

Section 3.—Marital Status

Next to the sex and age distribution of a population, that of marital status is probably the most fundamental. Its incidence is twofold: 'vital' and 'economic and social'.

The vital basis lies in the influence of the marriage state on the fertility of a population and, from this angle, close analyses of marital status, by age, are important. The ages of females between 15 and 45 years have more significance than those of males; if the proportion of females in this group is small, the expected proportion of births will also be small. It has been shown that for the Canadian population the combined influences of age of the population, age of the married females, and proportion of females married has become steadily more favourable to the birth rate from 1871 to 1921 but that, since the latter date, the trend has been less favourable.

6.—Marital Status of the Population, 15 Years of Age or Over, by Sex, Census Years 1911-41

NOTE.—Figures for censuses previous to 1911 are not comparable.

Year and Sex	Single		Married ¹		Widowed		Divorced		Total ²
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.
1911..... M.	1,161,088	45.0	1,326,959	51.5	88,716	3.4	2,087 ³	0.1	2,597,133
F.	765,092	34.9	1,247,761	56.9	178,961	8.2	2,255	0.1	2,201,780
1921..... M.	1,173,730	39.2	1,697,145	56.7	119,571	4.0	3,664 ³	0.1	2,994,720
F.	881,771	32.0	1,630,636	59.2	236,283	8.6	3,726	0.1	2,752,637
1931..... M.	1,519,844	41.0	2,032,691	54.9	148,851	4.0	4,048	0.1	3,713,221
F.	1,148,977	34.0	1,937,458	57.3	288,530	8.5	3,392	0.1	3,378,579
1941..... M.	1,703,528	39.8	2,399,729	56.1	170,743	4.0	6,569	0.2	4,281,237
F.	1,328,489	33.0	2,336,414	58.0	354,378	8.8	7,463	0.2	4,026,867

¹ Includes persons who are permanently separated for domestic reasons. marital status was not stated; percentages are based on stated condition.

² Includes persons whose marital status was not stated; percentages are based on stated condition. ³ Includes legally separated.

In Canada as a whole there are more married males than married females. Other striking statistics of marital status are the great preponderance of widows compared to widowers and the large and increasing numbers of divorced and legally separated persons.

Marital status of the 1941 population 15 years of age or over, by provinces and sex, is shown at p. 102 of the 1945 Year Book.

Section 4.—Racial Origins

A population composed of diverse racial stocks gives rise to political, economic and social problems quite different in nature from those of one with a small admixture of foreign elements, although, to the extent that certain racial stocks are more readily assimilated than others, the problems are mitigated. It is equally true that the different educational, moral, economic, religious and political backgrounds of a people of mixed origins lend variety and diversity to the national life.

The two basic stocks of the Canadian people are the French and the English: historically the French is much the older and, excepting at the time of the Census of 1921, has exceeded in numbers any one of the basic British Isles stocks.