

Section 7.—Sex and Age Distribution

Sex.—The sex distribution of the Canadian people has been characterized since early colonial times by a preponderance of males, although this condition has been greatly modified in more recent years. In 1666, during the early years of settlement by French immigrants, 63·3 p.c. of the population were males. In 1784, when British immigration to Canada was commencing, there were 54,064 males and 50,759 females and by the middle of the nineteenth century there were 449,967 males to 440,294 females in Lower Canada and 499,067 males to 452,937 females in the more newly settled Upper Canada. Since Confederation, the newer sections of Canada—the west and the northwest—have shown the greatest excess of males.

From 1871 to 1941, for Canada as a whole, the proportion of males never dropped below 51 p.c. of the total population, whereas for Western Canada it varied between 53 p.c. and 59 p.c. By 1951, however, the proportion of males to the total population had dropped to 50·6 p.c. for Canada as a whole.

10.—Sex Distribution of the Population, by Province, Decennial Census Years 1921-51

NOTE.—Figures for the Censuses of 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 are given in the 1948-49 Year Book, p. 150.

Province or Territory	1921		1931		1941		1951	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	185,143	176,273
P.E. Island.....	44,887	43,728	45,392	42,646	49,228	45,819	50,218	48,211
Nova Scotia.....	266,472	257,365	263,104	249,742	296,044	281,918	324,955	317,629
New Brunswick.....	197,351	190,525	208,620	199,599	234,097	223,304	259,211	256,486
Quebec.....	1,179,651	1,180,859	1,447,326	1,427,336	1,672,982	1,658,900	2,022,127	2,033,554
Ontario.....	1,481,890	1,451,772	1,748,844	1,682,839	1,921,201	1,866,454	2,314,170	2,283,372
Manitoba.....	320,567	289,551	368,065	332,074	378,079	351,665	394,818	381,723
Saskatchewan.....	413,700	343,810	499,935	421,850	477,563	418,429	434,568	397,160
Alberta.....	324,208	264,246	400,199	331,406	426,458	369,711	492,192	447,309
British Columbia..	293,409	231,173	385,219	309,044	435,031	382,830	596,961	568,249
Yukon.....	2,819	1,338	2,825	1,405	3,153	1,761	5,457	3,639
N.W.T.....	4,204	3,939	5,012	4,304	6,700	5,328	9,053	6,951
Canada.....	4,529,643¹	4,258,306	5,374,541	5,002,245	5,900,536	5,606,119	7,088,873	6,920,556

¹ Includes 485 members of the Royal Canadian Navy recorded separately.

Age.—The age distribution of a population is fundamental to most, if not all, other analyses, for the age factor influences employment, marriage, birth rates and death rates, education, immigration, criminology and a multitude of events and activities that are of great importance in the national life.

Immigration has a strong influence on age distribution: it does not directly affect the very young sections of the population except to a small degree, but it immediately affects the age groups between the 'teens' and the 'twenties' and its effects are carried to the older groups as time goes by. Thus, the influence of the