

Birth and Marriage Rates in the United Kingdom, 1886, 1891, 1896, 1901, and 1903.

Year.	Mean Population.	Births.		Marriages.	
		Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1886	36,313,582	1,145,577	31·5	241,180	6·6
1891	37,802,440	1,148,259	30·4	275,970	7·3
1896	39,599,072	1,152,144	29·0	296,089	7·5
1901	41,550,773	1,162,975	28·0	313,351	7·5
1903	42,371,219	1,183,601	27·9	316,415	7·5

The above figures are taken from the report of the Registrar-General of England (66th number), published in 1905.

The birth-rates for ten years in Great Britain and certain countries of the European Continent are also given from the same source. The rates in England and Wales, and in Scotland, are higher than those in New Zealand, but the rate for Ireland is lower. France has the lowest rate of all quoted.

Birth-rates in European Countries, 1894 to 1903.

Countries.	Number of Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.									
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Hungary ...	41·5	41·9	40·5	40·3	37·7	39·3	39·3	37·8	38·8	36·7
Austria ...	36·7	38·1	38·0	37·5	36·2	37·1	37·3	36·9	37·0	...
Italy ...	35·4	34·7	34·7	34·6	33·4	33·8	32·9	32·6	33·3	31·5
German Empire ...	35·9	36·1	36·3	36·0	36·1	35·8	35·6	35·7	35·1	...
Netherlands ...	32·7	32·8	32·7	32·5	31·9	32·0	31·5	32·3	31·8	31·6
Scotland ...	29·9	30·0	30·4	30·0	30·3	29·8	29·6	29·5	29·2	29·2
Norway ...	29·8	30·6	30·4	30·0	30·3	30·9	30·1	29·8	29·1	28·7
England and Wales ...	29·6	30·2	29·6	29·5	29·3	29·1	28·7	28·5	28·5	28·4
Belgium ...	29·0	28·5	29·0	29·0	28·6	28·8	28·9	29·4	28·4	27·5
Sweden ...	27·1	27·5	27·2	26·7	27·1	26·4	26·9	27·0	26·5	25·6
Switzerland ...	27·1	27·1	27·9	28·1	28·4	28·9	28·6	29·1	28·7	27·7
Ireland ...	22·9	23·2	23·6	23·5	23·2	22·9	22·7	22·7	23·0	28·1
France ...	22·3	21·7	22·5	22·3	21·8	21·9	21·4	22·0	21·7	21·1

From the year 1895 marriages have shown an increase, the rate being then 5·94 per 1,000 of population. In 1905 the rate rose to 8·28, the highest record since 1875, when it was 8·94 per 1,000 of mean population. The number of marriages solemnised in 1905 was 7,200, an increase of 217 on the number for 1904.

Marriage-rates in Australasia per 1,000 of Population for Five Years.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Queensland ...	6·61	6·31	5·72	5·93	...
New South Wales ...	7·68	7·53	6·86	7·21	7·42
Victoria ...	6·99	7·02	6·29	6·80	7·24
South Australia ...	6·44	6·61	6·25	6·85	7·00
Western Australia ...	9·65	9·77	9·33	8·83	8·48
Tasmania ...	7·68	7·47	7·57	7·55	7·61
New Zealand ...	7·83	8·01	8·23	8·26	8·28

In April, 1896, New Zealand had 83,659 children living under the age of five years, and in March, 1901, the number was 86,806, an increase of 3,147, although the population at all ages increased in the quinquennium by 9·86 per cent. Between 1886 and 1891 the children living under five years actually decreased in number by 3,624, the increase of population of all ages (8·33 per cent.) being less than between 1891 and 1896 (12·24 per cent.) or 1896 and 1901 (9·86 per cent.). The number of children under one year to the total population at all ages, according to the results of four censuses, was :—

Census	1886	1891	1896	1901	Children under One Year.	Total Population (all Ages).
...	...	...	...	...	18,355	578,482
"	1891	...	...	...	16,443	626,658
"	1896	...	...	...	17,070	703,360
"	1901	...	...	...	18,381	772,719

Thus, in 1886, with a population of 578,482 persons, there were 18,355 children under one year, against 18,381 children of that age in 1901, with a population of 772,719 persons.

The births registered in 1885 were 19,693, against 19,546 in 1900. The birth-rate fell from 34·35 per 1,000 of the population in 1885 to 25·60 in 1900.

Deducting 1,469, the number of deaths of children under one year registered in 1900, from 19,546, the number of births for that year, leaves 18,077, or within 304 of the living children under one year at the time of the last census.