An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

Standard SIMS Report:

Marriages Registration

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Marriages Registration

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
2023

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2. Introduction

These statistics have been compiled from the marriage registration forms of all marriages registered in the Republic of Ireland in 2016.

3. Contact

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4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

10/07/2024

4.2. Metadata last posted

July 2024

4.3. Metadata last update

10/07/2024

5. Statistical Presentation

5.1. Data Description

Statistics on Marriages registered in Ireland have been collected and published since 1864.

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.

The statistics 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aggregated by location, gender and previous marital status up to the end of 2016 when same sex marriages legislation superseded Civil Partnership legislation.

5.2. Classification System

Occupation:
This classification is determined by a person's occupation. The men and women whose marriages were registered from 2012 onwards were classified by standard occupation codes. This replaces the socio-economic group classification used up to 2011.

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

Regions:
The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the 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. The composition of the regions is set out below.

Border, Midland and Western NUTS2		Southern and Eastern NUTS2	
Border	Cavan	**Dublin**	Dublin City
	Donegal		Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown
	Leitrim		Fingal
	Louth		South Dublin
	Monaghan	**Mid-East**	Kildare
	Sligo		Meath
Midland	Laois		Wicklow
	Longford	**South-East**	Carlow
	Offaly		Kilkenny
	Westmeath		South Tipperary
West	Galway City		Waterford City
	Galway County		Waterford County
	Mayo		Wexford
	Roscommon	**South-West**	Cork City
			Cork County
			Kerry

5.3. Sector Coverage

Not applicable.

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

Form of Ceremony
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, the usages of the Methodist Church, the usages of people professing the Jewish religion, The Spiritualist Union of Ireland and the Humanist Association have been classified under their respective religions. The usages of certain other Religious Bodies have been classified under 'other religious'.

Area of residence
Four classifications of district are available: that in which the marriage took place, the areas of residence of the bride and groom prior to marriage, and the intended future residence.

Age specific marriage rates
The age specific marriage rates are calculated as follows:
Age Specific Rate = Number of Males (or Females) of that age whose marriages were registered multiplied by 1,000 and divided by Population of Males (or Females) of that age. The small number of marriages for which the age is not stated are distributed in proportion before this calculation is made.
Marriages/Civil Partnerships per 1,000 population
This is calculated for each year as follows:
Marriages/Civil Partnerships per 1,000 population = Number of Marriages/Civil partnerships registered multiplied by 1,000 and divided by population. The 2016 usual residence population is 4,673,745.

Civil Partnership Legislation
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 this regulation was enacted on the 1st January 2011.

Same Sex Marriage Legislation
The Marriage Act 2015 (No 35/2015) effective from the 16th November 2015 (S.I 504/15 refers) allows parties of the same sex to marry.

5.5. Statistical Unit

Persons and marriages.

5.6. Statistical Population

All marriages registered in Ireland.

5.7. Reference Area

State

5.8. Time Coverage

The Central Statistics Office has been publishing annual reports from 1953 to 2021.

5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

6. Unit of Measure

All counts are expressed in integer numbers. Rates are expressed in percentages.

7. Reference Period

The reference period is the calendar year.

8. Institutional Mandate

8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

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 was 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.

8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

9. Confidentiality

9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.
These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes.
Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:
https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/

9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

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.

10. Release Policy

10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link:
https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/

10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at
https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website (www.cso.ie). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

11. Frequency of Dissemination

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.

12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

Not applicable.

12.2. Publications

Marriages (annual)
The most recent versions of these reports can be accessed at:
https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/marriagescivilpartnerships/

12.3. On-line database

Information on marriages statistics tables are available on the CSO dissemination database PxStat. They can be accessed directly from the following link: https://data.cso.ie/product/mar

12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

The dedicated marriages publication was released on the 26/04/2014. The number of times it has been accessed from the publication date until the 18/06/2024 is 1231 times from 780 different users.

