

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 for centres of over 20,000 population are presented in Table 2, pp. 245-247

Section 5.—Marriages and Divorces

Subsection 1.—Marriages*

In 1963 Canada's crude marriage rate was 6.9 per 1,000 population, the lowest since 1934. Provincial rates varied from 6.4 per 1,000 population for Prince Edward Island to 7.2 for Alberta and New Brunswick.

Table 27 gives the number of marriages and the marriage rates for Canada and the provinces for 1941, 1951 and the three consecutive years 1961-63, together with percentages of brides and bridegrooms according to place of birth. For the country as a whole, over 83 p.c. of the bridegrooms of 1963 were born in Canada and over 69 p.c. in the province in which they were married; almost 87 p.c. of the brides were born in Canada and 75 p.c. in the province in which they were married. During the postwar years until 1959 an increasing number of marriages were of persons born outside the country, because of the heavy immigration of young persons. However, since 1959 the proportion of foreign-born bridegrooms declined from 19.6 to 16.5 p.c. in 1963 and the proportion of foreign-born brides from 15.9 to 13.1 p.c. There are wide variations in the pattern of intermarriage of foreign-born and native-born persons as between provinces; in the older Atlantic Provinces and in Quebec there is a greater tendency than in the other provinces to marry native Canadians and in these areas both partners are often born in the same province.

* For international comparisons, see Section 7, pp. 282-283.

27.—Marriages and Rates per 1,000 Population, by Province, with Percentage Distribution of Bridegrooms and Brides by Nativity, 1941, 1951 and 1961-63

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
	1961	3,306	7.2	88.0	97.2	3.8	1.6	8.2	1.2
	1962	3,274	7.0	89.4	96.9	3.8	1.5	6.8	1.7
	1963	3,280	6.8	88.5	96.5	3.7	1.5	7.9	2.0
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
	1961	624	6.0	81.7	89.6	15.4	7.2	2.9	3.2
	1962	677	6.4	76.1	91.0	20.8	6.8	3.1	2.2
	1963	684	6.4	73.2	87.3	22.7	11.1	4.1	1.6