

Section 5.—Marriages and Divorces

Subsection 1.—Marriages

International Comparisons.—Table 33 shows the marriage rates in Canada and the provinces in comparison with those of other countries. Canadian marriage rates have always been relatively high.

33.—Marriage Rates per 1,000 Population of Various Countries compared with Canada and the Provinces, 1950

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations* and other official publications. In certain cases final figures are not available and provisional data are used.)

Country or Province	Marriage Rate	Country or Province	Marriage Rate	Country	Marriage Rate
United States.....	11.0	Canada—concluded		Chile.....	7.9
Western Germany.....	10.7	Manitoba.....	9.3	France.....	7.9
Czechoslovakia.....	10.4	Quebec.....	8.6	Switzerland.....	7.9
Hungary.....	10.4	New Brunswick.....	8.5	Scotland.....	7.8
Japan.....	10.2	Saskatchewan.....	8.3	Italy.....	7.7
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	9.9	Nova Scotia.....	7.9	Portugal.....	7.7
Austria.....	9.4	Newfoundland.....	7.2	Sweden.....	7.7
Australia.....	9.2	Prince Edward Island	6.4	Spain.....	7.4
New Zealand.....	9.2			Ceylon.....	6.8
Canada.....	9.1	Denmark.....	9.1	Northern Ireland.....	6.8 ¹
Alberta.....	10.2	Finland.....	8.5	Mexico.....	5.7 ¹
British Columbia.....	9.8	Belgium.....	8.3	Ireland.....	5.4
Ontario.....	9.8	Norway.....	8.3	Venezuela.....	5.1
		Netherlands.....	8.2	Peru.....	3.5
		England and Wales....	8.1		

¹ 1949.

As a rule, marriage rates vary with the level of economic prosperity. They 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, decreased in 1943 and 1944 but increased in 1945 and 1946, and reached peak rates in the immediate post-war years. The Canadian post-war peak marriage rate of 10.9 was reached in 1946.

Canadian Marriages.—Table 34 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.

For the country as a whole, about 85 p.c. of the grooms were born in Canada—70 p.c. in the province in which they were married. Almost 90 p.c. of the brides were born in Canada—over 75 p.c. in the province in which they were married. However, there are wide variations from this pattern as between provinces; in the four Atlantic Provinces and Quebec there is a greater tendency to marry native and/or province-born partners than in the other provinces.