

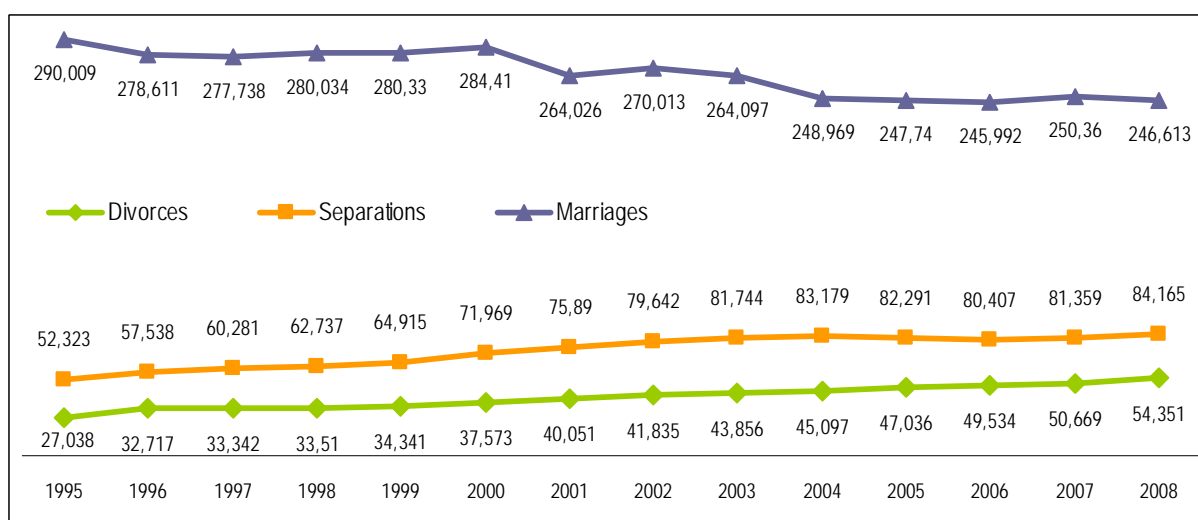
## Separations and divorces in Italy

Year 2008

Istat presents the main results of surveys on separations and divorces conducted in the records of 165 civil courts. Data refer to each single case settled in the reference period.

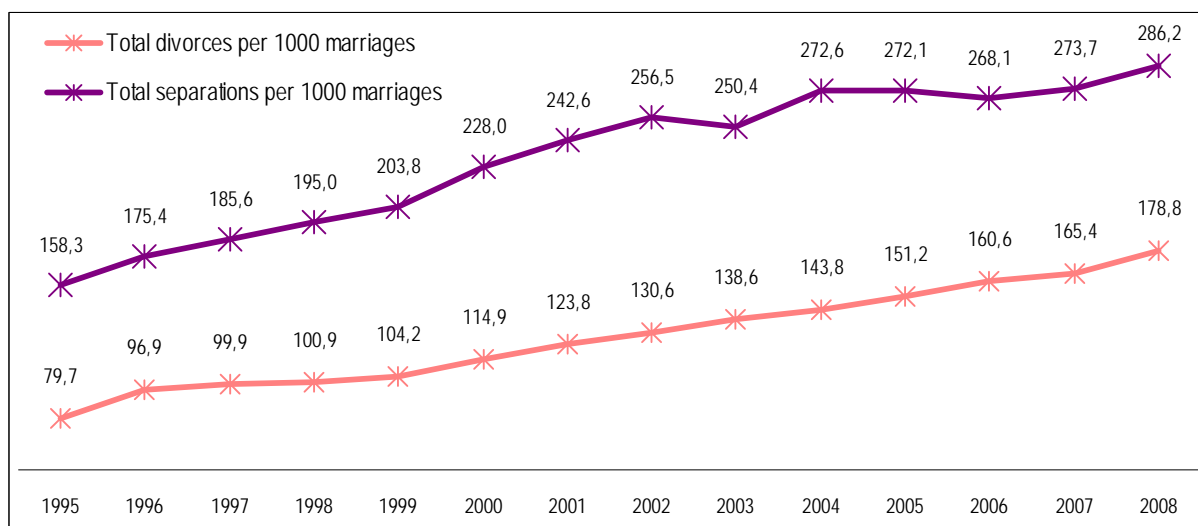
In 2008, separations were 84,165 and divorces 54,351, with an increase of 3.4% and 7.3% respectively, over the previous year.

Marriages, separations and divorces. Years 1995-2008 (*absolute values*)



Both phenomena are constantly growing: in 1995 there were 158 separations and 80 divorces per 1,000 marriages which rose to 286 and 179 respectively, in 2008.

Average number of separations and divorces per 1.000 marriages (separation and divorce total rates). Years 1995-2008



The average duration of marriage at the time of filing for separation was 15 years, and 18 years for divorce.

The average age at separation was 45 for husbands and 41 for wives, rising to 46 and 43 respectively, at divorce. Such values have been increasing over the years due to both a sharp decrease in separations below 30 – also due to the postponement of marriage to older age – and to an increase in separations involving at least one spouse over sixty.

The procedure preferred by most spouses is the uncontested one: in 2008 86.3 % of separations and 77.3% of divorces were settled consensually.

70.8% of separations and 62.4% of divorces involved couples with children born during their marriage. Until 2005, the sole custody of minor children had been predominantly granted to the mother. In 2006, Law no. 54/2006 introduced the institution of shared parenting of minor children. Data on the type of custody adopted allow, therefore, to monitor the effects of the new law, which in this case, had a significant impact on both separations and divorces. In 2008, 78.8% of separations involving children ended with a shared parenting arrangement compared with 19.1% of those with child custody being given to the mother.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

In-depth datasets with the main results of surveys on separations and divorces are available in Excel format at <http://demo.istat.it> in the "Other data" section.

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**Statistics on demographic structure and dynamics**

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