

# THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA MONTHLY LETTER

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## Another Census Year

THIS IS a significant census. It comes just six years before Canada's one hundredth anniversary of Confederation. It will be the biggest nose-counting operation in our history. It will provide information to guide Parliament in its welfare plans, manufacturers in their production plans and construction industries in their building of houses.

The census is a tool used in demography — a branch of the social sciences which deals with the past, present and probable future of the population. It considers not only total number but age and sex composition, occupation, mobility, and other measurable characteristics.

Practically every statistic you can think of is grist for the Census Bureau electronic brain. You will be asked 26 questions about the people in your family, reproduced in this Monthly Letter by courtesy of Mr. O. A. Lemieux, Director, Census Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Another sheet of 28 questions dealing with housing may fall to your lot if your household happens to have a number on the census-taker's roll ending in "3" or "8". A third form, to be filled in confidentially by everyone in these households who is 15 years of age or over, inquires into salary, investment income, and so forth.

### Finding all the people

A question frequently asked, because the task of taking the census seems to be so vast, is: "Are people missed by the census?" The answer is "yes" — but not so many in Canada, we hope, as in the 1960 United States census, when 323,654 people were mislaid in New York City. The city voted \$10,000 to make its own count in an effort to save the \$1½ million it stands to lose in charitable contributions from the State government because of these people the census-taker did not find.

Everywhere in the world taking the census poses difficult problems, demanding imaginative approaches as well as complex administrative and technical operation. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization census-takers at Hong Kong had to find a way of counting the many families who live in fishing boats, never tying up in the same place two nights running. In Borneo the United Nations people found that many families moved from forest to plain and back again, depending on the season: they had to find out who was going to be where, when and why.

In Canada, the Census Division has worked out effective means for ferreting out even the country's hardest-to-find citizens. Hotel and motel proprietors, for example, co-operate in putting travellers in touch with the census-taker. The Defense Department helps in counting members of the Armed Services.

It doesn't matter where a person lives, the censustakers are charged with finding him for the record in palatial apartment, harn loft, hobo jungle, abandoned lighthouse or converted chicken house.

### Who uses census figures?

All this may seem to some people to be making a great fuss about something of only academic interest. But it is not so. The resulting figures are vitally important to government, industry and social workers. The questions must be limited in number, so as to make the taking of the census practicable, but they are so well designed that the answers add up to a broad, accurate and useful picture of the Canadian scene.

Five minutes' thought will reveal the usefulness to thousands of people and organizations of information about how many families have low incomes and how many have high incomes; whether these families live on farms or in cities; how large the families are; how old the head of the family is; whether he is employed; what his education is; whether the dwelling is rented or owned and whether it is in good condition or needs sprucing up. There are special questions to be asked of farm operators, dealing with crops, irrigation, condition of the land, farm machinery, livestock, forest products, dairy products, and so on.

Whether people live in an urban or a rural area profoundly affects the way they live, their social attitudes and family patterns, and to some extent their diseases and causes of death. Comparison of this census with those of preceding years will give a picture of changing social conditions, innovations in living habits, and the rise in living standards.

The end result of the census will be published in bulletin form as speedily as possible by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The reports may then be published in bound volumes, of which there were nine after the 1951 census, covering population, housing, labour force, wage-earners, agriculture, wholesale and retail distribution.

These detailed reports provide information for the study of markets; they guide manufacturers and distributors in forming policy regarding advertising and selling; they give facts indispensable to social welfare, public health, education and public utilities.

It may be seen, then, that the work of the Census Division is one of the most frequently and widely used pieces of government machinery, though it may not make much noise in the ten years between the taking of the census.

There are other reasons for taking the census. In fact, the original legal reason was to determine representation in the House of Commons. Under the British North America Act of 1867 it was provided that the first rearrangement of seats in the House should be made on completion of the Census of 1871, a similar readjustment to follow every subsequent decennial census.

This national stocktaking is useful in determining provincial subsidy payments, school grants, and other forms of public expenditure where amounts are paid on a per capita basis. The figures give the national, provincial, and local governments a firm statistical base upon which to judge the need and effect of legislation dealing with economic and social matters. How else than by a count of people by ages and marital status could any public body estimate the costs of social security measures such as family allowances and old age pensions? How else could school vocational counsellors determine the advice to be given graduates than by the statistics of employment in various occupations?

### Counting heads is not new

All this has been about the Canadian Census, but taking the census is not a new thing. The more advanced countries can afford to compile detailed statistics, but in the kingdom of Mari, said to have been the tenth city to be founded after the Great Flood, a census of the people was not uncommon as a basis for taxation and

enlistment for military service. Records unearthed by archaeologists a few years ago show that the proceedings, which lasted for several days, were enlivened by a government issue of free bread and beer.

The honour of taking the first census in the modern meaning of the term belongs to Canada. It was in 1666 that Jean Talon, the Intendant of New France, took an official census of the colony to measure the increase in population that had taken place since the founding of Quebec by Champlain in 1608. Talon's enumeration, recording a total of 3,215 persons, included the name, age, sex, marital status and occupation of every person. The record says that the great Intendant himself carried out a considerable part of the enumeration, "visiting from door to door all the habitations of Mont Réal, Trois Rivières, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, and all places above Québec."

#### Canada's population

In spite of the fact that our population has progressed from 3,215 to more than 18 million in less than three hundred years, many people in Canada seem to have an inferiority feeling about population.

