

MARITAL_STATUS

Definition: Refers to the marital status, or conjugal condition, of the person enumerated. In census statistics the terms “married” “widowed”, or “divorced” refer to the “marital condition” of the population at the time the census was taken, so that a person who had been widowed or divorced but had remarried would be reported as “married.” Persons who are legally separated as to bed and board are included with the divorced.

Source: Census Question

The table below indicates, for each census year, the numbers of the census questions corresponding to this variable. Click on the question number of the chosen schedule to view more details.

Census Years	Schedule 1a	Schedule 1b	Schedule 1c	Schedule 2	Schedule 2a
1911	7				
1921	13	13	6		
1931	13	13	6		
1941	13	13	6		
1951				7	7

Census Guide, 1911

A. Census Question	Single, married, widowed, divorced or legally separated.
B. Question Number	7 on Schedule 1.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	MARITAL_STATUS
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 1, 1911.
E. Total Target Population	7, 206, 648
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Each person enumerated.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	85. Conjugal condition. The description in column 7 will be given by the use of the initial letters, “S” for single person, “M” for married, “W” for widowed (man or woman), “D” for divorced and “L.S.” for legally separated. Persons separated only as to bed and board will be described as married.
I. Remarks	

MARITAL_STATUS

Census Guide, 1921

A. Census Question	Single, married, widowed, divorced or legally separated.
B. Question Number	Columns 13 of Forms 1A and 1B; Column 6 of Form 1C.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	MARITAL_STATUS
D. Reference Point	As of Census Day, June 1, 1921.
E. Total Target Population	8 788 483
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Every person enumerated.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	13. The description in column 13 will be given by the use of the initial letters, "S" for single person, "M" for married, "W" for widowed (man or woman), "D" for divorced, and "L.S." for legally separated. Persons separated only as to bed and board will be described as married.
I. Remarks	<p>Margin of error. In the Fifth (1911) and Sixth (1921) Censuses, when the conjugal condition of persons of adult age was not reported on the Schedule, the record was compiled under the heading 'not stated', whereas, in the compilation relating to the Fourth and previous Censuses, there is no record of persons for whom the conjugal condition was not reported.</p> <p>There are other sources of error which should be taken into account, such as (1) incorrect replies given with intent to deceive; (2) men who have deserted their families may report themselves single or widowed; (3) the single (unmarried) mother may have reported herself as married, widowed, divorced or legally separated; (4) divorced persons may, in some instances, have been reported as being single, married or widowed.</p>

MARITAL_STATUS

Census Guide, 1931

A. Census Question	Single, married, widowed, divorced.
B. Question Number	13 on schedules 1A and 1B; 6 on schedule 1-NWT
C. Variable(s) and Codes	MARITAL_STATUS
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 1, 1931.
E. Total Target Population	10, 376, 786
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Each person enumerated.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	103. Column 13: Conjugal condition. The description in Column 13 will be given by the use of the initial letters, "S" for single person, "M" for married, "W" for widowed (man or woman) and "D" for divorced. Married persons who are legally separated, not divorced, or separated only as to bed and board will be described as married by the letter "M."
I. Remarks	

MARITAL_STATUS

Census Guide, 1941

A. Census Question	Conjugal condition.
B. Question Number	13 on schedules 1A and 1B; 6 on schedule 1C.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	MARITAL_STATUS
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 2, 1941.
E. Total Target Population	11, 506, 655
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Each person enumerated.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	<p>83. Column 13.—Conjugal condition. (1) In this column, enter the conjugal condition of each person enumerated, using the following abbreviations:</p> <p>Single "S" Widowed "W" Married..... "M" Divorced..... "D" Permanently separated. "M.S."</p> <p>(2) Permanently separated. Enter "M.S." only for married persons who are permanently separated for domestic reasons though they are not divorced. Married men whose employment necessitates their living away from their families are to be enumerated as "Married" and the letter "M", not "M.S.", shall be entered in Column 13.</p>
I. Remarks	

MARITAL_STATUS

Census Guide, 1951

A. Census Question	Marital status.
B. Question Number	7 on Form 2 and 2A.
C. Variable(s) and Codes	MARITAL_STATUS
D. Reference Point	As of census day, June 1, 1951.
E. Total Target Population	14, 009, 429
F. Statistical unit	The person.
G. Targeted Population	Each person enumerated.
H. Enumerators' Instructions	Inquire of each person whether he or she was single, widowed, or divorced as of June 1, 1951. Note that the oval "married" is to be marked for each person whose spouse (husband or wife) is living, unless he or she has obtained a divorce.
I. Remarks	

Codes:

1 "Single"
 2 "Married"
 3 "Widowed"
 4 "Divorced"
 5 "Legally Separated"
 6 "Permanently Separated"
 7 "Separated, n.s"
 99999001 "Blank"
 99999002 "Damaged"
 99999003 "Illegible"
 99999004 "In Error"
 99999005 "Suspicious"
 99999006 "Missing -- Mandatory Field"
 99999007 "Not Applicable"
 99999008 "Not Mapped"
 99999009 "Correction"
 99999010 "Suggestion"
 99999011 "Unknown - Suggestion"
 99999012 "Multiple Response - Suggestion"
 99999901 "None"
 99999902 "Not Given"
 99999903 "Unknown"
 99999904 "Invalid Value"
 99999999 "Uncodable"

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure
MARITAL_STATUS

Remarks: The terms “marital status” and “conjugal condition” were used interchangeably from 1911 to 1951. Note that the researcher must consider carefully the various enumerators’ instructions throughout the census years for this question. Each takes some interpretation regarding the answers “separated” and “legally separated”.