

## Section 4.—Natural Increase\*

As will be observed from Table 1 the rate of natural increase in Canada (excess of births over deaths) in 1926-30 was 13 per 1,000 population. Partly as a result of the depression the birth rate declined more than the death rate and the rate of natural increase fell to 9.7 in 1937. It increased steadily from 12.6 in 1940-42 to 19.3 in 1947, dropped to 17.8 in 1948, then rose to a high of 20.3 in 1954. A decrease to 20.0 in 1955 and 19.8 in 1956 was caused mainly by a drop in the birth rate.

Table 19 shows that the rates of natural increase in the provinces followed generally the rate for Canada as a whole. The high rates in the Prairie Provinces are caused by their relatively younger populations and consequent low death rates. In Quebec the death rate in the period 1926-30 was high but it has since declined steadily. High birth rates have given Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Alberta the highest rates of natural increase in Canada in recent years (excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories).

The rates of natural increase are higher for females than for males in all provinces because of the higher death rates for males. In the western provinces particularly, the ratio of males to females in the total population is higher than in other parts of Canada and this tends to lower the rate of natural increase. In Canada, a country with a fairly young population and where immigration has been on a large scale, an excess of males is to be expected but the higher rate of natural increase for females may 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—unless immigration again raises the male ratio.

\* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 230-231.

19.—Natural Increase and Rates per 1,000 Population by Sex and Province 1921-56

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.....	1951 8,734	24.2	4,369	23.6	4,365	24.8
	1952 9,788	26.2	4,942	25.7	4,846	26.7
	1953 10,064	26.3	4,990	25.4	5,074	27.3
	1954 10,737	27.2	5,330	26.2	5,407	28.3
	1955 11,551	28.4	5,701	27.3	5,850	29.7
	1956 11,483	27.6	5,722	26.8	5,761	28.6
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
	1951 1,747	17.9	872	17.4	875	18.2
	1952 1,787	17.8	902	17.7	885	18.1
	1953 1,811	17.9	853	16.6	958	19.4
	1954 1,758	17.4	874	17.0	884	17.8
	1955 1,883	18.8	949	18.6	934	19.0
	1956 1,724	17.4	765	15.1	959	19.7
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 6,989	12.1	3,335	11.3	3,654	13.0
	1951 11,313	17.6	5,596	17.2	5,717	18.0
	1952 12,195	18.7	6,022	18.2	6,173	19.1
	1953 12,468	18.8	6,146	18.3	6,322	19.4
	1954 13,217	19.6	6,490	18.9	6,727	20.4
	1955 13,027	19.1	6,375	18.4	6,652	19.8
	1956 13,368	19.2	6,719	19.0	6,649	19.5
New Brunswick.....	1921 6,055	15.9	3,084	16.0	2,971	15.9
	1931 6,157	15.1	3,099	14.9	3,058	15.3
	1941 7,088	15.5	3,396	14.5	3,692	16.5
	1951 11,202	21.8	5,522	21.3	5,680	22.1
	1952 12,044	22.9	5,768	21.8	6,276	24.0
	1953 11,821	22.2	5,966	22.3	5,855	22.1
	1954 12,363	22.9	6,140	22.6	6,223	23.2
	1955 12,174	22.3	5,898	21.4	6,276	23.1
	1956 11,915	21.5	6,014	21.5	5,901	21.5