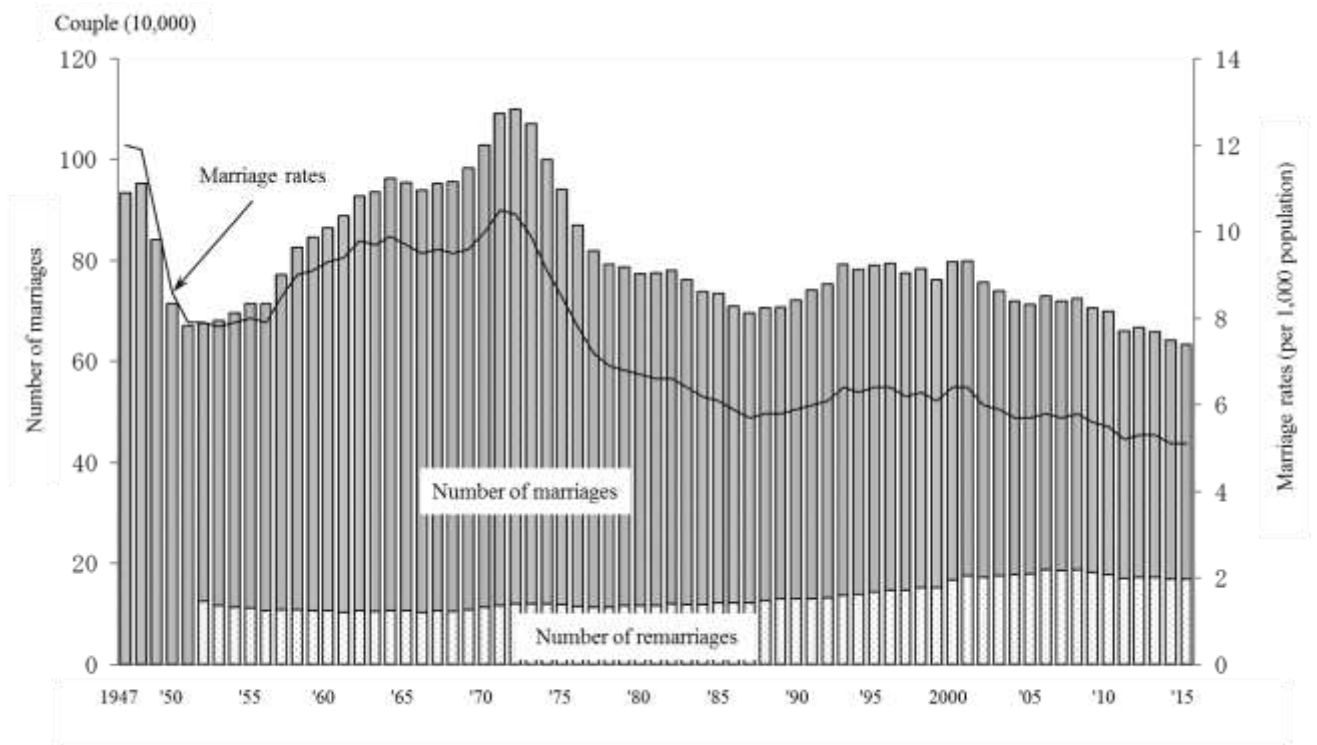


# 1 Annual Trends in Marriages

## (1) Number of marriages and marriage rates

To overview the trends in the number of marriages, the number reached 950,000 in 1948 during the “The first boom of marriage” that emerged right after World War II. From 1949, the number fell sharply and continuously decreased to 670,000 in 1951. Then, it turned to an increasing trend and stayed high for three years from 1970 to 1972. These years are called the “The second boom of marriage.” The number reached 1.1 million in 1972. From 1973 to 1978, it fell sharply again. For the following several years, the number kept decreasing gradually until it turned to an increasing trend in 1988. It repeated a rise and fall after 1994, and since 2009, the number has generally shown a decreasing trend. The number of remarriages has stayed flat in recent years after having shown an increasing trend after 1979.(Figure 1)

Figure 1 Annual trend in the number of marriages and marriage rates (per 1,000 population) between 1947 and 2015



(2) Number of marriages by marital status of partners

In terms of the annual trends in marriages by the marital status of partners, the number of “first marriages for both parties” shows a declining trend.

