

The number of people per family and the size of households generally decreased between 1971 and 1976. The size and structure of families changes steadily from the east coast to the west coast of Canada, and change is on the increase nationally. P.E.I., Nova Scotia and Quebec have the highest ratios of one-parent families.

Table B-10 shows clearly that the crime rate tends to be highest in Ontario and the western provinces. (For 1977, Newfoundland and New Brunswick had the highest homicide rate; however, this could be an aberration.) It appears that P.E.I. is the safest province for persons and property, while British Columbia is the least safe.

Economic Information

Table B-11 contains information pertaining to the economies of the broadly-defined regions of Canada over a twenty-year period. The information for the years 1959 and 1969 comes from O.J. Firestone's *Regional Economic and Social Disparity*; 1979 information was provided by Statistics Canada and DREE.

As in every industrialized country, Canadian per capita income has increased significantly since 1959. Nationally, per capita income has increased almost six-fold; each region has experienced an increase of five to six times the 1959 income level. However, the relative position of each region has not changed over the period in question; Ontario residents have received the most income per capita while residents of the Atlantic provinces have received the least. British Columbia, the Prairie provinces and Quebec have maintained the same rank order between the extremes of Ontario and the Atlantic region. Although the Atlantic region remains lowest in regard to disposable income, which includes the varying provincial tax structures, British Columbia now leads Ontario.

Wages and salaries vary widely across the country. The annual worker wage in the Atlantic region is \$2407 below the national average, while in British Columbia the average worker receives \$1439 more than the national average.

Table B-11 also illustrates the relative weakness of the labour market in the Atlantic region, in terms of participation and unemployment rates.

Table B-12 shows per capita income in each province, earned income and income from government transfers. Newfoundlanders have consistently received the lowest per capita income despite relatively high government transfers.

Table B-13 outlines the main components of government transfer payments to individuals and the increasing amounts of transfers per capita.