

and British Columbia, in that order, result mainly from low legitimate fertility. The lower fertility of married women in these provinces, as compared with the rest of Canada, is too great to be offset by favourable nuptiality and mortality.

In Canada, as a whole, year-to-year changes in the total number of marriages are reflected in changes in the number of first births, but such changes are only temporary fluctuations in the general trend of fertility. In the long run, the probability of marriage has shown no marked trend while total fertility has steadily declined.

Section 1.—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 24.1 in 1913, and, though it rose to 25.5 in 1920, it has fallen quite rapidly, with minor fluctuations, to 14.9 in 1939.

Similarly, in France the crude birth rate declined from an average of 21.4 in 1920, to 16.1 in 1934, 14.7 in 1937 and 14.6 in 1938. In Germany, again, the crude birth rate was 25.9 in 1920, 17.6 in 1930 and 14.7 in 1933. Since then the rate has recovered to 18.8 in 1937.

In Canada the crude birth rate still stands at a comparatively high figure, being 21.5 per 1,000 in 1940 compared to 20.3 in 1939. This is due largely to the influence of Quebec, where the rate, which has shown consistent improvement for the past three years, stood at 25.7 per 1,000 in 1940, as compared with 18.2 per 1,000 in Ontario. In the other provinces the figures varied from a low of 17.4 in British Columbia to a high of 25.9 in New Brunswick. Crude birth rates for various countries of the world, including Canada and its provinces, are given in Table 10, p. 125.

For some years previous to 1930 there was a definite tendency for live births in cities and towns of 10,000 population or over to increase but the figures from 1930-36 indicate an opposite trend; since 1936, however, an increase in trend again has been apparent (see Table 2).

Sex of Live Births.—Figures for Quebec commence only with the year 1926, when that province entered the registration area, and the totals for Canada are limited in the same manner in consequence. Every province shows an excess of male births for the years or averages shown in Table 1. The table shows that among every 1,000 born in 1940 in the whole of Canada, 513 were males and 487 females. In other words, there were 1,052 males born to every 1,000 females.

1.—Live Births by Sex, and Ratio of Males to Females, by Provinces, 1938-40, with Five-Year Averages, 1921-40

NOTE.—Comparable figures for the single years 1921-37 will be found in previous Year Books commencing with the 1927-28 edition.

Province and Year	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Males		Females		Males to 1,000 Females
			Number	P.C. of Total	Number	P.C. of Total	
Prince Edward Island. Av. 1921-25	1,966	22.6	993	50.5	973	49.5	1,021
Av. 1926-30	1,734	19.7	898	51.8	836	48.2	1,074
Av. 1931-35	1,961	22.1	1,012	51.6	949	48.4	1,067
Av. 1936-40	2,054	21.9	1,073	52.2	981	47.8	1,094
1938	1,974	21.0	1,032	52.3	942	47.7	1,096
1939	2,128	22.4	1,127	53.0	1,001	47.0	1,126
1940	2,097	22.3	1,053	50.2	1,044	49.8	1,009