

# STATISTICAL BULLETIN: MARRIAGES, DIVORCES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (2010)



Northern Ireland  
Statistics &  
Research  
Agency

## Number of Marriages and Divorces On The Rise Again

9:30am – Friday, 29th July 2011

The number of marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2010 was 8,200, an increase on the 7,900 marriages registered in 2009. The highest number of marriages ever recorded in Northern Ireland was in 1970 (12,300 marriages).

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

In 2010, 2,600 divorces were registered in Northern Ireland, an increase on the 2009 figure of 2,200 divorces. However last year's figure is still below the record high of 2,900 divorces recorded in 2007.

In 2010 there were just over 100 same-sex civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland. Last year saw the first year where female civil partnerships outnumbered male civil partnerships (62 female civil partnerships out of the 116 registered).

A NISRA spokesperson said:

*“The figures show that just under 8,200 couples got married in Northern Ireland last year. This was a rise from 2009 when there were 7,900 marriages registered. However the number of marriages in the last two years is lower than the numbers recorded in both 2007 and 2008. A similar pattern is reflected in divorce numbers. In part changes in the annual number of marriages and divorces may be due to local economic influences.”*

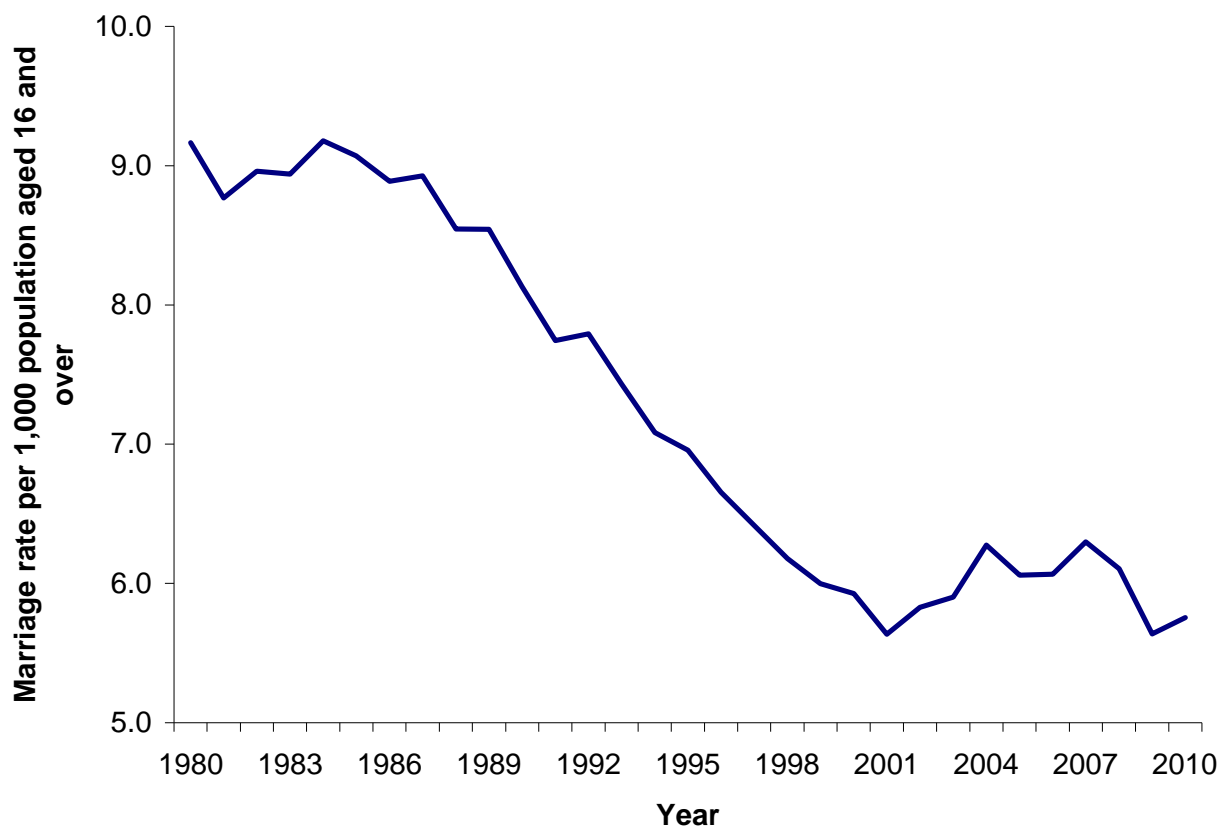
Some further key results and a number of attached tables are outlined below.

