

30 September 2019

Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces Year 2018

In 2018 there were 95,254 divorces, 2.8% less than in the previous year

Joint custody was granted in 33.8% of cases of divorce and separation of couples with children

During 2018 there were a total of 99,444 cases of annulment, separations and divorces, which meant a rate of 2.1 per 1,000 inhabitants. The total number of cases represented a decrease of 2.8% as compared with the previous year.

By type of resolution, 63,915 cases were settled by sentence and 35,529 by decree or public deed.

By type of proceeding, there were 95,254 divorces, 4,098 separations and 92 annulments. Divorces accounted for 95.8% of the total, separations for 4.1% and annulments for the remaining 0.1%.

The number of divorces decreased by 2.8% with respect to the previous year, while the separations did so by 4.3% and the annulments by 8.0%.

Divorces and separations by class

77.7% of divorces in 2018 were by mutual agreement, while the remaining 22.3% were contentious. In the case of separations, 85.1% were by mutual agreement and 14.9% contentious.

In 2018 there were 1,141 same-sex divorces (1.2% of the total). Of these, 595 were among men and 546 among women. In addition, there were 11 separations (0.3% of the total).

Duration of marriages

The average duration of marriages up to the date of the resolution was 16.8 years, a number slightly higher than in 2017.

Marriages dissolved by divorce had an average duration of 16.6 years, while that of separated marriages was 22.8 years. Meanwhile, the average time elapsed between marriage and the declaration of annulment was 6.6 years.

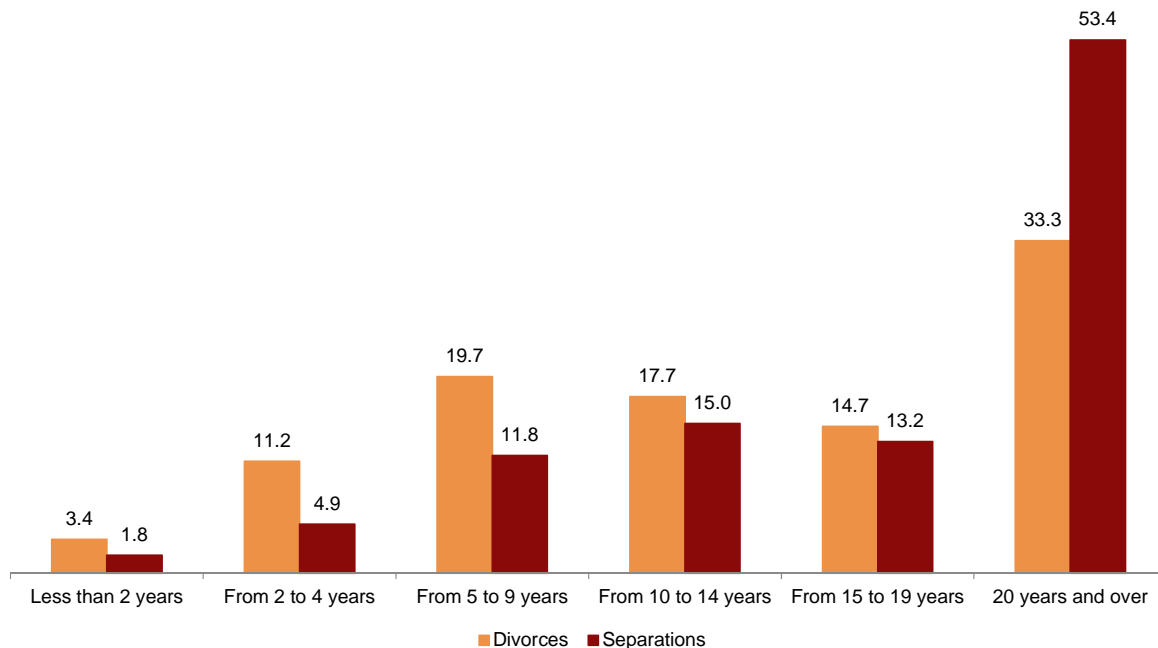
33.3% of divorces occurred after 20 years of marriage or more, and 19.7% between five and nine years.

In the case of separations, 53.4% of marriages lasted 20 years or more and 15.0% between 10 and 14 years.

Proceedings (separations and divorces) according to the duration of the marriage.

