Central Bureau of Statistics Curaçao

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Civil Status of residents of Curaçao 2025

This report presents the results of the analysis of marriages and divorces in Curaçao for 2025. It provides an overview of key marriage and divorce statistics, including the number of married, divorced, widowed, and unmarried persons, as well as the number of marriages officiated during 2025.

Colophon

Central Bureau of Statistics
WTC-building, piscaderabaai z/n
Tel. (599-9) 7241802
E-mail: info@cbs.cw
Website: www.cbs.cw
Facebook: cbscur

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Foreword

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is pleased to present its publication, "*Civil Status of Residents of Curaçao 2025*," offering a detailed examination of marital status and marriage and divorce trends during 2025.

Marriage and divorce are significant demographic events that reflect changes in family formation and the social structure of a population. Understanding how these patterns evolve provides important insights into the changing characteristics of Curaçao's society and helps identify developments that may have implications for social planning and policymaking.

As part of its annual demographic reporting, CBS examines marriages and divorces using administrative records from the Civil Registry of Curaçao (Kranshi). This publication presents the marital status of the population as of January 1, 2026, alongside an analysis of marriages and divorces registered throughout 2025. Particular attention is given to marriage patterns by age, gender and residency status, as well as historical developments between 2011 and 2025. The report also examines divorce trends, the relationship between annual marriages and divorces, and how Curaçao compares with selected countries internationally.

The findings highlight notable shifts in marriage patterns, including a long-term decline in the number of marriages, while divorce figures have fluctuated over the years. These developments offer a clearer perspective on the changing marital landscape of Curaçao and provide a statistical foundation for further research and informed public discussion.

We extend our appreciation to the CBS team involved in preparing this publication, particularly statistical researcher Ms. Joanne Lourens, whose work in analyzing and interpreting the data was instrumental in its completion. We also acknowledge the Civil Registry of Curaçao (Kranshi) for providing the administrative records essential to this analysis.

We trust that this publication will serve as a useful reference for policymakers, researchers and other interested parties seeking to better understand marriage and divorce trends and their place within Curaçao's demographic development.

Director
Central Bureau of Statistics Curaçao

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Summary

This report provides an overview of marriage and divorce patterns in Curaçao during 2025, as well as the civil status of the population aged 18 years and older as of January 1st, 2026. The analysis is based on administrative data obtained from the Office of Public Affairs (Kranshi).

As of January 1st, 2026, Curaçao had 44,745 married persons, 16,934 divorced persons, 68,937 unmarried persons, 7,525 widowed persons, and 307 persons in registered partnerships.

During 2025, 575 marriages were officiated. Of these, 476 (82.8%) involved at least one resident of Curaçao, while 99 (17.2 percent) involved two non-residents. The majority of marriages were opposite-sex marriages (96.5 percent), while 3.1 percent were same-sex marriages. The records include 0.4% for whom sex is not registered.

The results show that the average age at marriage in 2025 was 39.0 years for women and 43.5 years for men. Most married couples (56.5 percent) had an age difference of five years or less. December was the most popular month for marriages, while Friday was the most common day of the week for marriages.

The trend throughout 2011 to 2025 shows a clear decline in marriage formation. The number of marriages decreased from 1,098 in 2011 to 575 in 2025, while the crude marriage rate declined from 5.7 marriages per 1,000 inhabitants in 2011 to 3.1 in 2025. This indicates that marriage has become less common relative to the size of the population.

In 2025, 330 divorces were registered. The average age at divorce was 48 years, with men divorcing at an average age of 49.6 years and women at 46.3 years. Although the annual number of divorces has fluctuated over time, the number of divorces relative to marriages remains considerably higher than at the beginning of the previous decade. In 2025, there were approximately 69 divorces for every 100 marriages.

Overall, the findings indicate that Curaçao is experiencing relatively low marriage formation alongside a relatively high level of divorce. These patterns reflect important changes in the island's marital and demographic landscape.

Introduction

Each year, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) publishes population data for Curaçao. The first report - Population of Curaçao January 1st, 2026: an Overview of Demographic Developments- which discussed births, deaths, immigration, and emigration that took place in 2025, was published in July 2026. This current report presents an in-depth view of the marriages and divorces that took place in 2025 and the number of married and divorced persons per the 1st of January 2026. The data are obtained from the Office of Public Affairs (Kranshi), which maintains official records of vital events (births, marriages, divorces, migration, and deaths) occurring in Curaçao. CBS receives this data annually.

This report is divided into four sections based on the following topics: civil status marriages, divorces and international comparisons.
According to Kranshi, a marriage is "a legally regulated community of life between an adult man and an adult woman with consequences for, among other things, the surname, maintenance obligation, legal acts, inheritance, and relationship with children (Vergunningenloket Curaçao, n.d.)." According to Cambridge Dictionary, a divorce is "an official or legal process to end a marriage" (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

The section on civil status discusses the number of people who had the status of unmarried, married, divorced, widowed, registered partnership, dissolution and of bereaved partner in 2025. There is also a comparison of the number of persons who had these status' in the years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The section on marriages presents all marriages that took place between January 1st, 2025, and December 31st, 2025. This section also presents the number of marriages that took place between 2011-2025, types of marriages and the crude marriage rate.

The section on divorces presents the number of divorced persons in 2025 and the number of divorces that took place in 2025 and provides an analysis by looking at the refined divorce rate, divorce to marriage ratio and average duration of marriage.

The final section makes comparisons between the marriage rate and the divorce-to-marriage ratio. The section looks at where different countries stand on this end compared to other countries in the region and elsewhere in the world.

Method

CBS Curaçao receives its data from the Office of Public Affairs/Civil Registry. This dataset contains every event that contributes to the growth or decline of the population (birth, death, immigration and emigration) that took place between January 1st and December 31st of each year. In this rapport, data points between 2011 and 2025 are used with the most recent dataset being that of the 1st of January 2026 which accounts for all changes that happened in 2025.

