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Population statistics

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Marriages and divorces, 2019

Main data on marriages

In 2019 in the Republic of Serbia there were 35 570 marriages, a fall of 2.1% relative to the previous year. At the same time, 28 113 concluded first marriages indicate a fall of 3.1% when compared to 2018. The number of marriages per 1 000 population amounted to 5.1. The average age at the time of marriage for grooms was 34.5 and for brides 31.3 years.

The most frequent marriages were ethnically homogeneous ones, i.e. marriages between spouses of the same ethnicity – 31 459 (88.4%). Most of marriages were those where spouses had the same educational level – 24 658 (69.3%), and from the economic point of view in 27 207 marriages (76.5%) both spouses were economically active. Most marriages, 32 623 (91.7%), were concluded between the citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

Main data on divorces

In 2019 there were 10 899 divorces, by 9.0% more than in the previous year. The number of divorces per 1 000 population was 1.6. The average age for husbands at divorce was 44.2 and for wives 40.6 years.

The largest number of marriages that ended in divorce are those with children – 5 806 (53.3%). In the total number of marriages that ended in divorce with children, the most frequent ones were those with one child - 3 067 (52.8%). After divorce, dependent children were mostly given to wives, being recorded in 4 103 divorces (70.7%). The average duration of legally ended marriage in 2019 was 13.5 years.

Overview by regions, 2019

The crude marriage rate for the level of Srbija – sever amounted to 5.3‰ and was higher by 0.4‰ than that for the level of Srbija – jug, being 4.9‰. Observing the regions, the lowest rate, 4.8‰, was recorded in the Region Južne i Istočne Srbije and the highest, 5.3‰, in the Beogradski region and Region Vojvodine.

The crude divorce rate for the level of Srbija – sever, 1.8‰, was higher by 0.5‰ than that for the level of Srbija – jug, amounting to 1.3‰. Observed by regions, the Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije saw the lowest divorciality rates, 1.2‰, and the Region Vojvodine the largest, the largest ones, 2.0‰.

Table 1. Marriages and divorces by regions, 2019

	Marriages		Divorces		
	Total	Per 1 000 population	Total	Per 1 000 population	Per 1 000 marriages
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	35570	5.1	10899	1.6	306.4
SRBIJA – SEVER	18781	5.3	6460	1.8	344.0
Beogradski region	9055	5.3	2791	1.6	308.2
Region Vojvodine	9726	5.3	3669	2.0	377.2
SRBIJA – JUG	16789	4.9	4439	1.3	264.4
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	9695	5.1	2349	1.2	242.3
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	7094	4.8	2090	1.4	294.6
Region Kosovo i Metohija

Main indicators of marriages and divorces over 2015–2019

Over 2015–2019 the number of marriages in the Republic of Serbia amounted, on average, to 36 162, and the average value of crude marriage rate was 5.1 per 1000 population. The number of divorces indicates a considerable growth in the reference year, 1 518 divorces more in 2019 than in 2015.

The age at which men and women are getting married is rising, but they also divorce later. The difference in the age between spouses amounts, on average, to slightly more than three years – men are older than women, when looking at marriages and divorces.

Table 2. Main indicators of marriages and divorces over 2015–2019

Republic of Serbia

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Marriages – total	36949	35921	36047	36321	35570
Marriages per 1 000 population	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1
Average age at the time of marriage					
Groom	33.7	34.0	34.1	34.2	34.5
Bride	30.3	30.6	30.8	31.1	31.3
First marriages – total	30248	29048	28919	29005	28113
Average age at the time of the first marriage					
Groom	31.0	31.2	31.2	31.3	31.4
Bride	28.0	28.2	28.3	28.5	28.6
Divorces – total	9381	9046	9262	9995	10899
Divorces per 1 000 population	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.6
Divorces per 1 000 marriages	253.9	251.8	256.9	275.2	306.4
Average age at the time of divorce					
Husband	43.5	43.5	43.7	44.1	44.2
Wife	39.8	40.0	40.2	40.5	40.6

Methodological explanations

Marriage is the cohabitation of woman and man governed by law (Family Law, „Official Gazette of the RS“ No 18/2005, 72/2011 and other law, 6/2015).

Marriage is a marriage concluded according to valid regulations and registered in marriage registrar.

Crude marriage rate is the number of marriages per 1 000 population in the reference year.

Divorce is every legally terminated and annulled marriage by the competent court. The way a marriage terminates is governed by the Family Law.

Crude divorce rate is the number of divorces per 1 000 population in the reference year.

Since 2018 a new method of data collection has been introduced for divorces. Reports are electronically retrieved from the judicial information system of which the Ministry of Justice is in charge.

Starting from 1998 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has not available data for AP Kosovo and Metohija therefore these data are not included in the coverage for the Republic of Serbia (total).

Contact: gordana.jordanovski@stat.gov.rs, tel.: +381 11 2412-922, extension 344

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Telephone: +381 11 2412-922 (telephone exchange) • Telefax: +381 11 2411-260 • www.stat.gov.rs

Responsible: Dr Miladin Kovacevic, Director

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