



1998

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# MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Client Services in any ABS office as shown on the back cover of this publication, or Anne Ward on Canberra 02 6252 6296.

## NOTES

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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 (ERP) of Australia.

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### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

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### REVISIONS

Estimated resident population at 30 June 1997 are revised.

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### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
CD	Collection District
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
TFMR	Total first marriage rate
n.a.	not available
p	preliminary
r	revised
..	not applicable
—	nil, rounded to zero or less than three (see Explanatory Notes, paragraph 30)
*	subject to high sampling variability
**	data suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability

W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

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## MAIN FEATURES .....

### MARRIAGE RATE UP

The marriage rate in 1998 moved slightly upwards over its level in 1997. Over the last 20 years the trend has been a decline in the marriage rate. It is too early to say whether the 1998 upturn will continue. The crude marriage rate increased from 5.8 marriages per 1,000 population in 1997 to 5.9 per 1,000 in 1998. The marriage rate in Australia is less than that in the United States of America (8.8 per 1,000 in 1996) and above that in Canada and the United Kingdom (both 5.5 per 1,000 in 1995).

In 1998 there were 110,600 marriages registered in Australia, an increase of 3,900 marriages when compared with 1997, but down from 116,800 marriages registered in 1988.

### DIVORCE RATE DOWN

Over the last 20 years the divorce rate has fluctuated, generally showing a slight upwards trend. The rate, 2.8 per 1,000 population in 1978, declined to 2.4 in 1987, rose to 2.9 in 1996, and declined in the following two years to reach 2.7 per 1,000 population in 1998.

In 1998 there were 51,400 divorces granted, up from 41,000 granted in 1988. The divorce rate in Australia is lower than in the United States of America (4.3 in 1996) and about the same as in Canada and the United Kingdom (2.6 and 2.9, respectively, in 1995).

### MEN AND WOMEN ARE MARRYING AT OLDER AGES

An increasing proportion of men and women are choosing to marry after their thirtieth birthday. In 1998 the bridegroom was aged 30 years or more in 49% of all marriages, while for brides this proportion was 37%. Twenty years ago the proportions, aged 30 years or more at marriage, were 28% for men and 20% for women.

For men and women marrying for the first time, the proportions waiting until after their thirtieth birthday also increased. In 1998, 34% of men and 21% of women who married for the first time were aged 30 years and over. The comparative proportions for 1978 were 13% and 6%, respectively.

### MEN AND WOMEN ARE DIVORCING AT OLDER AGES

In line with the increase in the age at which men and women marry, the age at which men and women divorce also increased. Over the past ten years the median age at divorce has increased from 37.6 years for men and 34.8 years for women in 1988 to 40.5 years for men and 37.8 years for women in 1998.

### COHABITATION PRIOR TO MARRIAGE

The incidence of people cohabiting prior to registered marriage has increased markedly over the past 20 years. Marriage data indicates that 67% of couples marrying in 1998 had cohabited prior to marriage. Comparative data from the 1992 Family Survey showed that only around 22% had lived together prior to marriage in 1978. The Northern Territory (80%) and Tasmania (75%) had the highest proportions of people who cohabited prior to marriage, while New South Wales and Victoria had the lowest (both 63%).

## PEOPLE REMARRYING

Over the past twenty years around one-third of all registered marriages celebrated in Australia involved at least one previously married partner. Remarriages represented 33% of all marriages in 1998 compared with 31% in 1978. Of the marriages registered in 1998, 12% were couples who were both previously divorced, 10% were celebrated by couples in which the bridegroom had previously been divorced and the bride had never previously been married, 8% were couples in which the bridegroom had never previously married and the bride had previously been divorced, and the remaining proportion of remarriages (4%) involved a widowed partner. For further information on remarriage trends of divorced people refer to the Special Article page 70.

## CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DIVORCE

Over the last 10 years the proportion of divorces granted which involved children under 18 years of age decreased, down from 57.5% in 1988 to 53.4% in 1998. However, over the same period the actual number of children involved in divorce increased. This occurred because there were 25% more divorces granted in 1998 than were granted 10 years ago. In 1988, 44,400 children aged under 18 years were involved in divorce, by 1998 this number had increased to 51,600 children. Ten years ago 0.97 children per 100 children aged under 18 years were involved in divorces granted in that year. By 1998 this proportion had increased to 1.09 per 100.

After separation, children of all ages were more likely to live with their mother than their father. ABS Family Characteristics Survey (1997) data showed that 96% of 0–4 years olds, 89% of 5–11 years olds and 82% of 12–17 years olds whose parents had separated were living with their mother.

## MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION

In 1998 there were 14.8 million people aged 15 years and over in the population, a rise of 16% on 1988—4.6 million were never married, 8.3 million were married, 930,000 were widowed and around 1 million were divorced.

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing indicated that of the men and women living in couple relationships (7.6 million), 5.3% were in de facto marriages. When this de facto proportion is applied to the 1998 population, aged 15 years and over, it is estimated that around 826,300 people would be in de facto marriages. The majority of people in these de facto marriages would not have been previously married (549,800) while a further 198,800 would have previously been divorced.

# CHAPTER 1

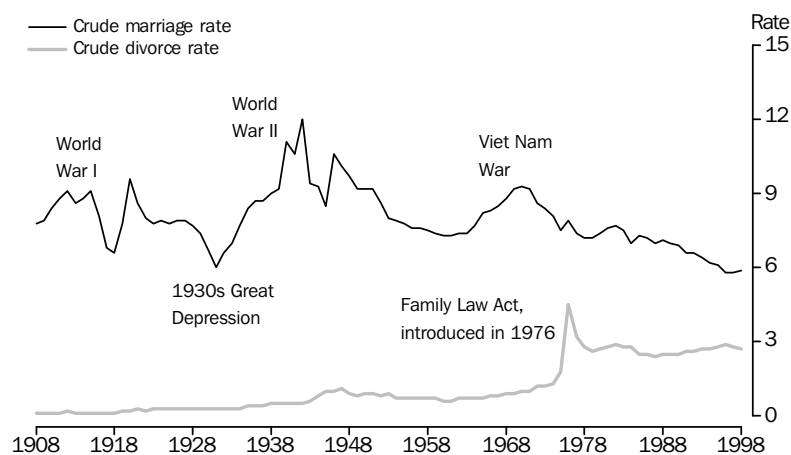
## MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN CONTEXT ...

### MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE NUMBERS AND RATES

In 1998 there were 110,600 marriages registered in Australia. This was an increase on the number registered in 1997 (106,700) but less than the number registered ten years ago (116,800). In 1998 the crude marriage rate (the number of marriages per 1,000 population) was 5.9 per 1,000, the second lowest rate recorded this century—the lowest rate of 5.8 per 1,000 was recorded in both 1996 and 1997, while the highest rate was 12.0 per 1,000 recorded in 1942. Ten years ago the marriage rate was 7.1 per 1,000.

There were 51,400 divorces granted in 1998. While this was a marginal increase on the number recorded in 1997 (51,300) it was a 25% increase on the 1988 figure (41,000). Although divorce rates have fallen over the past two years, on a long-term basis they have been on the increase. In 1998 the crude divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1,000 population) was 2.7, compared with 2.5 ten years ago. The highest divorce rate during the 20th century was recorded in 1976 (4.5 per 1,000 population). This was the year the Family Law Act was introduced. Prior to this the crude divorce rate in Australia was below 1.9 divorces per 1,000 population.

#### CRUDE MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 population.

The 51,400 divorces granted in 1998 occurred from the accumulated stock of all marriages contracted over the years and not from the 110,600 marriages registered in the year. For example, in 1998 there were 8.3 million married persons or about 4.1 million married couples. The 51,400 divorces represent about 12.4 divorces out of every 1,000 married couples.

### LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY AND DIVORCE

The proportion of people who will marry is declining. This can be estimated from first marriage rates by age for never married persons. Based on these rates in 1995–97 it is estimated that nearly 72% of men and 77% of women will marry in their lifetime. The corresponding proportions based on 1985–87 are 79% of men and 86% of women marrying in their lifetime.

LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY AND DIVORCE *continued*

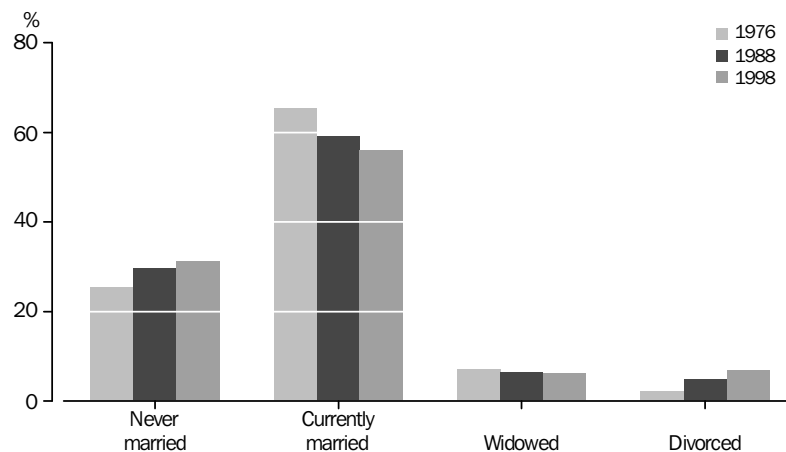
An Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) study (1995), measured how many marriages are likely to end in divorce. This study found that about 8% of all marriages were likely to be dissolved within five years of marriage, 19% within ten years, 32% within twenty years and 39% within thirty years.

## MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION

## Registered marital status

In 1998 there were 14.8 million people aged 15 years and over in the population, a rise of 16% on 1988 (12.8 million). Of the 14.8 million, 4.6 million were never married, 8.3 million were married, 930,000 were widowed and around 1 million were divorced. Compared with ten years ago the largest proportional increase was 58% in divorced persons. Never married increased by 22%, widowed by 13% and married by 9%.

## PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION IN EACH REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS(a)



(a) Aged 15 years and over.

## Social marital status

The fall in registered marriages or the increase in divorces granted does not necessarily mean that couple relationships are decreasing. Many people are choosing instead to enter into de facto relationships.

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing counted 13.9 million people aged 15 years and over. Of these people around 55% (7.6 million) lived in couple relationships—49% in registered marriages and 5% in de facto relationships. Assuming the proportions evident from the 1996 Census, it is estimated that of the estimated resident population aged 15 years and over in 1998 (14.8 million) around 5.3% (826,300 people) would have formed de facto relationships. Of this estimated de facto population around 67% (549,800) would have been never married, 8% (62,600) married and separated, 2% (15,100) widowed and 24% (198,800) divorced.

## AGES OF MEN AND WOMEN MARRYING AND DIVORCING

In 1998 the median age at marriage and divorce, for men and women in Australia, continued to rise. The median age is the age which divides the relevant population (i.e. those married or those divorced) into two equal parts, half falling below the age and half exceeding it.

Between 1978 and 1998 the median age at marriage rose by 4.4 years for men and 5.0 years for women. For those marrying for the first time the median age also increased, by 4.0 and 4.6 years, respectively.

The rise in the median age at divorce can mainly be attributed to the rise in the median age at marriage. For men divorcing, the median age rose 4.8 years while for women the rise was 5.1 years, between 1978 and 1998. The median duration of a marriage of divorcing couples has remained within the range of 10.1 and 11.2 years during the 20-year period.

**MEDIANS, Age at Marriage and Divorce—Duration of Marriage**

Selected years	MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE...		MEDIAN AGE AT DIVORCE..		Median duration of marriage years
	<i>Bridegroom</i>	<i>Bride</i>	<i>Husband</i>	<i>Wife</i>	
	years	years	years	years	
1978	25.4	22.7	35.7	32.7	10.5
1988	27.8	25.4	37.6	34.8	10.1
1998	29.8	27.7	40.5	37.8	11.2

## CHILDREN OF DIVORCING PARTNERS

Between 1988 and 1998 the proportion of divorces granted where children were involved fell. In 1988, 58% of divorces involved children under 18 years. By 1998 this proportion was 53%. This is consistent with the decline in fertility that has been experienced during the period.

However, because the number of divorces has increased over this ten year period (by 25%), the actual number of children (under 18 years) involved in divorce has increased. In 1988 there were 44,400 children involved in divorce; by 1998 this number had increased to 51,600 children. In 1988, 0.97 children per 100 children aged under 18 years were involved in divorce in Australia. By 1998 this proportion had increased to 1.09 children per 100.

## 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 1.1).

Of the countries selected for comparison, the United States of America had the highest crude marriage rate (8.8 marriages per 1,000 population), followed by Thailand (7.9) and Turkey (7.8). The lowest crude marriage rate was recorded by Sweden (3.8 marriages per 1,000 population), followed by Ireland (4.3) and Greece (4.5). The crude marriage rate for Australia was 5.9 marriages per 1,000 population.

The highest crude divorce rate was recorded by the United States of America (4.3 divorces per 1,000 population), followed by the United Kingdom (2.9) and New Zealand (2.8). Chile had the lowest crude divorce rate (0.4 divorces per 1,000 population), followed by Italy and Turkey (both 0.5). The crude divorce rate for Australia was 2.7 divorces per 1,000 population.

## 1.1 INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

Selected countries	Marriages			Divorces		
	Reference year	Number	Crude rate(a)	Reference year	Number	Crude rate(a)
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>110,598</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>51,370</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Canada	1995	160,256	5.5	1995	77,636	2.6
Chile	1996	83,547	5.8	1996	6,195	0.4
France	1996	280,600	4.8	1996	110,745	1.9
Germany	1997	422,319	5.1	1996	175,550	2.1
Greece	1996	47,000	4.5	1996	9,000	0.9
Hong Kong	1996	37,045	5.9	1997	10,492	1.6
Indonesia	1986	1,249,034	7.4	1986	131,886	0.8
Ireland	1997	15,631	4.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Italy	1997	275,381	4.8	1995	27,038	0.5
Japan	1997	781,000	6.2	1997	225,000	1.8
Korea, Republic of	1995	320,395	7.1	1995	53,872	1.2
Netherlands	1997	85,000	5.4	1997	34,000	2.2
New Zealand	1996	21,506	6.0	1996	10,009	2.8
Philippines	1993	474,407	7.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Poland	1996	203,641	5.3	1996	39,441	1.0
Singapore	1997	25,667	6.9	1997	4,687	1.3
Sweden	1996	33,484	3.8	1996	21,377	2.4
Thailand	1995	470,751	7.9	1995	53,560	0.9
Turkey	1996	486,734	7.8	1996	29,552	0.5
United Kingdom	1995	322,251	5.5	1995	169,621	2.9
United States of America	1996	2,344,000	8.8	1996	1,150,000	4.3
Yugoslavia	1997	56,004	5.3	1997	7,211	0.7

(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1997.

## NOTES

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.

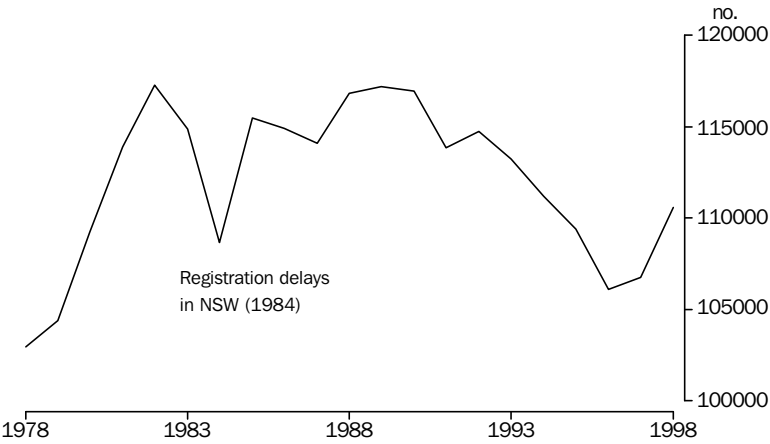
CHAPTER 2

MARRIAGES .....

REGISTERED MARRIAGES

In 1998 there were 110,600 marriages registered in Australia. This is the largest number recorded since 1994 (111,200), and is an increase of 4% on the marriages recorded in 1997. 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. Similar fluctuations were experienced by all States and Territories.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED



THE ANDREWS' REPORT

In June 1998, the Andrews' Report (1998) was released by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, under the Chairmanship of Mr Kevin Andrews MP.

A diverse range of organisations and individuals provided research and data on marriage and the family. As a result the Committee found that since the Second World War, data has indicated a rise in de facto relationships and cohabitation before marriage; a rise in divorce; and a decline in marriage. Data has also shown the impact of these changes on children within families including rises in step families and lone-parent families.

MARRIAGE RATES

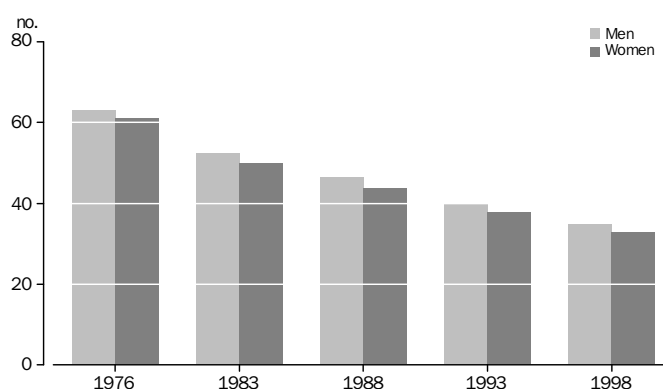
In 1998 the crude marriage rate was 5.9 per 1,000 population. The crude marriage rate is the number of registered marriages per 1,000 population. The rate for 1998 was marginally higher than the crude marriage rate for 1997 (5.8), and was the second lowest rate recorded this century.

MARRIAGE RATES *continued*

The crude marriage rate trend has been declining since 1970. This decline in the marriage rate can be attributed to the changes in attitude to marriage and living arrangements that have occurred over this period. According to the Andrews' Report (1998, p.9), the factors shaping 'modern marriage' are the certainty of contraception and careful planning of births; the new preparation pathway to marriage via multiple relationships and prolonged autonomy as an individual earner; a growing realisation on the part of women that they cannot and ought not to rely upon or be dependents of men; and a legal framework progressively enacting equal opportunity, human rights and joint responsibility for men and women in fulfilling the obligations of marriage and parenthood.

Marriage rates for the unmarried population (per 1,000 not currently married men or women aged 15 years and over) increased slightly in 1998 on the rates for 1997. However, the long-term trend since these rates first became available in 1976 has been a decline. The marriage rate for men was 63 per 1,000 in 1976 while the rate for women was 61. By 1998 these rates had fallen to 35 and 33, respectively.

MARRIAGE RATES(a), Unmarried Population



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

## States and Territories

New South Wales and Queensland had the highest crude marriage rates for all States and Territories in 1998 (6.2 per 1,000 population, 5% above the national rate). For more than 20 years, the Northern Territory has consistently recorded the lowest crude marriage rate in Australia. In 1998 the rate was 4.3 per 1,000 population, 27% below the rate for Australia. The age-standardised marriage rate for the Northern Territory has also been the lowest among the States and Territories.

## LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY

## Nuptiality table

The proportion of people who will ever marry is declining. This can be estimated from the first marriage rates by age for never married persons for a given year. The calculations are based on the net nuptiality tables, which are calculated on the principles of the life tables commonly used for the analysis of mortality data (see Technical Note, page 84).

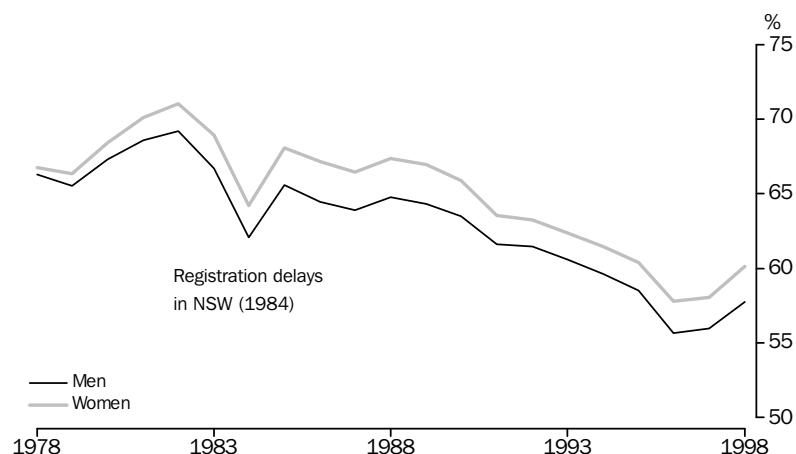
According to the net nuptiality tables, the likelihood to marry is estimated at 72% for men and 77% for women, if the 1995–97 first marriage rates prevail in the future. The corresponding proportions ever marrying, based on the 1985–87 first marriage rates, are 79% for men and 86% for women, indicating a decline in total first marriages in 1995–97 relative to 1985–87. Thus, the proportions of men and women unlikely to marry, based on the 1995–97 experience, are 28% and 23%, respectively.

## Total First Marriage Rate (TFMR)

Another index which has been used to summarise the prevalence of first marriages in a year is the TFMR which is estimated from the proportions of men or women in each age group who marry for the first time in a given year. The trend over time in the value of the TFMR shows a decline in the incidence of first marriages in Australia. Unfortunately the rising trend in the age at first marriage, currently taking place in Australia and other developed countries has meant that the TFMR probably has underestimated lifetime first marriages (see Technical Note, page 84). In other words, the estimate from the TFMR of nearly 40% of the Australian population not marrying in the future is an overestimate of the current situation.

Based on age-specific first marriage rates for 1998 (calculated on the total population in each group from 15 years and above) it is estimated that 58% of men and 60% of women will ever marry. This represents a decline of 13% for men and 10% for women from comparable estimates prepared for 1978 (66% and 67%, respectively).

## TOTAL FIRST MARRIAGE RATES



## International comparison of TFMR

The decline in the proportion of men and women who will ever marry is also evident in other countries. TFMRs experienced in Europe, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand are also in decline. In most of these countries the decline since 1975 has been greater than that observed in Australia.

## TOTAL FIRST MARRIAGE RATES, Selected Countries

Country	Reference year	Men Women		Reference year	Men Women	
		%	%		%	%
Australia	1975	74.5	75.4	1998	57.8	60.2
Canada	1975	83.5	81.2	1994	51.3	55.2
England and Wales	1975	84.0	87.3	1990	59.4	61.9
France	1975	82.2	85.8	1996	52.0	54.0
Germany	1975	77.1	80.3	1996	50.0	57.5
New Zealand	1975	n.a.	83.3	1985	n.a.	61.0
Sweden	1975	56.7	63.0	1995	41.8	44.2
United States of America	1975	82.7	80.4	1988	58.4	59.5

Source: Monnier, A. 1998.

## MARRIAGE AGE

The median age at marriage for men and women in Australia continued to increase in 1998. The median age at marriage is the age at which there are as many marrying above the age as there are marrying below it. For men, the median age at marriage increased from 25.4 years in 1978 to 29.8 years in 1998. For women, the increase was from 22.7 years to 27.7 years.

## Age of bridegroom

An increasing proportion of men are choosing to marry after their thirtieth birthday. In 1998, the bridegroom was aged 30 years or more in 49% of all marriages, compared with 28% in 1978. Over half (53%) of this group of men in 1998 had never previously been married, while 4% were widowed and 43% were divorced. Twenty years ago these proportions were 35%, 11% and 54%, respectively.

## MEDIAN AGE OF BRIDEGROOM

Previous marital status	1978	1988	1998
	years	years	years
Never married	23.9	26.1	27.9
Widowed	58.5	60.9	61.4
Divorced	36.0	38.9	42.0
Total	25.4	27.8	29.8

Age of bride

Women are also choosing to delay marriage. In 1998 just over one-third (37%) of women who married were aged 30 years or more, compared with 20% in 1978. Of this group of women who married in 1998, 45% married for the first time, 6% had previously been widowed and 49% had previously been divorced. In 1978 these proportions were 25%, 17% and 58%, respectively.

MEDIAN AGE OF BRIDE

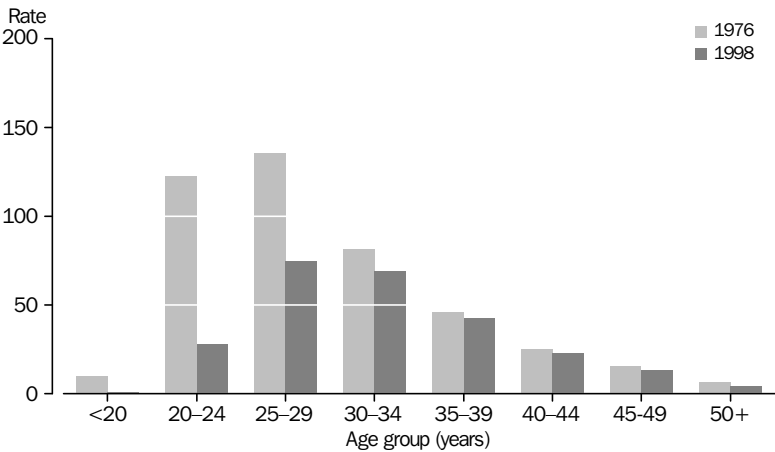
	1978	1988	1998
<i>Previous marital status</i>	years	years	years
Never married	21.6	24.0	26.2
Widowed	51.8	52.4	54.1
Divorced	32.4	35.3	38.4
Total	22.7	25.4	27.7

FIRST MARRIAGES

In 1998 the rates for men and women marrying for the first time increased slightly for around half of the age groups when compared with first marriage rates for 1997. First marriage rates are the number of men and women, in an age group, marrying for the first time per 1,000 population of never married men or women in that age group.

The long-term trend in first marriage rates for both men and women is on the decline. Between 1976 and 1998 (1978 data are not available), first marriage rates fell in all age groups. The peak age group for men marrying for the first time during this period remained the same, the age group 25–29 years, while the rate fell from 136 per 1,000 men in 1976 to 75 per 1,000 in 1998. However, the age group for the next highest marriage rate changed from 20–24 years in 1976 to 30–34 years in 1998.

FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a), Men

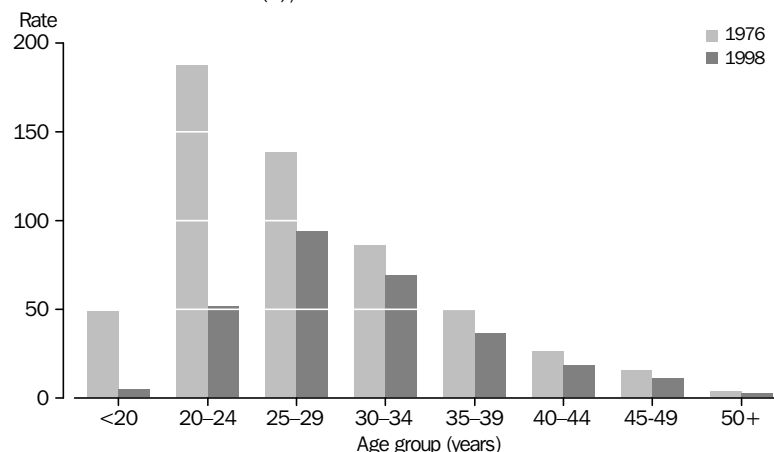


(a) The number of men marrying for the first time per 1,000 never married men in the population.

FIRST MARRIAGES *continued*

Women have also experienced a fall in first marriage rates over the past 22 years across all age groups. While the peak age group for men remained the same over this period, for women the peak age group moved from 20–24 years in 1976 (188 per 1,000 population) to 25–29 years in 1998 (94 per 1,000). Over this period, the age group with the next highest first marriage rate also changed, from 25–29 years to 30–34 years.

FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a), Women



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

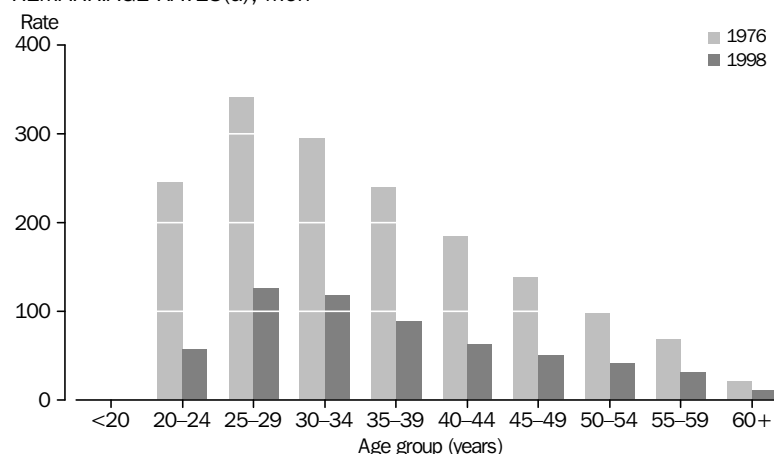
The proportion of marriages where both parties had not previously been married has declined over the past twenty years. In 1998, 67% of all marriages were among persons who had never previously been married, while in 1976 the proportion was 71%.

## REMARRIAGES

Between 1976 and 1998 (1978 data are not available) remarriage rates for both men and women fell in all age groups. For the majority of age groups the falls were in excess of 50%. Remarriage rates are the number of remarrying men or women, of a certain age, per 1,000 widowed and divorced men or women of the same age.

Between 1976 and 1998 the peak age group for men remarrying remained the same. In both 1976 and 1998 the peak age group was 25–29 years (342 and 126 per 1,000 population, respectively).

REMARRIAGE RATES(a), Men

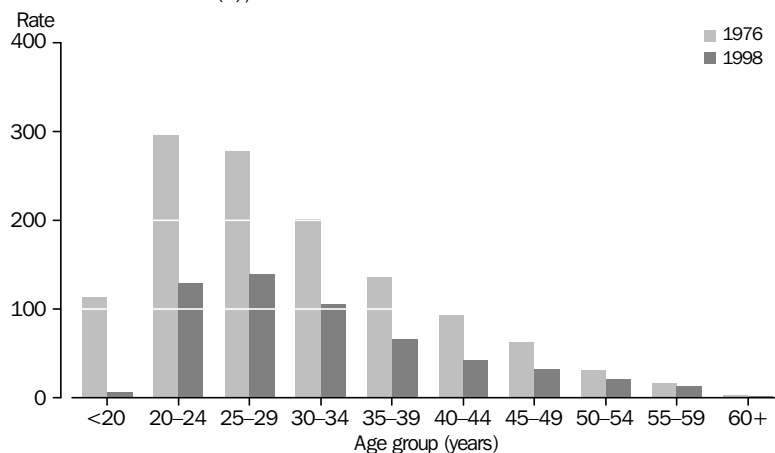


(a) The number of men remarrying per 1,000 widowed and divorced men in the population.

REMARRIAGES *continued*

The peak remarriage age group for women changed over the period 1976 to 1998. In 1976 the peak age group for women remarrying was 20–24 years (296 per 1,000 women); by 1998 the peak age group had changed to 25–29 years (140 per 1,000).

REMARRIAGE RATES(a), Women



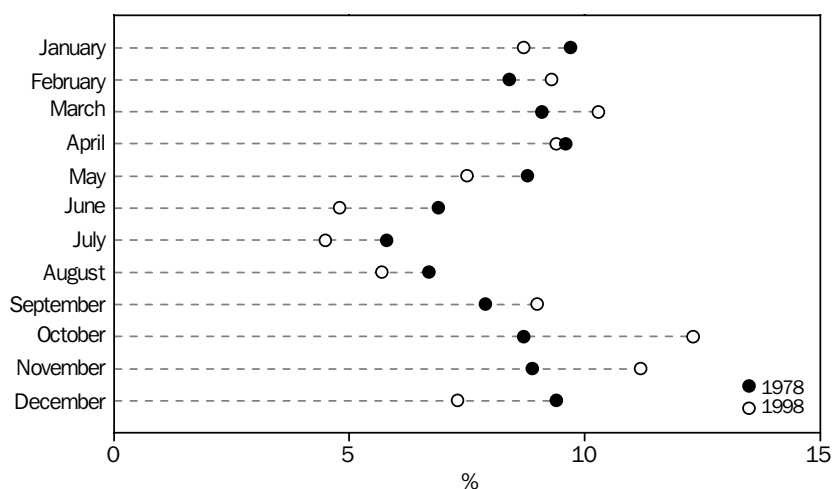
(a) The number of women remarrying per 1,000 widowed and divorced women in the population.

## MONTH OF MARRIAGE

In 1998 the most popular month for marriages to occur in Australia was October with 13,600 (12%) registered marriages being celebrated, followed by November (12,300). July was the least popular month with 5,000 (5%) marriages occurring.

Couples mostly preferred to marry in the more temperate months, although the climactic conditions and geographic location of a State or Territory can affect this. For example, the most popular month for marriage in the Northern Territory was July (16%), while June and July were the least popular months for marriage in Victoria and Tasmania.

MARRIAGE MONTH



## PRE-MARRIAGE COHABITATION

From 1997 the usual residence of parties at time of lodgement of the Notice of Intended Marriage was coded to indicate whether or not the parties had cohabited prior to the marriage taking place. If the address was the same, cohabitation was assumed to have taken place. If the address was not the same, cohabitation was assumed not to have taken place. While 1997 was the first year that this indicator was coded for registered marriages, comparison with cohabitation data from the 1992 Family Survey supports the results of the indicator.

The incidence of people cohabiting prior to registered marriage has increased markedly in recent years. The increase in median age of brides and bridegrooms could also be largely attributed to the increasing tendency for couples to cohabit before marriage. According to the 1992 Family Survey, of couples married in 1978, 22% had lived together before marriage. By 1992, that proportion had risen to 56%. In 1998 about 67% (74,400), of all registered marriages were preceded by a period of cohabitation.

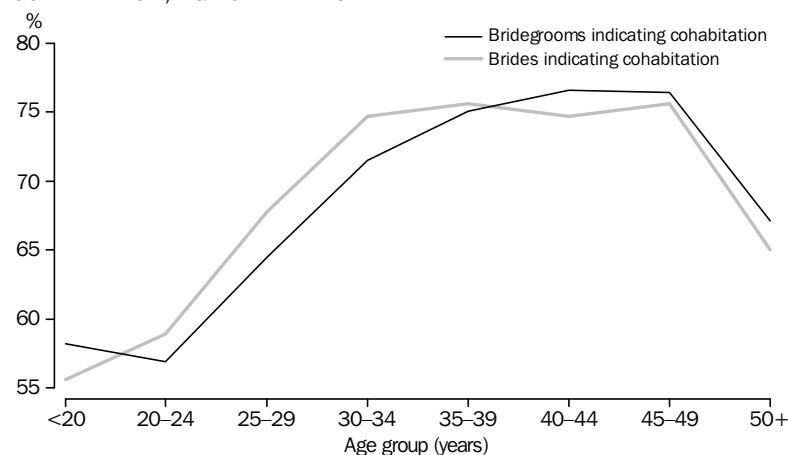
## COHABITATION PRIOR TO MARRIAGE

Selected years	Yes	No
	cohabitation	cohabitation
	%	%
1992 FAMILY SURVEY		
1978	22.0	78.0
1983	27.1	72.9
1988	38.8	61.2
1992	56.3	43.7
MARRIAGE REGISTRATION DATA		
1997	64.7	35.3
1998	67.2	32.8

## Age and previous marital status

Of the 74,400 marriages between people who had cohabited before their marriage in 1998, 68% of men and 77% of women were aged between 16 and 34 years. Most men and women (73%) who cohabited prior to marriage had never been previously married.

## COHABITATION, AGE OF PARTIES



Age and previous marital status *continued*

Couples where both partners had been previously married (16,150), were more likely to cohabit than couples where neither partner had been married. Of couples where both partners had been previously married, 75% cohabited before their marriage.

The majority of couples who indicated they had cohabited prior to marriage in 1998 had not previously been married (62%). Of cohabiting couples who married in 1998, 14% had been divorced. Couples who had not cohabited prior to marriage in 1998 were more likely to never have been previously married (75%) and less likely to have been divorced (7%).

## PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF COUPLES MARRYING

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE..				
<i>Previous marital status of bridegroom</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	no.
.....				
COUPLE INDICATING COHABITATION				
Never married	62.4	0.4	9.7	53 972
Widowed	0.2	0.4	0.9	1 162
Divorced	10.8	1.2	13.9	19 240
<b>Total</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>74 374</b>
.....				
COUPLE NOT INDICATING COHABITATION				
Never married	75.4	0.5	5.6	29 536
Widowed	0.5	1.5	1.3	1 186
Divorced	7.0	1.2	7.0	5 502
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>36 224</b>
.....				

For many couples, cohabitation is a precursor or alternative to first marriage or remarriage. Therefore, it is not only younger or previously never married people who are choosing to cohabit before marriage. Cohabitation prior to marriage also occurs among older and previously married people. For instance, in 1998, 17% of men and 13% of women who cohabited prior to marriage were aged between 40 and 59 years. Around 77% of these men and women had been previously divorced. Approximately 2% of people who cohabited prior to marriage had been previously widowed.

## COHABITATION PRIOR TO MARRIAGE, Age and Previous Marital Status

Age group (years)	PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM.....				PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE.....			
	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
19 and under	409	0	0	409	1 863	0	0	1 865
20–24	10 272	0	48	10 321	17 188	0	267	17 456
25–29	23 088	13	1 107	24 208	22 600	51	2 369	25 020
30–34	12 526	32	3 076	15 634	8 816	102	3 971	12 889
35–39	5 069	62	4 055	9 186	2 849	147	3 889	6 885
40–44	1 641	83	3 505	5 229	859	186	2 913	3 958
45–49	558	112	3 065	3 735	300	208	2 431	2 939
50–54	211	147	2 258	2 616	106	211	1 386	1 703
55–59	84	169	1 117	1 370	36	181	601	818
60 and over	114	543	1 009	1 666	46	432	363	841
<b>Total</b>	<b>53 972</b>	<b>1 162</b>	<b>19 240</b>	<b>74 374</b>	<b>54 663</b>	<b>1 519</b>	<b>18 192</b>	<b>74 374</b>

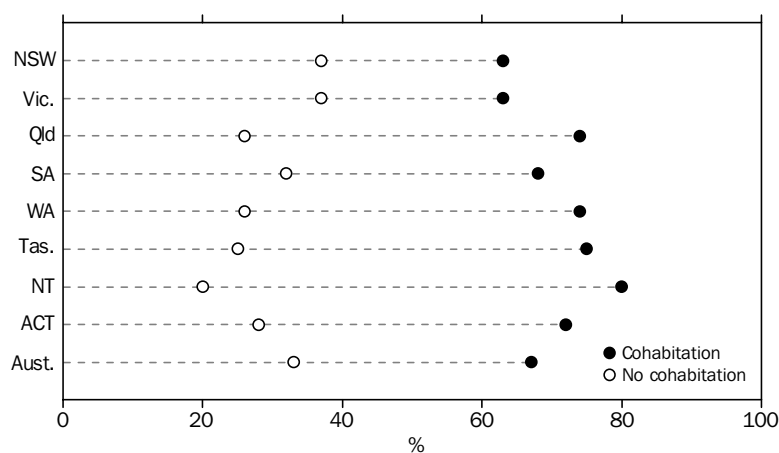
## Birthplace of cohabiting couples

The incidence of cohabitation prior to marriage differs by birthplace of parties. For example, for the marriages registered in 1998, men and women from Europe and the USSR were more likely to have cohabited prior to marriage than any other birthplace group (71% and 73% respectively). In contrast, men and women from the Middle East and North Africa were the least likely to cohabit before marriage (48% and 43%, respectively). For Australian-born marrying, around 68% of both men and women had cohabited prior to marriage.

## States and Territories

A majority of couples in all States and Territories indicated cohabitation prior to marriage in 1998. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion (80%), followed by Tasmania (75 %). New South Wales and Victoria had the lowest proportions of couples who had indicated cohabitation, both 63%.

## COHABITATION IN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES



## CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

In 1998 the proportion of marriages which were performed by civil celebrants continued the upward trend that has been evident throughout the 20th century. During the first half of the century, under 10% of all marriages were performed by civil celebrants. By the mid 1970s the proportion had increased to around 30%. In 1998 civil celebrants were performing nearly half of all marriages registered in Australia.

## MARRIAGES BY MINISTERS OF RELIGION AND CIVIL CELEBRANTS

MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY...			MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY...		
Selected years	Ministers of religion	Civil celebrants	Selected years	Ministers of religion	Civil celebrants
	%	%		%	%
1908	97.4	2.6	1958	88.9	11.1
1918	95.7	4.3	1968	89.4	10.6
1928	92.9	7.1	1978	65.6	34.4
1938	91.9	8.1	1988	58.7	41.3
1948	90.7	9.3	1998	50.5	49.5

Just over half of the 110,600 registered marriages were performed by ministers of religion in 1998. Of these, 17% were performed by Catholic priests, 11% by Anglican ministers and 7% by Uniting Church ministers. In 1978 these proportions were 21%, 17% and 15%, respectively.

Over the last two decades there has been a rise in the number of Islamic marriages. In 1998, 1,100 marriages (1%) were performed according to Islamic rites compared with 230 marriages (0.2%) in 1978.

Registered marriages can show State and Territory differences in population composition. For example, in Victoria 5% of all marriages were Orthodox in comparison with a national proportion of 3%, and 5% of all South Australian marriages were Lutheran, compared with a national proportion of 1%.

According to the 1996 Census of Population and Housing, 5% of Victorians were reported as Orthodox and 5% of South Australians as Lutheran while the Australian proportions for these denominations were 3% and 1% respectively.

## BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES MARRYING

In 1998, 64% of the marriages registered in Australia were marriages where both parties were born in Australia, 8% were marriages of men and women born in the same overseas country and 28% were marriages between couples from different countries. Of this last group 39% were Australian-born men marrying overseas-born women, while a further 43% were Australian-born women marrying overseas-born men. Over the past twenty years these proportions have changed little.

## BIRTHPLACE OF COUPLES MARRYING

	1978	1988	1998	1978	1988	1998
<i>Country of birth of couple</i>	no.	no.	no.	%	%	%
Australian-born	68 271	72 737	70 876	66.3	62.3	64.1
Same overseas country	6 642	8 904	8 890	6.5	7.6	8.0
Different countries	28 045	35 175	30 832	27.2	30.1	27.9
<i>Australian-born men/overseas-born women</i>	9 993	13 134	11 872	35.6	37.3	38.5
<i>Australian-born women/overseas-born men</i>	13 830	15 435	13 231	49.3	43.9	42.9
<i>Couples from different overseas countries</i>	4 222	6 606	5 729	15.1	18.8	18.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>102 958</b>	<b>116 816</b>	<b>110 598</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Marriage rates

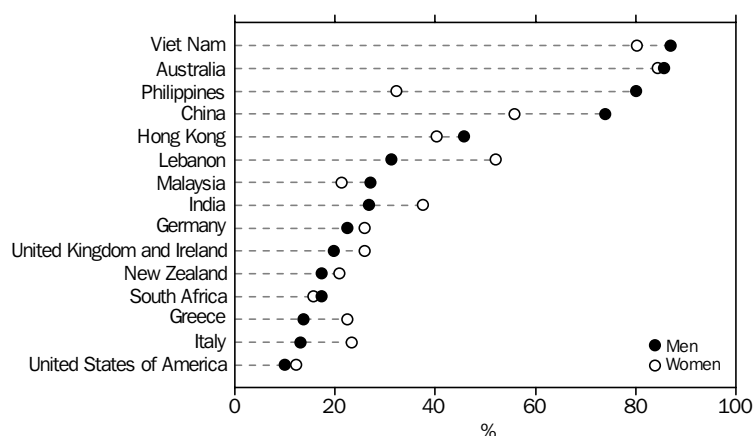
In 1998, marriage rates varied between Australian-born and the overseas-born (see table 2.12). It should be remembered when comparing these rates and other details that the total number of marriages in Australia for persons born in some selected countries is small and that the age structure of birthplace groups varies.

Of the major overseas-born communities selected for comparison in 1998, Australian residents who had been born in the United States of America (23.2 men per 1,000) and the Philippines (22.8 women per 1,000) had the highest marriage rates. The lowest rates were recorded for Italian-born men and women residents, 4.2 and 2.7 per 1,000 men and women in the population, respectively. The rate for both Australian-born men and women who married (per 1,000 men or women) was 11.6.

## Birthplace relationship

Vietnamese-born men and Australian-born women had the highest proportion of marriages involving partners from the same birthplace, 87% and 84% respectively. The lowest proportions for the countries selected for comparison were for men and women born in the United States of America (10% for men and 12% for women). The proportion of Australian-born men who married Australian-born women was 86%.

## MEN AND WOMEN MARRYING PARTNERS FROM THE SAME BIRTHPLACE



## 2.1 SUMMARY(a), BY STATES AND TERRITORIES

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER									
<b>Marriages registered</b>	<b>39,136</b>	<b>26,372</b>	<b>21,257</b>	<b>8,022</b>	<b>10,705</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>110,598</b>
Crude marriage rate	6.2	5.7	6.2	5.4	5.8	5.5	4.3	5.5	5.9
<i>Previous marital status—</i>									
First marriage both partners	26,527	18,221	13,579	5,254	6,910	1,612	503	1,137	73,743
First marriage one partner	7,393	4,573	4,242	1,418	2,070	481	201	327	20,705
Remarriage both partners	5,216	3,578	3,436	1,350	1,725	506	111	228	16,150
<i>Marriages performed by—</i>									
Ministers of religion—									
Number	21,119	13,803	9,907	4,188	4,555	1,157	252	826	55,807
Per cent	54.0	52.3	46.6	52.2	42.6	44.5	30.9	48.8	50.5
Civil celebrants—									
Number	18,017	12,569	11,350	3,834	6,150	1,442	563	866	54,791
Per cent	46.0	47.7	53.4	47.8	57.4	55.5	69.1	51.2	49.5
BRIDEGROOM									
<i>Age-specific marriage rates(b)—</i>									
Age group (years)—									
19 and under	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.9	1.3	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.0
20-24	29.5	22.2	29.6	25.7	22.0	28.7	13.7	18.2	26.2
25-29	54.1	51.5	49.6	47.8	47.5	52.1	22.5	44.8	50.8
30-34	32.4	30.7	31.2	28.5	31.6	30.1	17.9	27.6	31.0
35-39	17.0	16.0	16.9	15.3	15.9	15.5	11.4	16.7	16.4
40-44	9.8	9.1	10.7	9.7	9.9	11.0	10.4	7.7	9.8
45-49	7.8	6.7	8.2	6.5	7.7	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.5
50 and over	3.5	3.0	4.0	3.3	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>									
Never married	30,026	20,325	15,605	5,936	7,914	1,830	577	1,295	83,508
Widowed	803	544	461	188	238	70	14	30	2,348
Divorced	8,307	5,503	5,191	1,898	2,553	699	224	367	24,742
<i>Total</i>	<i>39,136</i>	<i>26,372</i>	<i>21,257</i>	<i>8,022</i>	<i>10,705</i>	<i>2,599</i>	<i>815</i>	<i>1,692</i>	<i>110,598</i>
<i>Median age (years)—</i>									
Never married	27.9	28.1	27.7	28.0	28.2	27.6	28.5	27.9	27.9
Widowed	61.6	60.3	61.5	62.3	62.8	(c)	(c)	(c)	61.4
Divorced	42.0	41.6	42.2	42.2	42.4	41.9	42.3	42.5	42.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>29.8</i>	<i>29.8</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>29.8</i>	<i>29.8</i>
BRIDE									
<i>Age-specific marriage rates(b)—</i>									
Age group (years)—									
19 and under	6.6	3.8	5.5	4.6	4.8	4.2	3.5	3.6	5.2
20-24	49.0	38.6	47.1	45.4	40.9	48.0	27.7	34.2	44.4
25-29	52.0	51.4	49.4	47.3	49.0	48.9	26.1	44.7	50.2
30-34	25.2	24.2	24.6	22.3	24.9	23.0	16.7	20.8	24.4
35-39	12.8	11.4	12.8	10.8	12.2	12.6	10.3	10.0	12.1
40-44	7.9	6.7	7.8	7.6	8.0	7.5	6.4	7.0	7.5
45-49	5.8	5.4	7.1	5.8	6.2	6.3	5.0	4.4	6.0
50 and over	1.9	1.7	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.9
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>									
Never married	30,421	20,690	15,795	5,990	7,976	1,875	630	1,306	84,683
Widowed	865	631	575	219	241	85	15	33	2,664
Divorced	7,850	5,051	4,887	1,813	2,488	639	170	353	23,251
<i>Total</i>	<i>39,136</i>	<i>26,372</i>	<i>21,257</i>	<i>8,022</i>	<i>10,705</i>	<i>2,599</i>	<i>815</i>	<i>1,692</i>	<i>110,598</i>
<i>Median age (years)—</i>									
Never married	26.1	26.6	25.9	26.0	26.2	25.9	26.6	26.2	26.2
Widowed	54.2	54.0	54.3	54.7	54.3	(c)	(c)	(c)	54.1
Divorced	38.0	38.2	38.5	39.5	38.8	38.2	37.9	38.9	38.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>27.6</i>	<i>27.7</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>28.1</i>	<i>27.6</i>	<i>27.7</i>

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used. (b) Per 1,000 men or women, respectively, at 30 June. Males and females under 15 are excluded from the population.

(c) Not statistically reliable due to the small numbers involved.

**2.2 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>
1978	35,904	27,178	15,431	9,800	9,404	3,148	576	1,517	102,958
1983	39,995	28,974	18,645	10,550	10,159	3,664	776	1,757	114,860
1988	40,812	30,687	18,850	10,128	10,578	3,035	782	1,944	116,816
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
1997	36,679	25,456	20,868	7,945	10,456	2,672	786	1,873	106,735
1998	39,136	26,372	21,257	8,022	10,705	2,599	815	1,692	110,598

**2.3 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>
1978	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.6	7.7	7.5	5.3	7.0	7.2
1983	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.8	7.7	8.4	5.7	7.4	7.5
1988	7.1	7.2	6.9	7.2	6.9	6.7	4.9	7.1	7.1
1993	6.7	6.1	6.7	6.2	6.2	6.5	4.7	6.0	6.4
1994	6.4	6.0	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	4.4	5.5	6.2
1995	6.2	5.9	6.3	5.8	6.0	6.0	4.5	5.8	6.1
1996	5.8	5.7	6.3	5.4	5.8	5.6	4.3	5.4	5.8
1997	5.8	5.5	6.1	5.4	5.8	5.6	4.2	6.0	5.8
1998	6.2	5.7	6.2	5.4	5.8	5.5	4.3	5.5	5.9

(a) Per 1,000 population.

