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Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces. Year 2008

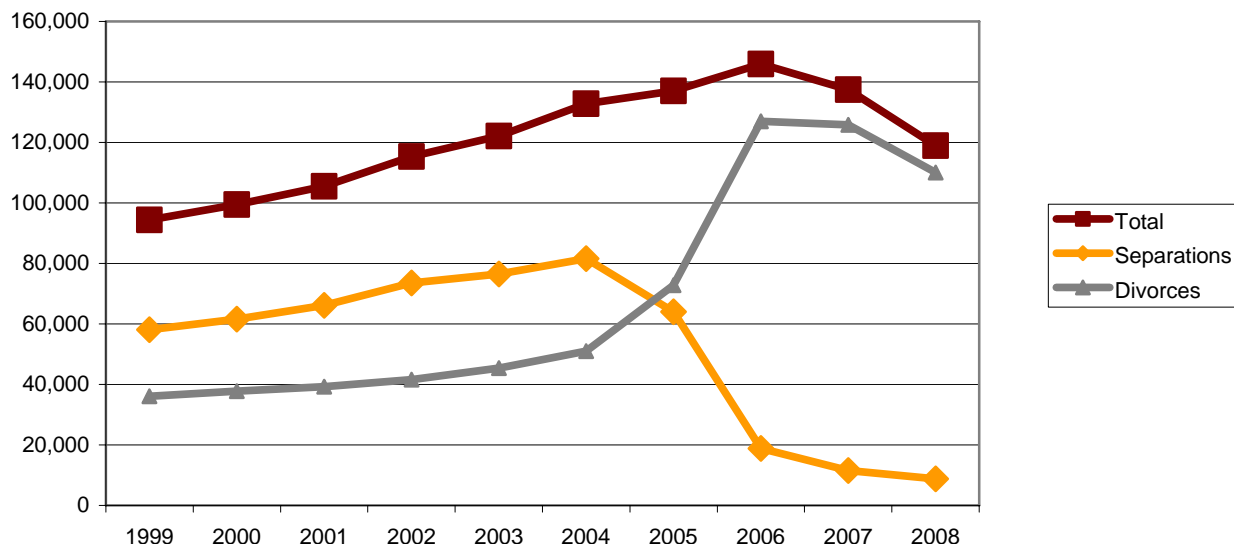
Marriage dissolutions decrease 13.5% in the year 2008 as compared with the year 2007

Divorces decrease 12.5% and separations decrease 24.4%

118,939 marriages were dissolved during the year 2008, that is, 13.5% less than the previous year. Thus, the decrease observed in marriage dissolutions in 2007 continued, and in a more drastic manner.

By type of marriage dissolution, in 2008, there were 8,761 separations (24.4% less than the previous year) and 110,036 divorces (12.5% less). In turn, there were 142 annulments, 5.3% less than in the year 2007.

Marriage dissolutions 1999-2008



Divorces represented 92.5% of the marriage dissolutions in the year 2008, as compared with separations, which accounted for 7.4%, and annulments, with 0.1%. The upward trend of divorces was thus consolidated in the global marriage dissolution figures.

Of the total divorces, 63.7% were by mutual agreement, and 36.3% were contested. There was a previous separation in 21.4% of the divorces (as compared with the 26.6%

recorded the previous year). In turn, 64.6% of the separations were by mutual agreement and 35.4% were contested.

In the year 2008, there were 116 dissolutions of homosexual marriages. 69 of these dissolved marriages were between men and 47 were between women.

Evolution of marriage dissolutions, 1999-2008

	Total	Separations	Divorces	Annulments
1999	94,346	58,137	36,101	108
2000	99,474	61,617	37,743	114
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

The average age on dissolution of marriage is 41.7 years old for women and 44.2 years old for men

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 41.7 years old (41.5 years old in divorces, 44.8 in separations and 40.3 in annulments). In the case of men, the average age was 44.2 years old (44.0 years old in divorces, 47.1 in separations and 43.8 in annulments).

Said ages were slightly higher than those registered in 2007 (43.8 years old for men and 41.2 years old for women).

