

19.—Marriages and Marriage Rates, by Province, with Percentage Distribution of Bridegrooms and Brides by Nativity, 1931-57—concluded

Province or Territory and Year	Total Marriages	Rate per 1,000 Population	Born in Province Where Married		Born in Other Provinces		Born Outside Canada		
			Grooms	Brides	Grooms	Brides	Grooms	Brides	
			p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	
Northwest Territories.....	1956	146	7.7	65.1	73.3	19.9	19.2	15.1	7.5
	1957	162	8.5	64.2	72.8	26.5	19.8	9.3	7.4
Canada.....	1931	66,591	6.4	56.7	64.9	10.0	9.2	33.3	26.0
	1941	121,842	10.6	76.8	81.5	11.4	10.1	11.7	8.4
	1951 ¹	128,230	9.2	70.5	76.5	15.1	12.8	14.5	10.6
	1956 ¹	132,713	8.3	67.8	74.7	15.2	12.4	17.0	12.9
	1957 ¹	133,186	8.0	66.3	72.8	15.0	12.2	18.7	14.9

¹ Newfoundland included from 1951 and the Yukon and Northwest Territories for 1956 and 1957.

Age and Marital Status of Bridegrooms and Brides.—Table 20 shows that almost 92 p.c. of the marriages in 1957 were between persons who had not been married previously; about 4.5 p.c. of both brides and bridegrooms had been widowed, and almost 4 p.c. of the marriages were of divorced persons. The average age at marriage of bachelors was just over 26 and that of spinsters 23 years and four months. The average age of widowers and widows at the time of remarriage was slightly more than double that of bachelors and spinsters. Over 91 p.c. of spinsters married in 1957 were under 30 years of age, 32 p.c. were under 20 years and 45 p.c. were between 20 and 25. Over 83 p.c. of bachelors were under 30 years of age, 6.5 p.c. of them under 20 and 48 p.c. from 20 to 24 years of age.

In recent years, couples are marrying younger than they did a generation ago. Since 1940 the average age of men at the time of their first marriage has dropped from 28 years to just past their 26th birthday; that of girls from 24 years and eight months to 23 years and four months.

20.—Brides and Bridegrooms, by Age and Marital Status, 1957

Age Group	BRIDES							
	Numbers				Percentages			
	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced	Total
Under 20 years.....	38,896	18	21	38,935	31.9	0.3	0.4	29.2
20 — 24 ".....	55,044	159	514	55,717	45.1	2.6	10.4	41.8
25 — 29 ".....	17,210	337	1,162	18,709	14.1	5.5	23.5	14.0
30 — 34 ".....	5,846	506	1,141	7,493	4.8	8.3	23.1	5.6
35 — 39 ".....	2,497	688	829	4,014	2.0	11.2	16.8	3.0
40 — 44 ".....	1,220	747	591	2,558	1.0	12.2	12.0	1.9
45 — 49 ".....	714	809	407	1,930	0.6	13.2	8.2	1.4
50 — 54 ".....	378	801	161	1,340	0.3	13.1	3.3	1.0
55 — 59 ".....	169	675	70	914	0.1	11.0	1.4	0.7
60 — 64 ".....	78	580	27	685	0.1	9.5	0.5	0.5
65 years or over.....	70	804	13	887	0.1	13.1	0.3	0.7
Age not stated.....	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Totals, All Ages.....	122,126	6,124	4,936	133,186	91.7	4.6	3.7	100.0
Average ages.....	23.3	48.8	34.8	24.9