

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



Increased number of marriages in 2006

9:30am – Thursday, 28th June 2007

The number of marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2006 was just under 8,300, a small increase on the 8,100 marriages registered in 2005, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency said today. The number of marriages has shown a significant increase on the recent low of 7,300 marriages registered in 2001.

Since the introduction of new marriage laws in 2004 there has been an increase in the number of religious ceremonies taking place outside religious buildings and civil marriages taking place outside Registrars' Offices. Almost 5% of religious marriages took place outside religious buildings and over one-third (36%) of civil marriages took place outside Registrars' Offices.

Just under 2,600 divorces were registered in Northern Ireland in 2006, which is the highest annual number ever recorded. Of couples married in Northern Ireland in the mid-1980s it is estimated just over 1 in 6 were divorced by their twentieth wedding anniversary.

The Civil Partnership Act came into force in December 2005, enabling same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. During 2006 there were 116 civil partnerships registered.

A NISRA spokesperson said that:

“Just under 8,300 marriages were registered last year up on the 2001 low of 7,300 marriages, while 2006 also saw the highest annual number of divorces on record. In the first full year since the Civil Partnership Act came into force 116 civil partnerships (65 male and 51 female) were registered.”

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

Marriages registered in 2006

Number of marriages

- There were 8,259 marriages registered in Northern Ireland in 2006, an increase of 119 marriages or 1.5% on the 2005 figure of 8,140 marriages;
- the number of marriages registered in 2006 is significantly higher than the lowest number recorded in 2001 of 7,281 marriages;
- the number of religious marriages decreased slightly from 5,912 marriages in 2005 to 5,813 in 2006. However, religious marriage has increased from a low of 5,400 such marriages in 2001; and
- the number of civil marriage ceremonies has also generally increased from just over 1,900 in 2001 to over 2,400 in 2006. In 2004, there was a peak in civil marriage ceremonies (just over 2,600); in part this was due to the introduction of new marriage laws which allowed civil marriage ceremonies to be conducted outside Registrars' Offices in a number of approved venues.

Bride and Groom

- More than three-quarters (79%) of marriages were the first marriage for both bride and groom, 13% of marriages was a first marriage for one partner only and the remaining 8% of marriages was a remarriage for both bride and groom;
- half (50%) of couples who married in 2006 lived at the same address before marriage; and
- the average age at marriage has increased markedly in last two decades. The average age at marriage for all brides in 2006 was almost 31 (30.9 years) compared to 25 (25.1 years) in 1986. The average age for the groom in 2006 was 33 (33.2 years), compared to 27 (27.2 years) in 1986. Both single brides and grooms are now on average five years older than their counterparts twenty years ago.

Type of ceremony

- Just under 30% of all marriages (2,446) in 2006 were conducted as civil ceremonies compared to 14% in 1986 and 6% in 1926; and
- of the 5,813 religious marriages in 2006, 52% were Roman Catholic ceremonies; 20% Presbyterian, 16% Church of Ireland, 4% Methodist and 8% 'Other denominations'.

Place of ceremony

- The Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 now allows civil marriage ceremonies to be conducted outside Registrars' Offices in a number of approved venues. In 2006, 881 civil marriage ceremonies (36% of all civil marriage ceremonies) were held in approved venues compared to 640 in 2005. The most popular location was Belfast Castle (79 civil weddings); and
- the ability to conduct religious marriage ceremonies other than in religious buildings varies by religion and denomination. In 2006, 284 religious marriage ceremonies (3% of all religious marriage ceremonies) were held outside of religious buildings compared to 228 in 2005. Again, the most popular location (outside religious buildings) for religious ceremonies was Belfast Castle (50 marriages).

Marriages by District

- The new marriage legislation 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(f). For example, in Fermanagh Local Government District, marriages to couples where neither partner was a Northern Ireland resident accounted for 21% of all marriages.

