

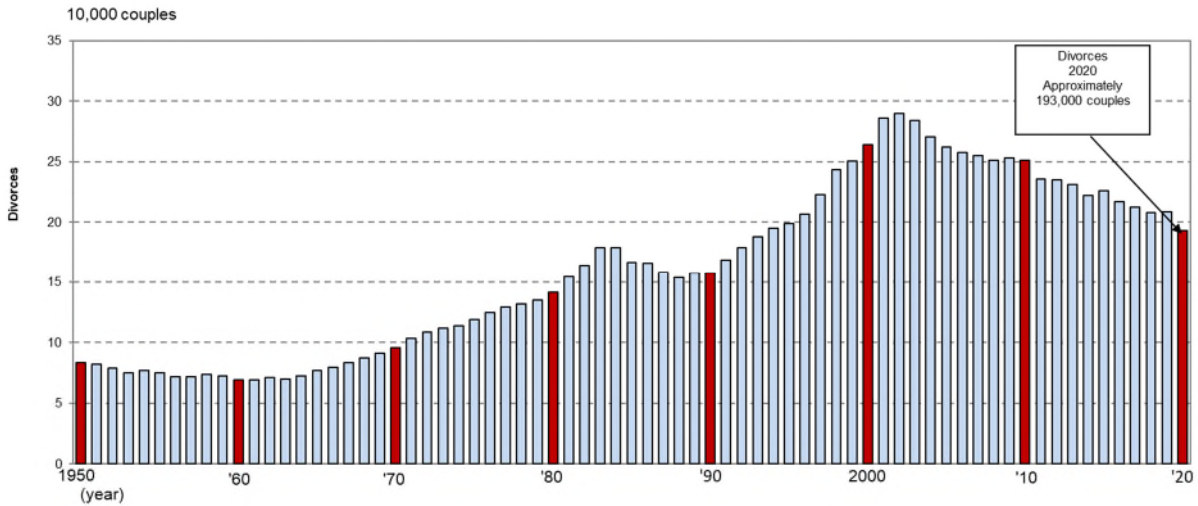
Summary of Results

1 Trends in divorces

(1) Trends in the number of divorces

Trends in the number of divorces since 1950 show that the number of divorces was on a declining trend from 1950 until 1963, but it showed an increasing trend after 1964. Although the trend temporarily declined from 1984 to 1988, it reached approximately 290,000 couples in 2002. Since 2003, the number has been on a declining trend, with approximately 193,000 couples in 2020. (Figure 1)

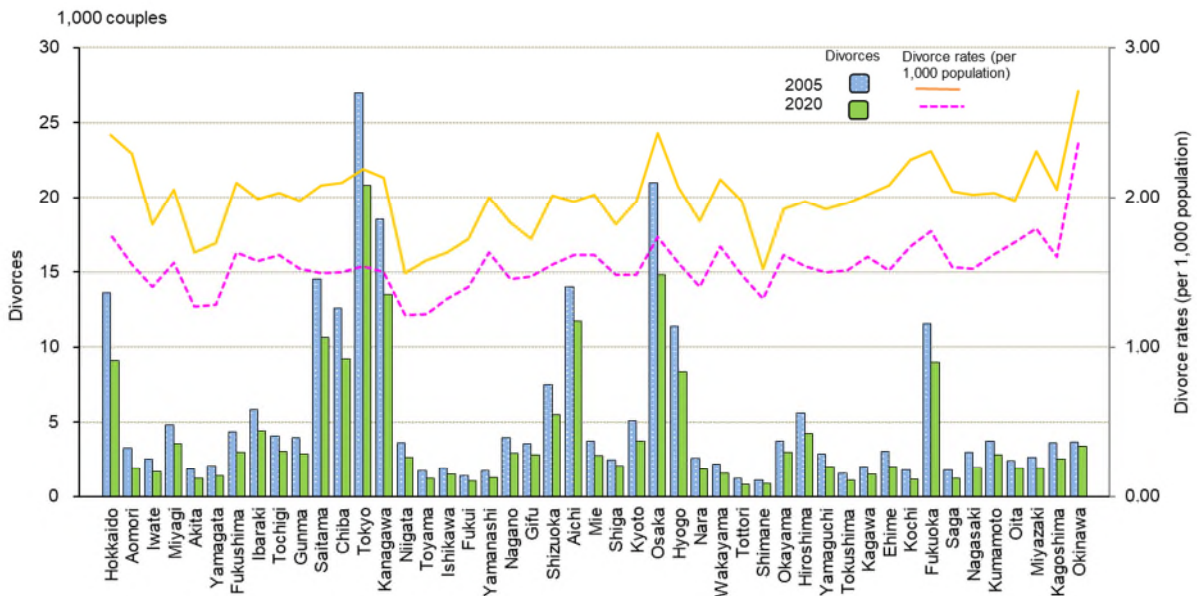
Figure 1. Trends in the number of divorces, 1950 - 2020



(2) Number of divorces and divorce rates by prefecture

A comparison of the number of divorces and divorce rates (per 1,000 population) by prefecture between 2005 and 2020 shows that the number of divorces decreased in all prefectures, and that the divorce rates also declined (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of Divorces and Divorce Rates by Prefecture, 2005 and 2020

