

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – MARRIAGES, DIVORCES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (2009)



Northern Ireland
Statistics &
Research
Agency

Marriage and Divorce Numbers Down Last Year

9:30am – Wednesday, 16th June 2010

The number of marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2009 was 7,900, a decrease on the 8,500 marriages registered in 2008. Last year 2,200 divorces were registered, a marked decrease on the 2008 figure of 2,800 divorces.

August was also the most popular month to get married last year with 1,200 marriages and Saturday, 22 August 2009 was the most popular day with 115 marriages. During 2009 there were 96 civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland, this compares with 86 civil partnerships in 2008.

These statistics are part of provisional annual statistics released today by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). A NISRA spokesperson said:

“The figures show that 7,900 couples married in Northern Ireland in 2009. Today civil marriage accounts for nearly one in three of all marriages; this proportion having doubled since 1989. The latest figures also show a decrease in the number of divorces – with 2,200 divorces registered in 2009.”

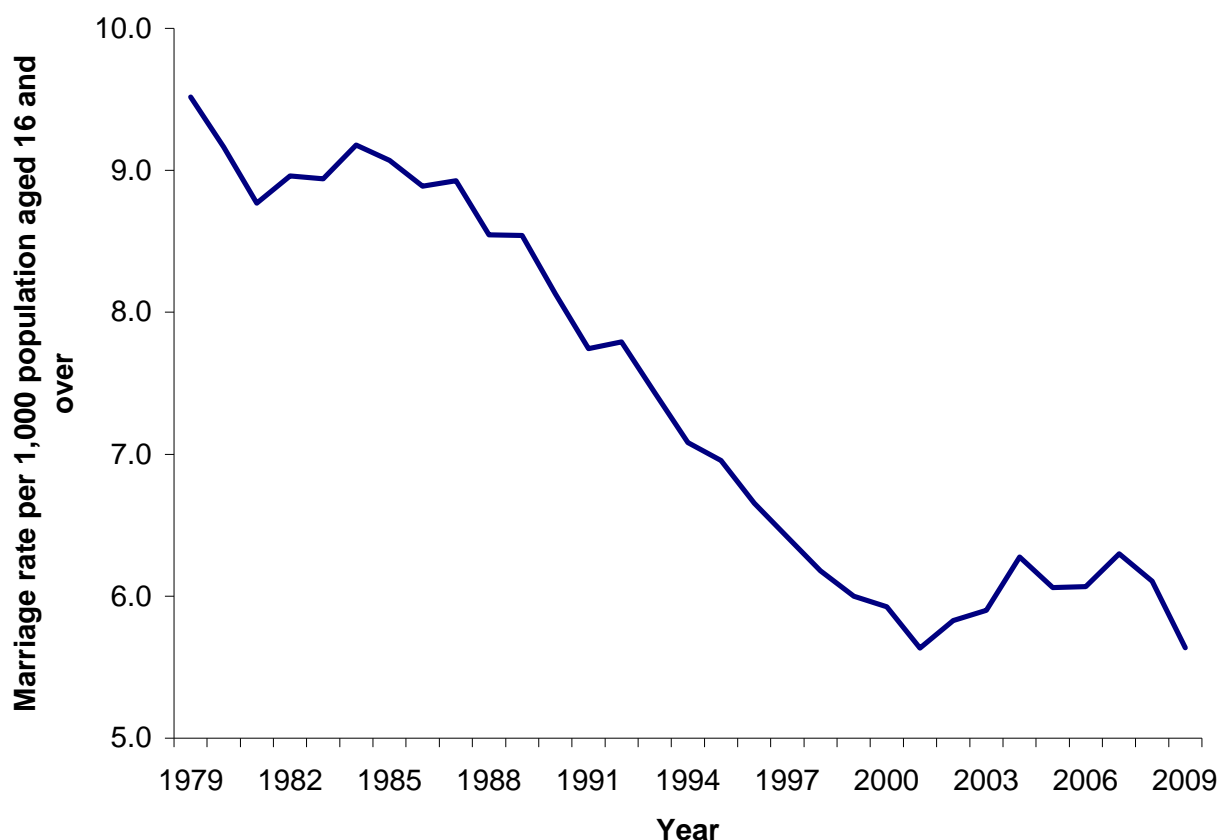
Some further key results and a number of attached tables are outlined below.

