

consultation with the provinces, provides for an annual forecast of the number of immigrants Canada will admit each year. It establishes a family class, allowing Canadian citizens and permanent residents to sponsor a wide range of relatives. In 1988, regulations were passed to expand opportunities for family reunion under the family class and assisted relative categories. The Act also confirms Canada's protective obligations to refugees under the United Nations Convention and establishes refugees as an admissible immigrant class. It requires that immigrant and visitor visas and student and employment authorizations be obtained abroad, prohibiting visitors from changing their status from within Canada. The Act also stipulates categories of people who are inadmissible to Canada and provides sanctions against illegal migration.

The Act provides for a provincial role in the selection of immigrants and temporary residents. Quebec exercises a very full role in these areas; some other provinces play a more limited role.

Canada's refugee policy includes two major elements, resettlement and protection. Traditionally, permanent residence has been provided for the displaced and persecuted when other solutions to refugee problems were not possible. The size and scope of the resettlement program are determined through an annual refugee plan approved by Cabinet. As a complement to the plan, humanitarian assistance is extended to others who are displaced or in need due to emergency situations. Refugees can be brought into Canada under government sponsor and receive settlement assistance, or through sponsorship by private groups which help the refugee adjust to life in Canada.

The Immigration Act contains provisions to respond to persons who, while temporarily in Canada, claim refugee status. Those recognized as convention refugees can be afforded Canada's protection. In June 1988, legislation was passed to give Canada a new refugee determination system. The new system which respects the Canadian Charter of Rights and the Geneva Convention is offering refugees protection in Canada, while providing for effective means to deal with those who would abuse the system. The legislation created the new Immigration and Refugee Board to assess claims, in part, to refugee status.

Through both refugee and humanitarian programs, 21,565 people were helped to resettle in Canada in 1987.

The immigration program is delivered not only by the Commission at 105 Canada Immigration Centres, but by the Department of External

Affairs at 65 Canadian diplomatic missions abroad, and by Revenue Canada Customs at Canadian points of entry. The Department of National Health and Welfare oversees medical examinations of immigrants and some temporary residents, while the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service is responsible for background checks where required.

The extent of immigration to Canada in any period is affected by conditions at home and abroad. The Immigration Act requires the Minister, after reviewing domestic economic and demographic trends, in consultation with the provinces and any other interested parties, to announce annually the number of immigrants Canada plans to admit over a specified period. The announced level for 1988 was 125,000 to 135,000. Immigrant arrivals for the years 1984-87 are shown in Table 2.39.

**Origin of immigrants.** In 1987, Canada received 152,098 immigrants from various countries of origin, up from 99,219 in 1986. Tables 2.39 and 2.40 show the country of last permanent residence and of citizenship of immigrants. Immigrants from Asia constituted 44.3% of the influx in 1987. Immigration from Europe was 24.7%. The major source countries were: Hong Kong (10.6%), India (6.4%), Great Britain (5.6%), United States (5.2%) and the Philippines (4.8%).

**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 number of arrivals during 1987 (84,807). Quebec received 26,822 immigrants and British Columbia, 18,913. The Prairie provinces received 18,893 immigrants, the Atlantic provinces, 2,486 and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, 152.

**Sex, age and marital status.** The sex distribution of immigrants for 1977-87 is shown in Table 2.42. In 1987, females constituted 49.3% of the immigrants and males 50.7%. Table 2.43 gives the marital status of immigrants by sex for 1984 and 1985 and by age groups for 1986-87.

### 2.10.2 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 one province or economic region to another, from rural to urban centres and from one metropolitan area to another.