



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 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 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.



UNAVAILABILITY OF DATA

ERP by marital status at 30 June 2001 is not available. The latest available marital status estimates are at 30 June 2000. Chapter 4, marital status of the population, has been reproduced from *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2000*.

Total ERP at 30 June 2001 is available and has been included in table 4.4.



REVISIONS

Estimated resident population data at 30 June 1997 to 2000 are revised.



SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIFS	Australian Institute of Family Studies
ASCCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
ASCRG	Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups
AST	Australian Social Trends
ET	External Territories
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
FCS	Family Characteristics Survey
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
n.y.a.	not yet available
p	preliminary figure or series subject to revision
r	revised
..	not applicable
—	nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

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MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE TRENDS

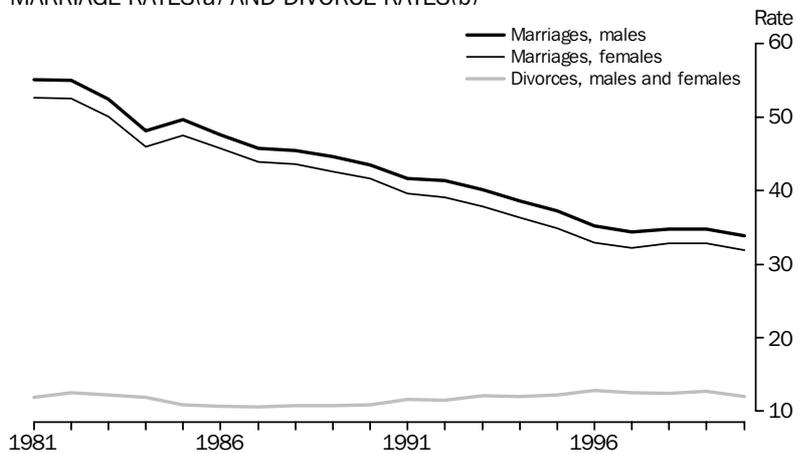
In 2001 there were 103,100 marriages registered in Australia, the lowest number recorded since 1978 (103,000). The 2001 figure was a decrease of 10,300 marriages when compared with 2000 and a decrease of 10,800 marriages when compared with 1981 (see page 8).

While marriage rates per 1,000 unmarried population (aged 15 years and over) are not yet available for 2001, the marriage rate trend since 1981 shows that marriage is declining. Marriage rates for the unmarried population 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 55 and 53, respectively in 1981 (see page 15).

There were 55,300 divorces granted in Australia in 2001, the highest number granted in the last 20 years. This was an increase of 5,400 on the number of divorces granted in 2000 and an increase of 13,900 on 1981 (see page 48).

Divorce rates for the married population are not yet available for 2001. However, since 1981 divorce rates, while fluctuating, have shown an increasing trend. In 1987 the divorce rate was at a low of 11 divorces per 1,000 married population. Since 1987, divorce rates, while still fluctuating, have shown an upward trend to a high of 13 in 1996. The divorce rate in 2000 was 12 (see page 49).

MARRIAGE RATES(a) AND DIVORCE RATES(b)



- (a) Per 1,000 unmarried men or women, aged 15 years and over.
- (b) Per 1,000 married men or women, aged 15 years and over.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL MAGISTRATES SERVICE

In September 2000 the Federal Magistrates Service was introduced. The Federal Magistrates Service was established to provide a simpler and accessible service for litigants and to ease the workload of both the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Court of Australia.

In 2001, the first full year of operation, 51% of all divorces granted were dealt with by the Federal Magistrates Service (see page 48).

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

The crude marriage rate in Australia of 5.3 per 1,000 population in 2001 was lower than in the United States of America (8.3 per 1,000 in 1998), the same as New Zealand (5.3 in 1998) and above that of the United Kingdom (5.1 in 1998) and Canada (5.1 in 1997) (see page 14).

The crude divorce rate in Australia was 2.8 per 1,000 population in 2001. It was lower than the United States of America (4.2 per 1,000 in 1998) and the United Kingdom (2.9 in 1996) and higher than New Zealand (2.7 in 1998) and Canada (2.3 in 1997) (see page 54).

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 9).

The likelihood of a marriage ending in divorce is increasing. If the 1997–1999 rates for marriage, widowhood, divorce, remarriage and mortality were applied to a newly-born group of babies 32% of their marriages would end in divorce. This is an increase on the proportion expected if 1985–1987 rates were applied (28%) (see pages 49).

AGE AT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The trend towards older age at marriage continued in 2001. The median age at marriage for men was 31 years, rising from 26 years in 1981. For women the median age rose to 29 years in 2001 from 23 years in 1981. The median age at first marriage also rose. In 2001 it was 29 years for men, increasing from 24 years in 1981. For women, the median age at first marriage was 27 years in 2001, increasing from 22 years in 1981 (see page 9).

In line with the increasing age at marriage the median age at divorce also rose. In 2001 the median age at divorce for men was 42 years (up from 36 years in 1981) and 39 years for women (up from 33 years in 1981) (see page 49).

DURATION OF MARRIAGE FOR DIVORCING COUPLES

In 2001, 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 five and six years (6%). In 2001 the median duration of marriage to divorce was 12 years, up from 10 years in 1981 (see page 50).

CHILDREN OF REMARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

In 2001, 33% each of grooms and brides who remarried had children (aged under 16 years) from previous marriages. This was double the proportions in 1981 when 16% of grooms and 17% of brides remarrying had children (see page 10).

The proportion of divorces involving children has fallen over the last 20 years. In 2001 51% of divorces granted involved children, down from 61% in 1981. However, because of the increase in the number of divorces (up by 34%) the number of children involved in divorce has increased. In 2001, 53,400 children were involved in divorce, up from 49,600 in 1981 (see page 51).

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

Marriages performed by civil celebrants now outnumber marriages performed by ministers of religion. In 2001, for the third successive year, 53% of all marriages were performed by civil celebrants, compared with 38% in 1981 (see page 11).

COHABITATION PRIOR TO MARRIAGE

The proportion of men and women choosing to cohabit prior to entering a registered marriage continued to rise. In 2001, 72% of couples indicated they had cohabited prior to marriage compared with 31% in 1981 (see page 11).

MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION

The estimated resident population, aged 15 years and over, by marital status at 30 June 2001 is not yet available. The total population, aged 15 years and over, is 15.5 million people at 30 June 2001. The latest available marital status estimates are at 30 June 2000 (see page 78).

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 78).

Between 1990 and 2000 the median age of the population, aged 15 years and over, 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 79).

CHAPTER 2

MARRIAGES

REGISTERED MARRIAGES

During 2001 there were 103,100 marriages registered in Australia. This was a 9% decrease on the number registered during 2000 (113,400) and the lowest number since 1978 (103,000). This decline was also the largest annual decrease since 1943, where the number of marriages registered declined by 21% from 86,100 in 1942 to 67,700.

All states and territories recorded declines in the number of marriages registered during 2001. When compared with 2000 the number of marriages registered in 2001 fell by 8% in New South Wales, 7% in Victoria, 11% in Queensland, 10% in South Australia, 11% in Western Australia, 16% in Tasmania, 9% in the Northern Territory and 9% in the Australian Capital Territory.

Prior to 2001, the number of marriages registered over the past two decades 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) Iran had the highest crude marriage rate (8.4 marriages per 1,000 population), followed by the United States of America (8.3), Egypt (8.2) and Thailand (7.9). The lowest crude marriage rate was recorded by Sweden (4.0), followed by Italy and Hong Kong (each 4.7) and France (4.8). The Australian crude marriage rate was 5.3 in 2001.

MARRIAGE TRENDS

The crude marriage rate for 2001 (5.3 marriages per 1,000 population) was 10% lower than the rate for 2000 (5.9). Over the past 20 years, the crude marriage rate has been downward, from 7.6 marriages per 1,000 population in 1981 to the current level.

States and territories

Queensland had the highest crude marriage rate of all states and territories in 2001 (5.6 per 1,000 population) 6% above the national rate (5.3) and 13% lower than in 2000 (6.4). For more than 20 years, the Northern Territory has consistently recorded the lowest crude marriage rate in Australia. In 2001 the rate was 3.9 per 1,000 population (26% below the rate for Australia).

LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY

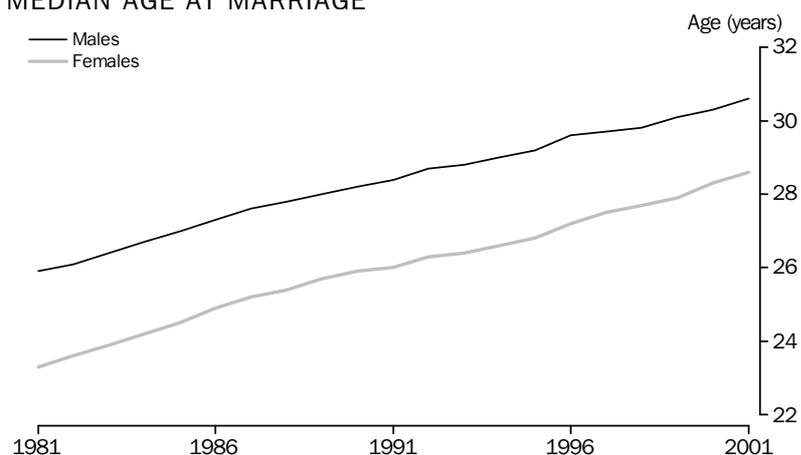
The proportion of people who will ever marry is declining. This has been estimated from the first marriage rates by age for never married persons for a given year. The calculations are based on net nuptiality tables, which are calculated on the principles of the life tables commonly used for the analysis 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. For further information see the special article: Lifetime marriage formation and marriage dissolution patterns in Australia in *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2000* (cat. no. 3310.0).

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 2001 (30.6 years). Although the median age for women marrying has not yet reached 30 years, it did increase between 2000 and 2001 from 28.3 years to 28.6 years. Twenty years ago the median age for men marrying was 25.9 years and for women 23.3 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 2001. The next most common relative age groups were men aged 25–29 years marrying women aged 20–24 (10%) and men aged 20–24 years marrying women aged 20–24 years (9%).

FIRST MARRIAGES

Marriages in which neither party had been previously married made up 67% of marriages in 2001 while a further 18% 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 2001 was 28.7 years, increasing from 24.4 years in 1981. For women, the median age at first marriage in 2001 was 26.9 years, increasing from 22.1 years in 1981.

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. While age-specific first marriage rates are not yet available for 2001, 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 18,900 (18%) marriages in 2001 in which one party had been previously married and 15,300 (15%) in which both partners were remarrying.

Remarriage rates for 2001 are not yet available, but the long-term trend shows that the incidence of remarriage is in decline. Between 1976 and 2000 (1980 data are not available) 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 (4.3 and 6.2 years, respectively) than previously divorced grooms and brides (3.4 and 3.8 years, respectively).

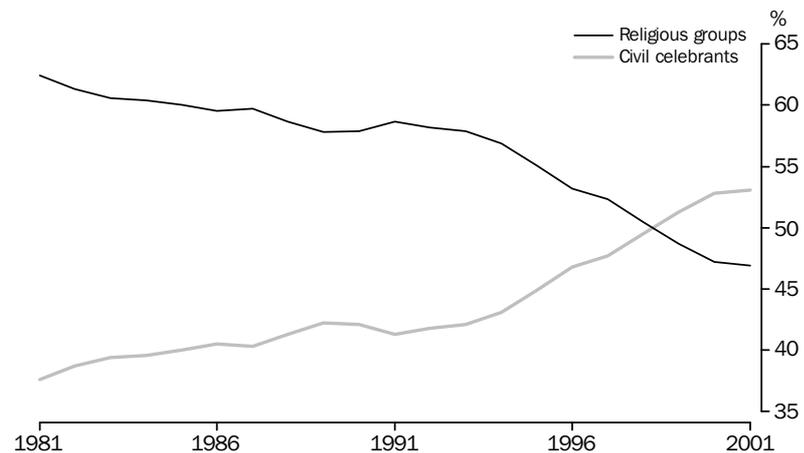
Children

Of the grooms and brides remarrying in 2001, 33% each of grooms and brides had children aged under 16 years from previous marriages. For grooms, 17% had one child and 16% had two or more children. For brides, the proportions were similar, 18% and 15%, respectively. These proportions are higher than 20 years ago. In 1981, 16% of grooms and 17% of brides had children from previous marriages. For both grooms and brides 7% had one children, while 9% of grooms and 10% of brides had two or more children.

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

In 2001, for the third 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 twentieth century under 10% of all marriages were performed by civil celebrants. By the mid-1970s the proportion had increased to around 30%.

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT(a)



(a) Data for 1995 are not available, and have been imputed.

New South Wales was the only state or territory in which marriages performed by ministers of religion marginally outnumbered those by civil celebrants during 2001 (18,200 compared with 17,900). The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of marriages performed by civil celebrants (73%).

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES MARRYING

Of the marriages registered in Australia in 2001, 62% were marriages where both parties were born in Australia, 8% were marriages to couples born in the same overseas country and 29% were marriages between men and women from different countries. In 1981 the comparative proportions were 66%, 6% and 28%, respectively.

PRE-MARRIAGE COHABITATION

Of all marriages registered in 2001 (103,100 marriages), 72% of couples (74,200 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 58% in 1991 and 31% in 1981.

States and territories

The majority of couples in all states and territories cohabited prior to marriage in 2001. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion (84%) while New South Wales had the lowest (68%).

2.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected years

		1981	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
ALL MARRIAGES									
Marriages registered	no.	113 905	113 869	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316	113 429	103 130
Crude marriage rate	rate	7.6	6.6	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.3
Previous marital status									
First marriage both partners	no.	77 640	76 811	70 438	71 042	73 743	76 440	75 503	68 987
First marriage one partner	no.	20 488	21 098	19 657	19 965	20 705	21 386	21 185	18 889
Remarriage both partners	no.	15 777	15 960	16 008	15 728	16 150	16 490	16 741	15 254
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	71 063	66 849	56 462	55 866	55 807	55 720	53 521	48 372
Proportion	%	62.4	58.7	53.2	52.3	50.5	48.7	47.2	46.9
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	42 842	47 020	49 641	50 869	54 791	58 596	59 908	54 758
Proportion	%	37.6	41.3	46.8	47.7	49.5	51.3	52.8	53.1

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

2.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected years *continued*

		1981	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
BRIDEGROOM									
Age-specific marriage rates(b)									
Age group (years)									
19 and under	rate	5.5	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9
20–24	rate	69.9	40.6	28.0	26.7	26.2	25.9	24.1	21.8
25–29	rate	49.0	53.0	49.2	48.9	50.8	51.3	50.2	47.2
30–34	rate	22.0	27.6	28.5	29.5	31.0	33.0	33.5	30.6
35–39	rate	13.5	14.9	15.3	15.7	16.4	17.5	17.3	16.2
40–44	rate	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.8	10.1	10.5	9.7
45–49	rate	7.1	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6	6.9
50 and over	rate	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.3
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	87 460	86 831	79 621	80 483	83 508	86 694	85 546	77 849
Widowed	no.	3 152	2 703	2 366	2 312	2 348	2 336	2 300	2 084
Divorced	no.	23 293	24 335	24 116	23 940	24 742	25 286	25 583	23 197
<i>Total</i>	no.	113 905	113 869	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316	113 429	103 130
Median age at marriage									
Never married	years	24.4	26.7	27.6	27.8	27.9	28.2	28.5	28.7
Widowed	years	59.1	61.9	62.6	62.3	61.4	62.0	62.1	61.9
Divorced	years	36.0	39.7	41.6	41.8	42.0	42.2	42.7	43.1
<i>Total</i>	years	25.9	28.4	29.6	29.7	29.8	30.1	30.3	30.6
BRIDE									
Age-specific marriage rates(b)									
Age group (years)									
19 and under	rate	29.5	9.2	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.2
20–24	rate	80.6	62.0	46.3	44.7	44.4	43.8	41.0	37.1
25–29	rate	33.0	45.0	46.6	47.7	50.2	52.1	51.5	48.0
30–34	rate	15.5	20.4	22.1	23.1	24.4	26.3	27.3	25.3
35–39	rate	10.0	11.1	11.4	11.5	12.1	13.0	13.3	12.0
40–44	rate	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.5	8.0	8.2	7.3
45–49	rate	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.2	5.6
50 and over	rate	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	88 308	87 889	80 912	81 566	84 683	87 572	86 645	79 014
Widowed	no.	3 727	3 070	2 747	2 535	2 664	2 662	2 543	2 336
Divorced	no.	21 870	22 910	22 444	22 634	23 251	24 082	24 241	21 780
<i>Total</i>	no.	113 905	113 869	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316	113 429	103 130
Median age at marriage									
Never married	years	22.1	24.5	25.7	25.9	26.2	26.4	26.7	26.9
Widowed	years	52.1	53.6	53.7	54.1	54.1	53.5	53.8	54.4
Divorced	years	32.9	36.1	38.0	38.2	38.4	38.6	39.1	39.5
<i>Total</i>	years	23.3	26.0	27.2	27.5	27.7	27.9	28.3	28.6

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 males or females, 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	2001	103 130	5.3
Canada	1997	153 306	5.1
Chile	1998	73 546	5.0
Egypt	1997	493 787	8.2
France	1999	285 400	4.8
Germany	1999	430 585	5.2
Greece	1999	67 623	6.4
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	1998	31 673	4.7
Indonesia	1986	1 249 034	7.4
Iran	1997	511 277	8.4
Ireland	1999	18 526	4.9
Italy	1997	273 111	4.7
Japan	1998	784 595	6.2
Korea, Republic of (South)	1998	306 853	6.6
Netherlands	1999	88 970	5.6
New Zealand	1998	20 135	5.3
Philippines	1993	474 407	7.1
Poland	1999	219 398	5.7
Singapore	1999	25 648	6.6
Sweden	1999	35 628	4.0
Thailand	1995	470 751	7.9
Turkey	1998	485 112	7.6
United Kingdom	1998	304 800	5.1
United States of America	1998	2 244 000	8.3
Yugoslavia	1998	52 927	5.0

(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: *United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1999* 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>	Total
BRIDEGROOM									
1976	9.9	123.3	150.2	118.5	91.5	70.1	54.5	23.7	62.9
1981	5.5	89.5	127.7	105.9	85.8	65.0	48.8	19.8	55.1
1986	2.4	63.6	109.0	94.5	73.9	59.7	50.0	18.4	47.6
1991	1.9	46.5	95.7	82.1	62.8	48.6	41.1	16.4	41.7
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
2001	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
BRIDE									
1976	49.1	190.7	166.3	130.0	93.4	66.4	46.5	6.4	61.1
1981	30.8	143.3	135.1	100.0	74.0	54.8	37.1	5.2	52.6
1986	15.2	113.0	127.3	91.5	65.2	48.2	35.7	4.8	45.8
1991	9.5	82.6	113.1	80.4	54.2	37.9	30.5	4.6	39.6
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
2001	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.

n.y.a. not yet available

(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	1986	1991	1996	1999	2000	2001
First marriage rates(a)								
Bridegrooms								
19 and under(b)	9.9	5.5	2.4	1.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	n.y.a.
20–24	122.6	88.9	63.4	46.6	30.4	27.3	25.4	n.y.a.
25–29	135.9	119.2	105.1	94.0	76.5	73.7	70.7	n.y.a.
30–34	81.8	78.4	77.6	73.0	66.9	71.2	71.0	n.y.a.
35–39	45.9	45.4	42.7	42.5	41.2	44.9	42.8	n.y.a.
40–44	25.5	24.0	22.2	21.7	22.0	23.6	23.6	n.y.a.
45–49	15.7	13.3	13.4	12.6	12.3	13.1	12.9	n.y.a.
50 and over	6.4	5.6	4.6	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.4	n.y.a.
Brides								
19 and under(b)	49.0	30.8	15.2	9.5	5.5	5.1	4.9	n.y.a.
20–24	187.5	141.2	112.0	82.4	56.0	50.3	46.6	n.y.a.
25–29	138.8	120.7	120.2	109.6	94.6	93.8	90.2	n.y.a.
30–34	86.5	71.5	74.0	69.4	67.3	72.5	74.6	n.y.a.
35–39	49.8	41.4	39.8	36.6	36.1	38.2	38.6	n.y.a.
40–44	26.3	21.9	22.9	16.8	17.9	19.2	20.1	n.y.a.
45–49	15.5	14.9	12.8	11.0	11.1	10.0	11.3	n.y.a.
50 and over	3.9	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.9	2.8	n.y.a.
Total first marriage rates(c)								
Bridegrooms	742.6	686.1	644.8	616.3	556.7	597.0	587.7	549.0
Brides	748.0	701.4	671.6	635.3	578.0	620.1	613.2	567.4
Remarriage rates(d)								
Bridegrooms								
19 and under(b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n.y.a.
20–24	245.4	181.7	100.6	29.8	56.6	55.7	47.9	n.y.a.
25–29	341.8	225.7	180.4	130.9	117.2	102.9	104.4	n.y.a.
30–34	294.8	194.9	162.1	131.2	115.3	108.8	102.8	n.y.a.
35–39	239.8	160.4	127.7	106.7	88.7	85.4	83.9	n.y.a.
40–44	184.6	123.4	102.8	80.0	65.2	60.8	62.1	n.y.a.
45–49	138.2	95.3	85.7	65.9	53.2	49.8	47.9	n.y.a.
50–54	98.1	68.7	60.3	51.3	44.6	41.3	41.1	n.y.a.
55–59	68.3	51.7	45.4	40.5	35.2	31.6	31.5	n.y.a.
60 and over	20.9	16.8	16.4	14.2	12.1	11.7	11.5	n.y.a.
Brides								
19 and under(b)	113.7	76.4	25.6	6.9	7.2	—	20.5	n.y.a.
20–24	295.8	222.4	172.0	96.5	105.0	101.8	96.2	n.y.a.
25–29	278.0	189.4	170.2	142.0	121.7	122.3	119.2	n.y.a.
30–34	201.0	135.1	119.4	107.3	93.9	98.0	95.5	n.y.a.
35–39	136.2	96.3	83.3	72.1	62.4	64.4	63.7	n.y.a.
40–44	94.0	70.7	59.5	49.3	42.6	42.9	42.2	n.y.a.
45–49	62.7	45.7	43.9	37.9	32.1	31.8	31.7	n.y.a.
50–54	31.5	25.9	24.0	23.8	22.3	20.5	21.7	n.y.a.
55–59	16.1	13.2	13.5	12.4	12.5	12.2	12.8	n.y.a.
60 and over	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.0	n.y.a.

n.y.a. not yet available

(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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	5	54	28	18	14	6	7	4	3	—	3	3
19	14	121	122	63	48	25	16	11	8	7	7	3
20	12	134	177	226	140	80	40	28	22	17	18	10
21	4	147	197	316	407	256	128	78	77	35	34	23
22	—	142	205	370	518	626	391	189	138	82	46	41
23	6	116	186	309	491	721	796	513	250	178	127	70
24	6	99	125	261	420	618	867	933	614	331	207	131
25	4	81	130	212	372	615	833	1 035	1 074	614	384	238
26	6	63	77	161	277	503	739	897	1 046	1 077	638	443
27	4	61	68	140	247	387	536	699	873	1 052	943	590
28	4	46	46	106	188	280	413	542	734	816	956	883
29	—	19	39	64	134	229	335	469	557	716	790	867
30	—	30	28	52	97	145	236	354	432	554	604	731
31	—	17	17	35	49	122	163	237	279	406	453	517
32	3	15	17	37	56	69	127	187	247	286	364	410
33	—	9	18	33	47	62	76	133	171	227	270	330
34	—	7	5	19	18	40	72	102	138	151	230	255
35	—	4	7	15	21	46	63	75	94	146	182	207
36	3	5	5	5	14	22	36	45	90	108	137	169
37	—	3	4	9	12	17	23	44	63	68	84	139
38	—	—	6	7	9	11	28	35	68	73	88	101
39	—	3	4	4	8	9	16	27	42	49	62	67
40	—	—	—	4	14	12	12	16	25	39	58	58
41	—	—	3	6	5	7	7	16	24	29	44	56
42	—	—	—	3	3	9	9	12	18	21	28	32
43	—	3	—	3	—	8	6	8	18	16	30	26
44	—	—	—	3	—	5	6	12	9	17	14	22
45	—	3	3	—	5	4	5	10	8	7	10	21
46	—	—	3	3	4	5	6	6	8	13	18	19
47	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	10	4	6	10	8
48	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	3	3	4	7	8
49	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	3	6	4	3	10
50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	11	—
51	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	5	3	—	5
52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5
53	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	—	3	4	4	9
54	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	3	—	3	—
55–59	—	—	—	3	4	5	—	3	4	7	10	10
60–64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	3	6
65 and over	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Total	71	1 182	1 525	2 489	3 643	4 952	6 015	6 754	7 166	7 169	6 882	6 529

