

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 the whole of her child-bearing period. A gross reproduction rate of 1.000 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 1930's the rate varied between 1.300 and 1.500 and since World War II has ranged from 1.700 and 1.915 (1959); in 1962 the rate stood at 1.836, still 80 p.c. more than the number required for the population to replace itself. With minor exceptions, provincial reproduction rates are also well above the replacement level.

8.—Age-Specific Fertility Rates per 1,000 Women, by Age Group, 1941, and 1951-62

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

Year	Age Group							Gross Reproduction Rate
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
	TOTAL WOMEN							
1941.....	30.7	138.4	159.8	122.3	80.0	31.6	3.7	1.377
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.....	60.2	227.1	224.1	149.4	90.7	30.7	2.8	1.907
1958.....	59.2	226.5	223.3	147.9	87.6	28.9	2.7	1.886
1959.....	60.4	233.8	226.7	147.7	87.3	28.5	2.7	1.915
1960.....	59.8	233.5	224.4	146.2	84.2	28.5	2.4	1.893
1961.....	58.2	233.6	219.2	144.9	81.1	28.5	2.4	1.868
1962.....	55.3	232.4	215.6	143.4	77.0	27.5	2.1	1.836
	MARRIED WOMEN							
1941.....	453.1	340.2	237.8	158.3	99.1	38.9	4.5	...
1951.....	498.5	350.4	248.1	168.7	100.6	36.6	3.7	...
1956.....	551.5	381.7	265.5	169.8	101.0	35.6	3.4	...
1961.....	541.2	374.4	255.6	161.4	89.9	32.1	2.8	...
1962.....	544.7	367.8	253.2	159.1	84.9	30.8	2.5	...

Table 8 indicates that in 1961, considering all women whether married or not, women in their 20's were the most reproductive, as might be expected; on the average, for every 1,000 women between the ages of 20 and 25, 232 infants were born during that year or, expressed another way, about one woman out of four in that age group gave birth to a live-born infant. This compares with a rate of almost 216 for women in the age group 25-29, which is closer to one in five. However, among *married* women, teenage mothers have