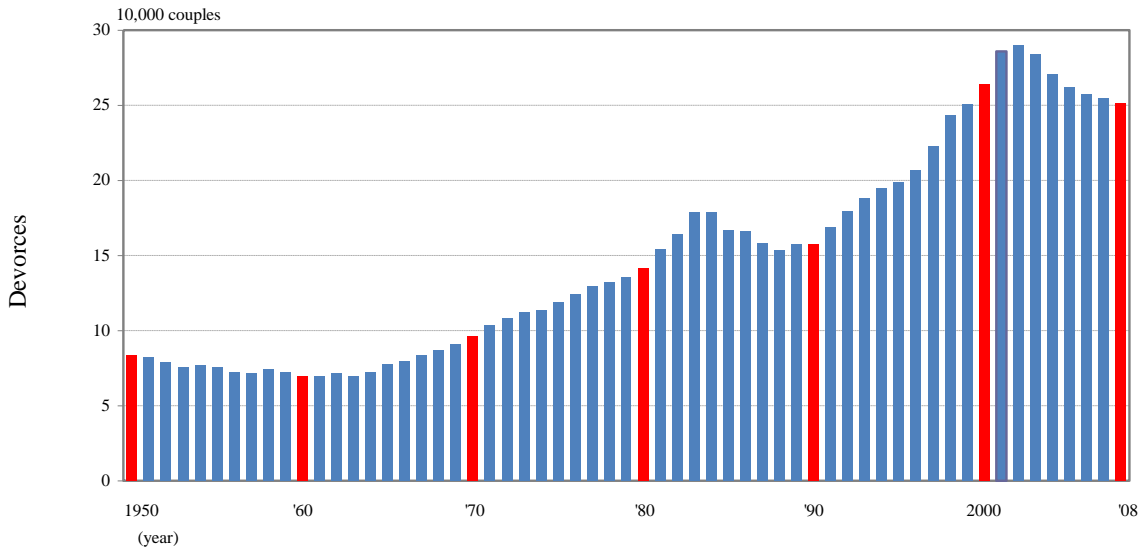


1 Trends in divorces

(1) Trends in the number of divorces

The number of divorces since 1950 fluctuated between 69,000 and 84,000 until 1967, decreased from 1984 to 1988, after which it took an upturn, until 290,000 in 2002. The number started to decrease again in 2003, and stood at 251,000 in 2008. (Figure 1, Statistics 1)

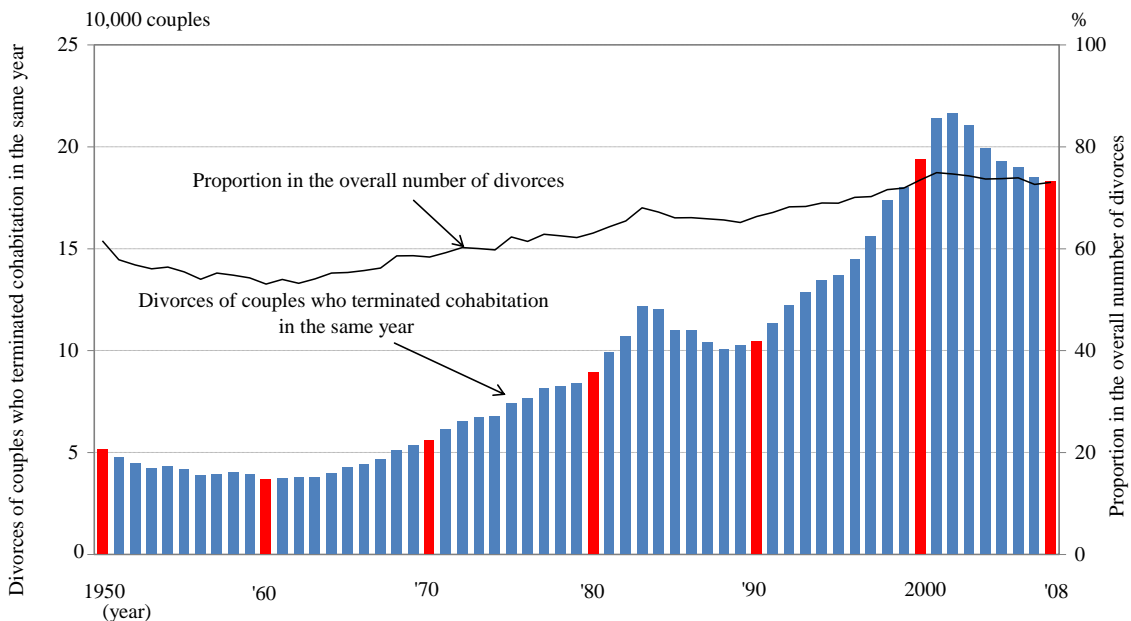
Figure 1. Trends in the number of divorces, 1950 - 2008