## Marriages registered in 2010

### *Number of Marriages*

- There were 8,156 marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2010, an increase of 225 marriages or 3% on the 2009 figure of 7,931 marriages; and
- the number of marriages registered in 2010 is higher (12%) than the low of 7,281 marriages recorded in 2001, but shows a decrease from 1980 when 9,923 marriages were registered. Chart 1 shows the Northern Ireland marriage rate for the period 1980 to 2010.

**Chart 1: Marriage Rate per 1,000 Population Aged 16 and Over (1980 to 2010) – non-zero y-axis**



### *Bride and Groom*

- Last year just over four-fifths (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 2010 lived at the same address before marriage, equivalent to the 2009 figure;
- the average age at marriage has increased markedly in the last two decades. The average age at marriage for all brides in 2010 was 32 (31.5 years) compared to 26 (26.3 years) in 1990. The average age for all grooms in 2010 was 34 (33.7 years), compared to 28 (28.4 years) in 1990. In addition first time brides and first time grooms are now on average five years older than their counterparts twenty years ago;
- of the 8,156 marriages in 2010, 7,310 (90%) were to couples where one or both partners lived in Northern Ireland. In the remaining 846 marriages neither partner lived in Northern Ireland; however nearly three-quarters of these marriages 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% (5,684 marriages) of marriages registered in 2010 both partners were born in Northern Ireland, in 24% (1,986 marriages) one partner was born in Northern Ireland and in only 6% (486 marriages) neither partner was born in Northern Ireland.

#### *Type of Ceremony*

- Of the 8,156 marriages registered in 2010, 5,642 (69%) were religious marriages and the remaining 2,514 (31%) were civil marriages;
- the popularity of civil marriage has been increasing over the years. Civil marriages accounted for 31% of all marriages in 2010 compared to 14% (1,301 marriages) in 1990 and only 7% (507 marriages) in 1930. Between 2009 and 2010 the number of civil marriages increased by 8% from 2,330 to 2,514 marriages;
- the number of religious marriages increased from 5,601 marriages in 2009 to 5,642 marriages in 2010;
- religious marriage accounted for 69% (5,642 marriages) of all marriages in 2010 compared to 86% (8,287 marriages) in 1990 and 93% (7,040 marriages) in 1930; and

- of the 5,642 religious marriages in 2010, 51% were Roman Catholic ceremonies; 20% 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 2010, 1,151 civil marriage ceremonies (46% of all civil marriage ceremonies) were held in Approved Venues;
- in 2010, 563 religious marriage ceremonies (10% of all religious marriage ceremonies) were held outside of religious buildings compared to 465 such ceremonies in 2009;
- outside religious buildings and Registrar's Offices most weddings took place in The Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus in 2010 (121 marriages). The Old Inn, Crawsfordsburn was the most popular Approved Venue in 2009; and
- Belfast Registrar's Office had the most weddings of all Registrar's Offices in 2010 and St. Eugene's Cathedral and St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, both in Derry Local Government District, had the most weddings of all religious buildings.

### *Marriages by District*

- 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 2010, most marriages took place in Belfast Local Government District (1,335 marriages) followed by Newry & Mourne Local Government District (541 marriages). Moyle Local Government District had the fewest marriages registered in 2010 (97 marriages); and

