

International Comparisons.—Table 36 shows the marriage rates in Canada and the provinces in comparison with those of other countries. Canadian marriage rates are relatively high.

36.—Marriage Rates per 1,000 Population of Various Countries of the World Compared with Canada and the Provinces for Recent Years

Sources: League of Nations Year Book and other official sources. In certain cases final figures are not available and provisional data are shown.

Country or Province	Year	Marriage Rate	Country or Province	Year	Marriage Rate
Austria.....	1939	17.7	Canada—concluded.		
Latvia.....	1941	13.3	Ontario.....	1945	8.5
United States.....	1945	12.3	Saskatchewan.....	1945	7.5
Germany (territory of 1937).....	1939	11.8	Prince Edward Island.....	1945	7.4
Estonia.....	1941	11.0	Norway.....	1941	8.9
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1943	10.8	Australia.....	1945	8.5
Belgium.....	1945	10.0	Finland.....	1944	8.4
France (86 departments).....	1945	9.5	New Zealand.....	1944	8.4
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	1944	9.5	Poland.....	1938	8.1
Sweden.....	1945	9.5	Switzerland.....	1944	8.0
Scotland.....	1945	9.4	Chile.....	1945	7.9
Denmark.....	1944	9.3	Northern Ireland.....	1945	7.9
England and Wales.....	1945	9.3	Japan.....	1938	7.5
Bulgaria.....	1944	9.2	Lithuania.....	1939	7.5
Canada ¹	1945	8.9	Hungary.....	1943	7.3
British Columbia.....	1945	9.8	Uruguay.....	1942	7.2
New Brunswick.....	1945	9.6	Spain.....	1944	7.0
Nova Scotia.....	1945	9.6	Roumania.....	1943	6.9
Quebec.....	1945	9.3	Italy.....	1945	6.8
Manitoba.....	1945	8.9	Greece.....	1938	6.5
Alberta.....	1945	8.8	Eire.....	1945	5.8
			Ceylon.....	1939	5.5
			Netherlands.....	1944	5.5
			Panama.....	1937	4.8
			Jamaica.....	1937	4.6
			Salvador.....	1943	3.3

¹ Does not include marriages of Canadians overseas.

Age and Marital Status of Brides and Bridegrooms.—The distribution of brides and bridegrooms by age and marital status is shown in Table 37. Nearly 90 p.c. of marriages are between persons who have not previously been married. The average age at marriage of bachelors is about 27 years and that of spinsters between 24 and 25 years. The average age of widowers and widows at the time of re-marriage is more than 20 years greater than that of bachelors and spinsters, being 50.3 years in 1940-42 and 51.7 in 1945 for widowers and 46.4 and 45.4, respectively, for widows. The age distribution of widowers and widows at the time of re-marriage is, of course, very different from that of bachelors and spinsters.

Widowers and widows were 6 p.c. and 5 p.c., respectively, of all bridegrooms and brides in 1945. This compares with 3.8 and 2.7 p.c., respectively, in 1940-42. Divorced persons are 2.5 p.c. of the total.