Marriage day and Seasonality

- Summer is the most popular time of year to get married. Over 70% of all marriages take place in the second and third quarter of the year (April-September), whilst only 10% of marriages are registered in the first quarter (January-March);
- in 2006, the most common month to get married was August (1,301 couples) followed by September (1,190 couples);
- last year, the most common day of the week to get married was Saturday (38%). Only 25 marriages took place on a Sunday in 2006;
- Saturday 29th August 2006 was the most popular day in 2006 to get married, with 114 couples getting married on that date;
- between January and March over 40% of all marriages are civil ceremonies. This falls to around 26% of all marriages in the summer months being civil marriages; and
- over the last five years just under 80% of marriages were between partners who have not been married before; however if one only looks at the months January to March this falls to around 70% of marriages.

Divorces granted in 2006

Number of divorces

- The number of marriages dissolved in Northern Ireland in 2006 was 2,565. This is an increase from last year's figure of 2,362 and is the largest number of divorces 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; and
- the average duration of marriage ending in divorce in 2006 was 17.2 years.

Divorcees

- Whilst around 91% of people getting divorced were single at the time of marriage, the proportion of people getting divorced who were previously divorced has been rising since the 1980s and now accounts for over 8% of all new divorcees in 2006. People who were widowed at the time of their marriage accounted for 1% of people getting divorced; and
- just under 10% of male divorcees had left Northern Ireland or resided at an unknown address at the time of their divorce compared to only 4% of female divorcees.

Other issues

- Non-cohabitation remains the most frequently recorded reason for divorce (72%), followed by behaviour (13%) and combined grounds (11%);
- in 2006, nearly two-thirds of divorces (65%) were filed for by the wife. This percentage has remained fairly constant over the last ten years (66% in 1996); and
- just over 31% of divorces were of marriages that had been celebrated in a Roman Catholic Church. Corresponding figures for Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Methodist and Register's Office are 16%, 14%, 4% and 24% respectively.

Civil Partnerships registered in 2006

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. There were 12 civil partnerships registered in 2005, and 2006 is the first full year for which the Act has been in force. During 2006 there were 116 civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland, 65 male civil partnerships and 51 female civil partnerships.

Marital Status of Partners

- For 91 civil partnerships both partners were single, in 25 civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married;
- for 57 of the 65 male civil partnerships both partners were single, while for 8 civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married. For 34 of the 51 female civil partnerships both partners were single; in the remaining 17 female civil partnerships at least one partner had previously been married;
- for male civil partnerships the average age of partners was just over 42 (42.7 years), this compares to 39 (39.5 years) for female civil partnerships; and
- 107 out of the 116 civil partnership couples in 2006 lived at the same address prior to their civil partnership being registered.

Place of ceremony

- In 2006, 103 civil partnership ceremonies were held in Registrars' Offices. The remaining 13 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 2006, Belfast LGD was the most popular district for civil partnerships (69 civil partnerships), with Derry LGD the second most popular (11 civil partnerships).

- In 2006, there were 17 civil partnerships registered where both partners were non-Northern Ireland residents.

Date of Civil Partnership

- Last year, the most common day of the week for a civil partnership was Friday (41 civil partnerships); and
- in 2006, June was the most common month for civil partnerships (19 couples) closely followed by August and March (14 couples).

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, 1996 to 2006

Table 1(b) Marriages, numbers and rates, mean age at marriage and percentages by age at marriage for females, 1996 to 2006

Table 1(c) Marriages, percentages by marital status of persons marrying, 1996 to 2006

Table 1(d) Marriages (numbers) by method of celebration, 1996 to 2006

Table 1(e) Marriages (percentages) by method of celebration, 1996 to 2006

Table 1(f) Civil and religious marriages by location, 2006

Table 1(g) Marriages by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2006

Divorce

Table 2(a) Divorces, numbers and rates, mean duration of marriage, percentages by marital status and percentage filed by wife, 1996 to 2006

Table 2(b) Divorces, percentage by grounds, 1996 to 2006

Table 2(c) Divorces, percentage by method of celebration of marriage, 1996 to 2006

