

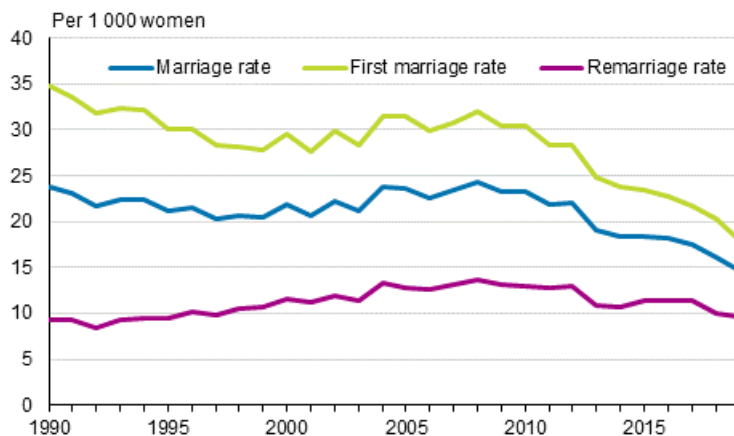
# Changes in marital status 2019

## Annual review

### Marriage rate on a steep decline – around every second person is married before the age of 50

According to Statistics Finland, the marriage rate has decreased considerably over around a decade. In 2008, a total of 32,900 marriages of opposite sex were entered into, but in 2019 only 21,900. The decrease in the marriage rate slowed down in the mid-2010s but in recent years the decrease has further deepened. This has been particularly due to the fact that the number of first marriages entered into has fallen more and more from one year to the next. If the marriage rate of first marriages for 2019 was prevailing, one-half of unmarried men and 55 per cent of unmarried women would enter into marriage before the age of 50.

#### Marriage rate<sup>1</sup>, first marriage rate<sup>2</sup> and remarriage rate<sup>3</sup> 1990–2019, opposite-sex couples



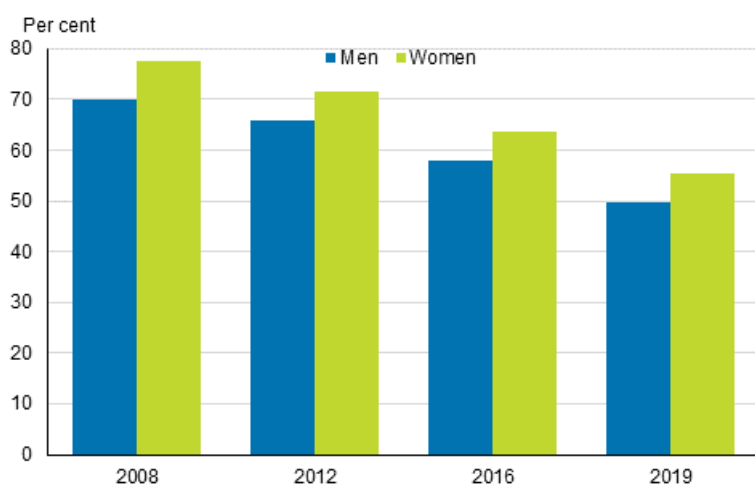
1. Married women per 1,000 non-married women and women not in a registered partnership of respective mean population aged 15 and over. 2. First marriages of women per 1,000 single women of respective mean population aged 15 or over. 3. Remarried women per 1,000 previously married women of respective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

The figure shows the development of the marriage rates for women as they are the same as for men. The figures calculated for men are higher than those for women except for those for the rate of first marriages, which are slightly lower than for women.

The decrease in the remarriage rate has been slightly more moderate in recent years compared to the rate of first marriages. While the rate of first marriages decreased by 22 per cent from 2015 to 2019, correspondingly, the remarriage rate decreased by 16 per cent.

The figure above shows that 2008 has been the peak year of marriages in the 2000s. It can be calculated that if the rate of first marriages in 2008 had remained prevailing, 70 per cent of unmarried men and 76 per cent of unmarried women would have been married before the age of 50. As already reported earlier, the corresponding numbers were considerably lower in 2019, which is also visible in the figure below.

