

4.—Number of Living Births and Birth Rates, by Provinces, 1922-1926.

Provinces.	Living Births.					Birth rate per 1,000 population.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926. ¹	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926. ¹
P. E. Island.....	2,160	1,977	1,858	1,675	1,751	24.5	22.5	21.1	19.3	20.1
Nova Scotia.....	12,693	11,680	11,801	11,400	10,931	24.0	22.0	22.1	21.3	20.2
New Brunswick.....	11,564	10,704	10,717	10,949	10,297	29.5	27.0	26.9	27.2	25.3
Quebec.....	3	2	2	2	82,165	2	2	2	2	32.1
Ontario.....	71,430	70,056	71,510	70,122	67,482	24.0	23.2	23.4	22.6	21.5
Manitoba.....	17,679	16,472	15,454	14,867	14,060	28.2	25.9	23.9	23.5	22.9
Saskatchewan.....	22,339	20,947	21,539	20,582	20,557	28.4	26.3	26.4	25.4	25.0
Alberta.....	16,163	15,060	14,597	14,224	14,456	26.5	24.3	23.9	24.7	23.8
British Columbia.....	10,166	10,001	10,119	10,342	9,906	18.9	18.4	18.3	18.4	17.4
Registration Area.....	164,194	156,897	157,585	154,861	-	25.1	23.7	23.4	23.0	
Quebec.....	88,377	83,579	86,930	87,527	-	35.1	32.2	35.1	33.1	
Canada (exclusive of Territories).	252,571	240,476	244,525	242,388	232,205	27.8	26.1	26.5	25.6	24.8

¹ 1926 figures are subject to revision. ² Not included in registration area. ³ Provincial figures.

Table 5 gives, in addition, statistics of the number of births in cities of 40,000 population and over for the years 1921 to 1926. Ten of these cities had in 1921 a total population of 1,328,814 or 20.7 p.c. of the population of the registration area, while the number of births shown below for the year 1921, 38,488, formed 22.0 p.c. of the births recorded for the same year. By 1926 the number of births in these ten cities which have been in the registration area from the beginning had declined to 31,505 or by 18.1 p.c.; the percentage of the total for the registration area, however, was 21.0, a decrease since 1921 of only 1.0 p.c. It would seem, therefore, that the recent decline in the birth rate has been but slightly more pronounced in the larger urban centres than throughout the registration area, although greater differences appear in particular years than over the period in question (1921-1925). Figures for Montreal and Quebec are added for 1926.

5.—Living Births in Cities of 40,000 Population and over, 1921-1926.

Cities.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926. ¹
Montreal.....	2	2	2	2	2	19,644
Toronto.....	13,378	12,745	12,680	12,424	11,976	11,131
Winnipeg.....	6,323	5,840	5,246	4,786	4,660	4,497
Vancouver.....	3,298	2,980	2,998	3,045	3,196	3,089
Hamilton.....	3,498	3,146	3,033	3,140	2,938	2,763
Ottawa.....	3,250	3,273	3,055	3,044	3,026	2,853
Quebec.....	2	2	2	2	2	4,164
Calgary.....	2,086	1,884	1,683	1,612	1,634	1,568
London.....	1,458	1,448	1,380	1,452	1,352	1,317
Edmonton.....	2,136	2,143	1,951	1,852	1,943	1,858
Halifax.....	1,836	1,743	1,519	1,458	1,463	1,353
Saint John.....	1,225	1,269	1,304	1,238	1,246	1,096
Total.....	38,488	36,441	34,843	34,031	33,434	31,505

¹ 1926 figures are subject to revision. ² Not included in registration area.

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 1921-24 in Table 6 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 a