

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 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 10 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 11.

10.—Male and Female Populations, by Age Group, Census Years 1941, 1951 and 1956

Age Group	1941		1951		1956	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
0 - 4 years.....	533,903	517,951	879,063	843,046	1,011,835	971,728
5 - 9 ".....	529,092	516,728	713,873	683,952	919,952	887,101
10 - 14 ".....	556,304	544,573	575,122	555,661	732,032	702,562
15 - 19 ".....	565,212	554,823	532,180	525,792	586,635	575,666
20 - 24 ".....	517,956	514,470	537,535	551,106	567,179	561,931
25 - 29 ".....	488,340	478,650	552,812	578,403	605,836	592,301
30 - 34 ".....	431,591	412,255	512,557	530,177	602,535	613,750
35 - 39 ".....	396,453	363,101	503,571	495,562	555,763	558,622
40 - 44 ".....	348,616	327,929	445,800	422,767	522,615	502,784
45 - 49 ".....	332,503	302,643	387,708	356,971	455,827	422,988
50 - 54 ".....	315,866	275,838	340,461	322,195	381,835	351,215
55 - 59 ".....	275,234	231,658	292,564	278,126	321,973	307,271
60 - 64 ".....	218,557	188,594	264,324	241,828	265,652	259,265
65 - 69 ".....	162,517	145,207	228,076	205,421	237,551	226,562
70 - 74 ".....	111,152	105,949	160,398	154,674	187,490	183,218
75 - 79 ".....	67,200	68,495	94,130	94,261	113,550	113,948
80 - 84 ".....	34,083	37,431	45,963	50,828	55,636	61,460
85 - 89 ".....	12,621	15,015	17,539	22,060	21,688	26,670
90 years or over.....	3,336	4,809	5,197	7,726	6,295	9,870
Totals.....	5,900,536	5,606,119	7,088,873	6,920,556	8,151,879	7,928,913