



MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 21 SEPT 2000

C O N T E N T S

	<i>page</i>
Notes	2
List of tables	3

CHAPTERS

1 Main features	5
2 Marriages and divorces in context	8
3 Marriages	13
4 Cohabitation before registered marriage	52
5 Divorces	74
6 Marital status of the population	99
7 Special article: Divorces by country of birth	113
8 Special article: Divorce in the nineties	121

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explanatory notes	127
Appendixes	
1 Characteristics available	132
2 Standard tabulations available	134
3 Special articles list	136
Glossary	137
Bibliography	140

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Anne Ward on Canberra 02 6252 6296.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION This publication brings together statistics and indicators for marriages and divorces registered in Australia. It also provides details of the marital status of the estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE Cell values less than three have been randomly allocated a value of zero or three to assist in the preservation of confidentiality of information. Prior to 1999 cell values less than three were suppressed.

REVISIONS Estimated resident population at 30 June 1998 are revised.



ABBREVIATIONS

- .. not applicable
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- AIFS Australian Institute of Family Studies
- ASCCSS Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
- CD Collection District
- Cwlth Commonwealth
- E T External Territories
- ERP Estimated Resident Population
- exc excludes
- incl includes
- na not available
- np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise stated
- p preliminary figure or series subject to revision
- r revised
- SACC Standard Australian Classification of Countries
- SAR Special Administrative Region
- TFMR Total first marriage rate

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

LIST OF TABLES

page

CHAPTER 2—MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN CONTEXT

2.1	International comparison of marriages and divorces	12
------------	--	----

CHAPTER 3—MARRIAGES

NATIONAL DATA

3.1	Summary, selected years, 1989–1999	22
3.2	Age-specific marriage rates, selected years, 1976–1999	24
3.3	Age-specific first marriage and remarriage rates, selected years, 1976–1999	25
3.4	Age of bridegroom and bride, 1999	26
3.5	Age by previous marital status of bridegroom and bride, 1999	30
3.6	Country of birth of parties, 1999	32
3.7	Country of birth of bridegroom, by age at marriage, 1999	34
3.8	Country of birth of bride, by age at marriage, 1999	36
3.9	Country of birth of bridegroom, by duration of residence, 1999	38
3.10	Country of birth of bride, by duration of residence, 1999	40
3.11	Summary, selected countries of birth of bridegroom, 1999	42
3.12	Summary, selected countries of birth of bride, 1999	44
3.13	Remarriages, by previous marital status and interval to remarriage, 1999	46
3.14	Remarriages, by previous marital status and number of children, 1999 ..	46
3.15	Previous marital status, by category of celebrant, 1999	47

STATE AND TERRITORY DATA

3.16	Summary, 1999	48
3.17	Marriages registered, selected years, 1979–1999	49
3.18	Crude marriage rates, selected years, 1979–1999	50
3.19	Previous marital status of bridegroom and bride, 1999	50
3.20	Category of celebrant, 1999	51

CHAPTER 4—COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE

NATIONAL DATA

4.1	Age of bridegroom and bride, 1999	61
4.2	Age by previous marital status of bridegroom and bride, 1999	65
4.3	Country of birth of parties, 1999	67

CHAPTER 4—COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE *continued*

4.4	Remarriages, by previous marital status and interval to remarriage, 1999	69
4.5	Remarriages, by previous marital status and number of children, 1999	69

STATE AND TERRITORY DATA

4.6	Summary, 1999	70
4.7	Previous marital status of bridegroom and bride, 1999	72
4.8	Category of celebrant, 1999	73

CHAPTER 5—DIVORCES

NATIONAL DATA

5.1	Summary, selected years, 1989–1999	79
5.2	Age-specific divorce rates, selected years, 1976–1999	81
5.3	Age of divorcing parties at date of marriage, 1999	82
5.4	Age of divorcing parties at date decree made absolute, 1999	82
5.5	Age of parties at date of final separation, by duration of marriage to separation, 1999	83
5.6	Age of parties at date decree made absolute, by duration of marriage to divorce, 1999	85
5.7	Duration of marriage to divorce, by applicant, 1999	87
5.8	Country of birth of parties, 1999	88
5.9	Country of birth of husband, by duration of marriage, 1999	90
5.10	Country of birth of wife, by duration of marriage, 1999	92
5.11	Number of children of the marriage, selected years, 1979–1999	94
5.12	Number of children of the marriage, by duration of marriage, 1999	95
5.13	Number of children of the marriage, by age of the youngest child, 1999	96

STATE AND TERRITORY DATA

5.14	Summary, 1999	97
5.15	Divorces granted, selected years, 1979–1999	98
5.16	Crude divorce rates, selected years, 1979–1999	98

CHAPTER 6—MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION

NATIONAL DATA

6.1	Estimated resident population aged 15 years and over, marital status and sex, selected years, 30 June 1976–1999	107
6.2	Estimated resident population, percentage distribution, marital status and sex, 30 June 1976–1999	108
6.3	Estimated resident population, marital status, age and sex, 30 June 1999 preliminary	110

STATE AND TERRITORY DATA

6.4	Estimated resident population, selected years, 1979–1999	112
------------	--	-----

CHAPTER 1

MAIN FEATURES

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE TRENDS

In 1999 there were 114,300 marriages registered in Australia, an increase of 3,700 marriages when compared with 1998, but 2,900 below the number registered in 1989. Marriage rates for the unmarried population (aged 15 years and over) remained at 35 per 1,000 unmarried men, and 33 per 1,000 unmarried women in 1999, declining from 45 and 43 respectively in 1989.

The number of divorces (52,600) also increased slightly in 1999 compared with 1998, by just over 2%. The divorce rate for the married population stood at 12.7 men and women per 1,000 married population, up slightly from 1998 (12.4 for both men and women).

The crude marriage rate in Australia of 6.0 marriages per 1,000 population in 1999, was lower than in the United States of America (8.8 per 1,000 in 1996) and above that in Canada and the United Kingdom (each 5.5 per 1,000 in 1995). The crude divorce rate in Australia of 2.8 per 1,000 population was lower than in the United States of America (4.3 in 1996) and about the same as in Canada and the United Kingdom (2.6 and 2.9, respectively, in 1995).

LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY AND DIVORCE

The proportion of people who will ever marry is declining. If recent trends continue into the future it is estimated that 28% of men and 23% of women will never marry, while the corresponding proportions based on 1985–1987 trends were 21% and 14%, respectively.

Overall 46% of marriages are likely to end in divorce. Age at marriage is associated with the likelihood to divorce. Highest divorce rates are likely to occur among people who marry at ages under 20 years. For further information on likelihood to divorce refer to the Special Article page 121.

AGE AT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The trend towards older age at marriage continued in 1999, with the median age at marriage for men exceeding 30 years for the first time. For men, the median age at marriage was 30.1 years, increasing from 28.0 years in 1989. For women the median age at marriage in 1999 was 27.9 years, increasing from 25.7 years in 1989.

As marriages are occurring later in life so are divorces. The median age at divorce rose by 2.9 years for men and 3.1 years for women from 1989 to 40.9 years and 38.2 years, respectively in 1999.

FIRST MARRIAGES AND REMARRIAGES

Marriages in which neither party had been previously married comprised 67% of marriages in 1999. A further 19% were first marriages for one partner, and 14% were marriages in which both partners had been previously married.

The age at marriage for first time brides and grooms continued to increase in 1999. For men, the median age at first marriage was 28.2 years, increasing from 26.3 in 1989. For women, the median age at first marriage was 26.4, increasing from 24.2 in 1989.

DURATION OF MARRIAGE TO DIVORCE	Between 1989 and 1999 the median duration of marriage for divorcing couples increased from 10.2 years to 11.3 years. Of the couples who divorced in 1999, 36% were separated within the first five years of marriage and a further 23% were separated in the next five years.
CHILDREN OF MARRYING PARTNERS	In 1999, 15% of all marriages (16,900) involved children aged under 16 years of previous marriages. Of these marriages, 7,300 (43%) involved only one child. Over one-third of women and men who were remarrying in 1999 had children aged under 16 years from previous marriages.
CHILDREN OF DIVORCING PARTNERS	Between 1989 and 1999 the proportion of divorces where children were involved has fallen from 55% to 54%. However the number of children involved in divorce has increased from 0.95 to 1.13 children per 100 children aged under 18 years in the population. In nearly two-thirds of the divorces that involved children the age of the youngest child was under 10 years.
CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT	<p>In 1999, for the first time, marriages performed by civil celebrants outnumbered marriages performed by ministers of religion. Civil ceremonies accounted for 51.3% of marriages in 1999, continuing the upward trend in civil marriages that has been evident throughout the 20th century, from 2.4% in 1909.</p> <p>In 1999, New South Wales and Victoria were the only States or Territories in which marriages performed by ministers of religion outnumbered those by civil celebrants (52.3% and 50.4% respectively).</p>
APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE	As in previous years more women (50%) than men (31%) were the main applicants for divorce, while 19% were joint applications. However, the proportion of female applicants for divorce declined as the length of their marriage increased, while the proportion of male applicants increased with the length of their marriage.
DIVORCES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH	Throughout the 1990s, over half of divorces have occurred to couples where both partners were born in Australia, one-third to couples where partners were born in different countries and around 13% to couples where both partners were born in the same overseas country. High divorce rates were experienced by couples where both husband and wife were born in China (26 per 1,000 couples), Viet Nam (23) and New Zealand (20). Low divorce rates were experienced by couples where both husband and wife were born in Italy (3 per 1,000 couples), Greece (4) and Malaysia (5). When both partners were Australian-born the divorce rate was 14 per 1,000 couples. For further information on divorce rates by country of birth refer to the Special Article page 113.
COHABITATION PRIOR TO MARRIAGE	<p>In 1999, the proportion of people choosing to cohabit prior to entering a registered marriage has continued to rise. This continues the long-term trend that has been evident over the past 20 years. In 1999, 69% of all registered marriages were preceded by cohabitation compared with around 23% in 1979.</p> <p>While the highest proportion of people choosing to cohabit in 1999 were aged under 35 years (68% of men and 77% of women) and never previously married (around 74%) older people also chose to cohabit before entering marriage. For example, 17% of men</p>

COHABITATION PRIOR TO
MARRIAGE *continued*

and 13% of women who cohabited before marriage were aged between 40 and 59 years with just over 75% being previously divorced.

People who cohabited prior to marriage were more likely to have a civil celebrant (61%) officiate at their marriage than a minister of religion (39%). For people who did not cohabit the reverse was the case with only 29% choosing civil celebrants and 71% choosing a minister of religion. This applied to all States and the ACT. In the Northern Territory, however, civil celebrants were the preferred choice of both cohabitants (70%) and non cohabitants (58%).

MARITAL STATUS OF THE
POPULATION

In 1999 there were 15 million people aged 15 years and over in the population, a rise of 15% on 1989—4.8 million were never married, 8.3 million were married, 930,200 were widowed and 1.1 million were divorced. The largest proportional increase over the past ten years was in the divorced population, increasing by 63% between 1989 and 1999.

At the 1996 Census of Population and Housing, 49% of the population aged 15 years and over was in a registered marriage with a further 5% in a de facto marriage. This proportion of de facto married, combined with the 1999 population estimates, indicates that around 861,800 people could be living in de facto marriages at June 1999. The majority of these people would have never been previously married (570,700 or 66%) while a further 214,100 would have been previously divorced (25%).

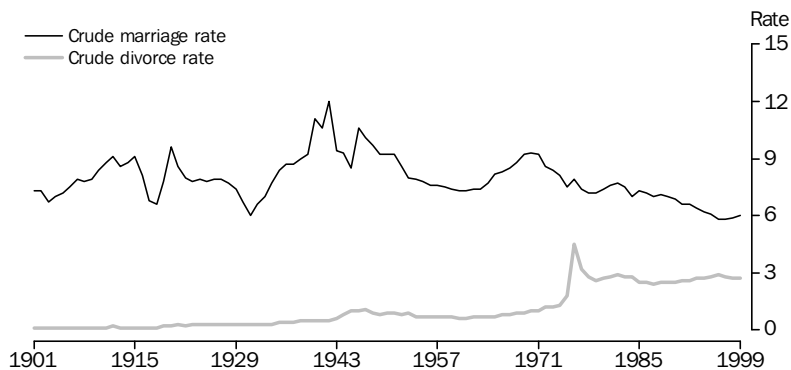
The ageing of the population has meant that between 1989 and 1999 the median age of the population has increased. This ageing population is the inevitable result of fertility remaining at low levels over a long period, associated with increasing life expectancy. Of the population age 15 years and over, the never married population aged by around two years for both men and women (to 24.8 and 23.5 years, respectively). For the other marital status groups the increase in the median age has ranged between three and four years, with the median age for divorced men increasing by 3.7 years (to 48.8 years) and divorced women increasing by 4.2 years (to 47.9 years).

INTRODUCTION

There were 52,600 divorces granted in 1999 and 114,300 marriages registered. The 52,600 divorces occurred from the accumulated stock of all marriages contracted over the years and not from the 114,300 marriages registered in the year. For example, in 1999 there were 8.3 million married persons or just over 4 million married couples. The 52,600 divorces represent about 12.7 divorces out of every 1,000 married couples.

In 1999 the crude divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1,000 population) was 2.8, compared with 2.7 in 1998 and 2.5 ten years ago. The highest divorce rate during the 20th century was recorded in 1976 (4.5 per 1,000 population). This was the year the Family Law Act was introduced. Prior to this the crude divorce rate in Australia was below 1.9 divorces per 1,000 population. There were 52,600 divorces granted in 1999. While this was a small increase on the number recorded in 1998 (51,400) it was 27% higher than the 1989 figure (41,400).

CRUDE MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 population.

Marriage rates for the unmarried population (per 1,000 not currently married men or women aged 15 years and over) remained steady in 1999, at 35 per 1,000 unmarried men and 33 per 1,000 unmarried women. However the long-term trend has been one of decline, from 63 per 1,000 men and 61 per 1,000 women in 1976.

In 1999 the crude marriage rate (the number of marriages per 1,000 population) was 6.0 per 1,000. The 1999 rate was marginally higher than the crude rate for 1998 (5.9), but was lower than rates recorded a decade ago (7.0). The lowest rate of 5.8 per 1,000 was recorded in both 1996 and 1997, while the highest rate was 12.0 per 1,000 recorded in 1942. There were 114,300 marriages registered in Australia in 1999, an increase on the number registered in 1998 (110,600) but below the number registered a decade ago (117,200).

Unlike births, deaths and migration which directly measure change in population size, marriage and divorce influence the population composition. Changes in marriage and

INTRODUCTION *continued*

divorce rates however affect population growth indirectly. Marriage unites, while divorce dissolves, the family which is the structural unit primarily responsible for births throughout the world. In Australia almost three quarters of the births registered in 1998 occurred to mothers in a registered marriage. Statistics on marriage and divorce therefore shed light on family formation, family composition and fertility.

Marriage and divorce statistics have important economic and social implications. The Andrews' Report (1998) concluded that marriage and family breakdown costs the Australian nation at least \$3 billion each year. When all indirect costs (e.g. health, absenteeism and low productivity), which are difficult to measure, are included the Andrews' Report states that the \$3 billion could possibly double. Changes in family composition, through both marriage and divorce, also influence service and housing requirements, consumer behaviour and labour supply (Shyrock et. al., 1973).

INTERNATIONAL
COMPARISON OF
MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE
RATES

The United Nations indicates that there is much variation in international marriage and divorce rates (see table 2.1), as marriages and divorces are legal events and are defined in terms of the laws of individual countries or areas. This has implications for international comparability of statistics.

Marriage laws vary throughout the world. Comparison of marriage statistics is further limited due to some countries or areas compiling statistics only for civil marriages, although religious marriages may also be legally recognised; in others, the only available records are church registers and, therefore, the statistics do not include civil marriages.

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

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

Of the countries selected for comparison (see table 2.1), the United States of America had the highest crude marriage rate in the mid-1990s (8.8 marriages per 1,000 population), followed by Thailand (7.9) and Turkey (7.8). The lowest crude marriage rate was recorded by Sweden (3.8 marriages per 1,000 population), followed by Ireland (4.3) and Greece (4.5). The crude marriage rate for Australia was 6.0 marriages per 1,000 population.

The highest crude divorce rate in the mid-1990s was recorded by the United States of America (4.3 divorces per 1,000 population), followed by the United Kingdom (2.9) and Australia and New Zealand (each 2.8). Chile had the lowest crude divorce rate (0.4 divorces per 1,000 population), followed by Italy and Turkey (each 0.5).

DIFFERENT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE DATA

Marriages registered

Most analysis of marriages data in this publication (see Chapter 3) is based on the number of marriages which were registered in a given year. Because there can be a lag between when a marriage ceremony occurs and when the marriage is registered, some marriages registered in a given year actually occurred in earlier years.

Marriages (occurrence basis)

Using marriage registration statistics, but compiling them on a year-of-occurrence basis gives an estimate of the number of marriages that occurred in a given year. However, as marriages that occur in a given year may be registered in later years, statistics on this concept are never finalised and are always subject to revision.

Comparison

In Australia the difference between marriages registered and marriages occurring in a given year is small. Throughout the last decade, over 94% of marriages registered in a given year occurred in that same year, with the majority of remaining marriages registered in the subsequent year.

REVISIONS TO MARRIAGES (OCCURRENCE BASIS), Registration Data

	REGISTRATION YEAR			
<i>Year of occurrence</i>	1996	1997	1998	1999
Prior to 1995	124	67	57	73
1995	3 699	29	9	25
1996	102 280	5 831	30	28
1997	..	100 808	5 280	40
1998	..	..	105 222	4 719
1999	..	..	..	109 431
Total	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316

.. not applicable

Divorces

Divorce statistics in Australia are compiled from divorces granted by the Family Court of Australia. Divorce data are based on the date the decree became absolute. In the interpretation of data it is important to bear in mind that the availability of judges and the complexity of the cases before them can affect the number of decrees made absolute or granted in any one year.

DIFFERENT MARITAL STATUS DATA

Registered marital status

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

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

DIFFERENT MARITAL
STATUS DATA *continued*

In 1999 there were 15.0 million people aged 15 years and over in the population, a rise of 15% on 1989 (13.1 million). Of the 15.0 million, 4.8 million were never married, 8.3 million were married, 930,000 were widowed and 1.1 million were divorced. Compared with ten years ago the largest proportional increase was 63% in the number of divorced persons. Never married persons increased by 22%, widowed by 12% and married by 7%.

Social marital status

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

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

CENSUS DATA

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing counted 13.9 million people aged 15 years and over. Of these people around 55% (7.6 million) lived in couple relationships—49% in registered marriages and 5% in de facto marriages. Assuming the proportions evident from the 1996 Census, it is estimated that of the estimated resident population aged 15 years and over in 1999 (15.0 million) around 861,800 people would have formed de facto marriages. Of this estimated de facto married population around 66% (570,700) would have been never married, 7% (61,900) married or separated, 2% (15,000) widowed and 25% (214,100) divorced.

LABOUR FORCE DATA

The June 1999 Labour Force Survey estimated that 8.4 million persons aged 15 years and over (56% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over) had a social marital status of 'married', an increase of less than 1% on June 1998. *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0) does not further disaggregate social marital status to distinguish between 'registered married' and 'de facto married'.

2.1

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

Selected countries	MARRIAGES			DIVORCES		
	Refer- ence year	Number	Crude rate(a)	Refer- ence year	Number	Crude rate(a)
	year	no.	rate	year	no.	rate
Australia	1999	114 300	6.0	1999	52 600	2.8
Canada	1995	160 256	5.5	1995	77 636	2.6
Chile	1996	83 547	5.8	1996	6 195	0.4
France	1996	280 600	4.8	1996	110 745	1.9
Germany	1997	422 319	5.1	1996	175 550	2.1
Greece	1996	47 000	4.5	1996	9 000	0.9
Hong Kong	1996	37 045	5.9	1997	10 492	1.6
Indonesia	1986	1 249 034	7.4	1986	131 886	0.8
Ireland	1997	15 631	4.3	na	na	na
Italy	1997	275 381	4.8	1995	27 038	0.5
Japan	1997	781 000	6.2	1997	225 000	1.8
Korea, Republic of	1995	320 395	7.1	1995	53 872	1.2
Netherlands	1997	85 000	5.4	1997	34 000	2.2
New Zealand	1996	21 506	6.0	1996	10 009	2.8
Philippines	1993	474 407	7.1	na	na	na
Poland	1996	203 641	5.3	1996	39 441	1.0
Singapore	1997	25 667	6.9	1997	4 687	1.3
Sweden	1996	33 484	3.8	1996	21 377	2.4
Thailand	1995	470 751	7.9	1995	53 560	0.9
Turkey	1996	486 734	7.8	1996	29 552	0.5
United Kingdom	1995	322 251	5.5	1995	169 621	2.9
United States of America	1996	2 344 000	8.8	1996	1 150 000	4.3
Yugoslavia	1997	56 004	5.3	1997	7 211	0.7

na not available

(a) Per 1,000 population.

Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1997.

REGISTERED MARRIAGES

In 1999, for the third consecutive year, there was an increase in the number of marriages registered in Australia. The 114,300 marriages registered in 1999 was 3% higher than the number registered in 1998, and was the largest number recorded since 1992 (114,800). Over the last 20 years the number of marriages registered has fluctuated from a low of 104,400 in 1979 to a high of 117,300 in 1982. Similar fluctuations were experienced by all States and Territories.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED(a)

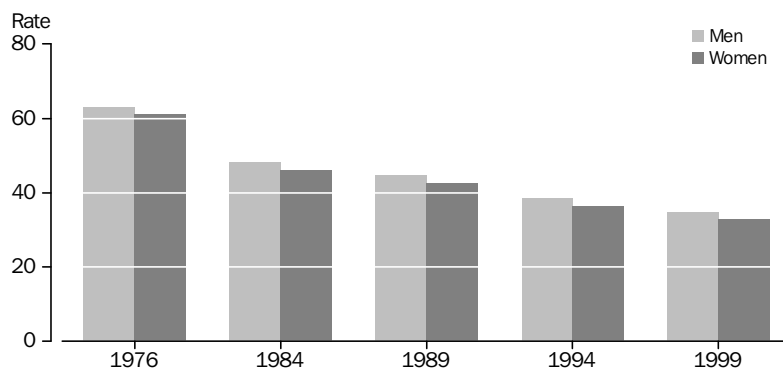


(a) Registration delays in NSW contributed to the decline in 1984.

MARRIAGE TRENDS

Marriage rates for the unmarried population (per 1,000 not currently married men or women aged 15 years and over) remained steady in 1999, however, the long-term trend since these rates first became available in 1976 has been a decline. The marriage rate for men was 63 per 1,000 in 1976 while the rate for women was 61 per 1,000. In 1999 these rates fell to 35 and 33 respectively.

MARRIAGE RATES(a), Unmarried Population



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

MARRIAGE TRENDS

continued

The crude marriage rate in 1999 was 6.0 per 1,000 population. The crude marriage rate is the number of registered marriages per 1,000 population. The rate for 1999 was marginally higher than the crude marriage rate for 1998 (5.9), but was lower than the rate recorded a decade ago (7.0).

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

States and Territories

New South Wales and Queensland had the highest crude marriage rate of all States and Territories in 1999 (6.4 per 1,000 population, 7% above the national rate), each experiencing an increase of 3% over 1998. For more than 20 years, the Northern Territory has consistently recorded the lowest crude marriage rate in Australia. In 1999 the rate was 4.6 per 1,000 population, 23% below the rate for Australia. The age-standardised marriage rate for the Northern Territory has also been the lowest among the States and Territories. Of the States and Territories, Western Australia and Tasmania were the only States to show a decline in the marriage rate between 1998 and 1999 (declining 5% and 4% respectively).

LIKELIHOOD TO MARRY

The proportion of people who will ever marry is declining. This can be estimated from the first marriage rates by age for never married persons for a given year. The calculations are based on 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 72% for men and 77% for women, if the 1995–1997 first marriage rates prevail in the future. The corresponding proportions ever marrying, based on the 1985–1987 first marriage rates, are 79% for men and 86% for women, indicating a decline in total first marriages over time.

Conversely, the proportions of men and women unlikely to marry, based on the 1995–1997 experience, are 28% and 23% respectively, higher than the proportions based on the 1985–1987 first marriage rates (21% and 14% respectively).

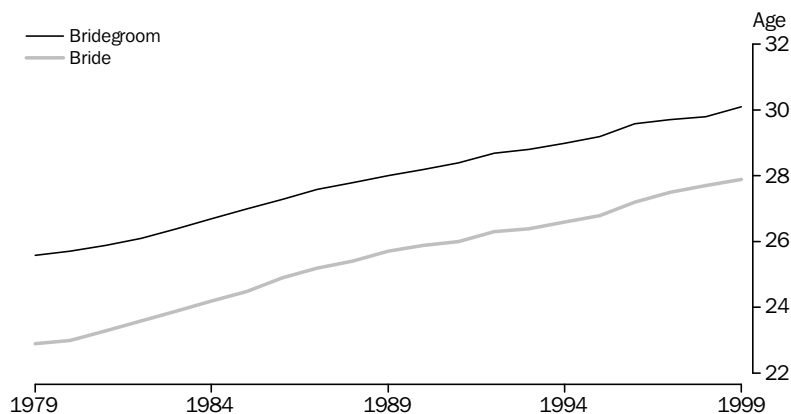
MARRIAGE AGE

An increasing proportion of men are choosing to marry after their thirtieth birthday, with the median age at marriage exceeding 30 years for the first time in 1999. The median age at marriage is the age at which there are as many marrying above the age as there are marrying below it. For men, the median age at marriage in 1999 was 30.1 years, increasing from 25.6 years in 1979. Women are also marrying later in life, with a median age at marriage of 27.9 years in 1999, compared to 22.9 years in 1979.

MARRIAGE AGE *continued*

Although the median age at marriage for both men and women has increased over time, the difference between the median age of brides and grooms has decreased. In 1999 the median age for all grooms was 2.2 years higher than for all brides, compared to 2.7 years in 1979.

MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE



Country of birth

Median age at marriage in 1999 varied across different country of birth groups. Grooms and brides born in North-West Europe had the highest median age at marriage (35.3 years and 33.2 years respectively), while grooms born in Southern and Central Asia (29.2 years) and brides born in North Africa and the Middle East (26.7 years) had the lowest median age at marriage. In addition to cultural variations, these differences may be related to migration flows to Australia. Grooms born in Southern and Eastern Europe and brides born in North-West Europe had the highest median duration of residence in Australia prior to marriage (22.8 years and 17.8 years respectively). Grooms born in Southern and Central Asia (4.0 years) and brides born in North-East Asia (2.7 years) had the lowest median duration of residence prior to marriage.

FIRST MARRIAGES

Marriages in which neither party had been previously married made up 67% of marriages in 1999, while a further 19% were first marriages for one partner. In 1999 the rates for men and women marrying for the first time increased slightly for around half of the age groups when compared with first marriage rates for 1998. 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.

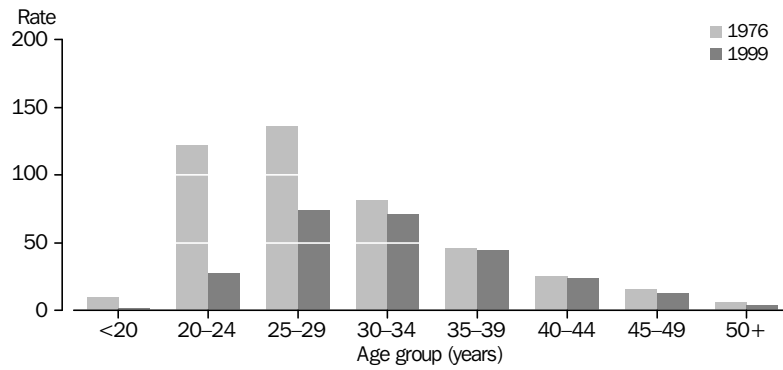
Men and women are choosing to enter their first marriage later in life. For men, the median age at first marriage in 1999 was 28.2 years, increasing from 24.1 years in 1979. For women, the median age at first marriage in 1999 was 26.4 years, increasing from 21.7 years in 1979.

The long-term trend in first marriage rates for both men and women is one of decline. Between 1976 and 1999 (1979 data are not available), first marriage rates fell in all age groups. The peak age group for men marrying for the first time during this period remained the same, the age group 25–29 years, although the marriage rate in this age group fell from 136 per 1,000 never married men in 1976 to 74 per 1,000 in 1999. In 1976 the age group with the next highest marriage rate was 20–24 years, while in 1999 the second highest rate was among men aged 30–34 years.

FIRST MARRIAGES

continued

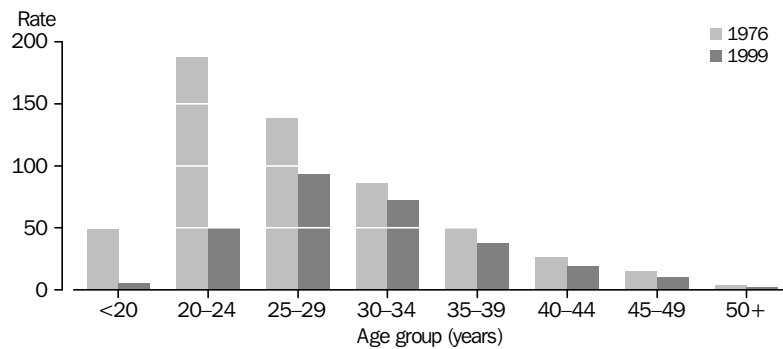
FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a), Men



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

Women have also experienced a long-term decline in first marriage rates across all age groups. While the peak age group for men remained the same over this period, for women the peak age group moved from 20–24 years in 1976 (188 per 1,000 never married females) to 25–29 years in 1999 (94 per 1,000). Over this period, the age group with the second highest first marriage rate also changed, from 25–29 years to 30–34 years.

FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a), Women



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

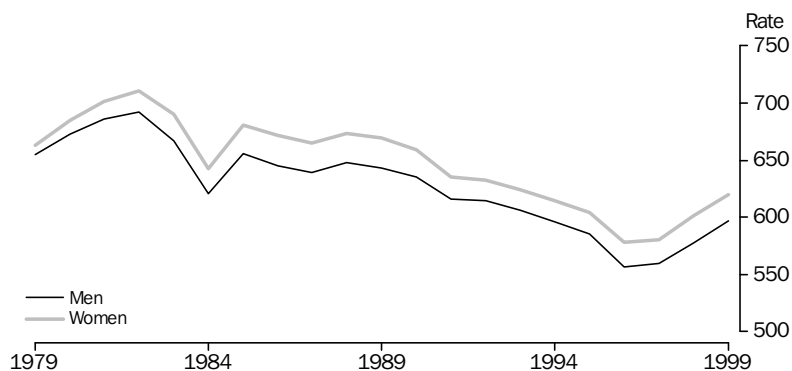
Trends in first marriage

The Total First Marriage Rate (TFMR) is an index used to summarise the prevalence of first marriages in a given year. It is estimated from the number of men or women in each age group who marry for the first time in that year, and the estimated resident population of all men and women in each age group at the mid-point of the year. The trend over time in the value of the TFMR shows a decline in the incidence of first marriages in Australia, from 655 per 1,000 men and 663 per 1,000 women in 1979, to 597 per 1,000 men and 620 per 1,000 women in 1999.

FIRST MARRIAGES

continued

TOTAL FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a)



(a) Per 1,000 male or female population.

International comparison of TFMR

The decline in the incidence of first marriages is also evident in other countries. TFMRS experienced in Europe, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand are also in decline. In most of these countries the decline since 1975 has been greater than that observed in Australia.

TOTAL FIRST MARRIAGE RATES(a), Selected Countries(b)

Country	Refer- ence year	Men	Women	Refer- ence year	Men	Women
	year	rate	rate	year	rate	rate
Australia	1975	745	754	1999	597	620
Canada	1975	835	812	1994	513	552
England and Wales	1975	840	873	1990	594	619
France	1975	822	858	1996	520	540
Germany	1975	771	803	1996	500	575
New Zealand	1975	na	833	1985	na	610
Sweden	1975	567	630	1995	418	442
United States of America	1975	827	804	1988	584	595

na not available

(a) Per 1,000 male or female population.

(b) Source: Monnier, A. 1998.

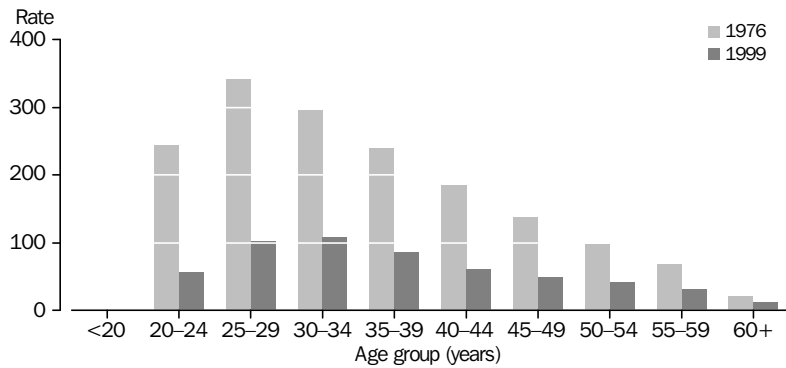
REMARRIAGES

There were 21,400 (19%) marriages in 1999 in which one party had been previously married and 16,500 (14%) in which both partners were remarrying. Between 1976 and 1999 (1979 data are not available) remarriage rates for both men and women fell in all age groups. For the majority of age groups the falls were in excess of 50% between 1976 and 1999. 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.

Between 1976 and 1999 the peak age group for men remarrying changed from 25–29 years to 30–34 years. For women the peak age group changed from 20–24 years in 1976 to 25–29 years in 1999.

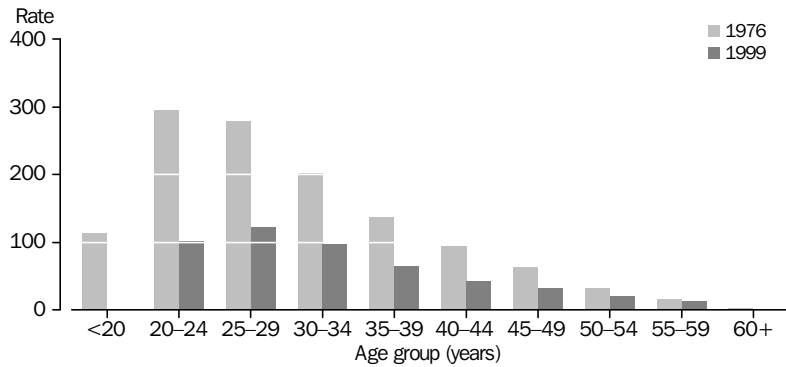
REMARRIAGES *continued*

REMARRIAGE RATES(a), Men



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

REMARRIAGE RATES(a), Women



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

Interval to remarriage

Overall, grooms had a shorter interval between previous and current marriage than brides, with a median interval to remarriage of 3.4 years for grooms, compared to 3.9 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 6.1 years respectively) than previously divorced grooms and brides (3.3 and 3.6 years respectively).

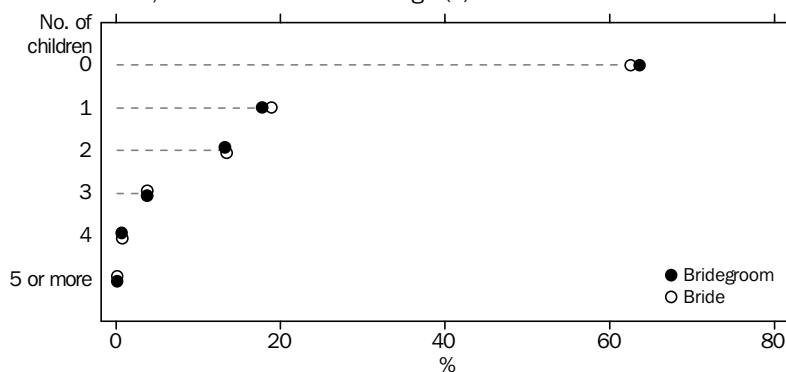
Children of previous marriages

In 1999, 15% of all marriages (16,900) involved children of previous marriages, of one or both partners, aged under 16 years. Of these marriages, 7,300 (43%) involved only one child.

Around 27,600 marriages (24%) involved previously married grooms and 26,700 (23%) involved previously married brides. Over one-third of women (37%) and men (36%) remarrying in 1999 had children aged under 16 years from previous marriages.

REMARRIAGES *continued*

REMARRIAGES, Children of Previous Marriages(a)



(a) Aged under 16 years.

