

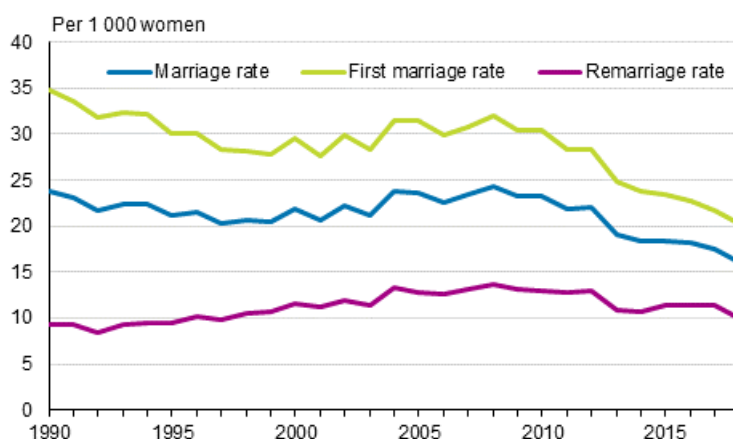
Changes in marital status 2018

Annual review

Decline in the total marriage rate accelerated

According to Statistics Finland, the decline in the total marriage rate strengthened in 2018. Examined by the whole country, the direction of the marriage rate of opposite-sex couples has been declining for over a decade. In recent years, the decrease in the marriage rate has been slowed down by the remarriage rate remaining unchanged. In 2018, the remarriage rate also decreased and as the rate of first marriages continued declining, the total marriage rate fell more steeply than before. The figure shows the development of the 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, first marriage rate² and remarriage rate³ 1990–2018, opposite-sex couples



1. Married women per 1,000 non-married women and women not in a registered partnership of respective mean population aged 15 and over. 2. First marriages of women per 1,000 single women of respective mean population aged 15 or over. 3. Remarried women per 1,000 previously married women of respective mean population.

In 2018, the number of women getting remarried decreased by 750 and that of men by 900 from the previous year, being 5,500 marriages for women and 5,600 for men. In the last good 10 years, the annual changes in remarriages have usually been small in absolute numbers, except the above-mentioned change in 2018 and prior to this in 2013, when the number of remarried women decreased by 1,100 and, correspondingly, for men by 1,000.

Remarriage rate also made a downturn

For women, the share of first marriages in all marriages contracted was 75 per cent in 2018. The share has remained at 75 to 77 per cent throughout the 2000s. Thus, the weight of first marriages in the development of the total marriage rate is high and largely dictates its direction. Usually, the remarriage rate only evens out the downward trend or strengthens it. In 2018, the remarriage rate declined, which strengthened the drop in the total marriage rate.

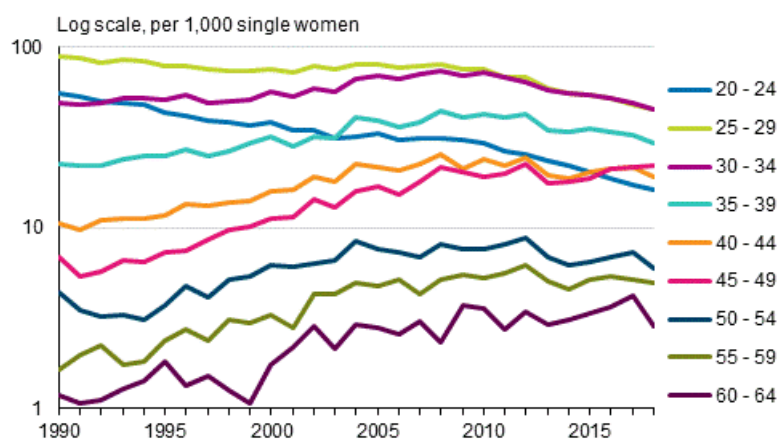
[The average age of persons entering into their first marriage](#) has been on the rise for a long time, which means that getting married is moving to an ever older age. In 2018, the rise in the average ages that had continued for years stopped for both sexes. The fact that the age of persons entering into their first marriage is rising is clearly visible 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 2018, the share was only 55 per cent. The development is similar for men in the same age group, the share decreased from 88 to 65 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 2018, the share had grown to 25 per cent, remaining the same as in the year before. The corresponding share for men increased from 10 per cent to 34. These increasing shares can also be seen as growing trends of marriage rates by age group concerning first marriages for persons aged 35 or older. In 2018, the growth in marriages in the older age groups stalled, however, and was smaller than in the year before.

