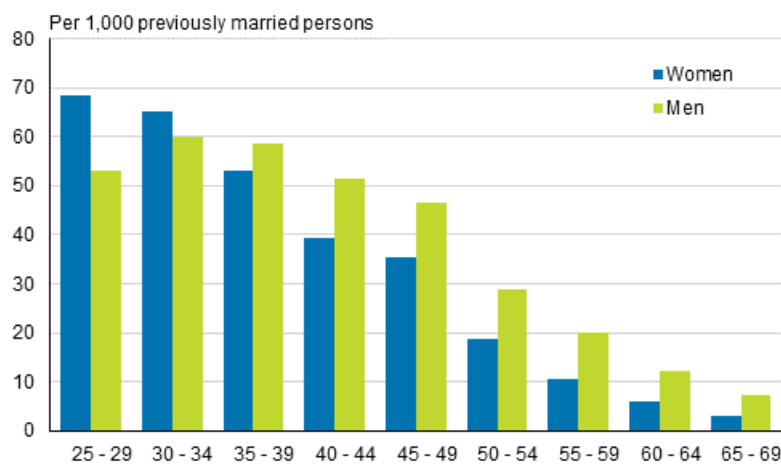


Changes in marital status 2016

Men remarry more often than women

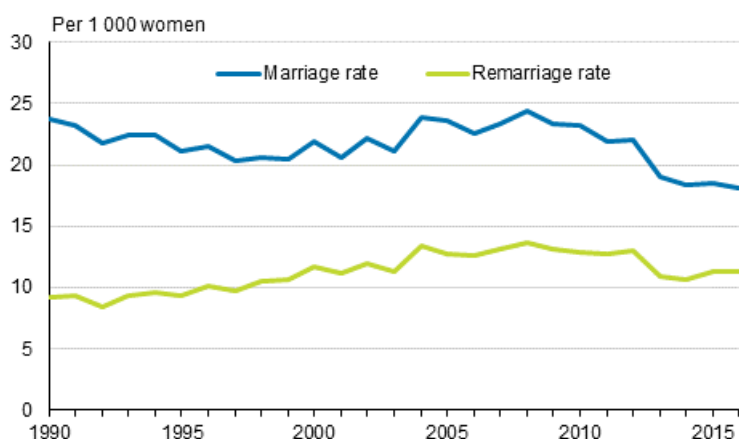
According to Statistics Finland's data on population changes, remarriage is more common for men than women. Men's remarriage is also more common when examined by age group, except for persons aged under 35, where women's remarriage was more common than men's for the second year in a row. Remarriage decreases gradually with age.

Remarriage rate by age and sex 2016



In 2016, the number of persons getting remarried remained almost unchanged from the previous year, being 6,200 marriages for women and 6,500 for men. Over the past good ten years, the annual changes in the number of remarriages have been small measured by volume. After 2008, the remarriage rate decreased as did the marriage rate in general, but in recent years, the remarriage rate has picked up a bit, unlike the marriage rate. The figure shows the development of the remarriage and marriage rates for women as they are the same as for men. The figures calculated based on men are simply higher than those for women.

Marriage rate¹ and remarriage² rate 1990–2016



1. Married women per 1,000 non-married and women not in registered partnership of respective mean population aged 15 and over. 2. Remarried women per 1,000 previously married women of respective mean population.

People marry at an older age

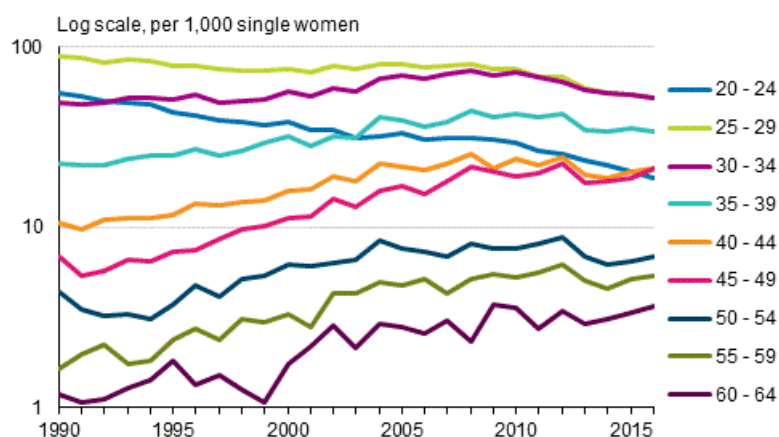
Persons who enter into marriage are getting older. One reason for a later first marriage is that for nine out of ten people the first union is in the form of cohabiting. In addition, the number and share of persons who enter into at least a second marriage have increased, which in turn has increased the number of annual marriages entered into by persons aged 35 or older, for example.

In 1990, eighty per cent of all women, who entered into marriage were aged 20 to 34 and in 2016, the share was only 60 per cent. The development is similar for men in the same age group, the share decreased from 77 to 52 per cent. In 1990, the share of women, who entered into their first marriage at the age of 35 or older, was five per cent of all marriages entered into, and in 2016, the share had grown to 18 per cent.

The fact that the first marriage starts at an older age is visible in the development of marriage rates by age group. Because the trend of the marriage rate has been more steeply rising in older age groups than in younger ones and because, in recent years, it has also been declining for those aged 25 to 34, persons that enter into their first marriage are ever older.

Even though the marriage rate for first marriages has been rising in relative terms considerably in older age groups, the number of marriages entered into is not high: 537 first marriages for persons aged 50 to 64, which corresponds with three per cent of all first marriages entered into in 2016.

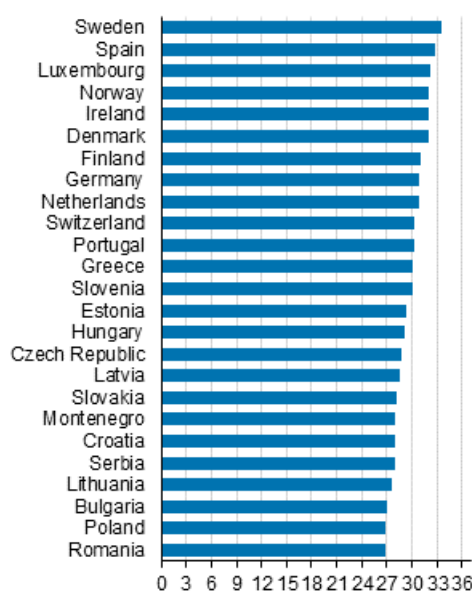
First marriage rate by age 2016



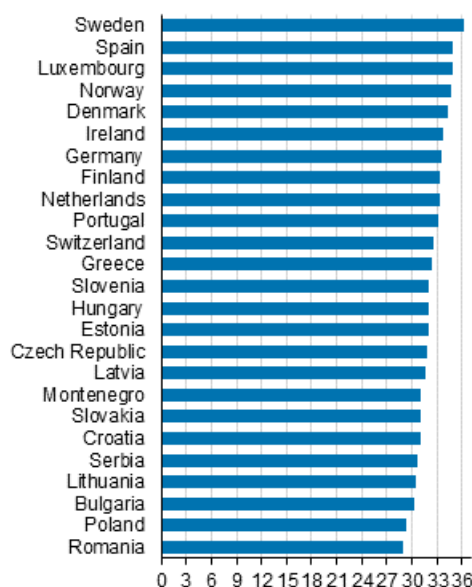
From the beginning of the 1980s, the average age of persons entering into their first marriage has risen from 25 to 31 years for women and for men from 27 to 34 years by 2016.

In a comparison of European countries, Swedish men and women are the oldest when entering into their first marriage. Swedish men are, on average, aged 36 and women 34 when they get married for the first time. Correspondingly, Romanian people are the youngest when entering into their first marriage, women are, on average, 27 and men 29 years old. In an age comparison, Finnish men are the eight oldest and women the seventh oldest when comparing 25 countries.

Mean age at first marriage in some European countries 2015, women



Mean age at first marriage in some European countries 2015, men



Marriages have become more international

Finnish women married spouses representing 120 different nationalities in 2016. The number of nationalities among the spouses can actually even be a bit higher because nearly 100 persons had no nationality. In

1990, Finnish women married men representing 84 different nationalities. Nearly 40 spouses had no nationality data so the above-mentioned number can be slightly higher.

