

## Section 2.—Adult Offenders and Convictions

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 summary conviction offences but, from the standpoint of the protection of society, they are more important.

In 1949 the basis of the statistics of indictable crimes was changed from *convictions* to *persons* so that the figures for 1949 and subsequent years are not comparable with those for previous years. Where any person is prosecuted at the same hearing for several offences, one offence must 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 were tried on several charges; if there were 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 were the same, the most serious offence (as measured by the maximum penalty allowed by the law) appears in the tables. Where a person was prosecuted for one offence and convicted of another (e.g., charged with murder and convicted of manslaughter), the case appears only under the offence for which he was convicted.

In the case of summary conviction offences the figures continue to be based on convictions and are thus comparable with those for earlier years.

Statistics 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.

### Subsection 1.—Adults Convicted of Indictable Offences

During 1955 the courts of Canada dealt with 32,367 adults charged with 54,252 indictable crimes, of whom 28,273 were found guilty of 46,239 offences. These figures show little change from those of 1954 when 35,278 adults were charged with 56,847 indictable crimes and 30,848 were found guilty of 47,981 offences.

#### 1.—Adults Convicted of Indictable Offences and Ratio per 10,000 Population 16 Years of Age or Over, by Province 1954 and 1955

| Province or Territory                | 1954              |                                          | 1955              |                                          |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                      | Persons Convicted | Ratio per 10,000 Population <sup>1</sup> | Persons Convicted | Ratio per 10,000 Population <sup>1</sup> |
|                                      | No.               | No.                                      | No.               | No.                                      |
| Newfoundland.....                    | 645               | 28                                       | 611               | 26                                       |
| Prince Edward Island.....            | 171               | 25                                       | 129               | 19                                       |
| Nova Scotia.....                     | 1,526             | 35                                       | 1,570             | 35                                       |
| New Brunswick.....                   | 735               | 22                                       | 751               | 22                                       |
| Quebec.....                          | 6,525             | 23                                       | 6,391             | 22                                       |
| Ontario.....                         | 12,412            | 35                                       | 10,836            | 30                                       |
| Manitoba.....                        | 1,739             | 31                                       | 1,558             | 27                                       |
| Saskatchewan.....                    | 1,184             | 20                                       | 1,072             | 18                                       |
| Alberta.....                         | 2,383             | 35                                       | 2,251             | 32                                       |
| British Columbia.....                | 3,471             | 39                                       | 3,102             | 34                                       |
| Yukon and Northwest Territories..... | 57                | —                                        | 2                 | —                                        |
| <b>Canada.....</b>                   | <b>30,848</b>     | <b>30</b>                                | <b>28,273</b>     | <b>27</b>                                |

<sup>1</sup> Per 10,000 population 16 years of age or over excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories.