

Standard Report
on
Methods and Quality (v1)
for
Marriages Registration
and
Civil Partnership Registration

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

<2007 onwards>

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1 Overview

Every Marriage occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office. The details of these Marriage registrations are compiled into statistical reports by the Central Statistics Office, acting on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection. Civil Partnerships, introduced by the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010, enabled same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship.

Same sex marriages legislation came into effect on the 16th November 2015. The Marriage Act 2015 (No 35/2015 refers) allows parties of the same sex to marry.

Statistics on Marriages registered in Ireland have been collected and published since 1864. Statistics on Civil Partnerships registered in Ireland are being collected and published from 2011. They provide a comprehensive picture of the number of Marriages and Civil Partnerships, and provide demographic details on the people getting married. They are important for demographic research and for certain kinds of social research.

2 General Information

2.1 Statistical Category

Compilation based on administrative data

2.2 Area of Activity

Social Statistics

2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

Vital Statistics

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2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

Legislation for the registration of civil and non-Catholic marriages has been in place in Ireland since 1845. Statistics on marriages registered in Ireland (including Catholic marriages) have been collected and published since 1864. This was initially done by the General Register Office. Since 1953 the reports have been compiled by the Central Statistics Office, based on administrative data supplied by the General Register Office.

Civil Partnerships, introduced by the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010, enabled same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship and statistics on such unions are collected and published from 2011 on an annual basis.

They provide a comprehensive picture of the number of marriages and civil partnerships, and provide demographic details on the people getting married. They are important for demographic research, and for certain kinds of social research.

2.5 Periodicity

Statistics on Marriages registered are published annually. Statistics on Civil Partnerships registered will be published from 2011 to 2016 when same sex marriages superseded Civil Partnerships.

2.6 Client

Vital Statistics releases and publications are prepared on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection, under Section 73(6) of the Civil Registration Act 2004. Prior to the 2004 Act, the statistics were compiled by the CSO on behalf of the Minister for Health and Children, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Vital Statistics and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1952.

2.7 Users

- Government
- Demographic Researchers, Social Researchers
- The general public
- Professional Bodies
- European Union/Eurostat

2.8 Legal basis

Vital Statistics releases and publications are prepared by the CSO on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection, under Section 73(6) of the Civil Registration Act 2004. Prior to the 2004 Act, the statistics were compiled by the CSO on behalf of the Minister for Health and Children, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Vital Statistics and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1952.

The legal provisions concerning civil partnership registration are contained in Part 3 of the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act, 2010. These provisions amend the Civil Registration Act, 2004 to provide for the registration of civil partnerships in Ireland.

3 Statistical Concepts, Methods

3.1 Subject of the Statistics

Information on marriages and civil partnerships occurring in Ireland.

3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation

Marriages are recorded on marriage certificates. These are presented in tables aggregated by location and form of marriage ceremony, day and month of ceremony, and age, previous residence, future residence, previous marital status and socio-economic group of bride and groom. In the case of Civil Partnerships, provided three months' notice is given and there are no impediments to the union, then a Civil Partnership Registration Form (CPRF) must be completed and given to the Registrar in order to register the union. These are presented in tables aggregated by location, gender and previous marital status up to the end of 2016 when same sex marriages legislation superseded Civil Partnership legislation.

3.3 Data Sources

General Registration Office

3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents

Every Marriage/Civil Partnership occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office. (There is at present no provision for the civil registration of Muslim marriage ceremonies solemnised in the State).

3.5 Type of Survey/Process

Aggregation of administrative data concerning marriages and civil partnerships registered.

3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process

3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame

Not applicable

3.6.2 Sampling/Census Design

Not applicable

3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer

Weekly files of Marriages/Civil Partnerships registered in the previous week are sent electronically from the General Register Office (GRO) to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in encrypted xml format. File is downloaded, decrypted and uploaded to Data Capture System (DMS). Reconciliation sheets containing the reference number of each Marriage/Civil Partnerships is sent by the GRO to the CSO weekly. The number of Marriages/Civil Partnerships per the Reconciliation sheets is checked against the number of Marriages/Civil Partnerships on DMS to ensure that numbers are the same.

3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable

3.9 Participation in the Survey

Not applicable

3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results

Simple aggregation classified by location, form of marriage ceremony, day and month of ceremony, and age, previous residence, future residence, previous marital status and socio-economic group of bride and groom.

3.11 Classifications used

There is a 10 category Standard Occupation Code (SOC2010) Classification used from 2012. See directly below in alphabetical order:

Standard Occupation Codes**Occupations included are as listed**

4	Administrative and secretarial occupations
3	Associate professional and Technical occupations
6	Caring, Leisure and Other service occupations
9	Elementary occupations
1	Managers, Directors and Senior officials
8	Process, Plant and Machine operatives
2	Professional occupations
7	Sales and Customer service occupations
5	Skilled trades occupations
0	Unemployed, Retired, Student and occupation unknown

The Standard Occupational Codes replaced the Socio-economic groupings used prior to 2012.

Marriages celebrated according to the rites and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Ireland, the forms and disciplines of the Presbyterian Church, the usages of the Society of Friends, the usages of people professing the Jewish religion. Humanist, The Spiritual Union of Ireland and other Religious Bodies, and have been classified under their respective religions.

3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results

Four classifications of district are available: that in which the marriage took place, the areas of residence of the bride and groom prior to marriage and the intended future residence. The classification is at the level of counties and cities. For residences outside the Republic of Ireland, the classification is at the level of Northern Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, and remainder of Europe, USA and elsewhere. The intended future residence is also classified at the level of certain towns. The classification at the level of counties, cities and certain towns, see directly hereunder:

Border, Midland and Western NUTS2 Region**Southern and Eastern NUTS2 Region****Border**

Cavan

Dublin

Dublin City

Donegal

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown

Leitrim

Fingal

Louth

South Dublin

Monaghan

Sligo

Mid-East

Kildare

Meath

Midland

Laois

Wicklow

Longford

Offaly

Mid-West

Clare

Westmeath

Limerick City

Limerick County

West

Galway City
Galway
County
Mayo
Roscommon

South-East

North Tipperary

Carlow
Kilkenny
South Tipperary
Waterford City
Waterford County
Wexford

SouthWest

Cork City
Cork County
Kerry

4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance

4.1 Data Capture

The information on marriage/civil partnership certificates are entered electronically at registry offices around the country. The registrations of the previous week from all registry offices are sent in a weekly encrypted XML file from the General Register Office to the Central Statistics Office. This file is decrypted and uploaded on to Data Capture System in which any necessary data editing takes place.

4.2 Coding

Each Marriage/Civil Partnership is geographically coded (where the marriage took place, the areas of residence of the bride and groom prior to marriage, and the intended future residence). The bride and groom are each given a Socio-Economic Group code. From 2005 onwards, there are 3 options for the previous marital status of each partner, Single, Widowed or Divorced. Prior to 2005 the only options are Single or Widowed (Divorced people were classified as single).

4.3 Data Editing

The data file in the data capture system (Blaise) is edited to ensure that the ages of the bride and groom are correct.

4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

No imputation.

4.5 Grossing and Weighting

No grossing or weighting.

4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used

Results are aggregated – no estimation used.

4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used

Not applicable

5 Quality

5.1 Relevance

Marriage/Civil Partnership statistics provide a comprehensive picture of the number of Marriages/Civil Partnerships, and provide demographic details on the people getting married. They are important for demographic research, and for certain kinds of social research.

5.2 Accuracy and Reliability

5.2.1. Sampling Effect & Representivity

Not applicable

5.2.2 Non-Sampling Effects

5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used

The data is collected from marriage/civil partnership certificates, and the information on these certificates is collected from the bride and groom and each partner in same-sex unions.

5.2.2.2 Register Coverage

All marriages and civil partnerships occurring in Ireland are legally obliged to be registered.

5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)

Not applicable

5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors

Not applicable

5.2.2.5 Processing Errors

Details of the marriage may be entered incorrectly at the registry office. However the editing process will identify where inappropriate ages have been entered.

5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects

Not applicable

5.3 Timeliness & Punctuality

5.3.1 Provisional Results

Not applicable

5.3.2 Final Results

The annual report on marriages is generally published within 2 years. (Detailed analysis are not currently available for 1997 - 2001 and 2003 - 2004).

5.4 Coherence

The Central Statistics Office is the only source for marriage statistics in Ireland.

5.5 Comparability

Marriage/Civil Partnership statistics are comparable internationally.

5.6 Accessibility and Clarity

5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses

Specific user requests are acceded to where possible, and where confidentiality issues do not arise. Please contact vitalstats@csso.ie

5.6.2 Revisions

Generally there are no revisions.

5.6.3 Publications

5.6.3.1 Releases, Regular Publications

Marriages and Civil Partnerships (annual)

The most recent versions of these reports can be accessed at:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/othercsopublications/>

5.6.3.2 Statistical Reports

Statistical Yearbook

5.6.3.3 Internet

More publications are in our archive at:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/archive/publicationsarchive2015/>

Users can create their own tables from the Database Direct Facility:

<http://www.cso.ie/shorturl/460>

5.6.4 Confidentiality

All data are treated as strictly confidential in accordance with Part V of the Statistics Act, 1993, and Section 73 of the Civil Registration Act, 2004.

6 Additional documentation and publications

Many of the regular thematic CSO publications include tables of Marriage statistics. Examples are Measuring Ireland's progress, Women and Men in Ireland, Ireland – North and South, and Ageing in Ireland. These publications can be seen at:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/othercsopublications/>