

Families.*—The number of families increased at a greater rate during the 1941-51 decade than the general population, with the result that the average number of persons per family dropped from 3·9 to 3·7. Table 32 shows that families with no children or with one or two children increased proportionately at the expense of families with three or more children. It is also interesting to note that the increase in number of families was greater than the increase in the number of children in families. This does not necessarily indicate a trend in the birth rate. Other factors have an important bearing, such as the ageing of the population, the great increase in the marriage rate during the years just prior to the 1951 Census, and the tendency for young people to leave the family home for employment elsewhere.

32.—Family Characteristics, Census Years 1941 and 1951

(Excluding Newfoundland and the Territories)

Item	1941	1951	Increase 1941-51	
			No.	p.c.
Population.....No.	11,489,713	13,622,913	2,133,200	18·6
Families.....No.	2,525,299	3,207,587	682,288	27·0
Persons per family.....“	3·9	3·7	—	—
Children in families.....“	4,692,571	5,357,344	664,773	14·2
Percentage of families with—				
No children at home.....p.c.	31·2	32·5	—	—
1-2 children.....“	41·1	43·4	—	—
3-4 children.....“	17·0	16·5	—	—
5 or more children.....“	10·7	7·6	—	—

In Canada, 90·2 p.c. of the families were reported as maintaining their own households; Saskatchewan was the highest with 94·8 p.c. and Newfoundland the lowest with 86·8 p.c. Of the total family heads, 60·6 p.c. were reported as wage-earners or salary-earners; Ontario was highest with 67·5 p.c., followed by British Columbia with 63·7 p.c. and Saskatchewan was the lowest with 33·2 p.c. followed by Prince Edward Island with 36·8 p.c. Ontario showed the highest median earnings of family head followed by British Columbia and Alberta. Prince Edward Island showed the lowest median earnings.

Of the 778,238 children in the 14-17 age group for Canada, 66·0 p.c. were at school in 1951, 21·5 p.c. were in the labour force and 12·5 p.c. were in neither the labour force nor at school. British Columbia had 79·4 p.c. at school, Alberta 77·7 p.c., and Saskatchewan 76·2 p.c. The percentage at school in Quebec, 52·5, was the lowest among the provinces. In the 18-24 age group for Canada, 13·2 p.c. were at school, 73·9 p.c. were in the labour force and 12·9 p.c. were in neither. British Columbia again was high with 19·5 p.c. at school, followed by Alberta with 18·3 p.c. Newfoundland was the lowest with 8·0 p.c. at school and Quebec followed with 9·4 p.c.

* For census purposes, a *Family* consists of husband and wife (with or without children) or a parent with an unmarried child (or children) living together in the same dwelling. Unmarried sons and daughters under 25 years of age and living with their parents are classed as *Children* as well as wards and guardianship children under 21 years of age. Unmarried sons and daughters, 25 years of age or over, living with their parents are counted as family members but not as children.