MONTH OF MARRIAGE

In 1999 the most popular month for marriages was October, with 14,600 (13%) marriages celebrated in this month. November followed, with 12,100 (11%) marriages. June was the least popular month with 5,500 (5%) marriages occurring.

The most popular months for marriage varied across the States and Territories, possibly due to climatic conditions. For example, the most popular month for marriage in the Northern Territory was July (15%), while July was the least popular month in Victoria (4%), Tasmania (3%) and the ACT (3%).

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

In 1999, for the first time, marriages performed by civil celebrants outnumbered marriages performed by ministers of religion. Civil ceremonies accounted for 51.3% of marriages in 1999, an increase of 1.8 percentage points on 1998. This increase continues the upward trend in civil marriages that has been evident throughout the 20th century. During the first half of the century, under 10% of all marriages were performed by civil celebrants. By the mid-1970s the proportion had increased to around 30%.

In 1999, New South Wales and Victoria were the only States in which marriages performed by ministers of religion outnumbered those by civil celebrants (52.3% and 50.4% respectively).

MARRIAGES, By Ministers of Religion and Civil Celebrants

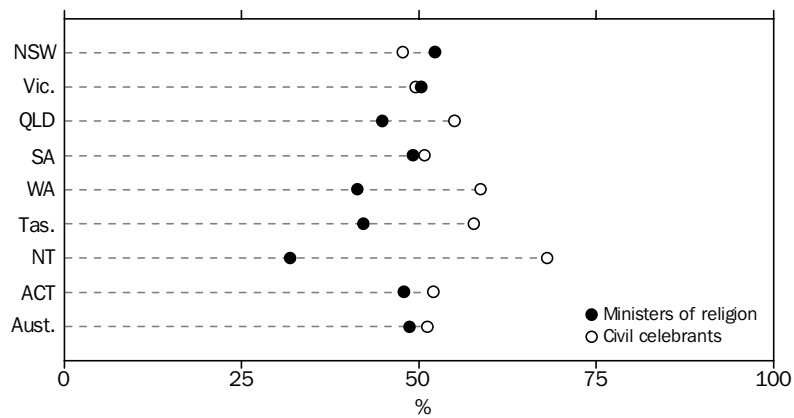
Selected years	Ministers of religion	Civil celebrants
	%	%
1909	97.6	2.4
1919	95.3	4.7
1929	92.4	7.6
1939	91.5	8.5
1949	90.3	9.7
1959	88.6	11.4
1969	89.1	10.9
1979	64.0	36.0
1989	57.8	42.2
1999	48.7	51.3

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT
continued

Of the 55,700 marriages performed by ministers of religion in 1999, the most common rites were Catholic and Anglican. Marriages performed by Catholic priests comprised 17% of all marriages in 1999 and those by Anglican ministers 11%. A further 6% were performed by Uniting Church ministers and 3% within the Orthodox Churches.

The proportion of marriages performed under different rites shows variation across the States and Territories. For example, the Northern Territory has proportionally more marriages performed by civil celebrants (68%) than Australia-wide (51%), while New South Wales and Tasmania had proportionally more Anglican ceremonies (13% and 12%) compared with 11% Australia-wide, and South Australia more marriages performed by the Uniting Churches (11% compared with 6%).

MARRIAGE RITES



In 1999, 85% of men and 87% of women married by a minister of religion were marrying for the first time. In comparison, 67% of men and women married by civil celebrants were first time brides and grooms.

BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES
MARRYING

In 1999, 63% of the marriages registered in Australia were marriages where both parties were born in Australia, 9% were marriages between men and women born in the same overseas country and 28% were marriages between couples born in different countries. Of this last group 39% were Australian-born men marrying overseas-born women, while a further 42% were Australian-born women marrying overseas-born men. The remainder (19%) were overseas-born men and women marrying partners from different overseas countries. Over the past twenty years these proportions have changed little.

BIRTHPLACE OF COUPLES MARRYING

Country of birth of couple	1979	1989	1999	1979	1989	1999
	no.	no.	no.	%	%	%
Australian-born	69 842	71 538	72 354	66.9	61.1	63.3
Same overseas country	5 722	9 537	9 824	5.5	8.1	8.6
Different countries	28 832	36 101	32 138	27.6	30.8	28.1
Australian-born men/overseas-born women	10 086	13 115	12 405	9.7	11.2	10.9
Australian-born women/overseas-born men	13 950	15 714	13 499	13.4	13.4	11.8
Couples from different overseas countries	4 796	7 272	6 234	4.6	6.2	5.5
Total	104 396	117 176	114 316	100.0	100.0	100.0

BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES

MARRYING *continued**Marriage rates*

In 1999, marriage rates varied between Australian-born and the overseas-born (see tables 3.11 and 3.12). It should be remembered when comparing these rates and other details that the total number of marriages in Australia for persons born in some selected countries is small and that the age structure of birthplace groups varies. Factors such as migration flow, period of residence, age, religion and language can all contribute to the opportunity for people to marry within their own country of birth group, or choose a partner from another (see 'Cultural diversity within marriages', *Australian Social Trends, 2000*, (Cat. no. 4102.0)).

Of the major overseas-born communities selected for comparison, Australian residents who had been born in the United States of America (22.2 men per 1,000) and the Philippines (24.7 women per 1,000) had the highest marriage rates in 1999. The lowest rates were recorded for Greek-born men and women residents, 4.4 and 2.8 per 1,000 men and women in the population, respectively. The rate for both Australian-born men and women who married in 1999 (per 1,000 men or women) was 11.8.

Birthplace relationship

Among grooms, those born in Viet Nam and the Republic of Korea (South) had the highest proportion of marriages involving partners from the same birthplace (86% each). For wives, those born in Australia (84%) and Viet Nam (79%) had the highest proportion of marriages involving partners from the same birthplace. Among those countries selected for comparison, both brides and grooms born in Spain had the highest proportion of marriages to partners born in a different country (97% and 98% respectively).

3.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected Years

		1989	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
ALL MARRIAGES								
Marriages registered	no.	117 176	111 174	109 386	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316
Crude marriage rate	rate	7.0	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0
Previous marital status								
First marriage both partners	no.	78 850	75 045	73 846	70 438	71 042	73 743	76 440
First marriage one partner	no.	22 002	20 159	19 898	19 657	19 965	20 705	21 386
Remarriage both partners	no.	16 324	15 970	15 642	16 008	15 728	16 150	16 490
Marriages performed by								
Ministers of religion								
Number	no.	67 743	63 265	na	56 462	55 866	55 807	55 720
Proportion	%	57.8	56.9	na	53.2	52.3	50.5	48.7
Civil celebrants								
Number	no.	49 433	47 909	na	49 641	50 869	54 791	58 596
Proportion	%	42.2	43.1	na	46.8	47.7	49.5	51.3
BRIDEGROOM								
Age-specific marriage rates(b)								
Age group (years)								
19 and under	rate	2.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
20–24	rate	46.8	33.6	31.7	28.0	26.7	26.2	25.9
25–29	rate	53.3	52.8	51.8	49.2	48.9	50.8	51.3
30–34	rate	27.9	29.1	28.6	28.5	29.5	31.0	33.0
35–39	rate	14.8	14.8	15.0	15.3	15.7	16.4	17.5
40–44	rate	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.5	9.4	9.8	10.1
45–49	rate	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.6
50 and over	rate	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6
Marital status at marriage								
Never married	no.	89 196	84 510	83 280	79 621	80 483	83 508	86 694
Widowed	no.	2 855	2 584	2 360	2 366	2 312	2 348	2 336
Divorced	no.	25 125	24 080	23 746	24 116	23 940	24 742	25 286
Total	no.	117 176	111 174	109 386	106 103	106 735	110 598	114 316
Median age								
Never married	years	26.3	27.2	27.3	27.6	27.8	27.9	28.2
Widowed	years	61.0	62.1	62.5	62.6	62.3	61.4	62.0
Divorced	years	39.3	40.9	41.1	41.6	41.8	42.0	42.2
Total	years	28.0	29.0	29.2	29.6	29.7	29.8	30.1

na not available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

3.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected Years *continued*

		1989	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
BRIDE								
Age-specific marriage rates(b)								
Age group (years)								
19 and under	rate	11.7	6.5	6.1	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.1
20-24	rate	68.4	54.3	51.2	46.3	44.7	44.4	43.8
25-29	rate	44.1	47.4	47.9	46.6	47.7	50.2	52.1
30-34	rate	20.7	21.5	21.4	22.1	23.1	24.4	26.3
35-39	rate	11.2	11.1	11.3	11.4	11.5	12.1	13.0
40-44	rate	7.9	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.5	8.0
45-49	rate	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.1
50 and over	rate	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Marital status at marriage								
Never married	no.	90 506	85 739	84 310	80 912	81 566	84 683	87 572
Widowed	no.	3 357	2 988	2 712	2 747	2 535	2 664	2 662
Divorced	no.	23 313	22 447	22 364	22 444	22 634	23 251	24 082
<i>Total</i>	no.	<i>117 176</i>	<i>111 174</i>	<i>109 386</i>	<i>106 103</i>	<i>106 735</i>	<i>110 598</i>	<i>114 316</i>
Median age								
Never married	years	24.2	25.1	25.3	25.7	25.9	26.2	26.4
Widowed	years	52.6	53.9	53.5	53.7	54.1	54.1	53.5
Divorced	years	35.6	37.4	37.6	38.0	38.2	38.4	38.6
<i>Total</i>	years	<i>25.7</i>	<i>26.6</i>	<i>26.8</i>	<i>27.2</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>27.7</i>	<i>27.9</i>

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

3.2

AGE-SPECIFIC MARRIAGE RATES (a)

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

	<i>19 and under(b)</i>	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	<i>50 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
BRIDE GROOM									
1976	9.9	123.3	150.2	118.5	91.5	70.1	54.5	23.7	62.9
1984	3.1	68.3	111.2	93.4	74.7	59.1	46.9	17.4	48.1
1989	2.2	53.8	100.8	89.4	67.0	55.5	45.2	17.7	44.6
1994	1.2	37.3	88.7	79.1	56.5	43.4	38.4	16.4	38.6
1995	1.2	34.9	84.6	75.7	55.2	41.8	37.2	15.7	37.2
1996	1.0	30.4	77.7	73.0	54.2	40.8	35.6	16.2	35.2
1997	1.0	28.7	74.9	72.7	53.4	39.0	34.3	15.8	34.4
1998	1.0	27.9	76.2	74.8	54.8	39.5	34.0	15.9	34.8
1999	1.1	27.4	74.4	75.6	55.4	38.8	33.3	16.1	34.8
BRIDE									
1976	49.1	190.7	166.3	130.0	93.4	66.4	46.5	6.4	61.1
1984	19.2	118.2	121.9	89.1	64.6	47.5	34.5	4.6	46.0
1989	12.1	95.0	120.3	88.4	59.0	44.6	33.5	4.7	42.6
1994	6.6	68.5	106.6	77.7	49.4	35.9	28.0	4.7	36.3
1995	6.2	63.6	103.7	74.4	48.8	33.8	27.6	4.5	34.9
1996	5.5	56.4	96.5	73.9	47.8	33.2	26.7	4.7	32.9
1997	5.0	53.1	94.5	74.2	46.5	31.8	26.1	4.7	32.2
1998	5.3	51.9	96.4	76.8	48.6	32.6	26.5	4.9	32.8
1999	5.1	50.6	95.6	78.1	49.1	32.9	25.6	4.9	32.8

(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.

3.3 AGE-SPECIFIC FIRST MARRIAGE AND REMARRIAGE RATES

	1976	1984	1989	1994	1997	1998	1999
First marriage rates(a)							
Males							
19 and under(b)	9.9	3.1	2.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1
20-24	122.6	68.0	53.8	37.3	28.7	27.8	27.3
25-29	135.9	105.6	98.2	87.5	74.0	74.9	73.7
30-34	81.8	73.8	78.0	71.9	67.4	69.2	71.2
35-39	45.9	41.1	43.8	41.5	41.2	42.7	44.9
40-44	25.5	21.3	23.3	21.4	22.8	22.7	23.6
45-49	15.7	12.7	13.9	11.5	12.4	13.4	13.1
50 and over	6.4	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.3
Females							
19 and under(b)	49.0	19.2	12.1	6.6	5.0	5.3	5.1
20-24	187.5	117.2	94.4	68.2	52.8	51.5	50.3
25-29	138.8	113.2	116.1	104.7	92.8	93.8	93.8
30-34	86.5	67.9	75.9	69.5	67.6	69.1	72.5
35-39	49.8	37.2	41.7	36.3	35.7	36.2	38.2
40-44	26.3	20.6	21.4	17.6	18.6	18.6	19.2
45-49	15.5	12.0	11.6	10.8	11.7	11.2	10.0
50 and over	3.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.9
Total first marriage rates(c)							
Males	742.6	620.9	643.3	596.2	559.5	577.6	597.0
Females	748.0	642.1	669.4	614.8	580.6	601.5	620.1
Remarriage rates(d)							
Males							
19 and under(b)	—	2.4	0.9	—	2.8	—	—
20-24	245.4	134.0	56.7	44.4	55.6	57.1	55.7
25-29	341.8	193.2	155.1	121.2	105.3	126.2	102.9
30-34	294.8	159.7	145.4	123.9	109.4	117.5	108.8
35-39	239.8	130.5	112.6	93.2	86.4	89.3	85.4
40-44	184.6	104.5	92.4	70.0	60.7	62.9	60.8
45-49	138.2	83.1	73.6	59.2	51.1	49.9	49.8
50-54	98.1	59.1	57.5	48.1	43.9	41.8	41.3
55-59	68.3	41.7	43.0	37.9	31.9	31.3	31.6
60 and over	20.9	15.3	15.5	12.9	11.5	11.5	11.7
Females							
19 and under(b)	113.7	34.5	8.0	7.9	4.9	6.4	—
20-24	295.8	180.5	134.7	100.6	97.0	128.5	101.8
25-29	278.0	163.2	152.8	126.8	117.8	139.8	122.3
30-34	201.0	117.9	114.9	99.9	95.0	104.9	98.0
35-39	136.2	82.7	74.1	64.5	60.5	66.5	64.4
40-44	94.0	59.7	56.0	46.2	40.3	42.5	42.9
45-49	62.7	42.5	41.5	33.9	31.2	32.4	31.8
50-54	31.5	22.8	25.5	23.7	21.9	21.5	20.5
55-59	16.1	12.1	12.8	12.7	12.1	12.9	12.2
60 and over	3.2	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

- (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.

3.4 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	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	11	72	56	18	16	11	5	—	3	—	4	3
19	8	120	140	96	49	36	23	16	8	10	8	5
20	9	162	229	331	166	75	67	45	30	17	17	7
21	11	157	256	419	508	281	161	124	93	46	43	25
22	4	162	247	408	629	806	398	240	165	121	76	50
23	8	119	203	401	652	909	1 028	578	319	209	151	93
24	7	103	161	359	537	832	1 098	1 234	693	409	265	181
25	6	95	147	271	466	737	955	1 248	1 291	779	459	293
26	—	87	87	210	359	598	798	1 085	1 287	1 206	767	493
27	3	55	92	157	307	469	692	905	1 092	1 170	1 158	747
28	3	41	60	122	203	357	525	701	827	1 032	1 112	963
29	—	23	51	89	144	218	381	518	662	795	833	836
30	3	28	34	72	120	160	269	380	486	614	684	709
31	—	25	22	49	63	146	193	279	396	450	503	565
32	—	11	19	31	58	91	159	212	269	327	412	461
33	—	9	10	19	47	86	98	135	204	249	344	338
34	—	9	16	16	34	55	88	131	174	213	273	314
35	—	10	8	14	25	36	74	105	123	185	210	241
36	3	7	10	11	17	33	56	59	101	145	202	176
37	—	4	11	14	21	23	41	64	85	91	116	142
38	—	3	4	7	9	17	30	30	63	78	122	113
39	—	5	4	9	9	25	20	34	43	62	86	95
40	—	4	5	4	8	12	17	27	35	47	50	70
41	—	3	6	4	9	14	12	18	29	38	54	50
42	—	3	3	3	5	6	10	14	17	24	43	46
43	—	—	—	4	4	6	9	13	14	20	31	30
44	—	3	—	5	6	5	4	9	10	10	21	28
45	—	3	—	3	—	6	6	4	13	12	19	24
46	—	—	—	3	—	5	3	7	6	18	11	21
47	—	—	—	4	3	5	8	7	8	7	10	4
48	—	—	—	3	—	3	4	—	7	6	7	10
49	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	7	4	4	12
50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	4	8	7
51	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	3	4	3
52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	5	8	6
53	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	3	4	4	—
54	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	3	—	3
55–59	—	—	—	4	—	3	6	3	6	12	6	20
60–64	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	4	5
65 and over	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
Total brides	76	1 325	1 890	3 163	4 485	6 070	7 250	8 252	8 583	8 427	8 131	7 189

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

3.4 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS) CONT.

Age of bridegroom (years)	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	4	—	3	3	—	—	3	—	—	3	—
20	12	5	5	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
21	23	7	12	6	4	5	3	3	—	3	—
22	32	26	15	3	5	7	—	9	3	4	—
23	72	45	25	28	8	17	6	7	4	4	5
24	130	75	48	31	28	16	10	12	6	5	4
25	158	136	79	58	33	28	23	25	13	6	8
26	298	209	137	88	64	52	36	26	16	11	7
27	438	250	178	135	104	68	56	35	24	16	13
28	604	371	255	164	134	96	73	55	32	33	7
29	731	461	335	192	162	104	76	61	35	25	25
30	695	560	383	231	187	138	100	90	48	46	32
31	527	501	396	273	185	140	96	88	55	42	52
32	457	430	388	296	246	165	120	92	62	48	37
33	340	367	339	274	247	211	150	115	91	53	44
34	276	285	256	288	225	194	172	126	107	67	59
35	231	242	286	261	238	218	215	146	127	81	72
36	232	201	214	196	213	168	176	169	112	97	75
37	161	152	163	192	199	187	197	133	142	97	80
38	127	129	153	160	153	147	164	142	118	116	80
39	113	101	107	114	112	143	130	134	124	113	114
40	76	83	83	100	98	107	116	113	118	103	82
41	53	71	67	68	77	94	90	89	99	91	97
42	47	45	66	60	58	85	68	89	73	88	98
43	35	37	41	38	58	53	59	70	56	73	69
44	30	26	50	37	48	45	50	61	63	68	64
45	26	36	26	46	37	43	49	66	50	58	72
46	12	20	26	26	30	39	40	41	37	46	44
47	20	27	23	26	26	24	41	35	53	40	53
48	4	20	12	21	20	35	34	33	33	45	48
49	20	21	20	15	14	19	31	31	26	27	25
50	9	12	10	18	15	16	17	28	26	34	31
51	9	9	15	11	13	14	19	16	25	22	25
52	8	8	8	12	7	10	14	20	19	22	24
53	3	5	5	6	8	15	10	18	14	13	15
54	3	—	7	3	5	5	6	14	7	15	9
55-59	17	12	15	9	12	28	26	23	37	36	39
60-64	4	4	5	6	3	—	5	8	9	9	15
65 and over	—	3	3	3	3	8	4	4	6	5	11
Total brides	6 045	4 994	4 258	3 500	3 082	2 750	2 487	2 227	1 873	1 663	1 537

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

3.4 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS) CONT.

Age of bridegroom (years)	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	—	3	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	3	—	5	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	7	4	7	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
26	5	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27	6	5	7	3	4	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
28	18	9	10	8	4	6	—	3	—	4	3	—	—
29	12	10	7	8	8	4	—	—	3	3	3	—	—
30	15	14	12	10	6	6	5	6	3	3	—	—	—
31	15	22	22	5	6	8	6	3	6	—	—	—	3
32	24	22	14	8	13	8	5	4	3	—	3	3	—
33	37	26	20	12	15	12	10	5	4	—	—	3	—
34	42	26	18	19	13	8	3	4	3	4	—	—	3
35	51	31	19	21	12	13	15	7	3	4	4	3	3
36	57	38	37	18	18	11	16	6	5	3	3	3	—
37	74	54	38	35	30	20	21	11	8	4	3	—	3
38	86	47	35	31	28	21	20	14	10	7	7	5	—
39	85	56	36	34	29	24	23	12	13	7	5	4	3
40	100	73	53	28	33	20	23	26	15	6	4	6	4
41	80	70	60	64	37	34	24	19	16	8	5	8	8
42	70	71	66	56	46	39	31	27	20	12	8	6	—
43	76	60	67	70	46	24	37	24	27	18	10	12	11
44	56	57	67	62	59	44	40	33	28	19	13	11	8
45	74	62	69	64	49	51	45	32	30	31	17	10	13
46	59	53	50	62	66	42	54	40	34	34	29	17	19
47	37	46	45	63	42	49	53	40	42	36	33	16	16
48	41	57	39	62	54	58	49	58	43	33	30	33	20
49	40	47	43	28	44	52	46	57	65	50	36	32	22
50	32	41	43	42	44	41	60	55	46	52	36	35	33
51	30	39	38	42	41	41	48	44	46	46	45	40	21
52	22	40	48	42	45	38	40	44	52	63	42	41	38
53	21	25	26	25	29	29	34	25	40	50	33	33	40
54	16	14	25	25	30	21	27	18	27	36	34	31	35
55–59	40	45	63	60	74	96	72	100	109	115	104	116	125
60–64	19	11	22	24	24	24	31	37	50	48	67	57	69
65 and over	11	11	16	16	18	13	21	28	31	29	31	36	43
Total brides	1 367	1 195	1 131	1 056	971	866	867	787	779	727	607	560	541

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

3.4 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS) CONT.

Age of bridegroom (years)	53	54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total bridegrooms
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	9
18	—	—	—	—	—	208
19	—	—	—	—	—	539
20	—	—	—	—	—	1 192
21	—	—	—	—	—	2 198
22	—	—	—	—	—	3 415
23	—	—	—	—	—	4 902
24	—	—	—	—	—	6 259
25	—	—	—	—	—	7 338
26	—	—	—	—	—	7 938
27	—	—	3	—	—	8 197
28	—	—	—	—	—	7 836
29	—	—	—	—	—	6 813
30	—	—	—	—	—	6 149
31	—	—	—	—	—	5 147
32	—	3	—	3	—	4 502
33	—	—	—	—	—	3 915
34	—	—	—	—	—	3 520
35	—	—	—	—	—	3 336
36	—	—	—	—	3	2 886
37	—	—	3	—	—	2 617
38	—	—	4	—	—	2 282
39	—	3	4	—	—	2 034
40	3	—	6	3	—	1 760
41	3	6	6	3	—	1 583
42	9	3	7	3	—	1 422
43	4	5	8	—	3	1 223
44	3	—	10	3	—	1 157
45	5	13	9	3	—	1 177
46	12	3	16	3	3	1 033
47	5	13	18	—	3	981
48	13	14	23	4	—	980
49	19	11	21	5	3	905
50	18	17	26	7	—	868
51	25	16	37	8	6	810
52	24	26	53	9	—	855
53	27	17	39	7	5	635
54	15	28	56	12	5	540
55-59	103	105	319	114	21	2 096
60-64	55	51	300	170	84	1 231
65 and over	41	37	257	318	809	1 828
Total brides	390	371	1 227	677	940	114 316

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

3.5

AGE, By Previous Marital Status

Age (years)	BRIDEGROOM				BRIDE			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
17 and under	9	—	—	9	76	—	—	76
18	208	—	—	208	1 325	—	—	1 325
19	539	—	—	539	1 890	—	—	1 890
20	1 192	—	—	1 192	3 155	—	8	3 163
21	2 194	—	4	2 198	4 458	—	27	4 485
22	3 409	—	6	3 415	6 016	—	54	6 070
23	4 883	—	19	4 902	7 150	3	99	7 250
24	6 211	—	48	6 259	8 090	5	157	8 252
25	7 265	—	72	7 338	8 297	5	281	8 583
26	7 795	—	143	7 938	8 025	9	393	8 427
27	7 941	—	255	8 197	7 463	15	653	8 131
28	7 434	3	399	7 836	6 413	18	758	7 189
29	6 317	4	492	6 813	5 155	18	872	6 045
30	5 524	5	620	6 149	4 007	15	972	4 994
31	4 457	6	684	5 147	3 253	21	984	4 258
32	3 659	10	833	4 502	2 470	40	990	3 500
33	3 044	12	859	3 915	2 069	42	971	3 082
34	2 573	16	931	3 520	1 621	36	1 093	2 750
35	2 313	21	1 002	3 336	1 376	37	1 074	2 487
36	1 850	21	1 015	2 886	1 081	57	1 089	2 227
37	1 520	14	1 083	2 617	817	40	1 016	1 873
38	1 195	18	1 069	2 282	660	53	950	1 663
39	1 015	16	1 003	2 034	526	41	970	1 537
40	791	26	943	1 760	423	52	892	1 367
41	595	31	957	1 583	334	51	810	1 195
42	526	26	870	1 422	242	65	824	1 131
43	360	30	833	1 223	229	53	774	1 056
44	301	23	833	1 157	169	61	741	971
45	267	33	877	1 177	112	68	686	866
46	208	40	785	1 033	101	55	711	867
47	136	34	811	981	79	73	635	787
48	155	29	796	980	64	86	629	779
49	130	42	733	905	88	72	567	727
50	81	50	737	868	46	58	503	607
51	94	61	655	810	52	73	435	560
52	88	63	704	855	40	79	422	541
53	63	59	513	635	30	60	300	390
54	36	53	451	540	24	61	286	371
55	46	49	425	520	23	62	235	320
56	36	53	350	439	19	69	195	283
57	29	55	335	419	14	64	166	244
58	19	61	265	345	10	50	130	190
59	30	70	273	373	13	60	117	190
60	17	65	237	319	8	56	88	152
61	15	69	176	260	6	74	90	170
62	8	74	189	271	4	46	68	118
63	18	62	138	218	4	57	62	123
64	11	46	106	163	3	61	50	114
65	9	61	122	192	5	68	44	117
66	15	67	99	181	8	45	46	99
67	5	64	62	131	3	45	18	66
68	6	48	72	126	3	45	17	64
69	11	60	69	140	3	55	21	78
70	7	54	56	117	3	52	27	81
71	8	64	40	112	3	48	19	70

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

3.5AGE, By Previous Marital Status *continued*

Age (years)	BRIDEGROOM				BRIDE			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
72	3	65	42	110	4	35	8	47
73	7	72	40	119	4	45	14	63
74	6	60	36	102	—	37	11	48
75 and over	10	369	119	498	9	168	30	207
Total	86 694	2 336	25 286	114 316	87 572	2 662	24 082	114 316

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

3.6 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES

	BRIDEGROOM BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDE BORN IN				BRIDE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDEGROOM BORN IN			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia (incl E T)	72 354	..	12 405	84 759	72 354	..	13 499	85 853
Fiji	99	213	69	381	103	213	132	448
New Zealand	1 976	523	539	3 038	1 551	523	486	2 560
Papua New Guinea	200	10	47	257	243	10	62	315
Other	132	204	126	462	83	204	102	389
<i>Total</i>	<i>74 761</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>13 186</i>	<i>88 897</i>	<i>74 334</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>14 281</i>	<i>89 565</i>
North-West Europe								
Austria	52	18	31	101	42	18	28	88
Denmark	43	14	18	75	45	14	13	72
France	116	13	68	197	84	13	38	135
Germany	351	172	208	731	320	172	159	651
Ireland	209	50	85	344	153	50	87	290
Netherlands	277	56	111	444	204	56	79	339
Switzerland	50	41	33	124	52	41	26	119
United Kingdom	4 888	1 636	1 158	7 682	3 636	1 636	687	5 959
Other	104	47	62	213	108	47	48	203
<i>Total</i>	<i>6 090</i>	<i>2 047</i>	<i>1 774</i>	<i>9 911</i>	<i>4 644</i>	<i>2 047</i>	<i>1 165</i>	<i>7 856</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	26	76	14	116	24	80	12	116
Croatia	82	61	40	183	57	53	30	140
Cyprus	55	14	28	97	42	14	15	71
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	105	52	24	181	62	52	20	134
Greece	203	52	62	317	98	52	40	190
Hungary	33	30	49	112	33	30	20	83
Italy	359	74	164	597	184	74	71	329
Malta	93	11	53	157	65	11	29	105
Poland	67	116	46	229	102	116	53	271
Portugal	52	19	20	91	46	19	18	83
Romania	26	44	27	97	19	44	29	92
Russian Federation	8	37	26	71	82	37	85	204
Spain	44	3	30	76	51	3	27	80
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	100	101	54	255	73	102	28	203
Other	87	114	108	309	129	117	130	376
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 340</i>	<i>803</i>	<i>745</i>	<i>2 888</i>	<i>1 067</i>	<i>803</i>	<i>607</i>	<i>2 477</i>
North Africa and the Middle East								
Egypt	78	50	60	188	33	50	28	111
Iran	40	63	49	152	25	63	19	107
Israel	62	11	27	100	29	11	15	55
Lebanon	403	192	84	679	133	192	56	381
Syria	26	13	26	65	8	13	33	54
Turkey	103	108	49	260	52	108	23	183
Other	123	142	104	369	36	142	82	260
<i>Total</i>	<i>835</i>	<i>579</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>1 813</i>	<i>316</i>	<i>579</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>1 151</i>

.. not applicable

3.6 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES *continued*

	BRIDEGROOM BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDE BORN IN				BRIDE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDEGROOM BORN IN			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
South-East Asia								
Cambodia	6	165	75	246	25	165	69	259
Indonesia	63	333	78	474	182	333	212	727
Laos	5	48	45	98	25	48	36	109
Malaysia	160	134	201	495	290	134	245	669
Philippines	129	587	55	771	779	587	463	1 829
Singapore	80	24	99	203	151	24	127	302
Thailand	14	79	27	120	296	79	168	543
Viet Nam	43	1 602	216	1 861	161	1 602	260	2 023
Other	25	49	33	107	27	49	34	110
<i>Total</i>	525	3 021	829	4 375	1 936	3 021	1 614	6 571
North-East Asia								
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	22	759	222	1 003	243	759	348	1 350
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	56	172	214	442	91	172	159	422
Japan	35	72	35	142	267	72	165	504
Korea, Republic of (South)	15	269	29	313	97	269	85	451
Other	7	55	41	103	25	55	85	165
<i>Total</i>	135	1 327	541	2 003	723	1 327	842	2 892
Southern and Central Asia								
India	241	176	206	623	119	176	78	373
Pakistan	40	31	80	151	9	31	9	49
Sri Lanka	99	168	63	330	74	168	55	297
Other	35	79	51	165	23	79	34	136
<i>Total</i>	415	454	400	1 269	225	454	176	855
Americas								
Argentina	43	17	32	92	58	17	36	111
Canada	265	42	71	378	229	42	86	357
Caribbean	18	3	17	36	15	3	8	24
Central America	52	38	21	111	43	38	49	130
Chile	104	67	63	234	70	67	71	208
United States of America	556	102	185	843	434	102	140	676
Uruguay	38	17	46	101	33	17	30	80
Other	82	74	74	230	118	74	113	305
<i>Total</i>	1 158	358	509	2 025	1 000	358	533	1 891
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	34	3	15	52	27	3	15	45
Mauritius	60	20	27	107	38	20	32	90
South Africa	322	94	109	525	300	94	103	497
Zimbabwe	64	4	31	99	72	4	31	107
Other	109	162	72	343	67	162	76	305
<i>Total</i>	589	283	254	1 126	504	283	257	1 044
Other and not stated	5	3	—	9	10	3	—	14
Total	85 853	9 824	18 639	114 316	84 759	9 824	19 733	114 316

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

3.7 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, By Age at Marriage

AGE OF BRIDEGROOM (YEARS)

	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	Total	Median age
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica										
Australia (incl E T)	501	14 641	30 332	16 658	8 963	4 884	3 353	5 427	84 759	29.4
Fiji	7	96	112	64	45	23	16	18	381	28.5
New Zealand	21	387	862	669	440	260	171	228	3 038	31.8
Papua New Guinea	3	33	103	67	28	11	6	7	257	29.5
Other	13	89	154	86	55	35	13	17	462	29.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>544</i>	<i>15 246</i>	<i>31 563</i>	<i>17 544</i>	<i>9 531</i>	<i>5 213</i>	<i>3 559</i>	<i>5 697</i>	<i>88 897</i>	<i>29.5</i>
North-West Europe										
Austria	—	—	13	23	9	14	7	33	101	40.9
Denmark	—	—	16	20	16	3	5	13	75	np
France	3	16	50	57	26	13	9	24	197	32.6
Germany	—	23	110	167	110	61	63	195	731	37.4
Ireland	—	32	95	101	52	14	16	34	344	32.3
Netherlands	3	32	64	59	36	42	62	148	444	44.0
Switzerland	—	5	25	44	17	12	7	14	124	33.1
United Kingdom	19	419	1 514	1 806	1 327	691	565	1 341	7 682	35.3
Other	3	12	35	59	42	17	6	40	213	34.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>542</i>	<i>1 922</i>	<i>2 336</i>	<i>1 635</i>	<i>867</i>	<i>740</i>	<i>1 842</i>	<i>9 911</i>	<i>35.3</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe										
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	31	29	28	13	5	—	5	116	28.8
Croatia	—	13	37	45	25	11	11	40	183	34.4
Cyprus	—	13	37	22	9	3	5	8	97	np
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	3	27	69	35	20	13	8	7	181	29.6
Greece	—	15	51	71	55	34	38	52	317	36.3
Hungary	3	11	15	8	6	16	8	47	112	44.7
Italy	—	35	75	113	82	68	66	158	597	39.4
Malta	—	7	32	9	27	17	21	44	157	40.7
Poland	—	28	53	36	24	20	20	46	229	34.0
Portugal	—	22	19	23	7	7	5	8	91	np
Romania	3	18	21	19	10	6	6	15	97	np
Russian Federation	3	8	17	14	14	4	4	9	71	np
Spain	—	5	17	14	13	3	5	19	76	np
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	3	22	37	62	35	27	16	55	255	35.6
Other	—	38	74	45	34	17	16	84	309	34.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>544</i>	<i>374</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>229</i>	<i>597</i>	<i>2 888</i>	<i>35.1</i>
North Africa and the Middle East										
Egypt	3	13	54	26	25	15	11	41	188	34.5
Iran	—	12	43	38	37	9	9	4	152	32.1
Israel	—	24	29	16	10	6	4	10	100	29.2
Lebanon	14	139	250	152	59	28	16	21	679	28.4
Syria	—	7	19	18	8	4	3	6	65	np
Turkey	8	57	77	54	30	14	11	9	260	29.3
Other	3	49	134	104	45	14	5	15	369	30.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>606</i>	<i>408</i>	<i>214</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>1 813</i>	<i>29.7</i>

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.7 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, By Age at Marriage *continued*

	AGE OF BRIDEGROOM (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	3	25	99	70	20	12	5	12	246	29.8
Indonesia	3	77	172	104	50	18	30	21	474	29.5
Laos	—	12	30	21	13	11	3	7	98	np
Malaysia	—	65	202	96	55	29	20	27	495	29.4
Philippines	16	161	236	155	90	47	32	34	771	29.3
Singapore	—	23	93	38	18	13	7	11	203	29.1
Thailand	—	25	38	24	17	10	4	3	120	29.5
Viet Nam	45	359	635	402	189	100	67	64	1 861	29.0
Other	3	11	30	26	21	9	8	—	107	31.8
<i>Total</i>	69	758	1 535	936	473	249	176	179	4 375	29.4
North-East Asia										
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	5	54	168	255	249	129	55	88	1 003	35.3
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	4	42	147	106	70	30	27	16	442	30.9
Japan	—	14	53	43	21	5	—	4	142	30.3
Korea, Republic of (South)	3	32	140	61	31	11	12	24	313	29.2
Other	5	24	39	18	6	4	4	3	103	27.9
<i>Total</i>	16	166	547	483	377	179	100	135	2 003	32.5
Southern and Central Asia										
India	16	137	198	116	58	25	21	52	623	28.9
Pakistan	3	30	50	39	20	4	4	3	151	29.2
Sri Lanka	—	29	134	81	40	14	11	21	330	30.1
Other	4	39	52	42	21	3	3	—	165	28.2
<i>Total</i>	21	235	434	278	139	46	39	77	1 269	29.2
Americas										
Argentina	3	10	31	25	6	6	3	10	92	np
Canada	3	50	119	84	53	26	18	25	378	30.7
Caribbean	—	4	8	8	4	7	3	3	36	np
Central America	6	33	41	13	7	4	4	3	111	26.8
Chile	—	31	89	52	20	15	9	16	234	29.7
United States of America	6	96	200	186	121	83	66	85	843	32.9
Uruguay	3	8	31	20	13	5	9	13	101	32.3
Other	3	29	64	45	35	26	8	20	230	31.0
<i>Total</i>	23	261	583	433	259	172	119	175	2 025	31.3
Sub-Saharan Africa										
Kenya	—	10	13	9	8	9	3	3	52	np
Mauritius	—	14	20	28	20	10	7	7	107	33.9
South Africa	4	79	196	101	47	29	32	37	525	29.6
Zimbabwe	—	13	40	22	15	3	5	3	99	np
Other	3	46	76	110	62	27	10	9	343	31.7
<i>Total</i>	8	162	345	270	152	78	56	55	1 126	30.8
Other and not stated	—	3	4	3	3	—	—	—	9	np
Total	756	17 966	38 122	23 233	13 155	7 145	5 076	8 863	114 316	30.1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.8**COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, By Age at Marriage****AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS)**

	19 and under	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	Total	Median age
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica										
Australia (incl E T)	2 361	23 945	30 382	13 211	6 444	3 629	2 547	3 334	85 853	27.5
Fiji	50	133	86	72	49	27	18	13	448	26.9
New Zealand	61	555	700	522	300	171	113	138	2 560	29.7
Papua New Guinea	3	51	150	68	23	13	5	3	315	28.3
Other	15	96	115	82	38	18	16	9	389	28.0
<i>Total</i>	2 489	24 780	31 433	13 955	6 854	3 858	2 699	3 497	89 565	27.5
North-West Europe										
Austria	3	6	22	14	9	15	9	11	88	np
Denmark	—	12	22	10	6	7	4	11	72	np
France	3	23	41	27	16	13	5	7	135	30.1
Germany	5	71	144	166	83	44	37	101	651	32.9
Ireland	3	34	91	75	37	19	12	20	290	31.2
Netherlands	4	52	65	57	42	25	38	56	339	34.1
Switzerland	—	11	35	43	13	6	3	6	119	31.5
United Kingdom	41	592	1 400	1 303	860	547	451	765	5 959	33.5
Other	—	30	48	57	25	13	15	15	203	31.8
<i>Total</i>	59	831	1 868	1 752	1 091	689	574	992	7 856	33.2
Southern and Eastern Europe										
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	43	31	13	13	6	—	—	116	26.5
Croatia	3	21	28	29	19	12	10	18	140	32.4
Cyprus	—	15	21	16	5	4	4	5	71	np
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	15	39	28	21	15	5	6	5	134	27.5
Greece	7	26	49	38	30	10	11	19	190	32.1
Hungary	3	10	14	11	7	6	12	20	83	np
Italy	3	22	60	77	52	35	33	47	329	35.2
Malta	3	8	20	12	15	14	7	26	105	38.8
Poland	8	66	56	29	27	21	26	38	271	30.9
Portugal	4	30	19	16	6	3	—	4	83	np
Romania	10	28	17	14	6	6	3	8	92	np
Russian Federation	7	41	52	35	25	17	12	15	204	30.3
Spain	—	13	30	20	7	5	3	3	80	np
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	9	36	34	42	25	15	16	26	203	32.6
Other	14	86	90	47	30	27	21	61	376	29.9
<i>Total</i>	95	484	549	420	282	186	165	296	2 477	31.3
North Africa and the Middle East										
Egypt	5	31	12	11	14	14	12	12	111	33.2
Iran	4	24	38	19	13	5	—	3	107	28.3
Israel	—	10	23	11	5	—	3	3	55	np
Lebanon	98	96	86	47	24	19	6	5	381	24.8
Syria	9	11	11	8	4	6	3	3	54	np
Turkey	39	34	41	36	19	5	7	—	183	27.4
Other	32	88	55	38	23	16	4	4	260	25.8
<i>Total</i>	188	294	266	170	102	66	34	31	1 151	26.7

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

3.8**COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, By 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	21	59	94	34	22	16	7	6	259	27.3
Indonesia	23	210	250	103	55	41	19	26	727	27.1
Laos	5	41	26	21	10	3	3	3	109	27.1
Malaysia	11	155	238	110	59	46	32	18	669	28.2
Philippines	45	310	461	311	251	205	123	123	1 829	31.3
Singapore	—	60	123	48	21	21	16	13	302	27.9
Thailand	15	108	137	98	89	58	30	8	543	30.6
Viet Nam	164	640	667	255	121	91	52	33	2 023	26.3
Other	—	18	32	30	13	6	9	3	110	30.6
Total	284	1 601	2 028	1 010	641	487	289	231	6 571	28.1
North-East Asia										
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	16	139	355	308	282	145	52	53	1 350	32.3
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	8	71	166	90	40	21	23	3	422	28.8
Japan	4	75	235	124	40	13	7	6	504	28.8
Korea, Republic of (South)	3	75	231	62	35	22	10	13	451	27.9
Other	3	34	86	22	14	6	3	—	165	27.0
Total	32	394	1 073	606	411	207	93	76	2 892	29.7
Southern and Central Asia										
India	10	88	123	74	25	20	11	22	373	27.8
Pakistan	8	15	11	8	—	4	—	3	49	np
Sri Lanka	10	73	113	46	29	16	3	7	297	27.2
Other	26	53	33	10	5	6	3	—	136	24.0
Total	54	229	280	138	60	46	17	31	855	27.0
Americas										
Argentina	4	30	32	24	7	5	3	6	111	28.5
Canada	5	58	131	72	42	23	12	14	357	29.4
Caribbean	3	6	8	3	—	3	—	4	24	np
Central America	13	41	34	22	7	5	5	3	130	26.6
Chile	6	40	69	37	20	11	7	18	208	29.2
United States of America	17	99	176	128	107	55	45	49	676	31.9
Uruguay	3	14	27	15	9	5	3	7	80	—
Other	13	51	71	61	46	31	18	14	305	31.6
Total	60	339	548	362	238	137	92	115	1 891	30.0
Sub-Saharan Africa										
Kenya	—	7	9	5	12	3	6	4	45	np
Mauritius	3	16	16	11	24	7	6	7	90	np
South Africa	11	131	166	78	37	20	33	21	497	28.1
Zimbabwe	—	27	33	16	11	6	10	4	107	28.2
Other	15	83	102	58	23	9	7	8	305	27.6
Total	29	264	326	168	107	44	62	44	1 044	28.3
Other and not stated	—	4	4	3	3	—	—	—	14	np
Total	3 291	29 220	38 375	18 584	9 787	5 720	4 026	5 313	114 316	27.9

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.9 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, By Duration of Residence

DURATION OF RESIDENCE (YEARS)

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 and over	Not stated	Not applicable	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl E T)	3	—	—	—	—	3	84 755	84 759	np
Fiji	186	119	31	16	—	29	—	381	9.2
New Zealand	1 184	1 046	508	110	21	169	—	3 038	11.6
Papua New Guinea	19	42	142	15	5	34	—	257	24.3
Other	279	116	21	6	—	38	—	462	5.4
<i>Total</i>	1 669	1 323	703	147	28	272	84 755	88 897	np
North-West Europe									
Austria	32	9	17	14	25	4	—	101	25.8
Denmark	32	20	10	5	4	4	—	75	np
France	102	23	44	10	7	11	—	197	8.1
Germany	277	100	96	94	129	35	—	731	17.7
Ireland	196	67	36	21	6	18	—	344	5.1
Netherlands	118	54	38	70	150	14	—	444	30.5
Switzerland	75	16	19	5	—	8	—	124	2.7
United Kingdom	2 512	1 145	1 811	1 368	479	367	—	7 682	20.0
Other	113	22	34	30	8	6	—	213	5.1
<i>Total</i>	3 457	1 456	2 105	1 617	809	467	—	9 911	18.8
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	92	6	11	3	—	4	—	116	4.3
Croatia	50	14	61	40	8	10	—	183	28.0
Cyprus	15	11	49	11	5	6	—	97	np
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	52	25	67	15	3	20	—	181	20.9
Greece	61	23	83	92	31	27	—	317	28.4
Hungary	19	37	12	10	28	6	—	112	19.2
Italy	101	46	120	169	123	38	—	597	30.5
Malta	9	20	32	47	39	10	—	157	33.3
Poland	64	104	16	12	25	8	—	229	16.3
Portugal	15	33	31	6	3	4	—	91	np
Romania	42	39	6	4	3	3	—	97	np
Russian Federation	57	4	4	—	3	3	—	71	np
Spain	11	17	30	14	—	3	—	76	np
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	83	30	75	43	18	6	—	255	25.3
Other	132	55	37	29	39	17	—	309	12.4
<i>Total</i>	803	464	634	496	326	165	—	2 888	22.8
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	80	24	27	24	18	15	—	188	11.1
Iran	70	63	12	—	—	6	—	152	10.4
Israel	58	13	13	5	5	6	—	100	5.5
Lebanon	286	105	184	41	5	58	—	679	11.5
Syria	33	9	9	4	—	9	—	65	np
Turkey	109	41	75	12	—	23	—	260	11.9
Other	258	38	31	15	—	27	—	369	4.6
<i>Total</i>	894	293	351	102	29	144	—	1 813	8.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.9 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, By 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	117	112	7	—	—	9	—	246	10.1
Indonesia	272	110	49	5	5	33	—	474	6.6
Laos	21	53	18	—	—	6	—	98	np
Malaysia	162	169	94	38	7	25	—	495	12.7
Philippines	432	231	64	3	—	42	—	771	8.4
Singapore	74	43	53	11	6	16	—	203	13.3
Thailand	70	25	14	3	—	10	—	120	8.2
Viet Nam	810	787	173	—	—	91	—	1 861	10.8
Other	54	22	22	9	—	—	—	107	9.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>2 012</i>	<i>1 552</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>4 375</i>	<i>10.3</i>
North-East Asia									
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	613	278	28	17	12	55	—	1 003	9.0
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	194	146	75	11	3	13	—	442	10.7
Japan	112	14	6	3	3	6	—	142	1.6
Korea, Republic of (South)	189	85	30	—	—	9	—	313	6.7
Other	73	18	3	3	—	8	—	103	5.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 181</i>	<i>541</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>2 003</i>	<i>8.6</i>
Southern and Central Asia									
India	415	44	82	38	21	23	—	623	3.4
Pakistan	124	17	3	4	—	—	—	151	2.9
Sri Lanka	173	69	53	20	4	11	—	330	8.6
Other	123	24	5	—	—	12	—	165	4.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>835</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1 269</i>	<i>4.0</i>
Americas									
Argentina	19	24	38	3	3	6	—	92	np
Canada	240	43	66	12	3	16	—	378	2.3
Caribbean	16	4	10	5	—	—	—	36	np
Central America	59	44	3	—	—	5	—	111	9.3
Chile	39	69	113	3	—	9	—	234	20.5
United States of America	585	75	104	29	4	46	—	843	0.9
Uruguay	16	15	62	4	—	4	—	101	24.7
Other	134	27	48	4	—	16	—	230	5.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 108</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>444</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>2 025</i>	<i>5.0</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	21	9	13	7	—	3	—	52	np
Mauritius	19	31	24	24	—	9	—	107	18.7
South Africa	186	178	102	25	3	32	—	525	13.3
Zimbabwe	34	41	16	4	—	4	—	99	np
Other	234	49	25	13	3	20	—	343	4.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1 126</i>	<i>11.0</i>
Other and not stated	—	—	3	3	—	6	—	9	np
Total	12 453	6 392	5 198	2 657	1 266	1 595	84 755	114 316	(a)11.7

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Excludes Australia (incl E T).

3.10 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, By Duration of Residence

DURATION OF RESIDENCE (YEARS)

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 and over	Not stated	Not applicable	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl E T)	3	—	—	—	—	4	85 847	85 853	np
Fiji	222	141	36	7	—	40	—	448	9.2
New Zealand	931	919	457	57	21	175	—	2 560	11.9
Papua New Guinea	56	66	135	20	3	35	—	315	21.8
Other	246	88	25	—	—	28	—	389	5.3
<i>Total</i>	1 456	1 215	653	85	27	282	85 847	89 565	np
North-West Europe									
Austria	34	9	13	12	13	7	—	88	np
Denmark	36	15	8	6	3	4	—	72	np
France	65	18	29	7	3	13	—	135	6.5
Germany	324	106	68	42	72	39	—	651	5.5
Ireland	166	62	30	15	4	13	—	290	6.1
Netherlands	112	56	34	44	64	29	—	339	18.7
Switzerland	78	15	10	6	3	8	—	119	1.3
United Kingdom	1 801	1 040	1 498	1 002	266	352	—	5 959	19.7
Other	116	23	30	18	4	12	—	203	4.2
<i>Total</i>	2 732	1 344	1 720	1 152	431	477	—	7 856	17.8
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	88	11	8	3	—	6	—	116	4.2
Croatia	55	7	34	22	7	15	—	140	20.5
Cyprus	12	12	32	4	3	8	—	71	np
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	39	23	38	6	3	26	—	134	17.3
Greece	33	23	58	38	12	26	—	190	25.5
Hungary	32	18	5	4	13	11	—	83	np
Italy	58	20	74	101	35	41	—	329	29.3
Malta	11	14	31	24	16	9	—	105	27.3
Poland	115	116	10	7	10	13	—	271	11.6
Portugal	20	34	18	3	—	8	—	83	np
Romania	49	36	—	—	—	4	—	92	np
Russian Federation	175	8	5	—	—	16	—	204	0.8
Spain	22	21	25	9	—	3	—	80	np
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	89	22	48	24	7	13	—	203	12.3
Other	235	60	19	14	22	26	—	376	4.0
<i>Total</i>	1 033	425	407	259	128	225	—	2 477	12.1
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	40	14	21	19	8	9	—	111	14.7
Iran	55	40	8	—	—	4	—	107	8.5
Israel	34	5	12	—	3	3	—	55	np
Lebanon	163	83	78	14	—	43	—	381	10.9
Syria	30	10	5	—	—	9	—	54	np
Turkey	69	34	52	8	—	20	—	183	12.8
Other	176	26	24	13	—	20	—	260	4.2
<i>Total</i>	567	212	200	54	11	107	—	1 151	7.8

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

3.10 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, By 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	125	114	10	—	—	10	—	259	9.5
Indonesia	548	82	31	3	7	56	—	727	2.9
Laos	42	35	19	—	—	12	—	109	12.4
Malaysia	299	182	125	16	—	45	—	669	10.3
Philippines	1 139	440	68	6	3	173	—	1 829	3.0
Singapore	144	57	65	8	4	24	—	302	9.4
Thailand	429	46	14	—	—	54	—	543	1.1
Viet Nam	1 173	607	142	3	—	98	—	2 023	8.3
Other	61	17	18	6	—	7	—	110	4.7
<i>Total</i>	3 960	1 580	492	42	18	479	—	6 571	5.5
North-East Asia									
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	1 032	200	10	7	4	97	—	1 350	2.5
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	216	116	56	6	—	28	—	422	9.1
Japan	437	21	3	3	3	40	—	504	1.5
Korea, Republic of (South)	337	65	19	—	—	29	—	451	2.5
Other	112	33	7	—	—	13	—	165	5.3
<i>Total</i>	2 134	435	95	16	5	207	—	2 892	2.7
Southern and Central Asia									
India	198	69	55	26	6	19	—	373	6.7
Pakistan	30	15	3	—	—	—	—	49	np
Sri Lanka	150	71	40	15	—	21	—	297	9.1
Other	103	17	—	—	—	11	—	136	3.5
<i>Total</i>	481	172	99	43	7	53	—	855	6.6
Americas									
Argentina	30	22	47	—	—	10	—	111	19.3
Canada	224	50	54	8	3	19	—	357	2.5
Caribbean	9	5	7	—	—	—	—	24	np
Central America	62	56	6	—	—	6	—	130	10.0
Chile	38	64	94	—	—	11	—	208	18.9
United States of America	452	78	76	18	6	46	—	676	0.9
Uruguay	13	17	43	3	—	4	—	80	np
Other	224	29	30	—	—	21	—	305	1.9
<i>Total</i>	1 052	321	357	33	9	119	—	1 891	4.6
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	13	10	10	9	3	—	—	45	np
Mauritius	20	26	16	14	—	14	—	90	np
South Africa	165	188	101	12	—	30	—	497	13.6
Zimbabwe	27	52	20	3	—	5	—	107	17.1
Other	217	27	27	10	—	24	—	305	3.5
<i>Total</i>	442	303	174	48	3	74	—	1 044	11.4
Other and not stated	4	—	3	3	—	6	—	14	np
Total	13 861	6 008	4 199	1 733	639	2 029	85 847	114 316	(a)9.1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Excludes Australia (incl E T).

3.11

SUMMARY(a), Selected Countries of Birth of Bridegroom

		<i>Australia (exc E T)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Lebanon</i>
Marriages registered	no.	84 755	1 003	731	317	442	597	623	679
Population(b)	'000	7 187.2	75.7	60.5	71.4	30.2	130.2	54.3	40.8
Marriage rate(c)	rate	11.8	13.2	12.1	4.4	14.7	4.6	11.5	16.6
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	44 647	71	198	196	129	284	199	581
Proportion	%	52.7	7.1	27.1	61.8	29.2	47.6	31.9	85.6
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	40 108	932	533	121	313	313	424	98
Proportion	%	47.3	92.9	72.9	38.2	70.8	52.4	68.1	14.4
Bridegrooms born in country shown marrying brides born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	72 348	22	351	203	56	359	241	403
Proportion	%	85.4	2.2	48.0	64.0	12.7	60.1	38.7	59.4
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	759	172	52	172	74	176	192
Proportion	%	..	75.7	23.5	16.4	38.9	12.4	28.3	28.3
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	12 407	222	208	62	214	164	206	84
Proportion	%	14.6	22.1	28.5	19.6	48.4	27.5	33.1	12.4
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	66 462	593	401	181	359	294	491	539
Widowed	no.	1 480	22	44	13	5	35	11	8
Divorced	no.	16 813	388	286	123	78	268	121	132
Total	no.	84 755	1 003	731	317	442	597	623	679
Median age									
Never married	years	27.9	31.7	32.4	31.8	29.7	32.2	27.4	27.3
Widowed	years	61.9	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np
Divorced	years	41.8	40.6	48.8	45.3	(d)np	48.0	43.5	34.5
Total	years	29.4	35.3	37.4	36.3	30.9	39.4	28.9	28.4
Median duration of residence	years	..	9.0	17.7	28.4	10.7	30.5	3.4	11.5

.. not applicable

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 1999 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 male ERP by country of birth, 1999 preliminary.

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

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

		Malaysia	New Zealand	Philip-pines	South Africa	United Kingdom and Ireland	United States of America	Viet Nam
Marriages registered	no.	495	3 038	771	525	8 026	843	1 861
Population(b)	'000	44.8	185.3	42.7	37.7	622.1	38.0	87.3
Marriage rate(c)	rate	11.1	16.4	18.0	13.9	12.9	22.2	21.3
Marriages performed by								
Ministers of religion								
Number	no.	192	1 143	275	281	2 616	319	480
Proportion	%	38.8	37.6	35.7	53.5	32.6	37.8	25.8
Civil celebrants								
Number	no.	303	1 895	496	244	5 410	524	1 381
Proportion	%	61.2	62.4	64.3	46.5	67.4	62.2	74.2
Bridegrooms born in country shown marrying brides born in								
Australia								
Number	no.	160	1 976	129	322	5 095	556	43
Proportion	%	32.3	65.0	16.7	61.3	63.5	66.0	2.3
Same overseas country								
Number	no.	134	523	587	94	1 773	102	1 602
Proportion	%	27.1	17.2	76.1	17.9	22.1	12.1	86.1
Other overseas country								
Number	no.	201	539	55	109	1 158	185	216
Proportion	%	40.6	17.7	7.1	20.8	14.4	21.9	11.6
Marital status at marriage								
Never married	no.	402	2 197	615	399	4 698	524	1 558
Widowed	no.	11	51	9	8	353	20	15
Divorced	no.	82	790	147	118	2 975	299	288
<i>Total</i>	no.	495	3 038	771	525	8 026	843	1 861
Median age								
Never married	years	28.3	29.2	27.7	28.3	31.0	29.4	27.9
Widowed	years	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np	63.5	(d)np	(d)np
Divorced	years	(d)np	42.0	40.3	44.6	45.0	41.8	37.4
<i>Total</i>	years	29.4	31.8	29.3	29.6	35.1	32.9	29.0
Median duration of residence	years	12.7	11.6	8.4	13.3	19.3	0.9	10.8

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 1999 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 male ERP by country of birth, 1999 preliminary.

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

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

		<i>Australia (exc E T)</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Hong Kong</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Lebanon</i>
Marriages registered	no.	85 847	1 350	651	190	422	329	373	381
Population(b)	'000	7 297.5	81.0	62.9	68.8	31.8	114.5	46.5	37.2
Marriage rate(c)	rate	11.8	16.7	10.3	2.8	13.3	2.9	8.0	10.3
Marriages performed by									
Ministers of religion									
Number	no.	46 008	111	143	126	133	152	160	323
Proportion	%	53.6	8.2	22.0	66.3	31.5	46.2	42.9	84.8
Civil celebrants									
Number	no.	39 839	1 239	508	64	289	177	213	58
Proportion	%	46.4	91.8	78.0	33.7	68.5	53.8	57.1	15.2
Brides born in country shown marrying bridegrooms born in									
Australia									
Number	no.	72 348	243	320	98	91	184	119	133
Proportion	%	84.3	18.0	49.2	51.6	21.6	55.9	31.9	34.9
Same overseas country									
Number	no.	..	759	172	52	172	74	176	192
Proportion	%	..	56.2	26.4	27.4	40.8	22.5	47.2	50.4
Other overseas country									
Number	no.	13 499	348	159	40	159	71	78	56
Proportion	%	15.7	25.8	24.4	21.1	37.7	21.6	20.9	14.7
Marital status at marriage									
Never married	no.	68 135	724	403	116	366	174	267	295
Widowed	no.	1 607	43	27	13	—	22	9	8
Divorced	no.	16 105	583	221	61	55	133	97	78
<i>Total</i>	no.	<i>85 847</i>	<i>1 350</i>	<i>651</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>422</i>	<i>329</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>381</i>
Median age									
Never married	years	26.2	28.7	29.8	27.6	28.3	30.9	26.3	23.1
Widowed	years	55.0	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np	—	(d)np	(d)np	(d)np
Divorced	years	38.2	37.0	43.5	(d)np	(d)np	42.4	(d)np	(d)np
<i>Total</i>	years	<i>27.5</i>	<i>32.3</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>24.8</i>
Median duration of residence	years	..	2.5	5.5	25.5	9.1	29.3	6.7	10.9

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 1999 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 female ERP by country of birth, 1999 preliminary.

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

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

		Malaysia	New Zealand	Philippines	South Africa	United Kingdom and Ireland	United States of America	Viet Nam
Marriages registered	no.	669	2 560	1 829	497	6 249	676	2 023
Population(b)	'000	50.1	176.3	74.2	38.0	605.1	31.9	88.0
Marriage rate(c)	rate	13.4	14.5	24.7	13.1	10.3	21.2	23.0
Marriages performed by								
Ministers of religion								
Number	no.	257	885	542	273	1 922	193	533
Proportion	%	38.4	34.6	29.6	54.9	30.8	28.6	26.3
Civil celebrants								
Number	no.	412	1 675	1 287	224	4 327	483	1 490
Proportion	%	61.6	65.4	70.4	45.1	69.2	71.4	73.7
Brides born in country shown marrying								
bridegrooms born in								
Australia								
Number	no.	290	1 550	779	300	3 789	434	161
Proportion	%	43.3	60.5	42.6	60.4	60.6	64.2	8.0
Same overseas country								
Number	no.	134	523	587	94	1 773	102	1 602
Proportion	%	20.0	20.4	32.1	18.9	28.4	15.1	79.2
Other overseas country								
Number	no.	245	487	463	103	687	140	260
Proportion	%	36.6	19.0	25.3	20.7	11.0	20.7	12.9
Marital status at marriage								
Never married	no.	550	1 839	1 245	375	3 493	396	1 722
Widowed	no.	13	49	166	17	287	17	28
Divorced	no.	106	672	418	105	2 469	263	273
Total	no.	669	2 560	1 829	497	6 249	676	2 023
Median age								
Never married	years	27.0	27.2	28.3	26.4	29.0	28.0	25.6
Widowed	years	(d)np	(d)np	46.8	(d)np	57.8	(d)np	(d)np
Divorced	years	40.6	39.8	39.2	40.3	41.5	38.7	34.1
Total	years	28.2	29.7	31.3	28.1	33.4	31.9	26.3
Median duration of residence	years	10.3	11.9	3.0	13.6	19.0	0.9	8.3

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definition of terms used.

(b) Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, 1999 preliminary.

(c) Per 1,000 female ERP by country of birth, 1999 preliminary.

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

3.13 REMARRIAGES, By Previous Marital Status and Interval to Remarriage

<i>Interval to remarriage (years)</i>	BRIDEGROOM			BRIDE		
	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
0	62	3 821	3 883	34	3 203	3 237
1	316	4 675	4 991	200	4 169	4 369
2	396	3 235	3 631	281	3 000	3 281
3	325	2 463	2 788	303	2 333	2 636
4	239	1 872	2 111	263	1 875	2 138
5	195	1 526	1 721	211	1 505	1 716
6	131	1 168	1 299	190	1 313	1 503
7	117	1 027	1 144	174	1 004	1 178
8	106	846	952	128	845	973
9	69	687	756	127	712	839
10–14	212	2 039	2 251	382	2 065	2 447
15–19	88	940	1 028	175	1 082	1 257
20–24	37	448	485	92	509	601
25–29	15	83	98	38	100	138
30 and over	13	45	58	38	35	73
Not stated	15	411	426	26	332	358
Total	2 336	25 286	27 622	2 662	24 082	26 744

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

<i>Number of children</i>	BRIDEGROOM			BRIDE		
	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
0	2 042	15 524	17 566	2 112	14 606	16 718
1	139	4 772	4 911	273	4 779	5 052
2	92	3 593	3 685	185	3 422	3 607
3	36	1 011	1 047	61	950	1 011
4	5	175	180	14	202	216
5 or more	—	42	42	3	42	45
Not stated	22	169	191	14	81	95
Total	2 336	25 286	27 622	2 662	24 082	26 744

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

3.15

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS, By Category of Celebrant

	BRIDEGROOM				BRIDE			
	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ministers of religion^(a)								
Catholic Church	18 309	245	650	19 204	18 394	247	563	19 204
Anglican Church of Australia	10 179	222	1 762	12 163	10 556	210	1 397	12 163
Uniting Churches in Australia ^(b)	5 147	163	1 457	6 767	5 375	172	1 220	6 767
Orthodox Churches ^(b)	2 616	20	298	2 934	2 672	29	233	2 934
Baptist Union of Australia ^(b)	1 570	54	413	2 037	1 591	48	398	2 037
Presbyterian Church of Australia ^(b)	1 091	35	252	1 378	1 129	34	215	1 378
Lutheran Churches ^(b)	882	21	189	1 092	887	30	175	1 092
Islam	922	7	179	1 108	928	20	160	1 108
Churches of Christ in Australia ^(b)	755	22	245	1 022	778	36	208	1 022
Other	6 087	220	1 708	8 015	6 093	231	1 691	8 015
<i>Total</i>	<i>47 558</i>	<i>1 009</i>	<i>7 153</i>	<i>55 720</i>	<i>48 403</i>	<i>1 057</i>	<i>6 260</i>	<i>55 720</i>
Civil celebrants								
Official registrars	5 703	241	2 801	8 745	5 723	288	2 734	8 745
Other civil celebrants	33 433	1 086	15 332	49 851	33 446	1 317	15 088	49 851
<i>Total</i>	<i>39 136</i>	<i>1 327</i>	<i>18 133</i>	<i>58 596</i>	<i>39 169</i>	<i>1 605</i>	<i>17 822</i>	<i>58 596</i>
All celebrants	86 694	2 336	25 286	114 316	87 572	2 662	24 082	114 316

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

3.16 SUMMARY(a), By States and Territories

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
ALL MARRIAGES										
Marriages registered	no.	41 016	27 252	22 416	8 237	10 197	2 499	885	1 814	114 316
Crude marriage rate	rate	6.4	5.8	6.4	5.5	5.5	5.3	4.6	5.8	6.0
Previous marital status										
First marriage both partners	no.	27 920	18 847	14 450	5 333	6 591	1 551	544	1 204	76 440
First marriage one partner	no.	7 699	4 878	4 298	1 516	1 969	488	214	324	21 386
Remarriage both partners	no.	5 397	3 527	3 668	1 388	1 637	460	127	286	16 490
Marriages performed by										
Ministers of religion										
Number	no.	21 463	13 725	10 062	4 055	4 210	1 055	282	868	55 720
Proportion	%	52.3	50.4	44.9	49.2	41.3	42.2	31.9	47.9	48.7
Civil celebrants										
Number	no.	19 553	13 527	12 354	4 182	5 987	1 444	603	946	58 596
Proportion	%	47.7	49.6	55.1	50.8	58.7	57.8	68.1	52.1	51.3
BRIDEGROOM										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	1.3	0.8	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.2	1.1
20–24	rate	29.7	21.3	29.4	25.5	21.1	28.1	13.4	20.1	25.9
25–29	rate	55.3	52.4	51.6	48.8	42.7	48.0	22.4	42.9	51.3
30–34	rate	34.5	32.9	34.1	29.5	30.4	31.9	22.7	32.4	33.0
35–39	rate	18.5	16.8	18.3	16.4	15.9	16.4	12.6	17.7	17.5
40–44	rate	10.6	9.3	11.1	9.8	8.8	9.9	10.8	9.0	10.1
45–49	rate	7.8	6.9	8.3	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.6
50 and over	rate	3.5	3.0	4.2	3.5	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.5	3.6
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	31 606	21 136	16 522	6 090	7 549	1 783	644	1 364	86 694
Widowed	no.	777	526	489	215	214	60	11	44	2 336
Divorced	no.	8 633	5 590	5 405	1 932	2 434	656	230	406	25 286
Total	no.	41 016	27 252	22 416	8 237	10 197	2 499	885	1 814	114 316
Median age										
Never married	years	28.1	28.4	28.0	28.1	28.5	28.2	29.5	28.3	28.2
Widowed	years	62.8	60.5	60.9	65.3	60.6	(c)np	(c)np	(c)np	62.0
Divorced	years	42.1	41.8	42.3	42.9	42.9	43.1	41.4	43.3	42.2
Total	years	29.9	30.0	30.1	30.3	30.5	30.5	31.7	30.4	30.1

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

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

3.16SUMMARY(a), By States and Territories *continued*

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
BRIDE										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	6.3	4.0	5.5	4.2	4.0	4.2	5.0	2.8	5.1
20-24	rate	49.9	37.6	48.0	44.0	36.6	43.1	24.2	33.3	43.8
25-29	rate	54.5	53.7	51.7	50.4	47.3	46.7	28.9	46.0	52.1
30-34	rate	27.2	25.9	27.8	23.4	24.4	25.6	18.4	25.1	26.3
35-39	rate	13.8	12.4	13.5	12.3	11.3	12.6	12.3	13.1	13.0
40-44	rate	8.5	6.9	8.8	8.6	7.7	7.8	7.3	7.9	8.0
45-49	rate	6.0	5.4	7.1	5.9	6.1	6.0	7.0	5.4	6.1
50 and over	rate	1.8	1.6	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.9	2.8	1.9
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	31 933	21 436	16 676	6 092	7 602	1 807	658	1 368	87 572
Widowed	no.	891	591	572	226	246	73	21	42	2 662
Divorced	no.	8 192	5 225	5 168	1 919	2 349	619	206	404	24 082
Total	no.	41 016	27 252	22 416	8 237	10 197	2 499	885	1 814	114 316
Median age										
Never married	years	26.3	26.8	26.1	26.2	26.5	26.2	26.9	26.5	26.4
Widowed	years	52.9	53.6	52.9	57.4	54.4	(c)np	(c)np	(c)np	53.5
Divorced	years	38.3	38.3	38.7	39.5	39.1	39.2	38.2	39.5	38.6
Total	years	27.7	28.1	27.9	28.0	28.2	28.3	28.9	28.2	27.9

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

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

3.17

MARRIAGES REGISTERED

Selected years	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1979	36 906	27 019	16 082	9 778	9 239	3 254	553	1 565	104 396
1984	33 938	28 931	19 039	10 643	9 920	3 704	731	1 749	108 655
1989	41 300	30 624	19 088	9 776	10 739	3 111	778	1 760	117 176
1994	38 814	26 974	20 798	8 909	10 366	2 887	765	1 661	111 174
1995	37 828	26 607	20 610	8 547	10 404	2 840	797	1 753	109 386
1996	35 716	26 074	20 913	8 011	10 294	2 654	787	1 654	106 103
1997	36 679	25 456	20 868	7 945	10 456	2 672	786	1 873	106 735
1998	39 136	26 372	21 257	8 022	10 705	2 599	815	1 692	110 598
1999	41 016	27 252	22 416	8 237	10 197	2 499	885	1 814	114 316

3.18

CRUDE MARRIAGE RATES (a)

<i>Selected years</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1979	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.7	4.8	7.1	7.2
1984	6.3	7.1	7.5	7.8	7.1	8.5	5.1	7.1	7.0
1989	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	4.8	6.4	7.0
1994	6.4	6.0	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	4.4	5.5	6.2
1995	6.2	5.9	6.3	5.8	6.0	6.0	4.5	5.8	6.1
1996	5.8	5.7	6.3	5.4	5.8	5.6	4.3	5.4	5.8
1997	5.8	5.5	6.1	5.4	5.8	5.6	4.2	6.0	5.8
1998	6.2	5.7	6.2	5.4	5.8	5.5	4.3	5.5	5.9
1999	6.4	5.8	6.4	5.5	5.5	5.3	4.6	5.8	6.0

(a) Per 1,000 population.

3.19

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

<i>Marital status of bride</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
BRIDEGROOM — NEVER MARRIED									
Never married	27 920	18 847	14 450	5 333	6 591	1 551	544	1 204	76 440
Widowed	177	109	101	29	38	11	4	6	475
Divorced	3 509	2 180	1 971	728	920	221	96	154	9 779
Total	31 606	21 136	16 522	6 090	7 549	1 783	644	1 364	86 694
BRIDEGROOM — WIDOWED									
Never married	137	111	65	24	34	6	3	6	385
Widowed	293	180	176	88	72	22	5	12	848
Divorced	347	235	248	103	108	32	4	26	1 103
Total	777	526	489	215	214	60	11	44	2 336
BRIDEGROOM — DIVORCED									
Never married	3 876	2 478	2 161	735	977	250	112	158	10 747
Widowed	421	302	295	109	136	40	12	24	1 339
Divorced	4 336	2 810	2 949	1 088	1 321	366	106	224	13 200
Total	8 633	5 590	5 405	1 932	2 434	656	230	406	25 286
BRIDEGROOM — TOTAL									
Never married	31 933	21 436	16 676	6 092	7 602	1 807	658	1 368	87 572
Widowed	891	591	572	226	246	73	21	42	2 662
Divorced	8 192	5 225	5 168	1 919	2 349	619	206	404	24 082
Total	41 016	27 252	22 416	8 237	10 197	2 499	885	1 814	114 316

3.20 CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER (no.)									
Ministers of religion(a)									
Catholic Church	7 538	5 304	3 061	1 146	1 464	271	89	331	19 204
Anglican Church of Australia	5 241	2 506	2 153	650	1 059	309	34	211	12 163
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	2 254	1 679	1 335	872	399	98	45	85	6 767
Orthodox Churches(b)	1 193	1 304	115	171	93	4	22	32	2 934
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	681	413	493	186	155	76	10	23	2 037
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	738	204	285	24	26	53	—	46	1 378
Lutheran Churches(b)	109	197	345	376	42	—	7	14	1 092
Islam	706	275	31	24	59	3	—	10	1 108
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	210	298	188	91	191	30	7	7	1 022
Other	2 793	1 545	2 056	515	722	209	66	109	8 015
Total	21 463	13 725	10 062	4 055	4 210	1 055	282	868	55 720
Civil celebrants									
Official registrars	3 143	2 232	1 481	618	865	156	145	105	8 745
Other civil celebrants	16 410	11 295	10 873	3 564	5 122	1 288	458	841	49 851
Total	19 553	13 527	12 354	4 182	5 987	1 444	603	946	58 596
All celebrants	41 016	27 252	22 416	8 237	10 197	2 499	885	1 814	114 316
PROPORTION (%)									
Ministers of religion(a)									
Catholic Church	18.4	19.5	13.7	13.9	14.4	10.8	10.1	18.2	16.8
Anglican Church of Australia	12.8	9.2	9.6	7.9	10.4	12.4	3.8	11.6	10.6
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	5.5	6.2	6.0	10.6	3.9	3.9	5.1	4.7	5.9
Orthodox Churches(b)	2.9	4.8	0.5	2.1	0.9	0.2	2.5	1.8	2.6
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	1.7	1.5	2.2	2.3	1.5	3.0	1.1	1.3	1.8
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	1.8	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.3	2.1	—	2.5	1.2
Lutheran Churches(b)	0.3	0.7	1.5	4.6	0.4	—	0.8	0.8	1.0
Islam	1.7	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.1	—	0.6	1.0
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	0.5	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.9	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.9
Other	6.8	5.7	9.2	6.3	7.1	8.4	7.5	6.0	7.0
Total	52.3	50.4	44.9	49.2	41.3	42.2	31.9	47.9	48.7
Civil celebrants									
Official registrars	7.7	8.2	6.6	7.5	8.5	6.2	16.4	5.8	7.6
Other civil celebrants	40.0	41.4	48.5	43.3	50.2	51.5	51.8	46.4	43.6
Total	47.7	49.6	55.1	50.8	58.7	57.8	68.1	52.1	51.3
All celebrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Under the authority of the *Marriage Act 1961*.

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

INTRODUCTION

The number of couples living together, both before and as a substitute for marriage, has increased substantially in recent decades. The 1996 Census of Population and Housing found that 7.6 million men and women lived in couple relationships. Of these people 10% lived in de facto marriages, up from 8% in 1991 and 6% in 1986.

The reasons that couples choose to live together can vary greatly. Macklin (Andrews' Report, 1998, p.76) has identified at least five different patterns:

- a temporary, casual convenience with minimum emotional or physical involvement and limited commitment. The motivation may be more economic or protective than romantic.
- an extension of an affectionate, steady relationship, which generally includes being sexually intimate. It is likely to continue as long as the couple enjoy being together.
- a trial marriage for couples who are contemplating making their relationship permanent and want to test it out. In this sense, living together becomes part of courtship.
- a temporary alternative to marriage for people who determined to marry. They simply live together until it is professionally or economically feasible to marry.
- a permanent or semipermanent alternative to marriage. For some people, such as elderly persons, living together permanently is determined by economic factors. For others, this decision may include negative views on the institution of marriage or the desire to keep love alive by avoiding the security of marriage.

COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE

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

Of all marriages registered in 1999 (114,300) about 69% of couples (78,800) cohabited prior to entering a registered marriage. According to the 1992 Family Survey, ten years ago the comparative proportion was 44% while twenty years ago the proportion was 23%.

There is a widespread belief that cohabitation prior to marriage can benefit couples. The Andrews' Report (1998, p.78) cites Montgomery who stated in 1973 that 'Couples who live together during courtship will probably make fewer mistakes in selecting marriage partners. Their marriage, in all probability, will be more reasoned and there will be fewer illusions about the person with whom marriage is to take place'. The report also refers to the 1988–89 *National Social Science Survey* in which about half the respondents reported that they would recommend that couples live together and then marry.

COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE

continued

COHABITATION PRIOR TO MARRIAGE

Selected years	Cohabitation	
	Cohabitation %	Non cohabitation %
.....		
1992 FAMILY SURVEY		
1979	23.0	77.0
1984	38.4	61.6
1989	43.8	56.2
1992	56.3	43.7
.....		
MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS		
1997	64.7	35.3
1998	67.2	32.8
1999	68.9	31.1
.....		

Not all opinion supports pre-marriage cohabitation as a precursor for longevity of marriage. For example, the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) *Family Formation Project* (Andrews' Report, 1998, p.78) found that after five years of marriage, 13% of those who had cohabited would divorce, compared to 6% of those who had not cohabited. Ten years later, the proportions were 26% and 14%, respectively and after twenty years the proportions were 56% and 27%, respectively.

DIVORCE RATES, Cohabitation and Non Cohabitation



Source: AIFS Family Formation Study 1991

Further evidence from Canada (Le Bourdais et al, 2000) supports the findings of the AIFS. The Canadian Study (2000), which looked at women in a conjugal relationship (both marital or common-law), found that starting life in a common-law relationship, as opposed to a marriage, sharply increased the probability of this first union ending in separation. Whether the common-law partners eventually married or not made little difference to the risk of separation. In the 30–39 years age group, for example, almost two-thirds (63%) of those women whose first relationship was common-law had separated by 1995, compared with one-third (33%) of women who had married first.

The Andrews' Report (1998, p.80) states that professionals have pondered the reasons for the greater chance of marital dissolution amongst couples who cohabited prior to marriage. Reasons cited include:

COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE
continued

- Kerry James, a Sydney marriage counsellor — 'People who do decide not to get married and live together may be unsure of their commitment in the first place. After marriage the lack of certainty about the commitment continues and that is why marriages break down.'
- Helen Glezer, a senior research fellow at the Australian Institute of Family Studies — 'Men are more likely than women to believe cohabiting allows them to keep their independence. They perceive it as having economic advantages. It is seen as involving less commitment than marriage and men are more likely to view cohabiting as trial marriage. This suggests that women will be either more romantic or emotionally dependent in de facto relationship than men.'
- Rev Jim Pilmer, former Director of Anglican Marriage Education and Counselling Services, Melbourne — '...many couples get married to make poor relationships work, thinking that when they marry everything will be right — it isn't, it gets worse.'

Previous marital status of parties

The majority of couples who cohabited prior to marriage in 1999 were couples where both parties had not previously been married (49,800 or 63%). Of the remaining couples who cohabited prior to marriage in 1999, the major combinations were couples where one party was divorced and one party was never previously in a registered marriage (20%) and couples where both parties had been previously divorced (13%).

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM					
<i>Previous marital status of bride</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	no.
COHABITATION					
Never married	63.1	0.3	10.6	74.0	58 329
Widowed	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.9	1 501
Divorced	9.8	0.8	13.5	24.1	18 970
Total	73.3	1.5	25.2	100.0	78 800
NON COHABITATION					
Never married	75.1	0.5	5.9	81.5	28 943
Widowed	0.4	1.5	1.3	3.2	1 136
Divorced	6.8	1.3	7.3	15.3	5 437
Total	82.3	3.3	14.4	100.0	35 516

Age of parties

Men and women who cohabited prior to marriage in 1999 had an older median age at marriage (30.7 years and 28.5 years, respectively) than did men and women who did not cohabit (28.6 years and 26.7 years, respectively). While this held true for the never married group, previously widowed men and women who cohabited were about six years younger than their non cohabiting counterparts. Cohabiting divorced men and women were also younger than non cohabiting previously divorced, by around one year.

COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE
continued

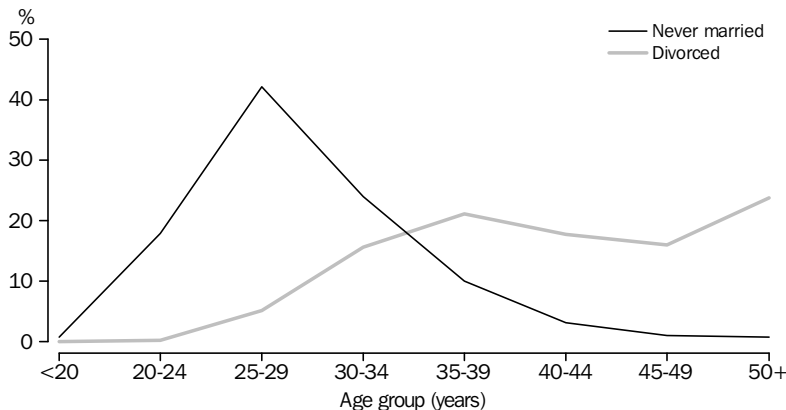
MEDIAN AGE OF PARTIES

Marital status prior to marriage	BRIDEGROOM			BRIDE		
	Cohabitation	Non cohabitation	Total	Cohabitation	Non cohabitation	Total
	years	years	years	years	years	years
Never married	28.7	27.4	28.2	26.8	25.6	26.4
Widowed	59.5	65.3	62.0	51.1	57.4	53.5
Divorced	42.0	43.3	42.2	38.4	39.3	38.6
Total	30.7	28.6	30.1	28.5	26.7	27.9

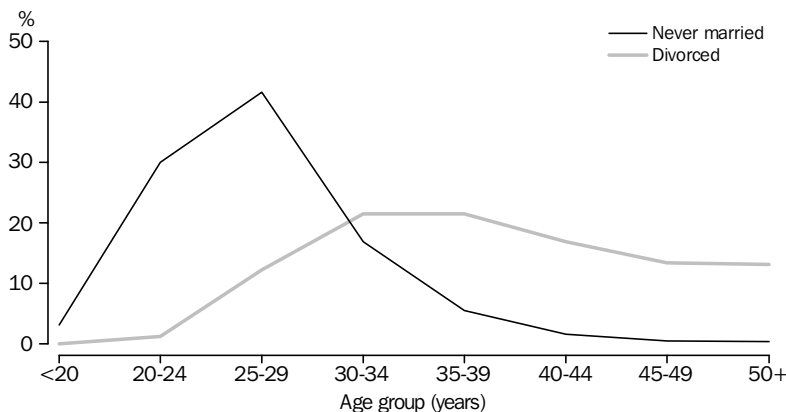
Of the 78,800 marriages between people who had cohabited before their marriage in 1999, 68% of men and 77% of women were aged between 16 and 34 years.

For many couples in the total population, cohabitation is a precursor or alternative to first marriage or remarriage. Therefore, it is not only younger or previously never married people who are choosing to cohabit before marriage. Cohabitation prior to marriage also occurs among older and previously married people. For instance, in 1999, 17% of men and 13% of women who cohabited prior to marriage were aged between 40 and 59 years. Around 76% of these men and 78% of these women had been previously divorced.

BRIDEGROOMS COHABITING, Age at Marriage



BRIDES COHABITING, Age at Marriage



Interval to remarriage

For men and women who had cohabited and were remarrying in 1999, men were more likely to have a shorter interval to remarriage than were women. Around 63% of men and 59% of women remarrying, did so within five years of their previous marriage ending. Within this five year period divorced men (64%) and women (61%) were the most likely to remarry. For widowed men and women, widowed men (52%) were far more likely to remarry, within five years, than were widowed women (39%). For those who remarried in 1999, 84% of men and 82% of women remarried within ten years.

For men who cohabited and were remarrying the median interval to remarriage was 3.4 years while for women the median interval was 3.8 years. The pattern was the same for men and women remarrying who did not cohabit, although the interval was a little longer. The median intervals for men and women who did not cohabit were 3.5 and 4.0 years, respectively. Widowed men and women waited longer to remarry than did previously divorced people.

REMARRIAGES, By Previous Marital Status and Interval to Remarriage

		BRIDEGROOM			BRIDE		
<i>Interval to remarriage</i>		<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
COHABITATION							
0-4	%	51.5	63.7	63.0	38.8	60.6	59.0
5-9	%	29.6	20.9	21.4	31.6	22.7	23.4
10-14	%	10.5	8.1	8.2	14.7	8.4	8.9
15 and over	%	7.8	5.8	6.0	13.9	7.0	7.5
Not stated	%	0.6	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.2	1.2
Total	no.	1 200	19 849	21 049	1 501	18 970	20 471
Median interval to remarriage	years	4.9	3.3	3.4	6.4	3.7	3.8
NON COHABITATION							
0-4	%	63.4	63.0	63.1	43.0	60.3	57.1
5-9	%	23.2	20.3	20.8	30.6	21.0	22.7
10-14	%	7.6	8.1	8.0	13.9	9.1	10.0
15 and over	%	5.2	6.5	6.3	11.5	7.7	8.4
Not stated	%	0.7	2.1	1.8	1.0	2.0	1.8
Total	no.	1 136	5 437	6 573	1 161	5 112	6 273
Median interval to remarriage	years	3.8	3.5	3.5	5.9	3.6	4.0

Country of birth

The incidence of cohabitation prior to marriage differs by birthplace of parties. For example, for the marriages registered in 1999, men and women from North-West Europe had the highest level of cohabitation prior to marriage when compared with other birthplace groups, (78% and 80% respectively). In contrast, men and women from North Africa and the Middle East had the lowest level of cohabitation before marriage (47% and 45%, respectively). For Australian-born marrying, around 70% of both men and women had cohabited prior to marriage.

COHABITATION BEFORE
REGISTERED MARRIAGE
continued

Mostly, the proportion of men and women from particular regions who indicated cohabitation with partners from the same or other regions was similar. However, the proportion of men born in North-East Asia who cohabited with Australian-born women (58%) was lower than the proportion of North-East Asian-born women (71%) who cohabited with Australian-born men. This was mainly due to Chinese-born and Japanese-born men being unlikely to cohabit with Australian-born women while Chinese-born and Japanese-born women were more inclined to cohabit with Australian-born men.

REGION OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM, By Region of Birth of
Bride—Proportion Cohabiting

BRIDEGROOM BORN IN REGION
SHOWN AND BRIDE BORN IN

<i>Birthplace of bridegroom</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	no.
Oceania and Antarctica	70.0	69.4	69.9	70.0	62 216
North-West Europe	77.4	83.4	71.3	77.5	7 685
Southern and Eastern Europe	52.1	63.6	60.7	57.5	1 661
North Africa and the Middle East	45.3	43.5	57.1	47.3	858
South-East Asia	61.5	52.3	52.4	53.4	2 338
North-East Asia	57.8	67.9	59.3	64.9	1 300
Southern and Central Asia	59.3	52.4	58.8	56.7	719
Americas	59.3	69.6	63.3	62.1	1 258
Sub-Saharan Africa	68.8	67.1	65.4	67.6	761
Total	69.7	64.0	67.8	68.9	78 800

REGION OF BIRTH OF BRIDE, By Region of Birth of
Bridegroom—Proportion Cohabiting

BRIDE BORN IN REGION SHOWN
AND BRIDEGROOM BORN IN

<i>Birthplace of bride</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	%	%	%	%	no.
Oceania and Antarctica	70.0	69.4	69.5	69.9	62 630
North-West Europe	79.3	83.4	77.3	80.1	6 291
Southern and Eastern Europe	55.8	63.6	61.6	59.7	1 480
North Africa and the Middle East	46.8	43.5	44.9	44.7	515
South-East Asia	56.9	52.3	56.8	54.8	3 599
North-East Asia	70.7	67.9	62.1	66.9	1 935
Southern and Central Asia	52.4	52.4	45.5	51.0	436
Americas	64.7	69.6	62.5	65.0	1 229
Sub-Saharan Africa	63.9	67.1	63.4	64.7	675
Total	69.8	64.0	67.5	68.9	78 800

COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE
continued

At the individual country level in 1999 Denmark, New Zealand and the United Kingdom were the birthplaces with the highest levels of cohabitation for both men and women (84%, 79% and 78% for men, respectively and 89%, 82% and 81% for women, respectively). The lowest levels of cohabitation were experienced by men born in Egypt (39%), Iran (44%) and Lebanon (46%) and women born in Iran (33%), Egypt (38%) and Cyprus (42%).

Category of celebrant

Of the 78,800 marriages in 1999 which were preceded by cohabitation 61% were performed by civil celebrants. For non cohabiting marriages (35,500) only 29% were performed by civil celebrants. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of marriages performed by civil celebrants in both cases (70% for cohabitation and 58% for non cohabitation).

Of those marriages performed by civil celebrants (58,600), 82% cohabited prior to marriage. For those married by ministers of religion (55,700), 55% cohabited. At the individual denomination level, marriages performed by Uniting Church ministers had the highest level of pre-marriage cohabitation (70%), while marriages performed by Orthodox Church ministers had the lowest level of cohabitation (25%). Ministers of the Catholic Church performed the highest number of total marriages (19,200 or 17%), with less than half (48%) cohabiting prior to marriage.

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

	Cohabitation .		Non cohabitation ..		Total	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Ministers of religion(a)						
Catholic Church	9 252	48.2	9 952	51.8	19 204	100.0
Anglican Church of Australia	8 227	67.6	3 936	32.4	12 163	100.0
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	4 767	70.4	2 000	29.6	6 767	100.0
Orthodox Churches(b)	742	25.3	2 192	74.7	2 934	100.0
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	974	47.8	1 063	52.2	2 037	100.0
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	828	60.1	550	39.9	1 378	100.0
Lutheran Churches(b)	745	68.2	347	31.8	1 092	100.0
Islam	662	59.7	446	40.3	1 108	100.0
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	564	55.2	458	44.8	1 022	100.0
Other	3 704	46.2	4 311	53.8	8 015	100.0
Total	30 465	54.7	25 255	45.3	55 720	100.0
Civil celebrants						
Official registrars	6 385	73.0	2 360	27.0	8 745	100.0
Other civil celebrants	41 950	84.2	7 901	15.8	49 851	100.0
Total	48 335	82.5	10 261	17.5	58 596	100.0
All celebrants	78 800	68.9	35 516	31.1	114 316	100.0

(a) Under authority of the *Marriage Act 1961*.

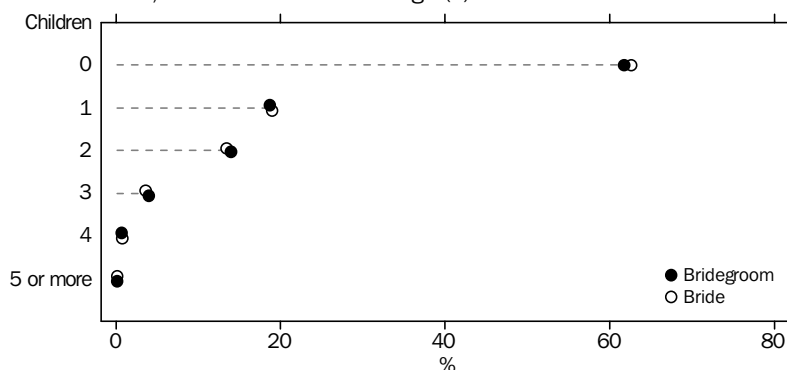
(b) Includes churches grouped under this heading as proclaimed under the *Marriage Act 1961*.

Children of previous marriages

In 1999, around 37% of men and women who had cohabited prior to remarriage had children, aged under 16 years, from prior marriages. Of these marriages, half the men and women had one child while just over a third had two children.

COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE
continued

REMARRIAGES, Children of Previous Marriages(a)



(a) Aged under 16 years.

Men who had children aged under 16 years from previous marriages, were more likely to have cohabited (38%) than to have not cohabited (30%). However, the incidence of cohabitation or non cohabitation for women with children was the same (37%).

Men and women who were divorced and had children were more likely to have cohabited than to have not cohabited prior to remarriage. For widowed men and women the reverse was the case. Previously widowed men and women with children had a lower proportion cohabiting than not cohabiting. This could reflect the older age at marriage for widowed men and women and their offspring having already reached 16 years and over. The median age at marriage for previously widowed men in all marriages was around 20 years higher than for previously divorced men. For women the difference was around 15 years.

CHILDREN OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES(a)

Number of children	BRIDEGROOM			BRIDE			Total no.	
	Widowed %	Divorced %	Total %	Total no.	Widowed %	Divorced %		Total %
COHABITATION								
No children	4.8	57.0	61.8	13 005	5.7	56.8	62.6	12 805
Children	0.8	36.7	37.6	7 907	1.6	35.5	37.1	7 594
Not stated	0.1	0.6	0.7	137	—	0.3	0.4	72
Total	5.7	94.3	100.0	21 049	7.3	92.7	100.0	20 471
NON COHABITATION								
No children	15.7	53.7	69.4	4 561	15.0	47.3	62.4	3 913
Children	1.5	28.3	29.8	1 958	3.3	33.9	37.3	2 337
Not stated	0.1	0.7	0.8	54	0.1	0.3	0.4	23
Total	17.3	82.7	100.0	6 573	18.5	81.5	100.0	6 273

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Aged under 16 years.

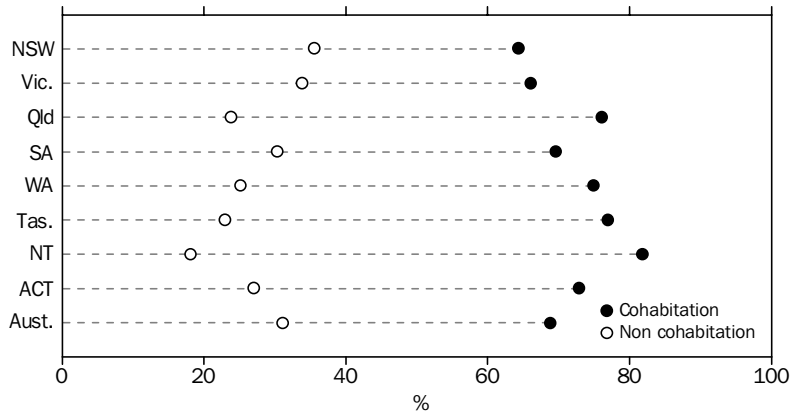
COHABITATION BEFORE REGISTERED MARRIAGE

continued

States and Territories

The majority of couples in all States and Territories cohabited prior to marriage in 1999. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion (82%), followed by Tasmania (77%). New South Wales (64%) had the lowest proportion of couples who had cohabited.

COHABITATION IN STATES AND TERRITORIES



4.1 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	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	4	40	29	10	15	8	—	—	—	—	3	3
19	3	77	75	56	29	24	16	5	6	7	4	4
20	4	95	117	170	103	44	38	28	20	11	12	4
21	9	76	130	228	269	157	99	72	59	31	29	14
22	—	94	125	222	332	416	225	134	103	74	51	35
23	5	62	115	213	381	511	587	323	191	134	101	58
24	6	50	90	197	303	496	632	717	397	278	174	136
25	3	65	77	145	283	450	566	754	795	490	302	205
26	—	50	46	135	194	372	506	681	820	769	483	338
27	3	33	59	96	196	291	425	612	726	778	772	524
28	—	26	40	78	126	225	338	444	549	702	769	675
29	—	15	30	50	85	148	244	349	455	555	597	621
30	3	17	21	45	77	103	177	261	310	431	495	515
31	—	18	16	31	43	94	131	202	265	312	359	410
32	—	5	12	16	38	61	101	151	197	215	303	338
33	—	7	6	14	27	62	65	104	136	178	250	264
34	—	7	9	9	26	44	65	93	125	156	214	242
35	—	5	4	12	18	25	52	70	84	141	156	190
36	—	4	9	6	10	24	48	41	72	102	158	125
37	—	3	6	14	13	16	31	46	67	72	86	107
38	—	3	3	3	5	12	23	23	53	61	90	87
39	—	4	4	3	6	17	14	29	29	49	63	78
40	—	4	4	—	5	7	12	20	28	33	40	53
41	—	3	5	4	7	11	10	11	18	29	44	37
42	—	—	—	3	—	5	8	11	14	19	35	32
43	—	—	—	4	4	4	8	10	11	17	20	21
44	—	3	—	4	5	4	3	7	6	9	14	20
45	—	3	—	3	—	4	5	3	11	9	13	21
46	—	—	—	3	—	4	3	4	6	14	7	16
47	—	—	—	3	3	5	7	4	5	6	9	4
48	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	—	5	6	3	8
49	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5	3	4	9
50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	5	6
51	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	5	5
53	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	3	4	—
54	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	3	—	3
55–59	—	—	—	4	—	3	5	3	4	8	6	12
60–64	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	3	3
65 and over	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
Total brides	42	772	1 038	1 785	2 612	3 650	4 461	5 229	5 584	5 713	5 685	5 226

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4.1 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS) CONT.

Age of bridegroom (years)	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
20	8	5	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
21	14	5	8	5	3	3	3	3	—	3	—
22	18	16	10	—	3	6	—	6	—	3	—
23	49	31	21	21	7	14	6	5	4	3	5
24	90	57	34	19	24	14	8	12	5	3	4
25	110	98	46	40	28	25	19	19	11	5	5
26	217	143	106	61	51	42	32	20	12	8	6
27	305	182	133	98	80	51	46	29	18	14	11
28	428	277	176	115	92	80	54	41	26	23	3
29	531	358	252	141	124	83	61	47	27	19	23
30	527	416	282	162	136	109	90	74	35	37	27
31	404	397	307	197	128	102	79	69	43	33	35
32	330	328	294	229	193	121	94	73	46	32	30
33	243	264	256	203	189	167	116	101	73	39	28
34	215	203	201	219	172	144	128	95	84	53	50
35	187	192	219	200	187	170	166	116	100	65	47
36	178	172	160	137	166	133	144	129	91	75	61
37	132	116	129	144	160	150	151	106	109	75	59
38	105	98	107	118	108	114	115	108	85	90	63
39	89	76	83	87	87	118	96	99	92	94	90
40	63	62	56	75	82	85	88	91	99	82	66
41	38	56	46	55	62	72	68	69	81	69	71
42	35	41	48	42	45	65	49	60	45	70	72
43	26	28	33	29	47	38	43	54	43	54	51
44	20	18	43	29	39	37	36	41	46	50	48
45	23	31	22	33	24	35	39	49	36	39	51
46	8	17	20	20	25	29	33	27	30	36	33
47	15	22	14	21	21	15	32	30	37	28	42
48	—	13	9	16	16	24	23	25	23	35	33
49	17	19	14	12	12	13	21	23	22	22	18
50	6	9	6	14	11	10	15	20	17	24	26
51	7	5	12	9	11	14	13	11	15	15	21
52	6	7	7	9	5	9	9	13	13	16	18
53	3	3	4	6	7	11	9	13	8	11	13
54	3	—	5	—	—	4	3	9	6	10	6
55–59	13	11	14	7	9	17	18	19	27	23	27
60–64	3	4	4	5	—	—	4	8	9	8	7
65 and over	—	3	3	3	—	3	3	3	3	—	6
Total brides	4 476	3 784	3 187	2 589	2 360	2 133	1 917	1 717	1 424	1 266	1 158

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4.1 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE (YEARS) CONT.

Age of bridegroom (years)	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
17 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	—	3	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	3	—	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	6	3	5	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
26	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27	4	4	7	3	4	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
28	12	7	8	7	4	5	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
29	9	8	5	7	6	3	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—
30	14	12	11	6	4	6	5	4	—	3	—	—	—	—
31	10	19	17	5	4	6	6	—	5	—	—	—	3	—
32	18	16	13	7	10	5	4	4	3	—	3	3	—	—
33	28	21	16	10	14	10	8	5	4	—	—	3	—	—
34	35	19	15	14	8	5	3	4	3	3	—	—	—	—
35	42	25	14	14	12	9	13	7	3	4	3	3	—	—
36	43	27	29	12	14	9	13	5	4	3	3	—	—	—
37	58	41	29	31	21	17	19	9	7	—	3	—	3	—
38	70	39	26	26	23	16	17	13	9	6	6	4	—	—
39	68	46	26	26	25	22	19	10	9	5	3	4	3	—
40	76	48	45	21	28	12	17	21	11	4	3	5	—	—
41	68	58	51	51	28	27	18	17	13	7	5	7	7	3
42	55	53	40	48	38	28	24	19	19	9	5	4	—	9
43	56	49	53	49	39	19	28	18	17	17	7	8	8	4
44	45	42	56	48	47	35	30	24	25	17	9	9	6	3
45	56	38	60	47	42	41	38	25	24	26	13	8	12	3
46	45	37	38	45	54	34	45	32	24	30	25	13	18	9
47	30	35	31	47	34	39	36	30	32	27	27	14	15	5
48	27	42	29	41	45	43	40	42	32	25	27	21	15	11
49	33	38	29	23	31	41	36	47	55	37	30	23	16	15
50	27	32	33	33	31	30	47	48	40	44	29	27	22	15
51	18	31	32	32	29	34	39	27	29	35	36	28	19	19
52	21	26	33	30	36	29	28	33	43	51	31	30	29	17
53	18	22	18	17	20	23	23	16	29	42	20	25	30	19
54	13	9	21	19	25	19	16	12	24	25	28	24	27	14
55–59	28	34	45	39	54	74	51	78	80	90	79	83	89	56
60–64	11	11	14	16	17	20	26	24	33	34	44	42	52	35
65 and over	10	9	7	7	13	5	15	16	20	22	15	22	25	30
Total brides	1 063	908	865	787	762	670	669	598	595	572	456	409	402	270

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4.1 AGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE *continued*

AGE OF BRIDE
(YEARS) CONT.

Age of bridegroom (years)	54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total bridegrooms
17 and under	—	—	—	—	7
18	—	—	—	—	120
19	—	—	—	—	320
20	—	—	—	—	673
21	—	—	—	—	1 224
22	—	—	—	—	1 878
23	—	—	—	—	2 852
24	—	—	—	—	3 759
25	—	—	—	—	4 559
26	—	—	—	—	5 103
27	—	—	—	—	5 510
28	—	—	—	—	5 340
29	—	—	—	—	4 856
30	—	—	—	—	4 416
31	—	—	—	—	3 755
32	3	—	—	—	3 292
33	—	—	—	—	2 912
34	—	—	—	—	2 662
35	—	—	—	—	2 558
36	—	—	—	—	2 208
37	—	3	—	—	2 032
38	—	—	—	—	1 732
39	3	3	—	—	1 577
40	—	6	3	—	1 359
41	5	5	3	—	1 235
42	3	5	3	—	1 062
43	5	7	—	3	931
44	—	10	—	—	889
45	9	9	—	—	906
46	—	10	3	—	801
47	11	13	—	3	750
48	13	19	3	—	729
49	7	19	3	3	705
50	16	14	6	—	667
51	10	30	6	6	606
52	21	39	5	—	638
53	12	27	6	3	471
54	20	43	6	3	407
55-59	77	226	84	17	1 513
60-64	34	194	101	47	823
65 and over	21	156	162	373	963
Total brides	271	843	397	455	78 800

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4.2

AGE, By Previous Marital Status

Age (years)	BRIDEGROOM				BRIDE			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
17 and under	7	—	—	7	42	—	—	42
18	120	—	—	120	772	—	—	772
19	320	—	—	320	1 038	—	—	1 038
20	673	—	—	673	1 780	—	5	1 785
21	1 221	—	3	1 224	2 598	—	14	2 612
22	1 874	—	4	1 878	3 606	—	44	3 650
23	2 840	—	12	2 852	4 392	3	68	4 461
24	3 722	—	37	3 759	5 117	3	110	5 229
25	4 502	—	57	4 559	5 383	4	197	5 584
26	4 991	—	112	5 103	5 413	4	296	5 713
27	5 320	—	189	5 510	5 161	12	512	5 685
28	5 047	3	290	5 340	4 587	12	627	5 226
29	4 462	—	392	4 856	3 771	10	695	4 476
30	3 945	3	468	4 416	2 991	10	783	3 784
31	3 210	3	542	3 755	2 370	13	804	3 187
32	2 629	7	656	3 292	1 764	25	800	2 589
33	2 201	12	699	2 912	1 544	35	781	2 360
34	1 903	12	747	2 662	1 208	22	903	2 133
35	1 718	15	825	2 558	1 012	27	878	1 917
36	1 371	10	827	2 208	804	34	879	1 717
37	1 130	9	893	2 032	606	30	788	1 424
38	867	13	852	1 732	474	35	757	1 266
39	751	12	814	1 577	364	25	769	1 158
40	560	21	778	1 359	307	32	724	1 063
41	450	19	766	1 235	243	26	639	908
42	369	17	676	1 062	165	45	655	865
43	256	19	656	931	156	33	598	787
44	224	14	651	889	128	38	596	762
45	176	22	708	906	77	48	545	670
46	149	22	630	801	79	32	558	669
47	90	20	640	750	49	49	500	598
48	102	20	607	729	43	61	491	595
49	93	27	585	705	66	52	454	572
50	58	32	577	667	32	31	393	456
51	64	32	510	606	34	50	325	409
52	53	35	550	638	27	48	327	402
53	45	27	399	471	16	31	223	270
54	24	30	353	407	19	31	221	271
55	30	30	328	388	15	37	179	231
56	26	30	259	315	13	37	141	191
57	22	28	251	301	10	34	126	170
58	13	34	188	235	7	25	88	120
59	16	43	215	274	11	39	81	131
60	13	35	174	222	6	29	67	102
61	10	37	129	176	3	36	59	98
62	6	39	140	185	3	18	36	57
63	11	36	93	140	3	29	42	73
64	8	22	70	100	—	29	36	67
65	7	27	84	118	3	28	26	56
66	13	28	66	107	4	25	26	55
67	4	25	44	73	3	21	11	33
68	4	22	51	77	—	21	12	34
69	7	24	44	75	—	24	15	39
70	5	24	33	62	—	21	17	39
71	7	28	27	62	—	20	12	34

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4.2 AGE, By Previous Marital Status *continued*

Age (years)	BRIDEGROOM				BRIDE			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
72	3	28	24	54	—	18	4	22
73	5	27	30	62	—	13	12	27
74	3	30	23	56	—	16	7	23
75 and over	3	144	71	217	6	73	14	93
Total	57 751	1 200	19 849	78 800	58 329	1 501	18 970	78 800

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4.3 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES

	BRIDEGROOM BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDE BORN IN				BRIDE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDEGROOM BORN IN			
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia (incl E T)	50 506	..	8 676	59 182	50 506	..	9 366	59 872
Fiji	67	92	37	196	62	92	74	228
New Zealand	1 542	457	401	2 400	1 263	457	369	2 089
Papua New Guinea	140	9	31	180	172	9	50	231
Other	88	101	69	258	48	101	61	210
<i>Total</i>	<i>52 343</i>	<i>659</i>	<i>9 214</i>	<i>62 216</i>	<i>52 051</i>	<i>659</i>	<i>9 920</i>	<i>62 630</i>
North-West Europe								
Austria	36	15	20	71	33	15	21	69
Denmark	36	14	13	63	38	14	12	64
France	85	12	52	149	65	12	28	105
Germany	260	135	143	538	238	135	126	499
Ireland	158	40	65	263	113	40	75	228
Netherlands	208	48	77	333	153	48	55	256
Switzerland	32	36	25	93	40	36	15	91
United Kingdom	3 814	1 366	827	6 007	2 922	1 366	531	4 819
Other	84	41	43	168	81	41	38	160
<i>Total</i>	<i>4 713</i>	<i>1 707</i>	<i>1 265</i>	<i>7 685</i>	<i>3 683</i>	<i>1 707</i>	<i>901</i>	<i>6 291</i>
Southern and Eastern Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14	48	10	72	15	53	8	76
Croatia	51	37	26	114	33	33	25	91
Cyprus	24	9	17	50	17	9	4	30
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	35	35	17	87	30	35	15	80
Greece	89	32	40	161	35	32	19	86
Hungary	27	21	29	77	26	21	13	60
Italy	178	38	99	315	102	38	41	181
Malta	49	4	25	78	37	4	17	58
Poland	37	72	28	137	58	72	40	170
Portugal	21	11	11	43	19	11	10	40
Romania	16	25	14	55	13	25	19	57
Russian Federation	5	27	16	48	52	27	50	129
Spain	30	3	22	54	32	3	17	51
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	64	77	33	174	46	75	23	144
Other	58	73	65	196	80	74	73	227
<i>Total</i>	<i>698</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>452</i>	<i>1 661</i>	<i>595</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>374</i>	<i>1 480</i>
North Africa and the Middle East								
Egypt	30	13	31	74	14	13	15	42
Iran	14	20	33	67	9	20	6	35
Israel	42	7	20	69	20	7	10	37
Lebanon	172	98	41	311	59	98	23	180
Syria	14	7	12	33	6	7	12	25
Turkey	49	61	35	145	21	61	12	94
Other	57	46	56	159	19	46	37	102
<i>Total</i>	<i>378</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>228</i>	<i>858</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>515</i>

.. not applicable

4.3 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES *continued*

	BRIDEGROOM BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDE BORN IN				BRIDE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND BRIDEGROOM BORN IN			
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>
South-East Asia								
Cambodia	3	84	42	128	5	84	31	120
Indonesia	38	191	39	268	106	191	117	414
Laos	3	20	22	45	15	20	22	57
Malaysia	112	74	95	281	182	74	141	397
Philippines	64	268	26	358	409	268	264	941
Singapore	55	12	49	116	87	12	69	168
Thailand	8	66	15	89	207	66	131	404
Viet Nam	25	840	125	990	72	840	120	1 032
Other	16	26	21	63	18	26	22	66
<i>Total</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>1 581</i>	<i>434</i>	<i>2 338</i>	<i>1 101</i>	<i>1 581</i>	<i>917</i>	<i>3 599</i>
North-East Asia								
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	10	564	135	709	178	564	220	962
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	31	75	117	223	49	75	70	194
Japan	24	41	19	84	197	41	124	362
Korea, Republic of (South)	8	196	20	224	69	196	54	319
Other	5	25	30	60	18	25	55	98
<i>Total</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>901</i>	<i>321</i>	<i>1 300</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>901</i>	<i>523</i>	<i>1 935</i>
Southern and Central Asia								
India	141	89	117	347	63	89	31	183
Pakistan	21	12	56	89	5	12	4	21
Sri Lanka	66	77	34	177	40	77	24	141
Other	18	60	28	106	10	60	21	91
<i>Total</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>238</i>	<i>235</i>	<i>719</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>238</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>436</i>
Americas								
Argentina	22	11	20	53	25	11	17	53
Canada	178	39	47	264	166	39	56	261
Caribbean	13	—	11	24	9	—	3	12
Central America	29	25	12	66	20	25	22	67
Chile	52	35	37	124	29	35	37	101
United States of America	328	74	111	513	304	74	99	477
Uruguay	19	11	32	62	16	11	21	48
Other	46	54	52	152	78	54	78	210
<i>Total</i>	<i>687</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>322</i>	<i>1 258</i>	<i>647</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>333</i>	<i>1 229</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	25	3	12	40	20	3	10	33
Mauritius	34	12	18	64	19	12	20	51
South Africa	229	65	77	371	186	65	60	311
Zimbabwe	42	—	21	65	51	—	23	76
Other	75	108	38	221	46	108	50	204
<i>Total</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>761</i>	<i>322</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>675</i>
Other and not stated	—	3	—	4	6	3	—	10
Total	59 872	6 290	12 638	78 800	59 182	6 290	13 328	78 800