(2) Trends in the proportion of divorces separated and registered in each year of registration

The proportion of divorces separated and registered in each year of registration (divorces of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year) in the overall number of divorces since 1950, decreased from 61.5% in 1950 to 53.1% in 1960, after which it increased to 74.9% in 2001. The number took another moderate downturn in 2002, to 73.0% in 2008. (Figure 2, Statistics 2)

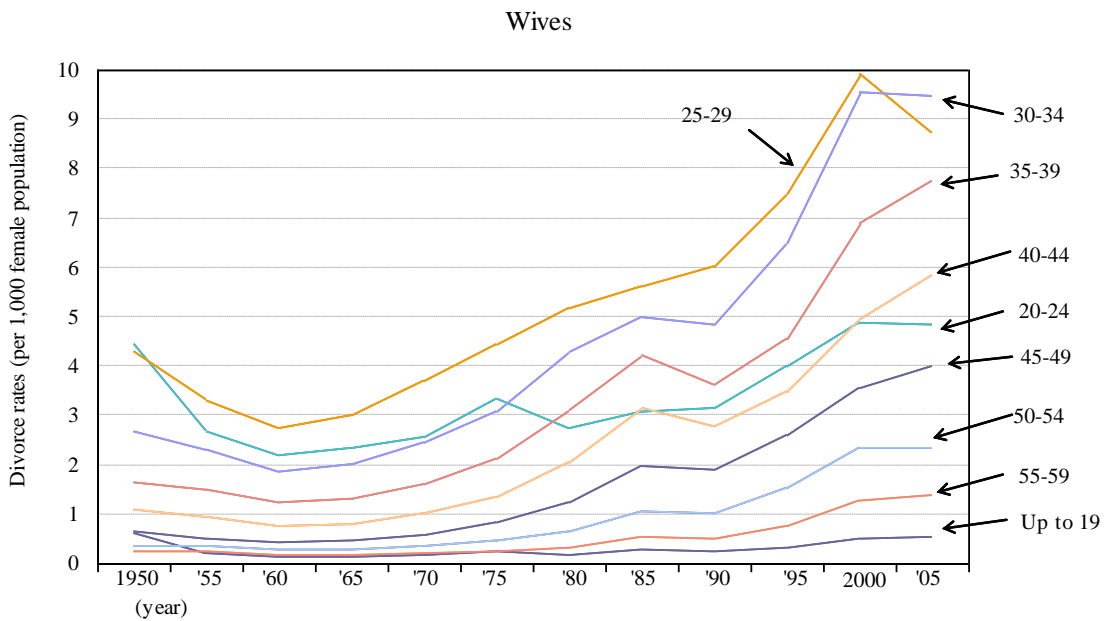
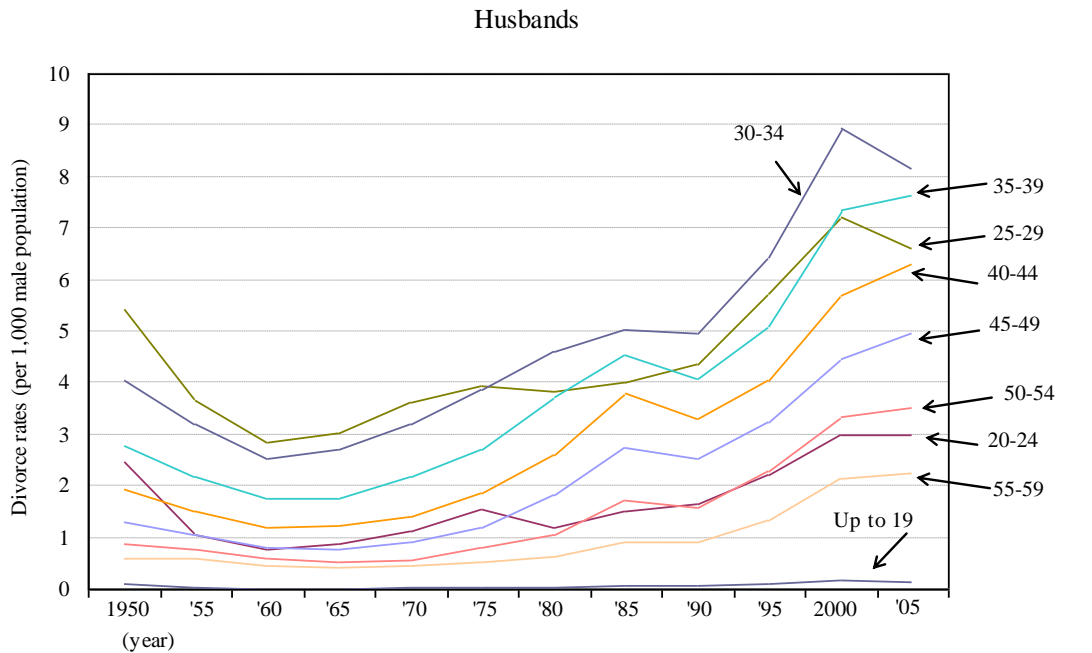
Figure 2. Trends in divorces of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year and their proportion of the overall number of divorces, 1950 - 2008