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

### *Marriage Day and Seasonality*

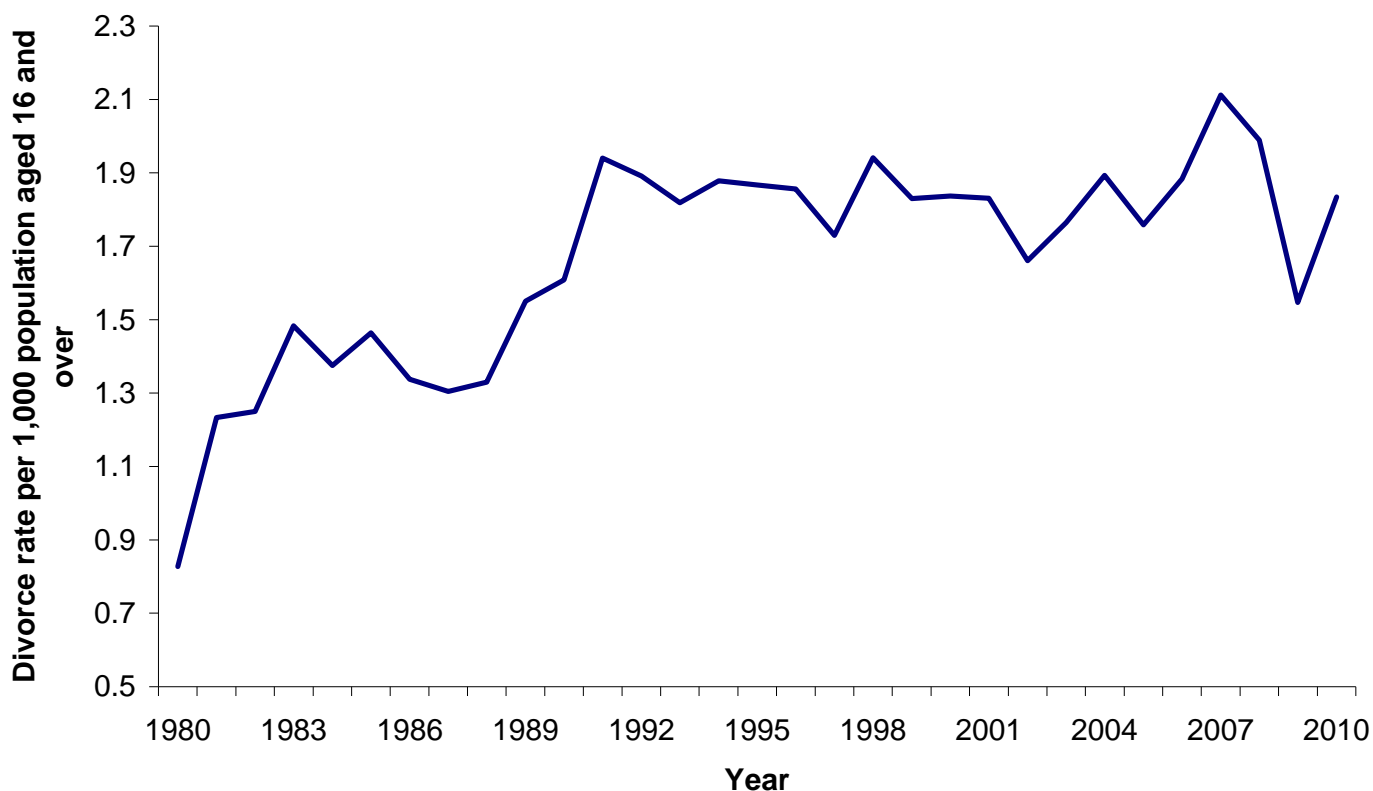
- Summer is the most popular time of year to get married. 40% of all marriages took place in the third quarter of 2010 (July-September), whilst only 10% of marriages took place in the first quarter (January-March);
- in 2010, the most popular month to get married was July (1,184 couples) followed by August (1,116 couples);
- last year, the most popular day of the week to get married was Saturday (38%). Only 90 marriages took place on a Sunday in 2010;
- Saturday 4th September 2010 was the most popular day in 2010 to get married, with 112 couples getting married on that date;
- between January and March 39% of all marriages were civil ceremonies while in the third quarter of the year 28% 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 2010

### *Number of Divorces*

- The number of marriages dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2010 was 2,600. This is an increase of 424 divorces or 19% from the 2009 figure of 2,176 divorces. Chart 2 shows the Northern Ireland divorce rate for the period 1980 to 2010;
- 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 2010 was 18.1 years; and
- of the 2,600 divorces dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2010, 643 cases were lodged with the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service in 2010, 1,172 in 2009, 358 in 2008 and 185 in 2007 with the remaining 242 being lodged prior to 2007.

**Chart 2: Divorce Rate per 1,000 Population Aged 16 and Over (1980 to 2010) – non-zero y-axis**



## *Divorcees*

- Last year just under 90% of people getting divorced had not been married before; however the proportion of people getting divorced who were previously divorced has been rising since the 1980s. This now accounts for 10% of all new divorcees in 2010. People who were previously widowed at the time of their marriage accounted for less than 1% of people getting divorced; and
- 9% of male divorcees had left Northern Ireland or resided at an unknown address at the time of their divorce compared to just over 4% of female divorcees.

## *Other Issues*

- Non-cohabitation remains the most frequently recorded reason for divorce (73%), followed by behaviour (14%) and combined grounds (11%);
- in 2010, nearly two-thirds of divorces (64%) were filed for by the wife, 36% 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;
- 29% 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%, 14%, 3% and 28% 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 2010, just over 4,500 children/stepchildren were affected by divorce; 2,700 children/stepchildren were aged under 18 at the time of the divorce and 1,800 children/stepchildren were aged 18 and over at the time of the divorce.

