

Changes in marital status 2017

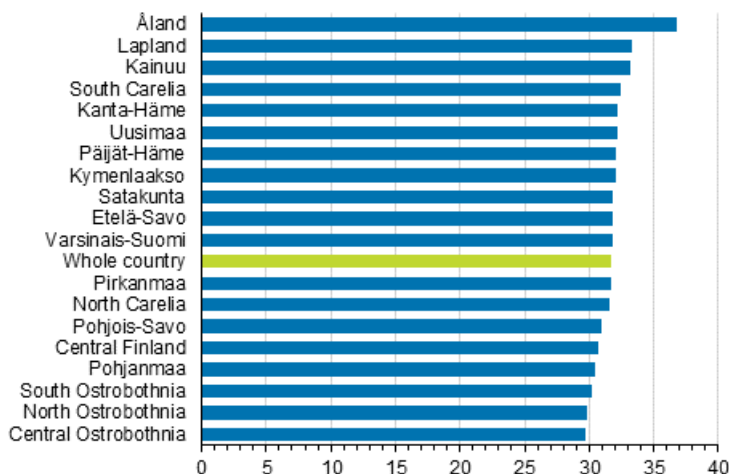
Annual review

People in the regions of Ostrobothnia marry youngest

According to Statistics Finland's data on population changes, the average age at the time of first marriage was lowest in the four regions of Ostrobothnia for both women and men in 2017. In Central Ostrobothnia people entered into marriage at the youngest age, the average age for women was 29.7 years and for men 31.3 years. Of the regions in Mainland Finland, the average age of women at the time of first marriage was the highest in Lapland, 33.3 years.

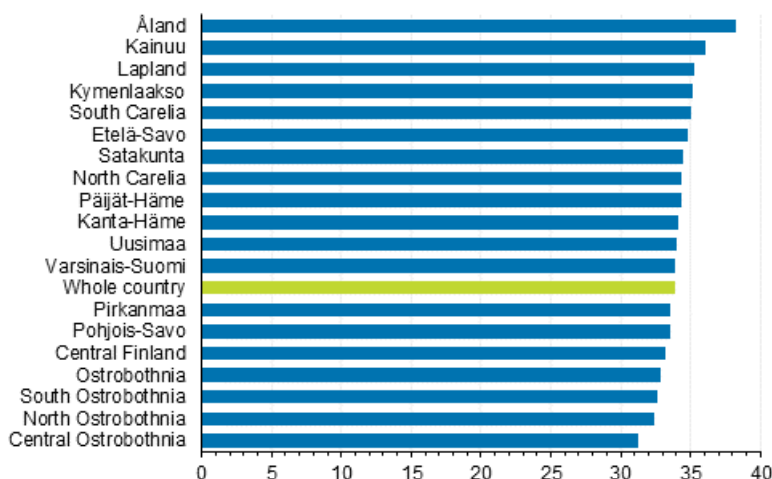
Correspondingly, the average age of men was highest in Kainuu, 36.1 years. In Åland the men and women were even older at the time of first marriage than in Lapland and Kainuu, the average age for women was 36.8 years and for men 38.3 years. In the whole country, the average age at the time of first marriage was 31.7 years for women and 33.9 years for men.

Average age of women by first marriage and by region in 2017



Opposite-sex couples.

Average age of men by first marriage and by region in 2017



Opposite-sex couples.

In all regions the average age of men was higher than that of their spouses at the time of first marriage. The difference between the average ages is greatest in Kymenlaakso, 3.3 years. Correspondingly, the difference was smallest in Central Ostrobothnia and Åland, 1.5 years in both. In the whole country the difference is 2.2 years. By region, the difference in lowest and highest age at the time of first marriage is seven years for both sexes.

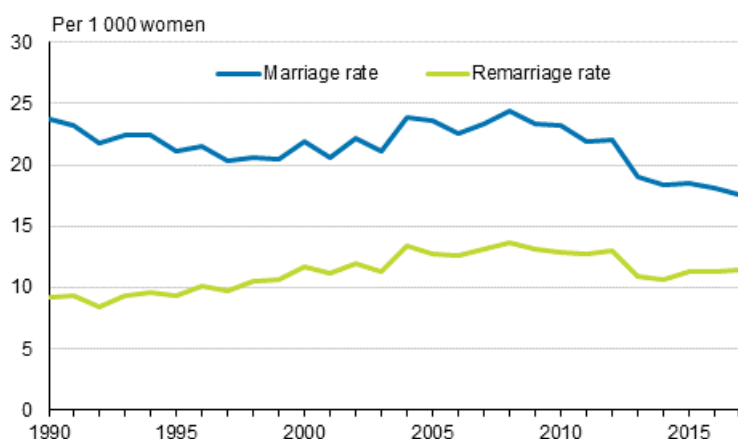
From the beginning of the 1980s, the average age of persons entering into their first marriage between opposite sexes has risen from 25 to 32 years for women and for men from 27 to 34 years by 2017.

The trend of marriage rate declining

On the level of the whole country, the trend of marriage rate of opposite-sex couples has been declining already for over a decade. However, during the most recent years, the decline in marriage rate has slowed down. This is due to the remarriage rate remaining unchanged during the last three years. 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.

In 2017, the number of women and men getting remarried grew by a few dozen from the previous year, being 6,300 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.

Marriage rate¹ and remarriage² rate 1990–2016, opposite-sex couples



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.

First marriage can wait

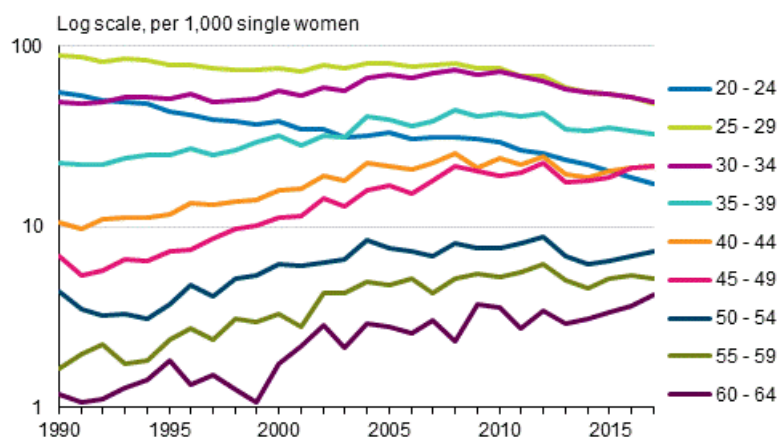
Since the remarriage rate has not decreased, the decline in total marriage rate obviously is a result of the decrease in the first marriage rate. Since 2013, the share of women entering into their first marriage of all marriages between opposite sexes declined by two percentage points to 74 per cent, and correspondingly to 73 per cent for men. As already stated above, the average age for persons entering into their first marriage continues to rise, in other words, entering into marriage is delayed to an ever older age. This can clearly be seen in the development of marriage rates by age groups concerning first marriages: the marriage rate for those aged 20 to 34 has still declined in recent years. The development in marriage rate for these age groups pushes the total marriage rate to decline, too.

In 1990, seventy-four per cent of women who entered into first marriage were aged 20 to 34 and in 2017, the share was only 54 per cent. The development is similar for men in the same age group, the share decreased from 88 to 66 per cent.

In 1990, the share of women, who entered into their first marriage at the age of 35 or older, was six per cent of the first marriages entered into, and in 2017, the share had grown to 25 per cent. The corresponding share for men increased from 10 per cent to 34 per cent. These increasing shares can also be seen as increasing trends of marriage rates by age group concerning first marriages for persons aged 35 or 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: 575 first marriages for women aged 50 to 64, which corresponds with three per cent of all first marriages entered into in 2017.

First marriage rate of woman by age 1990–2017, opposite-sex couples



Finnish residents' marriages more international than the year before

Women residing permanently in Finland married men representing 123 different nationalities in 2017, the year before the number was 120. The number of nationalities among the spouses can even be a bit higher than mentioned above, because nearly 130 persons had no nationality in 2017. 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 of women to men permanently living in Finland has increased from 108 the year before to 120 in 2017. In addition, a small number of men's spouses had no nationality, so the variation of nationalities can be slightly higher than mentioned above.

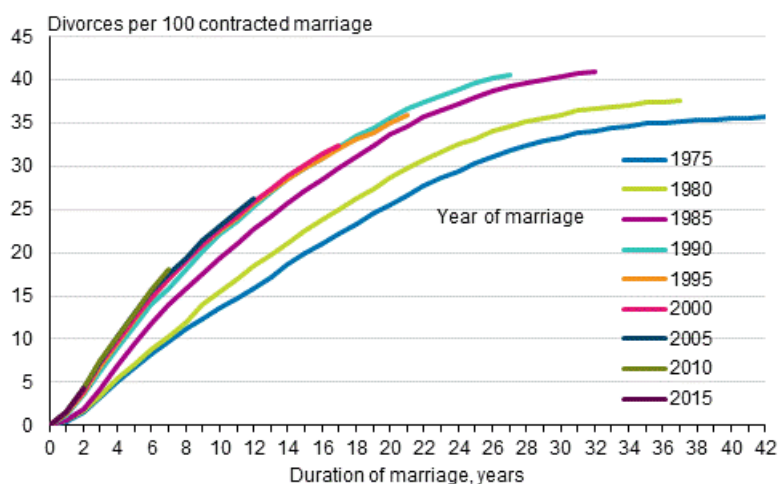
There are more data on marriages and divorces between Finnish and foreign citizens on [the Immigrants and integration thematic pages](#).

Nearly four out of ten first marriages end in divorce

In 2017, the probability that a woman's first marriage ends in divorce was 38 per cent. The rate is on level with that of the years 2005 to 2016, 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 in the lives of opposite-sex married couples 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 between opposite-sex spouses, 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. The divorce rate for marriages entered into in 2015 does not appear to differ from the development of divorce rate for the above mentioned years.

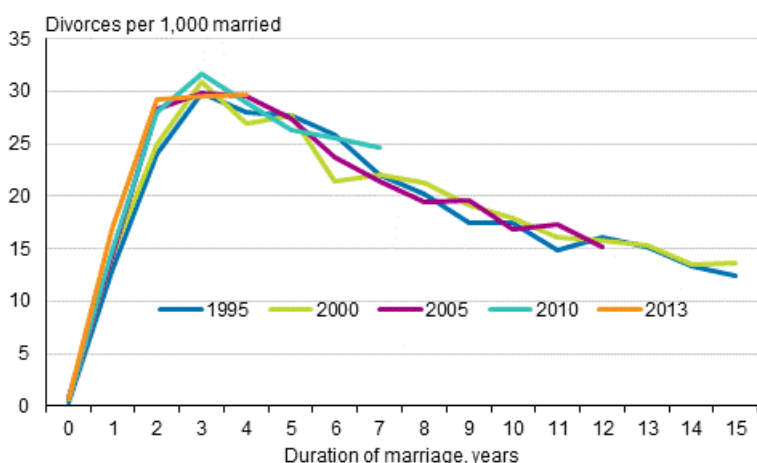
Divorce rates cumulated for women entering into marriage in certain years by the end of 2017, opposite-sex couples



The share of divorces has long been largest among those who entered into marriage in 1985, but a share some tenths larger among marriages entered into in 1989 had ended in divorce by the end of 2017. Of the marriages entered into in 1989, 41.3 per cent had ended in divorce by the end of 2017, while the corresponding number for marriages entered into in 1985 was 41.0 per cent. Persons who have entered into marriages during the years close to the years mentioned above also end up with a divorce percentage share of 40 per cent: 1983 to 1984, 1986 to 1988 and 1990 to 1991. 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 1980s and those of the 1990s will reach the same divorce rate level as those who entered into marriage in 1985 and 1989.

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, opposite-sex couples



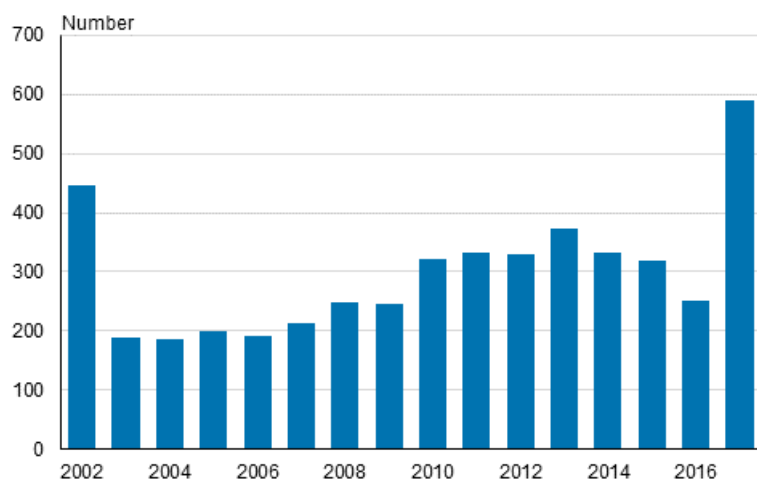
From registered partnerships to entering into marriage

Due to the amendment to the Marriage Act that entered into force at the beginning of March 2017, same-sex couples enter into marriage and partnerships are no longer registered. Prior to the Act entering into force, by the end of February, 21 male couples and 15 female couples still registered their partnership. From the

beginning of March to the end of the year, 554 same-sex couples entered into marriage, 181 male couples and 373 female couples.

