

INQUIRIES

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MARRIAGES, 1976

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MAIN FEATURES

- In 1976 109,973 marriages were registered in Australia, 6,000 more than in 1975. The crude marriage rate rose from 7.5 to 7.9 per 1,000 mean population. This increase was due to remarriages which showed a marked increase, probably associated with the large number of divorces taking place with the introduction of the Family Law Act.
- The numbers of first marriages, both for bridegrooms and brides, were lower in 1976 than in 1975. The falls, however, were much less than those between 1974 and 1975.
- There was a marked increase in the number and percentage of persons marrying for the second or subsequent time. In particular, remarriages of divorcees showed a substantial increase — 17.6 per cent of bridegrooms and 16.5 per cent of brides were divorcees, the corresponding figures for 1975 were 10.3 and 9.9 per cent respectively.
- The median age of bridegrooms was 24.9 years and of brides 22.2, compared with 24.1 and 21.6 respectively in 1975.
- The proportion of marriages performed by civil officers increased from 21.6 per cent in 1975 to 28.9 per cent in 1976.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

General

The statistics in this publication refer to marriages registered by the State and Territorial Registrars 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. Table 2 shows the relationship between month of celebration and month of registration for the years 1974 to 1976. Marriages which are registered more than 10 years after date of occurrence are excluded from the statistics.

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

Legislative provisions

3. The *Australian Marriage Act* 1961 came into full operation on 1 September 1963. The following two paragraphs outline some of the more important provisions contained in the Act. Further particulars may be obtained by reference to the publication *Handbook for Marriage Celebrants* prepared by the Attorney-General's Department, Canberra.

4. 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 seven days before the marriage. A minister who celebrates a marriage must transmit an official certificate of the marriage for registration to a district registrar in the State in which the marriage took place.

5. The minimum marriageable age at which a person is legally free to marry is 18 years for males and 16 years for females. The marriage of a female between 16 and 18 years of age is not permissible without the consent of her parents or guardians or, where this is not obtainable, of a magistrate or other prescribed authority. 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.

Definitions

6. **First marriage rates** are the numbers of males or females of a certain age marrying for the first time per 1,000 mid-year population of the same age and sex. The rates should be distinguished from bachelor and spinster rates, i.e. the numbers marrying for the first time, per 1,000 bachelors or spinsters of the same age.

7. **The crude marriage rate** is the number of marriages per 1,000 mean population. These rates, together with the number of marriages registered, are shown in Table 1. Corresponding figures for each year from 1901 to 1970 are shown in *Demography*, Bulletin No. 86, 1969-70. Figures for each year prior to 1901 appear in *Demography*, Bulletin No. 67, 1949.

8. **Median ages** of bridegrooms and brides appear in Table 8. The median age is the estimated age separating the younger half from the older.

Break in continuity

9. A line drawn across a column between two consecutive figures indicates a break in continuity (see in particular paragraph 2 above).

Related Publications

10. Other ABS publications which may be of interest are:

Estimated Age Distribution of the Population
(3201.0)
Population and Vital Statistics (Preliminary)
(3211.0)

11. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

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Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. MARRIAGES REGISTERED AND CRUDE MARRIAGE RATES, STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION
1921 TO 1976 (a)

Period	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
MARRIAGES REGISTERED									
Annual averages -									
1921-1925	18,041	13,293	6,072	4,200	2,564	1,594	14	4	45,782
1926-1930	19,253	12,955	6,279	4,036	3,167	1,506	23	30	47,249
1931-1935	18,742	12,773	6,950	3,967	3,328	1,638	29	53	47,480
1936-1940	25,295	17,784	8,982	5,726	4,399	2,187	83	85	54,541
1941-1945	28,506	19,450	10,563	6,517	4,668	2,097	71	109	71,981
1946-1950	30,162	20,453	10,666	6,581	5,205	2,529	114	181	75,891
1951-1955	28,483	20,007	10,171	6,290	5,232	2,539	146	234	73,102
1956-1960	28,432	20,422	10,254	6,517	5,145	2,573	190	321	73,854
1961-1965	31,788	23,262	11,437	7,514	5,768	2,700	248	533	83,250
1966-1970	39,216	29,481	14,717	9,920	8,147	3,330	394	983	106,188
1971-1975	40,313	30,262	16,082	10,616	9,185	3,442	492	1,411	111,802
Annual totals -									
1972	41,520	31,206	16,066	10,829	9,120	3,426	490	1,372	114,029
1973	40,722	30,203	16,490	10,806	9,102	3,395	513	1,469	112,700
1974	39,327	29,708	16,086	10,769	9,295	3,567	566	1,355	110,673
1975	36,958	27,806	15,230	9,843	9,026	3,242	406	1,462	103,973
1976	38,487	28,760	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973
CRUDE MARRIAGE RATES									
Average annual rates (b) -									
1921-1925	8.2	8.3	7.6	8.1	7.3	7.4	3.8	1.2	8.0
1926-1930	7.9	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.8	7.0	5.1	3.9	7.5
1931-1935	7.2	7.0	7.4	6.8	7.6	7.2	5.9	5.7	7.2
1936-1940	9.3	9.5	8.8	9.7	9.5	9.3	13.3	7.2	9.4
1941-1945	10.0	9.9	10.0	10.6	9.7	8.6	7.2	7.6	9.9
1946-1950	9.9	9.7	9.4	9.9	10.0	9.6	9.4	9.4	9.8
1951-1955	8.4	8.3	7.9	8.1	8.4	8.4	9.1	8.2	8.3
1956-1960	7.7	7.5	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.7	8.6	7.5	7.5
1961-1965	7.9	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.5	8.1	7.3	7.6
1966-1970	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.8	8.9	8.8	5.8	8.7	8.8
1971-1975	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.7	8.4	8.7	5.1	8.4	8.4
Annual rates (b) -									
1972r	8.8	8.7	8.3	9.0	8.5	8.7	5.1	8.7	8.7
1973r	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.9	8.4	8.6	5.1	8.7	8.4
1974r	8.1	8.1	7.9	8.7	8.3	8.9	5.4	7.6	8.1
1975r	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.9	7.7	8.0	4.5	7.7	7.6
1976	7.8	7.7	7.9	8.6	8.1	8.5	5.3	7.8	7.9