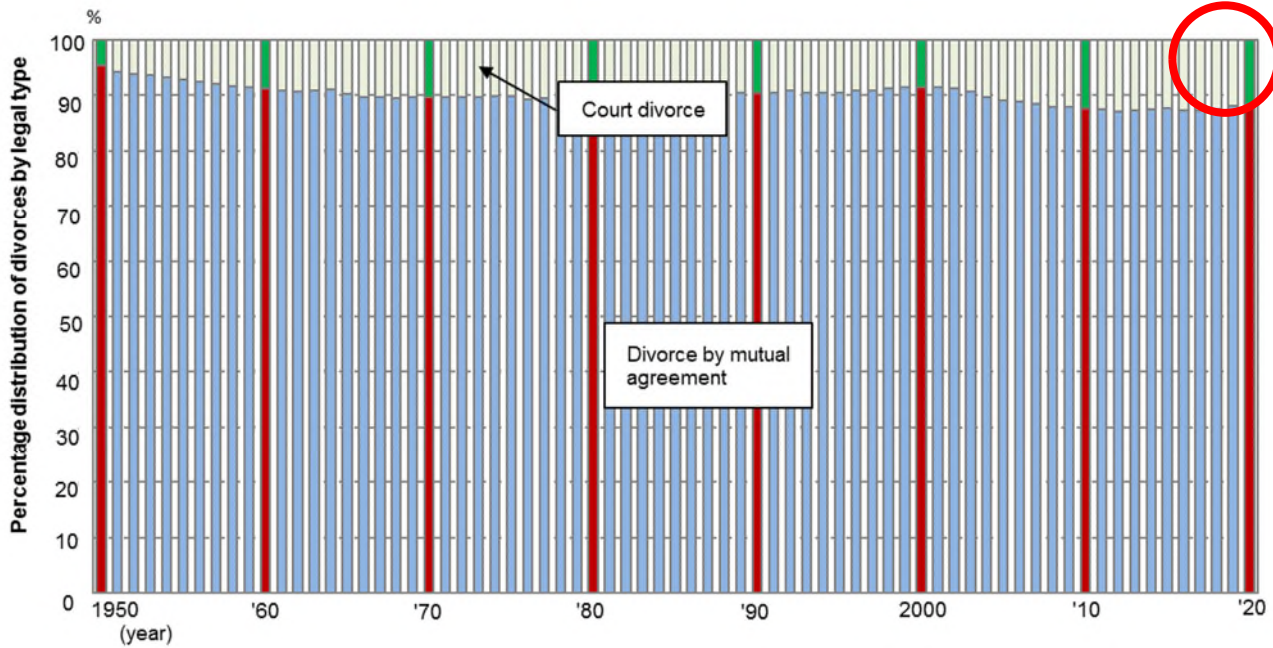


(3) Trends in divorces by legal type

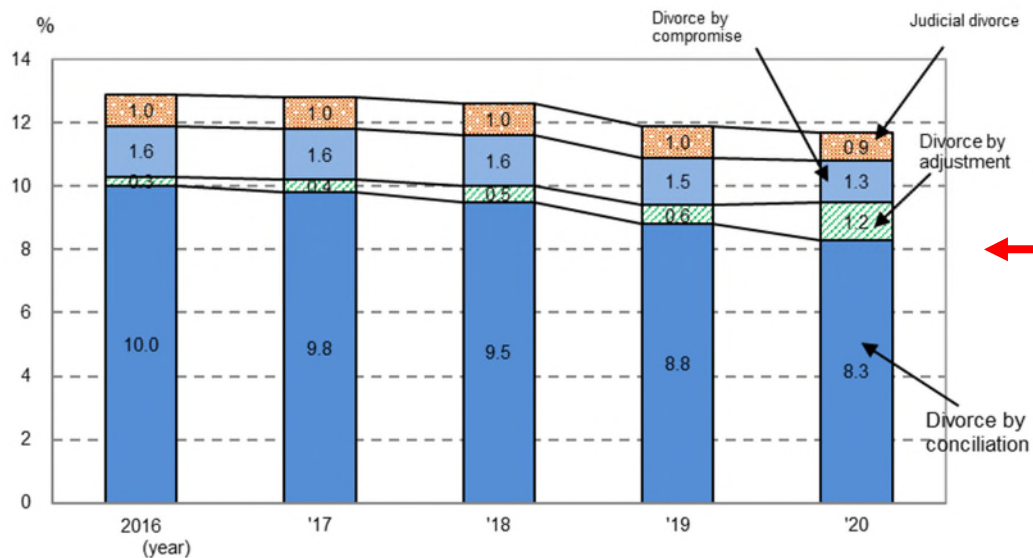
Trends in percentage distribution of divorces by legal type since 1950 show that the percentage of “Divorce by mutual agreement” has declined from 95.5% in 1950 to 90.7% in 1962. Since then, the rate has remained around 90%, but since 2004 it has declined to the 80% range, and reaching 88.3% in 2020.

Looking at “Court divorces” by type, “Divorce by conciliation” has declined in recent years, while “Divorce by adjustment” has risen in recent years, and “Divorce by compromise,” which was created in 2004, has remained at 1.3% to 1.6% since 2016. (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Trends in percentage distribution of divorces by legal type, 1950-2020



Trends in percentage distribution of court divorces by legal type, 2016 - 2020



Note: The graphs of divorce by acknowledgment of claim are not indicated because their proportions are minimal.

Trends of every five-year in the percentage of divorces by mutual agreement by prefecture since 2005 shows that the percentage is highest in Okinawa and lowest in Yamagata (Table 1).