Marriages registered in 2009

Number of Marriages

- There were 7,931 marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2009, a decrease of 579 marriages or 7% on the 2008 figure of 8,510 marriages; and
- the number of marriages registered in 2009 is higher (9%) than the recent low of 7,281 marriages recorded in 2001, but shows a decrease from 1979 when 10,214 marriages were registered. Chart 1 shows the Northern Ireland marriage rate for the period 1979 to 2009.

Chart 1: Marriage Rate per 1,000 Population Aged 16 and Over (1979 to 2009)
[non-zero Y axis]



Bride and Groom

- Last year more than three-quarters (81%) of marriages were the first marriage for both the bride and groom, 12% of marriages were a first marriage for one partner and a remarriage for the other partner and the remaining 7% of marriages were a remarriage for both the bride and groom;

- over half (51%) of couples who married in 2009 lived at the same address before marriage, equivalent to the 2008 figure;
- the average age at marriage has increased markedly in the last two decades. The average age at marriage for all brides in 2009 was 31 (31.1 years) compared to 26 (25.8 years) in 1989. The average age for all grooms in 2009 was 33 (33.4 years), compared to 28 (27.9 years) in 1989. In addition first time brides and first time grooms are now on average five years older than their counterparts twenty years ago;
- of the 7,931 marriages in 2009, 7,042 (89%) were to couples where one or both partners lived in Northern Ireland. In the remaining 889 marriages (11%) neither partner lived in Northern Ireland; however the vast majority of these (74%) related to marriages where one or both partners were born in Northern Ireland, clearly relating to people returning 'home' to get married; and
- overall in 70% (5,542 marriages) of marriages registered in 2009 both partners were born in Northern Ireland, in 24% (1,934 marriages) one partner was born in Northern Ireland and in only 6% (455 marriages) neither partner was born in Northern Ireland.

Type of Ceremony

- Of the 7,931 marriages registered in 2009, 5,601 (71%) were religious marriages and the remaining 2,330 (29%) were civil marriages;
- whilst the number of civil marriages has decreased from 2,471 in 2008 to 2,330 in 2009 over the longer term the popularity of civil marriage has been increasing. Civil marriages accounted for 29% of all marriages in 2009 compared to 13% (1,298 marriages) in 1989 and only 7% (539 marriages) in 1929;
- the number of religious marriages decreased from 6,039 marriages in 2008 to 5,601 marriages in 2009;
- religious marriages accounted for 71% (5,601 marriages) of all marriages in 2009 compared to 87% (8,721 marriages) in 1989 and 93% (6,887 marriages) in 1929; and

- of the 5,601 religious marriages in 2009, 53% were Roman Catholic ceremonies; 19% Presbyterian (including Free Presbyterian), 14% Church of Ireland, 4% Methodist and 11% 'Other denominations'.

Place of Ceremony

- Civil marriage ceremonies can be conducted outside Registrar's Offices in a number of Approved Venues. In 2009, 1,018 civil marriage ceremonies (44% of all civil marriage ceremonies) were held in Approved Venues;
- in 2009, 465 religious marriage ceremonies (8% of all religious marriage ceremonies) were held outside of religious buildings compared to 426 such ceremonies in 2008;
- outside religious buildings and Registrar Offices most weddings took place in The Old Inn, Crawsfordsburn in 2009. The Old Inn, Crawsfordsburn was also the most popular Approved Venue in 2008; and
- Belfast Registrar's Office had the most weddings of all Registrar Offices in 2009 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 2009, most marriages took place in Belfast Local Government District (1,246 marriages) followed by Newry & Mourne Local Government District (532 marriages). Moyle Local Government District had the fewest marriages registered in 2009 (101 marriages); and

- the average ages of males and females at the time of marriage varies across Local Government Districts. Ards has the highest average ages at 33 for females and 35 for males compared to Dungannon with the lowest average age for females at 29 and Magherafelt with the lowest average age for males at 31.

