

Table 7.06: Marriages, numbers and percentages, by method of celebration, Scotland, 1946 to 2016

| Year | All marriages | Number of marriages | | | | | Percentage of all marriages | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| | | Religious, etc. | | | Civil | Irregular ¹ | Religious, etc. | | | Civil | Irregular |
| | | Church of Scotland | Roman Catholic church | Other religions, etc. | | | Church of Scotland | Roman Catholic church | Other religions, etc. | | |
| 1946-50 | 43,206 | 25,551 | 5,743 | 4,432 | 7,469 | 11 | 59.1 | 13.3 | 10.3 | 17.3 | 0.03 |
| 1951-55 | 41,718 | 23,908 | 6,308 | 3,952 | 7,542 | 8 | 57.3 | 15.1 | 9.5 | 18.1 | 0.02 |
| 1956-60 | 41,671 | 23,568 | 6,961 | 3,694 | 7,444 | 4 | 56.6 | 16.7 | 8.9 | 17.9 | 0.01 |
| 1961-65 | 40,235 | 21,761 | 6,780 | 3,365 | 8,325 | 4 | 54.1 | 16.9 | 8.4 | 20.7 | 0.01 |
| 1966-70 | 42,832 | 21,301 | 6,924 | 3,266 | 11,338 | 3 | 49.7 | 16.2 | 7.6 | 26.5 | 0.01 |
| 1971-75 | 41,404 | 18,279 | 6,500 | 2,726 | 13,897 | 2 | 44.1 | 15.7 | 6.6 | 33.6 | 0.00 |
| 1976-80 | 37,801 | 15,370 | 5,590 | 2,222 | 14,616 | 3 | 40.7 | 14.8 | 5.9 | 38.7 | 0.01 |
| 1981-85 | 35,756 | 14,177 | 4,932 | 2,204 | 14,437 | 5 | 39.6 | 13.8 | 6.2 | 40.4 | 0.01 |
| 1986-90 | 35,440 | 14,093 | 4,432 | 2,250 | 14,661 | 4 | 39.8 | 12.5 | 6.3 | 41.4 | 0.01 |
| 1991-95 | 32,866 | 12,396 | 3,394 | 2,270 | 14,800 | 5 | 37.7 | 10.3 | 6.9 | 45.0 | 0.02 |
| 1996-2000 | 29,966 | 10,591 | 2,367 | 4,070 | 12,931 | 6 | 35.3 | 7.9 | 13.6 | 43.2 | 0.02 |
| 2001-05 | 30,648 | 10,180 | 2,013 | 4,807 | 13,644 | 4 | 33.2 | 6.6 | 15.7 | 44.5 | 0.01 |
| 2006-10 | 28,934 | 6,972 | 1,879 | 5,170 | 14,911 | 2 | 24.1 | 6.5 | 17.9 | 51.5 | 0.01 |
| 2011-15 | 29,195 | 4,848 | 1,626 | 7,663 | 15,058 | - | 16.6 | 5.6 | 26.2 | 51.6 | - |
| 1961 | 40,562 | 22,580 | 6,940 | 3,469 | 7,568 | 5 | 55.7 | 17.1 | 8.6 | 18.7 | 0.01 |
| 1962 | 40,244 | 21,843 | 6,858 | 3,430 | 8,111 | 2 | 54.3 | 17.0 | 8.5 | 20.2 | 0.00 |
| 1963 | 39,653 | 21,519 | 6,715 | 3,348 | 8,066 | 5 | 54.3 | 16.9 | 8.4 | 20.3 | 0.01 |
| 1964 | 40,242 | 21,568 | 6,702 | 3,361 | 8,610 | 1 | 53.6 | 16.7 | 8.4 | 21.4 | 0.00 |
| 1965 | 40,475 | 21,297 | 6,687 | 3,216 | 9,270 | 5 | 52.6 | 16.5 | 8.0 | 22.9 | 0.01 |
| 1966 | 41,851 | 21,572 | 6,756 | 3,263 | 10,256 | 4 | 51.5 | 16.1 | 7.8 | 24.5 | 0.01 |
| 1967 | 42,116 | 21,284 | 6,940 | 3,298 | 10,590 | 4 | 50.5 | 16.5 | 7.8 | 25.1 | 0.01 |
| 1968 | 43,696 | 21,938 | 6,949 | 3,336 | 11,470 | 3 | 50.2 | 15.9 | 7.6 | 26.3 | 0.01 |