(a) See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes. r - revised.

TABLE 2. MARRIAGES: MONTH OF REGISTRATION AND MONTH OF CELEBRATION, AUSTRALIA, 1974 TO 1976

Year and month of registration	in same month as registered	Marriage celebrated						Total marriages registered in month shown
		1 month prior to month of registration	2 months prior to month of registration	3 months prior to month of registration	4 to 6 months prior to month of registration	7 to 12 months prior to month of registration	Over 12 months prior to month of registration	
1974 -								
January	r8,117	r2,773	34	14	9	3	22	10,972
February	7,715	2,286	95	22	4	2	20	10,144
March	8,363	1,587	68	28	13	2	6	10,067
April	7,690	2,329	34	15	5	1	2	10,076
May	7,787	2,343	96	15	5	1	6	10,253
June	6,047	1,093	47	17	11	1	1	7,217
July	5,025	2,271	62	23	14	4	..	7,399
August	6,555	834	61	22	43	6	1	7,522
September	6,022	2,198	32	10	11	2	4	8,279
October	7,462	2,151	82	13	10	4	2	9,724
November	7,377	918	49	23	7	..	1	8,375
December	7,977	2,567	45	11	30	11	4	10,645
Total	r86,137	r23,350	705	213	162	37	69	110,673
1975 -								
January	8,611	1,929	70	11	11	3	10	10,645
February	7,597	1,466	80	17	9	2	4	9,175
March	7,446	991	45	20	10	1	6	8,519
April	6,946	3,216	160	14	9	1	5	10,351
May	7,317	1,550	149	21	15	1	6	9,059
June	5,247	1,953	62	30	31	10	30	7,363
July	4,482	1,576	72	11	9	9	9	6,168
August	5,916	956	57	34	40	52	15	7,070
September	5,737	2,233	41	13	14	7	6	8,051
October	6,809	1,817	96	13	10	2	8	8,755
November	7,124	1,107	52	22	15	7	3	8,330
December	8,061	2,308	77	14	16	10	1	10,487
Total	81,293	21,102	961	220	189	105	103	103,973
1976 -								
January	8,459	1,383	54	14	6	7	2	9,925
February	5,949	2,456	91	14	14	4	2	8,530
March	7,017	2,836	108	18	21	11	25	10,036
April	7,783	1,294	56	17	12	1	1	9,164
May	8,062	1,271	61	35	23	4	1	9,457
June	6,117	1,676	65	24	32	12	20	7,946
July	5,412	1,060	55	14	19	2	15	6,577
August	6,132	1,695	39	25	17	19	18	7,945
September	7,547	1,775	45	13	10	4	3	9,397
October	7,812	1,183	63	15	16	5	4	9,098
November	7,417	2,591	61	27	26	18	44	10,184
December	9,550	2,000	69	30	7	9	49	11,714
Total	87,257	21,220	767	246	203	96	184	109,973

r - revised.

TABLE 3. MARRIAGES: CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT, NUMBER AND PROPORTION, STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION, 1976

Category of celebrant	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
NUMBER									
Ministers of religion of recognised denominations (a) -									
Roman Catholic Church	8,771	7,021	3,638	1,824	2,097	595	97	351	24,394
Church of England in Australia	8,743	4,616	2,949	1,468	1,852	1,067	58	311	21,064
Methodist Church of Australia	3,844	2,267	1,915	2,083	827	442	32	58	11,468
Presbyterian Church of Australia	2,834	3,337	1,620	266	402	128	52	120	8,759
Orthodox Churches (b)	792	891	109	166	97	11	15	23	2,104
Baptist Union of Australia	674	483	349	289	144	94	3	14	2,050
Lutheran Churches (b)	126	219	446	584	44	7	10	15	1,451
Churches of Christ in Australia	171	576	203	278	206	34	2	6	1,476
Congregational Union of Australia	246	339	132	288	98	28	..	3	1,134
Other Denominations	1,276	1,199	665	357	549	139	14	42	4,241
Total	27,477	20,948	12,026	7,603	6,316	2,545	283	943	78,141
Civil Officers	11,010	7,812	4,677	3,299	3,201	932	258	643	31,832
Total	38,487	28,760	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973
PROPORTION (Percent)									
Ministers of religion of recognised denominations (a) -									
Roman Catholic Church	22.8	24.4	21.8	16.7	22.0	17.1	17.9	22.1	22.2
Church of England in Australia	22.7	16.1	17.7	13.5	19.5	30.7	10.7	19.6	19.2
Methodist Church of Australia	10.0	7.9	11.5	19.1	8.7	12.7	5.9	3.7	10.4
Presbyterian Church of Australia	7.4	11.6	9.7	2.4	4.2	3.7	9.6	7.6	8.0
Orthodox Churches (b)	2.1	3.1	0.7	1.5	1.0	0.3	2.8	1.5	1.9
Baptist Union of Australia	1.8	1.7	2.1	2.7	1.5	2.7	0.6	0.9	1.9
Lutheran Churches (b)	0.3	0.8	2.7	5.4	0.5	0.2	1.8	0.9	1.3
Churches of Christ in Australia	0.4	2.0	1.2	2.5	2.2	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.3
Congregational Union of Australia	0.6	1.2	0.8	2.6	1.0	0.8	..	0.2	1.0
Other Denominations	3.3	4.2	4.0	3.3	5.8	4.0	2.6	2.6	3.9
Total	71.4	72.8	72.0	69.7	66.4	73.2	52.3	59.5	71.1
Civil Officers	28.6	27.2	28.0	30.3	33.6	26.8	47.7	40.5	28.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

