

6.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn,¹ 1959-62

| Confinements and Births | Numbers | | | | Percentages | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 ² | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 |
| Confinements | 480,524 | 479,786 | 476,547 | 470,345 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Single..... | 475,266 | 474,613 | 471,410 | 465,136 | 98.9 | 98.9 | 98.9 | 98.9 |
| Twin..... | 5,205 | 5,112 | 5,102 | 5,159 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Triplet..... | 53 | 59 | 35 | 49 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Quadruplet..... | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | -- | — | -- |
| Births | 485,835 | 485,022 | 481,719 | 475,605 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Single— | | | | | | | | |
| Live..... | 469,022 | 468,469 | 465,715 | 459,539 | 98.7 | 98.7 | 98.8 | 98.8 |
| Stillborn..... | 6,244 | 6,144 | 5,695 | 5,597 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Twin— | | | | | | | | |
| Live..... | 10,110 | 9,907 | 9,885 | 10,006 | 97.1 | 96.9 | 96.9 | 97.0 |
| Stillborn..... | 300 | 317 | 319 | 312 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| Triplet— | | | | | | | | |
| Live..... | 143 | 168 | 100 | 144 | 89.9 | 94.9 | 95.2 | 98.0 |
| Stillborn..... | 16 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 10.1 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 2.0 |
| Quadruplet— | | | | | | | | |
| Live..... | — | 7 | — | 4 | — | 87.5 | — | 100.0 |
| Stillborn..... | — | 1 | — | — | — | 12.5 | — | — |
| Totals, Live Births | 479,275 | 478,551 | 475,700 | 469,693 | 98.6 | 98.7 | 98.8 | 98.8 |
| Totals, Stillborn | 6,560 | 6,471 | 6,019 | 5,912 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 |

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, includes only foetuses of 28 or more full weeks gestation.

² Includes 30 stillbirths of 20-27 weeks gestation.

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 44, 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 years 1959-62.