## **Civil Partnerships registered in 2010**

### *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. Between December 2005 and the end of 2010, 537 civil partnerships have been registered in Northern Ireland; and
- during 2010 there were 116 civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland, 54 male civil partnerships and 62 female civil partnerships. This is an increase from the 2009 figure of 96 civil partnerships and is the first time in Northern Ireland more female than male civil partnerships were formed.

### *Marital Status of Partners*

- For 94 civil partnerships both partners were single, in the remaining 22 civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married;
- for 47 of the 54 male civil partnerships both partners were single, while for the remaining seven male civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married. For 47 of the 62 female civil partnerships both partners were single; in the remaining 15 female civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married;
- for male civil partnerships the average age of partners was just under 38 (37.8 years), this compares to just over 38 (38.5 years) for female civil partnerships; and
- 95 out of the 116 civil partnership couples (82%) in 2010 lived at the same address prior to their civil partnership being registered.

### *Place of Ceremony*

- In 2010, 96 civil partnership ceremonies were held in Registrar's Offices. The remaining 20 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 2010, Belfast Local Government District was the most popular district for civil partnerships (66 civil partnerships), with Derry Local Government District the second most popular (10 civil partnerships); and
- in 2010, there were 38 civil partnerships registered where both partners were not resident in Northern Ireland, of which three-quarters were to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

### *Date of Civil Partnership*

- In 2010, the most popular month for a civil partnership was September (17 civil partnerships); and
- last year, the most popular day of the week for a civil partnership was Saturday (37 civil partnerships).

### **Civil Partnership Dissolutions registered in 2010**

#### *Number of Civil Partnership Dissolutions*

- Whilst legislation has been in place in Northern Ireland since late 2005 to dissolve a civil partnership through The Civil Partnership Act, there were no dissolutions registered in Northern Ireland until 2010;
- during 2010 there were three civil partnership dissolutions registered in Northern Ireland, one to a male couple and the remaining two were female couples; and
- the average age of all partners dissolving a civil partnership in 2010 was 42.9 years.

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, 2000 to 2010

Table 1(b) Marriages, Numbers and Rates, Mean Age at Marriage and Percentages by Age at Marriage for Females, 2000 to 2010

Table 1(c) Marriages, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 2000 to 2010

Table 1(d) Marriages (Numbers) by Method of Celebration, 2000 to 2010

Table 1(e) Marriages (Percentages) by Method of Celebration, 2000 to 2010

Table 1(f) Civil and Religious Marriages by Location, 2010

Table 1(g) Marriages by District and Health and Social Care Trust of Celebration, 2010

Table 1(h) Key Marriage Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2005 to 2010

Table 1(i) Marriages by Age of Husband and Wife at Marriage, 2010

Table 1(j) Marriages by Country of Birth of Husband and Wife, 2010

Table 1(k) Marriages by Country of Residence of Husband and Wife, 2010

## **Divorce**

Table 2(a) Divorces, Numbers and Rates, Mean Duration of Marriage, Percentages by Marital Status and Percentage Filed by Wife, 2000 to 2010

Table 2(b) Divorces, Percentage by Grounds, 2000 to 2010

Table 2(c) Divorces, Percentage by Method of Celebration of Marriage, 2000 to 2010

Table 2(d) Divorcees by Area of Residence, 2010

Table 2(e) Divorces by Duration of Marriage and Number of Children/Stepchildren, 2010

## **Civil Partnerships**

Table 3(a) Civil Partnerships, Numbers, Mean Age and Percentage by Age at Civil Partnership, 2005 to 2010

Table 3(b) Civil Partnerships, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 2005 to 2010

Table 3(c) Civil Partnerships by Location, 2010

Table 3(d) Civil Partnerships by District and Health and Social Care Trust of Celebration, 2010

Table 3(e) Key Civil Partnership Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2005 to 2010

Table 3(f) Civil Partnerships by Age of Both Partners at Civil Partnership, 2010

Table 3(g) Civil Partnerships by Age of Partners at Civil Partnership, 2010

### **Civil Partnership Dissolutions**

Table 4(a) Civil Partnership Dissolutions by Quarter of Registration, 2010

Table 4(b) Civil Partnership Dissolutions by Age of Partners at Dissolution, 2010

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, 2000 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year	Number of Marriages	Male Marriage Rate <sup>1</sup>	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		
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	7,931	11.6	31.2	58.6	46.1	33.4	8.1	17.1
2010 <sup>P</sup>	8,156	11.9	31.3	59.2	47.3	33.7	8.0	18.2

