

19 September 2011

Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces
Year 2010

Marriage dissolutions increase 3.9% in the year 2010, as compared with the year 2009

Divorces increase 4.7% and separations decrease 5.6%

Three out of four dissolution processes are resolved in less than six months

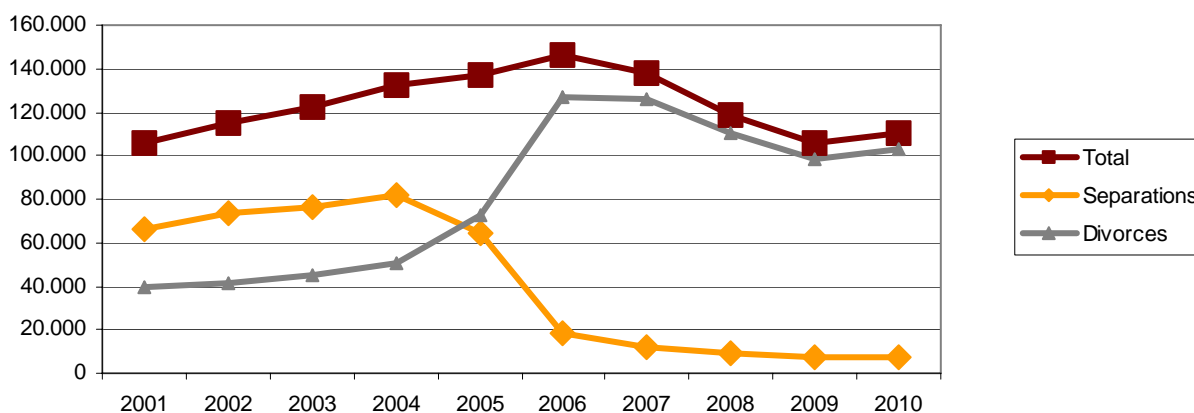
110,321 marriages were dissolved during the year 2010, that is, 3.9% more than the previous year. The descending trend of dissolutions, which began in 2007 was thus broken.

By type of marriage dissolution, in 2010, there were 102,933 divorces (4.7% more than the previous year) and 7,248 separations (5.6% less). Furthermore, there were 140 annulments, 10.2% more than in the year 2009.

Divorces represented 93.3% of the marriage dissolutions in the year 2010, as compared with separations, which accounted for 6.6%, and annulments, with 0.1%. The upward trend of divorces was thus consolidated within the global marriage dissolution figures.

In the year 2010, there were 245 dissolutions of homosexual marriages. 137 of these dissolved marriages were between men, and 108 were between women.

Marriage dissolutions 2001-2010



Evolution of marriage dissolutions 2001-2010

	Total	Separations	Divorces	Annulments
2001	105,534	66,144	39,242	148
2002	115,374	73,567	41,621	186
2003	122,166	76,520	45,448	198
2004	132,789	81,618	50,974	197
2005	137,044	64,028	72,848	168
2006	145,919	18,793	126,952	174
2007	137,510	11,583	125,777	150
2008	118,939	8,761	110,036	142
2009	106,166	7,680	98,359	127
2010	110,321	7,248	102,933	140

Marriage dissolutions by mutual agreement

67.7% of the marriage dissolutions in the year 2010 were by mutual agreement, as compared with 64.6% registered the previous year.

Of the total divorces, 67.4% were by mutual agreement and 32.6% were contested. In turn, 70.7% of the separations were by mutual agreement and 29.3% were contested.

Said figures imply growth, in relative terms, in consensual dissolutions, as compared with the previous year (in 2009, 64.4% of the divorces and 67.6% of the separations were by mutual agreement).

There was a previous separation in 13.3% of the divorces (as compared with the 17.1% recorded the previous year).

Average age on dissolution of marriage and nationality of the spouses

The highest number of dissolutions took place in the age bracket from 40 to 49 years old, for both men and women.

The **average age of women** at the time of marriage dissolution was **42.0 years old** (41.7 years old in divorces, 46.1 in separations and 37.6 in annulments).

In the case of **men**, the **average age was 44.6 years old** (44.3 years old in divorces, 48.6 in separations and 41.3 in annulments).

Said average ages were slightly higher than those registered in 2009 (41.9 for women and 44.4 for men).

86.2% of marriage dissolutions registered in 2010 occurred between spouses with Spanish nationality. In 8.9% of these, one of the spouses was a foreign national, and in 4.9%, both spouses were foreign nationals.

With regard to the previous year, a slight increase was observed in relative terms, both in the dissolutions in which both spouses were foreign nationals (4.4% in 2009), and in the dissolutions in which at least one of the spouses was a foreign national (8.4%).

Average duration of the marriages dissolved

The average duration of the marriages dissolved was 15.5 years, slightly lower than the figure observed the previous year.

The marriages dissolved by divorce had an average duration of 15.2 years, those dissolved by separation had lasted 20.2 years, and those that broke-up by annulment, 7.0 years.