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	5	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—
20	8	4	3	3	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	—
21	9	7	9	3	—	5	—	4	—	3	—	—
22	25	15	17	12	6	9	3	3	3	4	—	—
23	58	36	21	17	9	4	10	4	3	3	4	3
24	118	78	42	37	18	11	18	7	7	3	5	3
25	178	121	51	53	48	24	13	15	5	11	8	4
26	252	175	100	97	57	41	27	16	18	4	11	6
27	402	295	159	119	72	67	48	33	16	16	17	10
28	548	374	231	161	108	96	45	34	30	26	10	24
29	806	479	325	203	153	113	90	54	43	29	19	14
30	778	639	427	267	172	120	99	78	36	33	28	23
31	621	553	445	299	197	155	110	80	56	40	28	24
32	478	481	364	377	218	181	122	85	51	50	35	26
33	372	389	347	338	263	190	129	89	82	57	56	32
34	289	300	317	289	234	184	146	119	74	55	44	38
35	248	294	254	255	256	182	192	118	76	66	59	37
36	198	208	209	214	199	175	168	156	97	71	64	45
37	163	161	147	174	164	163	140	147	125	110	69	65
38	131	145	144	158	176	141	146	139	124	122	100	67
39	101	112	112	122	117	111	111	142	114	102	111	87
40	81	100	95	101	99	104	99	114	112	108	97	88
41	61	76	77	96	87	77	88	90	89	103	85	79
42	55	49	64	61	66	71	64	71	84	72	91	79
43	48	36	42	40	57	60	78	81	68	68	89	85
44	28	27	38	48	38	51	43	46	63	69	66	73
45	27	28	28	31	37	45	46	40	54	57	62	66
46	23	27	24	29	27	22	39	32	46	44	48	58
47	9	23	16	25	26	18	22	29	35	42	58	45
48	7	16	15	13	25	27	31	33	31	38	40	40
49	13	9	14	19	7	20	20	23	34	25	35	40
50	11	10	9	16	13	22	16	20	26	22	39	26
51	4	8	14	11	11	10	14	15	16	19	19	25
52	6	9	7	5	10	11	12	11	21	21	26	16
53	8	7	11	9	11	10	12	16	9	11	13	18
54	4	6	3	8	14	4	13	7	16	20	17	25
55–59	10	17	11	10	21	19	25	29	22	34	36	30
60–64	9	9	3	5	7	7	8	11	7	15	11	14
65 and over	—	3	—	3	3	6	8	4	5	4	5	7
Total	6 192	5 328	4 199	3 727	3 029	2 562	2 257	1 998	1 699	1 577	1 507	1 322

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	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	—	3	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	6	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
26	3	5	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	—
27	3	6	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
28	5	7	8	8	—	—	3	3	3	—	—	—
29	8	8	7	4	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
30	18	14	10	5	5	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
31	12	11	9	7	10	3	4	—	—	3	—	—
32	19	11	5	5	6	4	—	3	5	—	3	—
33	27	18	18	6	9	5	6	4	3	—	3	4
34	24	25	14	8	9	6	5	—	3	—	—	—
35	18	19	18	14	15	7	9	7	7	3	3	—
36	35	33	19	15	13	15	4	6	6	3	—	—
37	49	31	20	23	15	10	7	6	9	6	—	3
38	52	39	29	24	16	13	13	13	10	6	3	3
39	59	56	37	33	28	21	12	16	10	13	7	3
40	65	55	48	33	26	23	18	14	13	8	—	—
41	67	61	52	50	38	25	18	22	9	9	9	6
42	87	67	46	30	28	34	29	27	16	14	6	5
43	61	52	69	60	35	31	30	18	23	20	7	5
44	72	64	71	45	44	26	32	26	16	12	14	9
45	57	53	74	58	67	41	34	35	25	22	9	8
46	48	45	63	67	60	58	48	25	31	16	12	8
47	33	54	50	43	46	52	50	33	39	20	21	14
48	50	50	41	53	41	49	45	43	32	21	17	21
49	30	38	50	35	44	52	51	46	43	47	24	27
50	39	46	42	49	47	44	52	48	51	51	25	20
51	35	32	37	51	32	40	37	41	38	41	32	36
52	21	22	30	29	38	42	35	44	48	36	39	37
53	17	30	25	27	44	33	46	31	52	38	44	37
54	26	17	21	20	28	37	29	52	37	43	35	46
55–59	59	65	74	59	64	86	86	95	109	120	109	118
60–64	16	15	17	28	24	38	30	35	51	63	52	53
65 and over	7	14	12	13	12	18	21	25	27	33	31	40
Total	1 125	1 080	1 026	909	854	821	764	724	718	651	507	507

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	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	—	—	—	—	—	149
19	—	—	—	—	—	459
20	—	—	—	—	—	936
21	—	—	—	—	—	1 749
22	—	—	—	—	—	2 846
23	—	—	—	—	—	3 944
24	—	—	—	—	—	4 965
25	—	—	3	—	—	6 141
26	—	—	—	—	—	6 750
27	3	—	—	—	—	6 875
28	3	—	—	—	—	6 742
29	—	—	—	—	—	6 583
30	—	—	—	—	—	6 027
31	—	—	—	—	—	4 965
32	—	3	—	—	—	4 346
33	—	—	3	—	—	3 825
34	—	—	3	—	—	3 227
35	—	3	3	—	—	3 016
36	4	—	—	—	—	2 597
37	—	3	3	—	3	2 279
38	—	—	—	—	—	2 241
39	—	3	—	—	—	1 934
40	—	3	4	—	—	1 751
41	3	5	5	3	—	1 586
42	7	—	5	3	—	1 367
43	5	7	8	—	—	1 302
44	5	4	6	—	—	1 130
45	9	4	13	—	—	1 106
46	6	9	17	3	—	1 016
47	13	3	12	8	3	888
48	11	8	20	3	—	856
49	8	15	22	4	—	827
50	20	15	36	3	—	843
51	15	10	37	6	—	712
52	23	28	49	12	—	704
53	31	36	54	11	4	727
54	32	31	73	12	—	694
55-59	134	125	368	93	38	2 115
60-64	74	65	272	199	67	1 224
65 and over	37	43	247	322	729	1 685
Total	446	424	1 262	688	850	103 130

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	—	—	—	—	71	—	—	71
18	149	—	—	149	1 180	—	3	1 182
19	459	—	—	459	1 525	—	—	1 525
20	936	—	—	936	2 479	—	10	2 489
21	1 749	—	—	1 749	3 622	3	18	3 643
22	2 839	—	7	2 846	4 920	3	31	4 952
23	3 933	—	11	3 944	5 936	—	78	6 015
24	4 937	—	28	4 965	6 633	—	119	6 754
25	6 082	—	57	6 141	6 971	—	194	7 166
26	6 644	—	104	6 750	6 908	6	255	7 169
27	6 699	—	174	6 875	6 433	9	440	6 882
28	6 464	—	277	6 742	5 930	11	588	6 529
29	6 197	7	379	6 583	5 433	22	737	6 192
30	5 509	5	513	6 027	4 517	22	789	5 328
31	4 360	8	597	4 965	3 310	17	872	4 199
32	3 648	5	693	4 346	2 723	25	979	3 727
33	3 060	9	756	3 825	2 088	23	918	3 029
34	2 436	17	774	3 227	1 619	32	911	2 562
35	2 166	14	836	3 016	1 315	35	907	2 257
36	1 684	16	897	2 597	1 085	47	866	1 998
37	1 367	14	898	2 279	794	33	872	1 699
38	1 243	20	978	2 241	642	42	893	1 577
39	981	28	925	1 934	559	51	897	1 507
40	820	24	907	1 751	427	56	839	1 322
41	680	20	886	1 586	362	33	730	1 125
42	492	25	850	1 367	272	51	757	1 080
43	434	21	847	1 302	233	43	750	1 026
44	324	21	785	1 130	184	36	689	909
45	263	26	817	1 106	148	49	657	854
46	213	23	780	1 016	127	57	637	821
47	171	36	681	888	95	55	614	764
48	133	35	688	856	74	64	586	724
49	135	43	649	827	73	70	575	718
50	91	50	702	843	67	79	505	651
51	82	44	586	712	40	45	422	507
52	53	45	606	704	34	64	409	507
53	52	44	631	727	19	57	370	446
54	61	59	574	694	28	70	326	424
55	35	51	416	502	26	62	260	348
56	41	55	381	477	14	56	197	267
57	23	55	349	427	15	64	166	245
58	21	58	294	373	12	51	136	199
59	30	50	256	336	9	60	134	203
60	8	53	249	310	8	51	96	155
61	14	59	181	254	8	67	86	161
62	14	56	168	238	5	58	88	151
63	14	51	152	217	7	40	68	115
64	18	56	131	205	4	49	53	106

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	56	128	194	6	56	44	106
66	7	74	85	166	3	56	28	87
67	5	46	76	127	—	43	31	76
68	12	59	77	148	3	41	24	68
69	4	44	58	106	—	32	24	56
70	5	54	46	105	3	34	22	59
71	10	45	42	97	3	38	16	57
72	3	50	34	86	—	32	10	43
73	6	44	35	85	4	26	9	39
74	4	41	29	74	—	34	9	43
75 and over	19	361	117	497	5	174	37	216
Total	77 849	2 084	23 197	103 130	79 014	2 336	21 780	103 130

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>	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total(a)	<i>Australia</i>	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total(a)
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia (incl. ET)	64 373	..	11 362	75 741	64 373	..	12 612	76 986
Fiji	102	220	53	376	119	220	140	479
New Zealand	1 842	550	542	2 934	1 378	550	495	2 423
Papua New Guinea	187	8	57	252	175	8	58	241
Other	119	146	87	352	55	146	85	286
<i>Total</i>	66 623	924	12 101	79 655	66 100	924	13 390	80 415
North-West Europe								
Austria	48	19	35	102	36	19	24	79
Denmark	46	10	25	81	33	10	17	60
France	95	9	59	163	94	9	47	150
Germany	302	147	197	646	286	147	142	575
Ireland	198	41	91	330	138	41	73	252
Netherlands	250	58	112	420	179	58	60	297
Switzerland	47	32	31	110	52	32	33	117
United Kingdom	4 395	1 539	1 153	7 087	3 114	1 539	659	5 312
Other	86	53	41	181	113	53	54	220
<i>Total</i>	5 467	1 908	1 744	9 120	4 045	1 908	1 109	7 062
Southern and Eastern Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	38	75	42	155	22	75	32	129
Croatia	70	37	58	165	68	37	48	153
Cyprus	62	9	18	89	38	9	13	60
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	71	26	23	121	53	26	29	108
Greece	134	46	59	239	59	46	28	133
Hungary	25	25	29	79	32	25	23	80
Italy	300	57	138	495	112	57	48	217
Malta	72	12	39	123	60	12	21	93
Poland	73	126	61	260	126	126	60	312
Portugal	43	20	22	85	31	20	23	74
Romania	23	42	25	90	28	42	19	89
Russian Federation	10	29	35	75	100	29	112	241
Spain	33	6	38	77	39	6	22	67
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	75	41	65	181	56	41	62	159
Other	78	170	41	289	108	170	95	373
<i>Total</i>	1 107	721	693	2 523	932	721	635	2 288
North Africa and the Middle East								
Egypt	63	36	70	169	30	36	32	98
Iran	37	69	42	148	20	69	31	120
Iraq	31	127	39	197	11	127	24	162
Israel	46	10	32	88	31	10	11	52
Lebanon	429	202	78	709	169	202	72	443
Syria	37	21	19	77	15	21	25	61
Turkey	103	79	42	224	55	79	24	158
Other	81	22	74	177	35	22	50	107
<i>Total</i>	827	566	396	1 789	366	566	269	1 201

.. 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>	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>Australia</i>	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	<i>Total(a)</i>
South-East Asia								
Cambodia	18	79	63	160	29	79	42	150
Indonesia	62	246	63	371	184	246	198	628
Laos	13	38	28	79	21	38	44	103
Malaysia	144	123	219	486	267	123	229	619
Philippines	95	354	68	518	571	354	318	1 243
Singapore	85	38	71	194	142	38	97	277
Thailand	16	80	36	132	299	80	240	619
Viet Nam	64	1 229	184	1 477	166	1 229	241	1 636
Other	22	101	45	168	34	101	40	175
<i>Total</i>	<i>519</i>	<i>2 288</i>	<i>777</i>	<i>3 585</i>	<i>1 713</i>	<i>2 288</i>	<i>1 449</i>	<i>5 450</i>
North-East Asia								
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	36	689	185	910	234	689	340	1 263
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	55	157	194	406	85	157	158	400
Japan	33	178	24	235	279	178	166	623
Korea, Republic of (South)	12	246	28	286	96	246	91	433
Other	7	73	54	134	39	73	78	190
<i>Total</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>1 343</i>	<i>485</i>	<i>1 971</i>	<i>733</i>	<i>1 343</i>	<i>833</i>	<i>2 909</i>
Southern and Central Asia								
India	226	188	237	651	114	188	99	401
Pakistan	40	21	75	136	12	21	7	40
Sri Lanka	101	139	60	300	56	139	41	236
Other	36	87	69	192	27	87	66	180
<i>Total</i>	<i>403</i>	<i>435</i>	<i>441</i>	<i>1 279</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>435</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>857</i>
Americas								
Argentina	47	14	37	98	37	14	29	80
Canada	301	37	74	413	273	37	86	396
Caribbean	25	3	15	41	14	3	6	21
Central America	44	27	33	104	47	27	47	121
Chile	63	61	57	181	67	61	62	190
United States of America	633	86	218	937	479	86	174	739
Uruguay	35	10	23	68	38	10	19	67
Other	100	61	67	228	144	61	106	311
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 248</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>524</i>	<i>2 070</i>	<i>1 099</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>1 925</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	36	9	20	65	34	9	21	64
Mauritius	44	28	34	106	37	28	35	100
South Africa	349	98	113	560	338	98	118	554
Zimbabwe	69	—	24	94	55	—	25	81
Other	150	72	87	309	74	72	63	209
<i>Total</i>	<i>648</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>278</i>	<i>1 134</i>	<i>538</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>1 008</i>
Other and not stated	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	15
Total	76 985	8 690	17 439	103 130	75 735	8 690	18 689	103 130

(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. ET)	407	11 440	26 165	16 461	8 047	4 772	3 121	5 328	75 741	30.0
Fiji	10	97	109	60	40	30	12	18	376	28.4
New Zealand	18	295	791	665	450	294	166	255	2 934	32.5
Papua New Guinea	—	27	87	85	28	18	—	5	252	30.6
Other	5	61	106	61	51	36	19	13	352	30.3
<i>Total</i>	440	11 920	27 258	17 332	8 616	5 150	3 320	5 619	79 655	30.0
North-West Europe										
Austria	—	6	10	19	16	7	8	36	102	40.5
Denmark	—	5	15	20	11	8	4	17	81	n.p.
France	—	7	38	46	27	13	5	27	163	34.0
Germany	3	32	94	132	104	53	47	183	646	37.9
Ireland	—	20	89	88	45	25	17	46	330	32.9
Netherlands	—	18	67	63	43	30	38	161	420	43.1
Switzerland	—	6	20	38	24	14	—	8	110	33.7
United Kingdom	7	335	1 197	1 653	1 362	750	526	1 257	7 087	36.1
Other	—	7	49	49	24	15	8	29	181	33.8
<i>Total</i>	9	436	1 579	2 108	1 656	915	653	1 764	9 120	36.1
Southern and Eastern Europe										
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	35	34	35	21	11	7	9	155	30.6
Croatia	—	19	27	37	20	15	9	37	165	34.9
Cyprus	—	11	24	24	8	6	7	8	89	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	—	15	29	38	18	6	3	11	121	31.8
Greece	3	11	35	38	51	24	22	57	239	38.2
Hungary	—	5	12	10	3	5	15	29	79	n.p.
Italy	3	24	65	67	79	59	39	160	495	40.7
Malta	—	5	18	6	13	12	19	50	123	47.5
Poland	3	29	65	34	23	21	35	50	260	34.7
Portugal	—	12	36	9	9	8	4	7	85	n.p.
Romania	3	18	22	10	10	11	8	8	90	n.p.
Russian Federation	—	12	12	12	10	9	5	14	75	n.p.
Spain	—	6	22	11	10	9	—	17	77	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	—	14	31	50	24	15	12	35	181	34.3
Other	—	35	66	33	38	25	23	69	289	36.5
<i>Total</i>	16	251	498	414	337	236	210	561	2 523	36.2
North Africa and the Middle East										
Egypt	3	21	30	40	22	20	10	25	169	34.2
Iran	3	19	29	37	31	21	4	6	148	33.4
Iraq	—	22	73	57	21	9	7	7	197	30.2
Israel	—	16	35	17	6	4	5	4	88	n.p.
Lebanon	13	207	240	115	68	24	8	34	709	27.5
Syria	—	17	22	21	7	—	4	—	77	n.p.
Turkey	4	37	72	42	36	14	6	13	224	29.9
Other	3	34	62	25	27	13	6	7	177	29.0
<i>Total</i>	26	373	563	354	218	107	50	98	1 789	29.3

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	3	29	55	34	12	6	8	13	160	28.8
Indonesia	6	70	138	72	33	12	16	24	371	28.8
Laos	—	8	21	25	13	4	—	6	79	n.p.
Malaysia	3	57	176	104	52	33	25	36	486	30.4
Philippines	6	90	184	106	46	35	17	34	518	29.3
Singapore	—	20	79	47	22	14	6	6	194	29.9
Thailand	6	31	33	27	13	9	8	5	132	29.4
Viet Nam	26	242	543	310	172	89	53	42	1 477	29.3
Other	—	18	50	42	26	19	3	10	168	31.7
Total	50	565	1 279	767	389	221	138	176	3 585	29.6
North-East Asia										
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	19	74	185	197	173	116	65	81	910	34.4
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	5	52	141	90	62	22	11	23	406	30.3
Japan	—	16	106	70	26	4	9	4	235	29.8
Korea, Republic of (South)	3	22	105	63	28	23	10	34	286	30.7
Other	3	33	64	20	8	3	—	3	134	27.4
Total	27	197	601	440	297	168	96	145	1 971	31.5
Southern and Central Asia										
India	17	163	199	118	61	33	17	43	651	28.5
Pakistan	—	23	53	26	19	8	—	5	136	29.3
Sri Lanka	—	41	96	82	33	16	16	16	300	30.5
Other	5	55	56	36	19	9	9	3	192	28.4
Total	22	282	404	262	132	66	44	67	1 279	29.1
Americas										
Argentina	—	15	29	19	16	4	6	9	98	n.p.
Canada	3	45	133	93	59	31	24	25	413	30.9
Caribbean	—	3	7	10	9	5	4	3	41	n.p.
Central America	3	31	38	15	5	7	5	—	104	27.1
Chile	3	22	59	35	13	17	8	24	181	30.4
United States of America	6	127	193	199	135	98	66	113	937	33.4
Uruguay	—	5	22	16	8	5	3	9	68	n.p.
Other	—	36	52	49	37	23	13	17	228	32.4
Total	16	284	533	436	282	190	129	200	2 070	31.9
Sub-Saharan Africa										
Kenya	—	9	13	18	11	7	—	5	65	n.p.
Mauritius	—	13	18	21	26	10	6	12	106	35.3
South Africa	—	70	222	131	41	26	24	45	560	29.5
Zimbabwe	—	14	36	22	9	7	5	—	94	n.p.
Other	3	26	85	83	53	33	16	11	309	32.1
Total	3	132	374	275	140	83	53	74	1 134	30.9
Other and not stated	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	n.p.
Total	609	14 440	33 091	22 390	12 067	7 136	4 693	8 704	103 130	30.6

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. ET)	1 895	19 368	26 723	13 814	5 946	3 419	2 454	3 367	76 986	28.1
Fiji	57	136	82	71	53	42	27	11	479	27.1
New Zealand	49	402	717	497	316	178	121	143	2 423	30.4
Papua New Guinea	3	40	104	50	20	12	7	5	241	28.5
Other	16	68	67	58	36	26	9	6	286	29.5
<i>Total</i>	2 020	20 014	27 693	14 490	6 371	3 677	2 618	3 532	80 415	28.1
North-West Europe										
Austria	3	12	18	10	10	11	4	13	79	n.p.
Denmark	—	6	16	16	8	3	4	6	60	n.p.
France	—	16	51	37	14	12	3	16	150	31.2
Germany	4	35	129	135	77	49	39	107	575	34.3
Ireland	—	24	92	58	30	17	12	18	252	30.8
Netherlands	3	26	59	52	19	26	35	77	297	38.1
Switzerland	—	13	36	30	13	10	7	8	117	31.4
United Kingdom	20	505	1 118	1 160	883	496	413	717	5 312	34.3
Other	—	27	70	48	28	15	10	21	220	31.3
<i>Total</i>	32	664	1 589	1 546	1 082	639	527	983	7 062	34.0
Southern and Eastern Europe										
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11	54	25	12	12	5	4	6	129	25.0
Croatia	5	37	22	32	16	17	12	12	153	32.4
Cyprus	—	10	24	9	3	4	5	5	60	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	8	36	16	25	4	8	4	7	108	27.5
Greece	3	10	16	21	20	21	12	30	133	38.8
Hungary	—	9	24	7	5	4	8	22	80	n.p.
Italy	3	15	34	44	29	26	24	43	217	36.6
Malta	—	9	18	7	11	15	13	20	93	n.p.
Poland	3	67	100	33	18	27	22	43	312	29.2
Portugal	—	27	18	11	8	3	5	—	74	n.p.
Romania	8	24	16	15	9	5	5	7	89	n.p.
Russian Federation	11	50	46	40	32	26	16	20	241	31.9
Spain	—	10	28	15	6	4	3	3	67	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	10	17	39	26	21	16	9	21	159	31.6
Other	11	86	103	51	32	25	27	38	373	29.3
<i>Total</i>	74	461	529	348	226	206	169	275	2 288	31.1
North Africa and the Middle East										
Egypt	5	28	17	14	10	9	4	11	98	n.p.
Iran	7	29	28	21	21	6	3	5	120	29.3
Iraq	25	62	35	16	10	7	5	—	162	24.6
Israel	4	15	16	7	3	3	4	—	52	n.p.
Lebanon	154	82	81	57	30	20	12	7	443	24.1
Syria	18	17	8	3	6	4	4	—	61	n.p.
Turkey	30	36	32	31	12	8	5	4	158	27.5
Other	25	24	30	15	7	3	3	3	107	25.6
<i>Total</i>	268	293	247	164	99	57	40	33	1 201	25.7