The number of nationalities for Finnish men's spouses is slightly lower than that of women, in total 108 different nationalities. In addition, a small number of men's spouses had no nationality, so the variation of nationalities can be slightly higher than mentioned above.

Altogether, 2,700 women, of whom 1,900 were Finnish citizens, and 3,150 men, of whom 2,000 were Finnish citizens, entered into marriage with a foreign citizen in 2016. Women, who were Finnish nationals, most commonly married Iraqi (135), Turkish (123) and British (111) citizens.

Men, who were Finnish nationals, most commonly married Taiwanese (357), Russian (300) and Vietnamese (121) citizens in 2016.

There are more data on marriages and divorces between Finnish and foreign citizens on [the Immigrants and integration thematic pages](#).

The number of divorces has varied between 13,000 and 14,000 since 1989.

In 2016, altogether 13,541 marriages ended in divorce, which is 398 fewer than one year previously. When the Marriage Act was amended in 1988 to make divorcing easier, the number of divorces rose to a record level where it has remained. Prior to the amendment, the number of divorces varied between 9,000 and good 10,000 from 1974 to 1987.

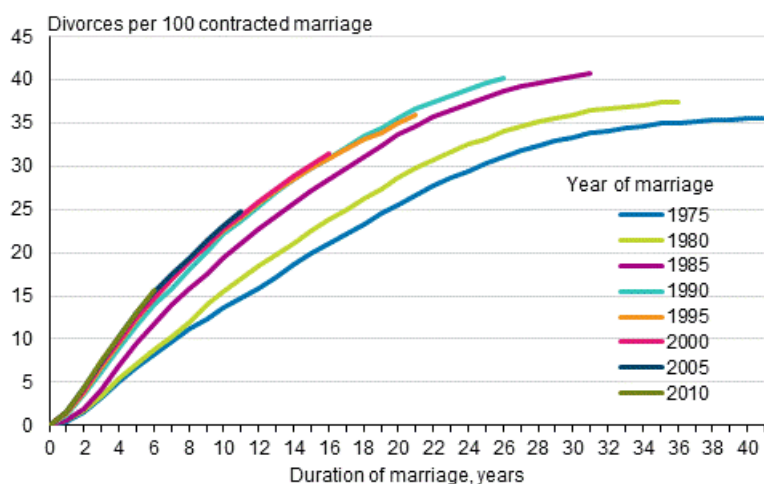
In the whole country, 14 women per one thousand married women got divorced in 2016. By comparison, the divorce rate among Swedish-speaking women is only eight women per one thousand married women.

How many marriages end in divorce?

In 2016, the probability that a woman's first marriage ends in divorce was 39 per cent. The rate is on level with that of the years 2005 to 2015, when it varied between 38 and 40 per cent. An interesting fact is that a first marriage ending in widowhood is slightly more probable than the marriage ending in divorce. The above-mentioned probabilities are based on the events of one year based on which the probability that an event takes place is calculated. In that case, e.g. the divorce rate can be summarised in one figure. Similar results can be reached by examining all marriages entered into in a particular year that end in divorce by the duration of the marriage, but in this case, there are as many divorce rates as years in which marriages are entered into.

Since the 1990s, the divorce rates by the duration of the marriage are very similar and are thus not dependent on the year in which the marriage was entered into. For example, one-fifth of the marriages entered into in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 had ended in divorce in nine years and one-quarter in 12 years, except for marriages entered into in 2005 for which this already happened in 11 years.

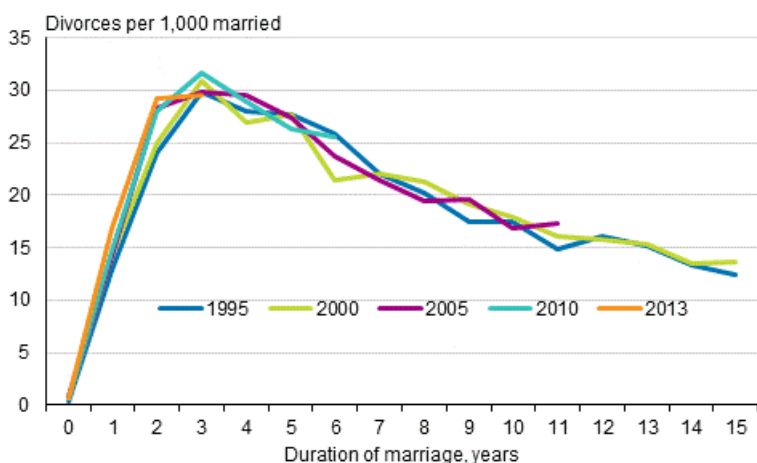
Divorce rates cumulated for women entering into marriage in certain years by the end of 2016