Meanwhile, the numbers of “remarriages for at least one party” showed an increasing trend until 2006 then turned to a declining trend. The numbers have stayed flat in recent years.

The ratio of “remarriages for at least one party” is in an increasing trend, exceeding 25% in 2005 and reaching 26.8% in 2015. (Table 1)

Table 1 Annual trend in numbers of marriages and the ratios by the marital status of partners between 1975 and 2015

| Year                              | Total   | First marriage for both parties | Remarriage for at least one party | First marriage for groom and remarriage for bride | Remarriage for groom and first marriage for bride | Remarriage for both parties |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Actual number (number of couples) |         |                                 |                                   |   |   |                             |
| 1975                              | 941 628 | 822 382                         | 119 246                           | 33 443  | 49 063  | 36 740                      |
| 1980                              | 774 702 | 657 373                         | 117 329                           | 33 512  | 44 042  | 39 775                      |
| 1985                              | 735 850 | 613 387                         | 122 463                           | 32 854  | 43 222  | 46 387                      |
| 1990                              | 722 138 | 589 886                         | 132 252                           | 35 567  | 47 586  | 49 099                      |
| 1995                              | 791 888 | 646 536                         | 145 352                           | 40 631  | 53 622  | 51 099                      |
| 2000                              | 798 138 | 630 235                         | 167 903                           | 47 939  | 61 272  | 58 692                      |
| 2001                              | 799 999 | 623 514                         | 176 485                           | 51 256  | 64 169  | 61 060                      |
| 2002                              | 757 331 | 582 785                         | 174 546                           | 50 758  | 62 353  | 61 435                      |
| 2003                              | 740 191 | 562 940                         | 177 251                           | 50 787  | 63 387  | 63 077                      |
| 2004                              | 720 417 | 541 675                         | 178 742                           | 50 773  | 64 260  | 63 709                      |
| 2005                              | 714 265 | 533 498                         | 180 767                           | 50 578  | 66 193  | 63 996                      |
| 2006                              | 730 971 | 541 487                         | 189 484                           | 52 239  | 70 646  | 66 599                      |
| 2007                              | 719 822 | 532 298                         | 187 524                           | 52 118  | 68 445  | 66 961                      |
| 2008                              | 726 106 | 537 748                         | 188 358                           | 52 825  | 68 120  | 67 413                      |
| 2009                              | 707 734 | 524 480                         | 183 254                           | 50 618  | 66 834  | 65 802                      |
| 2010                              | 700 214 | 520 955                         | 179 259                           | 49 616  | 65 757  | 63 886                      |
| 2011                              | 661 895 | 490 664                         | 171 231                           | 47 020  | 62 999  | 61 212                      |
| 2012                              | 668 869 | 494 749                         | 174 120                           | 47 168  | 64 622  | 62 330                      |
| 2013                              | 660 613 | 487 044                         | 173 569                           | 46 659  | 64 772  | 62 138                      |
| 2014                              | 643 749 | 473 772                         | 169 977                           | 45 609  | 63 392  | 60 976                      |
| 2015                              | 635 156 | 464 975                         | 170 181                           | 45 268  | 63 588  | 61 325                      |
| Percent distribution (%)          |         |                                 |                                   |   |   |                             |
| 1975                              | 100.0   | 87.3                            | 12.7                              | 3.6   | 5.2   | 3.9                         |
| 1980                              | 100.0   | 84.9                            | 15.1                              | 4.3   | 5.7   | 5.1                         |
| 1985                              | 100.0   | 83.4                            | 16.6                              | 4.5   | 5.9   | 6.3                         |
| 1990                              | 100.0   | 81.7                            | 18.3                              | 4.9   | 6.6   | 6.8                         |
| 1995                              | 100.0   | 81.6                            | 18.4                              | 5.1   | 6.8   | 6.5                         |
| 2000                              | 100.0   | 79.0                            | 21.0                              | 6.0   | 7.7   | 7.4                         |
| 2001                              | 100.0   | 77.9                            | 22.1                              | 6.4   | 8.0   | 7.6                         |
| 2002                              | 100.0   | 77.0                            | 23.0                              | 6.7   | 8.2   | 8.1                         |
| 2003                              | 100.0   | 76.1                            | 23.9                              | 6.9   | 8.6   | 8.5                         |
| 2004                              | 100.0   | 75.2                            | 24.8                              | 7.0   | 8.9   | 8.8                         |
| 2005                              | 100.0   | 74.7                            | 25.3                              | 7.1   | 9.3   | 9.0                         |
| 2006                              | 100.0   | 74.1                            | 25.9                              | 7.1   | 9.7   | 9.1                         |
| 2007                              | 100.0   | 73.9                            | 26.1                              | 7.2   | 9.5   | 9.3                         |
| 2008                              | 100.0   | 74.1                            | 25.9                              | 7.3   | 9.4   | 9.3                         |
| 2009                              | 100.0   | 74.1                            | 25.9                              | 7.2   | 9.4   | 9.3                         |
| 2010                              | 100.0   | 74.4                            | 25.6                              | 7.1   | 9.4   | 9.1                         |
| 2011                              | 100.0   | 74.1                            | 25.9                              | 7.1   | 9.5   | 9.2                         |
| 2012                              | 100.0   | 74.0                            | 26.0                              | 7.1   | 9.7   | 9.3                         |
| 2013                              | 100.0   | 73.7                            | 26.3                              | 7.1   | 9.8   | 9.4                         |
| 2014                              | 100.0   | 73.6                            | 26.4                              | 7.1   | 9.8   | 9.5                         |
| 2015                              | 100.0   | 73.2                            | 26.8                              | 7.1   | 10.0  | 9.7                         |