Marriage Day and Seasonality

- Summer is the most popular time of year to get married. Almost 41% of all marriages took place in the third quarter of 2009 (July-September), whilst only 10% of marriages took place in the first quarter (January-March);
- in 2009, the most common month to get married was August (1,197 couples) followed by July (1,102 couples);
- last year, the most common day of the week to get married was Saturday (40%). Only 63 marriages took place on a Sunday in 2009;
- Saturday 22nd August 2009 was the most popular day in 2009 to get married, with 115 couples getting married on that date;
- between January and March 39% 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 80% of marriages were first time marriages for both partners; however looking at the months January to March this falls to just over 70% of marriages.

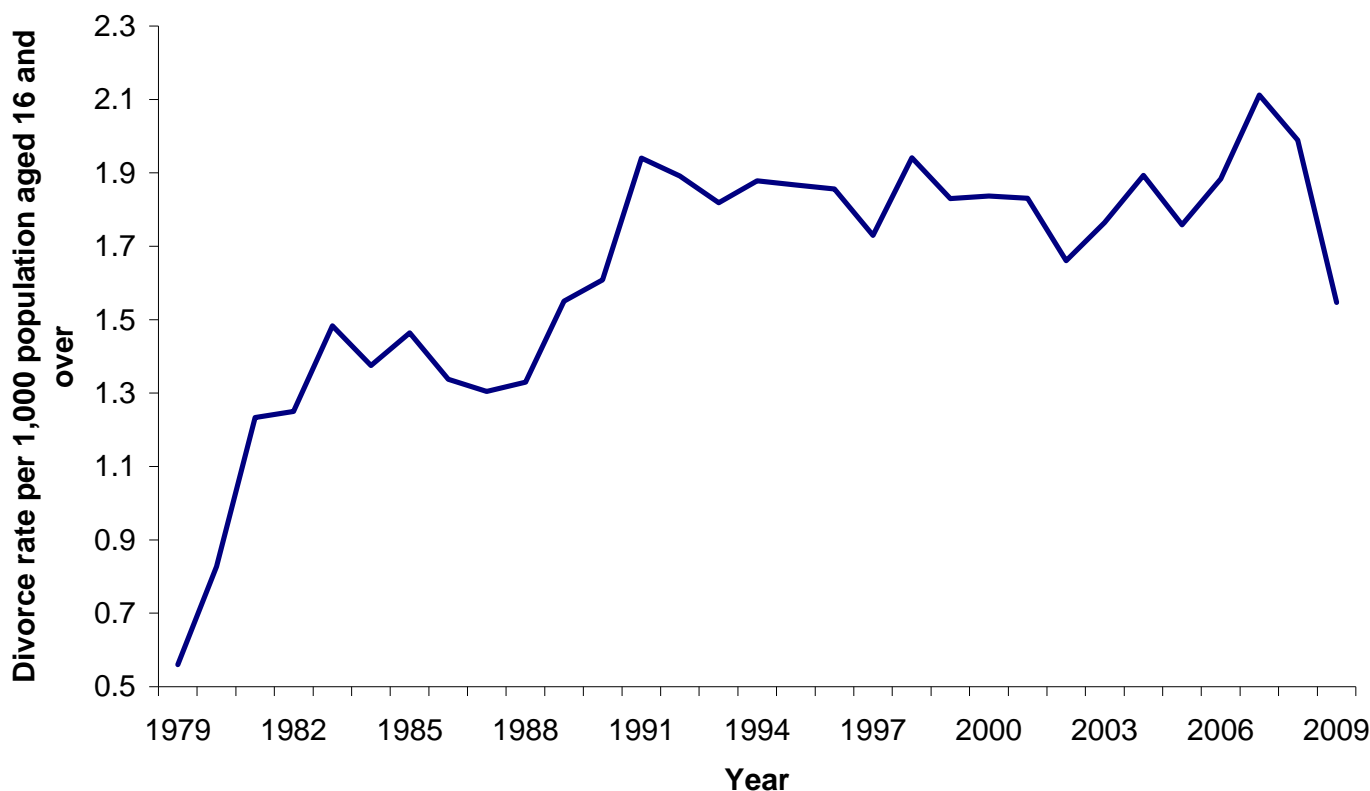
Divorces granted in 2009

Number of Divorces

- The number of marriages dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2009 was 2,176. This is a decrease of 597 divorces or 22% from the 2008 figure of 2,773 divorces. Chart 2 shows the Northern Ireland divorce rate for the period 1979 to 2009;
- the number of divorces recorded in 2007 (2,913) was 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 2009 was 17.9 years; and
- of the 2,176 divorces dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2009, 396 cases were lodged with the Northern Ireland Court Service in 2009, 1,122 in 2008 and 325 in 2007 with the remaining 333 being lodged prior to 2007.

Chart 2: Divorce Rate per 1,000 Population Aged 16 and Over (1979 to 2009)

[non-zero Y axis]



Divorcees

- Last year just under 90% of people getting divorced had not been divorced before; however the proportion of people getting divorced who were previously divorced has been rising since the 1980s. This now accounts for over 10% of all new divorcees in 2009. People who were previously widowed at the time of their marriage accounted for less than 1% of people getting divorced; and
- 10% 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 (75%), followed by behaviour (13%) and combined grounds (9%);
- in 2009, nearly two-thirds of divorces (65%) were filed for by the wife, 35% were filed for by the husband and less than 1% by both partners. These percentages have remained around this level over the last ten years;
- 32% 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%, 13%, 4% and 25% respectively;
- over the last three years 15% of divorces related to marriages 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 2009, just under 3,900 children/stepchildren were affected by divorce; 2,300 children/stepchildren were aged under 18 at the time of the divorce and 1,600 children/stepchildren were aged 18 and over at the time of the divorce.

