

The rates of natural increase are higher for females than for males in all provinces because of the higher death rates for males. In the western provinces particularly, the ratio of males to females in the total population is higher than in other parts of Canada and this in itself tends to lower the rate of natural increase. In Canada, a country with a fairly young population and where immigration has been on a large scale, an excess of males is to be expected but the higher rate of natural increase for females may gradually reduce this excess. The trend is toward an eventual excess of females in the total population—as there now is in most European countries—unless immigration again raises the male ratio or death rates among males are greatly reduced.

Natural Increase in Urban Centres.—The classification of births and deaths by place of residence makes it possible to compile the natural increase in the population of urban centres; the figures are presented in Table 2, pp. 222-226.

Section 5.—Marriages and Divorces

Subsection 1.—Marriages*

In 1961 Canada's crude marriage rate was 7.0 per 1,000 population, the lowest in over 20 years. Provincial rates varied from 6.0 per 1,000 population for Prince Edward Island to 7.9 for Alberta.

Table 21 provides a summary of the number of marriages and the marriage rates per 1,000 population for Canada and the provinces for the years 1941, 1951 and the three consecutive years 1959-61, and percentages of brides and bridegrooms, for the same years according to place of birth. For the country as a whole, over 82 p.c. of the grooms of 1961 were born in Canada and almost 68 p.c. in the province in which they were married; almost 86 p.c. of the brides were born in Canada and over 74 p.c. in the province in which they were married. However, as would be expected because of heavy immigration of young persons in the postwar years, an increasing number of marriages are of persons born outside the country. For example, 17.9 p.c. of the grooms married in 1961 were born outside Canada compared with 11.7 p.c. in 1941; for brides the proportions were 14.1 p.c. and 8.4 p.c., respectively. However, there are wide variations in this pattern as between provinces; in the older Atlantic Provinces and Quebec there is a greater tendency than in the other provinces to marry native Canadians. In these areas both partners in a marriage are often born in the same province.

* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 256-257.

21.—Marriages and Rates per 1,000 Population, by Province, with Percentage Distribution of Bridegrooms and Brides by Nativity, 1941, 1951 and 1959-61

Province 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.	
Newfoundland.....	1951	2,517	7.0	85.2	96.7	2.4	1.9	12.4	1.4
	1959	2,893	6.6	86.4	96.5	3.3	1.4	10.3	2.1
	1960	3,104	6.9	86.2	96.4	4.3	1.9	9.5	1.7
	1961	3,306	7.2	88.0	97.2	3.8	1.6	8.2	1.2
Prince Edward Island.....	1941	673	7.1	78.8	86.6	15.0	9.4	6.2	4.0
	1951	583	5.9	82.3	91.1	12.9	6.0	4.8	2.9
	1959	639	6.3	84.4	92.0	11.9	5.9	3.8	2.0
	1960	690	6.7	79.6	91.2	14.8	6.4	5.7	2.5
	1961	624	6.0	81.7	89.6	15.4	7.2	2.9	3.2
Nova Scotia.....	1941	6,596	11.4	73.2	83.8	16.8	9.5	10.0	6.7
	1951	5,094	7.9	78.2	86.7	15.9	9.0	6.0	4.3
	1959	5,310	7.4	74.5	87.2	19.2	9.4	6.3	3.4
	1960	5,250	7.2	76.2	87.8	17.9	8.8	5.9	3.4
	1961	5,292	7.2	75.2	87.8	18.8	8.8	6.0	3.4