

20-24, and steadily increased for each quinquennial age group until it was 11.6 years for the bridegrooms 50 years or over in 1936. On the other hand, when the parties are grouped by the age of the bride, the same regularity is not shown. In the case of brides in the age groups 25-29 years and 30-34 years, the bridegrooms approximate most closely in age to their brides. Since these tables are based upon all marriages contracted during the year, the figures given should not be understood to signify the average ages at first marriage. Out of each 1,000 bridegrooms in 1937, 937 were bachelors, 53 widowers, 10 divorced men; out of each 1,000 brides, 958 were spinsters, 34 widows, 8 divorced women. The first year in which as many as 1 p.c. of those marrying had previously been divorced was 1928. The comparison between the figures of divorces granted, as shown in Table 15 of this chapter, and the number of divorced persons re-married is of some interest. Thus 1,870 divorces were granted in 1937, while 895 divorced males and 731 divorced females married again. This, of course, does not mean that these were the same persons. Table 12 gives the average ages of brides and grooms by provinces.

11.—Differences in Ages of Bridegrooms and Brides, 1936.

Age Group of Bridegrooms.	Average Age of Bridegrooms.	Average Age of Brides.	Excess of Average Age of Bridegrooms.	Age Group of Brides.	Average Age of Brides.	Average Age of Bridegrooms.	Excess of Average Age of Bridegrooms.
All bridegrooms.....	29.1	25.0	4.1	All brides.....	25.0	29.1	4.1
Under 20 years.....	19.1	19.5	-0.4	Under 20 years.....	18.5	24.7	6.2
20-24 years.....	22.9	21.5	1.4	20-24 years.....	22.4	26.6	4.2
25-29 years.....	27.3	23.8	3.5	25-29 years.....	27.1	29.8	2.7
30-34 years.....	32.1	26.2	5.9	30-34 years.....	32.1	34.4	2.3
35-39 years.....	37.1	28.8	8.3	35-39 years.....	37.2	40.2	3.0
40-44 years.....	42.3	32.5	9.8	40-44 years.....	42.2	46.4	4.2
45-49 years.....	47.3	38.7	10.6	45-49 years.....	47.4	51.9	4.5
50 years or over.....	59.7	48.1	11.6	50 years or over.....	58.9	61.2	2.3

12.—Average Ages of Parties Contracting Marriage, by Provinces, 1935 and 1936.

Province.	1935.			1936.		
	Average Age of Bridegrooms.	Average Age of Brides.	Excess of Average Age of Bridegrooms.	Average Age of Bridegrooms.	Average Age of Brides.	Excess of Average Age of Bridegrooms.
Prince Edward Island.....	29.4	25.0	4.4	29.9	25.3	4.6
Nova Scotia.....	28.6	24.3	4.3	28.7	24.3	4.4
New Brunswick.....	28.4	24.2	4.2	28.4	24.2	4.2
Quebec.....	29.2	25.6	3.6	29.2	25.6	3.6
Ontario.....	28.8	25.0	3.8	28.8	25.1	3.7
Manitoba.....	29.5	24.8	4.7	29.7	25.0	4.7
Saskatchewan.....	28.7	23.7	5.0	29.0	23.8	5.2
Alberta.....	29.2	24.1	5.1	29.3	24.2	5.1
British Columbia.....	30.2	25.7	4.5	30.3	25.8	4.5
Canada (exclusive of the Territories).....	29.0	25.0	4.0	29.1	25.0	4.1

Nativity of Brides and Bridegrooms.—The majority of marriages contracted in the western provinces in past years were between persons born outside Canada. This condition, however, is being quickly changed and such percentages in all the western provinces show a general reduction over the past few years. (See Table 13.) Both Canadian-born brides and bridegrooms are now in the majority in each province and in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec they show a marked predominance. Taking Canada as a whole, nearly 82 p.c. of all grooms and over 88 p.c. of all brides in 1937 were born in Canada; these are the highest percentages shown for the period covered by the statistics.