

Year.					Marriages.	Legitimate Births.	Proportion of Births to every Marriage solemnized in the Preceding Year.
1904	...	...	...	...	6,983	21,737	3·22
1905	...	...	...	...	7,200	22,600	3·24
1906	...	...	...	...	7,592	23,120	3·21
1907	...	...	...	...	8,192	23,937	3·15
1908	...	...	...	...	8,339	24,835	3·03
1909	...	...	...	...	8,094	25,301	3·03
1910	...	...	...	...	8,236	24,822	3·07
1911	...	...	...	...	8,825	25,276	3·07
1912	...	...	...	...	9,149	26,331	2·98
1913	...	...	...	...	...	26,754	2·81

New Zealand had in 1880 the highest birth-rate in Australasia (40·78); in 1900 the case was reversed: but in 1913 the New Zealand rate was higher than only that of Victoria.

The movement over ten years is calculated as under:—

Birth-rates per 1,000 of Population.

Country.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Queensland ...	26·99	25·76	26·15	26·79	26·79	27·29	27·33	27·65	29·67	30·24
New South Wales ...	26·85	26·85	27·21	27·34	26·99	27·40	27·83	28·75	29·86	28·86
Victoria ...	24·74	24·96	25·41	25·59	25·07	25·01	24·51	24·84	26·39	25·82
South Australia ...	25·29	24·36	24·37	24·86	25·65	25·74	26·38	26·89	28·65	29·08
Western Australia ...	30·67	30·74	30·66	30·18	30·08	28·87	27·99	28·21	28·83	29·36
Tasmania ...	28·92	28·50	28·94	28·63	29·95	28·91	29·25	28·57	30·53	30·03
New Zealand ...	26·94	27·22	27·08	27·30	27·45	27·29	26·17	25·97	26·48	26·14

Sexes of Children born.

The figures show that during each year there has been a preponderance of births of male children. It would appear, however, that this excess of male births is not sufficient to compensate for the heavier mortality which occurs among that sex. Of the total population of New Zealand in 1871 there were 70·52 females to every 100 males, but at the census of 1911 the proportion of the females to 100 males had risen to 89·59.

Year.	Number of Births of		Proportion of Births of Males to every 100 Females.
	Males.	Females.	
1893	9,310	8,877	104·9
1894	9,472	9,056	104·6
1895	9,493	9,053	104·9
1896	9,511	9,101	104·5
1897	9,600	9,137	105·1
1898	9,615	9,340	102·9
1899	9,724	9,111	106·7
1900	10,107	9,439	107·1
1901	10,471	10,020	104·5
1902	10,653	10,002	106·5
1903	11,217	10,612	105·7
1904	11,762	11,004	106·9
1905	12,109	11,573	104·6
1906	12,397	11,855	104·6
1907	12,835	12,259	104·7
1908	13,369	12,571	106·3
1909	13,502	13,022	103·7
1910	13,442	12,542	107·2
1911	13,532	12,822	105·5
1912	13,996	13,512	103·6
1913	14,433	13,502	106·9

Plural Births.

There were 314 cases of twin births (628 children) and 1 case of triplets registered in 1913. The number of children born was 27,935; the number of mothers was 27,619: thus, on an average, one mother in every 87 gave birth to twins, against 82 in 1912, 86 in 1911, 89 in 1910, and 99 in 1909.