Civil Partnerships registered in 2009

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 2009 there were 96 civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland, 46 male civil partnerships and 50 female civil partnerships. This is an increase from the 2008 figure of 86 civil partnerships.

Marital Status of Partners

- For 79 civil partnerships both partners were single, in the remaining 17 civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married;
- for 37 of the 46 male civil partnerships both partners were single, while for the remaining 9 male civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married. For 42 of the 50 female civil partnerships both partners were single; in the remaining 8 female civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married;
- for male civil partnerships the average age of partners was just over 39 (39.4 years), this compares to just under 36 (35.6 years) for female civil partnerships; and
- 82 out of the 96 civil partnership couples in 2009 lived at the same address prior to their civil partnership being registered.

Place of Ceremony

- In 2009, 74 civil partnership ceremonies were held in Registrar's Offices. The remaining 22 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 2009, Belfast Local Government District was the most popular district for civil partnerships (63 civil partnerships), with Derry Local Government District was the second most popular (9 civil partnerships); and
- in 2009, there were 23 civil partnerships registered where both partners were not resident in Northern Ireland.

Date of Civil Partnership

- In 2009, the most common month for a civil partnership was November (14 civil partnerships); and
- last year, the most common day of the week for a civil partnership was Saturday (29 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, 1999 to 2009

Table 1(b) Marriages, Numbers and Rates, Mean Age at Marriage and Percentages by Age at Marriage for Females, 1999 to 2009

Table 1(c) Marriages, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 1999 to 2009

Table 1(d) Marriages (Numbers) by Method of Celebration, 1999 to 2009

Table 1(e) Marriages (Percentages) by Method of Celebration, 1999 to 2009

Table 1(f) Civil and Religious Marriages by Location, 2009

Table 1(g) Marriages by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2009

Table 1(h) Key Marriage Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2004 to 2009

Table 1(i) Marriages by Age of Husband and Wife at Marriage, 2009

Table 1(j) Marriages by Country of Birth of Husband and Wife, 2009

Table 1(k) Marriages by Country of Residence of Husband and Wife, 2009

Divorce

Table 2(a) Divorces, Numbers and Rates, Mean Duration of Marriage, Percentages by Marital Status and Percentage Filed by Wife, 1999 to 2009

