

females. In Iceland this difference is due solely to a higher death-rate among males than females. The struggle with nature has often proved comparatively as destructive to human life as war, when whole crews have been drowned in a single day. Formerly the surplus of women was still greater, as e. g. in 1801, when to every 1000 males there were 1192 females. This number in 1880 had fallen to 1123, and since then there has been a steady decline.

If the population is classed according to *age*, the census of 1920 gives the following figures:

Under 20 years	42.6 p.c.
Between 20 and 60 years (productive age)	46.9 —
Over 60 years	10.3 —

If persons 15—20 years old and those aged 60—70 are included in the productive-age class, the figure of 62.6 per cent. of an able-bodied age is arrived at.

Married and *unmarried* persons over 20 years of age were as follows (census 1920):

	Males	Females
Unmarried	38.4 p. c.	38.3 p. c.
Married	54.1 —	47.3 —
Widowed	6.6 —	13.5 —
Divorced	0.9 —	0.9 —
	100.0 p. c.	100.0 p. c.

Since 1880 there has been a comparative increase in the number of marriages. Married males and females over 20 years old were then 48.2 p. c. and 39.9 p. c. respectively. In 1920 the number of married males had risen to 54.1 p. c., that of females to 47.3 p. c. The number of married persons in Iceland as compared with the number of the population is, however, still lower than in other European countries (except Ireland), and marriages are not so frequent, if we leave out of account a little increase during the Great War and the years immediately following. The average annual number of marriages per 1000 of population is as follows:

1876—1885	6.7
1886—1895	7.2
1896—1905	6.4
1906—1915	5.9
1916—1920	6.4
1921—1925	5.7
1926	6.2
1927	5.8
1928	6.8