

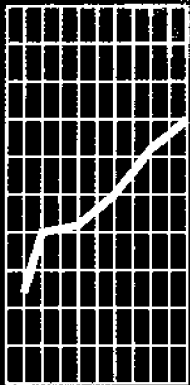


1996

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Marriages and Divorces

Australia



NOTES

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE In 1996, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) resumed full processing of marriage and divorce data.

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REVISIONS In 1994, children data for Victoria (divorce collection) were found to be understated and hence numbers were suppressed for that State and Australia. These data have been finalised in this issue for both Victoria and Australia (see paragraph 18 of Explanatory Notes).

As a result of the notification of additional divorces granted by the Family Court in Darwin, revisions have been made to divorce data for the Northern Territory for the years 1994 and 1995. Where necessary, data for Australia have also been revised (see paragraph 19 of Explanatory Notes).

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SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCCS Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
n.a. not available
p preliminary
r figure or series revised since previous issue
.. not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero

.....

INQUIRIES For information about these and related statistics, contact Information Services on Canberra 06 252 6627 or refer to the back of this publication.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

CONTENTS

	Page
Notes	2
Main features	4
List of tables	6
CHAPTER	
1 Overview	8
2 Marriages	15
3 Divorces	35
4 Estimated resident population — marital status	52
SPECIAL ARTICLE	
<i>Age at first marriage</i>	61
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Explanatory notes	65
Appendixes	
A Divorces, usual residence data	71
B Estimated resident population	73
C Characteristics available	74
Glossary	76

MAIN FEATURES

KEY FIGURES

	1986	1996	% change
Marriage registered	114 913	106 103	-7.7
Divorces granted	39 417	52 466	33.1
Estimated resident population(a)			
Never married	3 539 998	4 458 590	25.9
Currently married	7 396 741	8 129 380	9.9
Widowed	798 359	877 079	9.9
Divorced	583 734	942 036	61.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>12 318 832</i>	<i>14 407 085</i>	<i>17.0</i>

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over at 30 June.

MARRIAGES

Total marriages registered

- In 1996, 106,100 marriages were registered in Australia. This is 8% less than the number registered in 1986 (114,900).

Marriage rates

- In 1996 the marriage rate, per 1,000 unmarried men or women aged 15 years and over, was 34.7 for men and 33.0 for women, a fall of 27% and 28%, respectively, when compared with 1986.
- First marriage rates, per 1,000 never married men or women aged 15 years and over, declined in all age groups between 1986 and 1996. However, the peak age group at first marriage for both men and women remained the age group 25–29 years.
- Remarriage rates, per 1,000 widowed and divorced men or women, decreased in all but one female age group between 1986 and 1996. The peak age groups at remarriage in 1996 were 30–34 years for men (98.8) and 25–29 years for women (104.7).
- In 1996 the crude marriage rate was 5.8 per 1,000 population (7.2 per 1,000 in 1986).

Age at marriage

- The median age at marriage increased for both men and women between 1986 and 1996.
 - ◆ For all marriages the median age increased to 29.6 years for men and 27.2 years for women (from 27.3 years and 24.9 years, respectively).
 - ◆ For first marriages the median age increased to 27.6 years for men and 25.7 years for women (from 25.6 years and 23.5 years, respectively).
 - ◆ For previously widowed the median age increased to 62.6 years for men and 53.7 years for women (from 60.5 years and 52.6 years, respectively).
 - ◆ For previously divorced the median age for men was 41.6 years and 38.0 years for women (from 38.3 years and 34.8 years, respectively).
- Since 1974 the median age at first marriage of bridegrooms and brides has increased by four years.

DIVORCES

Total divorces granted

- There were 52,500 divorces granted in Australia in 1996 compared with 39,400 in 1986.

Divorce rates

- In Australia in 1996 there were 12.9 divorces per 1,000 married population for both men and women, compared with 10.7 for men and 10.6 for women in 1986. This was a rise of 21% and 22%, respectively.
- Age-specific divorce rates per 1,000 married men or women increased in all age groups between 1986 and 1996.
- In 1996 the crude divorce rate was 2.9 per 1,000 population (2.5 per 1,000 in 1986).

Age at divorce

- The median age at divorce for both men and women continued to rise in 1996. The median age at divorce was 40.2 years for men and 37.4 years for women. This was 2.7 years higher than in 1986, for both men and women.

Duration of marriage

- Over the last 20 years the median duration of marriage (marriage date to date decree made absolute) for parties divorcing ranged between 10 and 11 years (11.0 years in 1996).
- The median duration of marriage to the time the parties separated was 7.6 years in both 1996 and 1986.

Applicant for divorce

- Joint applications for divorce increased over the last 10 years (22% in 1996 compared with 7% in 1986). However, most applications continued to be lodged by wives, 46% while husbands lodged 32% of applications for divorce.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

Australia's population

- The estimated resident population of Australia at 30 June 1996 was 18.3 million.
- At 30 June 1996 the estimated resident population aged 15 years and over was 14,407,100 (7,113,800 males and 7,293,300 females). This was an increase of 17% since 1986.

Marital status of population aged 15 years and over

- The number of people aged 15 years and over who were never married was 4,458,600 in 1996, a 26% increase since 1986. They represented 31% of the population aged 15 years and over in 1996.
- The currently married population numbered 8,129,400 in 1996 and had increased by 10% since 1986.
- The widowed population (877,100 in 1996) increased by 10% between 1986 and 1996.
- Over the 10 year period 1986-96 the divorced population increased by 61%, the greatest percentage increase of all registered marital status groups. The divorced population of Australia at 30 June 1996 was 942,000.

LIST OF TABLES

Page

CHAPTER 1—OVERVIEW

1	Estimated resident population aged 15 years and over, marital status and sex, Australia, selected years, 30 June 1976–96	11
2	Marriages, summary, selected years, 1986–96	12
3	Divorces, summary, selected years, 1986–96	13
4	Marriages and divorces, number and crude rates, Australia and selected countries	14

CHAPTER 2—MARRIAGES

State and Territory data

5	Summary, 1996	22
6	Marriages registered, selected years, 1976–96	23
7	Crude marriage rates, selected years, 1976–96	23
8	Previous marital status of bridegroom and bride, 1996	24
9	Category of celebrant, 1996	25

National data

10	Age-specific marriage rates, selected years, 1976–96	26
11	Age-specific first marriage and remarriage rates, selected years, 1976–96	27
12	Age of bridegroom and bride, 1996	28
13	Age and previous marital status of bridegroom and bride, 1996	30
14	Birthplace of parties, 1996	31
15	Summary, selected countries of birth of bridegroom and bride, 1996	33

CHAPTER 3—DIVORCES

State or Territory of registration data

16	Summary, 1996	43
17	Divorces granted, selected years, 1976–96	44
18	Crude divorce rates, selected years, 1976–96	44

National data

19	Age-specific divorce rates, selected years, 1976–96	45
20	Age of parties at date of marriage, 1996	46
21	Age of parties at date decree made absolute, 1996	46
22	Age of parties at date of final separation and duration of marriage between date of marriage and date of final separation, 1996	47
23	Age of parties at date decrec made absolute and duration of marriage, 1996	48
24	Birthplace of parties, 1996	49
25	Summary, selected countries of birth of husband and wife, 1996	50

		Page
CHAPTER 4—ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION		
National data		
26	Marital status percentage distribution, age and sex, 30 June 1976, 1986 and 1996	54
27	Marital status, age and sex, 30 June 1996	55
APPENDIXES		
A	Divorces, usual residence data	
A1	Summary, State or Territory of usual residence at separation, 1993	71
A2	Summary, State or Territory of usual residence at separation, 1994	72
B	Estimated resident population, States and Territories, selected years, 1976–96	73

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW

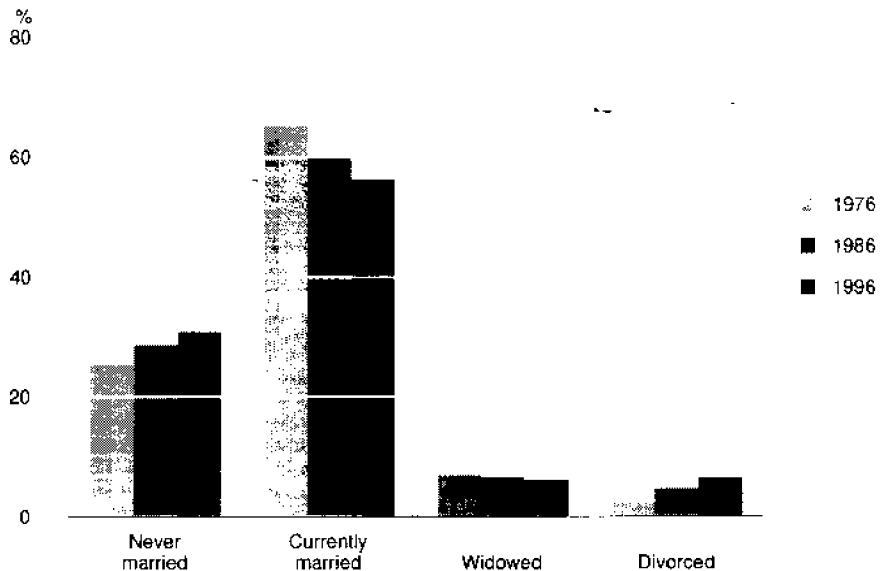
AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION

At 30 June 1996 the estimated resident population of Australia, aged 15 years and over, numbered 14,407,100 — 7,113,800 males and 7,293,300 females. Over the last 10 years this population increased by 17% (from 12,318,800).

Marital status

The population aged over 15 years was comprised of 4,458,600 never married, 8,129,400 married, 877,100 widowed and 942,000 divorced persons. The proportion who were never married increased from 25% in 1976 to 31% in 1996 while the proportion divorced increased from 2% to 7%. Over this period percentage decreases were recorded for currently married (falling from 65% to 56%) and widowed (falling from 7% to 6%).

MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION(a)



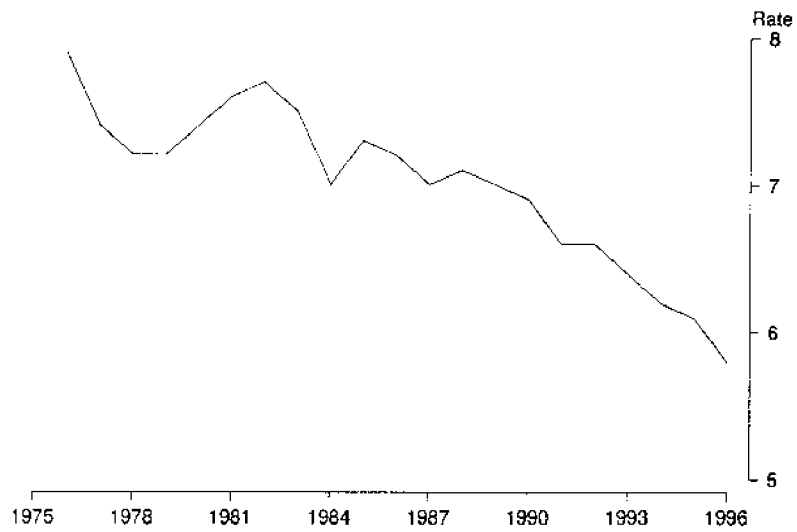
(a) Aged 15 years and over.

MARRIAGES

In 1996, 106,100 marriages were registered in Australia. This was a fall of nearly 8% on 1986 registrations (114,900) and the lowest number since 1979 (104,400). Over the last 20 years the unmarried population, aged 15 years and over, has grown from 35% in 1976 to 44% in 1996.

The crude marriage rate (5.8 per 1,000 population) was the lowest recorded in Australia this century.

CRUDE MARRIAGE RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 population.

Age at marriage

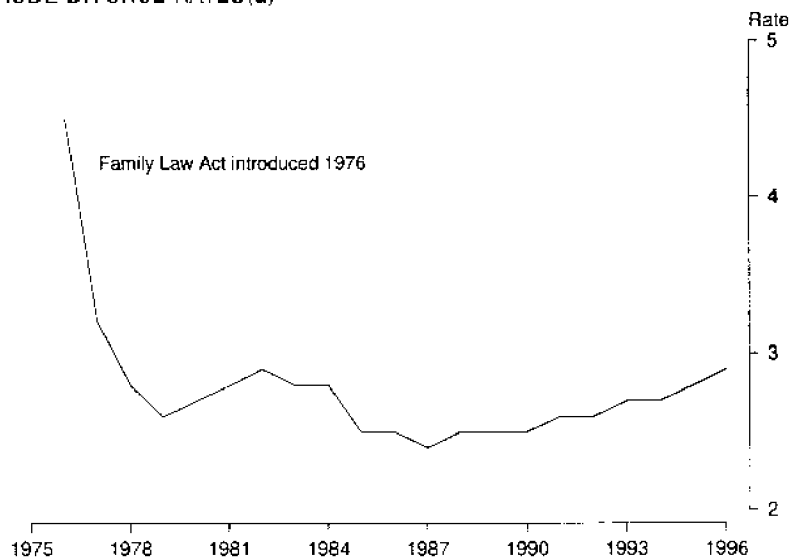
The median age at marriage increased for first and subsequent marriages for both bridegrooms and brides between 1986 and 1996. The median age at marriage for all men marrying was 29.6 years and 27.2 years for all women. This was an increase of 2.3 years for both bridegrooms and brides.

DIVORCES

The number of divorces granted in 1996 was 52,500 compared with 39,400 in 1986. This is the highest number of divorces granted since the introduction of the *Family Law Act 1975* when 63,200 divorces were granted in 1976. Over the last 20 years the divorced population has increased four times, from 233,400 people in 1976 to 942,000 in 1996.

The crude divorce rate was 2.9 per 1,000 population and has been increasing since 1987 when the rate was 2.4 per 1,000 population.

CRUDE DIVORCE RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 population.

Age at divorce

For both men and women the median age at divorce continued to increase between 1986 and 1996. For both men and women divorcing the median age increased by 2.7 years. For men the median age increased from 37.5 years to 40.2 years while for women the median age increased from 34.7 years to 37.4 years.

Between 1986 and 1996 age-specific divorce rates increased for both men and women in all age groups from 30-34 years.

Median duration of marriage

The median duration of marriage varied little over the past 10 years. In 1996 the median duration of marriage was 11.0 years, compared with 10.5 years in 1986.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES

United Nations figures indicate that there is much variation in international marriage and divorce rates (see notes accompanying table 4).

Of the countries selected for comparison Sweden had the lowest crude marriage rate (3.9 per 1,000 population), followed by Ireland (4.4) and France (4.7). The highest crude marriage rate was recorded by Fiji (9.6 per 1,000 population), followed by the United States of America (9.0) and Singapore (8.4). The crude marriage rate for Australia was 5.8 per 1,000 population.

For crude divorce rates Chile and Italy had the lowest rates (0.4 per 1,000 population), followed by Turkey (0.5) and Yugoslavia (0.6). The crude divorce rate was highest in the United States of America (4.6 per 1,000 population), followed by the United Kingdom (3.0) and Australia (2.9).

1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER

30 June	<i>Marital status</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Currently married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	
MALES					
1976	1,508,196	3,344,351	134,254	104,651	5,091,452
1981	1,739,005	3,477,730	139,109	187,865	5,543,709
1986	2,005,826	3,692,467	144,104	261,690	6,104,087
1991	2,243,043	3,940,205	165,230	323,900	6,672,378
1992	2,281,929	3,969,224	167,016	341,465	6,759,634
1993	2,314,262	3,990,261	168,653	359,495	6,832,671
1994	2,356,450	4,007,283	170,535	378,854	6,913,122
1995	2,403,560	4,029,956	172,236	399,478	7,005,230
1996p	2,463,803	4,051,937	174,536	423,495	7,113,771
FEMALES					
1976	1,094,753	3,354,906	576,117	128,760	5,154,536
1981	1,310,797	3,487,551	622,181	233,482	5,654,011
1986	1,534,172	3,704,274	654,255	322,044	6,214,745
1991	1,791,426	3,952,983	681,262	400,457	6,826,128
1992	1,828,071	3,984,485	685,502	421,122	6,919,180
1993	1,858,219	4,007,283	689,704	442,726	6,997,932
1994	1,896,770	4,026,284	693,754	466,001	7,082,809
1995	1,938,769	4,051,076	697,049	490,472	7,177,366
1996p	1,994,787	4,077,443	702,543	518,541	7,293,314
PERSONS					
1976	2,602,949	6,699,257	710,371	233,411	10,245,988
1981	3,049,802	6,965,281	761,290	421,347	11,197,720
1986	3,539,998	7,396,741	798,359	583,734	12,318,832
1991	4,034,469	7,893,188	846,492	724,357	13,498,506
1992	4,110,000	7,953,709	852,518	762,587	13,678,814
1993	4,172,481	7,997,544	858,357	802,221	13,830,603
1994	4,253,220	8,033,567	864,289	844,855	13,995,931
1995	4,342,329	8,081,032	869,285	889,950	14,182,596
1996p	4,458,590	8,129,380	877,079	942,036	14,407,085

2 MARRIAGES: SUMMARY(a)

	1986	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
NUMBER							
Marriages registered	114,913	113,869	114,752	113,255	111,174	109,386	106,103
Crude marriage rate	7.2	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.8
<i>Previous marital status—</i>							
First marriage both partners	76,674	76,811	77,092	75,968	75,045	73,846	70,438
First marriage one partner	21,398	21,098	21,227	21,123	20,159	19,898	19,657
Remarriage both partners	16,841	15,960	16,433	16,164	15,970	15,642	16,008
<i>Marriages performed by—</i>							
<i>Ministers of religion—</i>							
Number	68,408	66,849	66,773	65,573	63,265	n.a.	56,462
Per cent	59.5	58.7	58.2	57.9	56.9	n.a.	53.2
<i>Civil celebrants—</i>							
Number	46,505	47,020	47,979	47,682	47,909	n.a.	49,641
Per cent	40.5	41.3	41.8	42.1	43.1	n.a.	46.8
BRIDEGROOM							
<i>Age-specific marriage rates—</i>							
<i>Age group (years)—</i>							
19 and under	2.4	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0
20-24	53.5	40.6	38.2	36.0	33.1	31.2	27.5
25-29	52.2	53.0	53.8	53.3	53.0	51.7	48.8
30-34	26.0	27.6	28.8	29.0	29.1	28.7	28.7
35-39	14.4	14.9	15.0	15.0	14.9	15.1	15.4
40-44	10.1	9.5	9.8	9.7	9.4	9.4	9.5
45-49	8.0	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3
50 and over	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5
<i>Marital status of bridegroom—</i>							
Never married	86,676	86,831	87,119	85,942	84,510	83,280	79,621
Widowed	2,952	2,703	2,561	2,718	2,584	2,360	2,366
Divorced	25,285	24,335	25,072	24,595	24,080	23,746	24,116
Total	114,913	113,869	114,752	113,255	111,174	109,386	106,103
<i>Median age of bridegroom (years)—</i>							
Never married	25.6	26.7	26.9	27.0	27.2	27.3	27.6
Widowed	60.5	61.9	61.6	62.0	62.1	62.5	62.6
Divorced	38.3	39.7	40.1	40.4	40.9	41.1	41.6
Total	27.3	28.4	28.7	28.8	29.0	29.2	29.6
BRIDE							
<i>Age-specific marriage rates—</i>							
<i>Age of bride (years)—</i>							
19 and under	14.9	9.2	7.8	7.3	6.5	6.1	5.5
20-24	73.9	62.0	59.9	57.6	53.9	50.8	45.9
25-29	41.1	45.0	46.6	46.5	47.5	47.9	46.5
30-34	18.8	20.4	21.1	21.5	21.6	21.4	22.2
35-39	11.0	11.1	11.4	11.3	11.1	11.3	11.4
40-44	7.9	7.2	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.5
45-49	6.1	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8
50 and over	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9
<i>Marital status of bride—</i>							
Never married	88,070	87,889	88,292	87,117	85,739	84,310	80,912
Widowed	3,564	3,070	2,946	3,099	2,988	2,712	2,747
Divorced	23,279	22,910	23,514	23,039	22,447	22,364	22,444
Total	114,913	113,869	114,752	113,255	111,174	109,386	106,103
<i>Median age of bride (years)—</i>							
Never married	23.5	24.5	24.7	24.8	25.1	25.3	25.7
Widowed	52.6	53.6	53.2	52.8	53.9	53.5	53.7
Divorced	34.8	36.1	36.5	36.8	37.4	37.6	38.0
Total	24.9	26.0	26.3	26.4	26.6	26.8	27.2

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

3 DIVORCES: SUMMARY(a)

	1986	1991	1992	1993	1994 ^r	1995 ^r	1996
NUMBER							
Divorces granted	39,417	45,652	45,729	48,363	48,312	49,712	52,466
Crude divorce rate	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9
Median duration of marriage (years)	10.5	10.3	10.5	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
<i>Divorces involving children</i>							
Number	23,530	24,734	24,215	25,461	25,316	n.a.	28,138
Percentage of total divorces	59.7	54.2	53.0	52.6	52.4	n.a.	53.6
Average issue	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	n.a.	1.9
<i>Applicant—</i>							
Husband	15,224	16,427	16,470	17,098	17,350	16,834	17,005
Wife	21,286	22,066	22,083	23,630	23,739	23,904	24,155
Joint	2,907	7,159	7,176	7,635	7,223	8,974	11,306
HUSBAND							
<i>Age-specific divorce rates—</i>							
<i>Age group (years)—</i>							
24 and under	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
25-29	9.7	9.1	8.6	8.5	8.0	7.8	7.9
30-34	12.4	13.1	12.7	13.1	12.7	12.8	13.1
35-39	11.9	13.0	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.9
40-44	11.1	11.9	11.8	12.8	12.6	12.4	13.1
45-49	9.3	10.2	10.2	10.8	10.9	11.5	11.6
50-54	6.9	7.4	7.6	8.3	8.5	8.6	9.1
55 and over	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>							
Never married	33,271	37,820	37,639	39,589	39,255	n.a.	n.a.
Widowed	514	402	446	483	510	n.a.	n.a.
Divorced	5,632	7,430	7,643	8,291	8,547	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>39,417</i>	<i>45,652</i>	<i>45,728</i>	<i>48,363</i>	<i>48,312</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
<i>Median age (years)—</i>							
at marriage	24.2	24.8	25.0	25.2	25.4	25.6	25.8
at final separation	34.8	35.5	35.8	36.2	36.6	36.7	36.9
at decree made absolute	37.5	38.4	38.7	39.3	39.7	40.0	40.2
WIFE							
<i>Age-specific divorce rates—</i>							
<i>Age group (years)</i>							
24 and under	3.3	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.9
25-29	12.5	12.9	12.5	12.5	12.0	11.8	12.2
30-34	12.6	13.6	13.4	13.9	13.8	13.9	14.5
35-39	11.4	12.4	12.5	13.2	13.0	13.1	13.5
40-44	10.0	10.9	10.8	11.5	11.8	11.9	12.4
45-49	7.9	8.6	8.6	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.9
50-54	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.9	6.3	6.6	6.9
55 and over	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.6
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>							
Never married	33,431	38,079	37,857	39,935	39,539	n.a.	n.a.
Widowed	648	558	584	658	625	n.a.	n.a.
Divorced	5,338	7,015	7,288	7,770	8,148	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	<i>39,417</i>	<i>45,652</i>	<i>45,729</i>	<i>48,363</i>	<i>48,312</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
<i>Median age (years) —</i>							
at marriage	21.6	22.3	22.4	22.6	22.8	23.0	23.2
at final separation	31.9	32.7	33.0	33.3	33.8	33.9	34.1
at decree made absolute	34.7	35.5	35.9	36.4	36.8	37.1	37.4

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

Marriages and divorces are legal events and are defined in terms of the laws of individual countries or areas. This has implications for international comparability of statistics.

Marriage laws vary throughout the world. In addition, comparability is further limited because some countries or areas compile statistics only for civil marriages although religious marriages may also be legally recognised: in others, the only available records are church registers and, therefore, the statistics do not include civil marriages.

Divorce laws also vary throughout the world, some countries having no legal provision for divorce at all. The propensity to divorce is affected by: the relative ease or difficulty of obtaining a divorce according to the laws of individual countries or areas; the ability of individuals to meet financial and other costs of court procedures; and the religious beliefs and social customs of individual countries or areas.

International comparisons of crude marriage rates and crude divorce rates are also affected by the age distributions of the populations. As well as these age distribution effects, marriages are also influenced by the proportions of people not currently married, while divorces are influenced by the proportions of people married.