Before analysis, this data is cleaned to remove inconsistencies, such as duplicate entries for the same person or event and records of events from previous years that may have been registered in the current year. The cleaned dataset is then analysed.

Analysis of civil status (unmarried, married, divorced, widowed etc.) is performed only for those 18 years and older. This is because the legal age of marriage in Curaçao is 18 and older.

When interpreting these results, please take into consideration that Kranshi has more persons in their database than there might be living in Curaçao. This is because not all countries require proof of de-registration from the country of origin when a person immigrates there. Consequently, some persons might leave Curaçao without de-registering from the residents database.

Kranshi data

Accurate data from Kranshi depends on that people report changes to the agency. For example, if a person is moving to another country, it is customary that said person de-registers at Kranshi and reports which country they are emigrating to. This is mostly a requirement to be able to register in the country of immigration. However, in certain cases, proof of deregistration is not required which leads to people who have emigrating, not having deregistered and thus still being registered in the Kranshi system without actually living on Curaçao. This is difficult to determine and might take some time to figure out that someone is not living here anymore.

Glossary

Bereaved partner: is used in this report to describe a person who was in a registered partnership whose partner has died.

Average age of marriage: The average (mean) age at first marriage refers to the mean age, in years, at which individuals marry for the first time. It is commonly calculated separately for men and women (OECD, 2024a).

Average Duration of Marriage: The arithmetic-mean of marriage durations in years, calculated from the date of marriage to the date of divorce (UNECE, 2025).

Civil status: Civil status (also called marital status) is the legal conjugal status of an individual according to the marriage laws or customs of a country (UNECE, 2025).

Crude Divorce Rate (CDR): The number of divorces and annulments granted in a year per 1,000 total population (OECD, 2024b).

Crude Marriage Rate (CMR): The number of (resident) marriages registered in a year per 1,000 total population (OECD, 2024b).

Divorced: A divorced person is someone whose legal marriage has been dissolved through a legal divorce procedure and who has not remarried (UNECE, 2025). According to the dutch law, a divorce (echtscheiding) is a legal procedure through which a marriage is terminated by judicial decision. The Dutch legal concept has three important elements:
Article 1:149 states that a marriage ends through divorce, among other legally recognised grounds (Burgerlijk Wetboek Boek 1, 2026, art. 1:149). Furthermore, divorce is not simply created by the spouses deciding to separate; it is legally pronounced following a request by one or both spouses (Burgerlijk Wetboek Boek 1, 2026, art. 1:150). Finally, there should be substantive ground is permanent disruption of the marriage for the court to grant a divorce (Burgerlijk Wetboek Boek 1, 2026, art. 1:151).

Marriage: Under Dutch law, marriage (*huwelijk*) can be understood as a legally recognised union between two persons that is formally established in accordance with the requirements of the Dutch Civil Code. Article 1:30 of the Dutch Civil Code provides that a marriage may be entered into by two persons, without distinguishing between persons of different or the same sex (*Burgerlijk Wetboek Boek 1*, 2026, art. 1:30). Marriage consequently creates a legally regulated relationship between the spouses, giving rise to reciprocal rights and obligations. These include, among others, a mutual duty of maintenance, certain obligations concerning legal transactions, and statutory inheritance rights (Rijksoverheid, 2026). Unlike a cohabitation agreement, marriage automatically establishes these legal rights and obligations between the spouses (Rijksoverheid, 2026).

Married: Married refers to a person who is legally joined to another person through marriage and whose marriage has not been dissolved or terminated (UNECE, 2025).

Median: The median is the middle value in an ordered dataset, dividing the observations into two equal halves. Half of the observations lie below the median and half above it.

Minimum legal marriage age: The minimum legal marriage age is the youngest age at which a person may legally marry under national law. International human rights standards generally recognize 18 years as the minimum age for marriage (OECD, 2019).

Moden (modal): The mode is the value or category that occurs most frequently in a dataset.

Non-resident marriages: In this report, a non-resident marriage is a marriage where neither one of the persons entering the marriage is living in Curaçao at the time that the marriage is officiated.

Non-resident: someone living in a different country other than Curaçao.

Dissolution of registered partnership: The dissolution of a registered partnership refers to the termination of a legally registered relationship between two unmarried partners. In the Netherlands, this termination can take place through a court decision or through a formal declaration by both partners that the relationship has irretrievably broken down. The termination becomes final when it is registered with the civil registry (Statistics Netherlands [CBS], 2022).

Opposite-sex marriages: Opposite-sex marriages are legally recognized marriages between two persons of different sexes. This is the traditional classification used in vital statistics and demographic reporting (OECD, 2024a).

Refined Divorce Rate: A more accurate measure, calculated as the number of divorces per 1,000 married women (15 years or older).

Registered partnership: A registered partnership is a legally recognized union between two individuals that provide legal rights and responsibilities similar to, but distinct from, marriage. Availability depends on national legislation (UNECE, n.d.).
Under Dutch law, a registered partnership (geregistreerd partnerschap) is a legally recognised form of partnership between two persons that is formally established through registration by an official of the civil registry. Article 1:80a of the Dutch Civil Code provides that a person may enter into a registered partnership with one other person of the same or a different sex. The partnership is established through an official deed of registration of partnership (akte van registratie van partnerschap) (Burgerlijk Wetboek Boek 1, 2026, art.

1:80a). Once established, a registered partnership creates legally recognised rights and obligations between the partners, including a mutual duty of maintenance and statutory inheritance rights (Rijksoverheid, 2026).

Resident marriages: In this report a resident marriage is a marriage where at least one of the persons entering the marriage is living in Curaçao at that time that the marriage is officiated.

Resident: a person who is legally living in Curaçao based on their presence in the civil Registry (Kranshi)**.**

Same-sex marriages: Same-sex marriages are legally recognized marriages between two persons of the same sex or gender. In official statistics, they are usually reported separately from opposite-sex marriages (OECD, 2024).

