



MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070, 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.

Small values have been randomised to protect confidentiality.



REVISIONS

Estimated resident population data at 30 June 1999 are revised.



SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
E T	External Territories
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
p	preliminary figure or series subject to revision
r	revised
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero

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MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE TRENDS

In 2000 there were 113,400 marriages registered in Australia, a decrease of 900 marriages when compared with 1999 but an increase of 4,200 marriages when compared with 1980. Marriage rates for the unmarried population (aged 15 years and over) fell in 2000 to 34 per 1,000 unmarried men and 32 per 1,000 unmarried women from 35 and 33, respectively in 1999 and 63 and 61, respectively in 1976 (see page 7).

There were 49,900 divorces granted in Australia in 2000. This was a decrease of 2,700 on the number of divorces granted in 1999, but an increase of 10,600 on 1980. Divorce rates for the married population have fluctuated over the past twenty years from a low of 11 divorces per 1,000 married population in 1987, to a high of 13 in 1996. The divorce rate in 2000 was 12 (see page 45).

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

The crude marriage rate in Australia of 5.9 per 1,000 population in 2000 was lower than in the United States of America (8.9 per 1,000 in 1997) and above that of the United Kingdom (5.4 in 1996) and New Zealand (5.3 in 1997) (see page 13).

The crude divorce rate in Australia was 2.6 per 1,000 population in 2000. It was lower than the United States of America (4.3 per 1,000 in 1997) and the United Kingdom (2.9 in 1996), the same as New Zealand (2.6 in 1997) and higher than Canada (2.4 in 1996) (see page 51).

LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY AND DIVORCE

The proportion of men and women who will ever marry is declining. If the 1997–1999 first marriage rates were to continue into the future it is estimated that 29% of men and 23% of women will never marry. The corresponding proportions based on 1985–1987 rates were 21% and 14%, respectively (see page 8).

The likelihood of a marriage ending in divorce has been previously estimated at 46%. In this issue a different method is introduced. This method indicates that if a newly-born group of babies is exposed to current rates (marriage, widowing, divorce, remarriage and mortality) 32% of their marriages would end in divorce. Under both methods the likelihood of a marriage ending in divorce is shown to be increasing over time. Both the figures are hypothetical and measure the likely prevalence of divorce — 46% if the *past levels* and 32% if the *current levels* of all nuptial events were to continue into the future (see pages 46, 84 and 111).

EXPECTED LIFETIME MARITAL STATES

Men and women are expected to spend more of their lifetime in a single or divorced marital status and less of their lifetime in a married or widowed marital status than they were 12 years ago. Based on the 1997–1999 nuptiality table the 'average' man can expect to live 42 years single, 28 years married, 2 years widowed and 5 years divorced during an expected lifetime of 76 years. The 'average' women, with a life expectancy of 82 years, can anticipate living 40 years single, 29 years married, 6 years widowed and 7 years divorced (see page 87).

AGE AT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The trend towards older age at marriage continued in 2000. The median age at marriage for men was 30 years, rising from 26 years in 1980. For women the median age rose to 28 years in 2000 from 23 years in 1980. The median age at first marriage also rose. In 2000 it was 28 years for men, increasing from 24 years in 1980. For women, the median age at first marriage was 27 years in 2000, increasing from 22 years in 1980 (see page 8).

In line with the increasing age at marriage the median age at divorce also rose. In 2000 the median age at divorce for men was 41 years (up from 35 years in 1980) and 39 years for women (up from 33 years in 1980) (see page 46).

DURATION OF MARRIAGE FOR DIVORCING COUPLES

In 2000, 17% 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 four and five years (6%). In 2000 the median duration of marriage to divorce was 12 years up from 10 years in 1980 (see page 47).

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

For the second successive year, marriages performed by civil celebrants outnumbered marriages performed by ministers of religion. In 2000, 53% of all marriages were performed by civil celebrants. New South Wales was the only State or Territory not to fit this pattern (49% civil celebrants, 51% religious) (see page 10).

The civil marriage celebrant program commenced in 1973 and currently there are around 1,700 civil marriage celebrants in Australia. Since the introduction of this program, the proportion of all marriages conducted by registrars of births, deaths and marriages has declined (from 15% in 1974 to 8% in 2000), while those conducted by civil marriage celebrants have rapidly increased (from 3% in 1974 to 45% in 2000) (see page 98).

COHABITATION PRIOR TO MARRIAGE

The proportion of men and women choosing to cohabit prior to entering a registered marriage continued to rise. In 2000, 71% of couples indicated they had cohabited prior to marriage compared with 29% in 1980 (see page 10).

MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION

In June 2000 there were 15.2 million people aged 15 years and over in the population, a rise of 14% on 1990. The 2000 population was comprised of 4.9 million never married, 8.3 million married, 932,000 widowed and 1.1 million divorced persons. The largest proportional increase over the past ten years was in the divorced population, increasing by 63% between 1990 and 2000 (see page 75).

Over the past ten years the median age of the population, aged 15 years and over, has increased from 39 years in 1990 to 42 years in 2000. The increase in the median age is evident in each marital status and for both males and females (see page 76).

A hundred years ago around 52% of the male and 40% of the female population, aged 15 years and over, was never married while 43% of males and 50% of females were married. In 2000 the never married proportions fell to 35% for males and 28% for females while the married proportions rose to 55% and 54%, respectively (see page 93).

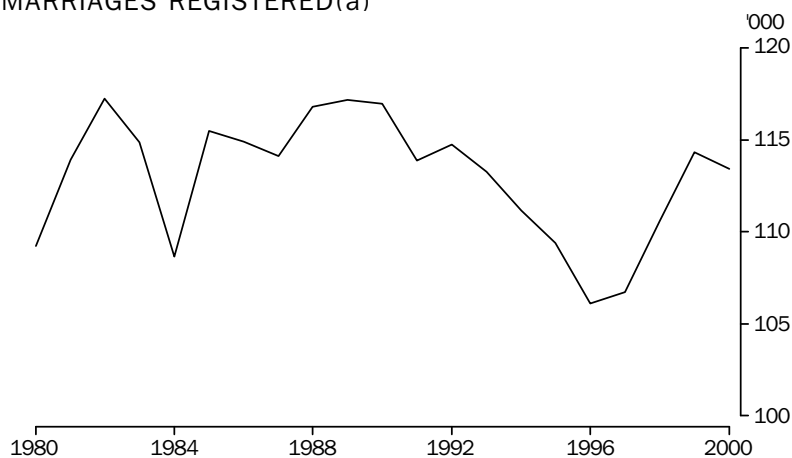
CHAPTER 2

MARRIAGES

REGISTERED MARRIAGES

In 2000 there were 113,400 marriages registered in Australia. This was a decrease on the number registered in 1999 (114,300) but still higher than in 1998 (110,600). Over the last 20 years the number of marriages registered has fluctuated from a low of 106,100 in 1996 to a high of 117,300 in 1982. Similar fluctuations were experienced by all States and Territories.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED (a)



(a) Registration delays in NSW contributed to the decline in 1984.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

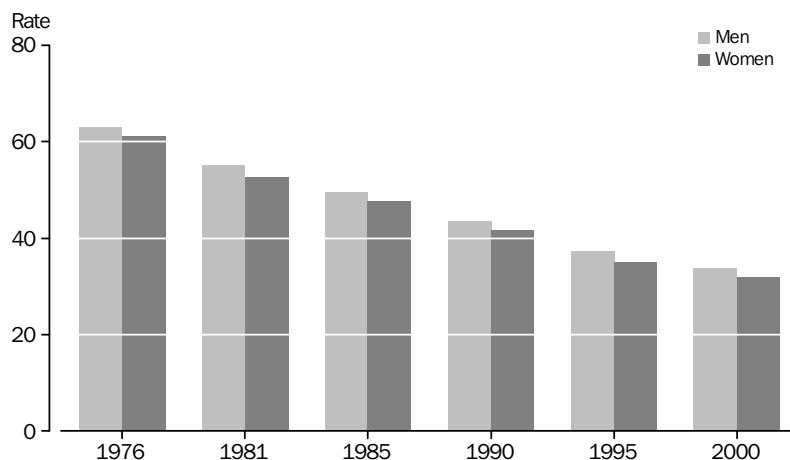
Of the countries selected for comparison (see table 2.2) the United States of America had the highest crude marriage rate in the mid-1990s (8.9 marriages per 1,000 population), followed by Turkey (8.3) and Egypt (8.0). The lowest crude marriage rate was recorded by Sweden (3.5 marriages per 1,000 population), followed by Ireland (4.3) and Hong Kong and Italy (each 4.7). The Australian crude marriage rate was 5.9 marriages per 1,000 population.

MARRIAGE TRENDS

Marriage rates for the unmarried population (per 1,000 not currently married men or women aged 15 years and over) fell in 2000. This continued the long-term downward trend which has been evident since these rates first became available in 1976. The marriage rate for men was 63 per 1,000 in 1976 while the rate for women was 61 per 1,000. In 2000 these rates fell to 34 and 32, respectively.

MARRIAGE TRENDS *continued*

MARRIAGE RATES(a), Unmarried Population—Selected Years



(a) Per 1,000 unmarried population.

The crude marriage rate in 2000 was 5.9 per 1,000 population. The crude marriage rate is the number of registered marriages per 1,000 population. The rate for 2000 was lower than the rate for 1999 (6.0) and 1980 (7.4).

States and Territories

Queensland had the highest crude marriage rate of all States and Territories in 2000 (6.4 per 1,000 population, 8% above the national rate and the same as the rate for Queensland in 1999). For more than 20 years, the Northern Territory has consistently recorded the lowest crude marriage rate in Australia. In 2000 the rate was 4.4 per 1,000 population (25% below the rate for Australia).

LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY

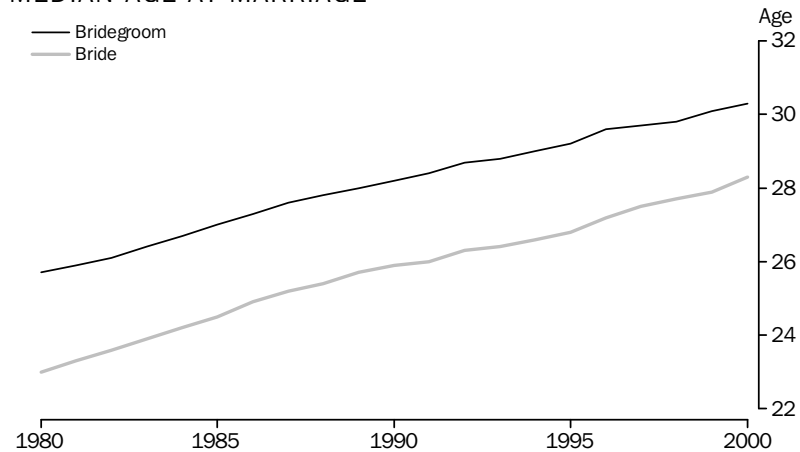
The proportion of people who will ever marry is declining. This has been estimated from the first marriage rates by age for never married persons for a given year. The calculations are based on net nuptiality tables, which are calculated on the principles of the life tables commonly used for the analysis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

According to the net nuptiality tables, the likelihood to marry is estimated at 71% for men and 77% for women, if the 1997–1999 first marriage rates prevail in the future. The corresponding proportions ever marrying, based on the 1985–1987 first marriage rates, were 79% for men and 86% for women, indicating a decline in first marriages over time.

MARRIAGE AGE

An increasing proportion of people are choosing to marry after their 30th birthday. In 1999, for the first time, the median age of men marrying exceeded 30 years of age (30.1 years). The median age at marriage is the age where there are as many marrying above the age as below it. The median age at marriage of men continued to rise in 2000 (30.3 years). Although the median age for women marrying has not yet reached 30 years, it did increase between 1999 and 2000. In 1999 the median age of women marrying was 27.9 years rising to 28.3 years in 2000. Twenty years ago the median age for men marrying was 25.7 years and for women 23.0 years.

MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE



Men aged 25–29 years marrying women aged 25–29 years (17%) were the most common relative age groups of parties marrying in 2000. The next most common relative age groups were men aged 20–24 years marrying women aged 20–24 (10%) and men aged 25–29 years marrying women aged 20–24 years (10%).

FIRST MARRIAGES

Marriages in which neither party had been previously married made up 67% of marriages in 2000 while a further 19% were first marriages for one partner.

Men and women are choosing to enter their first marriage later in life. For men, the median age at first marriage in 2000 was 28.5 years, increasing from 24.2 years in 1980. For women, the median age at first marriage in 2000 was 26.7 years, increasing from 21.9 years in 1980.

The long-term trend in first marriage rates for both men and women is one of decline. 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. First marriage rates fell in all age groups between 1976 and 2000 (1980 data are not available). Up until 1999, the peak age group for men marrying was the same, the 25–29 years age group. In 2000 the peak age group moved to the 30–34 years age group. For women the peak age group moved from 20–24 years to 25–29 years in 1985 and has since remained in that age group.

REMARRIAGES

There were 21,200 (19%) marriages in 2000 in which one party had been previously married and 16,700 (15%) in which both partners were remarrying.

Between 1976 and 2000 remarriage rates for both men and women fell in all age groups, most by more than 50%. Remarriage rates are the number of remarriages of men or women, of a certain age, per 1,000 widowed and divorced men or women of the same age. During the period the peak age group for men remarrying was the age group 25–29 years until 1999 when it changed to the age group 30–34 years. In 2000 the peak age group for men remarrying had returned to the age group 25–29 years. For women the peak age group moved from 20–24 years to 25–29 years in 1987 and has since remained in that age group.

Interval to remarriage

Overall, grooms had a shorter interval between previous and current marriage than did brides, with a median interval to remarriage of 3.5 years for grooms, compared with 4.0 years for brides. The median interval to remarriage varied by marital status of the bride and groom. Previously widowed grooms and brides had a longer interval to remarriage (4.2 and 6.3 years, respectively) than previously divorced grooms and brides (3.4 and 3.8 years, respectively).

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

In 2000, for the second successive year, marriages performed by civil celebrants outnumbered marriages performed by ministers of religion. Civil ceremonies accounted for 53% of all marriages. 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 2000, New South Wales was the only State or Territory in which marriages performed by ministers of religion outnumbered those by civil celebrants (51% and 49%, respectively).

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES MARRYING

Of the marriages registered in Australia in 2000, 64% were marriages where both parties were born in Australia, 8% were marriages to couples born in the same overseas country and 28% were marriages between men and women from different countries. These proportions were similar to those experienced in 1980.

PRE-MARRIAGE COHABITATION

Of all marriages registered in 2000 (113,400 marriages), 71% of couples (80,900 marriages) indicated they had cohabited prior to formalising their relationship in a registered marriage. According to the 1992 Family Survey (ABS, 1993), the comparative proportions were 45% in 1990 and 29% in 1980.

States and Territories

The majority of couples in all States and Territories cohabited prior to marriage in 2000. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion (84%) while New South Wales had the lowest (67%).

2.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected Years

		1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
ALL MARRIAGES									
Marriages registered	no.	109 240	116 959	109 386	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316	113 429
Crude marriage rate	rate	7.4	6.9	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.9
Previous marital status									
First marriage both partners	no.	74 799	78 782	73 846	70 438	71 042	73 743	76 440	75 503
First marriage one partner	no.	19 122	21 597	19 898	19 657	19 965	20 705	21 386	21 185
Remarriage both partners	no.	15 319	16 580	15 642	16 008	15 728	16 150	16 490	16 741
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	69 580	67 704	n.a.	56 462	55 866	55 807	55 720	53 521
Proportion	%	63.7	57.9	n.a.	53.2	52.3	50.5	48.7	47.2
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	39 660	49 255	n.a.	49 641	50 869	54 791	58 596	59 908
Proportion	%	36.3	42.1	n.a.	46.8	47.7	49.5	51.3	52.8

n.a. not available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

2.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected Years *continued*

		1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
BRIDEGROOM									
Age-specific marriage rates(b)									
Age group (years)									
19 and under	rate	5.9	2.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
20–24	rate	70.7	44.0	31.7	28.0	26.7	26.2	25.9	24.1
25–29	rate	46.3	54.1	51.8	49.2	48.9	50.8	51.3	50.2
30–34	rate	21.3	27.7	28.6	28.5	29.5	31.0	33.0	33.5
35–39	rate	12.2	15.0	15.0	15.3	15.7	16.4	17.5	17.3
40–44	rate	8.9	9.9	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.8	10.1	10.5
45–49	rate	7.2	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6
50 and over	rate	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	83 950	89 009	83 280	79 621	80 483	83 508	86 694	85 546
Widowed	no.	3 264	2 729	2 360	2 366	2 312	2 348	2 336	2 300
Divorced	no.	22 026	25 221	23 746	24 116	23 940	24 742	25 286	25 583
Total	no.	109 240	116 959	109 386	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316	113 429
Median age at marriage									
Never married	years	24.2	26.5	27.3	27.6	27.8	27.9	28.2	28.5
Widowed	years	58.6	61.4	62.5	62.6	62.3	61.4	62.0	62.1
Divorced	years	35.8	39.6	41.1	41.6	41.8	42.0	42.2	42.7
Total	years	25.7	28.2	29.2	29.6	29.7	29.8	30.1	30.3
BRIDE									
Age-specific marriage rates(b)									
Age group (years)									
19 and under	rate	30.4	10.7	6.1	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.1	4.9
20–24	rate	79.1	66.0	51.2	46.3	44.7	44.4	43.8	41.0
25–29	rate	30.5	44.8	47.9	46.6	47.7	50.2	52.1	51.5
30–34	rate	14.8	20.8	21.4	22.1	23.1	24.4	26.3	27.3
35–39	rate	9.4	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.5	12.1	13.0	13.3
40–44	rate	7.2	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.5	8.0	8.2
45–49	rate	5.4	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.2
50 and over	rate	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	84 770	90 152	84 310	80 912	81 566	84 683	87 572	86 645
Widowed	no.	3 920	3 185	2 712	2 747	2 535	2 664	2 662	2 543
Divorced	no.	20 550	23 622	22 364	22 444	22 634	23 251	24 082	24 241
Total	no.	109 240	116 959	109 386	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316	113 429
Median age at marriage									
Never married	years	21.9	24.3	25.3	25.7	25.9	26.2	26.4	26.7
Widowed	years	52.0	52.3	53.5	53.7	54.1	54.1	53.5	53.8
Divorced	years	32.8	36.0	37.6	38.0	38.2	38.4	38.6	39.1
Total	years	23.0	25.9	26.8	27.2	27.5	27.7	27.9	28.3

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 men or women, respectively, at 30 June. Males and females under 15 years are excluded from the population.

2.2 INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF MARRIAGES

<i>Selected countries</i>	<i>Reference year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Crude rate(a)</i>
	<i>year</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>rate</i>
Australia	2000	113 400	5.9
Canada	1996	156 691	5.3
Chile	1997	78 077	5.3
Egypt	1997	493 787	8.0
France	1998	282 100	4.8
Germany	1998	416 821	5.1
Greece	1998	58 000	5.5
Hong Kong	1998	31 673	4.7
Indonesia	1986	1 249 034	7.4
Iran	1996	479 263	7.8
Ireland	1997	15 631	4.3
Italy	1997	273 111	4.7
Japan	1998	784 580	6.2
Korea, Republic of	1997	310 536	6.8
Netherlands	1997	85 000	5.4
New Zealand	1997	19 953	5.3
Philippines	1993	474 407	7.1
Poland	1998	209 000	5.4
Singapore	1998	23 106	6.0
Sweden	1998	30 620	3.5
Thailand	1995	470 751	7.9
Turkey	1997	519 216	8.3
United Kingdom	1996	317 514	5.4
United States of America	1997	2 384 000	8.9
Yugoslavia	1997	56 203	5.3

(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: *United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1998* and earlier issues.

2.3 AGE-SPECIFIC MARRIAGE RATES(a)

	AGE GROUP (YEARS).....								
	<i>19 and under(b)</i>	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	<i>50 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
BRIDEGROOM									
1976	9.9	123.3	150.2	118.5	91.5	70.1	54.5	23.7	62.9
1985	2.8	68.6	113.6	98.7	77.8	60.4	47.0	17.8	49.6
1990	2.1	50.3	99.8	85.7	65.6	52.4	44.0	17.3	43.5
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
1999	1.1	27.4	74.4	75.6	55.4	38.8	33.3	16.1	34.8
2000	1.0	25.5	71.5	74.7	53.3	39.0	31.9	16.3	33.8
BRIDE									
1976	49.1	190.7	166.3	130.0	93.4	66.4	46.5	6.4	61.1
1985	17.9	120.4	128.3	93.8	66.4	48.3	34.1	4.7	47.5
1990	11.0	90.0	117.4	85.9	57.3	41.4	33.8	4.7	41.6
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
1999	5.1	50.6	95.6	78.1	49.1	32.9	25.6	4.9	32.8
2000	4.9	46.9	91.9	79.1	48.8	32.7	25.6	5.1	31.9

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

(b) Per 1,000 unmarried male or female population aged 15–19 years.

2.4 AGE-SPECIFIC FIRST MARRIAGE AND REMARRIAGE RATES

	1976	1981	1985	1990	1995	1998	1999	2000
First marriage rates(a)								
Males								
19 and under(b)	9.9	5.5	2.8	2.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.0
20–24	122.6	88.9	68.2	50.3	34.9	27.8	27.3	25.4
25–29	135.9	119.2	108.8	97.6	83.7	74.9	73.7	70.7
30–34	81.8	78.4	79.9	75.2	69.1	69.2	71.2	71.0
35–39	45.9	45.4	43.4	43.2	40.6	42.7	44.9	42.8
40–44	25.5	24.0	23.0	22.4	22.0	22.7	23.6	23.6
45–49	15.7	13.3	13.1	12.7	12.8	13.4	13.1	12.9
50 and over	6.4	5.6	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.4
Females								
19 and under(b)	49.0	30.8	17.9	11.0	6.2	5.3	5.1	4.9
20–24	187.5	141.2	119.3	89.6	63.3	51.5	50.3	46.6
25–29	138.8	120.7	119.9	113.6	101.5	93.8	93.8	90.2
30–34	86.5	71.5	73.4	73.7	67.0	69.1	72.5	74.6
35–39	49.8	41.4	40.8	38.1	35.9	36.2	38.2	38.6
40–44	26.3	21.9	22.5	19.0	18.6	18.6	19.2	20.1
45–49	15.5	14.9	12.3	11.6	10.3	11.2	10.0	11.3
50 and over	3.9	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.9	2.8
Total first marriage rates(c)								
Males	742.6	686.1	655.8	635.1	585.3	577.6	597.0	587.7
Females	748.0	701.4	680.8	659.2	603.8	601.5	620.1	613.2
Remarriage rates(d)								
Males								
19 and under(b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20–24	245.4	181.7	136.5	45.8	46.8	57.1	55.7	47.9
25–29	341.8	225.7	192.2	145.4	114.2	126.2	102.9	104.4
30–34	294.8	194.9	166.9	141.1	119.1	117.5	108.8	102.8
35–39	239.8	160.4	135.1	111.5	92.3	89.3	85.4	83.9
40–44	184.6	123.4	104.1	87.2	66.4	62.9	60.8	62.1
45–49	138.2	95.3	81.1	72.0	55.8	49.9	49.8	47.9
59–54	98.1	68.7	58.6	55.8	44.9	41.8	41.3	41.1
55–59	68.3	51.7	44.3	42.0	34.6	31.3	31.6	31.5
60 and over	20.9	16.8	15.7	14.9	11.9	11.5	11.7	11.5
Females								
19 and under(b)	113.7	76.4	28.1	10.1	7.7	6.4	—	20.5
20–24	295.8	222.4	182.8	111.4	100.4	128.5	101.8	96.2
25–29	278.0	189.4	173.7	147.4	128.9	139.8	122.3	119.2
30–34	201.0	135.1	123.3	113.7	95.7	104.9	98.0	95.5
35–39	136.2	96.3	83.8	75.2	64.4	66.5	64.4	63.7
40–44	94.0	70.7	60.0	52.9	42.8	42.5	42.9	42.2
45–49	62.7	45.7	41.8	42.1	33.5	32.4	31.8	31.7
59–54	31.5	25.9	23.4	26.3	21.6	21.5	20.5	21.7
55–59	16.1	13.2	12.4	12.1	12.3	12.9	12.2	12.8
60 and over	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.0	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 years have been included in the calculation.

(c) Addition of the age-specific first marriage rates calculated per 1,000 population as at 30 June for each year shown. See Glossary.

(d) Per 1,000 population of divorced and widowed persons, of the appropriate ages, at 30 June for each year shown. See Glossary.

2.5 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS).....

Age of bridegroom (years)	17 and under	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
17 and under	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
18	6	75	47	21	10	10	4	3	4	—	—	3
19	18	124	129	95	38	33	17	14	9	8	5	4
20	10	162	214	307	152	90	54	39	21	18	16	14
21	9	177	209	407	477	302	144	94	65	64	25	18
22	6	157	232	393	545	731	444	245	145	101	75	56
23	3	134	195	339	593	816	961	530	297	180	135	94
24	3	128	170	316	518	780	1 045	1 085	612	362	243	191
25	6	97	123	231	422	654	912	1 175	1 238	724	411	294
26	9	71	101	200	357	570	770	985	1 240	1 191	702	449
27	4	63	91	155	297	426	592	853	1 032	1 109	1 068	728
28	3	35	65	114	201	334	518	701	877	962	1 072	995
29	—	34	53	82	158	235	378	522	666	794	936	930
30	3	22	35	51	103	195	243	363	528	606	683	768
31	—	13	29	54	82	120	163	248	343	479	572	600
32	—	12	19	33	45	91	129	208	253	323	389	444
33	3	10	16	31	47	60	98	161	194	279	299	357
34	—	9	10	22	31	45	58	110	159	173	252	268
35	—	3	6	14	29	39	71	68	118	158	205	216
36	3	5	5	12	21	32	49	62	80	108	144	185
37	—	4	3	8	17	16	30	58	55	84	116	141
38	—	3	3	4	5	14	28	46	51	57	93	127
39	—	4	3	9	7	15	19	33	52	56	66	90
40	—	3	—	6	4	11	21	18	28	35	56	64
41	—	6	5	6	5	6	13	18	27	32	43	40
42	—	3	—	3	4	9	8	10	25	15	35	32
43	—	3	—	3	5	7	7	7	13	16	27	37
44	—	—	—	3	—	9	3	14	9	14	19	22
45	—	—	3	4	—	5	4	7	7	18	15	24
46	—	—	3	3	5	3	4	4	6	11	12	6
47	—	—	—	3	6	—	—	5	5	8	10	16
48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	11	11	11
49	—	—	—	4	—	—	3	3	3	9	8	5
50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	7	9	9
51	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	4	6	6	4	7
52	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	6	—	3	10
53	—	—	—	—	3	—	5	—	—	3	8	4
54	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	—	—	—	4
55–59	—	—	—	4	3	6	—	4	5	6	5	12
60–64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	5	5
65 and over	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	3	3	—	4
Total	85	1 360	1 776	2 935	4 197	5 672	6 807	7 721	8 192	8 033	7 779	7 283

2.5 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS).....