4 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES: NUMBER AND CRUDE RATES(a)

	Marriages			Divorces		
	Reference year	Number	Crude rate(a)	Reference year	Number	Crude rate(a)
Australia	1996	106,103	5.8	1996	52,466	2.9
Canada	1994	158,200	5.4	1992	77,031	2.7
Chile	1993	92,821	6.7	1992	6,006	0.4
Fiji	1988	6,892	9.6	1979	410	0.7
France	1992	271,427	4.7	1991	108,086	1.9
Germany	1994	437,505	5.4	1993	156,425	1.9
Greece	1994	59,000	5.7	1994	7,000	0.7
Hong Kong	1993	41,681	7.0	1990	5,551	1.0
Indonesia	1986	1,249,034	7.4	1986	131,886	0.8
Ireland	1993	15,728	4.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Italy	1994	286,512	5.0	1993	22,400	0.4
Japan	1994	782,735	6.3	1993	188,297	1.5
Korea, Republic of	1993	308,492	7.0	1993	46,832	1.1
Netherlands	1994	82,000	5.3	1994	36,700	2.4
New Zealand	1994	21,858	6.3	1992	9,114	2.6
Philippines	1991	445,526	7.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Poland	1994	208,900	5.4	1994	31,600	0.8
Singapore	1994	24,662	8.4	1994	3,772	1.3
Sweden	1993	34,005	3.9	1993	21,673	2.5
Thailand	1993	484,569	8.3	1986	36,602	0.7
Turkey	1992	436,121	7.4	1993	27,725	0.5
United Kingdom	1993	341,600	5.9	1992	174,717	3.0
United States of America	1993	2,334,000	9.0	1993	1,187,000	4.6
Yugoslavia	1994	59,599	5.7	1993	6,809	0.6

(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1994.

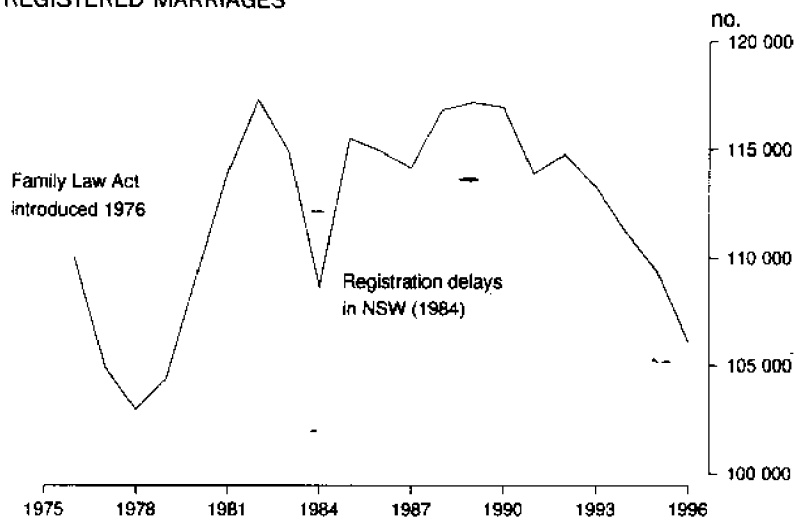
CHAPTER 2

MARRIAGES

REGISTERED MARRIAGES

In 1996 there were 106,100 marriages registered in Australia. This is the lowest number of marriages recorded since 1979 when 104,400 marriages were registered. Over the last 20 years the number of marriages registered has fluctuated from a low 103,000 in 1978 to a high of 117,300 in 1982.

REGISTERED MARRIAGES



Between 1976 and 1996 all States and Territories experienced fluctuations in the number of marriages registered. Queensland recorded the longest sustained increase (1985-94) while Victoria recorded the longest sustained decrease (1988-96). However, during Queensland's period of growth in numbers registered, the crude marriage rate declined.

MARRIAGE RATES

Marriage rates for the unmarried population (per 1,000 not currently married males and females aged 15 and over) have been in long-term decline since the rates first became available in 1976. The marriage rate for men was 63 per 1,000 in 1976 while the rate for women was 61. By 1996 these rates had fallen to 35 and 33, respectively.

MARRIAGE RATES(a), Unmarried Population

Selected years	Males	Females
	rate(a)	rate(a)
1976	62.9	61.1
1981	55.1	52.6
1986	47.6	45.8
1991	41.7	39.6
1996	34.7	33.0

(a) Per 1,000 not currently married males or females aged 15 years and over.

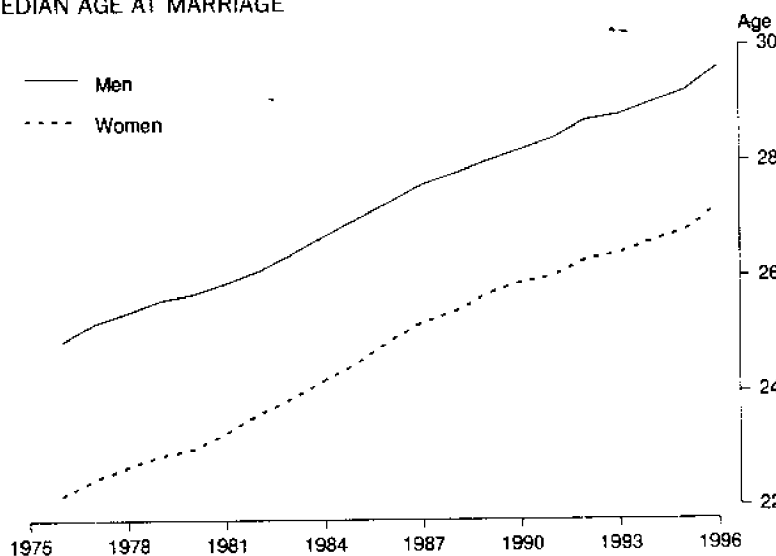
The crude marriage rate is the number of registered marriages per 1,000 population. In 1996 the rate was 5.8 per 1,000. It is the lowest rate recorded this century. The next lowest rate was 6.0 recorded in 1931 during the Great Depression. The highest rate over this period was 12.0 per 1,000 population, recorded in 1942.

The Northern Territory has, over the last 20 years, consistently recorded the lowest crude marriage rate in the nation. In 1996 the Northern Territory rate was 4.4 per 1,000 population (32% below the national rate). Queensland had the highest rate for all States and Territories in 1996 (6.2 per 1,000 population, 6% above the national rate).

MARRIAGE AGE

The age at which men and women are marrying in Australia has continued to increase over the last 20 years. The median age at marriage (the age at which there are as many marrying above the age as there are marrying below it) increased by 4.7 years for men and 5.0 years for women between 1976 and 1996. The median age for men rose from 24.9 years in 1976 to 29.6 years in 1996. For women the median age rose from 22.2 years in 1976 to 27.2 years in 1996. While the age at marriage increased steadily the difference in the age of men and women marrying decreased from 2.7 years in 1976 to 2.4 years in 1996.

MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE



Age of bridegroom

The last 20 years have seen the proportion of men marrying after their thirtieth birthday continue to increase. In 1996 the bridegroom was aged 30 years or more in 48% of all marriages, compared with 26% in 1976. While this is in part related to the increasing proportion of remarriages, the proportion of men aged 30 years or more who married for the first time increased from 11% in 1976 to 32% in 1996.

MEDIAN AGE OF BRIDEGROOM

	1976	1986	1996
<i>Previous marital status</i>	years	years	years
Never married	23.6	25.6	27.6
Widowed	57.9	60.5	62.6
Divorced	36.6	38.3	41.6
<i>Total</i>	24.9	27.3	29.6

Age of bride

Like males, females are also postponing entry to marriage. The percentage of women marrying at 30 years or more also continued to increase. In 1996 the percentage was 36% compared with 18% in 1976. Again, as for men, remarriages contributed to this increase. However, of the women marrying for the first time, 20% were aged 30 or more in 1996 compared with 6% in 1976.

MEDIAN AGE OF BRIDE

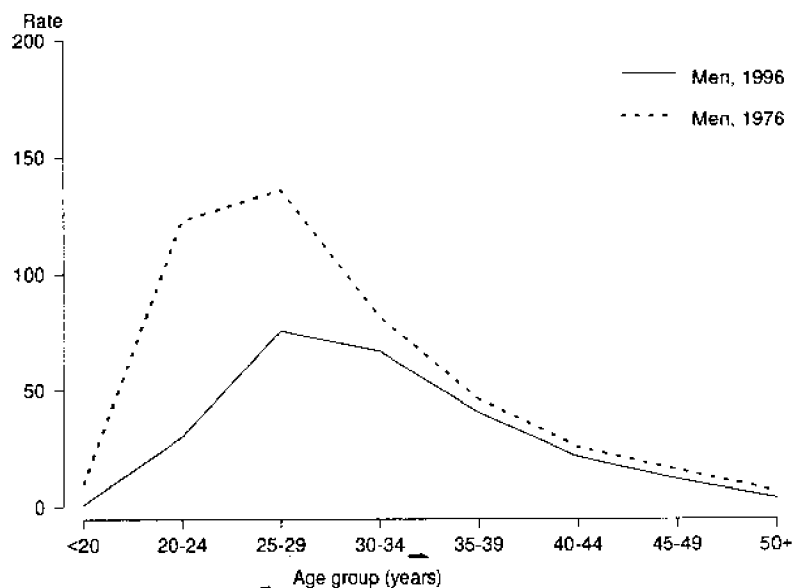
	1976	1986	1996
<i>Previous marital status</i>	years	years	years
Never married	21.2	23.5	25.7
Widowed	51.2	52.6	53.7
Divorced	32.6	34.8	38.0
<i>Total</i>	22.2	24.9	27.2

FIRST MARRIAGES

The number of people who married for the first time continued to decline in 1996. First marriage rates are the number of males and females, in an age group, marrying for the first time per 1,000 population of never married men or women in that age group.

First marriage rates for men have fallen in all age groups when 1976 and 1996 are compared. While there has been a shift to men marrying for the first time at older ages, the peak marriage age group has however remained the same (25–29 years). This age group recorded a rate of 136 per 1,000 in 1976 compared with 76 per 1,000 in 1996, a fall of 44%.

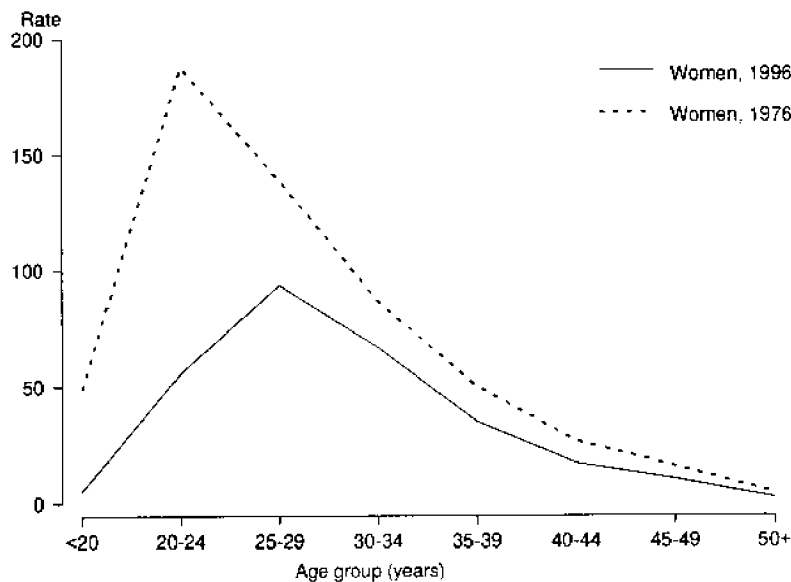
FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a), Men



(a) The number of men marrying for the first time per 1,000 never married male population.

First marriage rates for women have also fallen in all age groups over the last 20 years. However, while the pattern is similar to that shown for men, the peak age group for women has changed from 20-24 years in 1976 (188 per 1,000) to 25-29 years in 1996 (94 per 1,000). The age group 20-24 years recorded a 70% decline between 1976 and 1996.

FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a), Women



(a) The number of women marrying for the first time per 1,000 never married female population.

The percentage of marriages where neither party had previously been married fell between 1976 and 1996. In 1996, 66% of all marriages were couples who had never previously been married compared with 71% in 1976.

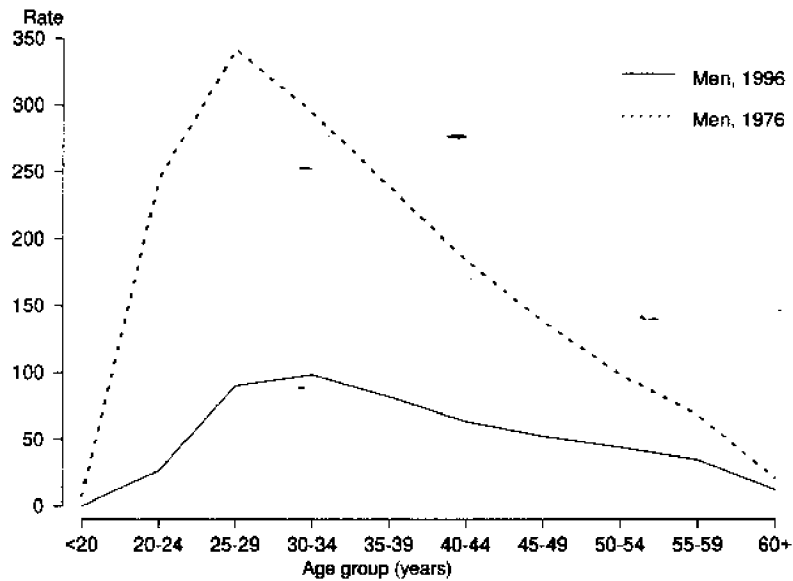
For additional information on couples marrying for the first time refer to the special article on page 61.

REMARRIAGES

Remarriage rates for both men and women, after divorce or widowhood, fell in all age groups between 1976 and 1996, most in excess of 50%. Remarriage rates are the number of remarrying men and women, of a certain age, per 1,000 population of widowed and divorced men or women of the same age.

Remarriages are taking place at older ages for men. The peak remarriage age group for men remarrying changed between 1976 and 1996. In 1996 the peak remarriage age group was the age group 30–34 (99 per 1,000). In 1976 the peak age group was 25–29 years (342 per 1,000).

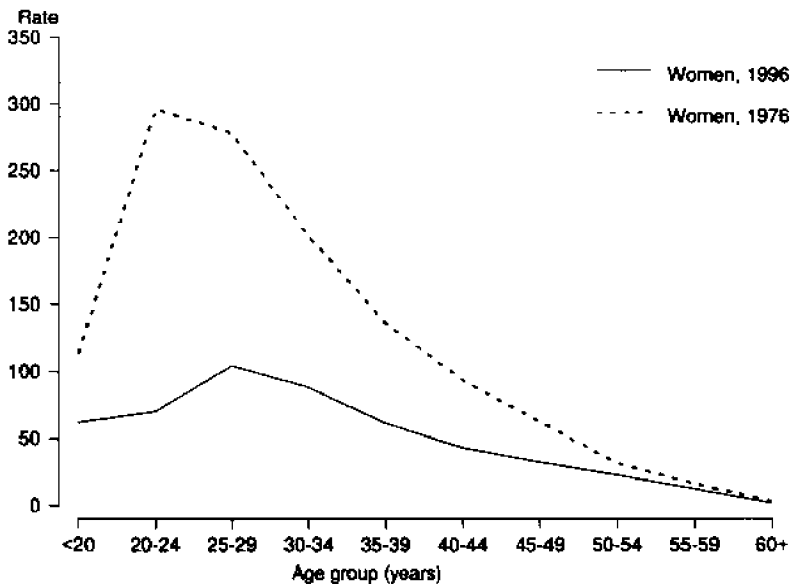
REMARRIAGE RATES(a), Men



(a) The number of men remarrying per 1,000 widowed and divorced male population.

Women too are remarrying at older ages. Twenty years ago the peak age group for women remarrying was the age group 20–24 years (296 per 1,000). By 1996 the peak age group had moved to the next age group, the 25–29 years age group (105 per 1,000).

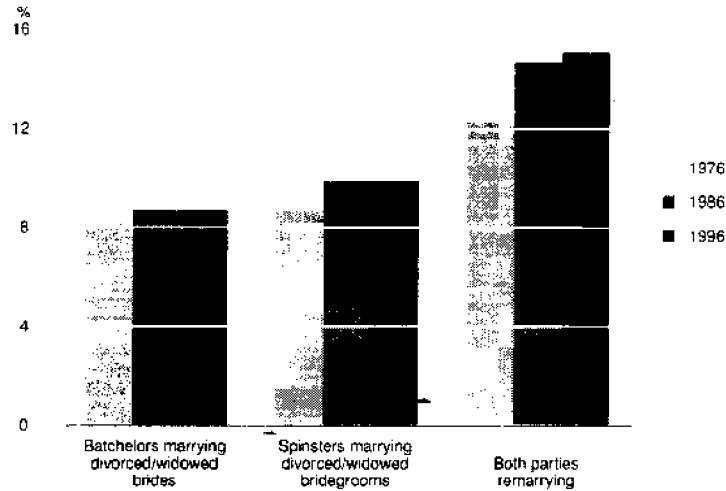
REMARRIAGE RATES(a), Women



(a) The number of women remarrying per 1,000 widowed and divorced female population.

Remarriages are however increasing as a proportion of all marriages. The percentage of marriages where at least one of the parties was remarrying was 34% in 1996. In 1976 the comparative percentage was 29%.

REMARRIAGES AS A PROPORTION OF ALL MARRIAGES



CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

In 1996 the percentage of marriages performed by ministers of religion continued the long established downward trend. During the first half of the century over 90% of all marriages were performed by ministers of religion. By the mid 1970s the percentage fell below 80% for the first time. In 1996 the percentage of marriages performed by ministers of religion reached the lowest recorded this century, 53%.

MARRIAGES BY MINISTERS OF RELIGION AND CIVIL CELEBRANTS

Selected years	MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY..		Selected years	MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY..	
	Ministers of religion %	Civil celebrants %		Ministers of religion %	Civil celebrants %
1908	97.4	2.6	1956	88.7	11.3
1916	96.2	3.8	1966	89.2	10.8
1926	93.9	6.1	1976	71.1	28.9
1936	91.8	8.2	1986	59.5	40.5
1946	91.8	8.2	1996	53.2	46.8

In 1996 New South Wales recorded the highest proportion of marriages performed by ministers of religion (56%) while the Northern Territory recorded the lowest (32%).

BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES MARRYING

Of the marriages registered in Australia in 1996, 64% were marriages where both parties were born in Australia, 8% were marriages of couples born in the same overseas country and 27% were marriages between men and women from different countries. Of this last group 44% were overseas-born men marrying Australian-born women while a further 37% were overseas-born women marrying Australian-born men. These percentages are similar to those experienced in 1986.

Marriage rates

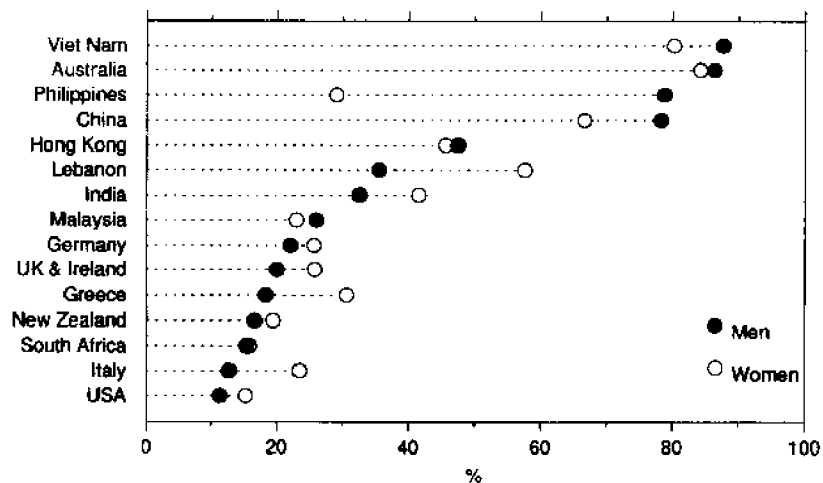
Marriage rates varied between the Australian-born and the overseas-born (see table 15). When comparing these rates it should be remembered that the total number of marriages in Australia for persons born in some selected countries is small and that the age structure of birthplace groups varies.

Of the major overseas-born communities selected for comparison, Chinese-born Australian residents had the highest marriage rates, 23.4 per 1,000 for men and 25.9 per 1,000 for women. Italian-born had the lowest marriage rates, 4.8 per 1,000 for men and 2.9 for women. Comparative marriage rates for Australian-born men and women were 11.3 and 11.4, respectively.

Birthplace relationship

Of the countries compared, Vietnamese-born men had the highest proportion of marriages to partners born in the same country (88%) while Australian-born women chose Australian-born men as partners in 84% of cases. The lowest percentages were for men and women born in the United States of America (11% for men and 15% for women).

MEN AND WOMEN CHOOSING PARTNERS FROM THE SAME BIRTHPLACE



5 SUMMARY(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER									
Marriages registered	35,716	26,074	20,913	8,011	10,294	2,654	787	1,654	106,103
Crude marriage rate	5.8	5.7	6.2	5.4	5.8	5.6	4.4	5.4	5.8
<i>Previous marital status —</i>									
First marriage both partners	23,937	18,026	13,462	5,206	6,562	1,632	499	1,114	70,438
First marriage one partner	6,766	4,546	4,002	1,443	1,947	488	180	285	19,657
Remarriage both partners	5,013	3,502	3,449	1,362	1,785	534	108	255	16,008
<i>Marriages performed by—</i>									
Ministers of religion —									
Number	20,101	14,415	10,644	4,345	4,543	1,290	255	869	56,462
Per cent	56.3	55.3	50.9	54.2	44.1	48.6	32.4	52.5	53.2
Civil celebrants —									
Number	15,615	11,659	10,269	3,666	5,751	1,364	532	785	49,641
Per cent	43.7	44.7	49.1	45.8	55.9	51.4	67.6	47.5	46.8
BRIDEGROOM									
<i>Age-specific marriage rates —</i>									
Age group (years) —									
19 and under	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.7	1.0
20-24	28.3	25.4	31.4	27.6	25.0	32.7	16.9	16.6	27.5
25-29	49.2	51.3	49.6	46.2	46.1	48.2	27.2	39.2	48.8
30-34	28.7	29.8	29.2	25.4	30.3	26.3	20.3	25.3	28.7
35-39	15.7	14.7	16.8	14.1	15.5	14.4	11.6	14.1	15.4
40-44	9.2	9.2	10.5	9.2	9.8	10.7	8.1	9.3	9.5
45-49	7.1	6.4	8.0	7.2	7.9	9.0	8.6	7.1	7.3
50 and over	3.3	3.1	4.0	3.4	4.2	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.5
<i>Marital status at marriage (number) —</i>									
Never married	27,132	20,089	15,341	5,894	7,468	1,864	582	1,251	79,621
Widowed	789	550	453	244	207	76	9	38	2,366
Divorced	7,795	5,435	5,119	1,873	2,619	714	196	365	24,116
Total	35,716	26,074	20,913	8,011	10,294	2,654	787	1,654	106,103
<i>Median age (years) —</i>									
Never married	27.6	27.8	27.2	27.4	27.8	27.1	28.5	27.7	27.6
Widowed	62.6	62.7	64.4	61.8	64.8	(b)	(b)	(b)	62.6
Divorced	41.3	41.3	41.6	42.3	42.2	42.4	43.2	42.4	41.6
Total	29.5	29.4	29.4	29.6	30.2	29.6	30.9	30.0	29.6
BRIDE									
<i>Age-specific marriage rates —</i>									
Age group (years) —									
19 and under	6.3	4.5	6.0	4.6	5.3	5.2	5.8	2.7	5.5
20-24	47.2	42.5	50.4	48.6	43.3	53.8	26.9	30.3	45.9
25-29	46.0	49.1	47.0	43.7	46.6	43.8	26.5	40.6	46.5
30-34	22.0	22.5	23.4	19.5	22.7	22.0	15.5	21.2	22.2
35-39	11.4	10.9	12.4	11.2	11.3	11.7	10.8	10.3	11.4
40-44	7.6	6.8	7.7	7.4	8.3	8.2	6.7	7.3	7.5
45-49	5.3	5.2	6.6	6.0	6.7	7.4	4.9	5.7	5.8
50 and over	1.8	1.7	2.4	2.0	2.3	1.8	2.4	2.4	1.9
<i>Marital status at marriage (number) —</i>									
Never married	27,508	20,509	15,585	5,961	7,603	1,888	596	1,262	80,912
Widowed	898	637	573	245	257	94	16	27	2,747
Divorced	7,310	4,928	4,755	1,805	2,434	672	175	365	22,444
Total	35,716	26,074	20,913	8,011	10,294	2,654	787	1,654	106,103
<i>Median age (years) —</i>									
Never married	25.6	26.0	25.3	25.5	25.8	25.1	26.4	26.1	25.7
Widowed	53.6	54.6	53.7	55.6	53.9	(b)	(b)	(b)	53.7
Divorced	37.5	37.9	37.9	38.9	39.1	38.1	38.4	39.3	38.0
Total	27.1	27.3	27.1	27.3	27.6	27.2	28.2	27.6	27.2

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used. (b) Not statistically reliable due to the small numbers involved.