Widowed person: A widowed person is someone whose spouse or registered partner has died and who has not remarried or entered another registered partnership (UNECE, 2025).

1. Results

1.1. Civil status

According to the data received from Kranshi there were 44,745 married persons per January 1st, 2026. Furthermore, there were16,934 persons who have been divorced at least once and 7,525 persons who were widowed. There were also 307 persons in a registered partnership, 56 persons whose registered partnership were dissolved and two people whose partner had died. Finaly, there were a total of 68,937 unmarried persons on Curaçao per January 1st, 2026 (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Civil status per January 1st, 2026

Civil status	Total
Unmarried	68,937
Married	44,745
Divorced	16,934
Widowed	7,525
Registered partnership	307
Dissolution	56
Bereaved partner	2

Source: Civil Registry Curaçao

1.1.1. Historical development of civil status

Table 2 shows the development of civil statuses for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025The largest marital-status category in all three years is unmarried[1]. The number increases from 30,372 males and 35,814 females in 2023 to 30,832 males and 36,207 females in 2024 and 31,772 and 37,164 females in 2025. This shows that the unmarried population grew during the period.

Women consistently outnumber men in this category. The number of married males declined from 23,259 in 2023 to 23,026 in 2025, and married females decreased from 21,884 to 21,718. Overall, this represents a small decrease in the married population. The difference between men and women is relatively small compared to some of the other categories.

Registered partnerships show one of the clearest increases. The number of men in registered partnerships increased from 127 in 2023 to 163 in 2025, while the number of women in

[1] Analyses conducted only on persons who are 18+

registered partnerships increased from 124 to 144. Combined, registered partnerships rose from 251 in 2023 to 296 in 2024 to 307 in 2025, an increase of approximately 22% between 2023 and 2025. Of the people who were in a registered partnership a total of 45 were dissolved in 2023, 48 in 2024 and 56 in 2025 while 3 were bereaved if their partner in 2023, 3 in 2024 and 2 in 2025. Although this remains a relatively small group compared with married or unmarried persons, the upward trend is notable.

The difference between males and females is particularly visible among widowed persons. In 2023, there were 1,584 widowed males compared with 5,829 widowed females. In 2025, these figures were 1,661 males and 5,864 females. Thus, women make up a considerably larger share of the widowed population (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Civil Status 2023-2025

	2023			2024			2025		
	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown
Unmarried	30,372	35,814	1	30,832	36,207	1	31,772	37,164	1
Married	23,259	21,884	1	23,092	21,725	1	23,026	21,718	1
Divorced	6,780	9,731	0	6,842	9,863	0	6,949	9,985	0
Widowed	1,584	5,829	0	1,635	5,841	0	1,661	5,864	0
Registered partnership	127	124	0	138	131	0	163	144	0
Dissolution	25	20	0	28	20	0	29	27	0
Bereaved partner	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	0

1.2. Marriages

1.2.1. Officiated marriages 2025

A total of 575 marriages were officiated in Curaçao in 2025. Of these, 82.8% (476 marriages) involved resident marriages (at least one of the partners lived in Curaçao), and 17.2% (99 marriages) involved non-resident marriages (those living in a different country, but who married here) (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Marriages 2025

	Total	%
Resident	476	82.8%
Non-resident	99	17.2%
Total	**575**	**100.0%**

1.2.2. Marriages 2025 by country of birth

Table 4 presents the most common pairings between the country of birth of the persons who have wed in 2025. The table shows that 40% of the marriages are between people who were both born within the Netherlands Antilles. This can mean that the person was from any one of the six islands[2]. This is followed by those born in the Netherlands Antilles and the Netherlands (8.5%) and couples where both were born in the Netherlands (7.8%).

Table 4. Country of birth of partners who were wed in 2025

Country of birth partner 1	Country birth of partner 2	Marriages	%	Resident	Not resident
Netherlands Antilles	Netherlands Antilles	230	40,0	213	17
Netherlands	Netherlands Antilles	49	8,5	44	5
Netherlands	Netherlands	45	7,8	39	6
Dominican Republic	Netherlands Antilles	39	6,8	31	8
Colombia	Netherlands Antilles	36	6,3	28	8
Netherlands Antilles	Venezuela	30	5,2	21	9
Colombia	Colombia	13	2,3	9	4
Colombia	Venezuela	11	1,9	7	4
United States	United States	8	1,4	8	0
Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	6	1,0	0	6

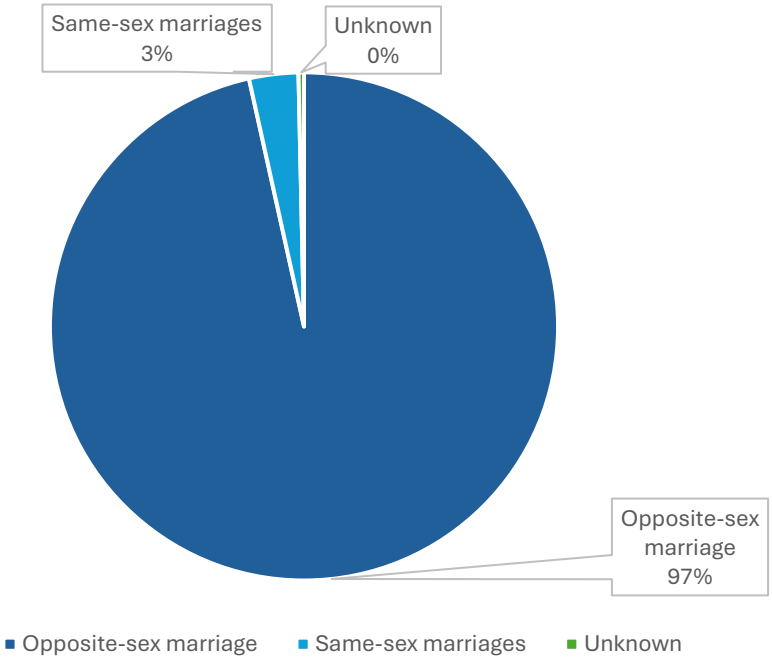
1.2.3. Type of marriages 2025

Of the 575 marriages, 96.5% (555 marriages) were opposite-sex marriages and 3.1% (18 marriages) were same-sex marriages. For two marriages (0.3%), the gender of one or more partners was unknown (**Figure 1**)[3].

