



It is popularly assumed that the Province of Quebec has the highest birth rate in Canada, but Table 1 shows that since the late 1930's or early 1940's Newfoundland and, in some years, New Brunswick have had higher rates than Quebec. In 1958, Newfoundland had a crude rate of 33.8 followed by Alberta with a rate of 30.7, Quebec 29.0 and New Brunswick 28.4; Manitoba and British Columbia had the lowest rates at 24.9 and 25.6, 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 years. The numbers of children born in 1957 and 1958 to every 1,000 married women in this age group were as follows:—

<i>Province</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>
Prince Edward Island.....	223	214	Saskatchewan.....	189	188
Nova Scotia.....	194	189	Alberta.....	194	194
New Brunswick.....	229	216	British Columbia.....	163	163
Quebec.....	218	212			
Ontario.....	169	166	CANADA*.....	188	184
Manitoba.....	174	168			

* Excludes Newfoundland and the Territories for which data are not available.