6 MARRIAGES REGISTERED

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
1976	38,487	28,760	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973
1981	40,679	28,648	18,305	10,252	10,111	3,515	719	1,676	113,905
1986	(a)41,319	29,390	18,030	9,878	10,379	3,302	759	1,856	(a)114,913
1991	39,594	28,535	19,844	9,392	10,659	3,069	890	1,886	113,869
1992	40,734	28,429	20,316	9,423	10,118	3,081	860	1,791	114,752
1993	39,993	27,418	20,704	9,114	10,382	3,055	806	1,783	113,255
1994	38,814	26,974	20,798	8,909	10,366	2,887	765	1,661	111,174
1995	37,828	26,607	20,610	8,547	10,404	2,840	797	1,753	109,386
1996	35,716	26,074	20,913	8,011	10,294	2,654	787	1,654	106,103

(a) These figures were affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

7 CRUDE MARRIAGE RATES(a)

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
1976	7.8	7.5	8.0	8.6	8.1	8.4	5.5	7.6	7.9
1981	7.8	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.8	8.2	5.8	7.4	7.6
1986	(b)7.5	7.1	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.4	4.9	7.2	(b)7.2
1991	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.6	5.4	6.5	6.6
1992	6.8	6.4	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.6	5.1	6.1	6.6
1993	6.7	6.1	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.5	4.8	6.0	6.4
1994	6.4	6.0	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	4.5	5.5	6.2
1995	6.2	5.9	6.3	5.8	6.0	6.0	4.6	5.8	6.1
1996	5.8	5.7	6.2	5.4	5.8	5.6	4.4	5.4	5.8

(a) Per 1,000 population. (b) These figures were affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

8 PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

<i>Marital status of—</i>										
<i>Bridegroom</i>	<i>Bride</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Never married	Never married	23,937	18,026	13,462	5,206	6,562	1,632	499	1,114	70,438
	Widowed	164	120	91	36	33	21	3	8	476
	Divorced	3,031	1,943	1,788	652	873	211	80	129	8,707
	<i>Total</i>	<i>27,132</i>	<i>20,089</i>	<i>15,341</i>	<i>5,894</i>	<i>7,468</i>	<i>1,864</i>	<i>582</i>	<i>1,251</i>	<i>79,621</i>
Widowed	Never married	133	86	49	29	20	9	2	8	336
	Widowed	300	231	180	103	85	24	2	10	935
	Divorced	356	233	224	112	102	43	5	20	1,095
	<i>Total</i>	<i>789</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>453</i>	<i>244</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>2,366</i>
Divorced	Never married	3,438	2,397	2,074	726	1,021	247	95	140	10,138
	Widowed	434	286	302	106	139	49	11	9	1,336
	Divorced	3,923	2,752	2,743	1,041	1,459	418	90	216	12,642
	<i>Total</i>	<i>7,795</i>	<i>5,435</i>	<i>5,119</i>	<i>1,873</i>	<i>2,619</i>	<i>714</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>24,116</i>
Total	Never married	27,508	20,509	15,585	5,961	7,603	1,888	596	1,262	80,912
	Widowed	898	637	573	245	257	94	16	27	2,747
	Divorced	7,310	4,928	4,755	1,805	2,434	672	175	365	22,444
	Total	35,716	26,074	20,913	8,011	10,294	2,654	787	1,654	106,103

9 CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

Category of celebrant	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Ministers of religion (a)—									
Catholic Church	6,658	5,620	3,285	1,166	1,655	325	87	359	19,155
Anglican Church of Australia	5,135	2,767	2,351	662	1,137	421	32	238	12,743
Uniting Churches in Australia (b)	2,550	2,044	1,809	1,069	533	173	50	65	8,293
Orthodox Churches (b)	1,079	1,237	132	225	95	12	22	44	2,846
Baptist Union of Australia (b)	532	355	457	151	152	115	7	19	1,788
Presbyterian Church of Australia (b)	721	261	276	39	22	26	—	38	1,383
Lutheran Churches (b)	80	136	383	379	50	4	8	11	1,051
Churches of Christ in Australia (b)	183	284	276	148	178	19	1	8	1,097
Other	3,163	1,711	1,675	506	721	195	48	87	8,106
<i>Total</i>	<i>20,101</i>	<i>14,415</i>	<i>10,644</i>	<i>4,345</i>	<i>4,543</i>	<i>1,290</i>	<i>255</i>	<i>869</i>	<i>56,462</i>
Civil celebrants—									
Official registrars	3,367	2,119	1,195	656	911	120	171	200	8,739
Other civil celebrants	12,248	9,540	9,074	3,010	4,840	1,244	361	585	40,902
<i>Total</i>	<i>15,615</i>	<i>11,659</i>	<i>10,269</i>	<i>3,666</i>	<i>5,751</i>	<i>1,364</i>	<i>532</i>	<i>785</i>	<i>49,641</i>
All celebrants	35,716	26,074	20,913	8,011	40,294	2,654	787	1,654	106,103

PROPORTION (Per cent)

Ministers of religion (a)—									
Catholic Church	18.6	21.6	15.7	14.6	16.1	12.2	11.1	21.7	18.1
Anglican Church of Australia	14.4	10.6	11.2	8.3	11.0	15.9	4.1	14.4	12.0
Uniting Churches in Australia (b)	7.1	7.8	8.7	13.3	5.2	6.5	6.4	3.9	7.8
Orthodox Churches (b)	3.0	4.7	0.6	2.8	0.9	0.5	2.8	2.7	2.7
Baptist Union of Australia (b)	1.5	1.4	2.2	1.9	1.5	4.3	0.9	1.1	1.7
Presbyterian Church of Australia (b)	2.0	1.0	1.3	0.5	0.2	1.0	—	2.3	1.3
Lutheran Churches (b)	0.2	0.5	1.8	4.7	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.7	1.0
Churches of Christ in Australia (b)	0.5	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.7	0.7	0.1	0.5	1.0
Other	8.9	6.6	8.0	6.3	7.0	7.3	6.1	5.3	7.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>56.3</i>	<i>55.3</i>	<i>50.9</i>	<i>54.2</i>	<i>44.1</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>32.4</i>	<i>52.5</i>	<i>53.2</i>
Civil celebrants—									
Official registrars	9.4	8.1	5.7	8.2	8.8	4.5	21.7	12.1	8.2
Other civil celebrants	34.3	36.6	43.4	37.6	47.0	46.9	45.9	35.4	38.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>43.7</i>	<i>44.7</i>	<i>49.1</i>	<i>45.8</i>	<i>55.9</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>67.6</i>	<i>47.5</i>	<i>46.8</i>
All celebrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Under authority of the Australian Marriages Act 1961. (b) Includes churches grouped under this heading as proclaimed under the Australian Marriages Act 1961.

10 AGE-SPECIFIC MARRIAGE RATES(a)

	<i>Age group (years)</i>								<i>Total</i>
	<i>19 and under(b)</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45-49</i>	<i>50 and over</i>	
BRIDEGROOM									
1976	9.9	123.3	150.2	118.5	91.5	70.1	54.5	23.7	62.9
1981	5.5	89.5	127.7	105.9	85.8	65.0	48.8	19.8	55.1
1986	2.4	63.6	109.0	94.5	73.9	59.7	50.0	18.4	47.6
1991	1.9	46.5	95.7	82.1	62.8	48.6	41.1	16.4	41.7
1992	1.5	43.2	94.6	82.5	60.8	48.4	41.8	16.2	41.1
1993	1.4	40.4	91.3	80.3	58.6	46.2	39.4	16.4	39.8
1994	1.2	36.8	88.2	77.8	55.8	42.8	37.6	16.3	38.3
1995	1.2	34.5	83.7	74.1	54.0	41.0	36.3	15.6	36.7
1996	1.0	30.1	76.4	71.5	52.5	39.9	34.6	16.0	34.7
BRIDE									
1976	49.1	190.7	166.3	130.0	93.4	66.4	46.5	6.4	61.1
1981	30.8	143.3	135.1	100.0	74.0	54.8	37.1	5.2	52.6
1986	15.2	113.0	127.3	91.5	65.2	48.2	35.7	4.8	45.8
1991	9.5	82.6	113.1	80.4	54.2	37.9	30.5	4.6	39.6
1992	8.0	78.1	112.6	80.4	54.0	38.6	30.8	4.5	39.1
1993	7.4	73.8	108.3	79.2	51.8	36.7	28.4	4.8	37.9
1994	6.6	67.9	105.7	76.7	49.0	35.7	27.8	4.8	36.4
1995	6.2	63.0	102.0	73.3	48.1	33.7	27.2	4.6	35.0
1996	5.5	55.9	94.5	72.5	46.7	33.2	26.3	4.9	33.0

(a) Per 1,000 unmarried male or female population aged 15 years and over. (b) Per 1,000 unmarried male or female population aged 15-19 years.

11 AGE-SPECIFIC FIRST MARRIAGE AND REMARRIAGE RATES

	1976	1981	1986(a)	1991	1994	1995	1996
First marriage rates(b)							
<i>Males—</i>							
19 and under(c)	9.9	5.5	2.4	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.0
20-24	122.6	88.9	63.4	46.6	36.9	34.5	30.1
25-29	135.9	119.2	105.0	94.0	87.7	83.4	75.8
30-34	81.8	78.4	77.6	73.0	71.5	68.8	66.9
35-39	45.9	45.4	42.7	42.5	41.2	40.2	40.5
40-44	25.5	24.0	22.2	21.7	21.0	21.5	21.4
45-49	15.7	13.3	13.4	12.6	11.2	12.3	11.7
50 and over	6.4	5.6	4.6	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.7
<i>Females—</i>							
19 and under(c)	49.0	30.8	15.2	9.5	6.6	6.2	5.5
20-24	187.5	141.2	112.0	82.4	67.7	62.9	55.7
25-29	138.8	120.7	120.2	109.6	104.7	100.9	93.6
30-34	86.5	71.5	74.0	69.4	69.0	66.5	66.9
35-39	49.8	41.4	39.8	36.6	35.5	35.0	34.9
40-44	26.3	21.9	22.9	16.8	17.0	17.9	17.1
45-49	15.5	14.9	12.8	11.0	10.1	9.4	10.1
50 and over	3.9	2.6	2.1	2.7	2.0	2.1	2.2
Remarriage rates(d)							
<i>Males—</i>							
19 and under(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	245.4	181.7	100.6	29.8	29.6	26.8	27.1
25-29	341.8	225.7	180.4	130.9	99.3	89.9	90.5
30-34	294.8	194.9	162.1	131.2	113.7	105.2	98.8
35-39	239.8	160.4	127.7	106.7	90.0	87.6	82.3
40-44	184.6	123.4	102.8	80.0	69.4	65.3	63.8
45-49	138.2	95.3	85.7	65.9	58.7	55.2	52.6
50-54	98.1	68.7	60.3	51.3	48.1	44.8	44.4
55-59	68.3	51.7	45.4	40.5	38.0	34.8	35.1
60 and over	20.9	16.8	16.4	14.2	13.2	12.3	12.6
<i>Females—</i>							
19 and under(c)	113.7	76.4	25.6	6.9	6.2	8.5	62.5
20-24	295.8	222.4	172.1	96.5	76.7	72.6	70.7
25-29	278.0	189.4	170.2	142.0	115.3	113.7	104.7
30-34	201.0	135.1	119.4	107.3	97.4	91.9	88.4
35-39	136.2	96.3	83.3	72.1	64.8	64.1	61.8
40-44	94.0	70.7	59.5	49.3	46.8	43.5	43.6
45-49	62.7	45.7	43.9	37.9	34.4	34.0	32.6
50-54	31.5	25.9	24.0	23.8	24.3	22.2	23.1
55-59	16.1	13.2	13.5	12.4	13.0	12.7	12.9
60 and over	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2

(a) These rates have been affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Per 1,000 population of single persons, of the appropriate ages, as at 30 June for each year shown. See Glossary. (c) For the purpose of calculating rates for this row, only persons in the population aged between 15 and 19 have been included in the calculation. (d) Per 1,000 population of divorced and widowed persons, of the appropriate ages, at 30 June for each year shown. See Glossary.

12 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

Age of bridegroom (years)	Age of bride (years)																Total brides	Proportion %		
	17 and under	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32			33	34	35	36
18	7	61	38	11	18	4	1	2	3	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19	14	119	126	80	43	95	80	20	6	8	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
20	23	167	239	433	551	330	161	123	75	53	30	27	10	13	7	5	2	7	3	2
21	16	167	239	433	551	330	161	123	75	53	30	27	10	13	7	5	2	7	3	2
22	13	160	270	435	734	834	557	283	186	111	76	52	30	24	12	7	9	3	6	3
23	11	135	229	419	788	997	1,129	765	396	228	162	92	59	39	33	16	11	9	11	4
24	7	107	207	411	637	1,023	1,287	1,323	839	449	248	147	102	88	55	41	29	14	19	8
25	11	107	142	299	558	817	1,158	1,504	1,271	740	434	265	191	113	83	51	44	41	23	9
26	11	87	104	220	389	618	916	1,151	1,249	1,048	627	369	249	171	95	68	53	46	17	24
27	5	71	90	171	307	492	669	961	1,108	1,018	920	498	326	226	138	111	80	63	50	38
28	4	35	72	127	187	371	505	637	798	789	841	620	400	268	189	151	108	63	59	40
29	2	36	51	93	148	253	402	496	578	675	669	588	465	320	243	183	115	84	59	60
30	3	24	39	66	103	191	300	379	420	538	522	510	441	400	277	188	134	83	81	51
31	1	14	18	48	74	143	211	300	375	432	425	417	465	424	370	233	176	107	116	75
32	1	17	14	33	58	103	156	215	264	324	359	384	358	344	326	272	194	143	118	107
33	1	9	6	31	51	87	124	169	225	273	310	272	294	344	286	252	263	188	137	102
34	1	9	7	13	40	51	91	118	190	212	220	261	254	280	244	237	219	182	140	98
35	1	7	13	25	31	48	74	98	122	171	185	217	167	204	213	220	215	218	157	112
36	1	5	8	12	16	32	54	69	102	128	150	140	173	179	186	174	188	149	149	155
37	1	2	6	7	10	26	38	68	68	91	122	127	122	130	153	126	147	165	142	131
38	1	3	5	8	10	20	28	50	63	69	82	82	93	104	113	117	134	131	122	112
39	1	2	4	5	10	14	19	31	37	59	73	67	80	84	92	112	111	120	99	104
40	1	2	4	4	7	11	15	27	39	41	52	70	63	72	85	84	111	99	99	93
41	1	3	3	3	8	5	10	23	25	21	34	39	45	51	69	69	70	79	81	76
42	1	2	3	1	2	6	5	21	12	31	35	41	36	45	45	61	74	71	52	75
43	1	1	1	4	2	7	7	7	19	28	24	29	28	27	33	58	50	66	58	61
44	1	1	1	2	3	1	5	9	5	12	19	19	23	35	31	48	46	52	54	59
45	1	1	1	2	5	7	5	10	9	13	24	14	25	28	29	36	40	38	57	52
46	1	2	1	1	4	2	4	11	9	13	24	12	12	19	22	32	43	35	44	43
47	1	1	1	3	3	4	1	8	10	15	12	8	10	18	14	24	30	28	40	28
48	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	3	5	9	13	11	6	19	19	21	17	14	27	36
49	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	4	6	6	6	10	12	14	7	16	21	22	29	24
50	1	1	1	2	1	4	3	3	7	7	6	5	9	3	11	6	12	17	14	25
51	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	6	3	3	4	4	4	6	8	8	9	6	18
52	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	5	5	6	5	13	10	13	11	9
53	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	3	7	5	3	5	9	8	8
54	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	6	2	3	5	2	9	6	12	11	9
55-59	2	2	2	3	6	4	1	2	10	10	3	6	10	14	20	13	19	17	18	26
60 and over	2	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	6	4	7	6	8	14	8	14	10	12	14
Total brides	135	1,358	1,918	3,228	5,000	6,646	8,066	8,942	8,559	7,658	6,735	5,442	4,586	4,136	3,535	3,076	2,814	2,412	2,133	1,895
Proportion %	0.1	1.3	1.8	3.0	4.7	6.3	7.6	8.4	8.1	7.2	6.3	5.1	4.3	3.9	3.3	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.8

12 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE—continued

	Age of bride (years)														Total bride- grooms	Propor- tion/%			
	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50- 54			55- 59	60- 64	65 and over
17 and under																		10	...
18																		165	0.2
19																		500	0.5
20																		1,139	1.1
21																		2,265	2.1
22																		3,817	3.6
23																		5,564	5.2
24																		7,070	6.7
25																		7,898	7.4
26																		7,578	7.1
27																		7,429	7.0
28																		6,379	6.0
29																		5,635	5.3
30																		4,912	4.6
31																		4,635	4.4
32																		4,074	3.8
33																		3,727	3.5
34																		3,213	3.0
35																		2,874	2.7
36																		2,476	2.3
37																		2,182	2.1
38																		1,875	1.8
39																		1,708	1.6
40																		1,588	1.5
41																		1,336	1.3
42																		1,248	1.2
43																		1,153	1.1
44																		1,065	1.0
45																		1,055	1.0
46																		1,031	1.0
47																		904	0.9
48																		898	0.8
49																		863	0.8
50																		751	0.7
51																		625	0.6
52																		642	0.6
53																		510	0.5
54																		499	0.5
55-59																		1,874	1.8
60 and over																		2,936	2.8
Total brides	1,582	1,474	1,224	1,235	1,065	967	849	906	777	795	777	669	681	2,121	1,098	667	942	106,103	100.0
Proportion %	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	2.0	1.0	0.6	0.9	100.0	...

13 AGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

Age (years)	Bridegroom				Bride			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
17 and under	10	—	—	10	135	—	—	135
18	165	—	—	165	1,356	—	2	1,358
19	500	—	—	500	1,916	—	2	1,918
20	1,139	—	—	1,139	3,216	—	12	3,228
21	2,263	—	2	2,265	4,972	1	27	5,000
22	3,807	1	9	3,817	6,579	1	66	6,646
23	5,546	—	18	5,564	7,952	4	110	8,066
24	6,996	—	74	7,070	8,707	7	228	8,942
25	7,789	1	108	7,898	8,222	6	331	8,559
26	7,403	3	172	7,578	7,171	10	477	7,658
27	7,110	3	316	7,429	6,117	10	608	6,735
28	5,950	4	425	6,379	4,719	12	711	5,442
29	5,125	3	507	5,635	3,752	28	806	4,586
30	4,283	6	623	4,912	3,279	21	836	4,136
31	3,866	12	757	4,635	2,552	31	952	3,535
32	3,246	11	817	4,074	2,021	30	1,025	3,076
33	2,822	8	897	3,727	1,719	36	1,059	2,814
34	2,236	20	957	3,213	1,337	36	1,039	2,412
35	1,823	13	1,038	2,874	1,079	40	1,014	2,133
36	1,480	16	980	2,476	835	54	1,006	1,895
37	1,175	15	992	2,182	642	51	889	1,582
38	908	20	947	1,875	535	52	887	1,474
39	742	18	948	1,708	399	32	793	1,224
40	611	23	954	1,588	348	50	837	1,235
41	437	26	873	1,336	209	66	790	1,065
42	361	23	864	1,248	192	63	712	967
43	299	37	817	1,153	149	54	646	849
44	227	24	814	1,065	126	44	736	906
45	214	38	803	1,055	103	77	597	777
46	163	42	826	1,031	87	61	647	795
47	132	29	743	904	89	66	622	777
48	102	36	760	898	59	75	535	669
49	95	44	724	863	55	84	542	681
50	84	45	622	751	41	84	431	556
51	52	46	527	625	42	66	366	474
52	41	62	539	642	16	71	315	402
53	45	36	429	510	26	70	271	367
54	39	50	410	499	19	58	245	322
55	34	61	350	445	12	73	209	294
56	21	66	342	429	17	58	163	238
57	26	62	289	377	15	48	141	204
58	27	51	241	319	20	73	115	208
59	22	68	214	304	12	60	82	154
60	20	68	181	269	13	67	97	177
61	21	51	149	221	7	63	76	146
62	14	65	136	215	5	58	52	115
63	21	58	114	193	5	56	51	112
64	16	52	105	173	2	71	44	117
65	14	71	119	204	1	63	45	109
66	14	66	83	163	2	59	32	93
67	15	74	95	184	4	57	27	88
68	9	65	81	155	5	61	22	88
69	9	81	54	144	2	49	20	71
70	18	80	54	152	4	51	18	73
71	7	71	59	137	1	49	19	69
72	2	69	31	102	4	44	10	58
73	3	79	24	106	1	36	16	53
74	6	60	21	87	—	34	10	44
75 and over	16	333	82	431	7	166	23	196
Total	79,621	2,366	24,116	106,103	80,912	2,747	22,444	106,103

14 BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES

Country of birth	<i>Bridegroom born in country shown and bride born in</i>				<i>Bride born in country shown and bridegroom born in</i>			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia	68,173	—	10,844	79,017	68,173	—	12,927	81,100
Fiji	86	152	48	286	92	152	99	343
New Zealand	1,740	438	465	2,643	1,398	438	420	2,256
Papua New Guinea	238	9	49	296	216	9	74	299
Other	105	140	70	315	73	140	70	283
<i>Total</i>	<i>70,342</i>	<i>739</i>	<i>11,476</i>	<i>82,557</i>	<i>69,952</i>	<i>739</i>	<i>13,590</i>	<i>84,281</i>
Europe and Former USSR								
Austria	65	10	30	105	45	10	22	77
Former Czechoslovakia	34	30	33	97	35	30	21	86
Cyprus	59	20	32	111	35	20	21	76
Denmark	48	11	20	79	33	11	15	59
Former USSR and Baltic States	19	148	29	196	104	148	103	355
Former Yugoslav Republics	403	379	154	936	224	379	83	686
France	87	12	47	146	88	12	37	137
Germany	357	159	204	720	298	159	164	621
Greece	246	68	57	371	112	68	42	222
Hungary	32	38	36	106	26	38	29	93
Ireland	158	30	76	264	114	30	77	221
Italy	405	83	166	654	195	83	76	354
Malta	97	16	47	160	61	16	22	99
Netherlands	278	45	115	438	213	45	68	326
Poland	56	148	55	259	74	148	57	279
Portugal	51	36	29	116	35	36	29	100
Romania	15	53	23	91	15	53	28	96
Spain	50	15	26	91	39	15	27	81
Switzerland	46	27	27	100	54	27	21	102
United Kingdom	4,995	1,472	1,115	7,582	3,689	1,472	722	5,883
Other	119	31	65	215	104	31	54	189
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,620</i>	<i>2,831</i>	<i>2,386</i>	<i>12,837</i>	<i>5,593</i>	<i>2,831</i>	<i>1,718</i>	<i>10,142</i>
Middle East and North Africa								
Egypt	91	56	59	206	41	56	28	125
Iran	31	64	42	137	26	64	19	109
Israel	43	13	21	77	20	13	15	48
Lebanon	433	284	83	800	121	284	88	493
Syria	24	17	32	73	11	17	32	60
Turkey	108	128	40	276	44	128	32	204
Other	85	193	104	382	30	193	60	283
<i>Total</i>	<i>815</i>	<i>755</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>1,951</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>755</i>	<i>274</i>	<i>1,322</i>
Southeast Asia								
Cambodia	7	129	49	185	20	129	49	198
Indonesia	84	192	73	349	137	192	138	467
Laos	2	38	40	80	9	38	30	77
Malaysia	171	121	174	466	207	121	201	529
Philippines	73	380	29	482	567	380	365	1,312
Singapore	77	22	71	170	115	22	92	229
Thailand	16	41	26	83	172	41	123	336
Viet Nam	31	1,176	135	1,342	66	1,176	225	1,467
Other	15	38	26	79	21	38	25	84
<i>Total</i>	<i>476</i>	<i>2,137</i>	<i>623</i>	<i>3,236</i>	<i>1,314</i>	<i>2,137</i>	<i>1,248</i>	<i>4,699</i>
Northeast Asia								
China	21	919	233	1,173	166	919	292	1,377
Hong Kong	49	207	180	436	87	207	159	453
Japan	50	67	20	137	210	67	123	400
Korea	6	166	17	189	34	166	40	240
Other	2	30	40	72	17	30	63	110
<i>Total</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>1,389</i>	<i>490</i>	<i>2,007</i>	<i>514</i>	<i>1,389</i>	<i>677</i>	<i>2,580</i>

