

5.—Sex Distribution of Immigrants as Adult Males, Adult Females, and Children, Calendar Years 1929-38.

Year.	Adult Males.	Adult Females.	Children Under 18.		Total.
			Males.	Females.	
1929.....	75,814	47,425	23,213	18,541	164,993
1930.....	44,078	32,882	15,521	12,325	104,806
1931.....	7,280	9,728	5,645	4,877	27,530
1932.....	5,429	7,259	4,238	3,665	20,591
1933.....	3,691	5,749	2,500	2,442	14,382
1934.....	2,998	5,107	2,161	2,210	12,476
1935.....	2,550	4,593	2,106	2,028	11,277
1936.....	2,691	4,830	2,127	1,995	11,643
1937.....	3,573	6,126	2,727	2,675	15,101
1938.....	4,142	6,800	3,274	3,028	17,244

Subsection 3.—Languages and Racial Origins of Immigrants.

Languages of Immigrants.—At the Census of 1931, only 1·82 p.c. of the population of ten years of age or over was unable to speak either English or French, but the percentages, by racial origins, of those speaking neither official language varied greatly, ranging from less than one-hundredth of one per cent in the case of those of English and Irish origin to 33·96 p.c. in the case of Indians and Eskimos, whose manner of life and remoteness from civilization precludes their becoming conversant with the European languages. Length of residence in Canada is naturally a very important factor in the ability of the immigrant to speak English or French. Immigration of Polish- and Czech-speaking immigrants has been relatively heavy in the past few years and it may, therefore, be of interest to note the standing of these two peoples, at the date of the latest census in so far as their ability to speak English or French was concerned.

In 1931, 13·80 p.c. of the persons of Polish origin were unable to speak either official language. In this connection, it is important to note the percentage of the population of specified origin born on British soil or in the United States, since this profoundly influences the result. In the case of the Poles this amounted to 48·44 p.c., while the average length of residence of immigrants of Polish origin was 12·0 years. In the case of residents of Czech and Slovak origin, the percentage born in British possessions or the United States was lower than that of residents of Polish origin, being 31·90 p.c., and the percentage unable to speak English or French was 14·08. This is largely explained by the fact that the average residence of immigrants of these origins was only 7·9 years. Other factors to be borne in mind are the percentage of illiteracy in the population of any given origin and their residences in rural or urban communities. In the case of the two origins discussed here, the percentages of illiteracy were 11·75 for the Poles and 8·49 for the Czechs and Slovaks. The question of urban or rural residence is complicated by the fact that newly-immigrated persons whose friends and relations are engaged in certain lines of urban work tend to congregate in areas where their mother tongue is commonly spoken and where their opportunities of learning English or French are consequently curtailed, as is found in certain mining and industrial communities, but, on the whole, it is usually considered that the urban resident has a better chance of becoming acquainted with the language of the country than the one who settles in a rural community even where it is not composed largely of those speaking his own mother tongue.

English-speaking immigrants constituted 51 p.c. of the total in 1938 and French-speaking immigrants nearly 4 p.c. Of the immigrants speaking neither of the official languages, Polish-speaking persons constituted 10 p.c. and those speaking Czech were almost as numerous.