

respect to crude birth rate (the annual number of births per 1,000 of population) are shown in Table 10.

10.—Crude Birth Rates of Various Countries of the World and of Provinces of Canada in Recent Years.

Country.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.	Country or Province.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.
Egypt.....	1936	45.0	Canada—concluded.		
Palestine.....	1936	44.9	New Brunswick.....	1937	24.0
Straits Settlements.....	1936	44.3	Prince Edward Island.....	1937	22.5
Costa Rica.....	1936	43.0	Nova Scotia.....	1937	21.4
Salvador.....	1935	38.4	Alberta.....	1937	20.4
British India.....	1936	35.4	Saskatchewan.....	1937	19.9
Chile.....	1936	34.6	Manitoba.....	1937	18.0
Ceylon.....	1936	34.1	Ontario.....	1937	16.6
Jamaica.....	1936	32.4	British Columbia.....	1937	15.0
Roumania.....	1936	31.5	Irish Free State.....	1936	19.6
Japan.....	1936	29.9	Germany.....	1936	19.0
Greece.....	1935	28.3	Finland.....	1936	18.1
Panama.....	1934	27.1	Latvia.....	1936	18.1
Poland.....	1936	26.2	Scotland.....	1936	17.9
Bulgaria.....	1936	25.6	Denmark.....	1936	17.8
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	1936	25.2	Czechoslovakia.....	1936	17.4
Spain.....	1935	25.2	Australia.....	1936	17.1
Lithuania.....	1936	24.2	United States (reg. area).....	1936	16.7
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1936	24.2	New Zealand.....	1936	16.6
Italy.....	1936	22.4	Estonia.....	1936	16.1
Iceland.....	1936	22.0	Switzerland.....	1936	15.6
Hungary.....	1936	20.4	British Isles.....	1936	15.5
Uruguay.....	1935	20.4	Belgium.....	1936	15.3
Netherlands.....	1936	20.2	France.....	1936	15.0
Northern Ireland.....	1936	20.0	England and Wales.....	1936	14.8
Canada.....	1937	19.8	Norway.....	1936	14.6
Quebec.....	1937	24.1	Sweden.....	1936	14.2
			Austria.....	1936	13.1

Section 2.—Marriages and Divorces.

Subsection 1.—Marriages.

The marriage rate in modern countries of the western world is appreciably influenced by the general level of prosperity prevailing. Marriages in such English-speaking countries, for instance, 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 the event. Thus an examination of the figures for individual years over the past decade clearly shows that marriages reached a peak in 1929 after which the recession was steady and marked until 1932; for 1933 there was an improvement, though of little more than 2 p.c. over 1932, for 1934 a further improvement of over 14 p.c. was recorded, and the improvement continued from 1935 to 1937. This general trend for Canada as a whole was followed in the figures for each province, except in the cases of Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, both of which showed decreases as compared with 1936.

Summary statistics of marriages and marriage rates, 1935-37, with averages for 1921-25, 1926-30, and 1931-35, are given in Table 13, p. 129 and in Table 32, p. 151.

Age at Marriage.—The average age of all bridegrooms in the Dominion in 1936 was 29.1 years and that of all brides 25.0 years. The average excess of the bridegroom's age was thus 4.1 years. It may be noted in Table 11 that when the contracting parties are grouped by age of bridegroom, the average difference in age is less for the younger groups, grooms under 20 being 0.4 years younger than the brides, while the excess of the average bridegroom's age was 1.4 years in the group