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

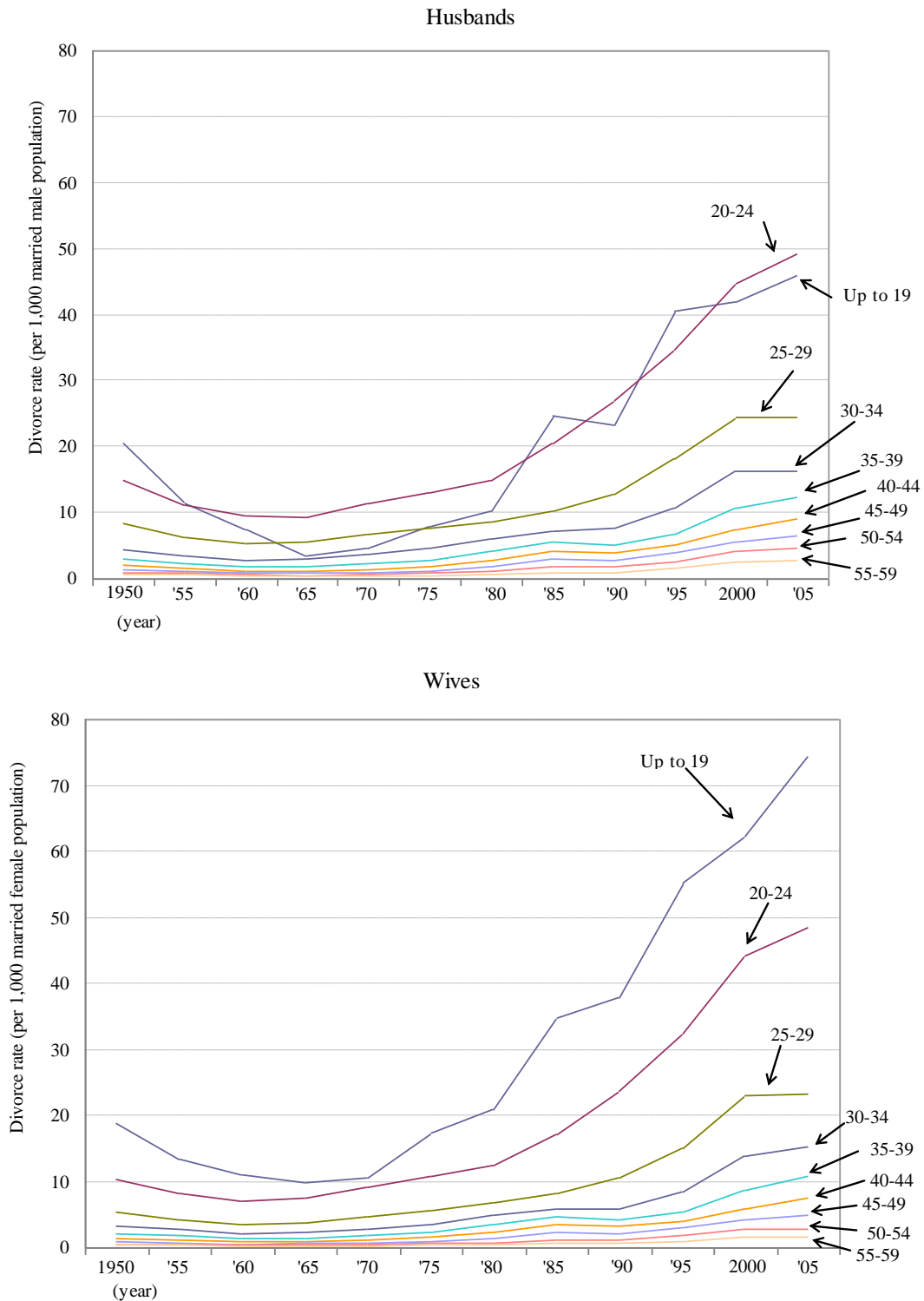
Trends by five years in divorce rates by age group (per 1,000 population) up to 59 years old, in couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year, have been upward since 1950, for both husbands and wives in all age groups. The rates have been the highest in 30 - 34 years old for husbands since 1980. The rates for wives were the highest in 25 - 29 years old until 2000, and in 30 - 34 years old in 2005. (Figure 3-1, Statistics 3-1)

