

## MARRIAGES IN ITALY

Year 2013

In 2013, 194,057 marriages took place in Italy (3.2 per 1,000 inhabitants), 13,081 fewer than in 2012. This decrease is part of a downward trend in marriages that began in 1972. In the 2008-2013 period there was a decline of approximately 53,000 marriages.

The recent decline in the number of marriages is mainly due to the drop of celebrations between Italian partners. In particular, first marriages for couples with both Italian citizens were 145,571 in 2013, approximately 40,000 fewer in the last five years. This difference accounts for 77% of the total fall in marriages between 2008 and 2013.

Weddings with at least one foreign spouse have also decreased during the last year: after the slight increase registered in 2012, in 2013 26,080 marriages with at least one foreign partner were celebrated (13.4% of the total). They were 30,724 in 2012.

Marriages where one partner is Italian and the other is a foreigner represent the prevalent type of mixed marriage (70.1% of marriages with at least one foreign spouse) and amount to 18,273 in 2013.

The number of second and subsequent marriages also decreased in the last year: they actually passed from 34,137 in 2008 to 30,691 in 2013. Second and subsequent marriages, however, declined at a slower pace than first marriages: they were 13.8 per 100 weddings in 2008 and 15.8 per 100 in 2013.

Men and women are getting married increasingly later in life. In 2013, the mean age at first marriage was 34.2 for men and 31.1 for women.

In 2013, 111,545 weddings were religious ceremonies, with a decrease of 44,000 units in the last 5 years. Civil ceremonies also decreased during the last year (-2,329). Both in the North and in the Centre of Italy, civil marriages exceeded religious ceremonies, respectively 55% and 51%.

The rise of civil marriages increasingly regards also first marriages of Italian couples. They were 20% in 2008, and rose to 28% by 2013.

The large majority of couples choose the separation of property regime (more than two out of three) and there are no longer significant differences at territorial level.

SUMMARY TABLE 1. MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIAGES CELEBRATED IN ITALY. 2008-2013

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Total marriages</b> (absolute values)	246,613	230,613	217,700	204,830	207,138	194,057
Annual variations (absolute values)	-3,747	-16,000	-12,913	-12,870	2,308	-13,081
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Both husband and wife are Italian</i>						
First marriages (absolute values)	185,749	175,043	168,610	155,395	153,311	145,571
Variation compared to the previous year	-6,833	-10,706	-6,433	-13,215	-2,084	-7,740
<i>At least one foreign partner</i>						
First and subsequent marriages	36,918	32,059	25,082	26,617	30,724	26,080
Variation compared to the previous year	2,359	-4,859	-6,977	1,535	4,107	-4,644
<i>Marriages with religious ceremony</i> (absolute values)	155,972	144,842	138,199	124,443	122,297	111,545
<i>Marriages with civil ceremony</i> (absolute values)	90,641	85,771	79,501	80,387	84,841	82,512
Marriages with civil ceremony (per 100 total marriages)	36.8	37.2	36.5	39.2	41.0	42.5
Separation of property regime (per 100 total marriages)	62.7	64.2	66.1	66.9	69.5	69.5

FIGURE 1. TOTAL MARRIAGES, FIRST MARRIAGES AND SECOND MARRIAGES. 1991-2013. Absolute and percentage values