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4.4 REMARRIAGES, By Previous Marital Status and Interval to Remarriage

Interval to remarriage (years)	BRIDEGROOM			BRIDE		
	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Widowed	Divorced	Total
0	34	3 022	3 056	18	2 550	2 568
1	136	3 699	3 835	108	3 268	3 376
2	182	2 530	2 712	147	2 338	2 485
3	143	1 933	2 076	160	1 850	2 010
4	123	1 454	1 577	149	1 491	1 640
5	103	1 198	1 301	123	1 199	1 322
6	82	906	988	103	1 031	1 134
7	75	818	893	97	812	909
8	56	686	742	76	687	763
9	39	545	584	76	579	655
10-14	126	1 599	1 725	221	1 599	1 820
15-19	56	730	786	107	854	961
20-24	24	337	361	54	381	435
25-29	9	63	72	25	77	102
30 and over	5	30	35	23	22	45
Not stated	7	299	306	14	232	246
Total	1 200	19 849	21 049	1 501	18 970	20 471

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

Number of children	BRIDEGROOM			BRIDE		
	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Widowed	Divorced	Total
0	1 012	11 993	13 005	1 168	11 637	12 805
1	81	3 858	3 939	175	3 713	3 888
2	65	2 874	2 939	108	2 649	2 757
3	25	827	852	32	724	756
4	3	141	143	9	150	159
5 or more	—	34	34	3	32	34
Not stated	15	122	137	7	65	72
Total	1 200	19 849	21 049	1 501	18 970	20 471

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

4.6 SUMMARY(a), By States and Territories

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
ALL MARRIAGES										
Marriages registered	no.	26 411	18 000	17 052	5 734	7 633	1 923	725	1 322	78 800
Crude marriage rate	rate	4.1	3.8	4.9	3.8	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.3	4.2
Previous marital										
First marriage both partners	no.	16 621	11 673	10 666	3 573	4 766	1 174	447	838	49 758
First marriage one partner	no.	5 768	3 655	3 515	1 170	1 594	409	181	272	16 564
Remarriage both partners	no.	4 022	2 672	2 871	991	1 273	340	97	212	12 478
Marriages performed by										
Ministers of religion										
Number	no.	10 877	7 037	6 374	2 264	2 462	694	215	542	30 465
Proportion	%	41.2	39.1	37.4	39.5	32.3	36.1	29.7	41.0	38.7
Civil celebrants										
Number	no.	15 534	10 963	10 678	3 470	5 171	1 229	510	780	48 335
Proportion	%	58.8	60.9	62.6	60.5	67.7	63.9	70.3	59.0	61.3
BRIDEGROOM										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7
20-24	rate	15.5	11.7	19.6	14.8	13.9	17.8	10.1	11.8	15.0
25-29	rate	33.4	32.8	39.6	34.2	31.3	38.7	18.8	31.9	34.1
30-34	rate	23.8	22.9	27.7	22.2	23.8	26.9	19.6	24.9	24.2
35-39	rate	13.6	12.6	14.9	12.3	13.2	13.6	11.0	14.1	13.4
40-44	rate	8.0	7.0	8.7	7.5	7.1	7.6	8.7	6.7	7.7
45-49	rate	5.9	5.2	6.5	5.5	6.1	5.9	6.2	5.8	5.8
50 and over	rate	2.4	2.1	3.0	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.6	3.2	2.5
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	19 388	13 421	12 364	4 161	5 544	1 369	535	969	57 751
Widowed	no.	378	279	262	95	128	30	5	23	1 200
Divorced	no.	6 645	4 300	4 426	1 478	1 961	524	185	330	19 849
Total	no.	26 411	18 000	17 052	5 734	7 633	1 923	725	1 322	78 800
Median age										
Never married	years	28.7	28.9	28.3	28.4	28.8	28.6	29.7	28.7	28.7
Widowed	years	61.3	58.5	58.2	(c)np	59.1	(c)np	(c)np	(c)np	59.5
Divorced	years	42.0	41.7	41.9	42.4	42.3	41.9	40.9	42.4	42.0
Total	years	30.8	30.7	30.4	30.7	31.0	30.7	31.6	30.7	30.7

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

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

4.6 SUMMARY(a), By States and Territories *continued*

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
BRIDE										
Age-specific marriage rates(b)										
Age group (years)										
19 and under	rate	3.4	2.2	3.2	2.3	2.5	2.5	3.3	1.7	2.8
20-24	rate	27.1	21.5	34.0	27.0	24.9	30.4	18.5	21.1	26.6
25-29	rate	35.0	35.2	40.8	36.5	35.7	38.7	25.0	34.7	36.2
30-34	rate	19.6	18.7	22.5	18.3	20.1	21.0	15.3	19.9	19.9
35-39	rate	10.3	9.2	10.8	9.1	9.1	10.2	10.8	10.4	9.9
40-44	rate	6.5	5.2	6.9	6.3	6.1	5.9	6.4	6.1	6.2
45-49	rate	4.6	4.1	5.7	4.4	4.8	4.6	5.1	4.2	4.7
50 and over	rate	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.3
Marital status at marriage										
Never married	no.	19 622	13 580	12 483	4 155	5 582	1 388	540	979	58 329
Widowed	no.	491	338	341	103	152	42	12	22	1 501
Divorced	no.	6 298	4 082	4 228	1 476	1 899	493	173	321	18 970
Total	no.	26 411	18 000	17 052	5 734	7 633	1 923	725	1 322	78 800
Median age										
Never married	years	26.9	27.2	26.4	26.6	26.9	26.6	27.3	26.9	26.8
Widowed	years	50.1	50.8	51.2	53.6	52.1	(c)np	(c)np	(c)np	51.1
Divorced	years	38.3	38.2	38.3	39.1	38.9	38.6	37.5	39.3	38.4
Total	years	28.5	28.7	28.3	28.5	28.7	28.6	29.0	28.7	28.5

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

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

4.7

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

<i>Marital status of bride</i>	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
.....									
BRIDEGROOM — NEVER MARRIED									
Never married	16 621	11 673	10 666	3 573	4 766	1 174	447	838	49 758
Widowed	104	63	71	15	24	10	4	3	294
Divorced	2 663	1 685	1 627	573	754	185	84	128	7 699
Total	19 388	13 421	12 364	4 161	5 544	1 369	535	969	57 751
.....									
BRIDEGROOM — WIDOWED									
Never married	70	66	47	16	25	4	3	3	233
Widowed	107	69	68	24	32	10	—	5	315
Divorced	201	144	147	55	71	16	3	15	652
Total	378	279	262	95	128	30	5	23	1 200
.....									
BRIDEGROOM — DIVORCED									
Never married	2 931	1 841	1 770	566	791	210	91	138	8 338
Widowed	280	206	202	64	96	22	8	14	892
Divorced	3 434	2 253	2 454	848	1 074	292	86	178	10 619
Total	6 645	4 300	4 426	1 478	1 961	524	185	330	19 849
.....									
BRIDEGROOM — TOTAL									
Never married	19 622	13 580	12 483	4 155	5 582	1 388	540	979	58 329
Widowed	491	338	341	103	152	42	12	22	1 501
Divorced	6 298	4 082	4 228	1 476	1 899	493	173	321	18 970
Total	26 411	18 000	17 052	5 734	7 633	1 923	725	1 322	78 800

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

4.8

CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER (no.)									
Ministers of religion(a)									
Catholic Church	3 362	2 281	1 882	538	700	203	78	208	9 252
Anglican Church of Australia	3 243	1 733	1 601	442	815	218	27	148	8 227
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	1 548	1 184	961	612	292	75	39	56	4 767
Orthodox Churches(b)	234	376	47	44	26	—	3	10	742
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	290	203	250	95	70	48	5	13	974
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	457	114	163	14	17	31	—	31	828
Lutheran Churches(b)	73	138	236	251	29	—	6	10	745
Islam	415	180	15	15	31	3	—	4	662
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	105	161	110	58	102	19	6	3	564
Other	1 150	667	1 109	195	380	94	50	59	3 704
Total	10 877	7 037	6 374	2 264	2 462	694	215	542	30 465
Civil celebrants									
Official registrars	2 246	1 606	1 168	423	641	126	100	75	6 385
Other civil celebrants	13 288	9 357	9 510	3 047	4 530	1 103	410	705	41 950
Total	15 534	10 963	10 678	3 470	5 171	1 229	510	780	48 335
All celebrants	26 411	18 000	17 052	5 734	7 633	1 923	725	1 322	78 800
PROPORTION (%)									
Ministers of religion(a)									
Catholic Church	12.7	12.7	11.0	9.4	9.2	10.6	10.8	15.7	11.7
Anglican Church of Australia	12.3	9.6	9.4	7.7	10.7	11.3	3.7	11.2	10.4
Uniting Churches in Australia(b)	5.9	6.6	5.6	10.7	3.8	3.9	5.4	4.2	6.0
Orthodox Churches(b)	0.9	2.1	0.3	0.8	0.3	—	0.4	0.8	0.9
Baptist Union of Australia(b)	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.7	0.9	2.5	0.7	1.0	1.2
Presbyterian Church of Australia(b)	1.7	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.2	1.6	—	2.3	1.1
Lutheran Churches(b)	0.3	0.8	1.4	4.4	0.4	—	0.8	0.8	0.9
Islam	1.6	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	—	0.3	0.8
Churches of Christ in Australia(b)	0.4	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.7
Other	4.4	3.7	6.5	3.4	5.0	4.9	6.9	4.5	4.7
Total	41.2	39.1	37.4	39.5	32.3	36.1	29.7	41.0	38.7
Civil celebrants									
Official registrars	8.5	8.9	6.8	7.4	8.4	6.6	13.8	5.7	8.1
Other civil celebrants	50.3	52.0	55.8	53.1	59.3	57.4	56.6	53.3	53.2
Total	58.8	60.9	62.6	60.5	67.7	63.9	70.3	59.0	61.3
All celebrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

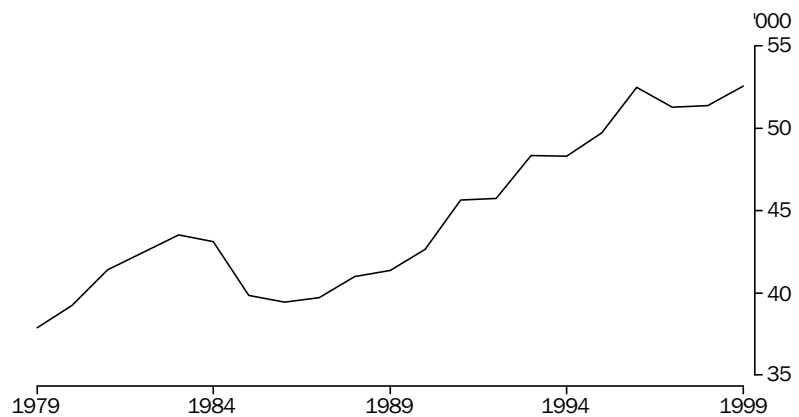
(a) Under authority of the *Marriage Act 1961*.

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

INTRODUCTION

There were 52,600 divorces granted in Australia in 1999, representing a small increase on the number of divorces granted in 1998 (slightly more than 2%), but an increase of 27% on the number granted 10 years ago. This compares with a 7% increase between 1989 and 1999 in the married population (the population at risk of divorce).

DIVORCES GRANTED



DIVORCE TRENDS

The divorce rate for the currently married population rose in 1999 to 12.7 men and women per 1,000 currently married men and women. While this was the first rise observed since 1996, the 1999 rates were higher than those recorded a decade ago (10.8 for men and 10.7 for women).

DIVORCE RATES, Married Population

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>Men rate(a)</i>	<i>Women rate(a)</i>
1976(b)	18.9	18.8
1984	11.9	11.9
1989	10.8	10.7
1994	12.0	12.0
1999	12.7	12.7

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

(b) *Family Law Act* introduced 1976.

The crude divorce rate (the number of divorces per 1,000 population) in 1999 was 2.8 per 1,000. This is a slight increase on the rate recorded in 1998 (2.7 per 1,000), but a higher rate than in 1989 when the crude divorce rate was 2.5 per 1,000 population.

DIVORCE TRENDS *continued*

Studies have indicated that the reasons for divorce have changed over time. Gigy and Kelly (1992, p186) observe:

'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'.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (1999) studied the main reason 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 'you or former spouse had an affair', were the main reasons given. The only noted difference between men and women was that women were more likely to report abusive behaviours as the main reason for divorce. The study also found that the perceived main reasons for divorce mentioned by respondents did not appear to be strongly associated with the selected demographic variables examined, such as education, employment, and age at marriage. Rather these variables were seen to have an indirect or mediating, rather than direct, effect on marital distress which could lead to divorce.

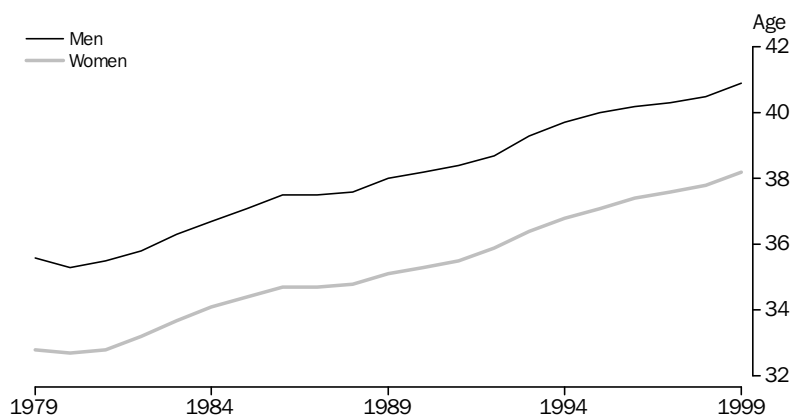
LIKELIHOOD TO DIVORCE

Using data up to and including 1999, it was found that overall 46% of marriages are likely to end in divorce over all years of marriage. Age at marriage was found to be associated with the likelihood to divorce, with the highest divorce rates likely among people who marry under 20 years (see Special Article 'Divorce in the Nineties' p. 121 in this issue).

AGE AT DIVORCE

The median age at divorce (the age at which there are as many divorcing above the age as there are below it) for both men and women rose slightly in 1999. The median age at divorce for men was 40.9 years and for women 38.2 years. This was a rise of 0.4 for both men and women, from 40.5 years for men and 37.8 years for women in 1998. The rise in the median age at divorce is probably associated with the increase in the age at marriage (see Chapter 3).

MEDIAN AGE AT DIVORCE



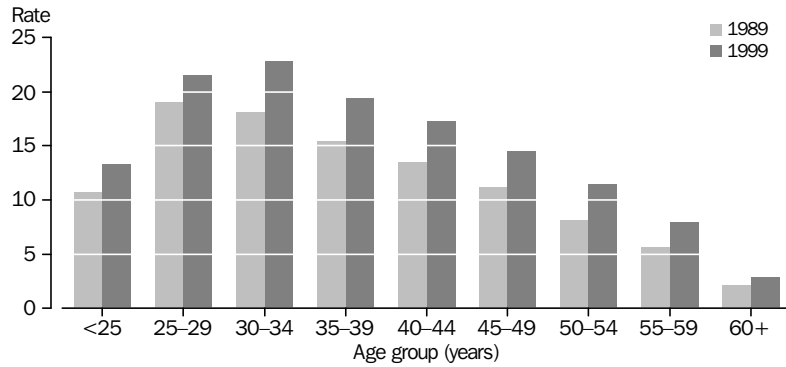
Age-specific divorce rates per married population increased in all the age groups for men and women over the ten-year period 1989–1999.

Between 1989 and 1999 the peak age group for divorce rates for men changed from 25–29 years to 30–34 years. The age-specific divorce rates for men in the peak age

AGE AT DIVORCE *continued*

groups increased from 19.0 per 1,000 to 21.5 per 1,000 married men for the age group 25–29 years, and 18.1 per 1,000 to 22.8 per 1,000 married men for the age group 30–34 years.

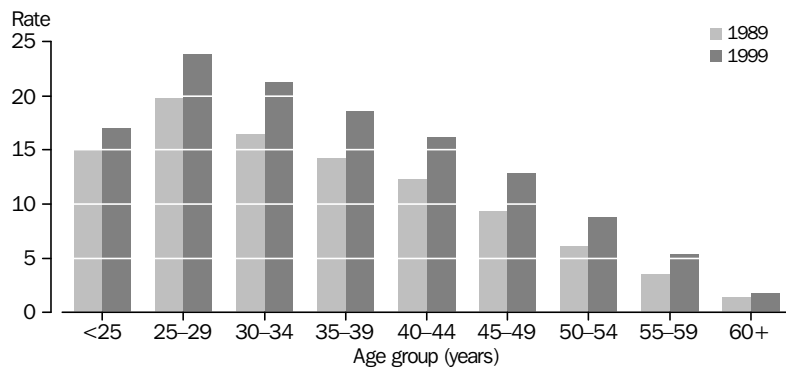
AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES(a), Married Population—Men



(a) Per 1,000 married men

The peak age group for divorce rates for women remained unchanged from 1989 (25–29 years), however an increase in the rate was observed from 19.8 per 1,000 to 23.8 per 1,000 married women.

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



(a) Per 1,000 married women

DURATION OF MARRIAGE

Duration of marriage is the interval between the date of marriage and the date the divorce was made absolute. Of the divorces occurring in 1999, the median duration of marriage was 11.3 years. Between 1989 and 1999 the median duration of marriage increased consistently, from 10.2 years to 11.3 years. Similarly the median duration of marriage to the time the parties separated has also increased over this ten-year period, from 7.3 years in 1989 to 7.9 years in 1999. The time interval between final separation and the date the divorce was made absolute has also increased from 2.9 years in 1989 to 3.4 years in 1999.

Of the couples who divorced in 1999, 36% were separated within the first five years of marriage and a further 23% were separated in the next five years. The most common single interval between marriage and separation was between two and three years (9%). Just over 18% of couples had divorced within the first five years of marriage, while a

DURATION OF MARRIAGE
continued

further 26% had divorced in the following five-year period. The most common single interval between marriage and divorce was between four and five years (6%).

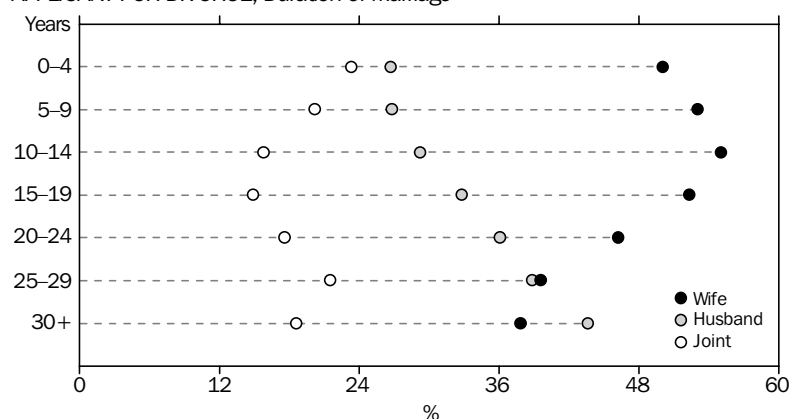
Males born in Southern and Eastern Europe had the longest median duration of marriage to divorce (15 years) and the longest median duration to separation (11 years). For females these median durations were 15 years and 12 years, respectively. Males born in North-East Asia had the shortest median duration of marriage to divorce (6 years) and the shortest median duration to separation (3 years). Corresponding median durations for females born in North-East Asia were 6 and 4 years, respectively.

APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE

In 1999 more women (50%) than men (31%) lodged applications for divorce. This is consistent with patterns shown in previous years. The proportion of couples lodging joint applications remained steady at 19%.

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

APPLICANT FOR DIVORCE, Duration of Marriage



CHILDREN OF DIVORCING PARTNERS

Between 1989 and 1999 the proportion of divorces where children were involved has fallen. In 1989, 55% of divorces involved children under 18 years. By 1999 this proportion was 54%, which reflects the post 1970 decline in fertility.

However, because the number of divorces has increased over this ten-year period (by 27%), the actual number of children (under 18 years) involved in divorce has increased. In 1989 there were 43,300 children involved in divorce, by 1999 this number had increased to 53,400 children. In 1989, 0.95 children per 100 children aged under 18 years in the total population were involved in divorce in Australia. By 1999 this proportion had increased to 1.13 per 100.

CHILDREN OF DIVORCING PARTNERS *continued*

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE(a)

Selected years	Number of divorces		Proportion of divorces involving children(a)		Average number of children(b)	Proportion of children involved in divorce(c)	
	no.	%	no.	%		average	%
1989	41 383	55.3	43 317	52.4	1.894	0.95	
1994	48 312	52.4	47 537	na	1.878	1.01	
1995	49 712	na	na	53.6	na	na	
1996	52 466	53.6	52 455	54.0	1.864	1.12	
1997	51 288	54.0	51 742	53.4	1.868	1.10	
1998	51 370	53.4	51 602	53.9	1.880	1.10	
1999	52 566	53.9	53 444		1.886	1.13	

na not available

(a) Children aged under 18 years.

(b) Per divorce involving one or more children.

(c) Per 100 children aged under 18 years in the total population.

Of divorces granted where children under 18 years were involved, couples married for 15–19 years had the highest average number of children (2.2) in both 1989 and 1999. The average number of children, for all those divorces where children under 18 years were involved, was 1.89 in both years (1989 and 1999).

In 36% of the 28,300 divorces that involved children, the age of youngest child was 5–9 years. In nearly two-thirds of the divorces involving children, the age of youngest child was under 10 years.

BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES DIVORCING

Of the divorces granted in Australia in 1999, 58% were divorces where both parties were born in Australia (59% in 1989), 13% were divorces among couples born in the same overseas country (12% in 1989) and 29% were divorces between men and women who had chosen partners from a different country (29% in 1989). Of this last group, 44% were overseas-born men divorcing Australian-born women, and 35% were overseas-born women divorcing Australian-born men (46% and 35% respectively in 1989).

BIRTHPLACE OF DIVORCING PARTIES

Country of birth of couple	1989	1999	1989	1999
	no.	no.	%	%
Australian-born	24 255	30 494	58.6	58.0
Same overseas country	5 027	6 909	12.1	13.1
Different countries				
Australian-born men/overseas-born women	4 177	5 317	10.1	10.1
Australian-born women/overseas-born men	5 541	6 715	13.4	12.8
Couples from different overseas countries	2 383	3 131	5.8	6.0
Total	41 383	52 566	100.0	100.0

5.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected Years

		1989	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
ALL DIVORCES								
Divorces granted	no.	41 383	48 312	49 712	52 466	51 288	51 370	52 566
Crude divorce rate	rate	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8
Median duration of marriage	years	10.2	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.3
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9
Divorces involving children								
Number	no.	22 874	25 316	na	28 138	27 694	27 447	28 331
Proportion of total divorces	%	55.3	52.4	na	53.6	54.0	53.4	53.9
Average issue	average	1.9	1.9	na	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Applicant								
Husband	no.	15 691	17 350	16 864	17 005	15 987	16 004	16 235
Wife	no.	20 557	23 739	23 904	24 155	25 041	25 380	26 353
Joint	no.	5 135	7 223	8 974	11 306	10 260	9 986	9 978
HUSBAND								
Age-specific divorce rates(b)								
Age group (years)								
24 and under	rate	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6
25-29	rate	8.9	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.4	7.0	6.7
30-34	rate	12.5	12.7	12.8	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.9
35-39	rate	12.0	13.1	13.2	13.8	13.2	13.3	13.3
40-44	rate	11.1	12.5	12.3	13.0	12.6	12.5	12.8
45-49	rate	9.3	11.0	11.5	11.6	11.1	11.0	11.2
50-54	rate	6.7	8.5	8.6	9.2	8.9	8.7	9.1
55 and over	rate	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2
Marital status at marriage								
Never married	no.	34 521	39 255	na	na	na	na	na
Widowed	no.	401	510	na	na	na	na	na
Divorced	no.	6 461	8 547	na	na	na	na	na
Total	no.	41 383	48 312	na	na	na	na	na
Median age								
At marriage	years	24.6	25.4	25.6	25.8	25.8	26.0	26.2
At final separation	years	35.1	36.6	36.7	36.9	37.0	37.2	37.6
At decree made absolute	years	38.0	39.7	40.0	40.2	40.3	40.5	40.9

na not available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

5.1 SUMMARY(a), Selected Years *continued*

		1989	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
WIFE								
Age-specific divorce rates(b)								
Age group (years)								
24 and under	rate	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.3
25-29	rate	12.5	12.0	11.8	12.2	11.4	11.0	10.8
30-34	rate	12.6	13.7	13.9	14.4	14.0	14.2	14.1
35-39	rate	11.5	13.0	13.1	13.5	13.3	13.2	13.7
40-44	rate	10.1	11.7	11.8	12.3	11.7	11.7	12.3
45-49	rate	7.6	9.4	9.6	9.9	9.4	9.5	9.8
50-54	rate	4.9	6.3	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8
55 and over	rate	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
Marital status at marriage								
Never married	no.	34 807	35 539	na	na	na	na	na
Widowed	no.	513	625	na	na	na	na	na
Divorced	no.	6 063	8 148	na	na	na	na	na
Total	no.	41 383	48 312	na	na	na	na	na
Median age								
At marriage	years	22.0	22.8	23.0	23.2	23.3	23.5	23.7
At final separation	years	32.3	33.8	33.9	34.1	34.3	34.5	34.9
At decree made absolute	years	35.1	36.8	37.1	37.4	37.6	37.8	38.2

na not available

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

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

5.2

AGE-SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES (a)

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

<i>Selected years</i>	<i>24 and under(b)</i>	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	<i>60 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
HUSBAND										
1976	17.9	31.6	28.9	24.0	21.2	18.6	15.0	11.1	5.0	18.9
1984	12.9	20.8	19.6	17.0	14.5	11.7	8.4	6.0	2.4	11.9
1989	10.7	19.0	18.1	15.4	13.5	11.2	8.1	5.6	2.1	10.8
1994	10.9	19.8	20.0	17.7	15.9	13.5	10.4	6.7	2.4	12.0
1995	11.8	19.9	20.5	18.1	15.8	14.3	10.6	6.9	2.7	12.2
1996	13.4	21.6	21.2	19.1	16.7	14.5	11.3	7.5	2.8	12.8
1997	14.3	21.3	21.6	18.6	16.5	14.0	11.0	7.6	2.7	12.5
1998	13.8	21.1	21.7	19.0	16.6	14.1	10.9	7.5	2.7	12.4
1999	13.3	21.5	22.8	19.4	17.3	14.5	11.5	7.9	2.8	12.7
WIFE										
1976	22.7	31.5	26.9	22.1	19.3	16.0	12.6	8.8	4.0	18.8
1984	16.8	21.2	17.7	15.5	13.3	9.7	6.1	4.0	1.8	11.9
1989	15.1	19.8	16.5	14.2	12.3	9.4	6.1	3.6	1.4	10.7
1994	15.7	21.5	19.0	16.7	14.8	11.8	8.0	4.3	1.5	12.0
1995	16.4	21.8	19.4	16.9	14.9	12.1	8.3	4.9	1.7	12.3
1996	17.6	23.4	20.4	17.5	15.7	12.6	8.9	5.1	2.0	12.9
1997	19.0	23.0	20.2	17.5	15.2	12.1	8.8	5.3	1.7	12.5
1998	18.6	22.9	20.8	17.6	15.2	12.3	8.8	5.2	1.8	12.4
1999	17.0	23.8	21.3	18.6	16.2	12.9	8.8	5.4	1.8	12.7

(a) Per 1,000 married men or women respectively, at 30 June for each year shown.

(b) For the purpose of calculating rates in this column, married persons aged between 15 and 24 years have been included in the denominator.

5.3 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	1 412	461	53	12	—	—	—	—	7	1 945
20-24	5 364	11 907	1 878	279	78	18	11	3	56	19 594
25-29	1 274	7 667	5 014	1 068	279	53	11	5	59	15 430
30-34	243	1 899	2 640	1 562	487	120	26	7	37	7 021
35-39	64	557	982	990	672	240	57	21	22	3 605
40-44	30	186	329	438	494	327	117	34	14	1 969
45-49	15	62	148	187	279	302	202	84	6	1 285
50 and over	9	46	75	127	184	238	275	518	18	1 490
Not stated	27	47	41	27	24	8	8	6	39	227
Total	8 438	22 832	11 160	4 690	2 497	1 306	707	678	258	52 566

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

5.4 AGE OF 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	350	140	31	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	532
25-29	827	3 204	727	128	31	9	4	3	—	18	4 952
30-34	267	3 211	4 275	940	212	58	8	3	3	47	9 024
35-39	73	922	3 484	4 279	869	205	44	8	4	40	9 928
40-44	33	279	961	3 350	3 558	671	117	17	4	28	9 018
45-49	7	81	275	1 003	2 755	2 688	454	81	29	22	7 395
50-54	7	41	116	353	873	2 041	1 770	274	70	24	5 569
55-59	4	13	30	125	221	544	1 138	733	148	10	2 966
60 and over	3	11	27	79	140	265	432	705	1 265	28	2 955
Not stated	10	35	38	33	27	18	14	6	7	39	227
Total	1 581	7 937	9 964	10 296	8 687	6 501	3 981	1 830	1 531	258	52 566

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

<i>Duration of marriage to separation (years)</i>	<i>19 and under</i>	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	<i>60 and over</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
HUSBAND												
Under 1	58	665	997	625	323	244	206	121	64	122	55	3 480
1	17	622	1 308	792	457	254	174	117	65	74	32	3 912
2	3	505	1 600	1 080	491	323	176	128	69	74	21	4 470
3	—	257	1 318	993	483	249	150	104	51	60	16	3 681
4	—	107	1 006	931	487	248	152	100	55	53	19	3 158
5	—	42	788	977	500	259	130	103	60	54	10	2 923
6	—	9	532	899	520	233	169	89	39	47	11	2 548
7	—	—	328	896	548	254	133	86	28	46	7	2 328
8	—	—	198	801	576	235	157	86	46	55	4	2 159
9	—	—	96	713	603	288	152	75	37	45	13	2 022
10	—	—	27	589	594	293	164	83	32	41	6	1 829
11	—	—	6	428	616	318	145	79	30	32	7	1 661
12	—	—	—	321	670	343	142	64	35	32	3	1 609
13	—	—	—	205	658	330	136	62	48	33	—	1 474
14	—	—	—	92	627	403	158	57	28	34	3	1 401
15	—	—	—	29	560	407	144	76	32	32	—	1 281
16	—	—	—	5	503	441	173	70	26	30	3	1 251
17	—	—	—	—	351	493	196	79	35	33	—	1 189
18	—	—	—	—	241	539	185	75	34	27	3	1 104
19	—	—	—	—	131	514	217	66	36	25	—	991
20	—	—	—	—	43	470	255	83	37	29	—	918
21	—	—	—	—	11	463	294	90	26	25	—	910
22	—	—	—	—	—	310	363	91	31	22	3	818
23	—	—	—	—	—	213	366	105	25	15	—	726
24	—	—	—	—	—	100	407	157	26	19	—	709
25	—	—	—	—	—	44	391	160	31	19	—	646
26	—	—	—	—	—	7	329	180	39	21	3	578
27	—	—	—	—	—	—	192	220	42	20	3	478
28	—	—	—	—	—	—	107	210	70	20	—	407
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	205	72	20	—	346
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	438	544	551	—	1 548
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Total	78	2 210	8 205	10 378	9 994	8 278	6 025	3 659	1 793	1 710	236	52 566

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

<i>Duration of marriage to separation (years)</i>	<i>19 and under</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-29</i>	<i>30-34</i>	<i>35-39</i>	<i>40-44</i>	<i>45-49</i>	<i>50-54</i>	<i>55-59</i>	<i>60 and over</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
WIFE												
Under 1	211	1 032	920	448	326	207	140	71	35	50	40	3 480
1	93	1 158	1 260	569	325	233	112	78	23	31	30	3 912
2	23	1 080	1 658	792	398	236	119	49	42	34	39	4 470
3	5	660	1 517	718	365	199	89	64	22	25	17	3 681
4	—	370	1 297	747	318	208	109	52	23	18	16	3 158
5	—	186	1 190	799	326	204	107	47	28	20	16	2 923
6	—	64	972	776	364	173	101	45	27	15	11	2 548
7	—	19	729	874	362	185	80	28	20	20	11	2 328
8	—	7	543	822	402	191	89	48	26	23	8	2 159
9	—	3	338	893	432	186	85	40	22	17	8	2 022
10	—	—	179	796	485	220	73	37	25	10	4	1 829
11	—	—	74	732	509	200	78	31	19	12	6	1 661
12	—	—	23	644	581	208	87	27	21	14	4	1 609
13	—	—	9	545	542	221	89	38	17	8	5	1 474
14	—	—	—	331	677	242	87	35	17	10	3	1 401
15	—	—	—	203	661	268	77	41	17	13	—	1 281
16	—	—	—	108	693	304	93	30	5	14	4	1 251
17	—	—	—	33	608	366	115	37	14	16	—	1 189
18	—	—	—	7	520	405	117	28	10	12	5	1 104
19	—	—	—	—	403	399	121	35	15	16	—	991
20	—	—	—	—	224	473	147	49	17	7	—	918
21	—	—	—	—	126	550	162	48	10	9	5	910
22	—	—	—	—	31	521	190	50	17	8	3	818
23	—	—	—	—	8	436	225	35	12	5	5	726
24	—	—	—	—	—	324	301	57	12	11	3	709
25	—	—	—	—	—	177	385	67	6	9	—	646
26	—	—	—	—	—	78	384	87	15	11	3	578
27	—	—	—	—	—	23	338	91	17	6	3	478
28	—	—	—	—	—	4	235	143	15	9	—	407
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	144	168	26	8	—	346
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	137	657	433	316	5	1 548
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Total	332	4 577	10 709	10 838	9 688	7 441	4 616	2 313	1 008	777	267	52 566

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

Duration of marriage to divorce (years)	AGE GROUP (YEARS)										Total	
	24 and under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over		Not stated
HUSBAND												
1	52	190	101	56	42	35	34	17	8	28	6	569
2	169	730	536	292	189	134	100	63	44	53	25	2 335
3	169	973	887	485	257	135	151	50	38	53	25	3 223
4	97	1 064	1 011	486	290	155	112	79	30	46	16	3 386
5	36	726	1 094	539	261	159	109	63	32	52	20	3 091
6	8	540	1 069	596	307	153	127	60	37	32	16	2 945
7	—	385	975	645	290	201	121	73	36	36	12	2 775
8	—	200	933	682	331	183	101	68	36	32	14	2 580
9	—	95	771	737	341	205	119	56	22	45	9	2 400
10	—	36	617	786	378	183	122	62	26	36	11	2 257
11	—	11	453	766	375	215	138	65	30	36	9	2 098
12	—	—	296	699	406	199	120	62	32	31	6	1 852
13	—	—	162	686	487	235	128	59	28	26	10	1 822
14	—	—	80	675	515	213	118	64	24	27	3	1 719
15	—	—	28	602	502	246	112	73	28	33	3	1 626
16	—	—	10	489	561	245	127	45	30	32	4	1 543
17	—	—	—	344	610	277	130	64	17	31	4	1 478
18	—	—	—	217	619	316	120	45	22	35	5	1 379
19	—	—	—	90	592	317	148	61	31	25	3	1 267
20	—	—	—	42	510	306	143	72	30	31	3	1 137
21	—	—	—	11	413	341	159	45	35	24	5	1 033
22	—	—	—	3	330	445	168	58	22	30	3	1 057
23	—	—	—	—	221	450	152	48	21	11	3	905
24	—	—	—	—	120	483	162	57	16	25	4	867
25	—	—	—	—	55	467	250	56	16	14	3	861
26	—	—	—	—	14	448	277	77	17	19	—	852
27	—	—	—	—	3	323	362	64	23	6	3	782
28	—	—	—	—	—	192	412	104	33	16	—	757
29	—	—	—	—	—	95	382	123	35	13	—	648
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	39	865	1 133	691	587	7	3 322
Total	532	4 952	9 024	9 928	9 018	7 395	5 569	2 966	1 490	1 465	227	52 566