[2] Up until October 10th, 2010, with the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles, persons living on the islands within the Dutch Kingdom, specifically Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten and Statia, had their country of birth registered as registered "Netherlands Antilles" in Kranshi's system. Persons born after 10-10-10, are now registered under their individual island names.

[3] Same-sex marriages had been legal on Curaçao following a ruling by the Supreme Court of the Netherlands in July 2024.

Figure 1. Type of marriages 2025



1.2.4. Marriage by age 2025

Table 4 displays the average age of marriage by gender for the couples who had gotten married in 2025. The results show that, on average, women marry at a younger age than men (39 years old and 43.5 years old respectively). The modal age at marriage was 30 years for women and 33 years for men. On average, the earliest age at which both men and women married in 2025 was 19. The oldest person to get married in 2025 was 89 years old.

Table 5. Age of marriage 2025

	Average age marriage	Median age	Mode	Min	Max
Female	39.0	37.0	30	19	67
Male	43.5	41.0	33	19	89
Total	41.2	39.0	30	n.a.	n.a.

Figure 2 displays the age of marriage of those who had gotten married in 2025 by gender. The results show that the lines run almost parallel across all age groups of the number of men versus women that get married. This is especially the case between the ages of 19 and 23. Between the ages of 24 and 28, there is a bigger gap between men and women, with more women getting married between these ages than men. A similar difference is observed between the ages of 35 and 38.

Figure 2. Age of marriage of men and women married in 2025

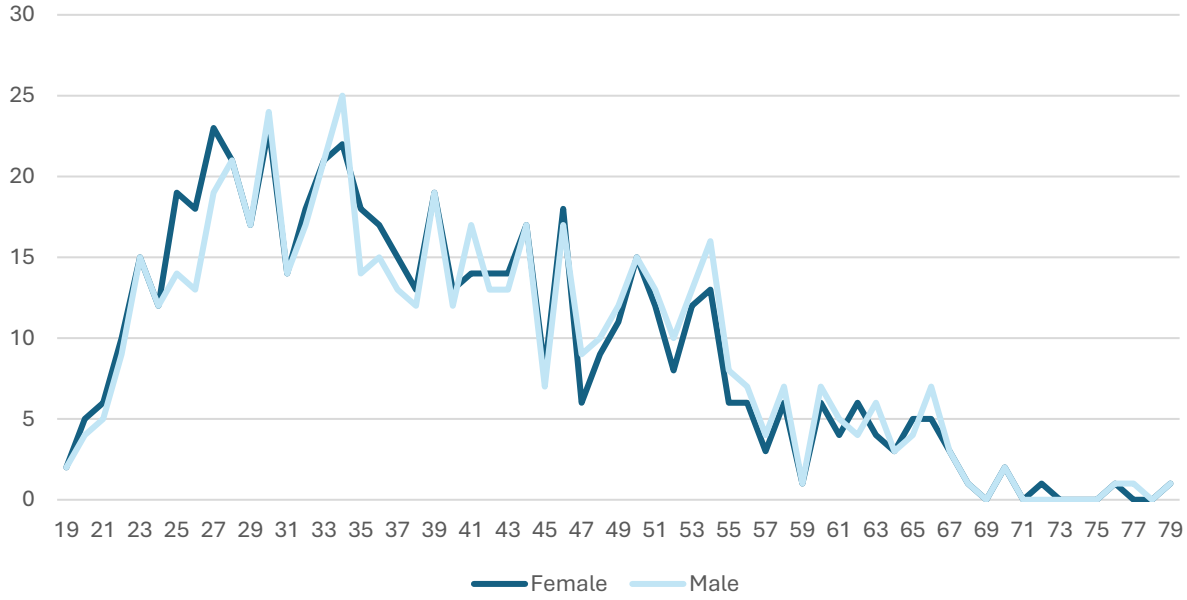
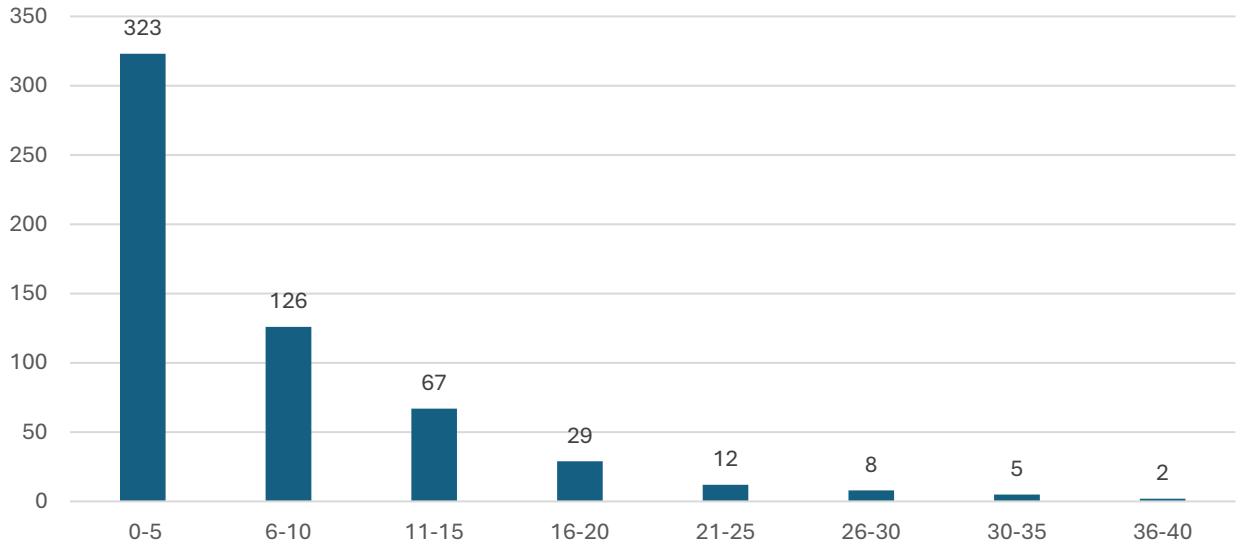


