

6 September 2010

Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces
Year 2009

Marriage dissolutions decrease 10.7% in the year 2009, as compared with the year 2008

Divorces decrease 10.6% and separations decrease 12.3%

The average duration of the marriages dissolved is 15.6 years, the same as in the year 2008

Marriage dissolutions

106,166 marriages were dissolved during the year 2009, that is, 10.7% less than the previous year. Thus, the decrease in marriage dissolutions begun in the year 2007 continued.

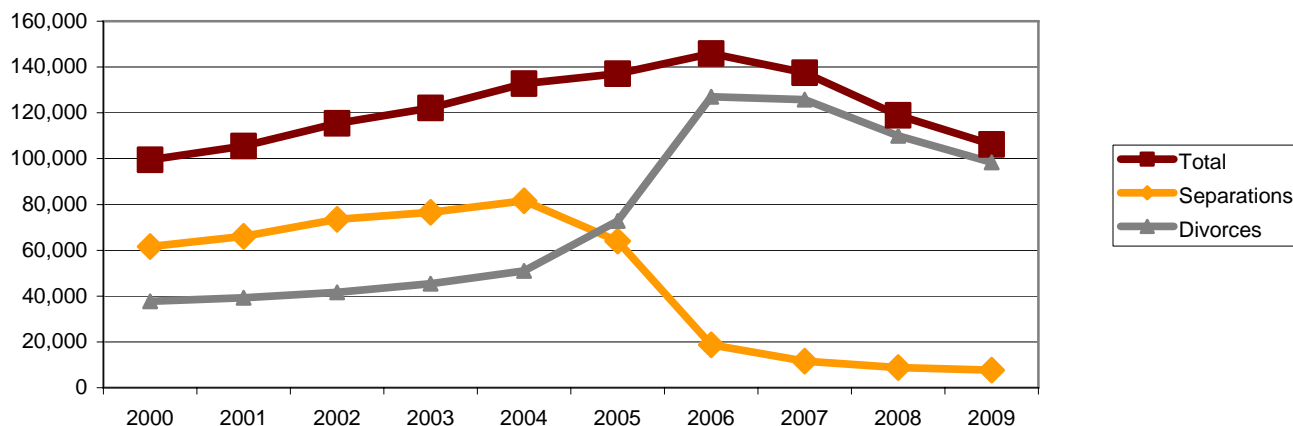
By type of marriage dissolution, in 2009, there were 7,680 separations (12.3% less than the previous year) and 98,359 divorces (10.6% less).

In turn, there were 127 annulments, 10.6% less than in the year 2008.

Divorces represented 92.7% of the marriage dissolutions in the year 2009, as compared with separations, which accounted for 7.2%, and annulments, with 0.1%. The upward trend of divorces was thus consolidated within the global marriage dissolution figures.

In the year 2009, there were 158 dissolutions of homosexual marriages. 87 of these dissolved marriages were between men, and 71 were between women.

Marriage dissolutions 2000-2009



Evolution of marriage dissolutions 2000-2009

	Total	Separations	Divorces	Annulments
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
2009	106,166	7,680	98,359	127

Marriage dissolutions by mutual agreement

64.6% of the marriage dissolutions in the year 2009 were by mutual agreement, indicating an increase over the 63.7% of marriage dissolutions by mutual agreement registered the previous year.

Of the total divorces, 64.4% were by mutual agreement and 35.6% were contested. In turn, 67.6% of the separations were by mutual agreement and 32.4% were contested.

Said figures imply growth, in relative terms, in the consensual dissolutions, as compared with the previous year (in 2008, 63.7% of the divorces and 64.6% of the separations were by mutual agreement).

There was a previous separation in 17.1% of the divorces (as compared with the 21.4% recorded the previous year).

Average age on dissolution of marriage

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 41.9 years old** (41.6 years old in divorces, 44.9 in separations and 38.4 in annulments).

In the case of **men**, the **average age was 44.4 years old** (44.1 years old in divorces, 47.4 in separations and 42.6 in annulments). Said ages were slightly higher than those registered in 2008 (44.2 years old for men and 41.7 years old for women).