Table 1. Yearly comparison in the percentage of divorce by mutual agreement by prefecture, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020

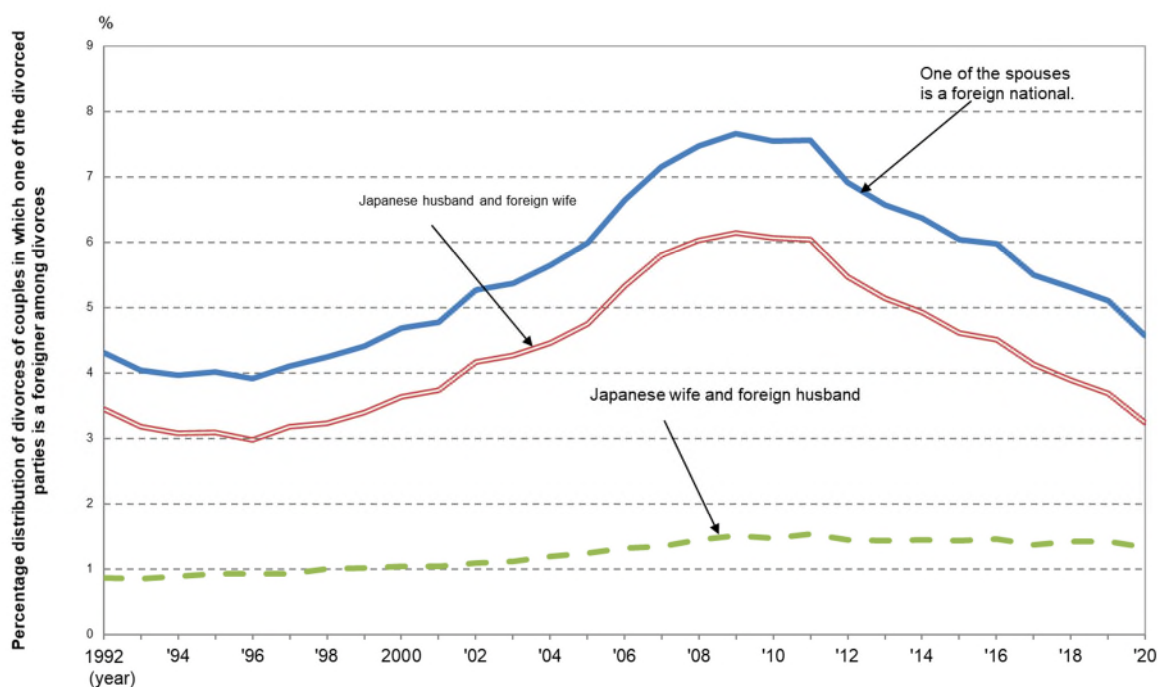
	2005		2010		2015		2020	
	Prefecture	Proportion of divorces by mutual agreement (%)	Prefecture	Proportion of divorces by mutual agreement (%)	Prefecture	Proportion of divorces by mutual agreement (%)	Prefecture	Proportion of divorces by mutual agreement (%)
Prefectures with high proportions of divorces by mutual agreement	Okinawa	93.5	Okinawa	92.1	Okinawa	92.3	Okinawa	92.5
	Osaka	91.5	Aomori	90.0	Kochi	90.6	Osaka	91.3
	Kochi	91.2	Kochi	89.6	Osaka	89.8	Fukuoka	89.9
	Kagoshima	91.0	Osaka	89.6	Ehime	89.6	Saitama	89.5
	Tokushima	90.7	Tokyo	89.1	Kagoshima	89.4	Kagoshima	89.2
Prefectures with low proportions of divorces by mutual agreement	Niigata	85.8	Iwate	84.1	Akita	84.2	Akita	85.7
	Nagano	85.7	Niigata	83.7	Nagano	84.2	Iwate	85.6
	Toyama	85.1	Ishikawa	83.3	Toyama	83.6	Gifu	85.1
	Ishikawa	84.0	Miyagi	83.2	Iwate	83.5	Nagano	85.1
	Yamagata	82.5	Yamagata	80.4	Yamagata	82.9	Yamagata	84.3

Note: Second and lower decimal places were compared for prefectures with the same proportion indications.

(4) Trends in percentage distribution of divorces of couples in which one of the divorced parties is a foreigner among divorces

Looking at the percentage distribution of divorces among divorces of couples in which one of the divorced parties is a foreigner, annual trends since 1992 show an increase from 3.9% in 1996 to 7.7% in 2009, followed by a decline to 4.6% in 2020. The percentage distribution of those whose husbands are foreigners rose from 0.9% in 1992 to 1.5% in 2009, and then fluctuated between 1.4% and 1.5%, reaching 1.3% in 2020. The percentage distribution of those whose wives are foreigners rose from 3.0% in 1996 to 6.1% in 2009, and then declined to 3.2% in 2020. (Figure 4)

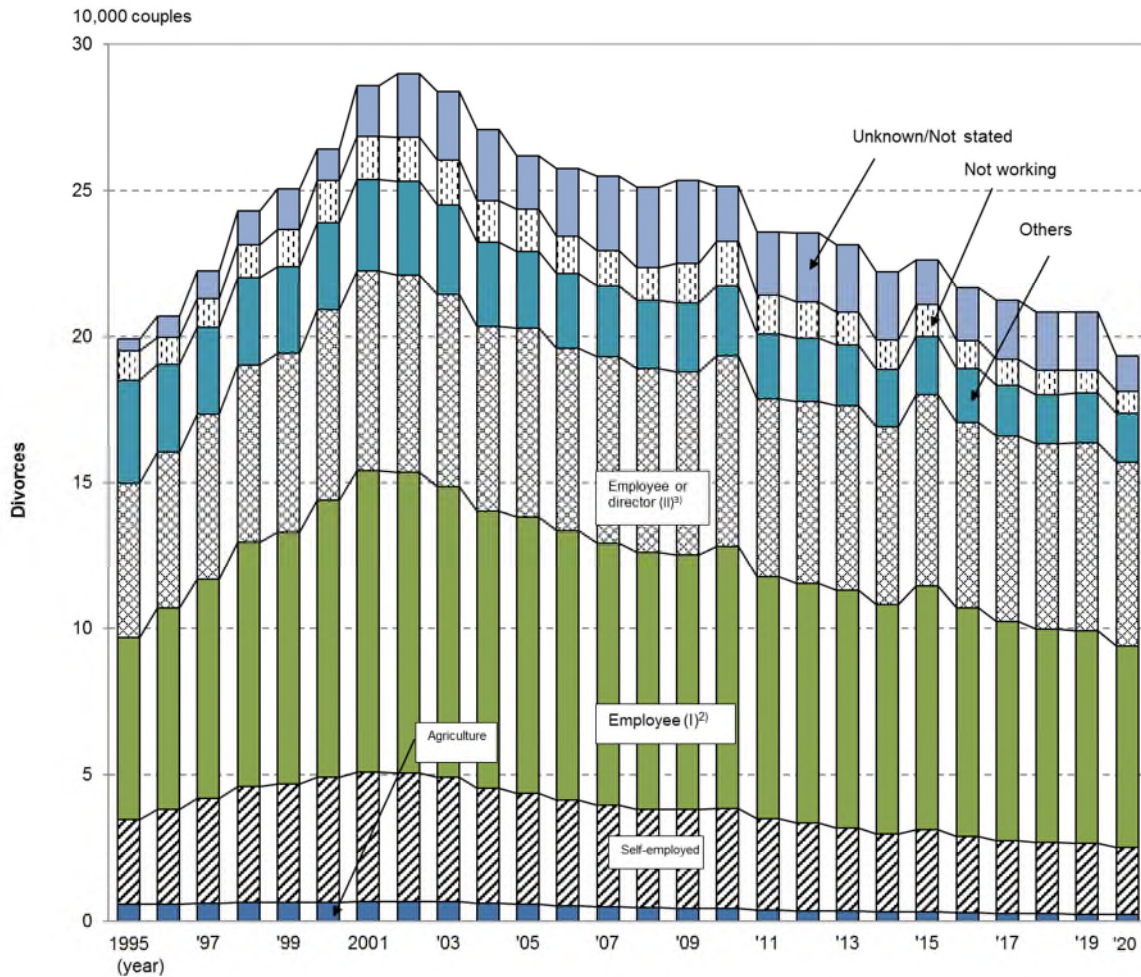
Figure 4. Trends in percentage distribution of divorces of couples in which one of the divorced parties is a foreigner among divorces 1992 - 2020



(5) Trends in divorces by type of household occupation at the time of separation

The number of divorces by type of household occupation at the time of separation¹⁾ since 1995 shows that, with the exception of Employee or director (II)³⁾, the number of divorces has been on an increasing trend, then peaked in 2001 or 2002 and has been on a declining trend. The decrease from 2002 to 2020 stood at 34,000 for Employee (I)²⁾, and at 21,000 for Self-employed. (Figure 5)

Figure 5. Trends in the number of divorces by type of household occupation at the time of separation¹⁾, 1995 – 2020

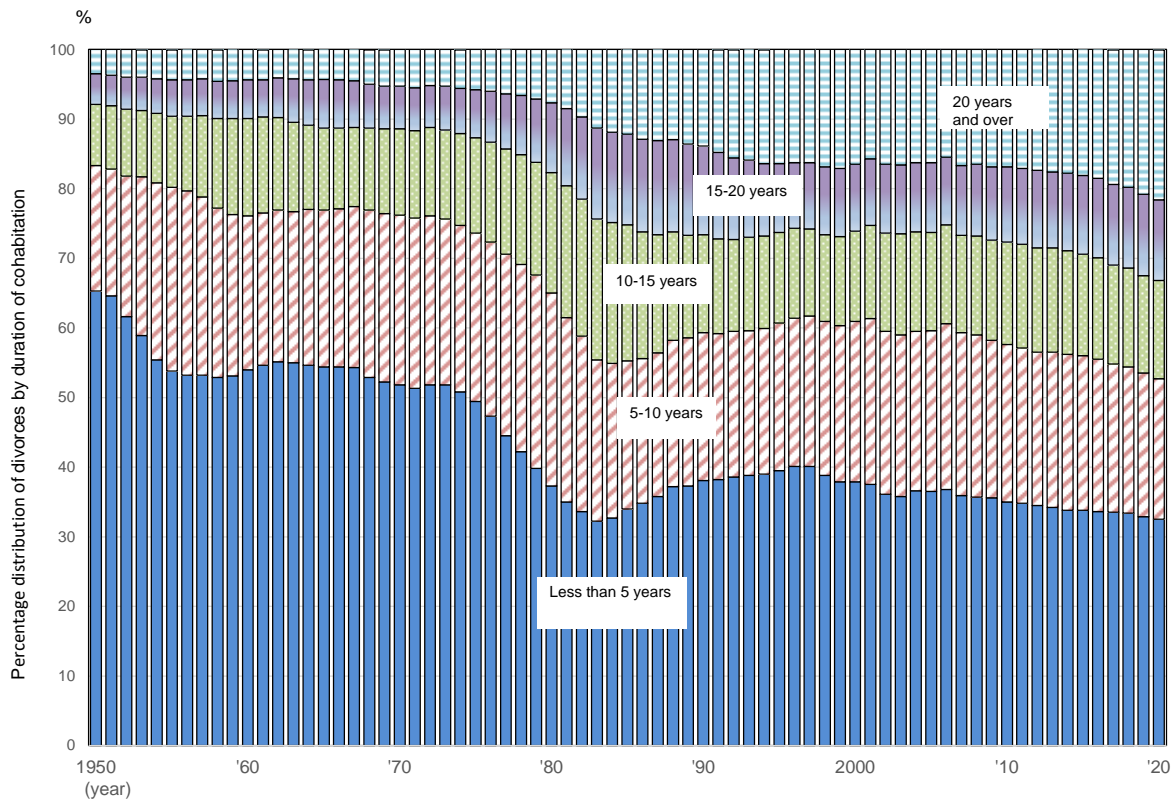


Note: 1) Type of household occupation at the time of separation is based on the item "Type of household occupation before separation" on the survey form.
 2) Employee (I) refers to households of regular employed workers who work for companies, personal shops, etc. (excluding government agencies), whose number of employees ranges from 1 to 99 (Households of daily contract workers or for less than one year are included in "Other households").
 3) Employee or director (II) refers to households of regular employed workers that are not included in "Employee households (I)," and households of directors or executive officers at corporate associations (Households of daily contract workers or for less than one year are included in "Other households").

