

**Multiple Births.**—Approximately one confinement in 85 in Canada results in the birth of more than one child. In the period 1926-47 there have been 65,511 such confinements, of which 64,909 were twins and 595 were triplets. There have been six sets of quadruplets. The Dionne quintuplets were born in 1934.

The proportion of stillbirths is higher among multiple than among single births. It is about twice as high for twins and between three and five times as high for triplets.

### 12.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn, 1945-47

Confinements and Births	1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
	NUMBERS			PERCENTAGES		
<b>Confinements—</b>						
Single.....	288,734	330,405	358,385	98.9	98.9	98.9
Twin.....	3,283	3,664	4,031	1.1	1.1	1.1
Triplet.....	30	40	36	--	--	--
Quadruplet.....	2	—	—	--	...	...
<b>Totals, Confinements.....</b>	<b>292,049</b>	<b>334,109</b>	<b>362,452</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Births—</b>						
Single—						
Live.....	282,330	323,586	351,281	97.8	97.9	98.0
Stillborn.....	6,404	6,819	7,104	2.2	2.1	2.0
Twin—						
Live.....	6,310	7,034	7,712	96.1	96.0	95.7
Stillborn.....	256	294	350	3.9	4.0	4.3
Triplet—						
Live.....	83	112	101	92.2	93.3	93.5
Stillborn.....	7	8	7	7.8	6.7	6.5
Quadruplet—						
Live.....	7	—	—	87.5	...	...
Stillborn.....	1	—	—	12.5	...	...
<b>Totals, Births.....</b>	<b>295,398</b>	<b>337,853</b>	<b>366,555</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Live.....	288,730	330,732	359,094	97.7	97.9	98.0
Stillborn.....	6,668	7,121	7,461	2.3	2.1	2.0

**Fertility Rates.**—The sex and age distribution of the population is an important factor in determining birth, death and marriage rates. Since more than 95 p.c. of children are born to women between the ages of 15 and 50, differences in the proportion of women of these ages to the population as a whole will cause differences in the birth rates of different countries or regions, even though the fertility of women at each age may be the same. Measures of fertility which are independent of the sex and age distribution of the population have, therefore, been devised. The best known of these are age-specific fertility rates and reproduction rates.

Further details on this subject may be found at pp. 153-154 of the 1947 edition of the Year Book or from the report "Gross and Net Reproduction Rates, Canada and the Provinces", published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

**Ages of Parents.**—The numerical and percentage distribution of legitimate live births by the ages of the parents is given in Table 13, of illegitimate live births by the age of the mother in Table 14, and of stillbirths by the age of the mother in Table 15. The average ages of the parents are also given.

In 1930-32 the average age of fathers was 33.7 years and of mothers 29.3 years. The average age of parents is now slightly lower. Besides the fertility rates at each age, two other factors help to determine the average age of parents having children; first, the average age of potential parents, that is, of the population between the