

# South Africa - Marriages and Divorces 2010

**Statistics South Africa**

Report generated on: September 1, 2022

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## Identification

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SURVEY ID NUMBER  
zaf-statssa-md-2010-v1

TITLE  
Marriages and Divorces 2010

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	zaf

STUDY TYPE  
Administrative Data

ABSTRACT

Marriage data:

In South Africa Civil Marriages are administered through the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) as amended, and its associated regulations. Customary marriages are governed by the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998) which came into effect on 15 November 2000. Civil unions (relationships between same-sex couples that are legally recognized by a state authority) are covered by the Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006) which came into operation on 30 November 2006.

The South African Department of Home Affairs is responsible for the administration of marriages in South Africa, under these laws. After the ceremony of a marriage or a civil union, the marriage officer submits the data to the nearest office of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), where the marriage / civil union details for citizens and permanent residents are recorded in the National Population Register (NPR). Statistics South Africa obtains data on marriages and civil unions from DHA through the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) for this dataset.

NOTE: In customary marriages, the two spouses and their witnesses present themselves at a DHA office in order to register a customary marriage. Therefore the province of registration is not necessarily the province of the place of usual residence of the couple since the registration of the marriage can take place in any DHA office.

Divorce data:

The dissolution of registered marriages and civil unions is governed by the Divorce Act, 1979 as amended, and its associated regulations (Act No.70 of 1979) and the Jurisdiction of Regional Courts Amendment Act, 2008 (Act No. 32 of 2008) as amended which came into effect on 9 August 2010. The South African Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DJCD) is responsible for managing divorces under these Acts. Statistics South Africa obtains the divorce data from the DJCD for this dataset.

NOTE: The data includes only divorces from civil marriages and those granted in 2010 at only 12 of the 62 divorce courts mandated to deal with divorce cases in South Africa.

KIND OF DATA  
Administrative records

UNIT OF ANALYSIS  
Individuals

## Version

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VERSION DESCRIPTION  
v1: Edited, anonymised dataset for licensed distribution

VERSION DATE  
2012

VERSION NOTES

Version 1 of the Marriages and Divorces 2010 dataset was obtained from Statistics South Africa on the 19th of June 2012

## Scope

### NOTES

Marriage data covers province of registration, date and type of marriage (religious or civil) and age (and age difference) and status (e.g. single/widow/divorcee) of marital couple.

Divorce data includes individual level data: Age, gender and population group, status, and occupation and number of children. Data is also collected on the marriage (date, number, type and duration, and matrimonial property system) and the divorce (date of separation and date of divorce).

## Coverage

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The data has national coverage.

### GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

The lowest level of geographic aggregation covered by the data is province.

### UNIVERSE

The data covers all civil marriages that were recorded by the Department of Home Affairs and all divorce applications that were granted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in 2010 in South Africa.

## Producers and sponsors

### PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
Statistics South Africa

### PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Department of Home Affairs	Government of South Africa	Data producer
Department of Justice and Constitutional Development	Government of South Africa	Data producer

## Data Collection

### DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2010-01-01	2010-12-31

### DATA COLLECTION MODE

Other

### DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The marriage data is provided to Statistics South Africa by the South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) from their marriage registration database based on registration forms.

The divorce data is obtained by Statistic South Africa from the South African Department of Justice and Constitutional Development from administrative records on divorces granted for civil marriages by its divorce courts.

## Data Appraisal

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### DATA APPRAISAL

Geography is problematic in this dataset as not all the data files have geographic data. The Civil Marriages and Civil Unions data files include a Province of Registration variable but the Customary Marriages data file does not. There is also no geographical data in the Divorces file. As this data file includes divorce data from only a subset of divorce courts, this lack of geographical information compromises its usability.

The divorces data file only provides data on divorces from civil marriages. It is limited in its usability by this and by the fact that the data is on divorces that were granted in 2010 by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development at only 12 of the 62 divorce courts mandated to deal with divorce cases in South Africa. The lack of geographical data in the dataset further compromises its usability.