Age of bridegroom (years)	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
19	6	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
20	8	4	5	3	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	3
21	16	14	10	11	6	3	4	4	—	3	—	—
22	37	27	19	5	3	5	6	3	—	4	—	—
23	73	36	24	19	17	6	4	7	6	3	3	3
24	119	74	46	28	30	13	12	10	9	10	3	4
25	189	113	79	49	44	27	16	12	6	9	3	6
26	275	215	120	61	46	42	33	17	13	16	6	6
27	431	304	182	111	75	65	42	48	20	18	19	10
28	650	391	245	172	132	90	68	46	33	26	17	16
29	859	538	338	211	179	118	99	60	36	34	11	18
30	764	627	370	257	175	139	91	75	69	47	33	19
31	566	581	480	321	230	194	107	66	61	51	38	27
32	451	440	411	364	224	159	146	103	80	57	37	25
33	397	344	350	309	261	181	150	108	66	59	41	28
34	333	351	335	275	248	195	153	130	90	66	54	32
35	250	241	256	248	234	219	167	131	112	74	76	59
36	195	222	240	203	193	210	177	151	143	93	87	51
37	182	195	199	173	176	136	165	169	134	107	97	84
38	124	127	156	173	156	146	124	132	148	121	88	65
39	128	136	120	131	121	130	137	158	124	108	114	82
40	80	93	110	88	115	105	110	126	122	107	110	91
41	70	67	66	77	80	86	80	101	110	106	95	99
42	47	55	52	74	69	79	83	89	87	87	87	69
43	32	44	37	56	66	60	67	70	95	75	82	80
44	31	39	42	44	44	52	50	78	72	76	83	71
45	20	32	37	34	39	40	48	49	54	53	61	72
46	23	27	20	37	35	30	46	42	46	41	44	52
47	13	22	28	33	15	28	29	46	48	48	57	56
48	19	11	10	26	18	28	31	31	49	27	47	48
49	6	20	16	9	19	26	23	32	29	29	44	32
50	9	12	11	19	18	18	15	23	29	35	31	38
51	3	8	16	10	14	13	15	17	23	21	33	24
52	3	6	10	11	9	12	17	18	16	15	18	23
53	5	5	10	5	5	11	18	22	19	17	23	24
54	3	3	6	5	6	8	8	10	16	12	16	13
55–59	12	13	12	17	16	18	21	25	32	36	48	33
60–64	5	6	5	5	7	10	12	12	17	9	9	21
65 and over	—	—	5	3	—	7	4	3	9	4	3	8
Total	6 436	5 445	4 482	3 675	3 125	2 711	2 379	2 224	2 028	1 704	1 618	1 392

2.5 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS).....

Age of bridegroom (years)	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	3	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	—	5	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
25	3	3	—	3	4	3	—	—	3	—	—	3
26	9	—	6	4	4	—	—	3	—	3	—	—
27	8	6	7	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	3
28	8	3	9	4	4	3	4	—	3	—	—	3
29	13	4	—	3	7	—	3	3	3	3	—	—
30	19	10	5	11	6	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
31	19	15	7	9	4	3	—	5	—	—	—	—
32	24	19	8	12	3	4	—	4	—	—	3	—
33	24	15	17	11	14	4	6	4	7	—	5	—
34	26	28	20	9	11	4	9	—	4	—	—	—
35	28	36	23	22	12	14	10	6	3	—	3	—
36	34	35	23	27	16	13	6	6	6	3	—	—
37	37	45	40	13	27	15	15	5	6	4	5	4
38	66	45	28	17	23	17	8	6	14	8	—	3
39	44	49	43	34	21	18	17	11	7	3	5	10
40	73	60	44	35	29	26	27	21	12	12	7	7
41	78	70	56	44	26	23	24	15	11	11	9	4
42	76	59	48	35	44	43	25	21	14	11	16	3
43	68	79	60	59	38	33	32	18	14	13	10	11
44	86	69	63	67	65	35	29	30	22	15	11	11
45	88	63	62	61	57	38	41	40	17	16	16	10
46	52	46	55	45	65	45	43	36	32	29	20	13
47	41	70	57	54	56	55	45	42	20	33	16	17
48	41	46	61	62	40	46	56	49	47	45	24	19
49	30	54	43	52	57	60	44	45	36	31	29	23
50	37	44	46	50	52	43	55	42	47	52	32	27
51	24	45	32	44	54	48	36	41	53	51	37	31
52	34	32	29	53	38	48	42	53	46	47	33	40
53	28	26	25	39	37	46	56	35	45	40	47	44
54	17	15	30	22	32	35	24	30	33	51	38	34
55–59	49	75	62	72	94	98	111	105	131	130	125	137
60–64	20	20	31	30	31	44	35	54	44	58	65	59
65 and over	11	8	12	14	16	24	14	31	32	42	32	38
Total	1 219	1 205	1 060	1 025	988	900	824	768	714	713	589	555

2.5 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS).....

Age of bridegroom (years)	53	54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	6
18	—	—	—	—	—	187
19	—	—	—	—	—	509
20	—	—	—	—	—	1 127
21	—	—	—	—	—	2 063
22	—	—	—	—	—	3 243
23	—	—	—	—	—	4 492
24	—	—	—	—	—	5 827
25	—	—	—	—	—	6 860
26	—	—	—	—	—	7 526
27	—	—	3	—	—	7 775
28	3	—	3	—	—	7 805
29	—	—	—	—	—	7 327
30	—	3	—	—	—	6 328
31	3	—	—	—	—	5 494
32	—	—	—	—	—	4 520
33	—	—	—	—	—	3 957
34	3	—	3	—	—	3 519
35	4	—	—	—	—	3 158
36	4	—	—	—	—	2 846
37	3	—	5	3	—	2 577
38	—	3	4	—	—	2 232
39	3	—	—	—	—	2 110
40	—	3	3	3	—	1 865
41	5	3	5	3	—	1 623
42	4	—	9	3	—	1 433
43	3	5	7	3	—	1 338
44	7	5	7	3	—	1 303
45	11	4	14	3	—	1 167
46	14	3	15	6	—	1 015
47	18	9	18	3	3	1 033
48	13	6	19	6	3	970
49	22	13	31	4	—	895
50	25	13	38	4	—	903
51	27	14	44	6	—	821
52	24	21	44	14	—	791
53	43	32	64	8	—	807
54	24	29	70	10	8	622
55-59	118	125	339	105	39	2 242
60-64	72	51	331	181	77	1 341
65 and over	47	30	268	358	733	1 772
Total	498	372	1 347	725	868	113 429

2.6 AGE, Previous Marital Status

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	6	—	—	6	85	—	—	85
18	187	—	—	187	1 359	—	3	1 360
19	509	—	—	509	1 774	—	—	1 776
20	1 125	—	3	1 127	2 928	—	7	2 935
21	2 060	3	3	2 063	4 179	3	16	4 197
22	3 239	—	4	3 243	5 623	3	48	5 672
23	4 480	—	12	4 492	6 726	3	78	6 807
24	5 790	—	37	5 827	7 578	3	140	7 721
25	6 783	3	74	6 860	7 966	5	221	8 192
26	7 395	3	129	7 526	7 634	13	386	8 033
27	7 558	4	213	7 775	7 229	14	536	7 779
28	7 456	5	344	7 805	6 517	22	744	7 283
29	6 807	3	517	7 327	5 553	22	861	6 436
30	5 725	6	597	6 328	4 442	22	981	5 445
31	4 742	5	747	5 494	3 484	22	976	4 482
32	3 782	9	729	4 520	2 663	19	993	3 675
33	3 134	8	815	3 957	2 094	34	997	3 125
34	2 630	12	877	3 519	1 696	42	973	2 711
35	2 197	15	946	3 158	1 352	32	995	2 379
36	1 832	13	1 001	2 846	1 127	37	1 060	2 224
37	1 450	22	1 105	2 577	903	45	1 080	2 028
38	1 237	23	972	2 232	719	53	932	1 704
39	1 014	29	1 067	2 110	570	54	994	1 618
40	852	24	989	1 865	455	49	888	1 392
41	644	20	959	1 623	363	43	813	1 219
42	515	28	890	1 433	306	55	844	1 205
43	408	22	908	1 338	218	49	793	1 060
44	327	34	942	1 303	221	60	744	1 025
45	296	28	843	1 167	156	73	759	988
46	198	36	781	1 015	131	46	723	900
47	170	36	827	1 033	102	62	660	824
48	142	33	795	970	90	60	618	768
49	137	38	720	895	67	65	582	714
50	107	28	768	903	57	73	583	713
51	93	42	686	821	45	66	478	589
52	80	41	670	791	43	75	437	555
53	64	65	678	807	33	59	406	498
54	44	63	515	622	19	66	287	372
55	41	77	466	584	28	65	290	383
56	42	58	422	522	21	66	235	322
57	35	59	316	410	10	59	161	230
58	23	64	310	397	5	58	151	214
59	24	63	242	329	16	58	124	198
60	23	60	257	340	7	58	90	155
61	20	63	223	306	10	62	96	168
62	10	54	171	235	6	70	82	158
63	17	55	169	241	—	55	71	127
64	11	72	136	219	5	60	52	117

2.6 AGE, Previous Marital Status *continued*

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>
65	10	74	121	205	5	63	42	110
66	11	72	84	167	3	54	24	80
67	12	64	93	169	—	55	30	85
68	7	54	70	131	4	42	19	65
69	3	55	57	115	3	49	32	84
70	6	69	62	137	3	46	23	71
71	4	61	34	99	—	41	9	51
72	7	55	36	98	3	25	12	40
73	3	54	31	88	—	34	12	48
74	5	59	27	91	—	38	7	47
75 and over	17	360	95	472	5	139	43	187
Total	85 546	2 300	25 583	113 429	86 645	2 543	24 241	113 429

2.7 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES

	BRIDEGROOM BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDE BORN IN.....				BRIDE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDEGROOM BORN IN			
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia (incl. E T)	72 122	..	12 105	84 230	72 122	..	13 517	85 643
Fiji	105	205	40	350	117	205	164	487
New Zealand	1 971	573	580	3 124	1 582	573	464	2 619
Papua New Guinea	208	9	49	266	213	9	62	284
Other	133	166	92	391	65	166	83	314
<i>Total</i>	<i>74 539</i>	<i>953</i>	<i>12 866</i>	<i>88 361</i>	<i>74 099</i>	<i>953</i>	<i>14 290</i>	<i>89 347</i>
North-West Europe								
Austria	53	11	29	93	43	11	25	79
Denmark	41	17	20	78	47	17	19	83
France	99	23	48	170	69	23	42	134
Germany	306	175	202	683	333	175	147	655
Ireland	224	40	103	367	125	40	70	235
Netherlands	266	64	116	446	213	64	71	348
Switzerland	54	38	39	131	42	38	27	107
United Kingdom	4 834	1 659	1 179	7 672	3 487	1 659	725	5 871
Other	114	51	63	228	130	51	33	214
<i>Total</i>	<i>5 991</i>	<i>2 078</i>	<i>1 799</i>	<i>9 868</i>	<i>4 489</i>	<i>2 078</i>	<i>1 159</i>	<i>7 726</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	40	59	61	160	29	59	49	137
Croatia	105	33	83	221	67	33	52	152
Cyprus	71	5	24	100	44	5	14	63
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	90	45	32	167	59	45	23	127
Greece	162	42	60	264	94	42	34	170
Hungary	33	36	37	106	26	36	27	89
Italy	304	55	168	527	144	55	64	263
Malta	79	20	49	148	63	20	20	103
Poland	72	154	67	293	109	154	75	338
Portugal	47	23	24	94	34	23	18	75
Romania	22	47	22	91	22	47	28	97
Russian Federation	11	32	32	75	88	32	79	200
Spain	47	6	37	90	41	6	30	77
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	86	38	89	213	59	38	60	157
Other	71	106	124	301	123	106	154	383
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 240</i>	<i>701</i>	<i>909</i>	<i>2 850</i>	<i>1 002</i>	<i>701</i>	<i>727</i>	<i>2 431</i>
North Africa and the Middle East								
Egypt	76	37	65	178	25	37	26	88
Iran	29	58	39	126	22	58	25	105
Iraq	19	151	34	204	8	151	26	185
Israel	58	11	33	102	30	11	15	56
Lebanon	388	176	81	645	159	176	75	410
Syria	37	16	17	70	10	16	26	52
Turkey	110	71	43	224	65	71	27	163
Other	82	27	84	193	28	27	50	105
<i>Total</i>	<i>799</i>	<i>547</i>	<i>396</i>	<i>1 742</i>	<i>347</i>	<i>547</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>1 164</i>

.. not applicable

(a) Includes country of birth not stated.

2.7 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES *continued*

	BRIDEGROOM BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDE BORN IN.....				BRIDE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDEGROOM BORN IN			
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>
South-East Asia								
Cambodia	11	110	61	182	19	110	55	184
Indonesia	67	343	76	486	178	343	218	740
Laos	4	45	36	85	20	45	26	91
Malaysia	158	124	205	487	264	124	253	641
Philippines	106	419	57	582	684	419	430	1 534
Singapore	113	28	98	239	139	28	115	282
Thailand	20	79	29	128	286	79	173	538
Viet Nam	66	1 397	192	1 655	175	1 397	285	1 857
Other	18	55	26	99	30	55	39	124
<i>Total</i>	563	2 600	780	3 943	1 795	2 600	1 594	5 991
North-East Asia								
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	29	764	220	1 013	237	764	336	1 338
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	60	188	202	450	92	188	160	440
Japan	42	143	30	215	272	143	159	574
Korea, Republic of (South)	10	244	21	275	87	244	72	403
Other	5	57	42	104	34	57	104	195
<i>Total</i>	146	1 396	515	2 057	722	1 396	831	2 950
Southern and Central Asia								
India	285	190	236	711	112	190	86	388
Pakistan	54	23	78	155	16	23	13	52
Sri Lanka	111	129	72	312	66	129	49	244
Other	35	86	62	183	25	86	51	162
<i>Total</i>	485	428	448	1 361	219	428	199	846
Americas								
Argentina	53	14	50	117	41	14	44	99
Canada	260	21	91	372	237	21	91	349
Caribbean	23	—	12	35	19	—	7	26
Central America	38	34	37	109	28	34	39	101
Chile	93	58	64	215	93	58	71	222
United States of America	606	93	193	892	442	93	170	705
Uruguay	50	19	30	99	35	19	34	88
Other	94	74	73	241	158	74	127	359
<i>Total</i>	1 217	313	550	2 080	1 053	313	583	1 949
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	44	4	21	69	25	4	13	42
Mauritius	43	27	22	92	50	27	27	104
South Africa	353	102	107	562	286	102	134	522
Zimbabwe	86	7	28	121	66	7	27	100
Other	133	106	74	313	74	106	73	253
<i>Total</i>	659	246	252	1 157	501	246	274	1 021
Other and not stated	4	—	—	10	3	—	—	4
Total	85 643	9 262	18 515	113 429	84 230	9 262	19 927	113 429

(a) Includes country of birth not stated.

2.8 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, Age at Marriage

AGE OF BRIDEGROOM (YEARS).....

	19 and under	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50 and over	Total	Median age
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica										
Australia (incl. E T)	498	13 375	29 685	17 602	8 855	5 192	3 403	5 620	84 230	29.7
Fiji	10	90	108	62	30	13	21	16	350	28.2
New Zealand	13	385	825	717	465	274	182	263	3 124	32.1
Papua New Guinea	—	36	118	59	27	14	8	4	266	29.1
Other	13	71	114	70	62	22	23	16	391	29.9
<i>Total</i>	534	13 957	30 850	18 510	9 439	5 515	3 637	5 919	88 361	29.8
North-West Europe										
Austria	—	5	12	15	11	13	9	27	93	n.p.
Denmark	—	6	18	15	11	6	7	15	78	n.p.
France	—	12	46	37	34	9	7	24	170	32.8
Germany	—	20	114	158	101	61	61	167	683	36.6
Ireland	—	26	103	101	52	23	17	45	367	32.5
Netherlands	3	26	80	63	50	45	48	132	446	40.1
Switzerland	—	3	33	49	23	6	6	12	131	33.1
United Kingdom	5	427	1 426	1 656	1 337	784	575	1 462	7 672	36.0
Other	—	8	48	69	32	24	11	36	228	34.3
<i>Total</i>	10	532	1 880	2 163	1 651	971	741	1 920	9 868	35.9
Southern and Eastern Europe										
Bosnia and Herzegovina	—	35	37	33	20	12	9	13	160	30.6
Croatia	—	22	52	43	36	16	10	42	221	34.5
Cyprus	—	11	32	21	11	7	6	11	100	31.2
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	3	26	46	51	18	3	7	15	167	30.7
Greece	—	15	45	45	50	32	13	63	264	38.0
Hungary	3	5	18	11	7	7	10	47	106	45.8
Italy	—	28	56	89	64	53	52	185	527	41.9
Malta	—	4	18	8	21	20	21	56	148	47.1
Poland	—	36	68	38	24	34	33	60	293	36.3
Portugal	4	17	26	13	13	6	7	8	94	n.p.
Romania	—	22	26	7	9	7	11	9	91	n.p.
Russian Federation	3	8	24	12	7	10	—	13	75	n.p.
Spain	—	8	20	19	7	10	4	22	90	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	—	20	25	42	30	23	11	62	213	38.1
Other	4	28	78	40	32	23	16	80	301	35.1
<i>Total</i>	15	285	571	472	349	262	210	686	2 850	36.0
North Africa and the Middle East										
Egypt	—	17	36	32	19	20	11	43	178	36.1
Iran	—	15	32	32	26	6	7	8	126	32.3
Iraq	—	29	76	51	32	6	3	6	204	29.8
Israel	3	23	35	16	12	7	3	4	102	28.7
Lebanon	5	165	232	133	50	24	11	25	645	28.3
Syria	—	8	30	18	9	—	—	3	70	n.p.
Turkey	3	48	57	62	30	10	4	10	224	30.2
Other	3	35	52	44	24	7	8	20	193	30.4
<i>Total</i>	15	340	550	388	202	80	48	119	1 742	29.7

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

2.8 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, Age at Marriage *continued*

AGE OF BRIDEGROOM (YEARS).....

	19 and under	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50 and over	Total	Median age
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia										
Cambodia	4	22	58	53	23	7	11	4	182	30.4
Indonesia	3	79	186	117	42	25	16	18	486	29.4
Laos	—	8	20	22	12	10	7	6	85	n.p.
Malaysia	—	64	179	114	59	33	14	22	487	30.0
Philippines	12	123	177	123	61	43	14	29	582	29.0
Singapore	3	20	112	46	24	15	6	14	239	29.4
Thailand	4	20	41	25	17	9	8	4	128	29.8
Viet Nam	43	357	576	300	177	96	47	59	1 655	28.7
Other	—	14	32	20	20	3	3	9	99	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	70	707	1 381	820	435	240	125	165	3 943	29.3
North-East Asia										
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	11	64	236	221	206	124	66	85	1 013	34.4
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	3	42	181	108	66	26	10	15	450	30.0
Japan	—	16	87	66	21	7	—	15	215	30.3
Korea, Republic of (South)	3	22	114	64	22	18	6	26	275	29.9
Other	—	28	52	16	3	3	3	3	104	26.7
<i>Total</i>	17	172	670	475	318	176	86	143	2 057	31.4
Southern and Central Asia										
India	13	209	229	100	53	30	26	51	711	27.5
Pakistan	—	34	56	35	15	7	4	3	155	28.7
Sri Lanka	3	39	110	84	32	17	15	14	312	30.3
Other	4	44	58	47	18	7	—	4	183	28.4
<i>Total</i>	19	326	453	266	118	61	46	72	1 361	28.4
Americas										
Argentina	3	18	46	22	6	5	4	15	117	29.0
Canada	3	45	109	91	50	30	22	22	372	31.1
Caribbean	—	3	9	7	6	6	4	3	35	n.p.
Central America	3	30	37	10	13	8	5	3	109	27.6
Chile	4	33	63	46	24	11	14	20	215	30.5
United States of America	3	106	197	197	115	102	73	100	892	33.2
Uruguay	3	9	36	22	6	6	7	12	99	n.p.
Other	3	34	61	43	46	20	14	20	241	32.6
<i>Total</i>	17	277	558	438	266	188	143	193	2 080	31.7
Sub-Saharan Africa										
Kenya	—	11	19	14	10	5	4	6	69	n.p.
Mauritius	—	7	20	23	20	7	6	9	92	n.p.
South Africa	3	87	204	124	44	25	21	54	562	29.6
Zimbabwe	—	16	48	27	13	7	4	6	121	29.1
Other	—	35	87	95	56	25	8	5	313	31.7
<i>Total</i>	5	156	378	283	143	69	43	80	1 157	30.6
Other and not stated										
	—	—	3	3	3	—	3	3	10	n.p.
Total	702	16 752	37 293	23 818	12 923	7 562	5 080	9 299	113 429	30.3

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

2.9 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, Age at Marriage

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS).....

	19 and under	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50 and over	Total	Median age
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica										
Australia (incl. E T)	2 281	22 517	30 031	14 144	6 620	3 817	2 683	3 550	85 643	27.8
Fiji	56	132	106	67	53	40	13	20	487	27.6
New Zealand	55	486	775	560	319	149	133	142	2 619	30.0
Papua New Guinea	4	50	115	67	26	7	10	5	284	28.7
Other	19	71	84	52	37	30	12	9	314	29.0
<i>Total</i>	2 415	23 256	31 111	14 890	7 055	4 043	2 851	3 726	89 347	27.9
North-West Europe										
Austria	3	8	17	14	11	8	7	12	79	n.p.
Denmark	—	12	28	16	10	7	4	6	83	n.p.
France	—	14	39	31	20	14	6	10	134	32.3
Germany	6	54	143	169	87	51	43	102	655	33.8
Ireland	3	33	74	53	26	18	8	21	235	30.6
Netherlands	3	42	63	64	29	27	45	75	348	35.2
Switzerland	—	7	45	22	16	9	4	3	107	30.1
United Kingdom	44	568	1 294	1 249	925	561	426	804	5 871	34.1
Other	—	33	55	51	32	14	15	14	214	31.6
<i>Total</i>	58	771	1 758	1 669	1 156	709	558	1 047	7 726	33.7
Southern and Eastern Europe										
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13	38	25	31	10	9	3	8	137	27.9
Croatia	5	31	32	28	19	11	10	16	152	31.8
Cyprus	3	7	23	14	4	7	—	5	63	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	12	38	28	27	8	3	7	4	127	27.9
Greece	5	26	31	35	30	14	5	24	170	33.5
Hungary	3	12	11	10	6	8	13	27	89	n.p.
Italy	—	13	44	48	41	32	24	61	263	38.2
Malta	—	10	23	13	13	13	10	20	103	37.5
Poland	6	70	89	44	24	30	33	42	338	30.3
Portugal	4	29	15	11	10	3	—	3	75	n.p.
Romania	12	22	21	16	8	5	5	8	97	n.p.
Russian Federation	7	37	50	34	26	15	13	18	200	31.3
Spain	—	13	28	16	4	3	4	8	77	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	7	29	30	31	17	13	12	18	157	31.7
Other	16	89	76	50	36	25	29	62	383	30.9
<i>Total</i>	93	464	526	408	256	191	170	323	2 431	31.5
North Africa and the Middle East										
Egypt	4	16	11	12	9	7	10	19	88	n.p.
Iran	5	27	32	13	13	7	5	3	105	28.2
Iraq	30	73	45	16	13	6	—	3	185	24.1
Israel	3	14	20	5	6	3	3	5	56	n.p.
Lebanon	133	93	71	52	29	14	11	7	410	23.9
Syria	11	14	7	6	7	3	3	—	52	n.p.
Turkey	28	40	37	24	20	7	4	3	163	27.2
Other	11	31	24	17	11	6	5	—	105	26.7
<i>Total</i>	224	308	247	145	108	51	40	41	1 164	25.8

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

2.9 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, Age at Marriage *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS).....

	19 and under	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50 and over	Total	Median age
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia										
Cambodia	19	43	57	32	11	16	3	3	184	27.3
Indonesia	26	211	256	108	58	35	23	23	740	27.2
Laos	—	23	30	23	7	4	—	3	91	n.p.
Malaysia	12	137	225	123	68	41	24	11	641	28.6
Philippines	40	258	367	273	208	165	115	108	1 534	31.7
Singapore	3	50	111	37	32	21	17	11	282	28.3
Thailand	22	90	134	131	75	48	24	14	538	30.7
Viet Nam	160	553	630	248	99	78	54	35	1 857	26.4
Other	3	21	35	30	21	7	4	3	124	30.3
<i>Total</i>	286	1 386	1 845	1 005	579	415	265	210	5 991	28.3
North-East Asia										
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	21	136	372	272	246	158	64	69	1 338	32.2
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	6	57	175	102	46	27	19	8	440	29.3
Japan	4	65	292	131	50	15	6	11	574	28.6
Korea, Republic of (South)	4	52	178	80	31	23	17	18	403	28.8
Other	4	50	84	34	11	3	6	3	195	27.6
<i>Total</i>	39	360	1 101	619	384	226	112	109	2 950	29.9
Southern and Central Asia										
India	14	107	117	59	37	15	16	23	388	28.0
Pakistan	3	11	15	17	3	3	—	3	52	n.p.
Sri Lanka	3	44	99	39	20	13	15	13	244	28.8
Other	14	59	46	18	12	6	5	—	162	25.6
<i>Total</i>	32	221	277	133	71	35	37	40	846	27.8
Americas										
Argentina	4	23	35	14	10	3	4	7	99	n.p.
Canada	3	61	99	78	45	30	18	15	349	30.7
Caribbean	—	3	9	6	4	3	—	3	26	n.p.
Central America	9	39	24	12	7	3	4	4	101	25.4
Chile	3	41	64	50	17	17	19	11	222	30.2
United States of America	13	96	167	143	96	75	45	70	705	32.5
Uruguay	3	12	28	18	12	7	4	5	88	n.p.
Other	12	61	91	90	55	22	17	11	359	30.7
<i>Total</i>	46	335	517	411	246	158	112	124	1 949	30.8
Sub-Saharan Africa										
Kenya	—	11	7	11	6	6	—	3	42	n.p.
Mauritius	3	17	18	21	19	11	11	5	104	33.5
South Africa	13	122	208	63	39	27	22	28	522	27.9
Zimbabwe	3	19	25	17	11	9	6	11	100	31.1
Other	11	61	82	44	23	20	10	3	253	27.9
<i>Total</i>	28	230	340	156	98	73	49	47	1 021	28.5
Other and not stated										
	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	n.p.
Total	3 221	27 332	37 723	19 438	9 953	5 901	4 194	5 667	113 429	28.3

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

2.10 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, Duration of Residence

DURATION OF RESIDENCE (YEARS).....

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 and over	Not stated	Not applicable	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl. E T)	—	—	—	—	—	3	84 229	84 230	n.p.
Fiji	164	109	35	7	—	33	—	350	8.9
New Zealand	1 202	1 021	535	153	26	187	—	3 124	11.7
Papua New Guinea	28	37	138	12	9	42	—	266	23.9
Other	205	107	34	9	3	33	—	391	7.3
<i>Total</i>	1 599	1 274	742	181	40	296	84 229	88 361	n.p.
North-West Europe									
Austria	26	9	12	17	25	4	—	93	n.p.
Denmark	32	16	10	9	6	5	—	78	n.p.
France	99	12	30	13	6	10	—	170	3.4
Germany	291	84	80	72	116	40	—	683	16.3
Ireland	189	73	49	26	11	19	—	367	7.3
Netherlands	144	67	48	46	116	25	—	446	20.0
Switzerland	80	17	17	8	3	7	—	131	3.1
United Kingdom	2 488	1 147	1 649	1 537	499	352	—	7 672	20.2
Other	124	26	29	27	11	11	—	228	3.8
<i>Total</i>	3 473	1 451	1 924	1 755	792	473	—	9 868	19.0
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	109	11	15	16	3	7	—	160	5.8
Croatia	66	29	44	57	13	12	—	221	25.8
Cyprus	16	17	38	9	6	14	—	100	23.4
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	52	23	42	29	3	19	—	167	18.8
Greece	40	25	59	82	27	31	—	264	29.1
Hungary	21	28	6	8	35	8	—	106	20.3
Italy	101	26	96	141	126	37	—	527	30.6
Malta	6	11	30	51	40	10	—	148	36.3
Poland	70	136	26	22	26	13	—	293	17.1
Portugal	21	41	17	12	—	3	—	94	n.p.
Romania	33	41	8	4	3	3	—	91	n.p.
Russian Federation	49	8	7	3	4	4	—	75	n.p.
Spain	24	15	20	23	—	7	—	90	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	55	20	56	52	17	13	—	213	26.8
Other	122	57	36	31	41	14	—	301	12.1
<i>Total</i>	785	488	500	540	342	195	—	2 850	20.8
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	67	23	27	33	17	11	—	178	15.8
Iran	61	46	9	—	3	8	—	126	9.7
Iraq	157	17	10	5	—	15	—	204	5.3
Israel	60	25	6	3	—	8	—	102	2.3
Lebanon	286	101	152	36	3	67	—	645	10.2
Syria	45	9	5	3	—	8	—	70	n.p.
Turkey	97	30	53	26	—	17	—	224	10.9
Other	117	35	20	12	—	8	—	193	3.8
<i>Total</i>	890	286	282	119	23	142	—	1 742	7.7

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

2.10 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, Duration of Residence *continued*

DURATION OF RESIDENCE (YEARS).....

