

Preliminary figures for 1924 show 155,741 living births, which, on the increased estimate of population for that year, gives a rate of 23·1 for the registration area, the provincial rates varying from 17·5 in British Columbia to 25·9 in Saskatchewan and 26·7 in New Brunswick. Statistics of births and birth rates for the five available years 1920-24, are given by provinces in Table 4, the provincial figures both of births and birth rates for Quebec being appended, so as to show national totals.

4.—Number of Living Births and Birth Rates, by Provinces, 1920-1924.

Provinces.	Living Births.					Birth rate per 1,000 population.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
P.E. Island.....	2,301	2,156	2,160	1,977	1,763	25·9	24·3	24·5	22·5	22·0
Nova Scotia.....	13,181	13,021	12,693	11,680	11,703	25·3	24·9	24·0	22·0	21·9
New Brunswick.....	10,778	11,465	11,564	10,704	10,654	29·9	30·2	29·5	27·0	26·7
Ontario.....	72,297	74,152	71,430	70,056	71,126	25·0	25·3	24·0	23·2	23·2
Manitoba.....	18,322	18,478	17,679	16,472	15,445	30·6	30·3	28·2	25·9	23·9
Saskatchewan.....	22,839	22,493	22,339	20,947	21,085	31·1	29·7	28·4	26·3	25·9
Alberta.....	16,531	16,561	16,163	15,060	14,265	29·0	28·1	26·5	24·3	22·4
British Columbia.....	10,492	10,653	10,166	10,001	9,700	20·5	20·3	18·9	18·4	17·5
Registration Area.....	166,741	168,979	164,194	156,897	155,741	26·6	26·4	25·1	23·7	23·1
Quebec.....	86,328	88,749	88,377	83,579	-	37·2	37·6	35·1	32·2	-
Canada (exclusive of Territories).....	253,069	257,728	252,571	240,476	-	29·4	29·3	27·8	26·1	-

Legitimate Birth Rates per 1,000 Married Women of Ages 15-44.—Undoubtedly the test of birth rate most generally accepted by vital statisticians is supplied by the comparison of the total number of legitimate births with the total number of married women between the ages of 15 and 44, though a small number of births occur where the mothers are either below 15 or past the 45th birthday. This test is applied to the registration area of Canada for 1921-23 in Table 5 on the assumptions:—(1) that the number of married women in the country has since 1921 increased proportionately to the estimated increase of the general population, and (2) that the number of Canadian-born, of British-born and of foreign-born married women has since 1921 increased proportionately to the estimated increase of the general population. Since the estimate covers only the short period of two years elapsed since the census, the above assumptions may be accepted as approximately correct.

Two points of great importance are brought out by the table:—first, the substantial decline in the birth rate per 1,000 married women in the short period covered; secondly, the fact that in the registration area as a whole, foreign-born married women have proportionately rather more children than Canadian-born, and these considerably more children than British-born.