

5 Divorces

(1) Divorces by employment status/occupation of wife and husband before separation

The number of divorces in FY2020 by employment status of husband stood at 161,299 (85.5%) for employed and 15,991 (8.5%) for non-employed.

In addition, the number of divorces by employment status of wife stood at 133,168 (70.6%) for employed and 44,236 (23.4%) for non-employed, and employed wives increased by 7.0 points from 63.6% in the previous survey.

The proportion of divorces by occupation was highest in “Professional and engineering workers” for husbands and in “Service workers” for wives. (Table 15)

Table 15. Divorces and percent distribution by employment status/occupation of wife and husband, FY2015/2020

Employment status/occupation	FY2020		FY2015 ¹⁾	
	Number of divorces (couples)	Proportion (%)	Number of divorces (couples)	Proportion (%)
	Husband			
Total	188 656	100.0	224 697	100.0
Total number of employed persons (Employed)	161 299	85.5	187 033	83.2
A. Administrative and managerial workers	7 748	4.1	8 579	3.8
B. Professional and engineering workers	27 369	14.5	30 654	13.6
C. Clerical workers	15 178	8.0	17 224	7.7
D. Sales workers	16 905	9.0	20 820	9.3
E. Service workers	22 679	12.0	28 111	12.5
F. Security workers	3 917	2.1	4 128	1.8
G. Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	3 000	1.6	3 681	1.6
H. Manufacturing process workers	18 540	9.8	21 941	9.8
I. Transport and machine operation workers	10 971	5.8	13 708	6.1
J. Construction and mining workers	21 662	11.5	25 181	11.2
K. Carrying, cleaning, packaging, and related workers	7 089	3.8	7 547	3.4
L. Occupation not stated	6 241	3.3	5 459	2.4
Non-employed	15 991	8.5	21 449	9.5
Not stated	11 366	6.0	16 215	7.2
	Wife			
Total	188 656	100.0	224 697	100.0
Total number of employed persons (Employed)	133 168	70.6	142 860	63.6
A. Administrative and managerial workers	1 762	0.9	1 709	0.8
B. Professional and engineering workers	26 945	14.3	25 899	11.5
C. Clerical workers	30 959	16.4	32 297	14.4
D. Sales workers	15 401	8.2	17 680	7.9
E. Service workers	37 323	19.8	42 973	19.1
F. Security workers	611	0.3	487	0.2
G. Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1 004	0.5	992	0.4
H. Manufacturing process workers	8 164	4.3	10 216	4.5
I. Transport and machine operation workers	1 522	0.8	1 507	0.7
J. Construction and mining workers	939	0.5	770	0.3
K. Carrying, cleaning, packaging, and related workers	3 710	2.0	3 812	1.7
L. Occupation not stated	4 828	2.6	4 518	2.0
Non-employed	44 236	23.4	66 081	29.4
Not stated	11 252	6.0	15 756	7.0

Note: 1) Figures for FY 2015 in this table do not match the FY 2015 overview published on March 2, 2018 in some places due to recalculation caused by omissions in reporting by prefectures (published on March 29, 2019).

(2) Mean age of divorce by employment status/occupation of wife and husband before separation

The average age of divorce (age at separation) by employment status of the husband and wife for divorces who separated and filed for divorce in FY2020 was 41.4 years for employed husbands and 53.8 years for non-employed husbands, and 39.6 years for employed wives and 40.9 years for non-employed wives.

By occupation, it was lowest in “Construction and mining workers” at 39.2 years for husbands and in “Security workers” at 36.6 years for wives, while it was highest in “Administrative and managerial workers” at 47.7 years and at 45.6 years both for husbands and wives, respectively. (Table 16)

Table 16. Mean age of divorce (age at separation) by employment status/occupation of wife and husband, FY2020
(Unit: years old)

Employment status/occupation of wife and husband	Husband	Wife
Total¹⁾	42.6	40.0
Total number of employed persons (Employed) ¹⁾	41.4	39.6
A. Administrative and managerial workers	47.7	45.6
B. Professional and engineering workers	41.3	39.8
C. Clerical workers	42.1	39.6
D. Sales workers	40.9	38.6
E. Service workers	41.2	39.3
F. Security workers	40.6	36.6
G. Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	43.2	40.5
H. Manufacturing process workers	40.1	39.8
I. Transport and machine operation workers	44.1	40.7
J. Construction and mining workers	39.2	37.9
K. Carrying, cleaning, packaging, and related workers	41.9	41.8
Non-employed	53.8	40.9

Note: Registered divorces are calculated for couples who separated in FY2020.

