

In the earlier periods when Canada was undergoing the initial stage of intensive industrial urbanization, the major stream of migration appears to have been from the countryside to the city. The technological revolution in agriculture tended to operate as a compulsive force to stimulate out-migration of rural farm population, while industrial centres beckoned rural youth with superior employment opportunities and amenities of urban life. This phenomenon may be regarded as an ecological process of adjustment of local populations to the changing social and economic order of the country. At the places of origin it may be looked upon as a major force to transform their population dynamics or as a drain on their economically productive resources. At the places of destination, it may be viewed as a problem of social adjustment, or as a generator of social and economic change. Migration from farms to cities has thus been a focus of interest and concern for a long time. Now that the majority of Canada's population is urban, however, it is expected that the major stream of migration should be interurban. Although farm-to-city movement has persisted, its relative importance in the total migration in Canada has diminished.

Of the 2,600,000 migrants within Canada over the 1956-1961 period, the share of urbanward migrants from farms was less than 9 p.c. The total number of interurban migrants, on the other hand, approached 1,500,000 or 57 p.c. of the total migration. Among these interurban migrants, the predominant pattern was the movement to communities of more or less the same size as their previous place of residence or to larger centres. Less than 20 p.c. moved to smaller places. Another notable feature of migration flow during this period was an apparently growing propensity of urban population to move away from the city. This tendency is indicated in the volume of migratory flow from urban to rural non-farm communities; nearly 15 p.c. of the total migrants in Canada were in this category. Among those migrants who resided in urban areas in 1956, almost 20 p.c. reported their residence in 1961 in rural non-farm communities. Apparently, this is a reflection of the progress of extensive suburbanization during this period. It appears that the suburban sprawl was not confined within the urban fringe of the large metropolitan centres,* but has been extending beyond the urban boundaries as defined in the census. Judged from the figures of interchange of population between different urban size groups and rural non-farm communities, moreover, suburban development seems to have been progressing at a brisk pace not only around the large metropolitan centres but also in areas surrounding the smaller urban centres.

Provincial Differences in Gross and Net Migration. †—The rate of in-migration across the provincial boundaries was highest in Alberta, closely followed by British Columbia. Nearly 170,000 or 32 p.c. of the total interprovincial migrants five years of age or over were divided between these two western provinces, slightly in favour of British Columbia. Although the absolute gain due to in-migration to Ontario, exceeding 150,000, was the largest in the country and the corresponding figure for Quebec approached 70,000, these two most urbanized provinces showed the lowest in-migration rate during this period with the exception of Newfoundland. Among the other provinces, the differences in the in-migration rate were quite small.

* An analysis of the process of suburbanization around the metropolitan cities is the subject of a chapter in a forthcoming census monograph, *Mobility of Canada's Population, 1956-1961*.

† The Yukon and Northwest Territories are included in the following tables but are excluded from the textual analysis.