

Marriage-related Statistics



Vital Statistics Information Box

MARRIAGES BY OTHER NON CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2007

Table 52, Religious Representatives on Register and Marriages Performed by Religious Denomination uses religious denomination categories from Statistics Canada. In 2007, a total of 1,161 marriages in BC 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	29	42
Buddhist	26	9	17
Hindu	30	16	65
Muslim	40	25	158
Sangam	10	4	13
Sikh	143	48	535
Spiritualist	80	43	308
Wiccan	15	9	14
Other*	41	9	9
Total Other Non Christian Religions	499	192	1,161

Note: *Other consists of religious denominations where the representatives performed less than 5 marriages in 2007: Eckankar, Konko-Kyo, Scientology, 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. To avoid double counting, the cells in tables 50 and 51 provide information for each combination of marital status or age.

In Table 50 the 22,961 marriages are categorized by the previous marital status of each partner. In 2007, 64.5 percent (14,822) of couples were marrying for the first time and in 19.1 percent (4,380) 1 of the partners was marrying for the first time. There were 2,978 marriages (13.0 percent) where both partners were previously divorced.

Table 51 shows number of marriages by ages of those marrying in 2007. There were 7,383 marriages (32.2 percent) where both parties were in their twenties and 4,220 marriages (18.4 percent) where both parties were in their thirties. There were also 385 marriages (1.7 percent) where at least 1 party was in their teens and 1,160 marriages (5.1 percent) where at least 1 of those marrying was 60 years or older.

Table 52 indicates that there were 7,501 registered religious representatives in BC but less than half of them (3,115) solemnized marriages in 2007. In total, 8,745 (38.1 percent) of all marriages in 2007, were solemnized by religious representatives.

Table 53 shows the number of marriages performed by marriage commissioners, both private and public servant, and the number of each type of commissioner with appointments in 2007.

Reviewing Tables 52 and 53, in 2007, 61.9 percent of marriages were of the civil type, performed by commissioners. Since 1988, when 42.5 percent of marriages were performed by commissioners, the percentage of marriages that were of the civil type has risen quite steadily.

TABLE 50
MARRIAGES BY MARITAL STATUS
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2007

	Single	Widowed	Divorced	N.S.
Single	14,822			
Widowed	162	199		
Divorced	4,218	582	2,978	
N.S.	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.

TABLE 51
MARRIAGES BY AGE
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2007

Age (in Years)	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-59	60+	N.S.
15-19	57									
20-24	252	1,774								
25-29	64	2,179	3,430							
30-34	6	472	2,671	1,855						
35-39	3	138	694	1,548	817					
40-44	2	37	200	512	843	452				
45-49	1	14	57	152	350	610	446			
50-59	-	5	30	65	182	355	714	814		
60+	-	1	4	9	19	61	105	495	466	
N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: N.S. - Not stated.



TABLE 52
**RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES ON REGISTER AND
 MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**
 BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2007

Religious Denomination	Number of Religious Representatives	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Anglican	518	211	534
Baptist	795	336	743
Eastern Orthodox	59	19	80
Jewish	34	15	44
Lutheran	253	111	259
Mennonite / Hutterite	420	236	455
Pentecostal	851	331	911
Presbyterian	215	84	168
Catholic	520	239	1,053
Salvation Army	183	45	92
Jehovahs Witness	89	57	136
United Church	514	282	961
Other Christian Religions	2,539	955	2,127
Other Non Christian Religions	504	192	1,161
Unknown / Not Stated	7	2	21
Total	7,501	3,115	8,745

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, 2007

Type of Commissioner	Number of Commissioners	Number Who Performed Marriages	Number of Marriages Performed
Private Commissioner*	472	435	14,215
Public Servant	11	1	1
Total	483	436	14,216

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

* Includes 131 temporary appointments.

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USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2007

OPPOSITE SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	21,438	21,193
	British Columbia	19,922	19,654
	Alberta	1,121	1,114
	Ontario	220	240
	Saskatchewan	66	68
	Manitoba	42	46
	Quebec	26	27
	Nova Scotia	13	14
	Yukon	10	11
	Northwest Territories	10	10
	Newfoundland & Labrador	5	6
	New Brunswick	2	2
	Nunavut	1	1
United States	Total	414	549
	Washington	115	163
	California	77	100
	Oregon	25	32
	Texas	23	27
	New York	19	25
	Florida	11	16
	Arizona	9	15
	Illinois	11	12
	Maryland	9	12
	North Carolina	7	11
	Idaho	7	9
	Virginia	6	10
	Minnesota	8	6
	Colorado	7	6
	Connecticut	5	6
	Ohio	5	6
	Pennsylvania	4	7
	Wisconsin	5	6
	Hawaii	5	5
	Nevada	6	4
	New Jersey	4	6
	Other	46	65
Mexico, Central & South America	Total	7	22
	Cayman Islands	4	4
	Mexico	-	6
	Other	3	12
Europe	Total	177	233
	United Kingdom	109	137
	Germany	35	43
	Switzerland	7	13
	France	4	7
	Spain	4	6
	Other	18	27
Asia & Middle East	Total	30	70
	Hong Kong	9	18
	Japan	8	18
	China	3	10
	Taiwan	5	6
	Other	5	18
Africa Oceania	Total	2	1
	Total	31	31
	Australia	26	27
	New Zealand	5	4
Unknown		-	-
TOTAL		22,099	22,099

Vital Statistics Information Box

USUAL RESIDENCE OF PERSONS MARRIED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2007

SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Area	Province/State or Country	Males	Females
Canada	Total	359	435
	British Columbia	349	406
	Alberta	4	16
	Ontario	2	7
	Nova Scotia	2	2
	Manitoba	-	2
	Northwest Territories	2	-
	Quebec	-	2
United States	Total	325	507
	California	69	92
	Washington	43	98
	Texas	48	38
	Oregon	19	56
	Florida	23	16
	Arizona	14	21
	Colorado	4	20
	North Carolina	6	15
	Nevada	12	8
	Georgia	8	10
	New York	13	4
	Utah	8	8
	Virginia	5	11
	Other States	53	110
South America	Total	2	-
Europe	Total	27	18
	England	16	10
	Other	11	8
Asia & Middle East	Total	9	12
	Japan	3	3
	China	2	2
	Israel	2	2
	Hong Kong	-	3
	Other	2	2
Africa	Total	-	-
Oceania	Total	18	12
	Australia	18	12
Unknown		-	-
TOTAL		740	984