



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 1960, Newfoundland had a crude rate of 33.1 followed by Alberta with a rate of 30.4, New Brunswick with 27.2 and Quebec with 27.0; British Columbia and Manitoba had the lowest rates at 25.0 and 25.8, respectively.

It should be noted, however, that 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 (see pp. 190-191). 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 1958, 1959 and 1960 to every 1,000 married women in this age group were as follows:—

<i>Province</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>
Prince Edward Island	214	221	223	Saskatchewan	188	190	189
Nova Scotia	189	190	191	Alberta	194	194	194
New Brunswick	216	213	210	British Columbia	163	163	162
Quebec	212	209	199				
Ontario	166	167	167	CANADA ¹	184	185	182
Manitoba	168	175	177				

¹ Excludes Newfoundland and the Territories for which data are not available.