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).....								Total	Median age years
	19 and under	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50 and over		
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.		
South-East Asia										
Cambodia	12	40	49	21	11	8	6	3	150	27.3
Indonesia	13	196	225	91	37	31	19	16	628	27.2
Laos	—	31	43	15	3	4	4	3	103	27.1
Malaysia	9	123	212	118	57	55	22	23	619	29.0
Philippines	21	203	313	215	168	138	81	104	1 243	31.8
Singapore	7	41	122	51	20	12	14	10	277	28.7
Thailand	23	102	161	151	87	57	25	13	619	30.7
Viet Nam	103	453	571	257	112	68	40	32	1 636	26.9
Other	4	37	60	42	13	11	3	5	175	28.4
<i>Total</i>	193	1 226	1 756	961	508	384	214	208	5 450	28.5
North-East Asia										
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	40	147	288	260	224	166	90	48	1 263	32.7
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	15	59	144	90	44	33	12	3	400	29.1
Japan	3	74	307	150	51	22	6	10	623	28.8
Korea, Republic of (South)	5	62	176	95	34	25	17	19	433	29.0
Other	7	59	83	27	5	7	—	—	190	26.7
<i>Total</i>	70	401	998	622	358	253	127	80	2 909	29.9
Southern and Central Asia										
India	11	103	120	67	33	20	17	30	401	28.0
Pakistan	6	15	6	3	3	—	4	3	40	n.p.
Sri Lanka	6	64	80	33	23	15	8	7	236	27.7
Other	19	63	48	18	16	8	4	4	180	25.7
<i>Total</i>	42	245	254	121	75	44	33	43	857	27.4
Americas										
Argentina	—	18	29	15	5	—	—	10	80	n.p.
Canada	7	72	100	89	60	32	17	19	396	30.6
Caribbean	—	3	8	4	4	3	—	3	21	n.p.
Central America	10	43	34	13	7	6	5	3	121	26.3
Chile	7	26	59	42	17	14	11	14	190	30.2
United States of America	27	118	155	162	91	66	58	62	739	31.8
Uruguay	—	9	20	19	5	5	3	6	67	n.p.
Other	4	54	106	60	38	14	20	15	311	29.6
<i>Total</i>	55	341	511	404	227	141	115	131	1 925	30.4
Sub-Saharan Africa										
Kenya	3	17	14	6	7	9	4	6	64	n.p.
Mauritius	5	28	22	14	11	10	6	4	100	29.1
South Africa	7	113	214	103	41	25	20	31	554	28.6
Zimbabwe	3	16	32	14	8	5	3	—	81	n.p.
Other	6	31	75	50	24	12	5	6	209	29.5
<i>Total</i>	22	205	357	187	91	61	37	48	1 008	28.8
Other and not stated	3	3	4	3	3	—	—	3	15	n.p.
Total	2 778	23 853	33 938	18 845	9 038	5 462	3 881	5 335	103 130	28.6

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. ET)	3	—	—	—	—	3	75 738	75 741	n.p.
Fiji	176	118	43	7	3	29	—	376	9.7
New Zealand	1 185	883	553	125	22	166	—	2 934	12.0
Papua New Guinea	27	35	118	37	5	30	—	252	25.2
Other	212	72	29	3	—	34	—	352	6.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 601</i>	<i>1 108</i>	<i>743</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>75 738</i>	<i>79 655</i>	<i>n.p.</i>
North-West Europe									
Austria	35	12	9	18	25	3	—	102	25.5
Denmark	32	16	18	9	3	3	—	81	n.p.
France	75	19	26	30	5	8	—	163	10.8
Germany	246	86	79	67	125	43	—	646	18.0
Ireland	177	56	42	25	11	19	—	330	6.5
Netherlands	133	39	41	60	128	19	—	420	25.9
Switzerland	66	14	11	8	3	9	—	110	1.9
United Kingdom	2 545	943	1 374	1 409	452	364	—	7 087	19.2
Other	113	12	15	21	13	7	—	181	1.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>3 422</i>	<i>1 197</i>	<i>1 615</i>	<i>1 647</i>	<i>764</i>	<i>475</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>9 120</i>	<i>18.4</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	113	6	7	13	—	15	—	155	5.6
Croatia	56	17	19	46	19	8	—	165	23.2
Cyprus	13	11	38	6	5	16	—	89	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	23	27	28	26	3	15	—	121	22.2
Greece	39	15	59	74	26	26	—	239	29.4
Hungary	14	15	10	3	31	6	—	79	n.p.
Italy	106	27	72	136	110	44	—	495	31.3
Malta	5	16	24	32	36	10	—	123	35.6
Poland	60	114	45	13	15	13	—	260	16.9
Portugal	15	32	25	8	—	5	—	85	n.p.
Romania	27	45	10	—	3	6	—	90	n.p.
Russian Federation	54	5	9	3	3	—	—	75	n.p.
Spain	15	14	20	14	3	11	—	77	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	53	17	30	56	10	15	—	181	27.6
Other	121	50	43	29	30	16	—	289	12.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>714</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>439</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>292</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>2 523</i>	<i>20.4</i>
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	72	28	17	25	9	18	—	169	11.5
Iran	60	62	13	5	—	8	—	148	11.4
Iraq	156	17	8	5	—	11	—	197	5.7
Israel	49	15	8	5	4	7	—	88	n.p.
Lebanon	335	105	120	41	—	107	—	709	5.9
Syria	48	6	7	5	—	11	—	77	n.p.
Turkey	78	46	47	24	—	27	—	224	13.2
Other	114	22	13	9	4	15	—	177	3.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>912</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1 789</i>	<i>6.8</i>

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	59	68	20	—	—	13	—	160	14.5
Indonesia	216	65	37	4	10	39	—	371	6.2
Laos	16	26	32	—	—	5	—	79	n.p.
Malaysia	149	165	107	42	5	18	—	486	14.1
Philippines	219	180	68	5	—	46	—	518	10.8
Singapore	67	42	60	13	3	10	—	194	14.8
Thailand	71	32	12	3	—	14	—	132	7.6
Viet Nam	495	621	289	4	—	68	—	1 477	12.7
Other	93	33	24	10	—	7	—	168	6.8
Total	1 385	1 232	649	81	18	220	—	3 585	11.9
North-East Asia									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	466	337	31	8	10	58	—	910	8.5
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	143	147	73	12	3	29	—	406	12.2
Japan	197	17	8	4	3	7	—	235	0.8
Korea, Republic of (South)	157	84	31	3	—	11	—	286	7.9
Other	70	51	5	—	—	6	—	134	8.7
Total	1 033	636	148	28	15	111	—	1 971	8.2
Southern and Central Asia									
India	412	80	62	45	8	44	—	651	3.8
Pakistan	98	21	5	3	—	10	—	136	4.0
Sri Lanka	152	70	36	20	4	18	—	300	7.3
Other	144	16	13	4	—	15	—	192	4.1
Total	806	187	116	71	12	87	—	1 279	4.6
Americas									
Argentina	23	18	50	3	—	4	—	98	n.p.
Canada	259	44	59	21	5	25	—	413	1.5
Caribbean	22	5	7	3	—	4	—	41	n.p.
Central America	41	52	3	3	—	6	—	104	11.1
Chile	34	64	59	11	—	13	—	181	16.8
United States of America	690	62	83	23	10	69	—	937	0.8
Uruguay	6	11	35	9	—	7	—	68	n.p.
Other	137	31	30	8	—	21	—	228	4.0
Total	1 212	287	325	81	16	149	—	2 070	2.5
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	29	10	12	11	—	3	—	65	n.p.
Mauritius	31	31	10	27	—	6	—	106	15.3
South Africa	226	149	128	20	—	35	—	560	13.3
Zimbabwe	32	36	18	3	—	6	—	94	n.p.
Other	174	49	35	25	—	25	—	309	4.8
Total	492	275	203	85	4	75	—	1 134	11.6
Other and not stated	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	n.p.
Total	11 577	5 635	4 471	2 743	1 173	1 793	75 738	103 130	(a)11.8

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

(a) Excludes Australia (incl. ET).

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. ET)	3	—	—	—	—	3	76 982	76 986	n.p.
Fiji	247	151	30	6	—	44	—	479	7.9
New Zealand	922	761	461	80	17	182	—	2 423	12.4
Papua New Guinea	32	42	107	19	6	35	—	241	22.4
Other	163	61	24	7	—	30	—	286	6.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 365</i>	<i>1 015</i>	<i>622</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>76 982</i>	<i>80 415</i>	<i>n.p.</i>
North-West Europe									
Austria	36	5	11	11	13	3	—	79	n.p.
Denmark	30	14	5	6	3	3	—	60	n.p.
France	74	17	33	12	3	12	—	150	6.5
Germany	251	87	70	50	79	38	—	575	12.8
Ireland	127	62	29	13	7	14	—	252	6.9
Netherlands	99	41	37	28	71	21	—	297	19.8
Switzerland	78	12	12	5	3	7	—	117	1.1
United Kingdom	1 765	840	1 149	984	251	323	—	5 312	19.3
Other	147	12	15	25	8	13	—	220	1.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>2 607</i>	<i>1 090</i>	<i>1 361</i>	<i>1 134</i>	<i>437</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>7 062</i>	<i>17.6</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	98	8	7	6	—	10	—	129	5.3
Croatia	71	14	16	37	5	10	—	153	11.5
Cyprus	8	11	24	—	3	12	—	60	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	28	25	25	15	—	14	—	108	15.7
Greece	18	15	23	46	13	18	—	133	30.2
Hungary	32	16	6	5	13	8	—	80	n.p.
Italy	40	14	45	48	44	26	—	217	29.5
Malta	7	14	24	19	21	8	—	93	n.p.
Poland	137	96	31	11	8	29	—	312	11.1
Portugal	15	34	16	5	—	4	—	74	n.p.
Romania	31	45	3	—	—	9	—	89	n.p.
Russian Federation	195	15	7	—	—	24	—	241	1.0
Spain	18	15	18	10	—	6	—	67	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	64	21	23	28	—	22	—	159	13.5
Other	233	56	26	15	9	34	—	373	2.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>995</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>294</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>234</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>2 288</i>	<i>11.0</i>
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	20	27	14	19	7	11	—	98	n.p.
Iran	49	53	10	—	—	7	—	120	10.9
Iraq	128	14	6	3	—	11	—	162	3.4
Israel	21	14	10	3	—	4	—	52	n.p.
Lebanon	174	106	72	21	—	70	—	443	11.0
Syria	32	14	4	—	—	10	—	61	n.p.
Turkey	63	29	27	13	—	26	—	158	12.1
Other	59	30	5	3	—	9	—	107	5.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>546</i>	<i>287</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1 201</i>	<i>9.1</i>

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	69	57	15	—	—	9	—	150	11.3
Indonesia	492	59	15	—	3	58	—	628	2.9
Laos	27	25	42	—	—	9	—	103	19.1
Malaysia	283	155	92	31	3	55	—	619	9.9
Philippines	679	332	88	5	—	138	—	1 243	5.5
Singapore	136	47	54	10	3	27	—	277	7.2
Thailand	451	66	27	4	—	70	—	619	1.0
Viet Nam	718	564	243	5	—	105	—	1 636	10.4
Other	95	46	22	3	—	9	—	175	7.2
Total	2 950	1 351	598	58	13	480	—	5 450	6.3
North-East Asia									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	929	195	15	6	3	115	—	1 263	2.8
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	195	116	51	6	3	29	—	400	9.2
Japan	542	26	6	3	3	45	—	623	1.5
Korea, Republic of (South)	313	58	30	5	—	27	—	433	2.7
Other	126	41	—	—	—	20	—	190	4.9
Total	2 105	436	104	21	7	236	—	2 909	2.9
Southern and Central Asia									
India	218	60	43	31	9	40	—	401	4.1
Pakistan	18	12	8	3	—	—	—	40	n.p.
Sri Lanka	107	78	27	6	—	17	—	236	10.3
Other	126	30	15	—	—	8	—	180	3.1
Total	469	180	93	40	10	65	—	857	5.4
Americas									
Argentina	21	21	27	3	—	8	—	80	n.p.
Canada	247	40	57	18	—	33	—	396	1.9
Caribbean	10	3	5	3	—	—	—	21	n.p.
Central America	41	66	3	—	—	9	—	121	11.0
Chile	47	68	53	9	3	12	—	190	15.3
United States of America	513	61	78	26	7	54	—	739	0.9
Uruguay	7	11	44	—	—	3	—	67	n.p.
Other	222	31	22	3	—	33	—	311	1.6
Total	1 108	300	289	65	10	153	—	1 925	2.5
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	27	11	13	9	—	3	—	64	n.p.
Mauritius	31	35	10	16	—	8	—	100	14.6
South Africa	220	156	113	17	5	43	—	554	13.4
Zimbabwe	20	33	22	3	—	4	—	81	n.p.
Other	105	40	30	5	4	25	—	209	7.4
Total	403	275	188	49	10	83	—	1 008	13.2
Other and not stated	4	3	—	—	—	8	—	15	n.p.
Total	12 552	5 335	3 697	1 791	640	2 133	76 982	103 130	(a)8.7

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

(a) Excludes Australia (incl. ET).

2.12 SUMMARY(a), Selected countries of birth of bridegroom

		Australia (incl. ET)	China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	Germany	Greece	Hong Kong (SAR of China)	India	Ireland	Italy
Marriages registered	no.	75 741	910	646	239	406	651	330	495
Population	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Marriage rate	rate	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	38 173	81	154	135	130	195	169	228
Proportion	%	50.4	8.9	23.8	56.5	32.0	30.0	51.2	46.1
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	37 568	829	492	104	276	456	161	267
Proportion	%	49.6	91.1	76.2	43.5	68.0	70.0	48.8	53.9
Bridegrooms born in country shown									
marrying brides born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	64 373	36	302	134	55	226	198	300
Proportion	%	85.0	4.0	46.7	56.1	13.5	34.7	60.0	60.6
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	689	147	46	157	188	41	57
Proportion	%	..	75.7	22.8	19.2	38.7	28.9	12.4	11.5
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	11 362	185	197	59	194	237	91	138
Proportion	%	15.0	20.3	30.5	24.7	47.8	36.4	27.6	27.9
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	59 098	544	372	117	343	534	249	246
Widowed	no.	1 308	17	30	14	5	16	11	34
Divorced	no.	15 335	349	244	108	58	101	70	215
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>75 741</i>	<i>910</i>	<i>646</i>	<i>239</i>	<i>406</i>	<i>651</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>495</i>
Median age									
Never married	years	28.4	30.1	32.6	32.7	29.1	27.0	30.7	32.8
Widowed	years	62.0	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.
Divorced	years	42.6	41.7	52.0	47.2	(b)n.p.	41.7	(b)n.p.	50.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>34.4</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>38.2</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>28.5</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>40.7</i>
Median duration of residence	years	..	8.5	18.0	29.4	12.2	3.8	6.5	31.3

.. not applicable

n.y.a. not yet available

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

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

2.12 SUMMARY(a), Selected countries of birth of bridegroom *continued*

		Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	United Kingdom	United States of America	Viet Nam
Marriages registered	no.	709	486	2 934	518	560	7 087	937	1 477
Population	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Marriage rate	rate	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	597	184	1 054	228	309	2 149	364	382
Proportion	%	84.2	37.9	35.9	44.0	55.2	30.3	38.8	25.9
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	112	302	1 880	290	251	4 938	573	1 095
Proportion	%	15.8	62.1	64.1	56.0	44.8	69.7	61.2	74.1
Bridegrooms born in country shown									
marrying brides born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	429	144	1 842	95	349	4 395	633	64
Proportion	%	60.5	29.6	62.8	18.3	62.3	62.0	67.6	4.3
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	202	123	550	354	98	1 539	86	1 229
Proportion	%	28.5	25.3	18.7	68.3	17.5	21.7	9.2	83.2
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	78	219	542	68	113	1 153	218	184
Proportion	%	11.0	45.1	18.5	13.1	20.2	16.3	23.3	12.5
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	585	382	2 102	417	449	4 059	589	1 252
Widowed	no.	4	12	44	11	12	295	24	9
Divorced	no.	120	92	788	90	99	2 733	324	216
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>709</i>	<i>486</i>	<i>2 934</i>	<i>518</i>	<i>560</i>	<i>7 087</i>	<i>937</i>	<i>1 477</i>
Median age									
Never married	years	26.6	28.8	29.8	28.0	28.3	31.8	29.6	28.4
Widowed	years	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	63.4	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.
Divorced	years	36.7	(b)n.p.	43.5	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	44.8	42.6	37.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>30.4</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>29.5</i>	<i>36.1</i>	<i>33.4</i>	<i>29.3</i>
Median duration of residence	years	5.9	14.1	12.0	10.8	13.3	19.2	0.8	12.7

n.y.a. not yet available

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

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

2.13 SUMMARY(a), Selected countries of birth of bride

		Australia (incl. ET)	China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	Germany	Greece	Hong Kong (SAR of China)	India	Ireland	Italy
Marriages registered	no.	76 986	1 263	575	133	400	401	252	217
Population	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Marriage rate	rate	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	39 421	141	139	85	132	151	109	91
Proportion	%	51.2	11.2	24.2	63.9	33.0	37.7	43.3	41.9
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	37 565	1 122	436	48	268	250	143	126
Proportion	%	48.8	88.8	75.8	36.1	67.0	62.3	56.7	58.1
Brides born in country shown									
marrying bridegrooms born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	64 373	234	286	59	85	114	138	112
Proportion	%	83.6	18.5	49.7	44.4	21.3	28.4	54.8	51.6
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	689	147	46	157	188	41	57
Proportion	%	..	54.6	25.6	34.6	39.3	46.9	16.3	26.3
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	12 612	340	142	28	158	99	73	48
Proportion	%	16.4	26.9	24.7	21.1	39.5	24.7	29.0	22.1
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	61 073	673	342	54	351	300	197	110
Widowed	no.	1 468	30	28	12	3	9	7	15
Divorced	no.	14 445	560	205	67	47	92	48	92
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>76 986</i>	<i>1 263</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>401</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>217</i>
Median age									
Never married	years	26.7	28.0	30.4	29.8	28.6	26.2	28.9	31.1
Widowed	years	54.5	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.
Divorced	years	39.1	38.6	46.2	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.
<i>Total</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>28.1</i>	<i>32.7</i>	<i>34.3</i>	<i>38.8</i>	<i>29.1</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>30.8</i>	<i>36.6</i>
Median duration of residence	years	..	2.8	12.8	30.2	9.2	4.1	6.9	29.5

.. not applicable

n.y.a. not yet available

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

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

2.13 SUMMARY(a), Selected countries of birth of bride *continued*

		Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	United Kingdom	United States of America	Viet Nam
Marriages registered	no.	443	619	2 423	1 243	554	5 312	739	1 636
Population	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Marriage rate	rate	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	372	219	797	424	292	1 495	243	424
Proportion	%	84.0	35.4	32.9	34.1	52.7	28.1	32.9	25.9
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	71	400	1 626	819	262	3 817	496	1 212
Proportion	%	16.0	64.6	67.1	65.9	47.3	71.9	67.1	74.1
Brides born in country shown									
marrying bridegrooms born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	169	267	1 378	571	338	3 114	479	166
Proportion	%	38.1	43.1	56.9	45.9	61.0	58.6	64.8	10.1
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	202	123	550	354	98	1 539	86	1 229
Proportion	%	45.6	19.9	22.7	28.5	17.7	29.0	11.6	75.1
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	72	229	495	318	118	659	174	241
Proportion	%	16.3	37.0	20.4	25.6	21.3	12.4	23.5	14.7
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	345	504	1 714	835	436	2 943	422	1 361
Widowed	no.	11	14	66	107	10	228	19	22
Divorced	no.	87	101	643	301	108	2 141	298	253
Total	no.	443	619	2 423	1 243	554	5 312	739	1 636
Median age									
Never married	years	21.1	27.8	28.1	28.1	27.3	29.6	27.4	26.0
Widowed	years	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.	50.8	(b)n.p.	60.6	(b)n.p.	(b)n.p.
Divorced	years	(b)n.p.	39.3	39.5	40.0	39.5	42.2	39.8	31.6
Total	years	24.1	29.0	30.4	31.8	28.6	34.3	31.8	26.9
Median duration of residence	years	11.0	9.9	12.4	5.5	13.4	19.3	0.9	10.4

n.y.a. not yet available

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

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) 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. 41	3 348	3 389	42	2 703	2 745
1	no. 269	4 244	4 513	173	3 690	3 863
2	no. 367	2 914	3 281	250	2 661	2 911
3	no. 284	2 243	2 527	254	2 078	2 332
4	no. 234	1 716	1 950	203	1 706	1 909
5	no. 160	1 456	1 616	206	1 463	1 669
6	no. 131	1 162	1 293	154	1 127	1 281
7	no. 96	935	1 031	135	954	1 089
8	no. 79	790	869	116	794	910
9	no. 64	649	713	123	678	801
10-14	no. 197	1 993	2 190	351	2 003	2 354
15-19	no. 87	825	912	159	979	1 138
20-24	no. 33	398	431	84	455	539
25-29	no. 13	134	147	40	139	179
30 and over	no. 12	39	51	28	61	89
Not stated	no. 17	351	368	18	289	307
Total	no. 2 084	23 197	25 281	2 336	21 780	24 116
Median interval to remarriage	years 4.3	3.4	3.5	6.2	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	1 839	15 095	16 934	1 915	14 133	16 048
1	125	4 164	4 289	246	4 106	4 352
2	84	2 933	3 017	124	2 633	2 757
3	17	747	764	31	694	725
4	5	139	144	10	137	147
5 or more	3	25	27	3	33	34
Not stated	12	94	106	9	44	53
Total	2 084	23 197	25 281	2 336	21 780	24 116

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

2.16 PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, Category of celebrant, Number registered

	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>
Ministers of religion(a)									
Buddhism	no.	43	—	14	57	48	—	8	57
Christianity									
Anglican	no.	8 354	179	1 581	10 114	8 763	160	1 191	10 114
Baptist	no.	1 427	63	397	1 887	1 447	67	373	1 887
Catholic	no.	15 604	188	573	16 365	15 685	195	485	16 365
Churches of Christ	no.	729	32	249	1 010	770	28	212	1 010
Jehovah's Witnesses	no.	372	14	63	449	374	8	67	449
Latter Day Saints	no.	338	11	105	454	333	15	106	454
Lutheran	no.	733	20	172	925	744	25	156	925
Orthodox	no.	2 293	13	321	2 627	2 362	16	249	2 627
Pentecostal	no.	1 492	46	462	2 000	1 512	40	448	2 000
Presbyterian and Reformed	no.	910	24	197	1 131	941	21	169	1 131
Salvation Army	no.	411	32	172	615	401	28	186	615
Seventh-day Adventist	no.	240	17	65	322	241	14	67	322
Uniting Church	no.	4 323	146	1 190	5 659	4 514	150	995	5 659
Other Christian groups	no.	1 858	62	529	2 449	1 883	61	505	2 449
Total Christian	no.	39 084	847	6 076	46 007	39 970	828	5 209	46 007
Islam	no.	1 134	11	172	1 317	1 130	14	173	1 317
Judaism	no.	268	6	42	316	276	8	32	316
Other religious groups	no.	483	15	177	675	490	21	164	675
<i>Total ministers of religion</i>	no.	41 012	879	6 481	48 372	41 914	872	5 586	48 372
Civil celebrants									
Official registrars	no.	4 754	188	2 394	7 336	4 761	210	2 365	7 336
Other civil celebrants	no.	32 083	1 017	14 322	47 422	32 339	1 254	13 829	47 422
<i>Total civil celebrants</i>	no.	36 837	1 205	16 716	54 758	37 100	1 464	16 194	54 758
All celebrants	no.	77 849	2 084	23 197	103 130	79 014	2 336	21 780	103 130

(a) Registers of ministers of religion are maintained by states and territories under the authority of the *Marriage Act 1961*. Data on religious marriage rites are classified to the *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, 1996* (ASCRG, cat. no. 1266.0).

2.17 PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, Category of celebrant, Proportion

	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>	
Ministers of religion(a)									
Buddhism	%	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.1	
Christianity									
Anglican	%	10.7	8.6	6.8	9.8	11.1	6.8	5.5	9.8
Baptist	%	1.8	3.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.9	1.7	1.8
Catholic	%	20.0	9.0	2.5	15.9	19.9	8.3	2.2	15.9
Churches of Christ	%	0.9	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.0
Jehovah's Witnesses	%	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4
Latter Day Saints	%	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4
Lutheran	%	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9
Orthodox	%	2.9	0.6	1.4	2.5	3.0	0.7	1.1	2.5
Pentecostal	%	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.9
Presbyterian and Reformed	%	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.8	1.1
Salvation Army	%	0.5	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.6
Seventh-day Adventist	%	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
Uniting Church	%	5.6	7.0	5.1	5.5	5.7	6.4	4.6	5.5
Other Christian groups	%	2.4	3.0	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.4
Total Christian	%	50.2	40.6	26.2	44.6	50.6	35.4	23.9	44.6
Islam	%	1.5	0.5	0.7	1.3	1.4	0.6	0.8	1.3
Judaism	%	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3
Other religious groups	%	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.7
<i>Total ministers of religion</i>	%	52.7	42.2	27.9	46.9	53.0	37.3	25.6	46.9
Civil celebrants									
Official registrars	%	6.1	9.0	10.3	7.1	6.0	9.0	10.9	7.1
Other civil celebrants	%	41.2	48.8	61.7	46.0	40.9	53.7	63.5	46.0
<i>Total civil celebrants</i>	%	47.3	57.8	72.1	53.1	47.0	62.7	74.4	53.1
All celebrants	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Registers of ministers of religion are maintained by states and territories under the authority of the *Marriage Act 1961*. Data on religious marriage rites are classified to the *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, 1996* (ASCRG, cat. no. 1266.0).

