



PRESS RELEASE

Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2020

Drop in Number of Marriages and Marriage Rates

1. Marriages registered in 2020 dropped 10.9 per cent from a year earlier to 22,651, according to the “Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2020” publication released by the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS). This was due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including Circuit Breaker restrictions and safe management measures applied to wedding solemnisations and receptions from March 2020. Consequently, the annual average number of marriages in the last five years (26,255) was lower than the annual average registered between 2011 and 2015 (27,635).
2. The general marriage rate¹ for males was 35.7 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15-49 years in 2020, down from 39.3 in 2010. The rate for females was 34.9 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15-49 years in 2020, slightly lower than 35.3 a decade ago.

Higher Median Age at First Marriage and Narrowing Age Gap Between Couples in First Marriages

3. The median age at first marriage for grooms and brides rose from 30.0 years to 30.4 years and from 27.7 years to 28.8 years respectively between 2010 and 2020.
4. The age gap between couples in their first marriage narrowed over the past decade. In 2020, 42.1 per cent of couples in their first marriage were either of the same age or aged one year apart, an increase from 35.4 per cent in 2010. A further 18.1 per cent were aged two years apart, up from 15.5 per cent over the same period. Couples who were aged at least five years apart decreased to 19.2 per cent in 2020, from 28.3 per cent in 2010.

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.

Lowest Number of Marital Dissolutions in Over a Decade; Divorce Rates Declined Between 2010 and 2020

5. In 2020, 6,959 marriages ended in a divorce or annulment, a decline of 8.7 per cent as compared to the 7,623 marital dissolutions in the previous year. This was the lowest number of marital dissolutions since 2006. The COVID-19 pandemic, including measures taken during the Circuit Breaker period, may have contributed to this decline. Between 2016 and 2020, the annual average number of marital dissolutions was 7,424, slightly lower than the average of 7,439 in the previous five-year period.

6. The general divorce rate² fell for both males and females over the past decade. There were 6.3 male divorcees for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2020, a dip from 7.5 in 2010. Similarly, there were 6.1 female divorcees for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2020, a decline from 7.2 in 2010.

Higher Median Age at Divorce; Median Marriage Duration Remained Stable

7. The median age at divorce rose over the last decade, from 41.0 years in 2010 to 43.2 years in 2020 for male divorcees, and from 37.4 years to 39.5 years for female divorcees.

8. The median duration of marriage for divorces in 2020 was 10.4 years, comparable to the 10.6 years in 2010. Couples who were married for 5 to 9 years continued to account for the largest share (29.4 per cent) of all divorces in 2020.

9. The report on “Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2020” and accompanying materials are available on the SingStat Website at www.singstat.gov.sg.

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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.