



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR01-164
25-7-2001
9:30 AM

In April almost 400 marriages between same-sex couples

On 1 April 2001 it became possible for same-sex couples to marry, and 386 couples used the opportunity to do so in April. The number of marriages between two men was one and a half times that of the number of marriages between two women. According to Statistics Netherlands 80% of the marrying couples already had their partnership registered.

Most marrying couples had registered partnership

Partnership registration was introduced on 1 January 1998. It gave same-sex couples the possibility to register their relationship officially which 3.5 thousand male couples and 3.1 thousand female couples did since the introduction.

In April this year 304 couples changed their partnership registration into marriage. This is 5% of all registered partnerships. Another 82 couples married without previously registered partnership in April, so this means that 80% of the same-sex couples already had a registered partnership.

Fewer partnership registrations of same-sex couples

Right after the introduction in 1998 there was a relatively high number of partnership registrations. It was the first time that same-sex couples had the opportunity to register their relationship in a way that closely resembles marriage. In the first five months of 1998, 1500 same-sex couples registered. After the initial period the number of partnership registrations fell to about 600 in the first five months of 1999.

In the first five months of 2001 the number of partnership registrations fell even further, with fewer than 300 partnerships registered for male only and female only couples. The fact that same sex couples can now marry seems to have reduced the demand for registered partnerships substantially.

Stable number of registered male-female relationships

The partnership registration is also open to male-female relationships. Since the introduction 5 thousand couples opted for this possibility. In contrast to same-sex couples the number of male-female partnership registration did not diminish in 2001. About 1500 male-female couples a

Statistics Netherlands
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg
The Netherlands
tel. +31 70 337 58 16
fax +31 70 337 59 71
e-mail:
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands
is a department of
the Ministry of
Economic Affairs

year use this option over marriage, which comes down to 1 registered partnership in about 50 marriages.

More marrying men than women

In April the number of male couples who married was 1.5 times the number of female couples. It is too early to draw conclusions yet. When partnership registration was just introduced, there were also more male than female couples, but that difference disappeared almost entirely after a few months.

For more information please contact Jan Latten,

Partnership registrations

| | Two men | Two women | One man one woman |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan – May 1998 | 907 | 605 | 767 |
| Jan – May 1999 | 329 | 321 | 546 |
| Jan – May 2000 | 328 | 296 | 544 |
| Jan – May 2001 | 148 | 132 | 553 |

Source: Statistics Netherlands