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 and over	Not stated	Not applicable	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	65	88	18	—	—	11	—	182	12.7
Indonesia	277	116	42	5	7	39	—	486	6.4
Laos	16	37	30	—	—	3	—	85	n.p.
Malaysia	152	163	102	40	5	25	—	487	14.3
Philippines	278	197	56	6	—	44	—	582	9.7
Singapore	67	55	77	18	3	19	—	239	17.8
Thailand	71	32	8	3	—	14	—	128	5.9
Viet Nam	645	668	264	—	—	76	—	1 655	11.5
Other	58	13	15	7	3	3	—	99	n.p.
Total	1 629	1 369	612	80	20	233	—	3 943	11.2
North-East Asia									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	560	338	25	15	12	63	—	1 013	8.5
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	194	157	66	9	4	20	—	450	11.0
Japan	173	22	9	3	3	7	—	215	0.8
Korea, Republic of (South)	146	95	24	—	—	10	—	275	8.1
Other	60	32	8	—	—	3	—	104	8.6
Total	1 133	644	132	28	17	103	—	2 057	8.3
Southern and Central Asia									
India	459	86	66	49	9	42	—	711	3.8
Pakistan	111	24	5	3	—	12	—	155	3.2
Sri Lanka	154	76	36	20	6	20	—	312	9.3
Other	136	24	5	—	—	18	—	183	4.5
Total	860	210	112	71	16	92	—	1 361	4.4
Americas									
Argentina	24	29	50	8	—	6	—	117	20.3
Canada	230	45	59	17	—	19	—	372	1.9
Caribbean	19	4	8	3	—	—	—	35	n.p.
Central America	48	50	4	—	—	7	—	109	10.3
Chile	35	70	90	6	—	14	—	215	19.1
United States of America	649	73	99	27	10	34	—	892	0.9
Uruguay	17	19	51	6	—	6	—	99	n.p.
Other	148	40	35	8	—	10	—	241	4.7
Total	1 170	330	396	75	12	97	—	2 080	4.1
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	28	13	9	14	—	5	—	69	n.p.
Mauritius	21	33	22	14	—	—	—	92	n.p.
South Africa	212	193	114	14	—	27	—	562	13.1
Zimbabwe	34	50	28	5	—	4	—	121	16.9
Other	194	51	30	17	3	18	—	313	4.5
Total	489	340	203	64	5	56	—	1 157	12.0
Other and not stated	5	—	—	—	—	4	—	10	n.p.
Total	12 033	6 392	4 904	2 913	1 267	1 691	84 229	113 429	(a)12.0

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Excludes Australia (incl. E.T).

2.11 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, Duration of Residence

DURATION OF RESIDENCE (YEARS).....

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 and over	Not stated	Not applicable	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl. E T)	—	—	—	—	—	3	85 641	85 643	n.p.
Fiji	228	160	32	5	3	59	—	487	9.1
New Zealand	913	934	477	107	7	181	—	2 619	12.4
Papua New Guinea	37	43	142	16	3	44	—	284	24.0
Other	182	71	31	4	—	24	—	314	6.9
<i>Total</i>	1 360	1 208	682	132	14	310	85 641	89 347	n.p.
North-West Europe									
Austria	23	10	14	13	11	8	—	79	n.p.
Denmark	42	13	13	7	5	3	—	83	n.p.
France	80	19	17	12	—	6	—	134	3.7
Germany	315	93	68	67	71	41	—	655	7.3
Ireland	130	52	21	17	4	11	—	235	5.8
Netherlands	111	59	42	37	80	19	—	348	19.6
Switzerland	67	15	17	4	—	3	—	107	3.2
United Kingdom	1 787	1 087	1 320	1 061	287	329	—	5 871	19.4
Other	122	28	25	27	4	8	—	214	2.3
<i>Total</i>	2 677	1 376	1 537	1 245	463	428	—	7 726	18.2
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	95	—	8	21	—	10	—	137	5.1
Croatia	56	18	29	37	—	11	—	152	17.3
Cyprus	5	8	33	6	3	8	—	63	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	43	31	24	11	—	18	—	127	13.8
Greece	34	16	40	53	7	20	—	170	26.2
Hungary	42	17	4	6	12	8	—	89	n.p.
Italy	36	18	58	77	49	25	—	263	30.8
Malta	12	6	28	27	15	15	—	103	27.8
Poland	137	148	12	6	15	20	—	338	12.4
Portugal	11	37	16	6	—	5	—	75	n.p.
Romania	49	37	6	—	—	4	—	97	n.p.
Russian Federation	174	6	10	—	—	10	—	200	0.8
Spain	27	14	24	9	—	3	—	77	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	79	19	25	24	3	7	—	157	8.7
Other	241	51	29	13	17	32	—	383	3.3
<i>Total</i>	1 041	428	346	296	124	196	—	2 431	12.0
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	25	20	19	10	7	7	—	88	n.p.
Iran	45	47	5	—	3	7	—	105	10.7
Iraq	158	11	3	3	—	12	—	185	3.0
Israel	25	17	8	3	—	—	—	56	n.p.
Lebanon	176	104	65	15	3	47	—	410	10.5
Syria	32	6	6	3	—	5	—	52	n.p.
Turkey	64	29	39	10	—	21	—	163	12.3
Other	58	20	11	5	—	11	—	105	5.7
<i>Total</i>	583	254	155	47	13	112	—	1 164	7.5

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

2.11 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, Duration of Residence *continued*

DURATION OF RESIDENCE (YEARS).....

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 and over	Not stated	Not applicable	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	90	75	9	—	—	10	—	184	8.7
Indonesia	552	88	33	5	6	56	—	740	3.2
Laos	30	31	29	—	—	—	—	91	n.p.
Malaysia	286	186	90	26	5	48	—	641	10.4
Philippines	926	379	83	3	—	143	—	1 534	3.1
Singapore	144	60	49	11	—	18	—	282	6.7
Thailand	420	55	24	—	—	37	—	538	1.2
Viet Nam	913	580	255	—	—	107	—	1 857	9.6
Other	73	20	15	5	—	10	—	124	5.4
Total	3 434	1 474	587	53	13	430	—	5 991	5.8
North-East Asia									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	1 001	209	18	6	7	97	—	1 338	2.9
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	227	113	56	9	3	32	—	440	8.1
Japan	492	30	10	—	3	40	—	574	1.3
Korea, Republic of (South)	284	67	16	—	—	36	—	403	2.7
Other	139	33	6	3	—	15	—	195	4.4
Total	2 143	452	106	18	11	220	—	2 950	2.9
Southern and Central Asia									
India	205	73	50	30	4	26	—	388	7.1
Pakistan	31	8	5	3	—	5	—	52	n.p.
Sri Lanka	114	66	38	15	—	10	—	244	10.3
Other	120	26	4	—	—	11	—	162	2.8
Total	470	173	97	49	5	52	—	846	6.4
Americas									
Argentina	24	26	37	3	—	9	—	99	n.p.
Canada	199	44	60	19	3	24	—	349	2.4
Caribbean	14	3	4	3	—	—	—	26	n.p.
Central America	32	57	5	—	—	7	—	101	10.9
Chile	44	77	79	4	—	18	—	222	15.9
United States of America	500	74	77	18	5	31	—	705	0.9
Uruguay	12	15	50	—	—	9	—	88	n.p.
Other	253	32	30	7	3	34	—	359	1.7
Total	1 078	328	342	56	11	134	—	1 949	3.6
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	17	7	8	7	—	3	—	42	n.p.
Mauritius	26	37	21	14	—	6	—	104	14.6
South Africa	226	147	107	8	—	33	—	522	10.9
Zimbabwe	32	36	21	5	3	4	—	100	16.8
Other	151	32	35	12	—	22	—	253	5.0
Total	452	259	192	46	4	68	—	1 021	10.9
Other and not stated	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	n.p.
Total	13 239	5 953	4 044	1 942	658	1 952	85 641	113 429	(a)9.4

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Excludes Australia (incl. E.T.).

2.12 SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Bridegroom

		<i>Australia (excl. E T)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Lebanon</i>
Marriages registered	no.	84 229	1 013	683	264	450	527	711	645
Population(b)	'000	7 266.4	81.0	59.1	71.7	27.2	128.4	59.7	41.7
Marriage rate(c)	rate	11.6	12.5	11.6	3.7	16.5	4.1	11.9	15.5
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	42 680	90	154	162	130	232	210	538
Proportion	%	50.7	8.9	22.5	61.4	28.9	44.0	29.5	83.4
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	41 549	923	529	102	320	295	501	107
Proportion	%	49.3	91.1	77.5	38.6	71.1	56.0	70.5	16.6
Bridegrooms born in country shown marrying brides born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	72 119	29	306	162	60	304	285	388
Proportion	%	85.6	2.9	44.8	61.4	13.3	57.7	40.1	60.2
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	764	175	42	188	55	190	176
Proportion	%	..	75.4	25.6	15.9	41.8	10.4	26.7	27.3
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	12 110	220	202	60	202	168	236	81
Proportion	%	14.4	21.7	29.6	22.7	44.9	31.9	33.2	12.6
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	65 695	583	394	139	388	256	583	519
Widowed	no.	1 438	22	22	13	—	38	16	7
Divorced	no.	17 096	408	267	112	60	233	112	119
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>84 229</i>	<i>1 013</i>	<i>683</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>527</i>	<i>711</i>	<i>645</i>
Median age									
Never married	years	28.3	30.1	32.4	31.8	29.4	32.7	26.2	27.2
Widowed	years	61.7	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.
Divorced	years	42.1	41.4	49.8	47.1	(d)n.p.	51.1	43.9	34.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>34.4</i>	<i>36.6</i>	<i>38.0</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>41.9</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>28.3</i>
Median duration of residence	years	..	8.5	16.3	29.1	11.0	30.6	3.8	10.2

.. not applicable

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 male ERP by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

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

2.12 SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Bridegroom *continued*

		Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	United Kingdom and Ireland	United States of America	Viet Nam
Marriages registered	no.	487	3 124	582	562	8 039	892	1 655
Population(b)	'000	45.9	192.5	45.6	40.1	617.0	36.2	86.7
Marriage rate(c)	rate	10.6	16.2	12.8	14.0	13.0	24.7	19.1
Marriages performed by								
Ministers of religion								
Number	no.	192	1 141	237	317	2 604	331	407
Proportion	%	39.4	36.5	40.7	56.4	32.4	37.1	24.6
Civil celebrants								
Number	no.	295	1 983	345	245	5 435	561	1 248
Proportion	%	60.6	63.5	59.3	43.6	67.6	62.9	75.4
Bridegrooms born in country shown								
marrying brides born in								
Australia								
Number	no.	158	1 971	106	353	5 058	606	66
Proportion	%	32.4	63.1	18.2	62.8	62.9	67.9	4.0
Same overseas country								
Number	no.	124	573	419	102	1 790	93	1 397
Proportion	%	25.5	18.3	72.0	18.1	22.3	10.4	84.4
Other overseas country								
Number	no.	205	580	57	107	1 191	193	192
Proportion	%	42.1	18.6	9.8	19.0	14.8	21.6	11.6
Marital status at marriage								
Never married	no.	406	2 256	472	445	4 570	535	1 397
Widowed	no.	8	54	7	13	351	13	22
Divorced	no.	73	814	103	104	3 118	344	236
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>3 124</i>	<i>582</i>	<i>562</i>	<i>8 039</i>	<i>892</i>	<i>1 655</i>
Median age								
Never married	years	28.8	29.6	27.5	28.1	31.2	29.6	27.7
Widowed	years	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	65.1	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.
Divorced	years	(d)n.p.	43.2	39.8	45.9	45.3	43.5	37.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>29.6</i>	<i>35.9</i>	<i>33.2</i>	<i>28.7</i>
Median duration of residence	years	14.3	11.7	9.7	13.1	19.6	0.9	11.5

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 male ERP by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

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

2.13 SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Bride

		<i>Australia (excl. E T)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Lebanon</i>
Marriages registered	no.	85 641	1 338	655	170	440	263	388	410
Population(b)	'000	7 373.3	87.0	61.1	69.5	29.1	113.4	50.5	38.1
Marriage rate(c)	rate	11.6	15.4	10.7	2.4	15.1	2.3	7.7	10.8
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	44 143	130	167	108	124	130	144	343
Proportion	%	51.5	9.7	25.5	63.5	28.2	49.4	37.1	83.7
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	41 498	1 208	488	62	316	133	244	67
Proportion	%	48.5	90.3	74.5	36.5	71.8	50.6	62.9	16.3
Brides born in country shown marrying bridegrooms born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	72 119	237	333	94	92	144	112	159
Proportion	%	84.2	17.7	50.8	55.3	20.9	54.8	28.9	38.8
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	764	175	42	188	55	190	176
Proportion	%	..	57.1	26.7	24.7	42.7	20.9	49.0	42.9
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	13 522	337	147	34	160	64	86	75
Proportion	%	15.8	25.2	22.4	20.0	36.4	24.3	22.2	18.3
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	67 698	721	408	95	362	124	291	320
Widowed	no.	1 564	40	33	9	3	21	16	5
Divorced	no.	16 379	577	214	66	75	118	81	85
Total	no.	85 641	1 338	655	170	440	263	388	410
Median age									
Never married	years	26.4	28.3	30.3	(d)n.p.	28.4	30.9	25.9	21.5
Widowed	years	54.4	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.
Divorced	years	38.6	37.7	44.3	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	44.4	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.
Total	years	27.8	32.2	33.8	33.5	29.3	38.2	28.0	23.9
Median duration of residence	years	..	2.9	7.3	26.2	8.1	30.8	7.1	10.5

.. not applicable

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 female ERP by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

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

2.13 SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Bride *continued*

		Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	United Kingdom and Ireland	United States of America	Viet Nam
Marriages registered	no.	641	2 619	1 534	522	6 106	705	1 857
Population(b)	'000	51.7	182.4	77.4	40.0	598.8	28.9	87.8
Marriage rate(c)	rate	12.4	14.4	19.8	13.1	10.2	24.4	21.2
Marriages performed by								
Ministers of religion								
Number	no.	228	893	480	288	1 827	196	467
Proportion	%	35.6	34.1	31.3	55.2	29.9	27.8	25.1
Civil celebrants								
Number	no.	413	1 726	1 054	234	4 279	509	1 390
Proportion	%	64.4	65.9	68.7	44.8	70.1	72.2	74.9
Brides born in country shown								
marrying bridegrooms born in								
Australia								
Number	no.	264	1 582	684	286	3 612	442	175
Proportion	%	41.2	60.4	44.6	54.8	59.2	62.7	9.4
Same overseas country								
Number	no.	124	573	419	102	1 790	93	1 397
Proportion	%	19.3	21.9	27.3	19.5	29.3	13.2	75.2
Other overseas country								
Number	no.	253	464	431	134	704	170	285
Proportion	%	39.5	17.7	28.1	25.7	11.5	24.1	15.3
Marital status at marriage								
Never married	no.	507	1 941	1 052	408	3 437	395	1 566
Widowed	no.	7	58	126	19	299	13	23
Divorced	no.	127	620	356	95	2 370	297	268
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>641</i>	<i>2 619</i>	<i>1 534</i>	<i>522</i>	<i>6 106</i>	<i>705</i>	<i>1 857</i>
Median age								
Never married	years	27.4	27.9	28.2	26.7	29.3	28.3	25.6
Widowed	years	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.	47.6	(d)n.p.	59.0	(d)n.p.	(d)n.p.
Divorced	years	38.8	40.1	38.3	(d)n.p.	41.9	39.9	33.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>28.6</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>33.9</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>26.4</i>
Median duration of residence	years	10.4	12.4	3.1	10.9	19.0	0.9	9.6

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 female ERP by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

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

2.14 REMARRIAGES, Previous Marital Status and Interval to Remarriage

Interval to remarriage (years)	BRIDEGROOM.....			BRIDE.....		
	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Widowed	Divorced	Total
0	no. 68	3 530	3 598	30	2 901	2 931
1	no. 334	4 791	5 125	182	4 159	4 341
2	no. 387	3 264	3 651	242	3 049	3 291
3	no. 292	2 485	2 777	254	2 321	2 575
4	no. 265	2 023	2 288	268	1 980	2 248
5	no. 178	1 554	1 732	229	1 605	1 834
6	no. 141	1 253	1 394	189	1 285	1 474
7	no. 114	1 034	1 148	166	1 041	1 207
8	no. 96	885	981	143	861	1 004
9	no. 73	727	800	112	746	858
10-14	no. 220	2 164	2 384	385	2 225	2 610
15-19	no. 65	965	1 030	160	1 083	1 243
20-24	no. 28	463	491	99	539	638
25-29	no. 18	83	101	35	110	145
30 and over	no. 8	45	53	28	44	72
Not stated	no. 13	317	330	21	292	313
Total	no. 2 300	25 583	27 883	2 543	24 241	26 784
Median interval to remarriage	years 4.2	3.4	3.5	6.3	3.8	4.0

2.15 REMARRIAGES, Previous Marital Status and Number of Children(a)

Number of children	BRIDEGROOM.....			BRIDE.....		
	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Widowed	Divorced	Total
0	2 025	16 243	18 268	2 070	15 358	17 428
1	137	4 829	4 966	249	4 532	4 781
2	78	3 333	3 411	153	3 151	3 304
3	41	896	937	47	906	953
4	5	170	175	14	213	227
5 or more	3	31	34	4	35	39
Not stated	11	81	92	6	46	52
Total	2 300	25 583	27 883	2 543	24 241	26 784

(a) Children of previous marriages, aged under 16 years.

2.16 PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, Category of Celebrant

	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>
NUMBER								
Ministers of religion(a)								
Catholic Church	no. 17 357	222	626	18 205	17 425	240	540	18 205
Anglican Church of Australia	no. 9 778	215	1 814	11 807	10 192	205	1 410	11 807
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	no. 4 922	154	1 376	6 452	5 146	159	1 147	6 452
Orthodox Churches(b)	no. 2 550	23	345	2 918	2 616	16	286	2 918
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	no. 1 522	57	427	2 006	1 531	61	414	2 006
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	no. 991	35	209	1 235	1 045	20	170	1 235
Islam	no. 1 058	8	160	1 226	1 049	15	162	1 226
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	no. 715	28	281	1 024	735	43	246	1 024
Lutheran Churches(b)	no. 749	23	176	948	767	25	156	948
Other	no. 5 762	200	1 738	7 700	5 864	197	1 639	7 700
<i>Total</i>	no. 45 404	965	7 152	53 521	46 370	981	6 170	53 521
Civil celebrants								
Official registrars	no. 5 534	228	2 750	8 512	5 602	280	2 630	8 512
Other civil celebrants	no. 34 608	1 107	15 681	51 396	34 673	1 282	15 441	51 396
<i>Total</i>	no. 40 142	1 335	18 431	59 908	40 275	1 562	18 071	59 908
All celebrants	no. 85 546	2 300	25 583	113 429	86 645	2 543	24 241	113 429
PROPORTION								
Ministers of religion(a)								
Catholic Church	% 20.3	9.7	2.4	16.0	20.1	9.4	2.2	16.0
Anglican Church of Australia	% 11.4	9.3	7.1	10.4	11.8	8.1	5.8	10.4
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	% 5.8	6.7	5.4	5.7	5.9	6.3	4.7	5.7
Orthodox Churches(b)	% 3.0	1.0	1.3	2.6	3.0	0.6	1.2	2.6
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	% 1.8	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.4	1.7	1.8
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	% 1.2	1.5	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.7	1.1
Islam	% 1.2	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.7	1.1
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	% 0.8	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.7	1.0	0.9
Lutheran Churches(b)	% 0.9	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.8
Other	% 6.7	8.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.7	6.8	6.8
<i>Total</i>	% 53.1	42.0	28.0	47.2	53.5	38.6	25.5	47.2
Civil celebrants								
Official registrars	% 6.5	9.9	10.7	7.5	6.5	11.0	10.8	7.5
Other civil celebrants	% 40.5	48.1	61.3	45.3	40.0	50.4	63.7	45.3
<i>Total</i>	% 46.9	58.0	72.0	52.8	46.5	61.4	74.5	52.8
All celebrants	% 100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

2.17 SUMMARY(a), States and Territories

		<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>
ALL MARRIAGES										
Marriages registered	no.	39 323	26 852	22 842	8 227	11 000	2 589	861	1 735	113 429
Crude marriage rate	rate	6.1	5.6	6.4	5.5	5.8	5.5	4.4	5.6	5.9
Previous marital status										
First marriage both partners	no.	26 639	18 511	14 698	5 273	7 118	1 589	503	1 172	75 503
First marriage one partner	no.	7 385	4 766	4 430	1 501	2 096	483	211	313	21 185
Remarriage both partners	no.	5 299	3 575	3 714	1 453	1 786	517	147	250	16 741
Marriages performed by										
Ministers of religion										
Number	no.	20 048	12 975	9 866	4 026	4 436	1 073	256	841	53 521
Proportion	%	51.0	48.3	43.2	48.9	40.3	41.4	29.7	48.5	47.2
Civil celebrants										
Number	no.	19 275	13 877	12 976	4 201	6 564	1 516	605	894	59 908
Proportion	%	49.0	51.7	56.8	51.1	59.7	58.6	70.3	51.5	52.8

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

2.17 SUMMARY(a), States and Territories *continued*

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
BRIDEGROOM										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	1.2	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.0
20–24	rate	27.0	19.6	28.3	24.4	20.8	26.4	11.3	17.4	24.1
25–29	rate	52.8	50.1	52.3	47.8	44.9	50.8	20.9	46.0	50.2
30–34	rate	34.0	33.4	35.7	30.5	33.5	34.3	18.3	29.1	33.5
35–39	rate	17.0	16.6	18.8	17.0	17.8	17.8	15.5	15.6	17.3
40–44	rate	10.5	9.6	11.6	10.1	11.0	10.0	9.4	11.2	10.5
45–49	rate	7.5	6.6	8.4	8.1	8.1	8.5	9.0	6.5	7.6
50 and over	rate	3.5	3.1	4.2	3.6	4.1	4.1	5.1	4.0	3.6
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	30 129	20 783	16 842	5 991	8 077	1 818	596	1 310	85 546
Widowed	no.	760	507	478	219	225	75	7	29	2 300
Divorced	no.	8 434	5 562	5 522	2 017	2 698	696	258	396	25 583
<i>Total</i>	no.	39 323	26 852	22 842	8 227	11 000	2 589	861	1 735	113 429
Median age at marriage										
Never married	years	28.4	28.7	28.3	28.4	28.8	28.3	29.8	28.3	28.5
Widowed	years	62.0	62.0	63.1	64.1	61.4	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	62.1
Divorced	years	42.6	42.3	42.7	43.7	43.0	43.2	43.6	42.9	42.7
<i>Total</i>	years	30.0	30.3	30.3	30.5	30.9	30.8	33.1	30.1	30.3
BRIDE										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	6.1	4.1	5.2	4.0	4.1	3.3	3.1	2.7	4.9
20–24	rate	45.1	34.7	45.6	42.8	37.1	44.7	22.2	32.2	41.0
25–29	rate	52.5	51.9	53.1	50.4	49.5	50.1	26.0	46.2	51.5
30–34	rate	27.1	27.0	29.8	25.0	27.4	26.9	20.0	23.9	27.3
35–39	rate	13.4	12.4	14.4	12.6	14.2	12.7	12.5	11.9	13.3
40–44	rate	8.2	7.3	9.0	8.2	8.5	8.0	7.8	7.5	8.2
45–49	rate	6.0	5.6	7.2	6.5	6.7	7.2	7.5	4.6	6.2
50 and over	rate	1.9	1.6	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.4	3.3	2.4	2.0
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	30 534	21 005	16 984	6 056	8 255	1 843	621	1 347	86 645
Widowed	no.	800	577	547	240	254	82	15	28	2 543
Divorced	no.	7 989	5 270	5 311	1 931	2 491	664	225	360	24 241
<i>Total</i>	no.	39 323	26 852	22 842	8 227	11 000	2 589	861	1 735	113 429
Median age at marriage										
Never married	years	26.5	27.1	26.4	26.5	26.8	26.3	27.7	26.7	26.7
Widowed	years	53.2	54.0	53.6	55.5	53.5	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	53.8
Divorced	years	38.8	38.7	39.0	40.2	39.8	39.8	38.6	39.3	39.1
<i>Total</i>	years	28.0	28.4	28.3	28.5	28.6	28.6	29.9	28.2	28.3

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 men or women, respectively, at 30 June. Males and females under 15 years are excluded from the population.

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

2.18 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>
1980	38 965	27 724	17 157	10 064	9 594	3 433	661	1 642	109 240
1985	41 183	29 810	17 810	10 148	10 398	3 520	791	1 833	115 493
1990	41 450	30 120	19 671	9 609	10 613	3 026	740	1 730	116 959
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
1999	41 016	27 252	22 416	8 237	10 197	2 499	885	1 814	114 316
2000	39 323	26 852	22 842	8 227	11 000	2 589	861	1 735	113 429

2.19 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>
1980	7.5	7.1	7.6	7.7	7.6	8.1	5.6	7.3	7.4
1985	7.5	7.2	6.9	7.4	7.3	8.0	5.3	7.3	7.3
1990	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	4.5	6.1	6.9
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
1999	6.4	5.8	6.4	5.5	5.5	5.3	4.6	5.8	6.0
2000	6.1	5.6	6.4	5.5	5.8	5.5	4.4	5.6	5.9

(a) Per 1,000 population.

