

Accord

Marriage Survey

August 2025





Methodology

Online survey

Questionnaire designed in collaboration with Accord.



Sample

A nationally representative sample of 1,000 adults 18+ in the Republic of Ireland



Field work dates

25th-28th August 2025



Margin of Error

$\pm 3.1\%$ at 95% confidence interval

The margin of error indicates the percentage points the results may differ from the overall population.

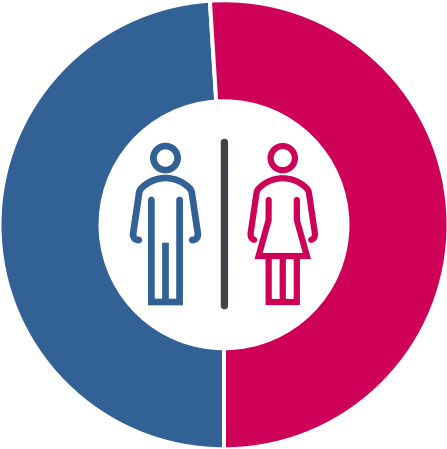
Margin of error changes according to the size of sample, the size of the population and to the observed percentage in question.

Sample profile

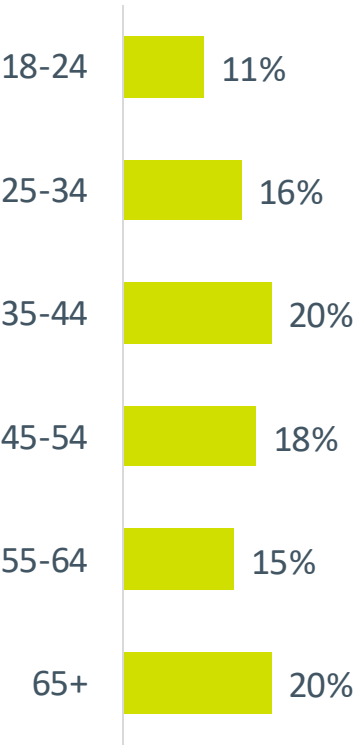


Gender

49% ■ Male ■ Female 51%

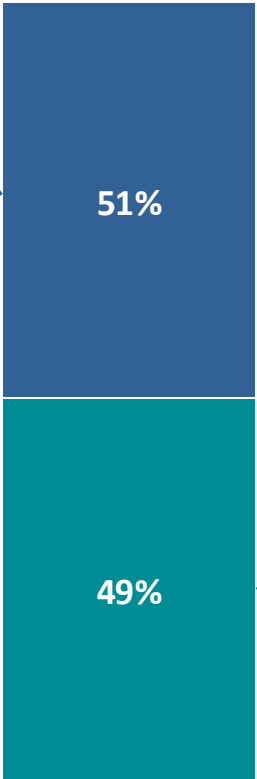


Age



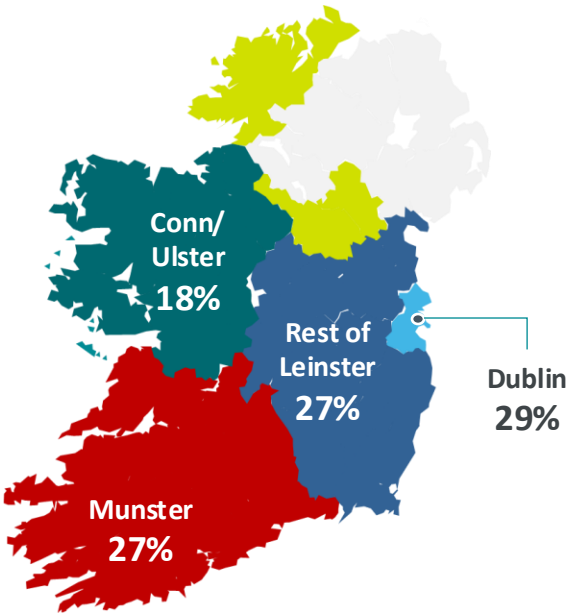
Social Class

51%
Higher
Social
Grades



49%
Lower
Social
Grades

Region



A note on reporting:
- percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

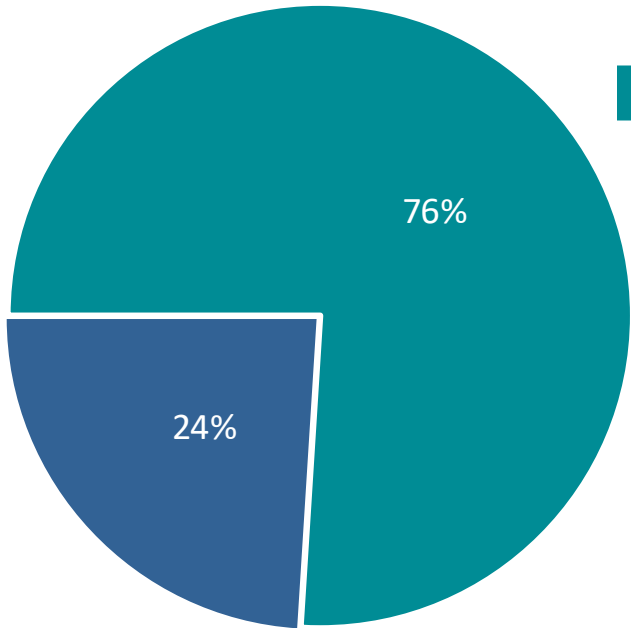
Main Findings:



