

Section 2.—Adult Offenders and Convictions

The main interest in adult 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.

Statistics of indictable crimes are based on *persons*. When a person is prosecuted at the same hearing for several offences, one of those offences is selected for tabulation. The rule followed is to select the offence for which the proceedings were carried to the furthest stage—to conviction and sentence where the prisoner was tried on several charges; where there were several convictions, the offence selected is that for which the heaviest punishment was awarded; where the final result of proceedings on two or more charges was 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. Statistics of summary conviction offences (p. 357) are based on *convictions*.

The figures include only cases finally determined within the year. Those not entirely disposed of within the year (e.g., tried but sentence postponed) are held over for the next year's report.

The new Criminal Code, which became law in 1954 (SC 1953-54, c. 51), necessitated the alteration of certain statistical classifications. For instance, in the classification of indictable offences regroupings were made and some items added and others dropped. Also, indictable offences under the Criminal Code were shown separately from those under federal statutes. Summary convictions were classified as offences under the Criminal Code, federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal by-laws, and methods of trial were arranged to conform with the provisions of the new Criminal Code. Thus, any comparisons between the data for 1956, 1957 and 1958 and the data published for previous years should be made with care.

Subsection 1.—Adults Convicted of Indictable Offences

During 1958 the courts of Canada dealt with 38,415 adults charged with 69,983 indictable offences, of whom 34,546 were found guilty of 62,839 offences. These figures show an increase over those of 1957 when 35,458 adults were charged with 61,964 indictable offences and 31,765 were found guilty of 54,900 offences.

1.—Persons Convicted of Indictable Offences, with Ratio per 100,000 Population 16 Years of Age or Over, by Province, 1957 and 1958

Province or Territory	Persons Convicted		Persons Convicted per 100,000 Population 16 Years of Age or Over	
	1957	1958	1957	1958
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	703	575	290	231
Prince Edward Island.....	78	134	125	213
Nova Scotia.....	1,234	1,353	275	299
New Brunswick.....	827	991	240	283
Quebec.....	6,678	7,127	222	232
Ontario.....	11,495	12,953	300	330
Manitoba.....	2,246	1,501	390	260
Saskatchewan.....	1,176	1,558	205	271
Alberta.....	3,045	3,766	405	489
British Columbia.....	4,216	4,512	409	425
Yukon and Northwest Territories.....	67	76	345	382
Canada.....	31,765	34,546	292	311