

15.—Crude Marriage Rates for Various Countries of the World and for Provinces of Canada in Recent Years—concluded

Country	Year	Crude Marriage Rate	Country	Year	Crude Marriage Rate
Union of South Africa (Whites)	1941	10.4	Scotland	1943	7.6
Japan	1937	9.5	Newfoundland and Labrador	1938	7.3
Australia	1943	9.4	Netherlands	1941	7.3
Norway	1941	9.1	Germany (territory of 1937)	1941	7.2
England and Wales	1942	8.9	Uruguay	1943	7.2
Sweden	1941	8.9	British Isles	1943	7.1
Denmark	1938	8.9	Greece	1938	6.5
Hungary	1937	8.9	Belgium	1941	6.3
Roumania	1935	8.7	Italy	1941	6.1
Bulgaria	1941	8.7	Spain	1935	6.1
Finland	1937	8.5	Eire	1943	5.9
Switzerland	1941	8.5	France (excl. Alsace-Lorraine)	1943	5.7
Lithuania	1941	8.4	Ceylon	1939	5.5
Chile	1943	8.3	Northern Ireland	1937	5.5
Czechoslovakia	1937	8.3	Panama	1937	4.8
Poland	1937	8.0	Jamaica	1937	4.6
New Zealand	1942	7.9	Salvador	1943	3.3

Subsection 2.—Dissolutions of Marriage (Divorces)

For many years subsequent to Confederation, the number of divorces granted in Canada was very small, 1883, with 13 divorces, being the first year in which the number attained two figures, while 1903, with 21 divorces, was the record year up to that time. Thereafter the numbers grew more rapidly, 1909 showing 51 divorces and 1913, the last pre-war year, 60 divorces. This number was, however, less than one per 1,000 of the marriages contracted in Canada in each of these years.

One effect of the War of 1914-18 was to increase divorce. The causes were the generally unsettling psychological influences of the war period, and the long separations between men on active service and their wives. The provision of new facilities for obtaining dissolution of marriage was another factor in the numerical increase of divorces granted. A decision of the British Privy Council in 1918 gave jurisdiction to the Prairie Provinces for granting dissolutions of marriage, so that Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island were then the only provinces in which the applicant for divorce had to secure a private Act of Parliament. In 1930 an Act of the Dominion Parliament (20-21 Geo. V, c. 14) gave jurisdiction in divorce matters to the Supreme Court of Ontario.

In 1918 there were 114 divorces granted in Canada and from then on they grew steadily in number to 608 in 1926, 700 in 1931, 1,570 in 1936, and 2,369 in 1940. In 1941 divorces granted in Canada numbered 2,461; in 1942, 3,089; and in 1943, 3,263. These numbers, for the most part, cover final decrees of dissolution of marriage which alone constitute divorce. Annulments and legal separations have been eliminated. Coincident with the transfer of jurisdiction in divorce matters in Ontario from the Parliament of Canada to the Supreme Court of the Province there was a decrease in the number of divorces. This was occasioned by the delay between the granting of the decree nisi and the decree absolute. In 1938, however, the number of divorces granted passed the two-thousand mark, the increase, for the most part, was in Ontario and British Columbia. From 1921 to 1941, 1942 and 1943, respectively, there were increases of 341 p.c., 454 p.c. and 485 p.c.

Statistics of dissolutions of marriage granted were revised in 1941 through the co-operation of the provincial authorities and the Clerk of the Divorce Committee of the Senate of Canada.