The divorce rate is highest thus far for marriages entered into in 1985 of which 41 per cent had ended in divorce by the end of 2016. If the divorce rate remains at the level where it has been for a long time, it is highly possible that the other marriage cohorts of the late 1980s and those of the 1990s will reach the same divorce rate level as those who entered into marriage in 1985.

The risk of divorce grows steeply during the first years of marriage. The risk is highest in the third year. After the peak for divorcing is reached, the risk of divorce decreases very similarly in all marriage cohorts.

Divorces by year entering into marriage and duration of marriage, women



Female partners are younger when registering their first same-sex partnership than male partners

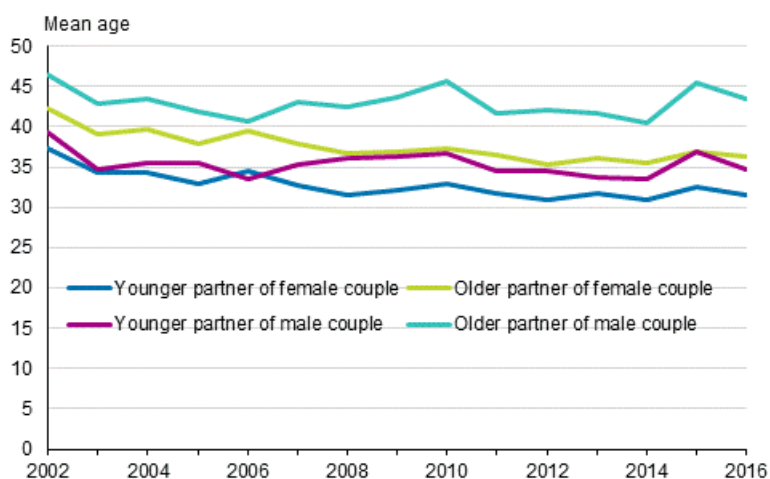
The average age of the younger partner when female couples register their first same-sex partnership was 31.5 years and the average age of the older partner was 36.3 years in 2016. The average age of the younger partner has varied between 31 and 33 years in 2007 to 2016. Correspondingly, the average age of the older partner has varied between 35 and 38 years.

For male couples registering their first same-sex partnership, the average age of the younger partner was 34.6 years and that of the older partner was 43.4 years. The average age of the younger partner has varied

between 33 and 37 years since 2007. Correspondingly, the average age of the older partner has varied between 41 and 46 years.

The average age of male couples that have registered their first same-sex partnership has fluctuated without a clear direction, unlike that of female couples. For female couples, the average age has a slightly decreasing trend, that is, the partners are slightly younger than before. So the development in the average age is different from that for persons entering into their first marriage.

Mean age of partners at first registered partnership 2002–2016

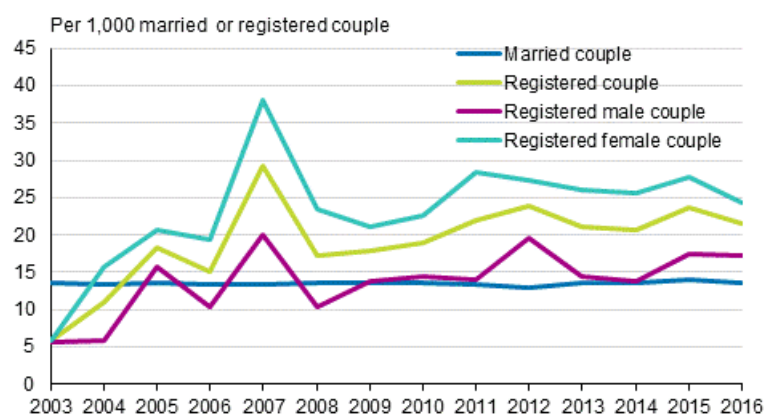


Registered partnerships end in divorce more often than marriages

In 2016, the divorce rate from registered partnerships was 22 per one thousand couples, while the corresponding divorce rate for marriages was 14 per one thousand couples.

