Chapter Problem

Trends in Canada's Population

Canada is the world's second-largest country (9 093 507 km^2); yet, its current population is less than the population of the state of California. Canada's population and its structure have changed significantly since it became a country in 1867. The table below shows the percent of the population for various age groups since 1851.

Age Structure of the Population[1]

Year	Total (000s)	% Under 5 Years	% 5–19 Years	% 20–44 Years	% 45–64 Years	% 65+ Years
1851	2 346	18.51	37.81	31.65	9.40	2.67
1861	3 230	16.81	37.21	32.66	10.15	3.03
1871	3 689	14.67	38.03	32.28	11.14	3.66
1881	4 325	13.85	36.02	33.94	12.14	4.12
1891	4 833	12.64	34.49	35.40	12.91	4.55
1901	5 371	12.03	32.73	36.19	14.00	5.05
1911	7 207	12.35	30.15	38.81	14.06	4.66
1921	8 788	12.05	31.51	36.63	15.02	4.78
1931	10 377	10.36	31.29	36.07	16.74	5.55
1941	11 507	9.14	28.39	37.19	18.61	6.67
1951	14 009	12.29	25.60	36.63	17.74	7.75
1961	18 238	12.37	29.44	33.19	17.37	7.63
1971	21 568	8.42	30.97	33.87	18.66	8.09
1981	24 343	7.32	24.70	39.14	19.13	9.70
1991	27 297	6.99	20.42	41.33	19.66	11.61
1996	28 847	6.65	20.60	39.03	21.49	12.23
1998[2]	30 300	6.26	20.26	38.97	22.18	12.33

Source: Census of Canada, Statistics Canada
(1) Total percent for census years may not equal 100 due to rounding.
(2) Preliminary numbers.

What trends are visible in the table above? What are some contributing factors that could account for these trends? As you proceed through this chapter, you will investigate the data above as part of the chapter problem.

Project Connection
In this chapter, you will work with a wide variety of contexts and establish the topic for your final project. In subsequent chapters, you will develop the tools needed to help you collect and analyze data relevant to your final project.