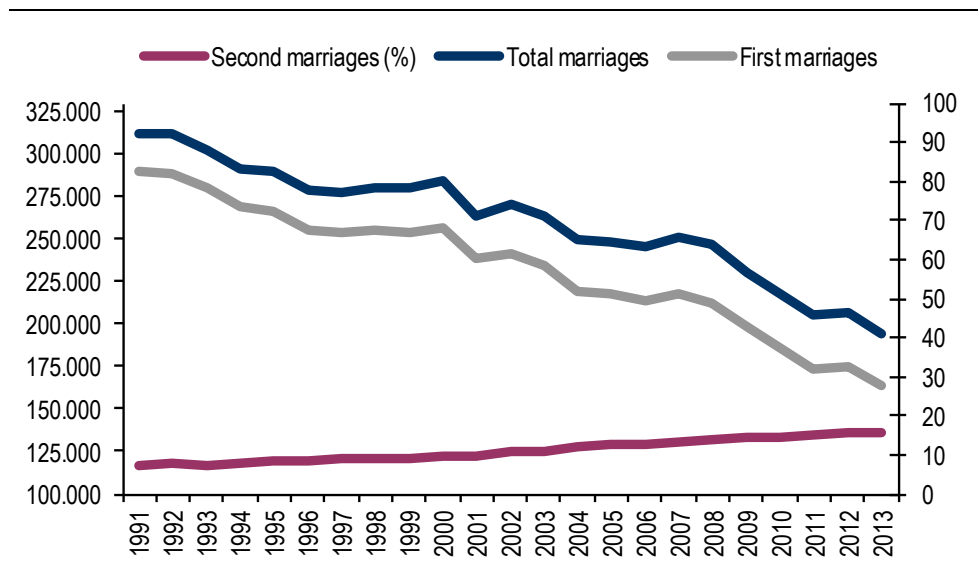
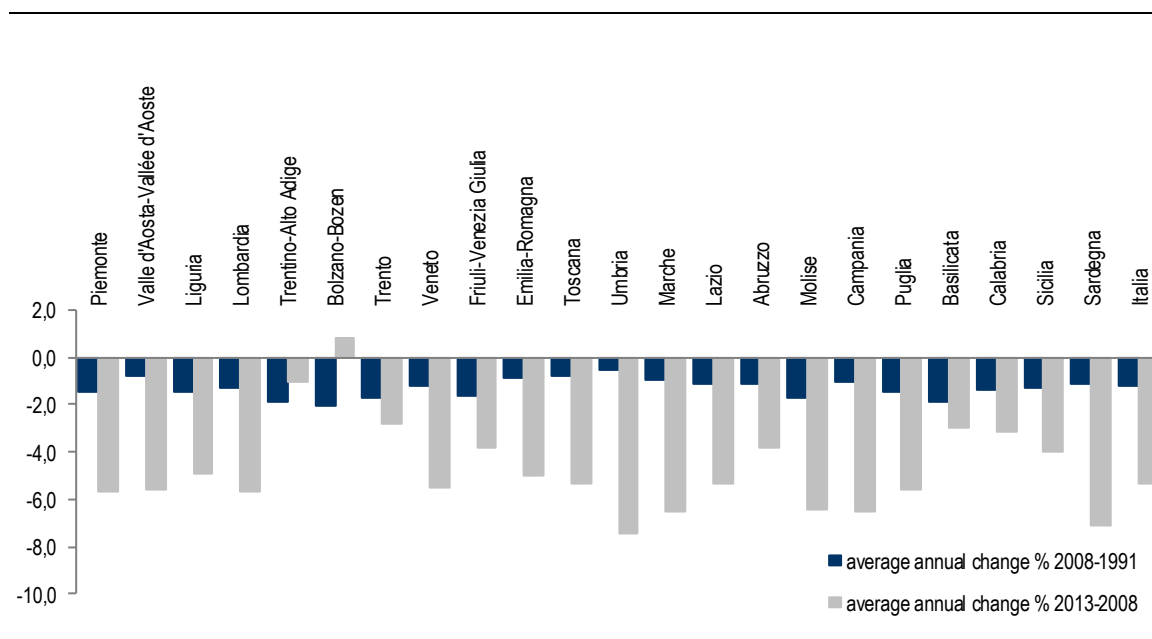


FIGURE 2. AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGES IN MARRIAGES CELEBRATED IN ITALY BY REGION 1991-2008 and 2008-2013, percentage values



## Glossary

**Marriage rate (ratio).** Ratio between number of marriages celebrated in a year and average total resident population (per 1000).

