

cause variations in the crude birth rate of different countries—or regions within a country—even though the actual rates of reproduction or 'fertility' of the women in these age groups in each country or region are identical.

In order to eliminate such age-sex differences in populations and to obtain a more accurate measure of actual fertility among women in the reproductive period, it is conventional practice to calculate what are termed *age-specific fertility rates*, i.e., the number of infants born annually to every 1,000 women in each of the reproductive age periods. Table 7 indicates that in 1960 women in their 20's were the most reproductive; that, on the average, for every 1,000 women between the ages of 20 and 25, 229 infants were born in 1960 or, expressed another way, about one woman out of four in that age group gave birth to a live-born infant during the year.

### 7.—Fertility Rates per 1,000 Women, by Age Group, 1941-60

(Exclusive of Newfoundland for all years and the Yukon and Northwest Territories for 1941-49)

Year	Age Group							Gross Reproduction Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1941	30.7	138.4	159.8	122.3	80.0	31.6	3.7	1.377
1942	32.0	145.1	168.7	128.0	83.0	32.3	3.6	1.434
1943	32.1	146.8	175.4	131.9	86.5	31.9	3.5	1.478
1944	31.3	143.3	168.7	124.1	88.1	33.0	3.4	1.457
1945	31.6	143.3	168.8	134.3	90.3	33.5	3.7	1.462
1946	36.5	169.6	191.4	146.0	93.1	34.5	3.8	1.640
1947	42.6	189.1	206.4	150.5	93.1	34.1	3.3	1.753
1948	43.2	181.1	197.6	141.4	89.0	32.6	3.3	1.676
1949	45.2	181.5	201.2	139.7	88.8	31.5	3.2	1.678
1950	46.0	181.3	200.6	141.3	87.9	30.8	3.0	1.678
1951	48.1	188.7	198.8	144.5	86.5	30.9	3.1	1.701
1952	50.4	201.0	205.2	150.7	87.4	30.7	2.8	1.763
1953	52.0	208.2	208.4	153.2	88.1	31.2	2.9	1.812
1954	54.3	217.4	213.2	156.5	88.5	32.4	3.2	1.861
1955	54.2	218.3	215.1	153.8	89.8	32.3	2.9	1.863
1956	55.9	222.2	220.1	150.3	89.6	30.8	2.9	1.874
1957	60.3	226.4	225.0	149.6	91.4	30.6	2.8	1.910
1958	59.5	225.0	224.7	148.0	88.9	28.7	2.7	1.890
1959	60.6	231.2	228.5	148.0	88.9	28.2	2.7	1.917
1960	59.9	229.2	227.1	146.9	86.4	28.1	2.4	1.896

A still more accurate measure of fertility would be portrayed by what are termed *age-marital specific rates*, i.e., similar rates for married women in each age group. However, these are more difficult to obtain since the number of married women in the population of each age is generally known only at the time of a national census, whereas the numbers of total women can be estimated much more easily between census periods.

Another measure of fertility in a country is obtainable from *reproduction rates*. The gross reproduction rates shown in Table 7 indicate the average number of female children born each year to each woman living through the child-bearing ages. In other words, this figure represents the average number of females that would be born to each woman who lived to age 50 if the fertility rates of the given year remained unchanged during her child-bearing period. A gross reproduction rate of one indicates that, on the basis of current fertility and without making any allowance for mortality among mothers during their child-bearing years, the present generation of child-bearing women would exactly maintain itself. Canada has always had one of the highest gross reproduction rates among the industrialized countries of the world. Even during the period of low birth rates in the