

PB190: MARITAL STATUS

Topic and detailed topic: Person and household characteristics / Demography

Variable type: Annual

Unit: All current household members aged 16 and over

Reference period: Current

Mode of collection: Personal interview (proxy as an exception for persons temporarily away or in incapacity) or registers

In use (period): Yes, since the first year of the EU-SILC data collection

Series' differences: No changes

VALUES AND FORMAT

1	Never married
2	Married
3	Separated
4	Widowed
5	Divorced

FLAGS

1	Collected via survey/interview
2	Collected from administrative data
3	Imputed
4	Not possible to establish a main source
-1	Missing

DESCRIPTION

Marital status is the conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws of the country (i.e., *de jure* status). It therefore does not necessarily correspond with the actual situation of the household in terms of co-habitation, arrangements, etc.

Some countries have a legal framework for registering partnerships. Such information must also be treated in the same way, and it is proposed to treat them as married and to classify them under code 2 when the partnership still exists. Otherwise, code 3-5 should be used (legal separation or death of one of the partners and so on).