## 2.4 PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

<i>Marital status of - 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	26,527	18,221	13,579	5,254	6,910	1,612	503	1,137	73,743
	Widowed	184	115	107	32	42	13	4	9	506
	Divorced	3,315	1,989	1,919	650	962	205	70	149	9,259
	<i>Total</i>	<i>30,026</i>	<i>20,325</i>	<i>15,605</i>	<i>5,936</i>	<i>7,914</i>	<i>1,830</i>	<i>577</i>	<i>1,295</i>	<i>83,508</i>
Widowed	Never married	134	88	57	23	29	9	4	6	350
	Widowed	278	213	172	77	90	24	4	7	865
	Divorced	391	243	232	88	119	37	6	17	1,133
	<i>Total</i>	<i>803</i>	<i>544</i>	<i>461</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>238</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>2,348</i>
Divorced	Never married	3,760	2,381	2,159	713	1,037	254	123	163	10,590
	Widowed	403	303	296	110	109	48	7	17	1,293
	Divorced	4,144	2,819	2,736	1,075	1,407	397	94	187	12,859
	<i>Total</i>	<i>8,307</i>	<i>5,503</i>	<i>5,191</i>	<i>1,898</i>	<i>2,553</i>	<i>699</i>	<i>224</i>	<i>367</i>	<i>24,742</i>
Total	Never married	30,421	20,690	15,795	5,990	7,976	1,875	630	1,306	84,683
	Widowed	865	631	575	219	241	85	15	33	2,664
	Divorced	7,850	5,051	4,887	1,813	2,488	639	170	353	23,251
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39,136</b>	<b>26,372</b>	<b>21,257</b>	<b>8,022</b>	<b>10,705</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>110,598</b>

## 2.5 CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

<i>Category of celebrant</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>
NUMBER									
<b>Ministers of religion(a)—</b>									
Catholic Church	7,392	5,346	3,015	1,200	1,616	272	95	299	19,235
Anglican Church of Australia	5,183	2,630	2,237	627	1,148	352	21	253	12,451
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	2,471	1,747	1,503	930	490	158	44	64	7,407
Orthodox Churches(b)	1,216	1,250	95	232	91	7	17	39	2,947
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	612	393	476	161	167	92	6	15	1,922
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	775	217	247	31	15	26	6	43	1,360
Lutheran Churches(b)	99	165	353	373	46	4	9	16	1,065
Islam	672	275	32	15	59	4	—	6	1,063
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	212	289	189	139	152	19	—	7	1,008
Other	2,487	1,491	1,760	480	771	223	53	84	7,349
<i>Total</i>	<i>21,119</i>	<i>13,803</i>	<i>9,907</i>	<i>4,188</i>	<i>4,555</i>	<i>1,157</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>826</i>	<i>55,807</i>
<b>Civil celebrants—</b>									
Official registrars	3,104	2,255	1,434	556	841	149	159	159	8,657
Other civil celebrants	14,913	10,314	9,916	3,278	5,309	1,293	404	707	46,134
<i>Total</i>	<i>18,017</i>	<i>12,569</i>	<i>11,350</i>	<i>3,834</i>	<i>6,150</i>	<i>1,442</i>	<i>563</i>	<i>866</i>	<i>54,791</i>
<b>All celebrants</b>	<b>39,136</b>	<b>26,372</b>	<b>21,257</b>	<b>8,022</b>	<b>10,705</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>110,598</b>
PROPORTION (%)									
<b>Ministers of religion(a)—</b>									
Catholic Church	18.9	20.3	14.2	15.0	15.1	10.5	11.7	17.7	17.4
Anglican Church of Australia	13.2	10.0	10.5	7.8	10.7	13.5	2.6	15.0	11.3
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	6.3	6.6	7.1	11.6	4.6	6.1	5.4	3.8	6.7
Orthodox Churches(b)	3.1	4.7	0.4	2.9	0.9	0.3	2.1	2.3	2.7
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	1.6	1.5	2.2	2.0	1.6	3.5	0.7	0.9	1.7
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	2.0	0.8	1.2	0.4	0.1	1.0	0.7	2.5	1.2
Lutheran Churches(b)	0.3	0.6	1.7	4.6	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.9	1.0
Islam	1.7	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	—	0.4	1.0
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	0.5	1.1	0.9	1.7	1.4	0.7	—	0.4	0.9
Other	6.4	5.7	8.3	6.0	7.2	8.6	6.5	5.0	6.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>54.0</i>	<i>52.3</i>	<i>46.6</i>	<i>52.2</i>	<i>42.6</i>	<i>44.5</i>	<i>30.9</i>	<i>48.8</i>	<i>50.5</i>
<b>Civil celebrants—</b>									
Official registrars	7.9	8.6	6.7	6.9	7.9	5.7	19.5	9.4	7.8
Other civil celebrants	38.1	39.1	46.6	40.9	49.6	49.7	49.6	41.8	41.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>46.0</i>	<i>47.7</i>	<i>53.4</i>	<i>47.8</i>	<i>57.4</i>	<i>55.5</i>	<i>69.1</i>	<i>51.2</i>	<i>49.5</i>
<b>All celebrants</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

## 2.6 SUMMARY(a), BY SELECTED YEARS

	1988	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
NUMBER							
<b>Marriages registered</b>	<b>116,816</b>	<b>113,255</b>	<b>111,174</b>	<b>109,386</b>	<b>106,103</b>	<b>106,735</b>	<b>110,598</b>
Crude marriage rate	7.1	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.9
<i>Previous marital status—</i>							
First marriage both partners	78,400	75,968	75,045	73,846	70,438	71,042	73,743
First marriage one partner	21,886	21,123	20,159	19,898	19,657	19,965	20,705
Remarriage both partners	16,530	16,164	15,970	15,642	16,008	15,728	16,150
<i>Marriages performed by—</i>							
Ministers of religion—							
Number	68,553	65,573	63,265	n.a.	56,462	55,866	55,807
Per cent	58.7	57.9	56.9	n.a.	53.2	52.3	50.5
Civil celebrants—							
Number	48,263	47,682	47,909	n.a.	49,641	50,869	54,791
Per cent	41.3	42.1	43.1	n.a.	46.8	47.7	49.5
BRIDEGROOM							
<i>Age-specific marriage rates—</i>							
Age group (years)—							
19 and under	2.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0
20-24	48.5	36.3	33.6	31.7	28.0	26.7	26.2
25-29	53.7	53.2	52.8	51.8	49.2	48.9	50.8
30-34	27.6	28.9	29.1	28.6	28.5	29.5	31.0
35-39	15.1	15.0	14.8	15.0	15.3	15.7	16.4
40-44	10.1	9.7	9.4	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.8
45-49	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5
50 and over	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5
<i>Marital status of bridegroom—</i>							
Never married	88,690	85,942	84,510	83,280	79,621	80,483	83,508
Widowed	2,845	2,718	2,584	2,360	2,366	2,312	2,348
Divorced	25,281	24,595	24,080	23,746	24,116	23,940	24,742
<i>Total</i>	<i>116,816</i>	<i>113,255</i>	<i>111,174</i>	<i>109,386</i>	<i>106,103</i>	<i>106,735</i>	<i>110,598</i>
<i>Median age of bridegroom (years)—</i>							
Never married	26.1	27.0	27.2	27.3	27.6	27.8	27.9
Widowed	60.9	62.0	62.1	62.5	62.6	62.3	61.4
Divorced	38.9	40.4	40.9	41.1	41.6	41.8	42.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>29.6</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>29.8</i>
BRIDE							
<i>Age-specific marriage rates—</i>							
Age of bride (years)—							
19 and under	12.7	7.3	6.5	6.1	5.5	5.0	5.2
20-24	70.6	57.8	54.3	51.2	46.3	44.7	44.4
25-29	43.7	46.4	47.4	47.9	46.6	47.7	50.2
30-34	20.3	21.5	21.5	21.4	22.1	23.1	24.4
35-39	11.2	11.3	11.1	11.3	11.4	11.5	12.1
40-44	7.8	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.5
45-49	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.0
50 and over	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
<i>Marital status of bride—</i>							
Never married	89,996	87,117	85,739	84,310	80,912	81,566	84,683
Widowed	3,324	3,099	2,988	2,712	2,747	2,535	2,664
Divorced	23,496	23,039	22,447	22,364	22,444	22,634	23,251
<i>Total</i>	<i>116,816</i>	<i>113,255</i>	<i>111,174</i>	<i>109,386</i>	<i>106,103</i>	<i>106,735</i>	<i>110,598</i>
<i>Median age of bride (years)—</i>							
Never married	24.0	24.8	25.1	25.3	25.7	25.9	26.2
Widowed	52.4	52.8	53.9	53.5	53.7	54.1	54.1
Divorced	35.3	36.8	37.4	37.6	38.0	38.2	38.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>25.4</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>26.6</i>	<i>26.8</i>	<i>27.2</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>27.7</i>

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

**2.7** AGE-SPECIFIC MARRIAGE RATES(a)

	Age group (years)								Total
	19 and under(b)	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	
BRIDEGROOM									
1976	9.9	123.3	150.2	118.5	91.5	70.1	54.5	23.7	62.9
1983	4.0	78.0	120.1	102.7	80.2	62.9	48.2	18.3	52.4
1988	2.4	56.1	104.4	91.3	71.1	56.7	45.5	17.6	45.5
1993	1.4	40.7	91.7	81.2	59.1	46.9	39.7	16.0	40.1
1994	1.2	37.3	88.7	79.1	56.5	43.4	38.4	16.4	38.6
1995	1.2	34.9	84.6	75.7	55.2	41.8	37.2	15.7	37.2
1996	1.0	30.4	77.7	73.0	54.2	40.8	35.6	16.2	35.2
1997	1.0	28.7	74.9	72.7	53.4	39.0	34.3	15.8	34.4
1998	1.0	27.9	76.2	74.8	54.8	39.5	34.0	15.9	34.8
BRIDE									
1976	49.1	190.7	166.3	130.0	93.4	66.4	46.5	6.4	61.1
1983	23.4	131.3	132.3	95.8	67.6	49.9	36.1	4.8	50.1
1988	13.0	100.6	123.3	89.9	61.1	44.7	34.2	4.6	43.6
1993	7.4	74.2	108.9	79.8	51.9	36.9	28.4	4.7	37.8
1994	6.6	68.5	106.6	77.7	49.4	35.9	28.0	4.7	36.3
1995	6.2	63.6	103.7	74.4	48.8	33.8	27.6	4.5	34.9
1996	5.5	56.4	96.5	73.9	47.8	33.2	26.7	4.7	32.9
1997	5.0	53.1	94.5	74.2	46.5	31.8	26.1	4.7	32.2
1998	5.3	51.9	96.4	76.8	48.6	32.6	26.5	4.9	32.8

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

**2.8 AGE-SPECIFIC FIRST MARRIAGE AND REMARRIAGE RATES**

	1976	1983	1988	1993	1996	1997	1998
<b>First marriage rates(a)</b>							
Males—							
19 and under(b)	9.9	4.0	2.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0
20-24	122.6	77.6	56.0	40.7	30.4	28.7	27.8
25-29	135.9	113.7	101.7	90.3	76.5	74.0	74.9
30-34	81.8	79.2	78.4	72.6	66.9	67.4	69.2
35-39	45.9	43.3	44.6	42.1	41.2	41.2	42.7
40-44	25.5	23.7	22.8	22.4	22.0	22.8	22.7
45-49	15.7	13.3	12.9	12.3	12.3	12.4	13.4
50 and over	6.4	4.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.2
Females—							
19 and under(b)	49.0	23.4	13.0	7.4	5.5	5.0	5.3
20-24	187.5	129.8	100.0	73.9	56.0	52.8	51.5
25-29	138.8	122.2	118.2	105.9	94.6	92.8	93.8
30-34	86.5	73.7	74.9	70.3	67.3	67.6	69.1
35-39	49.8	39.8	39.9	36.1	36.1	35.7	36.2
40-44	26.3	21.9	20.4	18.3	17.9	18.6	18.6
45-49	15.5	11.0	12.0	10.3	11.1	11.7	11.2
50 and over	3.9	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.5
<b>Total first marriage rates(c)</b>							
Males	742.6	667.2	647.7	606.2	556.7	559.5	577.6
Females	748.0	689.7	673.6	623.7	578.0	580.6	601.5
<b>Remarriage rates(d)</b>							
Males—							
19 and under(b)	—	—	—	—	—	2.8	—
20-24	245.4	162.5	78.6	39.0	56.6	55.6	57.1
25-29	341.8	205.4	159.1	128.4	117.2	105.3	126.2
30-34	294.8	179.4	151.5	131.7	115.3	109.4	117.5
35-39	239.8	143.0	120.0	98.8	88.7	86.4	89.3
40-44	184.6	111.7	95.6	75.7	65.2	60.7	62.9
45-49	138.2	87.9	75.5	61.7	53.2	51.1	49.9
50-54	98.1	61.5	60.2	48.8	44.6	43.9	41.8
55-59	68.3	45.6	42.3	38.2	35.2	31.9	31.3
60 and over	20.9	16.1	15.3	13.4	12.1	11.5	11.5
Females—							
19 and under(b)	113.7	49.9	7.8	7.8	7.2	4.9	6.4
20-24	295.8	207.0	137.8	102.3	105.0	97.0	128.5
25-29	278.0	175.6	159.5	138.5	121.7	117.8	139.8
30-34	201.0	124.6	118.7	105.0	93.9	95.0	104.9
35-39	136.2	86.1	78.2	69.2	62.4	60.5	66.5
40-44	94.0	62.9	56.3	47.1	42.6	40.3	42.5
45-49	62.7	45.3	42.2	34.8	32.1	31.2	32.4
50-54	31.5	23.3	24.8	24.5	22.3	21.9	21.5
55-59	16.1	12.2	12.0	12.6	12.5	12.1	12.9
60 and over	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0

(a) Per 1,000 population of never married persons, of the appropriate ages, as at 30 June for each year shown. See Glossary. (b) 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. (c) Addition of age-specific first marriage rates calculated per 1,000 population as at 30 June for each year shown. (d) Per 1,000 population of divorced and widowed persons, of the appropriate ages, at 30 June for each year shown. See Glossary.

## 2.9 AGE OF BRIDE/GROOM AND BRIDE

Age of bride/groom (years)	17 and under	Age of bride (years)																		36
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	8	72	50	25	10	7	9	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	8	113	142	89	52	40	19	8	10	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	11	161	216	290	168	95	58	39	38	19	13	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	16	159	241	367	480	290	156	113	75	57	41	22	19	11	10	9	3	—	5	3
22	11	164	247	444	612	739	429	224	159	129	71	55	31	24	21	6	6	3	—	4
23	7	130	212	382	691	941	491	576	338	232	140	115	72	33	34	25	13	14	6	—
24	7	116	191	337	608	919	1,210	1,171	725	421	280	161	122	62	41	35	24	19	21	10
25	—	110	145	266	521	808	1,055	1,302	1,359	813	487	312	199	146	70	62	38	40	25	16
26	—	91	125	231	414	637	857	1,154	1,361	1,244	790	462	276	172	146	79	71	44	36	26
27	7	59	77	153	294	457	679	944	1,025	1,280	1,046	608	408	241	151	118	77	54	38	35
28	3	45	61	111	205	318	520	666	845	966	992	826	485	308	216	156	119	86	65	30
29	—	33	47	81	138	236	383	486	677	759	835	739	600	398	251	214	151	104	73	54
30	—	19	42	61	110	180	275	396	490	606	606	649	578	476	314	213	172	123	77	70
31	—	13	23	50	80	138	173	236	321	467	504	469	530	448	347	245	188	118	124	75
32	—	9	20	33	46	89	146	211	266	334	345	375	411	405	383	310	219	171	117	84
33	—	10	18	35	25	60	104	162	191	272	318	367	330	363	312	308	254	180	138	110
34	—	9	11	19	31	44	88	131	158	200	256	269	284	297	263	252	229	221	162	134
35	—	7	13	23	34	45	81	101	113	172	230	214	242	240	221	218	240	192	191	144
36	—	5	11	13	20	30	52	63	86	139	173	161	174	210	166	194	194	222	159	121
37	—	—	—	5	15	13	30	53	74	105	129	118	148	152	156	168	152	156	145	140
38	—	—	—	6	15	12	32	42	49	82	101	95	132	138	120	116	123	136	152	139
39	—	—	—	—	8	17	30	22	48	67	72	92	107	95	113	96	131	127	142	117
40	—	3	4	5	7	8	18	22	42	48	57	53	67	79	76	96	98	109	114	100
41	—	3	—	4	12	7	15	15	38	28	48	36	66	47	63	72	62	74	83	87
42	—	—	3	3	7	8	7	17	13	25	35	37	49	45	60	51	62	68	82	71
43	—	—	—	3	4	10	7	9	19	27	29	31	39	38	41	39	51	58	56	65
44	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	6	17	17	18	32	25	29	36	32	40	65	50	62
45	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	9	9	15	17	25	22	29	34	43	23	47	46	39
46	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	8	11	15	13	22	11	21	29	27	29	32	36	44
47	—	—	—	—	3	3	5	—	10	9	10	8	9	15	25	23	28	37	37	37
48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	13	8	13	14	18	15	20	28	22	31	40
49	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	7	7	7	9	11	17	15	20	19	16	23	28
50	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	8	6	7	4	14	17	8	15	11	18	31	27
51	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	7	6	4	9	14	12	17	18	17
52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	3	5	9	6	7	8	15	10	11	15
53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	5	3	—	5	7	9	4	7	16	15
54	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	3	7	3	—	4	6	6	9	7
55-59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	10	8	5	13	10	10	11	16	19	26	26
60 and over	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	3	4	8	7	9	10	8	12	18	17
<b>Total brides</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>4,628</b>	<b>6,196</b>	<b>7,532</b>	<b>8,210</b>	<b>8,610</b>	<b>8,618</b>	<b>7,708</b>	<b>6,419</b>	<b>5,528</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>3,784</b>	<b>3,322</b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>2,614</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>2,010</b>
Proportion (%)	0.1	1.2	1.7	2.8	4.2	5.6	6.8	7.4	7.8	7.8	7.0	5.8	5.0	4.2	3.4	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.8

## 2.9 AGE OF BRIDE/GROOM AND BRIDE—continued

Age of bride/groom (years)	Age of bride (years)																65 and over	Total bride- grooms	Propor- tion (%)
	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50- 54	55- 59	60- 64			
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	193	0.2
19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	506	0.5
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,137	1.0
21	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,088	1.9
22	—	—	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,397	3.1
23	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,016	4.5
24	10	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,507	5.9
25	10	9	7	6	6	5	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,831	7.1
26	7	14	8	5	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,270	7.5
27	31	15	27	9	6	3	5	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,861	7.1
28	30	16	22	11	11	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,135	6.5
29	40	34	23	21	13	6	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	6,424	5.8
30	65	34	23	22	12	8	7	4	5	3	4	—	—	5	—	—	—	5,655	5.1
31	43	24	22	20	13	17	11	6	4	—	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	4,723	4.3
32	72	45	39	22	26	20	9	5	8	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	4,233	3.8
33	70	49	48	31	29	7	8	4	7	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,829	3.5
34	84	71	45	34	23	22	19	14	12	11	7	3	6	11	—	—	—	3,421	3.1
35	102	74	66	51	30	27	23	13	15	5	13	7	3	8	3	—	—	3,163	2.9
36	117	84	66	54	30	43	19	12	15	8	8	6	5	10	—	—	—	2,683	2.4
37	121	84	64	48	46	41	35	20	21	17	9	7	7	17	4	—	—	2,362	2.1
38	117	103	74	68	47	40	35	36	21	13	10	10	5	19	—	—	—	2,091	1.9
39	128	100	86	73	56	41	28	23	28	20	19	8	10	15	—	—	—	1,928	1.7
40	114	88	84	75	55	50	35	27	24	21	16	18	14	19	3	—	—	1,650	1.5
41	89	94	94	83	70	51	34	33	23	33	16	20	9	27	9	—	—	1,448	1.3
42	76	79	68	76	78	61	55	42	34	30	34	19	15	32	5	—	—	1,349	1.2
43	77	58	82	75	53	68	52	49	49	29	44	23	22	37	6	—	—	1,251	1.1
44	44	49	62	57	74	60	58	49	39	48	25	25	23	48	8	—	3	1,130	1.0
45	55	51	63	58	59	59	48	51	46	43	38	28	27	58	10	—	—	1,070	1.0
46	46	41	50	52	48	43	61	51	49	52	40	36	31	70	18	6	—	1,002	0.9
47	31	54	41	47	47	46	44	63	52	43	40	42	29	85	28	—	—	939	0.8
48	48	41	41	50	46	40	56	41	52	58	53	43	38	100	20	5	—	970	0.9
49	16	27	38	38	48	48	36	49	48	58	67	44	48	113	34	5	3	910	0.8
50	29	30	41	40	34	45	56	52	53	46	50	49	54	145	27	6	—	936	0.8
51	23	28	37	32	41	31	37	39	40	44	48	58	43	149	37	9	—	822	0.7
52	17	15	20	24	20	22	25	26	35	35	33	34	34	143	42	8	—	630	0.6
53	13	12	15	9	26	19	24	22	24	31	38	29	36	135	48	12	—	580	0.5
54	12	14	11	9	14	16	22	15	35	28	29	28	37	155	45	13	5	550	0.5
55-59	26	31	47	39	46	58	59	75	86	77	84	69	116	526	308	92	34	1,944	1.8
60 and over	14	20	29	28	30	30	35	37	39	53	63	70	69	434	526	530	842	2,960	2.7
<b>Total brides</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>2,386</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>110,598</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Proportion (%)	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	2.2	1.1	0.6	0.8	100.0	..

**2.10** AGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

Age (years)	Bridegroom				Bride			
	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
17 and under	4	—	—	4	89	—	—	89
18	193	—	—	193	1,345	—	—	1,345
19	506	—	—	506	1,917	—	—	1,919
20	1,136	—	—	1,137	3,061	—	7	3,069
21	2,087	—	—	2,088	4,609	—	19	4,628
22	3,387	—	10	3,397	6,135	—	60	6,196
23	5,001	—	15	5,016	7,424	—	108	7,532
24	6,459	—	46	6,507	8,025	—	183	8,210
25	7,727	—	102	7,831	8,286	11	313	8,610
26	8,098	—	171	8,270	8,124	20	474	8,618
27	7,566	3	292	7,861	7,103	14	591	7,708
28	6,731	8	396	7,135	5,706	13	700	6,419
29	5,906	7	511	6,424	4,661	17	850	5,528
30	5,046	4	605	5,655	3,681	20	924	4,625
31	4,012	8	703	4,723	2,819	25	940	3,784
32	3,450	7	776	4,233	2,341	28	953	3,322
33	2,920	13	896	3,829	1,829	23	1,065	2,917
34	2,445	18	958	3,421	1,512	33	1,069	2,614
35	2,153	11	999	3,163	1,255	44	1,068	2,367
36	1,638	25	1,020	2,683	985	45	980	2,010
37	1,331	26	1,005	2,362	732	49	994	1,775
38	1,054	23	1,014	2,091	564	37	900	1,501
39	879	21	1,028	1,928	478	43	935	1,456
40	702	25	923	1,650	396	47	834	1,277
41	521	29	898	1,448	309	56	782	1,147
42	401	20	928	1,349	232	62	747	1,041
43	360	37	854	1,251	175	50	727	952
44	306	26	798	1,130	144	72	665	881
45	239	33	798	1,070	122	53	703	878
46	183	24	795	1,002	101	64	662	827
47	169	35	735	939	93	68	643	804
48	126	48	796	970	78	57	549	684
49	126	41	743	910	63	74	555	692
50	88	59	789	936	47	82	516	645
51	86	48	688	822	36	82	466	584
52	49	49	532	630	25	72	336	433
53	59	49	472	580	29	59	285	373
54	43	55	452	550	29	67	255	351
55	30	62	408	500	7	55	229	291
56	36	72	332	440	15	75	178	268
57	28	66	260	354	9	73	161	243
58	27	65	229	321	11	55	133	199
59	20	56	253	329	11	72	107	190
60	28	71	204	303	10	52	99	161
61	12	67	167	246	8	66	76	150
62	18	62	138	218	10	68	66	144
63	8	68	140	216	5	69	50	124
64	15	48	126	189	6	74	36	116
65	13	66	109	188	5	45	48	98
66	14	64	97	175	4	50	32	86
67	10	70	86	166	5	47	32	84
68	8	68	74	150	3	62	27	92
69	8	53	59	120	4	57	23	84
70	10	69	64	143	—	42	13	56
71	5	60	50	115	—	43	15	60
72	6	64	39	109	—	41	13	55
73	4	54	38	96	—	36	10	46
74	3	52	21	76	—	30	7	37
75 and over	18	334	98	450	6	161	36	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,508</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>24,742</b>	<b>110,598</b>	<b>84,683</b>	<b>2,664</b>	<b>23,251</b>	<b>110,598</b>

## 2.11 BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES

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
<b>OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA—</b>								
Australia	70,876	—	11,872	82,748	70,876	—	13,231	84,107
Fiji	73	171	53	297	95	171	87	353
New Zealand	1,892	505	519	2,916	1,439	505	477	2,421
Papua New Guinea	216	8	67	291	238	8	61	307
Other	133	181	97	411	65	181	84	330
<i>Total</i>	<i>73,190</i>	<i>865</i>	<i>12,608</i>	<i>86,663</i>	<i>72,713</i>	<i>865</i>	<i>13,940</i>	<i>87,518</i>
<b>EUROPE AND FORMER USSR—</b>								
Austria	53	18	40	111	42	18	30	90
Cyprus	73	14	33	120	42	14	27	83
Denmark	45	9	26	80	39	9	10	58
Former Czechoslovakia	27	38	28	93	45	38	34	117
Former USSR and Baltic States	43	159	28	230	126	159	103	388
Former Yugoslav Republics	383	326	149	858	254	326	86	666
France	92	18	47	157	78	18	28	124
Germany	357	164	209	730	318	164	151	633
Greece	223	45	61	329	120	45	35	200
Hungary	38	39	35	112	38	39	23	100
Ireland	209	33	84	326	121	33	67	221
Italy	361	74	132	567	183	74	61	318
Malta	82	14	35	131	63	14	26	103
Netherlands	255	60	106	421	200	60	81	341
Poland	64	144	58	266	107	144	55	306
Portugal	40	23	27	90	47	23	17	87
Romania	25	55	27	107	25	55	24	104
Spain	51	6	24	81	47	6	31	84
Switzerland	48	25	50	123	54	25	27	106
United Kingdom	4,962	1,465	1,156	7,583	3,676	1,465	673	5,814
Other	106	42	75	223	111	42	58	211
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,537</i>	<i>2,771</i>	<i>2,430</i>	<i>12,738</i>	<i>5,736</i>	<i>2,771</i>	<i>1,647</i>	<i>10,154</i>
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA—</b>								
Egypt	75	48	62	185	29	48	22	99
Iran	33	57	45	135	30	57	29	116
Israel	38	13	29	80	23	13	14	50
Lebanon	373	207	81	661	124	207	66	397
Syria	28	8	25	61	9	8	31	48
Turkey	112	91	36	239	42	91	27	160
Other	79	135	105	319	38	135	75	248
<i>Total</i>	<i>738</i>	<i>559</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>1,680</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>559</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>1,118</i>
<b>SOUTHEAST ASIA—</b>								
Cambodia	12	187	44	243	18	187	70	275
Indonesia	76	294	93	463	190	294	209	693
Laos	10	75	39	124	18	75	39	132
Malaysia	171	130	179	480	251	130	226	607
Philippines	90	524	40	654	711	524	389	1,624
Singapore	109	30	80	219	122	30	107	259
Thailand	20	75	30	125	237	75	154	466
Viet Nam	41	1,275	150	1,466	106	1,275	208	1,589
Other	24	33	30	87	20	33	33	86
<i>Total</i>	<i>553</i>	<i>2,623</i>	<i>685</i>	<i>3,861</i>	<i>1,673</i>	<i>2,623</i>	<i>1,435</i>	<i>5,731</i>
<b>NORTHEAST ASIA—</b>								
China	28	657	205	890	204	657	316	1,177
Hong Kong	45	160	145	350	87	160	150	397
Japan	32	82	21	135	260	82	157	499
Korea	14	251	38	303	80	251	62	393
Other	3	33	42	78	43	33	69	145
<i>Total</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>1,183</i>	<i>451</i>	<i>1,756</i>	<i>674</i>	<i>1,183</i>	<i>754</i>	<i>2,611</i>