Prior to the amendment to the Act, the number of registered partnerships had decreased in 2016 to the same level as in 2008 to 2009. After the amendment a record number of marriages were entered into, when compared to the annual number of registered partnerships. Of all marriages entered into, 60 per cent were marriages where both same-sex spouses were unmarried in 2017.

Registered partnerships 2002–2016 and registered partnerships and contracted same-sex marriages 2017

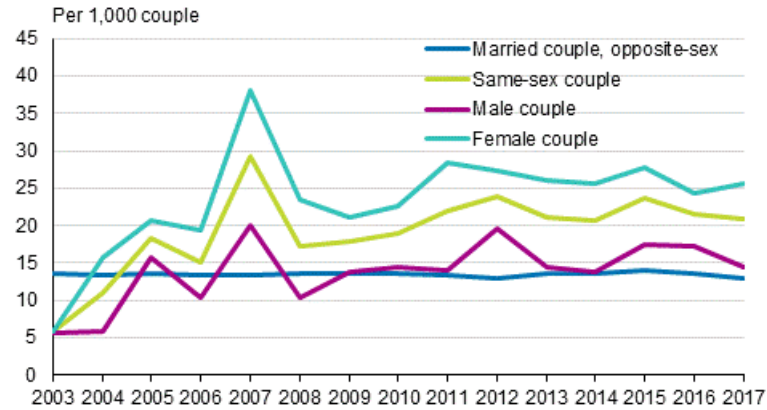


Divorce rate of same-sex couples almost unchanged

In 2017, the changes in divorce rate were small for both opposite-sex and same-sex couples. The divorce rate for same-sex couples was 21 per one thousand couples, while it was 22 the previous year. Correspondingly, the divorce rate for opposite-sex couples was 13 per one thousand couples, while it was 14 the previous year.

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 2017 the divorce rate of male couples decreased a little, while the divorce rate of female couples increased. In the longer term, the trend of the divorce rate is slightly growing for same-sex couples, while the divorce rate for opposite-sex couples has remained almost unchanged.

Divorce rates from opposite-sex and same-sex¹ couples 2003–2017



1. Divorces from registered partnerships 2003–2016. Year 2017 also includes divorces from same-sex marriages.

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Appendix table 1. First marriage rate by age and total period first marriage rate¹ 2006 to 2017, opposite-sex couples

Age	Year											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total period first marriage rate	66	68	71	68	69	64	64	56	54	53	53	50
15-19	4,7	4,4	4,3	4,4	4,3	4,0	4,0	3,7	3,3	2,7	2,9	2,7
20-24	30,7	31,4	31,2	30,6	29,3	26,5	25,7	23,6	21,9	20,3	18,7	17,3
25-29	76,3	77,9	79,8	75,6	75,1	67,9	68,9	59,1	56,1	53,9	52,0	47,9
30-34	67,4	71,3	73,3	70,2	71,8	68,1	64,6	57,7	56,0	54,3	52,3	49,4
35-39	36,2	38,1	44,0	40,6	43,0	41,1	42,6	34,6	33,8	35,5	33,7	32,9
40-44	20,6	22,7	25,3	21,4	24,1	22,0	24,3	19,7	18,6	20,2	21,2	21,8
45-49	15,4	18,0	21,8	20,2	19,1	19,8	22,5	17,5	17,8	18,9	21,2	21,5

