

**21.—Marriages by Religious Denominations of Contracting Parties 1953 and 1954**

(Exclusive of Yukon and the Northwest Territories)

Denomination of Bridegroom	Denomination of Bride									Total Marriages	P.C. of Grooms	
	Church of England	Baptist	Eastern Orthodox	Jewish	Lutheran	Presbyterian	Roman Catholic	United Church	Other			Not Stated
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
<b>1953</b>												
Church of England...	8,358	579	113	7	416	872	1,860	3,764	555	2	16,526	12.6
Baptist.....	662	2,158	20	—	153	216	440	899	297	1	4,846	3.7
Eastern Orthodox...	112	27	1,089	2	77	27	390	175	60	—	1,959	1.5
Jewish.....	31	3	5	1,678	7	9	57	28	19	1	1,838	1.4
Lutheran.....	497	133	68	5	2,961	130	729	819	274	1	5,617	4.3
Presbyterian.....	1,023	241	42	6	136	2,120	675	1,401	172	—	5,816	4.4
Roman Catholic...	1,738	332	312	25	825	504	53,233	2,002	734	4	59,709	45.6
United Church.....	3,542	863	169	10	705	1,096	2,134	15,575	827	3	24,924	19.0
Other.....	679	300	59	18	299	207	979	1,005	6,032	1	9,579	7.3
Not stated.....	5	1	—	—	2	—	5	3	3	4	23	...
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>16,647</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>5,581</b>	<b>5,181</b>	<b>60,502</b>	<b>25,671</b>	<b>8,973</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>130,837</b>	<b>100.0</b>
P.C. of brides.....	12.7	3.5	1.4	1.3	4.3	4.0	46.2	19.6	6.9	—	100.0	71.2 <sup>2</sup>
<b>1954</b>												
Church of England...	8,180	575	93	16	399	804	1,966	3,618	556	3	16,210	12.6
Baptist.....	612	2,028	20	3	144	174	435	841	270	2	4,529	3.5
Eastern Orthodox...	111	25	1,014	—	90	44	400	195	66	—	1,945	1.5
Jewish.....	34	5	7	1,680	7	8	62	37	17	—	1,857	1.4
Lutheran.....	491	129	73	2	2,984	168	794	824	267	1	5,733	4.5
Presbyterian.....	996	209	35	4	176	2,075	593	1,279	206	—	5,573	4.3
Roman Catholic...	1,759	349	283	22	805	478	52,143	2,070	755	2	58,666	45.7
United Church.....	3,506	876	152	16	691	1,085	2,156	15,025	776	3	24,286	18.9
Other.....	636	261	61	7	335	185	1,014	1,033	6,036	—	9,568	7.5
Not stated.....	5	—	—	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	18	...
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>16,330</b>	<b>4,457</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>5,632</b>	<b>5,022</b>	<b>59,566</b>	<b>24,924</b>	<b>8,951</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>128,385</b>	<b>100.0</b>
P.C. of brides.....	12.7	3.5	1.4	1.4	4.4	3.9	46.4	19.4	7.0	...	100.0	71.0 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Includes Greek Catholic denomination.

<sup>2</sup> Percentage of marriages between contracting parties of the same religious denomination.

**Subsection 2.—Dissolutions of Marriage (Divorces)**

For many years after Confederation the number of divorces granted in Canada was small. There were fewer than 20 divorces in every year before 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 in 1918 the number of divorces increased. The generally unsettled conditions and the long separation of men on Active Service from their wives may have contributed to this increase. Changes in law and procedure may also have been a further factor—at present, Quebec and Newfoundland are the only provinces in which applicants for divorce must secure a private Act of Parliament. The number of divorces increased from 11 in 1900 to a peak of 8,199 in 1947, declining gradually after that year until 1951 when they numbered 5,263. The numbers rose to 5,634 in 1952 and 6,110 in 1953 but declined to approximately 5,800 in 1954.