Figure 3-1. Trends in divorce rates by age (five- year age group) of husband and wife up to 59 years old at the time cohabitation terminated (per 1,000 population, terminated cohabitation in the same year), 1950 - 2005



Trends in divorce rates by age group for married population up to 59 years old when couples terminated cohabitation in the same year, have been upward since 1950, for both husbands and wives in all age groups. The rates have been the highest in up to 19 years old and in 20 - 24 years old in turn for husbands, and the highest in up to 19 years old for wives. (Figure 3-2, Statistics 3-2)

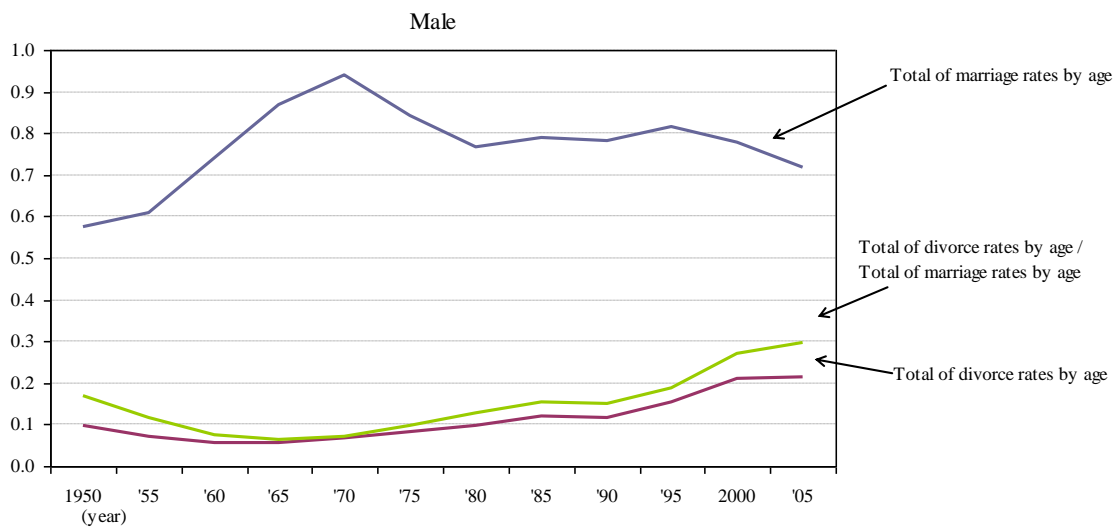
Figure 3-2. Trends in divorce rates for married population by age (five-year age group) of husband and wife up to 59 years old at the time cohabitation terminated (per 1,000 married population, terminated cohabitation in the same year), 1950 - 2005



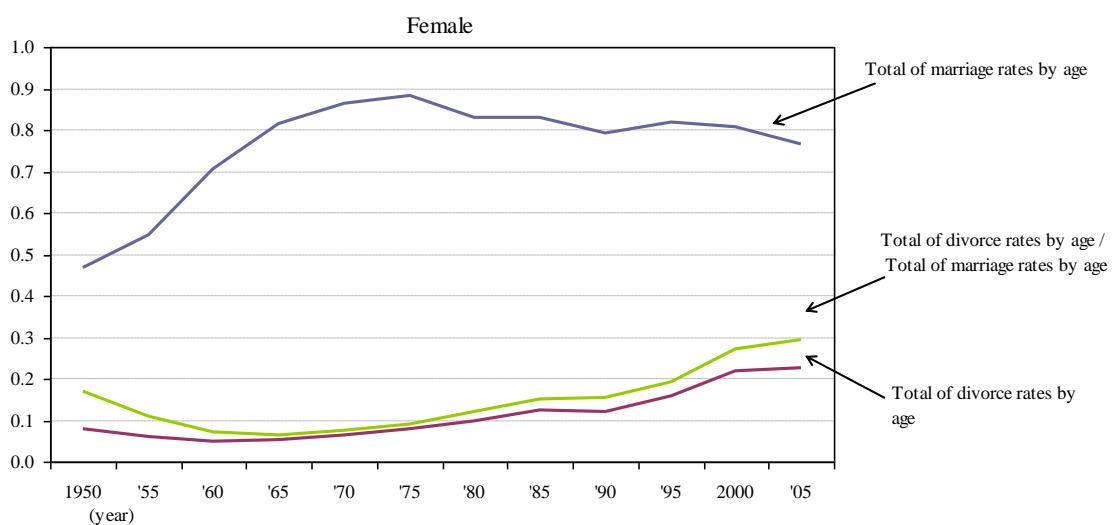
(4) Trends in the total of marriage rates by age of husband and wife who started cohabitation and divorce rates by age of them who terminated cohabitation in the same year