Three quarters (76%) of all adults identify as Roman Catholic, only 53% of 25-34s.



(Base: All respondents – 1,000)



■ Yes ■ No

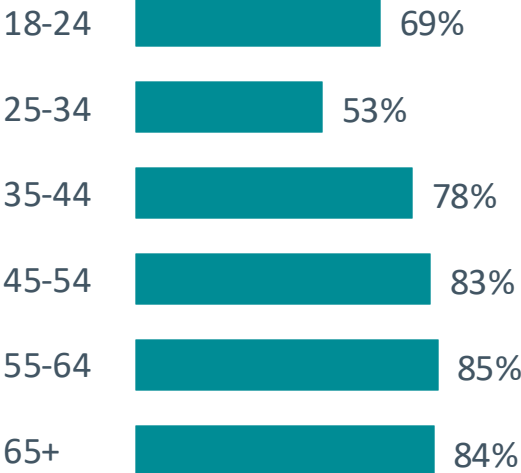


DEMOGRAPHICS FOR YES

Gender



Age



Social Class



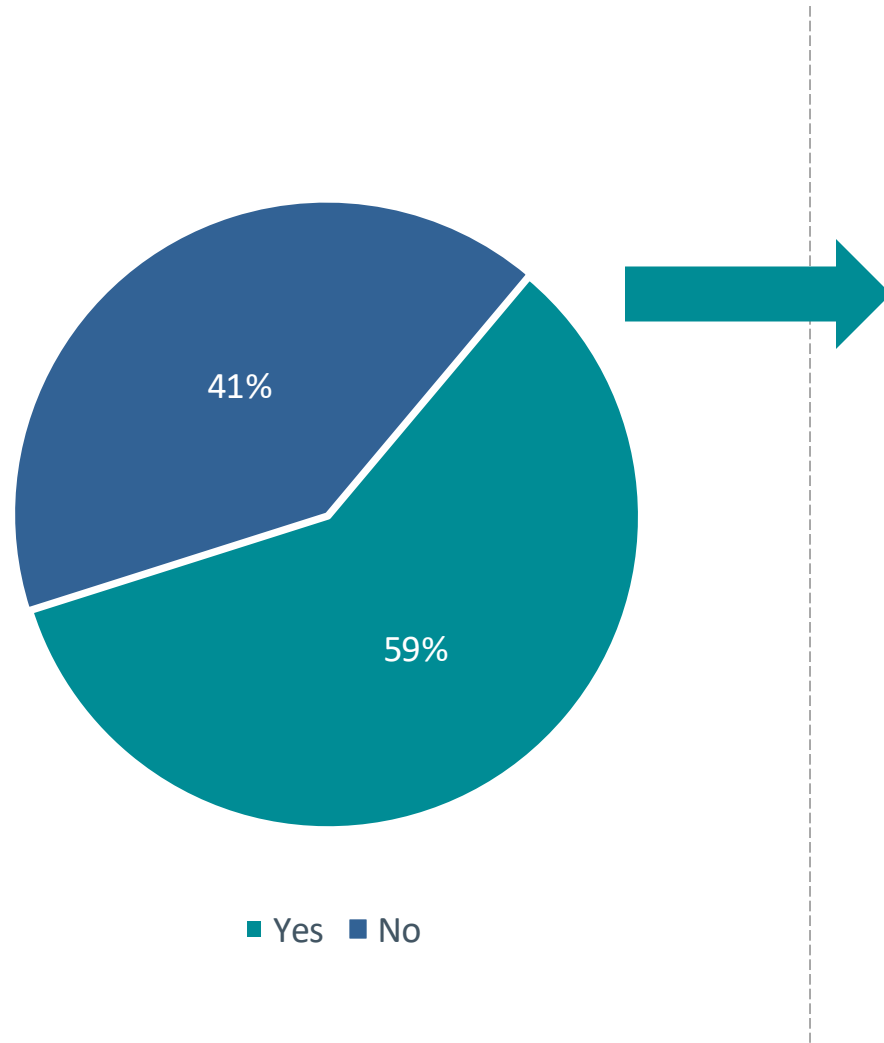
Region





The majority (59%) of Roman Catholics are married.

