

Section 2.—Movement of Population

The traditional movement of population on the North American Continent from east to west has not been apparent in Canadian statistics for recent years. The most spectacular changes are shown in the Prairie Provinces and in British Columbia. The three Prairie Provinces lost by migration about 250,000 people between 1931 and 1941 and somewhat more from 1941 to 1951. British Columbia gained at the rate of about 8,000 a year during the 1930's and at about 23,000 a year during the 1940's. On an absolute basis, Ontario received more people than British Columbia but in relation to its larger population this growth was only one-third as important. Quebec's net change was negligible relative to its population. Nova Scotia gained during the 1930's but lost in the 1940's, the Maritime Provinces as a whole losing considerably over the two decades.

8.—Numerical Changes in the Populations of the Provinces, 1931 to 1941 and 1941 to 1951

Province	1931 to 1941	1941 to 1951
	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	-3,000	-12,000
Nova Scotia.....	+8,000	-39,000
New Brunswick.....	-10,000	-42,000
Quebec.....	-3,000	-4,000
Ontario.....	+78,000	+305,000
Manitoba.....	-48,000	-60,000
Saskatchewan.....	-158,000	-200,000
Alberta.....	-42,000	-7,000
British Columbia.....	+82,000	+231,000

Section 3.—Intercensal Estimates 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.