

offences, one offence has to be selected for tabulation. The rule followed is to select that for which the proceedings were carried to the furthest stage—to conviction and sentence if the prisoner were tried on several charges; if there were several convictions, the offence selected is that for which the heaviest punishment was awarded; if the final result of proceedings on two or more charges were the same, the most serious offence (as measured by the maximum penalty allowed by the law) appears in the tables. Where a person was prosecuted for one offence and convicted of another (e.g., charged with murder and convicted of manslaughter), the case appears only under the offence for which he was convicted.

In the case of non-indictable offences the figures continue to be based on convictions and are thus comparable with those for earlier years.

Statistics include only cases finally determined within the year. Cases not entirely disposed of within the year (e.g., tried but sentence postponed) are held over for the next year's report.

In 1950 the reporting year for criminal statistics was changed from the 12 months ended Sept. 30 to the calendar year. Also figures for Newfoundland were included for the first time in 1951.

Subsection 1.—Adults Convicted of Indictable Offences

During the year 1953 the courts of Canada dealt with 34,027 adults charged with 53,946 indictable crimes, of whom 29,567 were found guilty of 45,071 offences. These figures show little change from those for 1952 when 35,086 adults were charged with 51,125 indictable crimes and 29,761 were found guilty of 41,591 offences.

1.—Adults Convicted of Indictable Offences and Ratio per 10,000 Population 16 Years of Age or Over by Province 1952 and 1953

Province or Territory	1952		1953	
	Persons Convicted	Ratio per 10,000 Population	Persons Convicted	Ratio per 10,000 Population
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	534	24	508	23
Prince Edward Island.....	89	14	270	40
Nova Scotia.....	1,216	28	1,543	36
New Brunswick.....	782	24	717	22
Quebec.....	5,723	21	6,122	22
Ontario.....	12,464	37	11,816	34
Manitoba.....	1,633	29	1,569	34
Saskatchewan.....	1,074	19	1,068	18
Alberta.....	2,452	37	2,300	34
British Columbia.....	3,703	43	3,582	41
Yukon and Northwest Territories.....	91	55	72	44
Canada.....	29,761	30	29,567	30

Indictable offences are grouped into six classes as shown in Table 2. In 1953 persons convicted of assaults of various kinds and obstructing police represented 79.7 p.c. of Class I, which covers crimes against the person. In that year 10 persons were convicted of murder, 3 of attempted murder and 79 of manslaughter as compared with 18, 3 and 77 respectively in 1952.

Classes II to V cover offences against property. Thieves predominate among the offenders in these classes and burglars and robbers whose serious crimes 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 the improper operation of motor vehicles. In 1953 there were 337 offenders under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, of whom 286 were convicted of possessing heroin, 241 were males and 293 were born in Canada. British Columbia courts convicted 65.3 p.c. of the drug offenders and Ontario courts 25.2 p.c.