**The expected share of men and women entering into their first marriage before the age 50 by the marriage rates in 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2019, opposite-sex couples**



There is no age limit for entering into marriage, so it is also possible to assess the lifelong marriage rate on the basis of the marriage rate of different years. If the marriage rate of 2019 was prevailing, 54 per cent of unmarried men would get married in their lifetime and 59 per cent of women. In 2008, the respective figures were 73 per cent for unmarried men and 78 per cent for women. In older age groups, the marriage rate is low, which is visible in that the figures of the lifelong marriage rate are not significantly higher than the share of married persons before the 50th birthday.

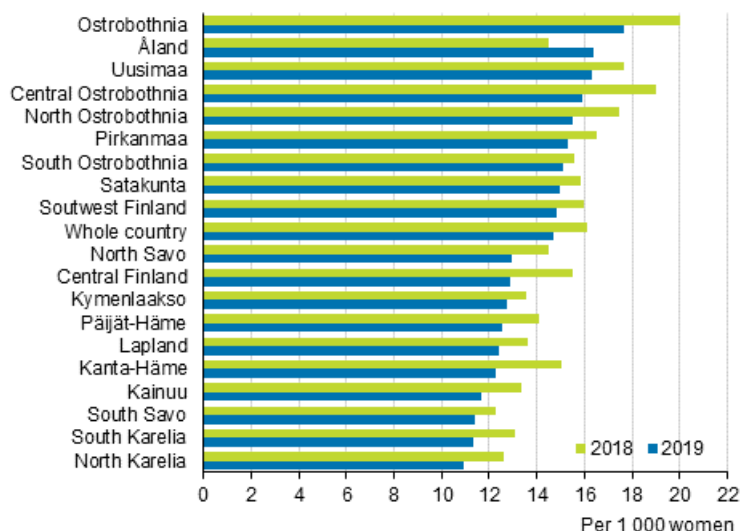
It should be borne in mind that even though entering into marriage appears to have decreased, it does not mean that couple formation has decreased. Because cohabiting is not registered, it is not known how many of them are formed annually. The statistics on families only show the number of cohabiting couples at the end of the year. However, the fact that the number has been growing continuously indicates something. For example, the number of cohabiting couples of opposite sex was 263,000 in 2000, but by 2019 the number had grown to 347,000. Over the same period, the number of families of married couples where the spouses are of different sexes fell from 951,000 to 930,000.

The above-mentioned percentages of the expected marriage rate of unmarried persons have been produced by forming a marriage rate table based on [the calculation principles of the life table](#). The calculation uses five-year age group-specific marriage rates for men and women that entered into their first marriage. Mortality is not taken into account in the calculation. It is, however, low before the age of 50, which is why the end result gives a good picture of the marriage rate.

**Marriage rate decreased in all regions of Mainland Finland**

In 2019, the highest relative numbers of marriages were recorded in Ostrobothnia and the lowest in North Karelia. The marriage rate shrunk most in relative terms in Satakunta, by 18 per cent.

**Marriage rate<sup>1</sup> by region<sup>2</sup> and whole country in 2018 and in 2019, opposite-sex couples**

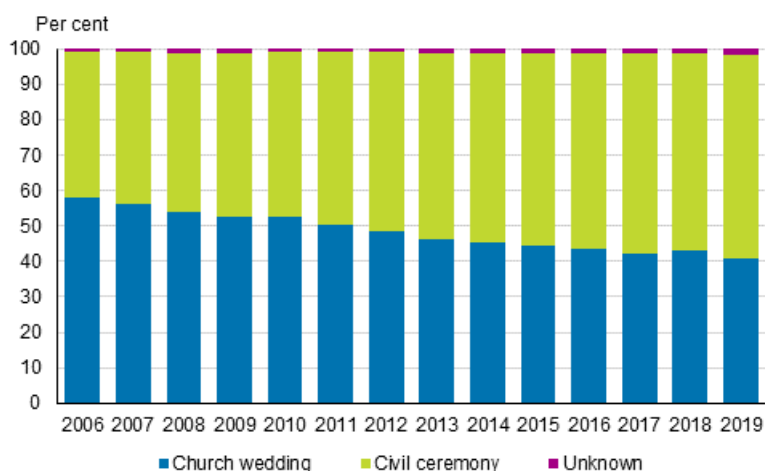


1. Married women per 1,000 non-married women and women not in a registered partnership of respective mean population. 2. Regional division 1.1.2020.