14 BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES—continued

Country of birth	Bridegroom born in country shown and bride born in				Bride born in country shown and bridegroom born in			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
Southern Asia								
India	179	143	117	439	118	143	83	344
Pakistan	26	22	50	98	5	22	17	44
Sri Lanka	89	147	52	288	52	147	34	233
Other	22	64	14	100	6	64	9	79
<i>Total</i>	<i>316</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>925</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>700</i>
The Americas								
Argentina	43	16	25	84	44	16	25	85
Canada	202	20	55	277	185	20	71	276
Caribbean	21	1	8	30	23	1	9	33
Central America	31	47	24	102	28	47	27	102
Chile	62	61	51	174	75	61	57	193
United States of America	423	74	151	648	303	74	109	486
Uruguay	44	10	23	77	42	10	22	74
Other	61	49	47	157	58	49	77	184
<i>Total</i>	<i>887</i>	<i>278</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>1,549</i>	<i>758</i>	<i>278</i>	<i>397</i>	<i>1,433</i>
Africa (excluding North Africa)								
Kenya	22	2	19	43	29	2	13	44
Mauritius	53	36	27	116	50	36	29	115
South Africa	259	62	85	406	220	62	111	393
Zimbabwe	67	6	28	101	49	6	28	83
Other	114	167	93	374	62	167	80	309
<i>Total</i>	<i>515</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>1,040</i>	<i>410</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>944</i>
Other and not stated	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2
Total	81,100	8,778	16,225	106,103	79,017	8,778	18,308	106,103

15 SUMMARY(a), SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

	Country of birth of bridegroom													
	Australia	China	Germany	Greece	Hong Kong	Italy	India	Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	U.K. & Ireland	U.S.A. Viet Nam
Marriages registered	79,017	1,173	720	371	436	654	439	800	466	2,643	482	406	7,846	648
Population '000(b)	6,984.3	50.1	58.4	73.8	48.3	137.2	43.3	43.8	46.1	152.7	33.6	31.6	608.3	34.0
Marriage rate(c)	11.3	23.4	21.9	5.0	9.0	4.8	10.1	18.2	10.1	17.3	14.3	12.8	12.9	19.1
<i>Marriages performed by—</i>														
Ministers of religion—														
Number	45,232	87	203	238	92	372	194	682	191	1,102	189	235	3,048	267
Per cent	57.2	7.4	28.2	64.2	21.1	56.9	44.2	85.3	41.0	41.7	39.2	57.9	38.8	41.2
Civil celebrants—														
Number	33,785	1,086	517	133	344	282	245	118	275	1,541	293	171	4,798	381
Per cent	42.8	92.6	71.8	35.8	78.9	43.1	55.8	14.8	59.0	58.3	60.8	42.1	61.2	58.8
<i>Bridegrooms born in country shown marrying brides born in—</i>														
Australia—														
Number	68,173	21	357	246	49	405	179	433	171	1,740	73	259	5,153	423
Per cent	86.3	1.8	49.6	66.3	11.2	61.9	40.8	54.1	36.7	65.8	15.1	63.8	65.7	65.3
Same overseas country—														
Number	..	919	159	68	207	83	143	284	121	438	380	62	1,567	74
Per cent	..	78.3	22.1	18.3	47.5	12.7	32.6	35.5	26.0	16.6	78.8	15.3	20.0	11.4
Other overseas country—														
Number	10,844	233	204	57	180	166	117	83	174	465	29	85	1,126	151
Per cent	13.7	19.9	28.3	15.4	41.3	25.4	26.7	10.4	37.3	17.6	6.0	20.9	14.4	23.3
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>														
Never married	61,382	836	388	212	362	345	333	634	370	1,877	382	304	4,496	429
Widowed	1,515	19	47	14	2	45	13	10	3	44	10	5	364	15
Divorced	16,120	318	285	145	72	264	93	156	93	722	90	97	2,986	204
Total	79,017	1,173	720	371	436	654	439	800	466	2,643	482	406	7,846	648
<i>Median age (years)—</i>														
Never married	27.2	31.8	30.9	30.4	30.3	29.6	28.6	26.3	27.9	29.0	28.2	27.3	30.0	29.6
Widowed	62.3	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	66.1	(d)
Divorced	41.2	38.6	48.5	43.4	(d)	46.7	(d)	35.3	(d)	41.7	(d)	(d)	43.8	42.3
Total	28.8	33.1	36.7	35.3	31.4	36.9	30.1	27.4	29.5	31.5	29.6	29.2	34.0	32.9
Median duration of residence (years)	..	6.5	18.1	26.8	7.5	27.7	9.2	8.4	12.5	10.1	6.2	14.3	22.2	1.5

See footnotes at end of table.

15 SUMMARY (a), SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGRROOM AND BRIDE—continued

	Country of birth of bride														
	Australia	China	Germany	Greece	Hong Kong	Italy	India	Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	U.K. & Ireland	U.S.A.	Viet Nam
Marriages registered	81,100	1,377	621	222	453	354	344	493	529	2,256	1,312	393	6,104	486	1,467
Population '000(a)	7,095.8	53.2	60.4	70.8	49.7	121.6	40.4	39.6	50.0	144.8	61.1	32.5	599.3	28.9	74.8
Marriage rate(b)	11.4	25.9	18.6	3.1	9.1	2.9	8.5	12.5	10.6	15.6	21.5	12.1	10.2	16.8	19.6
<i>Marriages performed by—</i>															
Ministers of religion															
Number	47,163	120	152	140	109	200	162	409	215	850	409	220	2,141	173	410
Per cent	58.2	8.7	24.5	63.1	24.1	56.5	47.1	83.0	40.6	37.7	31.2	56.0	35.1	35.6	27.9
Civil celebrants—															
Number	33,937	1,257	469	82	344	154	182	84	314	1,406	903	173	3,963	313	1,057
Per cent	41.8	91.3	75.5	36.9	75.9	43.5	52.9	17.0	59.4	62.3	68.8	44.0	64.9	64.4	72.1
<i>Brides born in country shown marrying bridegrooms born in—</i>															
Australia															
Number	68,173	166	298	112	87	195	118	121	207	1,398	567	220	3,803	303	66
Per cent	84.1	12.1	48.0	50.5	19.2	55.1	34.3	24.5	39.1	62.0	43.2	56.0	62.3	62.3	4.5
Same overseas country—															
Number	..	919	159	68	207	83	143	284	121	438	380	62	1,567	74	1,176
Per cent	..	66.7	25.6	30.6	45.7	23.4	41.6	57.6	22.9	19.4	29.0	15.8	25.7	15.2	80.2
Other overseas country															
Number	12,927	292	164	42	159	76	83	88	201	420	365	111	734	109	225
Per cent	15.9	21.2	26.4	18.9	35.1	21.5	24.1	17.8	38.0	18.6	27.8	28.2	12.0	22.4	15.3
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>															
Never married	63,911	906	356	134	387	198	240	364	426	1,570	923	300	3,417	298	1,292
Widowed	1,696	38	39	14	5	31	19	15	10	50	115	9	340	12	28
Divorced	15,493	433	226	74	61	125	85	114	93	636	274	84	2,347	176	147
Total	81,100	1,377	621	222	453	354	344	493	529	2,256	1,312	393	6,104	486	1,467
<i>Median age (years)</i>															
Never married	25.4	27.8	29.1	27.6	28.1	30.2	26.7	22.8	27.1	26.7	28.7	25.6	28.3	27.3	25.7
Widowed	54.3	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	45.3	(d)	58.9	(d)	(d)
Divorced	37.7	35.1	45.9	(d)	(d)	41.2	(d)	32.4	(d)	39.5	36.9	(d)	39.7	38.2	33.4
Total	26.7	30.8	32.9	31.6	29.2	34.2	29.2	25.5	28.4	29.3	31.5	27.1	32.3	30.2	26.3
Median duration of residence (years)	..	2.6	12.9	25.3	5.1	27.2	10.2	8.1	8.6	10.1	2.4	13.4	21.1	1.8	6.0

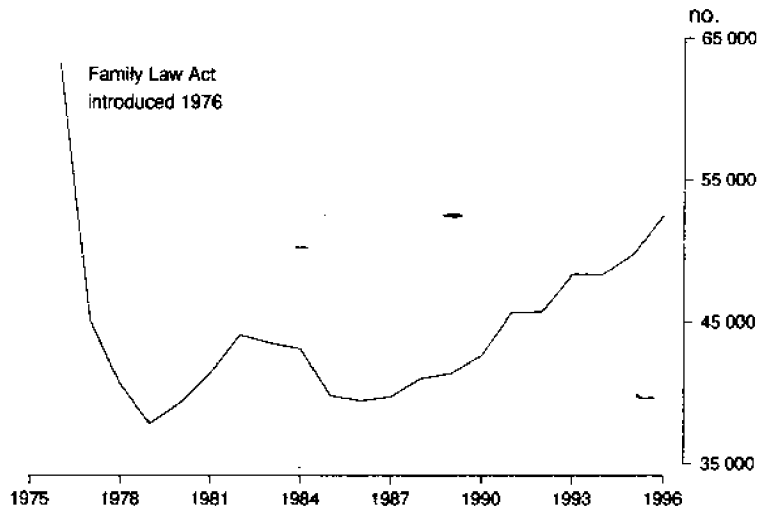
(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used. (b) Estimated resident population by country of birth, 1996 preliminary. (c) Per 1,000 male or female estimated resident population by country of birth, 1996 preliminary. (d) Not statistically reliable due to the small numbers involved.

CHAPTER 3

DIVORCES

There were 52,500 divorces granted in Australia in 1996. With the exception of 1976, the year the Family Law Act was introduced, this was the highest number of divorces ever granted in Australia. Over the last 20 years the married population (i.e. the population at risk of divorce) increased from 6,699,300 to 8,129,400 (21%).

DIVORCES GRANTED



DIVORCE RATES

The divorce rate for the currently married population continued in an upward trend. In 1996, 12.9 men and women per 1,000 currently married men and women divorced. This compares with 10.7 men and 10.6 women 10 years ago.

DIVORCE RATES(a), Married Population

Selected years	Males	Females
	rate(a)	rate(a)
1976(b)	18.9	18.8
1981	11.9	11.9
1986	10.7	10.6
1991	11.6	11.5
1996	12.9	12.9

(a) Per 1,000 currently married men or women.

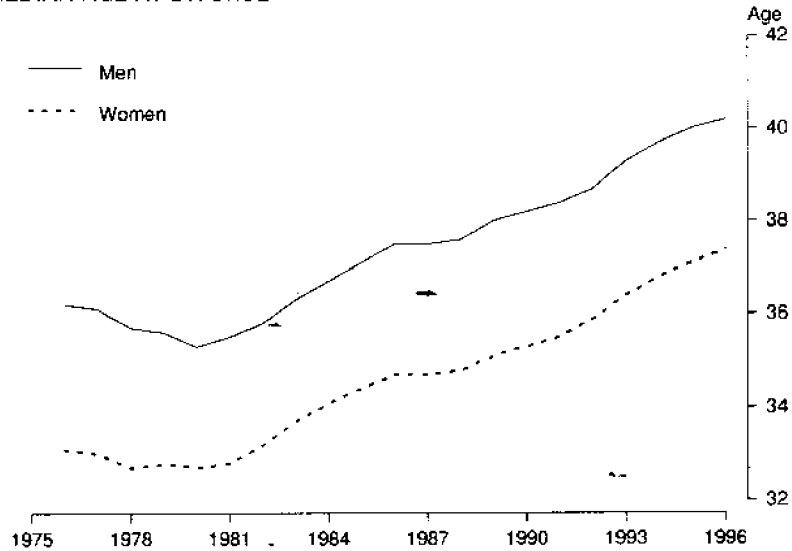
(b) Family Law Act introduced 1976.

The crude divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1,000 population) in 1996 was 2.9 per 1,000. This is the third highest rate Australia has recorded (4.5 in 1976 and 3.2 in 1977). It also continues the upward trend commenced in 1987 when the crude divorce rate was 2.4 per 1,000 population.

AGE AT DIVORCE

For nearly 20 years the Australian median age at divorce for both men and women has slowly risen. The median age at divorce is the age where there are as many divorcing above the age as there are divorcing below it. In 1996 the median age at divorce for men was 40.2 years and for women 37.4 years. This is a rise of 4.9 years for men and 4.7 years for women since the low of 35.3 years and 32.7 years, respectively in 1980.

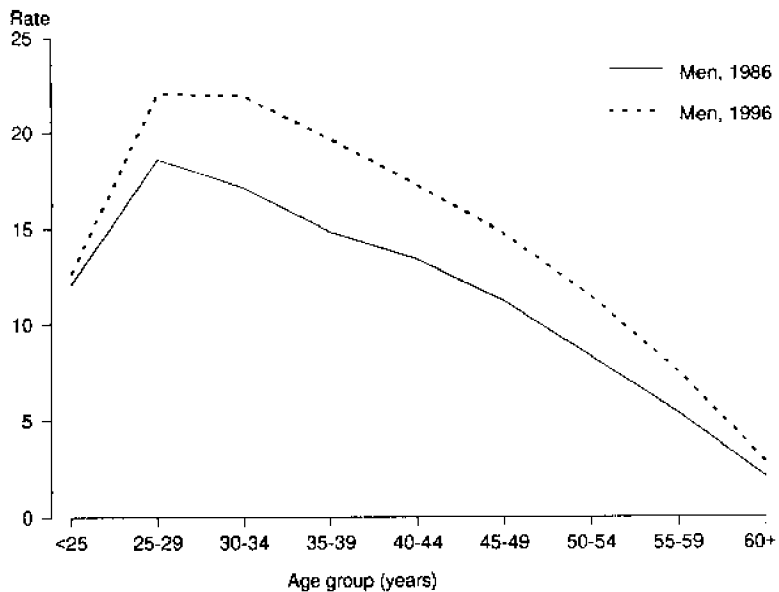
MEDIAN AGE AT DIVORCE



Age-specific divorce rates of married people have risen in all age groups for both men and women between 1986 and 1996.

The peak age group for men divorcing, the age group 25–29 years, rose from 18.6 per 1,000 married men in 1986 to 22.0 per 1,000 in 1996. The 35–39 years age group had the highest percentage increase in divorce rates for men (32%).

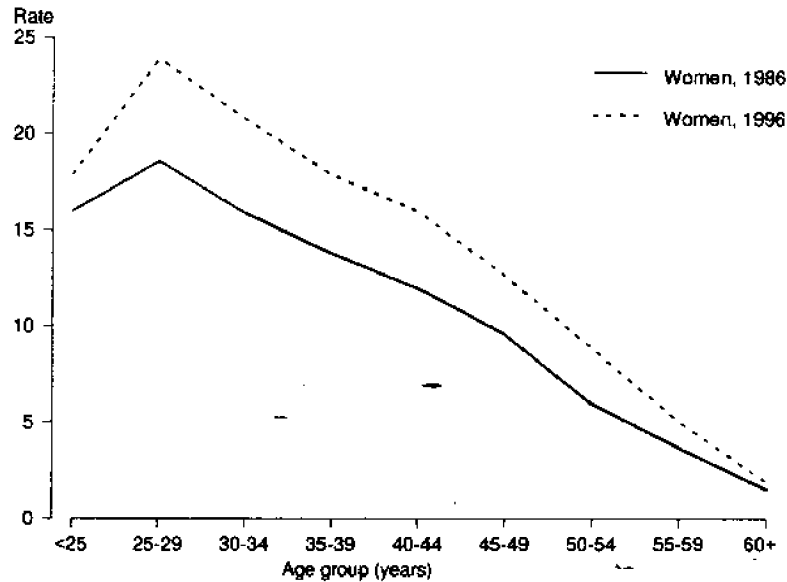
AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES(a), Married Population—Men



(a) Per 1 000 married men.

For women the pattern was similar to that experienced by men. For the period 1986–96 all age group rates rose. The peak age group remained the age group 25–29 years and increased from 18.6 per 1,000 married women to 23.9 per 1,000. The 40–44 years age group had the highest percentage increase (33%).

AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES(a), Married Population—Women



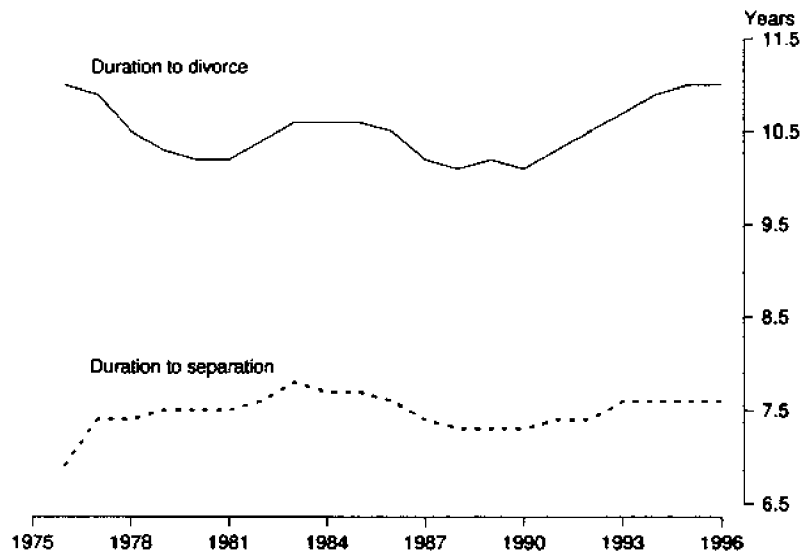
(a) Per 1,000 married women.

DURATION OF MARRIAGE

Duration of marriage is the interval between the date of marriage and the date the divorce was made absolute. Between 1976 and 1996 the median duration of marriage fluctuated between 10.1 years and 11.0 years. The median duration of marriage was 11.0 years in 1996.

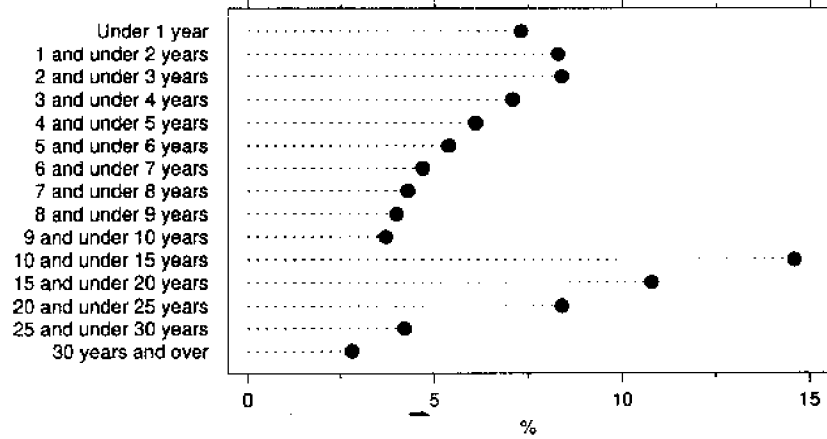
Over the last 20 years the median duration of marriage to separation has also fluctuated. In 1976 the median duration of marriage to separation was 6.9 years compared with 7.6 years in 1996.

MEDIAN DURATION OF MARRIAGE



Of the couples who divorced in 1996, 37% separated within the first five years of marriage and a further 22% separated in the next five years. The most common single interval between marriage and separation was between two and three years (8.4%).

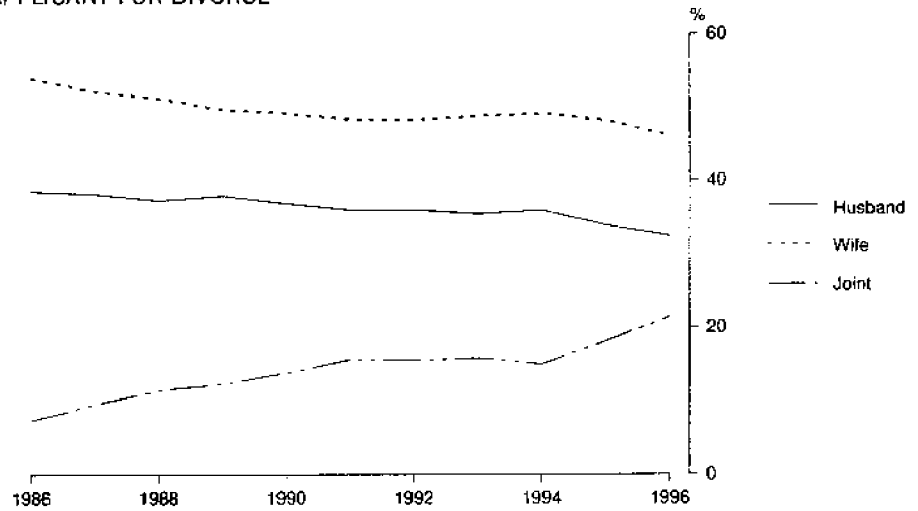
INTERVAL BETWEEN MARRIAGE AND FINAL SEPARATION



APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE

Since 1984, when joint applications became available, the number of joint applications for divorce have been increasing. In 1996, 22% of divorces were the result of a joint application by both husband and wife, compared with 7% ten years ago. However, most applications are still lodged singly, with 46% being lodged by wives and 32% by husbands in 1996.

APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE



CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

Over the past 10 years the number of divorces granted where children have been involved has fallen. In 1986, 60% of divorces involved children under 18 years. By 1996 this percentage was 54%.

Of the divorces granted in 1996, where children under 18 years were involved, the duration of marriage period 15–19 years had the highest average issue at 2.2 children per divorce. The average issue for all divorces was 1.9 children. The comparative 1986 average issue details were 2.3 and 1.9, respectively.

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE, Duration of Marriage

CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS...

Duration of marriage	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Divorces involving children	Children under 18 years	Average issue
0–4 years	1 849	937	227	75	14	3 102	4 780	1.5
5–9 years	3 455	3 225	881	204	45	7 810	13 598	1.7
10–14 years	1 931	3 514	1 268	355	81	7 149	14 620	2.0
15–19 years	1 152	2 554	1 219	369	77	5 371	11 814	2.2
20–24 years	1 678	1 323	427	100	23	3 551	6 125	1.7
25 years and over	856	250	35	13	1	1 155	1 518	1.3
Total	10 921	11 803	4 057	1 116	241	28 138	52 455	1.9

Wives are more likely to apply for divorce than husbands. This difference was most marked when children were present. In 53% of divorces where children were involved, the wife was the applicant, compared with only 32% for husbands. However, in divorces where children were not involved, the proportions were much closer (39% and 33%, respectively).

APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE

Applicant	1986.....				1996.....			
	With children.....		Without children...		With children.....		Without children...	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Husband	8 727	37.1	6 497	40.9	8 888	31.6	8 117	33.4
Wife	13 485	57.3	7 801	49.1	14 875	52.9	9 280	38.1
Joint	1 318	5.6	1 589	10.0	4 375	15.5	6 931	28.5
Total	23 530	100.0	15 887	100.0	28 138	100.0	24 328	100.0

BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES DIVORCING

Of the divorces granted in Australia in 1996, 56% were divorces where both parties were born in Australia (60% in 1986), 14% were divorces of couples born in the same overseas country (11% in 1986) and 30% were divorces between men and women who had chosen partners from a different country (28% in 1986). Of this last group 44% were overseas-born men marrying Australian-born women while a further 35% were overseas-born women marrying Australian-born men. The 1986 comparisons were 46% and 34%, respectively.

Divorce rates

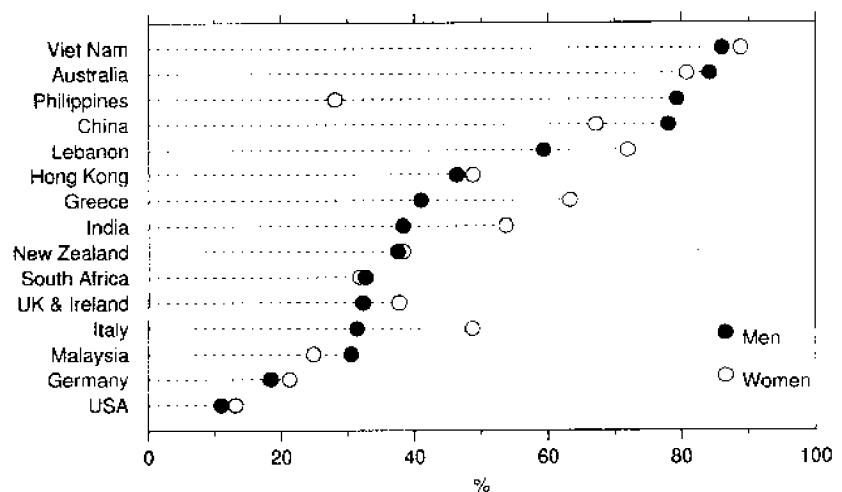
Divorce rates for Australian-born and overseas-born varied in 1996 (see table 25). When comparing these rates it should be remembered that the total number of divorces granted for persons born in some selected countries is small and that the age structure of birthplace groups is varied.