Even though the marriage rate for first marriages has been rising considerably in relative terms in older age groups, the number of marriages entered into is not high: 490 first marriages for women aged 50 to 64, which corresponds with three per cent of all first marriages entered into in 2018. This share is the same as in the previous year.

First marriage rate of woman by age 1990–2018, opposite-sex couples

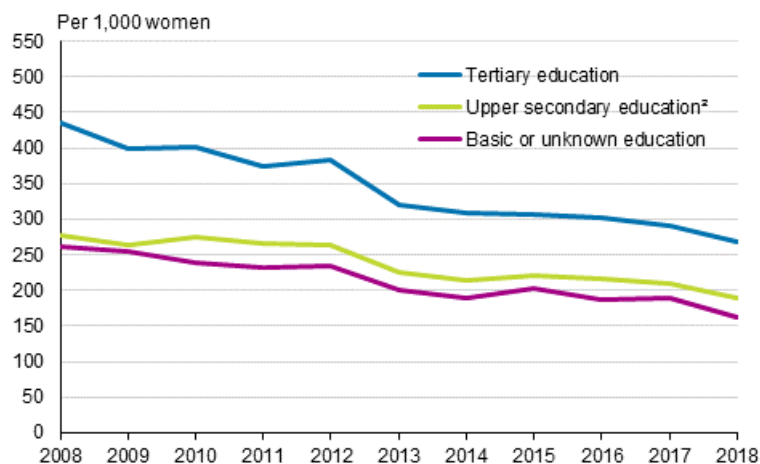


Marriage rate decreased in all educational groups

In the 2000s, the marriage rate was at its highest in 2008, after which the rate has been declining. Even though there are differences in the marriage rate between educational groups, the decline in the marriage rate seems to have developed in the same way in all educational groups until 2018. The development in men's marriage rate by educational groups is similar as that of women but the marriage rate is higher, see Appendix figure 1.

The data only apply to women and men born in Finland. Some qualifications taken abroad are missing from Statistics Finland's Register of Completed Education and Degrees, for which reason the qualification data of many persons born abroad are deficient.

Marriage rate¹ of women born in Finland by level of education in 2008 to 2018, opposite-sex couples

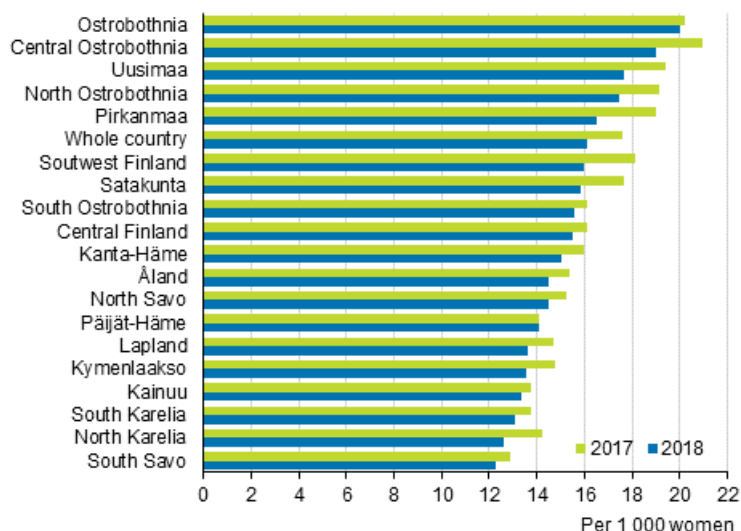


1. Sum of marriage rates by 5-year age groups of women aged 20 to 64 multiplied by five. Women not married and not in a registered partnership are used as a divisor for age-specific marriage rates. 2. Includes post-secondary non-tertiary education.

Marriage rate unchanged only in Päijät-Häme

Apart from Päijät-Häme, the marriage rate was lower in all regions in 2018 than in 2017. In relative terms, most marriages were contracted in Ostrobothnia and least in South Savo in 2018. The marriage rate shrunk most in relative terms in Pirkanmaa, by 13 per cent.

Marriage rate¹ by region² and whole country, opposite-sex couples



1. Married women per 1,000 non-married women and women not in a registered partnership of respective mean population. 2. Regional division 1.1.2019.

