

Convictions of Females.—Females convicted of indictable offences showed a sharp rise from 4,825 in 1939 to 6,241 in 1940. They comprised 13.3 p.c. of all convictions of adults for indictable offences in 1940, as compared with 10.0 p.c. in the previous year. In all provinces except New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Territories the percentages of women convicted to total convictions were higher in 1940 than in 1939. The sharpest increase was shown in Quebec where the percentage rose from 23.9 to 30.7 p.c.

11.—Convictions of Females for Indictable Offences, by Provinces, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1936-40

Province	Numbers of Convictions					Percentages of Females Convicted to Totals Convicted				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Prince Edward Island.....	1	5	15	16	17	1.3	5.1	6.7	6.0	6.7
Nova Scotia.....	67	78	71	73	95	5.8	7.2	5.6	4.5	6.0
New Brunswick.....	50	52	59	50	38	6.7	6.8	6.5	4.5	3.4
Quebec.....	1,466	1,652	1,880	2,589	3,732	15.4	21.2	18.3	23.9	30.7
Ontario.....	847	983	947	897	1,190	6.2	6.7	5.5	4.5	6.7
Manitoba.....	270	273	258	240	276	10.3	9.6	8.4	6.3	8.2
Saskatchewan.....	86	167	133	210	223	3.9	5.4	5.2	6.1	7.7
Alberta.....	229	246	246	317	310	7.3	6.8	6.8	7.7	7.0
British Columbia.....	354	325	567	427	358	11.7	9.7	12.8	11.5	10.6
Yukon and N.W.T.....	Nil	2	Nil	6	2	-	11.1	-	19.3	12.5
Canada.....	3,370	3,783	4,176	4,825	6,241	9.4	10.2	9.6	10.0	13.3

Recidivism.—The number of those offenders who relapse into crime after a first conviction has been steadily increasing. The 1940 figures show a rise of almost 3 p.c. as compared with the previous year in the proportion of first offenders to total convictions. The number of first offenders convicted for indictable offences decreased from 66.9 p.c. of the total convictions for this class of offence in 1936 to 62.1 p.c. in 1939, but in 1940 advanced close to the 1938 figure, with a percentage of 64.9.

12.—First Offences, Second Offences, and Reiterated Offences of an Indictable Nature, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1936-40

Class of Offence	Numbers of Convictions					Percentages of First, Second, etc. Convictions to Totals				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
First.....	24,109	24,291	28,536	29,875	30,341	66.86	65.39	65.45	62.10	64.94
Second.....	3,864	4,273	4,974	5,744	4,903	10.72	11.50	11.41	11.94	10.49
Reiterated.....	8,086	8,584	10,089	12,488	11,479	22.42	23.11	23.14	25.96	24.57
Totals.....	36,059	37,148	43,599	48,107	46,723	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Subsection 2.—Non-Indictable Convictions of Adults

The following statistics relate to non-indictable offences committed by adults (persons 16 years of age or over) and disposed of by police magistrates or other justices of the peace, under authority of the Summary Convictions Act. Such convictions numbered 456,109 during the year ended Sept. 30, 1940, an increase of 27,501, or 6.4 p.c., as compared with 1939. Decreases were shown only in Prince Edward Island and Manitoba.