



PRESS RELEASE

Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2021

Increase in Number of Marriages

1. The number of marriages registered in 2021 increased with the easing of COVID-19 safe management measures. This contrasts with the dip in 2020 when marriage plans for some were disrupted due to the pandemic. According to the “Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2021” publication released by the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS), a total of 28,329 civil and Muslim marriages were registered in 2021, 25.1 per cent higher than the 22,651 marriages registered in the year before.

2. In tandem with the increase in number of marriages, the general marriage rates¹ for both males and females increased in 2021. There were 45.3 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15-49 years in 2021, up from 43.5 in 2011. Similarly, there were 44.2 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15-49 years in 2021, up from 39.2 a decade ago.

Higher Median Age at First Marriage; Age Gap Between Couples in First Marriages Narrowed

3. The median age at first marriage for grooms and brides increased to 30.5 years and 29.1 years respectively in 2021, up from 30.1 years and 28.0 years in 2011.

4. The age gap between couples in their first marriage narrowed. In 2021, 43.7 per cent of couples in their first marriage were either of the same age or aged one year apart, an increase from 35.9 per cent a decade ago. Over the same period, the proportion of grooms who were at least two years older decreased from 54.5 per cent to 46.9 per cent in 2021. The proportion of brides who were at least two years older was 9.4 per cent in 2021, similar to 2011.

¹ General marriage rate refers to the number of marriages registered among persons aged 15-49 years during the year, out of every thousand unmarried population in the same age group.

Increased Marital Dissolutions

5. There was a total of 7,890 marital dissolutions in 2021, an increase of 13.4 per cent from the 6,959 granted in the previous year. The increase was due to more divorce applications filed in 2021, and the resumption of divorce proceedings that were previously adjourned, following the easing of safe management measures.

6. Nevertheless, the general divorce rates² were still lower compared to a decade ago. There were 7.2 male divorcees for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2021, down from 7.6 in 2011. Similarly, there were 6.9 female divorcees for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2021, down from 7.2 in 2011.

Higher Median Age at Divorce; Longer Median Marriage Duration

7. The median age at divorce rose over the last decade, from 41.3 years in 2011 to 43.9 years in 2021 for male divorcees, and from 37.7 years to 40.0 years for female divorcees.

8. The median duration of marriage for divorces in 2021 was 10.7 years, slightly longer than the 10.5 years in 2011. Couples who stayed married for 5 to 9 years before divorcing continued to account for the largest share, at 29.8 per cent of all divorces in 2021.

9. The report on “Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2021” and accompanying materials are available on the SingStat Website at www.singstat.gov.sg.

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6 July 2022

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² General divorce rate refers to the number of divorces and annulments granted to married persons aged 20 years and over during the year, out of every thousand married population in the same age group.