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

**Table 1(b) Marriages, Numbers and Rates, Mean Age at Marriage and Percentages by Age at Marriage for Females, 2000 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year	Number of Marriages	Female Marriage Rate <sup>1</sup>	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		
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	7,931	11.0	29.3	52.5	43.7	31.1	16.5	11.8
2010 <sup>P</sup>	8,156	11.2	29.4	52.7	44.2	31.5	15.9	12.9

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

**Table 1(c) Marriages, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 2000 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year	Percentage of grooms who were			Percentage of brides who were			Percentage of couples marrying		
	Bachelors <sup>1</sup>	Widowers	Divorcees	Spinsters <sup>1</sup>	Widows	Divorcees	Neither partner previously married	One partner previously married	Both partners previously married
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	85.8	1.1	13.1	87.8	1.2	10.9	80.9	11.8	7.3
2010 <sup>P</sup>	85.8	1.4	12.8	86.9	1.2	11.9	80.5	11.7	7.8

<sup>1</sup>Includes 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, 2000 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year	Method of celebration - Numbers						
	All marriages	Religious denomination					Civil
		Roman Catholic	Presbyterian <sup>1</sup>	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other denominations	
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	7,931	2,953	1,046	805	202	595	2,330
2010 <sup>P</sup>	8,156	2,896	1,107	815	210	614	2,514

<sup>1</sup> Including Free Presbyterian

**Table 1(e) Marriages (Percentages) by Method of Celebration, 2000 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year	Method of celebration - Percentages						
	All marriages	Religious denomination					Civil
		Roman Catholic	Presbyterian <sup>1</sup>	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other denominations	
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	7,931	37.2	13.2	10.2	2.5	7.5	29.4
2010 <sup>P</sup>	8,156	35.5	13.6	10.0	2.6	7.5	30.8

<sup>1</sup> Including Free Presbyterian

**Table 1(f) Civil and Religious Marriages by Location, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Civil</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registrar's Office <sup>1</sup>	1,363	-	<b>1,363</b>
Religious Building <sup>1</sup>	-	5,079	<b>5,079</b>
<b>Other locations:</b>			
Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus	57	64	<b>121</b>
The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn	33	79	<b>112</b>
Belfast Castle, Belfast	61	41	<b>102</b>
Galgorm Manor Hotel, Ballymena	61	35	<b>96</b>
Clandeboyne Lodge Hotel, Bangor	21	71	<b>92</b>
La Mon House Hotel, Castlereagh	29	38	<b>67</b>
Malone House, Belfast	26	15	<b>41</b>
Lusty Beg Island, Kesh	31	2	<b>33</b>
The Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick	23	5	<b>28</b>
Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena	21	5	<b>26</b>
Tullylagan Country House Hotel, Cookstown	22	4	<b>26</b>
Ballygally Castle Hotel, Ballygally	20	4	<b>24</b>
Ross Park Hotel, Kells	22	2	<b>24</b>
Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle	19	5	<b>24</b>
Town Hall, Newtownards	24	-	<b>24</b>
Culloden Hotel, Holywood	6	17	<b>23</b>
Town Hall, Ballyclare	23	-	<b>23</b>
The Mill, Ballydugan	16	5	<b>21</b>
Larchfield Estate, Lisburn	12	7	<b>19</b>
The Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Londonderry	16	3	<b>19</b>
Corick House Hotel, Clogher	14	4	<b>18</b>
Crom Estate, Newtownbutler	16	2	<b>18</b>
Magherabuoy House Hotel, Portrush	16	2	<b>18</b>
Kiltonga Hall, Newtownards	12	5	<b>17</b>
Millbrook Lodge Hotel, Ballynahinch	17	-	<b>17</b>
<i>Remaining Other Locations</i>	533	148	<b>681</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>5,642</b>	<b>8,156</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes a small number of marriages that took place in a prison or hospital.

**Table 1(g) Marriages by District and Health and Social Care Trust of Celebration, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

