



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

**Standard Report
on
Methods and Quality
for
Marriages Registration**



Standard Report on Methods and Quality (v1) for Marriages Registration

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

<2007 onwards>

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1 Overview

Every Marriage occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office. The details of these Marriage registrations are compiled into statistical reports by the Central Statistics Office, acting on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection. Civil Partnerships, introduced by the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010, enabled same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship.

Same sex marriages legislation came into effect on the 16th November 2015. The Marriage Act 2015 (No 35/2015 refers) allows parties of the same sex to marry.

Statistics on Marriages registered in Ireland have been collected and published since 1864. Statistics on Civil Partnerships registered in Ireland have been collected and published from 2011 to 2016.

They provide a comprehensive picture of the number of Marriages and Civil Partnerships and provide demographic details on the people getting married. They are important for demographic research and for certain kinds of social research.

Civil partnership legislation has been superseded by same sex marriage legislation. The Marriage Act 2015 (No.35/2015) effective from the 16th November 2015 when same sex marriage legislation came into effect, same sex couples no longer had the option to apply for a Civil Partnership. There were no civil partnership ceremonies in Ireland in 2017.

2 General Information

2.1 Statistical Category

Compilation based on administrative data

2.2 Area of Activity

Social Statistics

2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

Vital Statistics

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2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

Legislation for the registration of civil and non-Catholic marriages has been in place in Ireland since 1845. Statistics on marriages registered in Ireland (including Catholic marriages) have been collected and published since 1864. This was initially done by the General Register Office. Since 1953 the reports have been compiled by the Central Statistics Office, based on administrative data supplied by the General Register Office.

Civil Partnerships, introduced by the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010, enabled same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship and statistics on such unions are collected and published from 2011 to 2016 on an annual basis.

They provide a comprehensive picture of the number of marriages and civil partnerships and provide demographic details on the people getting married. They are important for demographic research, and for certain kinds of social research.



2.5 Periodicity

Statistics on Marriages registered are published annually. Statistics on Civil Partnerships registered were published from 2011 to 2016 when same sex marriages superseded Civil Partnerships.

2.6 Client

Vital Statistics releases and publications are prepared on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Vital Statistics and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1952 (as amended by section 7 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1972) and Section 73 (when commenced) of the Civil Registration Act 2004.

2.7 Users

- Government
- Demographic Researchers, Social Researchers
- The general public
- Professional Bodies
- European Union/Eurostat

2.8 Legal basis

Vital Statistics releases and publications are prepared on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Vital Statistics and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1952 (as amended by section 7 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1972) and Section 73 (when commenced) of the Civil Registration Act 2004

The legal provisions concerning civil partnership registration are contained in Part 3 of the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2010. These provisions amend the Civil Registration Act, 2004 to provide for the registration of civil partnerships in Ireland.

In 2015 Civil partnership legislation has been superseded by same sex marriage legislation. The Marriage Act 2015 (No.35/2015) effective from the 16th November 2015 when same sex marriage legislation came into effect, same sex couples no longer had the option to apply for a Civil Partnership.

3 Statistical Concepts, Methods

3.1 Subject of the Statistics

Information on marriages and civil partnerships occurring in Ireland.

3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation

Marriages are recorded on marriage certificates. These are presented in tables aggregated by location and form of marriage ceremony, day and month of ceremony, and age, previous residence, future residence, previous marital status and socio-economic group of bride and groom. In the case of Civil Partnerships, provided three months' notice is given and there are no impediments to the



union, then a Civil Partnership Registration Form (CPRF) must be completed and given to the Registrar in order to register the union. These are presented in tables aggregated by location, gender and previous marital status up to the end of 2016 when same sex marriages legislation superseded Civil Partnership legislation.

3.3 Data Sources

General Registration Office

3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents

Every Marriage/Civil Partnership occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office.

(There is at present no provision for the civil registration of Muslim marriage ceremonies solemnised in the State).

3.5 Type of Survey/Process

Aggregation of administrative data concerning marriages (and civil partnerships from 2011 to 2016) registered.

3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process

Not applicable

3.6.1 Birth and death rates are calculated using 2017 estimated usual residence census of population figures.

Usual Residence Population concept

For the purpose of this release the population concept of usual residence has been used, i.e. all persons usually resident and present in the State on census night, plus absent persons who are usually resident in Ireland, but are temporarily away from home and outside the State on Census night. All persons are classified according to the region of their usual residence.

3.6.2 Sampling/Census Design

Not applicable

3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer

Weekly files of Marriages registered in the previous week are sent electronically from the General Register Office (GRO) to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in encrypted xml format. File is downloaded, decrypted and uploaded to Data Capture System (DMS). Reconciliation sheets containing the reference number of each Marriage is sent by the GRO to the CSO weekly. The number of Marriages per the Reconciliation sheets is checked against the number of Marriages on DMS to ensure that numbers are the same.

3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable

3.9 Participation in the Survey



Not applicable

3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results

Simple aggregation classified by location, form of marriage ceremony, day and month of ceremony, and age, previous residence, future residence, previous marital status and socio-economic group of bride and groom.

