

Section 6.—Religions

At each census the actual numbers attached to any religious denomination, as reported by the persons enumerated, have been recorded. The growth of the different denominations from an early date is traced statistically in Table 13.

Over the period from 1871 to 1941 something like 40 p.c. of the population of Canada has been of the Roman Catholic faith. This proportion has been remarkably constant over the 70 years. The 1941 percentage (inclusive of Greek Catholics) was 43.34 p.c. Methodists were 15.67 p.c. of the population in 1871 but fell to 13.19 p.c. in 1921. Presbyterians increased from 15.57 p.c. in 1871 to 16.04 p.c. in 1921; they were reinforced by the considerable immigration from Scotland after the beginning of the century. The organization of the United Church of Canada in 1925 left the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists much weaker in membership. Almost all Methodists, the main body of Congregationalists and a large number of Presbyterians united to form that Church.

Among some of the numerically larger European races in Canada the leading religious denominations at the 1941 Census were: German—32.0 p.c. Lutheran, 25.0 p.c. Roman Catholic and 14.2 p.c. United Church; Ukrainian—62.3 p.c. Roman Catholic and 29.1 p.c. Greek Orthodox; Scandinavian—59.8 p.c. Lutheran, 17.0 p.c. United Church and 6.8 p.c. Anglican; Netherlanders—30.5 p.c. Mennonite, 28.1 p.c. United Church, 11.4 p.c. Anglican and 7.6 p.c. Baptist. About 81 p.c. of the people of Polish origin were Roman Catholic and 91 p.c. of the Italians reported this religious denomination. It is interesting to note that 13.6 p.c. of the Chinese stated that they belonged to the United Church and 7 p.c. to the Presbyterian Church, while 21.4 p.c. of the Japanese reported United Church as their religious denomination.

13.—Religions of the People, Census Years 1871-1941, with Percentage Distribution for 1941

Religion	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	p.c.
Adventist.....	6,179	7,211	6,354	8,058	10,406	14,179	16,026	18,449	0.16
Anglican.....	501,269	574,818	646,059	681,494	1,043,017	1,407,780	1,635,615	1,751,188	15.22
Baptist.....	243,714	296,525	303,839	318,005	382,720	421,730	443,341	483,592	4.20
Brethren.....	2,305	8,831	11,637	8,014	9,278	11,580	13,472	13,767	0.12
Buddhist.....	-	-	-	10,407	10,012	11,281	15,784	15,635	0.14
Christian.....	15,153	-	-	7,484	17,421	17,142	11,527	8,515	0.07
Christian Science.....	-	-	-	2,619	5,073	13,826	18,436	20,222	0.18
Church of Christ, Disciples.....	-	20,193	12,763	17,164	14,554	13,107	15,811	21,223	0.18
Confucian.....	-	-	-	5,115	14,562	27,114	24,087	22,233	0.19
Congregationalist.....	21,829	26,900	28,157	28,293	34,054	30,730	694 ¹	2	-
Doukhobor.....	-	-	-	8,775	10,493	12,648	14,913	16,844	0.15
Evangelical Church.....	4,701	-	-	10,193	10,595	13,905	22,213	37,002	0.32
Free Methodist Church of Canada ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,730	8,788	0.07
Friends.....	7,353	6,553	4,650	4,100	4,027	3,149	2,424	1,964	0.02
Gospel People.....	-	-	-	-	135	2,449	6,355	7,005	0.06
Greek Orthodox ³	18	-	-	15,630	88,507	169,832	102,389	139,629	1.21
International Bible Students..	-	-	-	99	925	6,678	13,552	6,994	0.06
Jewish.....	1,115	2,393	6,414	16,401	74,564	125,197	155,614	168,367	1.46
Lutheran.....	37,935	46,350	63,982	92,524	229,864	286,458	394,194	401,153	3.49
Mennonite (incl. Hutterite) ⁴	-	-	-	31,797	44,625	58,797	88,736	111,380	0.97
Methodist.....	578,161	742,981	847,765	916,886	1,079,993	1,159,246	2	2	-
Mormon.....	534	-	-	6,891	15,971	19,622	22,005	25,284	0.22

For footnotes, see end of table, p. 107.