Statistics of trends since 1950 by five years in the total of marriage rates by age of husband and wife (up to 59) who started cohabitation in the same year and divorce rates by age of them who terminated cohabitation in the same year, indicate that the total of marriage rates by age has been declining since 1980, while the total of divorces by age has been rising, for both male and female. Trends in the proportion of the total of divorce rates by age and the total of marriage rates by age have been on the rise since 1970 for both male and female, to 0.3 in 2005. (Figure 4, Statistics 4)

Figure 4. Male and female trends in the total of marriage rates by age (started cohabitation in the same year) and divorce rates by age up to 59 years old (terminated cohabitation in the same year), 1950 - 2005



Note: The totals of marriage rates and divorce rates by age were given by totaling the rates given by quintupling marriage rates and divorce rates by five-year age group.



Note: The totals of marriage rates and divorce rates by age were given by totaling the rates given by quintupling marriage rates and divorce rates by five-year age group.

(5) Analysis on year-on-year increase and decrease of the number of divorces of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year

Separate analyses were conducted on the impact of changes in divorce rates and the impact of changes in age composition, on year-on-year increase and decrease of the number of divorces of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year since 1996. The age composition and divorce rates are viewed in age group by five years. The Results indicated that the impact of changes in divorce rates was larger until 2007, though the impact of changes in age composition became larger since 2008. (Figure 5, Table 1)

“Impact of changes in divorce rates” is evaluated as difference between A and B (Only divorce rates have been changed.)	
“Impact of changes in age composition” is evaluated as difference between B and C (Only age composition has been changed.)	
A	The current year’s actual number of divorces of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year (Age composition: current year, divorce rates: current year)
B	The number of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year, assuming the divorce rates in the previous year, and the age composition in the current year (Age composition: current year, divorce rates: <u>previous year</u>)
C	The previous year’s actual number of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year (Age composition: <u>previous year</u> , divorce rates: previous year)

Figure 5. Trends in year-on-year increase and decrease of the number of divorces of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year, 1996 - 2008

