

Undoubtedly the test of birth rate most generally accepted by vital statisticians is supplied by the comparison of the total number of legitimate births with the total number of married women between the ages of 15 and 45, though a small number of births occur where the mothers are either below 15 or past the 45th birthday. This test is applied to the registration area of Canada in Table 41.

41.—Births per 1,000 Married Women of Child-bearing Age, by Provinces, 1921.

Province.	Married women between the ages of 15 and 45 years.	Legitimate births.	Legitimate births per 1,000 married women of child-bearing age.
	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	8,610	2,107	245
Nova Scotia.....	57,916	12,625	218
New Brunswick.....	44,333	11,260	254
Ontario.....	379,307	72,560	191
Manitoba.....	82,325	18,058	219
Saskatchewan.....	104,348	22,235	213
Alberta.....	83,353	16,262	195
British Columbia.....	73,039	10,525	144
Canada (registration area).....	833,231	165,632	199
Quebec.....	265,488	88,749 <sup>1</sup>	334 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Canada (exclusive of Territories).....</b>	<b>1,098,719</b>	<b>254,381<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>232<sup>1</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> No statistics of illegitimate births in Quebec are available. The total number of births in Quebec has accordingly been used, though as a result the fertility of Quebec and of Canadian married women is somewhat overestimated.

Table 42 shows the number of living births reported for each province in 1921 which were male and female, together with the proportion of male to female births. Prince Edward Island is the only province in which the number of female births exceeded male births. The preliminary figures for 1922 indicate that among every 1,000 born in 1922, 512 were males and 488 females, as compared with a proportion of 516 to 484 in 1921 and 514 to 486 in 1920.

42.—Births by Sex and Ratio of Males to Females, 1921.

Province.	Births, 1921.					Males to 1,000 females.
	Total.	Males.		Females.		
		Number.	Per cent of total.	Number.	Per cent of total.	
Prince Edward Island.....	2,156	1,073	49.8	1,083	50.2	999
Nova Scotia.....	13,021	6,695	51.4	6,326	48.6	1,058
New Brunswick.....	11,465	5,942	51.8	5,523	48.2	1,073
Ontario.....	74,152	38,307	51.7	35,845	48.3	1,069
Manitoba.....	18,478	9,455	51.2	9,023	48.8	1,048
Saskatchewan.....	22,493	11,620	51.7	10,873	48.3	1,069
Alberta.....	16,561	8,493	51.3	8,068	48.7	1,053
British Columbia.....	10,653	5,549	52.1	5,104	47.9	1,087
Total Registration Area....	158,979	87,134	51.6	81,845	48.4	1,065
Quebec.....	88,749	46,705	52.6	42,044	47.4	1,111
<b>Canada (exclusive of the Territories).....</b>	<b>257,728</b>	<b>133,839</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>123,889</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>1,080</b>