2.18 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.	36 109	24 953	20 314	7 434	9 785	2 182	781	1 572	103 130
Crude marriage rate	rate	5.5	5.2	5.6	4.9	5.1	4.6	3.9	4.9	5.3
Previous marital status										
First marriage both partners	no.	24 728	17 292	13 000	4 804	6 273	1 337	493	1 060	68 987
First marriage one partner	no.	6 497	4 344	3 865	1 367	1 937	437	164	278	18 889
Remarriage both partners	no.	4 884	3 317	3 449	1 263	1 575	408	124	234	15 254
Marriages performed by										
Ministers of religion										
Number	no.	18 193	12 112	8 665	3 670	3 841	913	214	764	48 372
Proportion	%	50.4	48.5	42.7	49.4	39.3	41.8	27.4	48.6	46.9
Civil celebrants										
Number	no.	17 916	12 841	11 649	3 764	5 944	1 269	567	808	54 758
Proportion	%	49.6	51.5	57.3	50.6	60.7	58.2	72.6	51.4	53.1

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

2.18 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	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.9
20–24	rate	24.2	18.8	24.8	21.1	18.7	21.9	12.2	17.7	21.8
25–29	rate	49.6	48.4	47.9	45.6	41.7	43.3	21.2	41.0	47.2
30–34	rate	30.9	31.4	31.7	29.3	30.1	28.9	17.3	25.2	30.6
35–39	rate	16.5	16.0	17.2	14.7	16.4	16.0	12.3	13.8	16.2
40–44	rate	9.9	9.0	10.8	8.4	10.0	10.3	9.5	7.1	9.7
45–49	rate	6.6	6.6	7.5	7.0	7.3	7.3	7.5	6.3	6.9
50 and over	rate	3.1	2.8	3.9	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.8	3.3
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	27 781	19 303	14 843	5 465	7 176	1 547	566	1 168	77 849
Widowed	no.	654	500	420	195	206	63	11	35	2 084
Divorced	no.	7 674	5 150	5 051	1 774	2 403	572	204	369	23 197
<i>Total</i>	no.	36 109	24 953	20 314	7 434	9 785	2 182	781	1 572	103 130
Median age at marriage										
Never married	years	28.6	28.9	28.5	28.7	29.0	28.7	29.5	28.1	28.7
Widowed	years	62.4	61.5	62.1	61.9	61.3	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	61.9
Divorced	years	42.7	42.7	43.3	44.0	43.4	43.6	44.1	42.8	43.1
<i>Total</i>	years	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.8	31.3	31.2	32.1	30.1	30.6
BRIDE										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	5.5	3.5	4.2	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.3	4.2
20–24	rate	41.0	32.9	39.8	37.2	33.3	36.7	21.1	28.7	37.1
25–29	rate	49.3	48.7	48.7	48.5	46.0	44.2	22.8	39.1	48.0
30–34	rate	25.6	25.6	25.9	23.4	25.5	23.6	18.3	21.7	25.3
35–39	rate	11.9	11.7	12.3	12.1	12.4	11.4	10.8	11.2	12.0
40–44	rate	7.5	6.6	8.1	6.8	7.8	6.9	6.8	5.7	7.3
45–49	rate	5.5	5.1	6.3	6.0	5.8	6.3	5.0	4.5	5.6
50 and over	rate	1.6	1.6	2.3	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.8	2.0	1.8
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	28 172	19 625	15 022	5 510	7 307	1 564	584	1 230	79 014
Widowed	no.	712	502	522	229	243	81	19	28	2 336
Divorced	no.	7 225	4 826	4 770	1 695	2 235	537	178	314	21 780
<i>Total</i>	no.	36 109	24 953	20 314	7 434	9 785	2 182	781	1 572	103 130
Median age at marriage										
Never married	years	26.7	27.3	26.6	26.8	27.1	26.7	27.9	26.9	26.9
Widowed	years	53.7	54.5	54.6	57.6	52.4	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	54.4
Divorced	years	39.0	39.4	39.6	40.1	39.9	40.1	38.9	40.2	39.5
<i>Total</i>	years	28.3	28.7	28.6	28.7	29.0	29.0	29.9	28.3	28.6

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

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 males or females, 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.

2.19 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>
1981	40 679	28 648	18 305	10 252	10 111	3 515	719	1 676	113 905
1986	41 319	29 390	18 030	9 878	10 379	3 302	759	1 856	114 913
1991	39 594	28 535	19 844	9 392	10 659	3 069	890	1 886	113 869
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
2001	36 109	24 953	20 314	7 434	9 785	2 182	781	1 572	103 130

2.20 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>
1981	7.8	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.8	8.2	5.8	7.4	7.6
1986	7.5	7.1	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.4	4.9	7.2	7.2
1991	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.6	5.4	6.5	6.6
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
2001	5.5	5.2	5.6	4.9	5.1	4.6	3.9	4.9	5.3

(a) Per 1,000 population.

2.21 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	24 728	17 292	13 000	4 804	6 273	1 337	493	1 060	68 987
Widowed	143	101	89	35	48	15	4	—	435
Divorced	2 910	1 910	1 754	626	855	195	69	108	8 427
Total	27 781	19 303	14 843	5 465	7 176	1 547	566	1 168	77 849
BRIDEGROOM — WIDOWED									
Never married	105	80	66	24	29	9	—	3	316
Widowed	215	158	143	71	69	27	7	13	703
Divorced	334	262	211	100	108	27	3	20	1 065
Total	654	500	420	195	206	63	11	35	2 084
BRIDEGROOM — DIVORCED									
Never married	3 339	2 253	1 956	682	1 005	218	90	168	9 711
Widowed	354	243	290	123	126	39	8	15	1 198
Divorced	3 981	2 654	2 805	969	1 272	315	106	186	12 288
Total	7 674	5 150	5 051	1 774	2 403	572	204	369	23 197
BRIDEGROOM — TOTAL									
Never married	28 172	19 625	15 022	5 510	7 307	1 564	584	1 230	79 014
Widowed	712	502	522	229	243	81	19	28	2 336
Divorced	7 225	4 826	4 770	1 695	2 235	537	178	314	21 780
Total	36 109	24 953	20 314	7 434	9 785	2 182	781	1 572	103 130

2.22 CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT, Number registered

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Ministers of religion(a)										
Buddhism	no.	20	6	16	—	9	—	—	5	57
Christianity										
Anglican	no.	4 299	2 063	1 714	611	933	274	28	192	10 114
Baptist	no.	588	392	483	156	161	73	16	18	1 887
Catholic	no.	6 263	4 685	2 490	1 026	1 330	213	61	297	16 365
Churches of Christ	no.	198	280	213	120	163	26	3	8	1 010
Jehovah's Witnesses	no.	111	98	126	35	67	6	3	5	449
Latter Day Saints	no.	206	77	69	27	54	13	—	7	454
Lutheran	no.	78	144	294	343	49	5	3	9	925
Orthodox	no.	1 051	1 164	116	171	86	3	18	18	2 627
Pentecostal	no.	584	395	592	172	153	61	14	29	2 000
Presbyterian and Reformed	no.	560	199	241	16	51	22	—	42	1 131
Salvation Army	no.	200	116	138	50	70	14	10	17	615
Seventh-day Adventist	no.	129	61	79	12	31	6	3	—	322
Uniting Church	no.	1 918	1 355	1 163	741	294	94	38	56	5 659
Other Christian groups	no.	740	384	772	134	271	86	20	42	2 449
Total Christian	no.	16 925	11 413	8 490	3 614	3 713	896	214	742	46 007
Islam	no.	840	322	47	23	73	3	—	9	1 317
Judaism	no.	122	179	—	—	12	—	—	3	316
Other religious groups	no.	286	192	110	32	34	14	—	7	675
<i>Total ministers of religion</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>18 193</i>	<i>12 112</i>	<i>8 665</i>	<i>3 670</i>	<i>3 841</i>	<i>913</i>	<i>214</i>	<i>764</i>	<i>48 372</i>
Civil celebrants										
Official registrars	no.	2 366	2 186	1 382	424	780	81	116	—	7 336
Other civil celebrants	no.	15 550	10 655	10 267	3 340	5 164	1 188	451	807	47 422
<i>Total civil celebrants</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>17 916</i>	<i>12 841</i>	<i>11 649</i>	<i>3 764</i>	<i>5 944</i>	<i>1 269</i>	<i>567</i>	<i>808</i>	<i>54 758</i>
All celebrants	no.	36 109	24 953	20 314	7 434	9 785	2 182	781	1 572	103 130

a) Registers of ministers of religion are maintained by states and territories under the authority of the *Marriage Act 1961*. Data on religious marriage rites are classified to the *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, 1996* (ASCRG, cat. no. 1266.0).

2.23 CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT, Proportion

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Ministers of religion(a)										
Buddhism	%	0.1	—	0.1	—	0.1	—	—	0.3	0.1
Christianity										
Anglican	%	11.9	8.3	8.4	8.2	9.5	12.6	3.6	12.2	9.8
Baptist	%	1.6	1.6	2.4	2.1	1.6	3.3	2.0	1.1	1.8
Catholic	%	17.3	18.8	12.3	13.8	13.6	9.8	7.8	18.9	15.9
Churches of Christ	%	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.2	0.4	0.5	1.0
Jehovah's Witnesses	%	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
Latter Day Saints	%	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	—	0.4	0.4
Lutheran	%	0.2	0.6	1.4	4.6	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.9
Orthodox	%	2.9	4.7	0.6	2.3	0.9	0.1	2.3	1.1	2.5
Pentecostal	%	1.6	1.6	2.9	2.3	1.6	2.8	1.8	1.8	1.9
Presbyterian and Reformed	%	1.6	0.8	1.2	0.2	0.5	1.0	—	2.7	1.1
Salvation Army	%	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.3	1.1	0.6
Seventh-day Adventist	%	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	—	0.3
Uniting Church	%	5.3	5.4	5.7	10.0	3.0	4.3	4.9	3.6	5.5
Other Christian groups	%	2.0	1.5	3.8	1.8	2.8	3.9	2.6	2.7	2.4
Total Christian	%	46.9	45.7	41.8	48.6	37.9	41.1	27.4	47.2	44.6
Islam	%	2.3	1.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.1	—	0.6	1.3
Judaism	%	0.3	0.7	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.2	0.3
Other religious groups	%	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	—	0.4	0.7
<i>Total ministers of religion</i>	%	50.4	48.5	42.7	49.4	39.3	41.8	27.4	48.6	46.9
Civil celebrants										
Official registrars	%	6.6	8.8	6.8	5.7	8.0	3.7	14.9	0.1	7.1
Other civil celebrants	%	43.1	42.7	50.5	44.9	52.8	54.4	57.7	51.3	46.0
<i>Total civil celebrants</i>	%	49.6	51.5	57.3	50.6	60.7	58.2	72.6	51.4	53.1
All celebrants	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

a) Registers of ministers of religion are maintained by states and territories under the authority of the *Marriage Act 1961*. Data on religious marriage rites are classified to the *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, 1996* (ASCRG, cat. no. 1266.0).

2.24 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.	24 557	17 358	15 935	5 339	7 543	1 699	653	1 160	74 244
Crude marriage rate	rate	3.7	3.6	4.4	3.5	4.0	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.8
Previous marital status										
First marriage both partners	no.	15 861	11 471	10 079	3 319	4 694	1 033	416	766	47 639
First marriage one partner	no.	4 986	3 317	3 139	1 075	1 577	352	133	229	14 808
Remarriage both partners	no.	3 710	2 570	2 717	945	1 272	314	104	165	11 797
Marriages performed by										
Ministers of religion										
Number	no.	9 995	6 721	5 729	2 138	2 356	601	161	485	28 186
Proportion	%	40.7	38.7	36.0	40.0	31.2	35.4	24.7	41.8	38.0
Civil celebrants										
Number	no.	14 562	10 637	10 206	3 201	5 187	1 098	492	675	46 058
Proportion	%	59.3	61.3	64.0	60.0	68.8	64.6	75.3	58.2	62.0

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

2.24 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	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
20–24	rate	13.8	10.9	17.2	13.0	11.9	14.6	9.4	11.4	13.4
25–29	rate	31.8	32.2	38.2	32.5	32.2	34.2	18.3	31.4	33.0
30–34	rate	22.5	23.1	26.5	21.8	24.7	24.0	14.2	19.5	23.4
35–39	rate	12.6	11.9	14.3	11.5	13.3	13.4	10.9	11.1	12.7
40–44	rate	7.4	6.9	8.7	6.6	8.1	8.6	8.3	4.9	7.5
45–49	rate	5.1	5.2	6.1	5.7	5.8	6.1	6.8	4.9	5.5
50 and over	rate	2.2	2.0	2.8	2.2	2.7	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.3
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	18 222	13 011	11 589	3 842	5 445	1 210	477	855	54 651
Widowed	no.	358	257	220	95	113	29	7	17	1 096
Divorced	no.	5 977	4 090	4 126	1 402	1 985	460	169	288	18 497
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>24 557</i>	<i>17 358</i>	<i>15 935</i>	<i>5 339</i>	<i>7 543</i>	<i>1 699</i>	<i>653</i>	<i>1 160</i>	<i>74 244</i>
Median age at marriage										
Never married	years	29.1	29.3	28.8	29.0	29.4	29.2	29.7	28.4	29.1
Widowed	years	59.1	56.9	58.8	(c)n.p.	59.0	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	58.8
Divorced	years	42.4	42.8	42.8	43.7	42.9	43.7	44.2	42.2	42.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>31.0</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>30.8</i>	<i>31.2</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>31.5</i>	<i>32.2</i>	<i>30.2</i>	<i>31.1</i>
BRIDE										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	3.2	2.1	2.6	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.6	2.4
20–24	rate	24.1	19.6	29.1	23.9	23.0	26.0	16.5	19.5	23.6
25–29	rate	33.3	33.8	39.8	35.8	36.7	36.1	20.4	30.3	35.0
30–34	rate	19.5	19.5	21.7	18.0	20.8	20.3	16.0	17.5	19.9
35–39	rate	9.0	8.9	9.9	9.5	10.1	9.1	8.8	8.0	9.3
40–44	rate	5.6	5.0	6.5	5.4	5.9	5.7	6.0	4.3	5.6
45–49	rate	4.2	4.0	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.2	3.6	4.4
50 and over	rate	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.2	2.1	1.3	1.2
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	18 486	13 248	11 708	3 871	5 520	1 208	488	906	55 435
Widowed	no.	416	285	307	134	163	45	12	16	1 378
Divorced	no.	5 655	3 825	3 920	1 334	1 860	446	153	238	17 431
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>24 557</i>	<i>17 358</i>	<i>15 935</i>	<i>5 339</i>	<i>7 543</i>	<i>1 699</i>	<i>653</i>	<i>1 160</i>	<i>74 244</i>
Median age at marriage										
Never married	years	27.3	27.7	26.9	27.2	27.5	27.0	28.3	27.3	27.3
Widowed	years	50.6	50.5	50.8	54.5	50.1	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	(c)n.p.	50.9
Divorced	years	38.7	39.2	39.3	39.9	39.6	39.6	39.0	39.6	39.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>29.1</i>	<i>29.4</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>28.5</i>	<i>29.1</i>

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 males or females, 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.

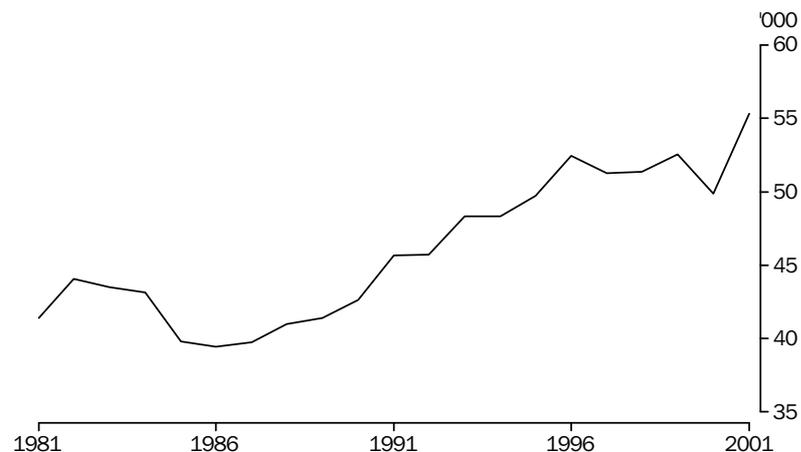
CHAPTER 3

DIVORCES

DIVORCES GRANTED

There were 55,300 divorces granted in Australia in 2001, the highest number granted in the last 20 years. This was a increase of 11% on the number of divorces granted in 2000 (49,900). It was also an increase of 21% on the number granted 10 years ago, and a 34% increase on the number granted 20 years ago.

DIVORCES GRANTED



FAMILY COURT AND FEDERAL MAGISTRATES SERVICE

The Family Court of Australia has administered divorce under the *Family Law Act 1975* since 1976. In September 2000 the Federal Magistrates Service was established to provide a simpler and accessible service for litigants and to ease the workload of both the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Court of Australia. The introduction of the Federal Magistrates Service may have had some influence on the increase in divorces granted in 2001.

In 2001, the first full year of operation, 51% of all divorces granted were dealt with by the Federal Magistrates Service. All states and territories, with the exception of Western Australia, had a high proportion of cases administered by the Federal Magistrates Service. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion (76%), while Queensland had the lowest (45%). The Federal Magistrates Service was not introduced in Western Australia and all decrees granted in that state were dealt with by the Family Court.

DIVORCES GRANTED, Family Court and Federal Magistrates Service

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Family Court	no.	5 777	5 586	6 591	2 278	5 351	690	109	651	27 033
Federal Magistrates Service	no.	10 280	8 136	5 494	2 267	—	749	338	1 033	28 297
Total	no.	16 057	13 722	12 085	4 545	5 351	1 439	447	1 684	55 330
Family Court	%	36.0	40.7	54.5	50.1	100.0	47.9	24.4	38.7	48.9
Federal Magistrates Service	%	64.0	59.3	45.5	49.9	—	52.1	75.6	61.3	51.1
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

DIVORCE TRENDS

As the estimated resident population of Australia by marital status is not yet available for 2001 the latest rates recorded are for 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 men or women), but an increase from the 1990 rate (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 males or females.

(b) *Family Law Act* introduced 1976.

The crude divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1,000 total population) in 2001 was 2.8 per 1,000. This was an increase on the 2000 rate (2.6 per 1,000), slightly higher than the crude divorce rate 10 years ago (2.6 per 1,000) and the same as the rate 20 years ago (2.8 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 (4.2 divorces per 1,000 population), followed by the United Kingdom (2.9) and Australia (2.8). Chile had the lowest crude divorce rate (0.4), followed by Italy and Turkey (each 0.5).

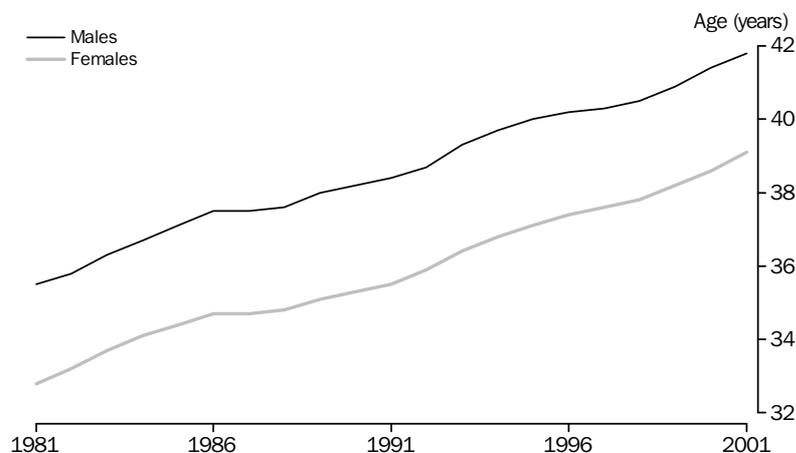
LIKELIHOOD TO DIVORCE

Analysis of a net nuptiality table indicates that the expectation to divorce is increasing. If a newly-born group of babies was exposed to 1997–1999 rates (marriage, widowhood, divorce, remarriage and mortality), 32% of their marriages would end in divorce. This is an increase on the proportion expected if 1990–1992 rates were applied (29%) and if 1985–1987 rates were applied (28%) (see Special Article 'Lifetime Marriage Formation and Marriage Dissolution in Australia' p. 84 in *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2000* (cat. no. 3310.0)).

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 2001. The median age at divorce for men was 41.8 years, up from 38.4 years in 1991 and 35.5 years in 1981. For women, the median age at divorce increased to 39.1 years in 2001, up from 35.5 years in 1991 and 32.8 years in 1981. The rise in the median age at divorce is associated with increasing age at first marriage (see Chapter 2) and to some extent the increase in the interval between marriage and divorce.

MEDIAN AGE AT DIVORCE



Men aged 30–34 years divorcing women aged 30–34 years (8%) and men aged 35–39 years divorcing women aged 35–39 years (8%) were the most common relative ages of parties divorcing in 2001. 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%). A further 10% were males aged 30–34 years divorcing females aged 25–29 years.

While age-specific divorce rates per married population are not yet available for 2001, rates for 2000 increased in nearly all age groups for men and women when compared with 1990. 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%).

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 1981 to 11.8 years in 2001.

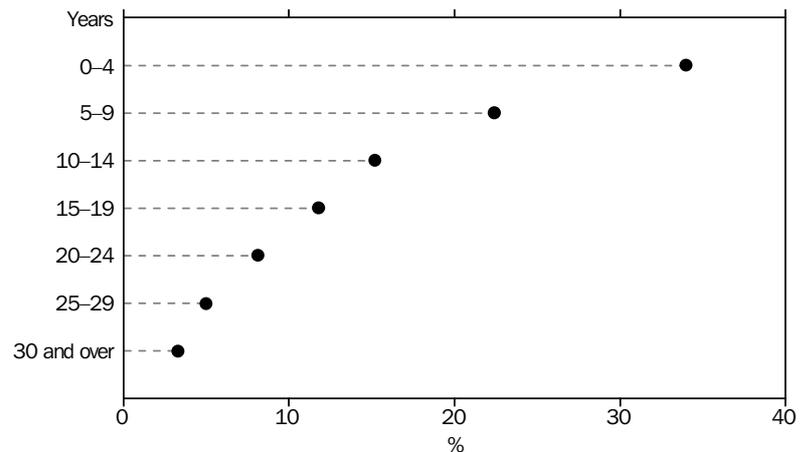
In 2001, 17% of couples had divorced within the first five years of marriage, while a further 26% had divorced in the following five-year period. The most common single interval between marriage and divorce was between five and six years (6%).

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 1981 to 8.3 years in 2001.

Of the couples who divorced in 2001, 34% were separated within the first five years of marriage and a further 22% 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 2001, as in previous years, more women (47%) than men (30%) lodged applications for divorce. The remainder of divorces granted in 2001 (23%) were the result of joint applications.

The proportion of female only applicants for divorce declined as length of marriage increased, while the proportion of male only 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 1981, 61% of divorces involved children under 18 years. By 1991 this proportion had fallen to 54%, and by 2001 to 51%.

However, because the number of divorces has increased over this twenty-year period (by 34%), the actual number of children (under 18 years) involved in divorce has increased. In 1981 there were 49,600 children involved in divorce, by 1991 this number had declined to 46,700 children, but by 2001 had increased to 53,400.

In 36% of the 28,300 divorces that involved children in 2001, 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 1981, 63% of divorces granted were to couples where both partners were born in Australia. By 2001 this proportion had declined to 58%. Divorces to couples born in the same overseas country comprised 13% of divorces granted in 2001 (up from 11% in 1981), while 29% of divorces were granted to couples who had chosen partners from a different country (up from 26% in 1981). Of this last group, 42% were overseas-born men divorcing Australian-born women, and 34% were overseas-born women divorcing Australian-born men.