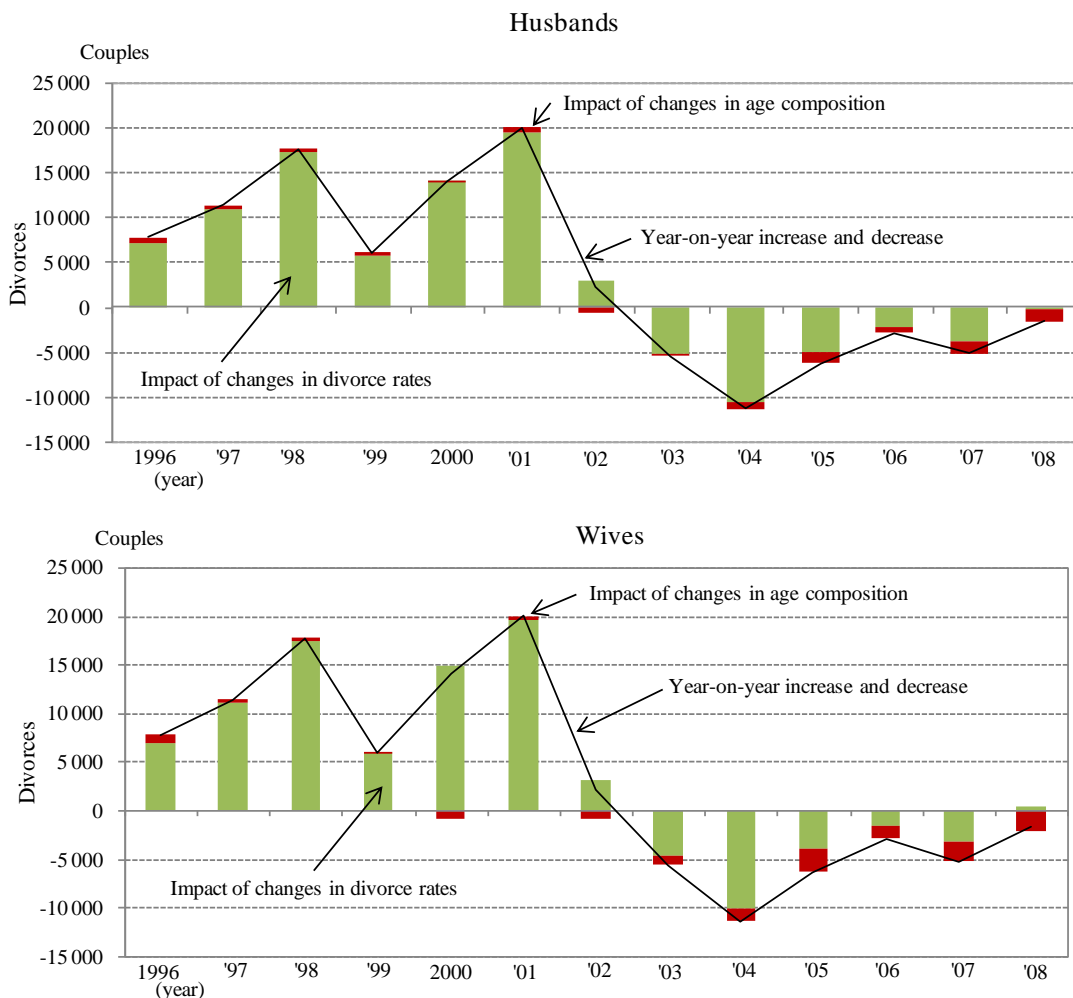


Table 1. Analysis on year-on-year increase and decrease in divorces of couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year, 1995 - 2008

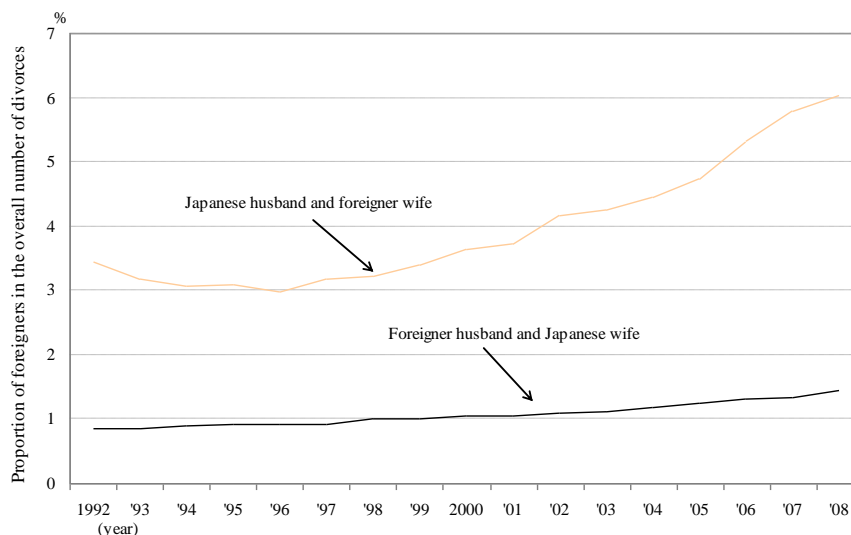
Year	Divorces (1)	Couples who terminated cohabitation in the same year (2)	Year-on-year increase and decrease (3)	(Couples)		
				Divorces assuming the divorce rates by age class in the previous year (4)	Impact of changes in divorce rates (5)=(2)-(4)	Impact of changes in age composition (6)=(3)-(5)
Husbands						
1995	199 016	137 209
1996	206 955	144 990	7 781	137 981	7 009	772
1997	222 635	156 334	11 344	145 440	10 894	450
1998	243 183	174 043	17 709	156 822	17 221	488
1999	250 529	180 043	6 000	174 385	5 658	342
2000	264 246	194 122	14 079	180 163	13 959	120
2001	285 911	214 142	20 020	194 788	19 354	666
2002	289 836	216 378	2 236	213 530	2 848	△ 612
2003	283 854	210 838	△ 5 540	216 027	△ 5 189	△ 351
2004	270 804	199 458	△ 11 380	210 167	△ 10 709	△ 671
2005	261 917	193 137	△ 6 321	198 173	△ 5 036	△ 1 285
2006	257 475	190 239	△ 2 898	192 488	△ 2 249	△ 649
2007	254 832	185 005	△ 5 234	188 919	△ 3 914	△ 1 320
2008	251 136	183 377	△ 1 628	183 556	△ 179	△ 1 449
Wives						
1995	199 016	137 209
1996	206 955	144 990	7 781	138 109	6 881	900
1997	222 635	156 334	11 344	145 221	11 113	231
1998	243 183	174 043	17 709	156 639	17 404	305
1999	250 529	180 043	6 000	174 103	5 940	60
2000	264 246	194 122	14 079	179 200	14 922	△ 843
2001	285 911	214 142	20 020	194 545	19 597	423
2002	289 836	216 378	2 236	213 251	3 127	△ 891
2003	283 854	210 838	△ 5 540	215 530	△ 4 692	△ 848
2004	270 804	199 458	△ 11 380	209 642	△ 10 184	△ 1 196
2005	261 917	193 137	△ 6 321	197 105	△ 3 968	△ 2 353
2006	257 475	190 239	△ 2 898	191 911	△ 1 672	△ 1 226
2007	254 832	185 005	△ 5 234	188 302	△ 3 297	△ 1 937
2008	251 136	183 377	△ 1 628	182 936	441	△ 2 069

