

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Divorce statistics

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STATISTICS AUSTRIA
Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich
A-1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13
Phone: +43-1-71128-0
www.statistik.at

Directorate Social Statistics
Organizational unit Demography, Health, Labour Market

Contact person:
Anita Mikulasek
Phone +43-1-71128-7275
E-Mail: anita.mikulasek@statistik.gv.at

Executive Summary

Divorce Statistics have existed in Austria since 1884. However, until 1938 divorce laws regulated separation and divorce for Catholics and non-Catholics differently. Since 1938, divorce in a modern sense, is possible.

The divorce statistics and, as of 2010, the dissolution of registered partnerships are based on the information on legally binding divorces and dissolution resolutions of the approximately 140 district courts of Austria. The district courts also transmit data on annulments (§ 22 Ehegesetz or § 13 Eingetragene Partnerschaft-Gesetz; § 23 Ehegesetz or § 19 Eingetragene Partnerschaft-Gesetz) of marriages or registered partnerships, which are not included in the numbers of divorces or dissolutions. Divorces or dissolutions of registered partnerships, as well as annulments, are referred to as “judicial solutions of marriages and registered partnerships”.

Therefore, the divorce statistics do not include the few annulments. However, in order compare those to the solutions of marriages and registered partnerships by death (see Table 5.02 in the Demographic Yearbook of Austria), they are also included in the total number of “judicial solutions of marriages and registered partnerships”.

Although the quality of the divorce statistics is good, completeness cannot be guaranteed as is the case in marriage statistics, where a continuous numbering ensures complete records. In the divorce statistics, there is no such system of case numbering. Under-coverage cannot be quantified, though. Statistics Austria checks the consistency of data to aggregates from the Federal Ministry of Justice and also compares the number of cases to previous years on the district level. Whenever ambiguities arise, Statistics Austria requests information from district courts.

The divorce statistics cover divorces and dissolutions of registered partnerships of residents in Austria, following the concept of usual residence, independent of a main or secondary residence registration. Divorces and dissolution of registered partnerships that take place abroad are not covered. Divorces and dissolutions of registered partnerships of non-residents in Austria are recorded, but not included in the published data.

The statistic’s unit measurement of divorces or the dissolutions of the registered partnership is the judicial process - the court record. This record states the divorcees or and their legitimate children. Therefore, there are different unit measurements and differently sized masses:

- divorces
- legitimate children of divorcees
- dissolutions of registered partnerships

The most important indicators are the

- probability of divorce (“divorce rate“), and the
- probability of an underage child experiencing his parents' divorce.

Divorce statistics – Main Features	
Subject Matter	Legally binding resolutions of Austrian districts courts on divorces, dissolutions of registered partnerships, and annulments, respectively, where at least one partner's usual residence is in Austria. District courts do not check if usual residence corresponds to the registered main residence which is normally the case.
Population	Divorces (~ 20.000); Dissolutions of registered partnerships (~ 20)
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics
Data sources/Survey techniques	Data originate from legally binding divorce, dissolution registered partnership and annulment resolutions.
Reference period or due day	Calendar year
Periodicity	Yearly
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	-
Main legal acts	Geschäftsordnung für die Gerichte I. und II. Instanz – § 92 Ehegesetz – EheG (dRGBI. I S 807/1938idgF) Eingetragene Partnerschaft-Gesetz – EPG (BGBl.Nr. 135/2009 idgF)
Most detailed regional breakdown	Municipalities
Availability of results	Final data: t + 180
Other	