

**X.—CONJUGAL CONDITION AND FERTILITY OF WOMEN IN CANADIAN CITIES OF
30,000 POPULATION AND OVER, 1931**

City	Index of Probabi- lity of Marriage ¹	Sex Ratio (Males to Females) ²	Percentage Gainfully Em- ployed ³	City	Index of Probabi- lity of Marriage ¹	Sex Ratio (Males to Females) ²	Percentage Gainfully Em- ployed ³
Quebec.....	149	76	20	Vancouver.....	106	88	19
Ottawa.....	134	78	24	Brantford.....	104	82	19
Victoria.....	124	82	20	Regina.....	104	72	21
Montreal.....	119	86	21	Edmonton.....	102	75	18
Toronto.....	117	83	24	Saskatoon.....	102	73	20
Three Rivers.....	117	88	17	Calgary.....	101	83	18
Saint John.....	116	81	19	Kitchener.....	101	79	21
Winnipeg.....	115	75	23	Hamilton.....	99	87	18
Halifax.....	114	84	20	Verdun.....	92	87	15
London.....	113	79	21	Windsor.....	90	88	16

¹ Ratio of birth rate standardized for age and conjugal condition to birth rate standardized for age only. Ref. Census Monograph 3: Fertility of the Population of Canada. Tables LXXIX, LXXX and 14.
² Ref. Census. Vol. III, Table 6. ³ Ref. Census. Vol. VII, Tables 41 and 42 and Vol. III, Table 6.

The favourable effect of a Canadian surplus of males is to some extent offset by its very uneven distribution throughout the country. The low probability of marriage in our larger Canadian cities goes some way towards explaining the differences in the probability of marriage between Western Canada and Eastern Canada.

Summary

Canada has been, throughout most of its history, a country with a high probability of marriage for women. This has been due mainly to two closely related factors—a large surplus of males in the prime of life, and expanding land frontiers. The periods of greatest probability of marriage were when large numbers of immigrants arrived in the early part of the nineteenth century and between 1900 and 1914. Periods of low probability of marriage occurred at the end of the nineteenth century and again between 1928 and 1933, when a slowing down of immigration coincided with the years of acute economic depression. Marriage rates recovered rapidly after 1933, showing that the effect of the depression was mainly to postpone marriage rather than to reduce the eventual probability of getting married. Even if immigration on a large scale is not resumed, changing attitudes to family responsibilities are likely to result in marriage rates not far below those of pioneer days.

Different parts of Canada have markedly different probabilities of marriage and these differences show no signs of diminishing. Western Canada shows the effect of more recent immigration, while marriage rates are lower in Eastern Canada for three reasons: (1) long settlement makes the establishment of new farm families more difficult; (2) among the French, postponement of marriage is an important means of family limitation; (3) the greater opportunities for the employment of women and the consequent surplus of females in large cities tend to lower marriage rates in Ontario and Quebec.

Summarizing the data on differences in fertility between the provinces, the order shown in Table V may be taken as a starting point, since this represents the order of replacement rates resulting from the births, marriages and deaths of 1930-32. The position of New Brunswick at the head is due mainly to its high legitimate fertility. The same degree of fertility in Quebec is offset by low nuptiality and high mortality. At the other end of the table, the low positions of Manitoba, Ontario