3.11 Classifications used

There is a 10 category Standard Occupation Code (SOC2010) Classification used from 2012. See directly below in alphabetical order:

Standard Occupation Codes	Occupations included are as listed
4	Administrative and secretarial occupations
3	Associate professional and Technical occupations
6	Caring, Leisure and Other service occupations
9	Elementary occupations
1	Managers, Directors and Senior officials
8	Process, Plant and Machine operatives
2	Professional occupations
7	Sales and Customer service occupations
5	Skilled trades occupations
0	Unemployed, Retired, Student and occupation unknown

The Standard Occupational Codes replaced the Socio-economic groupings used prior to 2012.

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/documentation/occupational/soc2010>

Marriages celebrated according to the rites and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Ireland, the forms and disciplines of the Presbyterian Church and The Spiritualist Union of Ireland. Civil Marriage and The Humanist Association have been classified under their respective ceremony. The usages of certain other Religious Bodies have been classified under 'other religious'.

3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results

NUTS2 and NUTS3 Regional Authority areas - January 2018

From the 1st January 2018 an Amendment of the EU NUTS legislation came into effect. This reflects the new regional assembly structure and the other changes to the Local Government Act for Tipperary North, Tipperary South and Limerick and Waterford City and County Councils. The composition of the new Regions breakdown is outlined below.

Up to December 2017 regional classifications were based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions corresponded to eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation on 1 January 1994. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions.

New regions effective from 1st January 2018.



Northern & Western (Border and West). Southern (Mid-West, South-East and South-West) and Eastern and Midland (Dublin, Mid-East and Midland).

Border: Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo.
West: Mayo, Roscommon, Galway County, Galway City.
Dublin: Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin.
Mid-East: Kildare, Louth, Meath, Wicklow.
Mid-West: Clare, Tipperary, Limerick County Limerick City.
South-East: Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford County, Waterford City, Wexford.
South-West: Cork County, Cork City, Kerry.
Midlands: Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath.

4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance

4.1 Data Capture

The information on marriage certificates are entered electronically at registry offices around the country. The registrations of the previous week from all registry offices are sent in a weekly encrypted XML file from the General Register Office to the Central Statistics Office. This file is decrypted and uploaded on to Data Capture System in which any necessary data editing takes place.

4.2 Coding

Each Marriage is geographically coded (where the marriage took place, the areas of residence of the bride and groom prior to marriage, and the intended future residence). The bride and groom are each given a Socio-Economic Group code. From 2005 onwards, there are 3 options for the previous marital status of each partner, Single, Widowed or Divorced. Prior to 2005 the only options are Single or Widowed (Divorced people were classified as single).

4.3 Data Editing

The data file in the data management system (DMS) is edited to ensure that the ages of the bride and groom are correct.

4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

No imputation.

4.5 Grossing and Weighting

No grossing or weighting.

4.6 Computation of Outputs Estimation Methods Used

Results are aggregated – no estimation used.

4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used

Not applicable

5 Quality

5.1 Relevance

Marriage statistics provide a comprehensive picture of the number of Marriages and provide demographic details on the people getting married. They are important for demographic research, and for certain kinds of social research.

5.2 Accuracy and Reliability

5.2.1. Sampling Effect & Representivity

Not applicable

5.2.2 Non-Sampling Effects

5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used



The data is collected from marriage certificates, and the information on these certificates is collected from the bride and groom and each partner in same-sex unions.

5.2.2.2 Register Coverage

All marriages occurring in Ireland are legally obliged to be registered.

5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)

Not applicable

5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors

Not applicable

5.2.2.5 Processing Errors

Details of the marriage may be entered incorrectly at the registry office. However, the editing process will identify where inappropriate ages have been entered.

5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects

Not applicable

5.3 Timeliness & Punctuality

5.3.1 Provisional Results

Not applicable

5.3.2 Final Results

The annual report on marriages is generally published within 2 years. (Detailed analysis are not currently available for 1997 - 1999).

5.4 Coherence

The Central Statistics Office is the only source for marriage statistics in Ireland.

5.5 Comparability

Marriage/Civil Partnership statistics are comparable internationally.

5.6 Accessibility and Clarity

5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses

Specific user requests are acceded to where possible, and where confidentiality issues do not arise.

Please contact vitalstats@cs0.ie

5.6.2 Revisions

Generally, there are no revisions.

5.6.3 Publications

5.6.3.1 Releases, Regular Publications

Marriages (annual)

The most recent versions of these reports can be accessed at:

<https://www.cs0.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/marriagescivilpartnerships/>

5.6.3.2 Statistical Reports

Statistical Yearbook

5.6.3.3 Internet

More publications are in our archive at:

<http://www.cs0.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/archive/publicationsarchive2021/>



Users can create their own tables from the Database Direct Facility:
<https://data.cso.ie/>

5.6.4 Confidentiality

All data are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act, 1993, and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1952.