TABLE 4. MARRIAGES: PROPORTION (PERCENTAGE) CELEBRATED BY CATEGORY OF CELEBRANT, AUSTRALIA, 1972 TO 1976

Category of celebrant	Year of registration				
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Ministers of religion of recognised denominations (a) -					
Roman Catholic Church	27.2	26.5	26.2	25.5	22.2
Church of England in Australia	25.4	24.1	23.7	22.1	19.2
Methodist Church of Australia	12.1	11.9	11.3	10.6	10.4
Presbyterian Church of Australia	9.8	9.7	9.1	8.7	8.0
Orthodox Churches (b)	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.4	1.9
Baptist Union of Australia	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Lutheran Churches (b)	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Churches of Christ in Australia	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3
Congregational Union of Australia	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
Other Denominations	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.9
Total	85.9	83.6	82.1	78.4	71.1
Civil Officers	14.1	16.4	17.9	21.6	28.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

TABLE 5. MARRIAGES: PROPORTION (PERCENTAGE) CELEBRATED BY MINISTERS OF RELIGION, STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION, 1921 TO 1976 (a)

Year	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Annual Averages -									
1921-1925	94.7	96.2	96.4	95.9	82.4	97.0	..	..	94.9
1926-1930	93.2	92.6	95.9	93.2	81.7	93.8	80.4	..	92.7
1931-1935	91.5	89.6	96.2	89.9	85.8	89.0	70.9	93.9	91.1
1936-1940	90.5	93.7	95.4	91.1	85.0	89.6	82.6	88.6	91.7
1941-1945	90.3	94.2	97.2	91.4	86.6	89.5	86.9	91.3	92.2
1946-1950	88.9	92.9	95.9	90.4	83.1	86.7	92.2	86.5	90.7
1951-1955	86.2	91.8	96.2	87.5	81.2	84.9	75.9	84.7	89.0
1956-1960	85.4	91.8	96.7	88.3	83.9	84.8	82.3	83.8	88.7
1961-1965	86.0	91.3	94.4	88.7	85.3	86.3	82.3	81.0	88.7
1966-1970	87.3	92.2	91.8	89.0	83.7	87.7	75.8	77.0	89.0
1971-1975	82.8	86.5	86.2	80.3	77.5	84.1	61.6	71.8	84.0
Annual -									
1972	84.9	88.8	89.4	83.7	79.3	85.4	62.5	76.0	85.9
1973	82.9	87.0	86.6	79.0	77.7	85.1	66.1	70.5	83.6
1974	81.9	85.0	84.3	78.0	76.8	83.2	58.5	71.3	82.1
1975	78.6	80.4	80.0	75.8	73.9	81.4	54.7	65.9	78.4
1976	71.4	72.8	72.0	69.7	66.4	73.2	52.3	59.5	71.1

(a) See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 6. MARRIAGES : RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1976

Age of Bridegroom (Years)	Age of Bride (Years)										
	Under 16	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Under 18	..	57	54	32	8	4	2	..	1	..	..
18	14	255	465	557	282	104	48	43	27	19	9
19	17	288	694	1,361	1,071	449	187	101	56	25	13
20	15	274	687	1,957	2,222	1,632	737	322	167	82	56
21	8	176	569	1,850	2,695	2,600	1,770	737	346	194	115
22	4	125	419	1,385	2,058	2,492	2,141	1,333	675	313	175
23	7	95	284	908	1,441	1,867	1,808	1,531	978	480	269
24	5	63	181	621	975	1,193	1,412	1,199	926	670	382
25	5	64	133	407	654	906	950	932	827	698	489
26	1	34	77	292	431	596	720	674	701	580	430
27	1	15	71	155	279	419	468	535	525	501	452
28	..	21	38	132	166	292	364	412	383	420	363
29	..	16	37	96	119	231	245	308	370	373	342
30-34	3	22	47	165	242	344	506	527	683	684	750
35-39	..	4	7	37	53	91	111	130	152	190	247
40-44	..	2	3	9	17	24	40	45	42	78	74
45-49	..	..	..	5	8	6	12	19	21	27	37
50-54	..	..	3	4	3	..	12	5	8	17	20
55-59	..	..	1	2	1	1	2	..	3	3	4
60 and over	..	..	1	1	..	1	4	1	1	..	2
Total Brides	80	1,511	3,771	9,976	12,725	13,252	11,539	8,854	6,892	5,354	4,229
Proportion %	0.1	1.4	3.4	9.1	11.6	12.1	10.5	8.1	6.3	4.9	3.8

