

Subsection 1.—Adults Convicted of Indictable Offences

During 1959, the courts of Canada dealt with 34,812 adults charged with 64,085 indictable offences, of whom 31,092 were found guilty of 56,204 offences. These figures show a decrease from those of 1958 when 38,415 adults were charged with 69,983 indictable offences and 34,546 were found guilty of 62,839 offences.

1.—Persons Convicted of Indictable Offences, with Ratio per 100,000 Population 16 Years of Age or Over, by Province, 1958 and 1959

Province or Territory	Persons Convicted		Persons Convicted per 100,000 Population 16 Years of Age or Over	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	575	551	231	217
Prince Edward Island.....	134	84	213	131
Nova Scotia.....	1,353	1,362	299	299
New Brunswick.....	991	758	283	211
Quebec.....	7,127	6,250	232	199
Ontario.....	12,953	12,077	330	302
Manitoba.....	1,501	908	260	155
Saskatchewan.....	1,558	1,165	271	200
Alberta.....	3,766	3,404	489	429
British Columbia.....	4,512	4,415	425	411
Yukon and Northwest Territories.....	76	118	382	578
Canada.....	34,546	31,092	311	274

Indictable offences are classified according to the main sources of the criminal law—the Criminal Code and federal statutes. Indictable offences under the Criminal Code are grouped into six classes as shown in Table 2. In 1959, persons convicted of assaults of various kinds and obstructing police represented 79.6 p.c. of Class I, which covers offences against the person. In that year 16 persons were convicted of murder, 17 of attempted murder and 99 of manslaughter as compared with 16, 11 and 82, respectively, in 1958.

Classes II to V deal with offences against property. Thefts predominate among the offences in these classes, and breaking and entering and robbery, serious crimes which involve acts of violence, are the next most numerous. In Class VI, which includes miscellaneous offences, the most numerous convictions are for offences connected with gaming, betting and lotteries. In 1959 there were 565 offenders under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, of whom 470 were convicted of possessing heroin and 55 of trafficking; 387 were males and 511 were born in Canada. British Columbia courts convicted 59.3 p.c. of the drug offenders and Ontario courts 31.7 p.c.