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AUSTRALIA**

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**MARRIAGES, AUSTRALIA  
1991**

**IAN CASTLES**  
Australian Statistician

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

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### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Michael Nunn on Canberra (06) 252 6755 or any ABS State office.
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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In 1991 there were 113,869 marriages registered in Australia. This represents a 2.6 per cent decrease on 1990 (116,959). The crude marriage rate was 6.6 per 1,000 population in 1991, a decrease from 6.8 per 1,000 population in 1990 and a continuation of the downward trend established in the early 70s.

On a State basis, in 1991, declines in the number of marriages registered, when compared with 1990, were recorded in New South Wales (4.5%), Victoria (5.3%) and South Australia (2.3%). Marriages registered in Victoria in 1991 were the lowest recorded since 1980 (27,724) and for South Australia the lowest since 1966 (9,051). It should also be noted that this 1966 South Australian figure excluded details of aboriginal marriages. Increases were recorded in the remaining States in 1991, with Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory experiencing significant rises compared with 1990, 20.3 per cent and 9.0 per cent respectively.

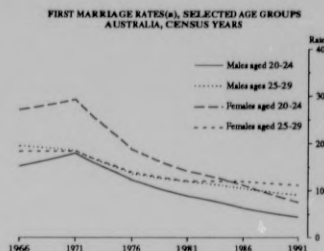
#### Age at marriage

In 1991, the age at marriage of both males and females continued to increase. Males aged 30 years or over now comprise 40.9 per cent of all males marrying compared with 39.8 per cent in 1990. For females, 29.5 per cent were aged 30 years or over in 1991 compared with 28.9 per cent in 1990. Of those persons marrying for the first time in 1991, 65.6 per cent of males and 45.3 per cent of females were aged 25 years or over. This compares with 64.5 per cent and 43.8 per cent respectively in 1990.

This trend towards an older age at marriage was also reflected in the median age at marriage for both males and females in 1991. The median age at marriage, for all marriages, for males was 28.4 years (28.1 years in 1990) and for females 26.0 years (25.8 years in 1990); the median age at first marriage for males was 26.7 years (26.4 years in 1990) and for females 24.5 years (24.3 years in 1990); the median age at remarriage of widowed males was 61.9 years (61.3 years in 1990) and for widowed females 53.6 years (52.3 years in 1990), while the median age at remarriage of divorced males was 39.7 years (39.5 years in 1990) and for divorced females 36.1 years (36.0 years in 1990).

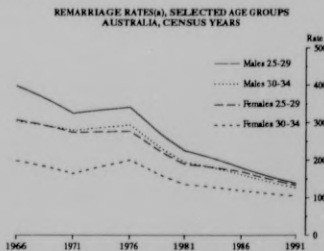
#### First marriage and remarriage rates

First marriage rates for both males and females have continued to decline in most age groups in 1991 compared with 1990 continuing the long term downward trend. The most significant percentage decline experienced for both males and females occurred in the 20-24 years age group. For males aged 20-24 years, the first marriage rate in 1991 was 43.9 per 1,000 single men of the same age group compared with 48.8 in 1990 and 88.9 in 1981. For females in the same age group, the first marriage rate in 1991 was 75.6 per 1,000 single women of the same age group compared with 85.9 in 1990 and 141.2 in 1981.



(a) The number of first marriages per 1,000 population of single persons, of the appropriate age, as at 30 June

In 1991, remarriage rates (per 1,000 widowed and divorced males and females) have declined for males in all age groups, and for females in all age groups except the under 20 years and 55-59 years groups, when compared with 1990.



(a) The number of remarriages per 1,000 population of divorced and widowed persons, of the appropriate age, as at 30 June

There were 76,811 marriages in 1991 where neither partner had been previously married. This number represents 67.5 per cent of all marriages registered and has remained relatively stable over the last 8 years. There were small variations between the States and Territories in the proportion of marriages involving only never married persons, with the Northern Territory showing the lowest proportion (59.3%) and Victoria the highest (69.6%).

#### Birthplace

In 1991, 63.1 per cent of all marriages were to couples where both partners were born in Australia. A further 7.9 per cent of marriages were between partners born in the same overseas country. Those marriages where the male was born in Australia and the female was born overseas represented 11.0 per cent of all marriages, while those marriages where the female was born in Australia and the male was born overseas represented 12.8 per cent.

### Interval to remarriage

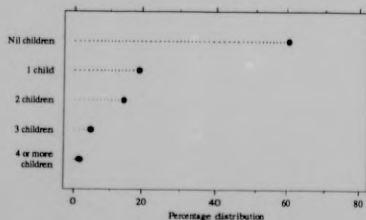
Males and females who were previously widowed before remarriage show different patterns in the time taken to remarry. For widowed males, 61.6 per cent of those remarrying in 1991 did so within five years of the end of their previous marriage, with the largest number remarrying two years after their previous marriage ended. Widowed females who married in 1991 took longer to remarry, with only 42.2 per cent remarrying within five years of their previous marriage ending, the largest number remarrying after three years. In 1991 the median interval to remarriage for males and females who had been previously widowed before remarriage was 3.9 years for males and 5.8 years for females.

Males and females who remarried in 1991 after divorce show similar patterns in the time taken to remarry. Within five years of the previous marriage, 68.9 per cent of divorced males and 65.9 per cent of divorced females had remarried. The median interval to remarriage for previously divorced males and previously divorced females was 2.8 years for males and 3.1 years for females in 1991.

### Children of previous marriages

In 1991, 38.9 per cent of males who remarried already had dependant children (under 16 years) from previous marriages, compared with 39.7 per cent in 1990 and 44.7 per cent in 1986. For remarrying females 39.7 per cent had dependant children compared with 40.1 per cent in 1990 and 45.7 per cent in 1986.

REMARRYING MALES AND FEMALES BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED UNDER 16 YEARS, PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, AUSTRALIA, 1991



### Category of celebrant

Ministers of Religion performed 58.7 per cent of the marriages registered in Australia in 1991, almost one per cent higher than in 1990 (57.9%). The highest proportion of marriages performed by ministers of religion was in Victoria (61.1%) while the lowest proportion was in the Northern Territory (37.9%). In 1991, 20.5 per cent of all marriages in Australia were performed by the Catholic Church, 13.3 per cent by the Anglican Church and 10.2 per cent by the Uniting Churches in Australia.

