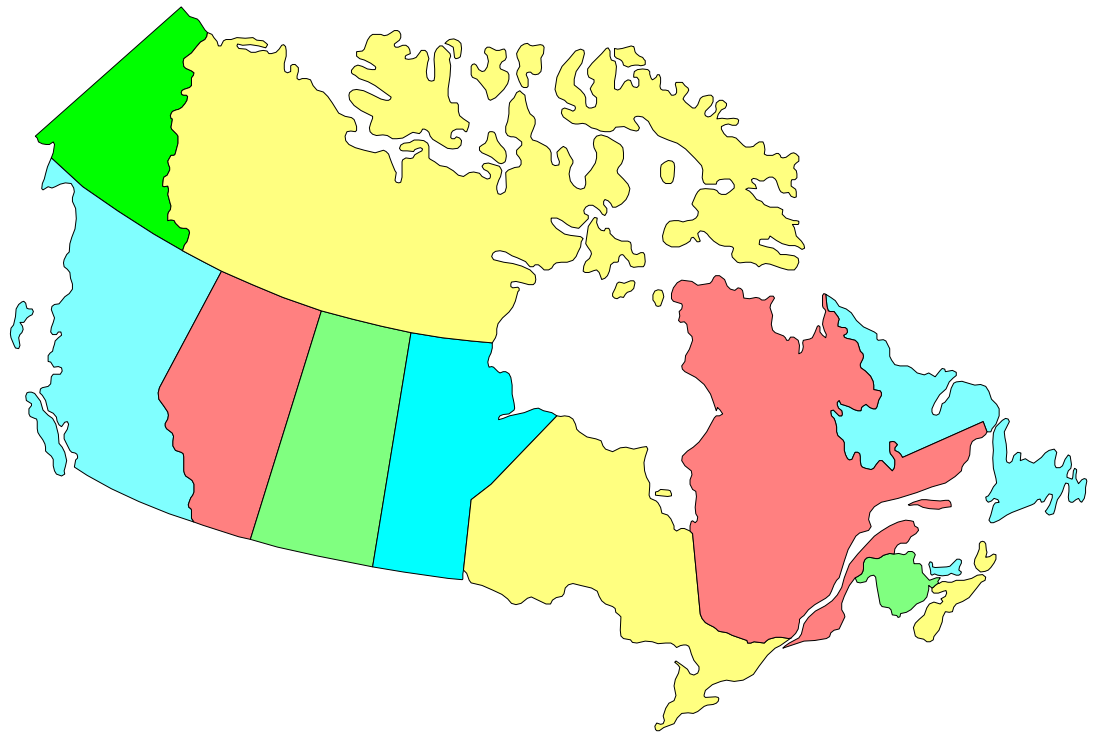




# 1996

# Census of Canada



Release #3

*Marital Status, Family Structure and Immigration*

This release details information on Marital Status, Family Structure, Immigration and Citizenship. The next release from the 1996 Census is on December 2, 1997 when data on Mother Tongue, Home Language and Official/Non-official Languages will be available. Further information is available by contacting the Statistics Division, Nova Scotia Department of Finance at (902) 424-5691.

### Legal Marital Status

In 1996, there were 729,175 people aged fifteen years and over in the province. The majority, 52.6 % of these people, were legally married meaning they were in their first or subsequent marriage and were not in a common-law relationship. Single (never married) people accounted for 30.5% while 7.3% were widowed, 6.5% were divorced and 3.1% were separated, but still legally married. The corresponding percentage of the total population for these categories in 1991 were: married (54.8%), single (30.1%), widowed (7.2%), divorced (5.3%) and separated (2.6%).