Age of Bridegroom (Years)	Age of Bride (Years)								Total Bride- grooms	Pro- portion %	
	26	27	28	29	30- 34	35- 39	40- 44	45- 49			50 and over
Under 18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	158	0.1
18	6	4	2	2	3	2	..	..	..	1,842	1.7
19	15	5	5	3	10	..	2	..	..	4,302	3.9
20	39	19	18	10	15	6	3	..	..	8,261	7.5
21	63	43	31	20	34	9	1	..	..	11,261	10.2
22	126	75	43	44	50	16	1	..	..	11,475	10.4
23	182	107	76	62	109	24	7	1	1	10,237	9.3
24	231	160	110	81	126	34	7	3	1	8,380	7.6
25	318	218	133	105	198	39	11	..	2	7,089	6.4
26	415	239	176	121	241	47	9	1	1	5,786	5.3
27	370	287	228	142	291	68	17	6	..	4,830	4.4
28	385	281	224	205	384	82	17	9	2	4,180	3.8
29	301	280	254	202	438	122	26	12	2	3,774	3.4
30-34	765	767	738	692	1,937	654	177	53	20	9,776	8.9
35-39	265	272	341	362	1,440	924	385	141	46	5,198	4.7
40-44	105	127	129	146	800	787	572	293	157	3,450	3.1
45-49	38	53	51	78	477	595	654	623	353	3,057	2.8
50-54	15	30	20	35	198	304	436	603	776	2,489	2.3
55-59	1	4	3	7	82	122	199	351	825	1,611	1.5
60 and over	5	1	5	5	33	57	117	260	2,323	2,817	2.6
Total Brides	3,645	2,972	2,587	2,322	6,866	3,892	2,641	2,356	4,509	109,973	100.0
Proportion %	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.1	6.2	3.5	2.4	2.1	4.1	100.0	

TABLE 7. MARRIAGES: AGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE,
AUSTRALIA, 1976

Age (years)	Previous Marital Status							
	Bridegroom				Bride			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Under 16	..	..	..	..	80	..	..	80
16	19	..	..	19	1,511	..	..	1,511
17	139	..	..	139	3,770	..	1	3,771
18	1,842	..	..	1,842	9,973	1	2	9,976
19	4,302	..	..	4,302	12,695	7	23	12,725
20	8,258	..	2	8,261	13,142	11	99	13,252
21	11,236	..	25	11,261	11,289	15	235	11,539
22	11,397	4	74	11,475	8,476	11	367	8,854
23	10,047	4	186	10,237	6,273	32	587	6,892
24	8,065	7	308	8,380	4,607	32	715	5,354
25	6,615	6	468	7,089	3,303	48	878	4,229
26	5,087	17	682	5,786	2,581	55	1,009	3,645
27	4,037	16	777	4,830	1,942	50	980	2,972
28	3,183	22	975	4,180	1,514	56	1,017	2,587
29	2,682	28	1,064	3,774	1,220	73	1,029	2,322
30-34	5,582	117	4,077	9,776	2,834	309	3,723	6,866
35-39	1,993	171	3,034	5,198	1,029	318	2,545	3,892
40-44	903	236	2,311	3,450	427	416	1,798	2,641
45-49	599	399	2,059	3,057	271	627	1,458	2,356
50-54	368	562	1,559	2,489	210	584	928	1,722
55-59	192	531	888	1,611	140	541	434	1,115
60 and over	246	1,657	914	2,817	147	1,192	333	1,672
Total	86,792	3,777	19,404	109,973	87,434	4,378	18,161	109,973
Mean Age	25.0	57.2	39.1	28.6	22.4	50.5	35.1	25.7

TABLE 8. MARRIAGES : MEDIAN AGES AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1976 (a)

Year	Bridegroom				Brides			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Average annual —								
1921-1925	26.9	44.0	38.3	27.4	23.9	38.5	33.5	24.3
1926-1930	26.4	45.5	38.6	26.8	23.4	41.1	34.1	23.8
1931-1935	26.5	46.7	39.3	26.9	23.4	42.9	34.2	23.7
1936-1940	26.7	48.7	38.6	27.1	23.7	44.1	34.0	24.0
1941-1945	25.7	50.8	38.5	26.3	22.9	43.6	34.0	23.3
1946-1950	25.2	52.2	37.1	25.9	22.4	41.6	33.1	23.0
1951-1955	25.0	54.3	38.9	25.7	22.1	45.3	34.6	22.7
1956-1960	24.7	56.5	39.3	25.4	21.6	47.6	35.4	22.0
1961-1965	24.2	56.6	40.4	24.7	21.3	49.2	36.6	21.7
1966-1970	23.5	56.7	39.8	23.9	21.2	50.1	36.1	21.5
1971-1975	23.3	57.8	37.3	23.9	21.0	51.1	33.0	21.4
Annual —								
1972	23.3	57.8	38.1	23.8	21.0	51.1	33.9	21.4
1973	23.3	58.1	37.0	23.9	21.0	51.3	33.2	21.4
1974	23.3	58.1	36.8	23.8	20.9	51.2	33.0	21.4
1975	23.4	58.0	36.4	24.1	21.0	51.4	32.8	21.6
1976	23.6	57.9	36.6	24.9	21.2	51.2	32.6	22.2

(a) See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 9. MARRIAGES : PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE STATE OR TERRITORY OF REGISTRATION, 1976