(6) Trends in divorces by duration of cohabitation

Trends in the percentage distribution of divorces by duration of cohabitation since 1950 indicate that the proportion of divorces of couples who lived together for “less than 5 years” declined from 1950 to 32.2% in 1983, then took an upturn to 40.1% in 1996 and 1997, and went down again. On the other hand, the proportion of divorces of couples who lived together for “20 years and over” has been on the rise since 1950, reaching 21.5% in 2020. (Figure 6)

Figure 6. Trends in percentage distribution of divorces by duration of cohabitation, 1950 - 2020



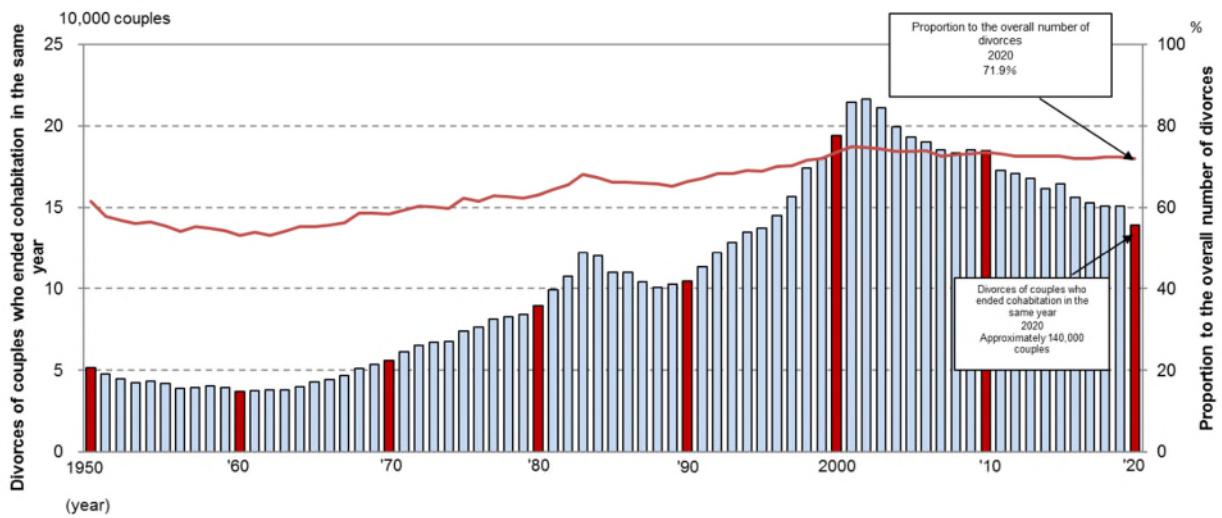
Note: Figures are percentages of the total number of divorces excluding those of unknown duration of cohabitation.

(7) Trends in divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year and their proportion to the overall number of divorces

From here to (9), divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year (divorces in which cohabitation ended in the year of filing and having filed for divorce) will be examined.

The annual trend since 1950 in the proportion of divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year to divorces shows a downward trend from 61.5% in 1950 to 53.1% in 1960, but then switched to an upward trend, reaching 74.9% in 2001. The number took another moderate decline since 2002, to 71.9% in 2020. (Figure 7)

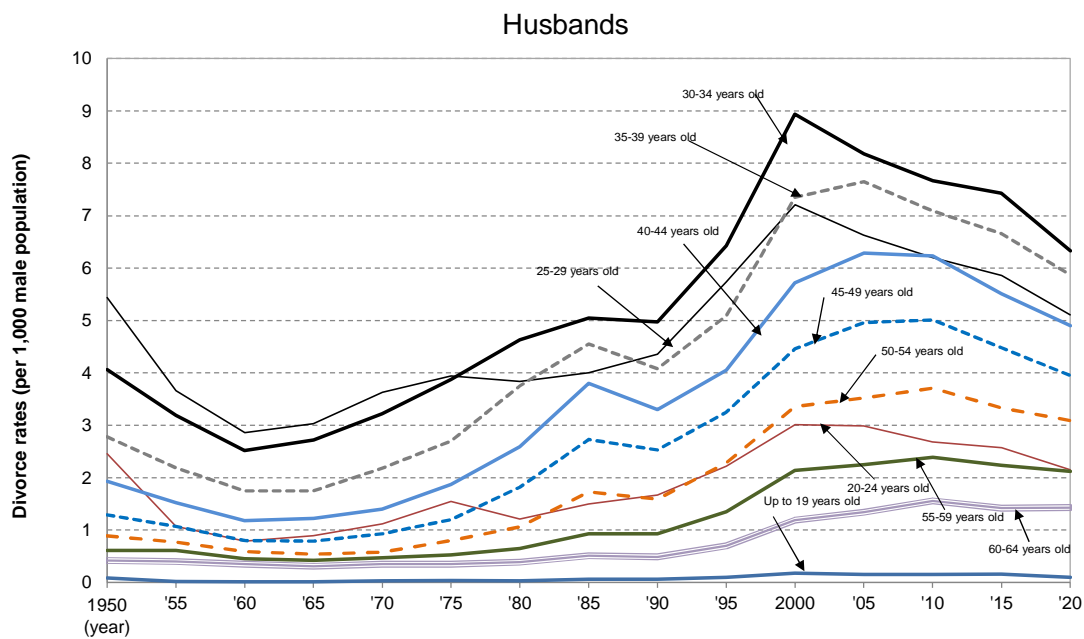
Figure 7. Trends in divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year and their proportion to the overall number of divorces, 1950 - 2020