3.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected years

		1981	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
ALL DIVORCES									
Divorces granted	no.	41 412	45 652	52 466	51 288	51 370	52 566	49 906	55 330
Crude divorce rate	rate	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.8
Median duration of marriage	years	10.2	10.3	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.6	11.8
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.2	8.3
Divorces involving children									
Number	no.	25 285	24 734	28 138	27 694	27 447	28 331	26 295	28 345
Proportion of total divorces	%	61.1	54.2	53.6	54.0	53.4	53.9	52.7	51.2
Average issue	average	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Applicant									
Husband	no.	17 049	16 427	17 005	15 987	16 004	16 235	15 348	16 608
Wife	no.	24 363	22 066	24 155	25 041	25 380	26 353	24 595	26 035
Joint	no.	..	7 159	11 306	10 260	9 986	9 978	9 963	12 687

.. not applicable

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

3.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected years continued

		1981	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
HUSBAND									
Age-specific divorce rates(b)									
Age group (years)									
24 and under	rate	2.2	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
25–29	rate	13.8	9.1	8.0	7.4	7.0	6.7	5.7	6.2
30–34	rate	15.0	13.1	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.9	11.6	12.4
35–39	rate	13.6	13.0	13.8	13.2	13.3	13.3	12.7	13.6
40–44	rate	11.6	11.9	13.0	12.6	12.5	12.8	12.0	13.3
45–49	rate	9.3	10.2	11.6	11.1	11.0	11.2	10.8	12.0
50–54	rate	7.0	7.4	9.2	8.9	8.7	9.1	9.0	9.8
55 and over	rate	2.6	2.4	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.5
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	37 019	37 820	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Widowed	no.	496	402	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Divorced	no.	3 897	7 430	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	no.	41 412	45 652	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Median age of divorcee									
At marriage	years	23.5	24.8	25.8	25.8	26.0	26.2	26.4	26.5
At final separation	years	32.9	35.5	36.9	37.0	37.2	37.6	38.1	38.4
At decree made absolute	years	35.5	38.4	40.2	40.3	40.5	40.9	41.4	41.8
WIFE									
Age-specific divorce rates(b)									
Age group (years)									
24 and under	rate	4.8	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.3
25–29	rate	16.6	12.9	12.2	11.4	11.0	10.8	9.6	10.0
30–34	rate	14.3	13.6	14.4	14.0	14.2	14.1	13.4	14.2
35–39	rate	12.7	12.4	13.5	13.3	13.2	13.7	12.8	13.8
40–44	rate	10.2	10.9	12.3	11.7	11.7	12.3	11.6	12.8
45–49	rate	7.6	8.6	9.9	9.4	9.5	9.8	9.5	10.5
50–54	rate	5.1	5.2	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.4
55 and over	rate	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.8
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	36 910	38 079	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Widowed	no.	666	558	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Divorced	no.	3 836	7 015	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<i>Total</i>	no.	41 412	45 652	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Median age of divorcee									
At marriage	years	20.9	22.3	23.2	23.3	23.5	23.7	23.8	24.0
At final separation	years	30.2	32.7	34.1	34.3	34.5	34.9	35.3	35.7
At decree made absolute	years	32.8	35.5	37.4	37.6	37.8	38.2	38.6	39.1

n.a. not available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 males or females, 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	2001	55 330	2.8
Canada	1997	67 408	2.3
Chile	1998	6 269	0.4
France	1997	116 158	2.0
Germany	1997	187 802	2.3
Greece	1998	9 500	0.9
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	1999	13 408	2.0
Indonesia	1986	131 886	0.8
Italy	1995	27 038	0.5
Japan	1998	243 183	1.9
Korea, Republic of (South)	1998	98 531	2.1
Netherlands	1999	31 000	2.0
New Zealand	1998	10 037	2.7
Poland	1999	42 020	1.1
Singapore	1999	5 084	1.3
Sweden	1997	21 009	2.4
Thailand	1995	53 560	0.9
Turkey	1998	32 167	0.5
United Kingdom	1996	171 310	2.9
United States of America	1998	1 135 000	4.2
Yugoslavia	1997	7 947	0.8

(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: *United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1999* 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
1981	13.9	22.4	18.9	16.2	13.5	10.9	8.3	5.4	2.3	11.9
1986	12.1	18.6	17.1	14.8	13.4	11.2	8.3	5.4	2.1	10.7
1991	10.6	20.5	19.7	17.0	14.7	12.5	9.0	5.9	2.2	11.6
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
2001	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
WIFE										
1976(c)	22.7	31.5	26.9	22.1	19.3	16.0	12.6	8.8	4.0	18.8
1981	18.0	22.0	16.9	14.8	11.8	8.9	6.3	4.1	1.7	11.9
1986	16.0	18.6	15.9	13.8	12.0	9.6	6.0	3.7	1.5	10.6
1991	16.1	21.5	18.3	15.6	13.5	10.6	6.5	3.8	1.4	11.5
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
2001	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.

n.y.a. not yet available

(a) Per 1,000 married males or females 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	1 346	490	54	11	—	—	—	—	5	1 909
20–24	5 066	12 039	1 863	283	95	14	3	3	87	19 451
25–29	1 279	7 894	5 591	1 158	284	73	22	5	70	16 376
30–34	242	2 046	3 032	1 781	565	161	46	15	54	7 942
35–39	62	548	1 136	1 123	777	257	84	22	25	4 034
40–44	20	169	358	544	554	412	158	41	20	2 276
45–49	12	76	140	233	277	324	233	81	15	1 391
50 and over	6	59	87	118	190	292	291	550	30	1 623
Not stated	38	87	57	32	20	15	6	6	67	328
Total	8 071	23 408	12 318	5 283	2 764	1 549	841	723	373	55 330

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	339	138	15	4	4	—	—	—	—	6	506
25–29	720	2 740	711	93	30	8	—	—	—	30	4 334
30–34	272	2 849	4 598	943	216	55	19	3	—	33	8 987
35–39	75	858	3 559	4 198	1 004	220	69	18	10	47	10 058
40–44	22	249	1 092	3 439	3 889	769	164	35	8	44	9 711
45–49	5	76	345	1 083	2 921	2 979	529	97	17	46	8 098
50–54	8	38	97	374	963	2 286	2 167	341	81	40	6 395
55–59	4	13	44	114	285	585	1 296	931	172	16	3 460
60 and over	3	15	44	66	153	272	493	879	1 486	44	3 455
Not stated	16	48	50	42	30	28	27	9	11	65	326
Total	1 464	7 024	10 555	10 356	9 495	7 202	4 764	2 313	1 786	371	55 330

3.6 AGE AT DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION, Duration of marriage to separation

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
HUSBAND												
Under 1	54	612	955	616	397	268	187	136	58	122	70	3 475
1	15	556	1 233	766	436	282	169	105	62	72	34	3 730
2	—	418	1 436	1 087	593	353	209	133	80	80	38	4 428
3	—	192	1 277	1 015	526	318	207	123	66	78	32	3 834
4	—	94	993	993	565	308	161	115	56	61	18	3 364
5	—	34	737	982	554	271	170	120	55	67	18	3 008
6	—	9	477	946	578	304	165	100	53	48	11	2 691
7	—	—	296	888	563	275	134	89	43	56	5	2 349
8	—	—	158	858	615	275	155	74	41	54	13	2 243
9	—	—	84	707	667	319	157	90	43	46	6	2 119
10	—	—	28	566	635	315	201	79	37	49	7	1 917
11	—	—	6	385	658	330	161	91	47	44	4	1 726
12	—	—	3	264	700	372	157	77	49	42	7	1 671
13	—	—	—	167	669	371	178	98	37	29	3	1 551
14	—	—	—	90	663	428	186	92	45	39	6	1 549
15	—	—	—	27	597	511	205	88	50	37	3	1 518
16	—	—	—	7	473	501	174	112	31	33	6	1 337
17	—	—	—	3	364	546	225	94	38	37	—	1 307
18	—	—	—	—	195	599	253	94	40	32	4	1 217
19	—	—	—	—	102	583	283	104	31	22	4	1 129
20	—	—	—	—	37	542	306	115	41	32	—	1 074
21	—	—	—	—	12	434	339	114	29	26	6	960
22	—	—	—	—	3	329	371	122	40	22	4	889
23	—	—	—	—	—	204	415	131	42	23	4	819
24	—	—	—	—	—	101	474	144	32	13	—	766
25	—	—	—	—	—	44	389	190	35	21	3	680
26	—	—	—	—	—	11	341	217	59	22	—	652
27	—	—	—	—	—	—	223	263	44	22	—	554
28	—	—	—	—	—	—	115	278	57	16	—	468
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	260	65	24	—	404
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	540	644	630	5	1 845
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	54	56
Total	70	1 915	7 684	10 365	10 600	9 194	6 790	4 388	2 051	1 899	374	55 330

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	202	945	910	494	328	224	157	69	40	44	62	3 475
1	72	1 017	1 259	569	324	217	114	65	28	27	38	3 730
2	17	940	1 613	831	431	245	169	93	38	26	25	4 428
3	3	594	1 502	766	438	235	144	64	37	22	30	3 834
4	—	323	1 337	855	374	205	123	72	35	15	25	3 364
5	—	153	1 091	881	408	202	118	71	40	28	16	3 008
6	—	61	910	859	433	215	98	54	27	20	14	2 691
7	—	10	694	842	424	180	88	51	24	22	14	2 349
8	—	5	484	897	474	187	92	49	24	19	12	2 243
9	—	—	299	945	476	213	95	40	20	20	11	2 119
10	—	—	169	779	555	219	99	46	32	14	4	1 917
11	—	—	69	680	512	233	128	55	21	22	6	1 726
12	—	—	23	590	627	240	106	42	21	16	6	1 671
13	—	—	13	455	625	275	96	49	22	11	5	1 551
14	—	—	—	359	685	299	113	42	31	15	4	1 549
15	—	—	—	180	786	336	115	54	27	12	8	1 518
16	—	—	—	103	718	322	111	42	17	15	9	1 337
17	—	—	—	26	663	392	135	51	21	14	5	1 307
18	—	—	—	8	524	445	16m	51	12	12	4	1 217
19	—	—	—	4	378	517	152	45	13	15	5	1 129
20	—	—	—	—	237	559	177	55	22	16	7	1 074
21	—	—	—	—	109	583	187	46	18	8	9	960
22	—	—	—	—	38	531	230	54	19	6	11	889
23	—	—	—	—	12	444	279	50	16	13	5	819
24	—	—	—	—	—	326	358	59	13	6	4	766
25	—	—	—	—	—	203	382	71	15	9	—	680
26	—	—	—	—	—	94	443	82	21	8	4	652
27	—	—	—	—	—	26	368	124	22	9	5	554
28	—	—	—	—	—	8	265	165	22	8	—	468
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	170	193	30	6	3	404
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	155	779	501	399	11	1 845
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	54	56
Total	293	4 049	10 374	11 124	10 579	8 177	5 428	2 783	1 230	877	416	55 330

3.7 AGE AT DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE, Duration of marriage to divorce

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
HUSBAND												
1	59	169	131	69	52	32	27	12	16	25	7	599
2	189	661	543	293	194	127	107	56	27	59	27	2 283
3	142	850	846	464	245	167	103	71	32	50	24	2 994
4	80	831	1 038	538	297	199	123	76	50	44	19	3 295
5	24	759	1 098	637	368	199	153	68	45	49	26	3 426
6	11	509	1 141	642	325	176	132	60	40	45	26	3 107
7	3	289	1 028	670	361	207	136	85	49	46	21	2 893
8	—	146	934	697	414	206	131	65	35	36	21	2 685
9	—	73	713	709	374	194	143	68	39	42	13	2 368
10	—	34	589	799	428	194	120	78	36	23	18	2 319
11	—	11	422	852	443	201	126	72	41	41	12	2 221
12	—	—	278	769	471	225	142	77	37	42	12	2 053
13	—	—	129	665	500	250	152	55	32	33	8	1 825
14	—	—	66	621	445	240	131	76	41	36	4	1 660
15	—	—	23	545	590	290	132	75	38	24	8	1 725
16	—	—	7	453	597	293	175	84	36	31	10	1 686
17	—	—	—	302	648	283	140	85	37	37	3	1 535
18	—	—	—	196	639	374	169	60	25	32	3	1 499
19	—	—	—	87	624	390	162	74	19	25	5	1 386
20	—	—	—	37	544	396	178	84	34	29	7	1 309
21	—	—	—	11	426	427	197	59	22	23	4	1 169
22	—	—	—	3	349	424	211	66	28	21	4	1 105
23	—	—	—	—	202	503	207	73	34	35	6	1 060
24	—	—	—	—	108	514	225	69	34	25	—	977
25	—	—	—	—	47	485	252	83	27	17	3	914
26	—	—	—	—	15	438	282	77	28	24	—	866
27	—	—	—	—	3	303	397	91	18	17	4	832
28	—	—	—	—	3	198	399	93	32	16	3	744
29	—	—	—	—	—	104	451	115	28	24	—	723
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	59	1 092	1 352	836	708	22	4 069
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total	506	4 334	8 987	10 058	9 711	8 098	6 395	3 460	1 796	1 659	326	55 330

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	122	186	106	58	51	29	14	4	13	6	10	599
2	417	770	454	234	156	85	64	24	17	23	39	2 283
3	397	1 114	661	332	230	107	64	34	20	16	19	2 994
4	297	1 176	856	391	231	162	86	43	18	10	25	3 295
5	173	1 169	1 011	464	261	147	105	45	19	12	20	3 426
6	47	992	1 051	456	245	137	78	47	19	11	24	3 107
7	7	678	1 068	503	269	166	97	49	22	18	16	2 893
8	3	455	1 098	543	269	136	79	49	18	13	22	2 685
9	—	266	963	567	269	117	101	34	21	17	13	2 368
10	—	146	923	657	302	132	85	44	9	7	13	2 319
11	—	42	794	706	349	145	90	42	25	12	16	2 221
12	—	20	645	696	364	158	90	35	22	12	11	2 053
13	—	9	403	708	382	167	79	36	22	7	12	1 825
14	—	—	258	717	353	154	87	42	22	17	10	1 660
15	—	—	156	767	449	180	98	44	19	10	3	1 725
16	—	—	70	711	501	202	119	47	15	13	8	1 686
17	—	—	30	641	501	190	88	47	22	11	5	1 535
18	—	—	6	523	567	257	81	34	18	9	4	1 499
19	—	—	—	356	638	257	84	26	9	5	9	1 386
20	—	—	—	199	648	291	97	31	26	9	8	1 309
21	—	—	—	83	647	278	104	30	10	10	7	1 169
22	—	—	—	33	595	280	114	41	18	11	13	1 105
23	—	—	—	8	458	385	129	46	11	15	8	1 060
24	—	—	—	3	344	429	130	42	15	9	5	977
25	—	—	—	—	232	481	141	35	11	8	6	914
26	—	—	—	—	126	545	141	29	10	15	—	866
27	—	—	—	—	46	547	173	46	6	8	6	832
28	—	—	—	—	12	421	234	52	12	8	5	744
29	—	—	—	—	—	324	318	54	11	14	3	723
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	293	1 594	1 180	539	431	32	4 069
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total	1 464	7 024	10 555	10 356	9 495	7 202	4 764	2 313	1 019	767	371	55 330

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	201	285	113	599
2	648	1 144	491	2 283
3	747	1 414	833	2 994
4	852	1 559	884	3 295
5	822	1 671	933	3 426
6	781	1 495	831	3 107
7	743	1 425	725	2 893
8	728	1 306	651	2 685
9	655	1 156	557	2 368
10	608	1 206	505	2 319
11	637	1 155	429	2 221
12	552	1 102	399	2 053
13	509	943	373	1 825
14	533	821	306	1 660
15	506	891	328	1 725
16	507	856	323	1 686
17	503	757	275	1 535
18	490	709	300	1 499
19	465	657	264	1 386
20	420	613	276	1 309
21	393	543	233	1 169
22	381	475	249	1 105
23	371	431	258	1 060
24	343	389	245	977
25	314	373	227	914
26	306	310	250	866
27	303	318	211	832
28	262	287	195	744
29	310	244	169	723
30 and over	1 716	1 499	854	4 069
Not stated	3	—	—	3
Total	16 608	26 035	12 687	55 330

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. ET)	32 139	..	5 448	37 696	32 139	..	6 693	38 932
Fiji	64	153	30	249	74	153	68	295
New Zealand	682	561	253	1 499	590	561	271	1 426
Papua New Guinea	70	4	15	90	87	4	28	120
Other	43	71	37	151	23	71	41	135
<i>Total</i>	<i>32 998</i>	<i>789</i>	<i>5 783</i>	<i>39 685</i>	<i>32 913</i>	<i>789</i>	<i>7 101</i>	<i>40 908</i>
North-West Europe								
Austria	32	6	25	64	26	6	21	53
Denmark	25	4	9	38	26	4	5	35
France	52	15	25	92	30	15	34	79
Germany	266	74	135	477	190	74	117	383
Ireland	99	46	77	222	57	46	46	149
Netherlands	206	46	91	346	144	46	60	250
Switzerland	24	12	29	65	31	12	13	57
United Kingdom	2 743	1 410	649	4 813	2 117	1 410	539	4 076
Other	56	13	28	97	57	13	37	108
<i>Total</i>	<i>3 503</i>	<i>1 626</i>	<i>1 068</i>	<i>6 214</i>	<i>2 678</i>	<i>1 626</i>	<i>872</i>	<i>5 190</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	28	12	45	3	28	18	49
Croatia	44	54	46	144	30	54	27	111
Cyprus	24	15	16	56	14	15	29	58
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	40	51	21	112	12	51	20	83
Greece	152	122	56	331	61	122	46	231
Hungary	31	46	30	108	21	46	14	81
Italy	294	157	113	566	131	157	52	341
Malta	87	46	33	167	45	46	27	118
Poland	40	137	34	213	40	137	56	233
Portugal	19	18	12	49	6	18	15	39
Romania	16	56	17	89	3	56	19	78
Russian Federation	4	44	7	55	26	44	48	118
Spain	19	21	19	59	19	21	18	58
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	89	141	60	290	44	141	39	224
Other	39	144	53	237	33	144	34	212
<i>Total</i>	<i>903</i>	<i>1 080</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>2 521</i>	<i>488</i>	<i>1 080</i>	<i>462</i>	<i>2 034</i>
North Africa and the Middle East								
Egypt	61	43	47	152	24	43	17	85
Iran	16	58	31	105	5	58	8	71
Iraq	10	38	13	61	3	38	15	56
Israel	28	7	20	55	12	7	11	30
Lebanon	128	179	47	354	34	179	40	253
Syria	11	7	23	41	3	7	15	24
Turkey	46	146	25	218	16	146	16	178
Other	52	21	44	118	10	21	23	54
<i>Total</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>499</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>1 104</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>499</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>751</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	107	25	136	6	107	29	143
Indonesia	47	34	27	109	47	34	51	132
Laos	3	16	17	37	6	16	14	36
Malaysia	68	63	67	198	104	63	74	241
Philippines	34	250	19	305	340	250	184	777
Singapore	32	11	40	83	40	11	41	92
Thailand	7	27	9	43	84	27	68	182
Viet Nam	20	983	91	1 094	23	983	89	1 098
Other	16	25	27	69	11	25	22	58
<i>Total</i>	230	1 516	322	2 074	661	1 516	572	2 759
North-East Asia								
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	32	841	102	976	80	841	194	1 118
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	27	62	67	156	20	62	57	140
Japan	20	14	15	49	47	14	38	99
Korea, Republic of (South)	3	61	6	70	13	61	14	88
Other	3	12	12	27	7	12	21	40
<i>Total</i>	85	990	202	1 278	167	990	324	1 485
Southern and Central Asia								
India	80	114	92	287	46	114	51	213
Pakistan	18	8	33	59	6	8	4	18
Sri Lanka	36	89	22	147	19	89	15	124
Other	8	25	12	45	9	25	7	41
<i>Total</i>	142	236	159	538	80	236	77	396
Americas								
Argentina	19	30	25	74	17	30	19	66
Canada	94	13	32	139	77	13	39	129
Caribbean	10	3	9	21	8	3	7	17
Central America	14	35	10	59	9	35	11	55
Chile	31	117	22	170	18	117	29	165
United States of America	184	29	69	283	157	29	73	261
Uruguay	14	38	19	71	11	38	16	65
Other	29	39	40	108	41	39	30	111
<i>Total</i>	395	303	226	925	338	303	224	869
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	17	4	5	26	11	4	11	26
Mauritius	26	28	22	76	17	28	22	68
South Africa	107	92	62	262	75	92	68	235
Zimbabwe	16	7	19	42	17	7	26	50
Other	58	99	59	220	36	99	47	182
<i>Total</i>	224	230	167	626	156	230	174	561
Other and not stated	—	—	—	365	—	—	—	377
Total	38 832	7 269	8 706	55 330	37 587	7 269	9 951	55 330

(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(a)	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl. ET)	5 947	10 016	7 029	5 528	3 890	2 728	2 557	37 696	11.8
Fiji	83	87	32	20	18	8	—	249	7.0
New Zealand	253	409	310	230	134	93	70	1 499	11.3
Papua New Guinea	17	33	11	11	11	5	3	90	n.p.
Other	27	51	33	16	10	8	6	151	9.7
<i>Total</i>	6 327	10 596	7 415	5 805	4 063	2 842	2 636	39 685	11.7
North-West Europe									
Austria	3	11	11	13	6	7	13	64	n.p.
Denmark	6	9	9	3	3	3	6	38	n.p.
France	15	31	15	14	8	4	5	92	n.p.
Germany	65	94	60	65	56	53	84	477	16.6
Ireland	32	51	40	17	30	31	21	222	12.8
Netherlands	23	50	49	61	50	46	67	346	19.2
Switzerland	13	13	11	9	10	3	6	65	n.p.
United Kingdom	543	1 077	965	750	535	443	500	4 813	13.9
Other	9	30	16	12	10	9	11	97	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	709	1 366	1 176	943	708	599	713	6 214	14.3
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11	12	9	3	4	3	5	45	n.p.
Croatia	16	28	21	17	18	18	26	144	16.8
Cyprus	11	11	11	11	4	4	4	56	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	31	32	13	17	9	5	5	112	8.3
Greece	39	45	59	39	53	37	59	331	18.1
Hungary	19	13	13	14	11	13	25	108	18.8
Italy	54	74	81	65	78	92	122	566	20.8
Malta	15	19	20	20	30	29	34	167	21.1
Poland	36	30	38	33	34	25	17	213	15.5
Portugal	10	7	10	9	5	5	3	49	n.p.
Romania	21	20	18	19	6	3	3	89	n.p.
Russian Federation	12	13	11	11	4	3	3	55	n.p.
Spain	6	14	11	4	8	7	9	59	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	39	54	47	41	32	29	48	290	15.6
Other	60	42	32	28	28	15	32	237	12.4
<i>Total</i>	380	414	394	329	324	286	394	2 521	15.9
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	39	29	20	20	15	14	15	152	12.3
Iran	35	20	15	11	17	5	—	105	8.9
Iraq	24	16	12	3	3	—	—	61	n.p.
Israel	8	15	10	7	6	6	3	55	n.p.
Lebanon	96	95	69	38	24	16	16	354	8.8
Syria	13	10	7	6	—	3	3	41	n.p.
Turkey	47	60	45	30	26	6	4	218	10.1
Other	27	42	22	6	7	7	7	118	8.4
<i>Total</i>	289	287	200	121	99	58	50	1 104	9.4

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

(a) Includes duration of marriage not stated.