**2.11** BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES—*continued*

<i>Country of birth</i>	<i>Bridegroom born in country shown and bride born in</i>				<i>Bride born in country shown and bridegroom born in</i>			
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>SOUTHERN ASIA—</b>								
India	190	132	170	492	113	132	106	351
Pakistan	57	30	67	154	13	30	13	56
Sri Lanka	100	143	47	290	63	143	40	246
Other	31	68	27	126	9	68	16	93
<i>Total</i>	<i>378</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>1,062</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>746</i>
<b>THE AMERICAS—</b>								
Argentina	51	18	35	104	60	18	41	119
Canada	260	28	67	355	219	28	81	328
Caribbean	14	4	11	29	13	4	14	31
Central America	31	53	30	114	25	53	39	117
Chile	77	54	58	189	79	54	70	203
United States of America	519	76	167	762	429	76	114	619
Uruguay	41	15	32	88	33	15	26	74
Other	72	64	69	205	89	64	89	242
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,065</i>	<i>312</i>	<i>469</i>	<i>1,846</i>	<i>947</i>	<i>312</i>	<i>474</i>	<i>1,733</i>
<b>AFRICA (Excluding North Africa)—</b>								
Kenya	35	4	21	60	20	4	20	44
Mauritius	55	25	27	107	51	25	33	109
South Africa	263	78	111	452	310	78	109	497
Zimbabwe	64	5	25	94	68	5	27	100
Other	107	92	80	279	63	92	82	237
<i>Total</i>	<i>524</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>992</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>271</i>	<i>987</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,107</b>	<b>8,890</b>	<b>17,601</b>	<b>110,598</b>	<b>82,748</b>	<b>8,890</b>	<b>18,960</b>	<b>110,598</b>

## 2.12 SUMMARY(a), SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF BRIDE/GROOM AND BRIDE

	Country of birth of bride/groom									
	Australia	China	Germany	Greece	Hong Kong	Italy	India	Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand
<b>Marriages registered</b>										
Population '000(b)	82,748	890	730	329	350	567	492	661	480	2,916
Marriage rate(c)	7121.6	67.9	59.3	72.2	31.7	133.9	50.7	40.5	43.6	173.6
	11.6	13.1	12.3	4.6	11.0	4.2	9.7	16.3	11.0	16.8
<b>Marriages performed by—</b>										
Ministers of religion—										
Number	44,999	87	206	211	95	308	181	540	188	1,137
Per cent	54.4	9.8	28.2	64.1	27.1	54.3	36.8	81.7	39.2	39.0
Civil celebrants—										
Number	37,749	803	524	118	255	259	311	121	292	1,779
Per cent	45.6	90.2	71.8	35.9	72.9	45.7	63.2	18.3	60.8	61.0
<b>Bridegrooms born in country shown</b>										
<b>marrying brides born in—</b>										
Australia—										
Number	70,876	28	357	223	45	361	190	373	171	1,892
Per cent	85.7	3.1	48.9	67.8	12.9	63.7	38.6	56.4	35.6	64.9
Same overseas country—										
Number	..	657	164	45	160	74	132	207	130	505
Per cent	..	73.8	22.5	13.7	45.7	13.1	26.8	31.3	27.1	17.3
Other overseas countries—										
Number	11,872	205	209	61	145	132	170	81	179	519
Per cent	14.3	23.0	28.6	18.5	41.4	23.3	34.6	12.3	37.3	17.8
<b>Marital status at marriage (number)—</b>										
Never married	64,663	538	417	204	282	281	367	536	386	2,105
Widowed	1,460	28	37	16	2	47	18	8	3	45
Divorced	16,625	324	276	109	66	239	107	117	91	766
Total	82,748	890	730	329	350	567	492	661	480	2,916
<b>Median age (years)—</b>										
Never married	27.6	31.4	31.2	31.8	29.6	31.0	27.7	27.2	28.0	29.0
Widowed	61.0	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
Divorced	41.6	38.7	48.8	42.9	(d)	49.0	44.7	32.6	(d)	42.3
Total	29.2	34.6	35.9	35.4	31.3	39.0	29.8	27.8	29.6	31.5
Median duration of residence (years)	..	8.3	16.2	28.0	9.3	30.0	6.6	8.7	13.6	10.8
See footnotes at end of table.										

## 2.12 SUMMARY(a), SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF BRIDE/GROOM AND BRIDE—continued

	Country of birth of bride														
	Australia	China	Germany	Greece	Hong Kong	Italy	India	Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	UK and Ireland	USA Viet Nam	
<b>Marriages registered</b>	<b>84,107</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>2,421</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>6,035</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>1,589</b>
Population '000(b)	7235.0	71.9	62.0	69.5	33.2	117.5	44.9	36.9	48.5	165.7	71.4	35.7	607.4	28.5	84.8
Marriage rate(c)	11.6	16.4	10.2	2.9	12.0	2.7	7.8	10.8	12.5	14.6	22.8	13.9	9.9	21.7	18.7
<i>Marriages performed by—</i>															
Ministers of religion—															
Number	46,397	108	152	138	133	170	155	330	247	892	491	264	1,983	220	428
Per cent	55.2	9.2	24.0	69.0	33.5	53.5	44.2	83.1	40.7	36.8	30.2	53.1	32.9	35.5	26.9
Civil celebrants—															
Number	37,710	1,069	481	62	264	148	196	67	360	1,529	1,133	233	4,052	399	1,161
Per cent	44.8	90.8	76.0	31.0	66.5	46.5	55.8	16.9	59.3	63.2	69.8	46.9	67.1	64.5	73.1
<i>Brides born in country shown marrying bridegrooms born in—</i>															
Australia—															
Number	70,876	204	318	120	87	183	113	124	251	1,439	711	310	3,797	429	106
Per cent	84.3	17.3	50.2	60.0	21.9	57.5	32.2	31.2	41.4	59.4	43.8	62.4	62.9	69.3	6.7
Same overseas country—															
Number	..	657	164	45	160	74	132	207	130	505	524	78	1,567	76	1,275
Per cent	..	55.8	25.9	22.5	40.3	23.3	37.6	52.1	21.4	20.9	32.3	15.7	26.0	12.3	80.2
Other overseas countries—															
Number	13,231	316	151	35	150	61	106	66	226	477	389	109	671	114	208
Per cent	15.7	26.8	23.9	17.5	37.8	19.2	30.2	16.6	37.2	19.7	24.0	21.9	11.1	18.4	13.1
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>															
Never married	66,597	662	401	134	343	169	251	296	499	1,730	1,147	381	3,389	376	1,358
Widowed	1,635	24	32	8	2	35	14	11	7	66	130	16	294	10	25
Divorced	15,875	491	200	58	52	114	86	90	101	625	347	100	2,352	233	206
Total	84,107	1,177	633	200	397	318	351	397	607	2,421	1,624	497	6,035	619	1,589
<i>Median age (years)—</i>															
Never married	25.9	28.4	30.2	27.5	28.4	29.9	26.8	23.1	26.8	27.2	28.4	26.6	28.6	27.9	25.7
Widowed	55.3	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	46.2	(d)	57.9	(d)	(d)
Divorced	38.1	36.4	46.9	(d)	(d)	39.1	(d)	(d)	36.6	39.4	37.3	40.4	41.0	37.2	32.1
Total	27.1	32.1	32.6	31.2	29.0	34.7	28.9	24.6	28.1	29.7	31.6	28.0	32.9	31.3	26.3
Median duration of residence (years)	..	2.1	10.2	25.1	6.3	28.5	10.4	8.3	9.1	11.4	2.5	13.5	19.6	1.1	7.2

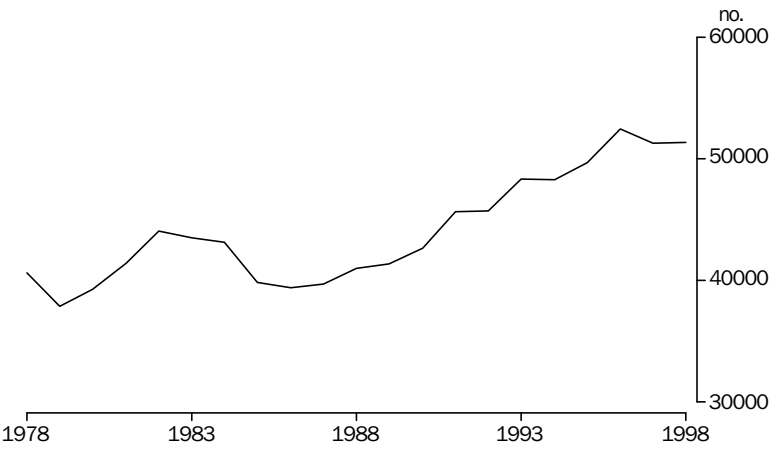
(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 1998 preliminary. (c) Per 1,000 male or female ERP by country of birth, 1998 preliminary. (d) Not statistically reliable due to

(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used. (b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 1998 preliminary. (c) Per 1,000 male or female ERP by country of birth, 1998 preliminary. (d) Not statistically reliable due to the small numbers involved.

There were 51,400 divorces granted in Australia in 1998, representing a small increase on the number of divorces granted in 1997 (less than 1%), but an increase of 25% on the number granted 10 years ago. This compares with a 9% increase between 1988 and 1998 in the married population (i.e. the population at risk of divorce).

**DIVORCES GRANTED**



**THE ANDREWS' REPORT**

In June 1998 the Andrews' Report (1998) was released by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, under the Chairmanship of Mr Kevin Andrews MP.

Through the evidence provided from a diverse range of organisations and individuals the Committee indicated that the causes of marriage breakdown were complex, diverse and interactive and that no single factor could be isolated as the most significant or important reason for marriage breakdown.

The Committee provided a summary of the most common themes presented in submissions for marriage breakdown. These included: unemployment and work related problems; high risk factors within marriages such as addictive behaviours, chronic illness, or death of a child; blended families; marriage and relationship breakdown in the family of origin; a redefinition of gender roles and the feminist agenda of equality; ambivalent or negative attitudes toward marriage; the growth of individualism; poor communication skills; poor parenting skills; domestic violence; pre-marital cohabitation; ease of divorce; geographical and social isolation of the family; and migration issues.

## DIVORCE RATES

The crude divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1,000 population) in 1998 was 2.7 per 1,000. This is a slight decrease on the rate recorded in 1997 (2.8 per 1,000), but a higher rate than in 1988 when the crude divorce rate was 2.5 per 1,000 population.

The divorce rate for the currently married population fell in 1998 to 12.4 men and women per 1,000 currently married men and women. This is the second year a fall was recorded. However, the 1998 rate was higher than that recorded in 1988 (10.8 men and women).

## DIVORCE RATES(a), Married Population

Selected years	Men	Women
	rate(a)	rate(a)
1976(b)	18.9	18.8
1983	12.2	12.2
1988	10.8	10.8
1993	12.1	12.1
1998	12.4	12.4

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

(b) Family Law Act introduced 1976.

## LIKELIHOOD TO DIVORCE

An ABS study (1995), measured how many marriages are likely to end in divorce. This study found that about 8% of all marriages are likely to be dissolved within five years of marriage, 19% within ten years, 32% within twenty years and 39% within thirty years.

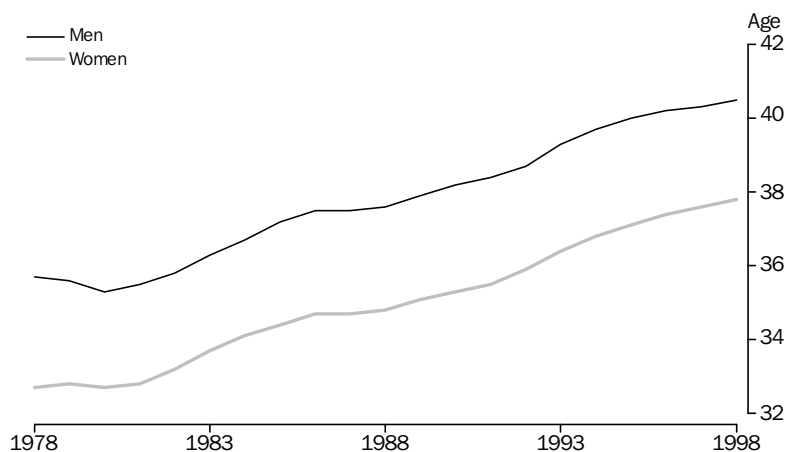
The number of married people aged 15–19 years has declined since the mid 1970s. Although small, this group is vulnerable to divorce. According to 1994 divorce expectations, about seven out of ten teenage bridegrooms and five out of ten teenage brides were expected to seek divorce within the first 10 years of marriage. By 20 years of marriage virtually all bridegrooms and seven out of ten brides were likely to have divorced.

The Andrews' Report (1998, p.16) states that according to the Australian Family Formation Study, the pre-marital experiences contributing most to the risk of marital breakdown are pre-marital cohabitation, having an ex-nuptial child and leaving home at an early age.

## AGE AT DIVORCE

The median age at divorce (the age at which there are as many divorcing above the age as there are below it) for both men and women continued to rise in 1998. The median age at divorce for men was 40.5 years and for women 37.8 years. This was a rise of 2.9 years for men and 3.0 years for women, from 37.6 years and 34.8 years respectively, in 1988. The rise in the median age at divorce is probably associated with the increase in the age of marriage (see Chapter 2).

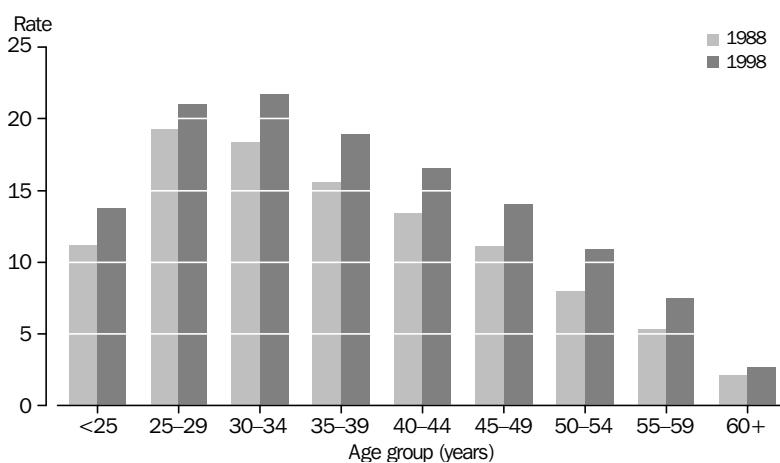
## MEDIAN AGE AT DIVORCE



Age-specific divorce rates of married people increased in all age groups for both men and women over the ten-year period 1988–98.

The peak age group for divorce rates for men changed from 25–29 years in 1988 to 30–34 years in 1998. The age-specific divorce rates for men in the peak age groups increased from 19.3 per 1,000 to 21.1 per 1,000 for the age group 25–29 years, and 18.4 per 1,000 to 21.7 per 1,000 for the age group 30–34 years.

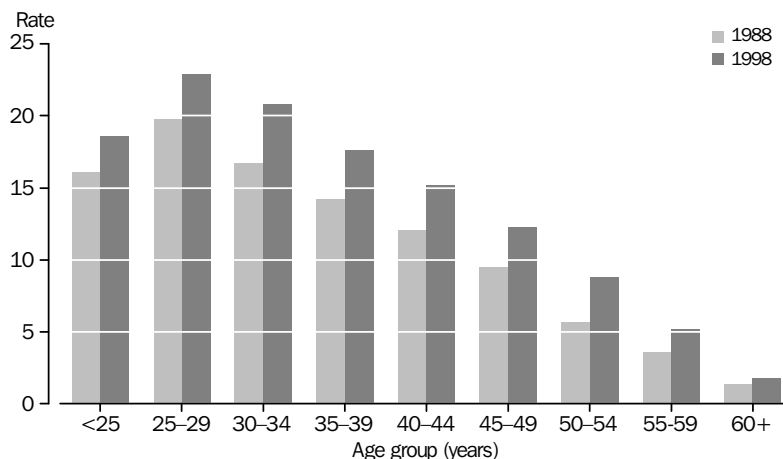
## AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES(a), Married Population—Men



(a) Per 1,000 married men.

For women the pattern was similar with the peak age group, 25–29 years, increasing from 19.8 per 1,000 to 22.9 per 1,000 married women.

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



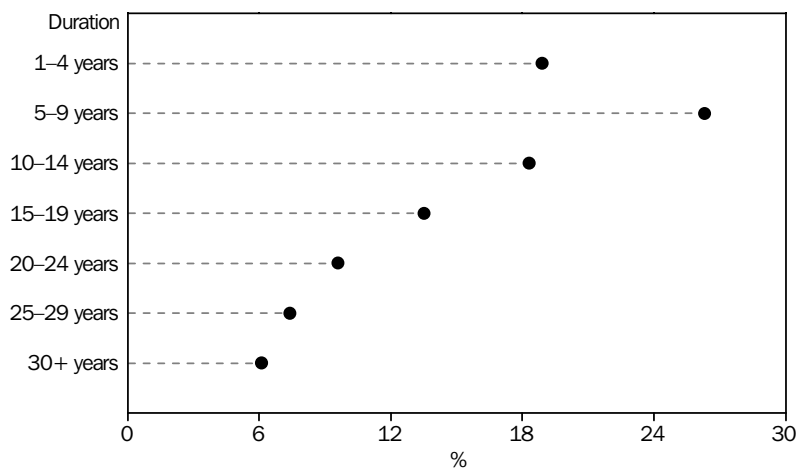
(a) Per 1,000 married women.

## DURATION OF MARRIAGE

Duration of marriage is the interval between the date of marriage and the date the divorce was made absolute. Of the divorces occurring in 1998, the median duration of marriage was 11.2 years. Between 1988 and 1998 the median duration of marriage increased consistently, from a low of 10.1 years to a high of 11.2 years. Similarly, the median duration of marriage to the time the parties separated has also increased over this ten-year period, ranging from 7.3 years in 1988 to 7.8 years in 1998. On the other hand, the interval between final separation and the date the divorce was made absolute increased from 2.8 years in 1988 to 3.4 years in 1998.

Of the couples who divorced in 1998, 36% were separated within the first five years of marriage and a further 23% were separated in the next five years. The most common single interval between marriage and separation was between two and three years (8.2%). Nearly 19% of couples had divorced within the first five years of marriage while a further 26% had divorced in the following five-year period. The most common single interval between marriage and divorce was between three and four years (6.4%).

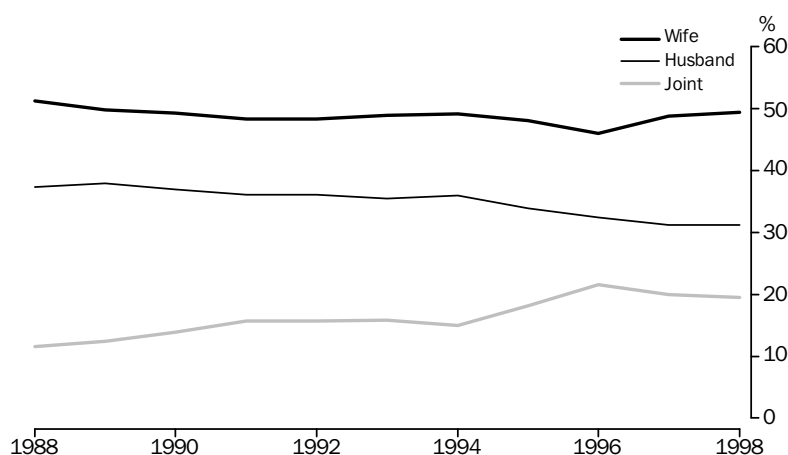
## DURATION OF MARRIAGE TO DIVORCE



## APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE

Joint applications for divorce became available in 1984. Until the last two years the trend had been for the proportion of joint applications for divorce to increase, rising from less than 1% in 1984 to 22% in 1996. In the years 1997 and 1998 this proportion fell slightly to 20% and 19%, respectively. However, most applications are still lodged singly, with 49% being lodged by wives and 31% by husbands in 1998.

## APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE



## CHILDREN OF DIVORCING PARTNERS

Between 1988 and 1998 the proportion of divorces granted where children were involved has fallen. In 1988, 58% of divorces involved children under 18 years. By 1998 this proportion was 53%. This is consistent with the decline in fertility.

However, because the number of divorces has increased over this ten-year period (by 25%), the actual number of children (under 18 years) involved in divorce has increased. In 1988 there were 44,400 children involved in divorce, by 1998 this number had increased to 51,600 children. In 1988, 0.97 children per 100 children aged under 18 years were involved in divorce in Australia. By 1998 this proportion had increased to 1.09 per 100.

## CHILDREN(a) OF DIVORCE

Selected years	Number of divorces	Proportion of divorces involving children(a)	Number of children(a)	Average number of children(b)	Proportion of children involved in divorce(c)
	no.	%	no.	no.	%
1988	41 007	57.5	44 395	1.882	0.97
1990	42 635	55.6	44 913	1.895	0.98
1992	45 729	53.0	45 782	1.891	1.00
1994	48 312	52.4	47 537	1.878	1.03
1996	52 466	53.6	52 455	1.864	1.12
1998	51 370	53.4	51 602	1.880	1.09

(a) Children aged under 18 years.

(b) Per divorces involving one or more children.

(c) Per 100 children aged under 18 years.

CHILDREN OF DIVORCING PARTNERS *continued*

Of divorces granted where children under 18 years were involved, couples married for 15–19 years had the highest average number of children in both 1988 and 1998, 2.24 and 2.19, respectively. The average number of children, for all those divorces where children under 18 years were involved, was 1.88 children in both years.

Wives are more likely to apply for divorce than husbands. This difference was most marked when children were present. In 1998, 59% of divorces where children under 18 years were involved had the wife as the applicant, compared with only 29% for husbands. When the husband or wife applied separately and no children were involved the proportions were much closer, 33% and 39%, respectively. These patterns are similar to the 1988 experience.

## APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE, Children Involved

Applicant	1988.....				1998.....			
	With children.....		Without children....		With children.....		Without children....	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Husband	8 470	35.9	6 810	39.1	8 003	29.2	8 001	33.4
Wife	13 051	55.3	7 964	45.7	16 084	58.6	9 296	38.9
Joint	2 064	8.8	2 648	15.2	3 360	12.2	6 626	27.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 585</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17 422</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27 447</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23 923</b>	<b>100.0</b>
% of total divorces	..	57.5	..	42.5	..	53.4	..	46.6

## Living arrangements of children after divorce

The ABS Family Characteristics Survey (1997) found that when parents separate, the children generally live with one parent, usually their mother, but may continue to have contact with the other parent on a more or less regular basis. In April 1997, there were 978,000 children who were living with one natural parent and who had a natural parent living elsewhere. The vast majority (88%) lived with their mother in either one-parent families (68%) or in step or blended families (20%).

The survey refers to a step-family as a couple family with one or more children, at least one of whom is the natural child of either partner but not of the other (step-child), and none of whom is the natural child of both parties. A blended-family is referred to as a couple family with two or more children, of whom at least one is the natural child of both partners, and at least one is the step-child of either partner.

Children of all ages were more likely to live with their mother than their father, and this was particularly so for younger children. In 1997, 96% of 0–4 year olds, 89% of 5–11 year olds and 82% of 12–17 year olds whose parents had separated were living with their mother. Boys aged 12–17 were more likely to live with their natural father than girls of the same age (21% compared with 15%). In the younger age groups, there was little difference in the proportions of boys and girls who lived with their father.

## CHILDREN WITH A NATURAL PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE

	AGE OF CHILD (YEARS)			
	0-4	5-11	12-17	Total
	%	%	%	%
Living with natural mother	95.9	89.2	81.8	87.9
One-parent family	88.7	69.7	54.6	68.2
Step-family	5.6	10.7	15.3	11.3
Blended family	*1.5	8.8	11.9	8.4
Living with natural father	4.1	10.8	18.2	12.1
One-parent family	3.7	8.7	12.6	9.1
Step-family	**	**	3.7	2.0
Blended family	**	**	1.9	1.1
<b>Total with a natural parent living elsewhere</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Total with a natural parent living elsewhere</b>	<b>207.9</b>	<b>409.8</b>	<b>360.8</b>	<b>978.4</b>

Source: Unpublished data, Family Characteristics Survey, April 1997.

## BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES DIVORCING

Of the divorces granted in Australia in 1998, 57% were divorces where both parties were born in Australia (59% in 1988), 14% were divorces of couples born in the same overseas country (12% in 1988) and 29% were divorces between men and women who had chosen partners from a different country (29% in 1988). Of this last group, 44% were overseas-born men divorcing Australian-born women while a further 35% were overseas-born women divorcing Australian-born men. The 1988 comparisons were 46% and 34%, respectively.

