

STATISTICS OF DIVORCES

LEGISLATION

The survey is conducted pursuant to the Official Statistics Law (Official Gazette of RS, No 104/09) and the Official Statistics Program for the period from 2016 to 2020 (Official Gazette of RS, No 55/15).

METHODOLOGICAL BACKGROUNDS

Survey objective and description

The statistics of divorces is envisaged to compile the data on marriages that have been irrevocably dissolved (by a decree absolute rendered), and declared null and void by the competent court.

Reporting units

The data on divorces are collected and delivered by the competent courts.

Survey content

The survey on divorces is envisaged to collect data on all marriages that have been legally dissolved (by a decree absolute rendered), and declared null and void, on the court having competence for the divorce, data on husband and wife (previous marital status, marriage by order, last place of usual residence for husband and wife together, activity of husband and wife, citizenship, ethnic affiliation, educational attainment, number of live born children from the marriage in question and number of supported children that were/were not born in this marriage, person having custody of the children, etc.).

Coverage

The records of divorces/dissolved marriages are maintained by the courts having competence.

Dissolved marriages are grouped in compliance with the last place of usual residence for husband and wife together. Thereby demographic statistics are processed according to the place of usual residence principle, which is in compliance with the concept of usual resident population applied for 2011 Census of population.

Method, frequency and sources for data collection

Judiciary/judges are in charge of completing the statistical form on divorce/dissolved marriage, applying the method of interview and reporting method (i.e. by taking over data from the court records).

For the survey on divorces the data are collected monthly and aggregated on annual basis.

Individual data protection – confidentiality

The obligation of individual data protection is envisaged by Article 3 of the provision on protection of respondents, Articles 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 – confidentiality provision stipulated by the Official Statistics Law (Official Gazette of RS, No 104/09).

Main features and indicators – Definitions

Marriage. Pursuant to the Family law (Official Gazette of RS, No 18/05) marriage is defined as the legally or formally recognized union of a man and a woman.

Marriage duration. For the statistics of divorces, marriage duration is a derived feature expressed in whole years while formal marriage union existed. The number of years of marriage duration is derived as the time difference between the date of divorce and the date of marriage conclusion.

Age of husband/wife is expressed in their whole living years, as the time difference between the date of birth of person in question and the date of divorce/when marriage was dissolved.

Ethnic affiliation. The data on ethnic affiliation of husband/wife are provided according to their free declaration. The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia envisages for the citizens the freedom of expression of ethnic affiliation and the option not to declare their national and ethnic affiliation.

The distribution of statistics by this feature was carried out in accordance with the classification of ethnic affiliation applied for 2011 Census of population.

Educational attainment. This means the highest educational level attained by accomplishing certain schooling, regardless whether obtained by graduating from regular school or school replacing regular, i.e. whether obtained by passing examinations in regular school or by completing certain courses of regular schooling within the formal educational system. The data on educational attainment are expressed by following categories: no formal education, incomplete primary school (1–3 grades of primary school and 4–7 grades of primary school), primary school, secondary school, (vocational) specialization after secondary school, higher school/college, university faculty/basic academic graduation, Master/MSc and PhD holders.

Activity. The data on activity for husband/wife are expressed aggregated according to the following categories: person performing job paid in money or in kind or working as unpaid/supporting family worker in shop owned by household member or at family holding, person actively seeking job or trying to start private business, pensioner, person performing only housework at own household, pupil/student, person with income from real property, and other.

Occupation. By this feature aggregated are economically active persons by type of job they perform in order to earn means of sustenance. In data processing all occupations were categorized in compliance with the classification of occupations applied for 2011 Census of population.

Representative data

The data on divorces are presented on the level of settlement, municipality, area and the republic.

Starting from 1998 the SORS may not provide the data for the AP Kosovo and Metohija; therefore these data have not been included in the coverage for the Republic of Serbia (Total).

Harmonisation with international recommendations, standards and practice

The statistical survey of divorces is implemented according to the methodology harmonised with UN Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament on European demographic statistics, Regulation (EU) No 205/2014.

SURVEY ORGANISATION

Implementation and authority

As an authorized producer of official statistics of divorces, the SORS is in charge of defining the survey instruments, creating the methodology, the code lists required for the surveys, preparing and printing the survey forms and distributing them to the SORS regional departments.

The SORS regional departments distribute the survey forms to the reporting units in their territory, compile the filled forms, evaluate data coverage, accuracy and completeness, and carry out data entry and corrections.

The final evaluation, analysis, creation of tables and data publishing is carried out at the SORS.

Responsiveness

The obligation of responding to the survey is stipulated by Article 26, and the penalty provisions for the cases of refusing to respond or providing incomplete and false data are envisaged by Article 52, the Official Statistics Law (Official Gazette of RS, No 104/2009).

Main survey stages and release of data

1. Design and printing survey forms: September – November;
2. Delivering survey forms to the SORS regional departments until 30 November (to reporting units: until 31 December);
3. Survey forms receipt at the regional departments, check-up and forwarding of accurate data in electronic form to the SORS:
 - Regional departments: until 1 April,
 - AP Vojvodina statistical department: until 1 May.
4. Logical and accounting control, creating tables and producing results: until 1 June;
5. "Marriages and divorces in the Republic of Serbia" release SN50: until 30 June.

SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

Survey form

Form *RB-1* is applicable for the annual statistical survey on divorces.

Guidelines for completing survey form

The SORS has published the Guidelines for judges on filling forms on statistics of divorces, number 55 (Belgrade, 2014).

Nomenclatures and specifications

The following list and classification is applicable for the implementation of survey on marriages:

- Systematic list of settlements of the Republic of Serbia
- Classification of occupations.

List of publications

The methodological explanations concerning the statistics of contracted marriages can be found in the edition *Methodologies and standards: Guidelines for filling statistical forms on divorces*, number 55 (Belgrade, 2014) and *Statistical forms coding* (Belgrade, 2015).

The results are published as the release "Marriages and divorces in the Republic of Serbia", in the publications *Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia*, "Demographic Yearbook" and "Municipalities and regions of the Republic of Serbia" and in other thematic publications. All publications are available in printed form and at the SORS site www.stat.gov.rs.

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