

Multiple Births.—Approximately one confinement in 85 in Canada results in the birth of more than one child. In the period 1926-51 there have been 82,431 such confinements, of which 81,680 were twins and 741 were triplets. There have been nine 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.

8.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn, 1949-51

(Exclusive of the Territories)

Confinements and Births	Numbers			Percentages		
	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951
Confinements—						
Single.....	364,955	369,578	378,246	98.9	98.8	98.8
Twin.....	4,169	4,285	4,377	1.1	1.1	1.1
Triplet.....	39	34	37	--	--	--
Quadruplet.....	1	—	—	--	—	—
Totals, Confinements.....	369,164	373,897	382,660	100.0	100.0	100.0
Births—						
Single—						
Live.....	358,087	362,712	371,539	98.1	98.1	98.2
Stillborn.....	6,868	6,866	6,707	1.9	1.9	1.8
Twin—						
Live.....	7,940	8,261	8,458	95.2	96.4	96.6
Stillborn.....	398	309	296	4.8	3.6	3.5
Triplet—						
Live.....	108	98	104	92.3	96.1	93.7
Stillborn.....	9	4	7	7.7	3.9	6.3
Quadruplet—						
Live.....	4	—	—	100.0	—	—
Stillborn.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals, Births.....	373,414	378,250	387,111	100.0	100.0	100.0
Live.....	366,139	371,071	380,101	98.1	98.1	98.2
Stillborn.....	7,275	7,179	7,010	1.9	1.9	1.8

Fertility Rates.—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 in the 1947 Year Book, pp. 153-154, or in the DBS report, *Gross and Net Reproduction Rates, Canada and the Provinces*.

Ages of Parents.—Ages of the parents is an important variable in any analysis of birth statistics. The numerical and percentage distribution of legitimate live births by the ages of the parents is given for each decennium from 1931 in Table 9, of illegitimate live births by the age of the mother in Table 10, and of stillbirths by the age of the mother in Table 11, as well as the average ages of the parents for each year shown.

Besides the fertility rates at each age, three other factors help, in the main, to determine the average age of parents having children: firstly, the average age of potential parents, at any point in time, that is, of the population between the ages of 15 and 50; secondly, the average age of couples at marriage; and thirdly, the