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(a)	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	42	51	10	13	10	—	8	136	6.3
Indonesia	19	29	21	16	11	3	10	109	11.5
Laos	10	13	4	5	3	3	—	37	n.p.
Malaysia	30	48	42	35	25	13	5	198	12.4
Philippines	82	86	62	29	18	16	11	305	8.8
Singapore	24	26	9	12	6	5	3	83	n.p.
Thailand	18	14	4	6	3	—	—	43	n.p.
Viet Nam	308	513	103	64	48	33	25	1 094	6.1
Other	12	21	8	7	8	7	6	69	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	545	801	263	187	129	82	66	2 074	7.0
North-East Asia									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	298	293	148	120	49	21	47	976	6.8
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	39	48	19	24	13	9	4	156	8.4
Japan	8	21	8	6	—	5	3	49	n.p.
Korea, Republic of (South)	26	21	10	3	7	—	3	70	n.p.
Other	8	12	—	3	—	—	4	27	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	379	395	185	156	69	36	58	1 278	7.1
Southern and Central Asia									
India	81	69	35	32	31	21	18	287	9.4
Pakistan	18	20	11	3	3	—	4	59	n.p.
Sri Lanka	34	34	24	11	16	21	7	147	10.7
Other	17	12	4	6	3	3	—	45	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	150	135	74	52	53	45	29	538	9.3
Americas									
Argentina	18	12	8	7	7	9	13	74	n.p.
Canada	23	40	31	18	11	12	4	139	11.1
Caribbean	5	8	3	—	4	—	—	21	n.p.
Central America	9	17	13	6	12	3	—	59	n.p.
Chile	26	40	33	25	16	13	17	170	13.1
United States of America	63	87	55	37	20	8	13	283	9.6
Uruguay	9	13	21	6	5	8	9	71	n.p.
Other	42	36	10	8	4	3	5	108	6.1
<i>Total</i>	195	253	174	108	79	55	61	925	10.4
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	3	3	7	5	4	3	3	26	n.p.
Mauritius	7	13	21	12	11	6	6	76	n.p.
South Africa	47	50	48	35	34	27	21	262	13.5
Zimbabwe	8	4	7	11	4	8	—	42	n.p.
Other	77	68	39	19	9	4	4	220	6.1
<i>Total</i>	142	138	122	82	62	48	32	626	11.3
Other and not stated	55	94	75	48	34	28	30	365	11.7
Total	9 171	14 479	10 078	7 831	5 620	4 079	4 069	55 330	11.8

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

(a) Includes duration of marriage not stated.

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(a)	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl. ET)	6 173	10 284	7 193	5 643	4 026	2 906	2 706	38 932	11.8
Fiji	101	94	52	18	21	7	—	295	6.8
New Zealand	214	418	286	219	125	84	80	1 426	11.5
Papua New Guinea	24	43	24	15	6	6	3	120	8.7
Other	26	39	28	12	15	9	6	135	10.4
<i>Total</i>	6 538	10 878	7 583	5 907	4 193	3 012	2 796	40 908	11.8
North-West Europe									
Austria	12	7	6	4	9	5	10	53	n.p.
Denmark	5	11	4	5	4	3	5	35	n.p.
France	13	21	16	11	6	5	7	79	n.p.
Germany	57	63	56	55	41	40	71	383	17.1
Ireland	21	27	32	16	19	21	13	149	13.1
Netherlands	18	48	35	29	30	29	61	250	18.8
Switzerland	9	16	11	7	6	5	3	57	n.p.
United Kingdom	387	842	822	670	521	383	451	4 076	14.9
Other	16	27	21	15	7	12	10	108	11.6
<i>Total</i>	538	1 062	1 003	812	643	501	631	5 190	15.0
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	12	10	4	6	3	5	49	n.p.
Croatia	18	16	17	11	13	19	17	111	16.7
Cyprus	7	10	10	9	7	7	8	58	n.p.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	20	21	16	11	7	3	6	83	n.p.
Greece	16	33	38	30	37	25	52	231	19.6
Hungary	12	15	11	16	5	8	14	81	n.p.
Italy	20	49	38	54	43	51	86	341	21.4
Malta	5	19	16	14	18	17	29	118	21.4
Poland	35	44	40	31	36	28	19	233	14.8
Portugal	4	7	10	5	5	5	3	39	n.p.
Romania	24	20	9	13	7	3	3	78	n.p.
Russian Federation	51	31	12	16	5	—	3	118	5.6
Spain	6	13	10	8	7	7	7	58	n.p.
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	29	36	46	29	23	25	36	224	15.2
Other	61	46	29	21	19	10	26	212	9.8
<i>Total</i>	318	372	312	272	238	210	312	2 034	15.3
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	13	12	13	14	13	9	11	85	n.p.
Iran	20	8	12	10	15	4	—	71	n.p.
Iraq	23	14	10	—	3	5	—	56	n.p.
Israel	4	7	6	6	3	—	3	30	n.p.
Lebanon	55	62	48	30	22	17	19	253	10.7
Syria	4	7	4	3	3	4	3	24	n.p.
Turkey	33	40	39	29	25	8	4	178	11.2
Other	11	17	11	4	3	5	4	54	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	163	167	143	95	85	53	45	751	11.1

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

(a) Includes duration of marriage not stated.

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(a)	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	42	53	11	14	11	—	10	143	6.1
Indonesia	38	40	18	13	16	3	4	132	7.3
Laos	11	11	6	3	3	3	—	36	n.p.
Malaysia	36	65	51	37	25	19	8	241	12.0
Philippines	168	237	175	122	42	21	11	777	9.6
Singapore	24	25	14	14	9	4	3	92	n.p.
Thailand	56	65	42	9	10	—	—	182	7.8
Viet Nam	324	513	90	65	49	34	23	1 098	6.0
Other	9	12	10	10	8	—	7	58	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	708	1 021	417	287	172	88	65	2 759	7.5
North-East Asia									
China (excl. SARs & Taiwan)	373	356	165	118	45	20	41	1 118	6.4
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	28	41	15	24	20	9	3	140	10.3
Japan	29	44	15	5	3	4	—	99	n.p.
Korea, Republic of (South)	32	30	11	3	9	3	3	88	n.p.
Other	10	13	7	4	3	—	4	40	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	472	484	213	153	78	35	50	1 485	6.9
Southern and Central Asia									
India	51	46	30	35	21	14	16	213	12.0
Pakistan	4	5	7	—	—	—	3	18	n.p.
Sri Lanka	24	23	22	13	15	19	8	124	13.4
Other	20	8	3	7	3	3	—	41	n.p.
<i>Total</i>	99	82	61	55	38	35	26	396	11.5
Americas									
Argentina	16	6	14	4	3	7	16	66	n.p.
Canada	22	37	33	16	10	5	6	129	10.7
Caribbean	—	7	—	5	—	3	—	17	n.p.
Central America	10	12	12	7	11	3	—	55	n.p.
Chile	24	35	30	27	18	13	18	165	14.1
United States of America	54	62	57	40	20	12	16	261	11.3
Uruguay	11	13	15	7	3	8	9	65	n.p.
Other	27	30	18	10	10	11	5	111	9.8
<i>Total</i>	166	202	179	116	75	61	70	869	11.6
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	4	6	7	4	—	—	3	26	n.p.
Mauritius	9	14	11	9	9	10	6	68	n.p.
South Africa	40	47	32	40	30	28	18	235	14.8
Zimbabwe	6	6	9	12	6	9	—	50	n.p.
Other	57	44	38	18	14	6	5	182	7.9
<i>Total</i>	116	117	97	83	60	54	34	561	12.1
Other and not stated	53	94	70	51	38	30	40	377	13.3
Total	9 171	14 479	10 078	7 831	5 620	4 079	4 069	55 330	11.8

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

(a) Includes duration of marriage not stated.

3.12 SUMMARY(a), Selected countries of birth of husband

		<i>Australia (incl. ET)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Italy</i>
Divorces granted	no.	37 696	976	477	331	156	287	222	566
Population	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Divorce rate	rate	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Husbands born in country shown divorcing wives born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	32 139	32	266	152	27	80	99	294
Proportion	%	85.3	3.3	55.8	45.9	17.3	27.9	44.6	51.9
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	841	74	122	62	114	46	157
Proportion	%	..	86.2	15.5	36.9	39.7	39.7	20.7	27.7
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	5 448	102	135	56	67	92	77	113
Proportion	%	14.5	10.5	28.3	16.9	42.9	32.1	34.7	20.0
Median duration of marriage	years	11.8	6.8	16.6	18.1	8.4	9.4	12.8	20.8
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	8.4	4.5	12.2	13.5	5.2	6.2	9.3	16.9
Divorces involving children									
Number	no.	20 416	393	176	159	62	121	96	215
Percentage of total divorces	%	54.2	40.3	36.9	48.0	39.7	42.2	43.2	38.0
Average issue	average	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.7
Applicant									
Husband	no.	11 290	235	153	113	32	99	59	204
Wife	no.	18 082	317	217	169	60	130	111	269
Joint	no.	8 324	424	107	49	64	58	52	93
Median age									
At marriage	years	26.0	31.0	29.9	26.5	28.4	27.8	27.1	26.7
At final separation	years	37.8	39.8	47.5	43.3	38.9	38.1	39.6	46.8
At decree made absolute	years	41.2	42.2	52.0	46.9	41.7	42.1	44.1	51.2

.. not applicable

n.y.a. not yet available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

3.12 SUMMARY(a), Selected countries of birth of husband *continued*

		Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philip-pines	South Africa	United Kingdom	United States of America	Viet Nam
Divorces granted	no.	354	198	1 499	305	262	4 813	283	1 094
Population	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Divorce rate	rate	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Husbands born in country shown divorcing wives born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	128	68	682	34	107	2 743	184	20
Proportion	%	36.2	34.3	45.5	11.1	40.8	57.0	65.0	1.8
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	179	63	561	250	92	1 410	29	983
Proportion	%	50.6	31.8	37.4	82.0	35.1	29.3	10.2	89.9
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	47	67	253	19	62	649	69	91
Proportion	%	13.3	33.8	16.9	6.2	23.7	13.5	24.4	8.3
Median duration of marriage	years	8.8	12.4	11.3	8.8	13.5	13.9	9.6	6.1
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	6.0	9.1	7.5	5.4	10.6	10.5	6.2	3.7
Divorces involving children									
Number	no.	174	99	788	153	119	2 243	124	372
Percentage of total divorces	%	49.2	50.0	52.6	50.2	45.4	46.6	43.8	34.0
Average issue	average	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.7
Applicant									
Husband	no.	116	42	428	90	68	1 417	75	304
Wife	no.	180	93	713	164	112	2 121	133	517
Joint	no.	58	63	358	51	82	1 275	75	273
Median age									
At marriage	years	26.3	27.6	27.4	27.1	26.6	27.6	28.7	27.9
At final separation	years	34.1	39.9	38.4	35.6	41.8	41.3	37.9	35.0
At decree made absolute	years	36.9	42.9	41.8	39.4	45.4	44.8	41.9	38.0

n.y.a. not yet available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

3.13 SUMMARY(a), Selected countries of birth of wife

		<i>Australia (incl. ET)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Italy</i>
Divorces granted	no.	38 932	1 118	383	231	140	213	149	341
Population	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Divorce rate	rate	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Wives born in country shown divorcing husbands born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	32 139	80	190	61	20	46	57	131
Proportion	%	82.6	7.2	49.6	26.4	14.3	21.6	38.3	38.4
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	841	74	122	62	114	46	157
Proportion	%	..	75.2	19.3	52.8	44.3	53.5	30.9	46.0
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	6 693	194	117	46	57	51	46	52
Proportion	%	17.2	17.4	30.5	19.9	40.7	23.9	30.9	15.2
Median duration of marriage	years	11.8	6.4	17.1	19.6	10.3	12.0	13.1	21.4
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	8.4	4.0	12.5	15.4	7.6	7.8	9.8	17.3
Divorces involving children									
Number	no.	20 938	427	136	87	57	90	67	134
Percentage of total divorces	%	53.8	38.2	35.5	37.7	40.7	42.3	45.0	39.3
Average issue	average	1.9	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.7
Applicant									
Husband	no.	11 337	288	115	102	32	77	44	149
Wife	no.	18 958	359	172	96	54	82	63	127
Joint	no.	8 635	471	96	33	54	54	42	65
Median age									
At marriage	years	23.7	28.1	26.1	22.8	25.5	24.9	24.4	23.0
At final separation	years	35.2	36.4	43.4	41.1	36.7	35.2	37.9	42.9
At decree made absolute	years	38.6	38.6	47.9	43.8	40.5	39.1	42.4	47.3

.. not applicable

n.y.a. not yet available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

3.13 SUMMARY(a), Selected countries of birth of wife *continued*

		Lebanon	Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	United Kingdom	United States of America	Viet Nam
Divorces granted	no.	253	241	1 426	777	235	4 076	261	1 098
Population	'000	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Divorce rate	rate	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.	n.y.a.
Wives born in country shown divorcing husbands born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	34	104	590	340	75	2 117	157	23
Proportion	%	13.4	43.2	41.4	43.8	31.9	51.9	60.2	2.1
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	179	63	561	250	92	1 410	29	983
Proportion	%	70.8	26.1	39.3	32.2	39.1	34.6	11.1	89.5
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	40	74	271	184	68	539	73	89
Proportion	%	15.8	30.7	19.0	23.7	28.9	13.2	28.0	8.1
Median duration of marriage	years	10.7	12.0	11.5	9.6	14.8	14.9	11.3	6.0
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.5	8.5	7.7	6.1	11.7	11.4	8.1	3.7
Divorces involving children									
Number	no.	114	118	771	375	111	1 995	101	372
Percentage of total divorces	%	45.1	49.0	54.1	48.3	47.2	48.9	38.7	33.9
Average issue	average	2.2	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.7
Applicant									
Husband	no.	102	74	429	295	64	1 158	87	299
Wife	no.	113	91	667	347	97	1 878	92	520
Joint	no.	38	76	330	135	74	1 040	82	279
Median age									
At marriage	years	21.6	25.5	24.7	26.9	24.2	24.6	26.6	24.2
At final separation	years	33.1	37.5	35.5	36.1	38.6	38.8	38.3	30.2
At decree made absolute	years	36.5	40.8	39.0	39.3	42.0	42.3	41.2	32.7

n.y.a. not yet available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

3.14 NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE(a)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.....

Selected years	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Total divorces	Total children	Average number of children(b)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	average
1981	16 127	8 898	10 621	4 141	1 231	394	41 412	49 616	1.962
1986	15 887	8 373	10 168	3 756	998	235	39 417	45 231	1.922
1991	20 918	9 167	10 567	3 848	970	182	45 652	46 708	1.888
1996	24 328	10 921	11 803	4 057	1 116	241	52 466	52 455	1.864
1997	23 594	10 661	11 565	4 215	1 026	227	51 228	51 742	1.868
1998	23 923	10 384	11 590	4 163	1 076	234	51 370	51 602	1.880
1999	24 235	10 522	12 213	4 201	1 163	232	52 566	53 444	1.886
2000	23 611	9 807	11 239	3 977	1 053	219	49 906	49 612	1.887
2001	26 985	10 650	12 078	4 228	1 129	260	55 330	53 396	1.884

(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.....

<i>Duration of marriage (years)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5 and over</i>	<i>Total divorces</i>	<i>Total children</i>	<i>Average number of children(b)</i>
<i>(years)</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>average</i>
1	478	78	33	8	—	—	599	176	1.455
2	1 681	360	185	44	11	3	2 283	916	1.522
3	2 081	524	287	75	23	4	2 994	1 440	1.577
4	2 113	682	372	94	28	6	3 295	1 851	1.566
5	2 015	716	527	134	27	7	3 426	2 316	1.641
6	1 642	695	575	144	38	13	3 107	2 502	1.708
7	1 358	651	650	175	47	12	2 893	2 726	1.776
8	1 127	575	739	184	53	7	2 685	2 855	1.832
9	892	522	696	206	42	10	2 368	2 750	1.863
10–14	2 936	1 877	3 533	1 316	350	66	10 078	14 633	2.049
15–19	1 738	1 366	2 878	1 340	406	103	7 831	13 330	2.188
20–24	2 156	1 615	1 292	445	87	25	5 620	6 015	1.736
25–29	2 904	823	281	54	12	5	4 079	1 621	1.380
30 and over	3 863	165	29	9	3	—	4 069	262	1.272
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	n.p.
Total	26 985	10 650	12 078	4 228	1 129	260	55 330	53 396	1.884

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

(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 divorces
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
0	26 985	74	102	47	16	9	27 233
1	—	371	387	145	43	14	960
2	—	663	737	286	105	27	1 818
3	—	831	871	358	119	42	2 221
4	—	796	999	411	135	29	2 370
5	—	735	1 070	414	129	32	2 380
6	—	645	976	448	130	30	2 229
7	—	567	916	396	119	30	2 028
8	—	517	905	371	106	18	1 917
9	—	426	881	336	71	18	1 732
10	—	434	765	356	75	4	1 634
11	—	425	752	274	39	3	1 492
12	—	438	760	197	29	—	1 425
13	—	441	724	111	8	3	1 287
14	—	575	662	55	3	—	1 295
15	—	836	448	19	3	—	1 305
16	—	1 001	108	4	—	—	1 114
17	—	875	15	—	—	—	890
Total	26 985	10 650	12 078	4 228	1 129	260	55 330

(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.	16 057	13 722	12 085	4 545	5 351	1 439	447	1 684	55 330
Crude divorce rate	rate	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.2	(b)	2.8
Median duration of marriage	years	10.9	11.9	11.8	12.6	12.6	13.3	10.3	12.3	11.8
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.5	8.5	8.3	9.1	9.2	9.7	7.1	8.8	8.3
Divorces involving children										
Number	no.	7 306	7 169	6 600	2 451	2 905	809	211	894	28 345
Proportion of total divorces	%	45.5	52.2	54.6	53.9	54.3	56.2	47.2	53.1	51.2
Average issue	average	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Applicant										
Husband	no.	4 988	4 211	3 540	1 334	1 473	420	127	515	16 608
Wife	no.	7 294	6 372	6 027	2 271	2 510	715	162	684	26 035
Joint	no.	3 775	3 139	2 518	940	1 368	304	158	485	12 687

(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	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	(c)	0.5
25–29	rate	5.6	6.2	7.7	6.1	5.2	7.1	4.5	(c)	6.2
30–34	rate	10.9	12.5	14.7	12.8	11.0	12.8	8.3	(c)	12.4
35–39	rate	11.8	13.9	15.9	14.2	13.0	15.6	9.3	(c)	13.6
40–44	rate	11.1	13.4	15.5	14.2	13.1	16.8	10.7	(c)	13.3
45–49	rate	10.2	12.3	13.5	12.9	12.4	13.1	8.1	(c)	12.0
50–54	rate	8.2	9.7	11.6	10.8	10.1	10.4	7.2	(c)	9.8
55 and over	rate	2.8	3.3	4.4	3.5	3.7	3.2	3.8	(c)	3.5
Median age of divorcee										
At marriage	years	26.8	26.3	26.5	26.3	26.5	25.8	27.0	26.1	26.5
At final separation	years	38.1	38.2	38.6	38.9	39.1	39.1	37.5	38.6	38.4
At decree made absolute	years	41.5	41.6	42.0	42.4	42.5	42.2	40.7	41.9	41.8
WIFE										
Age-specific divorce rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
24 and under	rate	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	(c)	1.3
25–29	rate	9.0	9.4	12.3	10.8	8.7	11.3	7.3	(c)	10.0
30–34	rate	12.8	14.1	16.2	15.2	13.4	14.9	11.6	(c)	14.2
35–39	rate	11.5	14.1	16.5	15.1	13.9	15.1	8.0	(c)	13.8
40–44	rate	11.2	12.6	14.3	13.6	12.8	15.1	11.1	(c)	12.8
45–49	rate	8.6	10.5	12.3	11.4	11.6	12.6	7.0	(c)	10.5
50–54	rate	6.2	7.3	8.6	7.9	7.6	7.5	7.5	(c)	7.4
55 and over	rate	1.4	1.8	2.4	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	(c)	1.8
Median age of divorcee										
At marriage	years	24.3	24.0	23.9	23.9	23.8	23.6	23.9	23.7	24.0
At final separation	years	35.4	35.6	35.7	36.3	36.3	36.9	33.6	36.0	35.7
At decree made absolute	years	38.7	38.9	39.0	39.7	39.7	40.2	36.9	39.6	39.1

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) Per 1,000 males or females, 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>
1981	14 512	9 769	6 470	4 132	3 481	1 139	393	1 516	41 412
1986	11 661	9 670	7 042	3 776	4 001	1 245	381	1 641	39 417
1991	13 151	11 134	8 934	4 215	4 446	1 383	419	1 970	45 652
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
2001	16 057	13 722	12 085	4 545	5 351	1 439	447	1 684	55 330

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>
1981	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.2	(b)	2.8
1986	2.1	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.5	(b)	2.5
1991	2.2	2.5	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.5	(b)	2.6
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
2001	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.2	(b)	2.8

(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

POPULATION DATA AT 30 JUNE 2001

The estimated resident population (ERP) by marital status at 30 June 2001 is not yet available. The total population, aged 15 years and over, was 15.5 million people at 30 June 2001. The latest available marital status estimates are at 30 June 2000. The marital status data in this chapter has been reproduced from *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2000* (cat. no. 3310.0).

Total ERP at 30 June 2001 is available and has been included in table 4.4.

INTRODUCTION

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

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(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

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(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)
1981	5 237 350	3 949 277	2 344 597	1 318 377	1 301 238	427 122	123 372	227 756	14 929 089
1986	5 533 249	4 161 497	2 623 482	1 382 506	1 457 917	446 495	154 433	258 937	16 018 516
1991	5 899 584	4 421 251	2 962 097	1 446 135	1 636 636	466 738	165 888	288 844	17 287 173
1996	6 204 728	4 560 155	3 338 690	1 474 253	1 765 256	474 443	181 843	308 251	18 310 714
1997r	6 286 221	4 602 429	3 397 188	1 481 832	1 796 638	473 826	187 386	309 477	18 537 862
1998r	6 360 877	4 649 814	3 454 140	1 490 829	1 826 827	472 466	190 882	310 994	18 759 580
1999r	6 438 641	4 700 702	3 508 571	1 499 204	1 854 413	472 020	194 155	313 762	18 984 157
2000r	6 520 176	4 759 034	3 570 272	1 506 802	1 879 894	472 083	197 401	316 990	19 225 331
2001p	6 609 304	4 822 663	3 635 121	1 514 854	1 906 114	472 931	200 019	321 680	19 485 278

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.

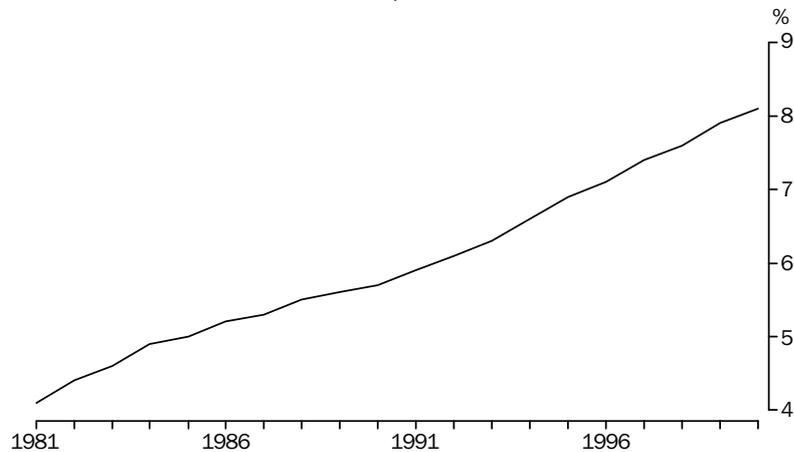
INTRODUCTION

The divorced population at a point in time is the net effect of divorces and remarriages after divorce which have taken place over the past few decades. The balance of these two components has led to an increasing population of divorced women in the Australian population¹.

In 1981 there were 233,500 divorced women in Australia. This number has risen on a yearly basis. The latest estimate at June 2000 puts this figure at 624,400 women, an increase of 167% over the number in 1981.

At June 2000, 8% of the female population, aged 15 years and over, was divorced, having risen from 4% in 1981. While marital status projections of the population are not available, projections for the total female population indicate that by 2051 the female population, aged 15 years and over, will have grown to around 11 million (ABS 2000, Series II). Assuming the proportion of divorced females remains the same as in 2000 (8%) Australia could expect nearly 900,000 divorced females in the population in 2051. While this would appear to be a very modest estimate, a growing number of divorced women is likely to have socioeconomic implications for Australia over the next 50 years.

DIVORCED FEMALES(a), Proportion(b)



(a) Aged 15 years and over.

