

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – MARRIAGES, DIVORCES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Northern Ireland
**Statistics &
Research**
Agency

August the most popular month to get married last year

9:30am – Tuesday, 17th June 2008

The number of marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2007 was 8,700, an increase of over 5% on the 8,300 marriages registered in 2006, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency said today.

The highest number of marriages ever recorded in Northern Ireland was in 1970 (12,300 marriages). Between 1970 and 2000 the number of marriages declined reaching a low of 7,300 marriages in 2001. Since 2001 the number of marriages has increased to 8,700 in 2007.

Saturday, 7 July 2007 was the most popular day to get married in Northern Ireland. Last year there were 162 marriages on that day compared to 100 marriages on a typical summer Saturday. Whilst 7 July was the most popular day, August was the most popular month to get married with 1,400 marriages taking place in that month.

Just over 2,900 divorces were registered in Northern Ireland in 2007, a 14% increase on the 2006 figure of 2,600 divorces and the highest number of divorces recorded in Northern Ireland in a single year.

During 2007 there were 111 civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland, this compares with 116 civil partnerships in 2006.

Some further key results and a number of attached tables are outlined below.

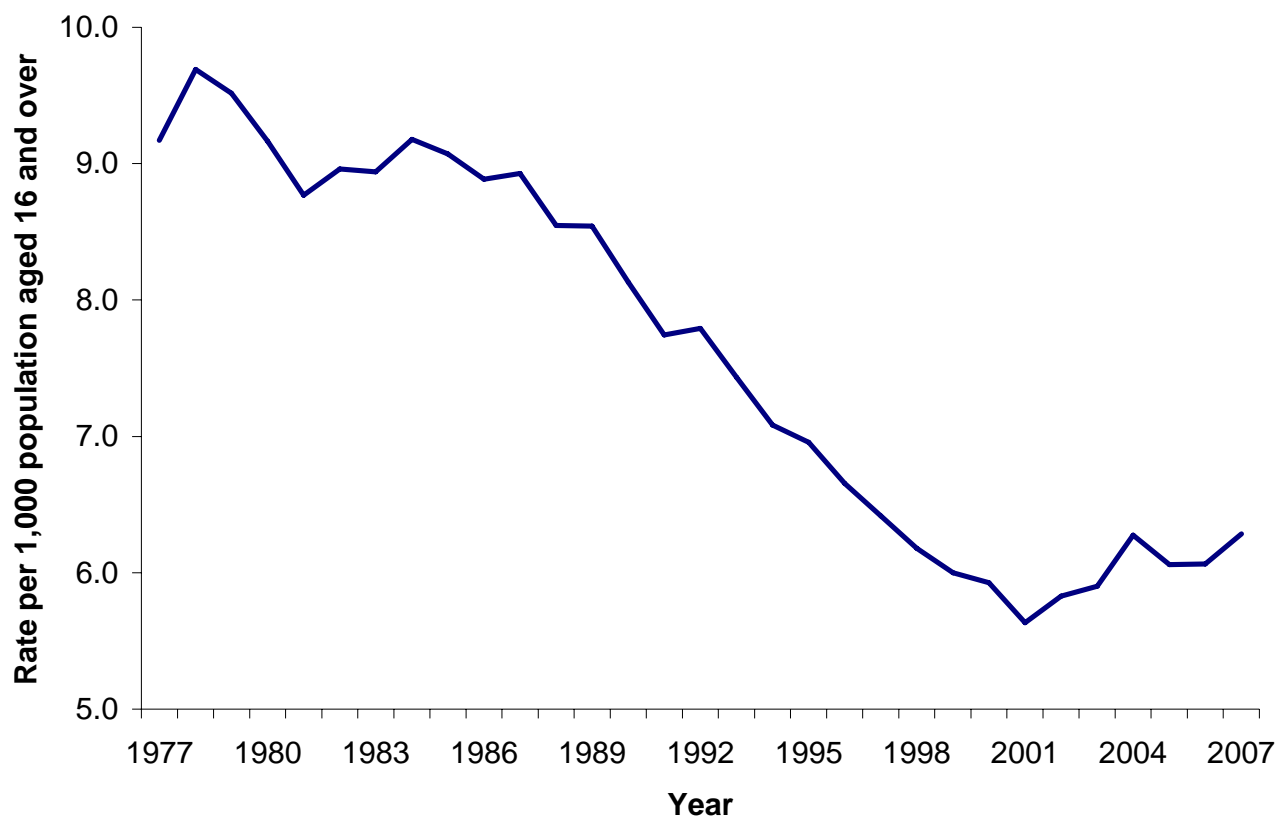
Marriages registered in 2007

Number of Marriages

- There were 8,687 marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2007, an increase of 428 marriages or 5% on the 2006 figure of 8,259 marriages; and
- the number of marriages registered in 2007 is significantly higher (19%) than the lowest number recorded of 7,281 marriages in 2001. This is an increase from the 1927 figure of 7,175 marriages but shows a decrease from 1987 when 10,363 marriages were registered.