Table 2(b) Divorces, Percentage by Grounds, 1999 to 2009

Table 2(c) Divorces, Percentage by Method of Celebration of Marriage, 1999 to 2009

Table 2(d) Divorcees by Area of Residence, 2009

Table 2(e) Divorces by Duration of Marriage and Number of Children/Stepchildren, 2009

Civil Partnerships

Table 3(a) Civil Partnerships, Numbers, Mean Age and Percentage by Age at Civil Partnership, 2005 to 2009

Table 3(b) Civil Partnerships, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 2005 to 2009

Table 3(c) Civil Partnerships by Location, 2009

Table 3(d) Civil Partnerships by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2009

Table 3(e) Key Civil Partnership Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2005 to 2009

Table 3(f) Civil Partnerships by Age of Both Partners at Civil Partnership, 2009

Table 3(g) Civil Partnerships by Age of Partners at Civil Partnership, 2009

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, 1999 to 2009^P

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		
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
2008	8,510	12.6	31.1	59.3	45.4	33.3	8.5	16.5
2009 ^P	7,931	11.6	31.2	58.6	46.1	33.4	8.1	17.1

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 2009 calculated using the 2009 population projection

Table 1(b) Marriages, Numbers and Rates, Mean Age at Marriage and Percentages by Age at Marriage for Females, 1999 to 2009^P

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		
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
2008	8,510	11.8	29.1	51.9	42.9	31.0	17.3	11.7
2009 ^P	7,931	10.9	29.3	52.5	43.7	31.1	16.5	11.8

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 2009 calculated using the 2009 population projection

Table 1(c) Marriages, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 1999 to 2009^P

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
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
2008	85.6	1.2	13.2	86.7	1.1	12.3	79.8	12.7	7.5
2009 ^P	85.8	1.1	13.1	87.8	1.2	10.9	80.9	11.8	7.3

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, 1999 to 2009^P

Year	Method of celebration - Numbers						
	All marriages	Religious denomination					Civil
		Roman Catholic	Presbyterian ¹	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other denominations	
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
2008	8,510	3,202	1,116	922	238	561	2,471
2009 ^P	7,931	2,953	1,046	805	202	595	2,330

¹ Including Free Presbyterian

Table 1(e) Marriages (Percentages) by Method of Celebration, 1999 to 2009^P

Year	Method of celebration - Percentages						
	All marriages	Religious denomination					Civil
		Roman Catholic	Presbyterian ¹	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other denominations	
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
2008	8,510	37.6	13.1	10.8	2.8	6.6	29.0
2009 ^P	7,931	37.2	13.2	10.2	2.5	7.5	29.4

¹ Including Free Presbyterian

Table 1(f) Civil and Religious Marriages by Location, 2009^P

Location	Civil	Religious	Total
Registrar's Office ¹	1,312	-	1,312
Religious Building ¹	-	5,136	5,136
Other locations:			
The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn	55	80	135
Belfast Castle, Belfast	73	60	133
Galgorm Manor Hotel, Ballymena	55	28	83
Malone House, Belfast	19	29	48
La Mon House Hotel, Castlereagh	24	20	44
Clandeboyne Lodge Hotel, Bangor	14	26	40
Ballygally Castle Hotel, Ballygally	26	11	37
Lusty Beg Island, Kesh	33	4	37
Ross Park Hotel, Kells	24	4	28
Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena	21	2	23
Culloden Hotel, Holywood	12	10	22
Kiltonga Hall, Newtownards	19	3	22
Narrow Water Castle, Warrenpoint	20	2	22
The Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick	16	6	22
The Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Londonderry	19	2	21
Town Hall, Newtownards	21	-	21
The Mill, Ballydugan	19	-	19
Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus	8	10	18
Tullylagan Country House Hotel, Cookstown	17	1	18
Crom Estate, Newtownbutler	15	2	17
Radisson Roe Park Resort, Limavady	16	1	17
Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle	13	4	17
Belmont Hotel, Banbridge	14	2	16
Knockagh Lodge, Greenisland	15	1	16
Millbrook Lodge Hotel, Ballynahinch	12	4	16
Ramada Hotel, Shaws Bridge	11	5	16
Stormont Hotel, Belfast	7	9	16
<i>Remaining other locations</i>	420	139	559
Total	2,330	5,601	7,931