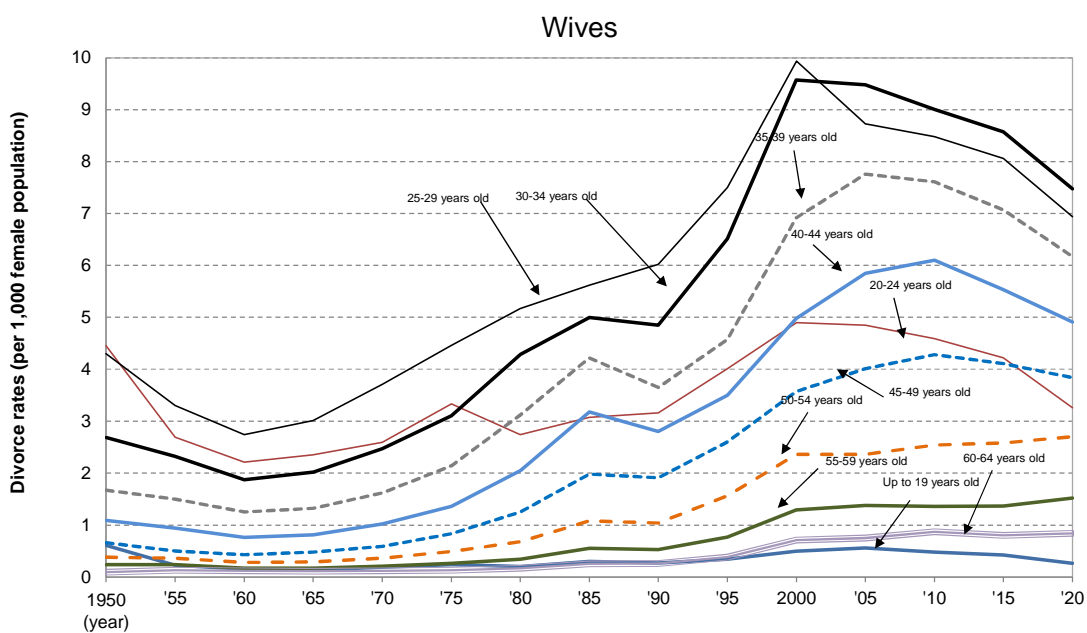
(8) Trends in divorce rates by age group and in divorce rates by age group for married population, in couples who ended cohabitation in the same year

Every five-year trend of the divorce rate (per 1,000 population) by age (5-year age group) for divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year since 1950 shows that the rate has been on an upward trend in all age groups for both spouses since 1960, but in recent years the rate has been on a downward trend. The rates have been the highest in the 30 - 34 years old cohort for husbands since 1980. The rates for wives were the highest in the 25 - 29 years old cohort until 2000, and for those aged 30 - 34 years old cohort since 2005. (Figure 8)

Figure 8. Trends in divorce rates of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year (per 1,000 population) by age (5-year age group) of husbands/wives up to 64 years old at the time of separation, 1950 - 2020



Note: The population used for the calculation of divorce rates for "Up to 19 years old" was that for 15 to 19 years old.

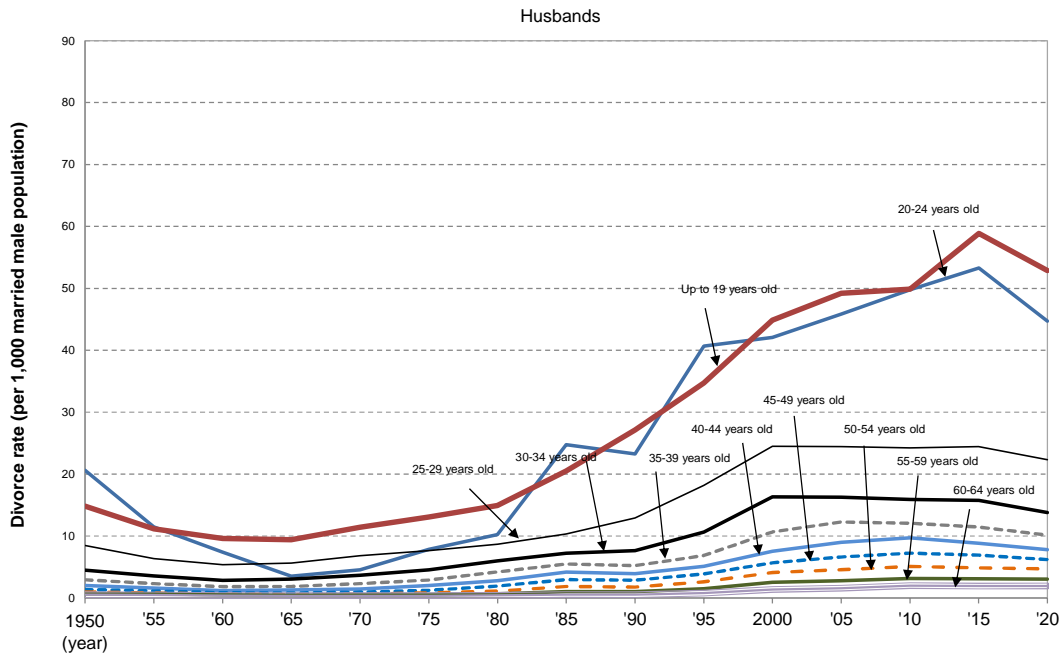


Note: The population used for the calculation of divorce rates for "Up to 19 years old" was that for 15 to 19 years old.