International marriages decreased slightly

The decrease in the marriage rate in the entire country was also visible as a decrease in international marriages. Seven per cent of women of Finnish background living permanently in Finland married men

of foreign background in 2018. One year earlier the share was slightly higher, 7.5 per cent. Generally, the share of international marriages of all marriages entered into by women of Finnish background has, however, increased gradually. In 1990 to 2000, the above-mentioned share was around four to five per cent.

The development of the share of marriages between men of Finnish background and women of foreign background of all marriages is similar to that of women of Finnish background and men of foreign background. The share of marriages between men of Finnish background living permanently in Finland and women of foreign background among all marriages entered into decreased from 7.1 to 5.9 per cent in 2018.

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

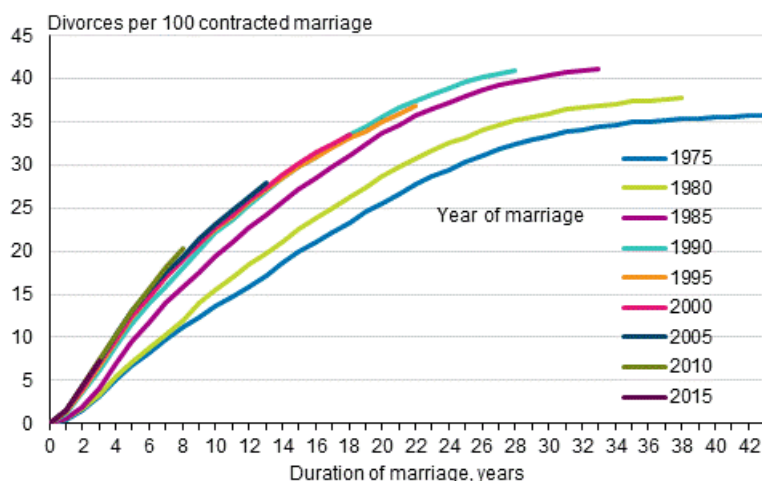
Nearly four in ten first marriages still end in divorce

In 2018, the probability that a woman’s first marriage ends in divorce was 37 per cent, which is one percentage point lower than in 2017. The figure for 2018 was on level with that of the 2005 to 2017, 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 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 marriages of opposite-sex couples 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.

The overall picture, is that 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, of the marriages entered into in 1990 to 2008, one-fifth had ended in divorce by the ninth year.

However, in recent years there has been some indication that the divorce rate during the early years of marriage might be decreasing slightly. For example, 4.7 per cent of the marriages entered into in 2014 ended in divorce in the third year of marriage, while the share for marriages entered into in 2016 was four per cent. Correspondingly, 1.7 per cent of marriages entered into in 2014 ended in divorce in the second year of marriage and 1.3 per cent of marriages entered into in 2017. This 0.4 percentage point change seems small but with low absolute numbers it is high in relative terms, 24 per cent.

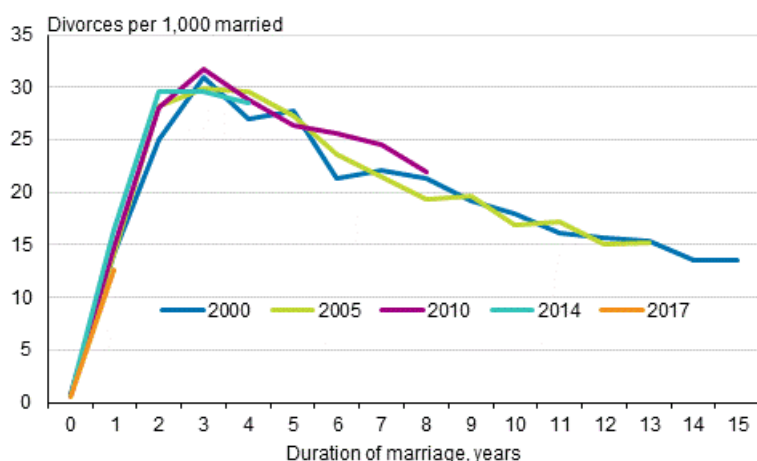
Divorce rates cumulated for women entering into marriage in certain years by the end of 2018, opposite-sex couples



For a long time, the share of divorces was highest among those who had entered into marriages in 1985 until by 2017 a slightly higher share of marriages entered into in 1989 had ended in divorce. The order has not changed in 2018. By the end of 2018, in total 41.7 per cent of marriages entered into in 1989 had ended in divorce. By contrast, the share of divorces in marriages entered into in 1988 is as high as that of marriages entered into in 1985, 41.2 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: 1982 to 1984, 1986 to 1987 and 1990 to 1993. 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 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, as the following figure shows. The risk has been at its highest in the third or fourth year when the divorce rate in difference years of marriage has been examined starting from 1990. After the peak for divorcing is reached, the risk of divorce decreases very similarly in all marriage cohorts. The figure shows the above-mentioned recent development, based on which the risk of divorce has slightly contracted in the early years of marriage when comparing 2014 and 2017. Coming years will show, whether this contraction is merely random variation.