Three out of ten of the divorces took place after 20 years of marriage and two out of ten in unions that had lasted between six and ten years.

In the case of separations, 45.5% of the marriages had a duration longer than 20 years, and 15.8% between six and ten years.

By marital status of the spouses at the time of contracting the marriage dissolved, most were single. In the case of men, 5.9% were divorced and 0.7% were widowers. Among the women, 5.0% were divorced and 0.4% were widows.

Dissolution of marriages by children, allowance and custody

42.9% of the marriages dissolved in the year 2010 had underage children, as compared with 46.4% from the previous year.

48.5% only had underage children, 3.8% only had dependent adult children, and 4.8% had underage and dependent adult children. 28.5% of marriages dissolved had only one child (30.7% in the previous year).

In 57.1% of the marriage dissolutions, maintenance and support was assigned a similar figure to that from the previous year (57.5%). Among them, in 87.5% of the cases, the payment of the maintenance and support pension corresponded to the father (88.7% in 2009), in 5.0% of the cases, to the mother (5.3% in the previous year), and in 7.5% of the cases to both spouses (6.0% in 2009).

The custody of the underage children was granted to the mother in 83.2% of marriage dissolutions, a similar figure to that observed the previous year (84%). In 5.7% of dissolutions, custody was granted to the father (similar to 5.6% in 2009), and in 10.5% it was shared (slightly higher than the 9.7% from the previous year), and in 0.6% it was granted to others (institutions, other relatives).

In 12.2% of marriage dissolutions, there was a compensatory allowance, a figure lower than the 13.2% registered in 2009. In nine out of 10 cases, the compensatory allowance was paid by the husband.

Regarding the person filing the application for dissolution marriage, **in 47.9% of the cases, it was presented by both spouses** (slightly higher than the 45.5% from the previous year), in 32.5% by the wife (30.1% in 2009) and in 19.6% by the husband (less than the 24.4% from the previous year). This order of precedence was observed for both divorces and separations.

Average duration of the dissolution processes

72.4% of the divorce proceedings were resolved in less than six months, while 8.1% took more than a year.

In the separations, 76.7% were resolved in less than six months, while 7.1% took longer than a year.

The average duration of the cases was 4.8 months, slightly shorter than the 4.9 months observed the previous year.

The average duration of the dissolution process was shorter in separations (4.4 months) than in divorces (4.8 months).

Data by Autonomous Community

The number of marriage dissolutions per 1,000 inhabitants in Spain was 2.35 in the year 2010, this figure being lower than that registered the previous year (2.27).

By Autonomous Community, those that registered the highest rates were Cataluña (2.78), Canarias (2.72) and the autonomous city of Ceuta (2.73).

Conversely, the Autonomous Communities with the lowest rates were Castilla y León (1.73), Extremadura (1.76) and Castilla-La Mancha (1.82).

Marriage dissolutions

Absolute figures and rates per 1,000 inhabitants. Year 2010

	Divorces	Separations	Annulments	Total	Dissolutions/ 1000 inhabitants
TOTAL	102,933	7,248	140	110,321	2.35
Andalucía	18,374	1,531	30	19,935	2.38
Aragón	2,344	175	13	2,532	1.88
Asturias, Principado de	2,550	215	10	2,775	2.56
Balears, Illes	2,689	162	2	2,853	2.58
Canarias	5,484	270	6	5,760	2.72
Cantabria	1,301	63	1	1,365	2.30
Castilla y León	4,082	336	4	4,422	1.73
Castilla - La Mancha	3,508	298	3	3,809	1.82
Cataluña	19,541	1,298	15	20,854	2.78
Comunitat Valenciana	12,107	812	19	12,938	2.53
Extremadura	1,744	201	1	1,946	1.76
Galicia	5,664	360	5	6,029	2.16
Madrid, Comunidad de	14,467	896	15	15,378	2.38
Murcia, Región de	3,004	225	4	3,233	2.21
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	1,168	74	6	1,248	1.96
País Vasco	3,974	257	5	4,236	1.94
Rioja, La	569	39	0	608	1.89
Ceuta	200	19	1	220	2.73
Melilla	163	17	0	180	2.37

Methodological note

The Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces are prepared with the information provided by the Courts of First Instance and Criminal Court and Courts for Violence Against Women, regarding marriage dissolution processes.

As of 1 January 2007, for the purpose of improving the quality of the information and opportunity of the Statistics, a new continuous information collection system has been implemented, through an electronic questionnaire via the website of the Neutral Judicial Point.

Information is requested regarding data on the marriage (data held and number of underage children), data on the spouses (date of birth, sex, nationality and marital status at the time of the current marriage), date of the petition, date of the sentence, applicant, existence of prior legal separation and ruling of the judgment (type of ruling and assignation of compensatory allowance, maintenance and support and custody).

Results are presented on national, Autonomous Community and provincial levels, allowing for the analysis of marriage dissolution, bearing in mind different aspects, such as the age, sex and nationality of the spouses, the duration of the marriage and the characteristics of the ruling.

For further information see INEbase-www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

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