

CHAPTER V.—VITAL STATISTICS*

CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.....	235	SECTION 5. MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES.....	267
SECTION 2. BIRTHS.....	241	Subsection 1. Marriages.....	267
SECTION 3. DEATHS.....	251	Subsection 2. Divorces.....	271
Subsection 1. General Mortality.....	251	SECTION 6. CANADIAN LIFE TABLES.....	271
Subsection 2. Infant Mortality.....	259	SECTION 7. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS OF	
Subsection 3. Maternal Mortality.....	263	VITAL STATISTICS.....	275
SECTION 4. NATURAL INCREASE.....	265		

The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. viii of this volume.

Vital statistics provide a key to the interpretation of population development—a measure of the pace at which it is growing, the rate at which women are marrying and reproducing, and the effect this has on the age and sex distribution of the population, as well as the relative importance of the diseases that cause death each year. Vital statistics constitute the record of births, deaths, marriages and divorces registered in the provinces and territories of Canada. The continuity of such data gives a constant guide to the planning, operation and evaluation of many national activities, particularly in the fields of public health, education, community planning and various types of business enterprise.

This Chapter gives a fairly detailed coverage of the vital statistics information available, gives life tables for males and females and presents a comparison of the principal Canadian vital statistics rates with those of other countries. In making international and interprovincial comparisons of birth, death and marriage rates, it is important to note that part of the differences observed over a period of years as between countries, provinces or local areas may be caused by differences in the sex and age distribution of the populations involved. Similarly, rates for any one area may be affected by changes in such distribution. The population data upon which vital statistics rates are computed are given in Chapter III of this volume. Births and deaths are classified by place of residence (births according to the residence of the mother) and marriages by place of occurrence.

The history of the collection of vital statistics in Canada is covered in the 1948-49 Year Book, pp. 185-188. Detailed information is given in *Vital Statistics* (Preliminary Report) (Catalogue No. 84-201), *Vital Statistics of Canada* (Catalogue No. 84-202) and in other regular and special reports; in addition, certain unpublished data are available on request.

Section 1.—Summary of Vital Statistics

Table 1 gives a summary for reference purposes of the principal vital statistics of the provinces and territories of Canada for five-year periods 1941-60 and for single years 1962-64. Table 2 shows similar data for urban centres having at least 20,000 population at the date of the 1961 Census for the year 1964 with comparative averages for 1956-60.

* Revised in the Vital Statistics Section, Health and Welfare Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.