**TABLE 1**  
**NOVA SCOTIA POPULATION 15 YEARS AND OVER BY MARITAL STATUS**

	Total Pop. 15+	Single	Married <sup>1</sup>	Widowed	Divorced
		Percentage			
1951	433,097	30.0	62.1	7.7	0.3
1961	480,679	28.3	64.1	7.3	0.4
1971	548,195	29.0	62.9	7.2	0.9
1981	648,945	28.4	62.0	7.0	2.5
1991	715,585	30.1	57.3	7.2	5.3
1996	729,175	30.5	55.7	7.3	6.5

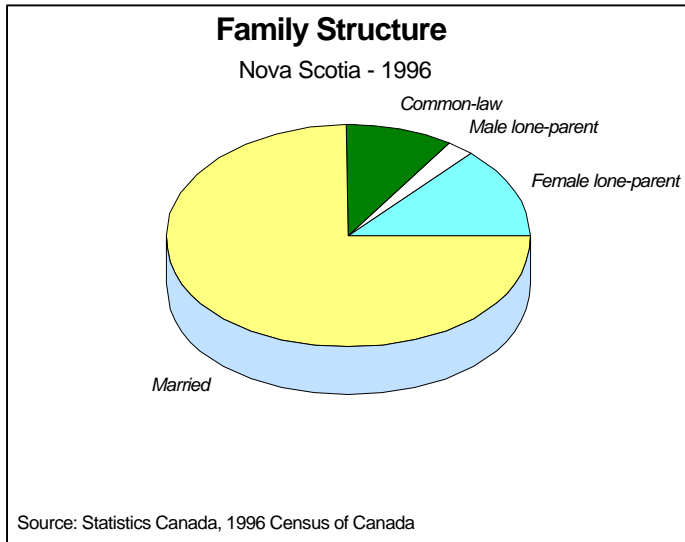
<sup>1</sup> Includes persons legally married and separated.

### Families

There has been a notable increase in the number of common-law and lone-parent families since the last Census taken in 1991.

In 1996 there were 253,960 families in the province. Married couples with or without

children still constitute the vast majority of families, although the representation has dropped over the last five years. In 1991 married couples represented 78.2% of all families, by 1996 that number had fallen to 74.8%. The proportion of married couple families fell in every province and territory. This negative growth is a direct result of the increases seen in the



number of common-law and lone-parent families. Newfoundland had the highest percentage of married couples at 78% while Quebec had the lowest at 64%. Children were present in 60.7% of married couple families while the average family size in Nova Scotia has fallen to 3.0 persons in 1996 from 3.1 in 1991.

Common-law unions in the province numbered 24,240 in 1996, an increase of 20.4% since 1991. They accounted for 9.5% of all families in

1996, up 1.3 percentage points from the 8.2% representation that occurred in 1991. Children were present in 42.5% of common-law families, whether born in the current union or brought together from previous relationships. Quebec had the highest number of common-law unions in the country. Nearly one couple in four there lived common-law and they accounted for 43% of all common-law families in the country. The rate of increase of these unions between 1991 and 1996 was highest in New Brunswick. Other provinces above the 28% average national rate of increase were Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island.

The number of lone-parent families grew 19.8% over the five year period to number 39,680. Their representation has increased from 13.5% of all families in 1991 to 15.6% in 1996. Lone parent families headed by women continue to outnumber those headed by men by a factor of five. Nova Scotia had the greatest increase in the country in the proportion of children living in lone-parent families. The rate climbed from 18% in 1991 to 21% in 1996 which means that about 1 in 5 children lives in a lone-parent family.

In 1996 there were 76,415 individuals aged 15 years and over living alone in Nova Scotia, over 42% of them were seniors. The percentage of the population aged 15 years and over who live alone has risen from 9.4% in 1991 to 10.5% in 1996. The aging population is responsible for most of the increase.