Table 2(d) Divorcees by area of residence, 2006

Civil Partnerships

Table 3(a) Civil partnerships, numbers, mean age and percentage by age at civil partnership, 2005 to 2006

Table 3(b) Civil partnerships, percentages by marital status of persons marrying, 2005 to 2006

Table 3(c) Civil partnerships by location, 2006

Table 3(d) Civil partnerships by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2006

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

http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_45_76&cms=demography_Publications_Marriages+and+Divorces+Press+Release&release

Table 1(a) Marriages, numbers and rates, mean age at marriage and percentages by age at marriage for males, 1996 to 2006

| 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 | | |
| 1996 | 8,297 | 13.9 | 28.5 | 56.9 | 40.5 | 30.6 | 21.1 | 10.3 |
| 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 | 12.7 | 30.7 | 59.4 | 45.1 | 33.2 | 10.0 | 16.5 |

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 2006 based on 2005 Mid-Year population estimate.

Table 1(b) Marriages, numbers and rates, mean age at marriage and percentages by age at marriage for females, 1996 to 2006

| 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 | | |
| 1996 | 8,297 | 12.8 | 26.7 | 51.6 | 37.9 | 28.4 | 35.8 | 7.1 |
| 1997 | 8,071 | 12.3 | 26.9 | 52.4 | 38.8 | 28.7 | 33.8 | 7.6 |
| 1998 | 7,826 | 11.9 | 27.1 | 51.4 | 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 | 11.9 | 28.9 | 53.7 | 42.6 | 30.9 | 19.2 | 11.4 |

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 2006 based on 2005 Mid-Year population estimate.

Table 1(c) Marriages, percentages by marital status of persons marrying, 1996 to 2006

| 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 |
| 1996 | 85.2 | 2.0 | 12.8 | 86.7 | 1.7 | 11.6 | 78.8 | 14.1 | 7.0 |
| 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 | 77.7 | 14.0 | 8.3 |
| 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 |

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, 1996 to 2006

| Year | Method of celebration - Numbers | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|
| | All marriages | Religious denomination | | | | | Civil |
| | | Roman Catholic | Presbyterian | Church of Ireland | Methodist | Other denominations | |
| 1996 | 8,297 | 3,074 | 1,392 | 1,047 | 309 | 517 | 1,958 |
| 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 |

Table 1(e) Marriages (percentages) by method of celebration, 1996 to 2006

| Year | Method of celebration - Percentages | | | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|
| | All marriages | Religious denomination | | | | | Civil |
| | | Roman Catholic | Presbyterian | Church of Ireland | Methodist | Other denominations | |
| 1996 | 8,297 | 37.0 | 16.8 | 12.6 | 3.7 | 6.2 | 23.6 |
| 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 |

