

In modern industrial countries, the marriage rate varies with the level of economic prosperity. Marriage rates fell during the depression years following 1929, but recovered in the later 1930's. In Canada, England and the United States, the number of marriages was exceptionally high in 1940-42. The number decreased in the years 1943 and 1944 but increased in 1945 and 1946. In Canada there were 20 p.c. fewer marriages in 1944 than in 1942. In 1945 there were 7 p.c. more marriages than in 1944 and in 1946 the number was 5.3 p.c. more than in 1942, the previous high year. The number decreased in 1947.

Numbers and Birthplaces of Bridegrooms and Brides.—Table 36 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 was due to the restricted immigration of recent years. In 1946 and 1947 there was a slight increase in the percentages of brides born outside Canada.

36.—Marriages and Marriage Rates, by Provinces, with Percentage Distribution of Bridegrooms and Brides by Nativity, 1944-47

Province and Year	Marriages		Percentage Distribution of Bridegrooms and Brides, by Nativity					
	Total	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Born in Province Where Married		Born in Other Provinces		Born Outside Canada	
			Grooms	Brides	Grooms	Brides	Grooms	Brides
			No.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Prince Edward Island.....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
1946	837	8.9	85.4	91.3	9.9	5.9	4.7	2.9
1947	676	7.2	85.9	88.5	8.6	5.5	5.5	6.1
Nova Scotia.....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
1946	6,549	10.7	77.3	85.1	14.9	7.5	7.8	7.4
1947	5,861	9.4	80.9	84.0	11.2	6.9	7.8	9.0
New Brunswick.....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
1946	5,866	12.2	78.9	86.7	12.6	7.3	8.5	6.0
1947	5,189	10.6	78.6	84.6	10.5	7.2	10.9	8.3
Quebec.....1944	31,922	9.1	88.1	91.4	6.2	4.9	5.7	3.7
1945	33,211	9.3	87.4	90.7	6.7	5.3	5.9	3.9
1946	36,650	10.1	86.6	89.2	7.4	6.6	6.1	4.3
1947	35,494	9.6	88.0	89.9	6.4	5.9	5.6	4.2