

Although current mortality in Quebec is somewhat higher than that in all of Canada, the difference in the levels of mortality has been decreasing over past years, as generally indicated in Schedule 3 above. It was consequently decided that the ultimate rates assumed to be applicable for the Canadian population for the year 2000 and after could also be taken as applicable for the corresponding Quebec population.

In application of the mortality rates in the population projections for both all of Canada and Quebec, five-year survivorship ratios for five-year age groups were computed on the basis of the mortality rates of the 1950-52 and 1955-57 Life Tables and the projected mortality rates for the year 2000 and after, and survivorship ratios for each intermediate five-year period were obtained by interpolation. The survivorship ratios so developed were applied to successive quinquennial populations.

3. Fertility

The underlying statistics referred to in this section were drawn mainly from the "Vital Statistics" publications of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (The latest issue available at the time the population projections were made was the issue for the year 1960.)

Forecasts of future fertility are even less predictable than forecasts of future mortality. For all of Canada, the birth rate, that is, the number of live births per 1,000 of total population, has varied widely over the years. After World War I, it was very high (29.3 for 1921) but decreased through the following sixteen years to a low of 20.1 for 1937. After 1937, it increased gradually to 24.3 for 1945. From 1946 to 1959, it was never below 27. For the years 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963 it was 26.8, 26.1, 25.3 and 24.6, respectively.

Canadian birth rates are currently considerably higher than those for almost all other developed countries. Compared to a Canadian birth rate of 26.8, the 1960 birth rates for a few selected countries were:

United States	23.9
England and Wales	17.1
Ireland	21.4
Scotland	19.4
Australia	22.4
New Zealand	26.5
France	17.9
German Federal Republic	17.7
Italy	18.5
USSR (1959)	25.0

In the published description of the 1957 U.S. population projections, it was stated

Previous estimates of future fertility have generally been too low . . . It seems clear that a decrease must eventually occur, since the population cannot go on increasing indefinitely. If present fertility rates continued to the year 2050, the total United States population would be over a billion. The important question is when a decline will begin and how rapid it will be.

The low fertility assumptions used for the 1957 U.S. population projections were, generally, that current fertility rates would decrease to rates that would produce a gross reproduction rate of 1 for the period 2005-2010 and later. The high fertility assumptions were that a gross reproduction rate of 1 would prevail for the period 2045-2050 and later. (A "gross reproduction rate of 1" means that if all females born alive survived to the end of the child-bearing period, they would, on the average, have had one female child. The conse-