12.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

12.5. Other

12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Documents on the Methodology used to compile this report can be found on the CSO website or by following the link: https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/birthsdeathsandmarriages/marriagesregistration/

12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

12.7. Quality Documentation

The Quality Report for this Survey can be found on the CSO website of by following the link:
https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/qualityreports/marriages/

13. Quality Management

13.1. Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework
The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process

Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

13.2. Quality Assessment

As part of the overall CSO Quality strategy an annual self-assessment exercise is completed to evaluate the quality of processes and outputs. The latest iteration of this exercise showed that the methods used for processing the data and the final disseminated outputs are of sufficient quality to meet user needs.

14. Relevance

14.1. User Needs

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.

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.

14.1.1. Main National Users

- Government
- Demographic Researchers, Social Researchers
- The general public
- Professional Bodies

14.1.2. Principal External Users

- European Union/Eurostat

14.2. User Satisfaction

Not measured.

14.3. Data Completeness

Not calculated.

14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not calculated.

15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

Not applicable.

15.2. Sampling Error

Not applicable.

15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable.

15.3. Non-sampling Error

Not applicable.

15.3.1. Coverage error

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

15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable.

15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not appliable.

15.3.2. Measurement error

Non applicable.

15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Not applicable.

15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

Not applicable.

15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

Not applicable.

15.3.4. Processing error

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

15.3.5. Model assumption error

Not appliable

16. Timeliness and punctuality

16.1. Timeliness

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

16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

Not applicable.

16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

+ 4 months.

16.2. Punctuality

The date of release of the annual report on marriages is scheduled in the CSO's release calendar at the start of the year. The publication generally goes out on time based on the date indicated in this calendar.

16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days.

17. Comparability

17.1. Comparability – Geographical

Marriage/Civil Partnership statistics are comparable internationally.

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable.

17.2. Comparability over time

Not applicable.

17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

17 years

17.3. Coherence – cross domain

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

17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

17.4. Coherence – internal

Not applicable.

18. Cost and Burden

Marriage statistics are based on administrative data, which implies zero burden on the respondents. An analysis of the cost incurred in generating the statistics has not been quantified.

19. Data Revision

19.1. Data Revision Policy

Published statistics are subject to correction and revision for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include the receipt of additional information (for example, late survey responses) and updated seasonal factors. Occasional revisions also occur as a result of changes to definitions, methodology, classifications and general updating of statistical series.
It is recognised internationally that the existence of a sound revisions policy maintains credibility in official statistics. The CSO General Revisions Policy, which details how revisions should be managed and communicated to users, outlines the three main types of revisions:

- Planned Routine Revisions
- Planned Major Revisions
- Unplanned Revisions.

One reason for unplanned revisions occurring can be when errors are detected after publication. The 'CSO Error Correction Policy – How to deal with Publication Errors' outlines the steps taken when these errors are detected. As required under Principle 6.3 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, errors detected in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and users are informed. An important step in the process is the documentation and analysis of errors that have occurred and their causes. This allows the CSO to take measures preventing similar errors from occurring in the future and uniformity in dealing with them when they do.
The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:
https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/

19.2. Data Revision Practice

Not applicable.

19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not applicable.

20. Statistical processing

20.1. Source Data

The data is collected from marriage certificates issued by the General Registration Office (GSO), and the information on these certificates is collected from the bride and groom and each partner in same-sex unions.

20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

Not applicable.

20.1.2. Sampling design

Not applicable.

20.1.3. Survey size

Not applicable.

20.1.4. Survey technique

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.

20.2. Frequency of data collection

Weekly.

20.3. Data Collection

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.

20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Administrative data process.

20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable.

20.3.3. Survey Participation

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).

20.3.4. 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.

20.4. Data Validation

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).

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

20.5. Data Compilation

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.

20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Not applicable

20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not calculated.

20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable.

20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

21. Comment