

Table 3 Divorces (numbers and rates)¹: Sex and age at divorce, 1981, 1991, 1997 and 2001-2007

England and Wales		1981		1991		1997		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007 ^p		
		Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	
Numbers divorcing																						
All ages		145,713	145,713	158,745	158,745	146,689	146,689	143,818	143,818	147,735	147,735	153,490	153,399	153,399	141,750	141,750	132,562	132,562	128,534	128,534		
Under 20		39	283	50	321	14	158	11	97	13	87	94	13	93	8	70	7	67	6	56		
20-24		8,615	19,812	6,477	14,639	2,706	6,713	1,607	4,546	1,695	4,721	1,764	1,782	4,565	1,619	4,146	1,336	3,458	1,268	3,217		
25-29		29,114	33,299	27,53	35,582	18,110	26,435	11,713	18,231	10,916	17,227	16,539	9,671	15,967	8,610	13,905	7,925	13,182	7,828	12,653		
30-34		33,084	31,104	33,532	33,195	31,925	33,967	27,480	31,489	26,792	30,982	30,345	24,274	28,368	20,625	24,381	18,087	21,409	16,576	19,865		
35-39		24,688	22,459	27,957	25,661	29,121	27,715	31,322	31,164	31,937	32,282	33,013	33,013	32,059	28,332	29,864	25,954	27,479	24,383	25,665		
40-44		18,187	15,276	25,199	21,979	22,244	20,125	25,470	23,190	26,989	25,017	29,437	28,558	28,558	28,480	27,570	26,682	26,128	25,981	25,548		
45-49		12,767	9,902	16,896	13,607	18,042	15,053	18,048	15,501	19,601	16,591	18,225	22,039	19,195	21,675	18,919	20,879	18,471	20,881	18,969		
50-59		13,774	9,805	15,408	10,543	18,771	13,303	21,685	15,905	22,852	16,915	24,724	18,127	25,549	24,306	18,215	23,565	17,833	23,002	17,468		
60 and over		5,440	3,748	5,454	3,199	5,844	3,208	6,580	3,693	6,940	3,913	4,256	8,180	4,580	8,086	4,671	8,114	4,522	8,592	5,086		
Not known		25	25	19	19	12	12	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	9	9	13	13	7	7		
Mean age at divorce (years)		37.7	35.2	38.6	36.0	40.2	37.7	41.5	39.1	41.9	39.4	42.3	39.8	42.7	43.1	40.6	43.4	40.9	43.7	41.2		
Rate (divorces per thousand married men/women)																						
All ages		11.9	13.5	13.0	12.9	13.4	14.0	14.1	13.1	12.2	11.9											
Under 20		2.0	3.0	6.3	9.9	2.3	7.8	2.0	6.0	2.9	6.9	3.3	8.2	4.4	8.7	3.9	7.9	4.0	10.3	3.4	8.6	
20-24		18.5	24.4	26.7	29.9	27.5	29.8	21.6	25.5	24.5	28.3	25.8	29.6	25.9	29.1	24.9	27.9	22.5	25.1	21.4	23.3	
25-29		27.6	26.7	32.4	30.7	30.4	31.3	27.9	29.2	29.1	30.3	30.3	31.4	30.3	31.7	28.3	28.8	26.9	28.0	26.6	26.9	
30-34		22.8	20.2	28.6	25.0	28.7	26.3	28.3	27.6	29.2	28.3	30.0	29.1	30.0	28.9	27.2	26.2	25.7	24.4	23.6	22.7	
35-39		18.6	16.6	23.1	19.9	23.6	20.8	25.0	23.0	25.9	24.0	27.0	25.5	27.2	24.8	23.9	23.5	22.7	22.1	21.2		
40-44		15.2	12.9	17.7	15.0	18.6	16.1	20.5	17.9	21.5	19.1	23.4	21.0	23.6	21.5	22.4	20.6	21.1	19.6	20.5	19.2	
45-49		11.0	8.7	13.6	10.9	14.0	11.4	15.3	12.8	16.7	13.8	17.9	15.0	18.6	15.8	18.2	17.3	14.9	17.3	15.3		
50-59		5.8	4.3	7.1	5.1	8.0	5.8	8.7	6.5	9.2	6.8	10.0	7.3	10.4	7.8	10.0	9.8	7.4	9.6	7.3		
60 and over		1.7	1.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.9	1.3	2.0	1.4	2.1	1.4	2.3	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.4	2.3	1.6		
Median duration of marriage at divorce (years)		10.1	9.8	10.0	10.9	11.1	11.3	11.5	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.7		

¹ 2007 rates are provisional as they were produced using the 2006 marital status estimates; the 2007 estimates were not available at the time of compilation of these data.

^p Figures for 2007 are provisional

Source: FM2 Marriage, divorce and adoption statistics, Tables 4.1, 4.9 and Population Trends Table 2.1