Divorces by year entering into marriage and duration of marriage, women, opposite-sex couples

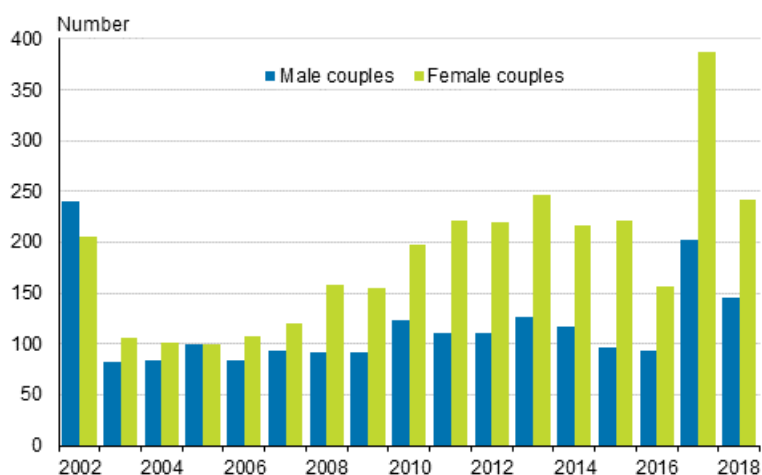


Number of contracted same-sex marriages decreased by 34 per cent

As a result of the amendment to the Marriage Act, starting from 1 March 2017, same-sex partners enter into marriage and partnerships are no longer registered. From 1 March 2017 until the end of the year 554 same-sex couples entered into marriage. When the 36 couples who, before the legislation amendment had registered their partnership, are added, a total of 590 same-sex marriages and partnerships started in 2017. In 2018, same-sex couples could only enter into marriages and the number of such marriages decreased by nearly two hundred from the year before to 387. This is close the level of registered partnerships entered into in 2013, that is 373.

Since 2006, women have registered more partnerships than men per year. This has not changed when same-sex couples started entering into marriages instead of registered partnerships in 2017. In several years, the number of new official female couples has been double compared to male couples.

Registered partnerships 2002–2016 and registered partnerships and contracted same-sex marriages 2017–2018

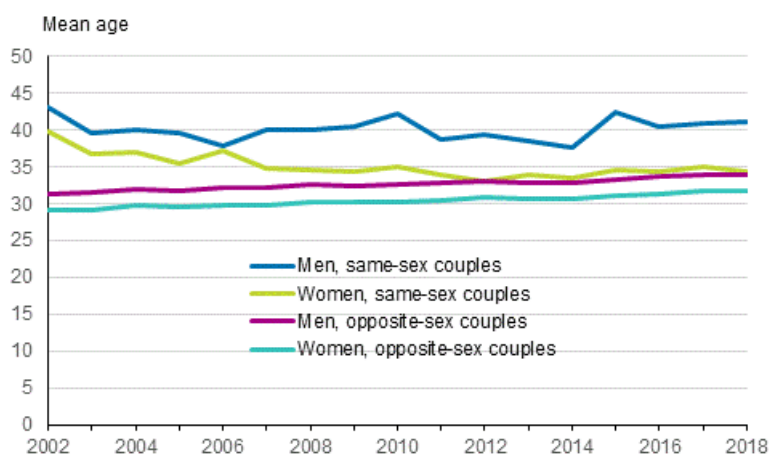


1. Year 2017 includes both registered partnerships and contracted marriages. Year 2018 contracted marriages.

Average age of male couples highest when entering into their first marriage

When examining same-sex couples entering into their first registered partnership or marriage, the average age of male couples has always been clearly higher than that of female couples, except in 2006 when they were almost equal. In 2018, the average age of male couples who entered into their first marriage was 41 years and that of female couples 34 years.

