

In the Allied countries since the outbreak of war and in enemy countries following the rise of Nazi domination the birth rates have risen quite sharply. In Germany the birth rate had risen to 20.0 by 1940, while in Austria the birth rate, which had dropped to 12.8 in 1937, had risen to 21.8 by 1940. Similarly in England and Wales the birth rate has risen under the impetus of war from 14.6 in 1940 to 15.8 in 1942.

In Canada, when the registration area was established in 1921, the crude birth rate was 29.4; by 1931 the rate had declined to 23.2 and by 1937 to 19.8. In 1941 and 1942 the rate stood at the comparatively high figures of 22.2 and 23.4, respectively. The recovery during the past few years has been fairly general in all provinces, with variations ranging from the low rates in British Columbia of 18.4 in 1941 and 19.3 in 1942 to the high rates of 26.8 in New Brunswick and Quebec in 1941 and of 28.0 in Quebec in 1942.

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 given in Table 1.

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

(Sources: League of Nations Statistical Year Book, 1941-42, and Population Index, July, 1943)

Country or Province	Year	Crude Birth Rate	Country or Province	Year	Crude Birth Rate
Costa Rica.....	1941	42.9 ¹	Canada —concluded		
Egypt.....	1940	41.6 ¹	Ontario.....	1942	20.1
Straits Settlements.....	1940	41.3 ¹		1941	19.1
Salvador.....	1941	40.0 ¹	British Columbia.....	1942	19.3
Palestine.....	1941	38.6		1941	18.4
Ceylon.....	1942	36.7	Lithuania.....	1940	23.1 ¹
Panama.....	1937	36.0	Northern Ireland.....	1942	22.8
British India.....	1939	33.6	Eire.....	1942	22.3
Chile.....	1941	32.6 ¹	Bulgaria.....	1942	21.9 ¹
Jamaica.....	1941	29.3	New Zealand.....	1942	21.8 ¹
Japan.....	1940	28.9 ¹	Austria.....	1940	21.8
Roumania.....	1941	25.7 ¹	Netherlands.....	1942	21.0 ¹
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1941	25.2 ¹	United States (reg. area).....	1942	21.0
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	1938	24.8	Latvia.....	1941	20.7 ¹
Poland.....	1938	24.5	Denmark.....	1942	20.5 ¹
Finland.....	1941	24.2	Iceland.....	1940	20.5
Greece.....	1939	23.5	Italy.....	1942	20.2 ¹
			Uruguay.....	1940	19.9
Canada	1942	23.4	Hungary ²	1942	19.8 ¹
	1941	22.2	Spain.....	1941	19.5 ¹
Quebec.....	1942	28.0	Estonia.....	1941	19.2
	1941	26.8	Australia.....	1941	18.9
New Brunswick.....	1942	27.3	Scotland.....	1942	18.9 ¹
	1941	26.8	Switzerland.....	1942	18.5 ¹
Nova Scotia.....	1942	25.9	Sweden.....	1942	17.7 ¹
	1941	24.1	Czechoslovakia.....	1938	16.8 ¹
Prince Edward Island.....	1942	23.7	Norway.....	1940	16.3 ¹
	1941	21.6	British Isles.....	1942	16.2 ¹
Alberta.....	1942	23.6	England and Wales.....	1942	15.8 ¹
	1941	21.7	Germany (territory of 1937).....	1942	14.9 ¹
Manitoba.....	1942 ¹	21.6	France (excl. Alsace-Lorraine).....	1941	13.0
	1941	20.3	Belgium.....	1942	12.9 ¹
Saskatchewan.....	1942	21.4			
	1941	20.6			

¹ Provisional or approximate figure.

² Within the boundaries of the Treaty of Trianon.

The birth statistics indicate that there is a tendency towards greater hospitalization and medical attendance at births and that the numbers of births in the urban areas of Canada (cities and towns of 1,000 population or over) are increasing more rapidly than births in the rural parts. Live births in cities, towns and villages of 10,000 population or over are given in Table 2.