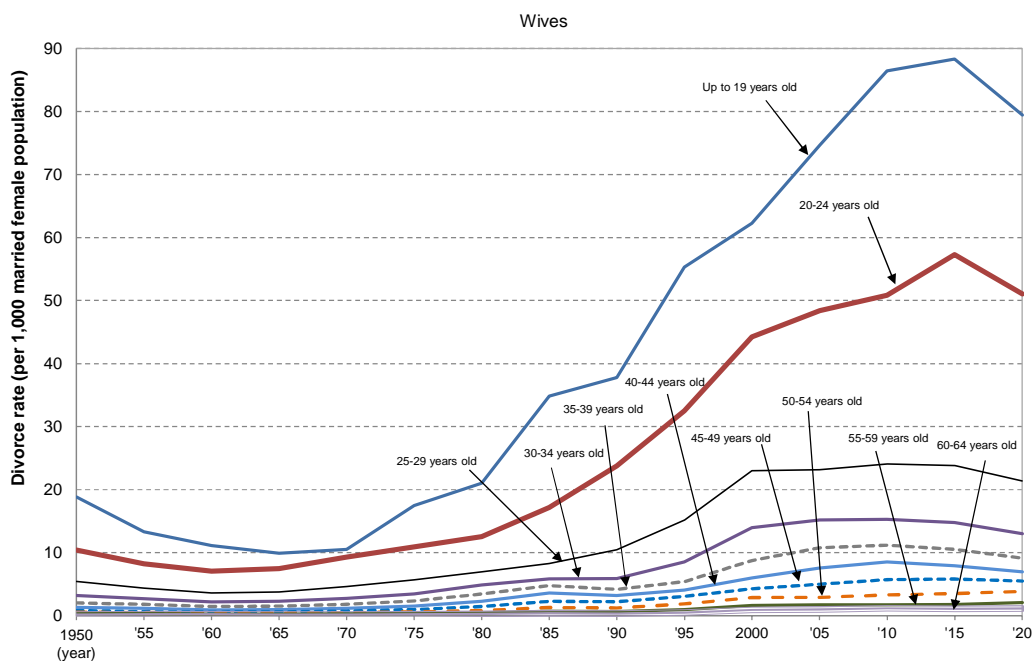
Next, let us look at the divorce rate for married population.

Every five-year trend in the divorce rate (per 1,000 married population) by age (5-year age group) for divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year shows that the rate has been on an upward trend for both spouses in all age groups since 1950, and has been flat in the age group of 25 years and older and rising in the age group of 24 years and younger in recent years. However, in 2020, many age groups showed a decline. The rates have been the highest in those up to 19 years old cohort and in the 20 - 24 years old cohort alternately for husbands, and the highest in those up to 19 years old cohort for wives. (Figure 9)

Figure 9. Trends in divorce rates of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year (per 1,000 married population) by age (5-year age group) of husbands/wives up to 64 years old at the time of separation, 1950-2020



Note: The married population used for the calculation of divorce rates for married population for "Up to 19 years old" was that for 15 to 19 years old.



Note: The married population used for the calculation of divorce rates for married population for "Up to 19 years old" was that for 15 to 19 years old.

(9) Analysis of increase and decrease in the number of divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year as compared to five years earlier

The increase or decrease in the number of divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year as compared to five years earlier is analyzed for each five-year period since 1955, dividing the analysis into “the effect of changes in the population by age group (changes in the age composition)” and “the effect of changes in the divorce rate.”

The results show that “changes in the age composition” had a positive effect on husbands until 1980 and on wives until 1975. In other words, changes in the age composition work in the direction of an increase in the number of divorces. Since then, it has varied sequentially a negative effect and a positive one, and both husbands and wives have been negatively affected since 2005. In other words, changes in the age composition, such as the aging of the population, are working in the direction of a decrease in the number of divorces. Until 2000, with the exception of 1965, the effect of “changes in divorce rates by age group” was significant, but since 2005, the effect of “changes in the age composition” has become more significant. (Table 2, Figure 10)