(3) Mean marriage age of grooms and brides and age difference of partners

In this section, we take a look at the annual trends of mean marriage ages by the marital status of partners. A continuous rising trend can be observed for both grooms and brides in all categories. The mean marriage ages of grooms and brides in the category of “first marriage for both parties” in 2015 are 30.7 and 29.0, respectively. The mean marriage ages in the category of “remarriages for both parties” in the same year are 46.5 for grooms and 42.7 for brides. The trend of the age difference of parties (groom’s age – bride’s age) shows little change in all categories in recent years.

As to the age difference between Japanese brides and grooms by their marital status, grooms have been younger than brides in terms of mean age difference in “marriages between unmarried grooms and remarrying brides” since 2000. (Table 2)

Table 2 Annual trend in mean marriage ages of brides and grooms and age difference of partners by marital status between 1975 and 2015

(Unit: year old)

| Year | Mean marriage age |       |                                 |       |                          |       |                          |       |                             |       | Age difference of partners (Groom's age – bride's age) |                                 |                          |                      |                             |
|------|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
|      | All marriages     |       | First marriage for both parties |       | First marriage for groom |       | Remarriage for groom     |       | Remarriage for both parties |       | All marriages  | First marriage for both parties | First marriage for groom | Remarriage for groom | Remarriage for both parties |
|      | Groom             | Bride | Groom                           | Bride | Remarriage for bride     |       | First marriage for bride |       | Groom                       | Bride |  |                                 |                          |                      |                             |
|      |                   |       |                                 |       | Groom                    | Bride | Groom                    | Bride |                             |       |  |                                 |                          |                      |                             |
| 1975 | 27.8              | 25.2  | 26.9                            | 24.4  | 29.6                     | 30.0  | 36.1                     | 30.4  | 40.4                        | 36.2  | 2.6  | 2.5                             | Δ 0.3                    | 5.7                  | 4.2                         |
| 1980 | 28.7              | 25.9  | 27.7                            | 25.0  | 30.9                     | 31.1  | 36.2                     | 30.2  | 40.6                        | 36.7  | 2.8  | 2.7                             | Δ 0.2                    | 6.1                  | 3.9                         |
| 1985 | 29.3              | 26.4  | 28.0                            | 25.3  | 32.5                     | 32.3  | 36.9                     | 29.8  | 42.0                        | 38.2  | 2.9  | 2.7                             | 0.2                      | 7.0                  | 3.8                         |
| 1990 | 29.7              | 26.9  | 28.2                            | 25.6  | 33.2                     | 32.9  | 37.1                     | 29.2  | 43.6                        | 39.5  | 2.8  | 2.5                             | 0.3                      | 7.9                  | 4.1                         |
| 1995 | 29.8              | 27.3  | 28.3                            | 26.1  | 33.2                     | 33.0  | 36.9                     | 29.1  | 44.4                        | 40.3  | 2.5  | 2.2                             | 0.2                      | 7.8                  | 4.1                         |
| 2000 | 30.4              | 28.2  | 28.5                            | 26.8  | 33.5                     | 33.2  | 37.0                     | 29.7  | 44.9                        | 40.6  | 2.2  | 1.7                             | 0.3                      | 7.3                  | 4.3                         |
| 2001 | 30.6              | 28.4  | 28.6                            | 26.9  | 33.7                     | 33.3  | 37.1                     | 29.8  | 44.8                        | 40.2  | 2.2  | 1.7                             | 0.5                      | 7.3                  | 4.6                         |