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 2017, opposite-sex couples

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	23 843	393	2 667	6 370	4 901	2 916	1 960	2 180	989	664	420	202	181
-19	154	91	55	5	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	1 835	230	1 141	294	90	38	19	13	3	7	-	-	-
25-29	5 238	54	1 063	3 223	638	165	47	28	16	3	1	-	-
30-34	5 465	12	287	2 118	2 324	528	123	44	18	7	1	3	-
35-39	3 366	3	82	514	1 249	1 099	291	85	29	10	2	1	1
40-44	2 093	-	20	131	406	631	609	229	46	14	4	1	2
45-49	2 357	1	11	56	135	300	606	995	186	51	12	3	1
50-54	1 233	2	5	21	44	103	167	422	332	101	30	6	-
55-59	936	-	3	5	8	26	63	249	249	222	94	13	4
60-64	619	-	-	1	5	18	23	97	83	191	151	40	10
65-69	261	-	-	1	-	5	8	11	20	40	87	65	24
70-	286	-	-	1	2	1	4	6	7	18	38	70	139

Appendix table 3. Marriage rate² by region in 2006 to 2017, opposite-sex couples

Area ¹	Year											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Whole country	22,6	23,4	24,4	23,3	23,2	21,9	22,1	19,1	18,4	18,5	18,2	17,6
Uusimaa	25,0	25,8	26,6	25,8	25,1	23,4	23,2	20,7	20,0	20,1	19,7	19,4
Varsinais-Suomi	22,1	22,8	25,0	23,2	22,9	21,1	21,2	18,6	18,4	18,4	17,8	18,1
Satakunta	21,9	21,6	23,6	21,4	20,9	21,5	21,4	18,8	17,5	18,0	19,2	17,6
Kanta-Häme	22,3	22,9	25,8	22,4	21,1	21,5	21,5	19,2	17,9	17,0	17,5	16,0
Pirkanmaa	23,9	24,7	26,2	25,3	25,6	24,6	24,6	21,5	20,1	20,4	19,5	19,0
Päijät-Häme	19,8	21,8	21,1	20,9	20,7	18,9	18,8	16,7	15,8	16,7	14,8	14,1
Kymenlaakso	20,3	20,6	22,7	21,8	21,1	19,5	20,1	17,6	15,8	15,8	15,9	14,8
South Karelia	18,7	18,7	18,4	19,8	19,4	19,8	17,3	14,9	15,7	14,2	15,2	13,7

Area ¹	Year											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Etelä-Savo	17,2	17,5	17,3	15,3	16,4	15,8	15,5	14,2	13,5	13,5	13,3	12,9
Pohjois-Savo	19,5	20,1	21,4	19,0	20,2	19,5	20,8	17,1	16,2	15,5	14,6	15,2
North Karelia	17,7	19,3	19,4	17,6	18,9	16,9	19,4	15,7	15,9	15,2	15,6	14,3
Central Finland	21,5	22,3	23,5	23,2	23,0	21,3	22,0	17,9	16,5	16,6	17,6	16,1
South Ostrobothnia	19,5	22,8	22,3	22,0	22,8	21,6	22,2	18,1	18,6	18,2	17,1	16,1
Ostrobothnia	24,6	23,9	27,4	24,0	24,6	22,8	22,4	19,2	18,6	20,1	21,2	20,2
Central Ostrobothnia	26,3	26,3	25,8	24,6	27,0	27,1	25,0	21,1	21,7	24,3	22,2	21,0
North Ostrobothnia	26,6	28,0	27,8	27,2	27,5	25,2	25,6	21,1	21,0	20,4	19,9	19,2
Kainuu	17,2	18,4	18,7	19,2	17,6	16,3	18,6	14,3	14,7	14,3	14,3	13,8
Lapland	19,3	19,6	20,0	19,6	20,7	19,2	21,7	17,1	16,4	16,7	16,4	14,7
Åland	18,1	17,8	21,0	17,9	21,0	16,3	20,2	16,7	16,2	16,5	17,0	15,4

1) Regional division 1.1.2018.

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 2017, opposite-sex couples

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	13 232	5	345	1 230	2 056	2 467	2 293	1 860	1 395	805	416	207	92	61
-19	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	135	2	101	23	3	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25-29	795	3	144	472	119	28	15	6	6	2	-	-	-	-
30-34	1 740	-	68	485	832	249	63	27	11	3	1	1	-	-
35-39	2 262	-	19	139	720	1 021	261	60	27	7	5	3	-	-
40-44	2 304	-	8	76	236	784	927	193	54	19	7	-	-	-
45-49	2 069	-	3	20	82	230	675	786	218	45	8	1	1	-
50-54	1 727	-	1	10	41	109	244	558	601	132	27	3	1	-
55-59	1 035	-	-	2	16	32	59	155	336	341	81	11	2	-
60-64	585	-	-	3	2	9	32	61	87	182	165	35	5	4
65-69	338	-	-	-	4	2	9	13	42	57	87	93	24	7
70-74	147	-	-	-	1	1	4	1	9	15	31	45	34	6
75-	94	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	4	15	25	44

