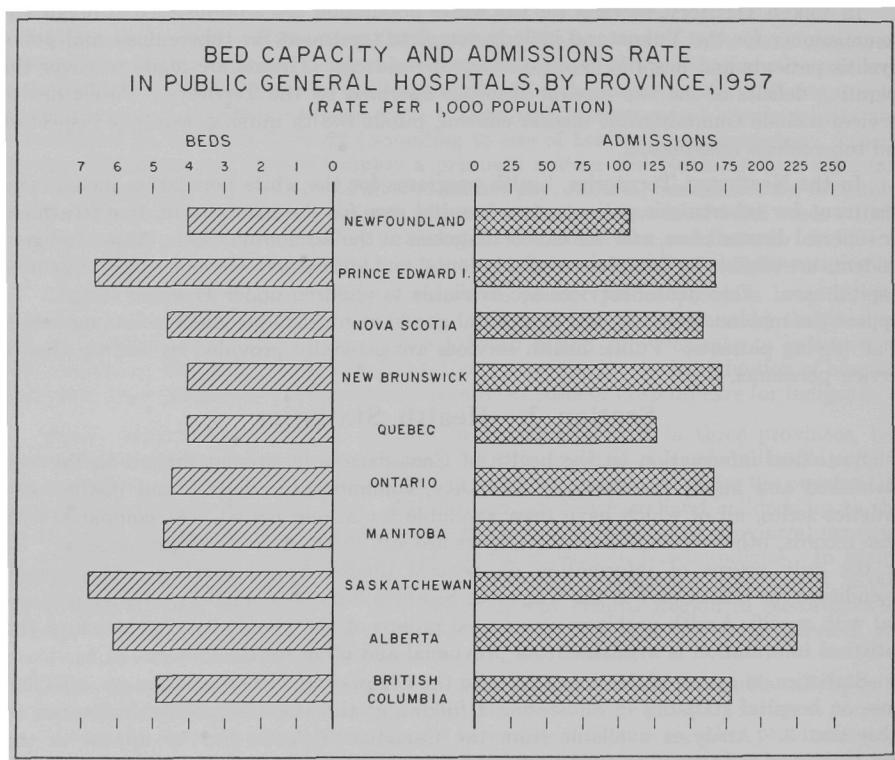


capacity fully occupied. The optimum occupancy rate is generally considered to be 80-90 p.c. of capacity. The addition of, say, 100 beds to a hospital's complement would not provide an additional 36,500 days of care per annum, but rather about 29,200.

In 1957 there were 1,402 hospitals known to be in operation in Canada, and they had 176,347 beds (not including bassinets for the newborn). Of this total, 97 did not submit statistical reports. The remainder, 1,305 hospitals with 173,644 beds, provided at least partial returns and are included wherever possible in the tables of this Subsection. The bed capacity of non-reporting hospitals is estimated to be 1.5 p.c. of the total.



Two methods of hospital classification have been used in the tables. The first is based on admission policy—that is, public, private or federal; the second, on type of service provided—that is, general, special, mental or tuberculosis. Both bases of classification are combined in Table 2, and the figures distributed provincially. Public general hospitals, the most numerous single group, accounted in 1957 for over half the total number of hospitals reporting in each province except Quebec and British Columbia. The number of beds in such hospitals constituted a majority of the over-all capacity in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and were the largest single group in every province. As might be expected, the rank of the provinces in terms of population is the same as their rank in numbers of hospital beds, although not as their rank in numbers of hospitals. Saskatchewan, with its many small hospitals, though fifth in terms of population, is second to Ontario in the number of public general hospitals.