1) The total includes “employment status not stated”, and the total number of employed persons (employed) includes “L occupation not stated”.

(3) Duration of cohabitation before divorce by employment status/occupation of wife and husband before separation

As for the duration of cohabitation (the period from the earlier of the time of the wedding or the they start living together until the end of cohabitation) of divorced couples in FY2020 by employment status, 11.5 years was spent when the husband was "employed" and 18.6 years when the husband was "non-employed," compared to 12.1 years when the wife was "employed" and 12.2 years when the wife was "non-employed".

By occupation, it was shortest in "Construction and mining workers" at 10.7 years for husbands, and in "Security workers" at 8.6 years for wives. (Table 17)

Table 17. Duration of cohabitation¹⁾ before divorce by employment status/occupation of wife and husband, FY2015/2020 (Unit: years)

Employment status/occupation of wife and husband	FY2020		FY2015	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
Total ²⁾	12.1	12.1	11.3	11.3
Total number of employed persons (Employed) ²⁾	11.5	12.1	10.7	11.5
A. Administrative and managerial workers	15.6	16.1	15.0	15.6
B. Professional and engineering workers	11.1	11.7	10.3	11.0
C. Clerical workers	11.9	11.9	11.2	11.1
D. Sales workers	11.3	11.9	10.4	11.4
E. Service workers	10.8	12.2	9.6	11.6
F. Security workers	11.2	8.6	10.9	8.4
G. Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	13.1	13.5	12.8	13.8
H. Manufacturing process workers	11.3	12.8	10.1	11.9
I. Transport and machine operation workers	13.0	13.0	11.9	12.0
J. Construction and mining workers	10.7	11.1	10.2	11.8
K. Carrying, cleaning, packaging, and related workers	11.6	14.5	10.8	13.8
Non-employed	18.6	12.2	17.1	10.9

Note: 1) Duration of cohabitation is the period from the earlier of the time of the wedding or they start living together until the end of cohabitation.

2) The total includes "employment status not stated", and the total number of employed persons (employed) includes "L occupation not stated".

(4) Divorces by the combination of employment status of wife and husband before separation

As for the divorces and the proportion of divorces by the combination of employment status of wife and husband in FY2020, the highest was the combination of "both wife and husband are employed" with 123,586 cases (65.5%), which increased by 7.2 points from the previous survey. The next highest was the combination of "employed husband and non-employed wife" at 19.0%, which decreased by 4.9 points from the previous survey. (Figure 4, Table 18)

Figure 4 Percent distribution of divorces by the combination of employment status of wife and husband, FY2015/2020

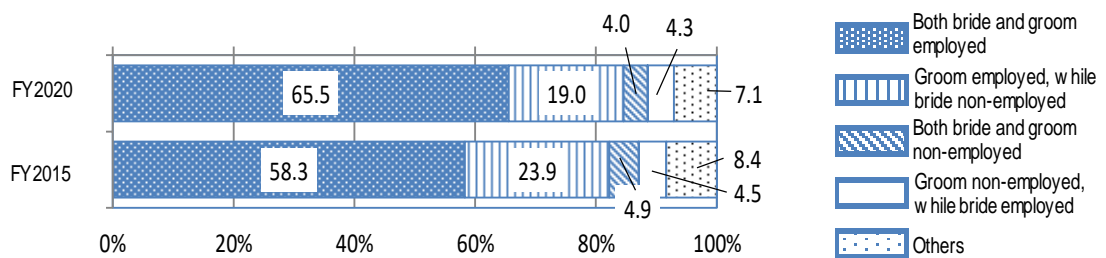


Table 18. Divorces by the combination of employment status/occupation of wife and husband, FY2020
(Unit: couples)

