

Birth Rates in Various Countries.—The relative positions occupied by Canada and its individual provinces among various countries of the world with 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 or Province	Year	Crude Birth Rate	Country or Province	Year	Crude Birth Rate
Egypt.....	1937	43.5	Canada—concluded		
Costa Rica.....	1937	42.2	Saskatchewan.....	1939	19.0
Straits Settlements.....	1937	42.1	Manitoba.....	1939	18.7
Salvador.....	1936	41.2	Ontario.....	1939	17.1
Palestine.....	1938	39.9	British Columbia.....	1939	16.0
Panama.....	1937	36.0	Hungary.....	1937	20.2
Ceylon.....	1938	35.9	Uruguay.....	1937	19.9
British India.....	1937	34.5	Netherlands.....	1937	19.8
Chile.....	1938	33.4	Northern Ireland.....	1939	19.5
Jamaica.....	1937	32.1	Ireland (Eire).....	1939	19.1
Roumania.....	1937	30.8	Finland.....	1937	18.9
Japan.....	1937	30.6	Germany.....	1937	18.8
Greece.....	1937	26.4	Latvia.....	1938	18.4
Spain.....	1935	25.2	Denmark.....	1938	18.1
Union of South Africa (Whites)....	1938	25.0	New Zealand.....	1938	17.9
Poland.....	1937	24.9	Scotland.....	1938	17.7
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	1938	24.8	Australia.....	1938	17.5
Bulgaria.....	1937	24.0	United States (reg. area).....	1939	17.3
Italy.....	1938	23.7	Czechoslovakia.....	1937	17.2
Lithuania.....	1939	22.4	Estonia.....	1937	16.1
Iceland.....	1937	20.4	Norway.....	1938	15.8
Canada.....	1939	20.3	British Isles.....	1938	15.7
New Brunswick.....	1939	25.0	Belgium.....	1937	15.4
Quebec.....	1939	24.8	Switzerland.....	1939	15.2
Prince Edward Island.....	1939	22.4	England and Wales.....	1938	15.1
Nova Scotia.....	1939	21.3	Sweden.....	1938	14.9
Alberta.....	1939	20.9	France.....	1938	14.6
			Austria.....	1937	12.8

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. 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 1939. This general trend for Canada as a whole was followed in the figures for most provinces. (See Table 12, p. 85 and Table 32, p. 106).

Age at Marriage.—The average age of all bridegrooms in the Dominion in 1938 was 29.3 years and that of all brides 25.3 years. The average excess of the