

It has always been assumed that the Province of Quebec has had the highest birth rate in Canada, but Table 1 shows that since the late 1930's or early 1940's Newfoundland and New Brunswick have had higher birth rates than Quebec. In 1957, Newfoundland had a crude rate of 36.0, followed by Alberta with a rate of 30.8, New Brunswick 30.1 and Quebec 29.8; Manitoba and British Columbia had the lowest rates with 26.0 and 26.1 respectively. However these crude rates are based on total population and therefore do not reflect the fertility of the women who are of reproductive age in the different provinces. A more accurate measure of fertility is the rate based on the number of married women in the population in the main reproductive ages, 15 to 44. The numbers of children born in 1956 and 1957 to every 1,000 married women in this age group were as follows:—

<i>Province</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>
Prince Edward Island.....	216	223	Saskatchewan.....	188	189
Nova Scotia.....	192	194	Alberta.....	196	194
New Brunswick.....	226	229	British Columbia.....	163	163
Quebec.....	215	218			
Ontario.....	167	169	CANADA*.....	187	188
Manitoba.....	171	174			

*Data not available for Newfoundland and the Territories.

On this basis, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec had the highest fertility rate for this whole group of married women of reproductive age and Ontario and British Columbia the lowest.

Also, contrary to popular impression, since 1953 more babies were born each year in Ontario than in the Province of Quebec; in 1957, 150,920 babies were born to Ontario mothers as compared with 141,707 to Quebec mothers. A record total of 469,093 were born to all mothers in Canada in 1957, 18,354 more than in the previous year.

Sex of Live Births.—Wherever birth statistics have been collected they have shown an excess of male over female births. No conclusive explanation of this excess has yet been given. Nevertheless it is so much of an accepted statistical fact that a proper ratio of male to female births has become one of the criteria of complete registration. The number of males to every 1,000 females born in Canada has varied since the middle 1930's between 1,047 and 1,067 annually and averages around 1,057. Provincial sex ratios vary much more widely because of the relatively small number of births involved—the smaller the total number of births, the greater the chance of wide sex-ratio variations from year to year.

3.—Sex Ratio of Live Births, 1931-57

NOTE.—Figures for Newfoundland are included for 1949-57 and those for the Yukon and Northwest Territories for 1950-57.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Males to 1,000 Females</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Males to 1,000 Females</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>		<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>
1931.....	123,622	116,851	1,058	1945.....	148,912	139,818	1,065
1932.....	121,082	114,584	1,057	1946.....	169,945	160,787	1,057
1933.....	114,388	108,480	1,054	1947.....	183,973	175,121	1,051
1934.....	113,323	107,980	1,049	1948.....	178,123	169,184	1,053
1935.....	113,293	108,158	1,047	1949.....	188,339	177,800	1,059
1936.....	113,289	107,082	1,058	1950.....	191,413	180,596	1,060
1937.....	113,143	107,092	1,057	1951.....	195,918	185,174	1,058
1938.....	117,862	111,584	1,056	1952.....	208,070	195,489	1,064
1939.....	117,594	111,874	1,051	1953.....	214,423	203,461	1,054
1940.....	125,279	119,037	1,052	1954.....	224,168	212,030	1,057
1941.....	131,175	124,142	1,057	1955.....	227,382	215,555	1,055
1942.....	140,584	131,729	1,067	1956.....	231,697	219,042	1,058
1943.....	145,725	137,855	1,057	1957.....	241,073	228,020	1,057
1944.....	146,652	137,568	1,066				