



It is often 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 1959, Newfoundland had a crude rate of 33.0 followed by Alberta with a rate of 30.6, Quebec with 28.5 and New Brunswick with 27.9; British Columbia and Manitoba had the lowest rates at 25.5 and 25.8, 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, 1958 and 1959 to every 1,000 married women in this age group were as follows:—

<i>Province</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>
Prince Edward Island.....	223	214	221	Saskatchewan.....	189	188	190
Nova Scotia.....	194	189	190	Alberta.....	194	194	194
New Brunswick.....	229	216	213	British Columbia.....	163	163	163
Quebec.....	218	212	209				
Ontario.....	169	166	167	CANADA <sup>1</sup> .....	188	184	185
Manitoba.....	174	168	175				

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Newfoundland and the Territories for which data are not available.