

In 2017, more than **7 in 10** adults in Canada¹ aged 25 to 64 were **married or common-law**.

Married

- **11** million people
- **56%** of adults aged 25 to 64
- **18** years on average

Average age at start of current marriage:

28

Women

30

Men

Common-law

- **3** million people
- **15%** of adults aged 25 to 64
- **10** years on average

Average age at start of current common-law union:

31

32

Nearly **4 in 10** had **cohabited** with their spouse before marriage.

4 years
on average

Being married was more common among the foreign born.

Living common-law was less likely among the foreign born.

69%

Foreign born

7%

51%

Canadian born

18%

People in **Quebec** were by far the **most likely** to be living common-law.

31%

Quebec

Percentage of 25- to 64-year-olds in a common-law union.

15%

Atlantic Canada

11%

British Columbia

10%

Ontario

9%

Prairie provinces

1. Data are based on the population aged 25 to 64 living in Canada and represent current marital status at the time of survey.

Note: Data for same-sex couples could not be released from the GSS for marriage and common-law status separately. For more information on same-sex couples, refer to: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/98-200-x/2016007/98-200-x2016007-eng.cfm>.