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Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces. Year 2007

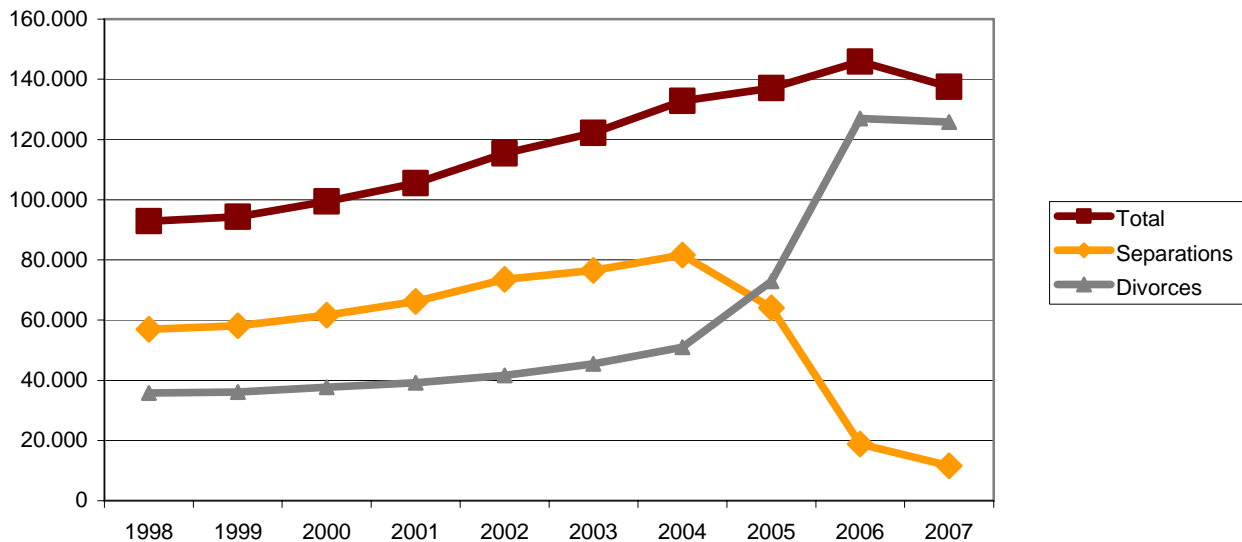
Marriage break-ups decrease 5.8% in the year 2007 as compared with the year 2006

Divorces decrease 0.9% and separations decrease 38.4%

137,510 marriages were dissolved during the year 2007, 5.8% less than the previous year. This decrease breaks with the rising trend that had been observed over recent years.

By type of break-up, in 2007, there were 11,583 separations, 38.4% less than the previous year, and 125,777 divorces, 0.9% less. On the other hand, there were 150 annulments, 13.8% less than in the year 2006.

Marriage dissolutions 1998-2007



In 2007, the decreasing trend continued in separations as a result of Law 15/2005 of 8 July, allowing for divorce without the requirement of prior separation.

Thus, divorces accounted for 91.5% of the marriage dissolutions in 2007, while separations represented 8.4% and annulments the remaining 0.1%.

Out of the total separations, 57.3% were by mutual agreement and 42.7% were contested. Likewise, 63.6% of the divorces were by consensus and the remaining 36.4% were not by consensus. There was a previous separation in 26.6% of the divorces.

In 2007, there were 59 dissolutions of homosexual marriages. 42 of these dissolved marriages were between men and 17 were between women.

Evolution of marriage dissolutions 1998-2007

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	92,875	94,346	99,474	105,534	115,374	122,166	132,789	137,044	145,919	137,510
Separations	56,928	58,137	61,617	66,144	73,567	76,520	81,618	64,028	18,793	11,583
Divorces	35,834	36,101	37,743	39,242	41,621	45,448	50,974	72,848	126,952	125,777
Annulments	113	108	114	148	186	198	197	168	174	150

Average age on dissolution of marriage

The majority of break-ups took place in the age bracket from 40 to 49 years old, for both men and women, though the average age was higher for men.

Therefore, the average age of women at the time of marriage dissolution was 41.2 years old (44.8 in separations, 40.8 in divorces and 38.5 in annulments). In the case of men, the average age was 43.8 years old (47.2 in separations, 43.5 in divorces and 41.2 in annulments).

Said ages were slightly higher than those registered in 2006 (43.2 years old for men and 40.5 years old for women).