87.2% of the marriage dissolutions registered in 2009 took place between Spanish spouses, whereas in 8.4%, one of the spouses was foreign, and in 4.4% of the cases, both spouses were foreign nationals.

With regard to the previous year, an increase was observed in relative terms, both in the dissolutions in which both spouses were foreign nationals, and in the dissolutions in which at least one of the spouses was foreign.

Average duration of the marriages dissolved

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 15.3 years, those dissolved by separation had lasted 19.1 years, and those that broke-up by annulment, 6.5 years.

29.7% of the divorces took place after 20 years of marriage and 20.6% in unions that had lasted between six and ten years.

In the case of separations, 41.7% of the marriages had a duration longer than 20 years, and 18.1% 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, 5.4% were divorced and 0.6% were widowers. Among the women, 4.7% were divorced and 0.4% were widows.

Dissolution of marriages with underage children and custody

53.6% of the marriages dissolved in the year 2009 had underage children, this figure being similar to that observed in 2008 (54.0%). 30.7% of the marriages dissolved had an only child.

In 57.5% of the marriage dissolutions, maintenance and support was assigned (as compared with the 56.9% registered in the year 2008). Among them, in 88.7% of the cases, the payment of the maintenance and support pension corresponded to the father, in 5.3% of the cases, to the mother, and in 6.0% of the cases, to both spouses.

The custody of the underage children was granted to the mother in 84.0% of the marriage dissolutions in the year 2009 (86.0% in 2008). Custody was granted to the father in 5.6% of the dissolutions (4.0% in 2008), custody was shared by both spouses in 9.7% (the same as in 2008), and it was granted to others (institutions, other relatives) in 0.7%.

Regarding the person filing the application for marriage dissolution, in 45.5% of the cases, it was presented by both spouses, in 30.1% by the wife and in 24.4% by the husband. This order of precedence was observed for both divorces and separations.

Average duration of the dissolution processes

71.4% of the divorce proceedings were resolved in less than six months, while 8.5% took more than a year. In the separations, 74.7% were resolved in less than six months, while 7.1% took longer than a year.

The average duration of the cases was 4.9 months, slightly shorter than the 5.0 months observed the previous year. The average duration of the dissolution process was shorter in separations (4.6 months) than in divorces (5.0 months).

Data by Autonomous Community

The number of marriage dissolutions per 1,000 inhabitants in Spain was 2.27 in the year 2009, this figure being lower than that registered the previous year (2.58).

By Autonomous Community, those that registered the highest rates were Canarias (2.83), Principado de Asturias (2.62) and Cataluña (2.61), as well as the autonomous city of Melilla (3.04).

Conversely, the Autonomous Communities with the lowest rates were Castilla-La Mancha (1.65), Extremadura (1.70) and Castilla y León (1.72).

Marriage dissolutions

Absolute figures and rates per 1,000 inhabitants. Year 2009

	Divorces	Separations	Annulments	Total	Dissolutions/ 1,000 inhabitants
TOTAL	98,359	7,680	127	106,166	2.27
Andalucía	17,494	1,592	23	19,109	2.30
Aragón	2,318	176	2	2,496	1.86
Asturias (Principado de)	2,643	191	7	2,841	2.62
Balears (Illes)	2,596	184	4	2,784	2.54
Canarias	5,667	270	7	5,944	2.83
Cantabria	1,252	76	0	1,328	2.25
Castilla y León	4,027	393	0	4,420	1.72
Castilla-La Mancha	3,141	288	5	3,434	1.65
Cataluña	18,143	1,357	16	19,516	2.61
Comunitat Valenciana	11,739	862	16	12,617	2.48
Extremadura	1,670	201	6	1,877	1.70
Galicia	5,437	412	3	5,852	2.09
Madrid (Comunidad de)	13,434	984	18	14,436	2.26
Murcia (Región de)	2,873	275	0	3,148	2.18
Navarra (C. Foral de)	1,074	80	10	1,164	1.85
País Vasco	3,899	260	2	4,161	1.92
Rioja (La)	578	47	4	629	1.96
Ceuta	171	14	2	187	2.38
Melilla	203	18	2	223	3.04

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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 (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.