

Marriage-related Statistics



Vital Statistics Information Box

MARRIAGES BY OTHER NON CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2008

Table 52, Religious Representatives on Register and Marriages Performed by Religious Denomination uses religious denomination categories from Statistics Canada. In 2008, a total of 1,210 marriages in British Columbia were solemnized by representatives of Other Non Christian religions. The table below provides additional details about these marriages.

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Baha'i	114	41	61
Buddhist	28	7	20
Eckankar	17	4	6
Hindu	30	18	76
Muslim	50	29	159
Sangam	10	3	9
Scientology	9	4	5
Sikh	154	49	564
Spiritualist	84	46	301
Wiccan	15	7	9
Other*	8	0	0
Total	519	208	1,210

Note: *Other consists of religious denominations where the representatives performed less than 5 marriages in 2008: Unknown, Konko-Kyo, and Zoroastrian.

Marriage Introduction

The Agency records all marriages that occurred in BC. Unlike the birth and death statistics, which are based on usual residence, marriage information includes all marriages performed in the province whether the parties were residents or non-residents. The Agency does not record divorce decrees. The tables in this section contain information about marriages by previous marital status, ages of the parties involved, and type of ceremony.

In Table 50, the 22,960 marriages are categorized by the previous marital status of each partner. In 2008, for 66.3 percent (15,216) of marriages both partners were marrying for the first time, and in 17.6 percent (4,041) one of the partners was marrying for the first time. There were 2,930 marriages (12.8 percent) where both partners were previously divorced.

Table 51 shows number of marriages by ages of those marrying in 2008. There were 7,522 marriages (32.8 percent) where both parties were in their twenties and 4,080 marriages (17.8 percent) where both parties were in their thirties. There were also 390 marriages (1.7 percent) where at least one party was in their teens and 1,276 marriages (5.6 percent) where at least one of those marrying was 60 years or older.

Table 52 indicates that there were 7,616 registered religious representatives in BC but less than half of them (3,166) solemnized marriages in 2008. In total, 8,773 (38.2 percent) of all marriages in 2008, were solemnized by religious representatives.

Table 53 shows the number of marriages performed by marriage commissioners, both private and public servants, and the number of each type of commissioner with appointments in 2008.

Tables 52 and 53 show that in 2008, 61.8 percent of marriages were civil marriages performed by commissioners. Since 1988, when 42.5 percent of marriages were performed by commissioners, the share of civil marriages has risen steadily.

TABLE 50
MARRIAGES BY MARITAL STATUS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2008

	Single	Widowed	Divorced	N.S.
Single	15,216			
Widowed	182	202		
Divorced	3,859	571	2,930	
N.S.	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

TABLE 51
MARRIAGES BY AGE
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2008

Age (in Years)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.
15-19	59									
20-24	253	1,791								
25-29	61	2,173	3,558							
30-34	11	462	2,786	1,850						
35-39	3	131	733	1,443	787					
40-44	1	41	179	444	836	417				
45-49	2	18	60	156	336	592	394			
50-59	-	6	29	84	168	345	694	781		
60+	-	-	6	12	15	57	131	515	540	
N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.



TABLE 52
**RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND
 MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2008

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	488	224	510
Baptist	800	346	719
Eastern Orthodox	59	20	66
Jewish	35	12	33
Lutheran	252	120	253
Mennonite / Hutterite	452	223	480
Pentecostal	832	333	871
Presbyterian	226	82	163
Catholic	536	230	1,062
Salvation Army	199	33	72
Jehovahs Witness	89	58	129
United Church	494	262	858
Other Christian Religions	2,624	1,012	2,325
Other Non Christian Religions	519	208	1,210
Unknown / Not Stated	11	3	22
Total	7,616	3,166	8,773

Note: Religious categories shown above are from Statistics Canada. Individuals with temporary appointments are counted once for each appointment.

TABLE 53
**MARRIAGE COMMISSIONERS ON REGISTER
 BY TYPE AND MARRIAGES PERFORMED**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2008

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner*	492	459	14,184
Public Servant	12	3	3
Total	504	462	14,187

Note: Individuals with temporary appointments are counted once for each appointment.
 * Includes 159 temporary appointments.

Vital Statistics Information Box

USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2008

OPPOSITE SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	21,376	21,467
	British Columbia	19,804	19,978
	Alberta	1,138	1,094
	Ontario	240	219
	Saskatchewan	81	78
	Manitoba	40	30
	Quebec	26	28
	Northwest Territories	13	11
	Nova Scotia	13	8
	Yukon	10	11
	Newfoundland & Labrador	4	4
	New Brunswick	4	3
	Nunavut	2	2
Prince Edward Island	1	1	
United States	Total	493	402
	Washington	157	117
	California	81	64
	Oregon	31	30
	New York	27	21
	Texas	25	17
	Colorado	13	10
	Illinois	10	11
	Pennsylvania	11	9
	Massachusetts	7	9
	Nevada	8	8
	Idaho	8	7
	Wisconsin	9	6
	Arizona	8	5
	Florida	6	7
	North Carolina	6	6
	Tennessee	6	6
	Ohio	6	5
	Other	74	64
Mexico, Central & South America	Total	8	22
	Mexico	3	12
	Other	5	10
Europe	Total	249	232
	United Kingdom	140	122
	Germany	41	39
	Republic of Ireland	13	12
	Scandinavian Countries	13	12
	Netherlands	15	9
	Switzerland	5	8
	Other	22	30
Asia & Middle East	Total	56	67
	Hong Kong	13	17
	China	14	13
	Japan	5	11
	Taiwan	5	8
	Other	19	18
Africa	Total	6	4
Oceania	Total	41	35
	Australia	35	30
	New Zealand	6	5
Unknown	Total	-	-
TOTAL		22,229	22,229

Vital Statistics Information Box

USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2008 SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	409	437
	British Columbia	395	406
	Alberta	9	18
	Ontario	4	8
	Nova Scotia	-	2
	Manitoba	1	2
	Quebec	-	1
United States	Total	191	291
	Washington	35	52
	California	27	45
	Texas	16	40
	Colorado	13	12
	Florida	10	14
	New York	9	12
	Arizona	4	14
	Georgia	6	10
	Nevada	8	6
	Illinois	4	8
	Wisconsin	4	8
	Other	55	70
Mexico, Central & South America	Total	1	4
Europe	Total	18	21
	United Kingdom	5	14
	Other	13	7
Asia & Middle East	Total	24	27
	Hong Kong	3	11
	China	6	2
	Japan	4	2
	Israel	4	2
	Other	7	10
Africa	Total	-	1
Oceania	Total	13	25
	Australia	13	21
	New Zealand	-	4
Unknown	Total	-	-
TOTAL		656	806