Chart 1: Marriage Rate per 1,000 Population Aged 16 and Over (1977 to 2007)

[non-zero Y axis]



Bride and Groom

- Last year more than three-quarters (79%) of marriages were the first marriage for both the bride and groom, 13% of marriages were a first marriage for one partner only and the remaining 8% of marriages were a remarriage for both the bride and groom;

- over half (53%) of couples who married in 2007 lived at the same address before marriage, this is a slight increase on the 2006 figure (50%);
- the average age at marriage has increased markedly in the last two decades. The average age at marriage for all brides in 2007 was almost 31 (30.9 years) compared to 25 (25.3 years) in 1987. The average age for the groom in 2007 was 33 (33.2 years), compared to 28 (27.5 years) in 1987. Both first time brides and grooms are now on average five years older than their counterparts twenty years ago;
- of the 8,687 marriages in 2007, 7,766 (89%) were to couples where one or both partners lived in Northern Ireland. In the remaining 921 marriages (11%) neither partner lived in Northern Ireland; however, the majority of these (828 marriages) related to weddings where one or both partners lived in the UK or Ireland;
- of the 921 marriages where neither partner lived in Northern Ireland, almost three-quarters (74%) were marriages where one or both partners were born in Northern Ireland, clearly relating to people returning home to get married; and
- overall in 70% (6,107 marriages) of marriages registered in 2007 both partners were born in Northern Ireland, in 24% (2,118 marriages) one partner was born in Northern Ireland and in 5% (462 marriages) neither partner was born in Northern Ireland.

Type of Ceremony

- Of the 8,687 marriages registered in 2007, 6,132 were religious marriages and the remaining 2,555 were civil marriages;
- the number of civil marriages has increased from 2,446 in 2006 to 2,555 in 2007;
- civil marriages accounted for 29% of all marriages in 2007 compared to 13% (1,384 marriages) in 1987 and only 6% (452 marriages) in 1927;
- the number of religious marriages increased from 5,813 marriages in 2006 to 6,132 marriages in 2007;
- religious marriages accounted for 71% (6,132 marriages) of all marriages in 2007 compared to 87% (8,979 marriages) in 1987 and 94% (6,723 marriages) in 1927; and

- of the 6,132 religious marriages in 2007, 53% were Roman Catholic ceremonies; 19% Presbyterian (including Free Presbyterian), 16% Church of Ireland, 3% Methodist and 9% 'Other denominations'.

Place of Ceremony

- The Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 now allows civil marriage ceremonies to be conducted outside Registrar's Offices in a number of approved venues. In 2007, 1,042 civil marriage ceremonies (41% of all civil marriage ceremonies) were held in approved venues compared to 878 in 2006;
- in 2007, 378 religious marriage ceremonies (6% of all religious marriage ceremonies) were held outside of religious buildings compared to 285 such ceremonies in 2006;
- outside religious buildings and Registrar Offices most weddings took place in Belfast Castle in 2007, this is similar to 2006; and
- Belfast Registrar Office had the most weddings of all Registrar Offices in 2007 and St. Eugene's Cathedral in Derry Local Government District had the most weddings of all religious buildings.

Marriages by District

- The new marriage legislation introduced in 2004 has less strict residency requirements; marriages celebrated in a particular district are not necessarily between residents of that district. There are marked differences in characteristics of marriage partners and ceremonies between districts – this is shown in Table 1(g);
- in 2007, most marriages took place in Belfast Local Government District (1,356 marriages) followed by North Down Local Government District (551 marriages). Moyle Local Government District had the fewest marriages registered in 2007 (101 marriages); and

- the average ages of males and females at the time of marriage varies across Local Government Districts. Carrickfergus has the highest average ages at 34 for females and 37 for males compared to Magherafelt with the lowest average age for females at 29 and Dungannon with the lowest average age for males at 31.

Marriage Day and Seasonality

- Summer is the most popular time of year to get married. Over 40% of all marriages take place in third quarter of 2007 (July-September), whilst only 10% of marriages are registered in the first quarter (January-March);
- in 2007, the most common month to get married was August (1,430 couples) followed by July (1,196 couples);
- last year, the most common day of the week to get married was Saturday (39%). Only 46 marriages took place on a Sunday in 2007;
- Saturday 7th July 2007 was the most popular day in 2007 to get married, with 162 couples getting married on that date;
- between January and March over 40% of all marriages were civil ceremonies while in the second and third quarters of the year 27% of all marriages were civil marriages; and
- over the last five years just under 80% of marriages were first time marriages for both partners; however looking at the months January to March this falls to 70% of marriages.

