

2.—Births.

Almost throughout 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.

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. 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 and 23.6 in 1922.

In Canada the birth rate still stands at the comparatively high figure of 29.4 per 1,000 in 1921—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 37.6 per 1,000 in 1921, as compared with 26.3 per 1,000 in the registration area, where the figures varied from 20.3 per 1,000 in British Columbia to 29.6 in New Brunswick, 30.0 in Saskatchewan and 30.3 in Manitoba.

Preliminary figures for 1922 show 162,552 living births, of which 158,738 were single births; 1,889 were twin births (3,778 infants); and there were 12 cases of triplets (36 infants). Complete statistics for 1920 and 1921 are given in Table 40.

40.—Summary Analysis of Birth Statistics for the calendar years 1920 and 1921.

Province.	Living births.			Single births.	Number pairs of twins.	Number cases of triplets.	Il-legiti-mates.	Birth rate per 1,000 population.
	Male.	Female.	Total.					
1920.								
Prince Edward Island...	1,172	1,129	2,301	2,257	22	-	71	25.9
Nova Scotia.....	6,740	6,439	13,179	12,872	152	1	453	25.3
New Brunswick.....	5,578	5,200	10,778	10,549	113	1	234	28.1
Ontario.....	37,044	35,253	72,297	70,655	791	20	1,387	25.0
Manitoba.....	9,399	8,923	18,322	17,845	231	5	328	30.6
Saskatchewan.....	11,836	11,003	22,839	22,221	303	4	219	31.1
Alberta.....	8,463	8,068	16,531	16,107	209	2	273	29.0
British Columbia.....	5,458	5,034	10,492	10,292	100	-	96	20.5
Total Registration Area.	85,690	81,049	166,739	162,798	1,921	33	3,061	26.0
Quebec.....	44,975	41,353	86,328	- ¹	- ¹	- ¹	- ¹	37.2
Canada (exclusive of the Territories).....	130,665	122,402	253,067	162,798²	1,921²	33²	3,061²	29.4
1921.								
Prince Edward Island...	1,073	1,083	2,156	2,104	26	-	49	24.3
Nova Scotia.....	6,695	6,326	13,021	12,702	158	1	396	24.9
New Brunswick.....	5,942	5,523	11,465	11,209	128	-	205	29.6
Ontario.....	38,307	35,845	74,152	72,548	784	12	1,592	25.3
Manitoba.....	9,455	9,023	18,478	18,025	222	3	420	30.3
Saskatchewan.....	11,620	10,873	22,493	21,873	304	4	258	30.0
Alberta.....	8,493	8,068	16,561	16,171	192	2	299	28.1
British Columbia.....	5,549	5,104	10,653	10,404	123	1	128	20.3
Total Registration Area.	87,134	81,845	168,979	165,036	1,937	23	3,347	26.3
Quebec.....	46,705	42,044	88,749	- ¹	- ¹	- ¹	- ¹	37.6
Canada (exclusive of the Territories).....	133,839	123,889	257,728	165,036²	1,937²	23²	3,347²	29.4

¹ These statistics are not available for the Province of Quebec.

² Partial totals for eight provinces, figures for Quebec not being available.