Table 1(f) Civil and religious marriages by location, 2006

| Location | Civil | Religious | Total |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Registrars' Office ¹ | 1,568 | - | 1,568 |
| Religious Building ¹ | - | 5,528 | 5,528 |
| Other locations: | | | |
| Of which: | | | |
| Belfast Castle, Belfast | 79 | 50 | 129 |
| Old Inn, Crawfordsburn | 36 | 49 | 85 |
| Carrickfergus Castle, Carrickfergus | 35 | 7 | 42 |
| Clandeboyne Lodge Hotel, Bangor | 28 | 13 | 41 |
| Malone House, Belfast | 25 | 13 | 38 |
| Portadown Town Hall, Portadown | 38 | - | 38 |
| Galgorm Manor, Ballymena | 27 | 9 | 36 |
| Ballygally Castle Hotel, Larne | 23 | 5 | 28 |
| Culloden Hotel, Holywood | 17 | 11 | 28 |
| La Mon House Hotel, Comber | 22 | 6 | 28 |
| Narrow Water Castle, Warrenpoint | 22 | 6 | 28 |
| Lusty Beg Island, Kesh, Fermanagh | 25 | - | 25 |
| The Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick | 20 | 3 | 23 |
| Tullylagan Country House Hotel, Cookstown | 20 | 1 | 21 |
| The Mill, Ballydugan, Downpatrick | 18 | 2 | 20 |
| Kiltonga Hall, Newtownards | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| Ross Park Hotel, Kells, Ballymena | 16 | 2 | 18 |
| Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Londonderry | 14 | 3 | 17 |
| Mount Stewart (National Trust), Newtownards | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| Mussenden Temple, Downhill | - | 17 | 17 |
| Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle | 15 | 2 | 17 |
| The White Horse Hotel, Londonderry | 17 | - | 17 |
| Corick House Hotel, Clogher | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| Radisson SAS Roe Park Hotel, Limavady | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| Florence Court House, Fermanagh | 15 | - | 15 |
| Hilton Hotel & Country Club, Templepatrick | 14 | 1 | 15 |
| The Dunadry Hotel & Country Club, Dunadry | 12 | 3 | 15 |
| <i>Remaining other locations</i> | 273 | 65 | 338 |
| TOTAL | 2,446 | 5,813 | 8,259 |

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

Table 1(g) Marriages by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2006

| 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 | 8,259 | 30 | 33.2 | 30.9 | 79 | 50 | 10 | |
| Eastern Board | 3,107 | 39 | 34.0 | 31.7 | 74 | 60 | 10 | |
| Ards | 273 | 32 | 33.4 | 31.4 | 73 | 61 | 8 | Kiltonga Hall (19) |
| Belfast | 1,320 | 43 | 34.3 | 32.1 | 73 | 62 | 11 | Belfast Castle (129) |
| Castlereagh | 167 | 46 | 34.4 | 32.5 | 68 | 59 | 5 | La Mon House Hotel (28) |
| Down | 331 | 22 | 33.1 | 30.6 | 83 | 48 | 11 | The Mill, Ballydugan (20) |
| Lisburn | 477 | 33 | 33.8 | 31.3 | 76 | 53 | 7 | Beechlawn Hotel/Balmoral Hotel (4) |
| North Down | 539 | 46 | 34.2 | 31.7 | 71 | 66 | 11 | Old Inn, Crawfordsburn (85) |
| Northern Board | 2,080 | 29 | 33.2 | 30.9 | 78 | 48 | 9 | |
| Antrim | 281 | 40 | 34.0 | 31.3 | 73 | 60 | 9 | The Templeton Hotel (23) |
| Ballymena | 319 | 37 | 32.9 | 30.7 | 76 | 47 | 6 | Galgorm Manor (36) |
| Ballymoney | 132 | 20 | 32.8 | 30.8 | 79 | 37 | 12 | Lissanoure Castle (12) |
| Carrickfergus | 166 | 51 | 34.9 | 32.7 | 69 | 63 | 5 | Carrickfergus Castle (42) |
| Coleraine | 279 | 31 | 34.8 | 32.2 | 74 | 56 | 14 | Mussenden Temple, Downhill (17) |
| Cookstown | 238 | 21 | 31.6 | 29.5 | 85 | 35 | 6 | Tullylagan Country Hotel (21) |
| Larne | 134 | 33 | 33.7 | 31.7 | 69 | 62 | 20 | Ballygally Castle Hotel (28) |
| Magherafelt | 227 | 7 | 31.0 | 28.8 | 90 | 30 | 6 | Ardtara Country House (4) |
| Moyle | 91 | 16 | 34.2 | 32.1 | 81 | 32 | 7 | The Marine Hotel (3) |
| Newtownabbey | 213 | 23 | 32.4 | 30.3 | 78 | 51 | 3 | Chimney Corner Hotel (6) |
| Southern Board | 1,596 | 22 | 32.2 | 29.8 | 84 | 38 | 9 | |
| Armagh | 333 | 25 | 32.4 | 30.2 | 80 | 41 | 12 | The Argory (3) |
| Banbridge | 174 | 25 | 32.3 | 30.5 | 83 | 38 | 2 | Belmont Hotel (7) |
| Craigavon | 317 | 23 | 32.5 | 29.8 | 79 | 44 | 5 | Portadown Town Hall (38) |
| Dungannon | 260 | 14 | 30.8 | 28.8 | 93 | 28 | 4 | Corrick House (16) |
| Newry & Mourne | 512 | 21 | 32.5 | 30.0 | 85 | 37 | 13 | Narrow Water Castle (28) |
| Western Board | 1,476 | 20 | 32.7 | 30.4 | 84 | 46 | 15 | |
| Fermanagh | 374 | 28 | 33.4 | 30.9 | 82 | 51 | 21 | Lusty Beg Island (25) |
| Limavady | 182 | 16 | 32.8 | 30.4 | 84 | 48 | 9 | Radisson Roe Park Resort (16) |
| Derry | 458 | 27 | 33.2 | 31.0 | 79 | 51 | 17 | Beech Hill Hotel/White Horse Hotel (17) |
| Omagh | 274 | 11 | 31.2 | 29.1 | 89 | 38 | 10 | Mellon Country Hotel/Silverbirch Hotel (3) |
| Strabane | 188 | 5 | 31.8 | 29.7 | 91 | 35 | 10 | - |