| 1969 | 43,294 | 21,046 | 6,875 | 3,313 | 12,057 | 3 | 48.6 | 15.9 | 7.7 | 27.8 | 0.01 |
| 1970 | 43,203 | 20,664 | 7,099 | 3,122 | 12,318 | - | 47.8 | 16.4 | 7.2 | 28.5 | 0.00 |
| 1971 | 42,500 | 19,534 | 6,930 | 2,952 | 13,083 | 1 | 46.0 | 16.3 | 7.0 | 30.8 | 0.00 |
| 1972 | 42,139 | 18,911 | 6,598 | 2,836 | 13,793 | 1 | 44.9 | 15.7 | 6.7 | 32.7 | 0.00 |
| 1973 | 42,018 | 18,307 | 6,603 | 2,710 | 14,395 | 3 | 43.6 | 15.7 | 6.5 | 34.3 | 0.01 |
| 1974 | 41,174 | 17,768 | 6,368 | 2,699 | 14,335 | 4 | 43.2 | 15.5 | 6.6 | 34.8 | 0.01 |
| 1975 | 39,191 | 16,874 | 6,003 | 2,431 | 13,880 | 3 | 43.1 | 15.3 | 6.2 | 35.4 | 0.01 |
| 1976 | 37,543 | 15,675 | 5,620 | 2,148 | 14,100 | - | 41.8 | 15.0 | 5.7 | 37.6 | 0.00 |
| 1977 | 37,288 | 15,385 | 5,518 | 2,115 | 14,267 | 3 | 41.3 | 14.8 | 5.7 | 38.3 | 0.01 |
| 1978 | 37,814 | 15,154 | 5,480 | 2,215 | 14,960 | 5 | 40.1 | 14.5 | 5.9 | 39.6 | 0.01 |
| 1979 | 37,860 | 15,271 | 5,666 | 2,272 | 14,645 | 6 | 40.3 | 15.0 | 6.0 | 38.7 | 0.02 |
| 1980 | 38,501 | 15,367 | 5,665 | 2,358 | 15,109 | 2 | 39.9 | 14.7 | 6.1 | 39.2 | 0.01 |
| 1981 | 36,237 | 14,542 | 5,237 | 2,291 | 14,162 | 5 | 40.1 | 14.5 | 6.3 | 39.1 | 0.01 |
| 1982 | 34,942 | 13,817 | 4,870 | 2,296 | 13,948 | 11 | 39.5 | 13.9 | 6.6 | 39.9 | 0.03 |
| 1983 | 34,962 | 13,812 | 4,766 | 2,069 | 14,313 | 2 | 39.5 | 13.6 | 5.9 | 40.9 | 0.01 |
| 1984 | 36,253 | 14,402 | 4,974 | 2,117 | 14,758 | 2 | 39.7 | 13.7 | 5.8 | 40.7 | 0.01 |
| 1985 | 36,385 | 14,314 | 4,813 | 2,249 | 15,002 | 7 | 39.3 | 13.2 | 6.2 | 41.2 | 0.02 |
| 1986 | 35,790 | 14,094 | 4,684 | 2,212 | 14,796 | 4 | 39.4 | 13.1 | 6.2 | 41.3 | 0.01 |
| 1987 | 35,813 | 14,131 | 4,438 | 2,312 | 14,928 | 4 | 39.5 | 12.4 | 6.5 | 41.7 | 0.01 |
| 1988 | 35,599 | 14,065 | 4,534 | 2,153 | 14,841 | 6 | 39.5 | 12.7 | 6.0 | 41.7 | 0.02 |
| 1989 | 35,326 | 14,115 | 4,368 | 2,228 | 14,613 | 2 | 40.0 | 12.4 | 6.3 | 41.4 | 0.01 |
| 1990 | 34,672 | 14,061 | 4,134 | 2,343 | 14,128 | 6 | 40.6 | 11.9 | 6.8 | 40.7 | 0.02 |
| 1991 | 33,762 | 13,124 | 3,911 | 2,218 | 14,505 | 4 | 38.9 | 11.6 | 6.6 | 43.0 | 0.01 |
| 1992 | 35,057 | 13,195 | 3,726 | 2,343 | 15,789 | 4 | 37.6 | 10.6 | 6.7 | 45.0 | 0.01 |
| 1993 | 33,366 | 12,711 | 3,355 | 2,273 | 15,018 | 9 | 38.1 | 10.1 | 6.8 | 45.0 | 0.03 |
| 1994 | 31,480 | 11,767 | 3,029 | 2,206 | 14,474 | 4 | 37.4 | 9.6 | 7.0 | 46.0 | 0.01 |
| 1995 | 30,663 | 11,185 | 2,948 | 2,309 | 14,215 | 6 | 36.5 | 9.6 | 7.5 | 46.4 | 0.02 |