2.20 PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

<i>Marital status of 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>
BRIDEGROOM — NEVER MARRIED									
Never married	26 639	18 511	14 698	5 273	7 118	1 589	503	1 172	75 503
Widowed	186	113	90	42	48	10	4	3	496
Divorced	3 304	2 159	2 054	676	911	219	89	135	9 547
Total	30 129	20 783	16 842	5 991	8 077	1 818	596	1 310	85 546
BRIDEGROOM — WIDOWED									
Never married	136	70	54	29	33	8	3	5	338
Widowed	254	177	167	84	78	30	—	9	801
Divorced	370	260	257	106	114	37	3	15	1 161
Total	760	507	478	219	225	75	7	29	2 300
BRIDEGROOM — DIVORCED									
Never married	3 759	2 424	2 232	754	1 104	246	115	170	10 804
Widowed	360	287	290	114	128	42	9	16	1 246
Divorced	4 315	2 851	3 000	1 149	1 466	408	134	210	13 533
Total	8 434	5 562	5 522	2 017	2 698	696	258	396	25 583
BRIDEGROOM — TOTAL									
Never married	30 534	21 005	16 984	6 056	8 255	1 843	621	1 347	86 645
Widowed	800	577	547	240	254	82	15	28	2 543
Divorced	7 989	5 270	5 311	1 931	2 491	664	225	360	24 241
Total	39 323	26 852	22 842	8 227	11 000	2 589	861	1 735	113 429

2.21 CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER										
Ministers of religion(a)										
Catholic Church	no.	6 996	5 072	2 899	1 063	1 515	252	79	329	18 205
Anglican Church of Australia	no.	4 877	2 354	2 135	669	1 195	314	29	234	11 807
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	no.	2 112	1 531	1 291	891	376	143	42	66	6 452
Orthodox Churches(b)	no.	1 204	1 208	113	225	96	15	25	32	2 918
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	no.	653	430	502	152	162	69	16	22	2 006
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	no.	665	184	286	18	22	18	3	39	1 235
Islam	no.	757	317	46	21	72	5	—	8	1 226
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	no.	195	269	219	119	184	21	6	11	1 024
Lutheran Churches(b)	no.	75	147	309	366	30	8	6	7	948
Other	no.	2 514	1 463	2 066	502	784	228	50	93	7 700
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>20 048</i>	<i>12 975</i>	<i>9 866</i>	<i>4 026</i>	<i>4 436</i>	<i>1 073</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>841</i>	<i>53 521</i>
Civil celebrants										
Official registrars	no.	2 985	2 323	1 556	587	827	84	146	4	8 512
Other civil celebrants	no.	16 290	11 554	11 420	3 614	5 737	1 432	459	890	51 396
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>19 275</i>	<i>13 877</i>	<i>12 976</i>	<i>4 201</i>	<i>6 564</i>	<i>1 516</i>	<i>605</i>	<i>894</i>	<i>59 908</i>
All celebrants	no.	39 323	26 852	22 842	8 227	11 000	2 589	861	1 735	113 429
PROPORTION										
Ministers of religion(a)										
Catholic Church	%	17.8	18.9	12.7	12.9	13.8	9.7	9.2	19.0	16.0
Anglican Church of Australia	%	12.4	8.8	9.3	8.1	10.9	12.1	3.4	13.5	10.4
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	%	5.4	5.7	5.7	10.8	3.4	5.5	4.9	3.8	5.7
Orthodox Churches(b)	%	3.1	4.5	0.5	2.7	0.9	0.6	2.9	1.8	2.6
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	%	1.7	1.6	2.2	1.8	1.5	2.7	1.9	1.3	1.8
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	%	1.7	0.7	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.3	2.2	1.1
Islam	%	1.9	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.2	—	0.5	1.1
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	%	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9
Lutheran Churches(b)	%	0.2	0.5	1.4	4.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.8
Other	%	6.4	5.4	9.0	6.1	7.1	8.8	5.8	5.4	6.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>51.0</i>	<i>48.3</i>	<i>43.2</i>	<i>48.9</i>	<i>40.3</i>	<i>41.4</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>48.5</i>	<i>47.2</i>
Civil celebrants										
Official registrars	%	7.6	8.7	6.8	7.1	7.5	3.2	17.0	0.2	7.5
Other civil celebrants	%	41.4	43.0	50.0	43.9	52.2	55.3	53.3	51.3	45.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>49.0</i>	<i>51.7</i>	<i>56.8</i>	<i>51.1</i>	<i>59.7</i>	<i>58.6</i>	<i>70.3</i>	<i>51.5</i>	<i>52.8</i>
All celebrants	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

2.22 COHABITATION PRIOR TO REGISTERED MARRIAGE, Summary(a)—States and Territories

		<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>
ALL MARRIAGES										
Marriages registered	no.	26 254	18 399	17 824	5 951	8 430	2 012	719	1 304	80 893
Crude marriage rate	rate	4.1	3.9	5.0	4.0	4.5	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.2
Previous marital status										
First marriage both partners	no.	16 592	12 020	11 255	3 694	5 255	1 228	410	870	51 324
First marriage one partner	no.	5 599	3 666	3 634	1 162	1 748	384	176	246	16 615
Remarriage both partners	no.	4 063	2 713	2 935	1 095	1 427	400	133	188	12 954
Marriages performed by										
Ministers of religion										
Number	no.	10 749	7 072	6 506	2 401	2 712	689	193	556	30 878
Proportion	%	40.9	38.4	36.5	40.3	32.2	34.2	26.8	42.6	38.2
Civil celebrants										
Number	no.	15 505	11 327	11 318	3 550	5 718	1 323	526	748	50 015
Proportion	%	59.1	61.6	63.5	59.7	67.8	65.8	73.2	57.4	61.8

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

2.22 COHABITATION PRIOR TO REGISTERED MARRIAGE, Summary(a)—States and Territories *continued*

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
BRIDEGROOM										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5
20–24	rate	14.9	11.3	19.6	14.7	13.6	17.9	7.5	12.2	14.6
25–29	rate	33.1	32.4	41.3	34.8	33.8	41.2	17.5	33.8	34.6
30–34	rate	24.5	24.4	29.7	23.4	27.4	28.0	15.9	24.0	25.6
35–39	rate	12.8	12.7	15.5	13.2	14.7	14.0	13.1	12.2	13.5
40–44	rate	8.1	7.4	9.4	7.9	9.0	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.2
45–49	rate	5.8	5.1	6.6	6.0	6.7	7.0	8.0	4.5	5.9
50 and over	rate	2.4	2.1	3.1	2.6	3.0	2.9	4.5	2.9	2.6
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	19 275	13 784	13 015	4 260	6 068	1 405	489	971	59 267
Widowed	no.	401	251	262	131	124	43	5	16	1 233
Divorced	no.	6 578	4 364	4 547	1 560	2 238	564	225	317	20 393
<i>Total</i>	no.	26 254	18 399	17 824	5 951	8 430	2 012	719	1 304	80 893
Median age at marriage										
Never married	years	28.9	29.1	28.6	28.8	29.1	28.5	30.1	28.6	28.9
Widowed	years	59.3	56.4	60.0	63.5	61.4	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	59.4
Divorced	years	42.6	42.1	42.2	43.4	42.6	43.1	43.7	41.8	42.5
<i>Total</i>	years	30.9	30.9	30.6	30.9	31.3	31.0	33.5	30.4	30.9
BRIDE										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	3.4	2.3	3.3	2.1	2.4	1.6	2.0	1.4	2.8
20–24	rate	25.5	20.7	32.9	28.0	25.4	32.4	15.6	22.7	25.8
25–29	rate	35.0	35.2	43.2	37.9	38.8	41.3	22.7	35.5	37.1
30–34	rate	20.4	20.3	25.0	19.3	22.8	22.1	17.7	19.4	21.4
35–39	rate	10.1	9.4	11.6	9.5	11.6	10.0	10.7	9.3	10.3
40–44	rate	6.3	5.7	7.2	6.4	6.7	6.2	6.8	5.6	6.3
45–49	rate	4.6	4.3	5.6	4.9	5.4	5.9	6.8	3.5	4.9
50 and over	rate	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.9	1.7	1.4
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	19 508	13 922	13 129	4 290	6 190	1 435	507	1 015	59 996
Widowed	no.	468	306	312	137	159	42	13	14	1 451
Divorced	no.	6 278	4 171	4 383	1 524	2 081	535	199	275	19 446
<i>Total</i>	no.	26 254	18 399	17 824	5 951	8 430	2 012	719	1 304	80 893
Median age at marriage										
Never married	years	27.1	27.5	26.8	26.9	27.2	26.7	28.2	27.0	27.1
Widowed	years	51.1	51.3	51.4	52.9	52.4	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	51.8
Divorced	years	38.6	38.7	38.7	40.1	39.5	39.8	38.8	39.0	38.9
<i>Total</i>	years	28.8	29.0	28.6	28.9	29.0	28.8	30.4	28.5	28.8

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 men or women, respectively, at 30 June. Males and females under 15 years are excluded from the population.

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

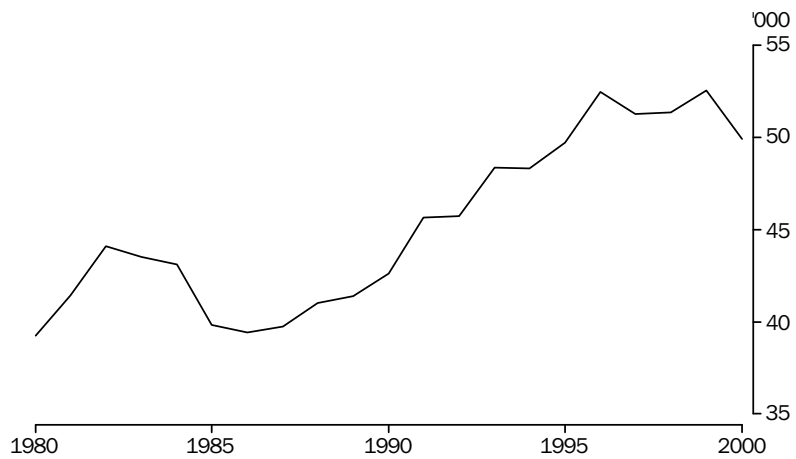
CHAPTER 3

DIVORCES

DIVORCES GRANTED

There were 49,900 divorces granted in Australia in 2000. This was a decrease of 5% on the number of divorces granted in 1999 (52,600), but an increase of 17% on the number granted 10 years ago, and 27% on the number granted 20 years ago.

DIVORCES GRANTED



DIVORCE TRENDS

The divorce rate declined slightly in 2000. The rate of 12.0 divorces per 1,000 currently married men or women in 2000 was below the 1999 rate (12.7 per 1,000 for men or women), but an increase from the rate a decade ago (10.9).

DIVORCE RATES, Married Population

Selected years	Males	Females
	rate(a)	rate(a)
1976(b)	18.9	18.8
1985	10.9	10.9
1990	10.9	10.9
1995	12.2	12.3
2000	12.0	12.0

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

(b) Family Law Act introduced 1976.

The crude divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1,000 total population) in 2000 was 2.6 per 1,000. This was a small decrease on the 1999 rate (2.8 per 1,000), slightly higher than the crude divorce rate 10 years ago (2.5 per 1,000) and slightly lower than the rate 20 years ago (2.7 per 1,000).

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

Of the countries selected for comparison (see table 3.2) the United States of America had the highest crude divorce rate in the mid-1990s (4.3 divorces per 1,000 population), followed by the United Kingdom (2.9) and New Zealand and Australia (each 2.6). Chile had the lowest crude divorce rate (0.4), followed by Italy and Turkey (each 0.5).

LIKELIHOOD TO DIVORCE

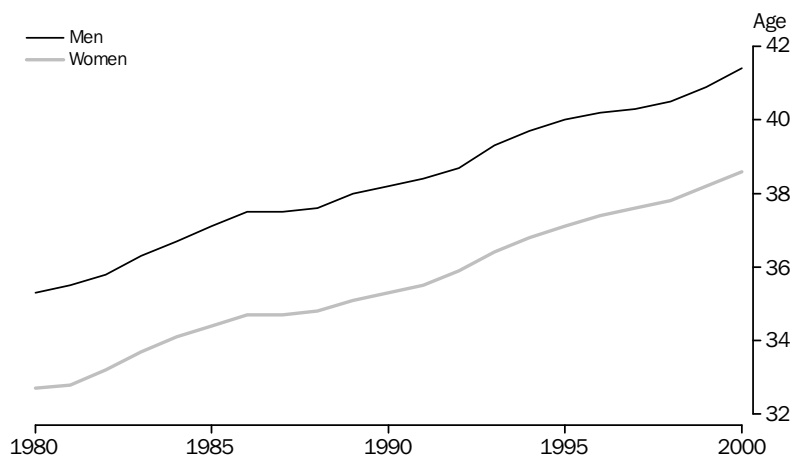
In the 1999 issue of this publication the ABS included a study which found that overall 46% of marriages are likely to end in divorce over all years of marriage (see Special Article 'Divorce in the Nineties' p. 121 in *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1999*). In this issue analysis of a net nuptiality table indicates that, if a newly-born group of babies is exposed to 1997–1999 rates (marriage, widowhood, divorce, remarriage and mortality), 32% of their marriages would end in divorce (see Special Article 'Lifetime Marriage Formation and Marriage Dissolution in Australia' p. 84 in this issue.) A Technical Note at the end of this publication (p. 111) explains the difference in likelihood to divorce based on the nuptiality table (32%) and that previously published (46%) using the 'reduced events' approach.

While the likelihood to divorce, as measured by either the nuptiality table or reduced events methods, shows an increase over time, the magnitude of the likelihood to divorce is much higher in the latter method. Figures based on both methods are hypothetical and measure the likely prevalence of divorce — 46% if the *past levels* and 32% if the *current levels* of all nuptial events are to continue in the future.

AGE AT DIVORCE

The median age at divorce (the age at which there are as many people divorcing above the age as there are below it) continued to increase for both men and women in 2000. The median age at divorce for men was 41.4 years, up from 40.9 years in 1999. For women, the median age at divorce increased to 38.6 years in 2000, up from 38.2 years in 1999. Twenty years ago the median age at divorce was 35.3 years for men and 32.7 years for women. The rise in the median age at divorce is probably associated with increasing age at first marriage (see Chapter 2).

MEDIAN AGE AT DIVORCE



AGE AT DIVORCE *continued*

Age-specific divorce rates per married population increased in nearly all age groups for men and women over the ten-year period 1990–2000. For men, those aged 30–34 years experienced the highest divorce rate in 2000 (21.1 per 1,000), while for women those aged 25–29 years had the highest rate (21.8 per 1,000). Over the 10 year period 1990–2000 divorce rates have increased most for men aged 60 years and over (up 35%) and for women aged 55–59 years (up 44%).

Men aged 30–34 years divorcing women aged 30–34 years (8%) and men age 35–39 years divorcing women aged 35–39 years (8%) were the most common relative ages of parties divorcing in 2000. A further 7% of divorces were to men aged 40–44 years divorcing women aged 40–44 years.

Twenty years ago the peak number of divorces was among couples where both partners were aged 25–29 years (12%), followed by couples where both partners were aged 30–34 years (10%).

DURATION OF MARRIAGE FOR DIVORCING COUPLES

To divorce

Duration of marriage is the interval between the date of marriage and the date the divorce was made absolute. Over time the median duration of marriage has increased, from 10.2 years in 1980 to 11.6 years in 2000.

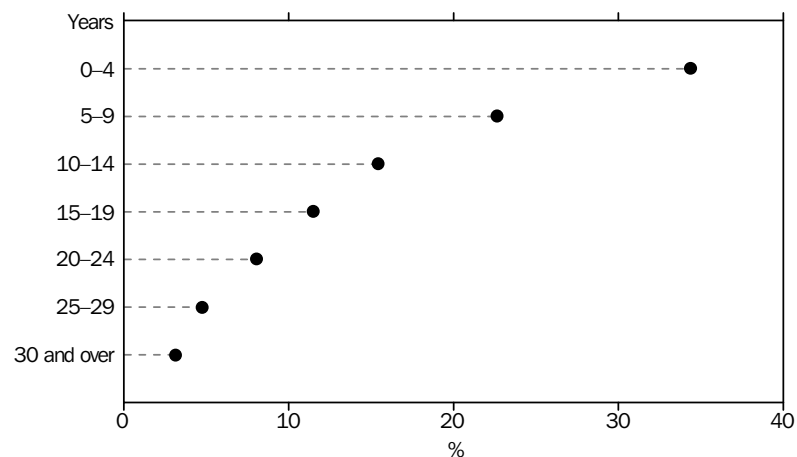
In 2000, 17% of couples had divorced within the first five years of marriage, while a further 26% had divorced in the following five-year period. The most common single interval between marriage and divorce was between four and five years (6%).

To separation

The median duration of marriage to the time the parties separated has also increased over the last twenty years, from 7.5 years in 1980 to 8.2 years in 2000.

Of the couples who divorced in 2000, 34% 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%).

DURATION OF MARRIAGE TO SEPARATION



APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE

In 2000, as in previous years, more women (49%) than men (31%) lodged applications for divorce. One-fifth of divorces granted in 2000 were the result of joint applications.

The proportion of female applicants for divorce declined as length of marriage increased, while the proportion of male applicants increased with length of marriage.

CHILDREN OF DIVORCING PARTNERS

Over the last twenty years the proportion of divorces where children were involved has fallen. In 1980, 61% of divorces involved children under 18 years. By 1990 this proportion had fallen to 56%, and by 2000 had fallen to 53%.

However, because the number of divorces has increased over this twenty-year period (by 27%), the actual number of children (under 18 years) involved in divorce has increased. In 1980 there were 46,800 children involved in divorce, by 1990 this number had declined to 44,900 children, but by 2000 had increased to 49,600.

In 36% of the 26,300 divorces that involved children in 2000, the age of the youngest child was between 5 years and 9 years. In nearly two-thirds of the divorces involving children, the age of the youngest child was under 10 years.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES DIVORCING

The proportion of divorces granted to couples born in Australia has decreased over the last twenty years. In 1980, 63% of divorces granted were to couples where both partners were born in Australia. By 2000 this proportion had declined to 58%. Divorces to couples born in the same overseas country comprised 13% of divorces granted in 2000 (up from 11% in 1980), while 29% of divorces were granted to couples who had chosen partners from a different country (up from 26% in 1980). Of this last group, 44% were overseas-born men divorcing Australian-born women, and 34% were overseas-born women divorcing Australian-born men.

3.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected Years

		1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
ALL DIVORCES									
Divorces granted	no.	39 257	42 635	49 712	52 466	51 288	51 370	52 566	49 906
Crude divorce rate	rate	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.6
Median duration of marriage	years	10.2	10.1	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.6
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.5	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.2
Divorces involving children									
Number	no.	23 788	23 707	n.a.	28 138	27 694	27 447	28 331	26 295
Proportion of total divorces	%	60.6	55.6	n.a.	53.6	54.0	53.4	53.9	52.7
Average issue	average	2.0	1.9	n.a.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Applicant									
Husband	no.	16 336	15 748	16 834	17 005	15 987	16 004	16 235	15 348
Wife	no.	22 921	20 961	23 904	24 155	25 041	25 380	26 353	24 595
Joint	no.	—	5 926	8 974	11 306	10 260	9 986	9 978	9 963

n.a. not available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

3.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected Years *continued*

		1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
HUSBAND									
Age-specific divorce rates(b)									
Age group (years)									
24 and under	rate	2.5	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
25–29	rate	13.5	8.9	7.8	8.0	7.4	7.0	6.7	5.7
30–34	rate	14.5	12.5	12.8	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.9	11.6
35–39	rate	12.7	12.2	13.2	13.8	13.2	13.3	13.3	12.7
40–44	rate	11.0	11.2	12.3	13.0	12.6	12.5	12.8	12.0
45–49	rate	8.9	9.6	11.5	11.6	11.1	11.0	11.2	10.8
50–54	rate	6.7	7.1	8.6	9.2	8.9	8.7	9.1	9.0
55 and over	rate	2.6	2.3	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.1
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	35 403	35 329	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Widowed	no.	499	391	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Divorced	no.	3 355	6 915	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	no.	39 257	42 635	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Median age of divorcee									
At marriage	years	23.4	24.7	25.6	25.8	25.8	26.0	26.2	26.4
At final separation	years	32.7	35.3	36.7	36.9	37.0	37.2	37.6	38.1
At decree made absolute	years	35.3	38.2	40.0	40.2	40.3	40.5	40.9	41.4
WIFE									
Age-specific divorce rates(b)									
Age group (years)									
24 and under	rate	5.0	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.2
25–29	rate	15.5	12.7	11.8	12.2	11.4	11.0	10.8	9.6
30–34	rate	13.9	12.7	13.9	14.4	14.0	14.2	14.1	13.4
35–39	rate	12.0	11.6	13.1	13.5	13.3	13.2	13.7	12.8
40–44	rate	10.0	10.3	11.8	12.3	11.7	11.7	12.3	11.6
45–49	rate	7.6	7.9	9.6	9.9	9.4	9.5	9.8	9.5
50–54	rate	4.7	5.1	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8
55 and over	rate	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	35 284	35 584	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Widowed	no.	676	513	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Divorced	no.	3 297	6 538	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	no.	39 257	42 635	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Median age of divorcee									
At marriage	years	20.9	22.1	23.0	23.2	23.3	23.5	23.7	23.8
At final separation	years	30.1	32.4	33.9	34.1	34.3	34.5	34.9	35.3
At decree made absolute	years	32.7	35.3	37.1	37.4	37.6	37.8	38.2	38.6

n.a. not available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 men or women, respectively, at 30 June. Males under 18 years and females under 16 years are excluded from the population.

3.2 INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF DIVORCES

<i>Selected countries</i>	<i>Reference year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Crude rate(a)</i>
	<i>year</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>rate</i>
Australia	2000	49 906	2.6
Canada	1996	71 528	2.4
Chile	1997	6 302	0.4
France	1996	117 382	2.0
Germany	1997	187 802	2.3
Greece	1998	9 500	0.9
Hong Kong	1998	13 129	2.0
Indonesia	1986	131 886	0.8
Italy	1995	27 038	0.5
Japan	1998	243 000	1.9
Korea, Republic of	1997	74 672	1.6
Netherlands	1997	33 740	2.2
New Zealand	1997	9 754	2.6
Poland	1998	45 000	1.2
Singapore	1998	5 389	1.4
Sweden	1997	21 009	2.4
Thailand	1995	53 560	0.9
Turkey	1997	32 717	0.5
United Kingdom	1996	171 310	2.9
United States of America	1997	1 163 000	4.3
Yugoslavia	1997	7 947	0.8

(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: *United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1998* and earlier issues.

3.3 AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES(a)

	AGE GROUP (YEARS).....									Total
	24 and under(b)	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	
.....										
HUSBAND										
1976(c)	17.9	31.6	28.9	24.0	21.2	18.6	15.0	11.1	5.0	18.9
1985	12.3	18.6	17.9	15.9	13.4	10.8	7.8	5.6	2.1	10.9
1990	9.9	19.4	18.4	15.8	13.8	11.7	8.5	5.6	2.0	10.9
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
1999	13.3	21.5	22.8	19.4	17.3	14.5	11.5	7.9	2.8	12.7
2000	12.0	19.1	21.1	18.8	16.5	14.2	11.4	7.5	2.7	12.0
.....										
WIFE										
1976(c)	22.7	31.5	26.9	22.1	19.3	16.0	12.6	8.8	4.0	18.8
1985	15.4	19.1	16.5	14.5	12.1	9.1	5.7	3.8	1.6	10.9
1990	15.1	20.5	16.8	14.4	12.7	9.7	6.3	3.6	1.3	10.9
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
1999	17.0	23.8	21.3	18.6	16.2	12.9	8.8	5.4	1.8	12.7
2000	16.1	21.8	20.5	17.5	15.4	12.6	9.0	5.2	1.8	12.0

(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 years have been included in the denominator.

(c) Family Law Act introduced 1976.

3.4 AGE OF DIVORCING PARTIES AT DATE OF MARRIAGE

AGE GROUP OF WIFE (YEARS).....

Age group of husband (years)	19 and under	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50 and over	Not stated	Total
19 and under	1 268	403	49	3	—	—	—	—	10	1 735
20–24	4 944	11 018	1 666	255	66	11	5	3	52	18 018
25–29	1 180	7 263	4 909	975	267	65	20	9	52	14 740
30–34	238	1 816	2 681	1 501	520	123	31	11	22	6 943
35–39	54	524	1 027	920	665	224	79	25	21	3 539
40–44	31	180	337	465	480	370	129	37	16	2 045
45–49	8	60	127	195	228	290	205	75	7	1 195
50 and over	7	51	91	104	179	219	252	496	27	1 426
Not stated	18	55	54	33	20	14	6	3	62	265
Total	7 748	21 370	10 941	4 451	2 426	1 317	727	657	269	49 906

3.5 AGE OF DIVORCING PARTIES AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE

AGE GROUP OF WIFE (YEARS).....