**Clearly under one-half of marriages are church weddings**

In all, 41 per cent of all marriages of opposite sex were church weddings in 2019. The share of church weddings in all marriages entered into decreased to under 50 per cent in 2012. The figures are based on marriages entered into, where either one or both spouses of opposite sex lived permanently in Finland at the time of the marriage.

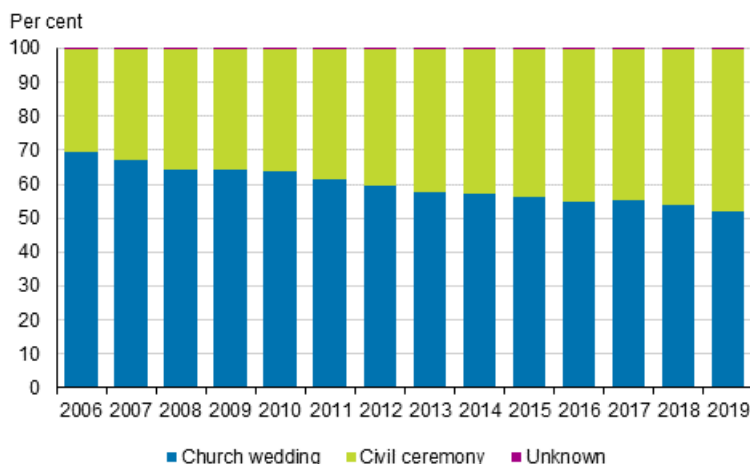
**Marriages contracted by type of wedding ceremony in 2006 to 2019, opposite-sex couples**



**Slightly over 50 per cent of first marriages still entered into at church**

Altogether 52 per cent of spouses of different sexes living in Finland who both entered into their first marriage were married at church in 2019. The percentage has gradually diminished, in 2006 it was still 70.

## Persons having entered into their first marriage by type of wedding ceremony in 2006 to 2019, persons of opposite sexes living permanently in Finland



## Changes in international marriages small

The decrease in the marriage rate in the whole country was also visible in the drop in international marriages from 1,547 to 1,386 from 2018 to 2019. In all, 6.8 per cent of women of Finnish background living permanently in Finland got married to a man of foreign background in 2019. One year earlier the share was a bit higher, 7.0 per cent. In general, 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 share of marriages between men of Finnish background living permanently in Finland and women of foreign background among all marriages entered into grew to 7.0 per cent in 2019 from 5.9 per cent in the previous year. The number of marriages of the type mentioned above grew from 1,308 to 1,449.

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

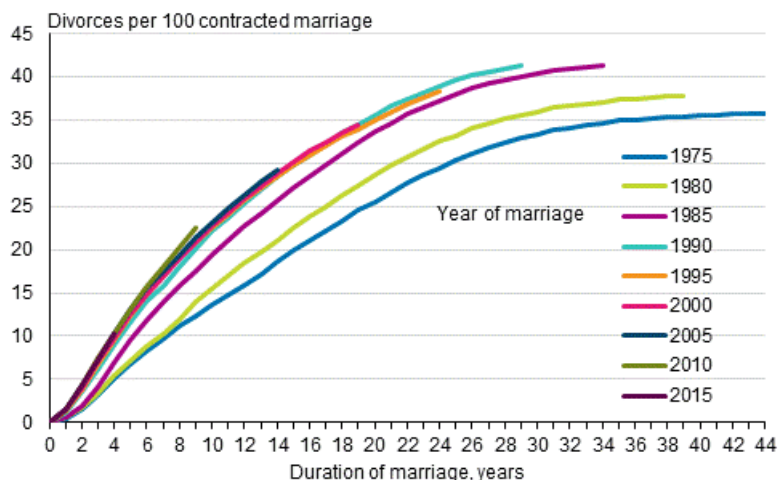
In 2019, the probability that a woman's first marriage ends in divorce was 38 per cent, which is one percentage point higher than in 2018. However, the figure for 2019 was on level with that for 2005 to 2017, when it varied between 38 and 40 per cent. An interesting fact is that a first marriage ending 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 the examined marriages are entered into.

The overall picture is that since the 1990s, the divorce rates by the duration of 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 2010, 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 4.0 per cent and that for marriages in 2017 was 3.7 per cent. Correspondingly, 1.7 per cent of marriages entered

into in 2014 ended in divorce in the second year of marriage, 1.3 per cent of marriages entered into in 2017 and 1.2 per cent of those in 2018. This change of 0.5 percentage points seems small but in the case of small figures the change is relatively big, 29 per cent.

