

Section 4.—Natural Increase*

The rate of natural increase in Canada (excess of births over deaths) prior to 1930 was 13 or more per 1,000 population. Partly as a result of the depression, the birth rate declined more than the death rate and the rate of natural increase fell to 9.7 in 1937. Higher birth rates during and after World War II and a gradually declining death rate caused the natural increase rate to rise steadily from 10.9 in 1939 to a record 20.3 in 1954. Since that time there has been a slight drop but the rate stood at 19.5 in 1959—probably the highest among the more industrially developed countries of the world.

Table 18 shows the rates of natural increase in the provinces and for each sex separately. The high rates in the Prairie Provinces are partly accounted for by their relatively younger populations and consequent low death rates. High birth rates and declining death rates, particularly in Quebec, have given Newfoundland, Alberta, Quebec, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick the highest rates of natural increase in Canada in recent years (excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories).

The rates of natural increase are higher for females than for males in all provinces because of the higher death rates for males. In the western provinces particularly, the ratio of males to females in the total population is higher than in other parts of Canada and this tends to lower the rate of natural increase. In Canada, a country with a fairly young population and where immigration has been on a large scale, an excess of males is to be expected but the higher rate of natural increase for females may gradually reduce this excess. The trend is toward an eventual excess of females in the total population—as there now is in most European countries—unless immigration again raises the male ratio or death rates among males are greatly reduced.

* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 234-235.

18.—Natural Increase and Rates per 1,000 Population, by Sex and Province, 1941-59

Province and Year	Excess of Births Over Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Males		Females	
			Number	Rate per 1,000 Males	Number	Rate per 1,000 Females
Newfoundland.....Av. 1951-55	10,175	26.5	5,066	25.7	5,108	27.4
	1956	11,483	5,722	26.8	5,761	28.6
	1957	12,117	5,906	26.9	6,211	30.1
	1958	11,693	5,952	26.3	5,741	27.2
	1959	11,647	5,777	24.8	5,870	27.2
Prince Edward Island.....Av. 1941-45	1,216	13.2	608	12.7	608	13.8
	Av. 1946-50	1,947	972	20.0	975	21.3
	Av. 1951-55	1,797	890	17.5	907	18.5
	1956	1,724	765	15.1	959	19.7
	1957	1,760	836	16.7	924	18.9
	1958	1,632	776	15.3	856	17.3
	1959	1,713	842	16.3	871	17.3
Nova Scotia.....Av. 1941-45	8,820	14.7	4,343	14.1	4,477	15.2
	Av. 1946-50	11,952	5,902	18.6	6,050	19.7
	Av. 1951-55	12,444	6,126	18.2	6,318	19.3
	1956	13,368	6,719	19.0	6,649	19.5
	1957	13,339	6,423	18.0	6,916	20.1
	1958	12,778	6,258	17.3	6,520	18.7
	1959	12,667	6,067	16.6	6,600	18.8
New Brunswick.....Av. 1941-45	7,987	17.3	3,973	16.8	4,014	17.8
	Av. 1946-50	11,992	6,011	23.8	5,982	24.5
	Av. 1951-55	11,920	5,859	21.9	6,062	22.9
	1956	11,915	6,014	21.5	5,901	21.5
	1957	12,425	6,250	21.9	6,175	22.1
	1958	11,886	5,899	20.3	5,987	20.9
	1959	11,739	5,799	19.5	5,940	20.3