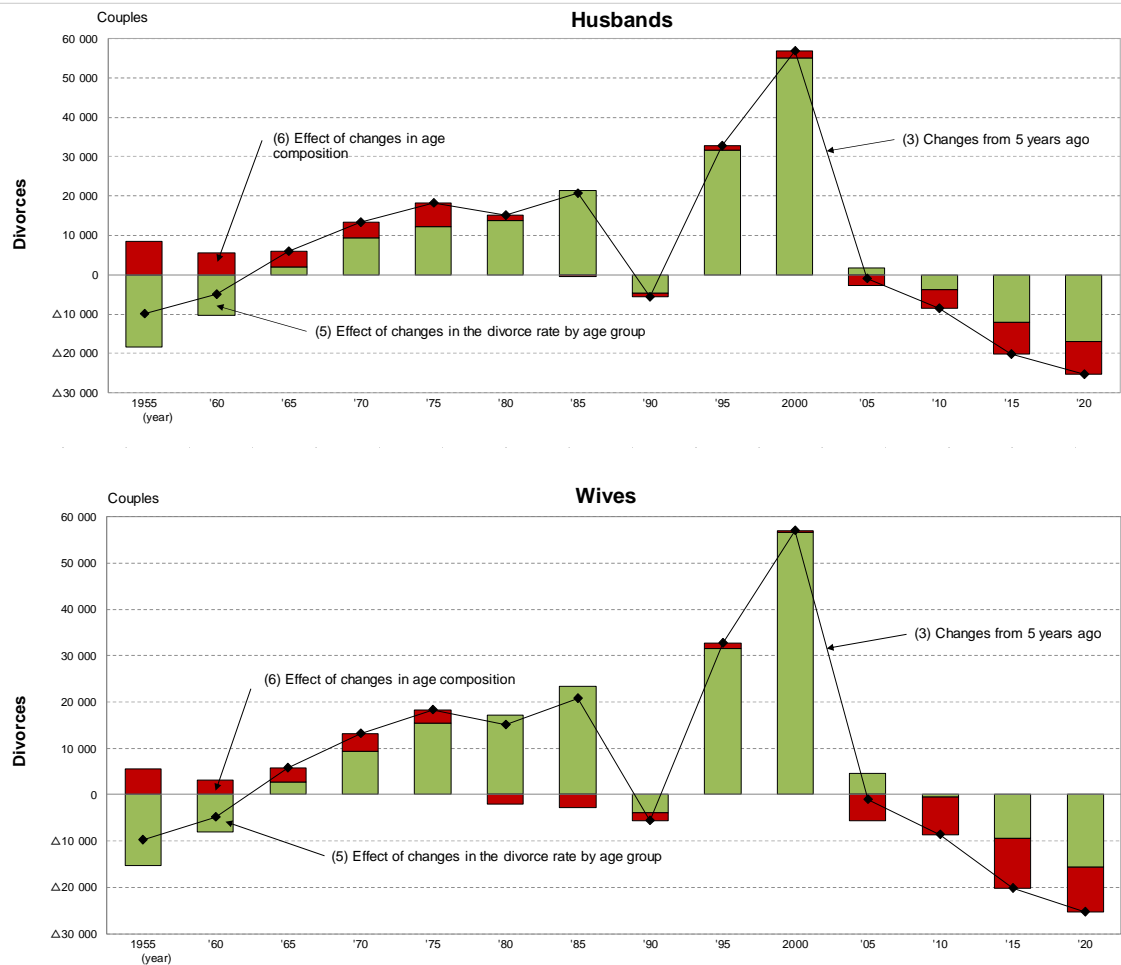
- “The effect of changes in the divorce rate by age group (5)” is evaluated as the difference between the number of “divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year (2)” and the number of “divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year, assuming that the divorce rate by age group was the same as five years ago (4)*”.
- *Sum of [population by age group × divorce rate by age group 5 years ago] for each age group
- “The effect of changes in age composition (6)” is evaluated as the difference between “changes from 5 years ago (3)” and “changes in the divorce rate by age group (5).”

Table 2. Analysis of the change in the number of divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year as compared to five years earlier, 1950 - 2020

Year	(Couples)					
	Divorces					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)=(2)-(4)	(6)=(3)-(5)
Husbands						
1950	83 689	51 500
1955	75 267	41 714	△ 9 786	60 018	△18 304	8 518
1960	69 410	36 832	△ 4 882	47 232	△10 400	5 518
1965	77 195	42 705	5 873	40 838	1 867	4 006
1970	95 937	55 968	13 263	46 686	9 282	3 981
1975	119 135	74 227	18 259	61 902	12 325	5 934
1980	141 689	89 361	15 134	75 536	13 825	1 309
1985	166 640	110 085	20 724	88 771	21 314	△ 590
1990	157 608	104 522	△ 5 563	109 157	△ 4 635	△ 928
1995	199 016	137 209	32 687	105 561	31 648	1 039
2000	264 246	194 122	56 913	139 017	55 105	1 808
2005	261 917	193 137	△ 985	191 464	1 673	△ 2 658
2010	251 379	184 570	△ 8 567	188 490	△ 3 920	△ 4 647
2015	226 238	164 316	△20 254	176 387	△12 071	△ 8 183
2020	193 253	138 929	△25 387	156 036	△17 107	△ 8 280
Wives						
1950	83 689	51 500
1955	75 267	41 714	△ 9 786	57 082	△15 368	5 582
1960	69 410	36 832	△ 4 882	44 927	△ 8 095	3 213
1965	77 195	42 705	5 873	39 872	2 833	3 040
1970	95 937	55 968	13 263	46 625	9 343	3 920
1975	119 135	74 227	18 259	58 805	15 422	2 837
1980	141 689	89 361	15 134	72 198	17 163	△ 2 029
1985	166 640	110 085	20 724	86 671	23 414	△ 2 690
1990	157 608	104 522	△ 5 563	108 395	△ 3 873	△ 1 690
1995	199 016	137 209	32 687	105 692	31 517	1 170
2000	264 246	194 122	56 913	137 578	56 544	369
2005	261 917	193 137	△ 985	188 437	4 700	△ 5 685
2010	251 379	184 570	△ 8 567	185 068	△ 498	△ 8 069
2015	226 238	164 316	△20 254	173 656	△ 9 340	△10 914
2020	193 253	138 929	△25 387	154 561	△15 632	△ 9 755

Note: In (4), age composition and divorce rates were calculated in 5-year age groups.

Figure 10. Analysis of the change in the number of divorces of couples who ended cohabitation in the same year as compared to five years earlier, 1955 – 2020



(Reference) Approach to analysis

The number of divorces is the total number of divorces by age group, and the number of divorces by age group is equal to the population of the age group multiplied by the divorce rate for that age group. Therefore, since changes in the number of divorces by age group can be divided into changes in the population of the relevant age group and changes in the divorce rate of the relevant age group, changes in the number of divorces will be analyzed separately from the effects of changes in age composition, which represents the population structure, and changes in the divorce rate by age group, which represents the incidence of divorce.

$$\text{Divorce rate by age group} = \frac{\text{Divorces by age group}}{\text{Population by age group}}$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$\text{Divorces by age group} = \text{Population by age group} \times \text{Divorce rate by age group}$$