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

Table 1(g) Marriages by District and Health Trust of Celebration, 2009^P

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	7,931	29	33.4	31.1	81	51	11	The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn (135)
Belfast Trust	1420	37	34.3	32.1	78	60	10	
Belfast	1246	37	34.3	32.2	78	60	10	Belfast Castle, Belfast (133)
Castlereagh	174	40	34.5	31.6	78	59	6	La Mon House Hotel, Castlereagh (44)
Northern Trust	1,976	32	33.4	31.0	79	47	9	
Antrim	221	39	33.7	31.0	73	59	7	The Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick (22)
Ballymena	352	44	33.1	31.2	78	46	12	Galgorm Manor Hotel, Ballymena (83)
Ballymoney	127	23	32.9	30.6	80	37	10	Lissanoure Castle, Loughguile (15)
Carrickfergus	118	57	34.5	31.9	74	59	5	The Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus (18)
Coleraine	292	39	34.7	31.7	74	52	13	Town Hall, Portrush (14)
Cookstown	204	20	31.8	29.8	84	36	5	Tullylagan Country House Hotel, Cookstown (18)
Larne	154	38	35.2	31.5	74	62	13	Ballygally Castle Hotel, Ballygally (37)
Magherafelt	194	8	31.4	29.5	92	26	7	Ardara Country House, Upperlands (4)
Moyle	101	14	34.1	32.3	87	38	10	Laragh Lodge, Glenariffe (4)
Newtownabbey	213	21	33.2	31.1	79	49	5	Sentry Hill, Newtownabbey (5)
South Eastern Trust	1495	33	34.1	32.0	75	59	10	
Ards	256	42	35.3	32.8	66	61	7	Kiltonga Hall, Newtownards (22)
Down	342	28	32.8	30.6	85	51	11	The Mill, Ballydugan (19)
Lisburn	446	34	34.6	32.4	76	56	8	Larchfield Estate, Lisburn (15)
North Down	451	32	34.0	32.1	73	67	13	The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn (135)
Southern Trust	1,569	23	32.4	29.8	87	43	12	
Armagh	301	19	32.8	30.4	85	40	11	The Argory, Armagh (1)
Banbridge	152	26	33.4	30.4	84	43	7	The Belmont Hotel, Banbridge (16)
Craigavon	309	24	32.3	29.5	84	55	4	The Seagoe Hotel, Portadown (10)
Dungannon	275	13	31.8	29.1	89	36	12	Corick House Hotel, Clogher (13)
Newry & Mourne	532	28	32.3	29.8	88	43	21	Narrow Water Castle, Warrenpoint (22)
Western Trust	1,471	22	33.0	30.9	86	48	15	
Fermanagh	436	30	33.5	31.1	86	54	21	Lusty Beg Island, Kesh (37)
Limavady	173	22	32.4	30.4	87	44	6	Radisson Roe Park Resort, Limavady (17)
Derry	445	24	33.5	31.6	83	52	18	The Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Derry (21)
Omagh	270	10	32.0	30.0	90	36	10	The Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh (6)
Strabane	147	14	32.8	30.3	89	42	9	Fir Trees Hotel / The Hunting Lodge Hotel (4)

Table 1(h) Key Marriage Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2004 to 2009^P

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
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
2008					
January – March	1,118	37	34.7	32.5	73
April – June	2,208	29	33.3	31.0	80
July – September	3,612	24	32.6	30.3	83
October – December	1,572	34	34.0	31.7	77
2009^P					
January – March	873	37	34.7	32.2	75
April – June	2,348	29	33.2	30.8	82
July – September	3,245	26	33.0	30.7	83
October – December	1,465	32	34.1	31.9	77

