

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 22 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.

* 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.

22.—Family Characteristics, Census Years 1941 and 1951

(Excludes Newfoundland and the Territories)

Item	1941	1951	Increase 1941-51	
	No.	No.	No.	p. c.
Population.....	11,489,713	13,622,913	2,133,200	18.6
Families.....	2,525,299	3,207,587	682,288	27.0
Persons per family.....	3.9	3.7	-0.2	--
Children in families.....	4,682,571	5,357,344	664,773	14.2
	p. c.	p. c.		
Percentage of families with—				
No children at home.....	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

Section 15.—The Blind and Deaf Population

Information was obtained in the 1951 Census for totally blind or deaf persons. Persons blind in one eye for example were not recorded as blind and partially deaf persons, such as those able to hear with the help of a mechanical aid, were not included. Table 23 shows the number and proportion of totally blind and deaf persons per 10,000 population in each province and territory. More detailed information on this subject is contained in Vol. II of the 1951 Census.

23.—Number of Blind and Deaf Persons and Proportion per 10,000 Population by Province 1951

Province or Territory	Number			Number per 10,000 Population		
	Blind	Deaf	Blind and Deaf	Blind	Deaf	Blind and Deaf
Newfoundland.....	513	497	27	14.2	13.8	0.7
Prince Edward Island.....	104	88	4	10.6	8.9	0.4
Nova Scotia.....	943	747	43	14.7	11.6	0.7
New Brunswick.....	744	554	33	14.4	10.7	0.6
Quebec.....	3,734	5,139	199	9.2	12.7	0.5
Ontario.....	4,173	3,897	200	9.1	8.5	0.4
Manitoba.....	712	596	32	9.2	7.7	0.4
Saskatchewan.....	590	628	29	7.1	7.6	0.3
Alberta.....	613	556	21	6.5	5.9	0.2
British Columbia.....	972	907	68	8.3	7.8	0.6
Yukon Territory.....	8	4	—	8.8	4.4	—
Northwest Territories.....	18	3	—	11.2	1.9	—
Canada.....	13,124	13,616	656	9.4	9.7	0.5