Of the marriages performed by Civil Celebrants in 1991 (47,020), only 22.9 per cent were performed by Official Registrars.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MARRIAGES PERFORMED BY TYPE OF CELEBRANT, AUSTRALIA, 1991

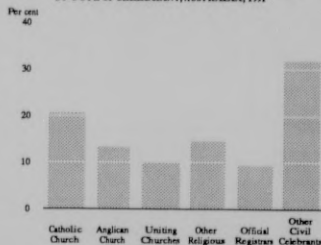


TABLE 1. MARRIAGES : SUMMARY(a), STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
PERSONS									
<b>Marriages registered</b>	<b>39,594</b>	<b>28,535</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>9,392</b>	<b>10,659</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>113,869</b>
Crude marriage rate	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.6	5.3	6.5	6.6
<i>Previous marital status —</i>									
First marriage both partners	27,017	19,867	12,993	6,184	7,035	1,936	528	1,251	76,811
First marriage one partner	7,367	4,953	3,830	1,707	2,077	575	224	365	21,098
Remarriage both partners	5,210	3,715	3,021	1,501	1,547	558	138	270	15,960
<i>Marriages performed by —</i>									
<i>Ministers of religion —</i>									
Number	24,009	17,429	11,433	5,574	5,259	1,759	337	1,049	66,849
Per cent	60.6	61.1	57.6	59.3	49.3	57.3	37.9	55.6	58.7
<i>Civil celebrants —</i>									
Number	15,585	11,106	8,411	3,818	5,400	1,310	553	837	47,020
Per cent	39.4	38.9	42.4	40.7	50.7	42.7	62.1	44.4	41.3
BRIDEGROOM									
<i>Marital status of bridegroom —</i>									
Never married	30,500	22,167	14,896	6,955	8,047	2,204	634	1,428	86,831
Widowed	949	644	467	248	236	109	12	38	2,703
Divorced	8,145	5,724	4,481	2,189	2,376	756	244	420	24,335
Total	39,594	28,535	19,844	9,392	10,659	3,069	890	1,886	113,869
<i>Median age of bridegroom (years) —</i>									
Never married	26.9	26.8	26.3	26.3	26.8	26.2	27.6	27.0	26.7
Widowed	61.2	61.0	63.5	62.6	62.8	62.3	(b)	(b)	61.9
Divorced	39.8	39.6	40.0	39.5	39.5	39.5	41.8	40.2	39.7
Total	28.5	28.3	28.1	28.3	28.6	28.3	30.2	28.8	28.4
<i>Age of bridegroom (years) —</i>									
19 and under	468	236	260	96	141	41	9	22	1,273
20-24	9,626	6,992	5,546	2,476	2,661	833	173	426	28,733
25-29	13,140	9,871	6,069	2,979	3,380	959	255	618	37,271
30-34	7,007	5,048	3,194	1,564	1,894	442	163	370	19,682
35-39	3,484	2,399	1,695	512	567	172	84	128	6,195
40-44	2,131	1,504	1,097	824	987	270	97	156	9,912
45-49	1,353	908	693	338	386	110	57	67	3,912
50 and over	2,385	1,577	1,290	603	643	242	52	99	6,891
Total (c)	39,594	28,535	19,844	9,392	10,659	3,069	890	1,886	113,869
BRIDE									
<i>Marital status of bride —</i>									
Never married	30,901	22,520	14,920	7,120	8,100	2,243	646	1,439	87,889
Widowed	1,046	751	573	289	249	112	21	29	3,070
Divorced	7,647	5,264	4,351	1,983	2,310	714	223	418	22,910
Total	39,594	28,535	19,844	9,392	10,659	3,069	890	1,886	113,869
<i>Median age of bride (years) —</i>									
Never married	24.6	24.8	24.0	24.2	24.4	23.9	25.2	24.8	24.5
Widowed	53.1	53.5	54.2	56.0	52.0	59.3	(b)	(b)	53.6
Divorced	35.9	36.1	35.9	36.3	36.3	36.8	36.6	36.2	36.1
Total	26.1	26.1	25.8	25.8	26.1	25.9	27.6	26.2	26.0
<i>Age of bride (years) —</i>									
19 and under	2,274	1,152	1,253	492	643	174	54	82	6,124
20-24	14,617	10,742	7,618	3,708	3,964	1,185	263	682	42,779
25-29	10,971	8,398	5,158	2,398	2,905	780	237	543	31,390
30-34	5,227	3,691	2,411	1,139	1,327	345	139	243	14,522
35-39	2,552	1,834	1,208	621	689	217	89	147	7,357
40-44	1,584	1,049	853	394	462	138	53	88	4,621
45-49	974	669	584	238	295	82	33	52	2,927
50 and over	1,395	1,000	759	402	374	148	22	49	4,149
Total (c)	39,594	28,535	19,844	9,392	10,659	3,069	890	1,886	113,869

(a) See Explanatory Notes for definitions of the terms used. (b) Not statistically reliable due to the small numbers involved. (c) Includes Not Stated.



TABLE 5. MARRIAGES: RELATIVE PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1991

Marital status of -		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
Bridegroom	Bride									
Never married	Never married	27,017	19,867	12,993	6,184	7,035	1,936	528	1,251	76,811
	Widowed	214	120	106	46	53	18	8	8	573
	Divorced	3,269	2,180	1,797	725	959	250	98	169	9,447
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30,500</b>	<b>22,167</b>	<b>14,896</b>	<b>6,955</b>	<b>8,047</b>	<b>2,204</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>86,831</b>
Widowed	Never married	171	116	66	28	42	18	6	9	456
	Widowed	360	255	208	117	81	49	—	10	1,082
	Divorced	418	273	193	103	113	42	4	19	1,165
	<b>Total</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2,703</b>
Divorced	Never married	3,713	2,537	1,861	908	1,023	289	112	179	10,622
	Widowed	472	376	259	126	115	45	11	11	1,415
	Divorced	3,960	2,811	2,361	1,155	1,238	422	121	230	12,298
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,145</b>	<b>5,724</b>	<b>4,481</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>24,335</b>
Total	Never married	30,901	22,520	14,920	7,120	8,100	2,243	646	1,439	87,889
	Widowed	1,046	751	573	289	249	112	21	29	3,070
	Divorced	7,647	5,264	4,351	1,983	2,310	714	223	418	22,910
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39,594</b>	<b>28,535</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>9,392</b>	<b>10,659</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>113,869</b>

TABLE 6. MARRIAGES: RELATIVE PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, AUSTRALIA

	Marital status				Total number
	Both partners never married	Both partners divorced	One partner divorced	Other	
<i>Census years —</i>					
1966	86.6	2.0	7.8	3.7	96,046
1971	86.1	2.3	8.4	3.3	117,637
1976	70.8	8.0	18.2	3.1	109,573
1981	68.2	10.2	19.2	2.4	113,905
1986 (a)	66.7	11.2	19.9	2.2	114,913
1991	67.5	10.8	19.9	1.9	113,869
<i>Annual totals —</i>					
1986 (a)	66.7	11.2	19.9	2.2	114,913
1987	67.2	10.9	19.8	2.1	114,113
1988	67.1	10.9	20.0	2.0	116,816
1989	67.3	10.6	20.1	2.0	117,176
1990	67.4	10.9	19.9	1.8	116,959
1991	67.5	10.8	19.9	1.9	113,869

(a) These figures have been affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 7. MARRIAGES: AGE AND MARITAL STATUS SPECIFIC MARRIAGE RATES, AUSTRALIA

	1976	1981	1986 (a)	1989	1990	1991
<b>First marriage rates (b)</b>						
<i>Males—</i>						
19 and under (c)	9.9	5.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.8
20-24	122.6	88.9	63.4	52.7	48.8	43.9
25-29	135.9	119.2	105.0	97.7	95.8	90.2
30-34	81.8	78.4	77.6	77.8	74.3	73.3
35-39	45.9	45.4	42.7	44.2	43.9	43.9
40-44	25.5	24.0	22.2	23.6	22.7	22.1
45-49	15.7	13.3	13.4	14.4	13.3	13.2
50 and over	6.4	5.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.0
<i>Females—</i>						
19 and under (c)	49.0	30.8	15.2	11.8	10.7	9.3
20-24	187.5	141.2	112.0	92.5	85.9	75.6
25-29	138.8	120.7	120.2	120.9	119.0	111.7
30-34	86.5	71.5	74.0	80.1	79.5	84.3
35-39	49.8	41.4	39.8	43.5	40.8	43.4
40-44	26.3	21.9	22.9	22.9	20.6	19.2
45-49	15.5	14.9	12.8	12.4	12.8	12.7
50 and over	3.9	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3
<b>Remarriage rates (d)</b>						
<i>Males—</i>						
19 and under (c)	—	—	—	9.0	—	—
20-24	245.4	181.7	100.6	91.3	89.5	78.4
25-29	341.8	225.7	180.4	158.8	152.1	138.4
30-34	294.8	194.9	162.1	143.6	137.6	125.4
35-39	239.8	160.4	127.7	112.5	111.2	105.3
40-44	184.6	123.4	102.8	92.6	87.0	80.5
45-49	138.2	95.3	85.7	73.2	72.2	66.5
50-54	98.1	68.7	60.3	57.2	55.3	52.5
55-59	68.3	51.7	45.4	42.3	41.3	39.3
60 and over	20.9	16.8	16.4	15.4	14.8	14.2
<i>Females—</i>						
19 and under (c)	113.7	76.4	25.6	53.7	85.4	97.4
20-24	295.8	222.4	172.1	157.4	140.6	135.9
25-29	278.0	189.4	170.2	154.9	145.1	132.8
30-34	201.0	135.1	119.4	115.9	114.0	104.3
35-39	136.2	96.3	83.3	74.5	75.7	71.6
40-44	94.0	70.7	59.5	56.1	52.9	50.0
45-49	62.7	45.7	43.9	41.0	42.1	38.4
50-54	31.5	25.9	24.0	25.1	25.9	24.2
55-59	16.1	13.2	13.5	12.2	11.6	11.7
60 and over	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3

(a) These rates have been affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Per 1,000 population of single persons, of the appropriate ages, as at 30 June for each year shown. See paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes. (c) For the purposes of calculating rates for this row, only persons in the population aged between 15 and 19 have been included in the calculation. (d) Per 1,000 population of divorced and widowed persons, of the appropriate ages, at 30 June for each year shown. See paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 8. MARRIAGES: FIRST MARRIAGE RATIOS(a) FOR BRIDEGROOMS, AUSTRALIA

Census year ratios—	Single years of age														Cumulated ratios (b)			Index of total first marriages (d)			
	Under 19 (c)	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		Under 35	35-39	40 and over
	1966	8.1	46.3	66.5	109.7	126.2	123.3	105.6	87.1	70.2	54.6	41.3	32.0	25.1	19.2	14.7	11.5		10.2	953.6	6.2
1971	9.3	52.9	84.2	130.0	132.6	115.4	91.3	72.3	54.2	41.8	31.6	24.7	19.2	16.1	12.3	10.6	7.9	906.4	5.4	1.1	913.0
1976	16.0	35.5	67.8	94.4	98.7	84.7	68.5	56.6	43.5	34.7	26.6	20.6	16.1	13.2	9.9	8.5	6.9	702.2	22.8	3.2	757.3
1981	7.9	18.8	41.8	67.7	81.7	81.7	73.8	61.9	50.9	39.6	32.4	24.6	18.8	14.7	12.4	9.3	7.5	645.5	22.7	2.5	695.7
1986 (e)	0.9	8.9	22.9	43.1	61.2	68.2	67.6	62.2	55.9	46.5	39.4	33.1	25.8	20.7	15.9	12.9	9.7	594.8	26.6	23.6	645.0
1991	0.6	6.1	14.1	28.9	44.3	55.3	60.6	61.2	56.4	51.5	43.4	36.1	30.3	24.1	19.1	16.0	12.3	560.2	34.2	24.7	619.1
Annual ratios—																					
1986 (e)	0.9	8.9	22.9	43.1	61.2	68.2	67.6	62.2	55.9	46.5	39.4	33.1	25.8	20.7	15.9	12.9	9.7	594.8	26.6	23.6	645.0
1987	0.8	8.2	20.6	39.0	56.1	65.2	66.3	64.0	55.3	48.3	40.0	33.9	27.6	21.1	17.4	13.8	10.5	588.2	27.4	24.3	639.8
1988	0.8	8.9	19.2	37.3	52.6	65.2	65.6	65.0	59.0	48.3	41.9	34.1	28.5	23.4	18.0	14.4	12.0	594.2	30.8	23.1	648.1
1989	0.8	7.6	19.0	35.2	51.9	61.3	65.9	63.0	57.9	50.0	42.1	35.8	29.0	24.5	18.8	15.3	12.4	590.3	32.0	24.9	647.2
1990	0.8	6.8	16.4	31.8	46.6	60.7	63.8	64.2	58.2	52.1	43.3	35.9	29.9	23.5	19.3	15.7	12.1	581.0	33.3	24.2	638.5
1991	0.6	6.1	14.1	28.9	44.3	55.3	60.6	61.2	56.4	51.5	43.4	36.1	30.3	24.1	19.1	16.0	12.3	560.2	34.2	24.7	619.1

(a) Per 1,000 mid-year population of males of each age. Rates prior to 1971 are based on population estimates on actual location basis. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) The sum of the ratios of the relevant ages. (c) For the purpose of calculating ratios for this column only males aged 15 to 18 have been included in the calculation. (d) The sum of all the specific ratios. (e) These ratios have been affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 9. MARRIAGES: FIRST MARRIAGE RATIOS(a) FOR BRIDES, AUSTRALIA

Census year ratios—	Single years of age														Cumulated ratios (b)			Index of total first marriages (d)					
	Under 17 (c)	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32		33	34	Under 35	35-39	40 and over
	1966	7.7	48.8	86.5	118.6	138.7	154.3	109.6	78.7	54.1	38.3	27.4	19.5	15.3	11.2	9.2	6.9		6.0	4.7	4.0	827.7	2.5
1971	8.7	56.3	100.9	141.3	151.7	146.7	98.8	67.0	45.6	34.3	24.8	19.0	13.2	11.1	8.7	6.5	5.4	4.7	3.9	818.8	2.3	0.5	821.6
1976	12.1	30.4	82.3	107.8	112.9	96.8	73.5	53.5	40.1	28.6	22.4	17.2	13.0	9.9	7.8	7.6	5.8	4.6	3.4	728.9	12.5	17.3	759.7
1981	5.6	15.2	46.8	75.3	92.4	94.4	81.0	66.1	50.7	36.9	28.3	21.3	16.8	12.8	9.3	7.5	5.6	4.8	3.5	674.3	11.2	12.7	698.2
1986 (e)	1.2	6.9	23.3	44.9	66.4	80.6	80.4	72.6	60.7	50.1	39.8	32.2	24.4	19.3	14.5	11.2	8.8	6.6	5.4	649.4	14.0	11.2	674.6
1991	0.9	3.4	13.0	24.8	41.8	58.8	69.4	71.8	64.3	56.8	47.3	38.8	30.5	24.3	18.6	15.3	11.6	8.7	7.8	608.0	18.6	12.0	638.7
Annual ratios—																							
1986 (e)	1.2	6.9	23.3	44.9	66.4	80.6	80.4	72.6	60.7	50.1	39.8	32.2	24.4	19.3	14.5	11.2	8.8	6.6	5.4	649.4	14.0	11.2	674.6
1987	1.3	5.8	20.5	39.7	62.0	75.2	79.0	71.7	62.1	51.4	41.7	32.9	26.4	21.1	16.0	12.3	9.7	7.4	5.4	641.6	15.5	11.5	668.9
1988	1.2	5.8	19.3	36.8	57.2	74.0	78.1	73.4	64.2	54.7	44.1	35.3	28.4	22.0	17.4	13.4	10.3	7.9	6.2	649.7	16.3	11.2	677.2
1989	1.2	5.2	16.6	33.5	52.4	69.7	76.7	72.4	65.6	55.6	45.2	36.6	29.0	24.2	18.7	14.3	11.0	8.7	7.2	643.9	18.3	12.1	674.2
1990	0.9	4.6	15.3	28.4	47.7	66.4	73.7	73.0	64.9	57.2	47.3	37.6	30.7	23.3	19.2	14.6	11.8	9.2	7.2	632.8	18.1	11.7	662.6
1991	0.9	3.4	13.0	24.8	41.8	58.8	69.4	71.8	64.3	56.8	47.3	38.8	30.5	24.3	18.6	15.3	11.6	8.7	7.8	608.0	18.6	12.0	638.7

(a) Per 1,000 mid-year population of females of each age. Rates prior to 1971 are based on population estimates on actual location basis. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) The sum of the ratios of the relevant ages. (c) For the purpose of calculating ratios for this column only females aged 15 and 16 have been included in the calculation. (d) The sum of all the specific ratios. (e) These ratios have been affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 10. MARRIAGES: RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1991

Age of bridegroom (years)	Age of bride (years)																	Total bride- grooms (a)	Proportion%						
	Under 17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30- 34	35- 39	40- 44			45- 49	50- 54	55- 59	60 and over		
Under 19	20	38	111	58	37	25	13	11	8	11	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	345	0.3
19	34	41	197	231	162	85	50	43	20	15	11	13	6	3	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	928	0.8
20	29	62	273	448	554	330	167	100	83	46	24	20	12	8	26	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,190	1.9
21	28	57	248	542	936	987	562	334	162	109	68	54	47	19	50	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,216	3.7
22	25	49	233	538	1,004	1,354	1,315	730	383	228	186	104	61	48	92	21	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,378	5.6
23	20	43	193	456	896	1,208	1,517	1,397	730	392	275	176	111	84	145	27	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,681	6.7
24	18	30	124	338	681	1,072	1,322	1,468	1,263	669	386	281	169	121	255	56	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,426	7.4
25	11	25	93	271	514	838	1,191	1,286	1,244	1,083	628	406	275	172	298	64	21	5	—	—	—	—	—	8,028	7.1
26	13	22	74	170	423	668	894	1,005	1,096	1,120	851	536	334	222	462	109	23	6	—	—	—	—	—	7,763	6.8
27	5	16	62	168	287	469	713	858	878	940	972	782	510	328	580	142	38	14	—	—	—	—	—	6,955	6.1
28	8	15	47	135	229	337	500	632	721	814	777	758	622	381	757	164	44	12	—	—	—	—	—	6,099	5.4
29	7	17	37	76	145	224	381	489	533	575	669	620	605	508	951	192	54	10	4	—	—	—	—	19,682	17.3
30-34	7	20	79	151	301	511	835	1,058	1,210	1,434	1,620	1,706	1,759	1,737	5,311	1,479	352	88	21	3	—	—	—	9,912	8.7
35-39	—	4	20	35	76	128	182	245	266	391	415	530	612	617	3,259	2,128	735	209	51	5	—	—	—	6,195	5.4
40-44	—	—	7	16	14	30	47	64	86	118	127	188	198	222	1,457	1,631	1,336	509	116	20	6	—	—	3,912	3.4
45-49	—	—	3	6	10	18	21	25	32	25	49	68	57	77	567	818	1,040	765	249	64	16	—	—	2,426	2.1
50-54	—	—	3	4	6	5	5	4	12	12	18	24	26	26	179	298	542	674	416	131	39	—	—	1,590	1.4
55-59	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	3	—	6	7	14	11	15	62	114	255	362	377	209	144	—	—	2,875	2.5
60 and over	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	5	5	—	7	6	9	60	90	146	266	406	449	1,415	—	—	113,869	100.0
<b>Total brides (a)</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>3,645</b>	<b>6,281</b>	<b>8,292</b>	<b>9,721</b>	<b>9,752</b>	<b>8,733</b>	<b>7,993</b>	<b>7,087</b>	<b>6,288</b>	<b>5,422</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>14,522</b>	<b>7,357</b>	<b>4,621</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>113,869</b>	<b>100.0</b>		
<b>Proportion %</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>...</b>		

(a) Includes Not Stated.

TABLE 11. MARRIAGES: PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, MEDIAN AGES, AUSTRALIA

	Bridegroom				Bride			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
<i>Census years —</i>								
1966	23.8	56.4	40.0	24.2	21.2	49.8	36.9	21.5
1971	23.4	56.9	38.1	23.8	21.1	50.6	34.3	21.4
1976	23.6	57.9	36.6	24.9	21.2	51.2	32.6	22.2
1981	24.4	59.1	36.0	25.9	22.1	52.1	32.9	23.3
1986 (a)	25.6	60.5	38.3	27.3	23.5	52.6	34.8	24.9
1991	26.7	61.9	39.7	28.4	24.5	53.6	36.1	26.0
<i>Annual totals —</i>								
1986 (a)	25.6	60.5	38.3	27.3	23.5	52.6	34.8	24.9
1987	25.9	60.6	38.6	27.6	23.8	52.4	35.1	25.2
1988	26.1	60.9	38.9	27.8	24.0	52.4	35.3	25.4
1989	26.3	61.0	39.3	28.0	24.2	52.5	35.6	25.7
1990	26.4	61.3	39.5	28.1	24.3	52.3	36.0	25.8
1991	26.7	61.9	39.7	28.4	24.5	53.6	36.1	26.0

(a) These figures have been affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 12. MARRIAGES: AGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1991

Age (years)	Previous marital status							
	Bridegroom				Bride			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
18 and under	345	—	—	345	2,474	—	5	2,479
19	928	—	—	928	3,631	—	14	3,645
20	2,185	—	5	2,190	6,244	—	35	6,281
21	4,209	—	7	4,216	8,226	—	65	8,292
22	6,352	—	26	6,378	9,588	6	127	9,721
23	7,642	—	39	7,681	9,529	8	215	9,752
24	8,194	—	72	8,268	8,399	6	328	8,733
25	8,258	3	165	8,426	7,492	13	488	7,993
26	7,748	4	276	8,028	6,359	21	707	7,087
27	7,326	4	433	7,763	5,388	24	876	6,288
28	6,307	5	643	6,955	4,373	37	1,012	5,422
29	5,339	16	744	6,099	3,528	38	1,034	4,600
30-34	14,776	79	4,827	19,682	8,887	193	5,442	14,522
35-39	4,597	106	5,209	9,912	2,502	260	4,595	7,357
40-44	1,486	172	4,537	6,195	714	308	3,599	4,621
45-49	560	230	3,122	3,912	291	344	2,292	2,927
50-54	238	263	1,925	2,426	121	379	1,144	1,644
55-59	141	323	1,126	1,590	64	333	485	882
60 and over	200	1,496	1,179	2,875	79	1,097	447	1,623
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>86,831</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>24,335</b>	<b>113,869</b>	<b>87,889</b>	<b>3,070</b>	<b>22,910</b>	<b>113,869</b>

(a) Includes Not Stated.

TABLE 13. MARRIAGES: INTERVAL TO REMARRIAGE BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1991

Interval to remarriage	Bridegroom			Bride		
	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Less than 1 year	88	4,168	4,256	41	3,397	3,438
1 year	411	5,509	5,920	246	4,790	5,036
2 years	477	3,115	3,592	344	3,023	3,367
3 years	410	2,328	2,738	355	2,205	2,560
4 years	279	1,654	1,933	311	1,674	1,985
0.4 years	1,665	16,774	18,439	1,297	15,089	16,386
5 years	215	1,395	1,610	275	1,368	1,643
6 years	189	1,120	1,309	205	1,143	1,348
7 years	124	955	1,079	178	934	1,112
8 years	76	797	873	149	819	968
9 years	63	660	723	127	698	825
5-9 years	667	4,927	5,594	934	4,962	5,896
10-14 years	203	1,761	1,964	424	1,944	2,368
15-19 years	86	605	691	234	662	896
20 years and over	73	200	273	170	174	344
Total (a)	2,703	24,335	27,038	3,070	22,910	25,980
Median interval to remarriage	3.9	2.8	2.9	5.8	3.1	3.4

(a) Includes Not Stated.

TABLE 14. MARRIAGES: BRIDEGROOM OR BRIDE REMARRIAGE BY NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE, AUSTRALIA, 1991

Number of previous marriages	Number of children under 16 years of age					Total (a)
	0	1	2	3	4 or more	
BRIDEGROOM						
1	14,391	4,406	3,522	938	199	23,522
2	1,946	597	456	141	33	3,191
3	165	54	35	13	3	274
4 or more	26	4	5	—	—	36
Total (a)	16,528	5,061	4,018	1,093	235	27,038
BRIDE						
1	13,545	4,495	3,277	964	212	22,515
2	1,907	593	401	171	49	3,125
3	199	46	30	8	—	285
4 or more	22	4	—	—	—	29
Total (a)	15,673	5,138	3,708	1,145	263	25,980

(a) Includes Not Stated.

TABLE 15. MARRIAGES: RELATIVE BIRTHPLACES OF PARTIES, AUSTRALIA, 1991

Country of birth	Bridegroom born in country shown and bride born in			Bride born in country shown and bridegroom born in				
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
<b>OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA—</b>								
Australia	71,861	—	12,495	84,356	71,861	—	14,629	86,490
Fiji	121	152	51	324	120	152	91	363
New Zealand	1,717	492	468	2,677	1,481	492	470	2,443
Papua New Guinea	188	14	55	257	220	14	53	287
Other	104	206	65	375	64	206	69	339
<i>Total</i>	<i>73,991</i>	<i>864</i>	<i>13,134</i>	<i>87,989</i>	<i>73,746</i>	<i>864</i>	<i>15,312</i>	<i>89,922</i>
<b>EUROPE AND THE USSR—</b>								
Austria	69	11	50	130	60	11	33	104
Czechoslovakia	39	43	32	114	31	43	24	98
Cyprus	78	36	32	146	47	36	48	131
Denmark	47	15	30	92	45	15	14	74
France	116	7	73	196	75	7	48	130
Germany	442	143	217	802	366	143	187	696
Greece	340	104	90	534	149	104	50	303
Hungary	39	48	47	134	30	48	30	108
Ireland	217	50	103	370	159	50	66	275
Italy	610	125	207	942	255	125	116	496
Malta	138	22	45	205	82	22	43	147
Netherlands	336	48	172	556	256	48	99	403
Poland	56	206	63	325	80	206	71	357
Portugal	45	40	31	116	29	40	17	86
Romania	15	89	26	130	10	89	22	121
Spain	59	13	45	117	42	13	24	79
Switzerland	60	31	41	132	47	31	20	98
United Kingdom	6,177	1,654	1,212	9,043	5,015	1,654	828	7,497
USSR and the Baltic States	30	118	35	183	36	118	78	232
Yugoslavia	503	383	166	1,052	246	383	105	734
Other	119	39	63	221	112	39	55	206
<i>Total</i>	<i>9,535</i>	<i>3,225</i>	<i>2,780</i>	<i>15,540</i>	<i>7,172</i>	<i>3,225</i>	<i>1,978</i>	<i>12,375</i>
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA—</b>								
Egypt	96	60	63	219	50	60	45	155
Iran	30	69	36	135	8	69	14	91
Israel	56	15	38	109	13	15	12	40
Lebanon	306	354	97	757	95	354	87	536
Syria	19	27	29	75	7	27	36	70
Turkey	79	111	51	241	25	111	26	162
Other	76	25	88	189	28	25	32	85
<i>Total</i>	<i>662</i>	<i>661</i>	<i>402</i>	<i>1,725</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>661</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>1,139</i>
<b>SOUTHEAST ASIA—</b>								
Cambodia	4	95	51	150	9	95	61	165
Indonesia	73	190	67	330	83	190	118	391
Laos	4	53	27	84	7	53	32	92
Malaysia	180	226	182	588	236	226	214	676
Philippines	70	426	34	530	743	426	450	1,619
Singapore	72	34	72	178	80	34	108	222
Thailand	8	33	27	68	183	33	115	331
Viet Nam	20	1,032	219	1,271	28	1,032	173	1,233
Other	32	30	27	89	26	30	35	91
<i>Total</i>	<i>463</i>	<i>2,119</i>	<i>706</i>	<i>3,288</i>	<i>1,395</i>	<i>2,119</i>	<i>1,306</i>	<i>4,820</i>
<b>NORTHEAST ASIA—</b>								
China	49	977	239	1,265	213	977	507	1,697
Hong Kong	54	193	205	452	66	193	133	392
Japan	31	54	23	108	110	54	84	248
Korea	11	122	26	159	19	122	36	177
Other	3	16	30	49	18	16	51	85
<i>Total</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>1,362</i>	<i>523</i>	<i>2,033</i>	<i>426</i>	<i>1,362</i>	<i>811</i>	<i>2,599</i>

TABLE 15. MARRIAGES: RELATIVE BIRTHPLACES OF PARTIES, AUSTRALIA, 1991—continued

Country of birth	Bridegroom born in country shown and bride born in				Bride born in country shown and bridegroom born in			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country	Total
<b>SOUTHERN ASIA—</b>								
India	189	118	103	410	152	118	95	365
Pakistan	41	8	68	111	4	8	6	18
Sri Lanka	68	138	37	243	66	138	45	249
Other	11	41	14	66	6	41	10	57
Total	309	305	222	836	228	305	156	689
<b>THE AMERICAS—</b>								
Argentina	38	15	21	74	45	15	34	94
Canada	218	28	57	303	188	28	68	284
Caribbean	25	—	12	39	18	—	4	23
Central America	8	51	12	71	18	51	26	95
Chile	65	89	59	213	65	89	63	217
United States of America	440	82	139	661	330	82	118	530
Uruguay	35	19	25	79	32	19	32	83
Other	60	30	61	151	60	30	86	176
Total	890	315	386	1,591	756	315	431	1,502
<b>AFRICA (Excluding North Africa)—</b>								
Kenya	28	4	17	49	26	4	18	48
Mauritius	82	63	38	183	66	63	53	182
South Africa	189	56	65	310	186	56	97	339
Zimbabwe	72	6	23	101	48	6	21	75
Other	120	46	56	222	79	46	50	175
Total	491	175	199	865	405	175	239	819
Other and not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Total	86,490	9,026	18,353	113,869	84,356	9,026	20,487	113,869

TABLE 16. MARRIAGES: MARRIAGES CELEBRATED BY MINISTERS OF RELIGION  
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, STATES AND TERRITORIES

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<i>Census years—</i>									
1966	87.2	92.0	92.1	89.2	85.6	87.3	84.0	77.9	89.2
1971	85.6	91.3	90.6	85.2	79.7	85.3	66.0	75.4	87.1
1976	71.4	72.8	72.0	69.7	66.4	73.2	52.3	59.5	71.1
1981	63.8	64.4	61.0	63.9	54.4	64.0	35.7	55.9	62.4
1986	(a)61.8	61.6	59.0	58.3	49.7	57.6	34.4	57.0	(a)59.5
1991	60.6	61.1	57.6	59.3	49.3	57.3	37.9	55.6	58.7
<i>Annual totals—</i>									
1986	(a)61.8	61.6	59.0	58.3	49.7	57.6	34.4	57.0	(a)59.5
1987	61.8	62.1	59.1	59.6	48.7	58.0	35.3	55.9	59.7
1988	59.9	61.2	58.2	58.7	49.1	58.9	38.4	57.0	58.7
1989	59.2	60.4	57.6	59.4	46.9	55.0	33.2	55.9	57.8
1990	59.6	60.0	56.7	59.8	47.6	57.2	37.6	56.6	57.9
1991	60.6	61.1	57.6	59.3	49.3	57.3	37.9	55.6	58.7

(a) These figures have been affected by late registrations in NSW. See paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 17. MARRIAGES: CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1991

Category of celebrant	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
	NUMBER								
<b>Ministers of religion of recognised denominations (a) —</b>									
Catholic Church	8,472	6,736	3,671	1,530	1,907	426	109	437	23,288
Anglican Church of Australia	5,989	3,495	2,653	788	1,299	676	30	247	15,177
Uniting Churches in Australia (b)	3,756	2,926	2,074	1,537	801	263	85	157	11,599
Presbyterian Church of Australia (b)	970	300	406	39	43	31	—	57	1,847
Orthodox Churches (b)	1,140	1,205	101	291	96	10	27	29	2,899
Baptist Union of Australia (b)	639	483	357	194	166	102	8	14	1,963
Lutheran Churches(b)	118	203	422	448	58	5	19	15	1,288
Churches of Christ in Australia (b)	198	410	246	185	185	21	—	11	1,258
Other Denominations	2,727	1,671	1,503	562	704	225	56	82	7,530
<i>Total</i>	<i>24,009</i>	<i>17,429</i>	<i>11,433</i>	<i>5,574</i>	<i>5,259</i>	<i>1,759</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>1,049</i>	<i>66,849</i>
<b>Civil celebrants —</b>									
Official registrars	4,157	2,120	1,326	1,256	814	186	469	432	10,760
Other civil celebrants	11,428	8,986	7,085	2,562	4,586	1,124	84	405	36,260
<i>Total</i>	<i>15,585</i>	<i>11,106</i>	<i>8,411</i>	<i>3,818</i>	<i>5,400</i>	<i>1,310</i>	<i>553</i>	<i>837</i>	<i>47,020</i>
<b>All celebrants</b>	<b>39,594</b>	<b>28,535</b>	<b>19,844</b>	<b>9,392</b>	<b>10,659</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>113,869</b>
	PROPORTION (Per cent)								
<b>Ministers of religion of recognised denominations (a) —</b>									
Catholic Church	21.4	23.6	18.5	16.3	17.9	13.9	12.2	23.2	20.5
Anglican Church of Australia	15.1	12.2	13.4	8.4	12.2	22.0	3.4	13.1	13.3
Uniting Churches in Australia (b)	9.5	10.3	10.5	16.4	7.5	8.6	9.6	8.3	10.2
Presbyterian Church of Australia (b)	2.4	1.1	2.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.1	3.0	1.6
Orthodox Churches (b)	2.9	4.2	0.5	3.1	0.9	0.3	3.0	1.5	2.5
Baptist Union of Australia (b)	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.6	3.3	0.9	0.7	1.7
Lutheran Churches(b)	0.3	0.7	2.1	4.8	0.5	0.2	2.1	0.8	1.1
Churches of Christ in Australia (b)	0.5	1.4	1.2	2.0	1.7	0.7	0.2	0.6	1.1
Other Denominations	6.9	5.9	7.6	6.0	6.6	7.3	6.3	4.3	6.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>60.6</i>	<i>61.1</i>	<i>57.6</i>	<i>59.3</i>	<i>49.3</i>	<i>57.3</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>55.6</i>	<i>58.7</i>
<b>Civil celebrants —</b>									
Official registrars	10.5	7.4	6.7	13.4	7.6	6.1	52.7	22.9	9.4
Other civil celebrants	28.9	31.5	35.7	27.3	43.0	36.6	9.4	21.5	31.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>39.4</i>	<i>38.9</i>	<i>42.4</i>	<i>40.7</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>42.7</i>	<i>62.1</i>	<i>44.4</i>	<i>41.3</i>
<b>All celebrants</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Under authority of the Australian Marriages Act 1961. (b) Includes churches grouped under this heading as proclaimed under the Australian Marriages Act 1961.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## General

The *Australian Marriage Act 1961* came into full operation on 1 September 1961.

2. Under the Act, marriages may be celebrated by a minister of religion registered as an authorised celebrant, by a district registrar or by other persons authorised by the Attorney-General. Notice of the intended marriage must be given to the celebrant at least one calendar month but within 6 calendar months before the marriage. A celebrant must transmit an official certificate of the marriage for registration to a district registrar in the State or Territory in which the marriage took place.

3. From 20 June 1973, the minimum age at which a person may marry without parental consent was reduced from 21 to 18 years although the minimum age at which persons are legally free to marry remained at 18 years for males and 16 years for females. Males between the age of 16 and 18 years may marry with parental or guardian consent and an order from a judge or magistrate. The marriage of a female between 16 and 18 years requires the consent of her parents or guardians only. A judge or magistrate may, in exceptional circumstances, make an order authorising a male who has attained 16 years or a female who has attained 14 years to marry a person of marriageable age.

## Statistics

4. The statistics in this publication refer to marriages registered by the Registrar in each State and Territory during the year shown. There is usually an interval of at least some days between the celebration and the registration of a marriage. As a result of the delay in registration some marriages celebrated in one year are not registered until the following year.

5. In 1984, there were abnormal delays in the registrations of NSW marriages. These and subsequent delays in 1985 have been made up by 1986. The number of actual registrations and registrations adjusted for these delays and their effects on crude marriage rates for NSW and Australia are given below.

	Actual registrations	Actual crude marriage rate	Adjusted number of registrations	Adjusted crude marriage rate
<i>1984—</i>				
NSW	33,938	6.3	39,768	7.4
Australia	108,655	7.0	114,485	7.4
<i>1985—</i>				
NSW	41,183	7.5	39,441	7.2
Australia	115,493	7.3	113,751	7.2
<i>1986—</i>				
NSW	41,319	7.5	37,231	6.7
Australia	114,913	7.2	110,825	6.9

6. Figures for years before 1966 exclude registered marriages identified as those of full-blood Aboriginals. The rates for the years prior to 1966 are based on the population excluding full-blood Aboriginals. Tribal marriages are excluded from the statistics for all years.

## Definitions

7. Marriage rates shown in this publication for the years since 1971 are calculated using estimates of resident population. A description of the conceptual basis of the estimated resident population is contained in *Population Estimates: An outline of the new conceptual basis of A.B.S. population estimates* (3216.0) published in March 1982. Revised population estimates are shown in the *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0) (issued quarterly).

8. *Crude marriage rate* is the number of marriages registered during the calendar year per 1,000 of the mean population for the calendar year.

9. *First marriage ratio* is the number of males or females of a certain age marrying for the first time per 1,000 mid-year population of males or females of the same age irrespective of marital status. In publications for years up to and including 1978, these were referred to as first marriage rates. The sum of these ratios is called the *index of total first marriages*.

10. *Age and marital status specific rates* distinguish first marriages and re-marriages and use as the denominator the appropriate population estimates by marital status and age, (see also paragraph 6 above). Thus, *first marriage rates* are the numbers of males and females of a certain age marrying for the first time per 1,000 (mid-year) population of never married males and females of the same age. These rates should not be confused with first marriage ratios as defined above. *Re-marriage rates* are the number of re-marrying males and females per 1,000 widowed or divorced males and females respectively of the same age.

11. The *median age* of the bridegroom or bride is that age which divides the population of bridegrooms or brides into two halves, one half being below the median age and one half above.

## Additional statistics available

12. In most cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. Appendix A is a list of characteristics processed by the ABS for the marriages collection. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, floppy disk, computer printout, or clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. A list of tables produced annually is attached in Appendix B.

### Country of birth

13. The classification of countries in this publication is based on the Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS). For more detailed information refer to the ABS publication *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (1269.0). The major changes are as follows:

- 'Africa' has been separated into two groups: 'Middle East and North Africa' and 'Africa (excluding North Africa)' which includes all other African countries.
- There is no longer a single category 'Asia'. Separate categories 'Southeast Asia', 'Northeast Asia' and 'Southern Asia' have been created. 'Middle East' countries formerly included in 'Asia' are now included in the new category 'Middle East and North Africa'.

### State statistics

14. In this publication detailed statistics are provided for Australia but summary figures are given for States.

### Related publications

Other ABS publications which may be of interest are:

*Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age, States and Territories of Australia* (3201.0) - issued annually

*Estimated Resident Population by Marital Status, Age and Sex, Australia* (3220.0) - issued annually

*Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0) - issued quarterly

*Divorces, Australia* (3307.0) - issued annually

15. A compendium of all demographic data for each State is released annually in a State specific publication, *Demography*. The first release contained 1990 data. Should users require detailed State data on Marriages prior to the release of this compendium please contact Information Services or the Demography Section in each State office.

16. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

### Symbols and other usages

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| n.a. | not available                                  |
| —    | nil or rounded to zero                         |
| r    | figures or series revised since previous issue |
| .    | not applicable                                 |

## APPENDIX A

CHARACTERISTICS PROCESSED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
FOR EACH MARRIAGE REGISTERED

MARRIAGE	—Month and year of registration of marriage
	—Day, month and year of celebration of marriage
	—State in which marriage was registered
	—Marriage Celebrant (rites used)
BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE	—Previous marital status
	—Birthplace
	—Date of birth
	—Birthplace of father
	—Birthplace of mother
	—Period of residence in Australia if born overseas
	—Number of previous marriages
	—Year of celebration of last marriage
	—Year of termination of last marriage
	—Year of first previous marriage
	—Number of children of previous marriage
	—Year of birth of youngest child
	—Number of children under 16

## APPENDIX B

## LIST OF MARRIAGE TABLES PRODUCED ANNUALLY

<i>Table Number</i>	<i>Description</i>
MARR0001	Month and year of marriage and month of registration.
MARR0002	Category of celebrant by State of registration.
MARR0003	Relative previous marital status of bridegroom and bride by State of registration.
MARR0004	Relative birthplace of bridegroom and bride.
MARR0005	Relative ages of bridegroom and bride at date of marriage.
MARR006A	Age of bridegroom at date of marriage and previous marital status.
MARR006B	Age of bride at date of marriage and previous marital status.
MARR0007	Number of previous marriages and number of children under 16.
MARR0008	Interval to remarriage by how last marriage terminated for both parties.
MARR0009	Age of bridegroom by birthplace of bridegroom.
MARR0010	Age of bride by birthplace of bride.
MARR0011	Previous marital status by category of celebrant by number of previous marriages.



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