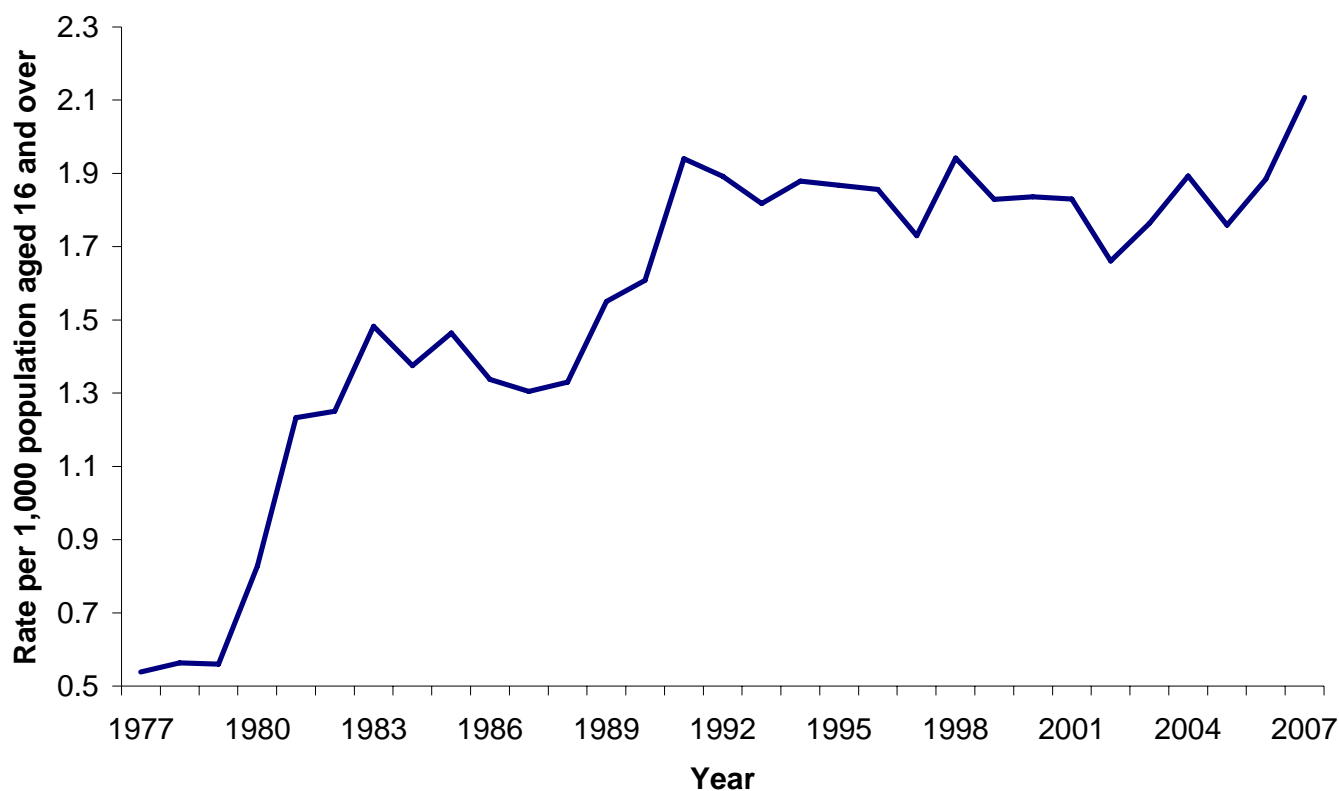
Divorces granted in 2007

Number of Divorces

- The number of marriages dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2007 was 2,913. This is an increase of 348 divorces or 14% from last year's figure of 2,565 divorces;
- the number of divorces recorded last year is the largest on record for Northern Ireland. During the last decade the number of divorces had stabilised with an annual average of around 2,400 per year;
- the average duration of marriage ending in divorce in 2007 was 17.4 years; and
- of the 2,913 divorces dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2007, 648 cases were lodged with the Northern Ireland Court Service in 2007, 1,422 in 2006 and 467 in 2005 with the remaining 376 being lodged prior to 2005.

Chart 2: Divorce Rate per 1,000 Population Aged 16 and Over (1977 to 2007)

[non-zero Y axis]



Divorcees

- Last year around 90% of people getting divorced had not been divorced before; the proportion of people getting divorced who were previously divorced has been rising since the 1980s. This now accounts for over 9% of all new divorcees in 2007. People who were previously widowed at the time of their marriage accounted for less than 1% of people getting divorced; and
- just under 9% of male divorcees had left Northern Ireland or resided at an unknown address at the time of their divorce compared to just under 4% of female divorcees.

Other Issues

- Non-cohabitation remains the most frequently recorded reason for divorce (74%), followed by behaviour (12%) and combined grounds (10%);
- in 2007, nearly two-thirds of divorces (64%) were filed for by the wife, 35% were filed for by the husband and just 1% by both partners. These percentages have remained around this level over the last ten years;
- just over 28% of divorces were of marriages that had been celebrated in a Roman Catholic Church. Corresponding figures for Presbyterian (including Free Presbyterian), Church of Ireland, Methodist and Registrar's Office are 17%, 16%, 4% and 25% respectively;
- over the last three years 14% of divorces here were following a marriage which took place outside Northern Ireland. Of these divorces, a significant proportion leads to one partner living outside Northern Ireland at the time of their divorce; and
- in 2007, just under 5,000 children/stepchildren were affected by divorce; 2,900 children aged under 18 at the time of the divorce and 2,100 children aged 18 and over at the time of the divorce.

Civil Partnerships registered in 2007

Number of Civil Partnerships

- The Civil Partnership Act came into force in late 2005, enabling same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. During 2007 there were 111 civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland, 60 male civil partnerships and 51 female civil partnerships. This is a small decrease from the 2006 figure of 116 civil partnerships.

Marital Status of Partners

- For 85 civil partnerships both partners were single, in the remaining 26 civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married;
- for 52 of the 60 male civil partnerships both partners were single, while for the remaining 8 male civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married. For 33 of the 51 female civil partnerships both partners were single; in the remaining 18 female civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married;
- for male civil partnerships the average age of partners was just over 41 (41.1 years), this compares to 38 (38.0 years) for female civil partnerships; and
- 99 out of the 111 civil partnership couples in 2007 lived at the same address prior to their civil partnership being registered.

Place of Ceremony

- In 2007, 99 civil partnership ceremonies were held in Registrar's Offices. The remaining 12 were held in an approved venue.

Civil Partnerships by District

- Civil partnerships celebrated in a particular district are not necessarily between residents of that district. In 2007, Belfast LGD was the most popular district for civil partnerships (72 civil partnerships), with Derry LGD was the second most popular (11 civil partnerships); and
- in 2007, there were 25 civil partnerships registered where both partners were not resident in Northern Ireland.

