

Marriages and divorces

2010

Metadata

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Marriages and divorces, 2010

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 programmes as possible, and thus accessible to a wide 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 2010 statistical release (P0307)
- ❖ Marriages and divorces 2010 CD on Stats SA's 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. All variables are numeric and right justified.

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.

Legislations 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) as amended, and its associated regulations. 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 legislations, The Statistics Act (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 the 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 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 2010 by the Department of Home Affairs.

Statistics South Africa requests electronic data on marriages and civil unions from 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 data sets 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
	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

Note to users

This is derived from 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

This question 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
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Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid code = 2010

Way of Solemnisation (Solemnisation)

(@9 1.)

4.	Solemnisation 1 = Religious 2 = Civil 9 = Unspecified
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Note to users

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

Final code list

1 = Religious

2 = Civil

9 = Unspecified

Marital status of Bridegroom (BridegroomStatus)

(@10 1.)

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

Note to users

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

Final code list

1 = Bachelor

2 = Divorcee

3 = Widower

9 = Unspecified

Marital status of Bride (BrideStatus)

(@11 1.)

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

Note to users

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

Final code list

1 = Spinster

2 = Divorcee

3 = Widow

9 = Unspecified

Age of Bridegroom (BridegroomAge)

(@12 2.)

7.	Age of Bridegroom
----	-------------------

Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid range: 17–98

Age of Bride (BrideAge)

(@14 2.)

8.	Age of Bride
----	--------------

Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid range: 13–92

Age difference between bridegroom and bride (AgeDiff)

(@16 1.)

9.	Age difference
----	----------------

Note to users

This is a derived variable. This provides information about the age difference between the bridegroom and the 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 question provides information about the year in which the customary marriage took place.

Final code list

Valid code = 1926–2010

Year of Registration (RegistrationYear)

(@5 4.)

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

Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid code = 2010

Age of Bridegroom (BridegroomAge)

(@9 2.)

3.	Age of Bridegroom
-----------	--------------------------

Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid range: 16–91

Unspecified: 99

Age of Bride (BrideAge)

(@11 2.)

4.	Age of Bride
-----------	---------------------

Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid range: 12–91

Unspecified: 99

Age difference between bridegroom and bride (AgeDiff)

(@13 1.)

5.	Age difference
-----------	-----------------------

Note to users

This is a derived variable. This provides information about the age difference between the bridegroom and the 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 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
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Note to users

This is derived from the name of 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

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

Final code list

Valid code = 2010

Age of Spouse-1 (Spouse_1Age)

(@9 2.)

4.	Age of Spouse-1
----	-----------------

Note to users

This provides information about the age of spouse-1 at the time of union.

Final code list

Valid range: 20–82

Age of Spouse-2 (Spouse_2Age)

(@11 2.)

5.	Age of Spouse-2
----	-----------------

Note to users

This provides information about the age of spouse-2 at the time of union.

Final code list

Valid range: 18–91

Age difference between Spouse-1 and Spouse-2 (AgeDiff)

(@13 1.)

5.	Age difference
----	----------------

Note to users

This is a derived variable. This provides information about the age difference between Spouse-1 and Spouse-2.

Final code list

0 = Spouses same age

1 = Bridegroom older

2 = Bridegroom 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 Stats SA's 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 release

The target population is all divorce applications that were completed in 2010, *i.e.* that were finalised and issued with decrees of divorce in 2010 by DoJCD.

Population group of husband (MaleRace)

(@1 1.)

1.	Husband population group 1 = Black African 2 = Coloured 3 = Indian/Asian 4 = White 5 = Mixed 9 = Unspecified
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Note to users

This question is asked to determine 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.	Wife population group 1 = Black African 2 = Coloured 3 = Indian/Asian 4 = White 5 = Mixed 9 = Unspecified
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Note to users

This question is asked to determine 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.	Couple population
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Note to users

This is a derived variable. This is to determine whether the divorcing couple is in a mixed-race marriage. 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, then the couple is classified as being in a mixed-race marriage.

Final code list

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

Occupation of Husband (MaleOccupation)

(@4 2.)

4.	Husband occupation 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
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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 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 occupation 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
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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 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
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Note to users

This provides information about the sex of the plaintiff. It seeks to find out 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 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
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Note to users

This is a derived variable that 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, 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 marital status 1 = Bachelor 2 = Widower 3 = Divorcee 9 = Unspecified
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Note to users

This question is asked for each husband. It seeks to find out the husband's marital status at the time of marriage; of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce, if husband was previously married.

Final code list

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

Marital status of wife (FemaleStatus)

(@12 1.)

9.	Wife marital status 1 = Spinster 2 = Widow 3 = Divorcee 9 = Unspecified
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Note to users

This question is asked for each wife. It seeks to find out the wife's marital status at the time of marriage; of particular interest is whether the previous marriage ended in divorce, if wife was previously married.

Final code list

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

Number of times husband married (MaleNoTimesMarried)

(@13 1.)

10.	Number of times married
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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: 1–6
Unspecified = 9

Number of times wife married (FemaleNoTimesMarried)

(@14 1.)

11.	Number of times married
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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: 1–6
Unspecified = 9

Age of husband (MaleAge)

(@15 2.)

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

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: 19–94

Unspecified: 99

Age of wife (FemaleAge)

(@17 2.)

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

Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid range: 17–89

Unspecified: 99

Way of solemnisation (Solemnisation)

(@19 1.)

14.	Solemnisation 1 = Religious 2 = Civil 9 = Unspecified
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Note to users

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out how the current marriage was registered.

Final code list

1 = Religious

2 = Civil

9 = Unspecified

Matrimonial property system (MarriageType)

(@20 1.)

15.	Matrimonial property system 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
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Note to users

This question is asked for the plaintiff. 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)

(@21 2.)

16.	Minor children involved
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Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid range: 00–07

Unspecified: 99

Month of marriage (MarriageMonth)

(@23 2.)

17.	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 99 = Unspecified
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Note to users

This question is asked for the plaintiff. 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)

(@25 4.)

18.	Marriage year
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Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid range: 1958–2010

Unspecified: 9999

Month of separation (SeparationMonth)

(@29 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
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Note to users

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out the date of separation.

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)

(@31 4.)

20.	Separation year
------------	------------------------

Note to users

This question is asked for the plaintiff. It seeks to find out the year in which the couple separated.

Final code list

Valid range: 1956–2010

Unspecified: 9999

Month of divorce (DivorceMonth)

(@35 2.)

21.	Divorce 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
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Note to users

This information is completed by the registrar. It seeks to find out 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)

(@37 4.)

22.	Divorce Year
------------	---------------------

Note to users

This information is completed by the registrar. It seeks to find out the year in which the decree was issued.

Final code list

Valid code: 2010

Duration of marriage (DurationOfMarriage)

(@41 2.)

23.	Marriage Duration
------------	--------------------------

Note to users

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

Final code list

Valid range: 0–52

Unspecified: 99