

6.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn, 1958-61

Confinements and Births	Numbers				Percentages			
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1958	1959	1960	1961
Confinements	471,436	480,524	479,786	476,547	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	466,065	475,266	474,613	471,410	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.9
Twin.....	5,334	5,205	5,112	5,102	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Triplet.....	37	53	59	35	--	--	--	--
Quadruplet.....	—	—	2	—	—	—	--	—
Births	476,844	485,835	485,022	481,719	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single—								
Live.....	459,652	469,022	468,469	465,715	98.6	98.7	98.7	98.8
Stillborn.....	6,413	6,244	6,144	5,695	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
Twin—								
Live.....	10,360	10,110	9,907	9,885	97.1	97.1	96.9	96.9
Stillborn.....	308	300	317	319	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.1
Triplet—								
Live.....	106	143	168	100	95.5	89.9	94.9	95.2
Stillborn.....	5	16	9	5	4.5	10.1	5.1	4.8
Quadruplet—								
Live.....	—	—	7	—	—	—	87.5	—
Stillborn.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	12.5	—
Totals, Live Births	470,118	479,275	478,551	475,700	98.6	98.6	98.7	98.8
Totals, Stillborn	6,726	6,560	6,471	6,019	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2

Fertility Rates.—The sex and age composition of a population is obviously an important factor in determining crude* birth, marriage and death rates. Since almost all children born each year are to women between the ages of 15 and 45, variations in the proportion of women of these ages to the total population will, of course, cause variations in the crude birth rate of different countries—or of different 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.

A more accurate measure of the fertility of a population would therefore be one based on the number of women of reproductive age, that is those 'able' to bear children, and a still more accurate measure would be one based on the number within this group that are married, that is those 'eligible', as it were, to bear children. Each type of rate has its uses, depending on the comparisons required. The two types—generally referred to as *crude fertility rates*—are compared in Table 7, and indicate the variations in each type as between provinces and the provincial trends over the five years 1957-61.

* A crude rate is one based on the total population.