Date of Civil Partnership

- Last year, the most common day of the week for a civil partnership was Saturday (32 civil partnerships); and
- in 2007, July was the most common month for civil partnerships (16 civil partnerships) closely followed by May (12 civil partnerships).

A number of tables are attached. These are listed below:

Marriage

Table 1(a) Marriages, Numbers and Rates, Mean Age at Marriage and Percentages by Age at Marriage for Males, 1997 to 2007

Table 1(b) Marriages, Numbers and Rates, Mean Age at Marriage and Percentages by Age at Marriage for Females, 1997 to 2007

Table 1(c) Marriages, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 1997 to 2007

Table 1(d) Marriages (Numbers) by Method of Celebration, 1997 to 2007

Table 1(e) Marriages (Percentages) by Method of Celebration, 1997 to 2007

Table 1(f) Civil and Religious Marriages by Location, 2007

Table 1(g) Marriages by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2007

Table 1(h) Key Marriage Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2002 to 2007

Table 1(i) Marriages by Age of Husband and Wife at Marriage, 2007

Table 1(j) Marriages by Country of Birth of Husband and Wife, 2007

Table 1(k) Marriages by Country of Residence of Husband and Wife, 2007

Divorce

Table 2(a) Divorces, Numbers and Rates, Mean Duration of Marriage, Percentages by Marital Status and Percentage Filed by Wife, 1997 to 2007

Table 2(b) Divorces, Percentage by Grounds, 1997 to 2007

Table 2(c) Divorces, Percentage by Method of Celebration of Marriage, 1997 to 2007

Table 2(d) Divorcees by Area of Residence, 2007

Table 2(e) Divorces by Duration of Marriage and Number of Children/Stepchildren, 2007

Civil Partnerships

Table 3(a) Civil Partnerships, Numbers, Mean Age and Percentage by Age at Civil Partnership, 2005 to 2007

Table 3(b) Civil Partnerships, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 2005 to 2007

Table 3(c) Civil Partnerships by Location, 2007

Table 3(d) Civil Partnerships by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2007

Table 3(e) Key Civil Partnership Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2005 to 2007

Table 3(f) Civil Partnerships by Age of Both Partners at Civil Partnership, 2007

Table 3(g) Civil Partnerships by Age of Partners at Civil Partnership, 2007

These tables along with some additional tables and charts on marriages, divorces and civil partnerships can be found at:

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp25.htm>

Table 1(a) Marriages, numbers and rates, mean age at marriage and percentages by age at marriage for males, 1997 to 2007

Year	Number of Marriages	Male Marriage Rate ^{1,2}	Average Age at Marriage				Percentage of grooms aged under 25	Percentage of grooms aged 40 and over
			Husband's conjugal condition					
			Single	Widowed	Divorced	All		
1997	8,071	13.4	28.7	58.9	41.2	30.7	20.1	10.3
1998	7,826	12.9	29.1	55.7	41.3	31.1	17.0	10.9
1999	7,628	12.5	29.2	57.2	42.1	31.4	16.1	11.7
2000	7,584	12.4	29.5	58.0	41.9	31.7	14.5	12.3
2001	7,281	11.7	29.7	57.5	42.7	31.8	13.9	12.6
2002	7,599	12.1	29.9	58.9	43.3	32.3	13.3	13.8
2003	7,757	12.2	30.1	56.7	43.5	32.3	12.1	13.5
2004	8,328	13.0	30.5	53.6	44.1	32.9	11.3	15.4
2005	8,140	12.5	30.5	59.0	44.4	32.7	10.8	15.1
2006	8,259	12.5	30.7	59.4	45.1	33.2	10.0	16.5
2007	8,687	13.0	31.0	56.8	44.7	33.2	9.0	16.2

¹Marriages per 1,000 male population aged 16 and over. (Note in previous releases this table calculated rates using both the male and female population)

²Rate for 2007 calculated using the 2007 population projection

Table 1(b) Marriages, numbers and rates, mean age at marriage and percentages by age at marriage for females, 1997 to 2007

Year	Number of Marriages	Female Marriage Rate ^{1,2}	Average Age at Marriage				Percentage of brides aged under 25	Percentage of brides aged 40 and over
			Wife's conjugal condition					
			Single	Widowed	Divorced	All		
1997	8,071	12.3	26.9	52.4	38.8	28.7	33.8	7.6
1998	7,826	11.9	27.1	51.5	38.7	28.9	30.5	7.4
1999	7,628	11.5	27.4	52.9	39.3	29.2	29.7	8.1
2000	7,584	11.4	27.6	51.9	39.9	29.5	27.4	8.8
2001	7,281	10.8	27.8	51.1	39.6	29.5	26.0	8.6
2002	7,599	11.2	28.1	52.5	40.6	30.0	25.4	9.8
2003	7,757	11.4	28.2	51.1	40.8	30.1	24.1	9.3
2004	8,328	12.1	28.5	47.8	41.7	30.6	22.0	10.9
2005	8,140	11.7	28.6	54.6	41.4	30.4	21.3	10.1
2006	8,259	11.7	28.9	53.7	42.6	30.9	19.2	11.4
2007	8,687	12.2	29.0	50.8	42.2	30.9	18.6	10.9

¹Marriages per 1,000 female population aged 16 and over. (Note in previous releases this table calculated rates using both the male and female population)

²Rate for 2007 calculated using the 2007 population projection

Table 1(c) Marriages, percentages by marital status of persons marrying, 1997 to 2007