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**TABLE 2****NOVA SCOTIA - CENSUS FAMILIES IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY FAMILY TYPE, 1981-1996**

	<b>1981</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1996</b>
Total Families	216,195	230,495	244,610	253,960
Husband-wife Families	190,045	200,185	211,495	214,280
Now-married Couples	180,820	186,975	191,370	190,040
Common-law Couples	9,225	13,205	20,125	24,240
Lone-parent Families	26,160	30,315	33,120	39,680
Male parent	4,585	5,255	5,395	6,040
Female Parent	21,570	25,055	27,725	33,640

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**TABLE 3****NOVA SCOTIA POPULATION, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS, CENSUS FAMILIES, 1961-1996**

	<b>1961</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1996</b>
Population	737,007	788,960	847,442	899,942	909,282
Private Households	175,341	208,422	273,194	324,377	342,590
Persons in Private Households	710,116	769,013	826,917	880,717	896,600
Average No. of Persons Per Private Household	4.0	3.7	3.0	2.7	2.6
Families	161,894	180,721	216,199	244,611	253,960
Persons in Families	644,700	688,324	721,033	751,215	761,910
Average No. of Persons Per Family	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.1	3.0

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**TABLE 4**  
**NOVA SCOTIA CENSUS FAMILIES IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY NUMBER OF PERSONS**  
**1971-1996**

	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996
Total Families	179,600	200,480	216,200	230,495	244,615	253,960
Families by No. of Persons						
2	55,465	68,210	78,495	88,015	102,155	112,775
3	37,620	43,185	48,280	53,665	58,445	60,275
4	34,515	42,480	50,545	56,490	57,035	56,155
5	22,800	24,305	24,520	22,980	20,505	19,195
6	13,420	12,280	9,315	6,885	5,030	4,420
7	7,640	5,180	3,125	1,665	1,030	850
8+	8,125	4,840	1,925	800	410	290
Total Persons in Families	684,380	710,360	721,035	737,685	751,215	761,910
Average No. of Persons Per Family	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0
Total Persons Not in Families	81,220	94,805	105,880	116,050	129,500	134,690

### **Immigration and Citizenship**

Immigrant population is defined as people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. The data is based on a 20% sample size and doesn't include people who reside in institutions such as senior citizens homes, hospitals and prisons.

### **Non-Immigrant Population**

Across Canada, 960,685 people listed Nova Scotia as their birthplace, but only 711,580 or (74.1%) resided here in May 1996. This means that 249,105 or 25.9% of the total born in the province have left for other parts of the country while 188,390 Canadians have moved here from other provinces or territories. This represents a net loss of 60,715 persons.

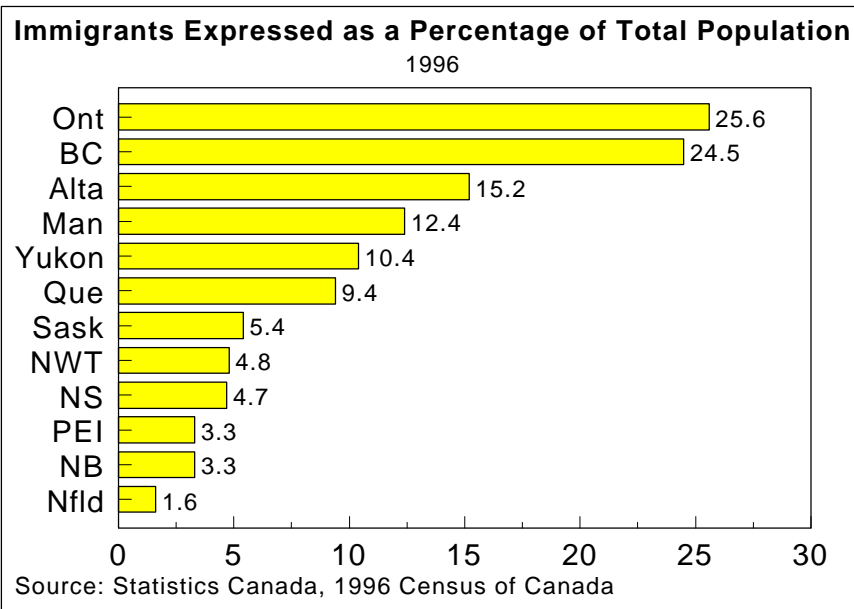
Emigrating Nova Scotians went mainly to Ontario (122,775), British Columbia (35,070), New Brunswick (28,965), Alberta (28,005) and Quebec (11,455). Most of the Canadians immigrating to Nova Scotia were from Ontario (44,360), New Brunswick (28,265),

Newfoundland (26,515) and Quebec (15,010).

