

Section 3.—Births

International Comparisons.—A comparison of the birth rates in Canada and the provinces with those in other countries is shown in Table 7.

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 publications. In certain cases final figures are not available and provisional data are used.)

Country or Province	Year	Birth Rate	Country	Year	Birth Rate
Palestine (excluding Bedouins).....	1946	44.4	United States.....	1947	25.8
El Salvador.....	1947	41.2	Iceland.....	1944	25.4
Ceylon.....	1947	39.4	Australia.....	1947	24.1
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	1946	36.3	Bulgaria.....	1947	24.0
Panama.....	1947	34.7	Northern Ireland.....	1947	23.3
Chile.....	1947	33.8	Ireland.....	1947	23.1
Canada	1947	28.6	Norway.....	1946	22.6
New Brunswick.....	1947	36.2	Roumania.....	1947	22.4
Prince Edward Island.....	1947	31.8	Denmark.....	1947	22.1
Quebec.....	1947	31.1	Scotland.....	1947	22.0
Nova Scotia.....	1947	31.0	Italy.....	1947	21.9
Alberta.....	1947	30.0	Spain.....	1947	21.3
Saskatchewan.....	1947	27.7	France.....	1947	21.0
Manitoba.....	1947	27.5	England and Wales.....	1947	20.6
Ontario.....	1947	26.0	Switzerland.....	1947	19.3
British Columbia.....	1947	25.2	Sweden.....	1947	18.9
Netherlands.....	1947	27.8	Austria.....	1947	18.6
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1947	27.1	Hungary.....	1947	18.4
New Zealand (excluding Maoris)....	1947	26.4	Belgium.....	1947	17.8

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. It fell continuously until 1937, when it was 20.0 per 1,000 but since then, owing to economic recovery and the War, it rose to 21.5 in 1940, to 24.0 in 1943 and to 28.6 in 1947. 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 1941-47 varied between 1,067 and 1,051.

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 and in 1947, 71 p.c. The provinces still differ greatly in this respect. In 1947 the proportions of births that occurred in hospitals were: Quebec 39 p.c., New Brunswick 59 p.c., Prince Edward Island 72 p.c., Nova Scotia 79 p.c., Ontario 87 p.c., Manitoba 88 p.c., Saskatchewan 90 p.c., Alberta 94 p.c., and British Columbia 96 p.c.