Employment status/occupation of husband	Employment status/occupation of wife														Non-employed	Not stated
	Total	Total number of employed persons (Employed)	A Administrative and managerial workers	B Professional and engineering workers	C Clerical workers	D Sales workers	E Service workers	F Security workers	G Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	H Manufacturing process workers	I Transport and machine operation workers	J Construction and mining workers	K Carrying, cleaning, packaging, and related workers	L Occupation not stated		
Total	188 656	133 168	1 762	26 945	30 959	15 401	37 323	611	1 004	8 164	1 522	939	3 710	4 828	44 236	11 252
Total number of employed persons (Employed)	161 299	123 586	1 620	25 058	29 222	14 338	34 266	571	946	7 464	1 399	889	3 334	4 479	35 881	1 832
A. Administrative and managerial workers	7 748	5 695	790	1 073	1 758	504	1 130	13	21	165	38	18	83	102	1 949	104
B. Professional and engineering workers	27 369	21 558	248	8 559	5 110	1 913	4 287	50	65	687	108	44	336	151	5 599	212
C. Clerical workers	15 178	12 093	124	2 313	5 573	1 043	2 301	41	28	356	60	15	177	62	2 968	117
D. Sales workers	16 905	13 220	91	2 288	3 447	3 134	3 089	37	50	496	129	82	261	116	3 516	169
E. Service workers	22 679	17 572	89	2 700	3 142	1 728	8 277	51	69	742	161	96	371	146	4 910	197
F. Security workers	3 917	2 900	19	709	608	290	702	282	18	129	33	16	61	33	965	52
G. Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	3 000	2 269	17	362	340	196	639	3	430	159	30	19	61	13	697	34
H. Manufacturing process workers	18 540	14 448	59	2 377	2 927	1 662	4 079	26	90	2 409	156	84	512	67	3 971	121
I. Transport and machine operation workers	10 971	8 317	38	1 305	1 623	1 027	2 593	17	51	763	452	44	326	78	2 550	104
J. Construction and mining workers	21 662	15 422	96	2 218	3 406	2 003	5 187	31	87	1 113	158	423	570	130	6 034	206
K. Carrying, cleaning, packaging, and related workers	7 089	5 457	28	793	1 083	738	1 688	13	33	414	41	39	552	35	1 587	45
L. Occupation not stated	6 241	4 635	21	361	205	100	294	7	4	31	33	9	24	3 546	1 135	471
Non-employed	15 991	8 204	125	1 529	1 447	956	2 720	31	48	630	103	44	339	232	7 591	196
Not stated	11 366	1 378	17	358	290	107	337	9	10	70	20	6	37	117	764	9 224

(5) Divorces by the number of children to whom custody is exercised and by the combination of employment status of wife and husband before separation

As for the number of divorces by the combination of employment status of husband and wife, and by the presence or absence of children (unmarried children under 20 years old; the same below) in custody in FY2020, in cases where both husband and wife were employed, 39.1% of divorces were for "no children in custody" and 60.9% were for "with children in custody". In addition, as for the proportion of divorces where no children to custody, the combination that "husband employed, while wife non-employed" accounts for 41.6%, "husband non-employed, while wife employed" accounts for 56.9%, and "both husband and wife non-employed" accounts for 74.7%. The proportions are higher when husband non-employed. (Table 19)

Table 19. Divorces and percent distribution by the presence or absence of children in custody and by the combination of employment status of wife and husband