**Mean age at first marriage.** It is the mean age of men or women at first marriage if subject throughout their lives to the age-specific marriage rates of first marriages only in a given year.

**First-marriage index (or rate).** Sum of specific marriage-rate ratios calculated from the ratio, for each age class, of the number of first marriages to the average total annual population.

**Mixed marriage.** Celebration in which one of the two partners has foreign citizenship and the other has Italian citizenship.

**Simple index number.** An index number is a number that expresses the change in intensity of a given phenomenon in different circumstances. A simple index number is the ratio between two numbers. The number placed as the denominator is called the index base.

**First marriage.** Marriage in which the marital status of the bride/groom at the moment of the wedding is single.

**Property regime.** Marriage automatically establishes the property regime of community of property (legal community of property), introduced by the family law reform of 1975. With the separation of property regime (article 215, Civil Code), in contrast, each partner retains exclusive ownership of any property acquired during the marriage.

**Marriage rite.** Marriages can be celebrated before a registrar, a Catholic minister or minister of one of the other religions recognised by the Italian State. In the latter case, the marriage may in any case produce civil effects (termed *matrimonio concordatario*, that is, a marriage contracted in keeping with the Concordat).

**Marital status.** The condition of each citizen in relation to their status concerning marriage.

- Single: a male or female citizen who has never entered into marriage
- Married: a married citizen who has not obtained the dissolution or termination of the civil effects of the marriage
- Divorced: a married citizen who has obtained the dissolution or termination of the civil effects of the marriage
- Widow/Widower: a citizen whose marriage has ended due to the death of her/his partner.

**Absolute change.** Difference between the total of a phenomenon at the end of the period considered and the one at the beginning.

**Percentage change.** The ratio between the absolute change and the initial total. It is then multiplied by 100.

**Average annual percentage change (or average annual rate of change).** Obtained by dividing the percentage change, with reference to a multi-year time period, by the number of years in the period.

## Methodological note

The survey of marriages from registry office sources was established by Istat in 1926. The subject of the survey, which is individual and exhaustive, is all marriages of the present population, and makes it possible to analyse the phenomenon of the marriage rate in relation to the main socio-demographic characteristics of the partners.

Conduction of the survey is based on the Istat D.3 form completed by the registrar of the municipality in which the marriage was celebrated.

The form is divided into two parts: information about the marriage and information about the partners. For each event, in the section dedicated to the marriage, the following information is collected: date, type of ceremony (religious or civil), municipality of marriage and property regime chosen by the couple (community or separation of property). Information collected for each partner regards: date of birth, municipality of birth, municipality of residence at time of marriage, couple's future place of residence, previous marital status, level of education, occupational status, position within profession, branch of economic activity, and citizenship.

The most recent changes to the form were made in 1995, with the addition of the variable regarding property regime and in 1997 with more precise information regarding citizenship, asking in the case of Italian citizenship whether this is by birth or acquired.

The release of the main statistical information takes place ever more promptly following the date of the event to which it refers. For this purpose the information contained in Form D.7.A. (survey of demographic events by registry office records) is also processed, providing – on a monthly basis and by the municipality in which the event occurred – the number of religious and civil marriages (provisional data, subject to correction when data from the individual surveys is made available).

The data collected through the survey were published for a long time jointly with information on separations and dissolutions and terminations of the civil effects of the marriage. In the Istat Yearbook *Matrimoni, separazioni e divorzi (Marriages, Separations and Divorces)*, published up until the 2003 survey year, the main summary indicators are published, compared yearly with the preceding four-year period, and a series of analytical tables at the national and provincial geographical levels. Summary data are also published (at the regional level) in the *Annuario statistico italiano (Italian Statistical Yearbook)* and in the volumes *Italia in cifre (Italy in Figures)* and *Noi Italia*.

The main results are available online by consulting the I.Stat datawarehouse at <http://dati.istat.it/> and Demo, the topic-based system, at <http://demo.istat.it/altridati/matrimoni/>.

## For more details please refer to the Italian version

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