

5.—Convictions of Adults for Indictable and Non-Indictable Offences, by Class of Offence, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1940-44—concluded

Class of Offence	PERCENTAGES OF TOTALS AND PER 100,000 POPULATION									
	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944	
	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.	P.C. of Total	Per 100,000 Pop.
Indictable Offences—										
Offences against the person.....	1.0	46	0.9	45	0.9	47	1.1	48	1.2	46
Offences against property with violence.....	1.1	47	0.7	37	0.6	34	0.8	36	1.1	44
Offences against property without violence.....	4.0	175	2.8	144	2.5	133	3.2	138	3.5	140
Other.....	3.2	142	2.8	145	2.3	123	3.1	132	3.2	125
Totals, Indictable Offences.	9.3	410	7.2	371	6.3	337	8.2	354	9.0	355
Non-indictable Offences—										
Gambling Acts.....	3.2	143	5.2	265	3.4	181	3.9	169	3.4	136
Liquor Acts.....	2.6	114	2.6	133	2.7	145	3.0	128	3.6	143
Traffic regulations.....	62.0	2,739	62.5	3,209	64.4	3,432	54.2	2,325	57.1	2,255
Vagrancy and loose, idle, and disorderly conduct.....	3.7	164	2.9	147	2.4	125	2.5	108	3.0	118
Drunkenness.....	7.5	332	6.8	348	7.2	385	8.3	358	8.8	347
Frequenting bawdy houses.....	0.2	10	0.2	10	0.2	10	0.2	7	0.1	5
Other.....	11.5	506	12.6	646	13.4	711	19.7	844	15.0	593
Totals, Non-indictable Offences.....	90.7	4,008	92.8	4,758	93.7	4,989	91.8	3,939	91.0	3,597
Grand Totals.....	100.0	4,418	100.0	5,129	100.0	5,326	100.0	4,293	100.0	3,952

Subsection 1.—Convictions of Adults for Indictable Offences

The progress of a community, from a moral point of view, is often judged by the number of convictions for indictable offences, as these are less affected than non-indictable offences by extraneous circumstances and the varying methods of law enforcement in different areas and in different years. However, in the study of such statistics it is important to have comparable figures over a period of years. Table 6, along with the figures published in earlier editions of the Year Book (see headnote to table), provides the necessary background.

During the period from 1900 to 1944 the number of crimes increased from 5,768 to 42,511 or 637 p.c. The increase in the population during the same period was 126 p.c., revealing that the increase in the crime rate was five times that of the population.

Wartime Trends.—Convictions for indictable offences, which had increased by 51.8 p.c. from 1934 to 1939, decreased during the five war years despite increases from 1942 to 1943 and from 1943 to 1944. The 1944 total shows a decrease of 11.6 p.c. from the 1939 total.