



PRESS RELEASE

Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2019

Annual Average Number of Marriages between 2015 and 2019 Higher than the Preceding Five-Year Period; Marriage Rates Lower than a Decade Ago

1. A total of 25,434 marriages were registered in 2019, 5.8 per cent lower than the 27,007 marriages registered in 2018, according to the “Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2019” publication released by the Singapore Department of Statistics (DOS). Despite the decline in 2019, the annual average number of marriages registered in the last five years (27,389) was higher than the annual average registered between 2010 and 2014 (26,844).

2. The general marriage rate¹ for males was 40.7 marriages per thousand unmarried males aged 15-49 years in 2019, down from 43.4 in 2009. Similarly for females, the 2019 rate was 37.9 marriages per thousand unmarried females aged 15-49 years, down from 38.9 a decade ago.

Higher Median Age at First Marriage for Both Grooms and Brides, and Increasing Share of First Marriages Involving Brides Who Are Older Than Grooms

3. The median age at first marriage for grooms and brides rose from 29.8 years to 30.4 years and from 27.5 years to 28.8 years respectively between 2009 and 2019.

4. While majority of the grooms in first marriages continued to be older than brides, the proportion of first marriages involving brides who are older than grooms increased from 16.0 per cent in 2009 to 18.3 per cent in 2019.

Annual Average Number of Marital Dissolutions between 2015 and 2019 Rose Slightly Compared to the Preceding Five-Year Period; Divorce Rates Declined Between 2009 and 2019

5. A total of 7,623 marriages ended in divorce or annulment in 2019, an increase of 3.8 per cent from the 7,344 marital dissolutions in the previous year.

¹ General marriage rate refers to the number of marriages registered among persons aged 15-49 years during the year, out of every thousand unmarried population in the same age group.

Between 2015 and 2019, the annual average number of marital dissolutions was 7,536, higher as compared to 7,402 in the preceding five-year period.

6. The general divorce rate² declined for both males and females over the past decade. There were 6.9 male divorcees for every thousand married males aged 20 years and over in 2019, down from 7.5 in 2009. For females, the rate was 6.5 female divorcees for every thousand married females aged 20 years and over in 2019, down from 7.1 in 2009.

Higher Median Age at Divorce and Longer Median Marriage Duration

7. The median age at divorce rose over the last decade, from 40.5 years in 2009 to 43.4 years in 2019 for male divorcees, and from 36.9 years to 39.3 years for female divorcees. The median duration of marriage for divorces in 2019 was 10.4 years, slightly longer than the 10.1 years in 2009. Couples who were married for 5 to 9 years accounted for the largest share (29.0 per cent) of all divorces in 2019.

8. The report on “Statistics on Marriages and Divorces, 2019” and accompanying materials are available on the SingStat Website at www.singstat.gov.sg.

Singapore Department of Statistics

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For enquiries, please contact:

Ms Heng Xin Yu

T (+65) 6332 7087

E Heng_Xin_Yu@singstat.gov.sg

² General divorce rate refers to the number of divorces and annulments granted to married persons aged 20 years and over during the year, out of every thousand married population in the same age group.