Marital Status of —		New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Bridegroom	Bride									
Never married	Never married	26,720	20,748	11,949	7,715	6,778	2,525	339	1,042	77,816
	Widowed	342	248	183	108	88	36	8	12	1,025
	Divorced	2,857	1,994	1,223	692	727	237	61	160	7,951
	Total	29,919	22,990	13,355	8,515	7,593	2,798	408	1,214	86,792
Widowed	Never married	252	182	98	74	38	20	3	9	676
	Widowed	577	472	241	188	125	41	2	12	1,658
	Divorced	539	365	249	129	101	37	3	20	1,443
	Total	1,368	1,019	588	391	264	98	8	41	3,777
Divorced	Never married	3,277	2,216	1,324	870	782	260	62	151	8,942
	Widowed	618	431	238	163	154	55	16	20	1,695
	Divorced	3,305	2,104	1,198	963	724	266	47	160	8,767
	Total	7,200	4,751	2,760	1,996	1,660	581	125	331	19,404
Total	Never married	30,249	23,146	13,371	8,659	7,598	2,805	404	1,202	87,434
	Widowed	1,537	1,151	662	459	367	132	26	44	4,378
	Divorced	6,701	4,463	2,670	1,784	1,552	540	111	340	18,161
	Total	38,487	28,760	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973

TABLE 10. MARRIAGES: PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1976 (a)

Year	Bridegrooms				Brides			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
NUMBER								
Annual averages -								
1921-1925	42,203	2,922	657	45,782	42,573	2,511	698	45,782
1926-1930	43,615	2,801	833	47,249	44,161	2,149	939	47,249
1931-1935	43,980	2,558	942	47,480	44,806	1,676	998	47,480
1936-1940	59,757	3,110	1,674	64,541	60,629	2,181	1,731	64,541
1941-1945	65,817	3,437	2,727	71,981	66,301	2,832	2,848	71,981
1946-1950	67,405	3,600	4,886	75,891	67,324	3,600	4,967	75,891
1951-1955	64,893	3,382	4,827	73,102	64,357	3,519	5,226	73,102
1956-1960	66,364	3,086	4,404	73,854	65,579	3,305	4,970	73,854
1961-1965	75,384	3,063	4,803	83,250	74,962	3,218	5,070	83,250
1966-1970	96,438	3,320	6,430	106,188	96,341	3,568	6,279	106,188
1971-1975	99,203	3,473	9,126	111,802	99,287	3,810	8,705	111,802
Annual totals -								
1972	102,240	3,472	8,317	114,029	102,106	3,868	8,055	114,029
1973	99,741	3,614	9,345	112,700	99,950	3,906	8,844	112,700
1974	97,872	3,367	9,434	110,673	98,031	3,764	8,878	110,673
1975	89,912	3,308	10,753	103,973	90,010	3,681	10,282	103,973
1976	86,792	3,777	19,404	109,973	87,434	4,378	18,161	109,973
PROPORTION (PER CENT)								
Annual averages -								
1921-1925	92.2	6.4	1.4	100.0	93.0	5.5	1.5	100.0
1926-1930	92.3	5.9	1.8	100.0	93.5	4.6	2.0	100.0
1931-1935	92.6	5.4	2.0	100.0	94.4	3.5	2.1	100.0
1936-1940	92.6	4.8	2.6	100.0	93.9	3.4	2.7	100.0
1941-1945	91.4	4.8	3.8	100.0	92.1	3.9	4.0	100.0
1946-1950	88.8	4.7	6.4	100.0	88.7	4.7	6.6	100.0
1951-1955	88.8	4.6	6.6	100.0	88.0	4.8	7.2	100.0
1956-1960	89.9	4.2	6.0	100.0	88.8	4.5	6.7	100.0
1961-1965	90.6	3.7	5.8	100.0	90.0	3.9	6.1	100.0
1966-1970	90.8	3.1	6.0	100.0	90.7	3.4	5.9	100.0
1971-1975	88.7	3.1	8.2	100.0	88.8	3.4	7.8	100.0
Annual								
1972	89.7	3.1	7.3	100.0	89.6	3.4	7.1	100.0
1973	88.5	3.2	8.3	100.0	88.7	3.5	7.9	100.0
1974	88.4	3.0	8.5	100.0	88.6	3.4	8.0	100.0
1975	86.5	3.2	10.3	100.0	86.6	3.5	9.9	100.0
1976	78.9	3.4	17.6	100.0	79.5	4.0	16.5	100.0

(a) See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 12. FIRST MARRIAGE RATES (a) : SELECTED AGES AT FIRST MARRIAGE OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1976 (b)

Year	Age													
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
BRIDEGROOM														
1921	0.1	1.4	4.3	10.8	20.6	55.3	65.3	77.9	79.7	83.4	81.6	71.2	67.5	54.7
1926	0.2	1.5	7.0	14.6	24.3	59.0	63.2	75.3	77.8	79.4	76.9	66.4	55.2	47.1
1931	0.2	1.7	6.0	13.9	23.4	47.6	47.9	54.1	57.3	56.0	52.6	47.2	40.5	33.0
1936	0.2	1.8	5.5	13.7	22.5	48.2	61.0	72.6	82.8	84.1	80.4	73.1	67.5	58.0
1941	0.2	1.8	6.8	17.7	32.0	78.0	95.6	108.5	111.1	103.5	93.6	78.6	67.6	54.4
1946	0.4	2.3	9.9	24.5	45.4	104.6	116.5	120.1	113.1	100.3	86.2	72.6	61.8	51.7
1951	0.4	2.7	10.8	26.8	46.8	99.2	112.3	114.2	100.7	84.6	69.1	56.0	48.2	36.6
1956	0.4	3.2	11.8	28.1	53.0	104.3	112.4	109.4	93.8	78.2	63.7	52.8	43.6	34.4
1961	0.6	4.4	16.4	33.5	56.2	104.3	116.1	111.5	94.4	80.3	64.1	50.0	40.2	32.5
1966	0.2	1.9	22.1	46.3	66.5	109.7	126.2	125.3	105.6	87.2	70.2	54.6	41.3	31.9
1972	0.2	2.1	24.5	49.4	81.7	130.5	127.5	111.3	88.2	68.6	54.0	40.7	30.5	24.1
1973	0.1	1.7	23.5	47.8	82.1	127.2	122.9	104.3	85.6	66.8	49.2	39.3	28.7	23.0
1974	0.2	1.9	22.5	47.8	83.7	118.8	119.2	100.4	79.4	65.1	47.9	35.5	28.2	22.3
1975	0.1	1.3	18.0	41.7	78.1	105.9	105.7	89.0	71.9	57.7	44.9	35.5	26.0	21.1
1976	0.1	1.1	14.7	35.3	68.4	95.1	98.5	85.7	69.3	56.6	43.6	35.2	26.8	20.9
BRIDE														
1921	6.7	20.6	40.7	55.4	63.2	105.0	90.5	82.5	78.1	68.0	59.2	48.3	41.4	31.6
1926	9.6	26.2	46.0	58.5	66.0	108.2	90.0	80.2	74.7	65.6	53.5	43.4	35.3	29.6
1931	9.1	23.9	38.5	47.6	50.3	81.4	66.5	60.8	52.1	44.9	37.6	30.8	23.9	18.2
1936	9.8	24.1	45.3	57.6	64.0	103.0	90.1	86.8	79.2	71.2	62.6	50.5	42.2	33.5
1941	9.4	27.1	54.2	78.4	97.1	145.2	124.0	110.2	95.1	75.1	62.4	49.1	41.2	32.5
1946	11.7	33.4	69.7	102.8	122.2	162.0	128.1	102.3	80.9	61.5	48.7	38.3	30.8	26.0
1951	17.4	44.5	85.0	122.1	128.1	162.0	120.8	89.5	68.3	52.4	38.5	31.6	23.5	18.5
1956	18.3	46.0	91.0	125.5	137.7	163.5	114.9	79.4	59.9	41.2	33.0	24.2	18.8	14.9
1961	20.2	47.6	86.5	119.2	132.5	161.7	104.0	75.4	51.3	38.3	28.4	21.0	16.0	13.0
1966	22.3	48.8	86.5	119.7	138.7	154.3	109.6	78.7	54.2	38.3	27.4	19.5	15.3	11.2
1972	25.2	55.0	99.6	133.7	145.9	140.3	95.4	64.8	46.1	31.3	24.9	18.3	14.2	10.7
1973	22.7	48.6	101.5	137.5	140.5	130.7	87.7	62.8	43.3	32.3	22.9	17.5	13.3	10.1
1974	20.1	44.8	105.7	134.1	139.5	120.1	85.1	58.5	41.2	31.3	22.0	16.0	12.8	9.7
1975	15.3	39.1	94.5	122.0	122.9	106.2	77.8	54.7	37.8	28.1	21.3	16.0	8.8	10.5
1976	12.3	30.7	82.4	107.6	113.3	96.5	74.2	54.2	40.7	28.7	22.6	17.2	13.1	10.0

(a) See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 13. MARRIAGES: AGE AND SELECTED COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE,
AUSTRALIA, 1976

Age	Country of Birth										Total
	Australia	New Zealand	Great Britain and Ireland	Germany	Greece	Italy	Malta	Netherlands	Yugoslavia	Other	
BRIDEGROOM											
Under 20	5,307	26	511	23	75	58	24	30	60	188	6,302
20-24	40,929	391	3,282	268	497	975	332	396	567	1,977	49,614
25-29	17,746	408	2,515	433	465	928	176	337	413	2,238	25,659
30-34	6,436	177	1,301	171	191	226	50	121	174	929	9,776
35-39	3,310	84	730	128	89	127	22	67	121	520	5,198
40-44	2,322	47	443	65	57	88	18	43	61	306	3,450
45-49	2,152	31	356	59	31	64	8	58	37	261	3,057
50-54	1,745	28	345	29	8	42	7	43	26	216	2,489
55-59	1,184	12	222	21	4	16	3	20	12	117	1,611
60 and over	2,048	37	463	19	9	23	6	21	24	167	2,817
Total	83,179	1,241	10,168	1,216	1,426	2,547	646	1,136	1,495	6,919	109,973
BRIDE											
Under 20	23,398	113	2,123	85	312	359	127	133	420	993	28,063
20-24	38,273	349	2,834	212	383	655	191	281	367	2,346	45,891
25-29	11,266	204	1,528	295	147	246	85	192	163	1,629	15,755
30-34	4,871	100	838	127	80	62	32	75	73	608	6,866
35-39	2,726	39	515	68	52	48	10	35	62	337	3,892
40-44	1,896	17	349	46	35	30	9	25	30	204	2,641
45-49	1,843	20	224	46	8	28	3	17	26	141	2,356
50-54	1,294	18	182	34	6	18	4	11	16	139	1,722
55-59	847	10	138	17	4	6	1	13	10	69	1,115
60 and over	1,233	20	307	8	..	10	2	12	2	78	1,672
Total	87,647	890	9,038	938	1,027	1,462	464	794	1,169	6,544	109,973

