

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

Age Group	BRIDEGROOMS							
	Numbers				Percentages			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced	Total
Under 20 years.....	8,017	—	2	8,019	6.5	—	—	6.0
20 — 24 ".....	59,117	32	161	59,310	48.3	0.6	3.2	44.5
25 — 29 ".....	35,491	144	861	36,496	29.0	2.5	17.1	27.4
30 — 34 ".....	11,324	274	1,090	12,688	9.2	4.8	21.6	9.5
35 — 39 ".....	4,234	344	992	5,570	3.5	6.0	19.6	4.2
40 — 44 ".....	1,923	436	749	3,108	1.6	7.6	14.8	2.3
45 — 49 ".....	1,040	589	594	2,223	0.8	10.3	11.8	1.7
50 — 54 ".....	663	683	319	1,665	0.5	12.0	6.3	1.3
55 — 59 ".....	297	778	150	1,225	0.2	13.6	3.0	0.9
60 — 64 ".....	166	774	77	1,017	0.1	13.6	1.5	0.8
65 years or over.....	161	1,646	54	1,861	0.1	28.9	1.1	1.4
Age not stated.....	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Totals, All Ages.....	122,437	5,700	5,049	133,186	91.9	4.3	3.8	100.0
Average ages.....	26.1	55.6	38.4	27.8

Religious Denominations of Brides and Bridegrooms.—The distribution of brides and bridegrooms by religious denominations is roughly the same as that for the population as a whole. Table 21 shows the very strong influence that religion has on marriage. About 72 p.c. of all marriages are between persons of the same religious denomination; in 1957 among those of Jewish faith it was about 93 p.c.; among Roman Catholics 88 p.c.; United Church about 62 p.c.; and Eastern Orthodox about 63 p.c.

21.—Marriages by Religious Denominations of Contracting Parties, 1957

Denomination of Bridegroom	Denomination of Bride										Total Marriages	P.C. of Grooms
	Anglican	Baptist	Eastern Orthodox	Jewish	Lutheran	Presbyterian	Roman Catholic ¹	United Church	Other Sects	Not Stated		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.		
Anglican.....	7,951	583	101	9	408	769	1,840	3,505	514	5	15,685	11.8
Baptist.....	623	2,139	22	—	120	180	416	890	283	1	4,674	3.5
Eastern Orthodox.....	142	23	1,400	2	87	40	361	197	78	1	2,331	1.8
Jewish.....	41	2	4	1,571	8	10	61	26	20	1	1,744	1.3
Lutheran.....	514	150	82	2	2,852	166	894	896	290	1	5,847	4.4
Presbyterian.....	862	196	24	3	159	2,093	663	1,250	185	1	5,436	4.1
Roman Catholic ¹	1,842	390	238	23	946	553	55,708	2,086	843	8	62,637	47.0
United Church.....	3,367	794	177	6	675	991	2,222	15,525	870	—	24,627	18.5
Other.....	646	288	58	11	315	227	1,070	1,129	6,430	2	10,176	7.6
Not stated.....	11	1	—	—	1	1	9	3	—	3	29	—
Totals.....	15,999	4,566	2,106	1,627	5,571	5,030	63,244	25,507	9,513	23	133,186	100.0
P.C. of brides.....	12.0	3.4	1.6	1.2	4.2	3.8	47.5	19.2	7.1	—	100.0	71.8 ²

¹ Includes Greek Catholics.² Percentage of marriages between contracting parties of the same religious denomination.

Subsection 2.—Dissolutions of Marriage (Divorces)

Before World War I the number of divorces granted in Canada was very small. There were fewer than 20 divorces each year from Confederation to 1900, 21 in 1903, 51 in 1909 and 60 in 1913. These numbers represent less than one per 1,000 of the yearly number of marriages. At the end of World War I the number of divorces showed a definite increase, advancing to a peak of 8,199 in 1947, then declining gradually to a postwar low of 5,270 in 1951. From 1952 to 1957 the number has fluctuated between 5,600 and 6,673.