

Birth Rates in Various Countries.—The relative positions occupied by Canada and its individual provinces among the countries of the world with respect to crude birth rate (the annual number of births per 1,000 of population) are shown in Table 13.

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.....	1922	43·8	Canada.....	1933	20·9
Egypt.....	1931	43·2	Tasmania.....	1932	20·2
Salvador.....	1932	39·8	Northern Ireland.....	1932	19·9
Russia.....	1929	38·6	Latvia.....	1932	19·4
Ceylon.....	1932	37·0	Irish Free State.....	1932	18·9
Roumania.....	1932	35·9	Western Australia.....	1932	18·9
Straits Settlements.....	1932	35·8	Finland.....	1932	18·7
Ukraine.....	1929	35·3	Scotland.....	1932	18·6
Chile.....	1932	34·2	Manitoba.....	1933	18·4
British India.....	1932	33·7	Denmark.....	1932	18·0
Japan.....	1932	32·9	Ontario.....	1933	18·0
Jamaica.....	1932	32·2	Queensland.....	1932	17·9
Bulgaria.....	1932	31·3	Belgium.....	1932	17·8
Poland.....	1932	28·7	New South Wales.....	1932	17·7
Greece.....	1932	28·2	Estonia.....	1932	17·6
Panama.....	1931	27·9	United States (Reg. Area).....	1932	17·4
Spain.....	1931	27·4	France.....	1932	17·3
Quebec.....	1933	25·9	New Zealand.....	1932	17·1
Iceland.....	1932	24·3	Australia.....	1932	16·9
Union of S. Africa (Whites).....	1932	24·2	Switzerland.....	1932	16·7
New Brunswick.....	1933	23·9	Norway.....	1932	16·0
Italy.....	1932	23·8	Prussia.....	1931	16·0
Newfoundland.....	1932	23·7	British Isles.....	1932	15·9
Hungary.....	1932	23·4	England and Wales.....	1932	15·3
Uruguay.....	1932	22·5	Austria.....	1932	15·2
Netherlands.....	1932	22·0	Victoria.....	1932	15·2
Prince Edward Island.....	1933	21·9	Germany.....	1932	15·1
Nova Scotia.....	1933	21·4	South Australia.....	1932	14·5
Alberta.....	1933	21·3	Sweden.....	1932	14·5
Saskatchewan.....	1933	21·2	British Columbia.....	1933	13·5
Czechoslovakia.....	1932	21·0			

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 considerable declines from the high 1929 level in 1930, 1931, and 1932, but increased generally (in every province except Saskatchewan) in 1933.

Summary statistics of marriages contracted in 1921-33 appear in Table 14.