There has been a clear difference in the divorce rates of male and female couples as female couples' divorce rate has been clearly higher than that of male couples since 2004. In 2016, the divorce rate for male couples was 17 per one thousand couples, while for female couples it was 24. For registered partnerships, the direction of the divorce rate is slightly growing, while the divorce rate from marriages has remained almost unchanged.

Divorce rates from registered partnerships and marriages



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Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. First marriage rate by age and total period first marriage rate 2006–2016

Ikä	Year										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1 ¹) Total period first marriage rate	66	68	71	68	69	64	64	56	54	53	53
15-19	4,7	4,4	4,3	4,4	4,3	4,0	4,0	3,7	3,4	2,7	2,9
20-24	30,7	31,4	31,2	30,7	29,3	26,5	25,7	23,6	21,9	20,3	18,7
25-29	76,3	77,9	79,8	75,6	75,1	67,9	68,9	59,1	56,1	53,9	52,0
30-34	67,4	71,3	73,3	70,2	71,8	68,1	64,6	57,7	56,0	54,3	52,3
35-39	36,2	38,1	44,0	40,6	43,0	41,1	42,6	34,7	33,8	35,5	33,7
40-44	20,6	22,7	25,3	21,4	24,1	22,0	24,3	19,7	18,6	20,2	21,2
45-49	15,4	18,0	21,8	20,2	19,1	19,8	22,5	17,5	17,9	19,0	21,2

1) The total period first marriage rate describes the proportion of women, here per 100 persons, that contract marriage in their lives, on condition that none of them die and that the marriage rate in the pertinent cohort remains constant throughout the period when these women belong to the age groups of 15 to 49 years. It is computed by adding up the age-specific marriage rates of first marriages in the whole period. The marriage rate here is calculated in proportion to those having contracted marriage per all women of the age group.

Appendix table 2. Newly married women by age and age of spouse 2016

Age of man	Age of woman												
	Age groups, total	-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-
Age groups, total	24 464	416	2 930	6 685	5 093	2 871	1 834	2 077	1 056	685	418	240	159
-19	191	115	55	14	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
20-24	1 919	233	1 232	336	64	26	13	11	2	2	-	-	-
25-29	5 421	50	1 194	3 284	674	149	35	20	11	1	2	-	1
30-34	5 608	12	313	2 228	2 366	505	114	40	18	8	4	-	-
35-39	3 456	1	78	594	1 316	1 086	275	75	20	9	2	-	-
40-44	2 215	5	33	140	444	671	605	249	53	11	3	1	-
45-49	2 250	-	17	59	160	288	527	935	191	60	10	3	-
50-54	1 293	-	5	21	49	97	185	421	371	108	27	6	3
55-59	944	-	2	8	11	36	53	231	265	231	94	11	2
60-64	588	-	-	-	6	8	21	76	90	177	151	46	13
65-69	306	-	1	1	1	2	5	14	25	62	82	86	27
70-	273	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	10	16	43	86	113

Appendix table 3. Marriage rate by region 2006–2016

1 ¹) Area	Year										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
2 ²) Whole country	22,6	23,4	24,4	23,3	23,2	21,9	22,1	19,1	18,4	18,5	18,2
Uusimaa	25,0	25,7	26,6	25,8	25,1	23,4	23,2	20,7	20,0	20,1	19,7
Varsinais-Suomi	22,1	22,8	25,0	23,2	22,9	21,1	21,2	18,6	18,4	18,4	17,8
Satakunta	21,9	21,6	23,6	21,4	20,9	21,5	21,4	18,8	17,5	18,0	19,2
Kanta-Häme	22,3	22,9	25,8	22,4	21,1	21,5	21,5	19,2	17,9	17,0	17,5
Pirkanmaa	23,9	24,7	26,2	25,3	25,5	24,6	24,6	21,4	20,1	20,4	19,5
Päijät-Häme	19,8	21,8	21,1	20,9	20,7	18,9	18,8	16,7	15,8	16,7	14,8
Kymenlaakso	20,3	20,6	22,7	21,8	21,1	19,4	20,1	17,6	15,8	15,7	15,9
South Karelia	18,7	18,7	18,3	19,8	19,4	19,8	17,3	14,9	15,7	14,2	15,2
Etelä-Savo	17,2	17,5	17,3	15,3	16,4	15,8	15,5	14,2	13,5	13,5	13,3

