

4.—Number of Females to Every 1,000 Males in the Labour Force, by Province, Census Years 1921-51

(Exclusive of the Yukon and Northwest Territories)

Census Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1921.....	..	149	183	176	216	211	171	103	108	131	183
1931.....	..	156	182	187	246	228	199	124	132	167	204
1941 (incl. Active Service).....	..	169	209	202	266	251	208	144	149	192	227
1941 (excl. Active Service).....	..	196	241	230	280	276	231	156	163	213	248
1951.....	191	212	240	253	302	309	285	203	215	283	282

Occupational Trends, 1901-51.—The main obstacle in the way of a comparison of occupations by census years is the absence of a uniform scheme of classification at each census. Even if the classification had been the same, the revolutionary changes that have taken place in the nature of work performed in many occupations with the introduction of machine processes in production would make comparisons difficult. Thus, comparison can be made only for the broad occupational groups shown in Table 5. In this table, occupations for 1901, 1911, 1921, 1941 and 1951 have been rearranged to place them on a comparable basis with the 1931 classification, the 1911 figures, perhaps, being less comparable than those for other years. The main change in the 1931 grouping was the transfer of the "accountants" class from the professional service group to the clerical group.

The outstanding feature of Table 5, so far as the males are concerned, is the decline shown in the relative importance of agricultural occupations since 1901. In that year, just over 45 p.c. of all males in the labour force were engaged in agricultural occupations, as compared with 19.7 p.c. in 1951. The proportionate importance of fishing, hunting and trapping occupations as a group has fluctuated somewhat from decade to decade, manufacturing and mechanical occupations have continued to increase in relative importance, and the relative position of mining and quarrying occupations has remained almost constant since 1921. There has been a steady growth in the proportion of males in construction, transportation, trade and finance, service and clerical occupations. Labourers (other than those engaged in the primary industries) have alternately increased and decreased in relative importance during the decades from 1901 to 1951. This may be caused by differences in the quality of enumeration of occupations and by the tendency for recent immigrants at each census to be more commonly employed as labourers than the labour force population generally.

Table 5 shows that over 42 p.c. of all occupied females were in personal service occupations in 1901 as compared with only about 22 p.c. in 1951. Females occupied in clerical occupations increased from approximately 5 p.c. to over 27 p.c. in the same comparison. The proportion of females in most trade and finance occupations increased from census to census while the proportion in manufacturing and mechanical occupations showed an almost continuous decline since 1901. Although a change in the 1951 Census definition of the occupation "lodging housekeeper" tended to reduce the number of females so classified, the decline in proportion of females in personal service occupations since the 1941 Census was due chiefly to a substantial decrease in the number of household workers during the ten-year period.