TABLE 14. MARRIAGES: SELECTED RELATIVE COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1976

Birthplace of Bridegroom	Birthplace of Bride												
	Europe												
	Australia	New Zealand	Austria	Germany	Great Britain and Ireland	Greece	Hungary	Italy	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Yugoslavia	Other
Australia	72,957	533	70	506	5,680	93	67	333	175	512	74	107	274
New Zealand	927	117	3	12	77	1	2	12	5	13	1	4	8
Europe -													
Austria	181	5	19	15	30	..	1	4	2	5	2	6	5
Germany	768	13	20	117	119	2	7	11	3	17	22	7	23
Great Britain and Ireland	6,841	113	20	109	2,354	9	11	45	32	92	8	17	82
Greece	406	7	1	6	28	841	2	10	2	3	2	10	8
Hungary	114	2	5	4	23	1	58	3	..	1	4	12	9
Italy	1,300	10	4	20	106	13	..	923	10	4	6	17	33
Malta	347	2	1	1	45	1	..	11	202	2	1	6	7
Netherlands	810	10	3	25	111	2	2	6	3	94	2	2	14
Poland	103	1	1	8	17	1	2	3	..	2	108	5	19
Yugoslavia	341	6	3	30	41	10	12	33	5	4	13	936	17
Other	582	12	10	49	101	7	9	20	4	13	25	23	301
Asia -													
China (a)	96	2	1	3	11	1	..	..	..	2	1	1	6
Cyprus	52	2	..	..	2	13	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
India	165	4	2	2	42	..	..	5	1	2	1	1	4
Lebanon	68	5	1	4	10	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	2
Malaysia	90	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3
Other	390	15	2	6	66	11	5	9	5	9	2	4	10
Africa -													
United Arab Republic	146	2	3	3	16	18	1	13	6	2	2	4	7
Other	280	8	1	9	52	2	3	5	2	6	..	3	12
America -													
Canada	104	6	..	4	23	..	2	..	1	2	..	..	3
U.S.A.	311	7	3	2	33	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	5
Other	85	3	..	2	19	..	..	12	3	1	..	..	7
Pacific Islands	83	4	..	..	7	..	..	..	2	1	2	2	..
Other	100	1	1	1	7	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
Total, Brides	87,647	890	174	938	9,038	1,027	184	1,462	464	794	277	1,169	859
Proportion %	79.7	0.8	0.2	0.9	8.2	0.9	0.2	1.3	0.4	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.8

(a) Includes Hong Kong.

TABLE 14. MARRIAGES: SELECTED RELATIVE COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, AUSTRALIA, 1976 - *continued*

Birthplace of Bridegroom	Birthplace of Bride														Total Bridegrooms	Proportion %
	Asia					Africa		America								
	China (a)	Cyprus	India	Lebanon	Malaysia	Other	United Arab Republic	Other	Canada	U.S.A.	Other	Pacific Islands	Other			
Australia	83	25	133	21	117	421	63	253	115	285	78	86	118	83,179	75.6	
New Zealand	6	..	4	1	2	15	3	9	4	7	4	2	2	1,241	1.1	
Europe -																
Austria	1	..	..	..	2	7	..	3	..	4	3	1	..	296	0.3	
Germany	3	..	6	..	9	33	5	10	3	2	9	3	4	1,216	1.1	
Great Britain and Ireland	25	5	50	1	29	115	11	65	31	47	20	11	25	10,168	9.2	
Greece	1	57	..	1	..	11	21	3	..	1	3	..	2	1,426	1.3	
Hungary	..	..	1	..	2	8	..	2	..	..	4	..	..	253	0.2	
Italy	7	1	3	1	4	13	18	18	2	3	22	6	3	2,547	2.3	
Malta	2	1	1	..	3	5	2	3	..	1	2	..	..	646	0.6	
Netherlands	1	2	6	1	2	19	2	5	3	8	3	..	..	1,136	1.0	
Poland	2	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	1	2	2	..	..	281	0.3	
Yugoslavia	1	2	2	..	4	10	3	4	1	5	9	2	1	1,495	1.4	
Other	10	..	7	..	4	27	5	22	3	6	45	3	3	1,291	1.2	
Asia -																
China (a)	272	..	..	..	28	38	..	2	1	2	3	5	2	477	0.4	
Cyprus	..	132	..	..	..	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	209	0.2	
India	..	..	135	..	1	14	1	5	..	1	1	..	..	387	0.4	
Lebanon	..	1	1	155	..	12	7	4	2	..	5	1	..	282	0.3	
Malaysia	21	..	5	..	128	34	..	2	..	3	..	1	1	309	0.3	
Other	7	6	10	18	23	480	13	9	1	5	5	2	3	1,116	1.0	
Africa -																
United Arab Republic	2	4	1	6	1	8	90	7	..	3	5	1	..	351	0.3	
Other	1	..	3	3	1	4	5	87	1	4	1	1	1	495	0.5	
America -																
Canada	..	..	1	..	1	7	..	1	6	2	..	..	1	164	0.1	
U.S.A.	2	1	3	1	1	9	1	3	5	57	..	2	..	451	0.4	
Other	2	..	1	1	1	6	1	2	1	2	140	..	..	289	0.3	
Pacific Islands	2	..	1	..	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	27	1	138	0.1	
Other	..	..	..	..	3	6	..	1	1	1	..	..	5	130	0.1	
Total, Brides	451	237	376	211	369	1,310	252	522	181	451	364	154	172	109,973	100.0	
Proportion %	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0		

(a) Includes Hong Kong.

