

Section 4.—Age Distribution.

The same causes which have in the past rendered the sex distribution of population in Canada somewhat unusual have also affected its age distribution. In the first stages of the settlement of a new colony, men in the prime of life constitute the bulk of the population, and women and children are conspicuous by their absence, so that there will be a disproportionately large male population between the ages of 20 and 50, together with a low birth rate. Later on in the settlement of a new country, where there is land and food for all and where the early disproportion of the sexes has been overcome, there is a very high rate of natural increase, and an extraordinarily large proportion of children among the population. Thus in 1871 (see Table 11), 286·91 out of every 1,000 of the population of Canada were children under 10 years of age, and over half the total population (526·76 out of every 1,000) were under 20 years of age. But, with the growing urbanization of population, the average age at marriage increased and children came to be regarded as a liability rather than an asset. Thus in 1911, out of every 1,000 of the population, only 231·83 were under 10 years of age and 423·42 under 20 years of age. In 1921, however, 239·67 per 1,000 of the population were under 10 years of age and 434·81 per 1,000 under 20 years. In 1931, the number of children under 10 years of age had dropped to 212·70 per 1,000 of the population, and of persons under 20 to 416·39 per 1,000.

Table 12 shows the varying age distribution of the population of the respective provinces. At p. 118 of the 1934-35 Year Book details of the age distribution of the population of the Dominion, by sex, for the census years 1881 to 1931 were given.

11.—Proportion per 1,000 of the Population by Age Periods, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, and 1931.

Age Period.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1931.
Under 1 year.....	30·567	28·019	24·923	24·497	25·734	23·858	19·531
1—4 years.....	115·649	108·507	99·964	95·210	97·413	96·482	84·009
5—9 “.....	140·691	128·251	121·242	114·664	108·685	119·333	109·162
10—19 “.....	239·854	227·404	219·710	210·906	191·585	195·138	203·689
20—29 “.....	171·436	175·957	178·080	173·549	189·335	159·041	163·583
30—39 “.....	111·404	113·099	122·080	129·259	141·938	146·247	134·656
40—49 “.....	79·995	83·817	88·441	98·494	100·071	109·481	118·660
50—59 “.....	54·788	58·087	62·360	67·886	69·121	73·082	82·463
60 or over.....	55·128	63·270	70·142	76·397	71·027	74·917	83·882
Not given.....	0·488	13·589	13·059	9·137	5·090	2·419	0·363

12.—Proportion per 1,000 of the Population by Age Periods, by Provinces, 1931, with Totals for 1921.

Province.	0-9 Years.	10-19 Years.	20-44 Years.	45-69 Years.	70 Years or Over.	Age Not Given.
Prince Edward Island.....	212·47	207·97	308·15	206·52	64·81	0·08
Nova Scotia.....	215·36	214·17	320·93	198·39	50·93	0·22
New Brunswick.....	239·83	219·63	317·25	181·18	41·95	0·17
Quebec.....	245·89	214·20	352·95	157·69	29·05	0·23
Ontario.....	186·68	185·67	373·92	212·28	41·20	0·25
Manitoba.....	203·29	219·27	365·99	185·52	25·72	0·20
Saskatchewan.....	234·80	228·98	353·08	163·81	19·12	0·21
Alberta.....	217·98	210·00	374·07	178·47	19·32	0·16
British Columbia.....	160·07	175·97	377·16	254·66	29·97	2·17
Canada, 1931¹.....	212·70	203·69	360·50	189·52	33·22	0·36
Canada, 1921¹.....	239·67	195·14	365·27	169·38	28·12	2·42

¹The statistics for Yukon and the Northwest Territories are included in the totals.

Age Distribution by Sex.—An interesting table of quartile and decile age distribution, by sex, with textual interpretation, was given at pp. 119-120 of the 1934-35 Year Book. It is not repeated in order to conserve space.