

2.—Summary of Principal Vital Statistics for Urban Centres of 10,000 Population or Over¹
(residents only), 1951-57—concluded

Province and Urban Centre	Births			Deaths			Natural Increase			Infant Deaths			
	Av. 1951- 55	1956	1957	Av. 1951- 55	1956	1957	Av. 1951- 55	1956	1957	Av. 1951- 55	1956	1957	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Rate ²	Rate ²	No.	Rate ²
Manitoba—													
Brandon.....	555	643	714	201	198	223	354	445	491	26	22	17	24
Flin Flon.....		321	340		48	52		273	288		22	4	12
Portage la Prairie.....	263	343	368	93	83	87	170	260	281	31	23	11	30
St. Boniface.....	753	821	898	209	290	323	544	531	575	27	27	20	22
St. James.....			672			210			462			14	21
Winnipeg.....	5,766	6,123	6,166	2,408	2,469	2,617	3,358	3,654	3,549	26	24	185	30
Saskatchewan—													
Moose Jaw.....	774	887	903	287	284	323	487	603	580	27	28	13	14
Prince Albert.....	558	608	606	133	161	173	425	447	433	29	38	21	35
Regina.....	2,143	2,609	2,817	589	677	619	1,554	1,932	2,198	23	25	78	28
Saskatoon.....	1,811	2,217	2,292	529	595	598	1,282	1,622	1,694	28	21	34	15
Swift Current.....	275	369	334	77	90	87	198	279	247	33	14	7	21
Alberta—													
Calgary.....	4,462	5,851	6,212	1,304	1,362	1,488	3,158	4,489	4,724	27	17	146	24
Edmonton.....	6,481	8,037	8,364	1,346	1,463	1,626	5,135	6,574	6,738	23	22	194	23
Jasper Place.....		700	692		66	62		634	630		16	12	17
Lethbridge.....	816	871	857	195	210	234	621	661	623	25	31	16	19
Medicine Hat.....	464	572	575	173	202	209	291	370	366	20	17	12	21
Red Deer.....	358	484	554	73	84	96	285	400	458	23	21	10	18
British Columbia—													
Nanaimo.....	331	373	444	151	188	159	180	185	285	25	38	9	20
New Westminster.....	584	632	658	272	331	296	312	301	362	19	22	9	14
North Vancouver.....	647	582	587	190	195	213	457	387	374	19	24	13	22
Penticton.....	247	255	235	71	109	96	176	146	139	32	16	3	13
Port Alberni.....	255	300	319	56	54	55	199	246	264	25	27	10	31
Prince George.....	370	573	573	69	96	87	301	477	486	33	21	18	31
Prince Rupert.....	302	328	356	95	102	113	207	226	243	41	40	23	65
Trail.....	380	359	335	74	88	81	306	271	254	21	22	5	15
Vancouver.....	7,738	7,876	8,411	4,223	4,472	4,526	3,515	3,404	3,885	22	21	202	24
Victoria.....	1,159	1,272	1,250	768	806	855	391	466	395	21	22	35	28

¹ As at the 1956 Census.

² Per 1,000 live births.

Section 2.—Births*

The Canadian birth rate in 1921 was 29 per 1,000 population. As a rate of 35 is very high for countries of modern western civilization, the Canadian rate had probably not fallen far, nor for long, before 1921. It fell continuously until 1937 when it reached a low of 20 but, as a result of economic recovery and the War, it rose to 22 in 1940, 24 in 1943 and a record high of 28.9 in 1947. Since then the rate has fluctuated moderately being just over 27 in 1950, 28.5 in 1954, 28.0 in 1956 and 28.3 in 1957.

The birth rates in most provinces followed similar trends but there were some regional differences in the birth rate pattern in recent years. Although all provinces had record high rates immediately following World War II, average birth rates in Ontario and the western provinces were higher during 1951-55 than those for the 1946-50 period, while those for Quebec and the Maritimes were lower. In fact, Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta had all-time record high crude birth rates during the past three to four years.

* For international comparisons see Section 7, pp. 228-229.