

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. By 1951, however, the proportion of males to the total population had dropped to 50.6 p.c. for Canada as a whole and in 1956 was 50.7 p.c.

11.—Sex Distribution of the Population by Province, Decennial Census Years 1931-51 and 1956

NOTE.—Figures for the census years 1871-1921 are given in the 1948-49 Year Book, p. 150.

Province or Territory	1931		1941		1951		1956	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.							
Newfoundland....	185,143	176,273	213,905	201,169
P. E. Island.....	45,392	42,646	49,228	45,819	50,218	48,211	50,510	48,775
Nova Scotia.....	263,104	249,742	296,044	281,918	324,955	317,629	353,182	341,535
New Brunswick...	208,620	199,599	234,097	223,304	259,211	256,486	279,590	275,026
Quebec.....	1,447,326	1,427,336	1,672,982	1,658,900	2,022,127	2,033,554	2,317,677	2,310,701
Ontario.....	1,748,844	1,682,839	1,921,201	1,866,454	2,314,170	2,283,372	2,721,519	2,683,414
Manitoba.....	368,065	332,074	378,079	351,665	394,818	381,723	432,478	417,562
Saskatchewan.....	499,935	421,850	477,563	418,429	434,568	397,160	458,428	422,237
Alberta.....	400,199	331,406	426,458	369,711	492,192	447,309	585,921	537,195
British Columbia..	385,219	309,044	435,031	382,830	596,961	568,249	720,516	677,948
Yukon.....	2,825	1,405	3,153	1,761	5,457	3,639	6,924	5,266
N.W.T.....	5,012	4,304	6,700	5,328	9,053	6,951	11,229	8,084
Canada.....	5,374,541	5,002,245	5,900,536	5,606,119	7,088,873	6,920,556	8,151,879	7,928,912

Age.—The age distribution of a population is fundamental to most, if not all, other analyses, for the age factor influences employment, marriage, birth rates and death rates, education, immigration, criminology, and a multitude of events and activities that are of great importance in the national life.

Recent trends in vital rates and immigration have considerably changed the age composition of the population of Canada. A high birth rate together with a low death rate among children has added, between 1951 and 1956, nearly 1,000,000 to the population under 15 years of age and raised the proportion of this group to the total population from 30.3 p.c. to 32.5 p.c. On the other hand, the relative proportion of the working-age groups—persons from 15 to 64 years of age—was 2 p.c. lower at 59.8 p.c. in 1956 than in 1951 when 61.9 p.c. were in this age group. Without the influx of immigrants during the 1951-56 period, the proportion of this productive group would have been much lower since a large part of it consists of the survivors of those born in the 1930's when birth rates were at their lowest. The proportion of persons 65 years of age or over was slightly less than 8 p.c. at both census dates.

Table 12 shows the population of Canada classified by five-year age groups and sex for the census years 1941, 1951 and 1956. The provincial distribution by specified age groups as recorded in the 1956 Census is shown in Table 13.