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

Duration of marriage to divorce (years)	AGE GROUP (YEARS)											Total
	24 and under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Not stated	
WIFE												
1	119	174	97	59	42	25	22	7	5	11	8	569
2	445	839	370	249	154	121	60	38	21	19	19	2 335
3	468	1 288	646	326	218	125	65	26	20	23	18	3 223
4	335	1 416	775	354	219	127	58	41	18	15	28	3 386
5	147	1 228	821	399	214	121	67	42	22	13	17	3 091
6	54	1 046	898	441	217	151	62	33	16	9	18	2 945
7	10	767	995	472	233	145	75	37	14	14	13	2 775
8	3	555	1 053	476	228	122	67	33	19	13	11	2 580
9	—	345	970	564	260	125	62	33	14	14	13	2 400
10	—	177	899	628	264	143	65	32	23	13	13	2 257
11	—	73	775	663	305	147	61	34	18	7	15	2 098
12	—	25	599	673	285	137	60	41	16	8	8	1 852
13	—	3	467	747	346	138	64	28	15	8	6	1 822
14	—	—	299	782	368	141	64	30	15	11	8	1 719
15	—	—	184	753	396	159	69	34	15	13	3	1 626
16	—	—	84	749	412	174	75	22	16	9	3	1 543
17	—	—	26	682	464	188	68	24	13	10	3	1 478
18	—	—	5	557	518	178	69	20	14	12	6	1 379
19	—	—	3	347	576	194	94	29	9	16	—	1 267
20	—	—	—	203	561	217	87	38	13	15	3	1 137
21	—	—	—	113	523	265	77	27	14	10	4	1 033
22	—	—	—	47	565	303	90	29	11	8	4	1 057
23	—	—	—	12	484	295	82	16	7	6	3	905
24	—	—	—	—	391	357	70	24	16	6	3	867
25	—	—	—	—	240	456	117	32	7	5	4	861
26	—	—	—	—	142	510	148	35	8	7	—	852
27	—	—	—	—	51	502	182	33	9	3	3	782
28	—	—	—	—	11	425	266	34	10	7	4	757
29	—	—	—	—	—	267	320	41	14	5	—	648
30 and over	—	—	—	—	—	243	1 315	937	436	373	18	3 322
Total	1 581	7 937	9 964	10 296	8 687	6 501	3 981	1 830	848	683	258	52 566

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

5.7

DURATION OF MARRIAGE TO DIVORCE, By Applicant

<i>Duration of marriage (years)</i>	<i>Husband</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Joint</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	173	297	99	569
2	656	1 186	493	2 335
3	851	1 572	800	3 223
4	858	1 700	828	3 386
5	782	1 603	706	3 091
6	785	1 522	638	2 945
7	739	1 471	565	2 775
8	704	1 394	482	2 580
9	682	1 321	397	2 400
10	656	1 243	358	2 257
11	618	1 144	336	2 098
12	535	1 023	294	1 852
13	526	1 018	278	1 822
14	510	930	279	1 719
15	526	866	234	1 626
16	494	818	231	1 543
17	481	775	222	1 478
18	460	734	185	1 379
19	428	623	216	1 267
20	413	539	185	1 137
21	362	494	177	1 033
22	381	505	171	1 057
23	325	410	170	905
24	325	364	178	867
25	336	375	150	861
26	344	334	174	852
27	297	311	174	782
28	278	287	192	757
29	260	239	149	648
30 and over	1 450	1 255	617	3 322
Total	16 235	26 353	9 978	52 566

5.8

COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES

	HUSBAND BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND WIFE BORN IN				WIFE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND HUSBAND BORN IN			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
Oceania and Antarctica								
Australia (incl E T)	30 494	..	5 317	35 811	30 494	..	6 715	37 209
Fiji	60	137	20	217	88	137	56	281
New Zealand	695	498	246	1 439	609	498	267	1 374
Papua New Guinea	62	6	22	90	70	6	27	103
Other	45	51	26	122	23	51	41	115
<i>Total</i>	31 356	692	5 631	37 679	31 284	692	7 106	39 082
North-West Europe								
Austria	40	6	24	70	32	6	17	55
Denmark	27	6	11	44	21	6	7	34
France	60	13	24	97	28	13	39	80
Germany	235	74	132	441	198	74	142	414
Ireland	93	39	71	203	71	39	53	163
Netherlands	223	57	102	382	123	57	58	238
Switzerland	22	9	23	54	17	9	12	38
United Kingdom	2 764	1 379	596	4 739	2 102	1 379	513	3 994
Other	61	17	22	100	56	17	33	106
<i>Total</i>	3 525	1 600	1 005	6 130	2 648	1 600	874	5 122
Southern and Eastern Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	—	27	3	32	4	26	5	35
Croatia	46	53	20	119	15	54	10	79
Cyprus	34	16	16	66	12	16	19	47
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	31	59	10	100	4	59	8	71
Greece	134	131	54	319	42	131	43	216
Hungary	29	43	28	100	21	43	17	81
Italy	324	163	134	621	107	163	51	321
Malta	94	54	30	178	55	54	32	141
Poland	30	143	44	217	27	143	33	203
Portugal	19	26	12	57	5	26	15	46
Romania	11	54	18	83	4	54	14	72
Russian Federation	5	47	15	67	11	47	30	88
Spain	17	14	33	64	15	14	15	44
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	91	185	59	335	50	185	35	270
Other	40	99	51	190	33	99	43	175
<i>Total</i>	907	1 114	527	2 548	405	1 114	370	1 889
North Africa and the Middle East								
Egypt	66	53	56	175	28	53	30	111
Iran	19	51	16	86	8	51	9	68
Israel	23	6	24	53	8	6	11	25
Lebanon	97	173	53	323	29	173	46	248
Syria	12	8	18	38	1	8	13	22
Turkey	42	121	29	192	20	121	19	160
Other	55	38	64	157	11	38	30	79
<i>Total</i>	314	450	260	1 024	105	450	158	713

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

5.8 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PARTIES *continued*

	HUSBAND BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND WIFE BORN IN				WIFE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND HUSBAND BORN IN			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
South-East Asia								
Cambodia	3	116	25	143	5	116	12	133
Indonesia	49	48	39	136	40	48	39	127
Laos	3	21	10	34	2	21	11	34
Malaysia	71	57	59	187	91	57	74	222
Philippines	37	260	21	318	323	260	214	797
Singapore	27	9	31	67	41	9	42	92
Thailand	9	19	10	38	73	19	54	146
Viet Nam	8	828	91	927	31	828	89	948
Other	10	9	13	32	13	9	14	36
<i>Total</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>1 367</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>1 882</i>	<i>619</i>	<i>1 367</i>	<i>549</i>	<i>2 535</i>
North-East Asia								
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	40	721	109	870	75	721	165	961
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	17	71	58	146	23	71	56	150
Japan	18	6	11	35	35	6	29	70
Korea, Republic of (South)	6	60	9	75	11	60	16	87
Other	—	12	14	27	7	12	29	48
<i>Total</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>870</i>	<i>201</i>	<i>1 153</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>870</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>1 316</i>
Southern and Central Asia								
India	90	120	71	281	43	120	42	205
Pakistan	21	19	37	77	4	19	7	30
Sri Lanka	47	105	28	180	23	105	17	145
Other	4	23	12	39	5	23	7	35
<i>Total</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>267</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>577</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>267</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>415</i>
Americas								
Argentina	18	33	16	67	13	33	20	66
Canada	84	14	26	124	80	14	28	122
Caribbean	11	4	7	22	4	4	7	15
Central America	10	20	8	38	7	20	8	35
Chile	29	74	24	127	25	74	46	145
United States of America	204	41	68	313	172	41	56	269
Uruguay	11	31	17	59	12	31	15	58
Other	25	39	42	106	21	39	52	112
<i>Total</i>	<i>392</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>856</i>	<i>334</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>822</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Kenya	13	—	14	27	16	—	8	24
Mauritius	20	29	19	68	14	29	16	59
South Africa	73	75	49	197	68	75	65	208
Zimbabwe	21	10	13	44	14	10	22	46
Other	50	91	47	188	22	91	34	147
<i>Total</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>524</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>484</i>
Other and not stated	78	88	27	193	56	88	44	188
Total	37 209	6 909	8 448	52 566	35 811	6 909	9 846	52 566

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

5.9 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND, By Duration of Marriage

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS)

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl E T)	5 955	9 667	6 884	5 237	3 348	2 600	2 120	35 811	11.5
Fiji	72	71	29	18	15	9	3	217	7.1
New Zealand	253	413	292	175	122	118	66	1 439	10.8
Papua New Guinea	19	32	16	7	10	3	3	90	np
Other	23	56	15	11	8	7	3	122	8.4
<i>Total</i>	6 322	10 239	7 236	5 448	3 503	2 737	2 194	37 679	11.4
North-West Europe									
Austria	6	11	16	9	8	7	13	70	np
Denmark	6	10	5	13	5	3	3	44	np
France	17	30	26	6	9	5	4	97	np
Germany	63	86	67	58	51	53	63	441	15.5
Ireland	33	52	38	21	21	21	17	203	11.8
Netherlands	27	56	60	48	62	74	55	382	20.1
Switzerland	8	10	14	10	3	7	3	54	np
United Kingdom	604	1 150	910	727	536	399	413	4 739	13.3
Other	15	19	24	13	11	7	11	100	12.9
<i>Total</i>	779	1 424	1 160	905	706	575	581	6 130	13.6
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9	7	6	4	4	—	3	32	np
Croatia	14	29	20	15	15	10	16	119	13.9
Cyprus	11	17	13	7	8	3	7	66	np
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	35	25	16	5	8	5	6	100	8.3
Greece	38	53	58	44	39	33	54	319	16.6
Hungary	12	22	13	14	18	11	10	100	16.1
Italy	57	81	103	95	90	97	98	621	18.9
Malta	23	26	25	20	25	33	26	178	18.6
Poland	36	35	34	40	31	21	20	217	15.9
Portugal	9	8	18	4	8	6	4	57	np
Romania	25	26	13	7	6	4	3	83	np
Russian Federation	13	17	13	15	4	—	4	67	np
Spain	8	15	13	6	8	6	8	64	np
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	56	59	59	41	39	37	44	335	14.0
Other	47	45	27	21	17	14	19	190	10.6
<i>Total</i>	393	465	431	338	320	282	319	2 548	14.8
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	33	38	25	16	23	21	19	175	13.4
Iran	24	14	16	15	7	7	3	86	np
Israel	14	17	7	6	5	3	3	53	np
Lebanon	110	74	45	23	32	26	13	323	8.0
Syria	12	12	9	3	—	3	—	38	np
Turkey	62	52	36	20	8	5	9	192	8.4
Other	54	44	21	10	12	12	4	157	7.8
<i>Total</i>	309	251	159	93	87	75	50	1 024	8.9

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

5.9 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND, By Duration of Marriage *continued*

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS)

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	64	40	14	10	9	5	—	143	5.4
Indonesia	26	39	28	19	15	5	4	136	10.4
Laos	10	7	5	6	3	3	—	34	np
Malaysia	29	56	38	20	18	17	9	187	10.8
Philippines	84	85	50	36	33	20	10	318	9.2
Singapore	14	19	14	9	8	3	3	67	np
Thailand	11	17	5	3	—	—	—	38	np
Viet Nam	415	321	69	53	40	16	13	927	5.4
Other	5	9	8	—	3	3	3	32	np
Total	658	593	231	158	128	71	43	1 882	6.6
North-East Asia									
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	407	175	119	81	49	17	22	870	5.6
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	44	33	23	21	14	9	3	146	9.2
Japan	11	6	8	4	3	—	3	35	np
Korea, Republic of (South)	25	21	13	7	4	3	3	75	np
Other	13	9	3	—	—	—	—	27	np
Total	500	244	166	114	71	29	29	1 153	6.1
Southern and Central Asia									
India	85	73	35	22	30	19	17	281	8.8
Pakistan	27	29	10	4	6	—	—	77	np
Sri Lanka	51	37	29	25	15	11	12	180	10.5
Other	14	11	5	5	3	—	3	39	np
Total	177	150	79	56	54	31	30	577	8.5
Americas									
Argentina	10	18	14	10	5	4	6	67	np
Canada	29	32	20	25	4	7	7	124	10.2
Caribbean	4	4	—	6	4	3	3	22	np
Central America	15	11	5	3	3	3	3	38	np
Chile	26	36	22	14	11	8	10	127	10.3
United States of America	65	108	66	25	19	23	7	313	9.1
Uruguay	14	17	8	4	—	6	9	59	np
Other	33	28	19	13	6	5	3	106	8.2
Total	196	254	155	100	51	57	43	856	9.4
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	4	6	6	4	4	3	—	27	np
Mauritius	9	12	21	7	14	3	3	68	np
South Africa	34	47	35	27	27	14	13	197	13.1
Zimbabwe	10	7	9	11	5	—	3	44	np
Other	80	58	25	10	9	4	3	188	6.1
Total	137	130	96	59	59	23	20	524	9.8
Other and not stated	42	41	35	22	20	20	13	193	11.6
Total	9 513	13 791	9 748	7 293	4 999	3 900	3 322	52 566	11.3

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

5.10**COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF WIFE, By Duration of Marriage****DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS)**

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
Oceania and Antarctica									
Australia (incl E T)	6 264	9 947	7 100	5 312	3 545	2 814	2 227	37 209	11.5
Fiji	85	102	44	18	19	8	5	281	7.5
New Zealand	197	387	296	200	122	105	67	1 374	11.8
Papua New Guinea	24	26	22	15	4	9	3	103	10.4
Other	17	48	14	13	10	9	4	115	9.5
<i>Total</i>	6 587	10 510	7 476	5 558	3 700	2 945	2 306	39 082	11.4
North-West Europe									
Austria	6	14	8	9	6	3	9	55	np
Denmark	8	8	4	8	3	3	—	34	np
France	8	27	19	12	6	4	4	80	np
Germany	48	94	65	59	30	56	62	414	15.0
Ireland	22	36	23	20	22	25	15	163	15.2
Netherlands	17	35	26	37	42	34	47	238	21.1
Switzerland	7	10	13	3	—	3	3	38	np
United Kingdom	443	934	775	670	459	331	382	3 994	13.9
Other	25	22	20	11	9	10	9	106	11.1
<i>Total</i>	584	1 180	953	829	577	467	532	5 122	14.0
Southern and Eastern Europe									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	9	7	4	6	—	—	35	np
Croatia	10	16	11	10	11	6	15	79	np
Cyprus	6	17	5	6	6	3	4	47	np
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	22	10	16	6	8	3	6	71	np
Greece	25	26	41	24	23	24	53	216	18.6
Hungary	15	15	10	11	9	8	13	81	np
Italy	29	40	47	33	51	49	72	321	21.1
Malta	17	20	16	12	22	29	25	141	21.5
Poland	26	35	31	37	33	26	15	203	17.3
Portugal	6	8	13	—	9	5	3	46	np
Romania	29	17	9	6	6	4	3	72	np
Russian Federation	30	18	14	15	4	4	3	88	np
Spain	6	8	6	6	6	6	6	44	np
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	38	52	54	27	36	26	37	270	13.9
Other	42	46	20	26	10	10	21	175	9.8
<i>Total</i>	309	337	300	225	240	204	274	1 889	15.0
North Africa and the Middle East									
Egypt	18	25	14	12	19	13	10	111	14.5
Iran	16	11	10	15	6	6	4	68	np
Israel	4	6	3	5	6	—	—	25	np
Lebanon	77	56	45	17	20	21	12	248	9.1
Syria	10	4	3	3	—	3	—	22	np
Turkey	48	39	37	15	6	6	9	160	9.1
Other	27	17	9	10	8	5	3	79	np
<i>Total</i>	200	158	121	76	65	54	39	713	10.0

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

5.10**COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF WIFE, By Duration of Marriage** *continued*

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS)

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Total	Median duration
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	years
South-East Asia									
Cambodia	63	37	9	10	8	4	—	133	5.2
Indonesia	31	32	19	14	20	7	4	127	10.1
Laos	8	9	6	4	4	3	—	34	np
Malaysia	37	67	43	27	26	16	6	222	10.8
Philippines	192	233	186	109	44	23	10	797	9.4
Singapore	22	22	21	16	9	3	3	92	np
Thailand	42	61	26	11	4	—	—	146	7.6
Viet Nam	424	310	86	53	46	17	12	948	5.4
Other	3	10	14	—	4	—	3	36	np
<i>Total</i>	<i>822</i>	<i>781</i>	<i>410</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>2 535</i>	<i>7.3</i>
North-East Asia									
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	464	226	116	81	38	13	23	961	5.3
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	38	34	26	18	22	12	—	150	11.1
Japan	21	28	9	4	3	3	3	70	np
Korea, Republic of (South)	28	24	14	12	3	3	4	87	np
Other	22	9	5	6	6	—	—	48	np
<i>Total</i>	<i>573</i>	<i>321</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>1 316</i>	<i>6.0</i>
Southern and Central Asia									
India	58	53	28	16	22	14	14	205	9.4
Pakistan	7	7	6	3	4	3	3	30	np
Sri Lanka	39	36	16	20	15	9	10	145	9.4
Other	13	8	4	4	4	—	3	35	np
<i>Total</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>415</i>	<i>9.3</i>
Americas									
Argentina	5	20	18	6	6	6	5	66	np
Canada	25	41	19	15	13	6	3	122	9.2
Caribbean	7	4	—	3	—	—	—	15	np
Central America	10	10	7	3	3	3	3	35	np
Chile	28	40	28	19	12	8	10	145	11.1
United States of America	49	88	49	41	25	12	5	269	9.9
Uruguay	14	14	6	6	—	8	9	58	np
Other	27	36	16	11	13	5	4	112	8.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>253</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>822</i>	<i>9.9</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Kenya	8	4	7	3	3	—	—	24	np
Mauritius	3	12	19	8	13	3	—	59	np
South Africa	38	44	38	37	18	18	15	208	13.4
Zimbabwe	8	9	8	9	8	3	3	46	np
Other	64	39	20	12	6	4	3	147	6.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>484</i>	<i>10.6</i>
Other and not stated	35	39	29	25	15	25	20	188	13.5
Total	9 513	13 791	9 748	7 293	4 999	3 900	3 322	52 566	11.3

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

5.11 NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE(a)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Selected years	0	1	2	3	4	5 and over	Total	Total children	Average number of children(b)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	average
1979	14 641	8 167	9 488	3 876	1 243	439	37 854	46 130	2.0
1984	16 848	9 316	11 315	4 231	1 116	296	43 124	50 713	1.9
1989	18 509	8 423	9 806	3 584	857	204	41 383	43 317	1.9
1994	22 996	9 736	10 486	3 868	1 004	222	48 312	47 537	1.9
1995	na	na	na	na	na	na	49 712	na	na
1996	24 328	10 921	11 803	4 057	1 116	241	52 466	52 455	1.9
1997	23 594	10 661	11 565	4 215	1 026	227	51 288	51 742	1.9
1998	23 923	10 384	11 590	4 163	1 076	234	51 370	51 602	1.9
1999	24 235	10 522	12 213	4 201	1 163	232	52 566	53 444	1.9

na not available

(a) See Glossary.

(b) Per divorce involving one or more children.

5.12

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

Duration of marriage (years)	NUMBER OF CHILDREN						Total	Total children	Average number of children(b)
	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more			
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	average
1	454	71	32	8	3	—	569	176	1.5
2	1 741	370	160	50	10	4	2 335	902	1.5
3	2 211	634	288	72	15	3	3 223	1 501	1.5
4	2 118	720	413	98	29	8	3 386	1 999	1.6
5	1 680	751	517	106	28	9	3 091	2 264	1.6
6	1 433	695	600	155	58	4	2 945	2 612	1.7
7	1 208	662	689	169	39	8	2 775	2 747	1.8
8	978	588	728	222	54	10	2 580	2 977	1.9
9	805	534	768	219	63	11	2 400	3 037	1.9
10–14	2 582	1 848	3 560	1 310	371	77	9 748	14 792	2.1
15–19	1 407	1 221	2 846	1 351	393	75	7 293	12 945	2.2
20–24	1 703	1 503	1 292	388	93	20	4 999	5 729	1.7
25–29	2 757	798	292	47	4	3	3 900	1 550	1.4
30 and over	3 158	127	28	6	3	—	3 322	213	1.3
Total	24 235	10 522	12 213	4 201	1 163	232	52 566	53 444	1.9

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) See Glossary.

(b) Per divorce involving one or more children.

5.13 NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE(a), By Age of the Youngest Child

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

<i>Age of youngest child (years)</i>	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more	Total
0	24 235	79	136	47	19	6	24 522
1	—	373	388	159	48	16	984
2	—	708	751	266	97	29	1 851
3	—	927	979	357	131	40	2 434
4	—	861	1 107	440	142	35	2 585
5	—	766	1 075	422	139	28	2 430
6	—	615	944	408	120	29	2 116
7	—	529	903	376	119	22	1 949
8	—	503	899	363	124	13	1 902
9	—	469	817	381	86	9	1 762
10	—	413	764	318	63	3	1 561
11	—	410	743	273	44	3	1 472
12	—	395	729	205	22	—	1 351
13	—	468	757	128	6	—	1 359
14	—	538	637	42	3	—	1 219
15	—	804	454	15	—	—	1 274
16	—	928	116	—	—	—	1 044
17	—	736	14	—	—	—	751
Total	24 235	10 522	12 213	4 201	1 163	232	52 566

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
 (a) See Glossary.

5.14

SUMMARY(a), By States and Territories

		NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(b)	Aust.
ALL DIVORCES										
Divorces granted	no.	15 470	12 742	11 467	4 301	5 301	1 391	409	1 485	52 566
Crude divorce rate	rate	2.4	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.1	(b)np	2.8
Median duration of marriage	years	10.4	11.5	11.8	12.0	11.7	12.4	11.3	11.8	11.3
Median interval between marriage and final separation	years	7.1	8.1	8.2	8.7	8.1	8.9	6.9	8.4	7.9
Divorces involving children										
Number	no.	7 962	6 871	6 456	2 463	2 713	823	215	828	28 331
Proportion of total divorces	%	51.5	53.9	56.3	57.3	51.2	59.2	52.6	55.8	53.9
Average issue	average	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.9
Applicant										
Husband	no.	4 884	4 068	3 626	1 240	1 462	419	113	423	16 235
Wife	no.	7 536	6 359	6 021	2 303	2 474	760	176	724	26 353
Joint	no.	3 050	2 315	1 820	758	1 365	212	120	338	9 978
HUSBAND										
Age-specific divorce rates(c)										
Age group (years)										
24 and under	rate	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.8	(b)np	0.6
25–29	rate	6.5	6.0	7.8	7.1	6.2	8.1	4.7	(b)np	6.7
30–34	rate	11.6	12.9	14.8	12.7	12.7	14.7	6.8	(b)np	12.9
35–39	rate	11.6	13.6	14.9	14.2	13.0	16.0	7.4	(b)np	13.3
40–44	rate	10.7	12.7	15.4	14.1	12.7	14.5	8.7	(b)np	12.8
45–49	rate	9.2	10.9	13.6	12.4	11.3	11.5	8.7	(b)np	11.2
50–54	rate	7.8	8.8	11.0	9.4	9.6	9.3	8.2	(b)np	9.1
55 and over	rate	2.7	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.8	3.1	4.5	(b)np	3.2
Median age										
At marriage	years	26.5	26.1	26.1	25.8	26.2	25.4	26.3	26.3	26.2
At final separation	years	37.2	37.4	38.0	38.2	37.8	37.6	36.9	38.1	37.6
At decree made absolute	years	40.4	40.6	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.0	41.2	41.3	40.9
WIFE										
Age-specific divorce rates(c)										
Age group (years)										
24 and under	rate	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	(b)np	1.3
25–29	rate	10.3	10.0	12.4	11.3	10.7	11.5	7.5	(b)np	10.8
30–34	rate	12.6	14.1	16.1	14.4	14.2	16.4	8.3	(b)np	14.1
35–39	rate	11.7	13.2	16.8	14.8	13.2	16.3	9.8	(b)np	13.7
40–44	rate	10.4	11.8	14.4	14.4	13.0	13.8	9.1	(b)np	12.3
45–49	rate	8.3	9.5	12.0	10.3	10.1	10.7	10.4	(b)np	9.8
50–54	rate	5.6	6.7	8.1	6.2	8.2	6.1	6.4	(b)np	6.8
55 and over	rate	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.6	1.9	1.6	2.1	(b)np	1.6
Median age										
At marriage	years	23.9	23.7	23.5	23.4	23.8	23.2	23.6	23.5	23.7
At final separation	years	34.4	34.9	35.0	35.6	35.0	35.3	33.7	35.4	34.9
At decree made absolute	years	37.7	38.1	38.5	38.9	38.7	38.7	38.3	38.5	38.2

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Glossary for definitions of terms used.

(b) See paragraph 16 of Explanatory Notes.

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

5.15

DIVORCES GRANTED

<i>Selected years</i>	NSW(a)	Vic.	Qld(a)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(a)	Aust.
1979	12 606	9 471	5 811	3 794	3 397	1 167	262	1 346	37 854
1984	13 203	10 501	8 056	4 114	4 069	1 185	325	1 671	43 124
1989	12 743	10 253	7 123	3 740	4 089	1 269	435	1 731	41 383
1994	13 999	11 320	9 762	4 192	5 024	1 544	400	2 071	48 312
1995	14 945	11 838	10 192	4 199	5 040	1 279	432	1 787	49 712
1996	15 984	12 491	10 996	4 358	4 959	1 582	486	1 610	52 466
1997	14 655	12 463	11 744	4 115	5 046	1 321	416	1 528	51 288
1998	14 987	12 307	11 349	4 159	5 268	1 322	457	1 521	51 370
1999	15 470	12 742	11 467	4 301	5 301	1 391	409	1 485	52 566

(a) See paragraph 16 of Explanatory Notes.

5.16

CRUDE DIVORCE RATES (a)

<i>Selected years</i>	NSW(b)	Vic.	Qld(b)	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(b)	Aust.
1979	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.3	(b)np	2.6
1984	2.4	2.6	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.3	(b)np	2.8
1989	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	(b)np	2.5
1994	2.3	2.5	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.3	2.3	(b)np	2.7
1995	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.4	(b)np	2.8
1996	2.6	2.7	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.3	2.7	(b)np	2.9
1997	2.3	2.7	3.5	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.2	(b)np	2.8
1998	2.4	2.6	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.4	(b)np	2.7
1999	2.4	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.1	(b)np	2.8

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Per 1,000 population.

(b) See paragraph 16 of Explanatory Notes.

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

Registered marital status was used in the past to infer characteristics of people's living arrangements. Generally, only people who were 'married' were considered to live in couple relationships, while those who were 'never married', 'separated', 'divorced' or 'widowed' were assumed not to do so. The rise of de facto partnering in the 1970s and 1980s meant that registered marital status became increasingly inadequate for describing living arrangements. Some people who had never married or were previously married, together with those who were currently married, were living in couple relationships.

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

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

The population aged 15 years and over (that is, the population used in marital status estimates) at June 1999 was 15,044,700 people. It was comprised of 4,751,300 never married, 8,279,700 currently married, 930,200 widowed and 1,083,500 divorced people.

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
1989	33.6	59.4	2.4	4.6	6 477.2
1999	35.3	55.8	2.4	6.5	7 429.4
Females					
1976	21.2	65.1	11.2	2.5	5 154.5
1989	25.8	58.4	10.2	5.6	6 612.3
1999	28.0	54.2	9.9	7.9	7 615.3
Persons					
1976	25.4	65.4	6.9	2.3	10 246.0
1989	29.7	58.9	6.3	5.1	13 089.5
1999	31.6	55.0	6.2	7.2	15 044.7

(a) Aged 15 years and over.

The ageing of the population has meant that between 1989 and 1999 the median age of population, has increased. This ageing 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 never married population aged by around two years for both men and women. For the other marital status groups the increase in the median age has ranged between three and four years, with the median age for divorced men increasing by 3.7 years and divorced women increasing by 4.2 years.

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

	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
	years	years	years	years	years
Males					
1976	21.1	43.7	70.6	45.9	37.3
1989	23.0	45.1	72.2	45.1	38.4
1999	24.8	48.6	75.5	48.8	40.9
Females					
1976	19.7	40.2	70.1	43.5	38.9
1989	21.6	42.3	72.9	43.7	39.4
1999	23.5	45.7	75.8	47.9	42.0
Persons					
1976	20.5	42.0	70.2	44.6	38.1
1989	22.4	43.6	72.7	44.3	38.9
1999	24.2	47.1	75.7	48.3	41.5

(a) Aged 15 years and over.

Never married

The proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who were never married

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

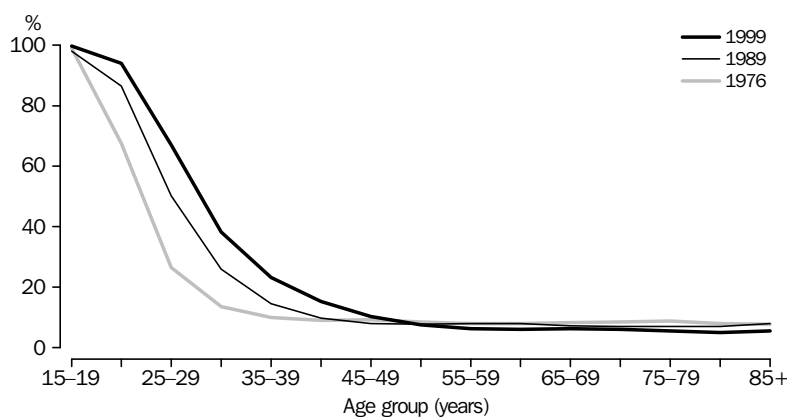
increased from 25% (2,602,900) in 1976 to 32% (4,751,300) in 1999. Contributors to this increase included the increasing incidence of de facto marriages and the delayed age at first marriage. The 1996 Census of Population and Housing showed that about 5.3% of the population was living in de facto marriages and of these people around 65% had never previously been married while a further 24% had previously been divorced. The comparative de facto population at the 1991 Census was 4.5%. The age at first marriage has increased by around 4.6 years for men and 5.2 years for women over the period 1976 to 1999.

For both men and women the increase in the proportion never married between 1976 and 1999, was in the younger ages. For men, the increase was most evident in the 25–29 years age group, which rose from 27% to 67% between 1976 and 1999 followed by the age group 20–24 (67% to 94%, respectively).

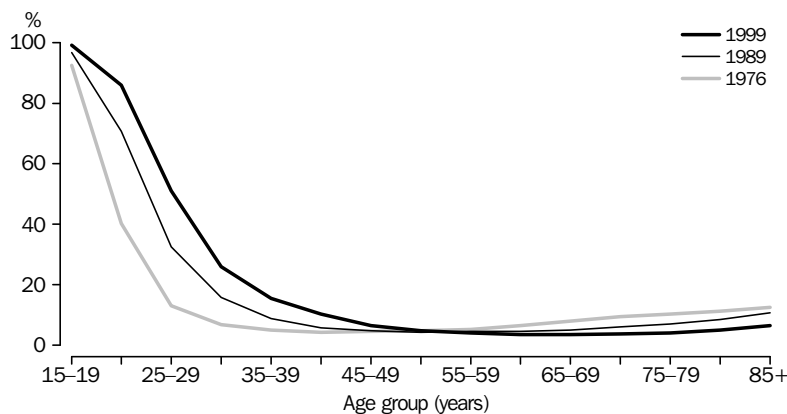
For women, the rise was most evident in the 20–24 years age group having risen from 40% in 1976 to 86% in 1999. The next largest increase was in the age group 25–29 years (up from 13% in 1976 to 51% in 1999).

Between 1976 and 1999, the proportion of never married males and females decreased in each age group after age 50. The largest decreases were in the age groups 75–79 and 80–84 years for males (3 percentage points) and the age group 70–74 years for females (6 percentage points).

NEVER MARRIED ERP, Males—Percentage Distribution



NEVER MARRIED ERP, Females—Percentage Distribution



Currently married

Between 1976 and 1999 the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who were currently married declined from 65% to 55%. This decline accompanied the increase in the never married population.

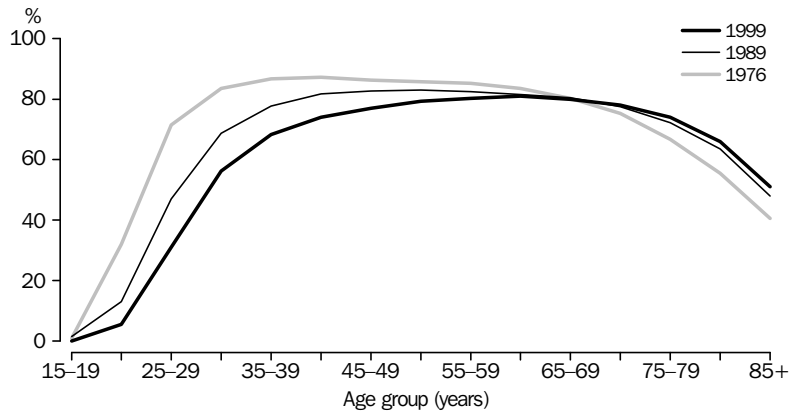
For men, the decline was most apparent in the 25–29 years age group, falling from 72% in 1976 to 31% in 1999. The next largest decline was in the age group 30–34 years falling from 84% to 56%.

The largest decrease for women was in the age group 20–24 years which fell from 59% in 1976 to 13% in 1999 followed by the age group 25–29 years falling from 84% to 45%.

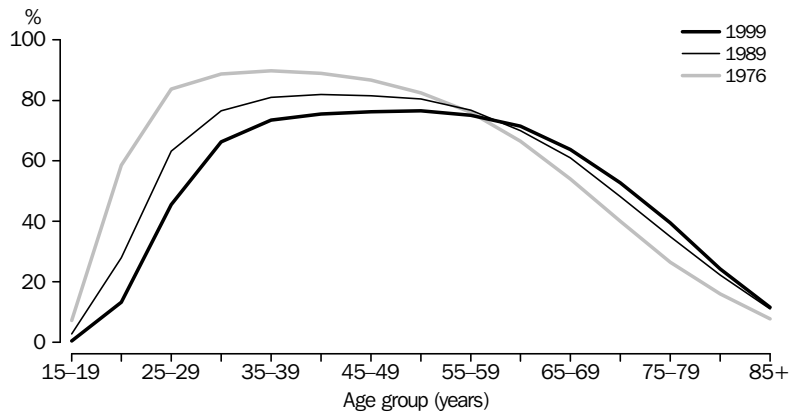
The proportion of men and women who were married increased in the older age groups. For men the increase was evident for all age groups from age 70 years while for women the increase was evident for all age groups from 60 years.

While it is reasonable to expect that the number of married men and married women would be equal this is not the case. At June 1999 there were an estimated 17,100 more married men than married women. Misreporting of marital status at the Census (and the consequent flow on effect on postcensal estimates) may be a cause, for some residents their spouse may be overseas on a long-term basis, and in the case of recently arrived migrants their spouse may not have accompanied them to Australia.