Figure 3 showcases the distribution of age differences between married couples in 2025. The data indicates that the majority of couples (56.5%) have an age difference between 0 and 5 years. This is followed by a ten-year age (22.0%) difference and an age difference between 11-15 years (11.7%). As the age difference increases, the number of couples in each category decreases. The largest age differences were between 36-40 years (0,3%).

Figure 3. Age difference between couples who married in 2025



1.2.5. Distribution of marriages by month and day 2025

The heatmap below shows the days and months on which most marriages in 2025 took place (**Table 5**). The highest number of marriages took place in December followed by November, May and October. Friday was the day on which most were married, followed by Saturday (98 marriages) and Monday (83 marriages).

Table 6. Day and month of marriage 2025

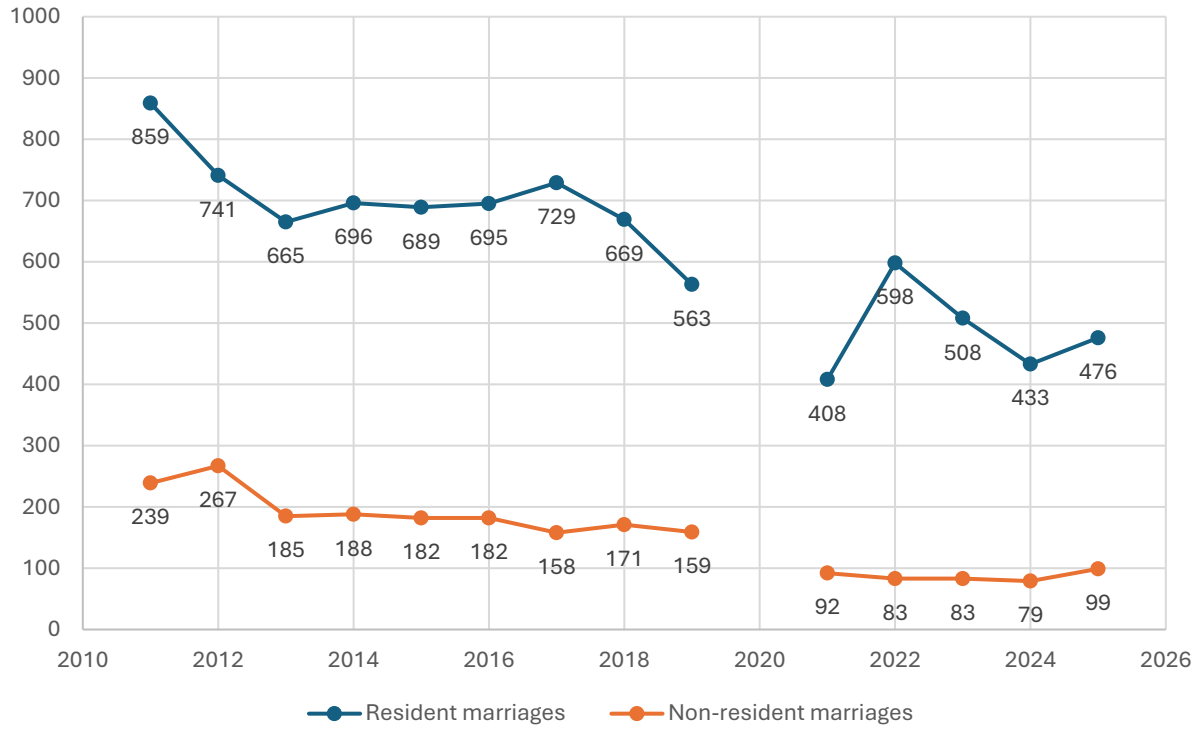
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
January	1	5	4	4	6	12	2	34
February	4	12	9	4	11	6	2	48
March	3	3	3	11	7	2	3	32
April	3	3	4	6	5	6	2	29
May	12	3	3	11	11	6	12	58
June	9	3	5	1	10	5	3	36
July	5	5	5	7	18	5	6	51
August	11	3	2	7	23	3	5	54
September	5	1	2	7	11	5	2	33
October	4	6	9	6	11	17	3	56
November	8	9	8	7	12	13	2	59
December	18	11	7	4	18	18	9	85
Total	83	64	61	75	143	98	51	**575**

1.2.6. Historical development marriages 2011-2025

Across the full period from 2011 to 2025, the data shows a clear long-term decline in total marriages, falling from a peak of 1,098 in 2011 to 575 in 2025. This downward trend is mainly driven by a sustained reduction in resident marriages, which form the largest component each year. Non-resident marriages remain a smaller share throughout the period,

fluctuating within a relatively narrow range and gradually declining in absolute numbers over time. While there are short-term fluctuations and a partial rebound in the early 2020s, the overall pattern suggests that marriage formation has not returned to early-period levels, even in more recent years (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4. Marriages and crude Marriage rate 2011-2025



** For 2020, only aggregate totals were available.*

1.2.7. Crude marriage rate 2011-2025

The crude marriage rate shows a clear long-term decline over the period of 2011-2025, falling from 5.7 marriages per 1,000 inhabitants in 2011 to 3.0 in 2025. This indicates that marriage has become less frequent relative to the size of the population. The decline is not perfectly linear, but the overall direction is downward (**Table 7)**.

