

Section 7.—Origins

A population composed of diverse racial stocks gives rise to political, economic and social problems quite different in nature from those of one with a small admixture of foreign elements, although, to the extent that certain racial stocks are more readily assimilated than others, the problems are mitigated. It is equally true that the different educational, moral, economic, religious and political backgrounds of a people of mixed origins lend variety and diversity to the national life.

The two basic stocks of the Canadian people are the French and the English: historically the French is much the older and, excepting at the time of the Census of 1921, has exceeded in numbers any one of the basic British stocks.

For purposes of the census, a person's origin or cultural group is traced through his father. For example, if a person's father is German and his mother Norwegian, the origin is entered as "German". Wherever possible, the origin of a person is established by asking the language spoken by the person or by his paternal ancestor when he first came to Canada.

Table 17 shows the population of Canada for the census years 1931, 1941 and 1951 classified by origins, while Table 18 presents the 1951 provincial distribution based on a classification of the numerically largest origins in Canada.

17.—Origins of the Population, Census Years 1931-51

NOTE.—Figures for the Decennial Censuses 1871-1921 are given in the 1948-49 Year Book, p. 154.

Origin	1931	1941	1951	Origin	1931	1941	1951
	No.	No.	No.		No.	No.	No.
British	5,381,071	5,715,904	6,709,685	Other European—			
English.....	2,741,419	2,938,402	3,630,344	concluded			
Irish.....	1,230,808	1,267,702	1,439,635	Norwegian.....	93,243	100,718	119,266
Scottish.....	1,346,350	1,403,974	1,547,470	Polish.....	145,503	167,485	219,845
Other.....	62,494	75,826	92,236	Roumanian.....	29,056	24,689	23,601
				Russian ¹	88,148	83,708	91,279
				Swedish.....	81,306	85,396	97,780
				Ukrainian.....	225,113	305,929	395,043
				Yugoslavic.....	16,174	21,214	21,404
				Other.....	9,392	9,787	35,616
Other European..	4,753,242	5,526,964	6,872,889				
French.....	2,927,990	3,483,038	4,319,167	Asiatic	84,548	74,064	72,827
Austrian.....	48,639	37,715	32,231	Chinese.....	46,519	34,627	32,528
Belgian.....	27,555	29,711	35,148	Japanese.....	23,342	23,149	21,663
Czech and				Other.....	14,687	16,288	18,636
Slovak.....	30,401	42,912	63,959				
Danish.....	34,118	37,439	42,671	Other Origins..	157,925	189,723	354,028
Finnish.....	43,885	41,683	43,745	Native Indian and			
German.....	473,544	464,682	619,995	Eskimo.....	128,890	125,521	165,607
Greek.....	9,444	11,692	13,966	Negro.....	19,456	22,174	18,020
Hungarian.....	40,582	54,598	60,460	Other and not			
Icelandic.....	19,382	21,050	23,307	stated.....	9,579	42,028 ²	170,401
Italian.....	98,173	112,625	152,245				
Jewish.....	156,726	170,241	181,670	Totals.....	10,376,786	11,506,655	14,009,429
Lithuanian.....	5,876	7,789	16,224				
Netherlanders...	148,962	212,863	264,267				

¹ Includes Asiatic Russian.

² Includes 35,416 half-breeds.