

Section 6.—Marital Status

Next to sex and age distribution of a population, that of marital status is probably the most fundamental. Its incidence is twofold: 'vital' and 'economic and social'.

The vital basis lies in the influence of the marriage state on the fertility of a population and, from this angle, close analyses of marital status, by age, are important. The ages of females between 15 and 45 years have more significance than those of males; if the proportion of females in this group is small, the expected proportion of births will also be small. It has been shown that for the Canadian population the combined influences of age of the population, age of the married females, and proportion of females married have become steadily more favourable to the birth rate from 1871 to 1921 but that, since the latter date, the trend has been less favourable.

15.—Marital Status of the Population, 15 Years of Age or Over, by Sex, Census Years 1911-51

NOTE.—Persons whose marital status was not stated have been pro-rated and assigned to the various categories shown in this table.

Census Year and Sex	Single		Married		Widowed		Divorced		Total
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	
1911.....M.	1,182,167	45·12	1,345,386	51·35	90,121	3·44	2,143 ¹	0·08	2,619,817
F.	770,174	34·85	1,256,909	56·87	180,910	8·18	2,283 ¹	0·10	2,210,276
1921.....M.	1,177,952	39·21	1,702,526	56·67	120,020	4·00	3,675 ¹	0·12	3,004,173
F.	884,568	32·04	1,635,009	59·23	237,112	8·59	3,736 ¹	0·14	2,760,425
1931.....M.	1,522,491	40·98	2,039,918	54·90	149,063	4·01	4,055	0·11	3,715,527
F.	1,149,329	34·01	1,938,094	57·35	288,668	8·54	3,392	0·10	3,379,483
1941.....M.	1,703,795	39·80	2,400,100	56·06	170,773	3·99	6,569	0·15	4,281,237
F.	1,328,529	32·99	2,336,485	53·02	354,390	8·80	7,463	0·19	4,026,867
1951.....M.	1,579,351	32·1	3,141,754	63·8	186,595	03·8	13,115	00·3	4,920,815
F.	1,242,437	25·7	3,119,824	64·5	456,753	09·4	18,883	00·4	4,837,897

¹ Includes legally separated.

Although Canada has more single than married citizens, information from the 1951 Census shows that the nation's married population grew more than twice as fast as the single population in the decade between 1941 and 1951. With a total population increase of nearly 22 p.c., the number of single persons in Canada increased by 13·5 p.c., married by 32·2 p.c., widowed by 22·5 p.c. and divorced by 128·0 p.c. The entry of Newfoundland into Confederation accounted for 3·3 p.c. of the increase in single persons, 2·9 p.c. in married and widowed persons and 0·5 percent in divorced persons. Other striking statistics of marital status are the excess of married males over married females, the great preponderance of widows compared with widowers and the large and increasing number of divorced persons.