Of the overseas-born communities selected for comparison, Chinese-born had the highest divorce rates in the Australian population (17.7 and 19.4 per 1,000 Chinese-born men and women, respectively). Malaysian-born men had the lowest rate at 4.1 per 1,000 while Italian-born women had the lowest rate for women at 3.2 per 1,000. Comparative divorce rates for Australian-born men and women were 5.0 and 5.1 per 1,000, respectively.

Birthplace relationship

Vietnamese-born men and women had the highest percentage of divorces to partners both born in the same country, 86% for men and 89% for women. The lowest percentages for the countries selected for comparison were for men and women born in the United States of America (11% for men and 13% for women). The percentage of Australian-born men who divorced Australian-born women was 84% while 81% of all Australian-born women divorcing, divorced Australian-born men.

MEN AND WOMEN DIVORCING PARTNERS FROM THE SAME BIRTHPLACE



Children of divorce

Lebanese-born men and women had the highest average issue involved in divorce for the countries chosen. The average issue for men was 2.2 children while for women it was 2.3. Men and women who were Chinese-born had the lowest average issue at 1.2 children. Australian-born men and women recorded an average issue of 1.9 children for those divorcing in 1996.

DIVORCE TRENDS ¹

About 8% of all marriages are likely to end in divorce within five years of marriage, 19% within ten years, 32% within twenty years and 39% within thirty years.

PROPORTION OF MARRIAGES EXPECTED TO END IN DIVORCE

Year of divorce	LENGTH OF MARRIAGE (YEARS)				
	5	10	20	30	All years
	%	%	%	%	%
1970	1.1	5.3	10.8	14.3	16.4
1976	8.5	25.3	47.4	62.0	70.8
1981	8.0	18.4	30.6	38.4	42.1
1986	7.3	16.8	27.7	34.5	38.1
1991	8.2	18.6	30.9	37.9	41.2
1994	8.2	19.1	32.0	39.4	42.9

Remarriages following divorce have the highest risk of divorce. Expectations are slightly lower for first marriages and much lower for remarriages following widowhood.

DIVORCE EXPECTATIONS, Previous Marital Status

Year of divorce	10 YEARS DURATION...			20 YEARS DURATION...			30 YEARS DURATION...		
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Never married	Widowed	Divorced
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES									
1971	5.2	4.5	7.4	10.6	8.8	16.4	14.1	10.9	20.7
1976	25.0	23.3	32.2	47.1	39.3	61.8	61.9	48.4	78.2
1981	18.4	11.6	20.4	30.9	18.9	34.6	38.9	21.0	42.4
1986	16.3	12.6	19.1	27.1	19.1	32.7	33.9	22.3	39.7
1991	18.9	10.8	19.9	31.0	16.4	33.6	38.0	18.1	40.9
1994	18.9	14.3	20.8	31.9	20.9	35.4	39.4	23.7	42.8
FEMALES									
1971	5.2	4.2	7.4	10.5	8.6	15.8	13.9	11.2	20.4
1976	24.9	21.5	32.4	46.4	38.1	63.1	60.8	49.7	78.1
1981	18.5	11.8	20.3	30.6	19.0	35.1	38.4	24.0	41.7
1986	16.3	12.6	19.4	27.0	19.5	32.3	33.8	22.3	38.3
1991	18.7	11.5	19.7	30.8	17.3	33.5	37.8	20.0	39.4
1994	18.8	13.1	21.3	31.4	19.6	35.7	38.8	22.7	42.0

¹ The method for deriving divorce rates by length of marriage was developed by Dr Gordon Carmichael and Professor Peter McDonald and was first presented in their unpublished paper, *The rise and fall of divorce in Australia, 1990*.

The number of people aged 15–19 years at marriage has declined since the mid-1970s. Although small, this group is vulnerable to divorce. According to 1994 divorce expectations, about 70% of males and 50% of females who married aged 15–19 years are expected to divorce within the first 10 years of marriage.

Of people who remarry aged 20–29 years following divorce about 30% are likely to divorce again within the first 10 years of marriage.

For further information see the article *How Many Marriages End In Divorce? Recent Trends* published in the 1994 edition of *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (Cat. no. 3310.0).

16 SUMMARY(a)

	NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(b)	Australia
NUMBER									
Divorces granted	15,984	12,491	10,996	4,358	4,959	1,582	486	1,610	52,466
Crude divorce rate	2.6	2.8	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.3	2.7	(b)	2.9
Median duration of marriage (years)	10.1	10.8	11.7	11.7	12.0	12.1	10.8	11.3	11.0
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	6.8	7.6	8.1	8.0	8.4	8.8	7.3	7.9	7.6
<i>Divorces involving children—</i>									
Number	8,120	6,482	6,262	2,456	2,651	1,013	246	908	28,138
Percentage of total divorces	50.8	51.9	56.9	56.4	53.5	64.0	50.6	56.4	53.6
Average issue	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
<i>Applicant—</i>									
Husband	5,436	4,216	3,574	1,353	1,306	459	150	511	17,005
Wife	7,262	5,708	5,387	2,102	1,964	875	170	687	24,155
Joint	3,286	2,567	2,035	903	1,689	248	166	412	11,306
HUSBAND									
<i>Age-specific divorce rates—</i>									
Age group (years)—									
24 and under	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.7	(b)	0.8
25-29	7.8	7.7	8.9	7.9	7.1	8.9	5.1	(b)	7.9
30-34	12.2	13.3	13.9	13.2	11.9	17.1	10.8	(b)	13.1
35-39	12.5	13.1	15.7	14.5	13.8	17.6	13.3	(b)	13.9
40-44	11.2	12.6	15.3	14.0	13.0	16.2	12.0	(b)	13.1
45-49	10.2	11.2	13.8	12.3	11.1	12.6	10.8	(b)	11.6
50-54	8.0	8.8	10.4	9.1	9.3	11.0	9.8	(b)	9.1
55 and over	2.7	2.9	4.1	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.9	(b)	3.1
<i>Median age (years)—</i>									
at marriage	26.2	25.7	25.5	25.4	25.5	25.2	25.9	25.9	25.8
at final separation	36.4	36.7	37.3	37.2	37.1	36.9	36.5	37.3	36.9
at decree made absolute	39.7	40.0	40.9	40.5	40.7	40.0	39.9	40.6	40.2
WIFE									
<i>Age-specific divorce rates—</i>									
Age group (years)—									
24 and under	2.1	1.8	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.6	(b)	1.9
25-29	11.6	11.5	13.6	12.6	11.3	15.9	7.9	(b)	12.2
30-34	13.3	14.0	15.9	14.5	13.8	18.7	13.4	(b)	14.5
35-39	12.0	12.6	15.5	15.0	13.4	16.5	12.5	(b)	13.5
40-44	10.5	11.8	14.8	13.5	12.7	14.8	11.1	(b)	12.4
45-49	8.8	9.6	11.2	10.1	9.9	11.8	12.3	(b)	9.9
50-54	6.1	6.7	8.5	7.1	6.5	6.8	5.0	(b)	6.9
55 and over	1.3	1.4	2.1	1.5	1.9	1.5	2.3	(b)	1.6
<i>Median age (years)—</i>									
at marriage	23.5	23.3	22.8	23.0	22.9	22.5	23.4	23.4	23.2
at final separation	33.6	34.0	34.4	34.6	34.4	34.1	33.3	34.6	34.1
at decree made absolute	36.8	37.3	37.8	38.0	38.0	37.1	37.0	37.9	37.4

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used. (b) See paragraph 22 of Explanatory Notes.

17 DIVORCES GRANTED

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW(a)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(a)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT(a)</i>	<i>Australia</i>
1976	22,147	16,625	9,611	6,142	4,818	1,758	423	1,706	63,230
1981	14,512	9,769	6,470	4,132	3,481	1,139	393	1,516	41,412
1986	11,661	9,670	7,042	3,776	4,001	1,245	381	1,641	39,417
1991	13,151	11,134	8,934	4,215	4,446	1,383	419	1,970	45,652
1992	13,949	10,533	8,984	4,074	4,540	1,365	409	1,875	45,729
1993	14,753	11,050	9,935	4,063	4,654	1,465	382	2,061	48,363
1994	13,999	11,320	9,762	4,192	5,024	1,544	r400	2,071	r48,312
1995	14,945	11,838	10,192	4,199	5,040	1,279	r432	1,787	r49,712
1996	15,984	12,491	10,996	4,358	4,959	1,582	486	1,610	52,466

(a) See paragraph 22 of Explanatory Notes.

18 CRUDE DIVORCE RATES(a)

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>NSW(b)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld(b)</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT(b)</i>	<i>Australia</i>
1976	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.1	4.3	4.3	(b)	4.5
1981	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.2	(b)	2.8
1986	2.1	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.5	(b)	2.5
1991	2.2	2.5	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.5	(b)	2.6
1992	2.3	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.4	(b)	2.6
1993	2.5	2.5	3.2	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.3	(b)	2.7
1994	2.3	2.5	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.3	r2.3	(b)	2.7
1995	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.7	r2.5	(b)	2.8
1996	2.6	2.8	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.3	2.7	(b)	2.9

(a) Per 1,000 population. (b) See paragraph 22 of Explanatory Notes.

19 AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES(a)

Selected years	Age group (years)									Total
	24 and under(b)	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	
HUSBAND										
1976	17.9	31.6	28.9	24.0	21.2	18.6	15.0	11.1	5.0	18.9
1981	13.9	22.4	18.9	16.2	13.5	10.9	8.3	5.4	2.3	11.9
1986	12.1	18.6	17.1	14.8	13.4	11.2	8.3	5.4	2.1	10.7
1991	10.6	20.5	19.7	17.0	14.7	12.5	9.0	5.9	2.2	11.6
1992	10.7	19.9	19.5	17.4	14.7	12.5	9.3	6.0	2.2	11.5
1993	11.5	20.3	20.5	17.7	16.2	13.3	10.2	6.5	2.4	12.1
1994	10.6	20.1	20.3	18.0	16.1	13.6	10.5	6.7	2.4	12.0
1995	11.4	20.3	20.9	18.5	16.1	14.4	10.7	6.9	2.7	12.3
1996	12.7	22.0	21.9	19.6	17.2	14.7	11.4	7.5	2.9	12.9
WIFE										
1976	22.7	31.5	26.9	22.1	19.3	16.0	12.6	8.8	4.0	18.8
1981	18.0	22.0	16.9	14.8	11.8	8.9	6.3	4.1	1.7	11.9
1986	16.0	18.6	15.9	13.8	12.0	9.6	6.0	3.7	1.5	10.6
1991	16.1	21.5	18.3	15.6	13.5	10.6	6.5	3.8	1.4	11.5
1992	16.1	21.4	18.1	15.9	13.4	10.7	6.9	3.8	1.4	11.5
1993	16.6	21.9	19.1	16.9	14.5	11.7	7.4	4.2	1.6	12.1
1994	15.9	21.7	19.1	16.8	14.9	11.7	8.0	4.3	1.5	12.0
1995	16.6	22.2	19.6	17.2	15.1	12.1	8.4	4.9	1.7	12.3
1996	17.9	23.9	20.8	17.9	16.0	12.7	8.9	5.1	1.9	12.9

(a) Per 1,000 married men or women respectively, at 30 June for each year shown. (b) For the purpose of calculating rates in this column, married persons aged between 15 and 24 have been included in the denominator.

20 AGE OF DIVORCING PARTIES AT DATE OF MARRIAGE

Age group of husband (years)	Age group of wife (years)									Total
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	Not stated	
19 and under	1,764	531	67	19	4	1	-	—	7	2,393
20-24	6,102	12,412	1,678	281	71	22	3	—	96	20,665
25-29	1,444	7,444	4,409	1,025	242	74	11	8	73	14,730
30-34	305	1,880	2,393	1,334	462	138	40	16	39	6,607
35-39	68	491	838	908	589	239	62	14	29	3,238
40-44	23	156	355	456	440	330	118	40	15	1,933
45-49	20	53	117	197	216	238	163	75	4	1,083
50 and over	8	51	78	136	152	197	287	513	16	1,438
Not stated	30	90	51	26	23	11	11	13	124	379
Total	9,764	23,108	9,986	4,382	2,199	1,250	695	679	403	52,466

21 AGE OF PARTIES AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE

Age group of husband (years)	Age group of wife (years)									Total	
	24 and under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over		Not stated
24 and under	514	219	42	7	1	2	—	—	—	3	788
25-29	1,171	3,576	654	148	35	18	1	1	—	35	5,639
30-34	402	3,326	4,359	880	232	57	14	2	3	49	9,324
35-39	114	961	3,676	4,060	835	186	50	11	3	54	9,950
40-44	28	273	1,034	3,138	3,403	644	112	23	3	38	8,696
45-49	8	92	321	1,012	2,704	2,813	468	69	19	40	7,546
50-54	10	34	112	297	699	1,828	1,461	219	49	19	4,728
55-59	3	21	40	92	210	500	919	610	152	17	2,564
60 and over	2	12	41	71	119	231	412	624	1,316	24	2,852
Not stated	19	45	57	42	27	28	10	13	14	124	379
Total	2,271	8,559	10,336	9,747	8,265	6,307	3,447	1,572	1,559	403	52,466

22 AGE OF PARTIES AT DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN DATE OF MARRIAGE AND DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION

Duration of marriage (years)	Age group (years)										Total	
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over		Not stated
HUSBAND												
Under 1	61	895	1,056	664	373	244	165	115	83	113	83	3,852
1 and under 2	20	877	1,393	848	469	274	176	95	54	86	52	4,344
2 and under 3	2	640	1,569	938	479	305	167	90	63	88	46	4,387
3 and under 4	—	292	1,297	985	464	288	148	94	63	62	22	3,715
4 and under 5	—	144	1,060	936	477	223	152	84	32	58	12	3,178
5 and under 6	—	47	844	904	475	244	140	72	40	49	17	2,832
6 and under 7	—	16	564	925	428	225	139	88	35	55	7	2,482
7 and under 8	—	—	373	877	481	245	127	71	32	43	11	2,260
8 and under 9	—	—	205	875	482	232	123	65	44	39	9	2,074
9 and under 10	—	—	84	766	525	249	133	78	35	39	8	1,917
10 and under 11	—	—	37	655	566	241	121	63	29	37	9	1,758
11 and under 12	—	—	13	522	534	238	125	53	31	29	4	1,549
12 and under 13	—	—	1	356	594	296	108	41	31	30	8	1,465
13 and under 14	—	—	—	284	630	335	120	60	35	33	8	1,505
14 and under 15	—	—	—	146	627	311	140	67	35	34	6	1,366
15 and under 16	—	—	—	60	527	351	128	40	30	33	9	1,178
16 and under 17	—	—	—	11	497	352	150	55	24	29	6	1,124
17 and under 18	—	—	—	2	404	438	191	71	25	34	11	1,176
18 and under 19	—	—	—	—	297	550	196	61	18	24	6	1,152
19 and under 20	—	—	—	—	131	576	219	54	21	23	6	1,030
20 and under 21	—	—	—	—	81	561	259	67	26	19	—	1,013
21 and under 22	—	—	—	—	16	483	326	88	29	11	3	956
22 and under 23	—	—	—	—	3	336	385	118	24	16	4	886
23 and under 24	—	—	—	—	—	194	425	120	38	13	1	791
24 and under 25	—	—	—	—	—	104	453	137	29	15	3	741
25 and under 30	—	—	—	—	—	46	925	897	241	94	12	2,215
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	393	486	553	4	1,459
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	61
Total	83	2,911	8,496	10,754	9,560	7,941	5,764	3,237	1,633	1,659	428	52,466
WIFE												
Under 1	283	1,300	901	511	291	218	135	70	33	55	55	3,852
1 and under 2	139	1,510	1,231	603	362	208	108	68	35	35	45	4,344
2 and under 3	34	1,275	1,530	687	339	201	139	70	30	33	49	4,387
3 and under 4	11	814	1,466	658	355	177	102	53	27	25	27	3,715
4 and under 5	3	506	1,263	691	330	175	92	57	21	20	20	3,178
5 and under 6	1	225	1,224	717	324	152	75	40	27	23	24	2,832
6 and under 7	—	101	956	767	308	162	89	53	23	13	10	2,482
7 and under 8	—	50	789	767	318	158	78	48	18	20	14	2,260
8 and under 9	—	11	586	820	372	139	62	39	19	14	12	2,074
9 and under 10	—	—	365	850	376	158	82	36	24	16	10	1,917
10 and under 11	—	—	238	821	384	179	63	41	15	12	5	1,758
11 and under 12	—	—	115	761	368	162	78	30	18	12	5	1,549
12 and under 13	—	—	36	687	444	164	66	28	12	14	14	1,465
13 and under 14	—	—	9	618	525	194	94	26	18	14	7	1,505
14 and under 15	—	—	1	446	567	199	75	39	15	14	10	1,366
15 and under 16	—	—	—	238	559	230	93	24	13	12	9	1,178
16 and under 17	—	—	—	130	596	254	89	28	9	13	5	1,124
17 and under 18	—	—	—	53	640	308	108	24	20	13	10	1,176
18 and under 19	—	—	—	13	602	398	84	29	9	10	7	1,152
19 and under 20	—	—	—	2	440	422	113	25	8	12	8	1,030
20 and under 21	—	—	—	1	282	545	125	40	10	9	1	1,013
21 and under 22	—	—	—	—	153	597	159	24	10	6	7	956
22 and under 23	—	—	—	—	48	573	209	32	5	13	6	886
23 and under 24	—	—	—	—	10	462	260	41	9	7	2	791
24 and under 25	—	—	—	—	1	344	319	56	11	7	3	741
25 and under 30	—	—	—	—	—	255	1,309	511	83	39	18	2,215
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	3	150	534	424	339	9	1,459
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	61
Total	471	5,792	10,710	10,841	8,994	7,037	4,356	2,066	946	800	453	52,466

23 AGE OF PARTIES AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE

Duration of marriage (years)	Age group (years)										Total	
	24 and under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over		Not stated
HUSBAND												
1 and under 2	78	179	124	60	43	31	24	12	8	20	11	590
2 and under 3	276	895	563	333	209	124	97	63	33	53	43	2,689
3 and under 4	244	1,149	842	440	236	150	91	63	47	53	40	3,355
4 and under 5	130	1,094	976	486	274	175	89	69	40	54	28	3,415
5 and under 6	48	852	1,049	524	269	196	103	64	30	46	22	3,203
6 and under 7	11	672	1,095	618	315	187	113	57	25	52	25	3,170
7 and under 8	1	420	1,010	583	312	190	108	55	36	35	19	2,769
8 and under 9	—	237	891	628	293	184	113	62	25	38	17	2,488
9 and under 10	—	92	838	715	316	151	105	56	26	39	17	2,355
10 and under 11	—	36	649	695	342	211	106	54	30	35	10	2,168
11 and under 12	—	12	498	722	374	178	105	53	25	33	11	2,011
12 and under 13	—	1	373	718	396	216	92	40	28	27	10	1,901
13 and under 14	—	—	233	735	380	197	85	41	27	25	8	1,731
14 and under 15	—	—	115	750	458	233	99	44	27	32	8	1,766
15 and under 16	—	—	49	655	450	218	91	48	19	33	16	1,579
16 and under 17	—	—	15	519	473	209	86	42	35	26	8	1,413
17 and under 18	—	—	4	326	468	247	88	46	27	27	9	1,242
18 and under 19	—	—	—	225	510	220	99	42	24	19	8	1,147
19 and under 20	—	—	—	144	555	283	112	58	23	33	12	1,220
20 and under 21	—	—	—	52	597	334	93	40	22	21	4	1,163
21 and under 22	—	—	—	17	510	356	111	42	10	14	4	1,064
22 and under 23	—	—	—	5	426	440	124	47	20	16	4	1,082
23 and under 24	—	—	—	—	288	523	169	42	15	17	5	1,059
24 and under 25	—	—	—	—	132	632	185	47	12	21	3	1,032
25 and under 30	—	—	—	—	70	1,619	1,539	401	104	80	16	3,829
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	42	701	976	672	613	21	3,025
Total	788	5,639	9,324	9,950	8,696	7,546	4,728	2,564	1,390	1,462	379	52,466
WIFE												
1 and under 2	171	158	113	46	32	27	15	5	10	9	4	590
2 and under 3	653	921	442	247	168	97	55	37	19	23	27	2,689
3 and under 4	673	1,305	578	312	189	136	56	34	22	20	30	3,355
4 and under 5	419	1,479	700	316	210	139	62	35	11	17	27	3,415
5 and under 6	189	1,356	793	373	207	126	69	33	17	16	24	3,203
6 and under 7	111	1,204	905	429	218	116	84	42	15	17	29	3,170
7 and under 8	42	841	953	416	229	125	61	44	14	15	29	2,769
8 and under 9	12	593	931	489	208	109	67	27	17	13	22	2,488
9 and under 10	1	361	1,006	497	219	128	68	31	11	15	18	2,355
10 and under 11	—	201	915	537	260	131	52	30	16	13	13	2,168
11 and under 12	—	99	832	565	243	125	76	26	18	17	10	2,011
12 and under 13	—	36	729	626	283	104	58	28	15	7	15	1,901
13 and under 14	—	4	594	614	281	133	57	23	11	6	8	1,731
14 and under 15	—	1	423	762	296	153	63	20	19	16	13	1,766
15 and under 16	—	—	261	747	313	127	64	26	14	13	14	1,579
16 and under 17	—	—	126	704	328	158	40	24	12	12	9	1,413
17 and under 18	—	—	26	605	352	153	52	18	16	12	8	1,242
18 and under 19	—	—	8	509	383	145	62	14	9	9	8	1,147
19 and under 20	—	—	—	434	460	180	74	35	15	13	9	1,220
20 and under 21	—	—	1	278	589	205	50	15	8	10	7	1,163
21 and under 22	—	—	—	139	655	193	40	16	6	9	6	1,064
22 and under 23	—	—	—	80	651	230	68	26	8	13	6	1,082
23 and under 24	—	—	—	19	611	309	79	22	8	4	7	1,059
24 and under 25	—	—	—	3	435	462	93	12	11	9	7	1,032
25 and under 30	—	—	—	—	443	2,262	889	146	42	26	21	3,829
30 and over	—	—	—	—	2	234	1,093	803	488	373	32	3,025
Total	2,271	8,559	10,336	9,747	8,265	6,307	3,447	1,572	852	707	403	52,466

24 BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES

Country of birth	Husband born in country shown and wife born in				Wife born in country shown and husband born in			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA—								
Australia	29,369	—	5,536	34,905	29,369	—	6,983	36,352
Fiji	83	147	28	258	91	147	79	317
New Zealand	626	509	223	1,358	526	509	293	1,328
Other	97	56	48	201	102	56	60	218
<i>Total</i>	<i>30,175</i>	<i>712</i>	<i>5,835</i>	<i>36,722</i>	<i>30,088</i>	<i>712</i>	<i>7,415</i>	<i>38,215</i>
EUROPE AND FORMER USSR—								
Austria	52	18	36	106	26	18	18	62
Former USSR & Baltic States	28	111	19	158	21	111	37	169
Former Yugoslav Republics	209	318	124	651	64	318	60	442
Germany	282	102	170	554	247	102	129	478
Greece	155	157	71	383	55	157	36	248
Hungary	38	65	38	141	13	65	25	103
Ireland	126	66	67	259	71	66	57	194
Italy	303	192	116	611	116	192	87	395
Malta	97	49	43	189	51	49	34	134
Netherlands	241	54	101	396	191	54	72	317
Poland	34	178	48	260	26	178	38	242
United Kingdom	2,901	1,610	662	5,173	2,295	1,610	557	4,462
Other	274	238	216	728	177	238	183	598
<i>Total</i>	<i>4,740</i>	<i>3,158</i>	<i>1,711</i>	<i>9,609</i>	<i>3,353</i>	<i>3,158</i>	<i>1,333</i>	<i>7,844</i>
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA—								
Egypt	57	59	60	176	20	59	36	115
Lebanon	96	223	57	376	32	223	55	310
Turkey	54	100	22	176	16	100	17	133
Other	107	98	115	320	32	98	63	193
<i>Total</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>480</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>1,048</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>480</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>751</i>
SOUTHEAST ASIA—								
Indonesia	40	42	40	122	41	42	43	126
Malaysia	72	57	58	187	94	57	79	230
Philippines	29	195	22	246	299	195	201	695
Singapore	44	21	27	92	45	21	46	112
Thailand	10	19	12	41	81	19	65	165
Viet Nam	6	785	122	913	15	785	84	884
Other	14	130	39	183	15	130	42	187
<i>Total</i>	<i>215</i>	<i>1,249</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>1,784</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>1,249</i>	<i>560</i>	<i>2,399</i>
NORTHEAST ASIA—								
China	45	693	151	889	101	693	238	1,032
Hong Kong	28	93	80	201	29	93	69	191
Other	20	68	19	107	47	68	64	179
<i>Total</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>854</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>1,197</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>854</i>	<i>371</i>	<i>1,402</i>
SOUTHERN ASIA—								
India	105	116	82	303	49	116	51	216
Sri Lanka	41	62	23	126	17	62	15	94
Other	56	21	59	136	7	21	9	37
<i>Total</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>565</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>347</i>
THE AMERICAS—								
Canada	81	13	23	117	92	13	35	140
Chile	17	80	16	113	17	80	38	135
United States of America	166	28	60	254	129	28	57	214
Other	90	136	79	305	62	136	101	299
<i>Total</i>	<i>354</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>789</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>788</i>
AFRICA (Excluding North Africa)—								
South Africa	76	64	56	196	79	64	58	201
Other	106	161	97	364	64	161	90	315
<i>Total</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>560</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>516</i>
Other and not stated	77	84	31	192	81	84	39	204
Total	36,352	7,218	8,896	52,466	34,905	7,218	10,343	52,466