1) Area	Year											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Pohjois-Savo	19,5	20,1	21,4	19,0	20,2	19,5	20,8	17,1	16,2	15,5	14,6	
North Karelia	17,7	19,3	19,4	17,6	18,9	16,9	19,4	15,6	15,9	15,2	15,6	
Central Finland	21,5	22,3	23,5	23,2	23,0	21,3	22,0	17,9	16,5	16,6	17,6	
South Ostrobothnia	19,5	22,8	22,3	22,0	22,8	21,6	22,1	18,1	18,6	18,2	17,1	
Ostrobothnia	24,6	23,9	27,4	24,0	24,6	22,8	22,4	19,2	18,6	20,1	21,2	
Central Ostrobothnia	26,2	26,3	25,8	24,6	27,0	27,1	25,0	21,1	21,7	24,3	22,2	
North Ostrobothnia	26,6	28,0	27,7	27,2	27,5	25,2	25,6	21,1	21,0	20,4	19,9	
Kainuu	17,2	18,4	18,7	19,2	17,6	16,3	18,6	14,3	14,7	14,3	14,3	
Lapland	19,3	19,6	20,0	19,6	20,7	19,2	21,7	17,0	16,4	16,7	16,4	
Åland	18,1	17,8	21,0	17,9	21,0	16,3	20,2	16,7	16,2	16,5	17,0	

1) Regional division 1.1.2017.

2) Married women per non-married women and women not in registered partnership of respective mean population aged 15 or over.

Appendix table 4. Divorces by age of spouses 2016

Age of man	Age of woman													
	Age groups, total	-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-
Age groups, total	13 541	5	354	1 268	2 131	2 465	2 390	1 888	1 480	846	390	210	73	41
-19	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	157	4	103	34	11	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
25-29	869	1	172	460	164	40	21	6	4	-	1	-	-	-
30-34	1 692	-	46	513	839	211	41	23	11	3	2	1	2	-
35-39	2 374	-	16	157	749	1 070	279	60	28	9	4	2	-	-
40-44	2 344	-	9	63	227	772	980	212	60	17	3	1	-	-
45-49	2 067	-	2	21	80	229	705	766	201	52	9	1	1	-
50-54	1 805	-	2	13	32	84	249	586	671	142	20	5	1	-
55-59	1 076	-	2	3	19	38	64	178	361	343	55	11	2	-
60-64	607	-	1	2	9	14	31	35	100	216	154	38	6	1
65-69	334	-	-	-	-	5	18	12	30	46	114	96	12	1
70-74	132	-	-	1	1	-	-	6	11	13	21	42	29	8
75-	82	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	5	7	13	20	31

Appendix table 5. Divorces by age of mother and children aged under 18 in 2016

Age of mother	Number of children								Children aged 0-17, total
	Total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6-	
Age groups, total	13 541	5 005	3 042	3 570	1 380	408	92	44	16 714
-19	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	354	171	114	58	10	1	-	-	264
25-29	1 268	508	310	315	97	34	4	-	1 387
30-34	2 131	560	446	694	292	103	23	13	3 321
35-39	2 465	361	471	965	462	150	41	15	4 700
40-44	2 390	363	592	965	356	85	16	13	4 098
45-49	1 888	649	618	437	144	30	7	3	2 099
50-54	1 480	934	396	125	19	5	1	-	728
55-59	846	742	93	11	-	-	-	-	115
60-	714	712	2	-	-	-	-	-	2

Quality description, changes in marital status

1. Relevance of statistical information

The main source used when producing Finnish population statistics is the Population Information System, which is maintained by the Population Register Centre and local register offices. Changes in the data on the vital events of the resident population are updated into the Population Information System continuously by local population register authorities. From 1975 Statistics Finland has obtained population data from the Population Register Centre.