Year	Percentage of grooms who were			Percentage of brides who were			Percentage of couples marrying		
	Bachelors ¹	Widowers	Divorcees	Spinsters ¹	Widows	Divorcees	Neither partner previously married	One partner previously married	Both partners previously married
1997	86.4	1.9	11.7	86.9	1.6	11.5	80.3	12.8	6.9
1998	85.5	1.6	13.0	86.5	1.6	11.9	79.1	13.8	7.1
1999	85.2	1.8	13.0	86.7	1.6	11.7	79.3	13.2	7.4
2000	85.2	2.0	12.7	86.2	1.5	12.3	79.3	12.8	7.9
2001	85.6	1.6	12.9	86.8	1.4	11.8	79.7	13.0	7.3
2002	84.3	1.8	13.9	85.9	1.7	12.4	78.1	14.0	7.9
2003	84.9	1.7	13.4	86.2	1.5	12.3	79.2	12.6	8.1
2004	84.0	2.2	13.8	85.4	1.8	12.8	77.6	14.0	8.4
2005	85.5	1.4	13.1	86.9	1.3	11.8	79.8	12.7	7.5
2006	84.5	1.5	14.0	86.2	1.4	12.3	78.6	13.5	7.9
2007	84.9	1.2	13.9	86.4	1.1	12.5	79.0	13.3	7.7

¹Includes some people who previously went through a form of marriage and whose previous marriage was annulled.

Table 1(d) Marriages (numbers) by method of celebration, 1997 to 2007

Year	Method of celebration - Numbers						
	All marriages	Religious denomination					Civil
		Roman Catholic	Presbyterian ¹	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other denominations	
1997	8,071	3,059	1,309	1,075	294	469	1,865
1998	7,826	2,973	1,260	1,056	236	447	1,854
1999	7,628	2,935	1,222	967	246	425	1,833
2000	7,584	2,885	1,218	986	253	332	1,910
2001	7,281	2,708	1,158	984	218	332	1,881
2002	7,599	2,830	1,135	1,005	204	312	2,113
2003	7,757	2,841	1,207	988	224	363	2,134
2004	8,328	2,978	1,172	916	224	414	2,624
2005	8,140	3,047	1,179	1,044	208	434	2,228
2006	8,259	3,031	1,191	929	210	452	2,446
2007	8,687	3,227	1,164	953	210	578	2,555

¹ Including Free Presbyterian

Table 1(e) Marriages (percentages) by method of celebration, 1997 to 2007

Year	Method of celebration - Percentages						
	All marriages	Religious denomination					Civil
		Roman Catholic	Presbyterian ¹	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other denominations	
1997	8,071	37.9	16.2	13.3	3.6	5.8	23.1
1998	7,826	38.0	16.1	13.5	3.0	5.7	23.7
1999	7,628	38.5	16.0	12.7	3.2	5.6	24.0
2000	7,584	38.0	16.1	13.0	3.3	4.4	25.2
2001	7,281	37.2	15.9	13.5	3.0	4.6	25.8
2002	7,599	37.2	14.9	13.2	2.7	4.1	27.8
2003	7,757	36.6	15.6	12.7	2.9	4.7	27.5
2004	8,328	35.8	14.1	11.0	2.7	5.0	31.5
2005	8,140	37.4	14.5	12.8	2.6	5.3	27.4
2006	8,259	36.7	14.4	11.2	2.5	5.5	29.6
2007	8,687	37.1	13.4	11.0	2.4	6.7	29.4

¹ Including Free Presbyterian

Table 1(f) Civil and religious marriages by location, 2007

Location	Civil	Religious	Total
Registrar's Office ¹	1,513	-	1,513
Religious Building ¹	-	5,754	5,754
Other locations:			
Belfast Castle, Belfast	73	50	123
The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn	44	68	112
Galgorm Manor Hotel, Ballymena	51	10	61
Malone House, Belfast	30	20	50
Clandeboyne Lodge Hotel, Bangor	25	18	43
Carrickfergus Castle, Carrickfergus	32	7	39
Portadown Town Hall	38	-	38
Culloden Hotel, Holywood	19	19	38
La Mon House Hotel, Castlereagh	22	13	35
Narrow Water Castle, Warrenpoint	29	4	33
The Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick	29	4	33
Lusty Beg Island, Co Fermanagh	29	2	31
Newtownards, Town Hall	28	-	28
The Tullylagan Country House Hotel, Cookstown	26	2	28
Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle	20	4	24
Ross Park Hotel, Ballymena	18	6	24
Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus	18	5	23
Comfort Hotel, Antrim	21	1	22
The Mill, Ballydugan	17	4	21
The Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Londonderry	19	1	20
Ballygally Castle Hotel	17	2	19
Hilton Hotel and Country Club, Templepatrick	14	4	18
The Dunadry Hotel & Country Club, Dunadry	15	1	16
Ulster Folk & Transport Museum	8	8	16
Kiltonga Hall, Newtownards	14	1	15
Tullyglass House Hotel	13	1	14
Ramada Hotel, Belfast	9	5	14
Crom Estate, Newtownbutler	12	1	13
Radisson Roe Park Resort, Limavady	12	1	13
<i>Remaining other locations</i>	340	116	456
Total	2,555	6,132	8,687

¹ Includes a small number of marriages that took place in a prison or hospital.

