

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 14.4 in 1933.

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, 17.3 in 1932 and 16.3 in 1933. 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, 15.1 in 1932 and 14.7 in 1933.

In Canada the crude birth rate still stands at a comparatively high figure, being 20.5 per 1,000 in 1934. This, however, is largely due to the influence of Quebec, where the rate, although declining, stood at 25.3 per 1,000 in 1934, as compared with 17.5 per 1,000 in Ontario. In the other provinces the figures varied from a low of 13.5 in British Columbia to a high of 23.9 in New Brunswick.

Statistics of births and birth rates for the years 1931-34, 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, 1931-34, 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	9,533	222,868
1934.....	1,943	11,407	10,164	76,432	62,234	13,310	19,764	16,236	9,813	221,303

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
1934.....	21.8	21.7	23.9	25.3	17.5	18.2	20.5	21.1	13.5	20.5

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

Fertility Rates.—The crude birth rate of a young country is subject to influences which vitiate comparison with older lands. These influences are the result, to some extent, of differences in age or sex constitution or in conjugal condition.