

Section 2.—Sex and Age Distribution

Sex.—The sex distribution of the Canadian people has been characterized since early colonial times by a preponderance of males, although this condition has been greatly modified in more recent years. In 1666, during the early years of settlement by French immigrants, 63·3 p.c. of the population were males. In 1784, when British immigration to Canada was commencing, there were 54,064 males and 50,759 females and by the middle of the nineteenth century there were 449,967 males to 440,294 females in Lower Canada and 499,067 males to 452,937 females in the more newly settled Upper Canada. Since Confederation the newer sections of Canada—the west and the northwest—have shown the greatest excess of males.

From 1871 to 1941, for Canada as a whole, the proportion of males never dropped below 51 p.c. of the total population, whereas for Western Canada it varied between 53 p.c. and 59 p.c.

3.—Sex Distribution of the Population, by Provinces and Territories, Census Years 1911-41

NOTE.—Figures for the Censuses of 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 are given at p. 150 of the 1948-49 Year Book.

Province or Territory	1911		1921		1931		1941	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
P. E. Island.....	47,069	46,659	44,857	43,728	45,392	42,646	49,228	45,819
Nova Scotia.....	251,019	241,319	266,472	257,365	263,104	249,742	296,044	281,918
New Brunswick...	179,867	172,022	197,351	190,525	208,620	199,599	234,097	223,304
Quebec.....	1,012,815	992,961	1,179,651	1,180,859	1,447,326	1,427,336	1,672,982	1,658,900
Ontario.....	1,301,272	1,226,020	1,481,890	1,451,772	1,748,844	1,682,839	1,921,201	1,866,454
Manitoba.....	252,954	208,440	320,567	289,551	368,065	332,074	378,079	351,665
Saskatchewan.....	281,730	200,702	413,700	343,810	499,935	421,850	477,563	418,429
Alberta.....	223,792	150,503	324,208	264,246	400,199	331,406	426,458	369,711
British Columbia..	251,619	140,861	293,409	231,173	385,219	309,044	435,031	382,830
Yukon.....	6,508	2,094	2,819	1,338	2,825	1,405	3,153	1,761
N.W.T.....	3,350	3,157	4,204	3,939	5,012	4,304	6,700	5,328
Canada.....	3,821,995	3,384,648	4,529,643	4,258,306	5,374,541	5,062,245	5,900,536	5,606,119

¹ Includes 485 members of the Royal Canadian Navy recorded separately in 1921.

Immigration has influenced the sex distribution of the population, as between provinces, in widely different degree. In the older settlements of Quebec and parts of New Brunswick and Ontario, where the populations are of French basic stock, immigration has not played as great a part in upsetting the normal distribution of the sexes as it has in the other provinces. Even in Ontario immigrants from Continental European countries do not settle as readily and are not assimilated as completely as in the newer Western Provinces.

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. In urban centres where the percentage of 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 districts.

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