## Access policy

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### ACCESS CONDITIONS

Public access data for use under a Creative Commons CC-BY (Attribution-only) License

### CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. Marriages and Divorces 2010 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa [producer], 2012. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2014. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/md5t-rr68>

### ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	<a href="#">Link</a>

## Disclaimer and copyrights

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### COPYRIGHT

Copyright 2012, Statistics South Africa

## Metadata production

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### DDI DOCUMENT ID

ddi-zaf-datafirst-md-2010-v1

### PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Metadata producer

### DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2022-09-01

### DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 4

**Data Description**

<b>Data file</b>	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Variables</b>
<b>Civil marriages 2010_v1</b> The Civil marriages 2010_v1 data file contains information on couples married in 2010.	0	9
<b>Civil unions 2010_v1</b> The Civil unions 2010_v1 data file contains information on couples in civil unions 2010.	0	6
<b>Customary marriages 2010_v1</b> The Customary marriages 2010_v1 data file contains information on couples married in 2010.	0	5
<b>Divorces 2010_v1</b> The Divorces 2010_v1 data file contains information on couples divorced in 2010.	0	23



**Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1**

The Civil marriages 2010\_v1 data file contains information on couples married in 2010.

Cases: 0

Variables: 9

**Variables**

ID	Name	Label	Question
V1	ProvinceOfRegistration	Name of province	
V2	MarriageMonth	Month of marriage	
V3	MarriageYear	Year of marriage	
V4	Solemnisation	Way of solemnisation	
V5	BridegroomStatus	Marital status of bridegroom	
V6	BrideStatus	Marital status of bride	
V7	BridegroomAge	Age of bridegroom	
V8	BrideAge	Age of bride	
V9	AgeDiff	Age difference between bridegroom and bride	

Total: 9

**Data file: Civil unions 2010\_v1**

The Civil unions 2010\_v1 data file contains information on couples in civil unions 2010.

Cases: 0

Variables: 6

**Variables**

ID	Name	Label	Question
V10	ProvinceOfRegistration	Name of province	
V11	RegistrationMonth	Month of registration	
V12	RegistrationYear	Year of registration	
V13	Spouse_1Age	Age of spouse-1	
V14	Spouse_2Age	Age of spouse-2	
V15	AgeDiff	Age difference between spouse-1 and spouse-2	

Total: 6

**Data file: Customary marriages 2010\_v1**

The Customary marriages 2010\_v1 data file contains information on couples married in 2010.

Cases: 0

Variables: 5

**Variables**

ID	Name	Label	Question
V16	MarriageYear	Year of marriage	
V17	RegistrationYear	Year of registration	
V18	BridegroomAge	Age of bridegroom	
V19	BrideAge	Age of bride	
V20	AgeDiff	Age difference between bridegroom and bride	

Total: 5

**Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1**

The Divorces 2010\_v1 data file contains information on couples divorced in 2010.

Cases: 0

Variables: 23

**Variables**

ID	Name	Label	Question
V21	MaleRace	Population group of husband	
V22	FemaleRace	Population group of wife	
V23	CoupleRace	Population group of couple	
V24	MaleOccupation	Occupation of husband	
V25	FemaleOccupation	Occupation of wife	
V26	PlaintiffSex	Sex of plaintiff	
V27	PlaintiffOccupationCode	Occupation of plaintiff	
V28	MaleStatus	Marital status of husband	
V29	FemaleStatus	Marital status of Wife	
V30	MaleNoTimesMarried	Number of times husband married	
V31	FemaleNoTimesMarried	Number of times wife married	
V32	MaleAge	Age of husband	
V33	FemaleAge	Age of wife	
V34	Solemnisation	Way of solemnization	
V35	MarriageType	Matrimonial property system	
V36	NoOfChildren	Number of minor children involved	
V37	MarriageMonth	Month of marriage	
V38	MarriageYear	Year of marriage	
V39	SeparationMonth	Month of separation	
V40	SeparationYear	Year of separation	
V41	DivorceMonth	Month of divorce	
V42	DivorceYear	Year of divorce	
V43	DurationOfMarriage	Duration of marriage	

Total: 23



**PROVINCEOFREGISTRATION: Name of province****Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

**Questions and instructions**

## CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	Western Cape
2	Eastern Cape
3	Northern Cape
4	Free State
5	KwaZulu-Natal
6	North West
7	Gauteng
8	Mpumalanga
9	Limpopo
98	Outside RSA
99	Unspecified

**MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of marriage****Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 12 Format: Numeric

**Questions and instructions**

## CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	January
2	February
3	March
4	April
5	May
6	June
7	July

8	August
9	September
10	October
11	November
12	December

### MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of marriage

Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1

#### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2010 - 2010 Format: Numeric

### SOLEMNISATION: Way of solemnisation

Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1

#### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

#### Questions and instructions

#### CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	Religious
2	Civil
9	Unspecified

### BRIDEGROOMSTATUS: Marital status of bridegroom

Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1

#### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

#### Questions and instructions

#### CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	Bachelor

2	Divorcee
3	Widower
9	Unspecified

### BRIDESTATUS: Marital status of bride

Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1

#### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

#### Questions and instructions

#### CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	Spinster
2	Divorcee
3	Widower
9	Unspecified

### BRIDEGROOMAGE: Age of bridegroom

Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1

#### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 17 - 98 Format: Numeric

### BRIDEAGE: Age of bride

Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1

#### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 13 - 92 Format: Numeric

### AGEDIFF: Age difference between bridegroom and bride

Data file: Civil marriages 2010\_v1

#### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 0 - 2 Format: Numeric

**Questions and instructions**

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## CATEGORIES

<b>Value</b>	<b>Category</b>
0	Spouses same age
1	Bridegroom older
2	Bridegroom younger

**PROVINCEOFREGISTRATION: Name of province****Data file: Civil unions 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 98 Format: Numeric

**Questions and instructions**

## CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	Western Cape
2	Eastern Cape
3	Northern Cape
4	Free State
5	KwaZulu-Natal
6	North West
7	Gauteng
8	Mpumalanga
9	Limpopo
98	Outside RSA

**REGISTRATIONMONTH: Month of registration****Data file: Civil unions 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 12 Format: Numeric

**Questions and instructions**

## CATEGORIES

Value	Category
1	January
2	February
3	March
4	April
5	May
6	June
7	July
8	August

9	September
10	October
11	November
12	December

## REGISTRATIONYEAR: Year of registration

Data file: Civil unions 2010\_v1

### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2010 - 2010 Format: Numeric

## SPOUSE\_1AGE: Age of spouse-1

Data file: Civil unions 2010\_v1

### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 20 - 82 Format: Numeric

## SPOUSE\_2AGE: Age of spouse-2

Data file: Civil unions 2010\_v1

### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 18 - 91 Format: Numeric

## AGEDIFF: Age difference between spouse-1 and spouse-2

Data file: Civil unions 2010\_v1

### Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 0 - 2 Format: Numeric

## Questions and instructions

### CATEGORIES

Value	Category
0	Spouses same age
1	Bridegroom older
2	Bridegroom younger



**MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of marriage****Data file: Customary marriages 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 1926 - 2010 Format: Numeric

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**REGISTRATIONYEAR: Year of registration****Data file: Customary marriages 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2010 - 2010 Format: Numeric

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**BRIDEGROOMAGE: Age of bridegroom****Data file: Customary marriages 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 16 - 99 Format: Numeric

---

**BRIDEAGE: Age of bride****Data file: Customary marriages 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 12 - 99 Format: Numeric

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**AGEDIFF: Age difference between bridegroom and bride****Data file: Customary marriages 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 0 - 2 Format: Numeric

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**MALERACE: Population group of husband****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

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**FEMALERACE: Population group of wife****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

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**COUPLERACE: Population group of couple****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

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**MALEOCCUPATION: Occupation of husband****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 10 Format: Numeric

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**FEMALEOCCUPATION: Occupation of wife****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 10 Format: Numeric

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**PLAINTIFFSEX: Sex of plaintiff****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 3 Format: Numeric

**PLAINTIFFOCCUPATIONCODE: Occupation of plaintiff****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 10 Format: Numeric

---

**MALESTATUS: Marital status of husband****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

---

**FEMALESTATUS: Marital status of Wife****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

---

**MALENOTIMESMARRIED: Number of times husband married****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

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**FEMALENOTIMESMARRIED: Number of times wife married****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

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**MALEAGE: Age of husband****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1**

**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 19 - 99 Format: Numeric

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**FEMALEAGE: Age of wife**

Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1

**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 17 - 99 Format: Numeric

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**SOLEMNISATION: Way of solemnization**

Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1

**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

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**MARRIAGETYPE: Matrimonial property system**

Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1

**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

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**NOOFCHILDREN: Number of minor children involved**

Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1

**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 0 - 99 Format: Numeric

---

**MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of marriage**

Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1

**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

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**MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of marriage****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 1958 - 9999 Format: Numeric

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**SEPARATIONMONTH: Month of separation****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

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**SEPARATIONYEAR: Year of separation****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 1956 - 9999 Format: Numeric

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**DIVORCEMONTH: Month of divorce****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 12 Format: Numeric

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**DIVORCEYEAR: Year of divorce****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2010 - 2010 Format: Numeric

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**DURATIONOFMARRIAGE: Duration of marriage****Data file: Divorces 2010\_v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0  
Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 0 - 99 Format: Numeric