### Divorce rates cumulated for women entering into marriage in certain years by the end of 2019, opposite-sex couples

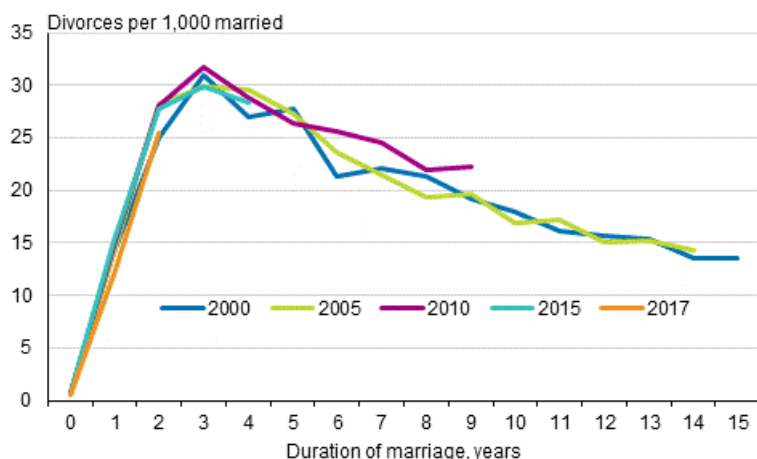


For a long time, the share of divorces was highest among those who had entered into marriages in 1985 until by 2017 a slightly higher share of marriages entered into in 1989 had ended in divorce. The order has not changed during 2019. By the end of 2019, in total 42.1 per cent of marriages entered into in 1989 had ended in divorce. By contrast, the share of divorces from marriages entered into in 1988, 41.5 per cent, has climbed one decimal higher up than the share of divorces in marriages entered into in 1985. The percentage of divorces of 40 per cent is also reached by persons having entered into marriage in years close to the above-mentioned years: 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.

### Risk of divorce grows strongly in the first years of marriage

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 different 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 2015 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**

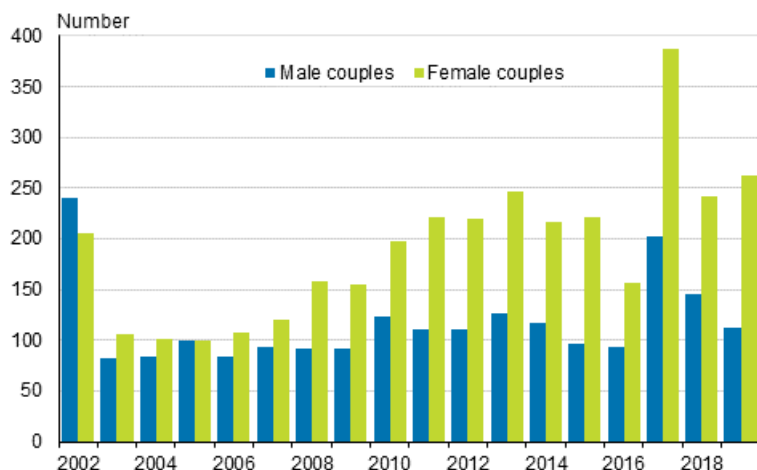


**Same-sex persons entered into almost as many marriages as in the previous year**

In 2019, the number of marriages entered into by same-sex persons decreased to 376 from the previous year's 387. The strong decline in 2018 after the legislative amendment of 2017 did not continue in 2019. However, the fall in the number continued for male couples, but this was compensated by the growing number of marriages entered into by female couples compared with the previous year.