Mean age of men and women at first first registered partnership or at first marriage in 2002 to 018



Divorce rate among same-sex couples decreasing

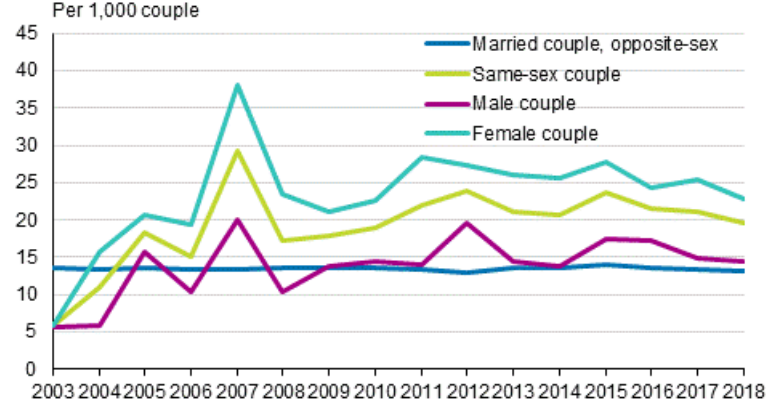
In recent years, the divorce rate among same-sex couples has been decreasing, even though in the longer term, the trend of the divorce rate is still slightly growing. The divorce rate for opposite-sex couples has remained almost unchanged.

In 2018, the changes in the divorce rate were small both for same-sex and opposite-sex couples. The divorce rate for same-sex couples was 20 per one thousand couples, in the year before it was 21. The corresponding divorce rate for opposite-sex couples remained unchanged at 13 per one thousand couples.

There has been a clear difference in the divorce rates of male and female couples as female couples' divorces have been clearly more common than that of male couples since 2004. As the divorce rate of

female couples also decreased next to that of male couples in 2018, the divorce rate of all same-sex couples continued decreasing but slightly more strongly than in 2017.

Divorce rates from registered partnerships¹ and marriages 2003–2018



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

Contents

Tables

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. First marriage rate by age and total period first marriage rate ¹ 2007 to 2018, opposite-sex couples.....	9
Appendix table 2. Marriage rate ² by region ¹ in 2007 to 2018, opposite-sex couples.....	9
Appendix table 3. Divorces by age of mother and children aged under 18 in 2018, opposite-sex couples.....	10

Figures

Appendix figures

Appendix figure 1. Marriage rate ¹ of men born in Finland by level of education in 2008 to 2018, opposite-sex couples.....	11
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Quality description, changes in marital status.....	12
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Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. First marriage rate by age and total period first marriage rate¹ 2007 to 2018, opposite-sex couples

Age	Year											
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total period first marriage rate	68	71	68	69	64	64	56	54	53	53	50	47
15-19	4,4	4,3	4,4	4,3	4,0	4,0	3,7	3,3	2,7	2,9	2,7	2,4
20-24	31,4	31,2	30,6	29,3	26,5	25,7	23,6	21,9	20,3	18,7	17,3	16,4
25-29	77,9	79,8	75,6	75,1	67,9	68,9	59,1	56,1	53,9	52,0	47,9	44,9
30-34	71,3	73,3	70,2	71,8	68,1	64,6	57,7	56,0	54,3	52,3	49,4	45,4
35-39	38,1	44,0	40,6	43,0	41,1	42,6	34,6	33,8	35,5	33,7	32,9	29,4
40-44	22,7	25,3	21,4	24,1	22,0	24,3	19,7	18,6	20,2	21,2	21,8	19,0
45-49	18,0	21,8	20,2	19,1	19,8	22,5	17,5	17,8	18,9	21,2	21,5	22,0

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. Marriage rate² by region¹ in 2007 to 2018, opposite-sex couples