Table 2(a) Divorces, numbers and rates, mean duration of marriage, percentages by marital status and percentage filed by wife, 1996 to 2006

| 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 | |
| 1996 | 2,314 | 1.9 | 15.2 | 93.1 | 0.8 | 6.1 | 93.3 | 0.8 | 5.9 | 66 |
| 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 | 9.1 | 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 |

¹Divorces per 1,000 population aged 16 and over

²Rate for 2006 based on 2005 Mid-Year population estimate

Table 2(b) Divorces, percentage by grounds, 1996 to 2006

| 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 | | |
| 1996 | 2,314 | 7.4 | 17.8 | 0.4 | 43.6 | 27.5 | 3.0 | 0.2 |
| 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 |

Table 2(c) Divorces, percentage by method of celebration of marriage, 1996 to 2006

| 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 |
| 1996 | 2,314 | 30.0 | 20.7 | 16.6 | 4.4 | 11.9 | 16.4 |
| 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 | 3.9 | 10.0 | 23.6 |

¹ Including Free Presbyterian

² Including not stated.

Table 2(d) Divorcees by area of residence, 2006

| Area of Residence | Male Divorcees | Female Divorcees | All Divorcees | 2001 Census Population eligible for divorce¹ | Divorcee Rate² |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Northern Ireland | 2,319 | 2,452 | 4,771 | 707,500 | 6.7 |
| Eastern Board | 993 | 1,051 | 2,044 | 273,300 | 7.5 |
| Ards | 123 | 128 | 251 | 34,800 | 7.2 |
| Belfast | 406 | 396 | 802 | 96,800 | 8.3 |
| Castlereagh | 90 | 110 | 200 | 31,200 | 6.4 |
| Down | 89 | 98 | 187 | 27,100 | 6.9 |
| Lisburn | 148 | 160 | 308 | 47,500 | 6.5 |
| North Down | 137 | 159 | 296 | 36,000 | 8.2 |
| Northern Board | 586 | 640 | 1,226 | 189,100 | 6.5 |
| Antrim | 60 | 72 | 132 | 21,200 | 6.2 |
| Ballymena | 79 | 76 | 155 | 26,900 | 5.8 |
| Ballymoney | 35 | 30 | 65 | 11,900 | 5.5 |
| Carrickfergus | 63 | 73 | 136 | 17,400 | 7.8 |
| Coleraine | 72 | 94 | 166 | 24,100 | 6.9 |
| Cookstown | 42 | 41 | 83 | 13,700 | 6.0 |
| Larne | 53 | 55 | 108 | 14,000 | 7.7 |
| Magherafelt | 39 | 41 | 80 | 16,500 | 4.8 |
| Moyle | 17 | 15 | 32 | 6,700 | 4.8 |
| Newtownabbey | 126 | 143 | 269 | 36,800 | 7.3 |
| Southern Board | 427 | 442 | 869 | 133,000 | 6.5 |
| Armagh | 64 | 58 | 122 | 23,400 | 5.2 |
| Banbridge | 71 | 78 | 149 | 18,900 | 7.9 |
| Craigavon | 118 | 129 | 247 | 34,900 | 7.1 |
| Dungannon | 51 | 54 | 105 | 19,900 | 5.3 |
| Newry & Mourne | 123 | 123 | 246 | 35,900 | 6.8 |
| Western Board | 313 | 319 | 632 | 112,100 | 5.6 |
| Fermanagh | 43 | 40 | 83 | 23,900 | 3.5 |
| Limavady | 52 | 44 | 96 | 13,500 | 7.1 |
| Derry | 122 | 129 | 251 | 39,800 | 6.3 |
| Omagh | 53 | 61 | 114 | 19,300 | 5.9 |
| Strabane | 43 | 45 | 88 | 15,600 | 5.6 |
| Living outside NI / Unknown | 246 | 113 | 359 | - | - |
| All divorcees | 2,565 | 2,565 | 5,130 | | |

