

On this basis, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec had the highest fertility rates and British Columbia and Ontario the lowest.

Also contrary to popular impression, since 1953 more babies were born each year in Ontario than in the Province of Quebec; in 1958, 152,637 babies were born to Ontario mothers as compared with 141,396 to Quebec mothers. Altogether, 470,118 children were born in Canada in 1958, a record number.

**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. Another commonly acknowledged fact in many countries—although there is no generally accepted explanation for it—is that the male ratio appears to rise during or shortly after major wars. This seems to have happened in Canada between 1942 and 1945 when the ratio rose to an average of 1,064 during these four years as compared with averages of 1,054 between 1931-41 and 1,057 since 1946.

### 3.—Sex Ratios of Live Births, 1931-58

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

Year	Males	Females	Males to 1,000 Females	Year	Males	Females	Males to 1,000 Females
	No	No	No		No.	No.	No.
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	1958.....	241,675	228,443	1,058

**Hospitalized Births.**—In 1958 almost 92 p.c. of all Canadian births occurred in hospital. Table 4 indicates the rise in hospitalized births in each province since 1931. Although the percentages have increased steadily in all provinces, they still vary widely from province to province. The existence of prepaid or provincially sponsored hospital, maternity or medical care plans in some provinces, the unavailability of hospital facilities in others—particularly in remote rural areas—and preference for home delivery in some local areas are among the factors accounting for provincial variations in this respect. The noticeable increases in hospitalized births within recent years in those provinces that previously had the lowest proportion may be partly the result of increased hospital services being provided in those areas.