Year 2018

Percentages



Duration of proceedings

74.7% of divorces were resolved in less than six months (compared with 75.2% in 2017). On the other hand, in 8.5% of cases, the duration was one year or more (compared with 7.9% in 2017).

82.8% of the separations were resolved in less than six months (81.6% in 2017), while 5.4% took a year or more (5.8% in 2017).

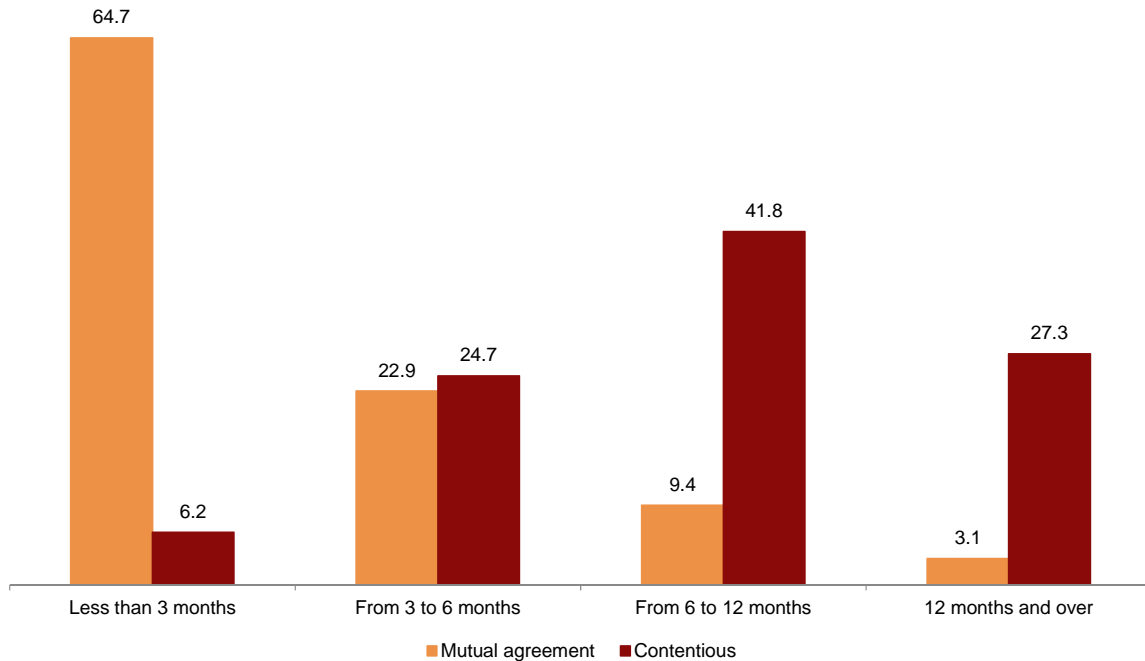
The average duration of proceedings was 4.8 months, slightly higher than in 2017. In separations, the average duration (3.8 months) was lower than in divorces (4.8 months).

According to the type of divorce and separation proceedings, the average duration of the mutually agreed proceedings was 3.3 months, while the average duration of the contentious proceedings stood at 10.1 months.

64.7% of mutual agreement procedures were resolved in less than three months and 22.9% in a period of three to five months.

On the other hand, 41.8% of the contentious proceedings were resolved between six and 11 months, and 27.3% in 12 or more months.

Proceedings (separations and divorces) according to class and duration. Year 2018
Percentages



Average age, nationality and marital status of the spouses

The largest number of divorces between spouses of different sex took place in the 40-49 age group, for both men and women.

In separations, the highest number occurred in men between the ages of 50 and 59 and in women between the ages of 40 and 49.

The average age of women was 45.4 years (45.2 years in divorces, 50.1 in separations and 39.2 in annulments). In the case of men, the average age was 47.8 years (47.6 years in the case of divorces, 52.6 years for separations and 41.0 years for annulments). These average ages were similar to those registered in 2017.

82.6% of the total number of divorces between spouses of different sex registered in 2018 took place among Spanish nationals. In 10.6% of them, one of the spouses had foreign nationality and in 6.8%, both were foreigners.

In terms of the marital status of the spouses of different sex when they married, most were single. In the case of men, 7.8% were divorced and 0.6% widowed. Among the women, 8.4% were divorced and 0.6% were widows.

Number of children, pensions and custody

43.1% of the marriages corresponding to the separation or divorce resolutions did not have children (minors or economically dependent adults). This percentage was similar to that of the previous year.