## BIRTHPLACE OF DIVORCING PARTIES

Country of birth of couple	1988	1998	1988	1998
	no.	no.	%	%
Australian-born	24 160	29 316	58.9	57.1
Same overseas country	4 808	7 136	11.7	13.9
Different countries	12 039	14 918	29.4	29.0
Australian-born men/overseas-born women	4 080	5 288	33.9	35.4
Australian-born women/overseas-born men	5 572	6 610	46.3	44.3
Couples from different overseas countries	2 387	3 020	19.8	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>41 007</b>	<b>51 370</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES DIVORCING *continued*

## Divorce rates

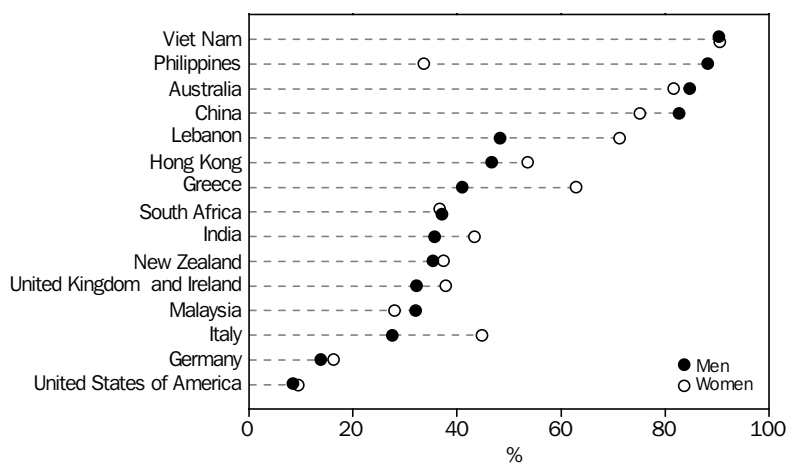
Divorce rates for Australian-born and overseas-born varied in 1998. When comparing these rates, it should be remembered that the total number of divorces granted for persons born in some selected countries is small, and that the age composition of birthplace groups is varied.

Of the overseas-born countries selected for comparison, Chinese-born had the highest divorce rates in the Australian population (14.1 and 14.6 per 1,000 Chinese-born men and women, respectively). Men born in Italy had the lowest rate at 4.2 per 1,000, while Italian-born and Greek-born women had the lowest rate for women at 3.0 per 1,000. Comparative divorce rates for Australian-born men and women were 4.9 and 5.0 per 1,000, respectively.

## Birthplace relationship

Vietnamese-born men and women had the highest percentage of divorces where both partners were born in the same country, 90% for both Vietnam-born men and women. The lowest percentages for the countries selected for comparison were for men and women born in the United States of America (8% for men and 9% for women). The percentage of Australian-born men who divorced Australian-born women was 85%, while 82% of all Australian-born women divorcing, divorced Australian-born men.

## MEN AND WOMEN DIVORCING PARTNERS FROM THE SAME BIRTHPLACE



THE COST OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN

The Andrews' Report (1998, p. 50) concludes that marriage and family breakdown costs the Australian nation at least \$3 billion each year. The cost is both direct and indirect.

Direct costs to the Commonwealth Budget include:

	\$ million
■ the Department of Social Security spent \$3,134 million on the Sole Parent Pension, the Child Support Scheme, and Jobs Education and Training (JET) (1996–97). About 70% of Sole Parent Pensioners were people who had been married or de facto married but had separated or divorced.	2 200
■ the Family Court of Australia (1996–97)	112
■ Legal Aid on Family Court cases (1994–95)	40
■ the Child Support Scheme (1996–97)	169
■ the Sole Parent Tax Rebate (1994–95)	250
	.....
Total	2 771

The Andrews' Report (1998, pp. 50 and 51) also states that when all indirect costs (e.g. health, absenteeism and low productivity), which are difficult to measure, are included the \$3 billion could possibly double. When the personal and emotional trauma involved is added to these figures, the cost of marriage and family breakdown to the nation is enormous.

## 3.1 SUMMARY(a), BY STATES AND TERRITORIES

	<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>Aust.</i>
NUMBER									
<b>Divorces granted</b>	<b>14,987</b>	<b>12,307</b>	<b>11,349</b>	<b>4,159</b>	<b>5,268</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>51,370</b>
Crude divorce rate	2.4	2.6	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.4	(b)	2.7
Median duration of marriage (years)	10.2	10.9	11.7	11.8	12.0	12.2	11.2	12.1	11.2
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	6.9	7.8	8.1	8.4	8.3	8.8	7.4	8.6	7.8
<i>Divorces involving children—</i>									
Number	7,604	6,280	6,415	2,380	2,811	850	254	853	27,447
Percentage of total divorces	50.7	51.0	56.5	57.2	53.4	64.3	55.6	56.1	53.4
Average issue	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
<i>Applicant—</i>									
Husband	4,751	3,915	3,499	1,284	1,499	426	162	468	16,004
Wife	7,243	6,139	5,895	2,158	2,333	719	170	723	25,380
Joint	2,993	2,253	1,955	717	1,436	177	125	330	9,986
HUSBAND									
<i>Age-specific divorce rates(c)—</i>									
Age group (years)—									
24 and under	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	(b)	0.6
25-29	6.7	6.6	8.6	7.0	5.8	7.9	4.3	(b)	7.0
30-34	11.4	12.8	14.1	13.2	12.5	15.4	8.8	(b)	12.7
35-39	11.2	13.1	15.9	14.0	13.8	15.3	11.2	(b)	13.3
40-44	10.5	12.0	15.6	13.6	12.8	12.1	10.1	(b)	12.5
45-49	9.2	10.9	13.0	11.0	12.4	11.2	9.0	(b)	11.0
50-54	7.5	8.1	10.3	9.1	9.5	9.8	8.3	(b)	8.7
55 and over	2.5	2.9	4.1	2.8	3.6	2.5	4.7	(b)	3.1
<i>Median age (years)—</i>									
at marriage	26.5	25.9	25.7	25.8	25.9	25.2	26.4	25.6	26.0
at final separation	36.9	37.1	37.5	37.4	37.7	36.9	36.5	37.7	37.2
at decree made absolute	40.1	40.3	40.9	40.7	41.2	40.1	40.0	40.9	40.5
WIFE									
<i>Age-specific divorce rates(c)—</i>									
Age group (years)—									
24 and under	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.4	0.8	(b)	1.6
25-29	10.1	10.6	12.8	11.2	10.4	11.2	8.5	(b)	11.0
30-34	12.1	13.8	16.5	15.4	14.8	16.8	10.5	(b)	14.2
35-39	11.3	12.5	16.1	13.6	13.8	14.7	11.7	(b)	13.2
40-44	9.9	11.0	14.4	13.0	12.4	12.4	11.3	(b)	11.7
45-49	8.0	9.4	11.8	9.1	10.6	8.6	8.4	(b)	9.5
50-54	5.8	6.1	8.2	6.8	7.3	7.6	8.0	(b)	6.8
55 and over	1.2	1.5	2.0	1.4	2.0	1.1	2.9	(b)	1.5
<i>Median age (years)—</i>									
at marriage	23.8	23.6	23.1	23.3	23.2	23.0	24.2	23.2	23.5
at final separation	34.3	34.4	34.7	34.8	34.9	34.6	34.0	34.9	34.5
at decree made absolute	37.4	37.6	38.0	38.3	38.3	37.7	37.6	37.9	37.8

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used. (b) See paragraph 16 of Explanatory Notes. (c) Per 1,000 men or women, respectively, at 30 June. Males under 18 and females under 16 are excluded from the population.

**3.2 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>Aust.</i>
1978	13,797	10,821	6,106	3,805	3,387	1,131	291	1,270	40,608
1983	14,023	10,663	7,474	4,431	3,822	1,359	371	1,382	43,525
1988	11,880	10,250	7,690	4,031	3,964	1,220	275	1,697	41,007
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	400	2,071	48,312
1995	14,945	11,838	10,192	4,199	5,040	1,279	432	1,787	49,712
1996	15,984	12,491	10,996	4,358	4,959	1,582	486	1,610	52,466
1997	14,655	12,463	11,744	4,115	5,046	1,321	416	1,528	51,288
1998	14,987	12,307	11,349	4,159	5,268	1,322	457	1,521	51,370

(a) See paragraph 16 of Explanatory Notes.

**3.3 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</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
1978	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	(b)	2.8
1983	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.3	2.8	3.1	2.7	(b)	2.8
1988	2.1	2.4	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.7	1.7	(b)	2.5
1993	2.5	2.5	3.2	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.2	(b)	2.7
1994	2.3	2.5	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.3	2.3	(b)	2.7
1995	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.4	(b)	2.8
1996	2.6	2.7	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.3	2.7	(b)	2.9
1997	2.3	2.7	3.5	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.2	(b)	2.8
1998	2.4	2.6	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.4	(b)	2.7

(a) Per 1,000 population. (b) See paragraph 16 of Explanatory Notes.

## 3.4 SUMMARY(a), BY SELECTED YEARS

	1988	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
NUMBER							
<b>Divorces granted</b>	<b>41,007</b>	<b>48,363</b>	<b>48,312</b>	<b>49,712</b>	<b>52,466</b>	<b>51,288</b>	<b>51,370</b>
Crude divorce rate	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7
Median duration of marriage (years)	10.1	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.2
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8
<i>Divorces involving children—</i>							
Number	23,585	25,461	25,316	n.a.	28,138	27,694	27,447
Percentage of total divorces	57.5	52.6	52.4	n.a.	53.6	54.0	53.4
Average issue	1.9	1.9	1.9	n.a.	1.9	1.9	1.9
<i>Applicant—</i>							
Husband	15,280	17,098	17,350	16,834	17,005	15,987	16,004
Wife	21,015	23,630	23,739	23,904	24,155	25,041	25,380
Joint	4,712	7,635	7,223	8,974	11,306	10,260	9,986
HUSBAND							
<i>Age-specific divorce rates(b)—</i>							
Age group (years)—							
24 and under	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6
25-29	9.4	8.5	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.4	7.0
30-34	12.8	13.1	12.7	12.8	13.0	12.9	12.7
35-39	12.3	13.1	13.1	13.2	13.8	13.2	13.3
40-44	11.0	12.8	12.5	12.3	13.0	12.6	12.5
45-49	9.2	10.8	11.0	11.5	11.6	11.1	11.0
50-54	6.7	8.4	8.5	8.6	9.2	8.9	8.7
55 and over	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>							
Never married	34,299	39,589	39,255	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Widowed	421	483	510	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Divorced	6,287	8,291	8,547	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	41,007	48,363	48,312	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Median age (years)—</i>							
at marriage	24.4	25.2	25.4	25.6	25.8	25.8	26.0
at final separation	34.8	36.2	36.6	36.7	36.9	37.0	37.2
at decree made absolute	37.6	39.3	39.7	40.0	40.2	40.3	40.5
WIFE							
<i>Age-specific divorce rates(b)—</i>							
Age group (years)—							
24 and under	2.8	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6
25-29	12.7	12.5	12.0	11.8	12.2	11.4	11.0
30-34	12.9	13.9	13.7	13.9	14.4	14.0	14.2
35-39	11.6	13.2	13.0	13.1	13.5	13.3	13.2
40-44	10.0	11.5	11.7	11.8	12.3	11.7	11.7
45-49	7.8	9.4	9.4	9.6	9.9	9.4	9.5
50-54	4.6	5.9	6.3	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.8
55 and over	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5
<i>Marital status at marriage (number)—</i>							
Never married	34,519	39,935	39,539	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Widowed	584	658	625	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Divorced	5,904	7,770	8,148	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	41,007	48,363	48,312	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Median age (years)—</i>							
at marriage	21.8	22.6	22.8	23.0	23.2	23.3	23.5
at final separation	32.0	33.3	33.8	33.9	34.1	34.3	34.5
at decree made absolute	34.8	36.4	36.8	37.1	37.4	37.6	37.8

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used. (b) Per 1,000 men or women, respectively, at 30 June. Males under 18 and females under 16 are excluded from the population.

**3.5** AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES(a)

Age group (years)										
Selected years	24 and under(b)	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Total
HUSBAND										
1976	17.9	31.6	28.9	24.0	21.2	18.6	15.0	11.1	5.0	18.9
1983	13.4	21.3	20.0	17.2	14.7	11.6	8.5	5.7	2.4	12.2
1988	11.2	19.3	18.4	15.6	13.4	11.1	8.0	5.3	2.1	10.8
1993	11.7	20.1	20.3	17.5	16.1	13.3	10.2	6.4	2.4	12.1
1994	10.9	19.8	20.0	17.7	15.9	13.5	10.4	6.7	2.4	12.0
1995	11.8	19.9	20.5	18.1	15.8	14.3	10.6	6.9	2.7	12.2
1996	13.4	21.6	21.2	19.1	16.7	14.5	11.3	7.5	2.8	12.8
1997	14.3	21.3	21.6	18.6	16.5	14.0	11.0	7.6	2.7	12.5
1998	13.8	21.1	21.7	19.0	16.6	14.1	10.9	7.5	2.7	12.4
WIFE										
1976	22.7	31.5	26.9	22.1	19.3	16.0	12.6	8.8	4.0	18.8
1983	17.3	22.0	18.1	15.6	12.8	9.7	6.4	4.0	1.8	12.2
1988	16.1	19.8	16.7	14.2	12.1	9.5	5.7	3.6	1.4	10.8
1993	16.5	21.7	19.0	16.8	14.4	11.7	7.4	4.2	1.6	12.1
1994	15.7	21.5	19.0	16.7	14.8	11.8	8.0	4.3	1.5	12.0
1995	16.4	21.8	19.4	16.9	14.9	12.1	8.3	4.9	1.7	12.3
1996	17.6	23.4	20.4	17.5	15.7	12.6	8.9	5.1	2.0	12.9
1997	19.0	23.0	20.2	17.5	15.2	12.1	8.8	5.3	1.7	12.5
1998	18.6	22.9	20.8	17.6	15.2	12.3	8.8	5.2	1.8	12.4

(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.

### 3.6 AGE OF DIVORCING PARTIES AT DATE OF MARRIAGE

<i>Age group of husband (years)</i>	<i>Age group of wife (years)</i>									<i>Total</i>
	<i>19 and under</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>	<i>Not stated</i>	
19 and under	1,476	477	47	9	4	—	—	—	5	2,019
20-24	5,409	12,040	1,703	345	72	22	10	3	51	19,655
25-29	1,310	7,430	4,603	1,047	235	66	10	6	65	14,772
30-34	271	1,880	2,506	1,417	492	135	34	13	29	6,777
35-39	65	496	893	965	666	220	54	18	36	3,413
40-44	17	163	349	465	444	352	136	27	18	1,971
45-49	8	70	121	169	246	246	196	65	11	1,132
50 and over	10	32	64	104	176	225	269	449	24	1,353
Not stated	21	71	38	20	14	11	7	6	90	278
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,587</b>	<b>22,659</b>	<b>10,324</b>	<b>4,541</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>51,370</b>

### 3.7 AGE OF PARTIES AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE

<i>Age group of husband (years)</i>	<i>Age group of wife (years)</i>										<i>Total</i>
	<i>24 and under</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45-49</i>	<i>50-54</i>	<i>55-59</i>	<i>60 and over</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	
24 and under	419	164	20	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	612
25-29	976	3,273	703	137	41	12	5	4	—	23	5,174
30-34	321	3,187	4,202	862	221	57	9	4	—	35	8,898
35-39	103	973	3,546	4,100	867	192	49	12	3	34	9,879
40-44	24	232	971	3,252	3,339	653	150	24	10	31	8,686
45-49	10	95	314	943	2,603	2,642	453	70	20	29	7,179
50-54	6	35	109	327	747	1,915	1,684	230	57	28	5,138
55-59	5	12	35	99	211	436	1,044	679	140	23	2,684
60 and over	3	8	29	62	126	235	435	670	1,241	33	2,842
Not stated	17	39	47	26	15	24	11	4	5	90	278
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>8,018</b>	<b>9,976</b>	<b>9,813</b>	<b>8,171</b>	<b>6,166</b>	<b>3,840</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>51,370</b>

### 3.8 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)										Not stated	Total
	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over		
HUSBAND												
Under 1	47	736	1,031	622	379	250	190	119	65	106	75	3,620
1 and under 2	6	729	1,389	878	464	281	166	87	68	74	32	4,174
2 and under 3	—	553	1,556	975	446	287	167	94	38	77	26	4,219
3 and under 4	—	254	1,249	932	499	240	156	94	50	52	24	3,550
4 and under 5	—	103	955	913	455	253	148	100	47	72	9	3,055
5 and under 6	—	46	766	942	515	244	148	73	38	45	11	2,828
6 and under 7	—	10	554	898	476	241	165	66	32	44	6	2,492
7 and under 8	—	—	355	871	505	215	137	80	35	36	13	2,247
8 and under 9	—	—	178	825	535	251	143	61	42	50	10	2,095
9 and under 10	—	—	84	760	537	267	136	81	26	28	9	1,928
10 and under 11	—	—	33	615	570	246	117	69	40	36	4	1,730
11 and under 12	—	—	10	538	573	278	125	51	42	34	3	1,654
12 and under 13	—	—	—	351	614	287	128	54	34	24	6	1,500
13 and under 14	—	—	—	207	625	332	122	53	33	31	—	1,404
14 and under 15	—	—	—	90	633	365	134	75	28	26	—	1,352
15 and under 16	—	—	—	45	558	399	140	53	35	40	3	1,273
16 and under 17	—	—	—	14	475	425	157	53	32	29	—	1,187
17 and under 18	—	—	—	—	365	438	155	67	36	18	—	1,082
18 and under 19	—	—	—	—	214	476	183	67	32	26	3	1,001
19 and under 20	—	—	—	—	119	481	210	83	25	26	4	949
20 and under 21	—	—	—	—	59	540	298	70	26	25	—	1,020
21 and under 22	—	—	—	—	10	452	299	72	30	19	5	887
22 and under 23	—	—	—	—	3	308	359	89	29	16	—	806
23 and under 24	—	—	—	—	—	190	449	110	34	19	—	804
24 and under 25	—	—	—	—	—	89	448	136	27	24	—	725
25 and under 30	—	—	—	—	—	41	932	901	233	88	—	2,195
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	390	554	535	5	1,521
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72	72
Total	53	2,431	8,162	10,478	9,629	7,876	5,849	3,248	1,711	1,600	333	51,370
WIFE												
Under 1	231	1,114	904	474	334	226	130	66	34	53	54	3,620
1 and under 2	101	1,339	1,266	654	362	206	107	62	25	20	32	4,174
2 and under 3	26	1,200	1,534	647	344	202	117	63	29	24	33	4,219
3 and under 4	6	715	1,393	696	319	182	114	62	29	14	20	3,550
4 and under 5	—	383	1,263	672	314	187	110	57	32	23	12	3,055
5 and under 6	—	205	1,146	765	310	193	101	52	19	12	25	2,828
6 and under 7	—	89	937	777	353	160	81	37	26	16	16	2,492
7 and under 8	—	28	748	774	362	177	88	25	19	11	15	2,247
8 and under 9	—	7	504	840	391	172	86	51	20	13	11	2,095
9 and under 10	—	—	353	843	415	158	84	29	19	13	14	1,928
10 and under 11	—	—	181	795	432	160	75	43	22	17	5	1,730
11 and under 12	—	—	90	810	410	195	68	37	25	16	3	1,654
12 and under 13	—	—	33	640	512	189	70	28	12	8	8	1,500
13 and under 14	—	—	5	522	568	187	66	28	11	13	4	1,404
14 and under 15	—	—	—	353	626	227	84	27	13	15	6	1,352
15 and under 16	—	—	—	227	648	226	99	31	22	16	4	1,273
16 and under 17	—	—	—	106	690	242	80	35	17	7	10	1,187
17 and under 18	—	—	—	32	603	287	94	40	14	8	4	1,082
18 and under 19	—	—	—	8	501	324	104	38	11	12	3	1,001
19 and under 20	—	—	—	—	356	391	129	41	15	12	5	949
20 and under 21	—	—	—	—	264	535	152	49	10	7	3	1,020
21 and under 22	—	—	—	—	121	555	150	29	14	12	6	887
22 and under 23	—	—	—	—	44	518	196	33	8	5	—	806
23 and under 24	—	—	—	—	11	438	272	55	17	7	4	804
24 and under 25	—	—	—	—	—	290	352	60	14	7	—	725
25 and under 30	—	—	—	—	—	260	1,329	492	69	40	5	2,195
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	145	595	448	326	6	1,521
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72	72
Total	366	5,080	10,358	10,635	9,290	6,888	4,483	2,165	994	727	384	51,370

**3.9 AGE OF PARTIES AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE**

Duration of marriage (years)	Age group (years)										Not stated	Total
	24 and under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over		
HUSBAND												
1 and under 2	59	143	122	67	34	34	30	20	12	23	10	554
2 and under 3	215	819	620	374	225	149	103	44	33	48	29	2,659
3 and under 4	192	1,129	881	432	245	154	85	51	41	40	28	3,278
4 and under 5	104	965	952	489	256	181	92	66	32	46	23	3,206
5 and under 6	31	832	988	566	248	149	121	63	44	41	24	3,107
6 and under 7	9	561	1,000	609	279	162	103	64	33	33	12	2,865
7 and under 8	—	368	947	688	286	176	100	60	23	28	20	2,698
8 and under 9	—	213	932	647	309	200	119	56	30	33	15	2,554
9 and under 10	—	95	742	674	325	189	114	51	38	40	20	2,288
10 and under 11	—	41	661	724	349	184	106	45	22	30	11	2,173
11 and under 12	—	8	449	688	378	187	106	58	20	26	12	1,932
12 and under 13	—	—	297	725	403	185	120	56	29	32	3	1,850
13 and under 14	—	—	170	750	436	210	102	51	36	24	11	1,790
14 and under 15	—	—	89	704	457	170	101	57	29	26	—	1,635
15 and under 16	—	—	36	586	523	232	121	55	25	26	6	1,610
16 and under 17	—	—	10	479	527	263	110	49	27	26	4	1,495
17 and under 18	—	—	—	326	580	269	96	47	33	26	4	1,383
18 and under 19	—	—	—	199	559	255	105	39	37	27	8	1,229
19 and under 20	—	—	—	91	579	286	117	63	35	20	3	1,194
20 and under 21	—	—	—	46	486	299	123	52	27	26	5	1,064
21 and under 22	—	—	—	15	421	328	146	59	21	21	5	1,016
22 and under 23	—	—	—	—	366	397	151	41	18	13	—	987
23 and under 24	—	—	—	—	220	476	175	47	11	17	—	947
24 and under 25	—	—	—	—	115	529	173	57	19	10	3	906
25 and under 30	—	—	—	—	80	1,482	1,661	378	119	82	11	3,813
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	33	758	1,055	655	629	7	3,137
Total	612	5,174	8,898	9,879	8,686	7,179	5,138	2,684	1,449	1,393	278	51,370
WIFE												
1 and under 2	143	150	77	60	41	37	12	12	6	11	5	554
2 and under 3	552	893	496	289	192	87	63	26	12	19	30	2,659
3 and under 4	578	1,288	629	334	186	110	74	30	8	15	26	3,278
4 and under 5	359	1,299	739	332	193	130	69	40	11	17	17	3,206
5 and under 6	168	1,289	821	374	172	118	90	29	11	12	23	3,107
6 and under 7	57	1,090	843	396	218	125	69	27	17	12	11	2,865
7 and under 8	20	812	948	423	229	124	65	35	13	9	20	2,698
8 and under 9	7	581	947	487	235	129	78	47	12	10	21	2,554
9 and under 10	—	336	918	525	214	138	72	31	22	12	20	2,288
10 and under 11	—	183	970	534	227	117	67	30	16	9	20	2,173
11 and under 12	—	66	768	581	267	133	50	37	9	8	13	1,932
12 and under 13	—	22	645	622	271	151	65	32	24	9	9	1,850
13 and under 14	—	8	534	685	293	137	70	26	16	9	12	1,790
14 and under 15	—	—	336	736	325	119	70	24	11	9	5	1,635
15 and under 16	—	—	183	775	371	158	72	21	10	13	6	1,610
16 and under 17	—	—	91	741	388	155	66	21	21	8	4	1,495
17 and under 18	—	—	24	648	418	165	72	25	11	12	8	1,383
18 and under 19	—	—	7	497	463	138	67	22	11	14	10	1,229
19 and under 20	—	—	—	377	522	168	77	14	19	12	5	1,194
20 and under 21	—	—	—	240	511	178	68	32	13	10	12	1,064
21 and under 22	—	—	—	102	563	213	86	29	10	8	5	1,016
22 and under 23	—	—	—	48	555	260	76	25	12	7	4	987
23 and under 24	—	—	—	5	510	316	82	17	8	6	3	947
24 and under 25	—	—	—	—	386	393	89	23	4	6	3	906
25 and under 30	—	—	—	—	420	2,160	957	172	50	35	19	3,813
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	207	1,214	870	464	363	18	3,137
Total	1,884	8,018	9,976	9,813	8,171	6,166	3,840	1,697	821	655	329	51,370

**3.10** NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE(a) AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF PARTIES

Selected years	Number of children						Total divorces	Total children	Average number of children(b)
	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more			
			—%—					—no.—	
1978	36.9	22.5	24.7	10.7	3.8	1.5	40,608	51,599	2.0
1983	38.4	21.8	26.2	10.2	2.7	0.7	43,525	52,059	1.9
1988	42.5	21.5	24.7	8.7	2.2	0.5	41,007	44,395	1.9
1993	47.4	20.0	21.8	8.2	2.2	0.5	48,363	48,107	1.9
1994	47.6	20.2	21.7	8.0	2.1	0.5	48,312	47,537	1.9
1995	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	49,712	n.a.	n.a.
1996	46.4	20.8	22.5	7.7	2.1	0.5	52,466	52,455	1.9
1997	46.0	20.8	22.5	8.2	2.0	0.4	51,288	51,742	1.9
1998	46.6	20.2	22.6	8.1	2.1	0.5	51,370	51,602	1.9

(a) See Glossary. (b) Divorces involving one or more children.

**3.11** NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE, AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children						Total divorces	Total children	Average number of children(a)
	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more			
1 and under 2	449	65	21	13	5	—	554	171	1.6
2 and under 3	1,976	428	188	44	16	7	2,659	1,042	1.5
3 and under 4	2,276	619	293	67	17	6	3,278	1,507	1.5
4 and under 5	2,063	651	357	99	31	5	3,206	1,812	1.6
5 and under 6	1,696	756	499	119	31	6	3,107	2,265	1.6
6 and under 7	1,353	725	586	162	34	5	2,865	2,545	1.7
7 and under 8	1,116	650	707	181	39	5	2,698	2,788	1.8
8 and under 9	986	603	688	222	47	8	2,554	2,874	1.8
9 and under 10	799	515	690	232	41	11	2,288	2,813	1.9
10 and under 15	2,514	1,745	3,326	1,390	333	72	9,380	14,287	2.1
15 and under 20	1,307	1,196	2,745	1,198	378	87	6,911	12,253	2.2
20 and under 25	1,666	1,512	1,237	389	98	18	4,920	5,640	1.7
25 and under 30	2,731	799	230	44	6	3	3,813	1,430	1.3
30 and over	2,991	120	23	3	—	—	3,137	175	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,923</b>	<b>10,384</b>	<b>11,590</b>	<b>4,163</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>51,370</b>	<b>51,602</b>	<b>1.9</b>

(a) Divorces involving one or more children.

## 3.12 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
<b>OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA—</b>								
Australia	29,316	—	5,288	34,604	29,316	—	6,610	35,926
Fiji	67	142	24	233	97	142	62	301
New Zealand	614	464	233	1,311	515	464	260	1,239
Other	97	48	47	192	99	48	74	221
<i>Total</i>	<i>30,094</i>	<i>654</i>	<i>5,592</i>	<i>36,340</i>	<i>30,027</i>	<i>654</i>	<i>7,006</i>	<i>37,687</i>
<b>EUROPE AND FORMER USSR—</b>								
Austria	43	4	20	67	18	4	15	37
Former USSR and Baltic States	22	122	21	165	25	122	36	183
Former Yugoslav Republics	165	302	103	570	78	302	56	436
Germany	296	67	124	487	201	67	142	410
Greece	145	132	44	321	51	132	27	210
Hungary	38	30	33	101	15	30	23	68
Ireland	100	54	61	215	62	54	54	170
Italy	297	156	113	566	123	156	69	348
Malta	85	46	31	162	52	46	22	120
Netherlands	242	51	100	393	133	51	68	252
Poland	41	164	33	238	23	164	27	214
United Kingdom	2,732	1,528	634	4,894	2,151	1,528	491	4,170
Other	272	228	221	721	202	228	145	575
<i>Total</i>	<i>4,478</i>	<i>2,884</i>	<i>1,538</i>	<i>8,900</i>	<i>3,134</i>	<i>2,884</i>	<i>1,175</i>	<i>7,193</i>
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA—</b>								
Egypt	57	44	37	138	27	44	27	98
Lebanon	110	161	62	333	24	161	41	226
Turkey	49	101	34	184	4	101	13	118
Other	85	128	107	320	39	128	65	232
<i>Total</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>434</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>434</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>674</i>
<b>SOUTHEAST ASIA—</b>								
Indonesia	35	32	25	92	42	32	48	122
Malaysia	71	63	62	196	84	63	77	224
Philippines	25	251	9	285	312	251	181	744
Singapore	32	17	21	70	34	17	42	93
Thailand	11	23	11	45	71	23	59	153
Viet Nam	16	874	78	968	16	874	76	966
Other	12	159	44	215	12	159	46	217
<i>Total</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>1,419</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>1,871</i>	<i>571</i>	<i>1,419</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>2,519</i>
<b>NORTHEAST ASIA—</b>								
China	44	789	121	954	89	789	172	1,050
Hong Kong	24	82	70	176	19	82	52	153
Other	25	89	25	139	48	89	55	192
<i>Total</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>1,269</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>279</i>	<i>1,395</i>
<b>SOUTHERN ASIA—</b>								
India	91	86	64	241	62	86	50	198
Sri Lanka	32	59	13	104	14	59	19	92
Other	34	26	50	110	7	26	11	44
<i>Total</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>455</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>334</i>
<b>THE AMERICAS—</b>								
Canada	76	18	22	116	83	18	34	135
Chile	23	59	21	103	16	59	33	108
United States of America	191	24	69	284	167	24	62	253
Other	74	123	67	264	59	123	105	287
<i>Total</i>	<i>364</i>	<i>224</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>767</i>	<i>325</i>	<i>224</i>	<i>234</i>	<i>783</i>
<b>AFRICA (Excluding North Africa)—</b>								
South Africa	70	72	52	194	71	72	53	196
Other	95	151	82	328	64	151	89	304
<i>Total</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>223</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>522</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>223</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>500</i>
Other and not stated	72	167	32	271	79	167	39	285
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,926</b>	<b>7,136</b>	<b>8,308</b>	<b>51,370</b>	<b>34,604</b>	<b>7,136</b>	<b>9,630</b>	<b>51,370</b>

**3.13** 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	UK and Ireland	USA	Viet Nam
<b>Divorces granted</b>	<b>34,604</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>5,109</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>968</b>
Population '000(b)	7121.6	67.9	59.3	72.2	31.7	133.9	50.7	40.5	43.6	173.6	40.4	35.0	623.0	32.8	84.8
Divorce rate(c)	4.9	14.1	8.2	4.4	5.5	4.2	4.8	8.2	4.5	7.6	7.1	5.5	8.2	8.7	11.4
Husband born in country shown marrying wife born in—															
Australia—															
Number	29,316	44	296	145	24	297	91	110	71	614	25	70	2,832	191	16
Per cent	84.7	4.6	60.8	45.2	13.6	52.5	37.8	33.0	36.2	46.8	8.8	36.1	55.4	67.3	1.7
Same overseas country—															
Number	..	789	67	132	82	156	86	161	63	464	251	72	1,646	24	874
Per cent	..	82.7	13.8	41.1	46.6	27.6	35.7	48.3	32.1	35.4	88.1	37.1	32.2	8.5	90.3
Other overseas countries—															
Number	5,288	121	124	44	70	113	64	62	62	233	9	52	631	69	78
Per cent	15.3	12.7	25.5	13.7	39.8	20.0	26.6	18.6	31.6	17.8	3.2	26.8	12.4	24.3	8.1
Median duration of marriage (years)	11.4	4.8	14.9	15.9	8.3	19.3	8.9	5.4	11.2	11.5	9.4	11.5	13.1	8.7	4.6
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	7.9	2.7	11.8	12.3	5.6	15.3	6.0	2.9	8.2	7.6	4.7	7.8	9.7	5.8	2.6
Divorces involving children—															
Number	19,713	384	199	153	67	265	94	141	104	734	157	84	2,514	132	280
Percentage of total divorces	57.0	40.3	40.9	47.7	38.1	46.8	39.0	42.3	53.1	56.0	55.1	43.3	49.2	46.5	28.9
Average issue	1.9	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Applicant—															
Husband	10,782	231	178	113	48	192	99	92	55	355	91	53	1,589	69	271
Wife	17,516	355	219	176	58	278	94	183	85	689	152	83	2,330	149	465
Joint	6,306	368	90	32	70	96	48	58	56	267	42	58	1,190	66	232
Median age (years)—															
at marriage	25.5	30.5	28.0	26.7	28.4	26.3	27.8	26.0	27.7	26.6	26.5	27.3	26.5	29.1	27.2
at final separation	36.7	35.7	44.9	42.8	38.8	44.5	37.7	31.8	38.2	37.1	33.8	39.0	39.9	38.9	32.4
at decree made absolute	40.0	38.2	49.2	45.8	40.7	48.4	40.4	34.3	41.3	40.9	39.1	42.9	43.5	41.9	34.6
See footnotes at end of table.															

See footnotes at end of table.

**3.13** 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	UK and Ireland	USA	Viet Nam
<b>Divorces granted</b>	<b>35,926</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>966</b>
Population '000(b)	72350	71.9	62.0	69.5	33.2	117.5	44.9	36.9	48.5	165.7	71.4	35.7	607.4	28.5	84.8
Divorce rate(c)	5.0	14.6	6.6	3.0	4.6	3.0	4.4	6.1	4.6	7.5	10.4	5.5	7.1	8.9	11.4
Wife born in country shown marrying husband born in—															
Australia—															
Number	29,316	89	201	51	19	123	62	24	84	515	312	71	2,213	167	16
Per cent	81.6	8.5	49.0	24.3	12.4	35.3	31.3	10.6	37.5	41.6	41.9	36.2	51.0	66.0	1.7
Same overseas country—															
Number	..	789	67	132	82	156	86	161	63	464	251	72	1,646	24	874
Per cent	..	75.1	16.3	62.9	53.6	44.8	43.4	71.2	28.1	37.4	33.7	36.7	37.9	9.5	90.5
Other overseas countries—															
Number	6,610	172	142	27	52	69	50	41	77	260	181	53	481	62	76
Per cent	18.4	16.4	34.6	12.9	34.0	19.8	25.3	18.1	34.4	21.0	24.3	27.0	11.1	24.5	7.9
Median duration of marriage (years)	11.5	5.0	14.1	20.1	7.4	18.5	10.1	7.6	10.4	11.1	8.9	13.2	13.5	9.0	4.6
Median interval between marriage and final separation (years)	8.0	2.8	9.9	15.2	5.1	14.9	7.2	5.1	7.7	7.4	5.3	10.2	10.1	5.8	2.5
Divorces involving children—															
Number	20,328	399	148	86	45	171	84	122	101	666	391	98	2,219	121	283
Percentage of total divorces	56.6	38.0	36.1	41.0	29.4	49.1	42.4	54.0	45.1	53.8	52.6	50.0	51.1	47.8	29.3
Average issue	1.9	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7
Applicant—															
Husband	10,865	250	141	90	45	141	81	75	71	387	310	60	1,330	95	266
Wife	18,504	382	167	93	50	170	76	118	85	568	331	70	2,055	96	466
Joint	6,557	418	102	27	58	37	41	33	68	284	103	66	955	62	234
Median age (years)—															
at marriage	23.1	27.6	26.0	22.5	26.2	22.9	24.3	21.6	25.5	24.4	26.0	24.0	24.0	27.2	23.9
at final separation	34.1	33.9	41.4	41.8	36.2	40.7	36.2	31.3	36.5	34.9	33.3	37.5	37.5	37.6	28.9
at decree made absolute	37.4	35.9	45.7	45.2	38.1	44.0	39.4	33.9	39.8	38.6	37.1	41.1	40.9	40.9	31.2

(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used. (b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 1998 preliminary. (c) Per 1,000 male or female ERP by country of birth, 1998 preliminary.

(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used. (b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 1998 preliminary. (c) Per 1,000 male or female ERP by country of birth, 1998 preliminary.

## CHAPTER 4

## MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION .....

### INTRODUCTION

Two separate concepts of marital status are measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). These are registered marital status and social marital status. In the main, registered marital status is used in this publication.

*Registered marital status* refers to formally registered marriages and divorces for which the partners hold a certificate. Registered marital status is a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she has, or has had, a registered marriage with another person with whom he or she holds, or held, a valid marriage certificate. Accordingly, people are classified as either 'never married', 'married', 'separated', 'divorced' or 'widowed'. For estimated resident population (ERP) data the category 'separated' is included with 'married'.

*Social marital status* identifies a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she forms a couple relationship with another person based on his/her current living arrangements. A couple relationship is based on a consensual union, and is defined as two people usually residing in the same household who share a social, economic and emotional bond usually associated with marriage, and who consider their relationship to be a marriage or marriage-like union. Under social marital status, a person is classified as either 'married' or 'not married', with further disaggregation of 'married' to distinguish 'registered married' from 'de facto married' persons. At finer levels again, social marital status classifies opposite-sex and same-sex couples as subcategories of the de facto married group.

Registered marital status was used in the past to infer characteristics of people's living arrangements. Generally, only people who were 'married' were considered to live in couple relationships, while those who were 'never married', 'separated', 'divorced' or 'widowed' were assumed not to do so. The rise of de facto partnering in the 1970s and 80s meant that registered marital status became increasingly inadequate for describing living arrangements. Some people who had never married or were previously married, together with those who were currently married, were living in couple relationships.

A more complete picture of the living arrangements of the Australian population is gained when information on registered marital status and social marital status (identified via living arrangements detailed at the 1996 Census) are combined. Despite changes in partnering, registered marital status remains an important classification for enhancing living arrangement data by introducing life-course characteristics (such as being widowed). Further, the relationship between registered marital status and de facto partnering observed in the Census can be used in post-censal years to provide indicative estimates of the likely number of people in de facto relationships.

## REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER) — ERP

The population aged 15 years and over (that is, the population used in marital status estimates) at June 1998 was 14,828,600 people, which was comprised of 4,617,900 never married, 8,275,100 currently married, 926,700 widowed and 1,008,900 divorced people.

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

	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Currently married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	'000
<b>Males</b>					
1976	29.6	65.7	2.6	2.1	5 091.5
1988	33.5	59.6	2.4	4.5	6 352.0
1998	34.8	56.6	2.4	6.3	7 318.7
<b>Females</b>					
1976	21.2	65.1	11.2	2.5	5 154.5
1988	25.6	58.6	10.3	5.5	6 481.2
1998	27.6	55.1	10.0	7.3	7 509.9
<b>Persons</b>					
1976	25.4	65.4	6.9	2.3	10 246.0
1988	29.5	59.1	6.4	5.0	12 833.1
1998	31.1	55.8	6.2	6.8	14 828.6

(a) Aged 15 years and over.

## Never married

The proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who were never married increased from 25% (2,602,900) in 1976 to 31% (4,617,900) in 1998. Contributors to this increase included the increasing incidence of de facto relationships—the 1996 Census of Population and Housing showing that about 5.3% of the population was living in de facto relationships (up from 4.5% at the 1991 Census)—and the delayed age at first marriage—the age at first marriage having increased by around 4.3 years for men and 5.0 years for women over the period 1976 to 1998.

For men, the increase in the proportion never married was most evident in the 25–29 years age group, which rose from 27% to 65% between 1976 and 1998. For women, the rise was most evident in the 25–29 years age group also, where an increase from 13% to 49% was recorded over this period.

## Currently married

Between 1976 and 1998 the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who were currently married declined from 65% to 56%. This decline, which accompanied the increase in the never married population, was most apparent in the 20–24 years age group for men, falling from 32% to 6%. Most affected for women was also the age group 20–24 years, falling from 59% to 15%.

*Currently married continued*

While it is reasonable to expect that the number of married men and married women would be equal this is not the case. At June 1998 there were an estimated 5,300 more men than women with a registered marital status of married. While misreporting of marital status at the Census may be a cause, for some residents their spouse may be overseas on a long-term basis, and in the case of recently arrived migrants their spouse may not have accompanied them to Australia.

*Widowed*

At June 1998 the proportion of men and women aged 15 years and over who were widowed was slightly less than at June 1976 having fallen from 6.9% to 6.2%. The most significant change occurred in the older age groups, where improvements in life expectancy over the past two decades led to reductions in the proportions widowed with a corresponding increase in the proportions married. The proportion of widowed men decreased slightly, from 2.6% in 1976 to 2.4% in 1998, while for women the decrease was larger, falling from 11.2% to 10.0% over the same period.

*Divorced*

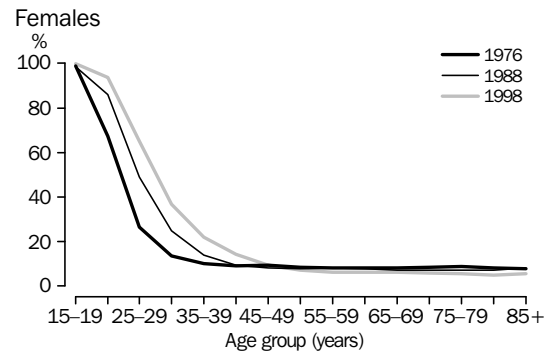
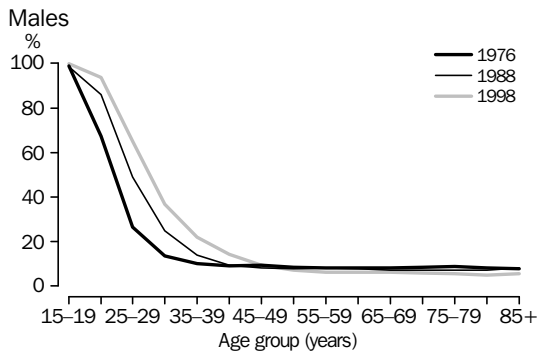
Between 1976 and 1998 the number of divorced men increased fourfold, from 104,700 to 459,200. This represented an increase in the proportion of divorced men aged 15 years and over from 2.1% in 1976 to 6.3% in 1998. The age group with the highest proportion of divorced men in 1998 was the 50–54 years age group, with 11.8% being divorced.

A similar pattern was observed for divorced women, with the number rising from 128,800 to 549,700 between 1976 and 1998, representing an increase from 2.5% of women aged 15 years and over to 7.3%. The largest proportion of divorced women in 1998 was in the age group 45–49 years, with 13.9% of women being divorced.

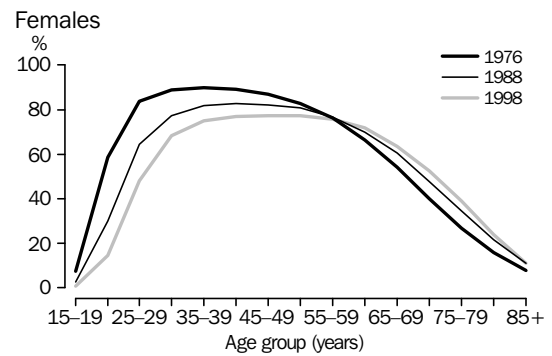
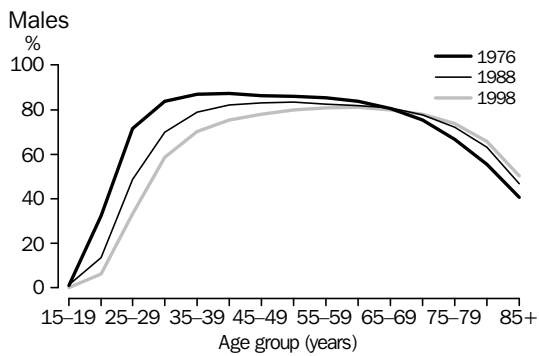
Between 1976 and 1998 the proportion of divorced people increased in all age groups, except the age groups 20–24 years and 25–29 years for men and three, five-year age groups between 15 and 29 years for women. For these younger age groups, this corresponds to the increase in the proportion who were never married and the decline in the proportion married.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Aged 15 Years and Over

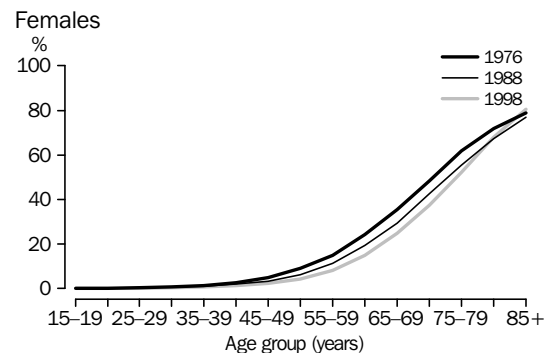
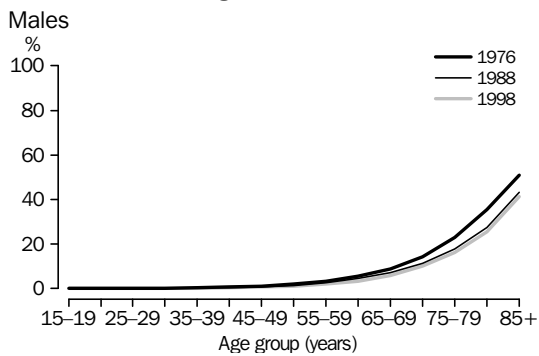
NEVER MARRIED, Percentage Distribution



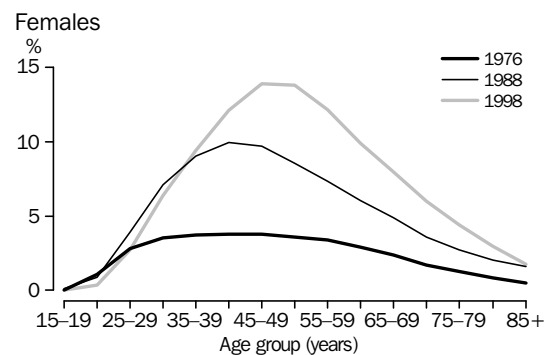
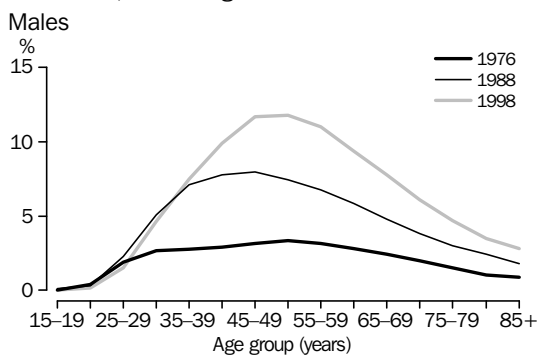
MARRIED, Percentage Distribution



WIDOWED, Percentage Distribution



DIVORCED, Percentage Distribution



## SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS — 1996 CENSUS

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing counted 13,916,100 persons aged 15 years and over. Of these people around 55% (7,618,200) lived in couple relationships; 49% in registered marriages and 5% in de facto relationships. Not all of those who stated they were 'married' were living with a partner, with 92% having reported themselves as 'married' and living with a partner while the remaining 8% indicated they were 'married' but not living with a partner.

Nearly 744,100 people lived in a de facto relationship. The likelihood of being in a de facto relationship varied with registered marital status. The highest proportion of de facto partners was 20% among people who were 'divorced', followed by 11% among those who were 'never married' and 10% among those who were 'separated'. There were inconsistencies reported with a small proportion, less than half a per cent, reporting their living arrangements as 'de facto' and their registered marital status as 'married'.

## SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS, By Registered Marital Status(a)(b) — 1996

REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS.....						
<i>Social marital status</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Separated but not divorced</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Married						
Registered	0.3	92.0	4.7	0.6	0.7	49.4
De facto(c)	11.5	0.3	10.1	1.6	19.9	5.3
Total	11.8	92.3	14.8	2.2	20.6	54.7
Not married	77.4	1.5	75.0	79.9	70.7	36.6
Not applicable(d)	10.8	6.2	10.2	17.8	8.7	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	4 245.3	7 415.5	469.2	892.2	893.9	13 916.1

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Excludes overseas visitors.

(c) Opposite-sex couples.

(d) Includes visitors from within Australia, persons in non-classifiable households, non-private dwellings and migratory or off-shore CDs.

## Age of de facto partners

The young are much more likely to form de facto relationships than are older persons. Of the 5.3% of people aged 15 years and over living in de facto relationships at the 1996 Census, the age group 25–29 years was the most likely to form de facto relationships (13%). The adjacent age groups 20–24 years (10%) and 30–34 years (9%) also registered high proportions. The older the age group, the less likely were people to form de facto relationships. By age group 60–64 years only 1.4% of those in this age group were de facto partners while for those aged over 65 years the proportion decreased to less than 1%.

The proportions of people in de facto relationships in each age group also varied according to their registered marital status. 'Divorced' people registered the highest proportions of people in de facto relationships in all age groups, with the age groups 25–29 and 30–34 years recording proportions around 30%. For 'never married' the highest levels, greater than 20%, were in the three age groups 25–29, 30–34 and 35–39.

## PROPORTION DE FACTO(a)(b)(c)(d)—1996 Census

## REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS.....

	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Separated</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Age group</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
15–19	1.7	2.2	3.0	1.2	5.0	1.8
20–24	11.7	0.6	8.7	6.0	21.5	10.5
25–29	21.0	0.3	11.3	11.9	30.5	12.6
30–34	23.1	0.3	11.8	14.4	30.4	9.1
35–39	20.6	0.2	12.0	13.2	27.4	6.7
40–44	16.6	0.2	11.9	11.7	24.6	5.4
45–49	11.4	0.1	11.4	9.9	22.4	4.4
50–54	7.6	0.1	10.1	7.3	18.9	3.4
55–59	4.7	0.1	7.5	4.2	14.0	2.3
60–64	3.1	0.1	5.2	2.3	9.1	1.4
65 and over	1.2	0.1	3.4	0.6	4.6	0.6
All ages	11.5	0.3	10.1	1.6	19.9	5.3

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Excludes overseas visitors.

(c) Opposite-sex couples.

(d) Data by age exclude imputed age and marital status.

## INTERPRETING 1998 ERP BY MARITAL STATUS

In each census year, population estimates by registered marital status are based on census counts of usual residents adjusted to include Australian residents temporarily overseas and people missed in the Census. Where registered marital status is not reported it is imputed. In each postcensal year, the population estimates are updated by incorporating ongoing marriage, divorce and death registrations and net overseas migration. These estimates combine the categories 'married' and 'separated' into a single category 'married' to reflect the lack of data on separations.

Data from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses indicate a slight shift away from traditional forms of partnering to accommodate a growing variety of relationships which exist within registered marital status, i.e. the proportion of married couples in couple relationships has decreased while the proportion of de facto couples has increased. De facto relationships are an increasingly popular choice among young couples as a precursor/alternative to marriage and for older couples as an alternative to a hurried remarriage. De facto couple relationships increased from 8% of all couple relationships at the 1991 Census to 10% at the 1996 Census. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the number of people in de facto relationships in 1998 would have increased.