Table 7. Crude Marriage rate 2011-2025

	Crude marriage rate [4]
2011	5,7
2012	4,9
2013	4,4
2014	4,5
2015	4,4
2016	4,4
2017	4,5
2018	4,2
2019	3,6
2020	
2021	2,7
2022	3,9
2023	3,3
2024	2,9
2025	3,0

* For 2020, only aggregate totals are available.

[4] Number of resident marriages per 1,000 inhabitants using the mid-year population

1.3. Divorces

1.3.1. Officiated divorces 2025

There was a total of 330 divorces finalized in 2025. The average age of divorce was 48, with men getting divorced at a slightly older age (49,6) compared to women (46.3)[5]. The youngest age of divorce for 2025 was 22 years while the oldest age was 92 (**Table 7**).

Table 8. Average age of divorce 2025

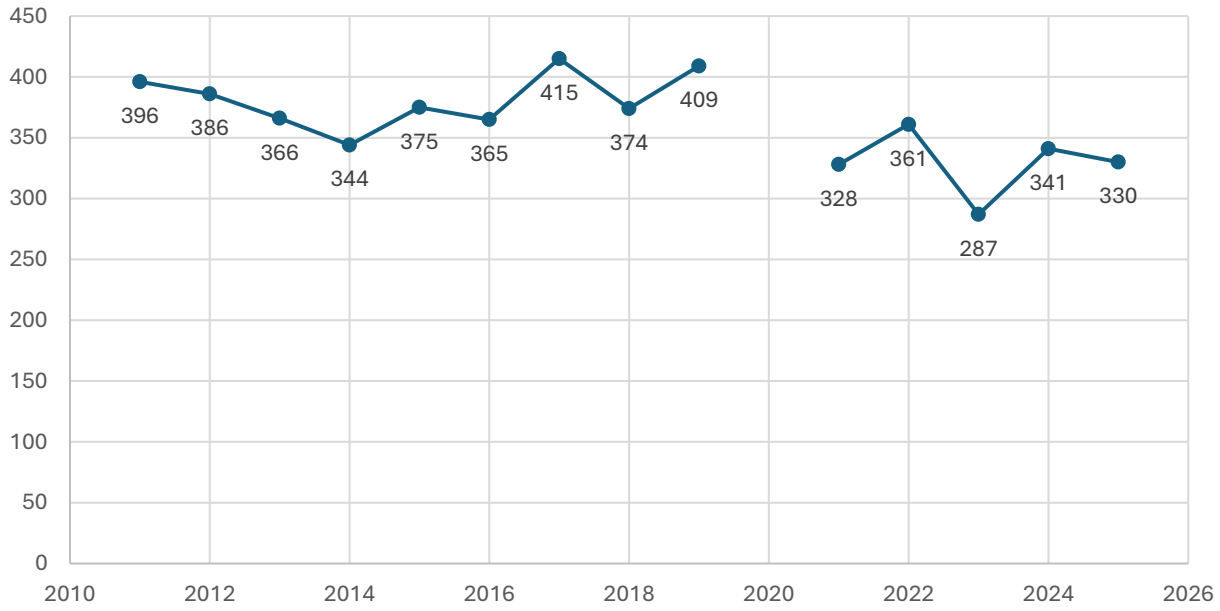
	Mean	Median	Mode	Min	Max
Female	46.3	45.0	43.0 and 44.0	22.0	92.0
Male	49.6	49.0	43.0	24.0	80.0
Total	48.0	47.0	40.0 and 44.0	22.0	92.0

*Excluding missing age-related data

1.3.2. Historical development of divorces 2011-2025

The number of divorces has had volatile changes between 2011 and 2025. The number of divorces has seen a decline between 2011 to 2014, going from 396 divorces to 344 divorces. Between 2014 and 2025, the number of divorces alternated between growth and decline every year, with a peak in 2017 (415 divorces) and a low in 2023 (287 divorces) (**Figure 5**).

Figure 5. Divorces 2011-2025[6]



* For 2020, only aggregate totals are available

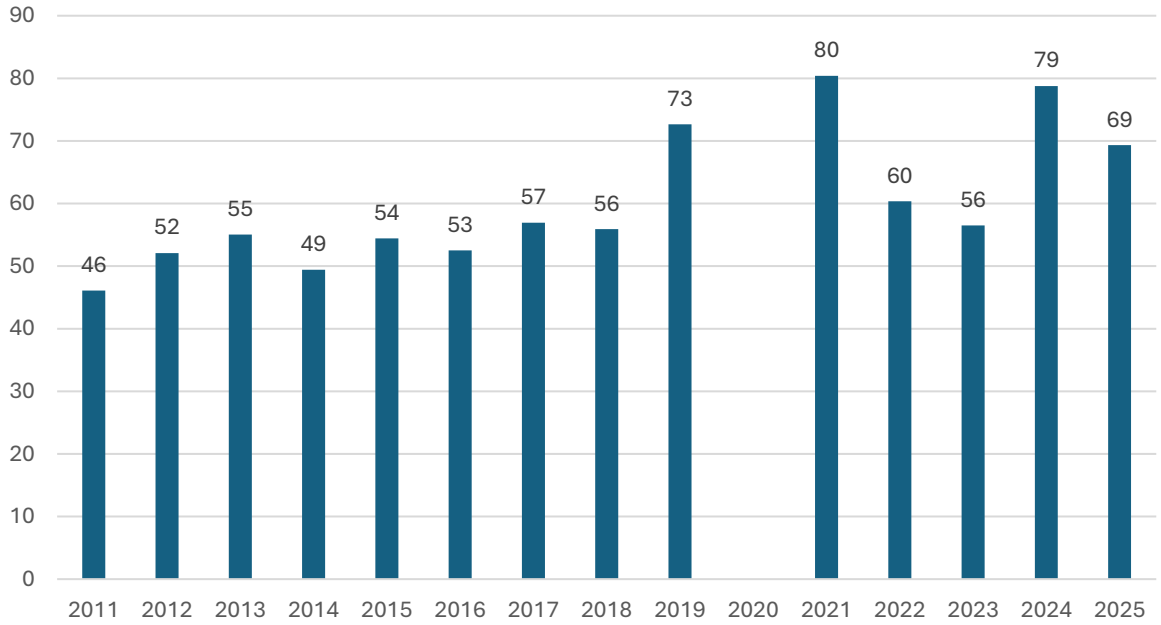
[5] 5 missing values
[6] Data 2020 unavailable

1.3.2.1. Divorces to marriage ratio 2011-2025

Figure 6 presents the divorce-to-marriage ratio from 2011 to 2025 and not the percentage of marriages that end in divorce but rather compares the number of divorces and marriages that take place in a specific year.