The last population registration was carried out in Finland on 1 January 1989. After that the Population Information System has been updated by notifications of changes. The data stored in the Population Information System are specified in the act on Population Information System and the certificate services of the Population Register Centre (21 August 2009/661). Notifications on population changes for the past year are expected by the last day of January of the following year.

Statistics Finland's function is to compile statistics on conditions in society (Statistics Finland Act of 24 January 1992/48). These also include demographic statistics. Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure defines the Population and Social Statistics unit as the producer of demographic statistics (Statistics Finland's Rules of Procedure, TK-00-1743-16).

In accordance with the Act on the Municipality of Domicile, the municipality of domicile and the place of residence of individuals are recorded in the Population Information System. The municipality in which a person lives or the one construed by the inhabitant as the municipality of domicile on the grounds of residence, family ties, livelihood or other equivalent circumstances, or to which the inhabitant has close links due to the aforementioned circumstances is deemed the municipality of domicile. (Act on the Municipality of Domicile, 201/1994.) The population registered in the Population Information System is divided into those present and those absent. Those present are permanent residents of Finland, either Finnish nationals or aliens. Those absent are Finnish nationals who when emigrating from the country have reported that they intend to be absent from Finland for more than one year, with the exception of Finnish nationals who are diplomats and those working in development co-operation (Act on the Municipality of Domicile, 201/1994.) Only changes in the population resident in Finland on 31 December are taken into account when compiling statistics on vital events. Persons moving to Finland from abroad are classified in the population statistics if the place of residence they have declared as their municipality of domicile is later confirmed as their place of residence.

Divorces

The divorce statistics are based on data on granted decrees of divorce transmitted to the Population Information System by district courts. The statistics also include cases where a permanent resident of Finland is granted a divorce by a foreign court. If the divorce is granted abroad, it must be reported to the register keeper for registration of divorce. Exceptions are divorces granted to Finnish citizens in Sweden, on which the Swedish register keeper notifies the Finnish counterpart directly.

A divorce granted to a Finnish citizen abroad usually requires validation by the Helsinki Court of Appeal before registration. Divorce decisions given in the Nordic Countries and in the EU countries as of 1 March 2001 can be registered without validation.

As of 1980 'divorces' refer to the divorces of females permanently resident in Finland, unless otherwise indicated.

The amendment to the Marriage Act (411/1987), effective from the first of January 1988, simplified divorce proceedings. Divorce figures began to rise towards the end of 1988, when the first divorces (after a reconsideration period of six months) became effective under the amendment to Marriage Act. The Marriage Act no longer has regulations on "cancellation of marriage". Before the amendment to the act came into force in 1988 these were in separate groups, now among divorces.

The key figures defined below can be calculated for women and men, although they are defined to be calculated for women only.

The age-specific divorce rate indicates the number of divorced women per 1,000 married women of the mean population in the age group in question. The probability of divorce for first marriages is produced by applying multistate life tables. The life tables are based on women's age-group specific marriage, mortality, widowhood and divorce rates in the statistical reference year regardless of the husband's age or whether the marriage is the first one or not for him.

Marital status

The marital status of a person refers to the status according to the Finnish Marriage Code (234/29). It should be noted that cohabiting is not a marital status. People representing all marital status categories may be cohabiting, including those who are still officially married.

Current divorce regulations no longer recognize the concept of legal separation. Those persons who are legally separated on the basis of the old divorce provisions prior to 1 January 1988 and still living apart have been slotted under married persons in the statistics.

The marital status classification is as follows: unmarried, married, divorced, widowed, partner in a registered partnership, dissolved registered partnership, widowed after a registered partnership.

Marriages

'Marriages' refer to marriages contracted by females permanently resident in Finland, unless otherwise indicated. The number of males and females who contracted marriage is not equal because the number of marriages contracted between females permanently resident in Finland and males living permanently abroad differs from the number of marriages contracted between males permanently resident in Finland and females living permanently abroad. The key figure defined below can be calculated for women and men, although it is defined to be calculated for women only.

The age-specific marriage rate indicates the number of married women per 1,000 non-married women and women not in registered partnership of the mean population in the age group in question.

Registered partnership

"Registered partnership" refers to registered partnership of two persons of the same sex aged 18 or over (Act on Registered Partnerships of 9 Nov. 2001/950). Partnership is registered by an authority entitled to perform civil marriage ceremonies. Registered partnership is dissolved when one partner dies or is declared dead, or when it is dissolved by court order.

