

Section 5.—Marriages and Divorces

Subsection 1.—Marriages

In modern industrial countries, the marriage rate varies with the level of economic prosperity. Marriage rates fell during the depression and recovered in the later 1930's. In Canada, England and the United States, the number of marriages was exceptionally high in 1940-42. There has been a considerable drop since then. There were 86 p.c. more marriages in 1942 than the average for 1931-35 and 104 p.c. more than in 1932, the lowest year. There were 20 p.c. fewer marriages in 1944 than in 1942 and 15 p.c. fewer in 1945 than in 1944.

Numbers and Birthplaces of Brides and Bridegrooms.—Table 35 shows the number of marriages and the marriage rates per 1,000 population in Canada and the provinces. Percentages of brides and bridegrooms according to place of birth are also given.

The proportion of brides and bridegrooms born in Canada is increasing. The average in 1941-45 was more than 10 p.c. greater than in 1931-35. In the western provinces, over one-third of the marriages solemnized in 1931-35 were between persons born outside Canada. In 1941-45, taking Canada as a whole, approximately 88 p.c. of all bridegrooms and 92 p.c. of all brides were born in Canada. In the western provinces the proportions were 76 p.c. and 86 p.c., respectively. The higher proportion of marriages between persons born in Canada is due to the smaller immigration of recent years.

35.—Marriages and Marriage Rates, by Provinces, together with Percentage Distribution of Grooms and Brides by Nativity, 1941-45, with Five-Year Averages, 1936-45.

Province and Year	Marriages		Percentage Distribution of Grooms and Brides, by Nativity						
	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population	Born in Province of Residence		Born in Other Provinces		Born Outside Canada		
			Grooms	Brides	Grooms	Brides	Grooms	Brides	
	No.		p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	
P. E. Island.....	Av. 1936-40	623	6.6	88.4	92.9	6.3	4.5	5.3	2.6
	Av. 1941-45	686	7.5	73.9	87.0	16.6	9.6	9.4	3.4
	1941	673	7.1	78.8	86.6	15.0	9.4	6.2	4.0
	1942	778	8.6	75.1	87.5	13.5	10.0	11.4	2.4
	1943	653	7.2	71.5	85.5	15.0	10.6	13.5	4.0
	1944	646	7.1	68.9	87.6	20.1	9.6	11.0	2.8
	1945	680	7.4	75.0	87.6	20.0	8.5	5.0	3.8
Nova Scotia.....	Av. 1936-40	4,796	8.6	82.4	87.3	8.1	5.8	9.5	6.9
	Av. 1941-45	6,302	10.5	67.4	81.3	22.5	11.5	10.1	7.2
	1941	6,596	11.4	73.2	83.8	16.8	9.5	10.0	6.7
	1942	6,874	11.6	72.3	83.5	18.5	10.1	9.2	6.4
	1943	6,105	10.1	64.3	80.6	24.4	12.0	11.3	7.5
	1944	5,942	9.7	62.2	78.5	27.1	14.0	10.8	7.5
	1945	5,992	9.6	63.5	79.4	27.0	12.6	9.5	8.0
New Brunswick.....	Av. 1936-40	3,801	8.6	82.1	86.8	9.2	7.3	8.7	5.9
	Av. 1941-45	4,433	9.6	75.2	85.2	15.4	8.9	9.4	5.9
	1941	4,941	10.8	78.5	84.4	13.3	9.7	8.2	5.9
	1942	4,934	10.6	76.4	85.1	14.4	8.5	9.2	6.3
	1943	3,985	8.6	73.6	85.0	15.9	8.9	10.5	6.1
	1944	3,813	8.3	72.5	85.9	16.8	8.8	10.7	5.3
	1945	4,491	9.6	74.1	85.5	17.1	8.6	8.8	5.9