| 1996 | 30,241 | 10,649 | 2,500 | 3,041 | 14,044 | 8 | 35.2 | 8.3 | 10.1 | 46.4 | 0.03 |
| 1997 | 29,611 | 10,291 | 2,488 | 3,628 | 13,200 | 4 | 34.8 | 8.4 | 12.2 | 44.6 | 0.01 |
| 1998 | 29,668 | 10,357 | 2,360 | 4,047 | 12,898 | 6 | 34.9 | 8.0 | 13.6 | 43.5 | 0.02 |
| 1999 | 29,940 | 10,393 | 2,237 | 4,868 | 12,434 | 8 | 34.7 | 7.5 | 16.2 | 41.5 | 0.03 |
| 2000 | 30,367 | 11,267 | 2,249 | 4,766 | 12,079 | 6 | 37.1 | 7.4 | 15.7 | 39.8 | 0.02 |
| 2001 | 29,621 | 11,396 | 2,050 | 4,684 | 11,487 | 4 | 38.5 | 6.9 | 15.8 | 38.8 | 0.01 |
| 2002 | 29,826 | 11,115 | 2,031 | 5,225 | 11,449 | 6 | 37.3 | 6.8 | 17.5 | 38.4 | 0.02 |
| 2003 | 30,757 | 10,016 | 2,029 | 4,845 | 13,861 | 6 | 32.6 | 6.6 | 15.8 | 45.1 | 0.02 |
| 2004 | 32,154 | 9,507 | 1,951 | 4,784 | 15,911 | 1 | 29.6 | 6.1 | 14.9 | 49.5 | 0.00 |
| 2005 | 30,881 | 8,868 | 2,004 | 4,496 | 15,510 | 3 | 28.7 | 6.5 | 14.6 | 50.2 | 0.01 |
| 2006 | 29,898 | 8,021 | 2,006 | 4,682 | 15,188 | 1 | 26.8 | 6.7 | 15.7 | 50.8 | 0.00 |
| 2007 | 29,866 | 7,685 | 1,953 | 4,743 | 15,480 | 5 | 25.7 | 6.5 | 15.9 | 51.8 | 0.02 |
| 2008 | 28,903 | 7,007 | 1,873 | 4,822 | 15,199 | 2 | 24.2 | 6.5 | 16.7 | 52.6 | 0.01 |
| 2009 | 27,524 | 6,143 | 1,788 | 5,354 | 14,238 | 1 | 22.3 | 6.5 | 19.5 | 51.7 | 0.00 |
| 2010 | 28,480 | 6,005 | 1,776 | 6,249 | 14,449 | 1 | 21.1 | 6.2 | 21.9 | 50.7 | 0.00 |
| 2011 | 29,135 | 5,557 | 1,729 | 6,757 | 15,092 | - | 19.1 | 5.9 | 23.2 | 51.8 | - |
| 2012 | 30,534 | 5,508 | 1,827 | 7,607 | 15,592 | - | 18.0 | 6.0 | 24.9 | 51.1 | - |
| 2013 | 27,547 | 4,616 | 1,582 | 7,325 | 14,024 | - | 16.8 | 5.7 | 26.6 | 50.9 | - |
| 2014 ² | 29,069 | 4,505 | 1,555 | 8,009 | 15,000 | - | 15.5 | 5.3 | 27.6 | 51.6 | - |
| 2015 | 29,691 | 4,052 | 1,438 | 8,618 | 15,583 | - | 13.6 | 4.8 | 29.0 | 52.5 | - |
| 2016 | 29,229 | 3,675 | 1,346 | 9,142 | 15,066 | - | 12.6 | 4.6 | 31.3 | 51.5 | - |

Footnotes

1) By the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1939, which came into operation on 1 July 1940, civil marriages were introduced and irregular marriages, other than marriages by cohabitation with habit and repute, were abolished. Although two of the three types of irregular marriage were abolished in 1940 all three types of irregular marriage can be established by Decree of Declarator of the Court of Session. The irregular marriages shown in Table 7.6 are those established by Decree of Declarator of the Court of Session in the years shown although the events took place earlier.

2) Figures for 2014 onwards include same-sex marriages.