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 some 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<sup>1</sup>–2019**



1. Year 2017 includes both registered partnerships and contracted marriages. From the year 2018 on contracted marriages

**The average age of the older spouse of a male couple is clearly higher than that of a spouse of a female couple.**

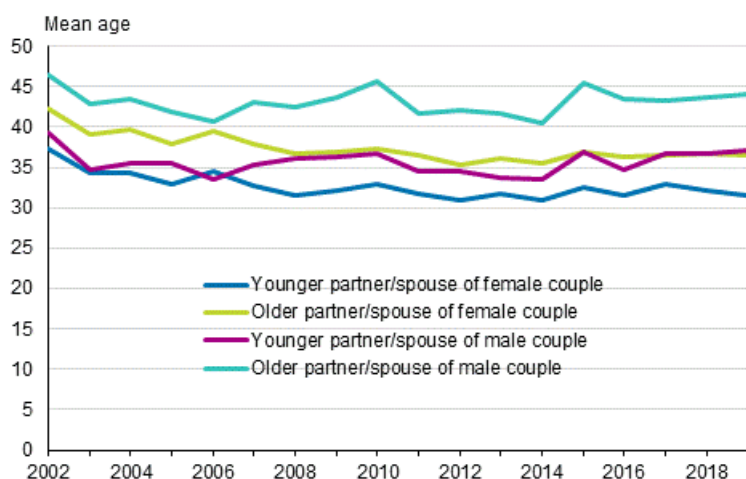
When examining same-sex couples entering into their first registered partnership or marriage, the average age of the older spouse of male couples has always been clearly higher than that of the older spouse of female couples: the difference in average ages was smallest in 2006. In 2019, the average age of the older

spouse of male couples who entered into their first marriage was 44 years and that of female couples 36 years. Correspondingly, the average age of the younger spouse of male couples was 37 in 2019, while for the younger spouse of female couples it was 32.

During the whole reference period starting from 2002, the average ages of female couples entering into their first registered partnership or first marriage show a slight downward trend. In other words, the spouses of female couples entering into their first marriage are slightly younger than before. This cannot be seen for male couples.

The trend in the average ages of same-sex spouses entering into their first marriage does not show the direction of the average of opposite-sex spouses. The average ages of opposite-sex spouses entering into their first marriage have been growing for a long time, for example, the [average age of wives](#).

### Average age of men and women when registering their first partnership in 2002 to 2016 and when entering into their first marriage in 2017 to 2019, same-sex couples



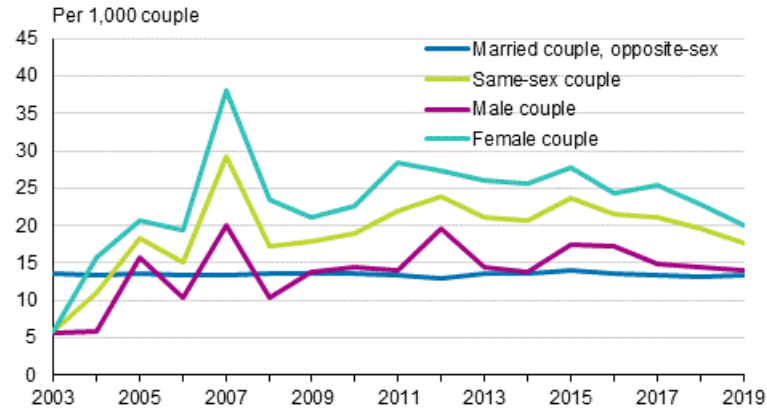
### Divorce rate among same-sex couples still declining

The divorce rate of same-sex couples has been decreasing continuously since 2015. In the last few years, the divorce rate has decreased more steeply than before. By contrast, the divorce rate of opposite sexes has remained almost unchanged.

In 2019, the change in the divorce rate was small for couples of opposite sexes compared with the previous year, unlike for same-sex couples. The divorce rate of same-sex couples decreased by 10 per cent, two percentage points more than in the year before. The divorce rate of same-sex couples was 18 per one thousand couples, in the year before it was 20. 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 those of male couples since 2004. In 2019, the divorce rate of both female and male couples decreased, but the divorce rate of female couples much more than that of male couples. For this reason, the divorce rate of same-sex couples decreased much more strongly than in the previous year.

**Divorce rates from registered partnerships<sup>1</sup> and marriages 2003–2019**



1. Divorces from registered partnerships 2003–2019. From the year 2017 on also includes divorces from same-sex marriages.