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)
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>8,156</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>The Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus (121)</b>
<b>Belfast Trust</b>	<b>1502</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>10</b>	
Belfast	1335	44	34.5	32.2	78	62	11	Belfast Castle, Belfast (102)
Castlereagh	167	34	32.8	31.7	77	58	4	La Mon House Hotel, Castlereagh (67)
<b>Northern Trust</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>8</b>	
Antrim	236	40	34.4	32.3	76	57	4	The Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick (28)
Ballymena	364	43	32.7	30.4	85	51	9	Galgorm Manor Hotel, Ballymena (96)
Ballymoney	107	17	31.3	29.1	91	41	11	Town Hall, Ballymoney (11)
Carrickfergus	238	47	35.8	33.7	65	68	7	The Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus (121)
Coleraine	277	35	34.1	31.9	78	48	9	Magherabuoy House Hotel, Portrush (18)
Cookstown	211	31	32.6	30.6	83	35	7	Tullylagan Country House Hotel, Cookstown (26)
Larne	126	37	34.1	31.4	77	60	17	Ballygally Castle hotel, Ballygally (24)
Magherafelt	212	8	31.7	29.8	92	25	8	Ardara Country House, Upperlands (7)
Moyle	97	21	35.0	32.1	80	37	13	Laragh Lodge, Glenariffe (7)
Newtownabbey	183	23	34.1	32.0	77	49	4	Town Hall, Ballyclare (23)
<b>South Eastern Trust</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>9</b>	
Ards	248	38	34.8	32.6	74	53	4	Town Hall, Newtownards (24)
Down	346	28	33.3	31.2	83	54	12	Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle (24)
Lisburn	455	33	33.3	30.7	81	60	9	Larchfield Estate, Lisburn (19)
North Down	496	29	35.4	32.7	72	69	10	The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn (112)
<b>Southern Trust</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>	
Armagh	312	19	32.8	30.5	86	40	9	Armagh City Hotel, Armagh (2)
Banbridge	165	24	33.5	31.7	78	42	5	Belmont Hotel, Banbridge (15)
Craigavon	332	26	33.3	30.9	80	50	3	Brownlow House, Lurgan (9)
Dungannon	270	14	31.5	29.8	91	31	9	Corick House Hotel, Clogher (18)
Newry & Mourne	541	29	33.0	30.7	84	42	20	The Balmoral, Warrenpoint (13)
<b>Western Trust</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14</b>	
Fermanagh	439	32	34.0	31.4	81	52	18	Lusty Beg Island, Kesh (33)
Limavady	152	19	33.3	31.0	86	49	9	Radisson Roe Park Resort, Limavady (15)
Derry	460	30	35.5	32.7	78	47	15	The Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Derry (19)
Omagh	239	13	32.6	30.9	90	34	8	Mellon Country Hotel, Omagh (5)
Strabane	148	5	31.8	29.4	92	44	16	The Hunting Lodge Hotel, Newtownstewart (2)

**Table 1(h) Key Marriage Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2005 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

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
<b>2005</b>					
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
<b>2006</b>					
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
<b>2007</b>					
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
<b>2008</b>					
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
<b>2009</b>					
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
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>					
January – March	862	39	34.9	32.2	74
April – June	2,406	31	33.7	31.6	81
July – September	3,279	28	33.2	30.9	83
October – December	1,609	33	34.2	32.0	79

**Table 1(i) Marriages by Age of Husband and Wife at Marriage, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

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	<b>8,156</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>2,738</b>	<b>2,249</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>555</b>
Under 25	<b>1,297</b>	480	618	158	34	4	2	1
25-29	<b>3,192</b>	153	1,761	973	211	64	25	5
30-34	<b>1,789</b>	15	302	891	407	133	31	10
35-39	<b>825</b>	2	51	185	282	174	90	41
40-44	<b>419</b>	1	5	38	65	117	111	82
45-49	<b>286</b>	-	-	4	26	58	77	121
50+	<b>348</b>	-	1	-	7	13	32	295

**Table 1(j) Marriages by Country of Birth of Husband and Wife, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Wife's Country of Birth	All Countries	Husband's Country of Birth				
		Northern Ireland	Rest of the UK	Republic of Ireland	A8 Countries <sup>1</sup>	All Other Countries
All Countries	<b>8,156</b>	<b>6,436</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>348</b>
Northern Ireland	<b>6,918</b>	5,684	747	276	5	206
Rest of the UK	<b>512</b>	370	98	25	1	18
Republic of Ireland	<b>229</b>	119	19	76	1	14
A8 Countries <sup>1</sup>	<b>118</b>	36	2	3	69	8
All Other Countries	<b>379</b>	227	30	16	4	102

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Wife's Country of Residence	All Countries	Husband's Country of Residence				
		Northern Ireland	Rest of the UK	Republic of Ireland	A8 Countries <sup>1</sup>	All Other Countries
All Countries	<b>8,156</b>	<b>6,992</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>113</b>
Northern Ireland	<b>7,236</b>	6,918	138	137	1	42
Rest of the UK	<b>552</b>	12	536	1	-	3
Republic of Ireland	<b>262</b>	28	1	233	-	-
A8 Countries <sup>1</sup>	<b>4</b>	1	-	-	3	-
All Other Countries	<b>102</b>	33	-	1	-	68