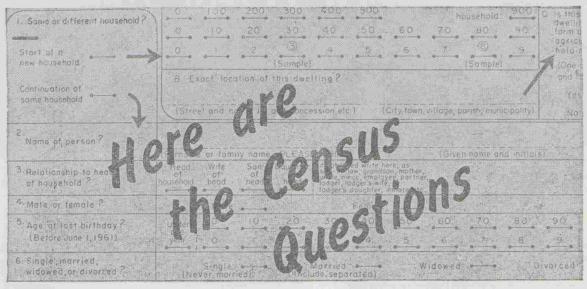
In truth, the population history of Canada from that first census of 1666 reveals an outstanding rate of population growth. Every decade contributed to this growth, but three stand out particularly. In 1901 to 1911, our population increased by 34.2 per cent; in 1911 to 1921, despite war and the influenza epidemic, our population increased by 21.9 per cent; and in 1941 to 1951 our population increased 18.6 per cent — or, if you add Newfoundland, which joined the other provinces in 1949, 21.8 per cent.

Canada's rate of natural increase — that is, the excess of births over deaths — is among the highest in the world. It exceeds that of other western industrial countries — in 1958 our rate was 19.7 per 1,000 population compared with 14.8 for the United States and 4.7 for England and Wales. In every year since 1951 our rate has exceeded nineteen per 1,000 population.

Births in Canada averaged 446,226 per year from 1952 to 1959 inclusive. In those eight years a baby was born every 70½ seconds.

The Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects estimated that in 1980, just twenty years ahead, Canada's population will total 27 million, an increase over 1955 of 70 per cent.

Meantime, here we are at the tenth decennial census of Canada. To make the census-taker's task easier, we give, on the next two pages, the questions he will ask. You have time, between now and June 1st, to look them over so as to have the answers in mind.





	***************************************							
1.	A. Household Number	. B. Exact location of this dwe	olling? I No □	***************************************	***************************************			
2.	Surname or family name	Given name and	Given name and initials					
3.	Relationship to head of household Head of household Wife of hea If not listed, write here, as: son-ir inmate, etc.	id ☐ Son of head ☐ Daug n-law, grandson, mother, un	cle, niece, employee, p	artner, lodger, lodger	s wife, lodger's daughter			
4.	Sex: male  female	5. Age at last birthday? (before June 1, 1961)						
6. Marital status single □ widowed □ married (includes separated) □ divorced □								
	In what province (or country) were Nfld.  N.B. Man. B.C. Austria Denmark France Hungary Northern Ireland Republic of Ireland Sweden U.S.S.R	P.E.I. Que. Sask. Yukon Belgium England Germany Italy Norway Roumania Switzerland Wales	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	y to present boundaries N.S. Ont. Alta. N.W.T. Czechoslovakia Finland Greece Netherlands Poland Scotland U.S.A. Yugoslavia				
	In what year did you immigrate to 0 Before 1921	Canada?	Born in Canada 1951-1955 1956-1957 1958-1959 1960 1961	what country are you a	national or a citizen?)			
	If not listed, write here:							
10.	To what ethnic or cultural group did y Austrian  Danish Finnish Greek Irish Lithuanian Norwegian Russian Swedish Yugoslavic Belgian  If not listed, write here:	English French Hungarian Italian Negro Polish Scottish Ukrainian Native Indian Band member Non-Band	ale side) belong on com	ing to this continent?  Czech Estonian German Icelandic Jewish Netherlands Roumanian Slovak Welsh	000000000			

11.	What is your religion? Adventist  Anglican  Baptist  Christian Science  Greek Orthodox  If not listed, write here:	Jehovah's Witnesses Jewish Lutheran Mennonite Mormon		Pentecostal Presbyterian Roman Catholic Salvation Army Ukrainian Catholic United Church					
12.	French   In Danish   It	German	Notherlands	Slovak Swedish Ukrainian Yiddish	000				
13.	Can you speak English?		English only  Both English and Free Neither English nor F						
14.	What was the highest grade or year No schooling Grindergarten Grindergarten	Elementary (Grade)	******************************	University (Year) Degree					
15.	Since last September did you attend Yes (any regular day-time attendanc Questions 16-25 for all persons 15 years)	ce)	No 🗆						
16.	16. Did you have a job of any kind last week? (Even if not at work or part-time)								
17.	Yes ☐  Did you look for work last week?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆						
	Did you have a job at any time in the If answer is "No" to all three questions.	e past 12 months? Yes ons omit Questions 19-25	No 🗆						
19.	40 🗆 4	each week? 0-29 □ 11-44 □ Omit Questions 20-25)	30-34	35-39 ☐ 50+ ☐	one model A				
20.	For whom did you work last week, ( Name of firm, government agency, o	or other employer:		***************************************					
21.	What kind of business or industry was this?     As retail grocery, auto manufacturing, city busline transportation:								
200									
22.	What kind of work did you do in thi As sales clerk, lathe operator, purcha		***************************************						
23.	Did you operate your own business of WORKED FOR OTHERS Wage or salary earner  U	or work for others in this occupations of the secural inpaid family worker	tion? OPERATED OWN With paid help	BUSINESS  Without paid	help 🗆				
24.	In how many weeks did you work fo 1-4	□ 27-39 □ 40-4	months? 8 □ 49-52 □	None 🗆	(Omit Question 25)				
25.	7,000	\$100	\$200	\$300 E 700 E 2,000 E 6,000 E 10,000 E					
26.	Did you ever have any wartime servi In what war(s)? Wars prior to	1914	(1939-4	(1950-53) In Korea					
	In what forces?	anadian 🗆 💮	Allied	Both 🗆					