TABLE 15. MARRIAGES: SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE, PERCENTAGES, AUSTRALIA, 1976

Country of birth of bridegroom	Country of birth of bride			Total bride- grooms	Country of birth of bride	Country of birth of bridegroom			Total brides
	Australia	Same as groom	Other			Australia	Same as bride	Other	
	%	%	%	No.		%	%	%	No.
Australia	87.7	87.7	12.3	83,179	Australia	83.2	83.2	16.8	87,647
New Zealand	74.7	9.4	15.9	1,241	New Zealand	59.9	13.1	27.0	890
Austria	61.1	6.4	32.4	296	Austria	40.2	10.9	48.9	174
Germany	63.2	9.6	27.2	1,216	Germany	53.9	12.5	33.6	938
Great Britain and Ireland	67.3	23.2	9.6	10,168	Great Britain and Ireland	62.8	26.0	11.1	9,038
Greece	28.5	59.0	12.6	1,426	Greece	9.1	81.9	9.1	1,027
Hungary	45.1	22.9	32.0	253	Hungary	36.4	31.5	32.1	184
Italy	51.0	36.2	12.7	2,547	Italy	22.8	63.1	14.1	1,462
Malta	53.7	31.3	15.0	645	Malta	37.7	43.5	18.8	464
Netherlands	71.3	8.3	20.4	1,136	Netherlands	64.5	11.8	23.7	794
Poland	36.7	38.4	24.9	281	Poland	26.7	39.0	34.3	277
Yugoslavia	22.8	62.6	14.6	1,495	Yugoslavia	9.2	80.1	10.7	1,169
Other Europe	45.1	23.3	31.6	1,291	Other Europe	31.9	35.0	33.1	859
China (a)	20.1	57.0	22.9	477	China (a)	18.4	60.3	21.3	451
Cyprus	24.9	63.2	12.0	209	Cyprus	10.5	55.7	33.8	237
India	42.6	34.9	22.5	387	India	35.4	35.9	28.7	376
Lebanon	24.1	55.0	20.9	282	Lebanon	10.0	73.5	16.6	211
Malaysia	29.1	41.4	29.4	309	Malaysia	31.7	34.7	33.6	369
Other Asia	34.9	43.0	22.0	1,116	Other Asia	32.1	36.6	31.2	1,310
United Arab Republic	41.6	25.6	32.8	351	United Arab Republic	25.0	35.7	39.3	252
Other Africa	56.6	17.6	25.9	495	Other Africa	48.5	16.7	34.9	522
Canada	63.4	3.7	32.9	164	Canada	63.5	3.3	33.1	181
U.S.A.	69.0	12.6	18.4	451	U.S.A.	63.2	12.6	24.2	451
Other America	29.4	48.4	22.1	289	Other America	21.4	38.5	40.1	364
Pacific Islands	60.1	19.6	20.3	138	Pacific Islands	55.8	17.5	26.6	154
Other	76.9	3.8	19.2	130	Other	68.6	2.9	28.5	172

(a) Includes Hong Kong.

TABLE 16. ESTIMATED MEAN POPULATION, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1972 TO 1976

Year	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
1972	4,747,358	3,577,323	1,933,417	1,202,188	1,070,661	392,378	96,432	157,430	13,177,187
1973	4,793,305	3,627,357	1,988,901	1,218,294	1,090,632	395,775	99,849	168,172	13,382,285
1974	4,841,310	3,676,535	2,043,971	1,235,558	1,117,742	399,563	104,632	178,886	13,598,197
1975	4,885,335	3,718,635	2,084,713	1,252,827	1,146,858	404,454	90,289	190,965	13,774,076
1976	4,913,907	3,747,510	2,110,728	1,261,865	1,170,312	407,548	101,723	203,236	13,916,829

TABLE 17. ESTIMATED MID-YEAR AGE DISTRIBUTION BY SEX, AUSTRALIA, 1976 (a)

Age	Males	Females	Persons
0-14	1,931,434	1,834,357	3,765,791
15	133,565	126,157	259,722
16	129,528	122,975	252,503
17	128,302	122,717	251,019
18	125,085	121,011	246,096
19	121,702	118,038	239,740
15-19	638,182	610,898	1,249,080
20	120,678	116,034	236,712
21	118,188	117,041	235,229
22	115,708	114,289	229,997
23	117,194	115,666	232,860
24	116,378	113,292	229,670
20-24	588,146	576,322	1,164,468
25	116,887	115,254	232,141
26	116,556	114,103	230,659
27	114,637	112,926	227,563
28	118,672	115,472	233,844
29	128,068	121,705	249,773
25-29	594,820	579,160	1,173,980
30-34	499,582	468,738	968,320
35-39	430,839	406,599	837,438
40-44	382,393	360,178	742,571
45-49	407,623	379,587	787,210
50-54	389,548	377,568	767,116
55-59	319,418	324,374	643,792
60 and over	797,395	1,018,348	1,815,743
Total	6,979,380	6,936,129	13,915,509

(a) Subject to revision following availability of age distribution from the 1976 Population Census.