Table 1(i) Marriages by Age of Husband and Wife at Marriage, 2009^P

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	7,931	645	2,769	2,116	1,044	562	347	448
Under 25	1,312	467	663	132	37	7	4	2
25-29	3,207	155	1,720	984	261	62	13	12
30-34	1,742	18	335	839	375	129	38	8
35-39	737	2	40	128	281	173	79	34
40-44	396	3	9	24	77	131	95	57
45-49	257	-	2	7	11	50	73	114
50+	280	-	-	2	2	10	45	221

Table 1(j) Marriages by Country of Birth of Husband and Wife, 2009^P

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	7,931	6,267	856	412	83	313
Northern Ireland	6,751	5,542	720	298	5	186
Rest of the UK	511	389	79	22	-	21
Republic of Ireland	208	100	28	73	-	7
A8 Countries ¹	98	25	-	-	66	7
All Other Countries	363	211	29	19	12	92

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, 2009^P

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	7,931	6,771	666	397	-	97
Northern Ireland	6,968	6,697	96	147	-	28
Rest of the UK	589	23	562	4	-	-
Republic of Ireland	271	23	4	244	-	-
A8 Countries ¹	2	2	-	-	-	-
All Other Countries	101	26	4	2	-	69

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, 1999 to 2009^P

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	
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
2008	2,773	2.0	17.6	90.3	0.4	9.3	90.0	0.4	9.6	63
2009 ^P	2,176	1.5	17.9	88.6	0.8	10.6	88.6	1.0	10.3	65

¹Divorces per 1,000 population aged 16 and over

²Rate for 2009 calculated using the 2009 population projection

Table 2(b) Divorces, Percentage by Grounds, 1999 to 2009^P

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		
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
2008	2,773	2.8	12.2	0.1	46.4	30.2	8.0	0.3
2009 ^P	2,176	2.8	13.0	-	43.9	31.5	8.7	0.1

Table 2(c) Divorces, Percentage by Method of Celebration of Marriage, 1999 to 2009^P

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
1999	2,326	<i>30.3</i>	<i>20.7</i>	<i>16.9</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>17.5</i>
2000	2,350	<i>30.9</i>	<i>20.0</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>19.2</i>
2001	2,365	<i>31.3</i>	<i>20.7</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>19.6</i>
2002	2,165	<i>30.7</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>14.9</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>19.8</i>
2003	2,319	<i>31.0</i>	<i>19.8</i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>20.8</i>
2004	2,512	<i>30.9</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>18.8</i>
2005	2,362	<i>30.3</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>22.8</i>
2006	2,565	<i>31.2</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>23.6</i>
2007	2,913	<i>28.5</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>25.1</i>
2008	2,773	<i>30.8</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>25.9</i>
2009^P	2,176	<i>31.8</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>25.5</i>

¹ Including Free Presbyterian

² Including not stated.

Table 2(d) Divorcees by Area of Residence, 2009^P

Area of Residence	Male Divorcees	Female Divorcees	All Divorcees
Northern Ireland	1,959	2,092	4,051
Belfast Trust	410	391	801
Belfast	323	292	615
Castlereagh	87	99	186
Northern Trust	506	574	1,080
Antrim	71	81	152
Ballymena	74	73	147
Ballymoney	40	30	70
Carrickfergus	42	58	100
Coleraine	62	65	127
Cookstown	22	23	45
Larne	33	35	68
Magherafelt	37	45	82
Moyle	12	17	29
Newtownabbey	113	147	260
South Eastern Trust	400	441	841
Ards	111	120	231
Down	71	76	147
Lisburn	119	121	240
North Down	99	124	223
Southern Trust	361	373	734
Armagh	57	52	109
Banbridge	59	58	117
Craigavon	101	119	220
Dungannon	48	40	88
Newry & Mourne	96	104	200
Western Board	282	313	595
Fermanagh	55	55	110
Limavady	31	29	60
Derry	111	128	239
Omagh	51	58	109
Strabane	34	43	77
Living outside NI / Unknown	217	84	301
All divorcees	2,176	2,176	4,352