25 SUMMARY(a), SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

	Country of birth of husband															
	Australia	China	Germany	Greece	Hong Kong	Italy	India	Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	U.K. & Ireland	U.S.A.	Viet Nam	
Divorces granted	34,905	889	554	383	201	611	303	376	187	1,358	246	196	5,432	254	913	
Population '000(b)	6,984.3	50.1	58.4	73.8	48.3	137.2	43.3	43.8	46.1	152.7	33.6	31.6	608.3	34.0	75.1	
Divorce rate(c)	5.0	17.7	9.5	5.2	4.2	4.5	7.0	8.6	4.1	8.9	7.3	6.2	8.9	7.5	12.1	
<i>Wife born in country shown</i>																
<i>marrying wife born in—</i>																
Australia—	29,369	45	282	155	28	303	105	96	72	626	29	76	3,027	166	6	
Number	84.1	5.1	50.9	40.5	13.9	49.6	34.7	25.5	38.5	46.1	11.8	38.8	55.7	65.4	0.7	
Per cent																
Same overseas country—	..	693	102	157	93	192	116	223	57	509	195	64	1,754	28	785	
Number	..	78.0	18.4	41.0	46.3	31.4	38.3	59.3	30.5	37.5	79.3	32.7	32.3	11.0	86.0	
Per cent																
Other overseas countries—	5,536	151	170	71	80	116	82	57	58	223	22	56	651	60	122	
Number	15.9	17.0	30.7	18.5	39.8	19.0	27.1	15.2	31.0	16.4	8.9	28.6	12.0	23.6	13.4	
Per cent																
Median duration of marriage (years)	11.3	6.6	15.2	16.3	6.9	18.3	8.1	7.6	7.9	10.5	6.8	11.3	12.8	9.0	4.3	
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	7.8	3.9	12.2	12.3	4.7	15.0	5.1	4.8	4.6	7.0	3.6	8.4	9.4	5.8	2.4	
<i>Divorces involving children—</i>																
Number	19,877	369	255	195	71	300	133	209	89	701	116	112	2,696	134	294	
Percentage of total divorces	56.9	41.5	46.0	50.9	35.3	49.1	43.9	55.6	47.6	51.6	47.2	57.1	49.6	52.8	32.2	
Average issue	1.9	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.7	
<i>Applicant—</i>																
Husband	11,348	247	207	142	56	226	105	136	51	385	85	59	1,689	56	284	
Wife	16,440	270	239	194	71	292	124	170	74	637	120	77	2,332	138	412	
Joint	7,117	372	108	47	74	93	74	70	62	336	41	60	1,411	60	217	
<i>Median age (years)—</i>																
at marriage	25.2	28.6	28.1	26.4	27.5	26.7	28.1	25.5	27.8	26.6	26.9	26.9	26.4	28.3	27.1	
at final separation	36.3	34.9	44.5	41.9	36.0	44.5	37.1	32.9	34.7	36.9	34.8	40.5	39.7	37.8	31.9	
at decree made absolute	39.6	37.7	48.1	45.2	39.0	47.8	40.3	36.0	38.0	40.7	38.9	43.1	43.3	41.0	34.0	

See footnotes at end of table.

25 SUMMARY (a), SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND AND WIFE—continued

	Country of birth of wife														
	Australia	China	Germany	Greece	Hong Kong	Italy	India	Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	U.K. & Ireland	U.S.A.	Viet Nam
Divorces granted	36,352	1,032	478	248	191	395	216	310	230	1,328	695	201	4,656	214	884
Population '000(b)	7,095.8	53.2	60.4	70.8	49.7	121.6	40.4	39.6	50.0	144.8	61.1	32.5	599.3	28.9	74.8
Divorce rate(c)	5.1	19.4	7.9	3.5	3.8	3.2	5.3	7.8	4.6	9.2	11.4	6.2	7.8	7.4	11.8
<i>Wife born in country shown marrying husband born in—</i>															
Australia—															
Number	29,369	101	247	55	29	116	49	32	94	526	299	79	2,366	129	15
Per cent	80.8	9.8	51.7	22.2	15.2	29.4	22.7	10.3	40.9	39.6	43.0	39.3	50.8	60.3	1.7
Same overseas country—															
Number	..	693	102	157	93	192	116	223	57	509	195	64	1,754	28	785
Per cent	..	67.2	21.3	63.3	48.7	48.6	53.7	71.9	24.8	38.3	28.1	31.8	37.7	13.1	88.8
Other overseas countries															
Number	6,983	238	129	36	69	87	51	55	79	293	201	58	536	57	84
Per cent	19.2	23.1	27.0	14.5	36.1	22.0	23.6	17.7	34.3	22.1	28.9	28.9	11.5	26.6	9.5
Median duration of marriage (years)	11.3	5.5	14.6	19.2	8.4	18.4	9.7	8.1	9.1	11.1	7.9	12.0	13.4	9.8	4.2
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	7.8	3.4	11.3	14.5	5.4	14.8	7.0	5.6	6.8	7.5	4.7	8.3	9.8	6.4	2.3
<i>Divorces involving children—</i>															
Number	20,602	400	195	104	70	189	104	171	107	694	343	112	2,390	97	278
Percentage of total divorces	56.7	38.8	40.8	41.9	36.6	47.8	48.1	55.2	46.5	52.3	49.4	55.7	51.3	45.3	31.4
Average issue	1.9	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.6	2.3	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.7
<i>Applicant</i>															
Husband	11,641	251	154	114	50	169	74	125	66	464	296	56	1,370	73	285
Wife	17,248	346	197	108	80	176	82	137	89	557	272	84	2,101	79	395
Joint	7,463	435	127	26	61	50	60	48	75	307	127	61	1,185	62	204
<i>Median age (years)—</i>															
at marriage	22.8	26.8	25.7	22.9	24.8	22.4	25.0	21.2	25.3	23.9	26.4	24.0	23.8	26.3	24.0
at final separation	33.7	32.5	41.5	40.0	33.8	40.3	35.9	29.5	35.1	34.0	33.5	36.2	36.8	35.7	28.8
at decree made absolute	37.0	34.8	46.5	43.7	36.3	44.5	38.2	32.3	37.5	37.8	36.6	40.0	40.2	38.7	30.9

(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used. (b) Estimated resident population by country of birth, 1996 preliminary. (c) Per 1,000 male or female estimated resident population by country of birth, 1996 preliminary.

CHAPTER 4

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION — MARITAL STATUS

AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION

At 30 June 1996, the estimated resident population of Australia was 18.3 million.

MARITAL STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER)

The estimated resident population of Australia aged 15 years and over at 30 June 1996 was 14,407,100, which comprised 4,458,600 never married, 8,129,400 currently married, 877,100 widowed and 942,000 divorced people.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION(a)—at 30 June

	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
.....					
Males					
1976	29.6	65.7	2.6	2.1	100.0
1986	32.8	60.5	2.4	4.3	100.0
1996	34.6	57.0	2.5	6.0	100.0
Females					
1976	21.2	65.1	11.2	2.5	100.0
1986	24.7	59.6	10.5	5.2	100.0
1996	27.4	55.9	9.6	7.1	100.0
Persons					
1976	25.4	65.4	6.9	2.3	100.0
1986	28.7	60.0	6.5	4.7	100.0
1996	30.9	56.4	6.1	6.5	100.0

(a) Aged 15 years and over.

Never married

Since 1976 the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who were never married increased from 25% (2,602,900) to 29% (3,540,000) in 1986, to 31% (4,458,600) in 1996. For men the increase was most evident in the 25–29 years age group with a rise of 35 percentage points, from 27% to 61% between 1976 and 1996. For women over this period the rise was most evident in the 20–24 years age group where an increase of 41 percentage points was recorded (40% to 81%).

Currently married

The proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who were currently married declined from 65% in 1976 to 56% in 1996. This decline, which accompanies the increase in the never married population, is most apparent in the 25–29 years age group for men while for women the age group most affected was 20–24 years. The percentage declines were 35 points for men (falling from 72% to 36%) and 41 points for women (falling from 59% to 18%) between 1976 and 1996.

Widowed

Since 1976, there has been little change in the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who were widowed (6.9% to 6.1%). The proportion of widowed men decreased slightly from 2.6% in 1976 to 2.5% in 1996. The decrease for women was a little larger, falling from 11.2% in 1976 to 9.6% in 1996. Decreases were most noticeable in the older age groups offsetting the increases in the proportions currently married.

Divorced

Over the past 20 years, the number of divorced men has increased fourfold, from 104,700 to 423,500. This represented an increase from 2.1% of men aged 15 years and over in 1976 to 6.0% in 1996. The age groups, in 1996, with the highest percentage of divorced men were the 45–49 and 50–54 years age groups with 10.9% and 10.6%, respectively of their population being divorced.

As with men, the number of divorced women rose fourfold between 1976 and 1996, from 128,800 to 518,500. This represented an increase from 2.5% of women aged 15 years and over in 1976 to 7.1% in 1996. The age groups with the largest proportion of divorced women in 1996 were 45–49 and 50–54 years, with 13.2% and 12.5%, respectively.

When 1976 and 1996 are compared, the proportions of divorced men and women increased in all groups between 1976 and 1996, except the 15–19 and 20–24 years age group.

PEOPLE OVER 65

Some 12% of the population were aged 65 years and over in 1996, compared to 9% in 1976. For this group of people 88% of men and 89% of women were either married or widowed in 1996. Improvements in mortality over the past two decades have led to reductions in the proportions widowed and corresponding increases in the proportions married. The most significant change occurred in the older age groups. In the 85 years and over age group the percentage of widowed men declined by 15 percentage points. For women the largest decline was in the age group 75–84 years, with a decrease of 10 percentage points.

POPULATION AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER

	65–74 YEARS.....		75–84 YEARS.....		85 YEARS & OVER	
	Married	Widowed	Married	Widowed	Married	Widowed
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Males						
1976	78.3	11.0	63.0	27.1	40.5	50.9
1986	79.5	9.3	68.8	21.5	46.1	44.6
1996	78.9	7.9	70.3	19.1	52.7	36.0
Females						
1976	48.0	41.1	22.6	65.6	8.0	78.9
1986	53.8	36.7	28.4	61.1	10.1	78.4
1996	57.9	31.0	34.6	55.4	17.4	69.8

26 MARITAL STATUS, PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION

Age	Never married		Currently married		Widowed		Divorced		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
30 JUNE 1976										
—per cent—										
0-14	100.00	100.00	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.00	100.00
15-19	98.97	92.61	1.01	7.35	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03	100.00	100.00
20-24	67.45	40.23	32.13	58.55	0.04	0.17	0.38	1.06	100.00	100.00
25-29	26.52	13.03	71.50	83.77	0.10	0.38	1.88	2.83	100.00	100.00
30-34	13.57	6.94	83.60	88.82	0.18	0.73	2.65	3.52	100.00	100.00
35-39	10.02	5.05	86.90	89.82	0.33	1.42	2.75	3.71	100.00	100.00
40-44	9.19	4.46	87.24	89.06	0.64	2.70	2.93	3.78	100.00	100.00
45-49	9.30	4.54	86.37	86.81	1.18	4.87	3.15	3.78	100.00	100.00
50-54	8.57	4.79	85.94	82.66	2.13	8.94	3.36	3.61	100.00	100.00
55-59	8.14	5.43	85.40	76.16	3.28	15.01	3.17	3.39	100.00	100.00
60-64	8.14	6.46	83.55	66.50	5.52	24.11	2.80	2.92	100.00	100.00
65-69	8.27	8.09	80.39	54.06	8.93	35.46	2.42	2.38	100.00	100.00
70-74	8.54	9.71	75.35	40.11	14.13	48.44	1.98	1.73	100.00	100.00
75-79	8.83	10.37	66.73	26.68	22.91	61.69	1.52	1.26	100.00	100.00
80-84	8.01	11.26	55.54	16.00	35.40	71.91	1.05	0.84	100.00	100.00
85 and over	7.73	12.66	40.53	7.95	50.87	78.20	0.86	0.50	100.00	100.00
All ages	49.04	42.01	47.56	47.92	1.91	8.23	1.49	1.84	100.00	100.00
—(000)—										
All ages	3,448.8	2,941.3	3,344.4	3,354.9	134.3	576.1	104.7	128.8	7,032.0	7,001.0
30 JUNE 1986										
—per cent—										
0-14	100.00	100.00	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.00	100.00
15-19	99.50	97.62	0.50	2.30	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.04	100.00	100.00
20-24	83.74	64.37	15.89	34.55	0.05	0.14	0.32	0.94	100.00	100.00
25-29	45.36	27.76	52.12	67.71	0.10	0.33	2.42	4.20	100.00	100.00
30-34	22.05	12.65	72.45	79.43	0.17	0.61	5.33	7.31	100.00	100.00
35-39	12.37	7.01	80.49	83.13	0.27	1.06	6.88	8.80	100.00	100.00
40-44	9.04	5.10	83.10	83.53	0.45	1.97	7.41	9.39	100.00	100.00
45-49	7.93	4.43	83.93	83.07	0.79	3.64	7.34	8.86	100.00	100.00
50-54	8.00	4.13	83.54	81.18	1.49	6.78	6.96	7.90	100.00	100.00
55-59	8.34	4.31	82.72	76.74	2.64	12.15	6.31	6.80	100.00	100.00
60-64	7.80	4.65	82.08	69.52	4.67	20.20	5.45	5.62	100.00	100.00
65-69	7.25	5.25	80.99	59.67	7.35	30.65	4.42	4.43	100.00	100.00
70-74	7.08	6.27	77.67	46.98	11.68	43.56	3.57	3.19	100.00	100.00
75-79	7.15	7.80	72.05	33.32	18.12	56.51	2.68	2.37	100.00	100.00
80-84	7.57	9.39	62.27	20.48	28.12	68.51	2.04	1.62	100.00	100.00
85 and over	7.79	10.41	46.07	10.14	44.64	78.44	1.50	1.00	100.00	100.00
All ages	32.86	24.69	60.49	59.60	2.36	10.53	4.29	5.18	100.00	100.00
—(000)—										
All ages	3,901.9	3,337.6	3,692.5	3,704.3	144.1	654.3	261.7	322.0	8,000.2	8,018.2
30 JUNE 1996 (PRELIMINARY)										
—per cent—										
0-14	100.00	100.00	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.00	100.00
15-19	99.90	99.28	0.12	0.71	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
20-24	90.92	81.28	8.54	17.79	0.22	0.28	0.31	0.65	100.00	100.00
25-29	61.49	45.14	36.13	50.83	0.34	0.50	2.04	3.54	100.00	100.00
30-34	34.35	22.62	59.85	69.42	0.41	0.73	5.40	7.22	100.00	100.00
35-39	20.92	13.76	70.70	75.53	0.49	1.05	7.89	9.66	100.00	100.00
40-44	13.49	8.89	76.07	77.47	0.63	1.62	9.81	12.03	100.00	100.00
45-49	9.23	6.10	79.02	78.10	0.87	2.62	10.88	13.19	100.00	100.00
50-54	7.68	4.91	80.35	77.96	1.36	4.64	10.60	12.49	100.00	100.00
55-59	7.09	4.49	81.19	76.14	2.16	8.62	9.56	10.75	100.00	100.00
60-64	7.14	4.40	81.19	71.42	3.71	15.42	7.95	8.75	100.00	100.00
65-69	7.43	4.64	79.77	62.83	6.12	25.44	6.68	7.09	100.00	100.00
70-74	6.83	5.00	77.81	52.50	10.03	36.99	5.33	5.50	100.00	100.00
75-79	6.79	5.87	72.89	39.50	16.13	50.49	4.18	4.14	100.00	100.00
80-84	6.71	6.92	65.91	27.70	24.10	62.16	3.28	3.23	100.00	100.00
85 and over	7.90	9.38	52.66	17.36	35.99	69.78	3.45	3.48	100.00	100.00
All ages	34.63	27.35	56.96	55.91	2.45	9.63	5.95	7.11	100.00	100.00
—(000)—										
All ages	4,454.7	3,886.0	4,051.9	4,077.4	174.5	702.5	423.5	518.5	9,104.6	9,184.5

27 MARITAL STATUS, 30 JUNE 1996 (PRELIMINARY)

<i>Males</i>					
<i>Age</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Currently married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>14 and under</i>	1,990,865	—	—	—	1,990,865
15	133,130	16	—	3	133,149
16	129,293	20	5	4	129,322
17	130,272	32	7	3	130,314
18	130,769	134	4	4	130,911
19	132,488	601	14	5	133,108
<i>15-19</i>	655,952	803	30	19	656,804
20	131,619	3,549	244	198	135,610
21	132,963	5,989	290	282	139,524
22	133,432	9,657	298	329	143,716
23	130,778	16,547	345	542	148,212
24	127,759	25,950	401	909	155,019
<i>20-24</i>	656,551	61,692	1,578	2,260	722,081
25	117,793	35,884	403	1,393	155,473
26	99,642	44,336	518	2,063	146,559
27	84,869	52,465	483	2,928	140,745
28	73,300	59,686	545	3,722	137,253
29	64,494	66,234	480	4,498	135,706
<i>25-29</i>	440,098	258,605	2,429	14,604	715,736
30	58,709	72,429	588	5,545	137,271
31	52,598	78,612	594	6,640	138,444
32	49,445	87,523	568	7,871	145,407
33	44,490	92,662	570	8,875	146,597
34	40,736	97,366	606	9,715	148,423
<i>30-34</i>	245,978	428,592	2,926	38,646	716,142
35	38,743	102,899	704	10,750	153,096
36	33,435	103,061	643	11,035	148,174
37	28,812	101,193	724	11,478	142,207
38	26,232	102,279	742	11,675	140,928
39	24,034	101,810	740	12,134	138,718
<i>35-39</i>	151,256	511,242	3,553	57,072	723,123
40	22,270	104,422	724	12,483	139,899
41	19,300	101,274	785	12,958	134,317
42	17,722	100,892	843	13,172	132,629
43	16,255	101,199	875	13,372	131,701
44	14,743	101,251	970	13,692	130,656
<i>40-44</i>	90,290	509,038	4,197	63,677	669,202
45	14,330	104,695	1,036	14,225	134,286
46	12,640	101,539	1,038	14,077	129,294
47	11,827	102,866	1,230	14,395	130,318
48	11,064	103,796	1,195	14,268	130,323
49	10,615	104,730	1,209	14,301	130,855
<i>45-49</i>	60,476	517,626	5,708	71,266	655,076

27 MARITAL STATUS, 30 JUNE 1996 (PRELIMINARY)—continued

Age	Males				Total
	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced	
50	9,397	93,532	1,343	12,745	117,017
51	8,550	88,631	1,332	11,576	110,089
52	8,079	84,740	1,433	11,134	105,386
53	7,256	75,321	1,472	10,002	94,051
54	6,746	76,394	1,498	9,787	94,425
50-54	40,028	418,618	7,078	55,244	520,968
55	6,751	74,197	1,673	9,371	91,992
56	6,099	70,371	1,605	8,535	86,610
57	6,058	69,269	1,799	8,166	85,292
58	5,604	66,472	1,951	7,481	81,508
59	5,547	63,764	2,116	6,950	78,377
55-59	30,059	344,073	9,144	40,503	423,779
60	5,228	61,741	2,150	6,419	75,538
61	4,995	57,513	2,306	5,772	70,586
62	5,105	56,441	2,618	5,587	69,751
63	4,802	54,613	2,826	5,062	67,303
64	4,913	54,392	3,114	5,041	67,460
60-64	25,043	284,700	13,014	27,881	350,638
65	5,445	56,108	3,527	4,980	70,060
66	5,027	54,941	3,769	4,703	68,440
67	5,028	54,083	4,088	4,626	67,825
68	4,895	52,511	4,376	4,295	66,077
69	4,600	50,660	4,835	3,858	63,953
65-69	24,995	268,303	20,595	22,462	336,355
70	4,500	49,740	5,152	3,672	63,064
71	4,002	44,846	5,336	3,258	57,442
72	3,748	43,683	5,644	2,909	55,984
73	3,410	39,406	5,681	2,549	51,046
74	3,256	37,676	5,942	2,363	49,237
70-74	18,916	215,351	27,755	14,751	276,773
75	3,174	34,954	6,031	2,146	46,305
76	2,692	30,576	5,877	1,728	40,873
77	2,312	23,979	5,628	1,370	33,289
78	2,011	21,455	5,687	1,218	30,371
79	2,018	19,998	5,753	1,055	28,824
75-79	12,207	130,962	28,976	7,517	179,662
80	1,848	18,424	5,806	888	26,966
81	1,589	16,607	5,599	801	24,596
82	1,444	14,299	5,242	713	21,698
83	1,190	11,677	4,789	599	18,255
84	1,104	9,448	4,331	505	15,388
80-84	7,175	70,455	25,767	3,506	106,903
85 and over	4,779	31,877	21,786	2,087	60,529
All ages	4,454,668	4,051,937	174,536	423,495	9,104,636

27 MARITAL STATUS, 30 JUNE 1996 (PRELIMINARY)—continued

<i>Females</i>					
<i>Age</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Currently married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>14 and under</i>	1,891,192	—	—	—	1,891,192
15	125,440	7	1	—	125,448
16	121,831	32	2	—	121,865
17	123,254	153	5	—	123,412
18	123,167	1,128	4	5	124,304
19	123,386	3,080	30	17	126,513
<i>15-19</i>	617,078	4,400	42	22	621,542
20	121,195	8,206	270	222	129,893
21	120,034	13,995	343	391	134,763
22	115,241	21,694	354	670	137,959
23	107,201	33,297	472	1,172	142,142
24	100,644	46,312	518	2,042	149,516
<i>20-24</i>	564,315	123,504	1,957	4,497	694,273
25	89,900	58,911	545	2,911	152,267
26	73,593	66,199	676	4,051	144,519
27	61,021	73,638	720	5,041	140,420
28	51,313	78,686	789	6,049	136,837
29	44,534	83,317	797	7,055	135,703
<i>25-29</i>	320,361	360,751	3,527	25,107	709,746
30	39,574	89,286	896	8,128	137,884
31	35,247	94,630	989	9,294	140,160
32	32,270	101,896	1,056	10,561	145,783
33	29,105	105,771	1,167	11,675	147,718
34	26,785	108,565	1,171	12,387	148,908
<i>30-34</i>	162,981	500,148	5,279	52,045	720,453
35	25,163	114,534	1,365	13,086	154,148
36	21,711	111,111	1,380	13,826	148,028
37	19,624	108,336	1,477	14,023	143,460
38	17,592	108,957	1,676	14,306	142,531
39	16,007	106,554	1,775	15,052	139,388
<i>35-39</i>	100,097	549,492	7,673	70,293	727,555
40	14,599	108,004	1,893	15,702	140,198
41	13,059	105,240	1,932	15,681	135,912
42	11,768	104,011	2,129	16,325	134,233
43	10,711	102,686	2,333	16,563	132,293
44	9,592	100,768	2,624	16,562	129,546
<i>40-44</i>	59,729	520,709	10,911	80,833	672,182
45	9,046	105,077	2,883	17,282	134,288
46	8,360	98,656	3,103	16,898	127,017
47	7,717	99,273	3,364	16,898	127,252
48	7,270	98,454	3,629	16,760	126,113
49	6,677	99,127	3,827	16,684	126,315
<i>45-49</i>	39,070	500,587	16,806	84,522	640,985