Employment status of wife and husband	FY2020					FY2015 ¹⁾		
	Total	Child to whom custody is exercised ³⁾		Average age of divorce (age) ²⁾		Total	Child to whom custody is exercised ³⁾	
		No	Yes	Husband	Wife		No	Yes
Total⁴⁾	Number of divorces (couples)					Number of divorces (couples)		
	188 656	79 861	108 795	42.6	40.0	224 697	93 588	131 109
Both wife and husband employed	123 586	48 293	75 293	41.5	39.2	131 073	50 356	80 717
Husband employed, while wife non-employed	35 881	14 941	20 940	41.2	38.2	53 628	21 512	32 116
Husband non-employed, while wife employed	8 204	4 670	3 534	49.8	45.8	10 119	5 312	4 807
Both wife and husband non-employed	7 591	5 669	1 922	57.9	53.9	11 002	7 808	3 194
	Proportion (%)					Proportion (%)		
Total⁴⁾	100.0	42.3	57.7			100.0	41.7	58.3
Both wife and husband employed	100.0	39.1	60.9			100.0	38.4	61.6
Husband employed, while wife non-employed	100.0	41.6	58.4			100.0	40.1	59.9
Husband non-employed, while wife employed	100.0	56.9	43.1			100.0	52.5	47.5
Both wife and husband non-employed	100.0	74.7	25.3			100.0	71.0	29.0

Note: 1) Figures for FY 2015 in this table do not match the FY 2015 overview published on March 2, 2018 in some places due to recalculation caused by omissions in reporting by prefectures (published on March 29, 2019).

2) Registered divorces are calculated for couples who separated in FY2020.

3) Person who exercises parental authority is one who has unmarried children under twenty.

4) The total of employment status of husband and wife includes "employment status not stated".

(6) Divorce rates, divorce rates for married population, age-standardized divorce rates, and age-standardized divorce rates for married population by employment status/occupation of wife and husband before separation

As for the divorces filed in FY2020 after separation, Age-standardized divorce rates (per 1,000 unmarried population) by the occupation shows that the highest rates were recorded for both husband and wife in "Administrative and managerial workers," at 14.1 for husbands and 15.1 for wives (Table 20).

Table 20. Divorce rates, divorce rates for married population, age-standardized divorce rates, and age-standardized divorce rates for married population by employment status/occupation of wife and husband

Employment status/occupation of wife and husband	Husband				Wife			
	Divorce rates	Divorce rates for married population	Age-standardized divorce rates	Age-standardized divorce rates for married population	Divorce rates	Divorce rates for married population	Age-standardized divorce rates	Age-standardized divorce rates for married population
	(per 1,000 population)	(per 1,000 married population)	(per 1,000 population)	(per 1,000 married population)	(per 1,000 population)	(per 1,000 married population)	(per 1,000 population)	(per 1,000 married population)
Total¹⁾	2.6	4.4	2.5	10.1	2.4	4.4	2.6	11.4
Total number of employed persons (Employed) ¹⁾	3.7	5.8	3.0	12.7	3.7	6.3	2.8	13.1
A. Administrative and managerial workers	5.2	5.9	14.1	200.0	6.3	9.6	15.1	33.7 ²⁾
B. Professional and engineering workers	3.7	5.4	2.7	23.3	3.6	6.2	2.4	17.7
C. Clerical workers	2.3	3.2	1.7	7.9	3.0	5.1	2.1	9.1
D. Sales workers	3.3	4.9	2.4	11.4	3.6	6.7	2.8	11.1
E. Service workers	8.0	15.2	6.7	23.6	5.9	10.3	5.1	22.5
F. Security workers	2.7	4.1	2.2	12.1	5.0	10.8	3.4	14.8
G. Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1.8	2.4	2.6	11.6	1.1	1.4	2.4	8.1
H. Manufacturing process workers	2.7	4.6	1.9	6.7	2.9	4.9	2.3	9.8
I. Transport and machine operation workers	4.4	6.8	4.4	14.6	14.7	30.6	11.0	43.5
J. Construction and mining workers	7.0	10.4	6.3	22.2	10.6	17.6	8.6	50.3
K. Carrying, cleaning, packaging, and related workers	2.4	4.7	2.1	9.2	1.5	2.4	1.6	5.9
Non-employed	0.8	1.5	2.0	22.6	1.3	2.6	3.0	14.4

Note: Registered divorces are calculated for couples who separated in FY2020.

1) The total includes "employment status not stated", and the total number of employed persons (employed) includes "L occupation not stated".

2) Age-standardized divorce rates for married population for wives in Administrative and managerial workers" was calculated assuming that divorce rates for married population for 15-19 year olds was 0.