



PRESS RELEASE

Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2017

More Marriages and Fewer Marital Dissolutions in 2017

1. The number of marriages registered in 2017 grew from the year before, according to the “Statistics on Marriages and Divorce, 2017” publication released by the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS). Marriages totalled 28,212 in 2017, up 0.9 per cent from the 27,971 in 2016. The increase was contributed by a rise in both civil and Muslim marriages¹ in 2017.
2. The general marriage rate for males increased from 44.4 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15-49 years in 2016 to 45.7 in 2017. Similarly for females, the rate rose from 41.6 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15-49 years to 42.8 over the same period.
3. In contrast, a total of 7,578 marriages ended in a divorce or an annulment in 2017, 0.5 per cent lower than the 7,614 marital dissolutions in the previous year. This was due to the decline in Muslim divorces, which more than offset the slight increase in civil divorces.
4. The general divorce rate fell to 6.9 male divorcees for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2017, lower than the rate of 7.1 in 2016. Similarly, the rate for females fell to 6.5 per thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2017, from 6.6 in the previous year.

Median Age at First Marriage Relatively Stable for Grooms and Higher for Brides, Proportion of Inter-ethnic Marriages Increasing

5. The median age of first-time grooms was relatively stable over the last decade, falling to 30.0 years in 2017 after rising from 29.8 years in 2007 to 30.3 years in 2016. On the other hand, the median age of first-time brides rose from 27.2 years in 2007 to 28.4 years in 2017, thus narrowing the gender age gap.
6. Inter-ethnic marriages continued to increase in 2017 to 22.1 per cent of total marriages, up from 16.4 per cent in 2007.

¹ Civil marriages refer to marriages registered under the Women’s Charter while Muslim marriages refer to marriages registered under the Administration of Muslim Law Act. The analysis on marriages excludes re-registered marriages (i.e. civil marriages which were contracted overseas or under religious & customary rites and were subsequently registered in Singapore in the reference year). In 2017, there were 187 re-registered marriages.

Higher Median Age at Divorce and Longer Median Marriage Duration

7. The median age at divorce rose over the last ten years. The median ages for male and female divorcees were 43.2 years and 39.1 years respectively in 2017, up from 39.8 years and 36.1 years in 2007.

8. The median duration of marriage for divorces similarly rose, to 10.3 years in 2017, up from 9.6 years in 2007. Couples who were married for 5 to 9 years accounted for the largest share (30.2 per cent) of all divorces in 2017.

9. The report on 'Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2017' and accompanying infographic are available on the DOS' website at <https://www.singstat.gov.sg>.

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10 July 2018

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