88.8% of the marriage dissolutions registered in 2007 took place between Spanish spouses, whereas in 6.4%, one of the spouses was foreign, and in 2.9% of the cases, both spouses were foreign nationals. Nationality was not recorded for the remaining 1.9%.

The average duration of the marriages dissolved is 15.6 years

The average duration of the marriages dissolved was 15.6 years, this figure being higher than that observed the previous year (15.1 years).

The marriages dissolved by separation had an average duration of 19.4 years, those dissolved by divorce, 15.2 years, and those that broke-up by annulment, nine years.

43.4% of the separations took place after 20 years of marriage and 16.2% in unions that had lasted between six and 10 years. In the case of divorces, 29.5% had a duration longer than 20 years, and 21.0% between six and 10 years.

Despite the decrease observed in the number of divorces in the year 2007, worth noting was the increase of 15.9% registered in marriages dissolved before completing one year.

By **marital status** of the spouses at the time of contracting the marriage dissolved, most were single. In the case of men, 4.9% were divorced and 0.7% were widowers. In the case of women, 4.1% were divorced and 0.5% were widows.

52% of the marriages dissolved have underage children

52% of the marriages dissolved in 2007 had underage children, while 48% had no children. 29.8% of the marriages dissolved had an only child.

In 55% of the marriage dissolutions, maintenance and support was assigned. In this type of break-up, the payment of maintenance and support corresponded to the father in 89.2% of the cases, to the mother in 4.9%, and to both spouses in 5.9%.

The custody of the underage children was granted to the mother in 85.5% of the cases, to the father in 4.8%, and it was shared by both spouses in 9.7%.

Regarding the person filing the application for marriage dissolution, in 43.5% of the cases, it was presented by both spouses, in 32.8% by the wife and in 23.7% by the husband. By type of marriage dissolution, worth noting was that the wife presented the application for dissolution in 43.7% of the separations.

Seven out of every 10 petitions are resolved in less than six months

69.5% of the dissolution processes were resolved in less than six months, while 6.9% took more than a year.

Divorce proceedings were somewhat more agile than separations proceedings. Specifically, 66.4% of the separation petitions were resolved in less than six months, whereas 11.1% took more than one year. In the case of divorces, the petitions that were resolved in less than six months rose to 69.8%, while 6.5% took longer than one year.

The average duration of the cases was 4.7 months. By type of break-up, the average duration of the divorces was 4.6 months, while for separations this period lasted 5.7 months.

In Spain in 2007, there are 3.04 dissolutions per 1,000 inhabitants

The number of marriage dissolutions per 1000 inhabitants in Spain was 3.04 in the year 2007. By Autonomous Community, those that registered the highest rates were Canarias (4.05), the autonomous cities of Melilla (3.93) and Ceuta (3.69) and Illes Balears (3.66).

In contrast, the Autonomous communities with the lowest rates were Extremadura (2.06), Castilla y León (2.09) and Castilla-La Mancha (2.23).

Marriage dissolutions

Absolute figures and rates per 1,000 inhabitants. Year 2007

	Divorces	Separations	Annulments	Total	Dissolutions / 1,000 inhabitants
TOTAL	125,777	11,583	150	137,510	3.04
Andalucía	21,608	2,252	24	23,884	2.96
Aragón	2,803	243	3	3,049	2.35
Asturias	3,471	330	2	3,803	3.54
Balears (Illes)	3,491	273	10	3,774	3.66
Canarias	7,688	514	10	8,212	4.05
Cantabria	1,514	134	1	1,649	2.88
Castilla y León	4,717	569	8	5,294	2.09
Castilla-La Mancha	3,892	524	2	4,418	2.23
Cataluña	23,846	1,898	22	25,766	3.57
Comunitat Valenciana	15,519	1,377	24	16,920	3.46
Extremadura	1,943	303	0	2,246	2.06
Galicia	7,237	717	10	7,964	2.87
Madrid	17,063	1,556	27	18,646	3.07
Murcia	3,459	324	1	3,784	2.72
Navarra	1,309	83	2	1,394	2.3
País Vasco	4,956	377	4	5,337	2.49
Rioja (La)	764	50	0	814	2.63
Ceuta	259	24	0	283	3.69
Melilla	238	35	0	273	3.93

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Methodological note

The Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces is prepared with the information provided by the Courts of First Instance, Criminal Court and Courts for Violence Against Women, regarding marriage dissolutions 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 (date 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 petitions, 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 a national, Autonomous Community and provincial level, allowing for the analysis of marriage dissolution, bearing in mind different aspects, such as age, sex and nationality of the spouses, duration of the marriage and characteristics of the ruling.