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

(6) Trends in the proportion of foreigners in the number of divorces

Trends in the proportion of foreigners in the number of divorces since 1992 indicate that the proportion has been continuously rising for husbands from 0.9% in 1992 to 1.4% in 2008, while that for wives took a downturn from 3.4% in 1992, though turned upwards again, to 6.0% in 2008. (Figure 6, Statistics 5)

Figure 6. Trends in the proportion of foreigners in the overall number of divorces, 1992-2008

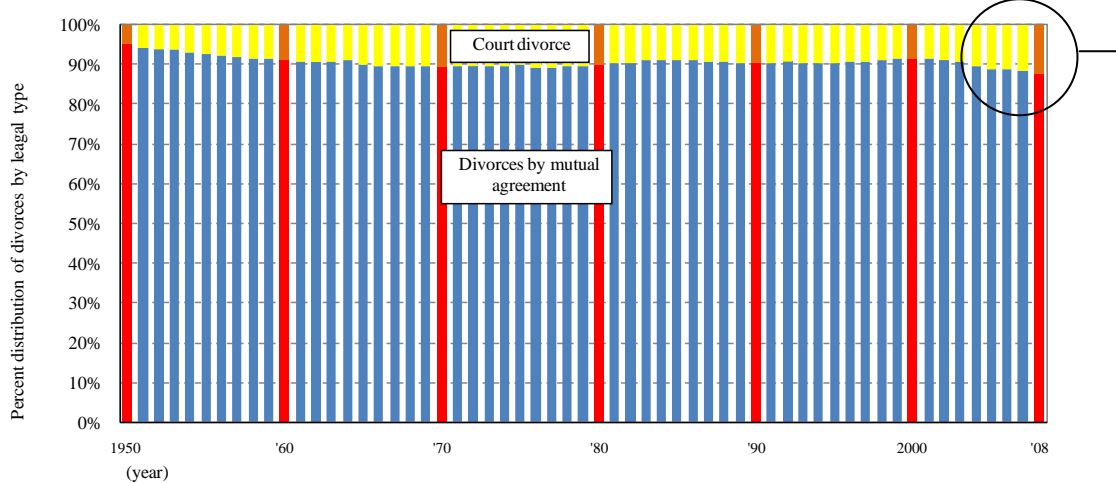


(7) Trends in divorces by legal type

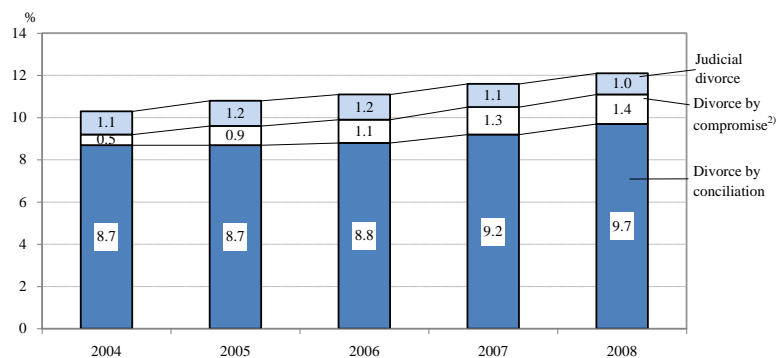
Trends in percent distribution of divorces by legal types since 1950 indicate that the proportion of divorces by mutual agreement declined from 95.5% in 1950 to 90.7% in 1962, after which the proportion stood at around 90%, and then took a downturn since 2003 to 87.8% in 2008. The system of divorce by compromise was established in 2004, and the relevant divorces have been increasing year after year. (Figure 7, Statistics 6)

The proportion of divorces by mutual agreement in 2008 in each prefecture was the highest in Okinawa at 92.0%, followed by Osaka and Kochi. The proportion was the lowest in Yamagata at 81.4%, followed by Shimane and Ishikawa. (Table 2, Statistics 7)

Figure 7. Trends in percent distribution of divorces by legal type, 1950 - 2008



Trends in percent distribution of court divorces by legal type¹⁾, 2004 - 2008



Note: 1) The graphs of divorce by adjustment and divorce by acknowledgment of claim are not indicated because their proportions are minimal.
2) Figures for "divorce by compromise" in 2004 are for April through December.

