

6.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn,¹ 1962-65

Confinements and Births	Numbers				Percentages			
	1962 ²	1963 ²	1964 ⁴	1965 ⁴	1962	1963	1964	1965
Confinements.....	470,345	466,537	453,614	419,093	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single.....	465,136	461,569	448,814	414,754	98.9	98.9	98.9	99.0
Twin.....	5,159	4,930	4,751	4,307	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0
Triplet.....	49	37	48	32	--	--	--	--
Quadruplet.....	1	1	1	—	--	--	--	—
Births.....	475,605	471,544	458,464	423,464	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single—								
Live.....	459,539	456,109	443,602	410,123	98.8	98.8	98.8	98.9
Stillborn.....	5,597	5,460	5,212	4,631	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1
Twin—								
Live.....	10,006	9,553	9,174	8,382	97.0	96.9	96.5	97.3
Stillborn.....	312	307	328	232	3.0	3.1	3.5	2.7
Triplet—								
Live.....	144	104	136	90	98.0	93.7	94.4	93.8
Stillborn.....	3	7	8	6	2.0	6.3	5.6	6.3
Quadruplet—								
Live.....	4	1	3	—	100.0	25.0	75.0	—
Stillborn.....	—	3	1	—	—	75.0	25.0	—
Totals, Live Births.	469,693	465,767	452,915	418,595	98.8	98.8	98.8	98.9
Totals, Stillborn...	5,912	5,777	5,549	4,869	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1

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

² Includes 30

stillbirths of 20-27 weeks gestation.

³ Includes 45 stillbirths of 20-27 weeks gestation.

⁴ Includes 29

stillbirths of 20-27 weeks gestation.

⁵ Includes 22 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 45, variations in the proportion of women of these ages to the total population will 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 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 are compared in Table 7, and indicate the variations in each type as between provinces and the provincial trends over the years 1963-66.

The number of infants born in relation to every 1,000 women in the population between the ages of 15 and 45 has been declining for the past few years, dropping from 121 in 1963 to 93 in 1966. However, the rates varied among the provinces from 86.6 to 169.9 during the past four years; in 1966, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Alberta had the highest rates and Quebec, British Columbia, Ontario and Manitoba, the lowest, in order of mention. On the other hand, the average annual number of infants born to every 1,000 *married* women in the country as a whole dropped from 173 to 134 during the same period. According to this measure, the five eastern provinces and Saskatchewan had, on the whole, the highest rates.