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2000 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year of decree	Number of divorces	Divorce Rate <sup>1</sup>	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	
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	2,176	1.5	17.9	88.6	0.8	10.6	88.6	1.0	10.3	65
2010 <sup>P</sup>	2,600	1.8	18.1	89.3	0.6	10.1	89.8	0.5	9.7	64

<sup>1</sup>Divorces per 1,000 population aged 16 and over

**Table 2(b) Divorces, Percentage by Grounds, 2000 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

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		
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	2,176	2.8	13.0	-	43.9	31.5	8.7	0.1
2010 <sup>P</sup>	2,600	2.7	13.6	-	42.9	30.2	10.5	0.2

**Table 2(c) Divorces, Percentage by Method of Celebration of Marriage, 2000 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year of decree	Method of celebration of marriage of divorcees (Percentage)						
	Number of divorces	Roman Catholic	Presbyterian <sup>1</sup>	Church of Ireland	Methodist	Other denominations <sup>2</sup>	Civil
<b>2000</b>	<b>2,350</b>	30.9	20.0	15.2	4.8	10.0	19.2
<b>2001</b>	<b>2,365</b>	31.3	20.7	15.1	4.1	9.2	19.6
<b>2002</b>	<b>2,165</b>	30.7	19.7	14.9	3.5	11.5	19.8
<b>2003</b>	<b>2,319</b>	31.0	19.8	13.7	4.0	10.7	20.8
<b>2004</b>	<b>2,512</b>	30.9	18.5	14.3	4.7	12.7	18.8
<b>2005</b>	<b>2,362</b>	30.3	18.9	14.4	4.4	9.2	22.8
<b>2006</b>	<b>2,565</b>	31.2	17.0	14.3	4.0	9.9	23.6
<b>2007</b>	<b>2,913</b>	28.5	16.7	15.6	4.1	10.1	25.1
<b>2008</b>	<b>2,773</b>	30.8	15.8	13.6	3.7	10.2	25.9
<b>2009</b>	<b>2,176</b>	31.8	17.0	13.0	4.0	8.6	25.5
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>2,600</b>	29.0	16.6	14.0	2.7	9.6	28.1

<sup>1</sup> Including Free Presbyterian

<sup>2</sup> Including not stated.

**Table 2(d) Divorcees by Area of Residence, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

<b>Area of Residence</b>	<b>Male Divorcees</b>	<b>Female Divorcees</b>	<b>All Divorcees</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>4,856</b>
<b>Belfast Trust</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>904</b>
Belfast	364	344	708
Castlereagh	85	111	196
<b>Northern Trust</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>1,302</b>
Antrim	64	69	133
Ballymena	95	101	196
Ballymoney	43	44	87
Carrickfergus	67	76	143
Coleraine	90	84	174
Cookstown	55	56	111
Larne	51	56	107
Magherafelt	42	51	93
Moyle	15	13	28
Newtownabbey	116	114	230
<b>South Eastern Trust</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>1,080</b>
Ards	126	142	268
Down	88	99	187
Lisburn	161	162	323
North Down	145	157	302
<b>Southern Trust</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>797</b>
Armagh	59	65	124
Banbridge	66	71	137
Craigavon	129	128	257
Dungannon	45	49	94
Newry & Mourne	92	93	185
<b>Western Board</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>773</b>
Fermanagh	73	74	147
Limavady	38	45	83
Derry	168	185	353
Omagh	40	50	90
Strabane	50	50	100
Living outside NI / Unknown	233	111	344
<b>All divorcees</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>5,200</b>

**Table 2(e) Divorces by Duration of Marriage and Number of Children/Stepchildren, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Duration of Marriage (years)	All Divorces	Number of Children/Stepchildren <sup>1</sup>					All Children
		0	1	2	3	4+	
All Divorces	<b>2,600</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>4,524</b>
0-4	<b>137</b>	87	28	12	9	1	<b>83</b>
5-9	<b>508</b>	248	119	89	32	20	<b>488</b>
10-14	<b>446</b>	107	81	165	60	33	<b>738</b>
15-19	<b>480</b>	84	79	170	88	59	<b>945</b>
20-24	<b>418</b>	51	68	156	93	50	<b>890</b>
25-29	<b>296</b>	33	47	104	60	52	<b>663</b>
30+	<b>315</b>	65	33	75	75	67	<b>717</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 2010<sup>P</sup>**

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 <sup>1</sup>	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	96	46	39.4	7	43	50	35.6	8	24
2010 <sup>P</sup>	116	54	37.8	5	38	62	38.5	5	32