Assuming the proportions evident from the 1996 Census, it is estimated that of the ERP aged 15 years and over in 1998 (14,828,600 people), around 826,300 people would have formed de facto relationships.

## ESTIMATED DE FACTO PERSONS(a)—June 1998

.....

## REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS.....

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Never married</i>		<i>Married and Separated</i>		<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>			
15–19	22 899	134	3	16	23 052		
20–24	142 757	1 738	54	727	145 276		
25–29	177 130	6 600	237	9 542	193 508		
30–34	100 482	9 535	607	23 732	134 355		
35–39	56 936	11 642	1 034	34 753	104 365		
40–44	27 890	11 113	1 489	38 041	78 533		
45–49	11 829	9 010	1 983	37 359	60 181		
50–54	5 255	6 218	2 252	28 153	41 878		
55–59	2 120	2 947	1 850	14 248	21 165		
60–64	1 102	1 567	1 517	6 462	10 648		
65 and over	1 436	2 059	4 072	5 778	13 346		
All ages	549 835	62 563	15 097	198 811	826 306		

.....

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

**4.1 TOTAL 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>
1978	5,054,983	3,864,925	2,172,269	1,296,041	1,227,903	417,779	109,711	217,935	14,361,546
1983	5,353,345	4,035,029	2,481,388	1,345,794	1,368,546	432,832	136,168	238,592	15,391,694
1988	5,709,333	4,264,735	2,741,811	1,405,436	1,536,423	451,234	159,391	271,943	16,540,306
1993	6,004,880	4,472,387	3,109,788	1,460,674	1,677,669	471,659	170,734	299,302	17,667,093
1994	6,060,190	4,487,570	3,187,113	1,466,138	1,703,009	472,939	173,375	301,486	17,854,738
1995	6,126,981	4,517,387	3,265,109	1,469,429	1,733,787	473,673	177,552	304,805	18,071,758
1996	6,204,728	4,560,155	3,338,690	1,474,253	1,765,256	474,443	181,843	308,251	18,310,714
1997r	6,272,784	4,605,210	3,397,071	1,479,680	1,797,870	473,478	186,907	308,011	18,524,155
1998p	6,341,594	4,660,885	3,456,345	1,487,294	1,831,399	471,885	189,991	308,411	18,750,982

(a) For years prior to 1993 details relate to estimated mean resident population for year ended 31 December. For 1993 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 26 of the Explanatory Notes.

## 4.2 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER

	Marital status				
30 June	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
MALES					
1976	1,508,196	3,344,351	134,254	104,651	5,091,452
1983	1,832,452	3,572,382	141,048	220,268	5,766,150
1988	2,126,375	3,787,136	152,222	286,230	6,351,963
1993	2,300,401	4,004,610	168,248	356,257	6,829,516
1994	2,335,455	4,029,037	170,035	374,014	6,908,541
1995	2,376,361	4,059,136	171,626	393,097	7,000,220
1996	2,426,008	4,088,018	173,546	415,394	7,102,966
1997r	2,486,211	4,104,172	175,133	439,307	7,204,823
1998p	2,543,463	4,140,179	175,913	459,184	7,318,739
FEMALES					
1976	1,094,753	3,354,906	576,117	128,760	5,154,536
1983	1,386,286	3,582,181	636,521	271,314	5,876,302
1988	1,659,175	3,800,465	667,825	353,705	6,481,170
1993	1,843,489	4,005,575	707,415	443,572	7,000,051
1994	1,874,447	4,024,013	720,404	467,296	7,086,160
1995	1,910,194	4,048,275	732,725	492,226	7,183,420
1996	1,956,858	4,073,644	745,527	520,404	7,296,433
1997r	2,013,074	4,089,977	748,598	548,138	7,399,787
1998p	2,074,442	4,134,890	750,836	549,708	7,509,876
PERSONS					
1976	2,602,949	6,699,257	710,371	233,411	10,245,988
1983	3,218,738	7,154,563	777,569	491,582	11,642,452
1988	3,785,550	7,587,601	820,047	639,935	12,833,133
1993	4,143,890	8,010,185	875,663	799,829	13,829,567
1994	4,209,902	8,053,050	890,439	841,310	13,994,701
1995	4,286,555	8,107,411	904,351	885,323	14,183,640
1996	4,382,866	8,161,662	919,073	935,798	14,399,399
1997r	4,499,285	8,194,149	923,731	987,445	14,604,610
1998p	4,617,905	8,275,069	926,749	1,008,892	14,828,615

## 4.3 MARITAL STATUS, PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION

Age (years)	Never married		Currently		Widowed		Divorced		Total	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
30 JUNE 1976										
—%—										
14 and under	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	78.90	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)—										
<b>All ages</b>	<b>3,448.8</b>	<b>2,941.3</b>	<b>3,344.4</b>	<b>3,354.9</b>	<b>134.3</b>	<b>576.1</b>	<b>104.7</b>	<b>128.8</b>	<b>7,032.0</b>	<b>7,001.0</b>
30 JUNE 1988										
—%—										
14 and under	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.00	100.00
15-19	98.53	97.17	1.25	2.61	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.10	100.00	100.00
20-24	85.99	69.01	13.57	29.87	0.13	0.23	0.31	0.89	100.00	100.00
25-29	49.00	31.14	48.55	64.54	0.18	0.40	2.27	3.93	100.00	100.00
30-34	24.86	14.84	69.80	77.41	0.24	0.66	5.10	7.09	100.00	100.00
35-39	13.80	8.20	78.74	81.68	0.35	1.09	7.10	9.03	100.00	100.00
40-44	9.51	5.60	82.19	82.62	0.52	1.85	7.79	9.93	100.00	100.00
45-49	8.10	4.76	83.08	82.04	0.84	3.48	7.98	9.71	100.00	100.00
50-54	7.77	4.32	83.36	80.79	1.42	6.33	7.45	8.56	100.00	100.00
55-59	8.21	4.43	82.48	76.72	2.55	11.51	6.77	7.34	100.00	100.00
60-64	7.96	4.61	81.73	70.00	4.47	19.33	5.84	6.06	100.00	100.00
65-69	7.31	5.05	80.74	60.63	7.16	29.42	4.79	4.90	100.00	100.00
70-74	7.05	6.10	77.70	47.80	11.45	42.53	3.80	3.57	100.00	100.00
75-79	7.13	7.28	72.10	34.49	17.76	55.50	3.01	2.72	100.00	100.00
80-84	7.11	8.97	63.19	21.74	27.29	67.24	2.41	2.05	100.00	100.00
85 and over	8.18	10.47	46.84	10.99	43.19	76.93	1.79	1.61	100.00	100.00
All ages	48.77	41.79	45.91	45.88	1.85	8.06	3.47	4.27	100.00	100.00
—('000)—										
<b>All ages</b>	<b>4,023.4</b>	<b>3,461.2</b>	<b>3,787.1</b>	<b>3,800.5</b>	<b>152.2</b>	<b>667.8</b>	<b>286.2</b>	<b>353.7</b>	<b>8,248.9</b>	<b>8,283.2</b>
30 JUNE 1998 (PRELIMINARY)										
—%—										
14 and under	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.00	100.00
15-19	99.76	99.24	0.20	0.72	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	100.00	100.00
20-24	93.58	85.01	6.23	14.55	0.04	0.09	0.14	0.36	100.00	100.00
25-29	65.07	49.14	33.33	47.94	0.08	0.19	1.52	2.73	100.00	100.00
30-34	36.67	24.90	58.51	68.26	0.16	0.44	4.66	6.40	100.00	100.00
35-39	22.14	14.78	70.10	75.00	0.25	0.80	7.51	9.42	100.00	100.00
40-44	14.43	9.61	75.25	76.87	0.42	1.39	9.90	12.13	100.00	100.00
45-49	9.59	6.28	78.03	77.44	0.71	2.36	11.67	13.91	100.00	100.00
50-54	7.26	4.58	79.83	77.33	1.11	4.26	11.80	13.83	100.00	100.00
55-59	6.31	3.97	80.78	75.63	1.89	8.23	11.03	12.17	100.00	100.00
60-64	6.17	3.61	81.13	71.69	3.33	14.78	9.37	9.92	100.00	100.00
65-69	6.35	3.71	79.96	63.44	5.91	24.88	7.79	7.97	100.00	100.00
70-74	6.02	3.98	77.95	52.49	9.92	37.53	6.11	6.00	100.00	100.00
75-79	5.47	4.38	73.76	38.96	16.11	52.26	4.67	4.39	100.00	100.00
80-84	5.05	5.20	65.83	23.93	25.65	67.92	3.47	2.94	100.00	100.00
85 and over	5.57	6.85	50.41	10.90	41.20	80.51	2.82	1.74	100.00	100.00
All ages	48.82	42.31	44.38	43.89	1.89	7.97	4.92	5.83	100.00	100.00
—('000)—										
<b>All ages</b>	<b>4,554.6</b>	<b>3,985.7</b>	<b>4,140.2</b>	<b>4,134.9</b>	<b>175.9</b>	<b>750.8</b>	<b>459.2</b>	<b>549.7</b>	<b>9,329.9</b>	<b>9,421.1</b>

## 4.4 MARITAL STATUS, 30 JUNE 1998 (PRELIMINARY)

Age (years)	Males					Females				
	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
14 and under	2,011,112	..	..	..	2,011,112	1,911,255	..	..	..	1,911,255
15	137,025	8	2	1	137,036	129,824	15	2	1	129,842
16	135,671	24	1	6	135,702	128,360	36	4	—	128,400
17	134,340	252	32	57	134,681	127,833	328	63	51	128,275
18	133,074	314	35	45	133,468	125,128	1,174	35	49	126,386
19	133,674	753	39	64	134,530	124,380	3,031	61	46	127,518
20	133,405	1,660	44	66	135,175	122,855	6,073	78	74	129,080
21	132,863	3,441	52	94	136,450	120,910	10,521	116	163	131,710
22	130,763	6,781	66	156	137,766	114,661	17,354	101	354	132,470
23	129,150	11,846	76	229	141,301	109,121	26,473	144	655	136,393
24	122,875	19,454	73	457	142,859	100,101	36,738	144	1,136	138,119
25	116,530	29,292	91	819	146,732	91,663	49,778	188	1,927	143,556
26	109,067	40,871	93	1,444	151,475	83,801	63,289	272	2,960	150,322
27	99,497	51,736	122	2,233	153,588	74,321	74,868	254	4,018	153,461
28	82,863	58,300	129	2,959	144,251	59,809	79,036	322	5,000	144,167
29	72,829	66,056	134	3,806	142,825	51,499	85,268	390	6,150	143,307
30	62,965	71,549	165	4,745	139,424	43,682	88,476	436	6,937	139,531
31	55,398	76,053	199	5,545	137,195	38,420	91,123	540	7,888	137,971
32	50,509	81,852	242	6,352	138,955	34,021	96,488	629	8,838	139,976
33	45,881	87,962	227	7,324	141,394	31,212	100,465	692	9,982	142,351
34	43,551	94,776	277	8,854	147,458	28,962	106,733	817	11,653	148,165
35	39,438	100,494	318	9,661	149,911	26,373	110,712	947	12,592	150,624
36	36,079	103,396	344	10,433	150,252	24,260	112,104	1,056	13,443	150,863
37	33,722	107,059	368	11,601	152,750	22,279	114,860	1,240	14,373	152,752
38	29,663	106,179	419	12,027	148,288	19,804	114,045	1,275	14,763	149,887
39	26,362	106,133	413	12,343	145,251	18,100	110,591	1,444	15,471	145,606
40	24,208	106,129	474	13,008	143,819	16,136	111,291	1,579	16,017	145,023
41	22,045	105,472	528	13,366	141,411	14,614	108,666	1,762	16,427	141,469
42	20,263	105,638	590	13,843	140,334	13,567	107,534	1,993	17,112	140,206
43	17,784	103,659	625	14,268	136,336	12,203	106,218	2,091	17,568	138,080
44	16,535	105,032	696	14,741	137,004	11,082	106,808	2,344	18,161	138,395
45	15,050	104,428	808	15,235	135,521	9,858	105,234	2,541	18,340	135,973
46	13,141	101,082	831	14,942	129,996	8,700	100,048	2,739	17,813	129,300
47	12,739	102,961	899	15,436	132,035	8,271	101,761	3,029	18,322	131,383
48	11,566	102,332	990	15,650	130,538	7,333	99,780	3,367	18,141	128,621
49	10,348	100,504	1,094	15,197	127,143	6,668	96,485	3,677	17,790	124,620
50	10,165	103,541	1,180	15,582	130,468	6,258	98,488	4,220	17,697	126,663
51	9,877	107,580	1,273	15,910	134,640	6,062	100,304	4,633	17,961	128,960
52	8,166	88,985	1,311	13,503	111,965	4,835	83,174	4,732	15,041	107,782
53	7,655	87,820	1,359	12,712	109,546	4,664	81,415	5,121	14,645	105,845
54	7,092	84,427	1,446	12,118	105,083	4,313	77,898	5,578	13,575	101,364
55	6,194	76,706	1,471	11,019	95,390	3,782	70,217	5,874	12,036	91,909
56	5,912	74,965	1,587	10,565	93,029	3,603	68,332	6,393	11,214	89,542
57	5,664	72,095	1,696	9,798	89,253	3,463	65,189	6,983	10,617	86,252
58	5,439	69,773	1,779	9,233	86,224	3,204	62,353	7,828	9,686	83,071
59	4,936	66,900	1,881	8,606	82,323	3,073	60,121	8,405	8,951	80,550

**4.4** MARITAL STATUS, 30 JUNE 1998 (PRELIMINARY)—*continued*

Age (years)	Males					Females				
	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Currently married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Currently married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
60	5,076	64,637	2,114	7,988	79,815	2,873	58,631	9,139	8,564	79,207
61	4,709	63,079	2,366	7,536	77,690	2,780	55,869	10,057	7,750	76,456
62	4,671	59,157	2,428	6,826	73,082	2,623	52,520	11,041	7,289	73,473
63	4,187	56,370	2,503	6,157	69,217	2,564	49,961	11,791	6,856	71,172
64	4,092	55,838	2,874	6,038	68,842	2,506	48,360	12,663	6,260	69,789
65	4,154	54,245	3,116	5,699	67,214	2,485	46,769	14,319	5,972	69,545
66	4,257	53,700	3,525	5,351	66,833	2,497	44,711	15,076	5,788	68,072
67	4,487	55,130	4,088	5,428	69,133	2,705	46,140	17,929	5,816	72,590
68	4,293	52,229	4,338	4,884	65,744	2,651	42,688	18,860	5,302	69,501
69	3,971	51,359	4,630	4,627	64,587	2,602	40,656	20,463	4,890	68,611
70	4,029	49,282	4,907	4,230	62,448	2,573	39,716	21,835	4,544	68,668
71	3,679	47,336	5,404	3,789	60,208	2,584	36,885	23,175	4,273	66,917
72	3,533	45,495	5,744	3,573	58,345	2,753	35,211	25,378	4,027	67,369
73	3,033	41,172	5,878	3,065	53,148	2,602	31,274	25,729	3,580	63,185
74	2,920	39,291	6,387	2,787	51,385	2,618	29,898	27,556	3,335	63,407
75	2,668	36,368	6,468	2,448	47,952	2,572	26,847	28,334	3,082	60,835
76	2,520	33,902	6,741	2,243	45,406	2,518	24,277	29,407	2,693	58,895
77	2,330	31,245	6,841	1,933	42,349	2,467	21,998	29,612	2,502	56,579
78	1,948	26,734	6,605	1,607	36,894	2,187	18,257	28,384	1,998	50,826
79	1,523	19,996	5,717	1,146	28,382	2,005	13,021	24,286	1,501	40,813
80	1,351	18,174	5,781	1,033	26,339	1,995	11,455	25,173	1,324	39,947
81	1,240	16,611	5,879	888	24,618	1,869	10,059	24,885	1,178	37,991
82	1,120	14,344	5,681	758	21,903	1,966	8,496	24,618	1,076	36,156
83	949	12,491	5,529	596	19,565	1,802	6,936	23,837	922	33,497
84	892	10,795	5,345	546	17,578	1,731	6,105	23,697	796	32,329
85 and over	3,858	34,929	28,545	1,955	69,287	10,846	17,255	127,453	2,752	158,306
14 and under	2,011,112	..	..	..	2,011,112	1,911,255	..	..	..	1,911,255
15-19	673,784	1,351	109	173	675,417	635,525	4,584	165	147	640,421
20-24	649,056	43,182	311	1,002	693,551	567,648	97,159	583	2,382	667,772
25-29	480,786	246,255	569	11,261	738,871	361,093	352,239	1,426	20,055	734,813
30-34	258,304	412,192	1,110	32,820	704,426	176,297	483,285	3,114	45,298	707,994
35-39	165,264	523,261	1,862	56,065	746,452	110,816	562,312	5,962	70,642	749,732
40-44	100,835	525,930	2,913	69,226	698,904	67,602	540,517	9,769	85,285	703,173
45-49	62,844	511,307	4,622	76,460	655,233	40,830	503,308	15,353	90,406	649,897
50-54	42,955	472,353	6,569	69,825	591,702	26,132	441,279	24,284	78,919	570,614
55-59	28,145	360,439	8,414	49,221	446,219	17,125	326,212	35,483	52,504	431,324
60-64	22,735	299,081	12,285	34,545	368,646	13,346	265,341	54,691	36,719	370,097
65-69	21,162	266,663	19,697	25,989	333,511	12,940	220,964	86,647	27,768	348,319
70-74	17,194	222,576	28,320	17,444	285,534	13,130	172,984	123,673	19,759	329,546
75-79	10,989	148,245	32,372	9,377	200,983	11,749	104,400	140,023	11,776	267,948
80-84	5,552	72,415	28,215	3,821	110,003	9,363	43,051	122,210	5,296	179,920
85 and over	3,858	34,929	28,545	1,955	69,287	10,846	17,255	127,453	2,752	158,306
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,554,575</b>	<b>4,140,179</b>	<b>175,913</b>	<b>459,184</b>	<b>9,329,851</b>	<b>3,985,697</b>	<b>4,134,890</b>	<b>750,836</b>	<b>549,708</b>	<b>9,421,131</b>
Median age	17.0	48.1	75.2	48.9	33.9	15.6	45.3	75.5	47.8	35.3

## SPECIAL ARTICLE Remarriage Trends of Divorced People

The following article has been reproduced from *Australian Social Trends*, 1999 (Cat. no. 4102.0), pp. 45–48.

**Of all marriages in 1997, 33% involved a person who had previously been married. This proportion was up from 14% in 1967.**

Currently, almost one third of registered marriages celebrated in Australia involve at least one previously divorced partner. This is a consequence of the increase in divorces over the past few decades, which has resulted in more divorced people in the population (see *Australian Social Trends* 1995, Trends in marriage and divorce, pp. 33–37). Among people who were aged 20 years or over in 1997 and not married, 19% had been divorced compared to 10% in 1976.

The remarriage of divorced people represents an important form of family formation: one that can often create complex family interactions. Previously-divorced partners may still have responsibilities from their earlier marriage, such as the care or maintenance of children. A remarriage may affect other family relationships, such as that between grandparents and grandchildren. Of course, divorced people may choose to enter into a de facto partnership rather than formally remarry. However, these partnerships are not discussed in this review because there is no available data to support this analysis.

### An increasing proportion of remarriages

Remarriages represented 33% of marriages in 1997, increasing from 14% in 1967. Of marriages celebrated in 1997, 67% were couples who had both never married before;

### Remarriages

In this review, marriages are limited to registered marriages carried out in accordance with the *Australian Marriage Act 1961*. Marriage registration forms are collected by the State and Territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages and collated into a national data set by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This information is published annually in *Marriages and Divorces, Australia* (Cat. no. 3310.0). Although de facto partnerships are often included with registered marriage to form a category of social marriage, the lack of regular information on the formation and dissolution of de facto partnerships precludes their inclusion in this review.

Information on the length of remarriages is available only up to the year 1994 because the previous marital status of each partner of a divorcing couple is no longer collected by the Family Court of Australia.

This review excludes a relatively small number of remarriages that involved a divorced person and a widowed person.

The introduction of the *Family Law Act 1975*, which came into operation in January 1976, gave rise to a large increase in the crude divorce rate in 1976. By 1979, once the backlog of applications was cleared, the divorce rate dropped and stabilised, but at a higher level than that which had occurred prior to the introduction of the Act.

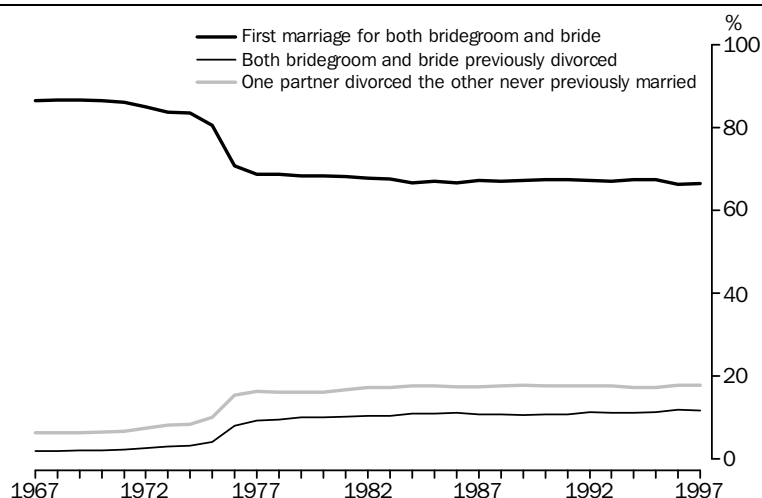
12% were couples who were both previously divorced; 10% were celebrated by couples in which the bridegroom had previously been divorced and the bride had never previously married; 8% were couples in which the bridegroom had never previously married and the bride had previously been divorced; and 4% involved a widowed partner.

Although the large majority of remarriages of divorced people in 1997 were second marriages, 13% of bridegrooms and brides were marrying for the third time, and a further 1%, the fourth time.

### Remarriage rates for divorcees

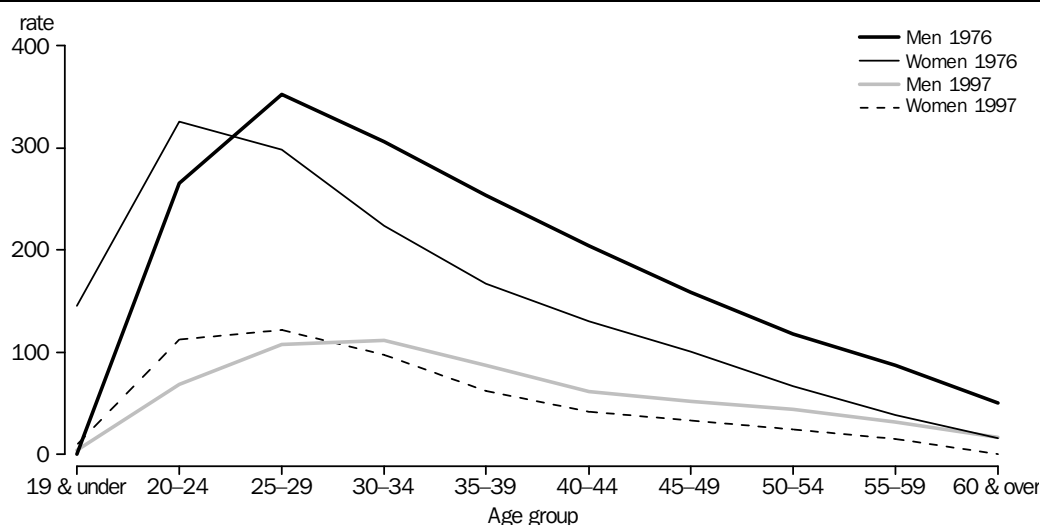
Remarriage rates for divorcees express the proportion of divorcees in a particular age group that remarried in that year. For example, in 1997 the overall remarriage rate for divorced men was 54 marriages for every 1,000 divorced men in the population while

**Previous marital status of partners in marriages, proportion of all marriages, 1967–1997**



Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia*, 1997 (Cat. no. 3310.0).

### Remarriage rates(a) for divorced men and women, 1976 and 1997



(a) The number of men or women remarrying per 1,000 divorced of either sex.

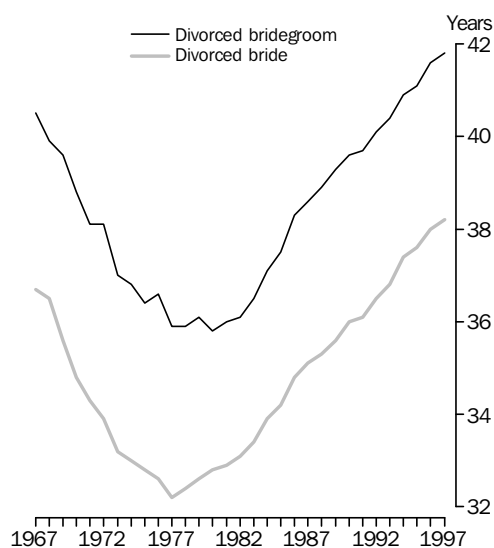
Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1997* (Cat. no. 3310.0).

that for divorced women was 41 marriages for every 1,000 divorced women in the population.

The highest remarriage rates for divorced people were 111 per 1,000 among men aged 30-34 and 122 per 1,000 among women aged 25-29. These rates represent a considerable decline in remarriage rates from those prevalent in 1976 when the highest rate for

men was 353 per 1,000 among those aged 25-29 and the highest rate for women was 326 per 1,000 among women aged 20-24. However, since a large number of divorces were granted soon after the introduction of the Family Law Act in January 1976, remarriage rates for 1976 were particularly high. A large proportion of the decline in remarriage rates, indicating fewer people choosing to marry, can be attributed to the growth in de facto partnering. More couples are choosing a de facto relationship in preference to registered marriage or as a prelude to marriage (in 1997, about 78% of marriages involving partners who were both previously divorced were preceded by a period of cohabitation<sup>1</sup>). The same explanation probably underlies the similar decline in marriage rates for first marriages.

