

The rates of natural increase per annum per 1,000 of mean population for other countries in the latest years are as follows, the figures being for 1926 unless otherwise indicated:—Denmark 10·2; Japan 15·6; Netherlands 14·0; Norway 9·1; Finland 8·2; Italy (1925) 11·0; Switzerland 6·5; Sweden 5·1; Spain 10·9; France 1·3; Belgium 6·3; United States (registration area) 8·4; Union of South Africa (whites) 16·6.

The natural increase of the population of Canada has shown some tendency to decline in recent years. On the basis of the vital statistics of the Dominion, it declined from 156,573 or 17·8 per 1,000 of the population in 1921 to 150,084 or 16·5 per 1,000 in 1922, to 135,265 or 14·7 per 1,000 in 1923, to 145,972 or 15·8 per 1,000 in 1924, to 143,611 or 15·2 per 1,000 in 1925, and to 125,296 or 13·3 per 1,000 in 1926. A slight increase to 128,469 is shown by the unrevised figures for 1927, this figure giving a rate of 13·5 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Statistics of the births, marriages, deaths and natural increase in cities of 10,000 and over are given for the calendar year 1926 in Table 2, but these are not worked out as rates per 1,000 of population, though the census population in 1921 is furnished as some guide to the rate of natural increase. Particularly notable in this table is the very large number of births in such cities as Montreal and Quebec, as compared with Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and other cities of somewhat corresponding size. This greatly higher birth rate is in part counterbalanced by a considerably higher death rate, but the natural increase in Quebec cities is still considerably higher than in the cities of other provinces.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND RATES OF NATURAL INCREASE IN CANADA AND ITS PROVINCES			
1926			
	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Natural Increase</i>
CANADA	24.8	11.5	13.3
PRINCE EDWARD ISL.	20.1	10.3	9.8
NOVA SCOTIA	20.3	11.8	8.5
NEW BRUNSWICK	25.4	12.3	13.1
QUEBEC	32.1	14.5	17.6
ONTARIO	21.5	11.4	10.1
MANITOBA	22.9	8.3	14.6
SASKATCHEWAN	25.2	7.4	17.8
ALBERTA	23.8	8.5	15.3
BRITISH COLUMBIA	17.7	9.6	8.1