

## THE INDEPENDENT

February 11, 2010

### Fewer people marrying than any time for a century

By Jack Doyle, Press Association

Fewer people are getting married than at any time in more than 100 years, figures revealed today.

A total of 232,990 couples tied the knot in 2008, figures from the Office for National Statistics showed.

That is down from 235,370 in 2007 and the lowest total since 1895.

The marriage rate, which is calculated by the number of marriages per head of population, fell to its lowest level since records began in 1862, the ONS said.

In 2008 there were 21.8 men marrying per 1,000 unmarried adult men, down from 22.4 in 2007, and 19.6 women marrying per 1,000 unmarried women over 16, down from 20.2 in 2007.

The figures, which cover England and Wales, are likely to spark further debate about the decline of marriage.


Since 1981 the number of marriages conducted every year has fallen by a third.

Resolution, a group of family lawyers, said the legal benefits of marriage should be extended to unmarried cohabiting couples.

Vice chairman David Allison said: "A smaller percentage of people got married in 2008 than in any year since records began and at the same time the number of couples living together outside of marriage is on the increase.

"Yet the majority of people don't understand that living together does not give them any financial protection should the relationship end, which leaves countless people vulnerable to financial hardship if their relationship breaks down."

Independent News and Media Limited

 2010 Independent News and Media. Permission granted for up to 5 copies. All rights reserved.  
You may forward this article or get additional permissions by typing [http://license.icopyright.net/3.7463?picx\\_id=news/uk/this-britain/fewer-people-marrying-than-any-time-for-a-century-1696314.html?service=Print](http://license.icopyright.net/3.7463?picx_id=news/uk/this-britain/fewer-people-marrying-than-any-time-for-a-century-1696314.html?service=Print) into any web browser. Independent News and Media Limited and The Independent logos are registered trademarks of Independent News and Media Limited. The iCopyright logo is a registered trademark of iCopyright, Inc.