MARRIED ERP, Males—Percentage distribution



MARRIED ERP, Females—Percentage Distribution



Widowed

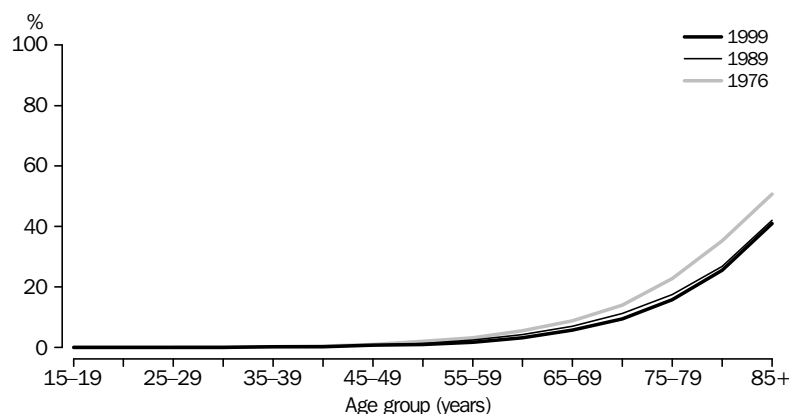
At June 1999 the proportion of men and women, aged 15 years and over, who were widowed was slightly less than at June 1976 having fallen from 6.9% to 6.2%. The most

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

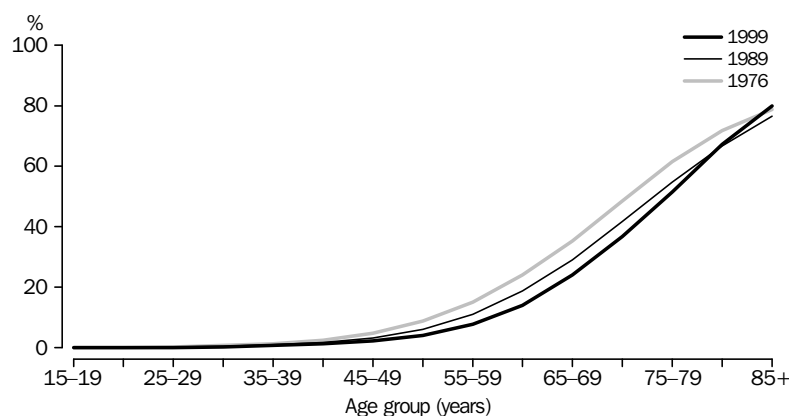
significant change occurred in the older age groups, where improvements in life expectancy over the past two decades led to reductions in the proportions widowed with a corresponding increase in the proportions married. The proportion of widowed men decreased slightly, from 2.6% in 1976 to 2.4% in 1999, while for women the decrease was larger, falling from 11.2% to 9.9% over the same period.

The proportional decreases in the widowed population were evident in all age groups from the age 25 years for males and 20 years for females, with the exception of females in the age group 85 years and over. In nearly all instances, the older the age group the larger the decrease. When 1976 and 1999 were compared men in the 85 years and over age group fell from 51% to 41% followed by the 80–84 years age group (35% to 26%, respectively). For women the largest decrease was in the age group 70–74 years, falling from 48% in 1976 to 37% in 1999 followed by the age group 65–69 years which fell from 35% to 24%, respectively.

WIDOWED ERP, Males—Percentage Distribution



WIDOWED ERP, Females—Percentage Distribution



Divorced

Between 1976 and 1999 the number of divorced people in the population, aged 15 years and over, increased from 233,400 persons (2.3%) to 1,083,500 (7.2%).

The number of divorced men increased from 104,700 to 483,800. This represents an increase in the proportion of divorced men from 2.1% in 1976 to 6.5% in 1999. Similarly, the number of divorced women increased, rising from 128,800 (2.5%) in 1976 to 599,700 (7.9%) in 1999.

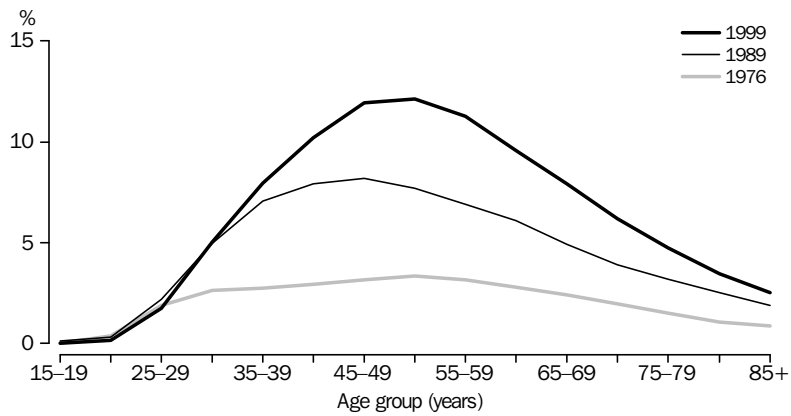
REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER) — ERP
continued

The highest proportion of divorced men and women were in the age groups 45–49 years, (each 16%) followed by the age groups 40–44 and 50–54 (each 15%).

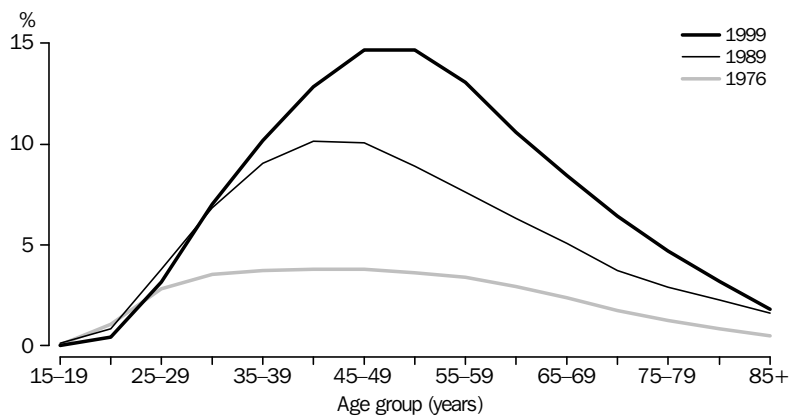
Between 1976 and 1999 the proportion of divorced people increased in all age groups, except the age groups 20–24 years and 25–29 years for men and 15–19 and 20–24 years for women. For these younger age groups, this corresponds to the increase in the proportion who were never married and the decline in the proportion married, i.e. those eligible to divorce.

The largest proportional increases for men were in the age groups 45–49 years and 50–54 years, each group increasing from 3% in 1976 to 12% in 1999. For women the largest proportional increases were in the same age groups as for men (45–49 years and 50–54 years). However, the increases were a little greater, each group increasing from 4% in 1976 to 15% in 1999.

DIVORCED ERP, Males—Percentage Distribution



DIVORCED ERP, Females—Percentage Distribution



SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS (AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER) — 1996 CENSUS

The 1996 Census of Population and Housing counted 13,916,100 persons aged 15 years and over. Of these people around 55% (7,618,200) lived in couple relationships; 49% in registered marriages and 5% in de facto marriages. Additionally, a further 9% were not able to be allocated a social marital status. Not all of those who stated they were 'married' were living with a partner, with 92% having reported themselves as 'married' and living with a partner while the remaining 8% indicated they were 'married' but not living with a partner.

SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS
(AGED 15 YEARS AND
OVER) — 1996 CENSUS
continued

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

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

REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS

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

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Excludes overseas visitors.

(c) Opposite-sex couples.

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

INTERPRETING 1999 ERP
BY MARITAL STATUS

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

Data from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses indicate a slight shift away from traditional forms of partnering to accommodate a growing variety of relationships, i.e. the proportion of registered married couples in couple relationships has decreased while the proportion of de facto married couples has increased. De facto marriages are an increasingly popular choice among young couples as a precursor/alternative to marriage and for older couples as an alternative to a hurried remarriage. De facto couple marriages increased from 8% of all couple relationships at the 1991 Census to 10% at the 1996 Census. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the number of people in de facto marriages in 1999 would have increased.

Assuming the proportions evident from the 1996 Census, it is estimated that of the ERP aged 15 years and over in 1999 (15,044,700 people), around 861,800 people would have formed de facto marriages.

INTERPRETING 1999 ERP BY MARITAL STATUS ESTIMATED DE FACTO MARRIED POPULATION(a), at June 1999

continued

REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Never married</i>	<i>Married and separated</i>	<i>Widowed</i>	<i>Divorced</i>	<i>Total</i>
15-19	23 235	118	2	11	23 366
20-24	144 068	1 588	52	852	146 560
25-29	184 253	6 238	230	10 995	201 716
30-34	105 373	9 235	586	25 876	141 070
35-39	60 359	11 475	1 019	37 468	110 322
40-44	30 095	11 071	1 460	40 282	82 908
45-49	12 902	9 050	1 977	39 514	63 443
50-54	5 637	6 390	2 246	30 531	44 805
55-59	2 257	3 065	1 846	15 598	22 765
60-64	1 128	1 605	1 488	6 927	11 149
65 and over	1 434	2 102	4 104	6 070	13 710
All ages	570 740	61 938	15 012	214 124	861 814

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

6.1

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
1984	1 880 795	3 606 109	142 086	236 303	5 865 293
1989	2 175 659	3 848 059	156 413	297 099	6 477 230
1994	2 335 455	4 029 037	170 035	374 014	6 908 541
1995	2 376 361	4 059 136	171 626	393 097	7 000 220
1996	2 426 008	4 088 018	173 546	415 394	7 102 966
1997	2 486 211	4 104 172	175 133	439 307	7 204 823
1998	r2 549 714	r4 123 807	r176 696	r460 092	r7 310 309
1999	p2 619 019	p4 148 390	p178 184	p483 796	p7 429 389
FEMALES					
1976	1 094 753	3 354 906	576 117	128 760	5 154 536
1984	1 427 908	3 616 861	642 968	290 556	5 978 293
1989	1 708 321	3 862 481	673 685	367 781	6 612 268
1994	1 874 447	4 024 013	720 404	467 296	7 086 160
1995	1 910 194	4 048 275	732 725	492 226	7 183 420
1996	1 956 858	4 073 644	745 527	520 404	7 296 433
1997	2 013 074	4 089 977	748 598	548 138	7 399 787
1998	r2 069 820	r4 108 362	r749 495	r572 600	r7 500 277
1999	p2 132 256	p4 131 275	p752 051	p599 728	p7 615 310
PERSONS					
1976	2 602 949	6 699 257	710 371	233 411	10 245 988
1984	3 308 703	7 222 970	785 054	526 859	11 843 586
1989	3 883 980	7 710 540	830 098	664 880	13 089 498
1994	4 209 902	8 053 050	890 439	841 310	13 994 701
1995	4 286 555	8 107 411	904 351	885 323	14 183 640
1996	4 382 866	8 161 662	919 073	935 798	14 399 399
1997	4 499 285	8 194 149	923 731	987 445	14 604 610
1998	r4 619 534	r8 232 169	r926 191	r1 032 692	r14 810 586
1999	p4 751 275	p8 279 665	p930 235	p1 083 524	p15 044 699

r revised

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

6.2 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 1989										
14 and under	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.00	100.00
15-19	98.10	96.80	1.61	2.91	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.13	100.00	100.00
20-24	86.54	70.83	12.97	28.06	0.17	0.27	0.32	0.83	100.00	100.00
25-29	50.43	32.43	47.17	63.33	0.21	0.43	2.19	3.81	100.00	100.00
30-34	25.97	15.88	68.77	76.62	0.29	0.68	4.97	6.82	100.00	100.00
35-39	14.62	8.80	77.92	81.07	0.38	1.08	7.07	9.05	100.00	100.00
40-44	9.76	5.88	81.75	82.19	0.56	1.81	7.92	10.12	100.00	100.00
45-49	8.21	4.94	82.75	81.63	0.86	3.35	8.18	10.08	100.00	100.00
50-54	7.73	4.44	83.16	80.52	1.42	6.15	7.69	8.89	100.00	100.00
55-59	8.10	4.50	82.48	76.81	2.52	11.07	6.90	7.62	100.00	100.00
60-64	7.99	4.64	81.60	70.21	4.33	18.85	6.08	6.30	100.00	100.00
65-69	7.27	4.97	80.65	60.98	7.14	28.97	4.94	5.07	100.00	100.00
70-74	7.13	6.07	77.62	48.43	11.33	41.78	3.91	3.71	100.00	100.00
75-79	7.08	7.11	72.21	35.20	17.52	54.81	3.19	2.89	100.00	100.00
80-84	7.01	8.64	63.60	22.41	26.86	66.70	2.53	2.25	100.00	100.00
85 and over	8.00	10.73	48.06	11.20	42.05	76.44	1.88	1.63	100.00	100.00
All ages	48.72	41.81	45.88	45.84	1.86	7.99	3.54	4.36	100.00	100.00

.....
 .. not applicable

6.2ESTIMATED 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 1999 (PRELIMINARY)										
14 and under	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.00	100.00
15-19	99.82	99.32	0.16	0.64	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	100.00	100.00
20-24	94.19	86.09	5.61	13.39	0.04	0.09	0.16	0.43	100.00	100.00
25-29	67.13	51.18	31.08	45.46	0.08	0.19	1.72	3.17	100.00	100.00
30-34	38.42	26.15	56.39	66.40	0.15	0.42	5.03	7.02	100.00	100.00
35-39	23.39	15.47	68.42	73.57	0.25	0.77	7.94	10.19	100.00	100.00
40-44	15.36	10.24	74.02	75.59	0.41	1.34	10.21	12.82	100.00	100.00
45-49	10.31	6.71	77.08	76.33	0.70	2.30	11.92	14.66	100.00	100.00
50-54	7.53	4.73	79.26	76.52	1.09	4.06	12.12	14.69	100.00	100.00
55-59	6.45	4.01	80.42	75.16	1.86	7.79	11.27	13.04	100.00	100.00
60-64	6.15	3.61	81.05	71.68	3.21	14.13	9.58	10.59	100.00	100.00
65-69	6.24	3.63	80.11	63.83	5.75	24.08	7.91	8.46	100.00	100.00
70-74	6.04	3.87	78.15	52.84	9.60	36.87	6.21	6.41	100.00	100.00
75-79	5.49	4.21	73.98	39.65	15.80	51.45	4.72	4.68	100.00	100.00
80-84	5.04	5.06	65.94	24.36	25.56	67.40	3.46	3.19	100.00	100.00
85 and over	5.45	6.51	51.07	11.56	40.97	80.11	2.52	1.82	100.00	100.00
All ages	49.05	42.44	43.94	43.37	1.89	7.89	5.12	6.30	100.00	100.00

... not applicable

6.3 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 30 June 1999 (preliminary)

		MALES					FEMALES				
Age (years)		Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
14 and under	no.	2 011 109	..	..	..	2 011 109	1 910 980	..	..	..	1 910 980
15	no.	136 417	5	2	1	136 425	130 356	12	2	1	130 371
16	no.	138 012	26	4	2	138 044	130 915	27	3	1	130 946
17	no.	137 080	36	1	8	137 125	129 778	124	5	1	129 908
18	no.	136 167	357	32	55	136 611	128 732	1 187	64	51	130 034
19	no.	135 246	651	38	44	135 979	125 825	2 816	40	56	128 737
20	no.	135 345	1 611	39	65	137 060	124 239	5 723	69	97	130 128
21	no.	133 727	3 240	47	91	137 105	120 923	10 032	84	195	131 234
22	no.	132 039	6 046	58	145	138 288	117 059	15 780	131	413	133 383
23	no.	128 179	10 876	69	283	139 407	109 143	23 814	119	817	133 893
24	no.	124 872	17 220	87	499	142 678	102 353	33 887	165	1 357	137 762
25	no.	117 030	25 865	80	892	143 867	92 919	44 264	181	2 181	139 545
26	no.	109 856	36 155	100	1 508	147 619	84 541	57 025	222	3 329	145 117
27	no.	101 816	47 650	106	2 476	152 048	76 586	69 888	303	4 781	151 558
28	no.	92 782	57 911	147	3 468	154 308	67 873	80 484	298	5 959	154 614
29	no.	77 437	63 391	137	4 403	145 368	54 893	83 079	369	7 086	145 427
30	no.	68 051	70 400	155	5 357	143 963	47 351	88 437	451	8 097	144 336
31	no.	59 047	74 916	185	6 273	140 421	40 451	90 689	490	8 990	140 620
32	no.	52 117	78 694	226	7 028	138 065	35 795	92 628	605	9 790	138 818
33	no.	47 864	83 895	262	7 889	139 910	31 960	97 357	695	10 832	140 844
34	no.	43 572	89 382	245	8 919	142 118	29 547	100 923	767	12 002	143 239
35	no.	41 550	96 127	302	10 303	148 282	27 550	106 635	900	13 737	148 822
36	no.	37 944	101 175	347	11 247	150 713	25 243	110 362	1 020	14 602	151 227
37	no.	34 822	103 916	382	11 956	151 076	23 265	111 401	1 156	15 508	151 330
38	no.	32 702	107 207	404	12 921	153 234	21 523	113 879	1 345	16 441	153 188
39	no.	28 897	106 241	464	13 269	148 871	19 181	113 083	1 397	16 622	150 283
40	no.	25 736	105 836	461	13 650	145 683	17 606	109 418	1 573	17 317	145 914
41	no.	23 775	105 659	519	14 159	144 112	15 697	110 047	1 707	17 872	145 323
42	no.	21 731	105 082	584	14 411	141 808	14 279	107 394	1 898	18 212	141 783
43	no.	20 051	104 967	650	14 900	140 568	13 297	106 195	2 135	18 735	140 362
44	no.	17 583	103 046	674	15 241	136 544	11 995	104 833	2 238	19 116	138 182
45	no.	16 391	104 515	768	15 456	137 130	10 911	105 362	2 543	19 671	138 487
46	no.	14 945	103 912	874	15 985	135 716	9 683	103 794	2 769	19 733	135 979
47	no.	13 095	100 405	901	15 659	130 060	8 586	98 704	2 952	19 027	129 269
48	no.	12 634	102 190	1 001	16 048	131 873	8 142	100 159	3 307	19 566	131 174
49	no.	11 499	101 700	1 097	16 110	130 406	7 190	98 371	3 705	19 237	128 503
50	no.	10 350	100 110	1 170	15 570	127 200	6 545	95 135	3 968	18 692	124 340
51	no.	10 136	102 807	1 269	15 940	130 152	6 156	97 217	4 521	18 565	126 459
52	no.	9 849	106 821	1 364	16 285	134 319	5 971	98 964	4 980	18 799	128 714
53	no.	8 117	88 391	1 419	13 620	111 547	4 775	81 928	5 096	15 729	107 528
54	no.	7 638	87 264	1 480	12 843	109 225	4 583	80 201	5 510	15 267	105 561
55	no.	7 049	83 882	1 561	12 211	104 703	4 234	76 813	5 996	14 040	101 083
56	no.	6 154	76 246	1 617	10 959	94 976	3 730	69 226	6 338	12 391	91 685
57	no.	5 882	74 357	1 719	10 514	92 472	3 545	67 309	6 857	11 554	89 265
58	no.	5 627	71 521	1 834	9 736	88 718	3 410	64 215	7 523	10 887	86 035
59	no.	5 396	69 210	1 943	9 142	85 691	3 165	61 336	8 414	9 923	82 838
60	no.	4 859	66 326	2 051	8 417	81 653	3 023	59 019	8 984	9 151	80 177
61	no.	5 031	64 039	2 269	7 844	79 183	2 820	57 568	9 700	8 768	78 856
62	no.	4 659	62 380	2 531	7 406	76 976	2 724	54 842	10 652	7 905	76 123
63	no.	4 625	58 443	2 605	6 642	72 315	2 577	51 404	11 707	7 347	73 035
64	no.	4 109	55 587	2 702	5 959	68 357	2 524	48 746	12 485	6 951	70 706
65	no.	4 010	55 016	3 078	5 860	67 964	2 459	47 029	13 507	6 333	69 328
66	no.	4 031	53 310	3 336	5 439	66 116	2 437	45 408	15 166	6 001	69 012
67	no.	4 133	52 650	3 770	5 121	65 674	2 440	43 198	15 994	5 822	67 454

.. not applicable

6.3 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 30 June 1999 (preliminary) *continued*

MALES							FEMALES				
Age (years)		Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
68	no.	4 371	53 928	4 316	5 179	67 794	2 654	44 444	18 889	5 821	71 808
69	no.	4 158	50 915	4 567	4 632	64 272	2 587	40 931	19 813	5 300	68 631
70	no.	3 856	49 894	4 888	4 344	62 982	2 529	38 798	21 484	4 878	67 689
71	no.	3 894	47 798	5 152	3 947	60 791	2 515	37 894	22 739	4 513	67 661
72	no.	3 528	45 653	5 683	3 562	58 426	2 520	34 895	24 170	4 235	65 820
73	no.	3 345	43 761	5 974	3 299	56 379	2 664	33 184	26 320	3 964	66 132
74	no.	2 882	39 298	6 104	2 849	51 133	2 517	29 175	26 652	3 524	61 868
75	no.	2 778	37 354	6 589	2 568	49 289	2 540	27 775	28 382	3 238	61 935
76	no.	2 520	34 390	6 682	2 233	45 825	2 494	24 795	29 019	3 009	59 317
77	no.	2 398	31 943	6 838	2 055	43 234	2 418	22 547	29 661	2 624	57 250
78	no.	2 206	29 266	6 906	1 769	40 147	2 354	20 247	29 741	2 418	54 760
79	no.	1 811	24 776	6 676	1 437	34 700	2 086	16 563	28 424	1 932	49 005
80	no.	1 382	18 148	5 762	1 010	26 302	1 897	11 461	24 224	1 435	39 017
81	no.	1 237	16 441	5 787	901	24 366	1 863	10 058	24 835	1 251	38 007
82	no.	1 118	14 791	5 829	767	22 505	1 750	8 695	24 338	1 126	35 909
83	no.	1 002	12 615	5 570	651	19 838	1 843	7 324	23 889	1 016	34 072
84	no.	826	10 869	5 299	497	17 491	1 654	5 841	22 743	848	31 086
85 and over	no.	4 041	37 885	30 396	1 867	74 189	10 866	19 277	133 622	3 039	166 804
14 and under	no.	2 011 109	..	..	..	2 011 109	1 910 980	..	..	..	1 910 980
15-19	no.	682 922	1 075	77	110	684 184	645 606	4 166	114	110	649 996
20-24	no.	654 162	38 993	300	1 083	694 538	573 717	89 236	568	2 879	666 400
25-29	no.	498 921	230 972	570	12 747	743 210	376 812	334 740	1 373	23 336	736 261
30-34	no.	270 651	397 287	1 073	35 466	704 477	185 104	470 034	3 008	49 711	707 857
35-39	no.	175 915	514 666	1 899	59 696	752 176	116 762	555 360	5 818	76 910	754 850
40-44	no.	108 876	524 590	2 888	72 361	708 715	72 874	537 887	9 551	91 252	711 564
45-49	no.	68 564	512 722	4 641	79 258	665 185	44 512	506 390	15 276	97 234	663 412
50-54	no.	46 090	485 393	6 702	74 258	612 443	28 030	453 445	24 075	87 052	592 602
55-59	no.	30 108	375 216	8 674	52 562	466 560	18 084	338 899	35 128	58 795	450 906
60-64	no.	23 283	306 775	12 158	36 268	378 484	13 668	271 579	53 528	40 122	378 897
65-69	no.	20 703	265 819	19 067	26 231	331 820	12 577	221 010	83 369	29 277	346 233
70-74	no.	17 505	226 404	27 801	18 001	289 711	12 745	173 946	121 365	21 114	329 170
75-79	no.	11 713	157 729	33 691	10 062	213 195	11 892	111 927	145 227	13 221	282 267
80-84	no.	5 565	72 864	28 247	3 826	110 502	9 007	43 379	120 029	5 676	178 091
85 and over	no.	4 041	37 885	30 396	1 867	74 189	10 866	19 277	133 622	3 039	166 804
Total	no.	4 630 128	4 148 390	178 184	483 796	9 440 498	4 043 236	4 131 275	752 051	599 728	9 526 290
Median age	years	17.2	48.6	75.5	48.8	34.2	15.8	45.7	75.8	47.9	35.6

.. not applicable

6.4 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (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.(c)</i>
1979	5 110 477	3 886 929	2 215 258	1 301 239	1 246 800	420 741	114 178	220 888	14 516 510
1984	5 402 916	4 076 346	2 524 646	1 359 594	1 391 775	437 572	142 294	244 850	15 579 993
1989	5 777 440	4 321 493	2 826 309	1 419 190	1 578 633	455 396	161 324	276 628	16 816 413
1994	6 060 190	4 487 570	3 187 113	1 466 138	1 703 009	472 939	173 375	301 486	17 854 738
1995	6 126 981	4 517 387	3 265 109	1 469 429	1 733 787	473 673	177 552	304 805	18 071 758
1996	6 204 728	4 560 155	3 338 690	1 474 253	1 765 256	474 443	181 843	308 251	18 310 714
1997	6 272 784	4 605 210	3 397 071	1 479 680	1 797 870	473 478	186 907	308 011	18 524 155
1998	r6 333 515	r4 654 937	r3 453 477	r1 486 418	r1 829 145	r471 700	r189 937	r308 057	r18 730 359
1999	p6 411 680	p4 712 173	p3 512 356	p1 493 074	p1 861 016	p470 261	p192 882	p310 173	p18 966 788

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 27 of the Explanatory Notes.

INTRODUCTION

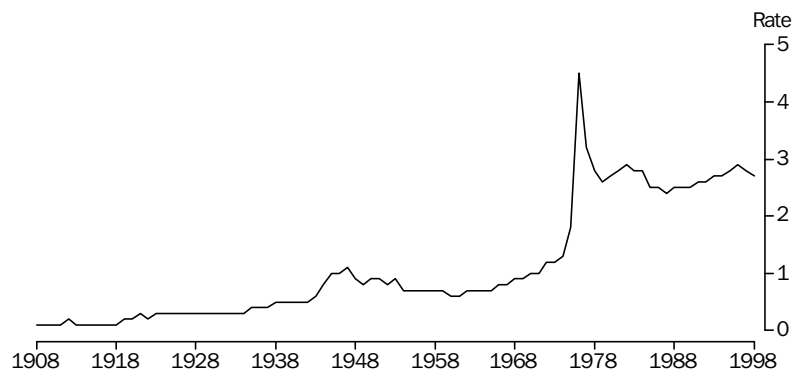
Throughout the twentieth century the incidence of divorce increased substantially, with the annual divorce rate rising from 0.1 divorces per 1,000 population in the early 1900s, to around 2.7 per 1,000 population in the 1990s. Previous research indicates that a number of sociodemographic variables, such as age at marriage, age left school, religion and country of birth of each partner are related to the risk of divorce (Carmichael, 1988; Jones, 1994; Roden, 1989)

This article examines the country of birth specific divorce rates of major birthplace groups within Australia. Divorces for 1996, by the countries of birth of the parties involved, are examined in relation to the number of couples in Australia, by birthplace of the partners. In this way, divorce rates by country of birth of the applicants are calculated using the population 'at risk' of experiencing those divorces.

TRENDS IN DIVORCE

Prior to 1976 the divorce rate rose gradually, marked by a temporary rise around 1947 attributed to the failure of hasty marriages entered into just before and during World War 2 (Roden, 1989). The *Family Law Act 1975* recognised the irretrievable breakdown of marriage as the single ground for divorce, eliminating all concepts of marital wrong doing. A large increase in the divorce rate in 1976 reflected the introduction of this Act. Over the past 20 years the divorce rate fluctuated, generally showing a slight upwards trend.

CRUDE DIVORCE RATE(a)



(a) Per 1,000 population

Divorce rates for the currently married population compare the number of divorces granted with the population 'at risk' of experiencing divorce, that is, men and women currently in a registered marriage. The divorce rates for the currently married population have declined since the peak in 1976, but in 1999 remained higher than rates recorded a decade ago.

TRENDS IN DIVORCE RATES(a), Married Population

DIVORCE *continued*

Selected years	Men	Women
	rate	rate
1976(b)	18.9	18.8
1984	11.9	11.9
1989	10.8	10.7
1990	10.9	10.9
1991	11.6	11.5
1992	11.5	11.5
1993	12.1	12.1
1994	12.0	12.0
1995	12.2	12.3
1996	12.8	12.9
1997	12.5	12.5
1998	12.4	12.4
1999	12.7	12.7

- (a) Per 1,000 currently married men or women.
- (b) *Family Law Act* introduced.

BIRTHPLACE OF PARTIES DIVORCING

In 1996, 52,500 divorces were registered in Australia. Of these, 56% were couples where both parties were born in Australia, 14% were couples where both partners were born in the same overseas country and 30% were couples where partners were born in a different country. Of all divorces, 6% involved partners born in different overseas countries. Relatively more divorces (13%) occurred when the wife was Australian-born and the husband overseas-born, compared with divorces where the husband was Australian-born and the wife overseas-born (11%). These proportions have remained relatively steady throughout the 1990s.

Nearly 68% (71,300) of people divorcing in 1996 were born in Australia, 9% (9,600) were born in the United Kingdom, and 3% (2,700) were born in New Zealand. The divorce rates for these country of birth groups depend upon the number of married couples from these countries within the total Australian population.

DIVORCES, Birthplace of Parties—1996

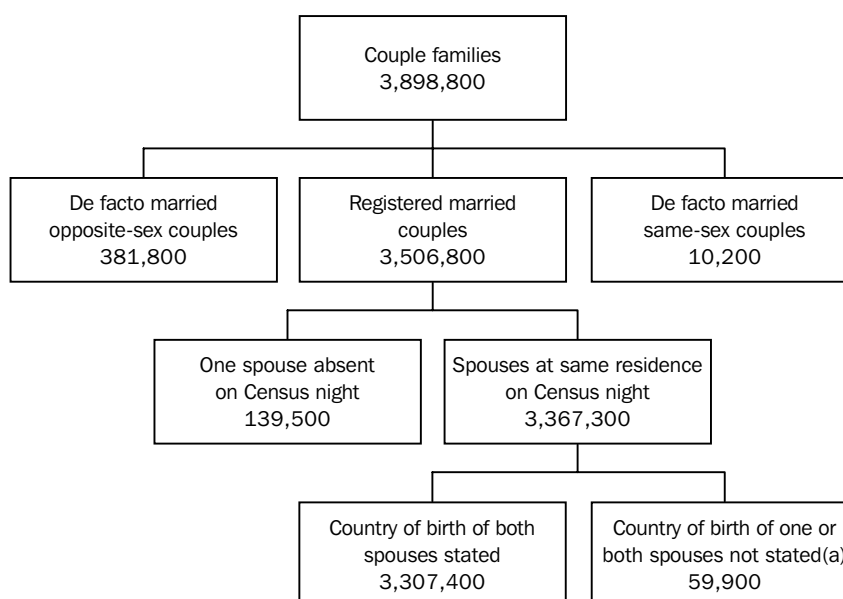
Country of birth	HUSBAND BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND WIFE BORN IN				WIFE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND HUSBAND BORN IN			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
Australia	29 369	..	5 536	34 905	29 369	..	6 983	36 352
China (exc SARs and Taiwan Province)	45	693	151	889	101	693	238	1 032
Germany	282	102	170	554	247	102	129	478
Greece	155	157	71	383	55	157	36	248
India	105	116	82	303	49	116	51	216
Italy	303	192	116	611	116	192	87	395
Malaysia	72	57	58	187	94	57	79	230
New Zealand	626	509	223	1 358	526	509	293	1 328
Philippines	29	195	22	246	299	195	201	695
Viet Nam	6	785	122	913	15	785	84	884
United Kingdom	2 901	1 610	662	5 173	2 295	1 610	557	4 462
<i>Total selected overseas countries</i>	4 524	4 416	1 677	10 617	3 797	4 416	1 755	9 968
All countries	36 352	7 218	8 896	52 466	34 905	7 218	10 343	52 466

.. not applicable

MARRIED
COUPLES

The 1996 Census indicated that there were 3,506,800 married couples usually resident in Australia. Of these, the birthplaces of both husband and wife were stated for 3,307,400 couples. The major birthplaces of married partners were Australia (69% of partners), the United Kingdom (9%), Italy (2%), New Zealand (2%) and Greece (1%).

COUPLES, 1996 Census



(a) Includes not stated, inadequately described and at sea.

Adjustment for underestimation

The census count is an underestimate of the resident population of Australia. It requires adjustment for factors such as Census underenumeration, visitors in Australia on Census night and Australian residents temporarily overseas. By comparing the 1996 Census count of people by country of birth with the estimated resident population at June 1996, the percentage population underestimate (including adjustment for the Census counts being on 6 August) was calculated for each major birthplace group.

The census counts of registered married couples were then inflated by the birthplace specific underestimates. As underestimates of specific birthplace combinations are not available, counts of married couples were inflated according to the birthplace of the partners. For example, the Census count of couples with Greek-born husbands was inflated by the percentage underestimate of the Greek-born adult population, regardless of the country of birth of the wife. In a separate matrix, the Census count of couples with Greek-born wives was inflated by the same percentage underestimate, regardless of the country of birth of the husband. This inflation method is an approximation as it assumes that the underestimate of population for each country of birth applies to both partners within couple families. Also, some categories of couples (such as couples in which one or both partners' country of birth were not stated) were excluded from the base population.

Adjustment factors were calculated for both the population aged 15 years and over and the population most likely to experience divorce (aged 15–64 years). As these were very similar, only results using the adjustment to population aged 15 years and over are presented here.

MARRIED COUPLES, Birthplace of Parties—1996(a)

Country of birth	HUSBAND BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND WIFE BORN IN ..				WIFE BORN IN COUNTRY SHOWN AND HUSBAND BORN IN			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
Australia	2 077 168	..	260 851	2 338 019	2 077 168	..	331 244	2 408 412
China (exc SARs and Taiwan Province)	1 427	27 074	6 834	35 335	1 986	27 074	5 994	35 054
Germany	15 455	11 566	8 732	35 753	10 778	11 566	10 705	33 049
Greece	9 400	44 246	3 722	57 368	3 273	44 246	3 243	50 761
India	3 922	17 375	3 924	25 221	3 286	17 375	3 841	24 503
Italy	27 566	71 365	9 007	107 937	8 599	71 365	4 539	84 503
Malaysia	2 785	10 463	3 902	17 149	4 477	10 463	5 070	20 010
New Zealand	26 313	25 466	9 138	60 917	23 777	25 466	10 570	59 813
Philippines	710	14 338	390	15 438	13 524	14 338	8 702	36 563
United Kingdom	148 810	163 861	34 923	347 593	120 162	163 861	29 310	313 333
Viet Nam	300	34 788	2 519	37 607	643	34 788	3 051	38 482
Total selected overseas countries	236 688	420 541	83 091	740 318	190 505	420 542	85 025	696 069
All countries	2 345 418	661 967	415 183	3 422 568	2 277 177	661 967	483 424	3 422 568

.. not applicable

(a) From 1996 Census, both partners country of birth stated, with adjustment for Census undercount, residents temporarily overseas, visitors in Australia and differing date between Census and 30 June 1996.

DIVORCES RATES By relating the number of divorces registered in 1996 with the estimated number of married couples in June 1996, divorce rates were calculated for major birthplace groups within Australia. Generally, divorce rates were lower among couples in which both partners were born in the same country, than couples in which partners were born in different countries.

DIVORCE RATES (a), Birthplace of Parties—1996

<i>Country of birth</i>	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</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Same overseas country</i>	<i>Different overseas country</i>	<i>Total</i>
Australia	14.1	..	21.2	14.9	14.1	..	21.1	15.1
China (exc SARs and Taiwan Province)	31.5	25.6	22.1	25.2	50.8	25.6	39.7	29.4
Germany	18.2	8.8	19.5	15.5	22.9	8.8	12.0	14.5
Greece	16.5	3.5	19.1	6.7	16.8	3.5	11.1	4.9
India	26.8	6.7	20.9	12.0	14.9	6.7	13.3	8.8
Italy	11.0	2.7	12.9	5.7	13.5	2.7	19.2	4.7
Malaysia	25.9	5.4	14.9	10.9	21.0	5.4	15.6	11.5
New Zealand	23.8	20.0	24.4	22.3	22.1	20.0	27.7	22.2
Philippines	40.8	13.6	56.3	15.9	22.1	13.6	23.1	19.0
United Kingdom	19.5	9.8	19.0	14.9	19.1	9.8	19.0	14.2
Viet Nam	20.0	22.6	48.4	24.3	23.3	22.6	27.5	23.0
<i>Total selected overseas countries</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>19.9</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>20.6</i>	<i>14.3</i>
All countries	15.5	10.9	21.4	15.3	15.3	10.9	21.4	15.3

.. not applicable

(a) Per 1,000 estimated married couples.