| 2002 | 30.8              | 28.6  | 28.8                            | 27.1  | 33.7                     | 33.5  | 37.0                     | 29.9  | 44.5                        | 40.3  | 2.2  | 1.7                             | 0.2                      | 7.1                  | 4.2                         |
| 2003 | 31.2              | 29.0  | 29.1                            | 27.4  | 33.9                     | 33.7  | 37.3                     | 30.1  | 44.7                        | 40.5  | 2.2  | 1.7                             | 0.1                      | 7.2                  | 4.2                         |
| 2004 | 31.5              | 29.2  | 29.3                            | 27.6  | 34.3                     | 34.0  | 37.6                     | 30.2  | 44.7                        | 40.5  | 2.3  | 1.7                             | 0.3                      | 7.4                  | 4.2                         |
| 2005 | 31.7              | 29.4  | 29.5                            | 27.8  | 34.3                     | 34.1  | 38.0                     | 30.3  | 45.0                        | 40.9  | 2.3  | 1.7                             | 0.2                      | 7.7                  | 4.2                         |
| 2006 | 32.0              | 29.6  | 29.6                            | 27.9  | 34.5                     | 34.3  | 38.4                     | 30.5  | 44.9                        | 40.7  | 2.4  | 1.7                             | 0.2                      | 7.9                  | 4.2                         |
| 2007 | 32.1              | 29.8  | 29.7                            | 28.0  | 34.6                     | 34.5  | 38.4                     | 30.8  | 44.9                        | 40.7  | 2.3  | 1.7                             | 0.2                      | 7.6                  | 4.2                         |
| 2008 | 32.2              | 29.9  | 29.8                            | 28.1  | 34.9                     | 34.7  | 38.4                     | 31.1  | 45.1                        | 40.8  | 2.3  | 1.7                             | 0.2                      | 7.3                  | 4.3                         |
| 2009 | 32.4              | 30.1  | 30.0                            | 28.3  | 35.2                     | 34.9  | 38.5                     | 31.4  | 45.6                        | 41.2  | 2.3  | 1.7                             | 0.3                      | 7.1                  | 4.4                         |
| 2010 | 32.5              | 30.3  | 30.1                            | 28.5  | 35.3                     | 35.1  | 38.6                     | 31.7  | 45.7                        | 41.5  | 2.2  | 1.7                             | 0.2                      | 6.9                  | 4.2                         |
| 2011 | 32.7              | 30.5  | 30.3                            | 28.6  | 35.5                     | 35.4  | 38.7                     | 31.9  | 45.8                        | 41.8  | 2.2  | 1.6                             | 0.1                      | 6.8                  | 4.0                         |
| 2012 | 32.9              | 30.7  | 30.4                            | 28.8  | 35.7                     | 35.7  | 39.0                     | 32.3  | 46.0                        | 42.1  | 2.2  | 1.6                             | 0.0                      | 6.7                  | 3.9                         |
| 2013 | 33.0              | 30.8  | 30.5                            | 28.9  | 35.8                     | 35.8  | 39.1                     | 32.4  | 46.0                        | 42.2  | 2.2  | 1.6                             | 0.0                      | 6.7                  | 3.8                         |
| 2014 | 33.2              | 30.9  | 30.6                            | 29.0  | 35.9                     | 35.8  | 39.4                     | 32.6  | 46.4                        | 42.5  | 2.2  | 1.7                             | 0.1                      | 6.8                  | 3.9                         |
| 2015 | 33.3              | 31.1  | 30.7                            | 29.0  | 35.9                     | 36.0  | 39.6                     | 32.9  | 46.5                        | 42.7  | 2.2  | 1.7                             | Δ 0.1                    | 6.7                  | 3.8                         |

