

SEX DISTRIBUTION IN THE COLONIES OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA,
CIRCA 1838, 1844 and 1851

Colony and Sex	Circa 1838	Masculinity of Population	Circa 1844	Masculinity of Population	Circa 1851	Masculinity of Population
	No.		No.		No.	
Lower Canada—						
Totals.....	553,134 ¹	3·4	697,084 ²	0·2	890,261	1·1
Male.....	184,614		346,577		449,967	
Female.....	172,503		345,514		440,294	
Upper Canada—						
Totals.....	399,422	4·1	487,053	6·7	952,004	4·8
Male.....	207,837		259,914		499,067	
Female.....	191,585		227,139		452,937	
Nova Scotia—						
Totals.....	202,575 ³	2·4			276,854	0·1
Male.....	92,856				138,612	
Female.....	88,505				138,242	
New Brunswick—						
Totals.....	119,457	4·6	156,162	3·6	193,800	2·7
Male.....	62,503		80,891		99,526	
Female.....	56,954		75,271		94,274	
Prince Edward Island—						
Totals.....			47,042	2·3	62,678 ⁴	2·4
Male.....			24,062		32,065	
Female.....			22,980		30,569	

¹ Includes 196,017 persons, sex not stated.
² Includes 4,993 persons, sex not stated.

³ Includes 21,214 persons, sex not stated.
⁴ Includes 44 persons, sex not stated.

From 1871 to 1941, for Canada as a whole, the percentage 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.

It was the influence of immigration in the first decade of the present century that was instrumental in raising the masculinity of the Canadian population to the highest point in recent history, viz., 6·07 p.c. in 1911. This figure may be compared with the masculinity of 2·56 p.c. (513 males to 487 females) recorded at the 1941 Census.

Since an approximation to equality in the numbers of the sexes is desirable both in the interests of mortality and of the birth rate—an important consideration in a country where the density of the population is only 3·32 persons per square mile—this adjustment must be regarded with satisfaction.

Table 13 gives the position of Canada among other countries of the world in regard to masculinity.

Immigration has influenced the sex distribution of the population, as between provinces, in widely different degree. In the older settlements of Quebec and parts of New Brunswick and Ontario, where the populations are of French basic stock, immigration has not played as great a part in upsetting the normal distribution of the sexes as it has in the other provinces. Even in Ontario immigrants from Continental European countries do not settle as readily and are not assimilated as completely as in the newer western provinces.

A characteristic of population distribution since 1911 has been the rapid growth of urban centres due to the far-reaching developments in manufacturing that have entirely changed the economic picture. In 1911, 54·6 p.c. of the population was classified as rural and 45·4 as urban. Of the rural population of 3,933,696, 2,143,893