<sup>1</sup> Civil Partnerships only introduced in December 2005

**Table 3(b) Civil Partnerships, Percentages by Marital Status of Persons Marrying, 2005 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year	Percentage of couples in a Civil Partnership where		Percentage of male partnerships where		Percentage of female partnerships where	
	Both Single <sup>2</sup>	One or both partners previously married	Both Single <sup>2</sup>	One or both partners previously married	Both Single <sup>2</sup>	One or both partners previously married
2005 <sup>1</sup>	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	82	18	80	20	84	16
2010 <sup>P</sup>	81	19	87	13	76	24

<sup>1</sup> Civil Partnerships only introduced in December 2005

<sup>2</sup> Includes never previously married or in a civil partnership

**Table 3(c) Civil Partnerships by Location, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Location	TOTAL
Registrar's Office	<b>96</b>
<b>Other locations</b>	
Hotel	7
Council Premises	3
Castle	2
<i>Remaining other locations</i>	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>

**Table 3(d) Civil Partnerships by District and Health and Social Care Trust of Celebration, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Area of Celebration	Number of civil partnerships	Number of male civil partnerships	Number of female civil partnerships
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Belfast Trust</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>39</b>
Belfast LGD	66	27	39
<b>Northern Trust</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>South Eastern Trust</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Southern Trust</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
Newry & Mourne LGD	9	6	3
Rest of Southern Trust	2	1	1
<b>Western Trust</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
Derry LGD	10	5	5
Rest of Western Trust	4	2	2

**Table 3(e) Key Civil Partnership Statistics by Quarter of Registration, 2005 to 2010<sup>P</sup>**

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
<b>2005<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>75</b>
October – December	12	6	6	39.4	34.7	75
<b>2006</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>78</b>
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
<b>2007</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>77</b>
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
<b>2008</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40.6</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>83</b>
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
<b>2009</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>82</b>
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
<b>2010<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>116</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>81</b>
January – March	19	7	12	34.0	37.1	79
April – June	26	18	8	39.9	34.3	85
July – September	46	18	28	38.8	39.3	76
October – December	25	11	14	35.1	40.4	88

<sup>1</sup> Civil Partnerships only introduced in December 2005

**Table 3(f) Civil Partnerships by Age of Both Partners at Civil Partnership, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

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	<b>116</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Under 25	<b>1</b>	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
25-29	<b>13</b>	8	5	..	..	..	..	..
30-34	<b>16</b>	-	13	3	..	..	..	..
35-39	<b>29</b>	-	5	10	14	..	..	..
40-44	<b>21</b>	-	6	4	10	1	..	..
45-49	<b>17</b>	1	2	3	3	3	5	..
50+	<b>19</b>	-	-	2	2	3	3	9

**Table 3(g) Civil Partnership by Age of Partners at Civil Partnership, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Age of Partners at Civil Partnership	All Partners	Male Partners	Female Partners
All Ages	<b>232</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>124</b>
Under 25	<b>11</b>	5	6
25-29	<b>44</b>	21	23
30-34	<b>38</b>	21	17
35-39	<b>58</b>	20	38
40-44	<b>28</b>	16	12
45-49	<b>25</b>	13	12
50+	<b>28</b>	12	16

**Table 4(a) Civil Partnership Dissolutions by Quarter of Registration, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Year and Quarter	Number of civil partnership dissolutions	Number of male partnership dissolutions	Number of female partnership dissolutions
<b>2010<sup>1,P</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
January – March	-	-	-
April – June	<b>2</b>	-	2
July – September	<b>1</b>	1	-
October – December	-	-	-

**Table 4(b) Civil Partnership Dissolutions by Age of Partners at Dissolution, 2010<sup>P</sup>**

Age of Partners at Civil Partnership Dissolution	All Partners	Male Partners	Female Partners
All Ages	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Under 25	-	-	-
25-29	-	-	-
30-34	<b>1</b>	-	1
35-39	-	-	-
40-44	<b>4</b>	1	3
45-49	-	-	-
50-54	-	-	-
55-59	<b>1</b>	1	-
60-64	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-

## NOTE FOR EDITORS

1. This information can also be accessed on the NISRA website:  
<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp25.htm>
2. The figures on marriages have been compiled from returns furnished by the local registrars. All 2010 statistics are provisional until final figures are published in the Annual Report of the Registrar General.
3. The figures on divorces and civil partnership dissolutions 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 Nisi 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 National Records of 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  
Fax: 028 9034 8161  
E-mail: [census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk)  
Responsible Statistician: David Marshall