

# Marriages and divorces (P0307)

## 2007

## Metadata

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## Marriages and divorces, 2007

The data for marriages and divorces are in two separate files. The files are flat, ASCII, fixed format, with one line of given length per record. This format was chosen so as to make the data usable with as many statistical programs as possible, and thus accessible to as wide a range of people as possible.

Other important information can be found in the:

Divorce Form (Form 07-04) for divorces only

Statistical release

Record layout and readme file

Stats SA website: [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)

## The data files

Each file contains the following information for each variable:

### Description of variables

**Descriptive name:** This is a short description of the variable with the variable name in brackets.

**Position of the variable:** The position of a variable within a record is recorded in the format (@xxx y.). '@xxx' indicates that the variable starts at position (i.e. column) xxx, and 'y' indicates the length of the field.

**Final code list:** The range of valid values for variables. For continuous variables it only reflects the upper and lower limits.

**Missing value:** The code for 'missing'/unspecified' values is given for each variable.

**Note to users:** Additional information for further clarity on questions.

## Confidentiality

The information remains confidential to Stats SA and will only be published in aggregated form. The Statistics Act (Act No.6 of 1999) prohibits the disclosure of information regarding individuals to any person concerned or his lawful representative i.e. Stats SA has not included certain fields in the data set on the CD, in order to preserve the confidentiality of individual records.

## Data file: Marriages

### Methodology

#### 1. System design

The registration of civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions in South Africa falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs.

As the department's functions are centralised at Head Office in Pretoria, this mean that all information regarding registered marriages is first sent to Pretoria before being sent to any other government agency.

#### 2. Universe/coverage

The target population is all civil marriages recorded in the National Population Register in 2007 by the Department of Home Affairs.

#### 3. Data capturing

Data capturing is done by the Department of Home Affairs. Stats SA accesses the electronic data through the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

*Name of Province (ProvinceCode)*

(@1 2.)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Province</b>
	01 = Western Cape
	02 = Eastern Cape
	03 = Northern Cape
	04 = Free State
	05 = KwaZulu-Natal
	06 = North West
	07 = Gauteng
	08 = Mpumalanga
	09 = Limpopo

#### Note to users

This is derived from the name of the province where the marriage was solemnised.

#### Final code list

01 = Western Cape  
 02 = Eastern Cape  
 03 = Northern Cape  
 04 = Free State  
 05 = KwaZulu-Natal  
 06 = North West  
 07 = Gauteng  
 08 = Mpumalanga  
 09 = Limpopo  
 98 = Foreign country  
 99 = Unspecified

*Year of Marriage (MarriageYear)*

(@3 4.)

<b>2.</b>	<b>Marriage Year</b>
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**Note to users**

This question provides information about the year in which the couple registered their marriage.

**Final code list**

Valid code = 2007

*Month of Marriage (MarriageMonth)*

(@7 2.)

<b>3.</b>	<b>Marriage Month</b>
-----------	-----------------------

**Note to users**

This question provides information about the month in which the couple registered their marriage.

**Final code list**

01 = January

02 = February

03 = March

04 = April

05 = May

06 = June

07 = July

08 = August

09 = September

10 = October

11 = November

12 = December

*Way of Solemnisation (SolemnisationCode)*

(@9 1.)

<b>4.</b>	<b>Solemnisation Code</b>
	1 = Religious
	2 = Civil

**Note to users**

This question provides information about the way the marriage was solemnised.

**Final code list**

1 = Religious

2 = Civil

9 = Unspecified

*Marital status of husband (ManStatusCode)*

(@10 1.)

<b>5.</b>	<b>Man Status</b> 0 = Widower 1 = Bachelor 2 = Divorcee
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**Note to users**

This question provides information about the marital status of the husband before marriage.

**Final code list**

0 = Widower

1 = Bachelor

2 = Divorcee

9 = Unspecified

*Marital status of wife (WomanStatusCode)*

(@11 1.)

<b>6.</b>	<b>Wife Status</b> 0 = Widow 1 = Spinster 2 = Divorcee
-----------	---

**Note to users**

This question provides information about the marital status of the wife before marriage.

**Final code list**

0 = Widow

1 = Spinster

2 = Divorcee

9 = Unspecified

*Age of Husband (ManAge)*

(@12 2.)

<b>7.</b>	<b>Husband Age</b>
-----------	--------------------

**Note to users**

This question provides information about the age of the husband at the time of marriage.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 14–98

Unspecified: 99

*Age of Wife (WomanAge)*

(@14 2.)

<b>8.</b>	<b>Wife Age</b>
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**Note to users**

This provides information about the age of the wife at the time of marriage.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 13–93

Unspecified: 99

*Age difference between the husband and the wife (AgeDiff)*

(@16 1.)

**9. Derived variable****Note to users**

This provides information about the age difference between the husband and the wife.

**Final code list**

0 = Same age

1 = Husband older than the wife

2 = Wife older than the husband

9 = Unspecified

## Data file: Divorce

### Methodology

#### 1. Form design

The divorce form (Form 07-04) is administered by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The form was designed in collaboration with stakeholders and other role players, such as the Department of Home Affairs, Office of the Family Advocate, Department of Social Development, religious leaders, and other interested organisations and institutions.

The electronic version of Form 07-04 is delivered to each of the following courts: Grahamstown, Kimberly, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Ferreirasdorp Central, North Eastern Durban Southern Court and King Williams Town.

#### 2. Universe/coverage

The divorce data cover divorces for all civil marriages that were granted divorce decree in 2007 by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

#### 3. Data capturing

Upon receipt of the forms at Stats SA, they are counted and sorted (into bundles) according to the different courts and months of the year. All fields on the form are captured.

*Name of Province (ProvinceCode)*

(@1 2.)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Province</b> 01 = Western Cape 02 = Eastern Cape 03 = Northern Cape 04 = Free State 05 = KwaZulu-Natal 06 = North West 07 = Gauteng 08 = Mpumalanga 09 = Limpopo
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#### Note to users

This is derived from the name of the province where the court is situated.

#### Final code list

01 = Western Cape  
02 = Eastern Cape  
03 = Northern Cape  
04 = Free State  
05 = KwaZulu-Natal  
06 = North West  
07 = Gauteng  
08 = Mpumalanga  
09 = Limpopo  
99 = Unspecified



*Population group of husband (HusbandRaceCode)*

(@3 1.)

<b>2.</b>	<b>The population group of the husband</b> 1 = African/Black 2 = Coloured 3 = Indian/Asian 4 = White 9 = Unspecified
-----------	---

**Note to users**

This question is asked to determine the population group of the husband.

**Final code list**

1 = African/Black  
2 = Coloured  
3 = Indian/Asian  
4 = White  
9 = Unspecified

*Population group of wife (WifeRaceCode)*

(@4 1.)

<b>3.</b>	<b>The population group of the wife</b> 1 = African/Black 2 = Coloured 3 = Indian/Asian 4 = White 9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

**Note to users**

This question is asked to determine the population group of the wife.

**Final code list**

1 = African/Black  
2 = Coloured  
3 = Indian/Asian  
4 = White  
9 = Unspecified

*Population group of couple (CoupleRaceCode)*

(@5 1.)

<b>4.</b>	<b>Derived variable</b>
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**Note to users**

This is to determine the population group of the divorcing couple. The population groups of both the husband and the wife are compared to determine the category. If the population group of the husband and the population group of the wife differ, the couple is classified as being in a mixed-race marriage.

**Final code list**

1 = African/Black  
2 = Coloured  
3 = Indian/Asian

4 = White  
 5 = Mixed  
 9 = Unspecified

*Occupation code of husband (HusbandOccCode)*

(@6 2.)

<b>5.</b>	<b>Husband's occupation at the time of divorce?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the occupation of the husband at the time of divorce.

**Final code list**

01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations  
 02 = Managers and administrators  
 03 = Clerical and sale occupations  
 04 = Transport, delivery and communications  
 05 = Service occupations  
 06 = Farming and related occupations  
 07 = Artisans, apprentices and related occupations  
 08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry worker  
 09 = Not economically active  
 99 = Unspecified

*Occupation code of wife (WifeOccCode)*

(@8 2.)

<b>6.</b>	<b>Wife's occupation at the time of divorce?</b>
-----------	--

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the occupation of the wife at the time of divorce.

**Final code list**

01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations  
 02 = Managers and administrators  
 03 = Clerical and sale occupations  
 04 = Transport, delivery and communications  
 05 = Service occupations  
 06 = Farming and related occupations  
 07 = Artisans, apprentice and related occupations  
 08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry worker  
 09 = Not economically active  
 99 = Unspecified

*The plaintiff (PlaintiffCode)*

(@10 1.)

<b>7.</b>	<b>Who is the plaintiff?</b> 1 = Male 2 = Female
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out who (husband or wife) filed for divorce.

**Final code list**

1 = Male

2 = Female

9 = Unspecified

*Husband marital status at the time of marriage (HusbandMarStatusCode)*

(@11 1.)

<b>8.</b>	<b>Husband's marital status at the time of marriage?</b> 1 = Never married 2 = Widower 3 = Divorcee
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the husband's marital status before the marriage. Of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce.

**Final code list**

1 = Never married

2 = Widower

3 = Divorcee

9 = Unspecified

*Wife marital status at the time of marriage (WifeMarStatusCode)*

(@12 1.)

<b>9.</b>	<b>Wife's marital status at the time of marriage?</b> 1 = Never married 2 = Widow 3 = Divorcee
-----------	---

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the wife's marital status before the marriage. Of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce.

**Final code list**

1 = Never married

2 = Widower

3 = Divorcee

9 = Unspecified

*Number of times married (HusbandNoTimesMarried)*

(@13 2.)

<b>10.</b>	<b>Number of times husband has married?</b>
------------	---

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the number of times (including the current marriage) the husband has married.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 1–3

4+ = Four to eight

99= Unspecified

*Number of times married (WifeNoTimesMarried)*

(@15 2.)

<b>11.</b>	<b>Number of times wife has married?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the number of times (including the current marriage) the wife has married.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 1–3

4+ = Four to eight

99 = Unspecified

*Age of husband at time of divorce (HusbandAge)*

(@17 3.)

<b>12.</b>	<b>Age of husband?</b>
------------	------------------------

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the age of the husband at the time of divorce.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 20–92

Unspecified: 999

*Age of wife at time of divorce (WifeAge)*

(@20 3.)

<b>13.</b>	<b>Age of wife?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the age of the wife at the time of the divorce.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 13–80

Unspecified: 999

*Present marriage solemnised (SolemnisationCode)*

(@23 1.)

<b>14.</b>	<b>Type of solemnisation of the present marriage?</b>
	1 = Religious
	2 = Civil

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out how the current marriage was solemnised.

**Final code list**

- 1 = Religious
- 2 = Civil
- 9 = Unspecified

*Matrimonial property system (MarriageTypeCode)*

(@24 1.)

<b>15.</b>	<b>Matrimonial property system</b> 1 = With antenuptual contract 2 = Without antenuptual contract 3 = In community of property 4 = Out of community of property 5 = Out of community of property (excluding accrual system) 6 = Out of community of property (including accrual system) 7 = Other
------------	--

**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the type of matrimonial property contract the couple entered into at the time of marriage.

**Final code list**

- 1 = With antenuptual contract
- 2 = Without antenuptual contract
- 3 = In community of property
- 4 = Out of community of property
- 5 = Out of community of property (excluding accrual system)
- 6 = Out of community of property (including accrual system)
- 7 = Other
- 9 = Unspecified

*Number of minor children involved (NoOfChildren)*

(@25 2.)

<b>16.</b>	<b>Number of minor children involved?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to determine the number of minor children (under 18 years) out of this marriage (the marriage that is being dissolved).

**Final code list**

Valid range: 00–12  
 Unspecified: 99

*Date of separation (SeparationDate)*

(@27 8.)

<b>17.</b>	<b>Separation date?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple to find out the date of separation. The date is in this format: dd/mm/yyyy .g. 01011970 = 01/Jan/1970.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 01011963–99999999

Unspecified: dd=99

mm=99

yyyy=9999

*Month of marriage (MarriageMonth)*

(@35 2.)

<b>18.</b>	<b>Month of the marriage?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the month in which the marriage took place.

**Final code list**

01 = January

02 = February

03 = March

04 = April

05 = May

06 = June

07 = July

08 = August

09 = September

10 = October

11 = November

12 = December

99 = Unspecified

*Year of marriage (MarriageYear)*

(@37 4.)

<b>19.</b>	<b>Year of the marriage?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the year in which the marriage took place.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 1951–2007

Unspecified: 9999

*Month of divorce (DivorceMonth)*

(@41 2.)

<b>20.</b>	<b>Month of the divorce?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the the month in which the divorce took place.

**Final code list**

01 = January  
 02 = February  
 03 = March  
 04 = April  
 05 = May  
 06 = June  
 07 = July  
 08 = August  
 09 = September  
 10 = October  
 11 = November  
 12 = December

*Year of divorce (DivorceYear)*

(@43 4.)

<b>21.</b>	<b>Year of the divorce?</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the year in which the divorce took place.

**Final code list**

Valid code: 2007

*Length of marriage of the couple (LengthOfMar)*

(@47 2.)

<b>22.</b>	<b>Derived variable</b>
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**Note to users**

This is to determine the number of years the couple have been married.

**Final code list**

Valid range: 0–48

Unspecified: 99

*Plaintiff occupation (PlaintiffOccupationCode)*

(@49 2.)

<b>23.</b>	<b>Plaintiff occupation</b>
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**Note to users**

This question is asked for each couple. It seeks to find out the occupation of the plaintiff.

**Final code list**

01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations  
 02 = Managers and administrators  
 03 = Clerical and sale occupations  
 04 = Transport, delivery and communications  
 05 = Service occupations

- 06 = Farming and related occupations
- 07 = Artisans, apprentices and related occupations
- 08 = Production foreman, mine and quarry worker
- 09 = Not economically active
- 99 = Unspecified