Table 1(g) Marriages by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2007

Area of celebration	Number of marriages	Percentage Civil Marriages	Average Age of Husband	Average Age of Bride	Percentage of couples where neither partner previously married	Percentage of couples living at same address before marriage	Percentage of couples resident outside NI	Most popular approved venue (count)
Northern Ireland	8,687	29	33.2	30.9	79	53	11	
Eastern Board	3,268	36	33.8	31.6	75	61	10	
Ards	268	37	34.0	31.7	71	59	8	Newtownards Town Hall (28)
Belfast	1356	38	33.8	31.6	76	62	11	Belfast Castle (123)
Castlereagh	209	40	34.0	32.0	70	63	3	La Mon House Hotel (35)
Down	409	27	33.4	31.3	81	56	10	Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle (24)
Lisburn	475	32	32.9	30.7	79	55	7	The Balmoral Hotel, Dunmurry (9)
North Down	551	37	34.5	32.1	69	68	13	The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn (112)
Northern Board	2,135	33	33.3	30.9	77	52	9	
Antrim	312	44	32.3	30.2	80	63	9	The Templeton Hotel (33)
Ballymena	359	43	33.3	30.7	74	52	8	Galgorm Manor (61)
Ballymoney	109	22	33.7	31.3	77	53	17	Lissanoure Castle (7)
Carrickfergus	164	66	36.6	33.9	56	68	6	Carrickfergus Castle (39)
Coleraine	280	35	33.3	31.2	75	54	13	Mussenden Temple, Downhill (12)
Cookstown	224	24	31.7	29.8	83	42	8	Tullylagan Country Hotel (28)
Larne	156	29	34.4	31.4	72	56	10	Ballygally Castle Hotel (19)
Magherafelt	220	8	31.9	29.0	90	31	8	Ardtara Country House (8)
Moyle	101	11	34.0	31.9	84	33	9	The Manor House, Rathlin Island (3)
Newtownabbey	210	20	34.2	31.4	75	56	7	Sentry Hill (4)
Southern Board	1,689	21	31.9	29.6	85	43	10	
Armagh	336	21	31.7	29.6	85	41	13	Armagh City Hotel/The Argory (1)
Banbridge	165	25	32.4	30.0	80	47	7	Belmont Hotel (9)
Craigavon	362	25	32.2	29.5	81	54	5	Portadown Town Hall (38)
Dungannon	292	14	31.1	29.2	89	37	7	Corrick House (11)
Newry & Mourne	534	22	32.1	29.8	88	40	15	Narrow Water Castle (33)
Western Board	1,595	21	33.1	30.9	83	48	15	
Fermanagh	417	29	34.0	31.6	82	52	22	Lusty Beg Island (31)
Limavady	173	25	32.6	30.2	80	55	9	Radisson Roe Park Resort (13)
Derry	533	25	33.7	31.5	79	52	15	The Beech Hill Country House Hotel (20)
Omagh	281	10	31.9	29.9	92	38	11	Silverbirch Hotel (6)
Strabane	191	5	31.4	29.6	89	39	10	Fir Trees Hotel, Strabane (1)

Table 1(h) Key Marriage Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2002 to 2007

Year and Quarter	Number of marriages	Percentage Civil Ceremony	Average age of Groom	Average age of Bride	Percentage of couples where neither partner previously married
2002					
January – March	810	41	33.4	30.9	71
April – June	2,182	29	32.3	30.0	78
July – September	3,258	23	31.7	29.4	81
October – December	1,349	32	33.2	31.0	74
2003					
January – March	817	40	33.5	31.2	71
April – June	2,210	27	32.4	30.2	79
July – September	3,297	23	31.6	29.4	82
October – December	1,433	31	33.2	31.0	77
2004					
January – March	822	41	33.9	31.6	69
April – June	2,414	31	32.7	30.5	77
July – September	3,485	27	32.3	29.8	81
October – December	1,607	36	34.1	31.6	74
2005					
January – March	948	39	33.7	31.5	72
April – June	2,238	27	32.9	30.5	80
July – September	3,515	24	32.0	29.7	83
October – December	1,439	30	33.7	31.2	78
2006					
January – March	928	37	34.4	31.9	71
April – June	2,287	30	33.3	30.9	78
July – September	3,528	25	32.4	30.2	83
October – December	1,516	34	34.1	31.8	75
2007					
January – March	956	38	34.6	32.2	72
April – June	2,389	31	33.2	30.9	79
July – September	3,791	25	32.5	30.3	82
October – December	1,551	33	33.9	31.6	75

Table 1(i) Marriages by age of Husband and Wife at Marriage, 2007

Age of Wife at Marriage	All Ages	Age of Husband at Marriage						
		Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+
All Ages	8,687	786	2,961	2,322	1,211	605	359	443
Under 25	1,615	570	811	186	37	10	1	-
25-29	3,387	200	1,779	1,033	284	67	14	10
30-34	1,851	15	314	883	453	138	41	7
35-39	885	1	47	185	318	196	92	46
40-44	387	-	8	28	87	131	81	52
45-49	289	-	1	6	25	46	99	112
50+	273	-	1	1	7	17	31	216

Table 1(j) Marriages by Country of Birth of Husband and Wife, 2007

Wife's Country of Birth	All Countries	Husband's Country of Birth				
		Northern Ireland	Rest of the UK	Republic of Ireland	A8 Countries ¹	All Other Countries
All Countries	8,687	6,868	1,005	426	66	322
Northern Ireland	7,464	6,107	822	316	6	213
Rest of the UK	596	419	120	31	1	25
Republic of Ireland	208	109	27	62	-	10
A8 Countries ¹	77	15	1	-	53	8
All Other Countries	342	218	35	17	6	66