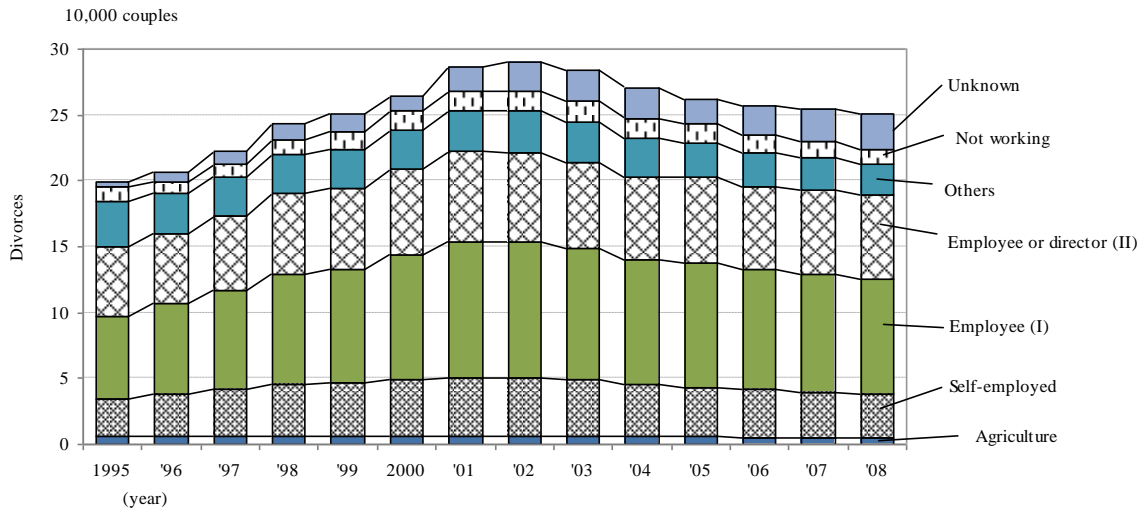
Table 2. Yearly comparison of proportions of divorces by mutual agreement in each prefecture, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2008

	1995		2000		2005		2008	
	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	95.0	Okinawa	95.5	Okinawa	93.5	Okinawa	92.0
	Osaka	93.1	Osaka	94.3	Osaka	91.5	Osaka	90.3
	Tokyo	92.5	Fukuoka	92.9	Kochi	91.2	Kochi	89.9
	Fukuoka	92.1	Hyogo	92.9	Kagoshima	91.0	Aomori	89.8
	Hyogo	92.0	Hiroshima	92.7	Tokushima	90.7	Fukuoka	89.6
Prefectures with low proportions of divorces by mutual agreement	Yamagata	80.3	Yamagata	85.1	Yamagata	82.5	Yamagata	81.4
	Ishikawa	82.2	Iwate	85.5	Ishikawa	84.0	Shimane	83.7
	Iwate	82.5	Ishikawa	85.6	Toyama	85.1	Ishikawa	84.1
	Akita	83.8	Akita	86.4	Nagano	85.7	Nagano	84.1
	Nagano	83.9	Nagano	86.8	Niigata	85.8	Niigata	84.1

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

- (8) Trends in divorces by type of occupation for household at the time cohabitation terminated
 Trends since 1995 in divorces by type of occupation for household at the time cohabitation terminated turned from upward to downward for all job types, with the peaks in 2001 or 2002. The decrease from 2002 to 2008 stood at 15,000 for Employee (I), and at 10,000 for Self-employed. (Figure 8, Statistics 8)

Figure 8 Trends in divorces by type of occupation for household at the time cohabitation terminated, 1995 – 2008



- (9) Trends in divorces by duration of cohabitation
 Trends in the proportions of divorces by duration of cohabitation since 1950 indicate that proportion of divorces of couples who lived together for less than five years declined from 1950 to 32.2% in 1983, then took an upturn until 40.1% in 1996 and 1997, and went down again. The figure for couples who lived 20 years or more increased until 1999, after which it increased and decreased moderately, and stood at 16.5% in 2008. (Figure 9, Statistics 9)

Figure 9. Trends in percent distribution of divorces by duration of cohabitation, 1950 - 2008