Age group of husband (years)	24 and under	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50–54	55–59	60 and over	Not stated	Total
24 and under	291	131	24	3	3	3	—	—	—	3	455
25–29	699	2 720	611	120	25	6	3	—	—	13	4 197
30–34	262	2 869	3 977	826	175	52	14	4	3	21	8 202
35–39	78	864	3 348	3 957	861	209	55	11	6	46	9 435
40–44	24	218	992	3 101	3 434	673	142	16	8	32	8 640
45–49	14	88	293	969	2 624	2 621	471	93	28	22	7 223
50–54	4	38	127	338	805	2 074	1 896	263	71	20	5 636
55–59	—	8	38	103	230	508	1 135	728	130	18	2 898
60 and over	—	8	44	69	149	217	442	702	1 290	32	2 955
Not stated	12	32	42	28	35	21	18	4	11	62	265
Total	1 386	6 976	9 496	9 514	8 340	6 382	4 176	1 821	1 546	269	49 906

3.6 AGE AT DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION, Duration of Marriage to Separation

AGE GROUP (YEARS).....												
<i>Duration of marriage to separation (years)</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>50-54</i>	<i>55-59</i>	<i>60 and over</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
HUSBAND												
Under 1	34	566	914	581	336	259	174	123	58	102	53	3 200
1	8	541	1 122	716	409	234	149	104	51	74	35	3 443
2	—	419	1 430	906	551	321	200	120	73	76	28	4 125
3	—	213	1 130	885	506	291	151	103	44	62	21	3 406
4	—	88	915	907	468	251	135	93	43	62	22	2 984
5	—	21	703	902	503	247	159	81	46	47	14	2 723
6	—	8	470	858	536	244	152	73	34	46	6	2 427
7	—	—	287	840	506	238	134	88	32	50	8	2 184
8	—	—	156	758	572	261	123	85	42	51	7	2 055
9	—	—	55	662	573	280	161	85	47	43	6	1 912
10	—	—	30	564	565	278	133	87	35	44	3	1 739
11	—	—	8	428	659	270	138	73	41	40	—	1 659
12	—	—	—	281	611	349	145	73	30	36	3	1 527
13	—	—	—	184	608	362	152	71	29	46	4	1 456
14	—	—	—	92	557	358	167	88	41	29	3	1 335
15	—	—	—	32	513	395	189	66	37	29	4	1 265
16	—	—	—	12	455	457	182	82	33	46	7	1 274
17	—	—	—	—	305	482	201	55	29	29	3	1 105
18	—	—	—	—	202	495	232	85	34	29	3	1 081
19	—	—	—	—	102	520	244	77	31	24	5	1 003
20	—	—	—	—	33	458	266	73	37	21	3	891
21	—	—	—	—	12	419	289	95	28	17	—	861
22	—	—	—	—	3	292	341	104	22	21	3	784
23	—	—	—	—	—	201	408	107	24	18	4	764
24	—	—	—	—	—	119	411	138	26	17	3	713
25	—	—	—	—	—	38	335	165	38	13	4	593
26	—	—	—	—	—	10	318	189	45	20	—	582
27	—	—	—	—	—	3	201	224	38	8	—	474
28	—	—	—	—	—	—	94	231	44	16	—	386
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	220	60	19	—	343
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	471	489	575	3	1 565
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	47
Total	43	1 857	7 220	9 610	9 588	8 132	6 054	3 729	1 661	1 710	302	49 906

3.6 AGE AT DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION, Duration of Marriage to Separation *continued*

AGE GROUP (YEARS).....												
Duration of marriage to separation (years)	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not stated	Total
WIFE												
Under 1	183	927	815	449	299	207	120	66	47	39	48	3 200
1	75	1 002	1 143	477	295	208	99	56	32	30	26	3 443
2	18	940	1 517	738	392	225	129	85	29	26	26	4 125
3	7	543	1 402	684	352	187	106	63	28	19	15	3 406
4	—	309	1 261	699	322	185	78	66	33	17	14	2 984
5	—	163	1 071	784	321	180	90	54	20	19	21	2 723
6	—	62	848	799	370	173	84	47	18	20	6	2 427
7	—	22	623	837	370	142	89	56	21	16	8	2 184
8	—	4	472	796	393	184	98	57	22	23	6	2 055
9	—	3	291	823	430	186	89	48	20	19	5	1 912
10	—	—	164	794	436	180	80	40	15	24	6	1 739
11	—	—	69	695	541	197	75	39	20	16	7	1 659
12	—	—	17	591	537	227	90	40	12	12	3	1 527
13	—	—	6	461	591	240	82	37	19	13	7	1 456
14	—	—	3	293	631	233	86	56	11	18	4	1 335
15	—	—	—	173	646	293	89	37	15	10	3	1 265
16	—	—	—	88	653	323	115	48	28	13	6	1 274
17	—	—	—	28	567	333	106	40	13	13	5	1 105
18	—	—	—	12	466	402	121	49	12	15	4	1 081
19	—	—	—	3	349	448	137	37	14	9	7	1 003
20	—	—	—	—	207	481	141	44	8	7	3	891
21	—	—	—	—	113	524	155	43	15	10	—	861
22	—	—	—	—	31	497	182	52	11	7	4	784
23	—	—	—	—	12	431	252	52	6	8	3	764
24	—	—	—	—	3	333	295	55	18	7	3	713
25	—	—	—	—	—	168	326	85	5	5	3	593
26	—	—	—	—	—	77	385	92	18	9	—	582
27	—	—	—	—	—	36	322	100	9	7	—	474
28	—	—	—	—	—	9	225	128	19	4	—	386
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	157	158	21	4	3	343
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	136	657	423	336	12	1 565
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	47
Total	283	3 973	9 702	10 223	9 328	7 310	4 539	2 487	982	775	304	49 906

3.7 AGE AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE, Duration of Marriage to Divorce

AGE GROUP (YEARS).....												
<i>Duration of marriage to divorce (years)</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>60–64</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
HUSBAND												
1	51	126	101	57	46	27	30	8	12	13	7	478
2	142	646	514	273	186	116	86	44	33	46	23	2 109
3	135	839	771	410	217	168	114	44	41	40	18	2 797
4	83	851	913	524	284	181	131	63	37	47	8	3 122
5	36	706	978	547	307	176	124	60	36	45	27	3 042
6	8	462	953	561	280	169	103	60	38	44	25	2 703
7	—	323	949	621	296	188	102	54	26	36	15	2 610
8	—	143	818	670	335	186	112	42	30	35	9	2 380
9	—	70	762	710	369	186	124	59	27	45	13	2 365
10	—	25	564	730	383	190	112	64	39	41	11	2 159
11	—	5	418	731	380	201	117	72	30	37	12	2 003
12	—	—	225	762	427	188	126	62	29	36	8	1 864
13	—	—	138	637	383	184	124	60	42	42	7	1 617
14	—	—	71	613	479	212	115	51	25	36	6	1 608
15	—	—	20	560	489	237	121	69	22	22	7	1 547
16	—	—	5	418	532	255	134	68	25	29	3	1 468
17	—	—	—	298	533	256	137	46	27	25	5	1 327
18	—	—	3	188	609	331	138	74	36	35	8	1 421
19	—	—	—	84	578	344	154	53	31	27	5	1 276
20	—	—	—	34	474	340	135	62	22	34	6	1 107
21	—	—	—	6	376	355	149	54	28	17	7	992
22	—	—	—	—	292	399	160	73	30	24	5	984
23	—	—	—	—	205	419	207	54	27	24	—	938
24	—	—	—	—	124	452	182	66	19	19	5	867
25	—	—	—	—	43	441	223	62	11	14	—	795
26	—	—	—	—	10	393	288	76	22	13	3	804
27	—	—	—	—	3	304	324	74	17	15	3	739
28	—	—	—	—	—	188	365	98	26	12	—	692
29	—	—	—	—	—	82	406	109	22	11	—	632
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	55	993	1 117	654	627	14	3 460
Total	455	4 197	8 202	9 435	8 640	7 223	5 636	2 898	1 464	1 491	265	49 906

3.7 AGE AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE, Duration of Marriage to Divorce *continued*

AGE GROUP (YEARS).....

Duration of marriage to divorce (years)	24 and under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Not stated	Total
WIFE												
1	106	137	79	43	43	24	22	5	9	5	5	478
2	395	729	382	219	166	94	49	33	10	12	20	2 109
3	399	1 092	598	261	180	116	67	26	24	18	16	2 797
4	292	1 207	758	346	222	132	81	38	13	20	13	3 122
5	138	1 153	834	384	228	124	89	34	18	17	23	3 042
6	46	925	876	398	200	119	65	32	17	14	11	2 703
7	6	751	971	417	214	122	51	30	13	13	22	2 610
8	3	460	913	563	206	102	67	26	21	10	9	2 380
9	—	284	951	593	236	133	69	47	18	18	15	2 365
10	—	147	886	543	279	143	82	36	19	12	12	2 159
11	—	64	734	636	277	149	76	38	8	14	7	2 003
12	—	20	573	699	309	116	83	24	14	17	9	1 864
13	—	6	382	643	294	144	80	29	18	16	5	1 617
14	—	—	295	683	348	151	67	32	18	8	5	1 608
15	—	—	161	730	377	143	84	27	7	7	11	1 547
16	—	—	72	666	415	167	77	33	20	13	5	1 468
17	—	—	21	557	471	158	62	34	9	10	5	1 327
18	—	—	8	500	544	204	85	43	17	15	5	1 421
19	—	—	—	320	572	232	91	30	13	12	5	1 276
20	—	—	3	173	558	235	79	26	14	16	5	1 107
21	—	—	—	89	528	232	88	30	10	7	8	992
22	—	—	—	38	505	288	86	39	13	11	4	984
23	—	—	—	12	424	339	107	32	12	8	4	938
24	—	—	—	3	365	352	101	24	17	5	3	867
25	—	—	—	—	232	411	118	21	6	4	3	795
26	—	—	—	—	101	529	113	37	8	11	5	804
27	—	—	—	—	37	489	167	27	10	6	3	739
28	—	—	—	—	8	385	244	37	9	8	—	692
29	—	—	—	—	3	280	288	40	15	5	3	632
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	269	1 438	911	459	355	28	3 460
Total	1 386	6 976	9 496	9 514	8 340	6 382	4 176	1 821	859	687	269	49 906

3.8 DURATION OF MARRIAGE TO DIVORCE, Applicant

<i>Duration of marriage (years)</i>	<i>Husband</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Joint</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	153	245	80	478
2	606	1 087	416	2 109
3	722	1 397	678	2 797
4	780	1 564	778	3 122
5	759	1 561	722	3 042
6	715	1 380	608	2 703
7	679	1 367	564	2 610
8	646	1 242	492	2 380
9	720	1 207	438	2 365
10	601	1 171	387	2 159
11	572	1 068	363	2 003
12	544	1 023	297	1 864
13	460	872	285	1 617
14	528	832	248	1 608
15	459	830	258	1 547
16	485	760	223	1 468
17	437	677	213	1 327
18	466	723	232	1 421
19	414	667	195	1 276
20	380	530	197	1 107
21	348	457	187	992
22	335	474	175	984
23	327	415	196	938
24	319	357	191	867
25	294	322	179	795
26	304	300	200	804
27	272	305	162	739
28	268	262	162	692
29	258	223	151	632
30 and over	1 497	1 277	686	3 460
Total	15 348	24 595	9 963	49 906

3.9 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES

	HUSBAND BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND WIFE BORN IN.....				WIFE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND HUSBAND BORN IN			
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia (incl. E T)	28 728	..	4 962	33 763	28 728	..	6 315	35 130
Fiji	56	128	25	210	61	128	71	261
New Zealand	634	484	256	1 376	551	484	248	1 284
Papua New Guinea	67	7	21	95	62	7	20	89
Other	47	34	27	109	26	34	39	99
<i>Total</i>	<i>29 532</i>	<i>653</i>	<i>5 291</i>	<i>35 553</i>	<i>29 428</i>	<i>653</i>	<i>6 693</i>	<i>36 863</i>
North-West Europe								
Austria	38	8	25	71	23	8	15	46
Denmark	30	7	21	58	21	7	9	37
France	49	6	39	94	36	6	31	73
Germany	254	67	131	452	159	67	123	350
Ireland	84	28	58	171	72	28	49	149
Netherlands	198	46	72	317	111	46	68	225
Switzerland	23	11	26	60	15	11	13	39
United Kingdom	2 650	1 356	573	4 590	1 995	1 356	492	3 849
Other	45	13	29	87	46	13	32	92
<i>Total</i>	<i>3 371</i>	<i>1 542</i>	<i>974</i>	<i>5 900</i>	<i>2 478</i>	<i>1 542</i>	<i>832</i>	<i>4 860</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	32	8	43	—	32	13	46
Croatia	44	58	28	130	18	58	20	96
Cyprus	27	29	18	74	8	29	11	48
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	28	59	11	99	8	59	20	87
Greece	140	131	41	312	48	131	29	208
Hungary	31	44	39	114	18	44	15	77
Italy	269	136	119	526	89	136	51	277
Malta	74	45	30	149	43	45	15	103
Poland	33	147	38	219	31	147	34	213
Portugal	25	34	17	76	16	34	11	61
Romania	13	59	18	91	9	59	14	83
Russian Federation	6	37	13	56	23	37	33	93
Spain	13	14	20	48	19	14	18	51
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	92	115	80	287	49	115	46	211
Other	54	117	69	240	42	117	73	232
<i>Total</i>	<i>852</i>	<i>1 057</i>	<i>549</i>	<i>2 464</i>	<i>422</i>	<i>1 057</i>	<i>403</i>	<i>1 886</i>
North Africa and the Middle East								
Egypt	54	43	38	135	23	43	21	87
Iran	21	47	9	77	4	47	10	61
Iraq	8	36	23	68	—	36	3	40
Israel	15	5	19	39	7	5	12	24
Lebanon	106	169	37	314	30	169	39	238
Syria	12	8	13	33	3	8	16	27
Turkey	64	107	19	190	8	107	17	132
Other	32	10	46	88	15	10	19	44
<i>Total</i>	<i>312</i>	<i>425</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>944</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>425</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>653</i>

.. not applicable

(a) Includes country of birth not stated.

3.9 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES *continued*

	HUSBAND BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND WIFE BORN IN.....				WIFE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND HUSBAND BORN IN			
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>
South-East Asia								
Cambodia	3	115	16	134	5	115	26	146
Indonesia	48	33	32	113	45	33	48	127
Laos	3	20	6	27	—	20	10	32
Malaysia	61	50	52	165	78	50	76	205
Philippines	31	230	18	280	312	230	204	749
Singapore	27	5	30	62	49	5	33	88
Thailand	13	19	13	45	72	19	44	135
Viet Nam	12	847	77	936	24	847	67	940
Other	10	16	13	39	9	16	11	36
<i>Total</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>1 335</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>1 801</i>	<i>596</i>	<i>1 335</i>	<i>519</i>	<i>2 458</i>
North-East Asia								
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	29	700	111	840	65	700	144	913
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	20	61	66	149	18	61	70	149
Japan	23	10	6	39	46	10	23	79
Korea, Republic of (South)	3	61	4	68	13	61	10	84
Other	3	13	9	25	9	13	18	42
<i>Total</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>845</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>1 121</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>845</i>	<i>265</i>	<i>1 267</i>
Southern and Central Asia								
India	62	102	77	242	47	102	56	205
Pakistan	16	10	29	55	7	10	5	22
Sri Lanka	40	85	29	154	32	85	24	141
Other	12	23	17	52	3	23	6	31
<i>Total</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>399</i>
Americas								
Argentina	13	26	15	54	10	26	15	51
Canada	83	16	32	131	68	16	36	120
Caribbean	9	4	3	16	10	4	3	17
Central America	12	29	7	48	9	29	13	51
Chile	20	80	15	116	16	80	32	129
United States of America	225	32	65	324	148	32	52	232
Uruguay	7	36	13	56	11	36	14	61
Other	23	28	38	89	24	28	35	87
<i>Total</i>	<i>392</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>834</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>748</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	8	3	5	16	9	3	4	16
Mauritius	22	29	21	72	24	29	16	70
South Africa	84	88	31	203	74	88	45	207
Zimbabwe	21	5	17	43	18	5	26	49
Other	35	88	46	169	15	88	53	158
<i>Total</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>500</i>
Other and not stated	87	—	—	283	73	—	—	272
Total	35 130	6 541	7 931	49 906	33 763	6 541	9 284	49 906

(a) Includes country of birth not stated.

3.10 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND, Duration of Marriage

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS).....

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl. E T)	5 383	9 013	6 514	4 971	3 312	2 389	2 181	33 763	11.7
Fiji	67	71	45	15	6	4	—	210	7.2
New Zealand	203	367	262	221	137	101	85	1 376	12.0
Papua New Guinea	24	34	17	11	5	4	—	95	n.p.
Other	22	45	21	12	6	—	3	109	9.0
<i>Total</i>	5 699	9 530	6 859	5 230	3 466	2 498	2 271	35 553	11.6
North-West Europe									
Austria	6	11	14	10	13	5	12	71	n.p.
Denmark	6	18	11	4	5	8	6	58	n.p.
France	21	31	18	13	4	5	3	94	n.p.
Germany	54	97	71	63	57	60	50	452	15.2
Ireland	30	43	24	29	25	8	12	171	11.9
Netherlands	30	59	37	43	47	45	56	317	19.1
Switzerland	6	17	9	6	11	8	3	60	n.p.
United Kingdom	534	1 105	912	669	493	418	459	4 590	13.3
Other	8	21	10	19	10	12	7	87	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	695	1 402	1 106	856	665	569	607	5 900	13.6
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12	9	5	8	—	3	5	43	n.p.
Croatia	23	21	25	16	17	12	16	130	14.2
Cyprus	8	12	18	9	12	3	12	74	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	42	12	13	9	10	8	5	99	n.p.
Greece	33	48	47	44	55	40	45	312	18.3
Hungary	19	15	14	16	16	16	18	114	16.8
Italy	47	81	80	73	85	79	81	526	18.8
Malta	16	21	26	19	13	22	32	149	17.5
Poland	35	35	43	34	30	20	22	219	14.4
Portugal	8	17	16	15	10	4	6	76	n.p.
Romania	15	41	16	10	3	5	3	91	n.p.
Russian Federation	14	17	9	4	6	3	4	56	n.p.
Spain	9	10	4	7	5	5	8	48	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	50	48	47	34	31	45	32	287	14.8
Other	41	50	39	31	23	24	32	240	12.9
<i>Total</i>	372	437	402	329	317	287	320	2 464	15.4
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	18	28	23	15	20	18	13	135	14.8
Iran	17	16	15	10	12	5	—	77	n.p.
Iraq	21	19	12	8	3	—	4	68	n.p.
Israel	11	16	6	—	3	3	—	39	n.p.
Lebanon	92	84	57	27	26	14	14	314	8.6
Syria	10	13	4	3	3	—	3	33	n.p.
Turkey	60	52	35	16	10	6	11	190	8.4
Other	41	21	8	6	5	4	3	88	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	270	249	160	85	81	50	49	944	8.9

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.10 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND, Duration of Marriage *continued*

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS).....

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	68	38	9	8	6	—	4	134	5.0
Indonesia	33	27	16	15	10	7	5	113	8.9
Laos	7	4	5	4	4	—	—	27	n.p.
Malaysia	31	46	24	20	21	10	13	165	11.4
Philippines	60	78	50	36	28	16	12	280	10.1
Singapore	17	18	9	8	6	—	3	62	n.p.
Thailand	18	11	10	3	—	—	3	45	n.p.
Viet Nam	360	371	74	51	32	30	18	936	5.8
Other	7	11	6	3	3	3	6	39	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	601	604	203	148	110	73	62	1 801	6.7
North-East Asia									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	301	239	97	109	41	22	31	840	6.8
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	49	37	24	16	17	4	3	149	7.7
Japan	12	10	10	—	3	—	3	39	n.p.
Korea, Republic of (South)	20	12	15	6	5	6	4	68	n.p.
Other	6	4	5	4	3	3	—	25	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	388	302	151	137	69	36	38	1 121	7.2
Southern and Central Asia									
India	58	56	42	23	25	22	16	242	10.7
Pakistan	24	21	5	3	3	—	—	55	n.p.
Sri Lanka	41	31	29	26	15	7	5	154	10.7
Other	19	16	9	3	5	—	—	52	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	142	124	85	55	46	30	21	503	9.3
Americas									
Argentina	8	7	12	5	9	4	9	54	n.p.
Canada	28	35	28	19	10	7	4	131	10.4
Caribbean	—	3	3	4	—	3	3	16	n.p.
Central America	15	15	10	6	—	—	—	48	n.p.
Chile	20	28	20	9	9	18	12	116	13.1
United States of America	62	113	58	46	21	16	8	324	9.5
Uruguay	3	15	8	10	6	4	10	56	n.p.
Other	27	31	9	9	6	4	3	89	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	165	246	148	108	63	54	50	834	10.2
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	4	3	5	4	—	—	3	16	n.p.
Mauritius	7	19	16	11	7	6	6	72	n.p.
South Africa	38	46	37	23	19	24	16	203	12.5
Zimbabwe	10	12	5	3	6	4	3	43	n.p.
Other	71	55	21	9	6	4	3	169	6.0
<i>Total</i>	130	134	84	50	38	38	29	503	9.6
Other and not stated									
	44	72	53	41	33	27	13	283	12.3
Total	8 506	13 100	9 251	7 039	4 888	3 662	3 460	49 906	11.6

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.11 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF WIFE, Duration of Marriage

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS).....

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl. E T)	5 609	9 414	6 708	5 089	3 478	2 534	2 298	35 130	11.7
Fiji	88	76	56	25	10	3	3	261	7.9
New Zealand	186	349	267	207	113	79	83	1 284	11.8
Papua New Guinea	13	35	10	15	13	3	—	89	n.p.
Other	18	31	22	13	9	3	4	99	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	5 914	9 905	7 063	5 349	3 623	2 621	2 388	36 863	11.6
North-West Europe									
Austria	6	6	7	7	7	3	10	46	n.p.
Denmark	8	9	3	5	3	4	6	37	n.p.
France	13	22	15	10	5	4	4	73	n.p.
Germany	30	86	65	40	29	44	56	350	14.6
Ireland	19	36	26	19	18	15	16	149	13.2
Netherlands	20	30	36	30	27	33	49	225	19.6
Switzerland	4	9	6	5	7	4	4	39	n.p.
United Kingdom	393	881	715	621	456	376	407	3 849	14.5
Other	18	21	14	16	8	9	6	92	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	511	1 100	886	753	560	492	558	4 860	14.6
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14	9	6	8	—	4	3	46	n.p.
Croatia	9	16	22	14	10	11	14	96	n.p.
Cyprus	5	6	10	6	6	5	10	48	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	32	10	7	14	8	10	6	87	n.p.
Greece	20	22	28	29	39	25	45	208	20.6
Hungary	16	11	9	6	14	10	11	77	n.p.
Italy	18	33	45	33	48	43	57	277	21.3
Malta	4	10	12	17	14	13	33	103	23.1
Poland	30	45	40	29	30	26	13	213	13.1
Portugal	3	16	15	8	8	3	9	61	n.p.
Romania	23	33	12	7	3	3	3	83	n.p.
Russian Federation	41	24	13	7	3	3	3	93	n.p.
Spain	5	16	10	4	3	5	9	51	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	33	36	30	26	23	37	26	211	16.2
Other	58	47	33	21	30	20	23	232	11.1
<i>Total</i>	310	334	292	229	240	216	265	1 886	15.1
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	10	15	11	13	10	17	11	87	n.p.
Iran	16	11	10	7	9	6	—	61	n.p.
Iraq	10	12	8	5	3	—	—	40	n.p.
Israel	7	7	3	3	—	3	—	24	n.p.
Lebanon	64	59	47	22	18	15	13	238	9.6
Syria	7	9	3	3	5	—	3	27	n.p.
Turkey	33	29	27	17	11	5	10	132	10.7
Other	13	6	8	3	5	7	3	44	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	160	148	117	70	60	54	44	653	10.8

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.11 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF WIFE, Duration of Marriage *continued*

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS).....

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	71	46	13	6	4	—	4	146	5.1
Indonesia	34	46	17	12	9	5	4	127	8.4
Laos	7	4	6	7	5	—	—	32	n.p.
Malaysia	46	54	35	20	25	16	9	205	10.4
Philippines	149	221	183	124	41	19	12	749	10.1
Singapore	22	26	11	9	6	10	4	88	n.p.
Thailand	49	47	18	15	6	—	—	135	6.1
Viet Nam	362	374	68	52	35	29	20	940	5.7
Other	3	9	11	—	—	6	4	36	n.p.
Total	743	827	362	247	132	89	58	2 458	7.2
North-East Asia									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan Province)	349	268	102	112	37	15	30	913	6.5
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	35	35	27	19	20	11	3	149	10.8
Japan	26	25	13	6	5	—	4	79	n.p.
Korea, Republic of (South)	27	14	19	9	6	5	4	84	n.p.
Other	15	9	6	3	5	4	—	42	n.p.
Total	452	351	167	149	73	35	40	1 267	7.0
Southern and Central Asia									
India	40	47	43	23	25	16	11	205	11.2
Pakistan	8	4	6	3	3	3	—	22	n.p.
Sri Lanka	35	30	22	25	12	9	8	141	10.9
Other	13	5	7	3	4	—	—	31	n.p.
Total	96	86	78	51	42	27	19	399	10.8
Americas									
Argentina	6	9	9	5	8	5	9	51	n.p.
Canada	23	33	25	15	13	5	6	120	10.6
Caribbean	4	3	4	—	—	3	—	17	n.p.
Central America	13	15	12	8	—	—	—	51	n.p.
Chile	24	33	28	6	10	17	11	129	11.4
United States of America	56	53	49	35	18	15	6	232	10.5
Uruguay	8	11	10	9	7	6	10	61	n.p.
Other	24	24	19	10	5	3	—	87	n.p.
Total	158	181	156	89	65	53	46	748	10.9
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	3	3	3	3	4	—	—	16	n.p.
Mauritius	8	8	20	13	12	5	4	70	n.p.
South Africa	40	38	34	23	26	30	16	207	13.8
Zimbabwe	9	11	8	8	7	5	—	49	n.p.
Other	61	43	17	15	12	5	5	158	6.8
Total	121	102	82	62	61	46	26	500	11.5
Other and not stated	41	66	48	40	32	29	16	272	12.5
Total	8 506	13 100	9 251	7 039	4 888	3 662	3 460	49 906	11.6

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.12 SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Husband

		<i>Australia (excl. E T)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Lebanon</i>
Divorces granted	no.	33 763	840	452	312	149	526	242	314
Population(b)	'000	7 266.4	81.0	59.1	71.7	27.2	128.4	59.7	41.7
Divorce rate(c)	rate	4.6	10.4	7.7	4.3	5.5	4.1	4.1	7.5
Husbands born in country shown divorcing wives born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	28 728	29	254	140	20	269	62	106
Proportion	%	85.1	3.5	56.2	44.9	13.4	51.1	25.6	33.8
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	700	67	131	61	136	102	169
Proportion	%	..	83.3	14.8	42.0	40.9	25.9	42.1	53.8
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	5 035	111	131	41	68	121	78	39
Proportion	%	14.9	13.2	29.0	13.1	45.6	23.0	32.2	12.4
Median duration of marriage	years	11.7	6.8	15.2	18.3	7.7	18.8	10.7	8.6
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	8.3	4.6	10.7	14.6	4.6	15.1	7.8	5.1
Divorces involving children									
Number	no.	18 821	347	192	147	56	242	111	179
Percentage of total divorces	%	55.7	41.3	42.5	47.1	37.6	46.0	45.9	57.0
Average issue	average	1.9	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.6	2.2
Applicant									
Husband	no.	10 312	233	157	113	44	190	81	112
Wife	no.	16 956	296	205	164	61	271	110	157
Joint	no.	6 495	311	90	35	44	65	51	45
Median age									
At marriage	years	25.9	30.3	29.0	26.9	27.9	26.9	28.3	25.7
At final separation	years	37.4	38.7	46.1	43.7	37.6	45.4	38.9	33.5
At decree made absolute	years	40.8	40.9	50.4	48.3	40.3	49.8	42.3	37.1

.. not applicable

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 male ERP by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

3.12 SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Husband *continued*

		Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	United Kingdom and Ireland	United States of America	Viet Nam
Divorces granted	no.	165	1 376	280	203	4 761	324	936
Population(b)	'000	45.9	192.5	45.6	40.1	617.0	36.2	86.7
Divorce rate(c)	rate	3.6	7.1	6.1	5.1	7.7	9.0	10.8
Husbands born in country shown divorcing wives born in								
Australia								
Number	no.	61	634	31	84	2 734	225	12
Proportion	%	37.0	46.1	11.1	41.4	57.4	69.4	1.3
Same overseas country								
Number	no.	50	484	230	88	1 450	32	847
Proportion	%	30.3	35.2	82.1	43.3	30.5	9.9	90.5
Other overseas country								
Number	no.	54	258	19	31	577	67	77
Proportion	%	32.7	18.8	6.8	15.3	12.1	20.7	8.2
Median duration of marriage	years	11.4	12.0	10.1	12.5	13.3	9.5	5.8
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.8	8.1	5.5	9.4	9.8	6.8	3.3
Divorces involving children								
Number	no.	77	713	147	93	2 289	137	339
Percentage of total divorces	%	46.7	51.8	52.5	45.8	48.1	42.3	36.2
Average issue	average	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7
Applicant								
Husband	no.	51	397	79	58	1 463	82	267
Wife	no.	62	690	164	86	2 184	168	498
Joint	no.	52	289	37	59	1 114	74	171
Median age								
At marriage	years	27.8	26.9	27.0	27.4	27.3	29.3	28.0
At final separation	years	39.8	38.7	35.4	40.7	40.7	38.5	34.2
At decree made absolute	years	42.7	42.7	40.6	43.8	44.2	41.7	36.9

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 male ERP by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

3.13 SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Wife

		<i>Australia (excl. E T)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Lebanon</i>
Divorces granted	no.	35 130	913	350	208	149	277	205	238
Population(b)	'000	7 373.3	87.0	61.1	69.5	29.1	113.4	50.5	38.1
Divorce rate(c)	rate	4.8	10.5	5.7	3.0	5.1	2.4	4.1	6.2
Wives born in country shown divorcing husbands born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	28 728	65	159	48	18	89	47	30
Proportion	%	81.8	7.1	45.4	23.1	12.1	32.1	22.9	12.6
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	700	67	131	61	136	102	169
Proportion	%	..	76.7	19.1	63.0	40.9	49.1	49.8	71.0
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	6 402	148	124	29	70	52	56	39
Proportion	%	18.2	16.2	35.4	13.9	47.0	18.8	27.3	16.4
Median duration of marriage	years	11.7	6.5	14.6	20.6	10.8	21.3	11.2	9.6
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	8.3	4.1	11.4	16.9	8.1	16.9	7.8	6.3
Divorces involving children									
Number	no.	19 527	354	142	84	55	124	96	143
Percentage of total divorces	%	55.6	38.8	40.6	40.4	36.9	44.8	46.8	60.1
Average issue	average	1.9	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	2.3
Applicant									
Husband	no.	10 485	245	107	86	51	124	74	93
Wife	no.	17 937	320	157	97	51	129	85	115
Joint	no.	6 708	348	86	25	47	24	46	30
Median age									
At marriage	years	23.5	27.6	25.6	23.4	25.9	22.6	24.3	21.3
At final separation	years	34.7	35.9	42.1	41.7	37.9	42.2	35.4	30.0
At decree made absolute	years	38.0	38.3	46.2	46.7	40.5	45.8	37.9	33.8

.. not applicable

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 female ERP by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

3.13 SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Wife *continued*

		Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	United Kingdom and Ireland	United States of America	Viet Nam
Divorces granted	no.	205	1 284	749	207	3 998	232	940
Population(b)	'000	51.7	182.4	77.4	40.0	598.8	28.9	87.8
Divorce rate(c)	rate	4.0	7.0	9.7	5.2	6.7	8.0	10.7
Wives born in country shown divorcing husbands born in								
Australia								
Number	no.	78	551	312	74	2 067	148	24
Proportion	%	38.0	42.9	41.7	35.7	51.7	63.8	2.6
Same overseas country								
Number	no.	50	484	230	88	1 450	32	847
Proportion	%	24.4	37.7	30.7	42.5	36.3	13.8	90.1
Other overseas country								
Number	no.	77	249	207	45	481	52	69
Proportion	%	37.6	19.4	27.6	21.7	12.0	22.4	7.3
Median duration of marriage	years	10.4	11.8	10.1	13.8	14.4	10.5	5.7
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.9	8.1	6.2	11.0	10.7	7.5	3.3
Divorces involving children								
Number	no.	99	666	374	96	1 958	107	343
Percentage of total divorces	%	48.3	51.9	49.9	46.4	49.0	46.1	36.5
Average issue	average	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.6
Applicant								
Husband	no.	69	412	288	66	1 149	84	259
Wife	no.	89	602	346	80	1 883	90	512
Joint	no.	47	270	115	61	966	58	169
Median age								
At marriage	years	25.4	24.8	26.4	24.0	24.7	27.0	23.9
At final separation	years	35.9	35.5	34.9	37.5	38.8	37.8	29.9
At decree made absolute	years	38.7	38.9	38.6	40.9	42.3	40.6	32.7

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 female ERP by country of birth, 2000 preliminary.