In 2011, there were about 46 divorces for every 100 marriages. Over time, this number generally showed volatility, with some ups and downs between 2014 to 2025. It peaked in 2021 with 80 divorces per 100 marriages. By 2025, the figure is 69 divorces per 100 marriages, which is still much higher than in the earlier years (**Figure 6)**.

Figure 6. Divorces per 100 marriages 2011-2025



* For 2020, only aggregate totals were available.

1.3.2.2. Comparison marriage rate and divorce rate 2011-2025

Figure 7 illustrates the trends in crude marriage and crude divorce rates from 2011 to 2025. Overall, the crude marriage rate was consistently higher than the crude divorce rate throughout the period, indicating that marriages occurred at a higher rate than divorces.

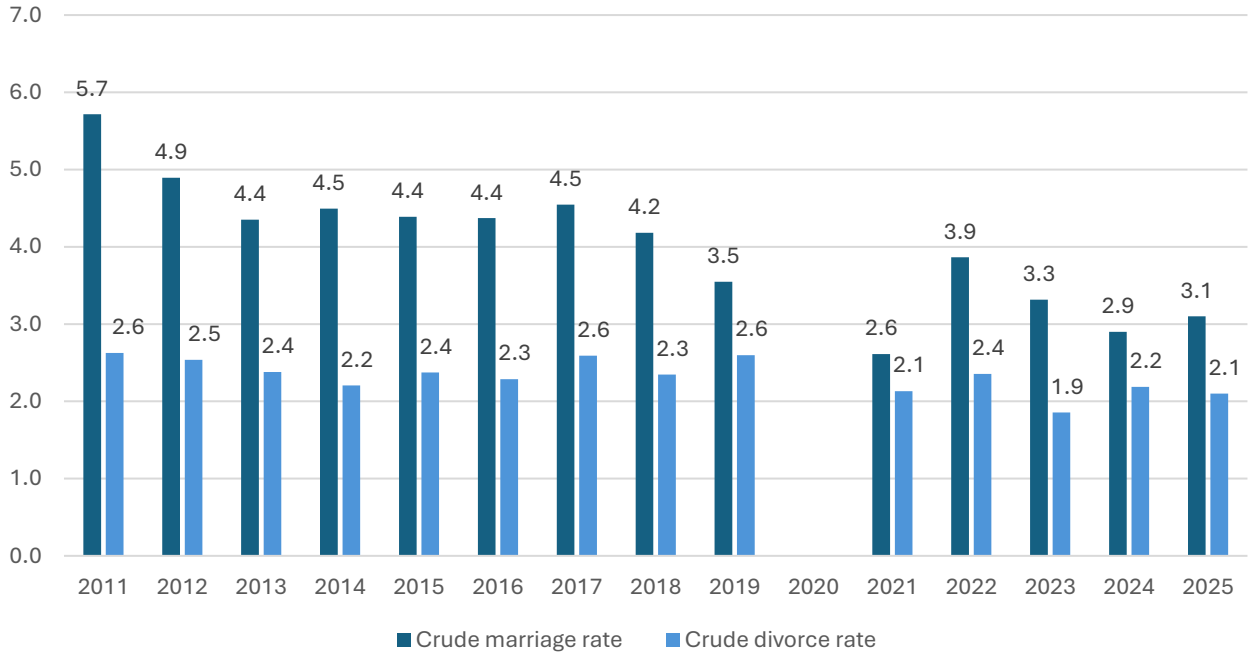
In 2011, the crude marriage rate was approximately 5.7, while the crude divorce rate was around 2.6. The marriage rate generally declined over the years, although some fluctuations were observed. It decreased from approximately 4.9 in 2012 to around 4.2 in 2018, before falling further to about 3.6 in 2019. In 2021, the marriage rate was approximately 2.6, its lowest point on the graph. It subsequently increased to around 3.9 in

2022 before declining again, reaching approximately 2.9 in 2024 and rising slightly to 3.1 in 2025.

The crude divorce rate remained relatively stable compared with the marriage rate. It fluctuated between approximately 2.1 and 2.6 from 2011 to 2022, before declining to around 1.9 in 2023. It then increased slightly to approximately 2.2 in 2024 before falling to about 2.1 in 2025.

In conclusion, the graph shows an overall downward trend in both marriage and divorce rates, with the decline being more pronounced for marriages. Although the marriage rate fluctuated over the period, it experienced a substantial decrease from 2011 to 2025. The divorce rate also declined, but its changes were comparatively smaller. These trends suggest that marriage rates fell more sharply than divorce rates during the period shown.

Figure 7. Marriage rate and divorce rate 2011-2025



For 2020, only aggregate totals are available

1.4. International comparisons

1.4.1. International comparison of the crude marriage rate

Table 9 presents an international comparison of the crude marriage rate (CMR) for Curaçao and selected Caribbean, Latin American, North American and European countries, using data exclusively from the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. The crude marriage rate measures the number of marriages occurring during a year per 1,000 population and provides a standardized indicator of the level of marriage formation in a population.

