Section 2.—Intercensal Estimates and Movement of Population

Intercensal estimates of the population have many uses. They constitute a base for vital statistics rates, per capita figures of production and trade, and other analyses. More recently, they have proved useful for estimates of labour force and other population characteristics of data collected in sample surveys.

Estimates are constructed in the first place for the total population of Canada and for each province. It is a requirement that these be made available about the date to which they apply, June 1 of each year. As final figures on the components of population changes are not ready at that date, the numbers of births, deaths and immigrants are partly filled in by extrapolation so that a preliminary figure is secured for the June to May interval. To avoid a cumulative error the calculation, in effect, starts anew with the latest preceding census for each year's estimates and uses the most up-to-date figures then available. To the census figures are added the births of the intervening years and the deaths are subtracted. Immigrants are added and emigrants are subtracted. On the last item of this calculation there is least information; it is possible to ascertain from United States immigration figures the number of Canadians entering the United States and sometimes the number of those going to the United Kingdom but data are not available for other countries.

The program of population estimates calls for two figures to be given in respect of each year: one based on preliminary materials, as described above, necessarily involving an extrapolation of birth, death and immigration returns, and the other on final figures subject to no further change. The latter can be made available only when the last item of information has been secured and this last item is the succeeding decennial census. With the release of the 1951 Census totals, the estimates were revised for the decade 1941-51.

Since estimates for successive years are independently calculated back to the latest census, the best estimate of the balance of population change is not obtained by subtracting the figure for one year from that for the year following. Much interest attaches to the year-to-year balance and the following statement is presented, which gives all available data on that point.

Year	Calendar-Year Data[1]				Estimated Population as at June 1[1]
	Births	*Deaths*	*Natural Increase*	*Immigration*	
1941	255,317	114,639	140,678	9,329	11,490,000
1942	272,313	112,978	159,335	7,576	11,637,000
1943	283,580	118,635	164,945	8,504	11,778,000
1944	284,220	116,052	168,168	12,801	11,929,000
1945	288,730	113,414	175,316	22,722	12,055,000
1946	330,732	114,931	215,801	71,719	12,268,000
1947	359,094	117,725	241,369	64,127	12,527,000
1948	347,307	119,384	227,923	125,414	12,799,000
1949	366,139	124,047	242,092	95,217	13,423,000
1950	371,071	123,789	247,282	73,912	13,688,000
1951	380,101	125,454	254,647	191,391	13,984,000
1952	402,527	125,950	276,577	164,498	14,405,000[2]
1953	416,825	127,381	289,444	168,868	14,756,000[2]

[1] Exclusive of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Newfoundland included from 1949.
[2] Subject to adjustment as later data are made available.