3.14 NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE(a)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.....

Selected years	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Total	Total children	Average number of children(b)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	average
1980	15 469	8 412	9 891	3 900	1 173	412	39 257	46 838	2.0
1985	15 700	8 421	10 419	3 995	1 016	278	39 830	46 800	1.9
1990	18 928	8 732	10 154	3 667	960	194	42 635	44 913	1.9
1995	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	49 712	n.a.	n.a.
1996	24 328	10 921	11 803	4 057	1 116	241	52 466	52 455	1.9
1997	23 594	10 661	11 565	4 215	1 026	227	51 228	51 742	1.9
1998	23 923	10 384	11 590	4 163	1 076	234	51 370	51 602	1.9
1999	24 235	10 522	12 213	4 201	1 163	232	52 566	53 444	1.9
2000	23 611	9 807	11 239	3 977	1 053	219	49 906	49 612	1.9

n.a. not available

(a) Children aged under 18 years at time of application for divorce.

(b) Per divorce involving one or more children.

3.15 NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE(a), Duration of Marriage

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.....

Duration of marriage (years)	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Total	Total children	Average number of children(b)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	average
1	382	61	25	7	3	—	478	144	1.5
2	1 518	359	171	42	12	7	2 109	911	1.5
3	1 916	531	241	85	17	7	2 797	1 376	1.6
4	2 006	630	373	84	27	—	3 122	1 746	1.6
5	1 768	674	462	104	24	10	3 042	2 062	1.6
6	1 363	610	560	136	28	6	2 703	2 283	1.7
7	1 152	641	621	154	34	8	2 610	2 526	1.7
8	947	528	659	190	51	5	2 380	2 646	1.8
9	843	501	737	222	50	12	2 365	2 904	1.9
10–14	2 597	1 719	3 240	1 294	341	60	9 251	13 766	2.1
15–19	1 470	1 177	2 709	1 228	377	78	7 039	12 209	2.2
20–24	1 765	1 460	1 170	391	80	22	4 888	5 415	1.7
25–29	2 605	773	240	36	7	—	3 662	1 394	1.3
30 and over	3 279	143	31	4	3	3	3 460	230	1.3
Total	23 611	9 807	11 239	3 977	1 053	219	49 906	49 612	1.9

(a) Children aged under 18 years at time of application for divorce.

(b) Per divorce involving one or more children.

3.16 NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE(a), Age of Youngest Child

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.....

Age of youngest child (years)	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Total
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
0	23 611	91	104	60	8	7	23 881
1	—	388	377	143	54	22	984
2	—	651	656	261	100	24	1 692
3	—	787	889	338	118	38	2 170
4	—	750	944	423	117	29	2 263
5	—	664	989	379	129	35	2 196
6	—	618	921	373	106	23	2 041
7	—	502	863	389	114	19	1 887
8	—	469	758	403	115	13	1 758
9	—	410	732	327	78	7	1 554
10	—	385	739	278	51	3	1 455
11	—	343	697	247	33	—	1 320
12	—	351	721	186	17	—	1 275
13	—	455	682	103	8	—	1 248
14	—	537	587	52	3	—	1 179
15	—	791	450	12	—	—	1 254
16	—	849	110	3	—	—	963
17	—	766	20	—	—	—	786
Total	23 611	9 807	11 239	3 977	1 053	219	49 906

(a) Children aged under 18 years at time of application for divorce.

3.17 SUMMARY(a), States and Territories

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
ALL DIVORCES										
Divorces granted	no.	14 756	12 401	10 092	4 036	5 276	1 329	455	1 561	49 906
Crude divorce rate	rate	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.3	(b)	2.6
Median duration of marriage	years	10.9	11.6	11.8	12.3	12.3	12.3	10.4	12.3	11.6
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.6	8.4	8.3	8.9	8.7	9.0	7.0	8.9	8.2
Divorces involving children										
Number	no.	7 554	6 547	5 401	2 242	2 656	775	215	905	26 295
Proportion of total divorces	%	51.2	52.8	53.5	55.6	50.3	58.3	47.3	58.0	52.7
Average issue	average	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9
Applicant										
Husband	no.	4 605	3 967	3 013	1 215	1 549	392	152	455	15 348
Wife	no.	7 209	6 113	5 163	2 120	2 367	703	175	745	24 595
Joint	no.	2 942	2 321	1 916	701	1 360	234	128	361	9 963

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Many divorces registered in the Australian Capital Territory involve applicants normally resident in areas surrounding the Australian Capital Territory. See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory notes.

3.17 SUMMARY(a), States and Territories *continued*

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
HUSBAND										
Age-specific divorce rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
24 and under	rate	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	(c)	0.5
25–29	rate	5.5	5.3	6.5	5.6	5.2	7.7	3.4	(c)	5.7
30–34	rate	10.7	11.6	11.9	12.2	12.0	14.3	7.9	(c)	11.6
35–39	rate	11.2	12.7	13.7	14.0	12.9	14.4	9.9	(c)	12.7
40–44	rate	10.6	12.5	12.6	12.3	12.8	13.9	8.7	(c)	12.0
45–49	rate	9.2	11.0	11.8	11.5	11.3	11.4	10.4	(c)	10.8
50–54	rate	7.2	9.0	10.2	10.0	10.1	10.1	9.6	(c)	9.0
55 and over	rate	2.5	3.0	3.7	2.7	3.7	2.7	4.4	(c)	3.1
Median age of divorcee										
At marriage	years	26.6	26.3	26.3	25.9	26.2	25.8	26.7	26.3	26.4
At final separation	years	37.6	38.2	38.3	38.3	38.4	38.3	37.5	38.4	38.1
At decree made absolute	years	40.9	41.4	41.8	41.7	41.9	41.5	41.4	41.7	41.4
WIFE										
Age-specific divorce rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
24 and under	rate	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.0	(c)	1.2
25–29	rate	9.0	9.3	10.3	9.9	9.0	12.8	6.6	(c)	9.6
30–34	rate	12.1	13.0	14.3	14.3	14.4	15.3	11.4	(c)	13.4
35–39	rate	11.3	12.7	13.3	14.0	13.8	14.4	10.9	(c)	12.8
40–44	rate	9.7	11.8	12.7	12.7	12.4	13.4	9.5	(c)	11.6
45–49	rate	8.0	9.6	10.6	9.8	10.7	9.3	9.3	(c)	9.5
50–54	rate	5.6	6.5	7.8	7.4	8.1	7.0	7.9	(c)	6.8
55 and over	rate	1.3	1.5	2.0	1.3	1.9	1.4	3.1	(c)	1.6
Median age of divorcee										
At marriage	years	24.0	23.9	23.7	23.6	23.8	22.9	24.3	23.9	23.8
At final separation	years	34.8	35.4	35.5	35.8	35.7	35.3	34.3	35.8	35.3
At decree made absolute	years	38.0	38.6	38.9	39.1	39.3	38.5	38.1	39.1	38.6

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 men or women, respectively, at 30 June. Males under 18 years and females under 16 years are excluded from the population.

(c) Many divorces registered in the Australian Capital Territory involve applicants normally resident in areas surrounding the Australian Capital Territory. See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory notes.

3.18 DIVORCES GRANTED

<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>
1980	13 449	9 207	6 218	4 203	3 073	1 285	298	1 524	39 257
1985	11 871	9 688	6 816	4 216	4 039	1 169	301	1 730	39 830
1990	12 414	10 406	8 509	4 066	3 845	1 170	421	1 804	42 635
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
1999	15 470	12 742	11 467	4 301	5 301	1 391	409	1 485	52 566
2000	14 756	12 401	10 092	4 036	5 276	1 329	455	1 561	49 906

3.19 CRUDE DIVORCE 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(b)</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
1980	2.6	2.4	2.7	3.2	2.4	3.0	2.5	(b)	2.7
1985	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.0	(b)	2.5
1990	2.1	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.6	(b)	2.5
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
1999	2.4	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.1	(b)	2.8
2000	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.3	(b)	2.6

(a) Per 1,000 population.

(b) Many divorces registered in the Australian Capital Territory involve applicants normally resident in areas surrounding the Australian Capital Territory. See paragraph 17 of the Explanatory notes.

CHAPTER 4

MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION

The population aged 15 years and over (that is the population used in marital status estimates) at June 2000 was 15,235,800 persons. It was comprised of 4,851,400 never married, 8,322,800 married, 932,000 widowed and 1,129,600 divorced persons.

NEVER MARRIED

Between 1976 and 2000 the proportion of the population, aged 15 years and over, who were never married increased from 25% to 32%. The largest increase for men was in the age group 25–29 years (27% to 69%) and for women was in the age group 20–24 years (40% to 87%).

MARRIED

In contrast to the never married, the proportion of the population, aged 15 years and over, who were in a registered marriage declined from 65% to 55%. For men the largest decline was in the age group 25–29 years (72% to 30%) while for women the largest decline was in the 20–24 years age group (59% to 12%). The declines in these married age groups for men and women mirror the increases shown by never married men and women.

WIDOWED

In 1976 the proportion of people, aged 15 years and over, who were widowed was 7% compared with 6% in 2000. With the exception of women in the age group 85 and over the proportion of widowed men and women decreased in all age groups. The largest decrease for men was in the age groups 80–84 years and 85 years and over (35% to 25% and 51% to 41%, respectively) while for women the largest decrease was in the age groups 65–69 and 70–74 years (35% to 23% and 48% to 36%, respectively).

DIVORCED

Between 1976 and 2000 the proportion of the population, aged 15 years and over, who were divorced increased from 2% to 7%. Divorced men in all age groups above 25–29 years increased as a proportion of the population, while for women the increase was for all age groups above 20–24 years. The largest increase for both men and women was in the age group 50–54 years (3% to 13% and 4% to 15%, respectively).

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

	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	'000
MALES					
1976	29.6	65.7	2.6	2.1	5 091.5
1990	33.7	59.2	2.4	4.7	6 584.7
2000p	35.5	55.4	2.4	6.7	7 526.5
FEMALES					
1976	21.2	65.1	11.2	2.5	5 154.5
1990	26.0	58.2	10.1	5.7	6 725.4
2000p	28.3	53.9	9.8	8.1	7 709.3
PERSONS					
1976	25.4	65.4	6.9	2.3	10 246.0
1990	29.8	58.7	6.3	5.2	13 310.1
2000p	31.8	54.6	6.1	7.4	15 235.8

(a) Aged 15 years and over.

MEDIAN AGE

The ageing of the population has meant that between 1976 and 2000 the median age of the population has increased. The ageing of the population is the inevitable result of fertility remaining at low levels over a long period of time associated with increasing life expectancy. Of the population aged 15 years and over, the median age of the never married population increased by nearly four years for both males and females. For the other marital status groups the median ages also rose. For married and widowed males each median age rose by around 5 years while for females the rises were each around 6 years. Between 1976 and 2000 the median age of divorced men increased by 3 years and divorced women by 5 years.

MEDIAN AGE OF THE POPULATION(a), at 30 June

	<i>Never married</i> years	<i>Married</i> years	<i>Widowed</i> years	<i>Divorced</i> years	<i>Total</i> years
MALES					
1976	21.1	43.7	70.6	45.9	37.3
1990	23.2	45.2	72.0	45.4	38.6
2000p	24.9	48.9	75.8	49.2	41.2
FEMALES					
1976	19.7	40.2	70.1	43.5	38.9
1990	21.8	42.6	72.9	44.1	39.6
2000p	23.6	46.1	76.1	48.3	42.3
PERSONS					
1976	20.5	42.0	70.2	44.6	38.1
1990	22.6	43.9	72.8	44.6	39.1
2000p	24.3	47.5	76.1	48.7	41.7

(a) Aged 15 years and over.

4.1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Aged 15 Years and Over

MARITAL STATUS.....

30 June	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
MALES					
1976	1 508 196	3 344 351	134 254	104 651	5 091 452
1985	1 936 192	3 645 715	143 322	249 600	5 974 829
1990	2 216 738	3 898 576	160 018	309 393	6 584 725
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
1997	2 486 211	4 104 172	175 133	439 307	7 204 823
1998	2 549 714	4 123 807	176 696	460 092	7 310 309
1999r	2 610 663	4 143 073	178 351	483 336	7 415 423
2000p	2 671 370	4 170 608	179 382	505 161	7 526 521
FEMALES					
1976	1 094 753	3 354 906	576 117	128 760	5 154 536
1985	1 473 920	3 657 713	649 411	306 898	6 087 942
1990	1 751 644	3 912 483	677 867	383 415	6 725 409
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
1997	2 013 074	4 089 977	748 598	548 138	7 399 787
1998	2 069 820	4 108 362	749 495	572 600	7 500 277
1999r	2 124 842	4 126 312	751 197	599 193	7 601 544
2000p	2 180 043	4 152 217	752 597	624 396	7 709 253
PERSONS					
1976	2 602 949	6 699 257	710 371	233 411	10 245 988
1985	3 410 112	7 303 428	792 733	556 498	12 062 771
1990	3 968 382	7 811 059	837 885	692 808	13 310 134
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
1997	4 499 285	8 194 149	923 731	987 445	14 604 610
1998	4 619 534	8 232 169	926 191	1 032 692	14 810 586
1999r	4 735 505	8 269 385	929 548	1 082 529	15 016 967
2000p	4 851 413	8 322 825	931 979	1 129 557	15 235 774

r revised

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

4.2 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Percentage Distribution

Age (years)	NEVER MARRIED.....		MARRIED.....		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
30 JUNE 1990										
14 and under	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.00	100.00
15-19	97.78	96.56	1.87	3.09	0.18	0.19	0.17	0.16	100.00	100.00
20-24	86.83	72.23	12.61	26.64	0.21	0.33	0.35	0.79	100.00	100.00
25-29	51.78	33.91	45.81	61.82	0.26	0.48	2.15	3.79	100.00	100.00
30-34	27.11	16.89	67.71	75.73	0.33	0.71	4.85	6.67	100.00	100.00
35-39	15.37	9.49	77.13	80.40	0.41	1.08	7.09	9.02	100.00	100.00
40-44	10.10	6.24	81.18	81.59	0.59	1.80	8.12	10.38	100.00	100.00
45-49	8.33	5.09	82.35	81.28	0.90	3.21	8.42	10.42	100.00	100.00
50-54	7.72	4.57	82.87	80.18	1.43	6.01	7.99	9.23	100.00	100.00
55-59	7.98	4.58	82.44	76.82	2.47	10.75	7.12	7.85	100.00	100.00
60-64	8.04	4.64	81.48	70.27	4.25	18.52	6.24	6.57	100.00	100.00
65-69	7.33	5.05	80.48	61.52	7.06	28.24	5.13	5.19	100.00	100.00
70-74	7.15	5.82	77.66	48.88	11.16	41.31	4.03	3.99	100.00	100.00
75-79	7.04	7.00	72.53	36.02	17.15	53.98	3.28	3.00	100.00	100.00
80-84	6.89	8.38	64.19	23.01	26.29	66.17	2.64	2.44	100.00	100.00
85 and over	8.00	11.06	48.47	11.61	41.33	75.27	2.20	2.06	100.00	100.00
All ages	48.68	41.85	45.80	45.74	1.88	7.92	3.64	4.48	100.00	100.00

.. not applicable

4.2 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Percentage Distribution *continued*

Age (years)	NEVER MARRIED.....		MARRIED.....		WIDOWED.....		DIVORCED.....		TOTAL.....	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
30 JUNE 2000 (preliminary)										
14 and under	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.00	100.00
15-19	99.85	99.42	0.13	0.56	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	100.00	100.00
20-24	94.49	87.05	5.34	12.49	0.04	0.08	0.13	0.39	100.00	100.00
25-29	68.57	52.80	29.76	43.97	0.07	0.19	1.60	3.05	100.00	100.00
30-34	39.67	27.06	55.12	65.50	0.15	0.40	5.06	7.04	100.00	100.00
35-39	24.19	16.16	67.53	72.76	0.24	0.75	8.04	10.32	100.00	100.00
40-44	16.12	10.75	73.13	75.05	0.40	1.30	10.34	12.90	100.00	100.00
45-49	10.88	7.20	76.25	75.67	0.70	2.23	12.17	14.91	100.00	100.00
50-54	7.75	4.90	78.56	76.08	1.08	3.90	12.61	15.13	100.00	100.00
55-59	6.49	4.05	79.96	74.90	1.82	7.31	11.73	13.74	100.00	100.00
60-64	6.10	3.62	80.72	71.74	3.11	13.48	10.07	11.16	100.00	100.00
65-69	6.02	3.55	80.18	64.21	5.54	23.30	8.26	8.94	100.00	100.00
70-74	6.06	3.78	78.09	53.32	9.29	36.08	6.56	6.82	100.00	100.00
75-79	5.43	4.14	74.26	40.17	15.34	50.66	4.97	5.03	100.00	100.00
80-84	5.00	4.76	66.33	25.57	24.95	66.24	3.72	3.43	100.00	100.00
85 and over	5.23	6.17	51.64	11.99	40.54	79.92	2.59	1.93	100.00	100.00
All ages	49.10	42.52	43.73	43.17	1.88	7.82	5.30	6.49	100.00	100.00

.. not applicable

4.3 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 30 June 2000 (preliminary)

Age (years)	MALES.....					FEMALES.....					
		<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
14 and under	no.	2 011 294	..	..	..	2 011 294	1 909 969	..	..	..	1 909 969
15	no.	135 858	7	3	2	135 870	130 201	14	2	1	130 218
16	no.	137 211	24	3	2	137 240	131 130	28	3	1	131 162
17	no.	139 325	40	3	4	139 372	132 152	113	4	2	132 271
18	no.	139 060	126	2	9	139 197	131 026	762	6	2	131 796
19	no.	138 220	705	36	57	139 018	129 745	2 737	67	58	132 607
20	no.	136 611	1 472	39	53	138 175	125 776	5 264	49	91	131 180
21	no.	135 454	3 259	42	85	138 840	122 778	9 330	76	195	132 379
22	no.	132 206	5 985	52	126	138 369	117 148	15 049	104	385	132 686
23	no.	129 230	10 136	62	233	139 661	111 555	22 171	153	681	134 560
24	no.	123 429	16 248	79	441	140 197	102 371	31 331	144	1 219	135 065
25	no.	118 638	23 800	89	761	143 288	94 782	41 826	203	2 008	138 819
26	no.	109 520	33 116	85	1 358	144 079	85 072	52 170	223	3 027	140 492
27	no.	101 821	43 710	109	2 090	147 730	76 484	64 678	249	4 298	145 709
28	no.	93 605	55 379	119	3 270	152 373	69 101	76 900	353	5 842	152 196
29	no.	85 445	64 915	149	4 369	154 878	61 436	86 587	349	7 143	155 515
30	no.	71 308	69 115	145	5 393	145 961	49 628	87 636	420	8 272	145 956
31	no.	62 716	75 177	179	6 372	144 444	43 056	92 020	493	9 122	144 691
32	no.	54 602	78 936	197	7 215	140 950	37 030	93 461	539	9 993	141 023
33	no.	48 456	81 802	234	8 104	138 596	33 133	94 622	666	10 798	139 219
34	no.	44 707	86 539	283	8 878	140 407	29 823	98 710	763	11 927	141 223
35	no.	40 885	91 548	264	9 871	142 568	27 787	102 041	847	12 977	143 652
36	no.	39 294	97 825	322	11 276	148 717	26 170	107 286	991	14 758	149 205
37	no.	36 007	102 504	385	12 184	151 080	24 021	110 806	1 116	15 582	151 525
38	no.	33 193	104 956	406	12 840	151 395	22 345	111 455	1 254	16 454	151 508
39	no.	31 349	107 717	433	13 879	153 378	20 769	113 503	1 447	17 551	153 270
40	no.	27 770	106 629	499	14 180	149 078	18 541	112 807	1 532	17 564	150 444
41	no.	24 837	106 105	504	14 484	145 930	17 037	108 827	1 696	18 321	145 881
42	no.	23 024	105 662	566	14 941	144 193	15 224	109 449	1 835	18 832	145 340
43	no.	21 099	104 759	634	15 306	141 798	13 954	106 636	2 068	19 049	141 707
44	no.	19 584	104 569	708	15 732	140 593	13 026	105 414	2 292	19 561	140 293
45	no.	17 148	102 674	746	15 995	136 563	11 767	104 066	2 431	19 844	138 108
46	no.	16 015	103 910	839	16 172	136 936	10 681	104 578	2 732	20 263	138 254
47	no.	14 654	103 321	960	16 697	135 632	9 498	102 964	3 002	20 356	135 820
48	no.	12 783	99 819	1 005	16 223	129 830	8 446	97 779	3 196	19 600	129 021
49	no.	12 367	101 588	1 114	16 536	131 605	7 977	99 147	3 629	20 114	130 867
50	no.	11 246	100 958	1 193	16 613	130 010	7 039	97 451	4 003	19 702	128 195
51	no.	10 149	99 488	1 262	16 003	126 902	6 404	94 250	4 287	19 048	123 989
52	no.	9 936	101 995	1 372	16 450	129 753	6 068	96 223	4 852	18 983	126 126
53	no.	9 623	106 043	1 449	16 662	133 777	5 857	97 823	5 309	19 174	128 163
54	no.	7 958	87 630	1 519	13 922	111 029	4 678	81 049	5 475	15 921	107 123
55	no.	7 479	86 440	1 574	13 174	108 667	4 485	79 272	5 884	15 477	105 118
56	no.	6 869	83 061	1 692	12 393	104 015	4 150	75 927	6 425	14 201	100 703
57	no.	6 019	75 557	1 738	11 076	94 390	3 651	68 390	6 785	12 479	91 305
58	no.	5 734	73 612	1 863	10 620	91 829	3 469	66 382	7 321	11 669	88 841
59	no.	5 497	70 646	1 995	9 871	88 009	3 338	63 232	8 054	10 964	85 588

.. not applicable

4.3 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 30 June 2000 (preliminary) *continued*

		MALES.....					FEMALES.....				
Age (years)		<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
60	no.	5 242	68 488	2 072	9 169	84 971	3 115	60 303	8 984	9 994	82 396
61	no.	4 735	65 552	2 186	8 414	80 887	2 968	58 051	9 505	9 245	79 769
62	no.	4 901	63 165	2 439	7 866	78 371	2 765	56 522	10 257	8 832	78 376
63	no.	4 541	61 464	2 697	7 357	76 059	2 673	53 772	11 279	7 916	75 640
64	no.	4 485	57 526	2 787	6 630	71 428	2 537	50 208	12 389	7 374	72 508
65	no.	3 963	54 610	2 920	5 958	67 451	2 469	47 423	13 290	6 947	70 129
66	no.	3 836	53 982	3 286	5 786	66 890	2 401	45 702	14 294	6 318	68 715
67	no.	3 883	52 206	3 528	5 368	64 985	2 384	43 958	16 028	5 981	68 351
68	no.	3 990	51 319	3 997	5 051	64 357	2 398	41 594	16 944	5 803	66 739
69	no.	4 185	52 506	4 565	5 090	66 346	2 586	42 818	19 810	5 780	70 994
70	no.	3 957	49 440	4 819	4 544	62 760	2 524	39 152	20 805	5 258	67 739
71	no.	3 660	48 323	5 071	4 257	61 311	2 473	37 041	22 393	4 800	66 707
72	no.	3 711	46 079	5 337	3 846	58 973	2 458	35 947	23 710	4 448	66 563
73	no.	3 327	43 813	5 883	3 450	56 473	2 445	32 872	25 129	4 165	64 611
74	no.	3 164	41 871	6 187	3 184	54 406	2 584	31 168	27 178	3 871	64 801
75	no.	2 665	37 285	6 274	2 724	48 948	2 436	27 079	27 430	3 439	60 384
76	no.	2 599	35 290	6 729	2 445	47 063	2 448	25 751	29 029	3 165	60 393
77	no.	2 343	32 452	6 700	2 095	43 590	2 407	23 057	29 261	2 937	57 662
78	no.	2 219	29 942	6 880	1 937	40 978	2 318	20 776	29 753	2 551	55 398
79	no.	2 035	27 191	6 908	1 663	37 797	2 268	18 491	29 740	2 333	52 832
80	no.	1 658	22 824	6 696	1 329	32 507	1 976	14 980	28 221	1 843	47 020
81	no.	1 253	16 437	5 773	924	24 387	1 798	10 078	23 956	1 356	37 188
82	no.	1 084	14 686	5 775	830	22 375	1 751	8 713	24 440	1 178	36 082
83	no.	1 000	13 149	5 727	702	20 578	1 623	7 489	23 643	1 059	33 814
84	no.	890	11 022	5 415	590	17 917	1 701	6 269	22 878	944	31 792
85 and over	no.	4 103	40 479	31 779	2 030	78 391	10 728	20 837	138 922	3 350	173 837
14 and under	no.	2 011 294	..	..	..	2 011 294	1 909 969	..	..	..	1 909 969
15-19	no.	689 674	902	47	74	690 697	654 254	3 654	82	64	658 054
20-24	no.	656 930	37 100	274	938	695 242	579 628	83 145	526	2 571	665 870
25-29	no.	509 029	220 920	551	11 848	742 348	386 875	322 161	1 377	22 318	732 731
30-34	no.	281 789	391 569	1 038	35 962	710 358	192 670	466 449	2 881	50 112	712 112
35-39	no.	180 728	504 550	1 810	60 050	747 138	121 092	545 091	5 655	77 322	749 160
40-44	no.	116 314	527 724	2 911	74 643	721 592	77 782	543 133	9 423	93 327	723 665
45-49	no.	72 967	511 312	4 664	81 623	670 566	48 369	508 534	14 990	100 177	672 070
50-54	no.	48 912	496 114	6 795	79 650	631 471	30 046	466 796	23 926	92 828	613 596
55-59	no.	31 598	389 316	8 862	57 134	486 910	19 093	353 203	34 469	64 790	471 555
60-64	no.	23 904	316 195	12 181	39 436	391 716	14 058	278 856	52 414	43 361	388 689
65-69	no.	19 857	264 623	18 296	27 253	330 029	12 238	221 495	80 366	30 829	344 928
70-74	no.	17 819	229 526	27 297	19 281	293 923	12 484	176 180	119 215	22 542	330 421
75-79	no.	11 861	162 160	33 491	10 864	218 376	11 877	115 154	145 213	14 425	286 669
80-84	no.	5 885	78 118	29 386	4 375	117 764	8 849	47 529	123 138	6 380	185 896
85 and over	no.	4 103	40 479	31 779	2 030	78 391	10 728	20 837	138 922	3 350	173 837
Total	no.	4 682 664	4 170 608	179 382	505 161	9 537 815	4 090 012	4 152 217	752 597	624 396	9 619 222
Median age	years	17.4	48.9	75.8	49.2	34.4	16.0	46.1	76.1	48.3	35.9

.. not applicable

4.4 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a)

Selected years	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(b)	Aust.(c)
1980	5 171 766	3 914 238	2 267 615	1 307 962	1 269 270	423 605	118 828	224 431	14 697 715
1985	5 464 704	4 119 696	2 571 491	1 371 062	1 419 004	442 483	148 647	251 242	15 788 329
1990	5 833 697	4 377 421	2 898 510	1 432 384	1 612 495	461 788	163 526	282 164	17 061 985
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
1997	6 272 784	4 605 210	3 397 071	1 479 680	1 797 870	473 478	186 907	308 011	18 524 155
1998	6 333 515	4 654 937	3 453 477	1 486 418	1 829 145	471 700	189 937	308 057	18 730 359
1999r	6 396 703	4 707 590	3 506 881	1 492 408	1 857 586	470 803	192 724	309 295	18 937 166
2000p	6 463 455	4 765 856	3 566 357	1 497 634	1 883 860	470 376	195 463	310 839	19 157 037

r revised

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(a) For years prior to 1992 details relate to estimated mean resident population for year ended 31 December. For 1992 and later years details relate to the estimated population at 30 June.

