

25.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 10,000 Live Births, by Age Group, 1963-65
(Exclusive of Newfoundland)

Age Group	Maternal Deaths						Rates per 10,000 Live Births		
	1963		1964		1965		1963	1964	1965
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.			
Under 20 years	5	3.2	2	1.5	12	9.2	1.2	0.5	2.9
20 — 24 "	23	14.6	21	16.0	14	10.8	1.6	1.5	1.1
25 — 29 "	33	20.9	21	16.0	23	17.7	2.7	1.8	2.1
30 — 34 "	34	21.5	39	29.8	35	26.9	4.0	4.8	4.9
35 — 39 "	42	26.6	30	22.9	30	23.1	8.8	6.6	7.3
40 — 44 "	20	12.7	17	13.0	11	8.5	13.4	11.4	8.2
45 — 49 "	—	—	1	0.8	5	3.8	—	9.3	47.8
50 years or over.....	1	0.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals, All Ages.....	158	100.0	131	100.0	130	100.0	3.5	3.0	3.2
Average age at death.....yrs.	32.3	—	32.4	—	31.9	—
Median age at death ¹"	32.6	—	32.8	—	32.3	—

¹ The age below and above which half of the maternal deaths occurred.

Section 4.—Natural Increase*

The excess of births over deaths, commonly referred to as natural increase, is a very important factor in the growth of a population. Although the collection of Canadian birth and death statistics began only in 1921, some idea of the rate of natural increase in the early Canadian population may be learned from the estimates shown at the beginning of Sections 2 and 3, which resulted in the following natural increase rates:—

Intercensal Period	Estimated Average Annual Natural Increase Rate (per 1,000 Population)	Intercensal Period	Estimated Average Annual Natural Increase Rate (per 1,000 Population)
1851-61.....	23	1891-1901.....	14
1861-71.....	19	1901-11.....	13
1871-81.....	18	1911-21.....	16
1881-91.....	16		

Because of the combination of high birth rates and declining death rates—despite the fact that death rates were still relatively high—the annual rate of natural increase during the late 1800s and early 1900s varied between 14 and 23; in other terms, the population increased at the rate of 1.5 p.c. to 2.5 p.c. each year by natural increase alone, regardless of any increase attributable to immigration. During the 1920s and early 1930s the birth rate declined more than the death rate and the natural increase rate dropped to a record low of 9.7 in 1937. But higher birth rates during and after World War II and a gradually declining death rate caused the natural increase rate to rise steadily from 10.9 in 1939 to a record 20.3 in 1954. Although after that year there has been a steady drop because of declining birth rates, the natural increase rate in 1966 was still high at 11.9.

Table 1, pp. 250-251, gives average rates of natural increase in the provinces for five-year periods 1941-65 and Table 26 gives the provincial figures for males and females separately for 1941, 1951, 1961 and 1964-66. High birth rates and declining death rates have given Newfoundland, Alberta and New Brunswick the highest rates of natural increase in Canada in recent years (excluding the Yukon and Northwest Territories).

* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 289-290.