

Natural Increase by Sex.—According to Table 3, the number of male children born in 1923 in the registration area exceeded the total male deaths for the year by 43,049, while the gain in the female population during the same period was 43,666. Thus, while the number of male children born exceeded the females by 4,235, the higher mortality among males caused a net increase of the female over the male population.

§.—Excess of Births over Deaths in the Registration Area of Canada, by Provinces, for each Sex and by Totals, 1923.

Provinces.	Males.			Females.			Both sexes.
	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.
Prince Edward Island..	981	552	429	996	598	398	827
Nova Scotia.....	5,973	3,587	2,386	5,707	3,281	2,426	4,812
New Brunswick.....	5,457	2,618	2,839	5,247	2,395	2,852	5,691
Ontario.....	36,141	18,452	17,689	33,915	17,184	16,731	34,420
Manitoba.....	8,397	2,935	5,462	8,075	2,395	5,680	11,142
Saskatchewan.....	10,765	3,442	7,323	10,182	2,740	7,442	14,765
Alberta.....	7,676	2,861	4,815	7,384	2,145	5,239	10,054
British Columbia.....	5,176	3,070	2,106	4,825	1,927	2,898	5,004
Total, 1923.....	80,566	37,517	43,049	76,331	32,665	43,666	86,715
Total, 1922.....	84,057	37,044	47,013	80,137	31,984	48,153	95,166
Total, 1921.....	87,134	36,411	50,723	81,845	31,311	50,534	101,257

2.—Births.

Throughout almost the whole of the civilized world, the birth rate has in the past generation been on the decline, though the consequent decline in the rate of natural increase has to a considerable extent been offset by a decline in the death rate.

The crude birth rate of England and Wales, for example, was 35.4 per 1,000 population on the average of the decennium 1871-80, 32.5 in 1881-90 and 29.9 in 1891-1900. In 1913 the birth rate was 24.1 and, though it rose to 25.5 in 1920, it fell again to 22.4 in 1921, to 19.7 in 1923 and to 18.8 in 1924.

Similarly in France, the crude birth rate declined from an average of 25.4 per 1,000 population in the 1870's, 23.9 in the 1880's and 22.2 in the 1890's to 20.4 in 1920, 19.4 in 1923 and 19.2 in 1924. In Germany again, the crude birth rate was 39.1 in the 1870's, 36.8 in the 1880's, 36.1 in the 1890's, 23.6 in 1922 and 21.0 in 1924.

In Canada the crude birth rate still stands at the comparatively high figure of 26.1 per 1,000 in 1923—the last year for which complete figures are available. This is, however, largely due to the influence of Quebec, where the birth rate stood at the very high figure of 32.2 per 1,000 in 1923, as compared with 23.7 per 1,000 in the registration area, where the figures varied from 18.4 per 1,000 in British Columbia to 27.0 in New Brunswick and 26.3 in Saskatchewan.