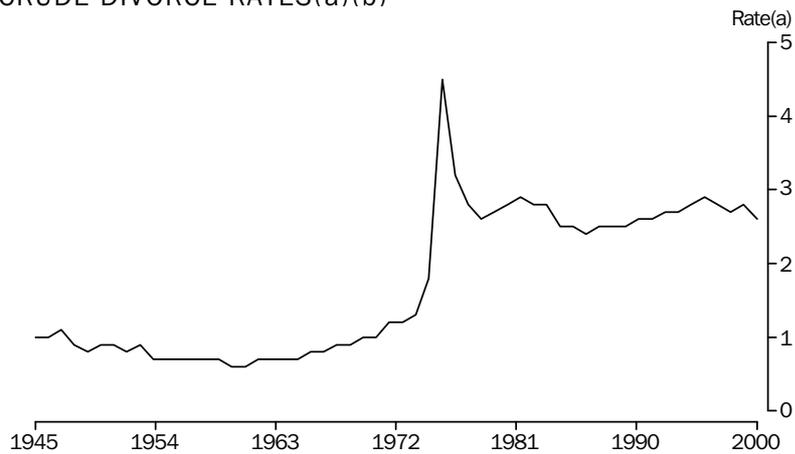
(b) Per 100 total female population.

¹ The number of divorced women at a point in time is a 'pool' of those who were successful in their divorce and did not remarry or leave the country or die before the date of the population estimate.

DIVORCE TRENDS

Prior to 1945 the crude divorce rate remained below 1 divorce per 1,000 population. Subsequently the rate fluctuated but did not exceed 1.8 until 1976 when, with the introduction of the *Family Law Act 1975*, it reached the record level of 4.5 per 1,000 population. The rate then declined until 1979 as the backlog of applications was cleared, before fluctuating with a slight increase evident since 1987. The divorce rate was consistently higher in the 1980s and the 1990s than at any time before 1975. In 2000 the crude divorce rate was 2.6 divorces per 1,000 population.

CRUDE DIVORCE RATES(a) (b)



(a) Per 1,000 population.

(b) In 1976 the *Family Law Act 1975* was introduced.

Over the last 20 years the divorce rate for married women has fluctuated, ranging from a high of 12.9 divorces per 1,000 married women (1996) to a low of 10.6 per 1,000 (1986 and 1987). In 2000 the divorce rate was 12.0.

DIVORCE RATES(a), Females



(a) Per 1,000 married women.

REASONS FOR DIVORCE

Prior to the introduction of the *Family Law Act 1975* on 5 January 1976, single or multiple reasons were given by those seeking a dissolution of marriage. In 1975 there were 24,300 dissolutions of marriage granted. The major single reason given was desertion (8,900), followed by adultery (8,000), separation (3,400) and cruelty (2,600). In 1975, 64% of dissolutions granted had the wife as the petitioner.

The *Family Law Act 1975* allowed only one ground for divorce, an irretrievable breakdown in the marriage, measured as the separation of the spouses for at least one year. Today, the reasons men and women choose to divorce are complex, varied and interactive. Gigy and Kelly (1992, p. 186) observe that 'Whereas before, divorce was a solution more often limited to such stark and specific circumstances as desertion or chronic alcoholism, in the mid-80s, divorce appears to be most commonly sought because of a more general dissatisfaction with the emotional or affective deficiencies and tenor of the marital relationship'.

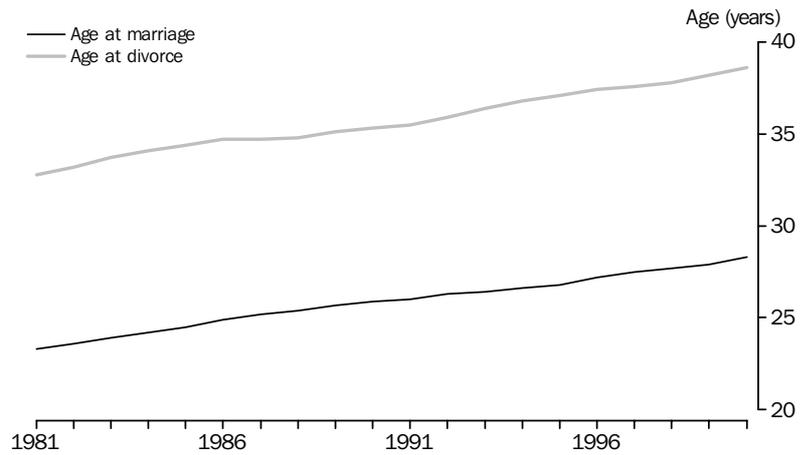
Wolcott and Hughes, 1999 examined the reasons perceived by divorced men and women to be the cause of their marriage breakdown. The study found that affective issues, such as communication problems, incompatibility/drifted apart and extra marital affairs were the main reasons given by both men and women. Women were more likely than men to report abusive behaviours as the main reason for divorce. The study also found that the perceived reasons for divorce mentioned by respondents did not appear to be strongly associated with the selected demographic variables, such as education, employment and age at marriage.

Additionally, the Andrews' Report (1998) provided a summary of the most common themes for marriage breakdown presented in submissions to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. These included: unemployment and work related problems; high risk factors within marriages such as addictive behaviours, chronic illness, or death of a child; blended families; marriage and relationship breakdown in the family of origin; a redefinition of gender roles and the feminist agenda of equality; ambivalent or negative attitudes toward marriage; the growth of individualism; poor communication skills; poor parenting skills; domestic violence; pre-marital cohabitation; ease of divorce; geographical and social isolation of the family; and migration issues.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN DIVORCING IN A YEAR

Over the last 20 years the median age of women divorcing has increased. The median age is the age where there are as many women divorcing above the age as there are below it. In 1981 the median age at divorce was 32.8 years; by 2000 it had increased to 38.6 years. The main contributor to this increase is the rising age of women at first marriage. In 1981 the median age of women at first marriage was 22.1 years, rising to 26.7 years in 2000. The length of marriage during this period, while fluctuating, has tended slowly upwards. The median duration of marriage to divorce has increased from a low of 10.1 years in 1988 and 1990 to a high of 11.6 years in 2000.

MEDIAN AGE OF FEMALES AT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE



REMARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE

Of the marriages that were registered between 1981 and 2000 the proportion of men and women remarrying who had previously been divorced, while fluctuating, increased marginally. During this period a lower proportion of women than men remarried after divorce. In 2000, 21% of women entering a registered marriage did so after previously being divorced. For men the comparative proportion was 23%.

REMARRIAGES, Previously divorced, Proportion(a)



(a) Per 100 annually registered marriages.

Over the last 20 years remarriage rates for divorced women fell dramatically. When 1981 and 2000 are compared remarriage rates for divorced women fell in each age group. The two younger age groups (19 years and under and 20–24 years) fell by over 50% while all other age groups fell by between 31% and 48%.

REMARRIAGE RATES(a) FOR DIVORCED FEMALES

Age group (years)	1981	2000	PERCENTAGE
	rate(a)	rate(a)	CHANGE.....
			%
19 and under(b)	117.3	46.9	-60.0
20-24	237.2	112.4	-52.6
25-29	197.0	123.1	-37.5
30-34	142.2	98.2	-31.0
35-39	104.4	65.5	-37.3
40-44	83.3	43.7	-47.5
45-49	57.4	33.4	-41.9
50-54	40.2	23.6	-41.2
55-59	24.4	14.8	-39.2
60 and over	10.0	5.3	-46.8

(a) Per 1,000 population of divorced females, of appropriate ages, at 30 June.

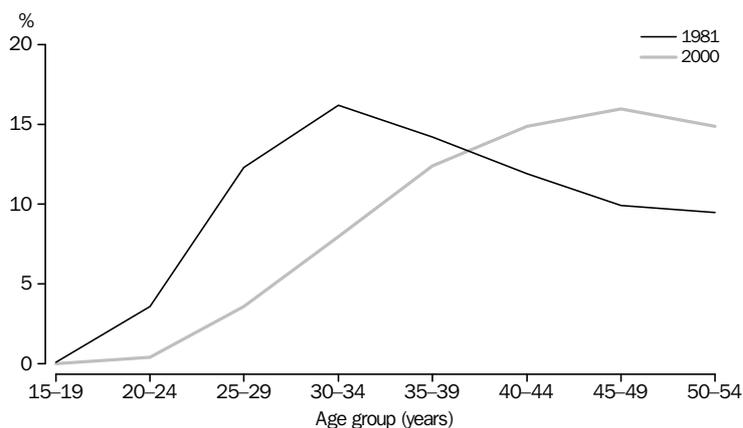
(b) For the purpose of calculating rates for this row, only females in the population aged between 15 and 19 years have been included in the calculation.

A recent Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) report (Hughes, 2000, p. 20) found that repartnering through a registered or de facto marriage is less likely among women than men following divorce. This is supported by an earlier study (Parker, 1999, p. 41) which found that while 65% of men who had experienced a relationship breakdown said they were interested in a new relationship, only 43% of women expressed the same interest. It is clear that many women are choosing not to repartner.

DIVORCED WOMEN AGED 15-54 YEARS

Over the last 20 years the pool of divorced women in the population, aged 15-54 years, has more than doubled (increasing from 181,600 in 1981 to 438,700 in 2000). However, the proportion of all divorced women who are aged 15-54 years has decreased from 78% in 1981 to 70% in 2000. For all age groups up to and including age group 35-39 years the proportion of women who were divorced in 2000 was less than in 1981. For the age groups 40-44 years and over the pattern reversed and the proportion divorcing in 2000 became greater at each age group than in 1981. In 2000 the proportion peaked at age group 45-49 years (16%). In 1981 the highest proportion was in the age group 30-34 years (16%). Divorced women, aged 15-54 years, up to 1981 may have remarried less as they may have been more likely to have had children.

DIVORCED FEMALES AGED 15 TO 54 YEARS, Proportion(a)

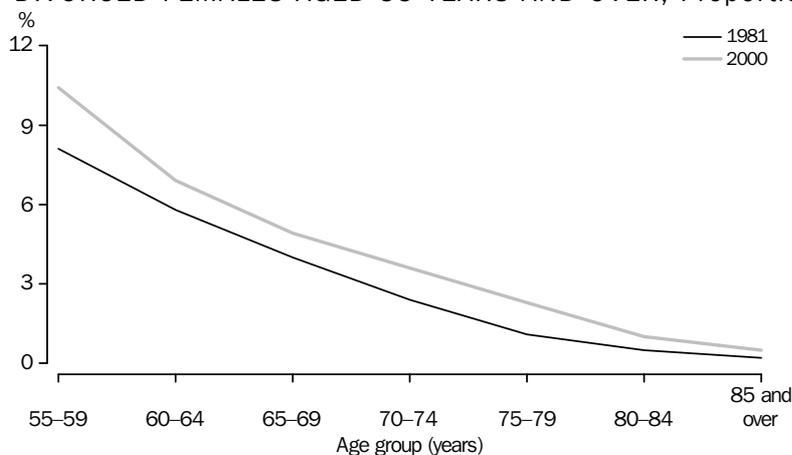


(a) Per 100 total divorced females.

DIVORCED WOMEN AGED 55 YEARS AND OVER

In line with the ageing of the population and the increase in the pool of divorced women in the population, the number of divorced women aged 55 years and over has increased from 51,900 in 1981 to 185,700 in 2000. In 1981, 22% of all divorced women compared with 30% in 2000 were aged 55 years and over. In each age group, the proportion divorced was higher in 2000 than in 1981.

DIVORCED FEMALES AGED 55 YEARS AND OVER, Proportion(a)



(a) Per 100 total divorced females.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF DIVORCED WOMEN

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing (2001 Census) found that women born in Australia comprised 69% of all divorced women. This was the same as the proportion for all women born in Australia at the 2001 Census (aged 15 years and over). For women born in countries other than Australia there were differences. Women who were born in the United Kingdom contributed 9% to the pool of divorced women while representing 7% of all women in the population. New Zealand born divorced women represented 3% of the divorced pool of women while representing 2% of women in the population.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Country of birth		DIVORCED FEMALES...			ALL FEMALES.....		
		15-54 years	55 years and over	Total 15 years and over	15-54 years	55 years and over	Total 15 years and over
Australia	%	70.0	65.8	68.7	71.7	63.8	69.4
United Kingdom	%	8.0	11.4	9.1	5.2	10.2	6.6
New Zealand	%	3.0	2.1	2.7	2.4	1.2	2.1
Germany	%	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.6	3.1	1.4
Viet Nam	%	1.2	0.3	1.0	1.2	0.5	1.0
China (excl. SARs and Taiwan)	%	1.0	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0
Italy	%	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.4	1.6	0.8
Netherlands	%	0.8	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.8
Philippines	%	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Greece	%	0.5	1.2	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.5
India	%	0.9	1.8	1.2	0.5	1.3	0.7
Other countries	%	9.3	9.3	9.3	10.8	9.4	10.4
All countries(a)	'000	427.3	192.2	619.5	5 394.9	2 203.3	7 598.2

(a) Includes country of birth not stated, inadequately described, at sea and not elsewhere classified. Excludes overseas visitors.

Source: ABS, 2001 Census.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF DIVORCED WOMEN

The 2001 Census found that nearly 7.4 million women aged 15 years and over lived in occupied private dwellings; 78% in one family households and 13% in lone-person households. Of these women 607,000 (8%) were divorced; 60% living in one family households and 30% living in one-person households. All household types increased their representation of divorced women when compared with the 1996 Census of Population and Housing (1996 Census).

For women aged 15–54 years, 72% of those who were divorced lived in one family households (83% for all women) and 18% lived in lone-person households (7% for all women).

By comparison, women aged 55 years and over had a smaller proportion living in one family households and a higher proportion living in lone-person households. Only 34% of those who were divorced lived in one family households (64% for all women) while 56% lived in one-person households (28% for all women).

HOUSEHOLD TYPE(a), Females(b)

Registered marital status	One family %	Two and three family %	Lone person %	Group %	Other(c) %	Total '000
15–54 YEARS						
Never married	73.4	2.0	10.9	10.2	3.5	1 987.0
Married	93.8	2.4	0.5	0.1	3.3	2 611.7
Widowed	67.1	3.1	23.7	3.4	2.7	57.7
Divorced	72.0	2.0	18.1	5.0	2.9	421.3
Separated	76.6	3.0	13.6	3.7	3.1	220.6
Total(d)	83.4	2.2	6.6	4.5	3.3	5 298.2
55 YEARS AND OVER						
Never married	28.4	0.7	57.8	8.9	4.2	79.5
Married	90.3	2.6	1.4	0.1	5.6	1 152.9
Widowed	29.1	0.8	65.5	2.0	2.7	588.8
Divorced	33.7	0.6	56.4	6.2	3.0	185.8
Separated	42.4	1.3	48.8	3.9	3.6	51.9
Total(d)	64.1	1.8	28.0	1.6	4.4	2 058.9
TOTAL (15 YEARS AND OVER)						
Never married	71.7	1.9	12.7	10.1	3.5	2 066.4
Married	92.7	2.4	0.7	0.1	4.0	3 764.7
Widowed	32.5	1.0	61.7	2.1	2.7	646.5
Divorced	60.3	1.6	29.8	5.4	2.9	607.0
Separated	70.1	2.7	20.3	3.8	3.2	272.5
Total(d)	78.0	2.1	12.6	3.7	3.6	7 357.2

(a) Includes occupied private dwellings.

(b) Aged 15 years and over.

(c) Includes visitors only, and other not classifiable.

(d) Excludes overseas visitors.

Source: ABS, 2001 Census.

Overall, lone-person households are on the increase in Australia. The medium series (Series B) of household projections, *Household and Family Projections* (ABS, 1999), indicates that lone-person households are projected to increase from 10% in 2001 to 12% in 2021. It is also projected that the proportion of females, aged under 55 years, living in lone-person households will fall (from 37% in 2001 to 30% in 2021) while the proportion of females, aged over 55 years, and living alone, will rise (from 63% in 2001 to 70% in 2021). It may be anticipated that these findings will be similar for divorced women.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF DIVORCED WOMEN

While 2001 Census information for employment status is not yet available, the 1996 Census found that divorced women in all households (52%) were more likely to be employed than women in general (48%) but were less likely to be employed than their male counterparts (60%).

For women aged 15–54 years in all households, divorced women (63%) and married women (63%) shared the highest participation in employment. By comparison, divorced men (72%) had a lower proportion employed than married men (86%).

For women aged 55 years and over in all households, those divorced (22%) had the highest proportion employed, followed by separated women (20%). Married men in this age group had the highest proportion employed (32%) followed by divorced men (31%). There was a considerable difference between the participation of divorced women (22%) and all women (13%) and divorced men (31%) and all men (29%).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS, All households

Employment status and registered marital status	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	15–54 years	55 years and over	Total 15 years and over	15–54 years	55 years and over	Total 15 years and over
Proportion employed(a)						
Never married	% 62.3	23.7	60.6	59.2	16.1	57.5
Married	% 85.9	31.6	67.6	62.7	17.2	50.1
Widowed	% 60.4	10.0	15.9	46.5	4.4	8.5
Divorced	% 72.1	31.4	60.5	62.9	21.7	52.3
Separated	% 72.7	29.9	63.2	53.7	19.7	48.3
Total	% 74.5	29.3	63.5	60.9	13.5	48.4
Total employed	'000 3 683.5	466.0	4 149.6	3 068.8	244.6	3 313.4
Total at the 1996 Census(b)	'000 4 942.8	1 589.4	6 532.3	5 038.6	1 812.9	6 851.5

(a) Proportion employed in each marital status.

(b) Includes not stated. Excludes overseas visitors.

Source: ABS, 1996 Census.

Divorced women in lone-person households (43%) were more likely to be employed than women in general (32%) but were less likely to be employed than divorced males (53%).

For women aged 15–54 years living in lone-person households, never married women (78%) and divorced women (68%) had the highest participation in employment. For men in this age group the highest proportions were for those who were separated (77%) and never married (73%).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF DIVORCED WOMEN *continued*

For women aged 55 years and over living in lone-person households, divorced women (20%) were the group with the highest representation in employment. This was considerably higher than for women in general (8%) but comparable with separated women (18%). Separated (28%) and divorced (27%) men were the most likely to be employed, showing a higher representation in employment than men in general (20%). There was a large difference between the participation of divorced women (20%) and all women (8%) and divorced men (27%) and all men (20%).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS, Lone-person households

Employment status and registered marital status	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	15-54 years	55 years and over	Total 15 years and over	15-54 years	55 years and over	Total 15 years and over
Proportion employed(a)						
Never married	% 73.3	22.1	65.0	77.6	15.4	66.1
Married	% 71.9	24.5	50.0	58.0	11.0	32.5
Widowed	% 55.5	8.7	11.2	43.5	3.8	5.4
Divorced	% 71.5	27.5	53.4	68.4	19.7	42.9
Separated	% 77.4	27.9	61.9	67.0	18.0	46.5
Total	% 73.2	19.5	54.7	72.2	7.7	31.8
Total employed	'000 326.7	45.9	372.6	223.7	40.3	264.1
Total at the 1996 Census(b)	'000 446.1	235.2	681.3	310.0	521.6	831.7

(a) Proportion employed in each marital status.

(b) Includes not stated. Excludes overseas visitors.

Source: ABS, 1996 Census.

The high participation of divorced women in employment, whether they be in all households or lone-person households, may be because of an interrupted work history for raising children and/or the need to work to an older age to achieve financial independence or qualify for the aged pension. This could be the case for women aged 55 years and over in particular.

INCOMES OF DIVORCED WOMEN

Earning capacity is seen as a most important aspect of each spouse's personal resources on divorce (Weston and Smyth, 2000, p. 10). The 2001 Census found that divorced women receive a smaller weekly median income than their male counterparts but a larger median income than women in general. Divorced women receive a median weekly income of \$390 per week. This was below the income of divorced males (\$520) and above the income of all women (\$330). This pattern was the same for women aged 15-54 years and women aged 55 years and over although the variations were different.

MEDIAN WEEKLY INCOMES(a)(b), All household types

	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	15-54	55 years	Total	15-54	55 years	Total
	years	and over	15 years	years	and over	15 years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Never married	433	283	425	357	285	353
Married	763	329	614	405	205	328
Widowed	564	272	279	374	255	258
Divorced	602	296	516	455	264	388
Separated	613	290	544	434	255	399
Total	601	311	530	394	241	327

(a) Individuals in occupied private dwellings. Excludes overseas visitors.

(b) Medians calculated for those in receipt of a stated income only.

Source: ABS, 2001 Census.

The 2001 Census found that the median weekly income of divorced women living in lone-person households compared with the incomes of all men and women followed a similar pattern to that of all households. For lone-person households the median weekly income of divorced women (\$300) was less than that of divorced men (\$450) while only marginally above that for all women (\$290).

MEDIAN WEEKLY INCOMES(a)(b), Lone-person households

	MALES.....			FEMALES.....		
	15-54	55 years	Total	15-54	55 years	Total
	years	and over	15 years	years	and over	15 years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Never married	573	285	528	592	294	542
Married	706	323	510	474	250	289
Widowed	514	276	278	344	261	262
Divorced	596	286	450	497	265	296
Separated	661	288	542	479	258	324
Total	589	283	472	550	263	293

(a) Individuals in occupied private dwellings. Excludes overseas visitors.

(b) Medians calculated for those in receipt of a stated income only.

Source: ABS, 2001 Census.

About 10 years ago the AIFS suggested that mothers (and their children) were at considerable disadvantage compared to fathers in terms of their financial circumstances following marital dissolution (Weston, 1986, 1993, cited in Weston and Smyth, 2000, p. 10). A drastic fall in financial living standards was experienced by sole-parent families headed by mothers, and older divorced women living alone. Many remained financially disadvantaged. Men, by contrast, appeared to be as well off, or better off, than before they separated. Similar findings were evident in other developed countries (Holden and Smock 1991, cited in Weston and Smyth, 2000, p. 10).

SUPERANNUATION

Superannuation or retirement benefits are currently considered an important part of combined family assets earned by the couple during the marriage with the expectation of later sharing upon retirement. This was not always so as in the past it was common practice for superannuation (mainly financed from the male partner's wage) to be excluded from financial divorce settlements. It is now widely accepted, both in Australia and overseas, that 'pension-splitting' is the fairest and most effective way of dealing with superannuation on divorce (Dewar, Sheehan and Hughes, 1999, p. 5).

Compulsory superannuation, introduced in 1992, is paid by 90% of workers (Department of Health and Aged Care, 2000, p. 28). While this will assist in creating financial independence in the future for employed divorced women it will not be the complete solution to the financial disadvantage experienced by many women. This is because most superannuation schemes are linked to earnings from employment. This disadvantages women as many women are not in the workforce at all, are likely to have had an interrupted employment history and/or low income and may not have had the opportunity to accumulate sufficient superannuation benefits to guarantee financial independence. The report also states that 'superannuation assets are rising but it will take a long time for the public sector pension burden to wind down because many superannuants face low super payouts.' This is particularly relevant to women with little labour force involvement, particularly older women, as they can expect to remain reliant on public support, particularly the aged pension.

WHERE CHILDREN LIVE AFTER PARENTS SEPARATE

With separation and divorce comes the breakup of the family unit and the children generally live with one parent, usually the mother (AST, 1999, p. 42). In April 1997, there were 978,400 Australian children (aged under 18 years at time of the ABS Family Characteristics Survey, April 1997) who were living with one natural parent and who had the other natural parent living elsewhere. The vast majority of children (88%) lived with their natural mother in either one-parent families (68%) or in step or blended families (20%).

Children of all ages were more likely to live with their mother than their father and this was particularly so for younger children. In 1997, 96% of 0–4 year olds, 89% of 5–11 year olds and 82% of 12–17 year olds whose parents had separated were living with their mother.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN, April 1997

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

* Subject to high sampling variability.

** Data suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability.

Source: ABS, Australian Social Trends, 1999 (cat. no. 4102.0).

For additional information on children and their custodial parent see the special article *Divorces involving children* on page 101.

CONCLUSION

The proportion of divorced women in the population is increasing. While the pool of divorced women aged 15–54 years is increasing in number, it is decreasing as a proportion of the population. This is in part because of the decline in the number of marriages and hence a decline in the group at risk of divorce. For women aged 55 years and over, both the pool and proportion of divorced women are increasing. This is contributed to by the general ageing of the population and the smaller proportion of women than men choosing to remarry after previously being divorced.

While divorced women are represented in all household types, around 90% live in either one family households (60%) or lone-person households (30%). Women aged 15–54 tend to live in one family households (72%), while women aged 55 years and over tend to live in lone-person households (56%). As the population ages it can be expected that the number of lone-person households of divorced women will increase.

Divorced women are more likely to be employed than women in general but less likely to be employed than men. This is true for women aged 15–54 years and women aged 55 years and over. In line with employment participation the median weekly earnings of divorced women are less than men of any marital status, with the exception of widowed men. However, divorced women earn a higher median weekly income than most other groups of women. The exceptions were separated women in both lone-person and all households and never married women in lone-person households. Contributing to this is the high participation of divorced women in the female workforce, particularly at older ages.