(Data of marriages between Japanese) (Unit: year old)

| Year | Mean marriage age |       |                                 |       |                          |       |                          |       |                             |       | Age difference of partners (Groom's age – bride's age) |                                 |                          |                      |                             |
|------|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
|      | All marriages     |       | First marriage for both parties |       | First marriage for groom |       | Remarriage for groom     |       | Remarriage for both parties |       | All marriages  | First marriage for both parties | First marriage for groom | Remarriage for groom | Remarriage for both parties |
|      | Groom             | Bride | Groom                           | Bride | Remarriage for bride     |       | First marriage for bride |       | Groom                       | Bride |  |                                 |                          |                      |                             |
|      |                   |       |                                 |       | Groom                    | Bride | Groom                    | Bride |                             |       |  |                                 |                          |                      |                             |
| 1975 | 27.7              | 25.1  | 26.9                            | 24.4  | 29.6                     | 29.9  | 36.1                     | 30.4  | 40.3                        | 36.2  | 2.6  | 2.5                             | Δ 0.3                    | 5.7                  | 4.2                         |
| 1980 | 28.7              | 25.9  | 27.7                            | 25.0  | 30.9                     | 31.1  | 36.2                     | 30.2  | 40.6                        | 36.8  | 2.8  | 2.7                             | Δ 0.2                    | 6.0                  | 3.9                         |
| 1985 | 29.2              | 26.4  | 28.0                            | 25.3  | 32.4                     | 32.3  | 36.7                     | 29.9  | 42.0                        | 38.3  | 2.9  | 2.7                             | 0.1                      | 6.8                  | 3.7                         |
| 1990 | 29.5              | 26.8  | 28.1                            | 25.6  | 32.9                     | 32.8  | 36.5                     | 29.3  | 43.5                        | 39.7  | 2.7  | 2.5                             | 0.1                      | 7.2                  | 3.8                         |
| 1995 | 29.6              | 27.3  | 28.2                            | 26.1  | 33.0                     | 32.9  | 36.2                     | 29.2  | 44.3                        | 40.6  | 2.4  | 2.1                             | 0.0                      | 7.0                  | 3.7                         |
| 2000 | 30.0              | 28.1  | 28.4                            | 26.7  | 32.8                     | 33.0  | 35.9                     | 29.7  | 44.5                        | 41.0  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.2                    | 6.2                  | 3.5                         |
| 2001 | 30.1              | 28.3  | 28.5                            | 26.9  | 32.8                     | 33.1  | 35.8                     | 29.8  | 44.1                        | 40.7  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 6.0                  | 3.5                         |
| 2002 | 30.4              | 28.5  | 28.7                            | 27.1  | 33.0                     | 33.3  | 35.9                     | 30.1  | 43.9                        | 40.6  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 5.9                  | 3.4                         |
| 2003 | 30.8              | 28.9  | 28.9                            | 27.4  | 33.2                     | 33.5  | 36.2                     | 30.3  | 44.1                        | 40.7  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 5.8                  | 3.4                         |
