

## Indicator 5. Marriage and Divorce Ratios

### Marriage and divorce ratios in selected countries: 1960 to 1992

Country	1960	1970	1980	1988	1990	1992
<b>Marriages per 1,000 persons in population</b>						
United States	8.5	10.6	10.6	9.7	9.8	9.3
Belgium	7.2	7.6	6.7	6.0	6.5	5.8
Denmark	7.8	7.4	5.2	6.3	6.1	6.2
France	7.0	7.8	6.2	4.9	5.1	4.7
Germany, former West	9.4	7.3	5.9	6.5	6.5	5.6
Greece	7.0	7.7	6.5	4.8	5.9	4.7
Ireland	5.5	7.0	6.4	<sup>1</sup> 5.1	5.1	<sup>2</sup> 4.5
Italy	7.7	7.3	5.7	<sup>1</sup> 5.5	<sup>2</sup> 5.6	<sup>2</sup> 5.3
Luxembourg	7.1	6.3	5.9	5.5	6.1	6.4
Netherlands	7.8	9.5	6.4	6.0	6.4	6.2
Portugal	7.8	—	7.4	6.9	7.3	7.1
Spain	7.7	7.3	5.9	<sup>1</sup> 5.5	5.7	5.5
United Kingdom	7.5	8.5	7.4	6.9	6.5	—
<b>Divorces per 1,000 persons in population</b>						
United States	2.2	3.5	5.2	4.7	4.7	4.8
Belgium	0.5	0.7	1.5	2.1	2.0	—
Canada	0.4	1.4	2.6	—	2.9	—
Denmark	1.5	1.9	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.5
France	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.9	1.9	—
Germany, former West	0.8	1.2	1.6	2.1	1.9	—
Italy	—	—	0.2	0.4	0.5	—
Japan	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.3	—
Luxembourg	0.5	0.6	1.6	2.1	2.0	—
Netherlands	0.5	0.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8
Portugal	0.1	0.1	—	0.9	0.9	—
Sweden	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.1	2.3	—
United Kingdom <sup>3</sup>	0.5	1.2	3.0	2.9	2.9	—

—Data not available.

<sup>1</sup> Estimated.

<sup>2</sup> Provisional data.

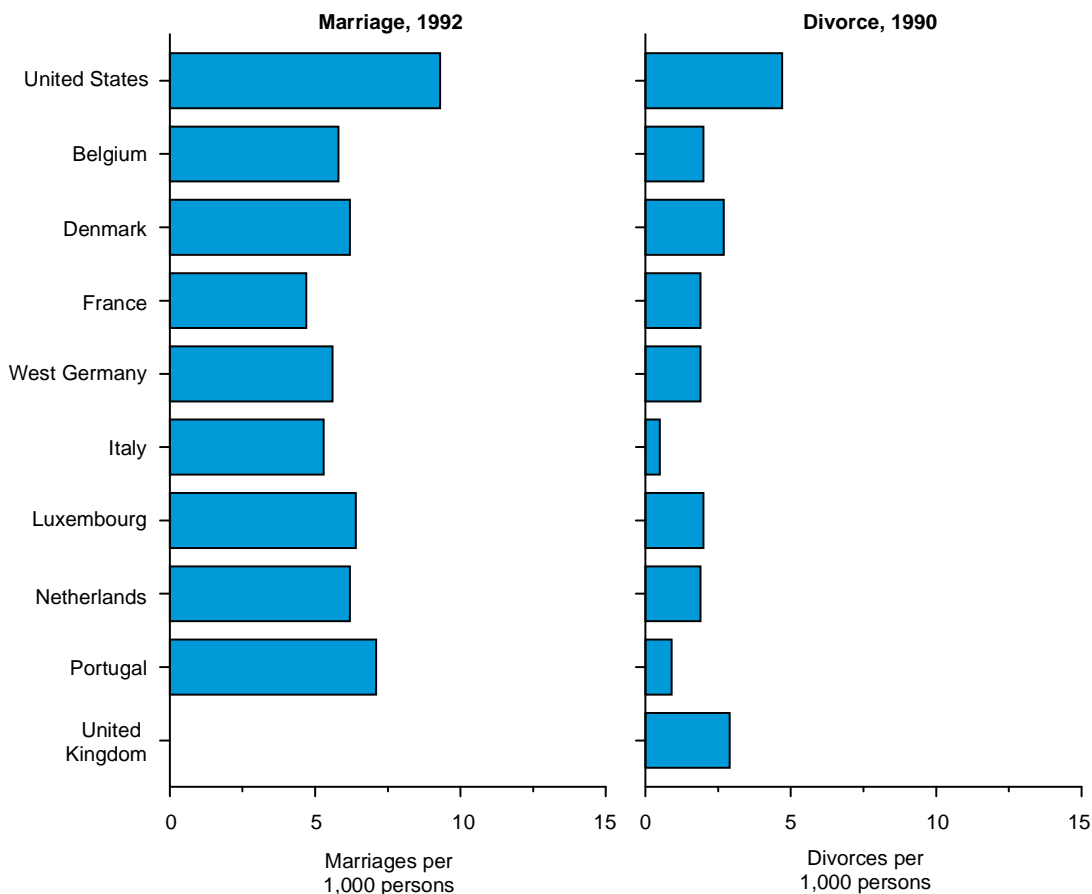
<sup>3</sup> Data prior to 1988 are for England and Wales only.

**NOTE:** Countries collect data on marriage and divorce at different intervals. For purposes of this table, therefore, some countries do not appear on both sections. Data for divorces have been revised from previous years.

**SOURCE:** Statistical Office of the European Communities, *Demographic Statistics, 1988, 1990, and 1994*; and various national sources. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, various years. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, various years. *Demographic Yearbook, United Nations 1960–1992*.

## Indicator 5. Marriage and Divorce Ratios

### Marriage and divorce ratios in 8 countries: 1990 and 1992



**SOURCE:** Statistical Office of the European Communities, *Demographic Statistics, 1988, 1990, and 1994*; and various national sources. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, various years. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, various years. *Demographic Yearbook, United Nations 1960–1992*.

Despite a decline in marriage rates (see indicator 3), the United States still has substantially higher marriage ratios than other developed nations. Between 1980 and 1992, marriage ratios in only 3 out of 11 other industrialized nations showed larger declines than those in the United States. Most of the other countries showed either minor declines or increases in the marriage ratios.

The United States also has a much higher divorce ratio than other developed countries, although the figure declined between 1980 and 1990. Since 1980, divorce ratios in some other countries have risen and the gap between their figures and that of the United States has narrowed slightly.