

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 1958 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 68 p.c.

21.—Marriages by Religious Denominations of Contracting Parties, 1958

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.	No.	
Anglican.....	7,726	571	100	17	425	772	1,895	3,443	561	4	15,514	11.8
Baptist.....	589	2,051	17	2	125	183	449	920	285	1	4,622	3.5
Eastern Orthodox.....	132	28	1,682	4	79	28	386	204	61	—	2,604	2.0
Jewish.....	30	2	1	1,483	10	10	60	25	18	—	1,639	1.2
Lutheran.....	537	149	48	2	2,892	186	875	907	297	3	5,896	4.5
Presbyterian.....	887	220	33	5	162	2,017	570	1,119	184	—	5,197	4.0
Roman Catholic ¹	1,797	352	229	26	904	560	54,814	2,223	938	1	61,844	47.0
United Church.....	3,157	784	154	12	707	976	2,248	15,046	861	2	23,947	18.2
Other.....	706	311	54	9	284	207	1,017	1,101	6,550	2	10,241	7.8
Not stated.....	7	1	—	—	2	—	3	5	1	2	21	—
Totals.....	15,568	4,469	2,318	1,560	5,590	4,939	62,317	24,993	9,756	15	131,525	100.0
P.C. of brides.....	11.8	3.4	1.8	1.2	4.3	3.8	47.4	19.0	7.4	—	100.0	71.7 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 1958 the number has fluctuated between 5,650 and 6,688.

22.—Dissolutions of Marriage (Divorces), by Province, 1931-58

NOTE.—Figures for individual years from 1900 to 1950 are given in the 1956 Year Book, p. 230.

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.
Av. 1931-35.....	..	1	37	22	31	320	119	61	168	280	1,038
" 1936-40.....	..	1	50	44	56	734	194	116	259	570	2,024
" 1941-45.....	..	2	92	104	99	1,398	305	207	432	937	3,576
" 1946-50.....	1	21	185	245	303	2,839	500	383	724	1,676	6,877
1951.....	4	10	187	156	289	2,109	361	226	589	1,339	5,270
1952.....	3	9	188	200	309	2,218	338	223	630	1,532	5,650
1953.....	9	15	185	181	273	2,824	374	218	603	1,478	6,160
1954.....	8	8	249	117	370	2,469	371	250	610	1,471	5,923
1955.....	1	7	253	181	396	2,531	337	237	627	1,483	6,053
1956.....	5	1	230	215	351	2,478	314	221	685	1,502	6,002
1957.....	6	2	250	206	519	2,873	305	242	726	1,559	6,688
1958.....	7	1	220	150	311	2,776	292	281	743	1,498	6,279