## Immigrant Population

### Canada

In 1996 there were almost five million immigrants in Canada, a 14.5% increase in number since 1991. Immigrants expressed as a percentage of the total population grew from 15.8% to 17.4% over the five year period. Immigrants have historically settled in the more



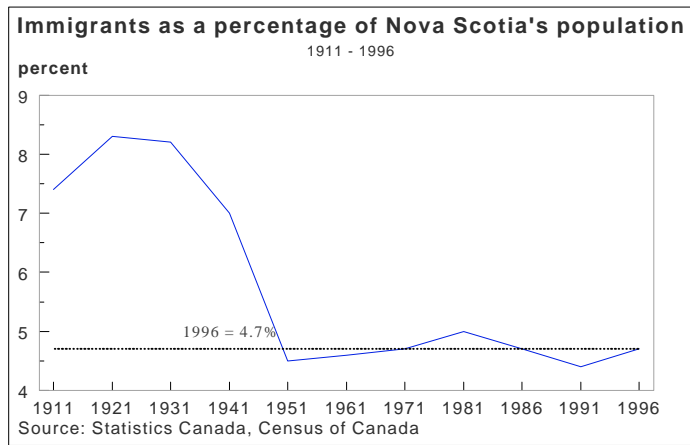
populous provinces and more specifically in the large urban areas and data from the 1996 Census confirm this trend. Three quarters of Canadas immigrants lived in Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal. Toronto had the highest single concentration of immigrants in the country with 41.9% of the total population comprised of immigrants. Vancouver and Montreal had immigrant populations as a percent of total of 34.9% and 17.8% respectively.

For most of this century, the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe were the main sources of immigrants to Canada, however in recent years that has changed. Overall, most of the immigrants to Canada came from the United Kingdom (13.2%) followed by Italy (6.7%), United States (4.9%), Hong Kong (4.8%), India (4.7%), China (4.6%) and Poland (3.9%). If you look at recent immigration, defined as the period between 1991 and the first four months of 1996, a different picture emerges. In that period most immigrants came from Hong Kong (10.5%) followed by China (8.5%), India (6.9%), Phillipines (6.9%), Sri Lanka (4.3%) and Poland (3.6%).

### Nova Scotia

The 1996 Census shows that there were 41,955 immigrants living in Nova Scotia, an increase of 7.4% since 1991. The number of immigrants has fluctuated from a low of 28,680 in 1951

to a high of 43,505 in 1921. As a percentage of the total population it was lowest in 1991 at 4.4%, highest in 1921 at 8.3% and in 1996 stood at 4.7%. Only Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland had a lower number of immigrants expressed as a percent of total population. The Halifax Metropolitan Area attracted 56.3% of the province's immigrants and they represented 7.2% of the total population of Metro.



Almost 30% of all immigrants to Nova Scotia came from the United Kingdom followed by 21% from the United States, 5.7% from Germany and 4.9% from the Netherlands. Immigrants from the Middle East accounted for 5.6% and those from the Far East represented 4.2% of total.

**TABLE 5**

**NOVA SCOTIA IMMIGRANT POPULATION BY PLACE OF BIRTH AND PERIOD OF IMMIGRATION**

	Before 1961	1961-70	1971-80	1981-90	1991-96	Total
Total	11,530	8,005	8,975	6,950	6,495	41,955
United States	1,655	1,470	3,225	3,225	840	8,815
Central and South America	20	60	160	290	185	705
Caribbean and Bermuda	135	190	240	95	130	790
Europe	9,130	5,015	3,405	2,925	1,530	22,015
Africa	35	110	320	195	670	1,335
Asia	425	1,010	1,510	1,670	3,045	7,665

The most recent five year period of immigration shows a change from the overall total. In that period 12.9% of immigrants came from the United States followed by 8% from Kuwait, 5.9% from the United Kingdom, 5.7% from China, 5.7% from India and 5.1% from Egypt.