

13.—Crude Birth Rates of Various Countries in Recent Years.

Country or Province.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.	Country or Province.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.
Costa Rica.....	1928	46.9	New South Wales.....	1930	21.0
Egypt.....	1929	43.7	Northern Ireland.....	1930	20.8
Russia.....	1928	41.0	Finland.....	1930	20.6
Chile.....	1930	39.8	Manitoba.....	1931	20.5
Ceylon.....	1930	39.0	Ontario.....	1931	20.2
Salvador.....	1928	38.0	Queensland.....	1930	20.1
Jamaica.....	1930	37.0	Australia.....	1930	19.9
Panama.....	1928	35.9	Irish Free State.....	1930	19.8
Roumania.....	1930	35.0	Latvia.....	1930	19.8
Japan.....	1930	32.4	Scotland.....	1930	19.5
Quebec.....	1931	29.1	United States (Reg. Area).....	1930	18.9
Spain.....	1930	28.8	New Zealand.....	1930	18.8
Italy.....	1930	26.7	Belgium.....	1930	18.8
New Brunswick.....	1931	26.5	Denmark.....	1930	18.7
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1930	26.4	Victoria.....	1930	18.6
Uruguay.....	1930	24.4	France.....	1930	18.1
Newfoundland.....	1930	23.8	Prussia.....	1929	17.9
Alberta.....	1931	23.6	Germany.....	1930	17.5
Canada.....	1931	23.2	Estonia.....	1930	17.4
Saskatchewan.....	1931	23.1	South Australia.....	1930	17.2
Netherlands.....	1930	23.0	Switzerland.....	1930	17.2
Czechoslovakia.....	1930	22.7	Norway.....	1930	17.0
Nova Scotia.....	1931	22.6	Austria.....	1930	16.8
Tasmania.....	1930	22.1	England and Wales.....	1930	16.3
Western Australia.....	1930	22.0	Sweden.....	1930	15.4
Prince Edward Island.....	1931	21.4	British Columbia.....	1931	15.0

Section 3.—Marriages and Divorces.

Subsection 1.—Marriages.

About a century ago it was observed in the United Kingdom that the number of marriages tended to be high when the price of wheat was low and to be low when the price of wheat was high. This was quite naturally the case among a population, the majority of which was living at a comparatively low standard of comfort, and where the staple food was thus the chief factor in the cost of living.

More recently, the curve showing marriage rates in the United Kingdom and other English-speaking countries has ceased to bear any constant relation to the price of the staple food of the people, though it still does so in poorer countries. Its place in influencing the marriage rate has, however, been taken by the general level of prosperity. Marriages in such countries as the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia tend to increase in "good times" and to diminish in "hard times", when great numbers of those who are contemplating marriage are led to postpone such marriage until the advent of better industrial conditions. Thus marriages in Canada showed a considerable decline in 1931.

Summary statistics of marriages contracted in 1921-31 appear in Table 14.