a Protestant majority.

Nearly 1.8 million persons who reported themselves as having no religious preference showed an increase in proportion in this category by 90% between 1971 and 1981.

One-half of persons of Jewish religion lived in Ontario, where they numbered 148,255 or 1.7% of the population. Another one-third or 102,355 were in Quebec, where they accounted for 1.6% of the population.

Buddhists recorded the largest 10-year increase among religious groups, up 223% to 51,955. Pentecostals had the second largest rate of growth, increasing 54%. Other religious groups increasing since 1971 included Mormons, up 36%; Roman Catholics, up 13%; Jewish, up 8%; and the United Church, up 1%. By contrast, Unitarians decreased by 31%; Doukhobors, 27%; Presbyterians, 6%; and Anglicans 3%.

The Atlantic provinces had the smallest proportion stating no religious preference, ranging from 1% in Newfoundland to 4% in Nova Scotia. This category rose to just over 7% of the population of both Ontario and Manitoba, to 11.7% in Alberta, 20.3% in Yukon and 20.5% in British Columbia. Just over 6% of the people of both Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories reported no religious preference.

**Place of birth.** The 1981 Census showed that nearly 3.9 million persons, 16.1% of the population were born outside Canada. This was an increase of 17.3% over the number in the 1971 Census.

Europe continued to be the main area of birth of the population born outside Canada, but the

European-born population decreased from 79.7% of the total foreign born in 1971 to 66.9% in 1981.

Between 1971 and 1981 there were large increases in the number of persons born in Asia, up 228% to 543,495, the Caribbean Islands, up 153% to 172,245 and Central and South America, up 199% to 107,960.

In 1981, 85% of the Canadian born were living in their province of birth. This varied widely by province from 92.2% for those born in Quebec to 58.2% for those born in Saskatchewan.

Reflecting the impact of mobility is the fact that nearly 30% of the Canadian population was born outside the 1981 province of residence. In British Columbia 54% of the population was born outside the province but only 6% of Newfoundland's population was born elsewhere.

#### 2.5.4 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 only 2% of Canada's population. Demographic data on their numbers and locations, from the 1981 Census summary figures, show a total of 491,460 native Indians and 25,390 Inuit. The former figure includes both registered or status Indians and non-status.

There were 323,782 persons registered as status Indians by the Indian affairs and northern development department at December 31, 1981. These persons are entitled to registration in accordance with the terms of the Indian Act. They comprise 576 bands who occupy or have access to some 2,251 reserves having a combined area exceeding 2.6 million hectares. Membership of these bands is distributed among the provinces and territories. The 29 Indian bands in Yukon and Northwest Territories occupy or have access to eight reserves and reside in 50 settlements that have not been formally designated as reserves. There are at present no Indian bands in Newfoundland.

Nearly two-thirds of the Inuit reported in the 1981 Census lived in communities in Northwest Territories (15,910), and the remainder mainly in Arctic Quebec (4,875), Labrador (1,850) and Northern Ontario (1,095).

#### 2.6 Households and families

The number of private households in Canada increased to nearly 8.3 million in 1981 from 7.2 million in 1976. Of the total, 6.2 million (75.2%) were family households and 2 million (24.8%) were non-family households.

A private household, as defined in the census, consists of a person or a group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy one dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in