

year, the preliminary figures show a fall in the rate to 7.0 per 1,000 population. It should be mentioned, of course, that there doubtless occurred in 1920 a number of deferred marriages, which under more normal conditions would have occurred in the war years. Summary statistics of marriages contracted in 1920 to 1924 appear in Table 13, the figures and rates for Quebec being taken from provincial sources.

**13.—Number of Marriages and Marriage Rates, by Provinces, 1920-1924.**

**A. (NUMBER OF MARRIAGES).**

Years.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada.
1920.....	607	4,411	3,780	21,587	29,361	6,068	5,320	5,107	4,690	80,931
1921.....	518	3,550	3,173	18,659	24,871	5,310	5,101	4,661	3,889	69,732
1922.....	579	3,169	2,799	16,609	23,360	4,808	5,061	4,272	3,763	64,420
1923.....	454	3,246	2,911	17,361	24,842	4,544	5,045	4,117	3,943	66,463
1924.....	408	2,981	2,964	-	24,038	4,129	4,777	4,131	3,968	-

**B. (MARRIAGE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION).**

1920.....	6.8	8.5	9.8	9.2	10.2	10.1	7.2	9.0	9.2	9.4
1921.....	5.8	6.8	8.4	7.9	8.5	8.7	6.7	7.9	7.4	8.0
1922.....	6.6	6.0	7.1	6.5	7.8	7.7	6.4	7.0	7.0	7.1
1923.....	5.2	6.1	7.4	6.3	8.2	7.1	6.3	6.6	7.2	7.2
1924.....	4.6	5.6	7.4	-	7.9	6.4	5.9	6.5	7.2	-

**Ages at Marriage.**—The average age of bridegrooms in 1923 was 29.7 years and that of brides 25.3 years. The average excess of the bridegrooms' age was thus 4.4 years. It may be noted in Table 14 that when the contracting parties are grouped by age of bridegroom, the average difference in age is less for the younger groups than for the older, being only 0.2 years for grooms under 21, 2.0 years for grooms from 21 to 25 years of age and 10.3 years for grooms from 46 to 50 years. This is natural, in view of the fact that the groom's age is generally in excess of the bride's, and therefore as his age increases the range of reasonably possible ages for the bride widens. On the other hand, when the parties are grouped by the age of the bride, it is found that, although with less regularity than is shown in the table by age of grooms, the general tendency is for the older brides to marry men nearer their own age than in the case of the younger brides.

The average ages of bridegrooms and brides are shown by provinces in Table 15.

**14.—Difference in Ages of Bridegrooms and Brides, 1923.**

Age-group of Bridegroom.	Average age of Bridegroom.	Average age of Bride.	Average excess of Bridegroom's age.	Age-group of Bride.	Average age of Bride.	Average age of Bridegroom.	Average excess of Bridegroom's age.
All bridegrooms....	29.7	25.3	4.4	All brides.....	25.3	29.7	4.4
Under 21 years.....	19.9	19.7	0.2	Under 21 years.....	19.1	25.3	6.2
21-25 years.....	23.5	21.5	2.0	21-25 years.....	23.2	27.3	4.1
26-30 years.....	28.3	23.9	4.4	26-30 years.....	28.2	31.6	3.4
31-35 years.....	33.3	26.6	6.7	31-35 years.....	33.3	36.5	3.2
36-40 years.....	38.3	30.1	8.2	36-40 years.....	38.4	41.6	3.2
41-45 years.....	43.3	34.4	8.9	41-45 years.....	43.5	47.2	3.7
46-50 years.....	48.4	38.1	10.3	46-50 years.....	48.4	52.1	3.7
51 years and over...	59.6	48.3	11.3	51 years and over..	58.3	60.7	2.4