2. Methodological description of survey

The main source used when producing Finnish population statistics is the Population Information System of the Population Information Centre. Local register office updates a Population Information System with information it gets from persons experiencing vital events and parishes of the Evangelical-Lutheran and Greek Orthodox churches. Hospitals send information of births in machine-language format to maintenance of Population Information System. Local courts take information of decisions of adoptions and divorces dealt in the court into the Population Information System. Statistics Finland receives the updated data on vital events in machine-language format on a weekly basis.

The deadline for delivering data to Statistics Finland on vital events in the statistical year is the end of January of the following year. The exception to this is the data on stillbirths, which were expected by the end of September. Data on population changes in statistical year delivered to Statistics Finland after this date are included in the data of the following year. Data on events relating to the years statistical year – 4 through to statistical year – 1 and reported between February statistical year and January statistical year + 1 are included in the statistical year data.

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

In general, the Population Information System of the Population Register Centre can be considered very exhaustive as regards persons. In order that a person obtains a personal identity code, he or she has to be

registered in the Population Information System. It is practically impossible to live in Finland without a personal identity code. A personal identity code is needed so that one can work legally, open a bank account, have dealings with authorities and so on. It can be safely assumed that Finland cannot have any substantial numbers of 'moonlighters' who receive their pay in cash for periods of over one year, for example. Staying in Finland for at least one year is the prerequisite for registering into the population of Finland.

After abolishment of yearly checking of domicile registers (January 1) in 1989 the Population Information System has been maintained only by notifications of changes to population information. Their correctness is determined by a reliability survey made on the addresses in the Population Information System.

The Population Register Centre charges Statistics Finland with the task of conducting a sample survey on correctness of address information. Around 11,000 people are asked whether their address in the Population Information System is correct. In the 2012 survey, the address was correct for 98.9 per cent of the respondents.

In connection with municipal elections, returned notifications of voting sent to foreigners usually reveal around 1,000 persons who have moved from the country without giving notice and are thus still included in the Finnish population. The Population Register Centre removes them from the resident population in the Population Information System before the following turn of the year.

4. Timeliness and promptness of published data

Final vital statistics are published yearly in April to May, except for those on stillbirths, which are available in September. Since 1999 the regional division used has been that of the first day of the following year. Thus the municipalities that unite on the first day of the new year are already combined in the statistics on the last day of the previous year. Information on the vital statistics of the united municipalities before the unification is available from 2003 onwards.

Preliminary population data by municipality are available by month.

http://www.stat.fi/til/vamuu/tau_en.html.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

Basic population data are available in electronic form by municipality or with larger regional divisions than municipality in Statistics Finland's free 'Population' online service (Statistical databases) at:

http://tilastokeskus.fi/tup/tilastotietokannat/index_en.html

Population statistics from 1750 to 2000 have been digitised into PDF format in the National Library's Doria service.

[Publications on Population structure in Doria \(in Finnish\)](#).

[Publications on Vital statistics in Doria \(in Finnish\)](#).

[Publications on Population censuses in Doria \(in Finnish\)](#).

The chargeable information service contains more specified information about the population by sub-area of municipality, for example. More information about Statistics Finland's chargeable services is available at: <http://tilastokeskus.fi/tup/vaestotilastopalvelu/index.html> (in Finnish).

6. Comparability of statistics

Comparable regional vital statistics series are available from 1987. The tables always indicate which regional division is used.

Vital statistics data on the numbers of births, deaths and marriages contracted are available free from 1749 onwards. From 1773 there are data about mothers having given birth by five-year age group and from 1936 about all children born by age of mother. After the statistical revision of 1877 collection of data on deaths was started by one-year age group, which made it possible to begin calculation of accurate mortality

and lifetime tables from the 1880s onwards. On account of this statistical revision, annual collection of data on migration and divorces was also started.

Vital statistics time series for the whole country is available from 1749.

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

Statistics Finland's other statistics use the data of demographic statistics as basic information on population. Consequently, Statistics Finland's other statistics correspond to demographic statistics.

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Source: Changes in marital status 2016. Statistics Finland