Country specific rates Overall, 15 per 1,000 married couples were granted divorce in Australia in 1996. The divorce rate varied according to whether both partners were born in the same overseas country (11), either or both partners were born in Australia (15), or partners were born in different overseas countries (21). Divorce rates varied considerably for the birthplace groups within each of these three groups of divorcing couples. Couples where at least one partner was born in China, Viet Nam, New Zealand or the Philippines had higher divorce rates than couples in which one or both partners were born in other countries. For each country of birth the highest and the lowest divorce rates occurred for the following combination of partners:

DIVORCE RATES (a), Country of Birth—1996

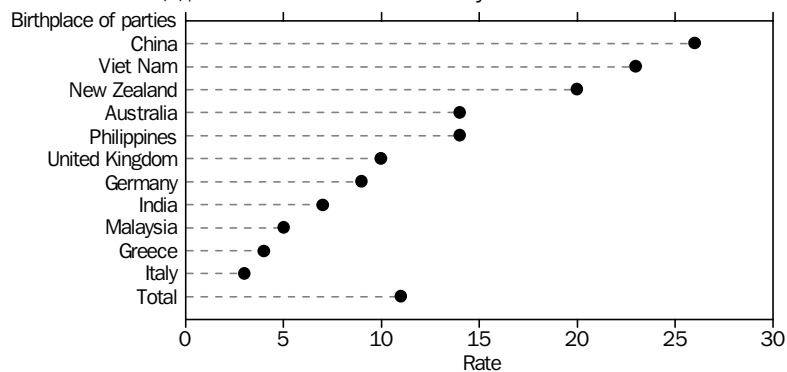
HIGHEST DIVORCES		LOWEST DIVORCES		
Country of birth of one partner	Country of birth of other partner	Rate(a)	Country of birth of other partner	Rate(a)
Australia	Wife born in overseas country	21.2	Born in the same country	14.1
China (exc SARs & Taiwan Province)	Husband born in Australia	50.8	Wife born in different overseas country	22.1
Germany	Husband born in Australia	22.9	Born in the same country	8.8
Greece	Wife born in different overseas country	19.1	Born in the same country	3.5
India	Wife born in Australia	26.8	Born in the same country	6.7
Italy	Husband born in different overseas country	19.2	Born in the same country	2.7
Malaysia	Wife born in Australia	25.9	Born in the same country	5.4
New Zealand	Husband born in different overseas country	27.7	Born in the same country	20.0
Philippines	Wife born in different overseas country	56.3	Born in the same country	13.6
United Kingdom	Wife born in Australia	19.5	Born in the same country	9.8
Viet Nam	Wife born in different overseas country	48.4	Wife born in Australia	20.0
Total selected overseas countries	Husband born in different overseas country	20.6	Born in the same country	10.5
All countries	Born in different overseas country	21.4	Born in the same overseas country	10.9

(a) Per 1,000 estimated married couples.

Partners born in the same country

Of the countries selected, high divorce rates were experienced among couples in which both husband and wife were born in China (26 per 1,000 couples), Viet Nam (23) and New Zealand (20). Low divorce rates were experienced by couples in which both husband and wife were born in Italy (3), Greece (4) and Malaysia (5). These differences may be due to 'ethnic group norms about the legitimacy of divorce as a response to marital disharmony' (Jones, 1994).

DIVORCE RATES(a), Partners Born in Same Country—1996



(a) Per 1,000 married couples.

Partners born in different overseas countries

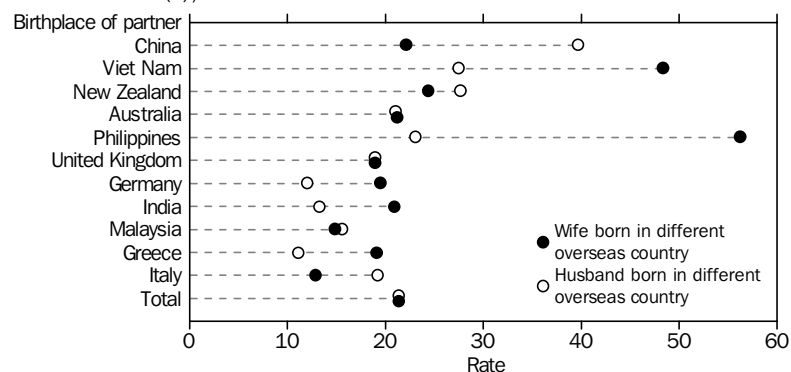
Among couples with partners born in different overseas countries, highest divorce rates were among Philippines and Vietnamese-born husbands married to wives from another overseas country (56 and 48 per 1,000 married couples respectively), and Chinese-born wives married to husbands from another overseas country (40).

Lowest divorce rates were among Greek and German-born wives married to husbands from another overseas country (11 and 12 respectively) and Italian-born husbands married to wives from another overseas country (13).

DIVORCES RATES

continued

DIVORCE RATES(a), Partners Born in Different Overseas Countries—1996



(a) Per 1,000 married couples.

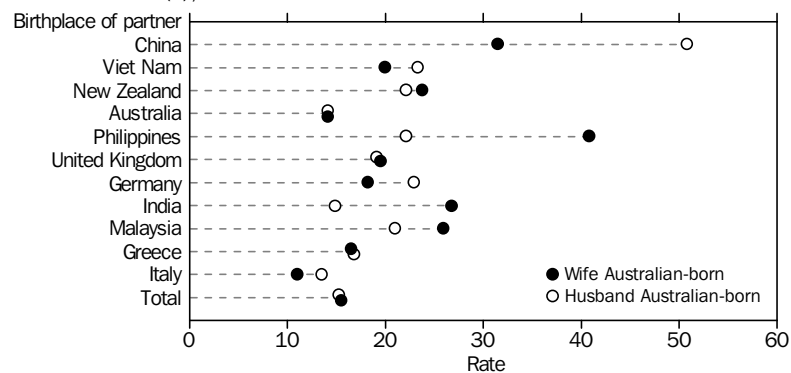
Couples with one Australian-born partner

While overall overseas-born people married to Australian-born partners had a lower divorce rate than overseas-born people married to partners born in a different overseas country, this differed by birthplace. For example, husbands born in Italy, Greece and Germany had lower divorce rates if their wife was Australian-born than if their wife was born in another country different to themselves. On the other hand, husbands born in China, India and Malaysia had higher divorce rates if their wife was Australian-born.

For wives, those born in New Zealand, Italy, and Vietnam had lower divorce rates if their husband was Australian-born than if their husband was born in a different overseas country. Those born in China, Greece, Germany and Malaysia had higher rates if their husband was Australian-born.

Among a number of the selected birthplace groups, large differences in the divorce rate were evident depending on the sex of the Australian-born partner. Philippines-born men married to Australian-born women had a divorce rate of 41 per 1,000 couples, while Philippines-born women married to Australian-born men had a divorce rate of 22. Similarly, the divorce rate was higher among Indian-born men married to Australian-born women (27) than Indian-born women married to Australian-born men (15). The reverse was true for Chinese–Australian couples. Chinese-born men married to Australian-born women had a divorce rate of 32, while Chinese-born women married to Australian-born men had a divorce rate of 51.

DIVORCE RATES(a), One Partner Born in Australia—1996



(a) Per 1,000 married couples.

LIMITATIONS

The analysis in this article is restricted to 1996 divorces due to the availability of 'couples' data from the 1996 Census, which formed the denominator of the rates presented. No such estimates are available for post-censal years.

This analysis does not include explicit analysis of couples' age and duration of residence in Australia, which may be influencing factors for divorce. Also, the analysis is confined to first generation migrants. Research indicates that the marriage patterns of first, second and third generation migrants differ (see 'Cultural diversity within marriages' *Australian Social Trends, 2000* (Cat. no. 4102.0)), and corresponding differences in divorce patterns are also possible.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 20 years, the annual number of divorces in Australia has varied between around 40,000 and 50,000. Divorces, which peaked dramatically in the years immediately following the *Family Law Act 1975*, soon stabilised once the backlog of applications was processed under the new 'no fault' legislation. A gradual upward trend in divorce has been evident since the mid-1980s.

Divorce trends in Australia from the 1960s to the mid-1990s were analysed in an earlier issue of this publication (see 'How Many Marriages End in Divorce?' in *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1994* (Cat. no. 3310.0)). This article updates the previous article with more recent data and focuses on divorce trends by age at marriage (see section below on Measuring Divorce for the method used).

This article examines divorces from registered marriages. In 1999, it is estimated that around 61% (9 million) of the Australian population, aged 15 years and over, lived in a social marriage. About 55% lived in a registered marriage and 6% lived in a de facto marriage. While important, the analysis of trends in separations from de facto marriages cannot be undertaken due to the lack of available data.

DIVORCE TRENDS

Assuming 1999 divorce rates hold in the future, around 9% of all marriages would end in divorce by five years of marriage, 20% by ten years, 35% by twenty years and 42% by thirty years. In total, 46% of marriages would end in divorce over all years of marriage.

Expected rates of divorce have shown a gradual upward trend since the late 1970s. In 1979, 36% of marriages were expected to end in divorce by thirty years of marriage compared with 42% according to divorces in 1999 (see section on Divorce Expectations below).

DIVORCE EXPECTATIONS, Cumulative Rates for Total Marriages

.....

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS) .

	5	10	15	20	25	30	40	50
<i>Year of divorce</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1979	7.2	16.3	22.7	28.1	32.6	35.7	38.8	39.7
1984	8.0	18.6	25.7	31.2	35.8	38.8	41.8	42.8
1989	7.5	17.5	23.9	28.6	32.5	35.2	37.7	38.4
1994	8.2	19.1	26.7	32.0	36.3	39.4	42.2	42.9
1995	8.3	19.5	27.1	32.7	37.1	40.3	43.2	44.1
1996	8.8	20.8	28.8	34.7	39.4	42.7	45.8	46.9
1997	8.9	20.4	28.1	34.0	38.3	41.5	44.4	45.3
1998	8.7	20.2	28.2	34.1	38.6	41.8	44.8	45.7
1999	8.6	20.4	28.5	34.6	39.1	42.3	45.3	46.2

.....

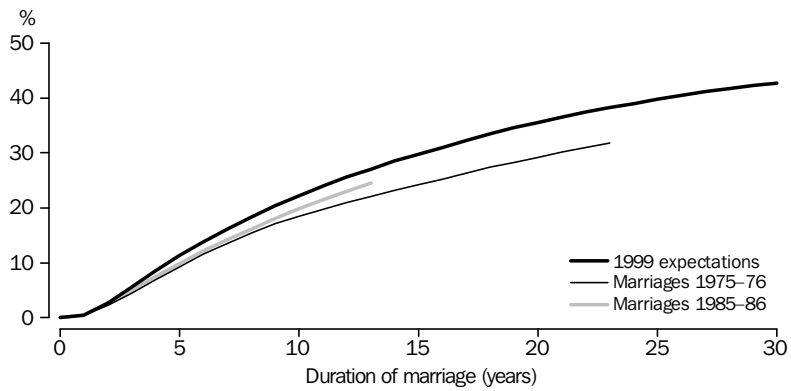
DIVORCE TRENDS *continued*

Divorce rates experienced by couples who married in the same year (marriage cohorts) closely align with these divorce expectations although they also reflect the effects of the gradual rise in divorce rates over time.

For people who married in 1975–76, divorce rates had reached 7% by five years of marriage (compared with 9% expected rates for 1999 divorces). They had reached 17% by ten years of marriage and 28% by twenty years of marriage (compared with 1999 expected rates of 20% and 35%, respectively).

Divorce rates among people who married from the mid-1980s onward have risen even closer to or already reached 1999 expectations. Divorce rates of 20% by ten years of marriage have been recorded for marriage cohorts since 1988–89 (see section on Observed Divorce Rates below).

**DIVORCE EXPECTATIONS AND OBSERVED DIVORCE RATES,
Cumulative Rates for Total Marriages**

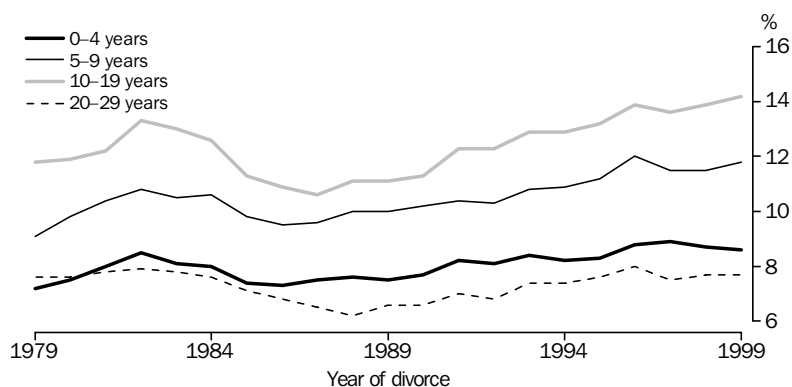


DIVORCE EXPECTATIONS

The proportion of marriages likely to end in divorce during the first five years of marriage rose from 7% in 1979 to 9% in 1999. Over the same period, the proportion of marriages likely to end in divorce during 5–9 years of marriage rose from 9% to 12% and during 10–19 years of marriage it rose from 12% to 14%. The likelihood of divorce at 20–29 years of marriage remained constant at around 8%.

Divorce expectations (synthetic divorce rates) answer the question, ‘What proportion of marriages are likely to end in divorce?’ They are calculated from divorces recorded in a particular year. They refer, however, to the expectation of divorce across the whole duration of marriage. In a similar way the total fertility rate is calculated from births recorded in one year to provide a measure of the number of births a woman could expect to have during her lifetime.

DIVORCE EXPECTATIONS

*continued*DIVORCE EXPECTATIONS AT SELECTED MARRIAGE DURATION INTERVALS,
Rates for Total Marriages

In general, people who marry at young ages are likely to have higher rates of divorce than those who marry at older ages. Men are more likely to divorce than women who marry at the same age.

The highest rates of divorce are likely among people who marry aged under 20 years (where over 70% of men and 50% of women are likely to divorce by ten years of marriage) followed by those who marry aged 20–24 years (where around 25% of men and women are likely to divorce by ten years of marriage).

Divorce among people married aged under 25 years has a significant impact on divorce rates overall. The likelihood that people who marry aged 25 years and over will divorce is lower across nearly all years of marriage than the corresponding rates for total marriages.

Compared to rates for people who marry in their late twenties or early thirties, there are slight rises in the likelihood of divorce for people who marry aged between 35 and 50 years. The likelihood of divorce by ten years of marriage for men who marry aged 45–49 years was 20% compared with 17% for men who marry aged 30–34 years. A similar pattern was evident for women.

Previous studies have shown that divorce rates among people who remarry following divorce are higher than among those who marry for the first time (Carmichael, et al, 1996). Unfortunately, data to analyse the different patterns of divorce among first and subsequent marriages are no longer available. The Family Court of Australia ceased collecting this information from 1995.

DIVORCE EXPECTATIONS
continued

DIVORCE EXPECTATIONS, By Age at Marriage—1999

DURATION OF MARRIAGE (YEARS)

Age at marriage (years)	5	10	15	20	25	30	40	50
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES								
15–19	33.3	72.7	96.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
20–24	12.2	28.6	38.2	45.2	50.3	53.8	57.3	58.4
25–29	7.9	19.1	26.8	32.5	36.7	39.5	41.9	42.6
30–34	7.0	17.1	24.6	30.4	34.5	37.3	39.3	39.5
35–39	7.8	18.4	26.4	32.0	35.9	38.2	40.3	40.3
40–44	7.6	18.1	26.2	31.0	34.2	35.5	36.3	36.3
45–49	9.2	19.6	26.5	30.7	33.1	34.4	34.7	34.7
50 and over	7.8	15.9	20.4	23.6	25.8	26.0	26.0	26.0
Total	8.6	20.4	28.5	34.6	39.1	42.3	45.3	46.2
FEMALES								
15–19	23.9	54.4	70.6	80.6	87.2	91.5	95.7	96.9
20–24	10.8	24.8	33.0	38.9	43.1	46.0	48.7	49.6
25–29	6.8	16.6	24.0	29.5	33.7	36.2	38.7	39.1
30–34	6.5	16.1	23.3	28.9	32.3	34.8	36.8	36.8
35–39	8.2	19.1	26.3	30.5	33.9	35.3	36.7	36.8
40–44	9.2	18.6	24.0	27.5	29.3	30.1	31.1	31.1
45–49	6.5	14.6	20.2	23.1	24.4	25.5	25.6	25.6
50 and over	6.4	12.9	15.9	18.2	19.5	19.9	19.9	19.9
Total	8.6	20.4	28.5	34.6	39.1	42.3	45.3	46.2

OBSERVED DIVORCE RATES

Observed divorce rates answer the question 'What proportion of marriages from a particular year have already ended in divorce?' Observed divorce rates are calculated from the progressive record of divorce from the group of people who married in the same year. Each of these marriage cohorts¹ reached a different length of marriage in 1999. People who married in the early 1970s reached almost thirty years of marriage while those who married in the early 1990s have yet to reach ten years of marriage.

Rates of divorce among these groups reflect the gradual upward trend in divorce over the last 25 years. The proportion of people who had divorced by five years of marriage rose from 7% of those who married in 1975–76 to 9% of those who married in 1993–94. The proportion of people who had divorced by ten years of marriage rose from 17% of people who married in 1975–76 to 20% of people who married in 1989–90.

1 The 'marriage cohort' reflects marriages that were registered in Australia, whereas the divorces are to people some of whom may or may not have been married in Australia.

OBSERVED DIVORCE
RATES *continued*

OBSERVED DIVORCE RATES, Cumulative Rates for Total Marriages

DURATION OF
MARRIAGE (YEARS)

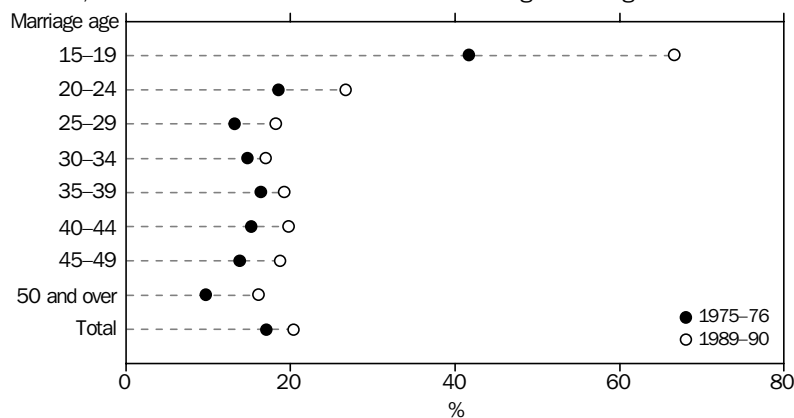
Year of marriage	5	10	15	20	24
	%	%	%	%	%
1975-76	6.9	17.1	23.2	28.3	31.9
1980-81	7.7	17.7	25.2	..	..
1985-86	7.5	18.1	..	..	..
1986-87	7.6	18.7	..	..	..
1987-88	7.9	19.0	..	..	..
1988-89	8.6	19.8	..	..	..
1989-90	8.6	20.4	..	..	..
1990-91	8.3	..	..	..	..
1994-95	8.8	..	..	..	..

.. not applicable

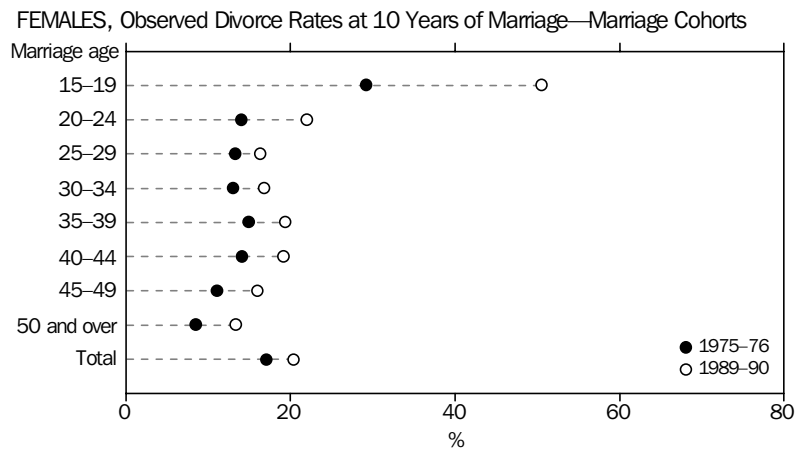
Rises in divorce rates were observed for each age group at marriage, with strong rises for both men and women aged 15-19 and 20-24 years at marriage.

There were also quite significant rises in divorce rates for people aged 50 and over at marriage. By ten years of marriage, 10% of men and 9% of women who married at this age in 1975-76 had divorced. For people who married in 1989-90, the corresponding rates had risen to 16% and 13%, respectively.

MALES, Observed Divorce Rates at 10 Years of Marriage—Marriage Cohorts



OBSERVED DIVORCE RATES *continued*



MEASURING DIVORCE

Reduced events analysis was used to obtain the estimates in this article. It has been a standard technique for investigating divorce in Australia since the mid-1980s. The analysis presented above was based on marriage registrations from 1920 to 1999 and divorce registrations from 1977 to 1999. Marriage cohorts by age at marriage were adjusted annually to account for overseas migration and deaths, but not for depletion due to divorce. Divorce proportions were calculated by comparing divorces (by duration of marriage and age at marriage) with the adjusted marriage cohort. Synthetic cumulative divorce rates were derived by summing divorce proportions for a given year of divorce. The corresponding real rates were obtained by summing the relevant proportions across time for a given marriage cohort. (For further details see 'Divorce Rates by Length of Marriage, 1977-1994', Demography Working Paper No. 1, 1995.)

This method yields higher rates of divorce than those based on multi-dimensional nuptiality tables (see, for example, Krishnamoorthy, 1982). An experimental estimate, based on applying multi-dimensional nuptiality tables to 1995-97 divorces, indicates that only around 32% of marriages will end in divorce over all years of marriage compared with 46% of marriages based on 1999 rates using reduced events analysis.

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

.....

<i>Registration year</i>	<i>%</i>
1989	96.0
1990	94.7
1991	93.9
1992	94.7
1993	96.1
1994	97.5
1995	96.9
1996	96.4
1997	94.4
1998	95.1
1999	95.7

DIVORCES

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

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

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

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

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

Statistics

12 The divorce statistics shown in this publication relate to calendar years and are compiled by the ABS from information supplied by Family Court Registries in respect of each application which resulted in a decree absolute being granted. Data for finalised divorces are provided to the ABS by the Family Court.

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

DIVORCES *continued*

DIVORCES APPLIED FOR AND GRANTED IN THE SAME YEAR

Year <i>granted</i>	%
1989	71.9
1990	73.1
1991	74.0
1992	73.9
1993	73.1
1994	74.1
1995	74.8
1996	72.7
1997	72.9
1998	75.8
1999	75.0

*State or Territory of usual
residence*

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

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

*State or Territory of
registration*

16 The State classification used in tables 5.14, 5.15 and 5.16 of this publication relates to State of registration which is based on the location of the Family Court where the divorce was granted and registered. These figures can give a biased view of divorces in States and Territories, as explained in the preceding paragraphs. Due to the large number of divorces granted in the Australian Capital Territory to usual residents of another State, the rates for the Australian Capital Territory are not representative of the Australian Capital Territory population.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT
POPULATION (ERP)

17 This publication contains preliminary estimates of the resident population of Australia by marital status, age and sex at 30 June 1999, based on the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. These estimates are preliminary and will be revised when more accurate data for deaths, marriages, divorces and category jumping by marital status become available.

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

ESTIMATED RESIDENT
POPULATION (ERP) *continued**Method of estimation*

19 Australia's population estimates for the period since 1971 are compiled according to the place of usual residence of the population. An explanation of the place of usual residence conceptual basis for population estimates is given in *Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Statistical Concepts Library*, ABS website <URL: <http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

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

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

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

23 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

24 To meet the conflicting demand for accuracy and timeliness there are three estimates of ERP. At the national and State/Territory levels preliminary estimates are available six months after the reference date, revised estimates are available 15 months after the end of the financial year and final estimates after the following census. The estimates in this publication are preliminary for 1999, revised for 1997 and 1998 and final for years prior to 1997.

25 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

26 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

27 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Country of birth

28 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)* (Cat no. 1269.0).

Suppression of small cells

29 For Marriage and Divorce data, cell values less than three have been randomly allocated a value of zero or three to assist in the preservation of confidentiality of information.

Related publications

30 Other ABS publications which may be of interest are:

- *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly
- *Australian Social Trends* (Cat. no. 4102.0) — issued annually
- *Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Statistical Concepts Library*, ABS website <URL: <http://www.abs.gov.au>>
- *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 Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)* (Cat. no. 1269.0) — issued 1998

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

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

Additional statistics available

33 In most cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. Appendix 1 lists characteristics processed by the ABS for marriages registered, divorces granted and ERP. A list of marriages and divorces tables produced annually and additional ERP data available is in Appendix 2. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information.

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 marriage
Number of children under 16 years
Number of previous marriages
Period of residence in Australia if born overseas
Premarriage cohabitation
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 youngest child of the marriage under 18 years
Date of birth of youngest child 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

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

MARRIAGES

Table number	Description
MARR0001	Month and year of marriage and month of registration
MARR0002	Category of celebrant by State or Territory of registration
MARR0003	Relative previous marital status of bridegroom and bride by State or Territory of registration
MARR0004	Relative birthplaces of bridegroom and bride
MARR0005	Relative ages of bridegroom and bride at date of marriage
MARR0006A	Age of bridegroom at date of marriage and previous marital status
MARR0006B	Age of bride at date of marriage and previous marital status
MARR0007	Number of previous marriages and number of children under 16 years
MARR0008	Interval to remarriage by how last marriage terminated for both parties
MARR0009	Age of bridegroom by birthplace of bridegroom
MARR0010	Age of bride by birthplace of bride
MARR0011	Previous marital status by category of celebrant by number of previous marriages

DIVORCES

Table number	Description
DIVR0001	State or Territory of registry by sex of applicant
DIVR0002	Month of outcome by State or Territory
DIVR0003	Ages of husband and wife at date of marriage
DIVR0004	Ages of husband and wife at date of divorce
DIVR0005	Ages of husband and wife at date of final separation
DIVR0006	Birthplace of husband by birthplace of wife
DIVR0009	Age of husband at marriage by duration of marriage
DIVR0010	Age of wife at marriage by duration of marriage
DIVR0011	Age of husband at date of divorce by duration of marriage
DIVR0012	Age of wife at date of divorce by duration of marriage
DIVR0013	Duration of marriage by sex of applicant
DIVR0014	Duration of marriage by number of children under 18 years
DIVR0015	Age of youngest child by duration of marriage
DIVR0016	Age of youngest child by number of children under 18 years

DIVORCES *continued*

DIVR0017	Age of husband at final separation by duration of cohabitation ¹
DIVR0018	Age of wife at final separation by duration of cohabitation ¹
DIVR0019	Month and year of application by month of outcome
DIVR0020	Interval between final separation and filing of application by State and Territory
DIVR0021	Interval between final separation and filing of application by duration of marriage

ESTIMATED RESIDENT
POPULATION (ERP)

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

1 For the purpose of these tables, duration of cohabitation is the interval between date of marriage and date of final separation

APPENDIX 3

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

Divorces by country of birth, edition 1999, p. 113

Divorce in the Nineties, edition 1999, p. 121

Families in Australia, edition 1994, p. 15

How many marriages end in divorce? Recent trends, edition 1994, p. 9

Registered marital status and living arrangements, edition 1997, p. 85

Remarriage trends of divorced people—reproduced from *Australian Social Trends* (1999), edition 1998, p. 70

Trends in de facto partnering—reproduced from *Australian Social Trends* (1995), edition 1995, p. 67

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS
(CAT. NO. 4102.0)

Adoptions, edition 1998, p. 33

Age at first marriage, edition 1997, p. 27

Caring for children after parents separate, edition 1999, p. 42

Child care, edition 1998, p. 38

Child care, edition 1994, p. 47

Children in families, edition 1995, p. 29

Cultural diversity within marriages, edition 2000, p. 52

Families and work, edition 1997, p. 30

Family planning, edition 1998, p. 29

Family support, edition 1995, p. 41

Living with parents, edition 1994, p. 43

Lone fathers with dependent children, edition 1994, p. 40

Looking after the children, edition 1999, p. 39

One-parent families, edition 1997, p. 34

People who live alone, edition 1996, p. 33

People without partners, edition 2000, p. 3

Principal carers and their caring roles, edition 1996, p. 44

Remarriage trends of divorced people, edition 1999, p. 45

Rural families, edition 1998, p. 42

Trends in de facto partnering, edition 1995, p. 38

Trends in fertility, edition 1996, p. 36

Trends in marriage and divorce, edition 1995, 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 and females under 16 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 are excluded from the population.

Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.

Age-specific first marriage rates Because of the different purposes to which they are put, two different populations may be used in the calculation of age-specific first marriage rates:

- Per 1,000 population—this relates the number of first time marriages of men or women registered in the calendar year, by age at marriage, to the estimated resident population in the same age at 30 June. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.
- Per 1,000 never married population—this relates the number of first time marriages of men or women registered in a calendar year, by age at marriage, to the never married population of men or women of the same age at 30 June. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.

Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.

Age-specific marriage rates Because of the different purposes to which they are put, two different populations may be used in the calculation of age-specific marriage rates:

- Per 1,000 population—this relates the number of marriages of men or women registered in a calendar year, by age at marriage, to the estimated resident population in the same age. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.
- Per 1,000 not currently married population—this relates the number of marriages of men or women registered in a calendar year, by age at marriage, to the not currently married population of men or women of the same age at 30 June. Males and females aged under 15 are excluded from the population.

Wherever used, the definition adopted is indicated.

Age-specific remarriage rates Age-specific remarriage rates are the number of remarrying men or women registered in the calendar year, by age at marriage, per 1,000 widowed and divorced estimated resident population of the same sex and age at 30 June. Males and females aged under 15 years are excluded from the population.

Children (divorce collection) Children in the divorce collection are unmarried children of the marriage who were aged under 18 years at the time of application for divorce. Under the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cwlth) these may include (in certain cases) adopted and ex-nuptial children and children from a former marriage. Children who are married or aged 18 years or more are not subject to custody and guardianship orders and are excluded.

Cohabiting couples	Cohabiting couples refer to males and females, both aged at least 15 years, who are in a registered or de facto marriage and are usually resident in the same household.
Crude divorce rate	The crude divorce rate is the number of decrees absolute granted during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. For years prior to 1992, the crude divorce rate was based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year. In the interpretation of this rate, it must be kept in mind that a large and varying proportion of the population used in the denominator is unmarried or is below the minimum age of marriage.
Crude marriage rate	The crude marriage rate is the number of marriages registered during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. For years prior to 1992, the crude marriage rate was based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year. In the interpretation of this rate, it must be kept in mind that a large and varying proportion of the population used in the denominator is below the minimum age of marriage or is already married.
Date of final separation	The date of final separation is the date, given on the application for divorce, from which the period of living apart is calculated for the purpose of establishing grounds for divorce. In determining the date of final separation, a single period of resumed cohabitation of less than three months may be ignored, provided the periods of living apart before and after resumed cohabitation amount to a total of 12 months or more.
Divorce	Decree absolute of dissolution of marriage.
Duration of marriage	Duration of marriage is the interval measured in completed years between the date of marriage and the date of divorce.
Duration of marriage until separation	Duration of marriage until separation is the interval measured in completed years between the date of marriage and the date of separation.
Estimated resident population (ERP)	<p>Estimated resident population (ERP) are estimates of the Australian population obtained by adding to the estimated population at the beginning of each period the components of natural increase (on a usual residence basis) and net overseas migration. For the States and Territories, account is also taken of estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence.</p> <p>Estimates of the resident population are based on adjusted (for underenumeration) census counts by place of usual residence, to which are added the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the Census. Overseas visitors in Australia are excluded from this calculation.</p> <p>After each census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the ERPs at the two respective census dates.</p> <p>The concept of ERP links people to a place of usual residence within Australia. Usual residence is that place where each person has lived or intends to live for six months or more from the reference date for data collection.</p>
First marriage rates	First marriage rates are the number of men or women marrying for the first time during the calendar year, per 1,000 population of never married men or women 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>Social marital status identifies a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she forms a couple relationship with another person based on his/her</p>

Marital status <i>continued</i>	<p>current living arrangements. A couple relationship is based on a consensual union, and is defined as two people usually residing in the same household who share a social, economic and emotional bond usually associated with marriage, and who consider their relationship to be a marriage or a marriage-like union. Under social marital status, a person is classified as either 'married' or 'not married', with further disaggregation of 'married' to distinguish 'registered married' from 'de facto married' persons.</p> <p>Registered marital status refers to formally registered marriages and divorces for which the partners hold a certificate. Registered marital status is a person's relationship status in terms of whether he or she has, or has had, a registered marriage with another person with whom he or she holds, or held, a valid marriage certificate. Accordingly, people are classified as either 'never married', 'married', 'widowed' or 'divorced'.</p>
Marriage	<p>Under the <i>Marriage Act 1961</i> (Cwlth), a marriage may be celebrated by a minister of religion registered as an authorised celebrant, by a district registrar or by other persons authorised by the Attorney-General. Notice of the intended marriage must be given to the celebrant at least one calendar month but within six calendar months before the marriage. A celebrant must transmit an official certificate of the marriage for registration in the State or Territory in which the marriage took place.</p>
Median value	<p>For any distribution, the median value (age, duration, interval) is that value which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the value for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculation.</p>
Remarriage rates	<p>Remarriage rates are the number of remarrying men or women per 1,000 population of widowed and divorced men or women of the same age at 30 June. The rates are separately calculated for widowed or divorced men or women by appropriately adjusting the numerator and denominator of the rates.</p>
State or Territory of registration	<p>State or Territory of registration refers to the State or Territory in which the marriage was registered or the divorce was granted. (For further information about how this affects divorce statistics see paragraphs 14–16 of the Explanatory Notes.)</p>
State or Territory of usual residence	<p>State or Territory of usual residence refers to the State or Territory of usual residence of the population for estimated resident population.</p>
Total first marriage rate	<p>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.</p>
Year of occurrence	<p>Data presented on year of occurrence basis relate to the date the event occurred.</p>
Year of registration	<p>Data presented on year of registration basis relate to the date the event was registered.</p>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ABS 1993, *Australia's Families—Selected Findings from the Survey of Families in Australia, March 1992 to May 1992*, Cat. no. 4418.0.
- ABS 1995, in 'Special article: How Many Marriages End In Divorce?', *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 1994*, Cat. no. 3310.0.
- ABS 1999, *Labour Force Australia June 1999*, Cat. no. 6203.0.
- ABS 2000, 'Cultural diversity within marriages', *Australian Social Trends 2000*, Cat. no. 4102.0.
- Andrews' Report. See Australia, Parliament 1998.
- Australia, Parliament 1998, *To have and to hold*, a report of the inquiry into aspects of family services, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, CanPrint Communications Pty Limited, Parl. Paper 95, Canberra.
- Carmichael, G. 1988, 'Socio-Demographic Correlates of Divorce in New Zealand', *Journal of the Australian Population Association*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp 58–81.
- Carmichael, G., Webster, A. and McDonald, P. 1996, 'Divorce Australian Style', *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*.
- Gigy, L. and Kelly, J. 1992, 'Reasons for divorce: perspectives of divorcing men and women', *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, Vol. 18, No. 1/2, pp 169–187.
- Jones, F. 1994, 'Are marriages that cross ethnic boundaries more likely to end in divorce?', *Journal of the Australian Population Association*, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp 115–132.
- Krishnamoorthy, S. 1982, *Multi-dimensional Life Tables for Australian Women in Genus*, Vol. 38, No. 1-2.
- Le Bourdais Celine, Neill Ghyslaine and Turcotte Pierre, with collaboration of Vachon Nathalie and Archambault Julie, 2000, 'The changing face of conjugal relationships', *Canadian Social Trends*, Cat. no. 11-008, Statistics Canada, Spring 2000, pp 14–17.
- Monier, A. 1998, 'Demographic Situation of Europe, the Developed Countries and Overseas: An Annual Report', *Population—An English Selection*, Vol. X. No. 2, 1998.
- Roden, M. 1989, 'Covariates of divorce in Australia: an analysis using proportional hazard models', *Journal of the Australian Population Association*, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp 145–163.
- Shyrock, H., Siegel, J. and Associates, 1973, *The Methods and Materials of Demography*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington D.C.
- United Nations, 2000, *United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1997*, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistical Office, United Nations, New York.

- Webster, A. 1995, *Divorce rates by length of marriage, Australia, 1977–1994*, Demography Working Paper 95/1.
- Wolcott, I. and Hughes, J. 1999, *Towards understanding the reasons for divorce*, Working Paper No. 20, June 1999. Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

INFORMATION SERVICE

Data which have been published and can be provided within five minutes are free of charge. Our information consultants can also help you to access the full range of ABS information—ABS user-pays services can be tailored to your needs, time frame and budget. Publications may be purchased. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

- PHONE* **1300 135 070**
- EMAIL* **client.services@abs.gov.au**
- FAX* 1300 135 211
- POST* Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney 1041

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

ABS subscription services provide regular, convenient and prompt deliveries of ABS publications and products as they are released. Email delivery of monthly and quarterly publications is available.

- PHONE* 1300 366 323
- EMAIL* subscriptions@abs.gov.au
- FAX* 03 9615 7848
- POST* Subscription Services, ABS, GPO Box 2796Y, Melbourne 3001



2331000001994
ISSN 1322-8692

RRP \$33.00