45.1% had only minor children, 5.1% had only economically dependent adult children and 6.7% had minor and economically dependent adult children. 25.4% had only one child (minor or economically dependent adult children).

In 57.3% of the cases of divorce and separation of different-sex spouses, an alimony was assigned (57.0% in the previous year). In 68.0%, the payment of alimony corresponded to the father (71.0% in 2017), in 4.4% to the mother (4.5% in the previous year) and in 27.6% to both spouses (24.5% in 2017).

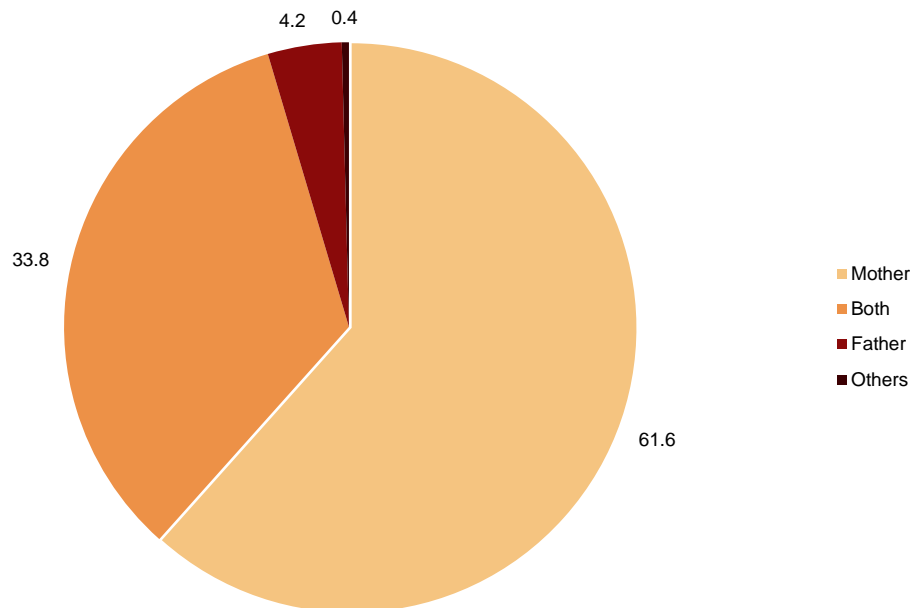
On the other hand, in divorces and separations between same-sex spouses, an alimony was assigned in 24.5% of the cases.

Custody of minor children was granted in 52.1% of the cases of divorce and separation between opposite-sex spouses. In 61.6% it was granted to the mother (65.0% in the previous year), in 4.2% it was obtained by the father (4.4% in 2017), in 33.8% it was shared (30.2% in 2017) and in 0.4% it was granted to other institutions or relatives.

In the cases of divorce and separation of same-sex spouses, custody measures were adopted for minor children in 23.9% of the divorces and separations. Of these cases, the custody was granted to one of the two spouses in 47.5% of the cases and was shared in 52.5% of the cases.

Separations and divorces (different-sex spouses) according to who has custody Year 2018

Percentages



In 9.7% of the separations and divorces of different-sex spouses, a compensatory pension was established. In 90.8% of them this payment was assigned to the husband.

With regard to the filing of the complaint, in 67.2% of the cases of separation and divorce (different-sex spouses) it was filed by both spouses, in 21.5% by the wife and in 11.3% by the husband.

Results by Autonomous Communities and Cities¹

The rate of annulments, separations and divorces per 1,000 inhabitants in Spain was 2.1 in 2018.

The Autonomous City of Ceuta, Comunitat Valenciana and Cataluña (2.4) registered the highest rates per 1,000 inhabitants. In turn, Castilla y León, Extremadura and País Vasco (1.8 all three) presented the lowest.

Annulments, separations and divorces by Autonomous Communities and Cities Year 2018.