¹ The A8 Countries include Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

Table 1(k) Marriages by Country of Residence of Husband and Wife, 2007

Wife's Country of Residence	All Countries	Husband's Country of Residence				
		Northern Ireland	Rest of the UK	Republic of Ireland	A8 Countries ¹	All Other Countries
All Countries	8,687	7,436	734	391	1	125
Northern Ireland	7,699	7,369	134	168	-	28
Rest of the UK	624	21	596	3	-	4
Republic of Ireland	245	23	3	218	-	1
A8 Countries ¹	1	-	-	-	1	-
All Other Countries	118	23	1	2	-	92

¹ The A8 Countries include Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

Table 2(a) Divorces, numbers and rates, mean duration of marriage, percentages by marital status and percentage filed by wife, 1997 to 2007

Year of decree	Number of divorces	Divorce Rate ^{1,2}	Average Duration of marriage (in years)	Husbands - Marital status at time of marriage (Percentage)			Wives - Marital status at time of marriage (Percentage)			Percentage filed by wife
				Single	Widowed	Divorced	Single	Widowed	Divorced	
1997	2,176	1.7	15.9	92.6	0.5	6.8	93.2	0.7	6.2	68
1998	2,459	1.9	15.3	93.2	0.6	6.3	93.1	0.9	6.1	67
1999	2,326	1.8	15.8	92.6	0.6	6.7	93.9	0.5	5.6	68
2000	2,350	1.8	16.2	91.4	0.9	7.8	92.4	0.9	6.7	66
2001	2,365	1.8	16.1	91.4	0.9	7.7	91.5	0.9	7.6	67
2002	2,165	1.7	16.4	91.9	0.4	7.7	91.6	1.0	7.3	65
2003	2,319	1.8	16.6	91.1	0.6	8.3	91.4	0.4	8.2	66
2004	2,512	1.9	16.7	91.8	0.5	7.7	91.5	0.7	7.8	66
2005	2,362	1.8	17.1	90.1	0.8	9.2	90.1	0.8	9.1	64
2006	2,565	1.9	17.7	91.2	0.4	8.4	91.3	0.7	8.0	65
2007	2,913	2.1	17.4	90.7	0.4	8.9	89.9	0.4	9.7	64

¹Divorces per 1,000 population aged 16 and over

²Rate for 2007 calculated using the 2007 population projection

Table 2(b) Divorces, percentage by grounds, 1997 to 2007

Year of decree	Number of divorces	Grounds of divorce (Percentage)						
		Adultery	Behaviour	Desertion	Non-cohabitation		Combined grounds	Nullity of marriage
					2 years & consent	5 years		
1997	2,176	6.9	19.2	0.5	45.5	24.6	3.1	0.1
1998	2,459	6.1	17.2	0.4	45.2	27.8	3.0	0.2
1999	2,326	8.2	18.2	0.7	42.0	27.6	3.1	0.0
2000	2,350	6.9	17.3	0.3	45.3	27.0	3.1	0.1
2001	2,365	5.9	17.4	0.2	44.5	28.2	3.6	0.1
2002	2,165	6.1	16.8	0.1	46.3	26.9	3.8	-
2003	2,319	4.8	16.6	0.4	45.9	27.7	4.4	0.2
2004	2,512	5.5	18.9	0.2	45.9	25.9	3.5	-
2005	2,362	3.9	13.2	0.1	44.7	27.2	10.7	0.2
2006	2,565	3.7	13.0	0.1	43.2	29.1	10.7	0.3
2007	2,913	3.4	12.3	0.1	47.1	27.1	9.7	0.2

Table 2(c) Divorces, percentage by method of celebration of marriage, 1997 to 2007

Year of decree	Method of celebration of marriage of divorcees (Percentage)						
	Number of divorces	Roman Catholic	Presbyterian ¹	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other denominations ²	Civil
1997	2,176	27.9	22.3	17.0	4.4	12.2	16.1
1998	2,459	29.0	20.1	16.5	4.1	12.7	17.6
1999	2,326	30.3	20.7	16.9	3.8	10.7	17.5
2000	2,350	30.9	20.0	15.2	4.8	10.0	19.2
2001	2,365	31.3	20.7	15.1	4.1	9.2	19.6
2002	2,165	30.7	19.7	14.9	3.5	11.5	19.8
2003	2,319	31.0	19.8	13.7	4.0	10.7	20.8
2004	2,512	30.9	18.5	14.3	4.7	12.7	18.8
2005	2,362	30.3	18.9	14.4	4.4	9.2	22.8
2006	2,565	31.2	17.0	14.3	4.0	9.9	23.6
2007	2,913	28.5	16.7	15.6	4.1	10.1	25.1

¹ Including Free Presbyterian

² Including not stated.

Table 2(d) Divorcees by area of residence, 2007

Area of Residence	Male Divorcees	Female Divorcees	All Divorcees
Northern Ireland	2,651	2,806	5,457
Eastern Board	1,151	1,189	2,340
Ards	150	141	291
Belfast	437	427	864
Castlereagh	139	152	291
Down	101	101	202
Lisburn	169	169	338
North Down	155	199	354
Northern Board	688	774	1,462
Antrim	83	79	162
Ballymena	106	105	211
Ballymoney	41	52	93
Carrickfergus	80	101	181
Coleraine	86	95	181
Cookstown	38	35	73
Larne	59	67	126
Magherafelt	40	52	92
Moyle	23	23	46
Newtownabbey	132	165	297
Southern Board	462	485	947
Armagh	67	79	146
Banbridge	81	69	150
Craigavon	161	164	325
Dungannon	54	59	113
Newry & Mourne	99	114	213
Western Board	350	358	708
Fermanagh	55	62	117
Limavady	57	51	108
Derry	145	157	302
Omagh	49	53	102
Strabane	44	35	79
Living outside NI / Unknown	262	107	369
All divorcees	2,913	2,913	5,826

