

Section 2.—Births.

Throughout almost the whole of the civilized world the birth rate has, in the past generation, been on the decline, though the consequent reduction in the rate of natural increase has been partly offset by the synchronous decline in the death rate.

The crude birth rate of England and Wales, for example, was 35.4 per 1,000 population on the average of the decennium 1871-80, 32.5 in 1881-90 and 29.9 in 1891-1900. In 1913 the birth rate was 24.1, and, though it rose to 25.5 in 1920, it fell again to 22.4 in 1921, 19.7 in 1923, thence by successive stages to 16.6 in 1927, rising to 16.7 in 1928, but thereafter falling gradually each year to 15.3 in 1932.

Similarly, in France the crude birth rate declined from an average of 25.4 per 1,000 population in the 1870's, 23.9 in the 1880's and 22.2 in the 1890's to 21.4 in 1920 and 19.1 in 1923, falling slightly to 19.0 in 1925 and again to 18.8 in 1926, 18.1 in 1930, 17.5 in 1931 and 17.3 in 1932. In Germany, again, the crude birth rate was 39.1 in the 1870's, 36.8 in the 1880's, 36.1 in the 1890's, 25.9 in 1920, 20.7 in 1925, 17.5 in 1930, 16.0 in 1931 and 15.1 in 1932.

In Canada the crude birth rate still stands at a comparatively high figure, being 20.9 per 1,000 in 1933. This, however, is largely due to the influence of Quebec, where the rate, although declining, still stood at 25.9 per 1,000 in 1933, as compared with 18.1 per 1,000 in Ontario. In the other provinces the figures varied from lows of 13.5 and 18.4 per 1,000 in British Columbia and Manitoba to highs of 21.3 and 23.9 in Alberta and New Brunswick respectively.

Statistics of births and birth rates for the years 1931-33 with averages for 1921-25 and 1926-30 are given by provinces in Table 4. The averages for the former period are exclusive of the province of Quebec which was not then in the registration area.

4.—Numbers of Live Births and Birth Rates, by Provinces, 1931-33, with Averages, 1921-25 and 1926-30.

A.—NUMBERS OF LIVE BIRTHS.

Year.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada.
Averages, 1921-25.....	1,966	12,119	11,080	¹	71,454	16,590	21,580	15,461	10,256	¹
Averages, 1926-30.....	1,734	11,016	10,327	82,771	68,703	14,391	21,298	15,924	10,356	236,520
1931.....	1,879	11,615	10,801	83,606	69,209	14,376	21,331	17,252	10,404	240,473
1932.....	2,027	11,629	10,810	82,216	66,842	14,124	20,814	16,990	10,214	235,666
1933.....	1,946	11,164	10,037	76,920	63,646	13,304	20,145	16,123	9,583	222,868

B.—BIRTH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

Averages, 1921-25.....	22.6	23.4	28.4	¹	23.7	26.8	27.7	26.0	18.4	¹
Averages, 1926-30.....	19.7	21.4	25.8	30.5	21.0	21.7	24.7	24.2	16.2	24.1
1931.....	21.3	22.6	26.5	29.1	20.2	20.5	23.1	23.6	15.0	23.2
1932.....	22.8	22.4	26.2	28.3	19.2	19.9	22.3	23.0	14.5	22.5
1933.....	21.9	21.4	23.9	25.9	18.1	18.4	21.2	21.3	13.5	20.9

¹ Quebec was not included in the registration area prior to 1926.

Table 5 gives the number of live births in cities and towns of 10,000 population and over for the years 1929 to 1933 inclusive. For recent years previous to 1930 there was a definite tendency for such births to increase but the figures given clearly show that the trend has been in the opposite direction since that year.