

females, which were somewhat below it, and Prince Edward Island females which were above it. This was also true for the expectancies at 20 years of age. The male expectancies at 40 were clustered around the Canadian figure with Prince Edward Island a little higher and Nova Scotia slightly lower. Prince Edward Island showed a female expectancy at 40 which was a year above the national average, while Newfoundland and Nova Scotia were slightly below it. The Prince Edward Island expectancies at age 65 were again somewhat above the Canadian level with the male expectancies at 65 for the other Atlantic provinces clustered around it. The Newfoundland female expectancy at 65 was somewhat below the Canadian level.

4.8 Nuptiality

This Section includes not only recent statistics on marriages and marriage rates but also on dissolutions of marriages. In the *1973 Canada Year Book* pp 201-204, there was expanded coverage of the latter topic to focus attention on the dramatic increases over the past few years in the number of divorces resulting from the changes made in 1968 to Canada's divorce laws.

4.8.1 Marriages

In 1973, 199,064 marriages were solemnized in Canada. Table 4.50 shows that the rate of marriage was 9.0 per 1,000 population in 1973, down from 9.2 in 1972, reversing an upward trend which began in the early 1960s. There were similar slight declines in most provinces in this comparison. In 1973, New Brunswick recorded 9.8 marriages per 1,000 population which was the highest of any province.

Birthplace of brides and grooms. For Canada as a whole in 1973, Table 4.50 shows that 73.1% of the brides and 68.5% of the grooms were married in the province in which they were born; 11.7% of brides and 13.7% of grooms were married in a province other than that of their birth. Persons born outside Canada constituted 15.2% of the brides and 17.8% of the grooms. There were significant variations in these percentages among the various provinces. For example, British Columbia always has the highest proportion of brides and grooms marrying persons born in other provinces than the province in which the marriage is performed. In terms of marrying persons born outside Canada, Ontario and British Columbia are both relatively high.

As also illustrated in Table 4.50, proportionately more brides tend to marry in the province of their birth than do grooms. Further, it is of interest that the proportions of both brides and grooms marrying in the province of their birth are lowest in the territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. These are the regions which have generally been subject to the largest net inflows of population in recent years.

Age and marital status. Table 4.51 shows that in 1973 the great majority of brides and grooms at time of marriage reported their previous marital status as single, with divorced and widowed following in that order. A total of 174,135 or over 87% of all brides in 1973, and the same proportion of all grooms, had previously never been married. The proportion of brides marrying in 1973 who were previously divorced was 8.6%, and widowed, 3.9%.

In 1973 the median age at marriage — the age above and below which half the marriages occurred — was 23.5 for bachelors and 21.2 for spinsters. In terms of averages, bachelors averaged 24.9 years of age, and spinsters 22.4.

Religious denomination. Some indication of the influence that religion has in selecting marriage partners is shown in Table 4.52. For example, close to 62% of all marriages in 1973 were between persons of the same religious denomination. Percentages were higher for such denominations as Jewish and Roman Catholic and lower for others such as Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian and United Church.

4.8.2 Divorces

The number of decrees absolute granted in Canada has risen sharply as a result of the 1968 changes in divorce legislation. For Canada as a whole the number of divorces (granted under the new legislation) rose to over 32,000 in 1972 as compared to an average of about 11,000 divorces over the three-year period 1966-68. Preliminary data for 1973 in Table 4.32 indicate a further increase to 36,704 decrees absolute granted in Canada. Table 4.32 also shows that in 1973 Alberta recorded a divorce rate of 263.5 per 100,000 population, and British