

13 September 2012

Statistics on Annulments, Separations and Divorces
Year 2011

Marriage dissolutions increase 0.3% in the year 2011, as compared with the year 2010

Divorces increase 0.7% and separations decrease 4.6%

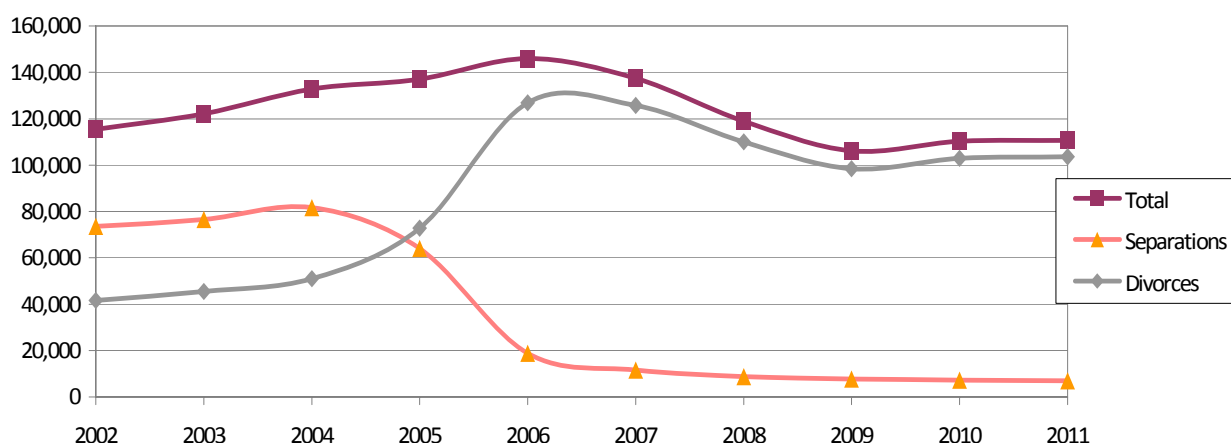
Seven out of ten dissolution processes are resolved in less than six months

110,651 marriages were dissolved during the year 2010, that is, 0.3% more than the previous year.

By type of marriage dissolution, in 2011, there were 103,604 divorces (0.7% more than the previous year) and 6,915 separations (4.6% less) and 132 annulments (5.7% less).

Divorces represented 93.6% of the marriage dissolutions in the year 2011, as compared with separations, which accounted for 6.2%, and annulments, 0.1%.

Marriage dissolutions 2002-2011



Evolution of marriage dissolutions

Year 2002 - 2011

	Total	Separations	Divorces	Annulments
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
2011	110,651	6,915	103,604	132

Marriage dissolutions by mutual agreement

67.0% of the marriage dissolutions in the year 2011 were by mutual agreement, similar percentage to 67.6% registered the previous year.

Of the total divorces, 66.8% were by mutual agreement and 33.2% were contested. In turn, 70.8% of the separations were by mutual agreement and 29.2% were contested.

In relative terms, the consensual dissolutions registered a slight decrease as compared with the previous year, in 2010, 67.4% of the divorces were by mutual agreement. In turn, consensual separations experienced a slight increase, representing a 70.7% of the total in 2010.

There was a previous separation in 11.4% of the divorces, as compared with the 13.3% 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 35 to 39 years old, for both men and women, while separations and divorces took place between 40 and 49 years old.

The **average age of women** at the time of marriage dissolution **was 42.3 years old** (42.0 years old in divorces, 46.9 in separations and 38.3 in annulments). In the case of **men**, the **average age was 44.9 years old** (44.6 years old in divorces, 49.2 in separations and 44.1 in annulments).

Said average ages were slightly higher than those registered in 2010 (42.0 for women and 44.6 for men).

85.0% of marriage dissolutions registered in 2011 occurred between spouses with Spanish nationality. In 9.5% of these, one of the spouses was a foreign national, and in 5.5%, 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 (4.9% in 2010), and in the dissolutions in which at least one of the spouses was a foreign national (8.9%).

Average duration of the marriages dissolved

The average duration of the marriages dissolved was 15.7 years, slightly higher than the figure observed the previous year.

The marriages dissolved by divorce had an average duration of 15.4 years, those dissolved by separation had lasted 20.8 years, and those that broke-up by annulment, 7.7 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, 47.5% of the marriages had a duration longer than 20 years, and 15.7% 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, 6.0% were divorced and 0.6% were widowers. Among the women, 5.5% were divorced and 0.4% were widows.

Dissolution of marriages by children, allowance and custody

42.8% of the marriages dissolved in the year 2011 had no children, similar percentage to the previous year (42.9%).

48.4% only had underage children, 3.9% only had dependent adult children, and 4.8% had underage and dependent adult children. 28.5% of marriages dissolved had only one child

In 57.2% of the marriage dissolutions, maintenance and support was assigned a similar figure to that from the previous year (57.1%). Among them, in 85.9% of the cases, the payment of the maintenance and support pension corresponded to the father (87.5% in 2010), in 5.1% of the cases, to the mother (5.0% in the previous year), and in 9.0% of the cases to both spouses (7.5% in 2010).

The custody of the underage children was granted to the mother in 81.7% of marriage dissolutions, a similar figure to that observed the previous year (83.2%). In 5.3% of dissolutions, custody was granted to the father (as compared with 5.7% in 2010), and in 12.3% it was shared (10.5% from the previous year), and in 0.7% it was granted to others (institutions, other relatives).

In 12.0% of marriage dissolutions, there was a compensatory allowance. **In nine out of 10 cases, the compensatory allowance was paid by the husband.**

Regarding the person filing the application for dissolution marriage, in 48.4% of the cases, it was presented by both spouses, in 32.8% by the wife and in 18.8% by the husband. This order of precedence was observed for both divorces and separations.

Average duration of the dissolution processes

70.8% of the divorce proceedings were resolved in less than six months (as compared with 72.4% in 2010), while 9.2% took more than a year (from 8.1% in the previous year).

In the separations, 76.6% were resolved in less than six months (76.7% in 2010), while 7.0% took longer than a year (7.1% in the last year).

The average duration of the cases was 5.0 months, slightly higher than the 4.8 months observed the previous year.

The average duration of the dissolution process was shorter in separations (4.4 months) than in divorces (5.0 months).

Data by Autonomous Community

The number of marriage dissolutions per 1,000 inhabitants in Spain was 2.34 in the year 2011.

By Autonomous Community, those that registered the highest rates per 1,000 inhabitants were Canarias (2.86), the autonomous city of Melilla (2.71) and Comunitat Valenciana (2.70).

Conversely, the Autonomous Communities with the lowest rates were Extremadura (1.70), Castilla y León (1.76) and Castilla-La Mancha (1.78).

Marriage dissolutions

Absolute figures and rates per 1,000 inhabitants. Year 2011

	Divorces	Separations	Annulments	Total	Dissolutions/ 1000 inhabitants
TOTAL	103,604	6,915	132	110,651	2.34
Andalucía	18,257	1,400	31	19,688	2.34
Aragón	2,371	156	12	2,539	1.89
Asturias, Principado de	2,581	171	6	2,758	2.55
Balears, Illes	2,770	136	1	2,907	2.61
Canarias	5,822	246	5	6,073	2.86
Cantabria	1,292	72	1	1,365	2.30
Castilla y León	4,170	319	7	4,496	1.76
Castilla - La Mancha	3,504	266	1	3,771	1.78
Cataluña	18,602	1,173	24	19,799	2.63
Comunitat Valenciana	12,974	826	12	13,812	2.70
Extremadura	1,699	181	3	1,883	1.70
Galicia	5,713	383	8	6,104	2.18
Madrid, Comunidad de	14,564	998	13	15,575	2.40
Murcia, Región de	3,044	222	4	3,270	2.22
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	1,138	77	1	1,216	1.89
País Vasco	4,127	233	2	4,362	2.00
Rioja, La	595	31	1	627	1.94
Ceuta	180	13	0	193	2.34
Melilla	201	12	0	213	2.71

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.