

The densities of population in various countries in recent years are given in Table 7. It should not be assumed, however, that a low density is necessarily evidence of under-population. If density could be expressed in terms of estimated habitable area, the figures would be more comparable, but even then natural physical factors, such as climate, topography, physical condition of the soil, mineral wealth, etc., would not be adequately weighted. These considerations should be borne in mind when comparing the figures of this table.

7.—Densities of Population in Various Countries in Recent Years.

NOTE.—The following figures, for countries other than Canada and China, are based on data taken from the Statistical Year Book of the League of Nations, 1937-38. The population figures of the latest census are used and total population is taken except where indicated otherwise by footnotes.

Country.	Year.	Persons per Sq. Mile.	Country.	Year.	Persons per Sq. Mile.
Belgium.....	1930	697.59	United States of America (not including Alaska).....	1930	40.57
Netherlands.....	1930	605.80	Sweden.....	1935	36.06
United Kingdom (including Channel islands and Isle of Man)	1931	490.74	Norway.....	1930	22.57
Japan.....	1935	469.50	Russia ¹	1936	21.47
Germany (not including Saar Territory).....	1933	360.77	Russia in Europe ²	1936	59.30
Italy.....	1936	354.61	Union of South Africa.....	1936	20.32
China proper ¹	1931	234.87	New Zealand.....	1936	15.20
Poland.....	1931	214.51	Argentina ²	1936	11.85
India.....	1931	195.07	Southern Rhodesia ³	1936	8.66
British India.....	1931	247.67	Canada.....	1931	2.99
France.....	1936	196.97	Canada, exclusive of the Territories.....	1931	5.18
Spain (including Canary islands)	1930	121.34	Commonwealth of Australia.....	1933	2.23
Irish Free State.....	1936	111.33			

¹ Estimate as of Dec. 31, 1931, taken from Canada Year Book, 1934-35, p. 168.

² Estimate as at Dec. 31, 1936.

Elements of Growth.—The factors involved in estimating population movement and growth are: natural increase, which is a resultant of births and deaths; immigration; and emigration. As explained on p. 115, co-operation in the collection of vital statistics (births, marriages, and deaths) in Canada was a consequence of the establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1918, and vital statistics for all provinces except Quebec were made available on a uniform basis for the first time for the years 1921 to 1925. Quebec has been included in the registration area from Jan. 1, 1926, and, since that time, figures for all provinces have been comparable.

Immigration figures are available from the old records of the Department of Immigration or, since 1936, from the Immigration and Colonization Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, for a period antedating Confederation by fifteen years (see p. 152). It is very difficult, however, to obtain correct figures for emigration; no record of this movement is kept by the Canadian Government, although its magnitude is indicated by United States, United Kingdom, and other British returns of Canadian immigrants to those countries. Even these figures cannot however, be taken at their face value since no allowance is made for Canadians returning to Canada after a more or less extended period of residence in the United States or British countries outside Canada. Since 1924, however, the Canadian