

## 7.—Crude Fertility Rates, by Province, 1963-66

Province or Territory	Rates per 1,000 Total Women 15-44 Years of Age <sup>1</sup>				Rates per 1,000 Married Women 15-44 Years of Age <sup>1</sup>			
	1963	1964	1965	1966	1963	1964	1965	1966
Newfoundland.....	169.9	156.7	153.4	149.0	262.2	246.5	245.9	231.3
Prince Edward Island.....	155.2	142.0	128.4	112.1	245.0	229.2	209.6	174.9
Nova Scotia.....	129.4	124.7	112.1	103.7	185.0	180.4	162.7	148.4
New Brunswick.....	134.0	128.9	116.6	106.3	203.2	198.0	181.7	163.1
Quebec.....	113.6	109.0	98.4	86.6	182.5	175.6	158.5	139.2
Ontario.....	118.3	113.7	102.8	91.2	159.3	153.6	138.9	124.7
Manitoba.....	121.9	115.8	106.0	94.7	167.2	158.1	145.8	131.6
Saskatchewan.....	135.4	129.4	115.5	105.8	187.7	180.8	161.4	144.3
Alberta.....	135.9	125.9	112.3	102.4	176.7	163.4	145.0	134.3
British Columbia.....	113.1	104.7	94.7	87.5	147.8	136.9	123.0	113.0
Yukon Territory.....	172.1	165.8	158.5	125.4	..	..	..	144.5
Northwest Territories.....	263.9	275.2	264.7	210.2	..	..	..	269.3
<b>Canada<sup>2</sup></b> .....	<b>121.0</b>	<b>115.2</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>172.6</b>	<b>165.0</b>	<b>149.3</b>	<b>133.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Since the number of births to women over 44 is quite small, rates are here restricted to women under 45.  
<sup>2</sup> Excludes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The rates shown in Table 7 are *crude* in the sense that they do not take into account differences in fertility in the component age periods within the female reproductive life span, nor the proportions of married women in each age period. It is therefore conventional practice to calculate what are termed *age-specific fertility rates*, i.e., the number of infants born annually to every 1,000 women in *each* of the reproductive age periods, again either for all women or for those who are married. Table 8 provides these two sets of rates—the former for 1941, 1951 and 1956-66 and the latter for 1962-66 in addition to the census years from 1941 to 1961.

Another measure of fertility in a country is obtainable from what is conventionally referred to as a *gross reproduction rate*. The gross reproduction rates shown in Table 8 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 rate 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 1930s the rate varied between 1.300 and 1.500 and since World War II has ranged from 1.640 to a record high of 1.915 in 1959; in 1966 the rate stood at 1.369, still 37 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.

Table 8 indicates that in 1966, considering all women whether married or not, women in their 20s were the most reproductive, as might be expected; on the average, for every 1,000 women between the ages of 20 and 25, 169 infants were born during that year or, expressed another way, about one woman out of six in that age group gave birth to a live-