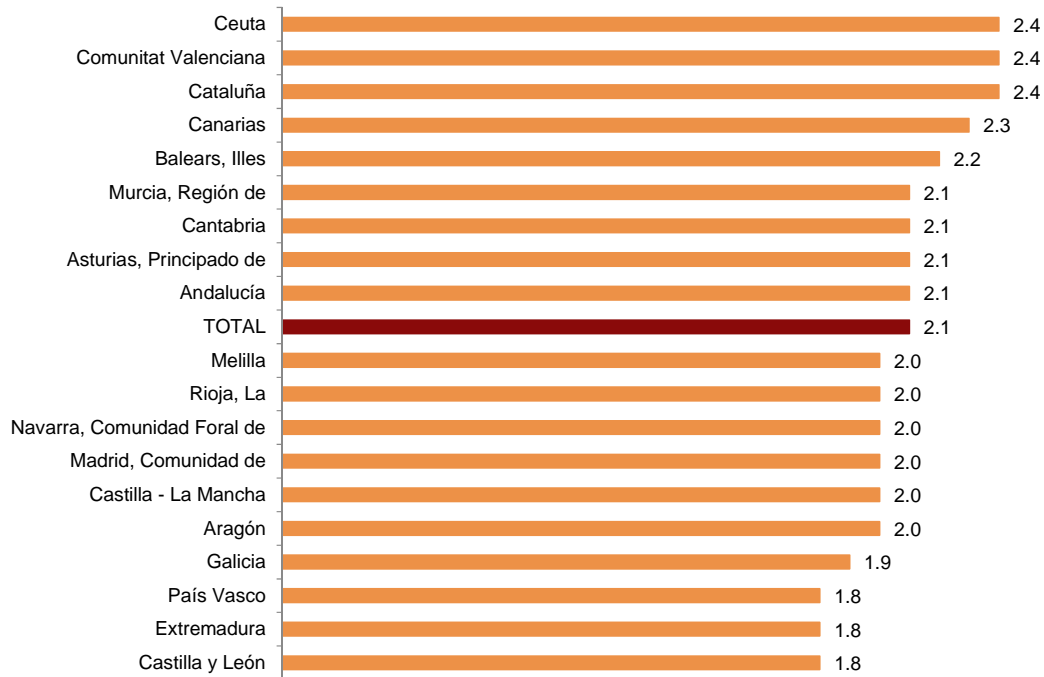
Absolute values

	Total	Annulments	Separations	Divorces
TOTAL	99,444	92	4,098	95,254
Andalucía	17,772	16	821	16,935
Cataluña	17,705	27	629	17,049
Madrid, Comunidad de	13,451	9	569	12,873
Comunitat Valenciana	12,094	19	542	11,533
Galicia	5,167	2	213	4,953
Canarias	5,083	3	120	4,960
Castilla y León	4,228	0	180	4,048
País Vasco	4,015	4	129	3,882
Castilla - La Mancha	3,972	0	177	3,795
Murcia, Región de	3,061	0	102	2,958
Aragón	2,663	3	122	2,538
Balears, Illes	2,596	4	94	2,498
Asturias, Principado de	2,186	1	107	2,078
Extremadura	1,932	0	137	1,795
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	1,283	0	62	1,221
Cantabria	1,236	0	55	1,181
Rioja, La	623	3	23	597
Ceuta	205	0	6	199
Melilla	173	0	12	161

¹ The allocation of annulments, separations and divorces to a given Autonomous Community has been made according to the location of the judicial body or notary issuing the resolution or public deed, and not the place of residence or birth of the spouses.

Annulments, separations and divorces by Autonomous Communities and Cities. Year 2018

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants



Data review and update

The data published today are final and are not subject to further revision. All results are available on INEBase.

Methodological note

The Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces is prepared by the National Statistics Institute (INE) by virtue of the Agreement signed with the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ) on 14 February 1995, updated by means of an addenda in 2006.

It is oriented to the study of matrimonial dissolution proceedings handled through sentences, decrees and public deeds on behalf of the judges, the judicial administration lawyers (formerly judicial secretaries) and notaries, respectively.

The objective of this statistic is to determine the number of these sentences, decrees and public deeds by providing information on some of the main socio-demographic characteristics of the spouses involved (sex, age, nationality, number of children), on the type of separation or divorce (by mutual agreement or contentious) and on other variables of social interest associated with the judicial process (alimony, custody, duration of the proceedings, etc.).

Type of operation: annual continuous statistics.

Population scope: sentences, decrees and public deeds handed down on annulments, separations and divorces.

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period of the results: the calendar year.

Information reference period: the date on which the sentence, decree or public deed of the dissolution of the marriage takes place.

Collection method: statistical form based on an administrative act.

For more information, please consult both the [methodology](#) and the [standardised methodological report](#).

For further information see **INEbase:** www.ine.es/en/ Twitter: [@es_ine](#)

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