

Section 4.—Natural Increase

In 1926-30 the rate of natural increase in Canada (excess of births over deaths) was 13 per 1,000 population. Owing partly to the depression, the birth rate declined more than the death rate and the rate of natural increase fell to 9·7 in 1937. Since then the rate has increased to 12·6 in 1940-42, 14·5 in 1945, 17·5 in 1946 and 19·2 in 1947. The rates of 17·7 in 1948, 17·9 in 1949 and 18·1 in 1950 were lower due to increases in total deaths in recent years.

The rates of natural increase in the provinces followed generally the rate for Canada as a whole. In earlier years, Saskatchewan and Quebec had the highest rates. The high rates in all the Prairie Provinces were due partly to their relatively younger populations and consequent low death rates. In Quebec, on the other hand, the death rate in 1926-30 was high; it has declined steadily since. Due to high birth rates, Newfoundland and New Brunswick have had the highest rates of natural increase in Canada in recent years.

The rates are generally higher for females than for males for the reason that death rates for males are higher than for females. In the western provinces particularly, the fact that the ratio of males to females in the total population is higher than in other parts of Canada makes for a lower rate of natural increase.

In a country such as Canada with a fairly young population and where immigration has been large, an excess of males is to be expected but the higher rate of natural increase for females will gradually reduce this excess. The trend is towards an eventual excess of females in the total population as there now is in most European countries.

31.—Natural Increase and Rates of Natural Increase, by Sex and by Provinces, 1947-50

Province and Year	Excess of Births Over Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Males		Females	
			Number	Rate per 1,000 Males	Number	Rate per 1,000 Females
Newfoundland.....1947	9,321	27·6	4,804	28·1	4,517	27·7
.....1948	8,526	24·8	4,246	24·4	4,280	25·8
.....1949	9,413	27·1	4,659	26·2	4,754	27·9
.....1950	9,996	28·5	5,079	28·0	4,917	28·4
Prince Edward Island.....1947	1,972	20·9	989	20·5	983	21·5
.....1948	1,955	21·1	998	20·8	957	21·2
.....1949	1,907	20·3	926	19·0	981	21·7
.....1950	1,982	20·7	973	19·8	1,004	21·5
Nova Scotia.....1947	13,256	21·3	6,484	20·6	6,772	22·2
.....1948	11,694	18·4	5,763	17·9	5,931	19·0
.....1949	11,759	18·2	5,898	18·0	5,861	18·4
.....1950	11,184	17·6	5,499	16·5	5,685	17·5
New Brunswick.....1947	12,939	26·4	6,438	25·8	6,501	26·9
.....1948	12,320	24·5	6,221	24·3	6,099	24·7
.....1949	11,797	22·0	5,931	22·6	5,866	23·1
.....1950	11,498	22·4	5,782	21·9	5,716	22·2
Quebec.....1947	81,845	22·0	40,827	21·9	41,018	22·2
.....1948	81,106	21·4	40,580	21·3	40,526	21·4
.....1949	82,717	21·3	41,445	21·3	41,272	21·3
.....1950	85,604	21·6	42,937	21·6	42,667	21·5
Ontario.....1947	67,234	16·1	32,825	15·5	34,409	16·6
.....1948	61,831	14·3	30,065	13·8	31,766	15·0
.....1949	63,222	14·4	30,661	13·7	32,561	14·9
.....1950	64,760	14·5	31,409	13·8	33,351	15·0