Table 2(e) Divorces by Duration of Marriage and Number of Children/Stepchildren, 2009^P

Duration of Marriage (years)	All Divorces	Number of Children/Stepchildren ¹					All Children
		0	1	2	3	4+	
All Divorces	2,176	542	400	638	349	247	3,872
0-4	113	76	23	10	3	1	56
5-9	401	165	117	83	21	15	416
10-14	444	127	91	126	68	32	691
15-19	383	62	69	145	66	41	741
20-24	338	45	49	123	69	52	749
25-29	244	23	32	83	68	38	580
30+	253	44	19	68	54	68	639

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 2009^P

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
2008	86	43	40.6	3	57	43	37.9	6	29
2009 ^P	96	46	39.4	7	43	50	35.6	8	24

¹ Civil Partnerships only introduced in December 2005

Table 3(b) Civil Partnerships, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 2005 to 2009^P

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
2008	83	17	84	16	81	19
2009 ^P	82	18	80	20	84	16

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, 2009^P

Location	TOTAL
Registrar's Office	74
Other locations	
Hotel	11
Castle	3
Council Premises	2
<i>Remaining other locations</i>	6
TOTAL	96

Table 3(d) Civil Partnerships by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2009^P

Area of Celebration	Number of civil partnerships	Number of male civil partnerships	Number of female civil partnerships
Northern Ireland	96	46	50
Belfast Trust	63	37	26
Belfast	63	37	26
Northern Trust	7	2	5
South Eastern Trust	9	4	5
Southern Trust	4	-	4
Newry & Mourne	2	-	2
Rest of Southern Trust	2	-	2
Western Trust	13	3	10
Derry	9	3	6
Rest of Western Trust	4	-	4

Table 3(e) Key Civil Partnership Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2005 to 2009^P

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
2008	86	43	43	40.6	37.9	83
January – March	18	9	9	43.5	38.9	83
April – June	23	12	11	42.8	38.1	83
July – September	23	10	13	36.0	39.5	78
October – December	22	12	10	40.2	34.8	86
2009^P	96	46	50	39.4	35.6	82
January – March	14	9	5	40.2	34.2	86
April – June	24	10	14	40.1	37.3	83
July – September	28	15	13	40.4	36.8	75
October – December	30	12	18	37.1	33.9	87

¹ Civil Partnerships only introduced in December 2005

Table 3(f) Civil Partnerships by Age of Both Partners at Civil Partnership, 2009^P

Age of older partner	All Ages	Age of younger partner						
		Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+
All Ages	96	12	20	22	19	9	8	6
Under 25	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
25-29	11	8	3	..	..	..	..	..
30-34	21	-	11	10	..	..	..	..
35-39	21	2	4	9	6	..	..	..
40-44	15	-	1	3	7	4	..	..
45-49	11	-	1	-	5	3	2	..
50+	15	-	-	-	1	2	6	6

Table 3(g) Civil Partnership by Age of Partners at Civil Partnership, 2009^P

Age of Partners at Civil Partnership	All Partners	Male Partners	Female Partners
All Ages	192	92	100
Under 25	14	6	8
25-29	31	15	16
30-34	43	12	31
35-39	40	19	21
40-44	24	14	10
45-49	19	10	9
50+	21	16	5

NOTE FOR EDITORS

1. This information can also be accessed on the NISRA website:
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/>
2. The figures on marriages have been compiled from returns furnished by the local registrars. All 2009 statistics are provisional until final figures are published in the Annual Report of the Registrar General.
3. The figures on divorces have been compiled from returns of 'Decrees made Absolute' supplied by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service and include nullities of marriage. Information on the number of Decree Nisis is published by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals 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. Interactive maps for marriage data at Local Government District and Health Trust levels are available at:
<http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/InteractiveMaps.ASP>
6. All media inquiries should be directed to the DFP Press Office

Telephone: 028 9052 7374

Fax: 028 9052 7149

7. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:

Telephone: ~~028 9034 8160~~ 028 9034 8160

Fax: ~~028 9034 8161~~ 028 9034 8161

E-mail: census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk

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