

7.—Birth Rates per 1,000 Population of Various Countries of the World Compared with Canada and the Provinces for Recent Years

(Sources: Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations and other official sources. In certain cases final figures are not available and provisional data are shown.)

Country or Province	Year	Birth Rate	Country	Year	Birth Rate
Palestine (excluding Bedouins).....	1946	44.4	Bulgaria.....	1946	25.7
Costa Rica.....	1946	41.7	Japan.....	1946	25.3
Panama.....	1946	39.1	New Zealand (excluding Maoris).....	1946	25.2
Ceylon.....	1945	36.8	Iceland.....	1944	25.1
Salvador.....	1946	36.1	Roumania.....	1946	23.8
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	1945	34.9	Australia.....	1946	23.6
Chile.....	1946	32.4	Denmark.....	1946	23.4
Jamaica.....	1946	30.8	United States.....	1946	23.3
Netherlands.....	1946	30.2	Eire.....	1946	22.9
British India.....	1946	27.9	Northern Ireland.....	1946	22.6
Union of South Africa (Whites)....	1946	27.7	Italy.....	1946	22.5
Finland.....	1946	27.6	Norway.....	1946	22.5
Canada.....	1946	26.9	Spain.....	1946	21.4
New Brunswick.....	1946	33.9	France.....	1946	20.6
Quebec.....	1946	30.7	Scotland.....	1946	20.3
Prince Edward Island.....	1946	29.7	Switzerland.....	1946	20.0
Nova Scotia.....	1946	29.3	Sweden.....	1946	19.6
Alberta.....	1946	27.6	England and Wales.....	1946	19.1
Manitoba.....	1946	25.9	Hungary ¹	1946	18.4
Saskatchewan.....	1946	25.7	Belgium ²	1946	18.2
Ontario.....	1946	23.8	Austria.....	1946	15.9
British Columbia.....	1946	22.5			

¹ Trianon Territory.

² Adjusted.

In Canada, in 1921, the birth rate was 29.4 per 1,000. Since a rate of 35 per 1,000 is very high for countries of modern western civilization, the Canadian birth rate had probably not fallen far or for long before then. But it fell continuously until 1937, when it was 20.0 per 1,000. Since then, owing to economic recovery and the War it rose to 21.5 in 1940, to 24.0 in 1943 and to 26.9 in 1946. The birth rate in the provinces followed the same general trend, though in the Maritimes the fall stopped before 1930.

Sex of Live Births.—Wherever birth statistics have been collected, they have shown an excess of male over female births. No conclusive explanation of this excess has yet been given. Nevertheless it is so much of an accepted statistical fact that a proper ratio of male to female births has become one of the criteria of complete registration. The number of males to every 1,000 females born in Canada in 1941-46 has varied between 1,057 and 1,067.

Hospitalization and medical attendance at birth have increased in Canada. In 1926-30, only 22 p.c. of live births occurred in hospitals, while in 1940-42 the proportion was 49.5 p.c. and in 1946, 68 p.c. The provinces still differ greatly in this respect. In 1946 the proportions of births which occurred in hospitals were Quebec 36 p.c., New Brunswick 54 p.c., Nova Scotia 74 p.c., Ontario 85 p.c., Manitoba and Saskatchewan 87 p.c., Alberta 93 p.c., and British Columbia 95 p.c.