

Marital status of persons aged 15 and over, 2000

Sex	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Not specified
Males	33.2	57.5	1.8	7.2	0.3
Females	25.7	51.3	12.2	10.7	0.1

The data in the table show that the percentage of married males of all males aged 15 years and older is 57.5% compared with 66.5% in the 1989 Census, married females - 51.3% compared with 55.2% before 11 years. Like the censuses traditionally show in other countries, also in Latvia there are more married females than males. In the 2000 Census this excess was 47 000.

According to the data of the 2 000 Population Census, more than 624 thsd families reside in Latvia. They involve 1775 thsd or 83.1% of all population, who answered to this question. Namely, the proportion of lone persons constitutes 16.9%. In the 1989 Census the proportion of persons living outside families was 14.4%. If information on families were compiled in a traditional way involving persons of three or four generations in the family, grandparents and grandchildren inclusive, the proportion of people living in families would be higher, but the proportion of lone persons would be respectively lower.

The average size of family at the beginning of 2000 was 2.84. According to the previous population census 3.12 people lived in each family.

Almost half - 47.9% of all families - are one-child families, 36.1% are families with two children. Only in every sixth family there are three or more children aged less than 24 years.

The census data show that the number of lone parent families consisting of a single mother or father with children is comparatively high - 32.5%. When compiling the census information on fertility, we see that on average 1.3 children was born per woman in Latvia. For women aged less than 24 years, at least 50% of them still were childless. The ratio was also the same in the previous 1989 Census.

Economic characteristics of population

In the 2000 Census data on the main sources of livelihood of the population and their economic activities were compiled and analysed.

2.205 thsd persons have answered the census questions on the sources of livelihood. Over the ten years since Latvia regained its independence, changes in the politically economic situation have resulted in alterations of the main sources of livelihood compared with the information obtained in the 1989 Census. If in the 1989 Population Census more than a half of the population mentioned "economic activities" as their main source of livelihood, then in the 2000 Census three main sources of livelihood were dominant -