(b) Excludes Jervis Bay Territory from 1 July 1993.

(c) Includes Other Territories from 1 July 1993. See paragraph 28 of the Explanatory notes.

SPECIAL ARTICLE: LIFETIME MARRIAGE FORMATION AND MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION PATTERNS IN AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

The study of registered marriage formation and dissolution addresses a number of interesting questions: how long are men and women likely to remain single before their first marriage occurs? what is the probability that a marriage breaks through divorce or widowhood? how many marriages are men and women likely to experience during their lifetime? (Palloni 2001, p. 257)¹. Using nuptiality tables this chapter examines lifetime marriage, widowhood, divorce and remarriage behaviour of males and females to answer these questions.

DATA

The nuptiality table is calculated on the principles of the life table and assumes that current age-patterns of mortality, marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage will remain constant throughout a person's lifetime. A nuptiality table may be a *gross* table (where the component of mortality is ignored) or a *net* table (where all the components are taken into account). In this chapter *net* nuptiality tables are calculated and have been referred to as nuptiality tables. Nuptiality tables require annual data on marriages, divorces, widowhoods, deaths and estimates of the population by marital status at the mid-point of the year. All these data are compiled or estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in its routine processing of vital statistics and estimation of the population by age, sex and marital status.

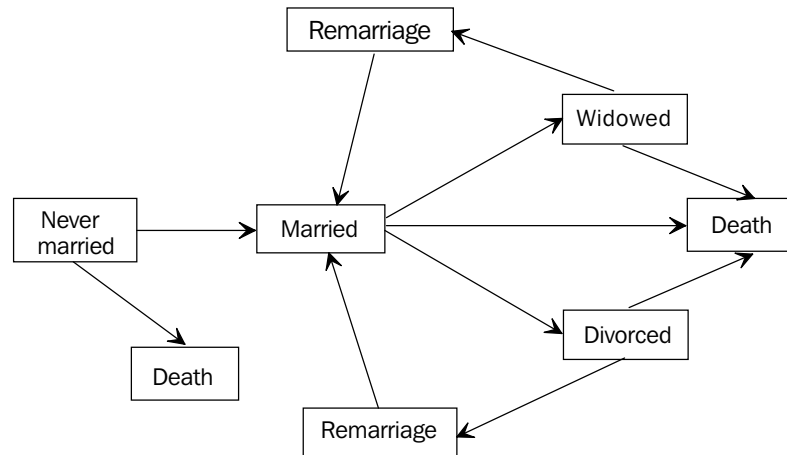
Throughout a lifetime a person can experience several different marital states: never married, married, widowed or divorced. A cohort of newborn babies is born into the never married state. After reaching the marriageable age² some enter the married state through first marriage, while others remain never married at each age throughout their lives. Some married persons exit from the married state through divorce or widowhood and re-enter this state again through remarriage. Death removes population from each marital state. The nuptiality tables calculated here are 'increment–decrement' tables and assume that a person cannot experience two events in one year. For example, in this technique, a person is not allowed to marry and then divorce or marry and then die in a single year but can marry one year and then divorce or die in the following year. Further details on the techniques of the nuptial life tables are given in Krishnamoorthy (1982)³.

¹ Palloni A., 2001, in Preston S.H., Heuveline P. and Builto M., 2001, *Demography, Measuring and Modelling Population Processes*, p. 257, Blackwell Publishers Ltd., U.S.A. and U.K.

² 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.

³ Krishnamoorthy S. (1982), 'Marital status life table for Australian women, 1971' *Genus*, vol XXXVIII, no. 1–2.

LIFETIME MARITAL STATUS TRANSITIONS



In 1999, 114,300 marriages were registered in Australia. This represents an increase of 3% from 1998 (110,600) but a decrease of 2% (117,200) on the number of marriages registered in 1989. The trend in the marriage rate has been downward. In 1985–1987 the rate of marriages among the unmarried population aged 15 years and over was 48 marriages per 1,000 unmarried population aged 15 years and over for males and 46 for females. By 1997–1999 this rate declined to 35 marriages per 1,000 unmarried population for males and 33 for females.

Similarly the marriage rates for never married, divorced, and widowed population have all declined over the last decade or so. In 1987–1989 there were 43 first marriages per 1,000 never married population aged 15 years and over among males and 58 among females. This dropped to 33 and 41 by 1997–1999 for males and females respectively. The remarriage rate for divorced males declined from 96 remarriages per 1,000 divorced population aged 15 years and over in 1985–1989 to 54 in 1997–1999, while for females this decrease was from 72 to 41 over the same period. Remarriages among the widowed population experienced similar decreases, from 20 remarriages per 1,000 widowed population aged 15 years and over in 1987–1989 to 13 in 1997–1999 for males. Among females the decrease was from 5 widow remarriages per 1,000 widowed population aged 15 years and over to 3 over the same period.

MARRIAGE RATES BY MARITAL STATUS(a)

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS(b)....				
	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Year</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>rate</i>	<i>rate</i>
Males				
1985–1987	43.3	95.6	20.2	47.6
1990–1992	39.1	76.8	16.1	42.2
1997–1999	32.8	53.6	13.2	34.7
Females				
1985–1987	57.5	71.7	5.3	45.7
1990–1992	49.6	58.3	4.5	40.1
1997–1999	40.9	40.7	3.5	32.6

(a) Three-year average rates per 1,000 population exposed to marriage or remarriage.

(b) Population aged 15 years and over.

LIFETIME SPENT IN MARITAL STATES

The nuptiality table is used to indicate the number of years a person can expect to spend in different marital states over their lifetime if the current patterns of mortality, marriage, divorce and widowhood continue. The general trend is for an increasing part of a persons life to be spent as never married, a decreasing amount of the lifetime spent as married and a slight increase in the number of years spent as divorced. Years spent in widowhood have also decreased slightly, with women spending about 4 times as many years as men in the widowed state.

Never married state

Based on 1997–1999 rates, a newborn baby boy can expect to spend 42 years as never married or 55% of his total lifespan (76 years), while a newborn baby girl can expect 40 years as never married or 49% of her total lifespan (82 years). This represents a high proportion of a persons lifetime spent in the never married state and is influenced by the rise in the mean age at first marriage over time and the increasing number of people remaining unmarried throughout their lifetime. In contrast, males who do marry can expect to be in the never married state for 29 years and females for 27 years as per the 1997–1999 nuptiality patterns.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS OF LIFE SPENT IN DIFFERENT MARITAL STATES(a)

Year	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total(b)
	years	years	years	years	years
Males					
1985–1987	35.3	32.3	1.9	3.2	72.7
1990–1992	37.6	31.1	1.8	3.7	74.3
1997–1999	41.6	28.3	1.7	4.7	76.3
Females					
1985–1987	32.2	33.8	8.0	5.2	79.2
1990–1992	35.5	31.9	7.1	5.8	80.3
1997–1999	39.8	28.9	6.3	6.8	81.8

(a) Three-year average rates/ratios.

(b) Represents life expectancy at birth. Figures are slightly different from those published in *Deaths, Australia* (Cat. no. 3302.0) due to a different method of life table calculations.

First marriage

An examination of the pattern of first marriage through time reveals that the proportion of people likely to ever marry has declined. In 1985–1987, 79% of males and 86% of females could expect to marry at some point during their lifetime. For males the proportion has steadily declined to 71% in 1997–1999, while for females the proportion declined to 77% in 1997–1999. Conversely, if the 1997–1999 pattern of first marriage continues 29% of males and 23% of females would not marry in their lifetime.

In addition, the median age at first marriage has increased. As per the 1997–1999 nuptiality patterns the median age at first marriage was 29 years for males and 27 for females, up by 2.5 years for males and 2.8 years for females from 1985–1987. Males have consistently married for the first time at a slightly older age (about 2 years) than females.

First marriage *continued*

PATTERN OF FIRST MARRIAGE(a)

Year	Proportion ever marrying %	Median age at first marriage years	Proportion of life spent never married %	Proportion of life after age 20 in never married state %
Males				
1985–1987	79.3	26.7	48.6	29.3
1990–1992	76.5	27.5	50.7	32.5
1997–1999	71.4	29.2	54.5	38.1
Females				
1985–1987	85.6	24.3	40.7	21.0
1990–1992	81.7	25.4	44.2	26.0
1997–1999	76.6	27.1	48.7	32.0

(a) Three-year average rates/ratios.

Presently married state

The expected average length of marriages has remained relatively stable at around 32 years for males and females. However, because people are living longer and a declining proportion remarry following a marital breakdown, the proportion of total life that a person can expect to live in the married state has declined. In 1985–1987 males could expect to spend 61% of their life after the age of 20 years as a married person, by 1997–1999 this proportion had dropped to 50%. Females could expect to spend 57% of their lives after the age of 20 years in the married state as per the 1985–1987 nuptiality patterns, this declined to a low of 47% by 1997–1999.

Among those who do marry, the number of marriages that a person can expect to have over his/her lifetime has remained relatively constant at 1.3 marriages per marrying male and 1.2 marriages per marrying female.

THE PRESENTLY MARRIED STATE(a)

Year	Expected length of marriage(b) years	Number of marriages per person no.	Number of marriages per person marrying no.	Proportion of life in married state %	Proportion of life after age 20 in married state %
Males					
1985–1987	31.7	1.0	1.3	44.5	61.2
1990–1992	31.7	1.0	1.3	41.8	57.3
1997–1999	31.5	0.9	1.3	37.0	50.4
Females					
1985–1987	31.8	1.1	1.2	42.7	56.8
1990–1992	31.8	1.0	1.2	39.7	52.7
1997–1999	31.3	0.9	1.2	35.3	46.8

(a) Three-year average rates/ratios.

(b) Marriages ending by divorce and widowhood.

Remarriage

An examination of the pattern of remarriage shows that based on the 1997–1999 pattern around 50% of divorcees would remarry and that a higher proportion of male divorcees (58%) than female divorcees (49%) would remarry. This is a decline from 71% and 61% in 1985–1987 for males and females, respectively.

A greater proportion of widowers remarry than widows. This proportion has declined from 12% of widowers remarrying as per the 1985–1987 nuptiality patterns to 8% as per the 1997–1999 nuptiality patterns. Among the widow population the corresponding proportions are 5% as per the 1985–1987 nuptiality patterns and 3% as per the 1997–1999 nuptiality patterns. The median age of widower/widow remarriage has experienced a gradual increase over the period from 63 years to 66 years for males and 56 years to 58 years for females. On average male widowers would remarry 7 years older than their female counterparts according to the 1997–1999 nuptiality pattern.

PATTERN OF REMARRIAGE(a)

Year	Proportion of divorcees remarrying %	Proportion of widowers/widows remarrying %	Median age of divorcees remarrying years	Median age of widowers/widows remarrying years
Males				
1985–1987	71.0	12.3	43.7	63.4
1990–1992	67.4	10.5	44.9	65.1
1997–1999	58.2	8.3	46.9	65.5
Females				
1985–1987	61.5	5.3	40.2	56.5
1990–1992	57.9	4.3	41.0	58.0
1997–1999	48.7	3.2	42.4	58.4

(a) Three-year average rates/ratios.

Divorced state

The proportion of marriages that would end in divorce has increased. As per the 1985–1987 nuptiality patterns 28% of marriages were expected to end in divorce. The 1997–1999 pattern shows that this proportion would increase to 32%. A Technical note at the end of this publication (p. 111) explains the difference in likelihood to divorce based on the nuptiality table (32%) and that previously published (46%) using the 'reduced events' approach (ABS, 2000, Cat. no. 3310.0). While likelihood to divorce, as measured by either method, shows an increase over time, the level of the likelihood to divorce is much higher in the latter method. Figures based on both methods are hypothetical and measure the likely prevalence of divorce — 46% if the *past levels* and 32% if the *current levels* of all nuptial events are to continue in the future.

The average number of years a person can expect to spend in the divorced state has increased. Based on the 1997–1999 pattern males over 20 years of age can expect to spend 8% of their remaining life divorced. This proportion is higher for females with 11% of life after the age of 20 years likely to be spent in the divorced state.

Divorced state *continued*

As the median age at first marriage has increased over time so too has the median age at divorce. Males would have a slightly higher median age at divorce, 42 years compared with 39 years for females as per the 1997–1999 nuptiality patterns.

PATTERN OF DIVORCE(a)

Year	Proportion of marriages that end in divorce %	Median age of divorce years	Proportion of life in divorced state %	Proportion of life over age 20 in divorced state %
Males				
1985–1987	27.9	40.0	4.4	6.0
1990–1992	29.3	40.5	5.0	6.9
1997–1999	32.3	41.9	6.2	8.5
Females				
1985–1987	27.6	37.0	6.6	8.7
1990–1992	28.8	37.5	7.2	9.6
1997–1999	32.1	39.0	8.3	11.0

(a) Three-year average rates/ratios.

Widowed state

Females are more likely to die widowed than males. Based on the 1997–1999 pattern 41% of females could expect to die widowed while only 16% of males could expect to die in the widowed state. This proportion has, however, declined from a high of 19% for males and 48% for females as per the 1985–1987 nuptiality patterns. The proportion of life after the age of 50 years that can be expected to be spent in the widowed state has also declined, reflecting an increase in life expectancy and changes in marriage patterns over the period. Males could expect to spend 6% of their life after age of 50 years as widowers as per the 1997–99 nuptiality patterns compared with 8% as per the 1985–1987 nuptiality patterns. This proportion is considerably higher among females. According to the 1997–1999 pattern females could expect to spend 20% of life after the age of 50 years in the widowed state, a decrease from 26% in 1985–1987.

PATTERN OF WIDOWER/WIDOWHOOD(a)

Year	Proportion of marriages that end in widowhood %	Median age at widowhood years	Proportion of life in widowhood %	Proportion of life over age 50 in widowhood %	Proportion of persons dying widowed %
Males					
1985–1987	21.1	73.7	2.6	7.7	18.9
1990–1992	20.6	74.9	2.5	7.1	18.0
1997–1999	20.0	77.5	2.2	6.3	16.5
Females					
1985–1987	47.8	69.1	10.1	26.0	48.2
1990–1992	46.4	70.6	8.8	22.3	44.7
1997–1999	45.9	73.4	7.7	19.5	41.0

(a) Three-year average rates/ratios.

HOW WOULD A MARRIAGE END?

As per the 1997–1999 nuptiality patterns around 32% of all marriages would end by divorce (see Technical Note p. 111), 20–22% by the death of the female partner and 46–48% by the death of the male partner. The changes in the nuptiality patterns between 1985–1987 and 1997–1999 have been such that the number of marriages ending by divorce has gone up and those ending by the death of either spouse have gone down overtime.

MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION(a)

Year	Divorce	Death of spouse	Own death
	%	%	%
Males			
1985–87	27.9	21.1	51.1
1990–92	29.3	20.6	50.2
1997–99	32.3	20.0	47.7
Females			
1985–87	27.6	47.8	24.6
1990–92	28.8	46.4	24.7
1997–99	32.1	45.9	22.0

(a) Three-year average rates/ratios.

SPECIAL ARTICLE: REGISTERED MARRIAGE TRENDS THROUGH THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

INTRODUCTION

Trends in partnering and marriage are linked to social, cultural and religious attitudes, and prevailing social and economic conditions. As these have fluctuated and changed over time, so have our attitudes toward registered marriage, affecting our overall propensity to marry, the age at which we first choose to marry, the likelihood of remaining in a marriage relationship and the likelihood of remarriage following widowhood or divorce.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION¹

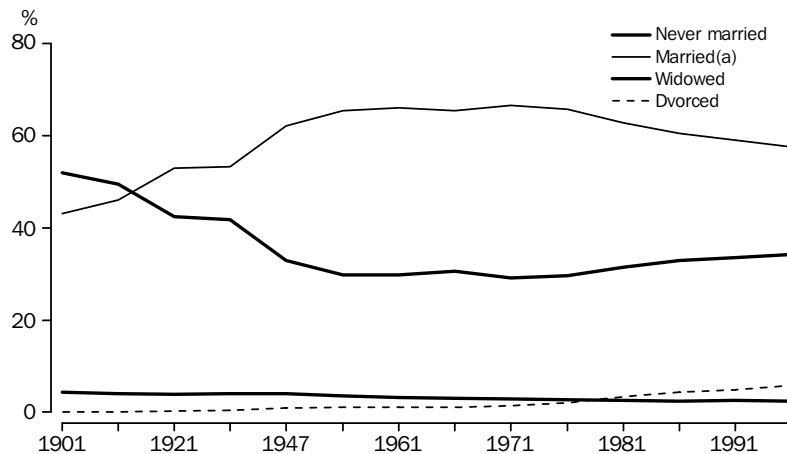
At the commencement of the 20th century, males (aged 15 years and over) who had never been married exceeded those who were married. Within the Australian population, males of this age outnumbered females (a sex ratio of 115 males for every 100 females), limiting the opportunities for some men to find an eligible partner. However, a considerable proportion of females at this time had also never married (40%). It is likely that the depression of the 1890s and continued employment insecurity (particularly in rural areas) may have engendered concerns regarding the economic viability of marriage. In addition, large numbers of single men moved to the Western Australian goldfields, exacerbating the already uneven distribution of males and females (which was also particularly evident in rural areas)². Whatever the reasons, in 1901, married males accounted for less than half of the male population (43%), with a further 4% being widowed. Divorce, although legally available was still socially unacceptable and, as a result, less than 0.1% of all males were divorced.

Over time, the proportion of married males increased through to a peak of 67% in 1971, but has declined consistently since then. In 1996, the proportion of married males (58%) was at its lowest point since 1933 (53%). The opposite trend prevailed for never married males, declining to a low of 29% in 1971 before climbing to 34% in 1996. The proportion of widowed males has remained fairly constant at between 2% and 4% of the population, while the proportion who were divorced has slowly risen, reaching around 1% in 1954, 2% in 1976, and 6% in 1996.

¹ Analysis of marital status in this section is based on Census data (until 1971) and estimated resident population data (from 1976), for persons aged 15 years and over. Prior to the 1954 Census, marital status comprised the categories never married, married, divorced and widowed. From 1954, data has also been available on persons who were separated. In this analysis, persons who were separated have been included in the married category.

² Carmichael, G.A. 1988. *With This Ring: First Marriage Patterns, Trends and Prospects in Australia*. Australian National University and Australian Institute of Family Studies, p. 5.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE MALE POPULATION, Census Years

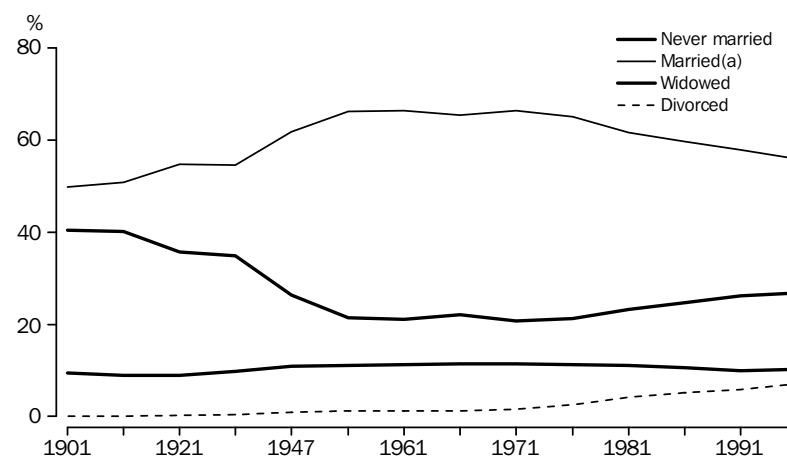


(a) From 1954, includes males who specified their marital status as separated.

The marital status of females has shown similar trends, although the proportion of never married females did not exceed the proportion of married females at any stage during the 20th century. From a high of 40% in 1901, the proportion of never married females decreased to a low of 21% in 1971, before rising to 27% in 1996. Conversely, the proportion of married females increased fairly gradually throughout the early part of the century, then rose sharply from 55% to 66% between 1933 and 1954, remaining relatively stable until 1976, before gradually declining to the 1996 figure of 56%.

Since the 1947 Census there has been a consistent increase in the proportion of divorced women which, as with the male population, is particularly noticeable from the 1976 Census onwards, following the introduction of the *Family Law Act 1975* which came into effect on 1 January 1976. While just 1% of the female population was divorced in 1947, this had risen to 2% in 1976 and 7% in 1996. Importantly, because population marital status data records current marital status only, the number of divorced males and females in the population is not indicative of the number that have been through a divorce at some time, as many divorcees eventually remarry.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE FEMALE POPULATION, Census Years



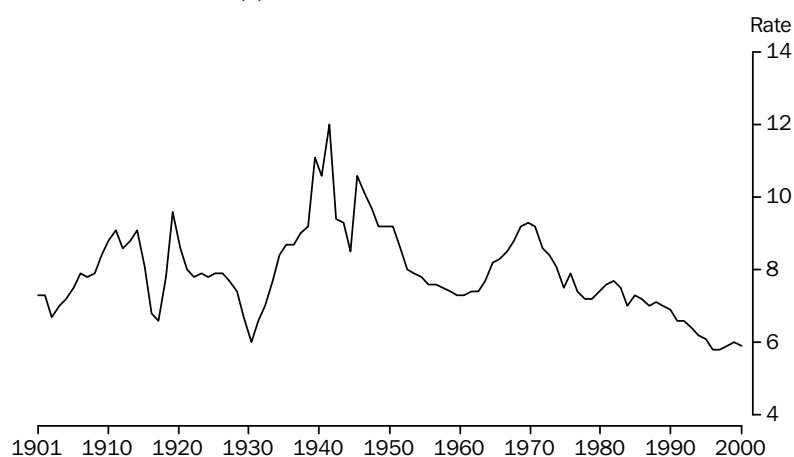
(a) From 1954, includes females who specified their marital status as separated.

MARRIAGE RATES

Crude marriage rate

As already foreshadowed, marriage trends have generally followed the pattern of prevailing economic and social conditions, and this is clearly evident in shifts in the crude marriage rate. It has fallen in times of economic depression or recession, such as in the 1930s, and increased in times of prosperity, such as in the immediate post-war years of the early 1920s and late 1940s. Over the century, the crude marriage rate peaked in 1942, at a rate of 12.0 per 1,000 population. In recent years, it has shown a consistent decline and, at 5.9 in 2000, is currently comparable to the previous low of 6.0 recorded in 1931 during the Great Depression.

CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE(a)



(a) Rate per 1,000 population.

Age-specific marriage rates

While the crude marriage rate is a useful measure of the general trend over time, it is limited by a lack of sensitivity to changes in the age distribution of the population. In order to negate the effect of changing age structure over time, it is necessary to look at marriage rates for different age groups (age-specific marriage rates). These have also fluctuated quite markedly over the century, reflecting the changing popularity of marriage for people of specified ages.

For males, the peak age for marriage (i.e. the age group with the highest age-specific marriage rate) has consistently been either 20–24 years or 25–29 years. For both of these age groups, however, the rates have varied considerably over time, being particularly high through the middle years of the century and relatively low in recent years. In 2000, the peak marriage age for males was 25–29 years, yet at 50 marriages per 1,000 males of that age this rate was considerably lower than the peak rates reached throughout much of the century. In 1969, for example, the peak marriage rate (among males aged 20–24) reached a high of 116. Peak rates of 80 or above were common from the 1940s through to mid 1970s and, in many years, rates above 50 were recorded by both the 20–24 and 25–29 age groups concurrently.

The peak marriage age for females has consistently been 20–24 years, shifting to the 25–29 age group only recently. This shift is indicative of a general movement toward marriage at older ages, which is also evident in trends in the other female age groups. For example, the marriage rate for females aged 19 and under was, at just 5 per 1,000

Age-specific marriage rates *continued*

females aged 15–19 in 2000, the lowest at any time in the last 100 years, and considerably lower than the rates of 50 and above experienced from 1950 through to 1975. Marriage rates for females aged 20–24 have also shown large declines. Rates in excess of 100 marriages per 1,000 females of this age were experienced in all but one year between 1940 and 1971, before declining steadily to a rate of 41 in 2000, well below half the mid-century levels. Conversely, marriage rates in the older age groups, while generally lower than those among younger ages, have been less volatile, and are currently a little higher than at many other times during the century.

AGE-SPECIFIC MARRIAGE RATES(a), Selected Years

.....

AGE GROUP (YEARS).....

