14.—Single and Multiple Births, Live and Stillborn, 1941-45, with Five-Year Averages, 1936-45—concluded

Confinements and Births	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
	PERCENTAGES—concluded						
Births—concluded							
Triplet—							
Live....................	88·9	89·7	95·5	87·2	85·9	88·5	92·2
Stillborn................	11·1	10·3	4·5	12·8	14·1	11·5	7·8
Quadruplet—							
Live....................	1	1	–	–	–	100·0	87·5
Stillborn................	–	1	–	–	–	–	12·5
Totals, Births..............	**100·0**	**100·0**	**100·0**	**100·0**	**100·0**	**100·0**	**100·0**
Live....................	97·3	97·6	97·4	97·4	97·7	97·7	97·7
Stillborn................	2·7	2·4	2·6	2·6	2·3	2·3	2·3

[1] Less than one-tenth of one per cent.

Fertility Rates.—The sex and age distribution of the population is an important factor in determining birth, death and marriage rates. Since more than 95 p.c. of children are born to women between the ages of 15 and 50, differences in the proportion of women of these ages to the population as a whole will cause differences in the birth rates of different countries or regions, even though the fertility of women at each age may be the same. Measures of fertility which are independent of the sex and age distribution of the population have therefore been devised. The best known of these are age-specific fertility rates and reproduction rates.

Table **15** shows the fertility of women in the age groups 15 to 50 years in Canada and the provinces. The three-year averages 1930-32 and 1940-42 have been calculated using the census figures; for the single years the estimated population figures have been used.

The fertility rates and gross reproduction rates given in Table **15** make it possible to compare fertility in the provinces after the effect of differences in the sex and age distribution of the population has been eliminated. The figures of 'total fertility' show the average number of children that would be born to 1,000 women living through the child-bearing age (15 to 50), assuming that the fertility at each age remained constant. They are obtained by adding the fertility rates of the seven age groups and multiplying the sum by 5 (since each age group covers 5 child-bearing years).

The gross reproduction rates are obtained by reducing the figures of 'total fertility' in the same proportion of female to total births, and then dividing by 1,000. For example, the ratio of female to total births in Canada in 1940-42 was 1,000 to 2,059. The gross reproduction rate for 1940-42 is therefore obtained by multiplying total fertility of 2,857 by 1/2,059. The gross reproduction rate shows how far, assuming current fertility and no deaths, the present child-bearing generation of women is reproducing itself for the future. A gross reproduction rate greater than 1 shows that the number of child-bearing women is increasing, and a rate of less than 1 that it is declining.