

A further table shows the declining birth-rate, and the increase in the marriage-rate, in the United Kingdom.

Birth and Marriage Rates in the United Kingdom, 1886, 1891, 1896, 1901, and 1906.

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
1906	43,661,092	1,170,537	26·8	325,823	7·5

The above figures are taken from the report of the Registrar-General of England (69th number), published in 1908.

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, 1897 to 1906.

Countries.	Number of Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.									
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Hungary ...	40·3	37·7	39·3	39·3	37·8	38·8	36·7	37·0	35·7	36·0
Austria ...	37·5	36·3	37·3	37·3	36·6	37·0	35·2	35·5	33·7	...
Italy ...	34·7	33·5	33·9	33·0	32·6	33·4	31·7	32·8	32·5	31·9
German Empire ...	36·0	36·1	35·8	35·6	35·7	35·1	33·9	34·1	33·0	...
Netherlands ...	32·5	31·9	32·0	31·5	32·3	31·8	31·6	31·4	30·8	30·4
Scotland ...	30·0	30·1	29·8	29·6	29·5	29·2	29·2	28·7	28·1	27·9
Norway ...	29·9	30·1	30·7	29·9	29·6	29·0	28·8	28·1	27·4	26·5
England and Wales ...	29·6	29·3	29·1	28·7	28·5	28·5	28·4	27·9	27·2	27·1
Belgium ...	29·0	28·6	28·8	28·9	29·4	28·4	27·5	27·1	26·1	25·7
Sweden ...	26·7	27·1	26·4	27·0	27·0	26·5	25·7	25·8	25·7	25·7
Switzerland ...	28·1	28·4	28·9	28·6	29·1	28·7	27·7	27·7	27·4	...
Ireland ...	23·5	23·2	23·1	22·7	22·7	23·0	23·1	23·6	23·4	23·6
France ...	22·2	21·8	21·9	21·4	22·0	21·7	21·1	20·9	20·6	20·6

In March, 1901, New Zealand had 86,806 children living under the age of five years, and in April, 1906, the number was 102,745, an increase of 15,939, or 18·35 per cent., although the population at all ages increased in the quinquennium by only 14·99 per cent. Between 1891 and 1896 the increase was only 455, or 0·55 per cent., while 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.), 1896 and 1901 (9·86 per cent.), or 1901 and 1906 (14·99 per cent.). The number of children under one year to the total population at all ages, according to the results of five censuses, was:—

Census	Children under One Year.	Total Population (all Ages).
1886	18,355	578,482
" 1891	16,443	626,658
" 1896	17,070	703,360
" 1901	18,381	772,719
" 1906	22,289	888,578

Thus, in 1886, with a population of 578,482 persons, there were 18,355 children under one year, against 22,289 children of that age in 1906, with a population of 888,578 persons.

The births registered in 1885 were 19,693, against 23,682 in 1905. The birth-rate fell from 34·35 per 1,000 of the population in 1885 to 27·22 in 1905.

Deducting 1,599, the number of deaths of children under one year registered in 1905, from 23,682, the number of births for that year, leaves 22,083, or within 206 of the living children under one year at the time of the last census.