¹ Married, re-married and separated population aged 16 and over (2001 Census), rounded to nearest 100 persons

² Rate per 1,000 married, re-married and separated population

Table 3(a) Civil partnerships, numbers, mean age and percentage by age at civil partnership, 2005 to 2006

| Year | Number of Civil Partnerships | Number of Male Civil Partnerships | Average age of Male Partners | Percentage of male partners aged under 25 | Percentage of male partners aged 40 and over | Number of Female Civil Partnerships | Average age of Female Partners | Percentage of female partners aged under 25 | Percentage of female partners aged 40 and over |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 2005 | 12 | 6 | 39.4 | 8 | 42 | 6 | 34.7 | - | 17 |
| 2006 | 116 | 65 | 42.7 | 3 | 52 | 51 | 39.5 | 8 | 49 |

Table 3(b) Civil partnerships, percentages by marital status of persons marrying, 2005 to 2006

| Year | Percentage of couples in a Civil Partnership where | | Percentage of male partnerships where | | Percentage of female partnerships where | |
|------|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | Both Single ¹ | One or both partners previously married | Both Single ¹ | One or both partners previously married | Both Single ¹ | One or both partners previously married |
| 2005 | 75 | 25 | 83 | 17 | 67 | 33 |
| 2006 | 78 | 22 | 88 | 12 | 67 | 33 |

¹Includes never previously married or in a civil partnership

Table 3(c) Civil partnerships by location, 2006

| Location | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Registrars' Office | 103 |
| Other locations | |
| Of which: Hotel | 7 |
| Council Premises | 2 |
| <i>Remaining other locations</i> | 4 |
| TOTAL | 116 |

Table 3(d) Civil partnerships by District and Health Board of Celebration, 2006

| Area of celebration | Number of civil partnerships | Number of male civil partnerships | Number of female civil partnerships |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Northern Ireland | 116 | 65 | 51 |
| Eastern Board | 85 | 51 | 34 |
| Belfast | 69 | 43 | 26 |
| Lisburn | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| North Down | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Rest of Eastern Board | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Northern Board | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| Southern Board | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| Newry & Mourne | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Rest of Southern Board | 2 | - | 2 |
| Western Board | 14 | 7 | 7 |
| Derry | 11 | 4 | 7 |
| Rest of Western Board | 3 | 3 | - |

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. Average age for brides, grooms, and divorcees are calculated using age at time of marriage or divorce in completed years at last birthday.
5. 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).
6. All media inquiries should directed to:
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Craigantlet Buildings, Stoney Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SX
Telephone: 028 9052 7374
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7. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:
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Telephone: 028 9034 8160
Fax: 028 9034 8161
E-mail: census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk