

Marriages and divorces

2011

Metadata

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Marriages and divorces, 2011

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.

Other important information can be found in the following:

- ❖ Record layouts
 - civil marriages
 - customary marriages
 - civil unions
 - divorces
- ❖ Divorce Form (Form 07-04)
- ❖ Marriages and divorces 2011 statistical release (P0307)
- ❖ Marriages and divorces 2011 CD
- ❖ Stats SA website: 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. Variables are either numeric or character.

Code list: The range of valid values for variables as expected from the form. 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.

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

Legislation covering registration of marriages, civil unions and divorces

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes marriage data on citizens and permanent residents that are collected through the national civil registration systems. Data in Statistics South Africa's *Marriages and divorces*, statistical release P0307 are based only on registered marriages and divorces that are stipulated and governed by the country's legal frameworks. The management of registered marriages is the responsibility of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Two main legislations cover the registration of civil marriages and customary marriages. Civil marriages are administered through the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961). Customary marriages are governed by the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998) that came into effect on 15 November 2000. An additional legislation is the registration of civil unions that is covered by the Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006) that came into operation on 30 November 2006. The dissolution of registered marriages and civil unions falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD). This responsibility of the department is mandated through 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. 31 of 2008) as amended which came into effect on 9 August 2010. In addition to the above legislation, The Statistics Act 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999) prohibits the disclosure of information regarding individuals to any person concerned or the person's lawful representative thus providing confidentiality to the marriages, civil union and divorces data.

Methodology for civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions

After the solemnisation ceremony of a marriage or a civil union, the marriage officer submits the marriage/civil union register to the nearest office of the DHA, where the marriage/civil union details are recorded in the National Population Register (NPR). With respect to customary marriages, the two spouses and their witnesses present themselves at a DHA office in order to register a customary marriage. Hence, the province of registration of marriages and unions 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.

The target population is all civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions recorded in the National Population Register in 2011 by the Department of Home Affairs.

Statistics South Africa requests electronic data on marriages and civil unions from the DHA through the State Information Technology Agency (SITA). Data on civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions are received as three separate ASCII files. The three datasets are processed and analysed separately. The results are also published separately under the *Marriage* section of the *Marriages and divorces* release.

DATA FILE: CIVIL MARRIAGES

Name of Province (ProvinceOfRegistration)

(@1 2.)

1.	Province of Registration 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 = Outside RSA 99 = Unspecified
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Note to users

The variable provides information about the name of the province where the marriage was registered.

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 = Outside RSA
99 = Unspecified

Month of Marriage (MarriageMonth)

(@3 2.)

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

Note to users

The variable provides information about the month in which the marriage was registered.

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 Marriage (MarriageYear)

(@5 4.)

3.	Marriage Year
-----------	----------------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the year in which the marriage was registered.

Final code list

Valid code = 2011

Way of Solemnisation (Solemnisation)

(@9 1.)

4.	Solemnisation 1 = Religious 2 = Civil 9 = Unspecified
-----------	---

Note to users

The variable provides information about the way in which the marriage was solemnised.

Final code list

1 = Religious
2 = Civil
9 = Unspecified

Marital status of Bridegroom (BridegroomStatus)

(@10 1.)

5.	Bridegroom Status 1 = Bachelor 2 = Divorcee 3 = Widower 9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

Note to users

The variable provides information about the marital status of the bridegroom before the current marriage.

Final code list

1 = Bachelor
2 = Divorcee
3 = Widower
9 = Unspecified

Marital status of Bride (BrideStatus)

(@11 1.)

6.	Bride Status 1 = Spinster 2 = Divorcee 3 = Widow 9 = Unspecified
----	---

Note to users

The variable provides information about the marital status of the bride before the current marriage.

Final code list

1 = Spinster
2 = Divorcee
3 = Widow
9 = Unspecified

Age of Bridegroom (BridegroomAge)

(@12 2.)

7.	Bridegroom's Age
----	-------------------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the age of the bridegroom at the time of the marriage.

Final code list

Valid range: 15–99

Age of Bride (BrideAge)

(@14 2.)

8.	Bride's Age
----	--------------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the age of the bride at the time of the marriage.

Final code list

Valid range: 14–99

Age difference between bridegroom and bride (AgeDiff)

(@16 1.)

9.	Age difference between the couple
----	--

Note to users

The variable is derived from the difference between the *BridegroomAge* and the *BrideAge*. It provides information about the age difference between the bridegroom and bride.

Final code list

0 = Spouses same age
1 = Bridegroom older
2 = Bridegroom younger

DATA FILE: CUSTOMARY MARRIAGES

Year of Marriage (MarriageYear)

(@1 4.)

1.	Marriage Year
----	---------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the year in which the customary marriage took place.

Final code list

Valid code = 1944–2011

Year of Registration (RegistrationYear)

(@5 4.)

2.	Registration Year
----	-------------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the year in which the marriage was registered.

Final code list

Valid code = 2011

Age of Bridegroom (BridegroomAge)

(@9 2.)

3.	Bridegroom's Age
----	------------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the age of the husband at the time of the marriage.

Final code list

Valid range: 11–88

Unspecified: 99

Age of Bride (BrideAge)

(@11 2.)

4.	Bride's Age
----	-------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the age of the wife at the time of the marriage.

Final code list

Valid range: 10–92

Unspecified: 99

Age difference between bridegroom and bride (AgeDiff)

(@13 1.)

5.	Age difference between the couple
----	-----------------------------------

Note to users

The variable is derived from the difference between the *BridegroomAge* and the *BrideAge*. It provides information about the age difference between the bridegroom and bride.

Final code list

0 = Spouses same age

1 = Bridegroom older

2 = Bridegroom younger

DATA FILE: CIVIL UNIONS

Name of Province (ProvinceOfRegistration)

(@1 2.)

1.	Province of Registration 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 = Outside RSA
-----------	--

Note to users

The variable provides information about the name of the province where the civil union was registered.

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 = Outside RSA

Month of Registration (RegistrationMonth)

(@3 2.)

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

Note to users

The variable provides information about the month in which the civil union was registered.

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 Registration (RegistrationYear)

(@5 4.)

3.	Registration Year
----	-------------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the year in which the civil union was registered.

Final code list

Valid code = 2011

Age of Spouses_1 (Spouses_1Age)

(@9 2.)

4.	Spouses_1 Age
----	---------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the age of spouses_1 at the time of union.

Final code list

Valid range: 18–86

Age of Spouses_2 (Spouses_2Age)

(@11 2.)

5.	Spouses_2 Age
----	---------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the age of spouses_2 at the time of union.

Final code list

Valid range: 18–80

Age difference between Spouses_1 and Spouses_2 (AgeDiff)

(@13 1.)

6.	Age difference between the couple
----	-----------------------------------

Note to users

This variable is derived from the difference between *Spouses_1Age* and *Spouses_2Age*. It provides information about the age difference between spouses_1 and spouses_2.

Final code list

0 = Spouses same age

1 = Spouses_1 older

2 = Spouses_1 younger

DATA FILE: DIVORCES

Methodology

The divorce data are based on successful applications for divorce that have been issued with decrees. The data are collected from the courts that deal with divorce matters using a standard structured form prepared by Stats SA in collaboration with the DoJ&CD. Once a decree of divorce is issued, the plaintiff completes the form and the Registrar of the Courts signs and stamps it. The forms are consolidated and regularly mailed to the Stats SA Head Office. At Stats SA, the forms are sorted and captured according to the court name and calendar month. Similarly, the forms are stored in boxes according to the court name and calendar month. A quality assurance of the captured data is done. The data are analysed and published under the *Divorce* section of the *Marriages and divorces* release.

The target population is all divorce applications that were concluded in 2011, i.e. that were finalised and issued with decrees of divorce in 2011 by the DoJ&CD.

Population group of husband (MaleRace)

(@1 1.)

1.	The population group of the husband 1 = Black African 2 = Coloured 3 = Indian/Asian 4 = White 5 = Mixed 9 = Unspecified
----	--

Note to users

The variable provides information about the population group of the husband.

Final code list

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

Population group of wife (FemaleRace)

(@2 1.)

2.	The population group of the wife 1 = Black African 2 = Coloured 3 = Indian/Asian 4 = White 5 = Mixed 9 = Unspecified
----	---

Note to users

The variable provides information about the population group of the wife.

Final code list

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

Population group of couple (CoupleRace)

(@3 1.)

3.	The population group of the couple
----	---

Note to users

The variable is derived by comparing *MaleRace* to *FemaleRace* to determine whether the divorcing couple is in a mixed-race marriage. 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 = Black African
- 2 = Coloured
- 3 = Indian/Asian
- 4 = White
- 9 = Unspecified

Occupation of Husband (MaleOccupation)

(@4 2.)

4.	Husband's occupation at the time of divorce 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations 02 = Managers and administrators 03 = Clerical and sales 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 workers 09 = Unspecified 10 = Not economically active
----	---

Note to users

The variable provides information about the occupation of the husband at the time of the divorce.

Final code list

- 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations
- 02 = Managers and administrators
- 03 = Clerical and sales 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 workers
- 09 = Unspecified
- 10 = Not economically active

Occupation of wife (FemaleOccupation)

(@6 2.)

5.	Wife's occupation at the time of divorce 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations 02 = Managers and administrators 03 = Clerical and sales 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 workers 09 = Unspecified 10 = Not economically active
-----------	--

Note to users

The variable provides information about the occupation of the wife at the time of the divorce.

Final code list

01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations
02 = Managers and administrators
03 = Clerical and sales 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 workers
09 = Unspecified
10 = Not economically active

Sex of plaintiff (PlaintiffSex)

(@8 1.)

6.	Sex of the plaintiff 1 = Male 2 = Female 3 = Unspecified
-----------	--

Note to users

The variable provides information about the sex of the plaintiff. It seeks to determine who filed for the divorce – the husband or the wife.

Final code list

1 = Male
2 = Female
3 = Unspecified

Occupation of Plaintiff (PlaintiffOccupation)

(@9 2.)

7.	Plaintiff occupation (Derived variable) 01 = Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations 02 = Managers and administrators 03 = Clerical and sales 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 workers 09 = Unspecified 10 = Not economically active
-----------	---

Note to users

The variable is derived from *PlaintiffSex*, *MaleOccupation* and the *FemaleOccupation*. This provides information about the occupation of the plaintiff. If the plaintiff is female, the code for *PlaintiffOccupation* should be the same as that of *FemaleOccupation*. Similarly, if the plaintiff is male, the code for *PlaintiffOccupation* should be the same as that of *MaleOccupation*.

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 = Unspecified
10 = Not economically active

Marital status of husband (MaleStatus)

(@11 1.)

8.	Husband's marital status at the time of marriage 1 = Bachelor 2 = Widower 3 = Divorcee 4 = Married 9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the husband's marital status at the time of the marriage; of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce if the husband had been previously married.

Final code list

1 = Bachelor
2 = Widower
3 = Divorcee
4 = Married
9 = Unspecified

Marital status of wife (FemaleStatus)

(@12 1.)

9.	Wife's marital status at the time of marriage 1 = Spinster 2 = Widow 3 = Divorcee 9 = Unspecified
-----------	--

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the wife's marital status at the time of marriage; of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce if the wife had been previously married.

Final code list

1 = Spinster
2 = Widow
3 = Divorcee
9 = Unspecified

Number of times husband married (MaleNoTimesMarried)

(@13 2.)

10.	Number of times husband has married
------------	--

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the number of times (including the current marriage) the husband has married.

Final code list

Valid range: 01–06
Unspecified = 99

Number of times wife married (FemaleNoTimesMarried)

(@15 2.)

11.	Number of times wife has married
------------	---

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the number of times (including the current marriage) the wife has married.

Final code list

Valid range: 01–06
Unspecified = 99

Age of husband (MaleAge)

(@17 2.)

12.	Age of husband
------------	-----------------------

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the age of the husband at the time of the divorce.

Final code list

Valid range: 20–93
Unspecified: 99

Age of wife (FemaleAge)

(@19 2.)

13.	Age of wife
-----	--------------------

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the age of the wife at the time of the divorce.

Final code list

Valid range: 17–86

Unspecified: 99

Way of solemnisation (Solemnisation)

(@21 1.)

14.	Type of solemnisation of the present marriage 1 = Religious 2 = Civil 9 = Unspecified
-----	---

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine how the current marriage was solemnised.

Final code list

1 = Religious

2 = Civil

9 = Unspecified

Matrimonial property system (MarriageType)

(@22 1.)

15.	Matrimonial property system 1 = With antenuptial contract 2 = Without antenuptial 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
-----	---

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the type of matrimonial property contract the couple entered into at the time of the marriage.

Final code list

1 = With antenuptial contract

2 = Without antenuptial 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)

(@23 2.)

16.	Number of minor children involved
-----	-----------------------------------

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the number of minor children (under 18 years) from this marriage (i.e. the current dissolving marriage).

Final code list

Valid range: 00–06

Unspecified: 99

Month of marriage (MarriageMonth)

(@25 2.)

17.	Month of the marriage 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
-----	--

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine 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)

(@27 4.)

18.	Year of the marriage
-----	----------------------

Note to users

The variable provides information about the year in which the marriage was registered.

Final code list

Valid range: 1957–2011

Unspecified: 9999

Month of separation (SeparationMonth)

(@31 2.)

19.	Separation month 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
------------	---

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the month in which the couple separated.

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 separation (SeparationYear)

(@33 4.)

20.	Year of the separation
------------	-------------------------------

Note to users

The variable seeks to determine the year in which the couple separated.

Final code list

Valid range: 1967–2011
Unspecified: 9999

Month of divorce (DivorceMonth)

(@37 2.)

21.	Month of the divorce 01 = January 02 = February 03 = March 04 = April 05 = May 06 = June 07 = July 08 = August 09 = September 10 = October 11 = November 12 = December
------------	---

Note to users

The information is completed by the Registrar of the Courts. The variable seeks to determine the month in which the decree was issued.

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)

(@39 4.)

22.	Year of the divorce
------------	----------------------------

Note to users

The information is completed by the Registrar of the Courts. The variable seeks to determine the year in which the decree was issued.

Final code list

Valid code: 2011

Duration of marriage (DurationOfMarriage)

(@43 2.)

23.	Duration of marriage
------------	-----------------------------

Note to users

The variable is the difference between *MarriageYear* and *DivorceYear*. It seeks to determine the number of years a couple have been married.

Final code list

Valid range: 0–54
Unspecified: 99