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# Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Marriage rate<sup>2</sup> by region<sup>1</sup> in 2008 to 2019, opposite-sex couples**

Area <sup>1</sup>	Year											
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Whole country	24,4	23,3	23,2	21,9	22,1	19,1	18,4	18,5	18,2	17,6	16,1	14,7
Uusimaa	26,6	25,8	25,1	23,4	23,2	20,7	20,0	20,1	19,7	19,4	17,6	16,3
Varsinais-Suomi	25,0	23,2	22,9	21,1	21,2	18,6	18,4	18,4	17,8	18,1	15,9	14,8
Satakunta	23,6	21,4	20,9	21,5	21,4	18,8	17,5	18,0	19,2	17,6	15,8	15,0
Kanta-Häme	25,8	22,4	21,1	21,5	21,5	19,2	17,9	17,0	17,5	16,0	15,0	12,3
Pirkanmaa	26,2	25,3	25,6	24,6	24,6	21,5	20,1	20,4	19,5	19,0	16,5	15,3
Päijät-Häme	21,1	20,9	20,7	18,9	18,8	16,7	15,8	16,7	14,8	14,1	14,1	12,5
Kymenlaakso	22,7	21,8	21,1	19,5	20,1	17,6	15,8	15,8	15,9	14,8	13,6	12,7
South Karelia	18,4	19,8	19,4	19,8	17,3	14,9	15,7	14,2	15,2	13,7	13,1	11,3
Etelä-Savo	17,3	15,3	16,4	15,8	15,5	14,2	13,5	13,5	13,3	12,9	12,3	11,4
Pohjois-Savo	21,4	19,0	20,2	19,5	20,8	17,1	16,2	15,5	14,6	15,2	14,5	12,9
North Karelia	19,4	17,6	18,9	16,9	19,4	15,7	15,9	15,2	15,6	14,2	12,6	11,0
Central Finland	23,5	23,2	23,0	21,3	22,0	17,9	16,5	16,6	17,6	16,1	15,5	12,9
South Ostrobothnia	22,3	22,0	22,8	21,6	22,2	18,1	18,6	18,2	17,1	16,1	15,6	15,1
Ostrobothnia	27,4	24,0	24,6	22,8	22,4	19,2	18,6	20,1	21,2	20,2	20,0	17,6
Central Ostrobothnia	25,8	24,6	27,0	27,1	25,0	21,1	21,7	24,3	22,2	21,0	19,0	15,9
North Ostrobothnia	27,8	27,2	27,5	25,2	25,6	21,1	21,0	20,4	19,9	19,2	17,5	15,5
Kainuu	18,7	19,2	17,6	16,3	18,6	14,3	14,7	14,3	14,3	13,8	13,4	11,7
Lapland	20,0	19,6	20,7	19,2	21,7	17,1	16,4	16,7	16,4	14,7	13,4	12,4
Åland	21,0	17,9	21,0	16,3	20,2	16,7	16,2	16,5	17,0	15,3	14,5	16,4

1) Regional division 1.1.2020.

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

**Appendix table 2. Divorces by age of mother and children aged under 18 in 2019, opposite-sex couples**

Age of mother	Number of children									Children aged 0-17, total
	Total	0	1	2	3	4	5	6-		
Total	13 162	4 900	2 766	3 621	1 341	368	114	52		16 387
-19	11	7	3	1	-	-	-	-		5
20-24	264	152	62	44	6	-	-	-		168
25-29	1 067	406	262	289	83	25	2	-		1 199
30-34	1 970	509	411	653	268	91	30	8		3 084
35-39	2 516	384	448	1 046	424	136	49	29		4 776
40-44	2 409	389	553	953	394	86	25	9		4 168
45-49	1 913	651	599	483	145	22	8	5		2 154
50-54	1 381	870	339	143	21	7	-	1		722
55-59	806	712	84	9	-	1	-	-		106
60-	825	820	5	-	-	-	-	-		5

# 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 Digital and Population Data Services Agency and the State Department of Åland. The registration of the information is based on statutory notifications made by municipalities, private individuals and public authorities. From 1975 Statistics Finland has obtained population data from the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.

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.

As a result of the amendment to the Marriage Act, starting from 1 June 2019, a person under 18 years of age shall not marry in Finland.(351/ 2019)

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 Digital and Data Services Office. A registered partnership continues as a marriage from the day on which the Digital and Data Services 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 Digital and Population Data Services Agency and the State Department of Åland. The registration of the information is based on statutory notifications made by municipalities, private individuals and public authorities. For example, local courts take information of 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 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 Digital and Population Data Services Agency 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 Digital and Population Data Services Agency 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](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](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 2019. Statistics Finland