

PRESS RELEASE

Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2023

Fewer Marriages in 2023 Compared to 2022; Marriage Rates and Median Age at First Marriage Rose in 2023 Compared to 2013

1. A total of 28,310 marriages were registered in 2023, a 3.7% decline from the record high of 29,389¹ marriages registered in 2022, according to the “Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2023” publication released by the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS). Except for fluctuations in the number of marriages observed between 2020 and 2022 arising from disruptions in marriage plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of marriages between 2014 and 2023 was broadly stable overall.
2. The general marriage rates² for both males and females increased in 2023 compared to a decade ago. There were 44.3 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15 to 49 years in 2023, up from 40.5 in 2013. Similarly, there were 43.1 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15 to 49 years in 2023, up from 36.9 in 2013.
3. The median age at first marriage for grooms and brides were 31.0 years and 29.5 years respectively in 2023, higher than 30.2 years for grooms and 28.1 years for brides in 2013, depicting the trend towards later marriages.

Slight Increase in Marital Dissolutions in 2023 Compared to 2022; Lower Divorce Rates and Higher Median Age at Divorce in 2023 Compared to 2013

4. In 2023, a total of 7,118 marriages ended in a divorce or an annulment, a slight increase of 0.2% from the 7,107 marital dissolutions in 2022. Between 2014 and 2020, the number of marital dissolutions was broadly stable. Fluctuations were observed from 2020 arising from disruption in divorce proceedings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the temporary closure of court services at the Syariah Court in late 2022 to prepare for the launch of the new divorce e-services and the subsequent temporary reduction of mediation and hearing services in early 2023 as the Syariah Court started to implement the new divorce e-services.
5. The general divorce rates³ fell for both males and females in 2023 compared to 2013. There were 6.0 marital dissolutions for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2023, down from 7.3 in 2013. Similarly, there were 5.5 marital

¹ This is the highest since data on total marriages registered in Singapore (comprising civil and Muslim marriages) were first compiled and published in 1961.

² General marriage rate refers to the number of marriages registered among residents aged 15 to 49 years during the year, out of every thousand unmarried residents in the same age group.

³ General divorce rate refers to the number of divorces and annulments granted to married residents aged 20 years and over during the year, out of every thousand married residents in the same age group.

dissolutions for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2023, down from 6.9 in 2013.

6. The median age at divorce rose over the last ten years, from 42.4 years in 2013 to 44.5 years in 2023 for male divorcees, and from 38.2 years to 40.8 years for female divorcees.

7. The median duration of marriage for divorces in 2023 was 11.1 years, longer than the 10.4 years in 2013. Couples who stayed married for 5 to 9 years before divorcing accounted for the largest share, at 28.7% of divorces in 2023.

Lower Dissolution Rates Before the 10th Marriage Anniversary Among the 2006-2012 Resident Marriage Cohorts⁴ than the 2005 Marriage Cohort

8. Compared with the 2005 marriage cohort, the 2006 to 2012 marriage cohorts had lower dissolution rates before the 10th marriage anniversary. The cumulative proportion of marriages that dissolved before the 10th anniversary declined from 17.0% for the 2005 marriage cohort to 15.3% for the 2012 marriage cohort.

9. The proportion of resident marriages that dissolved was the highest when marriages progressed from the 5th anniversary to before the 10th anniversary, as compared to other 5-yearly intervals. From the 10th anniversary onwards, the proportion of marriages that dissolved was smaller with each subsequent 5-yearly milestone.

10. The report on “Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2023” and accompanying materials are available on the SingStat Website at www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/population/marriages-and-divorces.

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⁴ Resident marriage cohorts refer to marriages contracted in a particular year between persons where either or both are Singapore citizens or permanent residents. Data on marriage cohort dissolution rates are based on local marriage and dissolution records up to 2022.