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**Coverage**

United Kingdom

**Theme**

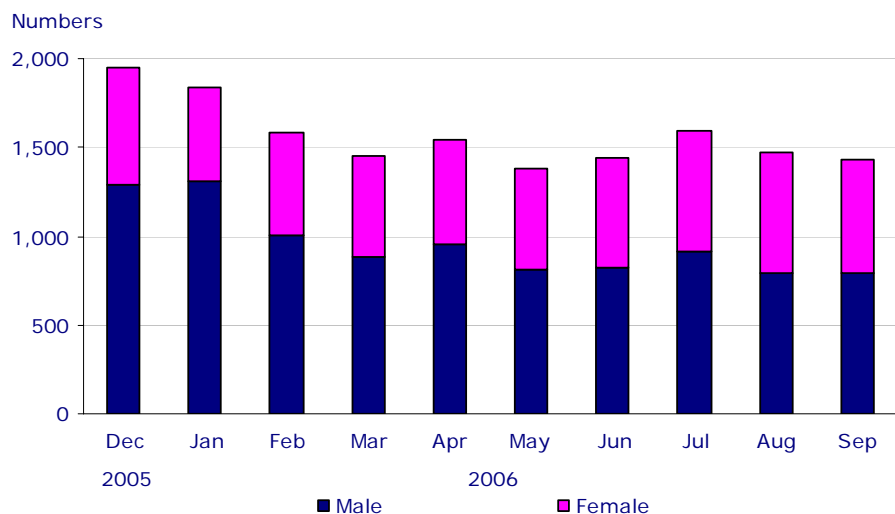
Population and Migration

## More than 15,500 civil partnerships formed

Same-sex couples formed 15,672 civil partnerships in the UK between December 2005 and the end of September 2006, according to provisional figures released today by the Office for National Statistics. Of these, 14,084 took place in England, 537 in Wales, 942 in Scotland and 109 in Northern Ireland.

Almost 2,000 partnerships were formed in December 2005. The average number of partnerships formed each month between January and March 2006 was 1,621, falling to 1,498 between July and September.

### Civil partnerships, UK



Ninety per cent of all civil partnerships were formed in England, 3 per cent in Wales, 6 per cent in Scotland and 1 per cent in Northern Ireland. The corresponding proportions of the resident population aged 16 and over in these countries were 84 per cent, 5 per cent, 9 per cent and 3 per cent respectively.

London and the South East are the most popular regions in which to register a partnership based on the proportion of adults aged 16 and over resident within these regions.

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Twenty five per cent of all civil partnerships took place in London between December 2005 and September 2006, more than double the proportion of the population of the UK aged 16 and over (12 per cent) living in this region.

Up to the end of September 2006, there were more male civil partnerships formed than female in all four countries of the UK. The gap between the proportion of male partnerships and female partnerships was greatest in England (62 per cent male compared with 38 per cent female) and smallest in Wales (51 per cent male compared with 49 per cent female).

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, males accounted for 57 per cent and 56 per cent of all partnerships respectively. The gap between the proportion of male and female partnerships in England and Scotland appears to be reducing over time.

In London, there were approximately three times as many male partnerships formed as female partnerships. Yorkshire and The Humber is the only region where, since January 2006, the number of female partnerships in each quarter has been higher.

Between July and September 2006, however, more females than males formed a partnership in the North East, East Midlands, East of England and Wales.

In December 2005, only 12 per cent of all civil partners were aged less than 35 years. By September 2006, this proportion had doubled to 25 per cent. Conversely, the proportion of partners aged 50 and over halved from 50 per cent to 24 per cent within the same time period.

The age distribution among males forming partnerships has changed over time. Between December 2005 and March 2006, over half of males forming partnerships were aged 50 and over. By September 2006, this figure had declined to one in four. The age distribution of females forming partnerships has been more consistent over time.

## BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Civil Partnership data released today are provisional. Civil partnership data released today are available at:  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14675>
2. The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force on 5 December 2005 in the UK, the first day couples could give notice of their intention to form a civil partnership. The Act enables same-sex couples aged 16 and over to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. The first day that couples could normally form a partnership was 19 December 2005 in Northern Ireland, 20 December 2005 in Scotland and 21 December 2005 in England and Wales (18 civil partnerships were formed under special arrangements before these dates. All were in England and Wales).
3. The figures relate only to civil partnerships taking place in the constituent countries of the UK. They do not include civil partnerships of UK residents taking place abroad but may include non UK residents who form a partnership in the UK.
4. Data are based on area of formation and not area of residence.
5. Population data are mid-year 2005 population estimates for the resident population of the UK.
6. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
7. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2006.