27 MARITAL STATUS, 30 JUNE 1996 (PRELIMINARY)—continued

Age	Females				Total
	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced	
50	5,808	88,913	4,132	14,442	113,295
51	5,177	83,427	4,255	13,685	106,544
52	5,134	78,379	4,655	12,684	100,852
53	4,417	69,729	4,876	10,934	89,956
54	4,057	69,737	5,281	10,777	89,852
50-54	24,593	390,185	23,199	62,522	500,499
55	4,042	68,317	5,987	10,345	88,691
56	3,730	62,949	6,320	9,035	82,034
57	3,884	62,333	6,977	8,767	81,961
58	3,338	60,129	7,603	8,321	79,391
59	3,385	57,913	8,388	7,545	77,231
55-59	18,379	311,641	35,275	44,013	409,308
60	3,137	55,933	9,186	7,096	75,352
61	3,066	51,578	9,784	6,536	70,964
62	3,264	49,552	10,632	5,903	69,351
63	2,943	47,292	11,744	5,675	67,654
64	3,069	46,720	12,856	5,559	68,204
60-64	15,479	251,075	54,202	30,769	351,525
65	3,618	49,371	15,589	5,699	74,277
66	3,249	44,784	16,400	5,339	69,772
67	3,269	44,688	17,966	4,879	70,802
68	3,152	43,604	19,589	4,812	71,157
69	3,181	40,609	20,770	4,427	68,987
65-69	16,469	223,056	90,314	25,156	354,995
70	3,444	40,389	22,768	4,367	70,968
71	3,325	36,033	23,124	3,833	66,315
72	3,251	34,059	24,420	3,545	65,275
73	3,153	31,070	24,480	3,196	61,899
74	3,127	29,423	25,693	2,982	61,225
70-74	16,300	170,974	120,485	17,923	325,682
75	3,393	28,162	26,856	2,920	61,331
76	2,825	22,275	25,509	2,277	52,886
77	2,802	17,548	23,904	1,861	46,115
78	2,718	15,364	24,112	1,667	43,861
79	2,748	14,134	24,239	1,501	42,622
75-79	14,486	97,483	124,620	10,226	246,815
80	2,734	13,042	24,509	1,403	41,688
81	2,708	11,577	23,660	1,269	39,214
82	2,456	9,907	22,785	1,217	36,365
83	2,219	7,935	20,445	971	31,570
84	2,113	6,514	18,524	848	27,999
80-84	12,230	48,975	109,923	5,708	176,836
85 and over	13,220	24,463	98,330	4,905	140,918
All ages	3,885,979	4,077,443	702,543	518,541	9,184,506

27 MARITAL STATUS, 30 JUNE 1996 (PRELIMINARY)—continued

Age	Persons				
	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
14 and under	3,882,057	—	—	—	3,882,057
15	258,570	23	1	3	258,597
16	251,124	52	7	4	251,187
17	253,526	185	12	3	253,726
18	253,936	1,262	8	9	255,215
19	255,874	3,681	44	22	259,621
15-19	1,273,030	5,203	72	41	1,278,346
20	252,814	11,755	514	420	265,503
21	252,997	19,984	633	673	274,287
22	248,673	31,351	652	999	281,675
23	237,979	49,844	817	1,714	290,354
24	228,403	72,262	919	2,951	304,535
20-24	1,220,866	185,196	3,535	6,757	1,416,354
25	207,693	94,795	948	4,304	307,740
26	173,235	110,535	1,194	6,114	291,078
27	145,890	126,103	1,203	7,969	281,165
28	124,613	138,372	1,334	9,771	274,090
29	109,028	149,551	1,277	11,553	271,409
25-29	760,459	619,356	5,956	39,711	1,425,482
30	98,283	161,715	1,484	13,673	275,155
31	87,845	173,242	1,583	15,934	278,604
32	81,715	189,419	1,624	18,432	291,190
33	73,595	198,433	1,737	20,550	294,315
34	67,521	205,931	1,777	22,102	297,331
30-34	408,959	928,740	8,205	90,691	1,436,595
35	63,906	217,433	2,069	23,836	307,244
36	55,146	214,172	2,023	24,861	296,202
37	48,436	209,529	2,201	25,501	285,667
38	43,824	211,236	2,418	25,981	283,459
39	40,041	208,364	2,515	27,186	278,106
35-39	251,353	1,060,734	11,226	127,365	1,450,678
40	36,869	212,426	2,617	28,185	280,097
41	32,359	206,514	2,717	28,639	270,229
42	29,490	204,903	2,972	29,497	266,862
43	26,966	203,885	3,208	29,935	263,994
44	24,335	202,019	3,594	30,254	260,202
40-44	150,019	1,029,747	15,108	146,510	1,341,384
45	23,376	209,772	3,919	31,507	268,574
46	21,000	200,195	4,141	30,975	256,311
47	19,544	202,139	4,594	31,293	257,570
48	18,334	202,250	4,824	31,028	256,436
49	17,292	203,857	5,036	30,985	257,170
45-49	99,546	1,018,213	22,514	155,788	1,296,061

27 MARITAL STATUS, 30 JUNE 1996 (PRELIMINARY)—*continued*

Age	Persons				
	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
50	15,205	182,445	5,475	27,187	230,312
51	13,727	172,058	5,587	25,261	216,633
52	13,213	163,119	6,088	23,818	206,238
53	11,673	145,050	6,348	20,936	184,007
54	10,803	146,131	6,779	20,564	184,277
50-54	64,621	808,803	30,277	117,766	1,021,467
55	10,793	142,514	7,660	19,716	180,683
56	9,829	133,320	7,925	17,570	168,644
57	9,942	131,602	8,776	16,933	167,253
58	8,942	126,601	9,554	15,802	160,899
59	8,932	121,677	10,504	14,495	155,608
55-59	48,438	655,714	44,419	84,516	833,087
60	8,365	117,674	11,336	13,515	150,890
61	8,061	109,091	12,090	12,308	141,550
62	8,369	105,993	13,250	11,490	139,102
63	7,745	101,905	14,570	10,737	134,957
64	7,982	101,112	15,970	10,600	135,664
60-64	40,522	535,775	67,216	58,650	702,163
65	9,063	105,479	19,116	10,679	144,337
66	8,276	99,725	20,169	10,042	138,212
67	8,297	98,771	22,054	9,505	138,627
68	8,047	96,115	23,965	9,107	137,234
69	7,781	91,269	25,605	8,285	132,940
65-69	41,464	491,359	110,909	47,618	691,350
70	7,944	90,129	27,920	8,039	134,032
71	7,327	80,879	28,460	7,091	123,757
72	6,999	77,742	30,064	6,454	121,259
73	6,563	70,476	30,161	5,745	112,945
74	6,383	67,099	31,635	5,345	110,462
70-74	35,216	386,325	148,240	32,674	602,455
75	6,567	63,116	32,887	5,066	107,636
76	5,517	52,851	31,386	4,005	93,759
77	5,114	41,527	29,532	3,231	79,404
78	4,729	36,819	29,799	2,885	74,232
79	4,766	34,132	29,992	2,556	71,446
75-79	26,693	228,445	153,596	17,743	426,477
80	4,582	31,466	30,315	2,291	68,654
81	4,297	28,184	29,259	2,070	63,810
82	3,900	24,206	28,027	1,930	58,063
83	3,409	19,612	25,234	1,570	49,825
84	3,217	15,962	22,855	1,353	43,387
80-84	19,405	119,430	135,690	9,214	283,739
85 and over	17,999	56,340	120,116	6,992	201,447
All ages	8,340,647	8,129,380	877,079	942,036	18,289,142

SPECIAL ARTICLE — Age at first marriage

The following article has been taken from *Australian Social Trends, 1997*
(Cat. no. 4102.0).

Age at first marriage

FAMILY FORMATION

Since 1974 the median age at first marriage of bridegrooms and brides has increased by four years. An increasing proportion of first marriages involve women marrying younger men.

Traditionally, registered marriage has been the path chosen by couples wishing to form a recognised partnership. The ages at which they commonly first marry have not remained static over the last half century. In the 30 years following the second world war, there was a steady decline in the age at which people first married. This trend was reversed from 1974.

Not only have young couples been entering marriage at later ages over the last 20 years, but the diversity of ages at which men and women first marry has widened. In addition, the proportion of first marriages which involve women marrying younger men increased from 11% in 1974 to 20% in 1995.

As well as changes in the timing of first marriage, there have been changes to the institution itself. There has been a shift away from traditional church weddings to alternative locations and ceremonies (see *Australian Social Trends 1994*, Religion and marriage, pp. 186–189). Even the marriage vows themselves have been modified by many couples. There has also been an increase in de facto partnering (see *Australian Social Trends 1995*, Trends in de facto partnering, pp. 38–40).

Changes similar to those that have occurred in Australia have also occurred in many other developed countries that have undergone similar social and economic changes¹.

First marriage

Median age and age distribution of bridegrooms and brides are based on age at first marriage for the individuals. Some of these marriages would have been to a partner who was marrying for the second time. Data examining the age difference between brides and bridegrooms are based on marriages in which both partners were marrying for the first time.

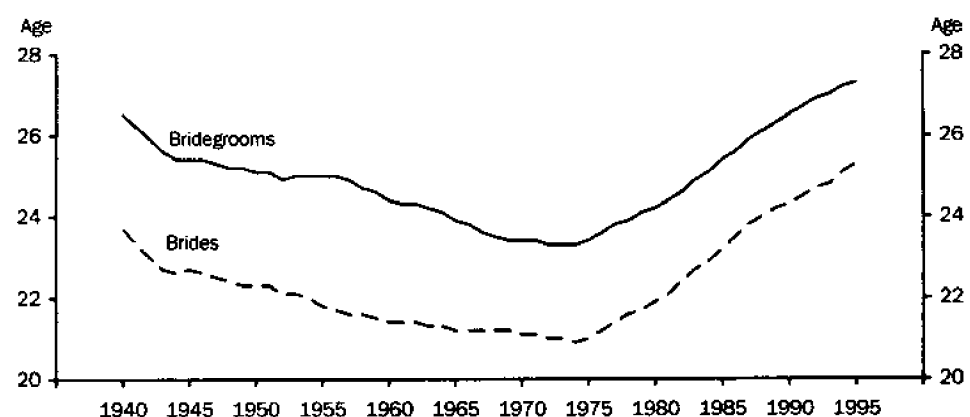
Changes over time

Marriage registration data shows that the median age at first marriage declined through the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, and then increased again through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

In 1940 the median age at first marriage was 26.5 for bridegrooms and 23.7 for brides. By 1974 this had fallen to 23.3 for bridegrooms and 20.9 for brides. This pattern of steady decline reflected the many changes in Australian society that occurred through the post-war years.

During World War II there was a short boom in marriage rates (see *Australian Social Trends 1995*, Trends in marriage and divorce, pp. 33–37). These additional marriages usually occurred at a younger age than was common at the time: a phenomenon assumed at the time to be a temporary change in marriage patterns².

Median age of bridegrooms and brides at first marriage



Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (Cat. no. 3310.0 and unpublished data).

FAMILY FORMATION

During the post-war period of the late 1940s and 1950s there was a climate of reconstruction and a return to a 'normal' way of life in Australia, as in other countries affected by the war. This extended to family formation, and couples tended to marry and start families at an early age.

The post-war boom in the Australian economy also meant that couples could afford to marry early. Good employment prospects for men provided economic security and reduced the need to delay marriage until a couple could afford to become established².

Increasing levels of control over fertility with the introduction of the birth control pill in 1961 helped to provide young people with more lifestyle choices. The age of marriage continued to decline through the 1960s and early 1970s.

Meanwhile, foundations were being laid for a reassessment of traditional roles, leading to extensive social change. The rising strength of the women's movement meant that increasing numbers of young women were participating in post-compulsory education and work, options that had not been available to their mothers. The extra time it took to achieve these goals was probably a major factor leading to the postponement of marriage. Other factors influencing the rise in age at first marriage during the late 1970s included the increased availability of abortion and rising unemployment levels³.

The decline in age at first marriage was finally arrested in 1974. The median age of first marriage of bridegrooms and brides started to

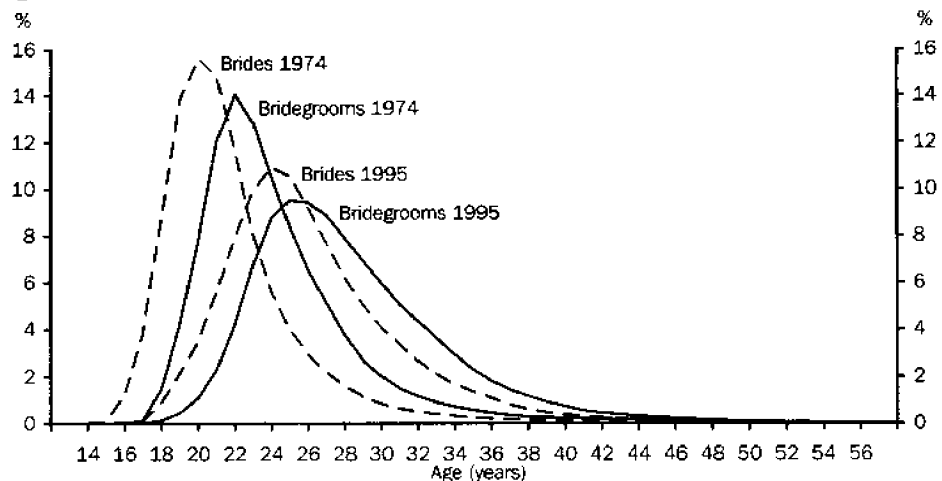
increase and has continued to increase steadily to 27.3 for bridegrooms and 25.3 for brides in 1995.

As well as postponing marriage, couples were reappraising the importance and relevance of marriage during the 1970s. This resulted from the reduced influence of religion on young Australians, rising divorce rates that undermined the idealism of marriage, and the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s that helped to separate sexuality from marriage⁴. In more recent years, the number of couples who chose to postpone or reject the tradition of marriage in favour of a de facto relationship has risen. By 1992, more than half (56%) of all couples who married in that year had cohabited before their current marriage, compared to 16% in 1975⁵.

The degree to which de facto partnering has influenced the change in age at first marriage is difficult to determine. It has been suggested that around half of the retreat from formal marriage since the mid 1980s might be attributed to de facto partnering. However, it is not simply the case that people were marrying later because they were cohabiting as an alternative to marriage: people were also avoiding unions of either type more than they previously had done⁶.

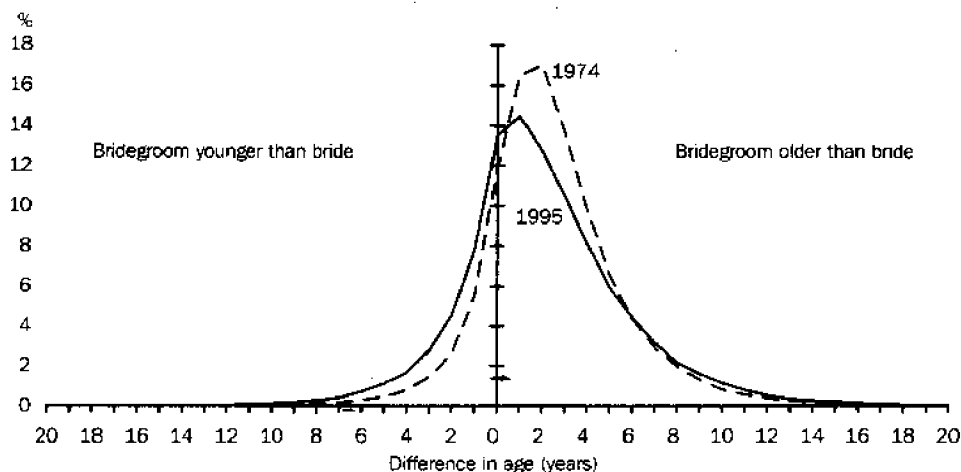
Marriage registrations no longer reliably reflect the partnering patterns of couples. Neither is there a regular and detailed source of information on the formation of de facto partnerships to augment marriage registration information.

Age distribution of bridegrooms and brides at first marriage, 1974 and 1995



Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (Cat. no. 3310.0); and *Marriages, Australia* (Cat. no. 3306.0).

Distribution of the difference in age between couples at first marriage(a), 1974 and 1995



(a) Based on couples in which both bridegroom and bride were marrying for the first time.

Source: Marriages and Divorces (unpublished data).

Age distribution

As well as the increase in the age at first marriage over the last 20 years or so, there has also been a widening of the range of ages of bridegrooms and brides at first marriage.

In 1974, 35% of bridegrooms and 39% of brides marrying for the first time were aged within one year of their medians. By 1995 each of these proportions had fallen by 10 percentage points.

Age differences

Men generally marry younger women. However, the proportion of first marriages in which the man was younger has increased between 1974 and 1995. This may have been a further effect of the relaxation of pressures to conform to previous patterns.

In 1995, about two thirds of first marriages involved a bridegroom marrying a younger bride, and in 14% they were the same age. For the remaining 20% of first marriages, the bride was older. By comparison, in 1974 only 11% of first marriages involved a bridegroom marrying an older bride.

However, the age gap between bridegroom and bride was generally smaller when the bridegroom was younger than the bride. In 1995, 15% of first marriages where the bridegroom was younger than the bride involved an age difference greater than four years. In comparison, 31% of first marriages in which the bridegroom was older than the bride involved an age difference greater than four years.

Endnotes

- 1 Carmichael, G. 'Consensual partnering in the more developed countries', *Journal of the Australian Population Association*, Volume 12, No. 1, May 1995.
- 2 Carmichael, G. 1988. *With This Ring: First Marriage Patterns, Trends and Prospects in Australia*, Department of Demography, Australian National University and The Australian Institute of Family Studies, Canberra.
- 3 Australian Bureau of Statistics 1994, *Focus on Families: Demographics and Family Formation*, Cat. no. 4420.0, ABS, Canberra.
- 4 Carmichael, G. 'A cohort analysis of marriage and informal cohabitation among Australian men', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology*, Volume 27, No. 1, March 1990.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

- 1** This publication brings together statistics and indicators for marriages and divorces registered in Australia. It also provides details of the marital status of the estimated resident population of Australia.
- 2** A Glossary is provided at the end of the publication detailing definitions of terminology used.
- 3** In this publication detailed statistics are provided for Australia and summary figures are given for States and Territories.

MARRIAGES

- 4** The *Australian Marriage Act 1961* came into full operation on 1 September 1961.
- 5** Under the Act, marriages may be celebrated by a minister of religion registered as an authorised celebrant, by a district registrar or by other persons authorised by the Attorney-General. Notice of the intended marriage must be given to the celebrant at least one calendar month but within six calendar months before the marriage. A celebrant must transmit an official certificate of the marriage for registration to a district registrar in the State or Territory in which the marriage took place.
- 6** From 20 June 1973, the minimum age at which a person may marry without parental consent was reduced from 21 to 18 years. Further amendment to the Marriage Act in 1991 designated the minimum age at which persons are legally free to marry to be 18 years. Persons between the age of 16 and 18 years may marry with parental or guardian consent and an order from a judge or magistrate. Any two persons under the age of 18 years may not marry each other.

Resumption of full processing

- 7** In 1996, ABS resumed full processing of marriage data. In 1995, due to budgetary considerations, ABS processed only limited data on marriages registered in that year. The data items processed in 1995 were, State or Territory of registration, date of marriage, age of parties at marriage and previous marital status of parties.

Statistics

- 8** In the main, marriage statistics in this publication refer to marriages registered by the registrar in each State and Territory during the year shown. There is usually an interval between the celebration and the registration of a marriage. As a result of the delay in registration some marriages celebrated in one year are not registered until the following year.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE SAME YEAR AS THEY OCCURRED

Year	%	Year	%
1985	91.7	1991	93.9
1986	93.5	1992	94.7
1987	96.3	1993	96.1
1988	97.7	1994	97.5
1989	96.0	1995	96.9
1990	94.7	1996	96.4

9 In 1984, there were abnormal delays in the registrations of New South Wales marriages. These and subsequent delays in 1985 had been made up by 1986. The number of actual registrations and registrations adjusted for these delays and their effects on crude marriage rates for New South Wales and Australia are given in the following table.

	Actual registrations	Actual crude marriage rates	Adjusted number of registrations	Adjusted crude marriage rates
1984				
New South Wales	33 938	6.3	39 768	7.4
Australia	108 655	7.0	114 485	7.4
1985				
New South Wales	41 183	7.5	39 441	7.2
Australia	115 493	7.3	113 751	7.2
1986				
New South Wales	41 319	7.5	37 231	6.7
Australia	114 913	7.2	110 825	6.9

DIVORCES

10 The *Family Law Act 1975* came into operation throughout Australia on 5 January 1976, repealing the Matrimonial Causes legislation which had been operative since 1961. Under Family Law legislation the irremediable breakdown of marriage is the only ground on which a divorce is granted. This ground is established by the husband and wife having lived apart for 12 months or more and there being no reasonable likelihood of reconciliation. Applications for nullity of marriage under Family Law legislation must be on the ground that the marriage is void because of failure to meet a legal requirement such as that neither party be already lawfully married to another person. There is no provision for judicial separation under Family Law legislation.

11 Successful applicants for a divorce under Family Law legislation are initially granted a decree nisi. This becomes absolute after one month unless it is rescinded, appealed against, or the Court has not declared its satisfaction as to proper arrangements having been made for the welfare of children involved.

12 At the time of the introduction of the Family Law Act there were applications pending for divorce which had been previously filed under the Matrimonial Causes legislation. Family Law legislation provided that these cases could be continued under the superseded legislation or transferred and heard under the Family Law legislation. The ABS publication *Divorces, Australia, 1976* (Cat. no. 3307.0) differentiated between those cases in which a divorce was granted under Matrimonial Causes legislation and those cases in which a divorce was granted under Family Law legislation. Such differentiation is not made for subsequent years.

Resumption of full processing

13 In 1996, ABS resumed full processing of available divorce data. In 1995, ABS had undertaken reduced processing because of a decision taken by the Family Court and budgetary considerations.

14 The Family Court of Australia introduced new divorce application forms in February 1995. With the introduction of these forms some data items that had been collected ceased to be available. The data items that are no longer available are:

- characteristics of the divorce
 - ◆ postcode and State of separation
 - ◆ rite of marriage
 - ◆ number of children aged over 18 years
- characteristics of the husband and wife
 - ◆ previous marital status
 - ◆ number of previous marriages
 - ◆ occupation at separation
 - ◆ date of first arrival in Australia
 - ◆ duration of residence

15 In light of the Family Court decision and budgetary considerations, ABS processed only limited data on divorces granted in 1995. The data items processed were: State or Territory of registration; date of birth of parties; age of parties at marriage, separation and divorce; duration of marriage until separation and divorce and sex of applicant.

Statistics

16 The divorce statistics shown in this publication relate to calendar years and are compiled by the ABS from information supplied by Family Court Registries in respect of each application which resulted in a decree absolute being granted. The Family Court, since 1988, has progressively introduced a computer system for capturing divorce data. In 1996, the final registry, Darwin, was included in the system. Data for finalised divorces are sent on tape to the ABS, on a monthly basis.

17 In the interpretation of data it is important to bear in mind that the availability of judges and the complexity of the cases brought before them can affect the number of decrees made absolute or granted in any one year. A rise in numbers in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier period. In addition, legislative changes and the expectation of new legislation, rules and practices may affect the number of applications.

.....

DIVORCES APPLIED FOR AND GRANTED DURING THE YEAR SHOWN

.....

Year	%	Year	%
1985	72.7	1991	74.0
1986	74.7	1992	73.9
1987	73.0	1993	73.1
1988	71.6	1994	74.1
1989	71.9	1995	74.8
1990	73.1	1996	72.7

.....

Finalisation of 1994 Victorian children data

18 In 1994, it was found that the number of children involved in divorce was understated for Victoria. This necessitated the suppression of this data for that State and Australia. The Victorian Registry and ABS investigated the shortage and finalised children data for 1994 are shown in this issue. Children data for 1995, for all States and Territories, were not processed due to budgetary considerations.

Revision of Northern Territory data

19 As a result of the notification of additional divorces granted by the Family Court in Darwin revisions have been made to divorce data for the Northern Territory for the years 1994 and 1995. Where necessary, data for Australia have also been revised. Usual residence data for 1994 (see Appendix A) have been revised for all States and Territories.

