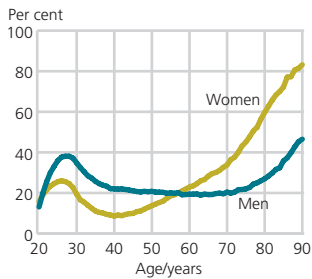


Single or cohabiting?

Percentage of men and women aged 20 and over in one-person households. 2009



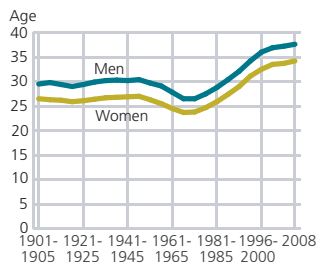
Source: Population statistics.

More elderly women than men live alone

The post-war period was the great era of the nuclear family. Large numbers of people were getting married and the proportion of one-person households decreased slightly. From the beginning of the 1970s, there were fewer marriages, while the number of divorces increased. This has resulted in more than twice as many one-person households: 40 per cent of households are now one-person households, and persons living alone accounted for 18 per cent of the entire population as of 1 January 2009.

In the population as a whole, roughly as many women as men live alone. However, more men than women are living alone in the age group up to and including 44, while single women are in the majority in the oldest part of the population. Roughly as many women as men live alone in the 45-66 age group.

Average age at marriage



Source: Population statistics.

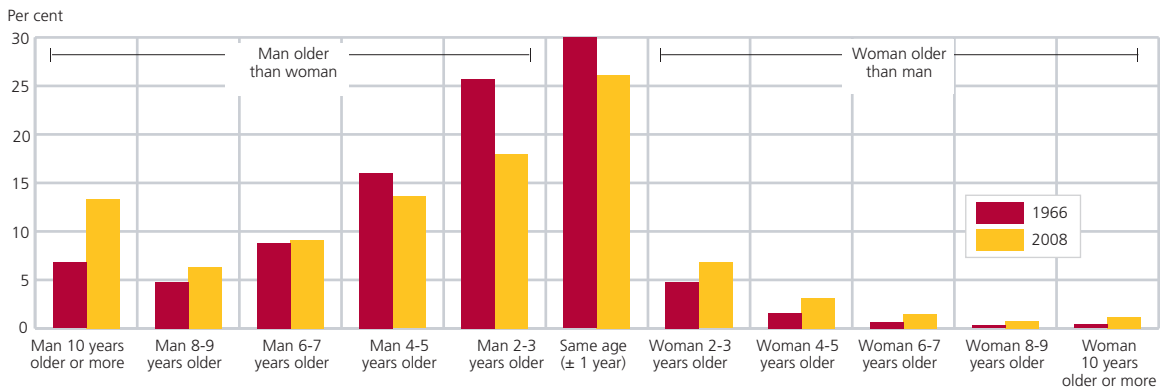
Single life in the city

One-person households are more common in cities and central municipalities than in more remote municipalities, both for men and women. In the most central municipalities, 27 per cent of men aged 20-59 live alone, and the corresponding figure for women in the same municipalities is 17 per cent. The most remote municipalities have a large surplus of single men aged 20-59, with two out of ten men living alone but only one out of ten women living alone.

Living together: widening age gap – both ways

Traditionally, the age difference at the time of marriage has been relatively large. Men have on average been three to four years older than their wives. Along with a higher degree of gender equality in many areas of life, such as education and the labour market, it would seem reasonable to assume that this age gap would diminish. However, this does not seem to be the case.

Age difference at marriage. 1966 and 2008



Source: Population statistics.

Over the past 50 years, the age difference has changed very little. Following a fall in the marriage age towards the end of the 1960s, the average age at marriage has increased considerably for both women and men, but the age difference is the same. At the start of the 1970s, the average marriage age was 27 for men and 24 for women. By 2008, this had increased to 38 for men and 34 for women, which is mainly due to a large number of couples cohabiting before getting married.

However, this average does not reflect the age differences in individual marriages. Looking at individual marriages we find that since 1966 there has been a considerable increase in marriages with relatively large age differences. The proportion of marriages where the man is more than nine years older than the woman has almost doubled. In addition, there has been a systematic increase in marriages where the woman is older than the man.

More international marriages

Increasing globalisation and international mobility have gradually impacted the Norwegian marriage market, and marriages where one or both partners are immigrants or Norwegian-born to immigrant parents are becoming more and more common. In 1990, 4 per cent of all marriages were between two immigrants or two Norwegian-born to immigrant parents. By 2008, this had increased to 11 per cent. Among the rest of the population, it is more common for men than women to marry an immigrant or Norwegian-born to immigrant parents; 13 and 6 per cent of all marriages in 2008 respectively.

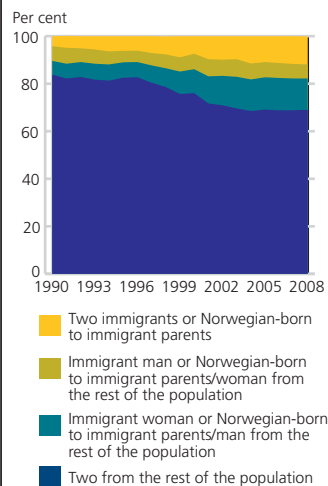
Marriages between men from the rest of the population and female immigrants/Norwegian-born to immigrant parents in particular have increased in recent years, from 6 per cent of all marriages in 1990 to 13 per cent in 2008. The majority of these men marry women from Thailand, the Philippines and Russia. The number of marriages between women from the rest of the population and male immigrants/Norwegian-born to immigrant parents has remained relatively stable in recent years; 6 per cent of all marriages in both 1990 and 2008. These women usually marry men from Sweden, Denmark, the USA and UK.

More women than men in same-sex partnerships

Same-sex partnerships have been included in the statistics since 1993, and since then a total of around 2 700 such partnerships are registered. In the early years there was a significant dominance of male partnerships, but women have been in the majority since 2006. More than 200 same-sex partnerships were entered into in 2008.

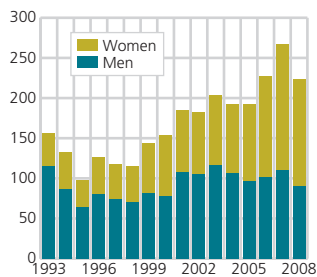
More information:
[http://www.ssb.no/familie_en/](http://www.ssb.no/familie_en)
http://www.ssb.no/ekteskap_en/

Marriages by immigrant background of spouses



Source: Population statistics.

Number of same-sex partnerships contracted



Source: Population statistics.