

23.—Dissolutions of Marriage (Divorces) by Province, Alternate Years 1916-50 and 1951-56
—concluded

Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1916.....	..	4	260	382	290	2 639	636	505	962	2 035	7,683
1948.....	..	49	781	211	292	3,107	477	333	651	1,683	6,881
1950.....	5	13	199	194	234	2,228	309	280	534	1,377	5,373
1951.....	4	10	187	156	289	2,102	361	226	589	1,339	5,263
1952.....	3	9	188	200	309	2,202	338	223	630	1,532	5,634
1953.....	9	15	185	181	273	2,774	374	218	603	1,478	6,110
1954.....	8	8	249	117	370	2,468	371	250	610	1,471	5,922
1955.....	1	7	253	181	396	2,509	337	237	627	1,483	6,031
1956 ^a	5	1	230	215	351	2,366	314	221	685	1,502	5,890

¹ By a new rule adopted in August 1948, a *decree nisi* became absolute at the end of three months and as a result a number of divorces did not become effective until the following year.

Section 6.—Canadian Life Tables

Three official life tables for Canada have been published: the first was calculated on the basis of the deaths of 1930-32 and the census population of 1931; the second on the basis of the deaths of 1940-42 and the census population of 1941 and the third was based on the Census of 1951 and deaths during 1950-52. In addition tables have been computed for Canada as a whole for the years 1945 and 1947 based on estimated populations by sex and age and the deaths recorded as having occurred during those years. The life table values for 1951 are given in abbreviated form in Table 24.

Life tables give a summary of the health and general conditions of survival of the population in a conventional, standard form. A hypothetical number (100,000) of births of each sex is assumed as a starting point. The life tables show how, on the basis of the mortality rates at each age in the given years, these 100,000 of each sex are reduced in number by death. For example, during the year 1951, of 100,000 males born, 4,325 died in their first year so that 95,675 survived to one year of age; 326 died in their second year so that 95,349 survived to two years of age, and so on. At 100 years of age only 90 of the original 100,000 would have survived. The probability of death at each age is the ratio between the number of deaths and the population at each age. Finally, the expectation of life is the average number of years which a person might expect to live if the mortality rates in the given years remained constant.

Mortality rates at all ages for males have been almost consistently higher than for females. Males have the highest risk of mortality as compared with females during their first year of life, from their late 'teens to early 30's and from age 50 to 65. For both boys and girls the risk of mortality drops rapidly during childhood and is lowest at about age 10, increases gradually to about age 40 for males and about 50 for females and then rises steeply with advancing age. At the mortality rates given in the 1951 Life Table (see Table 24) about 15,000 males would have died before reaching age 50 as compared with about 11,000 females; only 55,000 of the original group of 100,000 males would have survived to age 70 as compared with about 66,500 women.

By 1951 life expectancy at birth in Canada had reached a new high record of 66.3 years for males and 70.8 for females—comparable to the expectancy for other countries of the world with highly developed medical and public health care. Once a child has passed its first year of life however its life expectancy increases appreciably. At one year of age a male child at present mortality risks may, on the average, expect to live an additional 68.3 years and a female 72.3 years, representing for an infant boy a gain of two full years more than his expectation at birth and 1.5 more years for an infant girl. The expectation of life of a 15 year old boy is 55.4 more years; of a 15 year old girl 59.2 years. At 25 years of age the expectation is about 46 years for men and almost 50 for women and at age 70, 10.4 years for men and 11.6 for women.