State or Territory of usual residence

20 Details of divorce on a State or Territory of usual residence at separation basis are considered to be a more accurate reflection of divorce for States and Territories in Australia than are those provided on a State or Territory of registration basis. These details are however only available for 1993 and 1994. The State classification used in Appendix A of this publication relates to State or Territory of usual residence at the time of separation. This takes account of some Family Courts having responsibility for hearing divorce cases relating to other States or Territories. The Family Courts most affected are Brisbane and the Australian Capital Territory. The Brisbane Family Court hears divorce cases from areas surrounding Lismore and Coffs Harbour in New South Wales, while the Australian Capital Territory Family Court hears cases from much of south-eastern New South Wales and part of Victoria. Another factor influencing the difference between State or Territory of usual residence and State or Territory of registration is that many applications are lodged at the nearest Family Court rather than the court in their State or Territory of usual residence at separation.

21 Divorces of persons usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory cannot be identified separately from those divorces of persons usually resident in the area covered by the Jervis Bay postcode. Hence divorces of persons usually resident in Jervis Bay Territory have been included in New South Wales.

State or Territory of registration

22 The State classification used in tables 16, 17 and 18 of this publication relates to State of registration which is based on the location of the Family Court where the divorce is granted and registered. These figures can give a biased view of divorces in States and Territories, as explained in the preceding paragraphs. Due to the large number of divorces granted in the Australian Capital Territory to usual residents of another State, the rates for the Australian Capital Territory are not representative of the Australian Capital Territory population.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

23 This publication contains preliminary estimates of the resident population of Australia by marital status, age and sex at 30 June 1996, based on the 1991 Census of Population and Housing. These estimates are preliminary and will be revised when more accurate data for deaths, marriages, divorces and category jumping by marital status become available.

24 The estimated resident population is the official population estimates series compiled according to the place of usual residence of the population.

25 An explanation of the conceptual basis for population estimates is contained in *Information Paper: Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 3228.0).

Method of estimation

26 The estimates at 30 June 1996 were obtained by advancing 30 June 1995 estimates to the next age and adjusting for natural increase and estimated net overseas migration by marital status, age and sex which were recorded in the financial year 1995-96. Adjustments are also made to account for changes in marital status during the financial year due to marriages, divorces and deaths of spouses.

27 Persons aged 14 years and under are automatically classified as never married.

Reliability of estimates

28 Single year age estimates are not shown for persons aged 85 years or older. Estimates for each age up to 99 have, however, been calculated and are available on request.

29 Some of the estimates have been rounded and the sums of components may not add to totals.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Reliability of estimates

30 Statistics are shown in units without being rounded. However, accuracy down to the last unit is not claimed and should not be assumed. This is particularly the case for single year of age data.

States and Territories

31 As a result of an amendment, made in 1992, to the Acts Interpretation Act the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands have been included as part of geographic Australia, hence another category of the State and Territory classification has been created. This category, known as Other Territories, includes Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Jervis Bay Territory (see also paragraph 21).

Country of birth

32 The classification of countries in this publication is the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS). For more detailed information refer to the ABS publication *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS)* (Cat. no. 1269.0).

33 Political developments in Europe and the former USSR and Africa have resulted in a number of changes to the ASCSS. These changes have affected some of the categories in this publication and are detailed in Revisions 1.01, 1.02 and 1.03 of the ASCSS.

Related publications

34 Other ABS publications which may be of interest are:

Australia's Families—Selected Findings from the Survey of Families in Australia 1992 (Cat. no. 4418.0) — issued 1993

Australian Social Trends (Cat. no. 4102.0) — issued annually

Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly

Divorces, Australia (Cat. no. 3307.0) — issued annually to 1993

Estimated Resident Population by Marital Status, Age and Sex Australia (Cat. no. 3220.0) — issued annually to 1993

Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia (Cat. no. 3201.0) — issued annually

Marriages, Australia (Cat. no. 3306.0) — issued annually to 1993

Information Paper: Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods (Cat. no. 3228.0)

35 A compendium of demographic data for each State and Territory is released annually in State and Territory specific publications, *Demography* (Cat. nos 3311.1–8). Should users require detailed State and Territory data on marriages, divorces or estimated resident population prior to the release of these compendia please contact Information Services (see back cover for details).

36 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. Both are available from any ABS office.

37 For more information about related unpublished statistics or data concepts, contact Anne Ward on Canberra (06) 252 6296.

Additional statistics available

38 In most cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. Appendix C lists characteristics processed by the ABS for marriages registered, divorces granted and estimated resident population. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, floppy disk, computer printout, or clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information.

APPENDIX A DIVORCES, USUAL RESIDENCE DATA

A1 SUMMARY(a). STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE AT SEPARATION, 1993

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Other(b)	Aust.
NUMBER										
Divorces granted	16,362	10,937	8,501	3,941	4,621	1,425	419	887	1,270	48,363
Crude divorce rate	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.5	3.0	..	2.7
Median duration of marriage (years)	10.3	10.6	11.0	11.3	11.5	11.1	10.8	11.1	10.1	10.7
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	7.1	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.1	8.3	7.3	8.2	5.1	7.6
<i>Divorces involving children</i>										
Number	8,284	5,872	4,724	1,948	2,475	879	248	504	527	25,461
Percentage of total divorces	50.6	53.7	55.6	49.4	53.6	61.7	59.2	56.8	41.5	52.6
Average issue	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.9
<i>Applicant</i>										
Husband	5,853	4,086	3,151	1,329	1,265	478	126	276	534	17,098
Wife	8,093	5,151	4,439	2,064	1,869	804	203	402	605	23,630
Joint	2,416	1,700	911	548	1,487	143	90	209	131	7,635
HUSBAND										
<i>Age-specific divorce rates—</i>										
<i>Age group (years)—</i>										
24 and under	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.4	0.6	0.7	..	1.0
25-29	8.7	7.9	8.3	8.2	7.4	10.2	5.1	8.4	..	8.5
30-34	13.0	12.5	12.7	12.7	12.5	14.8	9.3	13.6	..	13.1
35-39	13.2	11.6	12.8	13.4	12.9	16.3	11.3	13.1	..	13.2
40-44	12.5	11.7	12.9	12.4	12.5	15.3	12.4	13.0	..	12.8
45-49	10.7	9.4	11.3	11.0	11.3	11.9	9.9	10.7	..	10.8
50-54	8.2	7.2	8.6	8.6	9.3	8.2	7.6	8.8	..	8.3
55 and over	2.6	2.2	2.9	2.4	3.1	2.3	3.3	4.9	..	2.7
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>										
Never married	13,468	9,137	6,766	3,164	3,740	1,153	340	735	1,086	39,589
Widowed	170	117	94	33	40	18	2	4	5	483
Divorced	2,724	1,683	1,641	744	841	254	77	148	179	8,291
Total	16,362	10,937	8,501	3,941	4,621	1,425	419	887	1,270	48,363
<i>Median age (years)—</i>										
at marriage	25.5	25.1	24.9	24.8	25.3	24.5	25.8	25.5	26.1	25.2
at final separation	36.0	36.0	36.7	36.4	36.8	36.0	36.9	36.5	33.7	36.2
at decree made absolute	39.2	38.9	39.8	39.4	40.1	39.1	39.7	39.5	38.3	39.3
WIFE										
<i>Age-specific divorce rates—</i>										
<i>Age group (years)—</i>										
24 and under	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.2	1.9	1.8	..	2.3
25-29	12.8	11.5	12.2	12.1	11.3	15.8	8.4	12.9	..	12.5
30-34	14.0	12.2	13.6	14.1	14.3	15.2	11.8	14.2	..	13.9
35-39	13.0	11.8	13.2	13.0	13.2	16.5	10.9	12.4	..	13.2
40-44	11.5	10.5	11.5	11.3	11.5	13.2	12.0	12.1	..	11.5
45-49	9.0	8.3	10.2	9.9	9.4	9.3	7.9	9.6	..	9.3
50-54	5.8	5.0	6.2	5.6	6.6	5.8	6.2	7.0	..	5.9
55 and over	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.2	2.1	2.2	..	1.3
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>										
Never married	13,542	9,307	6,747	3,175	3,784	1,156	349	734	1,141	39,935
Widowed	221	128	139	55	63	25	5	16	6	658
Divorced	2,599	1,502	1,615	711	774	244	65	137	123	7,770
Total	16,362	10,937	8,501	3,941	4,621	1,425	419	887	1,270	48,363
<i>Median age (years)—</i>										
at marriage	22.8	22.6	22.4	22.3	22.5	22.0	22.7	22.7	23.5	22.6
at final separation	33.1	33.3	33.8	33.9	33.7	33.2	32.8	33.8	31.1	33.3
at decree made absolute	36.2	36.3	36.8	36.7	36.9	36.3	35.9	36.6	35.5	36.4

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used. (b) Includes divorces where usual residence was Christmas Island or Cocos (Keeling) Islands (4), Overseas (1,188) or not stated (78).

A2 SUMMARY(a), STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE AT SEPARATION, 1994†

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Other(b)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
NUMBER										
Divorces granted	15,663	11,229	8,359	4,081	4,963	1,519	413	931	1,154	48,312
Crude divorce rate	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.4	3.1	..	2.7
Median duration of marriage (years)	10.4	11.0	11.1	11.3	11.3	12.0	10.9	10.0	9.1	10.9
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	7.2	7.8	8.1	8.3	8.0	8.8	7.3	7.2	4.5	7.6
<i>Divorces involving children—</i>										
Number	7,871	6,086	4,758	1,950	2,506	936	232	527	450	25,316
Percentage of total divorces	50.3	54.2	56.9	47.8	50.5	61.6	56.2	56.6	39.0	52.4
Average issue	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.9
<i>Applicant—</i>										
Husband	5,745	4,135	3,155	1,387	1,443	482	143	341	519	17,350
Wife	7,945	5,493	4,315	2,061	1,950	878	171	407	519	23,739
Joint	1,973	1,601	889	633	1,570	159	99	183	116	7,223
HUSBAND										
<i>Age-specific divorce rates—</i>										
<i>Age group (years)—</i>										
24 and under	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.6	..	0.8
25-29	7.8	7.7	7.8	8.2	7.8	10.1	6.0	9.0	..	8.0
30-34	12.1	12.0	11.6	13.3	14.0	16.5	8.2	13.9	..	12.7
35-39	12.7	12.2	12.8	13.7	13.1	16.8	12.2	14.2	..	13.2
40-44	11.8	12.0	12.1	14.4	13.1	14.8	10.2	13.3	..	12.6
45-49	10.4	10.1	11.1	10.9	11.9	12.9	7.7	12.3	..	10.9
50-54	8.4	7.7	8.1	7.9	9.8	11.1	9.2	9.0	..	8.5
55 and over	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.3	3.2	2.7	4.1	4.2	..	2.7
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>										
Never married	12,781	9,331	6,592	3,280	4,018	1,257	325	749	922	39,255
Widowed	175	105	102	42	53	12	2	8	11	510
Divorced	2,707	1,793	1,665	759	892	250	86	174	221	8,547
<i>Total</i>	<i>15,663</i>	<i>11,229</i>	<i>8,359</i>	<i>4,081</i>	<i>4,963</i>	<i>1,519</i>	<i>413</i>	<i>931</i>	<i>1,154</i>	<i>48,312</i>
<i>Median age (years)—</i>										
at marriage	25.7	25.2	25.3	25.0	25.4	24.7	25.8	26.0	27.0	25.4
at final separation	36.5	36.5	36.9	36.6	36.8	36.7	36.5	36.7	34.3	36.6
at decree made absolute	39.6	39.5	40.1	39.6	40.1	39.4	39.5	39.6	38.6	39.7
WIFE										
<i>Age-specific divorce rates—</i>										
<i>Age group (years)—</i>										
24 and under	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.8	..	2.0
25-29	11.5	11.4	11.4	12.8	12.4	15.2	7.0	13.2	..	12.0
30-34	13.2	12.6	13.2	14.1	14.5	16.4	11.4	14.9	..	13.8
35-39	12.5	11.8	12.4	14.1	13.8	17.2	11.5	13.7	..	13.0
40-44	11.2	11.1	11.5	12.8	12.5	14.4	10.6	12.0	..	11.8
45-49	9.1	8.5	9.4	8.8	10.1	11.0	10.1	9.7	..	9.3
50-54	6.1	5.5	6.5	6.0	7.4	7.7	5.6	8.1	..	6.3
55 and over	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.8	2.1	..	1.3
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>										
Never married	12,816	9,431	6,649	3,311	4,010	1,259	332	756	975	39,539
Widowed	191	158	122	45	68	21	2	4	14	625
Divorced	2,656	1,640	1,588	725	885	239	79	171	165	8,148
<i>Total</i>	<i>15,663</i>	<i>11,229</i>	<i>8,359</i>	<i>4,081</i>	<i>4,963</i>	<i>1,519</i>	<i>413</i>	<i>931</i>	<i>1,154</i>	<i>48,312</i>
<i>Median age (years)—</i>										
at marriage	23.0	22.8	22.5	22.4	22.7	22.2	23.6	23.3	24.1	22.8
at final separation	33.7	33.7	34.1	33.9	33.9	34.1	33.5	33.7	31.1	33.8
at decree made absolute	36.8	36.7	37.0	36.9	37.2	36.7	37.0	36.9	35.3	36.8

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used. (b) Includes divorces where usual residence was Christmas Island or Cocos (Keeling) Islands (3), Overseas (1,059) or not stated (92).

APPENDIX **B** ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

<i>Selected years(a)</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT(b)</i>	<i>Aust.(c)</i>
1976	4,933,662	3,788,394	2,051,820	1,265,103	1,155,499	410,039	92,101	198,780	13,895,398
1981	5,171,766	3,914,238	2,267,615	1,307,962	1,269,270	423,605	118,828	224,431	14,697,715
1986	5,464,704	4,119,696	2,571,491	1,371,062	1,419,004	442,483	148,647	251,242	15,788,329
1991	5,899,171	4,420,801	2,962,411	1,446,263	1,636,559	466,721	165,808	288,808	17,286,542
1992	5,958,510	4,450,294	3,034,702	1,457,177	1,657,900	469,641	167,459	294,241	17,489,924
1993	<u>6,001,486</u>	<u>4,465,040</u>	<u>3,117,246</u>	<u>1,463,286</u>	<u>1,677,058</u>	<u>471,522</u>	<u>169,617</u>	<u>298,907</u>	<u>17,664,162</u>
1994	6,049,238	4,475,465	3,196,134	1,469,371	1,701,064	472,464	171,072	300,867	17,838,401
1995	6,112,216	4,501,065	3,277,053	1,473,627	1,731,160	472,998	174,065	304,064	18,049,016
1996p	6,190,156	4,541,003	3,354,675	1,479,153	1,762,733	473,379	177,722	307,511	18,289,142

(a) For years prior to 1994 details relate to estimated mean resident population for year ended 31 December. For 1994 and later years details relate to the estimated resident population at 30 June. (b) Excludes Jervis Bay Territory from 1 July, 1993. (c) Includes Other Territories from 1 July, 1993. See paragraph 31 of the Explanatory Notes.

APPENDIX C CHARACTERISTICS AVAILABLE

MARRIAGES

Characteristics of the marriage

- Month and year of registration
- Date of marriage
- State or Territory of registration
- Category of celebrant (rites used)

Characteristics of the bridegroom and bride

- Previous marital status
- Birthplace
- Date of birth
- Age at marriage
- Birthplace of father
- Birthplace of mother
- Period of residence in Australia if born overseas
- Number of previous marriages
- Year of celebration of last marriage
- Year of termination of last marriage
- Year of first previous marriage
- Number of children of previous marriage
- Year of birth of youngest child
- Number of children under 16 years

DIVORCES

Characteristics of the divorce

- Month and year of divorce
- Registry
- State or Territory of registration
- Date of filing of application
- Postcode and State or Territory of separation (available 1993 and 1994 only)
- Sex of applicant
- Marriage place
- Date of marriage
- Date of final separation
- Duration of marriage until separation
- Duration of marriage until decree absolute
- Number of children of the marriage under 18 years
- Date of birth of children of the marriage under 18 years
- Age of children of the marriage under 18 years

Characteristics of the husband and wife

- Place of birth
- Date of birth
- Age at marriage
- Age at separation
- Age at divorce

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

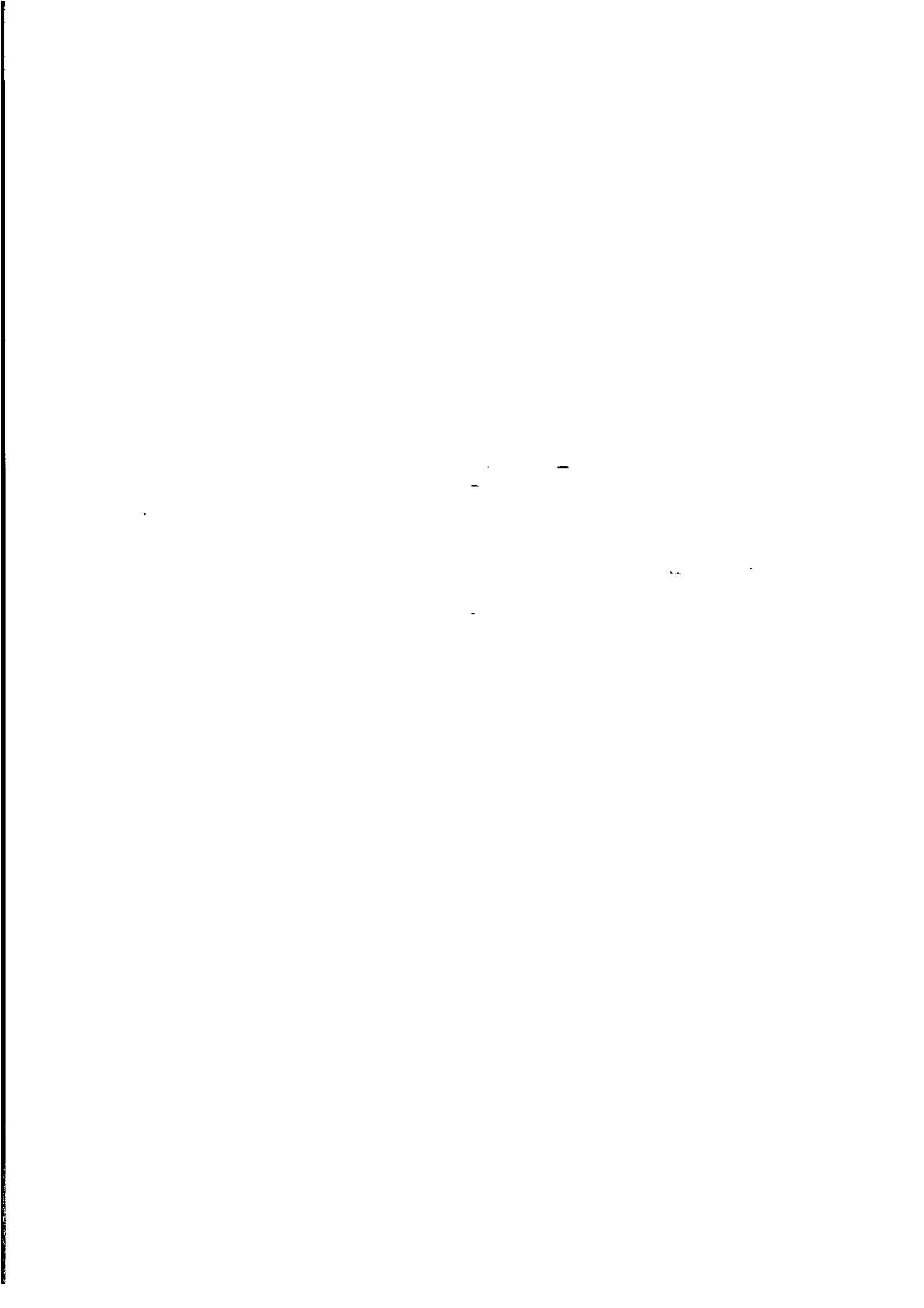
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population
- Age
- Birthplace
- Marital status
- Sex
- State or Territory of usual residence
- Statistical local area of usual residence

GLOSSARY

- Age-specific divorce rates** Two different populations are used in the calculation of age-specific divorce rates:
- Per 1,000 population at 30 June — this relates the number of divorces, by age at decree made absolute, to the estimated resident population in specific age groups. Males under 18 and females under 16 are excluded from the population.
 - Per 1,000 married population at 30 June — this relates the number of divorces, by age at decree made absolute, to the married population in specific age groups. Those classified as permanently separated are included in the married population. Males and females under 15 are excluded from the population.
- Age-specific marriage rates** Two different populations are used in the calculation of age-specific marriage rates:
- Per 1,000 population at 30 June — this relates the number of marriages, by age at marriage, to the estimated resident population in specific age groups. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.
 - Per 1,000 not currently married population at 30 June — this relates the number of marriages, by age at marriage, to the not currently married population in specific age groups. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.
- Children (divorce collection)** Children in the divorce collection are unmarried children of the marriage who were aged under 18 years at the time of application for divorce. Under the *Family Law Act 1975* these may include (in certain cases) adopted and ex-nuptial children and children from a former marriage. Children who are married or aged 18 years or more are not subject to custody and guardianship orders and are excluded.
- Crude divorce rate** The crude divorce rate is the number of decrees absolute granted during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of that year. For years prior to 1994, the crude divorce rate is based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year. In the interpretation of this rate, it must be kept in mind that a large and varying proportion of the population used in the denominator is unmarried or below the minimum age of marriage.
- Crude marriage rate** The crude marriage rate is the number of marriages registered during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of that year. For years prior to 1994, the crude marriage rate is based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year. In the interpretation of this rate, it must be kept in mind that a large and varying proportion of the population used in the denominator is below the minimum age of marriage or is already married.
- Date of final separation** The date of final separation is that date, given on the application for divorce, from which the period of living apart is calculated for the purpose of establishing grounds for divorce. In determining the date of final separation, a single period of resumed cohabitation of less than three months may be ignored, provided the periods of living apart before and after resumed cohabitation amount to a total of 12 months or more.

Divorce	The term divorce, as used in this publication, refers to decrees absolute of dissolution of marriage.
Duration of marriage	Duration of marriage is the interval measured in completed years between the date of marriage and the date of divorce.
Estimated resident population	<p>Estimated resident population data are quarterly estimates of the Australian population obtained by adding to the estimated population at the beginning of each period the components of natural increase (on a usual residence basis) and net overseas migration. For the States and Territories, account is also taken of estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence. After each census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional quarterly adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the estimated resident populations at the two respective census dates.</p> <p>Estimates of the resident population are based on adjusted (for underenumeration) census counts by place of usual residence, to which are added the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the Census.</p> <p>The concept of estimated resident population links people to a place of usual residence within Australia. Usual residence is that place where each person has lived or intends to live for six months or more in a reference year.</p> <p>Divorce and marriage rates shown in this publication for the years since 1974 are calculated using estimates of resident population. A description of the conceptual basis of the estimated resident population is contained in <i>Information Paper: Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods</i> (Cat. no. 3228.0). Revised population estimates are published in <i>Australian Demographic Statistics</i> (Cat. no. 3101.0) (issued quarterly).</p>
First marriage rates	First marriage rates are the number of men and women, in an age group, marrying for the first time per 1,000 (mid-year) population of never married men and women in the same age group.
Marital status	Two separate concepts are measured by the ABS. These are registered marital status and social marital status. They are different personal characteristics and are independent variables with separate classifications. Marital status in this publication relates to registered marital status which refers to formally registered marriages or divorces for which the partners hold a certificate.
Marriage	Under the <i>Australian Marriage Act 1961</i> (Cwlth), a marriage may be celebrated by a minister of religion registered as an authorised celebrant, by a district registrar or by other persons authorised by the Attorney-General. Notice of the intended marriage must be given to the celebrant at least one calendar month but within three calendar months before the marriage. A celebrant must transmit an official certificate of the marriage for registration to a district registrar in the State or Territory in which the marriage took place.
Median values	The median value (age, duration, interval) is that value which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the value for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculation.

Remarriage rates	Remarriage rates are the number of remarrying men and women, of a certain age, per 1,000 (mid-year) population of widowed or divorced men and women of the same age.
State or Territory of registration	State or Territory of registration refers to the State or Territory in which the marriage was registered or the divorce was granted. (For further information about how this affects divorce statistics see paragraphs 20 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes.)
State or Territory of usual residence	State or Territory of usual residence refers to the State or Territory of usual residence of the population for estimated resident population and to the State or Territory of usual residence at time of separation for divorces. (For further information about how this affects divorce statistics see paragraphs 20 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes.)
Year of occurrence	Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the event occurred. Divorce data are presented on occurrence basis i.e. the date the divorce was granted.
Year of registration	Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the event was registered. Marriage data are presented on year of registration basis.



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