Year	19 and under(b)	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50 and over
MALES								
1911	2.7	52.5	67.9	37.4	20.4	10.3	7.5	3.4
1921	3.2	59.3	72.6	37.1	19.3	10.5	7.3	3.4
1930	4.4	49.4	54.0	25.3	12.7	7.3	5.2	2.9
1940	4.8	81.4	90.8	41.8	21.2	11.2	7.0	3.3
1950	7.8	92.8	61.8	26.6	15.4	10.3	7.4	4.1
1960	9.9	98.3	54.3	20.9	9.6	6.1	4.9	3.3
1970	15.3	115.4	53.1	18.0	8.9	6.1	4.7	3.5
1980	5.9	70.7	46.3	21.3	12.2	8.9	7.2	3.9
1990	2.1	44.0	54.1	27.7	15.0	9.9	7.8	3.6
2000	1.0	24.1	50.2	33.5	17.3	10.5	7.6	3.6
FEMALES								
1911	24.3	77.8	52.5	22.8	12.5	6.2	4.3	1.5
1921	24.6	84.7	52.3	22.0	11.0	6.5	4.3	1.6
1930	25.7	70.7	37.8	13.7	7.5	4.6	3.3	1.3
1940	33.7	117.9	63.9	25.2	12.3	6.5	4.3	1.6
1950	51.5	112.4	37.6	17.3	11.2	7.9	5.6	2.1
1960	53.1	107.9	26.7	11.4	7.1	5.4	4.3	2.0
1970	62.8	111.3	26.4	9.9	5.9	4.6	4.2	2.2
1980	30.4	79.1	30.5	14.8	9.4	7.2	5.4	2.3
1990	10.7	66.0	44.8	20.8	11.2	7.6	6.3	1.9
2000	4.9	41.0	51.5	27.3	13.3	8.2	6.2	2.0

.....

(a) Rate per 1,000 male/female population of the same age. Excludes 'full-blood Aborigines' prior to 1966.

(b) Per 1,000 male/female population aged 15–19 years.

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

In the early decades of the 20th century, the vast majority of marriages involved people who were entering marriage for the first time. In 1911, marriages in which neither party had been previously married made up 90% of all marriages, while a further 8% were a first marriage for one partner; just 2% of all marriages involved both partners remarrying. In 1920, little change was evident with the corresponding proportions being 88%, 9% and 2%, respectively.

Among those remarrying in 1911, 93% of bridegrooms and 87% of brides were previously widowed, the remaining bridegrooms and brides having been divorced. By 1920, this had declined somewhat, with 87% of bridegrooms and 85% of brides being widowed at the time of remarriage. Certainly, marriages in this era were more likely to be ended by

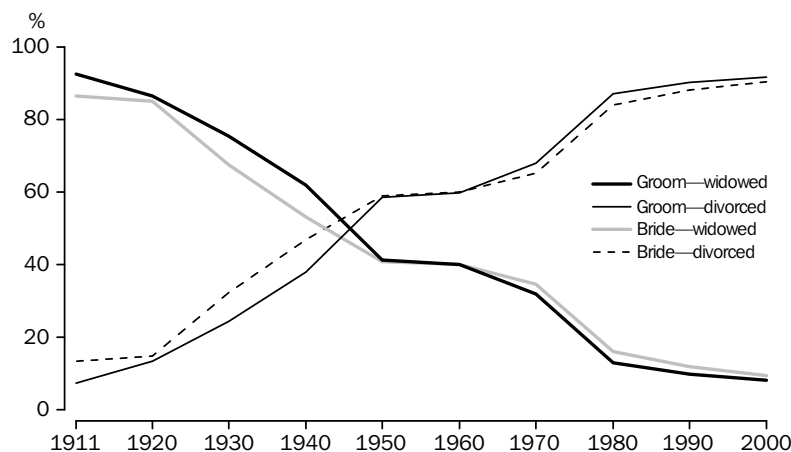
PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS *continued*

widowhood than divorce: lower life expectancy and subsequent higher death rates limited the period through which partners could expect to remain married. For example, based on 1891 death rates, partners aged 25 years (bride) and 27.5 years (bridegroom) at the time of marriage could expect to jointly survive a further 30 years in only 46% of all marriages; based on 1991 death rates, both would still be alive after 30 years in 88% of cases¹.

The incidence of remarriage has increased markedly over the century, with much of the increase occurring during the 1970s. While just 14% of all marriages involved remarriage for one or both partners in 1970, this jumped to 32% in 1980, again probably reflecting the impact of the *Family Law Act 1975* and the subsequent easier access to divorce. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the proportion of all marriages involving remarriage for one or both partners has remained relatively constant, accounting for 33% of all marriages in 2000.

Although even by mid-century partners (both male and female) entering a second or subsequent marriage were more likely to have been previously divorced than widowed, the number of people seeking remarriage at this time was still relatively small. Between 1970 and 1980, however, the number of divorcees remarrying increased almost threefold, from 14,500 to 42,600. As a consequence, in 1980 87% of bridegrooms and 84% of brides were previously divorced at the time of remarriage. Divorcees have since continued to dominate remarriage, with the corresponding proportions in 2000 being 92% (bridegrooms) and 91% (brides).

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS AT TIME OF REMARRIAGE



TRENDS IN FIRST MARRIAGES

Age-specific first marriage rates²

With the increasing occurrence of second and subsequent marriages, some increase in marriage at later ages is to be expected, as those remarrying are likely to be older than those marrying for the first time. Although this is an important contributor to the general trend toward later marriage, analysis of age-specific first marriage rates (i.e. the number

¹ McDonald, P. 1995. *Families in Australia: A Socio-demographic Perspective*. Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne, p. 52.

² Rates prior to 1981 have been calculated using population marital status estimates as published in Brown, H.P. & Hall A.R. 1979. *Australian Demographic Databank (vol 1)*, Australian National University, Canberra.

Age-specific first marriage rates *continued*

of first time marriages per 1,000 never married population of the same age and sex) indicate that those marrying for the first time are also choosing to do so at older ages. While the first marriage rates for the older age groups have remained relatively stable over time, although slightly lower in recent years compared to most times throughout the century, rates in the younger age groups peaked in the middle decades of the 1900s, and are currently substantially lower than not only these peaks, but also the rates in the early part of the century. The age-specific first marriage rate for females aged 19 years and under, for example, was just 5 per 1,000 females aged 15–19 in 2000, compared to 68 per 1,000 in 1970 and 25 per 1,000 in 1921. Similarly the age-specific first marriage rate for males aged 20–24 was 25 per 1,000 males aged 20–24 in 2000, compared to 172 per 1,000 in 1970 and 69 per 1,000 in 1921.

In 2000, the peak age for first marriage was 30–34 years for males and 25–29 years for females. While the peak age for first marriage for females has shifted between the 20–24 years and 25–29 years age groups throughout the century, the peak rate for males had, until recently, consistently been 25–29 years.

AGE-SPECIFIC FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a), Selected Years

Age group (years)	MALES.....				FEMALES.....			
	1921	1940	1970	2000	1921	1940	1970	2000
19 and under(b)	3.3	4.8	15.3	1.0	25.4	35.2	68.2	4.9
20–24	69.0	95.7	171.6	25.4	128.4	187.2	290.4	46.6
25–29	136.2	181.0	181.9	70.7	138.7	198.9	187.6	90.2
30–34	109.5	134.1	99.9	71.0	82.6	104.2	95.1	74.6
35–39	70.0	81.9	49.3	42.8	43.3	54.5	46.5	38.6
40–44	36.3	45.8	27.5	23.6	23.3	26.0	23.1	20.1
45–49	22.1	27.3	15.5	12.9	12.6	14.2	15.3	11.3
50 and over	5.8	6.0	6.1	4.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	2.8
Total	53.4	69.2	78.0	32.0	67.5	86.5	110.1	39.7

(a) Rate per 1,000 male/female never married population of the same age. Data excludes 'full-blood Aborigines' prior to 1966.

(b) Per 1,000 male/female population aged 15–19 years.

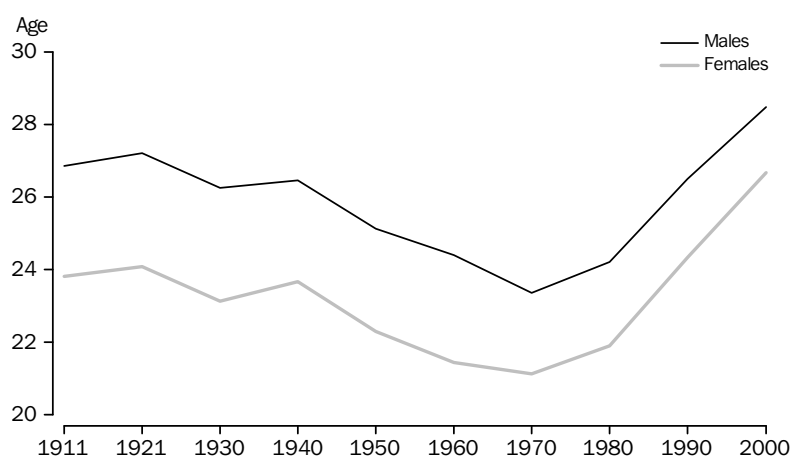
Median age at first marriage

Changes in the age-specific first marriage rates are reflected in changes in the median age (the age at which half of those marrying were older and half were younger) at the time of first marriage. Throughout much of the century, there was a general decline in the median age at first marriage, and in 1970 (when age-specific first marriage rates were particularly high for both males and females aged 20–24) the median age was as low as 23.4 for males and 21.1 for females. In recent decades, there has been a relatively steep increase in the median age at first marriage for both males and females. This increase has been slightly greater for women, which has resulted in a narrowing of the age gap between males and females at the time of first marriage. In 2000, the median age at first marriage for males was 28.5 years and for females 26.7 years, a difference of 1.8 years, compared to a difference of 2.2 years in 1970 and 3.0 years in 1911.

Median age at first marriage *continued*

The reasons for delaying marriage are as varied as the reasons for choosing to marry. In particular, the shift toward later marriage has been associated with increased education opportunities and greater labour force participation among women. Additionally, as de facto partnering has become more widely accepted, many people choose cohabitation as either an alternative, or precursor, to registered marriage. In 2000, 71% of all couples who married had cohabited prior to marriage. Among those marrying for the first time, males who had cohabited had a median age of 28.9 years, compared to 27.6 years for those who had not cohabited. Females who had cohabited were also older, with a median age of 27.1 years compared to 25.7 years for those who had not cohabited.

MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE



CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

As well as attitudes toward marriage itself, there has been a clear transition in preference regarding the conduct of the marriage ceremony. Over the 20th century, the proportion of marriages involving civil rather than religious celebrants has shown a large increase. In 1902, 96% of marriages were celebrated by a minister of religion; this figure did not drop below 90% until 1950, remaining steady at between 88% and 89% until the early 1970s.

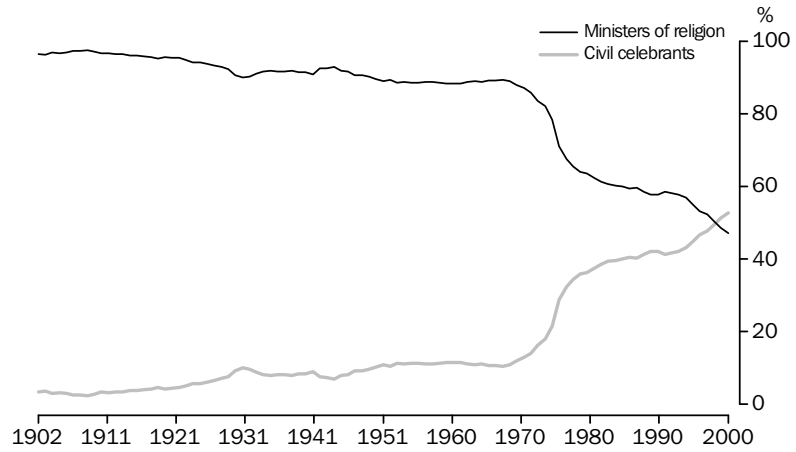
The most notable decline in religious ceremonies occurred in the years immediately following the introduction of the *Family Law Act 1975*. In the 12 months that followed, the proportion of marriages conducted by ministers of religion declined by 7 percentage points (to 71%), the single largest annual decrease in history, followed by a further sharp decrease the following year (to 68%). This decline is probably at least partially attributable to the increase in remarriages which followed the introduction of this legislation, as those remarrying are historically more likely to choose non-religious ceremonies. In addition, while marriage in a registry office was initially the only non-religious option, the Civil Marriage Celebrant Program, which commenced in 1973, gave prospective marriage partners a broader range of civil ceremony options. Since the introduction of this program, the proportion of all marriages conducted by registrars has declined (from 15% in 1974 to 8% in 2000), while those conducted by civil marriage celebrants have rapidly increased (from 3% in 1974 to 45% in 2000). Currently there are around 1,700 civil marriage celebrants registered in Australia¹.

¹ Attorney General's Department, unpublished data.

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT *continued*

In recent years, the pattern of declining religious ceremonies, although slowing somewhat, has continued until 1999, for the first time, less than half of all marriages were conducted by ministers of religion.

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT(a)



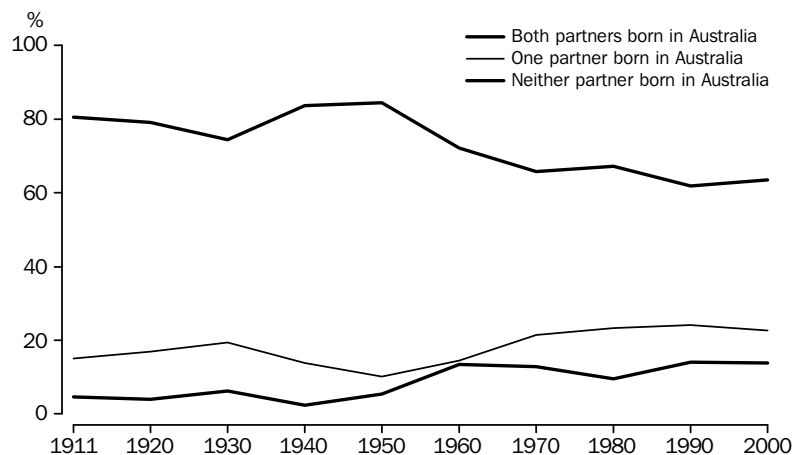
(a) Data for 1995 is not available, and has been imputed.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTNERS

Changes are also evident in the relative birthplace of partners who choose to marry. In 1911, the majority of marriages (80%) were between partners who had both been born in Australia. While this was still true in 2000, the corresponding proportion had dropped quite markedly, to 64%. Over the same period, the proportion of marriages involving one partner born in Australia increased from 15% to 23%, and marriages involving two overseas-born partners increased from 5% to 14%.

The proportion of marriages involving people born overseas is influenced by the proportion of the total population who were born overseas. Although the proportion born overseas is similar now to at the commencement of the century (24% in 2000, compared to 23% in 1901), there have been substantial variations over this period. At the time of the 1947 Census, the overseas-born comprised just 10% of the total population: accordingly, marriages involving one or more partners born overseas accounted for just 16% of all marriages in both 1940 and 1950. In contrast, at the time of the 1971 Census, 20% of the Australian population were overseas-born and, in 1970, 34% of all marriages involved at least one overseas-born partner.

RELATIVE COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTNERS



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 *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.

PROPORTION OF MARRIAGES THAT OCCURRED IN THE REGISTRATION YEAR SHOWN

.....

Year	%	Year	%
1989	96.0	1995	96.9
1990	94.7	1996	96.4
1991	93.9	1997	94.4
1992	94.7	1998	95.1
1993	96.1	1999	95.7
1994	97.5	2000	96.5

8 in 1994, there were abnormal delays in the registration of New South Wales marriages. These and subsequent delays in 1985 had been made up by 1986. The number of actual registrations and registrations adjusted for these delays and their effects on crude marriage rates for New South Wales and Australia are given in the following table.

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

DIVORCES

9 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.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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

13 The divorce statistics shown in this publication relate to calendar years and are compiled by the ABS from information supplied by Family Court Registries (FCR) and since September 2000 the newly formed Family Magistrates Service (FMS) in respect of each application which resulted in a decree absolute being granted. Data for finalised divorces are provided monthly, on tapes, to the ABS by the Family Court. Due to the opening of the FMS and the transfer of cases that has occurred between the FCR and the FMS it is possible that the number of divorces granted in the year 2000 may include a small number of duplicate records. It is estimated by the Family Court of Australia that the numbers are statistically insignificant (about 0.02%).

14 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 IN THE SAME YEAR

Year	%	Year	%
1989	71.9	1995	74.8
1990	73.1	1996	72.7
1991	74.0	1997	72.9
1992	73.9	1998	75.8
1993	73.1	1999	75.0
1994	74.1	2000	74.9

State or Territory of usual residence

15 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, prior to 2000, heard divorce cases from areas surrounding Lismore and Coffs Harbour in New South Wales. During 2000, the divorce cases from areas surrounding Lismore and Coffs Harbour that would normally have been heard in the Brisbane Family Court were transferred to the Newcastle Family Court in New South Wales. 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.

16 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

17 The State classification used in tables 3.17, 3.18 and 3.19 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)

18 This publication contains preliminary estimates of the resident population of Australia by marital status, age and sex at 30 June 2000, 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.

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

20 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 *Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods*, *Statistical Concepts Library*, available on ABS Website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. From the navigation bar select Themes; Demography; Concepts, Sources and Methods.

Method of estimation

21 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.

22 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.

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

24 From July 1998, data on the marital status of overseas arrivals and departures is derived from visa applications (only for certain visa classes) and is therefore not available for Australian or New Zealand citizens. Marital status estimates for New Zealand arrivals and departures are therefore based on the pre July 1998 experience.

Reliability of estimates

25 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 2000, revised for 1997 to 1999 and final for years prior to 1997.

26 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

27 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

28 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

29 The classification of countries in this publication is the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC). For more detailed information refer to the ABS publication *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)* (Cat. no. 1269.0) The SACC is also available in electronic form: *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) — on Floppy Disk* (Cat. no. 1269.0.15.001). This classification replaces the *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS)* used prior to 1999 (Cat. no. 1269.0).

Suppression of small cells

30 For Marriage and Divorce data, cells with small values have been randomised to protect confidentiality.

Related products

31 Other ABS products which may be of interest are:

- *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly
- *Australian Historical Population Statistics* (Cat. no. 3105.0.65.001), <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. From the navigation bar select Themes; Demography; Australian Historical Population Statistics
- *Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0) — issued annually
- *Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Statistical Concepts Library, ABS website* <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. From the navigation bar select Themes; Demography; Concepts, Sources and Methods
- *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
- *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 Australia, 1999 to 2101* (Cat. no. 3222.0) — issued August 2000
- *Standard Classification of Countries (SACC)* (Cat. no. 1269.0) — issued 1998

32 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 the National Information and Referral Service (see back cover for details).

33 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

34 As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

APPENDIX 1 CHARACTERISTICS AVAILABLE

MARRIAGES

Characteristics of the marriage

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

Characteristics of the bridegroom and bride

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

DIVORCES

Characteristics of the divorce

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

DIVORCES *continued*

Characteristics of the husband and wife

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

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

NOTE

The above lists the characteristics available separately or for cross classification for the marriage, divorce and ERP collections. Examples of tables available are included in Appendix 2.

APPENDIX 2 TABULATIONS AVAILABLE

MARRIAGES

Table number	Description
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
MARR006A	Age of bridegroom at date of marriage and previous marital status
MARR006B	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

DIVORCES

Table number	Description
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.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (ERP)

Table number	Description
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

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES, AUSTRALIA (CAT. NO. 3310.0)	Age at first marriage—reproduced from <i>Australian Social Trends</i> (Cat. no. 4102.0) edition 1996, p. 62 Couple relationships at the 1996 Census of Population and Housing, edition 1997, p. 95 Divorces by country of birth, edition 1999, p. 113 Divorce in the nineties, edition 1999, p. 121 Families in Australia, edition 1994, p. 15 How many marriages end in divorce? Recent trends, edition 1994, p. 9 Lifetime marriage formation and marriage dissolution patterns in Australia, edition 2000, p. 84 Registered marriage trends through the twentieth century, edition 2000, p. 92 Registered marital status and living arrangements, edition 1997, p. 85 Remarriage trends of divorced people—reproduced from <i>Australian Social Trends</i> (1999), edition 1998, p. 70 Trends in de facto partnering—reproduced from <i>Australian Social Trends</i> (1995), edition 1995, p. 67
AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS (CAT. NO. 4102.0)	Adoptions, edition 1998, p. 33 Age at first marriage, edition 1997, p. 27 Caring for children after parents separate, edition 1999, p. 42 Child care, edition 1998, p. 38 Child care, edition 1994, p.47 Child care arrangements. edition 2001, p. 41 Children in families, edition 1995, p. 29 Cultural diversity within marriage, edition 2000, p. 52 Families and work, edition 1997, p. 30 Family planning, edition 1998, p. 29 Family support, edition 1995, p. 41 Living with parents, edition 1994, p. 43 Lone fathers with dependent children, edition 1994, p. 40 Looking after the children, edition 1999, p. 39 One-parent families, edition 1997, p. 34 People who live alone, edition 1996, p. 33 People without partners, edition 2000, p. 3 Principal carers and their caring roles, edition 1996, p. 44 Remarriage trends of divorced people, edition 1999, p. 45 Rural families, edition 1998, p. 42 Trends in de facto partnering, edition 1995, p. 38 Trends in fertility, edition 1996, p. 36 Trends in marriage and divorce, edition 1996, p. 33 Young adults living in the parental home, edition 2000, p. 39

TECHNICAL NOTE—METHOD OF 'REDUCED EVENTS' AND A 'NUPTIALITY TABLE'

LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY

In the 1998 issue of Marriages and Divorces, Australia (ABS, 1999, Cat. no. 3310.0), the ABS highlighted the difference between the 'reduced events' and a 'nuptiality table' methods for estimating the likelihood of first marriage (see Technical note, p. 84). The first method, the 'reduced events' provided an estimate of 42% of men and 40% of women likely not to marry in their lifetime if they experienced the age-specific first marriage rates of 1998 in their lifetime (ABS, 2000, Cat. no. 3310.0). The second method, which has two versions, a *gross* and a *net* 'nuptiality table' gave an estimate of 29% (26% in a gross nuptiality table) of men and 23% (22% in a gross nuptiality table) of women not to marry in their lifetime if the 1997–1999 (averaged at 1998) age-specific first marriage rates were experienced. The net nuptiality based estimates are considered superior as these take into account mortality of the never married persons as well as age-specific first marriage rates.

DIFFERENCES IN THE METHODS

In a recent article, McDonald (2000)¹ has provided an elaboration of these two methods and has favoured the 'nuptiality table' method for estimating lifetime first marriage experience. His reasoning was as follows:

The two methods ('reduced events' and a 'nuptiality table') differ in their outcome due to the use of the different distributions of the proportions of men (or women) never married at each age. In the 'reduced events' method, this distribution is as observed in the population and in the 'nuptiality table', it is derived from the *current* experience of first marriages. The proportion never married in a population at a specified time is a reflection of the *past* trends in first marriages. The proportion never married in a nuptiality table is the distribution that would emerge if the *current* first marriage experience was to continue in the future.

Both the methods provide a synthetic estimate. The desired outcome of both the methods is an index which measures the likely future impact of the *current* trends in first marriages. The method of 'reduced events' mixes the *past* experience of first marriages (which gives rise to the *current* age distribution of never married persons) and the *current* trends in first marriages. Thus the index does not only measure the impact of the *current* trends in marriages but measures this with a caveat of the pre-existing *past* trends in first marriages influencing it.

The 'nuptiality table' measures the likelihood to marry without imposing 'pre-existing' conditions. The model is explicit and measures the future only in light of the *current* trends in first marriages. It is not a projection for the future based on *past* trends. Rather it is an evaluation of the implications of the *current* trends in first marriages for the future.

¹ McDonald P. 2000, On Estimating the Percentage of People Who Will Never Marry, *People and Place*, Vol. 8. no. 4., 2000, pp. 43–52, Centre for Population and Urban Research, Monash University, Melbourne.

LIKELIHOOD TO DIVORCE

In the same vein, the ABS has published the likelihood of a marriage ending in divorce. The 'reduced events' approach has produced a figure of 46% of marriages likely to end in divorce after 50 years of marriage duration (ABS, 2000, Cat. no. 3310.0). This index has limitations as it is based on the *past* trends in first marriages and remarriages which are themselves influenced by *past* divorce and widowhood trends. This figure is more like a 'projection' of likely divorce for marriages which have already taken place. The 'net nuptiality table' uses *current* information on the occurrence of all nuptial events: first marriages, marriage dissolution through divorce and widowing, and remarriages of divorced and widowed people. It is a 'model' and determines the likelihood of divorce and other nuptial events based on the assumption that the *current* trends of all nuptial events will prevail in the future. Thus, if the 1997–1999 experience of all nuptial events was to continue, the likelihood of divorce would be 32% of all future marriages and remarriages.

RECONCILING THE RESULTS

Unfortunately the gap between the likelihood of divorce being 32% from the nuptiality table approach and 46% from the reduced events approach cannot be resolved at this stage. The marriages of 1975–1976 experienced 32% dissolution through divorce by 1999, that is, after 24 years of marriage. There is further evidence that of the marriages contracted in the 1980s, 18–20% were dissolved through divorce after 10 years of marriage and this proportion is rising (ABS, 2000, Cat. no. 3310.0, p. 125). How these, and the marriages of the 1990s, will experience divorce in the future is conjectural.

The incidence of first marriage and that of remarriage in the 1990s has declined and de facto marriages has increased. This social change is pointing to de facto marriage as an alternative to or precursor to registered marriage. Research debating whether cohabitation prior to a registered marriage will lead to lower divorce among such couples remains inconclusive (ABS, 2000, Cat. no. 3310.0, pp. 52–54).

Because of this social change, a nuptiality table, being calculated from the *current* rates of nuptial events, is unlikely to indicate the future outcome of lifetime divorce for the marriages of the 1960s through to the 1990s. But, as *current* marriage behaviour is changing, those who will marry, and experience widowing, divorce and remarriage at the *current* rates are expected to experience 32% divorce in their lifetime as per the nuptiality table.

GLOSSARY

- Age-specific divorce rates** Because of the different purposes to which they are put, two different populations may be used in the calculation of age-specific divorce rates:
- 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 years and females under 16 years are excluded from the population.
 - 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 years are excluded from the population.
- Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.
- Age-specific first marriage rates** 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:
- 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 years are excluded from the population.
 - 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 years are excluded from the population.
- Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.
- Age-specific marriage rates** Because of the different purposes to which they are put, two different populations may be used in the calculation of age-specific marriage rates:
- 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 years are excluded from the population.
 - 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 years are excluded from the population.
- Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.
- Age-specific remarriage rates** 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.

Children (divorce collection)	Children in the divorce collection are unmarried children of the marriage who were aged under 18 years at the time of application for divorce. Under the <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.
Children (marriage collection)	Children in the marriage collection refer to persons under 16 years of age born from previous marriages.
Cohabiting couples	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.
Crude divorce rate	The crude divorce rate is the number of decrees absolute granted during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. 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.
Crude marriage rate	The crude marriage rate is the number of marriages registered during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. 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.
Date of final separation	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.
Divorce	Decree absolute of dissolution of marriage.
Duration of marriage	Duration of marriage is the interval measured in completed years between the date of marriage and the date of divorce.
Duration of marriage until separation	Duration of marriage until separation is the interval measured in completed years between the date of marriage and the date of separation.

Estimated resident population (ERP)	<p>The concept of estimated resident population (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 in a reference year.</p> <p>The ERP is an estimate 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 the estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence.</p> <p>Estimates of the resident population are based on census counts by place of usual residence, to which are added the estimated net census undercount and 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>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>
First marriage rates	<p>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.</p>
Marital status	<p>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.</p>
Marriage	<p>Refers to registered marriages only. Under the <i>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.</p>
Median value	<p>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.</p>
Remarriage rates	<p>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.</p>

State or Territory of registration	State or Territory of registration refers to the State or Territory in which the marriage was registered or the divorce was granted. (For further information about how this affects divorce statistics see paragraphs 15–17 of the Explanatory notes.)
State or Territory of usual residence	State or Territory of usual residence refers to the State or Territory of usual residence of the population for estimated resident population.
Total first marriage rate	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.
Year of occurrence	Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the event occurred.
Year of registration	Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the event was registered.

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