

7.—Birth Rates per 1,000 Population of Various Countries compared with Canada and the Provinces, 1950

(Source: *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	Birth Rate	Country or Province	Birth Rate	Country	Birth Rate ²
Mexico.....	45·7	Canada—concluded		Northern Ireland.....	21·4 ²
Venezuela.....	43·1	Manitoba.....	25·1	Ireland.....	21·0
Ceylon.....	40·2	Ontario.....	24·3	France ³	20·4
Chile.....	32·4	British Columbia.....	23·8	Spain.....	19·9
Peru.....	30·4			Italy.....	19·6
Japan.....	28·3	Union of South Africa		Norway.....	19·3
		(White).....	25·7	Denmark.....	18·6
Canada.....	27·1	India ¹	25·5	Switzerland.....	18·1
Newfoundland.....	37·5	New Zealand.....	24·6	Scotland.....	17·9
New Brunswick.....	32·0	Finland.....	24·4	Belgium.....	16·5
Prince Edward Island.....	30·1	Portugal.....	24·2	Sweden.....	16·4
Quebec.....	30·0	United States.....	23·4	Western Germany.....	16·2
Alberta.....	28·1	Australia.....	23·3	England and Wales.....	15·8
Nova Scotia.....	27·1	Czechoslovakia.....	22·9	Austria.....	15·6
Saskatchewan.....	25·9	Netherlands.....	22·7		

¹ Registration area only.
registration of birth.

² 1949.

³ Excluding infants born alive but who died before

Canadian Births.—In Canada, the birth rate in 1921 was 29 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 per 1,000 but since then, owing to economic recovery and the War, it rose to 22 in 1940, to 24 in 1943 and reached its highest point in 1947 at 28·6. The rate declined gradually since that year and stood at 27 in 1950. The birth rates in the provinces followed the same general trend, but 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 1941-50 varied between 1,067 and 1,051.

8.—Live Births by Sex, Birth Rates, and Ratio of Males to Females, by Provinces, 1947-50

Province and Year	Total Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Males		Females		Males to 1,000 Females	
			Number	P.C. of Total	Number	P.C. of Total		
Newfoundland.....	1949	12,281	35·3	6,255	50·9	6,026	49·1	1,038
	1950	13,164	37·5	6,853	52·1	6,311	47·9	1,086
Prince Edward Island.....	1947	2,992	31·8	1,532	51·2	1,460	48·8	1,049
	1948	2,842	30·6	1,453	51·1	1,389	48·9	1,046
	1949	2,831	30·1	1,457	51·5	1,374	48·5	1,060
	1950	2,885	30·1	1,442	50·0	1,443	50·0	999
Nova Scotia.....	1947	19,265	31·0	9,771	50·7	9,494	49·3	1,029
	1948	17,791	28·0	9,094	51·1	8,697	48·9	1,046
	1949	17,739	27·5	9,219	52·0	8,520	48·0	1,082
	1950	17,262	27·1	8,895	51·5	8,367	48·5	1,063