CONCLUSION *continued*

With the increased participation of women in the workforce, particularly divorced women, and their compulsory contributions to superannuation, it can be expected that divorced women aged 15–54 years who have a continuous or long-term work history will become recipients of superannuation benefits to provide for later years. Women currently divorcing may also benefit from the acceptance of 'pension-splitting' as a way of dealing with superannuation on divorce. For divorced women aged 55 years and over who are likely to have had either an interrupted work history or little or no participation in the workforce, superannuation benefits would seem to be insufficient or non-existent and these women are likely to remain dependent on public support.

CHAPTER 6

SPECIAL ARTICLE: DIVORCES INVOLVING CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION

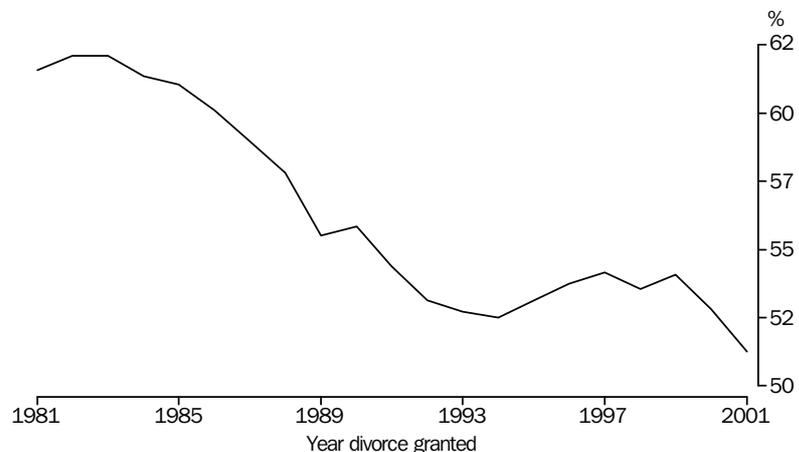
Each year there is a substantial number of children aged under 18 years whose parents divorce. Following divorce, some of these children live with just one parent, others go on to live with one parent and another step parent or in a blended family, of at least one step child and at least one natural child of the couple. Children from other relationships that have broken down (separation, separation pending divorce, defacto unions) do not form part of these statistics, but are of importance for their well-being. These children are considered later in this article.

DIVORCES INVOLVING CHILDREN

In 2001, there were 55,300 divorces granted, of which 51% (28,300) involved unmarried children under the age of 18 years. In that year the actual number of children involved amounted to 53,400. Under the *Family Law Act 1975* these children may include (in certain cases) adopted and exnuptial children and children from a former marriage.

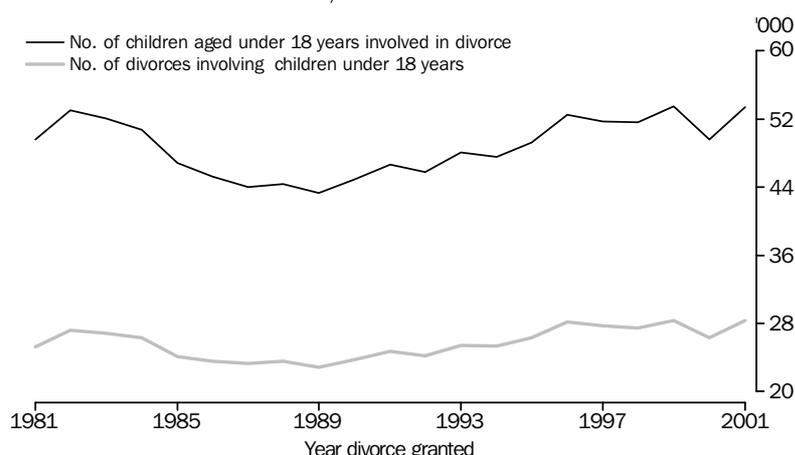
Over the past two decades the proportion of divorces involving children aged under 18 years has been declining from a peak of 62% in 1982 and 1983 to a trough of 52% in 1994 and 51% in 2001.

DIVORCES INVOLVING CHILDREN AGED UNDER 18 YEARS



Although the proportion of divorces involving children aged under 18 years has been declining, the number of divorces involving children and the total number of children involved has fluctuated. In 1981 there were 49,600 children whose parents divorced in that year, increasing to 53,000 in 1982 before declining to a low of 43,300 in 1989. Since then there has been an average annual increase of 2% each year up to and including 1999 (53,400). Between 1999 and 2000, the number of children involved in divorce decreased by 7% but increased by 8% between 2000 and 2001.

DIVORCES INVOLVING CHILDREN, Number of children involved



International comparison

Detailed information on divorces involving children is difficult to obtain for many countries, particularly for the same reference year. Of the selected countries, the proportion of divorces involving children varied quite substantially. Comparing these selected countries, New Zealand had the lowest proportion of divorces involving children (47%) while Norway (77%) and Sweden (63%) had the highest. However divorce statistics from New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, only include children aged under 16 years, not under 18 years like Australia, Sweden and Norway. Therefore if the New Zealand data included all children aged up to 18 years the proportion would be higher, similarly for the United Kingdom.

DIVORCES INVOLVING CHILDREN, Selected countries

Country	Reference year	Age of children years	Divorces involving children		Total divorces no.	Children involved(a) no.
			no.	%		
Australia	2001	under 18	28 345	51.2	55 330	53 396
New Zealand	2001	under 16	4 529	46.8	9 677	8 746
United Kingdom	1999	under 16	79 298	54.9	144 556	147 721
Canada	1995	n.a.	37 673	48.5	77 636	47 118
Sweden	1999	under 18	13 272	63.2	21 000	25 389
Norway	2000	under 18	7 749	77.1	10 053	10 327

n.a. not available

(a) Estimated number of children involved, mainly ABS calculations. Data for Sweden would be an underestimate as the number of divorces involving 4 or more children have been rounded to 4.

Sources: New Zealand — Statistics New Zealand web site, Marriage and Divorce Statistics;

United Kingdom — Office for National Statistics web site;

Canada — Statistics Canada, Divorces, 1995;

Sweden — Statistics Sweden web site;

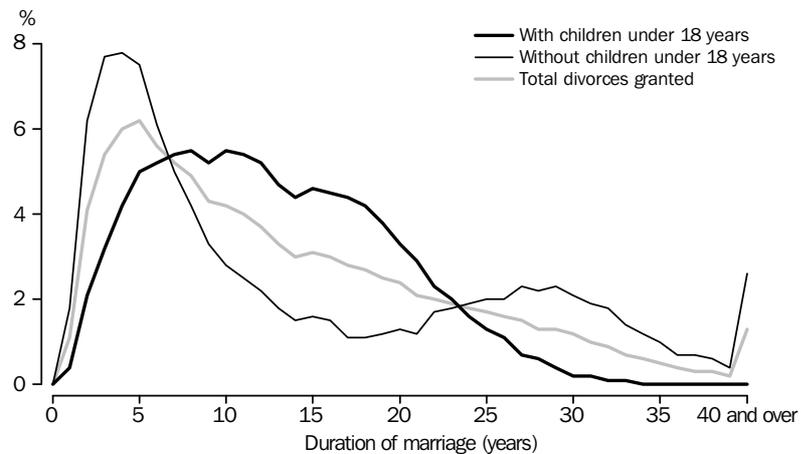
Norway — Statistics Norway web site.

Duration of marriage

Of the 28,300 couples whose divorce was granted in Australia during 2001 and who had children under 18 years of age, three quarters had been married less than 18 years. The median duration of marriage to divorce was 12.6 years.

Couples who did not have children aged under 18 years at the time of their divorce (49%) were more likely to divorce early in their marriage (the median duration of marriage of 10.1 years) than couples with children (median duration of marriage of 12.6 years). During 2001, 24% of divorces granted that did not involve children were to couples who had only been married for less than five years, compared to 10% of divorces that did involve children.

DIVORCES GRANTED IN 2001, Duration of marriage at time of divorce

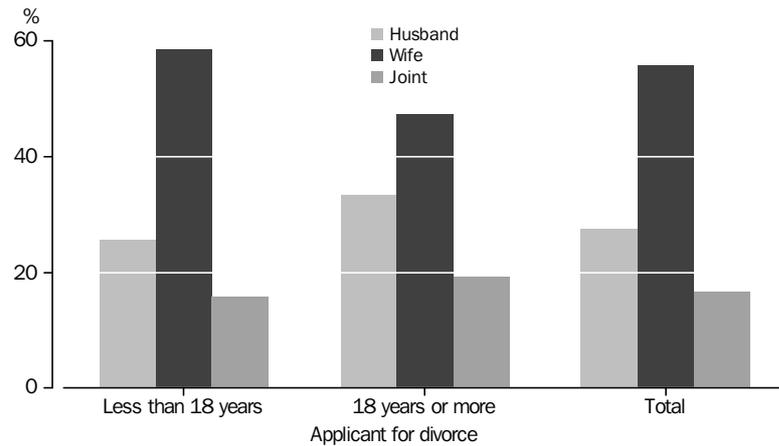


Applicant for divorce

During 2001, more women (47%) than men (30%) lodged applications for divorce. The remaining 23% were joint applications. The applicant for the divorce varied greatly depending on whether there were children involved or not. For divorces that involved children, more women (56%) than men (28%) were the applicant and joint applications were lower (17%). Meanwhile, for divorces where no children were involved, the applicants were fairly even; 38% were women, 33% were men and 29% were joint.

The applicants for divorces involving children also varied depending on duration of marriage. In 2001, for those who had been married for less than 18 years, applications made by women accounted for 59% of divorces involving children (compared to 47% for those married 18 years or more). A further 26% were made by men (compared to 33%) and 16% were joint applications (compared to 19%).

APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE, With children under 18 years, Duration of marriage

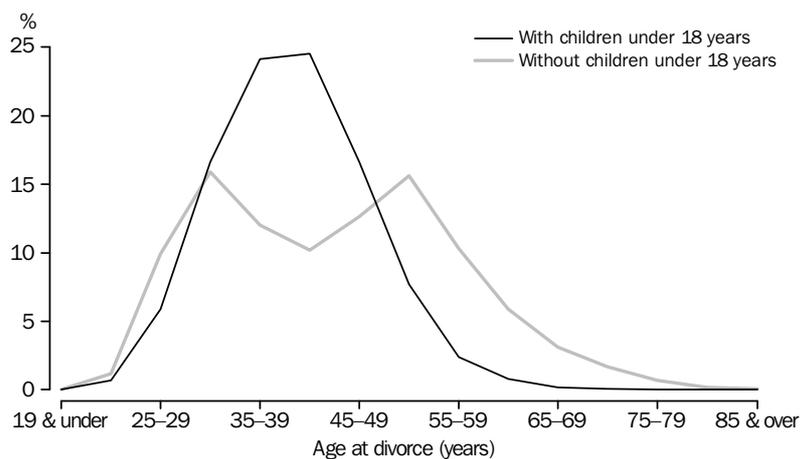


Age of children and parents at divorce

Of all the divorces granted during 2001 that involved children aged under 18 years, in over a quarter of cases the youngest child was aged less than 5 years (27%), in a further 36% of cases the youngest child was aged between 5–9 years and 37% had the youngest child aged 10 years to under 18 years.

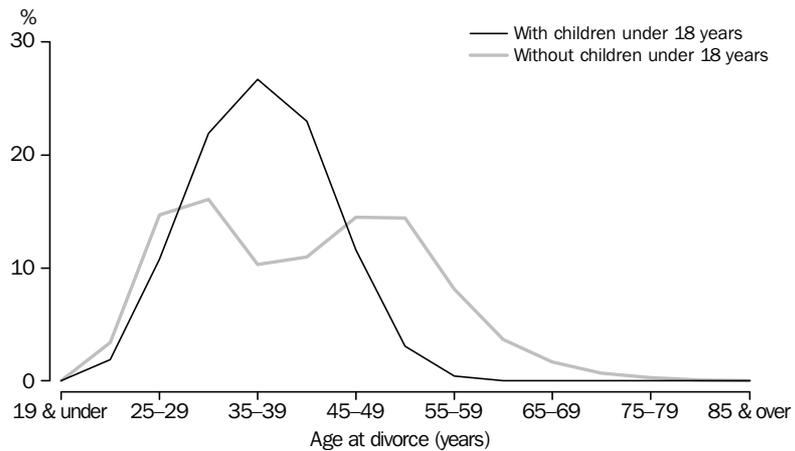
The peak age groups of divorcing couples with children aged under 18 years was 40–44 years for men (25%) and 35–39 years for women (27%). The age structure of men and women divorcing who have children aged under 18 years is different to the age structure of those divorcing without children. For men with no children who divorced during 2001, there were two distinct peak age groups, 30–34 years and 50–54 years, compared to the 35–45 years age group for those with children.

AGE OF HUSBAND AT DIVORCE



For women with no children aged under 18 years who divorced during 2001, the majority were aged between 25–34 years and 40–54 years, compared to 35–39 years for those with children aged under 18 years.

AGE OF WIFE AT DIVORCE



CHILDREN OF RELATIONSHIPS THAT HAVE BROKEN DOWN

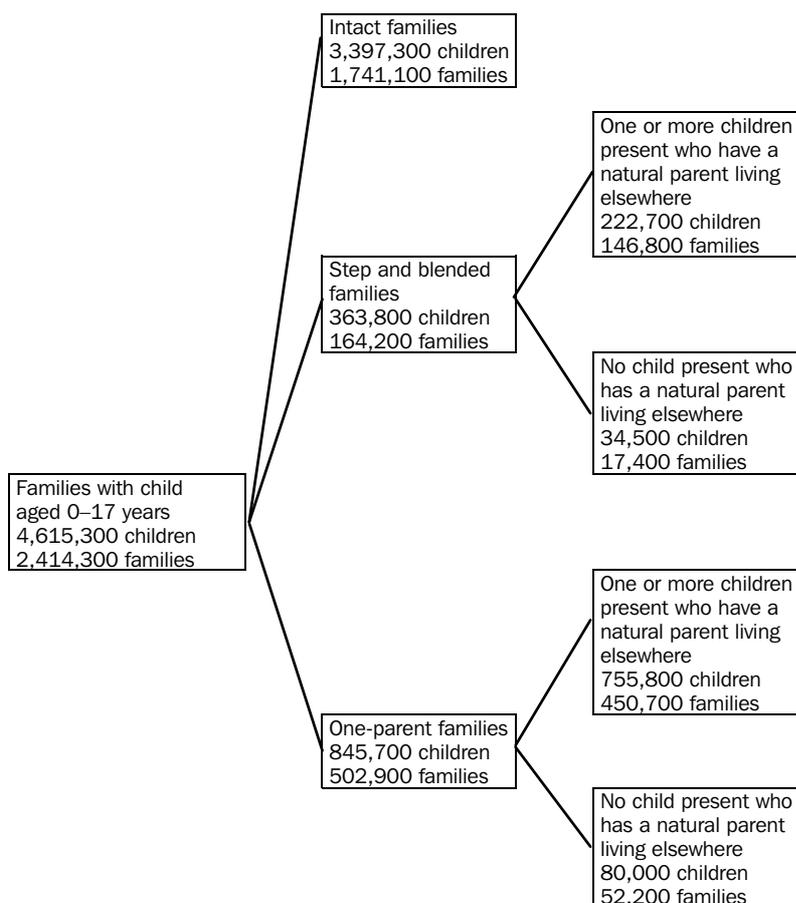
The children of divorcing couples, or other relationships that have broken down (separation for example) year after year, form a 'pool' of children. In April 1997, the ABS conducted the Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) to obtain information on the composition of families and households. According to the survey, in 1997 there were 4.6 million children aged 0–17 years, of which 18% lived in one-parent families and 8% lived in step or blended families.

In total, there were 597,500 families involving 978,400 children living with only one natural parent in the family, with their other natural parent living elsewhere. Of those, 88% were living with their natural mother while 12% lived with their natural father in either a one-parent family or in a step or blended family.

The majority (97%) of children living with only one natural parent were in the sole care of that parent, the other 3% had shared caring arrangements of at least 30% of their time with each natural parent.

Children living with only one natural parent as a result of separation or divorce may have reduced contact with their other natural parent. Nearly one third (30%) of all children living with only one natural parent either had no or next to no contact with the other natural parent. In most cases (52%) the initial visiting arrangements with the other natural parent were arranged through a private agreement between the parties involved. However, in 17% of cases, arrangements involved mediation, counselling, consultation with lawyers and/or court proceedings.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE



Source: ABS, *Family Characteristics, Australia, April 1997* (cat. no. 4442.0).

Child support¹

The parent who has the child(ren) living with him/her after divorce or separation may require financial assistance from the other parent.

In 1988, the Child Support Agency within the Australian Taxation Office introduced the Child Support Scheme to ensure that adequate support is available for children of separated or divorced couples and that both parents share in the cost of supporting their children according to their capacity to pay (ABS, 1997). Only 26% of the families with a child who had a natural parent living elsewhere involved the Child Support Agency in determining their child support arrangements.

Of the 597,500 families who had a child with a natural parent living elsewhere, 41% received no child support from this parent, while 42% (252,900) received cash support and 16% received in-kind assistance of clothing, school fees, pocket money, health insurance or mortgage repayments. Of the families who did receive cash child support, 41% received some or all payments through the Child Support Agency and 54% received payments directly from the parent who lived elsewhere.

Approximately half (51%) of the families who received cash child support and stated the amount, received on average \$250 or less per month. A further 22% received between \$251 and \$400 and 23% received more than \$400 per month.

¹ Source: ABS, *Family Characteristics, Australia, April 1997* (Cat. no. 4442.0).

CASH CHILD SUPPORT RECEIVED

FAMILIES.....		
Average monthly payment per child	'000	%
\$1-\$50	33.7	13.3
\$51-\$100	44.7	17.7
\$101-\$150	36.0	14.2
\$151-\$200	38.4	15.2
\$201-\$250	17.5	6.9
\$251-\$300	22.3	8.8
\$301-\$350	12.1	4.8
\$351-\$400	12.8	5.1
\$401-\$600	17.2	6.8
\$601 and over	7.2	2.8
Total(a)	252.9	100.0

(a) Includes a small number of 'not stated' responses.

Source: Family Characteristics Survey, April 1997.

Children and the Family Law Act, 1975

The *Family Law Act, 1975* acknowledges that the welfare of children of divorcing couples is of paramount importance. Under the Act the court is required to give weight to the wishes of the children of divorcing couples as appropriate.

According to the Act, both parents are joint guardians and custodians of their children aged under 18 years, unless changed by order of the court. Further, the Family Court may not issue a decree absolute for divorce unless it is satisfied that proper arrangements have been made for the welfare of any children. In most cases, divorcing couples are able to agree on the custody and financial support of their children.

If divorcing parents are unable to resolve child care arrangements and maintenance issues (or agree on a Parenting Plan), the Family Law Act allows the Family Court to advise parents to bring in counsellors or mediators to assist.

Impact of separation or divorce on children

Inevitably, children are affected by the separation and divorce of their parents, emotionally, psychologically, economically and socially (Edgar and Harrison, 1983). Although there can be ill effects of divorce on children, sometimes it could also be harmful for children to live with continual parental conflict that does not necessarily result in divorce.

The emotional and psychological impact of separation or divorce on children is difficult to measure and varies greatly from case to case. Much depends on the reasons why the parents are parting and how the separation and/or divorce is handled by all involved. The temperament and age of child also affect the way in which children accept the environment and emotional changes associated with separation and divorce (AIFS, 1988, p. 7).

The Family Law Council concludes that after parental separation, most children want and need contact with both parents. Their long-term development, education, capacity to adjust and self esteem can be detrimentally affected by the long-term or permanent absence of a parent from their lives.

Impact of separation or divorce on children *continued*

The wellbeing of children is generally advanced by their maintaining links with both parents as much as possible (Family Law Council, 1992, p. 1). There are exceptions of course where on-going contact with a parent can do more harm to the child, particularly in cases involving child or family abuse. Unresolved conflict between the parents could also lead to ongoing emotional and psychological problems.

Economic hardship is more common after couples with children separate or divorce as it usually involves the splitting of one household's assets and income into two households. More often than not this results in a reduction in the standard of living, particularly for the parent who has the child/ren living with them. According to the FCS, 88% of children who lived with only one natural parent lived with their mother. The introduction of the Child Support Scheme has helped to reduce this economic burden in some instances. However, the Child Support Scheme may have little or no influence in some cases where the non-resident parent may not have the capacity to provide financial support. For some women and children there are circumstances where child support would provide little, if any, shield from the economic fallout of divorce (AIFS, 2000).

Socially and psychologically, children of divorce face the changing status of their parents and their social roles, along with the changing power positions within the family which are altered significantly. When parents divorce they are severing not only their own agreement, but also all those complex links that make for alliances and coalitions within the family (Edgar and Harrison, 1983).

After parental divorce

After parental divorce comes the possibility of one or both parents remarrying, bringing the children of divorce into a step family. In some instances this introduces security, financial and/or emotional for the child/ren, or it could create further turmoil. Children in this situation could experience further disruption if this second marriage breaks down (AIFS, 1988, p. 10). According to the 1997 FCS, 4% of all families were step-families and 3% were blended families.

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	%
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
1995	96.9	2001	95.6

Statistics continued

8 In 1984, 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.

DIVORCES *continued*

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. Since September 2000 Family Court Registries have supplied data for both the Family Court of Australia and the newly formed Federal Magistrates Service in respect of each application which resulted in a decree absolute being granted. The Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Service are independent courts of justice that have concurrent jurisdiction in some areas of Federal Law, including Family Law. Data for finalised divorces are provided monthly, on tapes, to the ABS. Due to the opening of the Federal Magistrates Service and the transfer of cases that has occurred between the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Service 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	%
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
1995	74.8	2001	74.6

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 and territory classification used in tables 3.17, 3.18 and 3.19 of this publication relates to state or territory 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 web site <<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, with the exception of marital status estimates, are preliminary for 2001, revised for 1997 to 2000 and final for years prior to 1997. The marital status estimates 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
- *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) 1996*, cat. no. 1266.0
- *Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Statistical Concepts Library*, ABS web site <<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 and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

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
- Country of birth
- Country of birth of father
- Country of birth of mother
- Date of birth
- Number of children of previous marriages
- Number of children under 16 years
- Number of previous marriages
- 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
Country of birth
Date 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

APPENDIX 2

SPECIAL ARTICLES LIST

- MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES, AUSTRALIA
(cat no. 3310.0)
- Age at first marriage — reproduced from *Australian Social Trends*, (cat. no. 4102.0), edition 1996, p. 62
 - Couple relationships at the 1996 Census of Population and Housing, edition 1997, p. 95
 - Divorced women and their socioeconomic status, edition 2001, p. 87
 - Divorces by country of birth, edition 1999, p. 113
 - Divorces involving children, edition 2001, p. 101
 - 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 *Australian Social Trends* (1999), (cat. no. 4102.0), edition 1998, p. 70
 - Trends in de facto partnering — reproduced from *Australian Social Trends* (1995), (cat. no. 4102.0), 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

- AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS Rural families, edition 1998, p. 42
(cat no. 4102.0) *continued* Trends in childlessness, edition 2002, p. 37
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

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 males or females 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 males or females registered in a calendar year, by age at marriage, to the never married population of males or females 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 males or females 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 registered married population—this relates the number of marriages of males or females registered in a calendar year, by age at marriage, to the not registered married population of males or females 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 males or females 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 exnuptial 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)	The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months.

First marriage rates	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.
Marital status	<p>Two separate concepts of marital status are measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These are registered marital status and social marital status.</p> <p>Registered marital status refers to formally registered marriages and divorces. Registered marital status is a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she has, or has had, a registered marriage with another person. Accordingly, people are classified as either 'never married', 'married', 'widowed' or 'divorced'.</p> <p>Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married. Under social marital status, a person is classified as either 'married' or 'not married' with further disaggregation of 'married' to distinguish 'registered married' from 'de facto married' person.</p>
Marriage	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.
Median value	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.
Remarriage rates	Remarriage rates are the number of remarrying males or females per 1,000 population of widowed and divorced males or females of the same age at 30 June. The rates are separately calculated for widowed or divorced males or females by appropriately adjusting the numerator and denominator of the rates.
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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