### Median age(a) of previously divorced bridegrooms and brides, 1967-1997



(a) At date of remarriage.

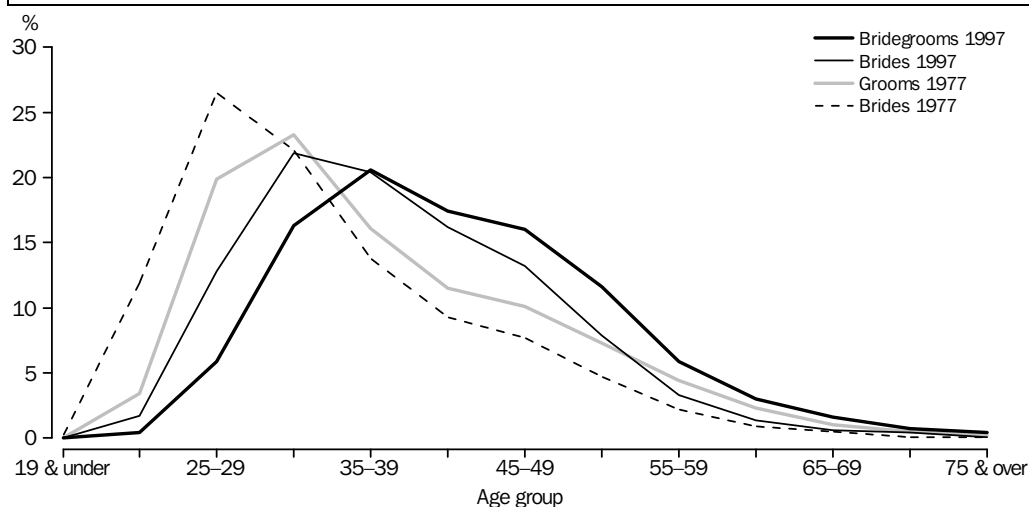
Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1997* (Cat. no. 3310.0).

### Age at remarriage

Over the past 30 years, the median age of remarriage declined to 36 and 32 respectively for remarrying bridegrooms and brides in 1977, before steadily rising to the ages of 42 and 38 years in 1997.

The age at which people remarry is dependent on the age at which they first married, the length of their first marriage and the intervals between their separation, divorce, and remarriage. Of these factors, the age at first marriage is the main influence on the age at remarriage, the other factors have been more stable. The median age at first marriage has been increasing since the mid 1970s: for bridegrooms it increased from

### Age distribution of previously divorced brides and bridegrooms who remarried, 1977 and 1997



Source: Unpublished data, Marriages and Divorces, Australia.

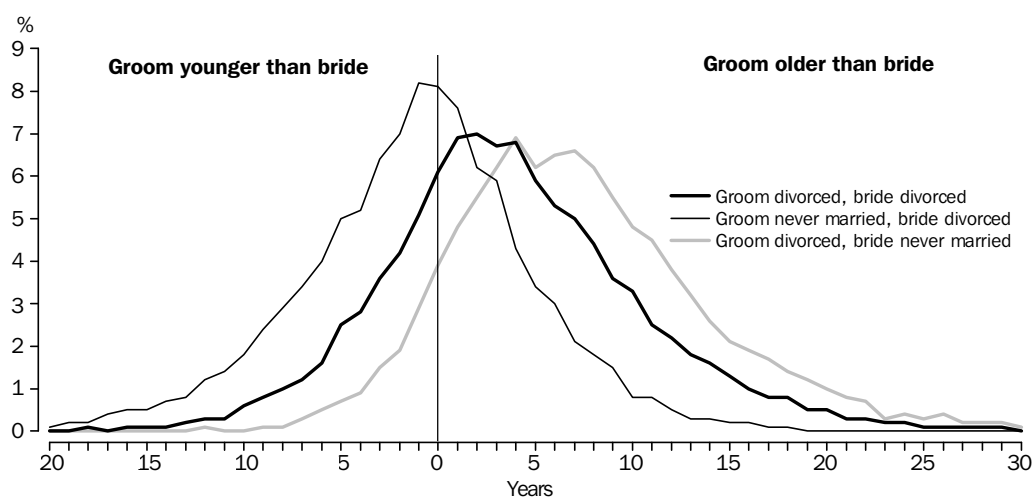
23.3 years to 27.8 years between 1974 and 1997, and for brides from 20.9 years to 25.9 years (see *Australian Social Trends 1997*, Age at first marriage, pp. 27–29). Among people who divorced for the first time in 1994, the median duration of marriage until final separation was 9 years, the same as that experienced by people who divorced in 1987, and only one year longer than that experienced by couples who divorced in 1977. For couples divorcing in 1997, the median interval between separation and divorce was 3 years while the median interval between divorce and remarriage for people remarrying in 1997 was also about 3 years. These intervals have only increased slightly from those experienced ten years ago.

The difference in age distributions between 1977 and 1997 of remarrying brides and bridegrooms further illustrates the shift towards older ages for remarrying. In 1977, the most common age group for previously divorced brides was 25–29 years and for previously divorced bridegrooms, 30–34 years. In 1997, the most common age groups had moved up to 30–34 years for brides and 35–39 years for bridegrooms.

### Differences in age between brides and grooms

Among first marriages in 1997, the bridegroom was on average older than the bride by about two years, although the move

### Distribution of the difference in age between couples remarrying, 1997



Source: Unpublished data, Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1997.

towards an increasing proportion of bridegrooms marrying older brides continued (see *Australian Social Trends 1997*, Age at first marriage, pp. 27–29). Among remarriages, the difference between bridegrooms and brides was on average about four years. However, the age differences seem to be related to whether both or only one partner is divorced.

When both the bridegroom and the bride were remarrying after divorce, the bridegroom was likely to be older than the bride (69% were older): most commonly about 1–4 years older than the bride. When the bridegroom was divorced, and his bride had not been married before, the bridegroom was even more likely to be older than the bride (87% were older): most commonly about 4–7 years older.

However, when the bridegroom had not been married before, but his bride was previously divorced, the bridegroom was more likely to be younger than the bride (53% were younger): most commonly up to one year younger. These patterns seem to be fairly stable since the distributions of age difference between partners in remarriages celebrated in 1977 were very similar.

### Length of remarriages

The act of remarriage could be taken to reaffirm a commitment to lifelong partnership despite the experience of marriage breakdown. However, the reality is that couples that were previously divorced are slightly more likely to divorce than those who had not been previously married<sup>2</sup>.

Information on the length of remarriages that ended recently is not available because the previous marital status of divorcing couples is no longer recorded. However, divorce data from the last year of availability, 1994, can be used to show the differences between the lengths of first marriages and remarriages among people who had been divorced.

Of the divorces made absolute in 1994, those made between couples who had both been in their first marriage had had a median marriage length until separation of nine years. Couples who had both been divorced previously had had a shorter median length of marriage until separation of five years.<sup>3</sup>

### Previously divorced bridegrooms and brides who remarried in 1997, children from previous marriage

Children under 16 from previous marriage	Bridegrooms	Brides
No children	14 484	13 482
Had children	9 405	9 127
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>23 940</b>	<b>22 634</b>
Number of children(b)	15 662	15 267

(a) Includes not stated.

(b) Children of bridegrooms and brides should not be added since double counting is possible if a divorced couple with children remarried in the same year.

Source: *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1997* (Cat. no. 3310.0).

### Children and remarriages

Partners entering into a remarriage provide some information about dependent children from their previous marriage on the registration form. Since this information is asked only of previously married people, information on children from de facto relationships is not available.

The information supplied on the marriage registration forms of previously divorced people remarrying in 1997 indicates that about 40% of brides and 39% of bridegrooms had children under 16 from their previous marriage. However, this information does not indicate that these people had responsibility for the day-to-day care of these children.

### Endnotes

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics 1997, *Marriages and Divorces, Australia*, unpublished data.

2 Australian Bureau of Statistics 1995, *How many marriages end in divorce?* in *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1994*, Cat. no. 3310.0, ABS, Canberra.

3 Australian Bureau of Statistics 1994, *Marriages and Divorces, Australia*, unpublished data.

## 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 (ERP) 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. Marriages of overseas residents visiting Australia are included in these statistics.

**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.

### Statistics

**7** 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	%
1987	96.3	1993	96.1
1988	97.7	1994	97.5
1989	96.0	1995	96.9
1990	94.7	1996	96.4
1991	93.9	1997	94.4
1992	94.7	1998	95.1

## DIVORCES

**8** 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 irretrievable 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.

**9** 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.

**10** 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.

**11** 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

## Statistics

**12** 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. Data for finalised divorces are provided, on monthly tapes, to the ABS by the Family Court.

**13** 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	%
1987	73.0	1993	73.1
1988	71.6	1994	74.1
1989	71.9	1995	74.8
1990	73.1	1996	72.7
1991	74.0	1997	72.9
1992	73.9	1998	75.8

State or Territory of usual residence

**14** 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. State or Territory of usual residence takes into account that some Family Courts have 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.

**15** 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

**16** The State classification used in tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 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 (ERP)

**17** This publication contains preliminary estimates of the resident population of Australia by marital status, age and sex at 30 June 1998, based on the 1996 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.

**18** The ERP is the official population estimates series compiled according to the place of usual residence of the population.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (ERP) *continued*

## Method of estimation

**19** Australia's population estimates for the period since 1971 are compiled according to the place of usual residence of the population. An explanation of the place of usual residence conceptual basis for population estimates is given in *Information Paper: Demographic Estimates and Projections — Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 3228.0).

**20** The estimates of the population of Australia and the States and Territories at the date of the Census of Population and Housing are census counts based on place of usual residence, adjusted for underenumeration and the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the Census.

**21** Post-censal estimates of the Australian population are obtained by adding to the population at the beginning of each period components of natural increase (on a usual residence basis) and net overseas migration. For States and Territories, account is also taken of estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence. After each Census, estimates are made for the preceding intercensal period by incorporating an additional quarterly adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the ERP at the two respective census dates.

**22** For marital status estimates, persons aged 14 years and under are automatically classified as never married.

## Reliability of estimates

**23** To meet the conflicting demand for accuracy and timeliness there are three estimates of ERP. At the national and State/Territory levels preliminary estimates are available six months after the reference date, revised estimates are available 15 months after the end of the financial year and final estimates after the following census. The estimates in this publication are preliminary for 1998, revised for 1997 and final for years prior to 1997.

**24** 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.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

## Reliability of estimates

**25** 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

**26** 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.

## Country of birth

**27** 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).

**28** Political developments in Europe and the former USSR and Africa have resulted in a number of changes to the ASCCSS. 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 ASCCSS.

## Suppression of small cells

**29** For Marriage and Divorce data, cell values less than three have been suppressed to assist in the preservation of confidentiality of information.

## Related publications

**30** Other ABS publications which may be of interest are:

- *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly
- *Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0) — issued annually
- *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
- *Family Characteristics, Australia* (Cat. no. 4442.0) — issued 1997
- *Information Paper: Demographic Estimates and Projections — Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 3228.0) — irregular
- *Marriages, Australia* (Cat. no. 3306.0) — issued annually to 1993
- *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories* (Cat. no. 3201.0) — issued annually
- *Population Projections, 1997 to 2051* (Cat. no. 3222.0) — issued July 1998

**31** 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 ERP prior to the release of these compendia please contact Information Services (see back cover for details).

**32** 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.

## Additional statistics available

**33** In most cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. Appendix 1 lists characteristics processed by the ABS for marriages registered, divorces granted and ERP. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: photocopy, data tape, floppy disk, computer printout, or clerically-extracted tabulation. A list of marriages and divorces tables produced annually and additional ERP data available is attached in Appendix 2. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information.

## APPENDIX **1** 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
- Country of birth
- Marital status
- Sex
- State or Territory of usual residence
- Statistical Local Area of usual residence



## APPENDIX 2

## STANDARD TABULATIONS AVAILABLE .....

Table number	Description
<b>MARRIAGES</b>	
MARR0001	Month and year of marriage and month of registration
MARR0002	Category of celebrant by State or Territory of registration
MARR0003	Relative previous marital status of bridegroom and bride by State or Territory of registration
MARR0004	Relative birthplaces of bridegroom and bride
MARR0005	Relative ages of bridegroom and bride at date of marriage
MARR0006A	Age of bridegroom at date of marriage and previous marital status
MARR0006B	Age of bride at date of marriage and previous marital status
MARR0007	Number of previous marriages and number of children under 16 years
MARR0008	Interval to remarriage by how last marriage terminated for both parties
MARR0009	Age of bridegroom by birthplace of bridegroom
MARR0010	Age of bride by birthplace of bride
MARR0011	Previous marital status by category of celebrant by number of previous marriages
<b>DIVORCES</b>	
DIVR0001	State or Territory of registry by sex of applicant
DIVR0002	Month of outcome by State or Territory
DIVR0003	Ages of husband and wife at date of marriage
DIVR0004	Ages of husband and wife at date of divorce
DIVR0005	Ages of husband and wife at date of final separation
DIVR0006	Birthplace of husband by birthplace of wife
DIVR0009	Age of husband at marriage by duration of marriage
DIVR0010	Age of wife at marriage by duration of marriage
DIVR0011	Age of husband at date of divorce by duration of marriage
DIVR0012	Age of wife at date of divorce by duration of marriage
DIVR0013	Duration of marriage by sex of applicant
DIVR0014	Duration of marriage by number of children under 18 years
DIVR0015	Age of youngest child by duration of marriage
DIVR0016	Age of youngest child by number of children under 18 years
DIVR0017	Age of husband at final separation by duration of cohabitation(a)
DIVR0018	Age of wife at final separation by duration of cohabitation(a)
DIVR0019	Month and year of application by month of outcome
DIVR0020	Interval between final separation and filing of application by State and Territory
DIVR0021	Interval between final separation and filing of application by duration of marriage

(a) For the purpose of these tables, duration of cohabitation is the interval between date of marriage and date of final separation.

Table number	Description
ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (ERP)	
ERP0001	ERP by sex, single year of age and State and Territory
ERP0002	ERP by sex, single year of age and country of birth
ERP0003	ERP by sex, single year of age and marital status
ERP0004	ERP by sex, five year age groups and Statistical Local Area
ERP0005	Experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population by sex, five-year age groups and State and Territory

# APPENDIX 3

## SPECIAL ARTICLES LIST .....

Source	Article title	Edition	Page
<i>Marriages and Divorces, Australia</i> (Cat. no. 3310.0)	Age at first marriage—reproduced from Australian Social Trends (1997)	1996	62
	Couple relationships at the 1996 Census of Population and Housing	1997	95
	Families in Australia	1994	15
	How many marriages end in divorce? Recent trends	1994	9
	Registered marital status and living arrangements	1997	85
	Remarriage trends of divorced people—reproduced from Australian Social Trends (1999)	1998	70
	Trends in de facto partnering—reproduced from Australian Social Trends (1995)	1995	67
<i>Australian Social Trends—Family section</i> (Cat. no. 4102.0)	Adoptions	1998	33
	Age at first marriage	1997	27
	Caring for children after parents separate	1999	42
	Changes in living arrangements	1994	35
	Child care	1998	38
	Child care	1994	47
	Children in families	1995	29
	Families and work	1997	30
	Family planning	1998	29
	Family support	1995	41
	Living with parents	1994	43
	Lone fathers with dependent children	1994	40
	Looking after the children	1999	39
	One-parent families	1997	34
	People who live alone	1996	33
	Principal carers and their caring roles	1996	44
	Remarriage trends of divorced people	1999	45
	Rural families	1998	42
	Trends in de facto partnering	1995	38
	Trends in fertility	1996	36
	Trends in marriage and divorce	1995	33

## TECHNICAL NOTE .....

### TOTAL FIRST MARRIAGE RATE (TFMR)

**1** The total first marriage rate (TFMR) is a synthetic index which measures the incidence of first marriage among a cohort of women who would ever marry (first marriage only) in their lifetime if they experienced first marriage rates at each age for a given year. The index has an analogy with the total fertility rate which is an accepted and widely used measure of the total number of children that would be borne to a cohort of women if they experienced in their lifetime the age-specific fertility rates for a given year. The calculation of the TFMR requires the number of registered first marriages by age in a year (or over a period) and the total population of males or females at the same age at the mid-point of the year. Thus age-specific first marriage rates are based on the total population being used as the denominator, rather than the population exposed to marriages, i.e. the never married population.

**2** The TFMR has an appeal in demography as the population estimates by age and marital status for some countries are not available or are available for the Census years only, and/or the estimate of the never married population is inaccurate due to misreporting of the marital status at the Census, which in turn forms the basis for the post-censal population estimates with similar errors.

**3** The TFMR has some limitations however. Like any other synthetic measure, the cross-sectional experience of different generations of men or women in a given year is assumed to reflect the experience of a hypothetical cohort as it passes through life, and the index is affected by the timing of the first marriages and the shift in the age distribution of first marriages (McDonald, 1974). The index value for a year can exceed one (i.e. a male or a female marrying for the first time more than once in his/her lifetime) (Sivamurthy, 1970). The TFMR is probably not a good measure of the proportion of never married population who will ever marry in their lifetime.

### NUPTIALITY TABLES

**4** An alternative to TFMR is an index which is obtained from the nuptiality tables. If reliable population estimates by marital status are available, the age-specific first marriage rates can be calculated by relating the registered first marriages with the population exposed to first marriages, i.e. the never married population. These rates could then form the basis for the calculation of the nuptiality tables which are similar to the life tables for the analysis of death statistics for a year or a period.

NUPTIALITY TABLES *continued*

**5** The gross nuptiality table takes into account the depletion of the original cohort of men or women by one attrition only (i.e. first marriages), while the net nuptiality table allows for two attritions (i.e. first marriages and deaths), a situation which is closer to reality. The cumulative number of persons marrying by a given age in the net nuptiality table is a measure which is similar to TFMR. The only assumption involved here is that the survivorship function (mortality by age) is the same for never married and all persons of a given sex (McDonald and Jain, 1972).

## COMPARISON OF RESULTS

**6** The two measures, the TFMR and the proportion marrying for the first time by a given age in the net nuptiality table, give different results. This is because for each sex, the first measure uses actual first marriage and population data, whereas the second measure is based on similar, but derived, data from the net nuptiality table. Of course, the accuracy of the net nuptiality table depends upon the accuracy of the input data, particularly the population estimates by marital status. The nuptiality table approach is likely to give a much more reliable measure of the proportion of the population who will ever marry in a lifetime than the TFMR because it is less affected by shifts in the age distribution of persons marrying for the first time.

## International TFMR

**7** Based on the Australian TFMR for 1997, the index (per person) shows that on average 0.560 males and 0.581 females will ever marry in their lifetime (*Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1997* (ABS Cat. no. 3310.0)). Many developed countries have provided similar calculations and have reported very similar values of TFMR, per person, for the late 20th century: Canada: 0.513 (males) and 0.552 (females) in 1994; England and Wales: 0.594 (males) and 0.619 (females) in 1990; France: 0.520 (males) and 0.540 (females) in 1996; Sweden: 0.418 (males) and 0.442 (females) in 1995; and the United States of America: 0.584 (males) and 0.595 (females) in 1988.

## TFMR versus net nuptiality table—Australia

**8** As opposed to TFMR levels, the net nuptiality tables, calculated for Australia, provide a different perspective of the incidence of first marriages.

## TFMR AND NET NUPTIALITY TABLE—Australia

	1971	1985–87	1995–97
<i>Index</i>	no.	no.	no.
TFMR (per person)			
Males	0.964	0.651	0.571
Females	0.982	0.678	0.587
Life time proportion married(a)			
Males	n.a.	0.793	0.717
Females	0.949	0.856	0.770

(a) 1971 data are from Krishnamoorthy, 1982.

TFMR versus net nuptiality tables data—Australia *continued*

**9** Thus, according to the 1995–97 pattern of first marriages, nearly 72% of men and 77% of women will marry for the first time. In other words, the extent of not marrying is about 28% among men and 23% for women (as opposed to about 40% for men and women canvassed on the basis of the TFMR).

## Sensitivity analysis of nuptiality tables

**10** As alluded to before, if there are reporting errors in the marital status categories at the Census and, by implication, in the post-censal estimates (for example, de facto living by never married persons is reported as married), the proportion of ever marrying based on the net nuptiality tables will be distorted. Sensitivity analysis was carried out by allowing a certain proportion of married persons, at each age between the ages of 15 and 49 years, to be removed from the married category and added on to never married category at the same age. The nuptiality tables were then recalculated. With 5% of the married population, at each age between the ages of 15 and 49 years, removed from the married category and added to the never married category, the index of lifetime proportion of women ever marrying according to the 1995–97 pattern of first marriages reduces to 73% as opposed to 77% without an adjustment. The proportion reduces further to 70% if 10% of the married population is shifted to never married category.

**11** Reconciliation between 40% not marrying (TFMR) and 28% of men or 23% of women not marrying (net nuptiality table) according to the 1995–97 nuptiality experience is not possible to achieve. The TFMR appears to have been adversely affected by the shift currently taking place in the age distribution of marriages. The median age at first marriage has risen for bridegrooms from 24 years in 1978 to 28 years in 1998 and for brides from 22 years to 26 years over the same period, indicating a considerable shift toward older ages at first marriage.

## GLOSSARY .....

<b>Age-specific divorce rates</b>	<p>Because of the different purposes to which they are put, two different populations may be used in the calculation of age-specific divorce rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Per 1,000 population—this relates the number of divorces recorded in the calendar year, by age at decree made absolute, to the estimated resident population of the same age at 30 June. Males under 18 and females under 16 are excluded from the population.</li> <li>▪ Per 1,000 married population—this relates the number of divorces recorded in a calendar year, by age at decree made absolute, to the married population of the same age at 30 June. Those classified as permanently separated are included in the married population. Males and females under 15 are excluded from the population.</li> </ul> <p>Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.</p>
<b>Age-specific first marriage rates</b>	<p>Because of the different purposes to which they are put, two different populations may be used in the calculation of age-specific first marriage rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Per 1,000 population—this relates the number of first time marriages of men or women registered in the calendar year, by age at marriage, to the estimated resident population in the same age at 30 June. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.</li> <li>▪ Per 1,000 never married population—this relates the number of first time marriages of men or women registered in a calendar year, by age at marriage, to the never married population of men or women of the same age at 30 June. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.</li> </ul> <p>Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.</p>
<b>Age-specific marriage rates</b>	<p>Because of the different purposes to which they are put, two different populations may be used in the calculation of age-specific marriage rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Per 1,000 population—this relates the number of marriages of men or women registered in a calendar year, by age at marriage, to the estimated resident population in the same age. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.</li> <li>▪ Per 1,000 not currently married population—this relates the number of marriages of men or women registered in a calendar year, by age at marriage, to the not currently married population of men or women of the same age at 30 June. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.</li> </ul> <p>Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.</p>
<b>Age-specific remarriage rates</b>	<p>Age-specific remarriage rates are the number of remarrying men or women registered in the calendar year, by age at marriage, per 1,000 widowed and divorced estimated resident population of the same sex and age at 30 June. Males and females aged under 15 years are excluded from the population.</p>

<b>Children (divorce collection)</b>	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 <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> (Cwlth) 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.
<b>Cohabiting couples</b>	Cohabiting couples refer to males and females, both aged at least 15 years, who are in a registered or de facto marriage and are usually resident in the same household.
<b>Crude divorce rate</b>	The crude divorce rate is the number of decrees absolute granted during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. For years prior to 1992, the crude divorce rate was 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 is below the minimum age of marriage.
<b>Crude marriage rate</b>	The crude marriage rate is the number of marriages registered during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. For years prior to 1992, the crude marriage rate was 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.
<b>Date of final separation</b>	The date of final separation is the 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.
<b>Divorce</b>	Decree absolute of dissolution of marriage.
<b>Duration of marriage</b>	Duration of marriage is the interval measured in completed years between the date of marriage and the date of divorce.
<b>Duration of marriage until separation</b>	Duration of marriage until separation is the interval measured in completed years between the date of marriage and the date of separation.

<b>Estimated resident population (ERP)</b>	<p>Estimated resident population (ERP) are 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 adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the ERPs 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. Overseas visitors in Australia are excluded from this calculation.</p> <p>The concept of ERP 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 from the reference date for data collection.</p>
<b>First marriage rates</b>	First marriage rates are the number of males or females marrying for the first time during the calendar year, per 1,000 population of never married males or females aged 15 years and over at 30 June.
<b>Marital status</b>	Two separate concepts are measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These are registered marital status and social marital status. They have different personal characteristics and are independent variables with separate classifications. Marital status relates to registered marital status which refers to formally registered marriages or divorces for which the partners hold a certificate. Four categories of marital status are identified: never married, married, widowed and divorced.
<b>Marriage</b>	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 six calendar months before the marriage. A celebrant must transmit an official certificate of the marriage for registration in the State or Territory in which the marriage took place.
<b>Median value</b>	For any distribution, 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.
<b>Remarriage rates</b>	Remarriage rates are the number of remarrying men or women per 1,000 population of widowed and divorced men or women of the same age at 30 June. The rates are separately calculated for widowed or divorced men or women by appropriately adjusting the numerator and denominator of the rates.

<b>State or Territory of registration</b>	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 14–16 of the Explanatory Notes.)
<b>State or Territory of usual residence</b>	State or Territory of usual residence refers to the State or Territory of usual residence of the population for estimated resident population.
<b>Total first marriage rate</b>	The total first marriage rate is obtained by summing age-specific first marriage rates (calculated by using total population) and indicates the number of males or females who will ever marry per 1,000 males or females in the population. The population aged under 15 years is excluded from this calculation.
<b>Year of occurrence</b>	Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the event occurred.
<b>Year of registration</b>	Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the event was registered.

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