

Subsection 5.—Sex and Age Distribution

The sex and age distributions of a population are basic to most, if not all, other analyses, as they influence employment, marriage, birth and death rates and a multitude of other factors that are of great importance in the national life.

Sex.—The Canadian population has always been characterized by an excess of males, although this excess has been greatly modified in recent years. Since Confederation, the peak sex ratio for Canada as a whole was 113 reached in 1911, a census year that fell within a period of heavy immigration; the 1961 ratio was 102. In the older settled provinces east of Manitoba, the ratio varied between 104 in 1911 and 101 in 1961 but in the western provinces which were being opened to settlement in the early years of the century the ratio changed from a high of 146 in 1911 to 105 in 1961.

The sex distributions and variations in ratio among the provinces are given for the census years 1951, 1956 and 1961 in Table 10.

**10.—Sex Distribution of the Population and Sex Ratio, by Province,
Census Years 1951, 1956 and 1961**

Province or Territory	1951			1956			1961		
	Males	Females	Males to 100 Females	Males	Females	Males to 100 Females	Males	Females	Males to 100 Females
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland..	185,143	176,273	105	213,905	201,169	106	234,924	222,929	105
Prince Edward Island.....	50,218	48,211	104	50,510	48,775	104	53,357	51,272	104
Nova Scotia....	324,955	317,629	102	353,182	341,535	103	374,244	362,763	103
New Brunswick	259,211	256,486	101	279,590	275,026	102	302,440	295,496	102
Quebec.....	2,022,127	2,033,554	99	2,317,677	2,310,701	100	2,631,856	2,627,355	100
Ontario.....	2,314,170	2,283,372	101	2,721,519	2,683,414	101	3,134,528	3,101,564	101
Manitoba.....	394,818	381,723	103	432,478	417,562	104	468,503	453,183	103
Saskatchewan..	434,568	397,160	109	458,428	422,237	109	479,564	445,617	108
Alberta.....	492,192	447,309	110	585,921	537,195	109	689,383	642,561	107
British Columbia....	596,961	568,249	105	720,516	677,948	106	829,094	799,988	104
Yukon Territory	5,457	3,639	150	6,924	5,266	131	8,178	6,450	127
Northwest Territories....	9,053	6,951	130	11,229	8,084	139	12,822	10,176	126
Canada....	7,088,873	6,920,556	102	8,151,879	7,928,912	103	9,218,893	9,019,354	102

Age.—Recent trends in vital rates and immigration have had a considerable effect on the age composition of the Canadian people. A high birth rate together with a low death rate among children added nearly 2,000,000 to the number of persons under 15 years of age between 1951 and 1961, an increase of 46 p.c. The proportion of this group to the total population increased from 30.3 p.c. to 34.0 p.c. in the ten-year period. The population of working age—those of 15 to 64 years of age—increased more slowly at 22.9 p.c. in the decade and the relative proportion of this group declined from 61.9 p.c. to 58.4 p.c. Without the influence of immigration in the 1951-61 period, the proportion of this group would have been much lower since a large part of it consisted of persons born in the low birth rate period of the 1930's. The proportion of persons 65 years of age or over in 1961 was 7.6 p.c. compared with 7.8 p.c. in 1951.

Table 11 shows the population of Canada classified by five-year age groups and by sex for the census years 1951, 1956 and 1961. The provincial distribution by specified age group is given for 1961 in Table 12.