Table 2(e) Divorces by duration of marriage and number of children/stepchildren, 2007

Duration of Marriage (years)	All Divorces	Number of Children/Stepchildren ¹					All Children
		0	1	2	3	4+	
All Divorces	2,913	725	559	871	468	290	4,996
0-4	139	92	20	18	8	1	85
5-9	591	269	152	108	42	20	582
10-14	605	155	139	198	74	39	926
15-19	528	66	99	203	98	62	1,078
20-24	448	41	82	154	107	64	989
25-29	292	39	44	100	64	45	638
30+	310	63	23	91	75	58	698

¹ As some divorces are lodged years prior to the dissolution of the divorce this figure includes children which have reached adulthood when the Decree Absolute is issued

Table 3(a) Civil partnerships, numbers, mean age and percentage by age at civil partnership, 2005 to 2007

Year	Number of civil partnerships	Male Partners				Female Partners			
		Number of civil partnerships	Average age of partners	Percentage of partners aged under 25	Percentage of partners aged 40 and over	Number of civil partnerships	Average age of partners	Percentage of partners aged under 25	Percentage of partners aged 40 and over
2005 ¹	12	6	39.4	8	42	6	34.7	-	17
2006	116	65	42.7	3	52	51	39.5	8	49
2007	111	60	41.1	7	53	51	38.0	6	40

¹ Civil Partnerships only introduced in December 2005

Table 3(b) Civil partnerships, percentages by marital status of persons marrying, 2005 to 2007

Year	Percentage of couples in a Civil Partnership where		Percentage of male partnerships where		Percentage of female partnerships where	
	Both Single ²	One or both partners previously married	Both Single ²	One or both partners previously married	Both Single ²	One or both partners previously married
2005 ¹	75	25	83	17	67	33
2006	78	22	88	12	67	33
2007	77	23	87	13	65	35

¹ Civil Partnerships only introduced in December 2005

² Includes never previously married or in a civil partnership

Table 3(c) Civil partnerships by location, 2007

Location	TOTAL
Registrar's Office	99
Other locations	
Castle	3
Hotel	3
Council Premises	2
<i>Remaining other locations</i>	4
TOTAL	111

Table 3(d) Civil partnerships by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2007

Area of Celebration	Number of civil partnerships	Number of male civil partnerships	Number of female civil partnerships
Northern Ireland	111	60	51
Eastern Board	81	47	34
Belfast	72	42	30
Rest of Eastern Board	9	5	4
Northern Board	4	2	2
Southern Board	11	4	7
Newry & Mourne	5	1	4
Rest of Southern Board	6	3	3
Western Board	15	7	8
Derry	11	5	6
Rest of Western Board	4	2	2

Table 3(e) Key Civil Partnership Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2005 to 2007

Year and Quarter	Number of civil partnerships	Number of male partnerships	Number of female partnerships	Average age of male partners	Average age of female partners	Percentage of couples where both partners were single
2005¹	12	6	6	39.4	34.7	75
October – December	12	6	6	39.4	34.7	75
2006	116	65	51	42.7	39.5	78
January – March	31	21	10	48.8	37.6	90
April – June	35	15	20	42.9	39.0	69
July – September	31	19	12	40.3	41.6	77
October – December	19	10	9	34.5	39.9	79
2007	111	60	51	41.1	38.0	77
January – March	22	12	10	42.6	37.7	91
April – June	29	17	12	43.9	39.5	76
July – September	38	18	20	38.1	37.7	71
October – December	22	13	9	40.1	37.3	73

¹ Civil Partnerships only introduced in December 2005

Table 3(f) Civil Partnerships by Age of Both Partners at Civil Partnership, 2007

Age of older partner	Age of younger partner							
	All Ages	Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+
All Ages	111	12	15	19	30	20	7	8
Under 25	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
25-29	13	5	8	..	..	..	..	..
30-34	11	3	3	5	..	..	..	..
35-39	16	2	2	6	6	..	..	..
40-44	25	-	-	4	13	8	..	..
45-49	19	-	1	3	7	5	3	..
50+	25	-	1	1	4	7	4	8

Table 3(g) Civil Partnership by Age of Partners at Civil Partnership, 2007

Age of Partners at Civil Partnership	All Partners	Male Partners	Female Partners
All Ages	222	120	102
Under 25	14	8	6
25-29	28	16	12
30-34	30	14	16
35-39	46	19	27
40-44	45	24	21
45-49	26	14	12
50+	33	25	8

NOTE FOR EDITORS

1. More information can be accessed on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency website at <http://www.nisra.gov.uk>. Figures are provisional, final figures are published in the Registrar General's Annual Report.
2. The figures on marriages have been compiled from returns furnished by the local registrars.
3. The figures on divorces have been compiled from returns of 'Decrees made Absolute' supplied by the Northern Ireland Court Service and include nullities of marriage. Information on the number of Decree Nisi is published by the Northern Ireland Court Service. A Decree Nisi does not terminate the marriage; a couple are still married until the Decree Absolute has been granted.
4. Corresponding information for England and Wales is published by the Office for National Statistics (London) and for Scotland by the General Register Office for Scotland (Edinburgh).
5. All media inquiries should be directed to:
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6. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:
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