Appendix table 5. Divorces by age of mother and children aged under 18 in 2017, opposite-sex couples

Age of mother	Number of children									Children aged 0-17, total
	Total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6-		
Total	13 232	4 890	2 934	3 483	1 411	366	97	51	16 417	
-19	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
20-24	345	177	99	59	10	-	-	-	247	
25-29	1 230	474	326	309	82	33	5	1	1 354	
30-34	2 056	548	400	703	302	71	19	13	3 172	
35-39	2 467	382	474	967	450	130	42	22	4 636	
40-44	2 293	341	523	883	410	101	23	12	4 119	
45-49	1 860	615	654	424	131	28	5	3	2 050	
50-54	1 395	877	368	120	24	3	3	-	707	
55-59	805	706	81	16	2	-	-	-	119	
60-	776	766	8	2	-	-	-	-	12	

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-00-954-18).

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.

In 1980 to 2016, divorces referred to divorces of women living permanently in Finland unless otherwise stated. Starting from the statistical reference year 2017, divorces where at least one of the spouses has resided permanently in Finland on the day the divorce was granted are included in the statistics as divorces. The amendment to the Marriage Act that entered into force on 1 March 2017 enabled same-sex couples to enter into marriage (156/2015).

Since 2017, the total number of divorces consists of the number of divorces of marriages between opposite-sex and same-sex couples

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

In 1980 to 2016, contracted marriages referred to marriages of women living permanently in Finland unless otherwise stated. Starting from the statistical reference year 2017, contracted marriages refer to marriages where at least one of the spouses has resided permanently in Finland on the day when the marriage was contracted. The amendment to the Marriage Act that entered into force on 1 March 2017 enabled same-sex couples to enter into marriage (156/2015). The number of marriages contracted annually is, thus, the number of marriages entered into by same-sex and opposite-sex spouses.

The number of men and women from marriages between opposite sexes is not the same because the number of contracted marriages where the parties are a woman living permanently in Finland and a man living permanently abroad is different than that where the parties are a man living permanently in Finland and a woman living permanently abroad.

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 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.

The possibility to register partnerships started in Finland on 1 March 2002 and ended on the last day of February 2017 (Act to amend the Act of Registered Partnerships 250/2016). Starting from the beginning of March 2017, same-sex couples have been able to enter into marriage (156/2015).

As a result of the amendment to the Marriage Act, parties to a partnership registered in Finland can convert their partnership into a marriage by making a joint notification of this to the local register office. A registered partnership continues as a marriage from the day on which the local register office has received the notification.

In the statistics, registered partnerships that have been converted into marriages based on such notification are not included as contracted marriages in the annual statistics.

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 has charged 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 October. 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.

The amendment to the Marriage Act on 1 March 2017 enabled same-sex couples to enter into marriage. This means that starting from 2017, the total number of marriages contracted during the year consists of contracted marriages of same-sex or opposite-sex couples.

From 1980 to 2016., the total number of marriages contracted during the year consisted of marriages where at least the wife was permanently residing in Finland. Starting from 2017, the total number of opposite-sex marriages contracted also includes marriages entered into where only the husband is permanently residing in Finland at the time the marriage was contracted. When applying the new calculation method it is possible to tabulate comparable numbers of opposite-sex marriages contracted retrospectively starting from 1990.

When tabulating data on changes in marital status by area, e.g. by municipality, in cases where the couple is permanently residing in Finland but the municipalities of residence of the spouses or the parties at the time of the event are not the same, in opposite-sex change events the municipality of residence of the woman is selected and in change events involving same-sex couples the municipality of residence of the younger spouse or party is selected. The principle of the procedure is the same as before. In other cases, the municipality of residence of the spouse or party who is permanently resident in Finland is used.

Data on the number of registered partnerships is available from 2002 to 2017 and on the number of divorces of registered partnerships from 2002 on. Data on the number of marriages and divorces between same-sex couples are available from 2017 onwards.

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 2017. Statistics Finland