Curaçao's crude marriage rate was 3.9 marriages per 1,000 population in 2022, declining to 3.3 in 2023 going to.9 in 2024 in 3.0 in 2025. Compared with the selected countries, Curaçao therefore had a relatively low marriage rate. In 2024, for example, the crude marriage rate was 3.8 per 1,000 population in the Netherlands, 4.3 in Sweden, 4.2 in Germany, 5.0 in Austria, 4.2 in Costa Rica and 4.1 in the Dominican Republic. Within the Caribbean, Aruba recorded a crude marriage rate of 4.2 in 2023, while Barbados recorded 6.4 in 2022. Panama, with a rate of 1.7 in 2024, was an exception and recorded a lower marriage rate than Curaçao.

The figures suggest that marriage formation in Curaçao occurs at a relatively low rate compared with many of the selected international comparators.

The relatively low crude marriage rate is particularly relevant when considered together with the high annual divorce-to-marriage ratio observed in Curaçao. A lower number of marriages occurring each year can contribute to a higher ratio of divorces to marriages, even when the number of divorces itself does not increase proportionally. In 2024, Curaçao combined a crude marriage rate of 2.9 per 1,000 population with an annual divorce-to-marriage ratio of 80 divorces per 100 marriages. Taken together, these indicators point to relatively low marriage formation alongside a comparatively high volume of divorce events.

The international comparison is based exclusively on the United Nations Demographic Yearbook in order to ensure consistency in definitions and data sources.

Table 9. International comparisons Crude Marriage Rate (CMR) 2022-2025

Country / area	2022	2023	2024	2025
Curaçao	3.9	3.3	2.9	3.0
Aruba	4.5	4.2	na	na
Netherlands	4.0	3.8	3.8	na
Barbados	6.4	na	na	na
Panama	2.6	2.2	1.7	na
Sweden	4.6	4.2	4.3	na
Germany	4.6	4.3	4.2	na
Austria	5.3	5.0	5.0	na

Note. The crude marriage rate measures the number of marriages occurring during a year per 1,000 population and provides a standardized indicator of the level of marriage formation in a population.
Note. Data for 2025 are not included for other countries because the latest available UN Demographic Yearbook edition currently provides marriage and divorce data through 2024.

1.4.2. International comparison of the Divorce-to-marriage ratio

Table 10 presents an international comparison of divorce indicators for Curaçao and selected Caribbean, Latin American, North American and European countries, based exclusively on data from the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. (United Nations Statistics Division, 2024 a & b) The comparison shows that Curaçao experienced a relatively high level of divorce during the period 2022–2024. The number of divorces per 100 marriages was 60.4 in 2022, decreased slightly to 58.9 in 2023, and then increased substantially to 80.0 in 2024.

The 2024 figure places Curaçao at a comparatively high level internationally. Among the countries included in the comparison, Curaçao's ratio of 80 divorces per 100 marriages was higher than the corresponding figures for Costa Rica (59.5), the Dominican Republic (59.1), Sweden (48.3), Canada (43.6), Brazil (43.3), the Netherlands (37.0), Mexico (32.7), and the United States (32.9). Within the Caribbean, Aruba represents a particularly relevant comparator, with 67.3 divorces per 100 marriages in 2022 and 83.7 in 2023, while Barbados recorded a substantially lower ratio of 23.8 in 2022.

The increase in Curaçao's ratio in 2024 should nevertheless be interpreted with caution. The indicator represents the number of divorces occurring in a given calendar year relative to the number of marriages occurring in that same year. It therefore does not indicate the percentage of marriages that will eventually end in divorce, since divorces in a particular year generally relate to marriages contracted in previous years. The ratio is consequently best

interpreted as an indicator of the relative volume of divorce and marriage events occurring within a calendar year.

Overall, the UN data indicate that Curaçao has a comparatively high annual divorce-to-marriage ratio. The increase from approximately 60 divorces per 100 marriages in 2022–2023 to 80 in 2024 is particularly notable and warrants further examination in relation to trends in marriage formation, population structure and the timing of divorce proceedings.

Table 10. International comparisons Divorce-to-Marriage Ratio 2022-2025

Country / area	2022	2023	2024	2025
Curaçao	60	59	80	69
Aruba	67	84	-	-
Netherlands	33	36	37	-
Barbados	24	-	-	-
Costa Rica	58	60	60	-
Dominican Republic	63	55	59	-
Panama	31	33	-	-
Mexico	33	33	-	-
United States	33	33	-	-
Canada	-	-	-	-
Sweden	45	48	48	-
Austria	30	32	33	-

Conclusion

The 2025 marriage and divorce statistics show that the marital landscape of Curaçao continues to change. Marriage formation has experienced a clear long-term decline from 2011 to 2025, both in the total number of marriages and in the crude marriage rate. At the same time, divorce remains a significant demographic event, despite yearly fluctuations in the number of divorces.

The findings also show that people tend to marry at relatively mature ages, with men marrying later on average than women. Most married couples have relatively small age differences, suggesting that large age gaps are less common among couples who married in 2025. Resident marriages continue to make up the majority of marriages, while non-resident marriages represent a smaller but consistent share.

An important finding is the relationship between the declining number of marriages and the relatively high divorce-to-marriage ratio. In 2025, there were 69 divorces for every 100 marriages. This ratio should not be interpreted as meaning that 69% of marriages eventually end in divorce, because divorces recorded in a given year generally relate to marriages that took place in previous years. Rather, it indicates the relative volume of divorce and marriage events occurring during the same calendar year.

The international comparison further highlights Curaçao's relatively low level of marriage formation and comparatively high annual divorce-to-marriage ratio. However, these indicators should be interpreted carefully, as differences in population structure, marriage patterns, and the timing of divorce proceedings can influence the results.

In conclusion, the statistics suggest that marriage is becoming less common in Curaçao, while divorce continues to represent an important part of the island's demographic development. Continued monitoring of these trends can provide valuable insight into changes in family formation, marital behavior, and the broader social structure of Curaçao.

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