

4.—Convictions of Adults for Indictable and Non-Indictable Offences, by Class of Offence, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1939-43—concluded

Class of Offence	PERCENTAGES OF TOTALS AND PER 100,000 POPULATION									
	1939		1940		1941		1942		1943	
	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.
Indictable Offences—										
Offences against the person.....	1.1	49	1.0	46	0.9	45	0.9	47	1.1	48
Offences against property with violence.....	1.3	55	1.1	47	0.7	37	0.6	34	0.8	36
Offences against property without violence.....	4.6	196	4.0	175	2.8	144	2.5	133	3.2	138
Other.....	3.1	127	3.2	142	2.8	145	2.3	123	3.1	132
Totals, Indictable Offences.	10.1	427	9.3	410	7.2	371	6.3	337	8.2	354
Non-Indictable Offences—										
Gambling Acts.....	2.3	98	3.2	143	5.2	265	3.4	181	3.9	169
Liquor Acts.....	2.9	120	2.6	114	2.6	133	2.7	145	3.0	128
Traffic regulations.....	61.4	2,600	62.0	2,739	62.5	3,209	64.4	3,432	54.2	2,325
Vagrancy and loose, idle, and disorderly conduct..	3.8	159	3.7	164	2.9	147	2.4	125	2.5	108
Drunkenness.....	7.6	319	7.5	332	6.8	348	7.2	385	8.3	358
Frequenting bawdy houses.....	0.5	23	0.2	10	0.2	10	0.2	10	0.2	7
Other.....	11.4	485	11.5	506	12.6	646	13.4	711	19.7	844
Totals, Non-Indictable Offences.....	89.9	3,804	90.7	4,008	92.8	4,758	93.7	4,989	91.8	3,939
Grand Totals.....	100.0	4,231	100.0	4,418	100.0	5,129	100.0	5,326	100.0	4,293

Subsection 1.—Convictions of Adults for Indictable Offences

The progress of a community, from a moral point of view, is often judged by the number of convictions for indictable offences, as these are less affected than non-indictable offences by extraneous circumstances and the varying methods of law enforcement in different areas and in different years. However, in the study of such statistics it is important to have comparable figures over a period of years. Table 5, along with the figures published in earlier editions of the Year Book (see headnote to table), provides the necessary background.

It may be stated that during the period from 1900 to 1943 the number of crimes increased from 5,768 to 41,752 or 624 p.c. The increase in the population during the same period was 120 p.c., revealing that the increase in the crime rate was five times that of the population.

Wartime Trends.—Convictions for indictable offences, which increased from 33,531 in 1935 to 48,107 in 1939, or by 43.5 p.c., decreased during the four war years, despite an increase from 1942 to 1943. The 1943 total of convictions was 41,752, a decrease of 13.2 p.c. from the 1939 total. The 6.2 p.c. increase from 1942 to 1943 was mainly due to increases in convictions for breaches of wartime Acts, due to more strict enforcement than was exercised prior to 1943.