A characteristic of population distribution since 1911 has been the rapid growth of urban centres due to the far-reaching developments in manufacturing that have entirely changed the economic picture. Summary figures showing the disparity between the sexes in the matter of urban concentration in 1911, 1921, 1931 and 1941 in the total population are given in the following tabulation. Where the percentage of urban males is large the percentage of females is also large. Each decade emphasizes the greater opportunities for female employment in urban centres as compared with rural.

Item	1911	1921	1931	1941
Excess of all males over all females per 100 of total population.....	6·07	3·09	3·59	2·56
Percentage of females in urban centres to all females..............	47·12	51·78	55·98	56·61
Percentage of males in urban centres to all males................	43·91	47·41	51·57	52·18
Excess of urban females over urban males per 100 of urban population	−2·54	1·32	0·52	1·52

Estimates of the population by age and sex for the intercensal years 1932-40 and 1942-47 are given in Table 6, p. 141 of this edition.

Table 8 gives the position of Canada among other countries of the world in regard to masculinity.

8.—Masculinity of the Populations of Various Countries

NOTE.—The minus sign (−) indicates a deficiency of males.

Country	Year	Excess of Males over Females per 100 Population	Country	Year	Excess of Males over Females per 100 Population
Argentina	1914	7·22	Italy	1936	−1·82
India	1941	3·36	Finland	1930	−2·05
Canada	**1941**	**2·56**	German Reich	1939	−2·15
Eire	1936	2·43	Norway	1930	−2·49
Australia	1933	1·57	Northern Ireland	1937	−2·66
New Zealand	1936	1·52	Poland	1931	−2·71
Union of South Africa[1]	1936	1·19	Czechoslovakia	1930	−3·01
Bulgaria	1934	0·49	Austria	1939	−3·11
United States	1940	0·34	Switzerland	1940	−3·30
Japan	1940	0·02	France	1940	−3·62
Netherlands	1930	−0·63	Scotland	1931	−3·94
Sweden	1940	−0·80	Portugal	1940	−4·01
Greece	1928	−0·85	Spain	1940	−4·06
Chile	1940	−0·88	U.S.S.R.	1939	−4·19
Belgium	1930	−0·96	England and Wales	1931	−4·22
Denmark	1940	−1·14			

[1] White population only.

Section 4.—Age Distribution

The age distribution of a population is fundamental to most, if not all, other analyses, for the age factor influences employment, marriage, birth rates and death rates, education, immigration, criminology and a multitude of events and activities that are of great importance in the national life.

Immigration has a strong influence on age distribution: it does not directly affect the very young sections of the population except to a small degree, but it immediately affects the age groups between the 'teens' and the 'twenties' and its effects are carried to the older groups as time goes by. Thus, the influence of the very heavy immigration of the early years of the century (1900-11) is indicated by the fact that, in 1901, 175·1 persons per 1,000 of the total population were in