

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 increased to 12.6 in 1940-42, 14.6 in 1945, 17.6 in 1946 and 19.3 in 1947. The rates of 17.8 in 1948, 18.1 in 1949, 18.1 in 1950 and 18.2 in 1951 were lower owing to increases in total deaths in recent years.

Table 25 shows that 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. Owing 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 tends to lower the 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.

25.—Natural Increase and Rates of Natural Increase, by Sex and Province, 1921, 1931, 1941 and 1949-51

| 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.....1949 | 9,413 | 27.3 | 4,659 | 26.4 | 4,754 | 28.2 |
|1950 | 9,996 | 28.5 | 5,079 | 28.3 | 4,917 | 28.7 |
|1951 | 8,734 | 24.2 | 4,369 | 23.6 | 4,365 | 24.8 |
| Prince Edward Island.....1921 | 947 | 10.7 | 454 | 10.1 | 493 | 11.3 |
|1931 | 967 | 10.9 | 517 | 11.4 | 450 | 10.6 |
|1941 | 915 | 9.6 | 483 | 9.8 | 432 | 9.4 |
|1949 | 1,907 | 20.3 | 926 | 19.0 | 981 | 21.7 |
|1950 | 1,982 | 20.7 | 978 | 19.8 | 1,004 | 21.5 |
|1951 | 1,747 | 17.9 | 872 | 17.4 | 875 | 18.2 |
| Nova Scotia.....1921 | 6,601 | 12.6 | 3,323 | 12.5 | 3,278 | 12.7 |
|1931 | 5,647 | 11.0 | 2,836 | 10.8 | 2,811 | 11.3 |
|1941 | 6,969 | 12.1 | 3,335 | 11.3 | 3,654 | 13.0 |
|1949 | 11,759 | 18.7 | 5,898 | 18.5 | 5,861 | 18.9 |
|1950 | 11,184 | 17.6 | 5,499 | 17.0 | 5,685 | 18.1 |
|1951 | 11,313 | 17.6 | 5,596 | 17.2 | 5,717 | 18.0 |