

2.—Numerical and Percentage Distribution of Population by Province,  
Decennial Census Years 1871-1951—concluded

Province or Territory	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951
	PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION								
Nfld. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.58
P.E.I. ....	2.55	2.52	2.25	1.92	1.30	1.01	0.85	0.83	0.70
N.S. ....	10.51	10.19	9.32	8.56	6.83	5.96	4.94	5.02	4.59
N.B. ....	7.74	7.43	6.65	6.16	4.88	4.41	3.94	3.97	3.68
Que. ....	32.30	31.42	30.80	30.70	27.83	26.86	27.70	28.96	28.95
Ont. ....	43.94	44.56	43.74	40.64	35.07	33.39	33.07	32.92	32.82
Man. ....	0.68	1.44	3.16	4.75	6.40	6.94	6.75	6.34	5.54
Sask. ....	...	...	...	1.70	6.84	8.62	8.88	7.79	5.94
Alta. ....	...	...	...	1.36	5.19	6.70	7.05	6.92	6.71
B.C. ....	0.98	1.14	2.03	3.33	5.45	5.97	6.69	7.11	8.32
Yukon. ....	...	...	...	0.51	0.12	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.06
N.W.T. ....	1.30	1.30	2.05	0.37	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.11
Canada ..	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

### Section 3.—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 data 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.