| 2004 | 31.0              | 29.1  | 29.1                            | 27.6  | 33.5                     | 33.8  | 36.4                     | 30.5  | 44.0                        | 40.7  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 5.9                  | 3.3                         |
| 2005 | 31.2              | 29.3  | 29.3                            | 27.7  | 33.6                     | 33.9  | 36.5                     | 30.6  | 44.3                        | 41.1  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.4                    | 5.9                  | 3.3                         |
| 2006 | 31.4              | 29.5  | 29.4                            | 27.9  | 33.8                     | 34.1  | 36.7                     | 30.9  | 44.1                        | 40.9  | 1.9  | 1.5                             | Δ 0.3                    | 5.9                  | 3.2                         |
| 2007 | 31.6              | 29.7  | 29.6                            | 28.0  | 33.9                     | 34.3  | 36.9                     | 31.0  | 44.2                        | 41.0  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.4                    | 5.9                  | 3.2                         |
| 2008 | 31.7              | 29.8  | 29.7                            | 28.1  | 34.2                     | 34.6  | 37.2                     | 31.3  | 44.3                        | 41.2  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.4                    | 5.9                  | 3.2                         |
| 2009 | 31.9              | 30.0  | 29.9                            | 28.3  | 34.4                     | 34.8  | 37.4                     | 31.6  | 44.7                        | 41.5  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 5.9                  | 3.2                         |
| 2010 | 32.1              | 30.2  | 30.0                            | 28.5  | 34.7                     | 35.0  | 37.8                     | 31.9  | 45.0                        | 41.7  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 5.9                  | 3.2                         |
| 2011 | 32.3              | 30.4  | 30.2                            | 28.6  | 35.0                     | 35.3  | 38.0                     | 32.1  | 45.2                        | 42.0  | 1.9  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.4                    | 5.9                  | 3.1                         |
| 2012 | 32.6              | 30.6  | 30.3                            | 28.8  | 35.2                     | 35.6  | 38.4                     | 32.4  | 45.5                        | 42.3  | 2.0  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 6.0                  | 3.2                         |
| 2013 | 32.7              | 30.8  | 30.4                            | 28.9  | 35.4                     | 35.7  | 38.5                     | 32.5  | 45.5                        | 42.3  | 2.0  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 6.0                  | 3.2                         |
| 2014 | 32.9              | 30.9  | 30.6                            | 29.0  | 35.6                     | 35.8  | 38.8                     | 32.8  | 45.8                        | 42.6  | 2.0  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.2                    | 6.1                  | 3.2                         |
| 2015 | 33.0              | 31.0  | 30.6                            | 29.0  | 35.6                     | 35.9  | 39.1                     | 33.0  | 46.0                        | 42.8  | 2.0  | 1.6                             | Δ 0.3                    | 6.1                  | 3.2                         |

Note: Ages used for the calculation of mean marriage ages are ages of who filed their marriage papers and started to live together in a given year, and the ages are based on either the date of a marriage ceremony or the first day of the marriage life, whichever comes first.