88.2% of the marriage dissolutions registered in 2008 took place between Spanish spouses, whereas in 7.7%, one of the spouses was foreign, and in 3.8% of the cases, both spouses were foreign nationals. A slight increase was observed as compared with the previous year, in relative terms, of the dissolutions in which at least one of the spouses was foreign.

The average duration of the marriages dissolved is 15.6 years

The average duration of the marriages dissolved was 15.6 years, the same as the figure observed the previous year.

The marriages dissolved by divorce had an average duration of 15.4 years, those dissolutions by separation had lasted 19.1 years, and those that broke-up by annulment, 9.3 years.

30.0% of the divorces took place after 20 years of marriage and 20.4% in unions that had lasted between six and ten years. In the case of separations, 42.3% of the marriages had a duration longer than 20 years and 17.8% 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, 4.9% were divorced and 0.7% were widowers. In the case of women, 4.2% were divorced and 0.4% were widows.

More than half of the marriages dissolved have underage children

54.0% of the marriages dissolved in the year 2008 had underage children, this figure being slightly higher than the 52.0% observed in 2007. Of the marriages dissolved, 30.9% had an only child.

In 56.9% of the marriage dissolutions, maintenance and support was assigned (55.0% in 2007). Among them, **in 89.9% of the cases, the payment of the maintenance and support pension corresponded to the father**, in 4.2% of the cases, to the mother, and in 5.9% of the cases, to both spouses.

The custody of underage children was granted to the mother in 86.0% of the marriage dissolutions, to the father in 4.0%, and it was shared by both spouses in 9.7%. Custody was granted to others (relatives, institutions) in 0.3% of the cases.

Regarding the person filing the application for marriage dissolution, in 43.9% of the cases, it was presented by both spouses, in 33.7% by the wife, and in 22.4% by the husband. This order of precedence was observed for both divorces and separations.

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

71.2% of the dissolution processes were resolved in less than six months, while 8.5% took more than a year.

In the case of the divorces, 71.1% of the proceedings were resolved in less than six months and 8.5% took longer than one year. In the separations, 73.2% were resolved in less than six months, while 8.5% took longer than a year.

The average duration of the cases was 5.0 months, slightly longer than the 4.7 months observed the previous year. No difference was observed, between separations and divorces, in the average duration of the proceedings.

Castilla y León, Extremadura and Castilla-La Mancha present the lowest marriage dissolution rates in 2008

The number of marriage dissolutions per 1,000 inhabitants in Spain was 2.58 in the year 2008.

By Autonomous Community, those that registered the highest rates were the autonomous city of Melilla (3.58), Canarias (3.28), Cataluña (2.98), the autonomous city of Ceuta (2.93) and Comunitat Valenciana (2.91).

Conversely, the Autonomous Communities with the lowest rates were Castilla y León (1.75), Extremadura (1.80) and Castilla-La Mancha (1.83).

Marriage dissolutions

Absolute figures and rates per 1,000 inhabitants. Year 2008

	Divorces	Separations	Annulments	Total	Dissolutions per 1,000 inhabitants
TOTAL	110,036	8,761	142	118,939	2.58
Andalucía	19,785	1,691	20	21,496	2.62
Aragón	2,620	183	0	2,803	2.11
Asturias (Principado de)	2,800	262	3	3,065	2.84
Balears (Illes)	2,886	198	3	3,087	2.88
Canarias	6,479	329	7	6,815	3.28
Cantabria	1,450	96	1	1,547	2.66
Castilla y León	4,044	425	7	4,476	1.75
Castilla-La Mancha	3,355	380	2	3,737	1.83
Cataluña	20,340	1,581	22	21,943	2.98
Comunitat Valenciana	13,621	999	27	14,647	2.91
Extremadura	1,746	223	2	1,971	1.80
Galicia	6,553	500	9	7,062	2.54
Madrid (Comunidad de)	15,063	1,182	19	16,264	2.59
Murcia (Región de)	2,798	240	2	3,040	2.13
Navarra (C. Foral de)	1,222	81	4	1,307	2.11
País Vasco	4,233	305	4	4,542	2.11
Rioja (La)	614	37	3	654	2.06
Ceuta	199	21	7	227	2.93
Melilla	228	28	0	256	3.58

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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 (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 petition, date of the ruling, 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.