

Nova Scotia 7, New Brunswick 15, Quebec 28, Ontario 48, Manitoba 6, Saskatchewan 21, Alberta 12, British Columbia 8, Yukon Territory 1 and the Northwest Territories 1.

Although Newfoundland became a Province of Canada on Mar. 31, 1949, and the Criminal Code of Canada was proclaimed in that Province on Aug. 1, 1950, statistics of criminal and other offences and delinquencies will not be available on a uniform basis with those of the other provinces and territories until 1951. The only information presently available regarding Newfoundland is given in Section 4. Data in the other Sections are entirely exclusive of that Province.

Section 2.—Adult Offenders and Convictions

Subsection 1.—Adults Convicted of Indictable Offences

The main interest in criminal statistics is concerned with those persons guilty of the more serious crimes. Such offenders are fewer than those who commit non-indictable offences but, from the standpoint of the protection of society, they are more important.

At a Dominion-Provincial Conference on Criminal Statistics, held in 1949 and attended by representatives of the Provincial Departments of the Attorneys General and the Departments of Health and Welfare, it was recommended that the method of compilation of Canadian criminal statistics be changed to base the statistics of indictable crimes on offenders rather than, as in the past, on convictions, a procedure later approved by the provinces.

This innovation makes impossible any comparisons of the tables in this subsection with those on indictable offences in previous Year Books, but the advantage of obtaining a truer and a more readily understood analysis of persons responsible for serious crimes in Canada outweighs this disadvantage. It is more logical to have details of age, sex, marital status, etc., related to the offenders of crimes rather than to the convictions for crimes. Thus, where any person is prosecuted at the same hearing for several offences, one offence has to be selected for tabulation. The rule followed is to select that for which the proceedings were carried to the furthest stage—to conviction and sentence if the prisoner was tried on several charges; if there are several convictions, the offence selected is that for which the heaviest punishment was awarded; if the final result of proceedings on two or more charges is the same, the most serious offence (as measured by the maximum penalty allowed by the law) appears in the tables. Where a person is prosecuted for one offence and convicted of another (e.g., charged with murder and convicted of manslaughter), the case appears only under the offence of which he is convicted.

In the case of non-indictable offences, the figures given continue to be based on convictions and are comparable with those previously published.

Statistics are for years ended Sept. 30 and include only cases finally determined within the year. Cases not entirely disposed of within the year (e.g., tried but sentence postponed) are held over for the next year's report.