Area ¹	Year											
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Whole country	23,4	24,4	23,3	23,2	21,9	22,1	19,1	18,4	18,5	18,2	17,6	16,1
Uusimaa	25,8	26,6	25,8	25,1	23,4	23,2	20,7	20,0	20,1	19,7	19,4	17,6
Varsinais-Suomi	22,8	25,0	23,2	22,9	21,1	21,2	18,6	18,4	18,4	17,8	18,1	15,9
Satakunta	21,6	23,6	21,4	20,9	21,5	21,4	18,8	17,5	18,0	19,2	17,6	15,8
Kanta-Häme	22,9	25,8	22,4	21,1	21,5	21,5	19,2	17,9	17,0	17,5	16,0	15,0
Pirkanmaa	24,7	26,2	25,3	25,6	24,6	24,6	21,5	20,1	20,4	19,5	19,0	16,5
Päijät-Häme	21,8	21,1	20,9	20,7	18,9	18,8	16,7	15,8	16,7	14,8	14,1	14,1
Kymenlaakso	20,6	22,7	21,8	21,1	19,5	20,1	17,6	15,8	15,8	15,9	14,8	13,6
South Karelia	18,7	18,4	19,8	19,4	19,8	17,3	14,9	15,7	14,2	15,2	13,7	13,1
Etelä-Savo	17,5	17,3	15,3	16,4	15,8	15,5	14,2	13,5	13,5	13,3	12,9	12,3
Pohjois-Savo	20,1	21,4	19,0	20,2	19,5	20,8	17,1	16,2	15,5	14,6	15,2	14,5
North Karelia	19,3	19,4	17,6	18,9	16,9	19,4	15,7	15,9	15,2	15,6	14,2	12,6
Central Finland	22,3	23,5	23,2	23,0	21,3	22,0	17,9	16,5	16,6	17,6	16,1	15,5
South Ostrobothnia	22,8	22,3	22,0	22,8	21,6	22,2	18,1	18,6	18,2	17,1	16,1	15,6
Ostrobothnia	23,9	27,4	24,0	24,6	22,8	22,4	19,2	18,6	20,1	21,2	20,2	20,0
Central Ostrobothnia	26,3	25,8	24,6	27,0	27,1	25,0	21,1	21,7	24,3	22,2	21,0	19,0
North Ostrobothnia	28,0	27,8	27,2	27,5	25,2	25,6	21,1	21,0	20,4	19,9	19,2	17,5
Kainuu	18,4	18,7	19,2	17,6	16,3	18,6	14,3	14,7	14,3	14,3	13,8	13,4
Lapland	19,6	20,0	19,6	20,7	19,2	21,7	17,1	16,4	16,7	16,4	14,7	13,4
Åland	17,8	21,0	17,9	21,0	16,3	20,2	16,7	16,2	16,5	17,0	15,3	14,5

1) Regional division 1.1.2019.

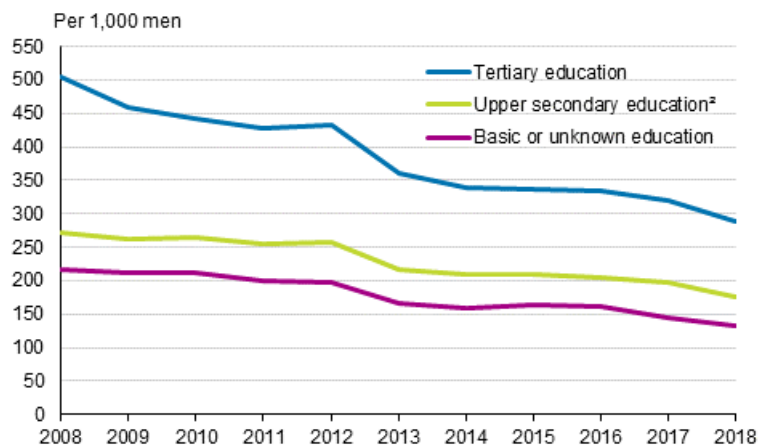
2) Married women per non-married women and women not in a registered partnership of respective mean population aged 15 or over.

Appendix table 3. Divorces by age of mother and children aged under 18 in 2018, opposite-sex couples

Age of mother	Number of children								
	Total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6-	Children aged 0-17, total
Total	12 999	4 830	2 823	3 510	1 328	383	83	42	16 031
-19	4	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	3
20-24	289	141	94	49	5	–	–	–	207
25-29	1 070	429	256	286	70	25	3	1	1 159
30-34	2 025	550	421	663	278	81	23	9	3 073
35-39	2 455	406	456	969	438	143	24	19	4 517
40-44	2 319	354	522	923	390	98	26	6	4 092
45-49	1 878	584	640	491	124	26	7	6	2 176
50-54	1 383	887	349	115	22	9	–	1	687
55-59	793	702	77	12	1	1	–	–	108
60-	783	776	5	2	–	–	–	–	9

Appendix figures

Appendix figure 1. Marriage rate¹ of men born in Finland by level of education in 2008 to 2018, opposite-sex couples



1. Sum of marriage rates by 5-year age groups of men aged 20 to 64 multiplied by five. Men not married and men not in a registered partnership are used as a divisor for age-specific marriage rates. 2. Includes post-secondary non-tertiary education.

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 most recent survey in 2012, 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 1990. 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 2018. Statistics Finland