(Base: All who identify as Roman Catholic – 759)

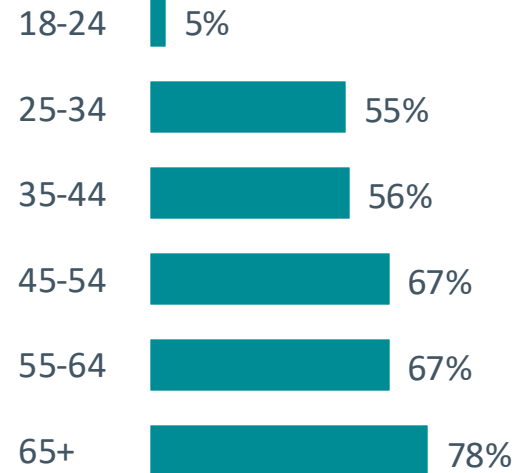


DEMOGRAPHICS FOR YES

Gender



Age



Social Class



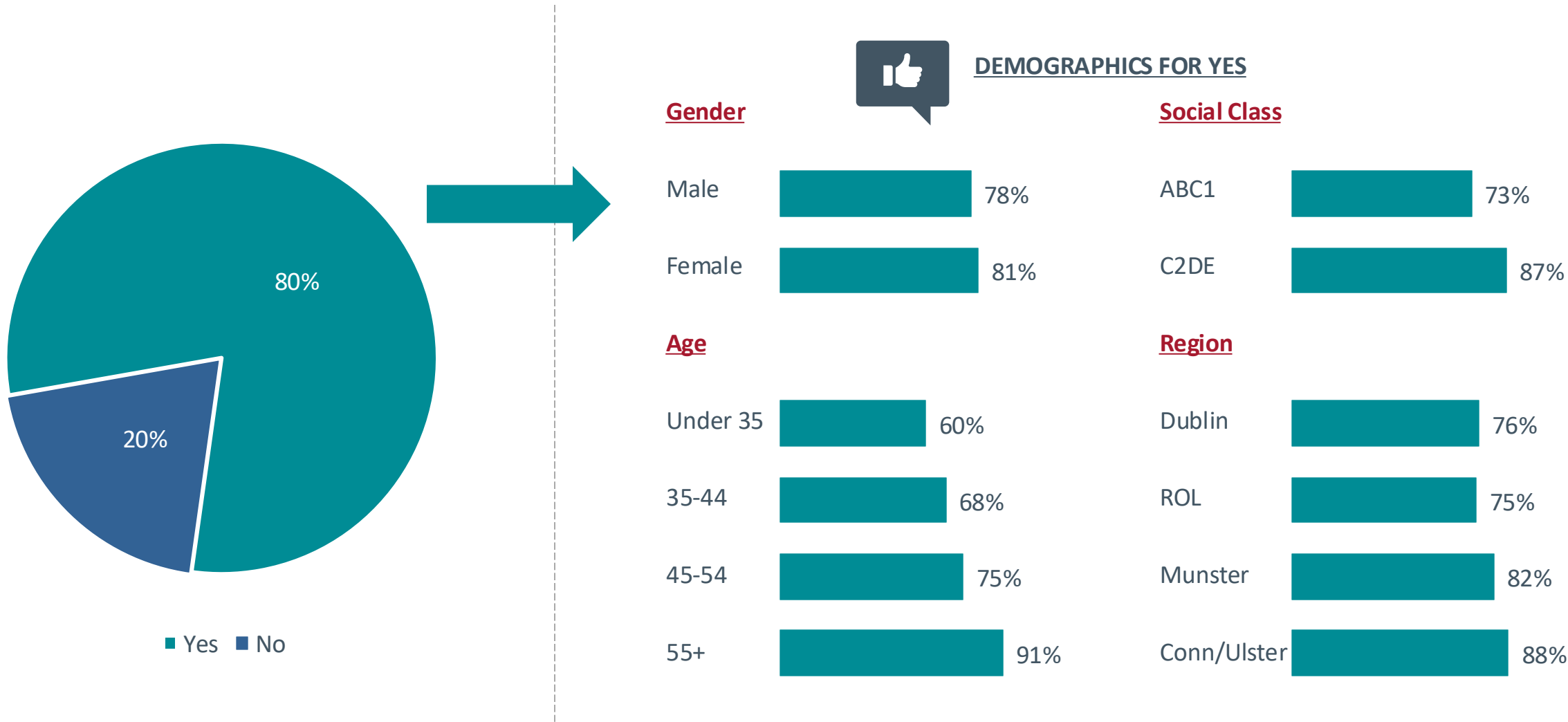
Region



The vast majority (80%) of married Roman Catholics wed in a Catholic Church. This rises with age from 60% of under 35s to 91% of those aged 55+.



(Base: All who identify as Roman Catholic and are married – 451)

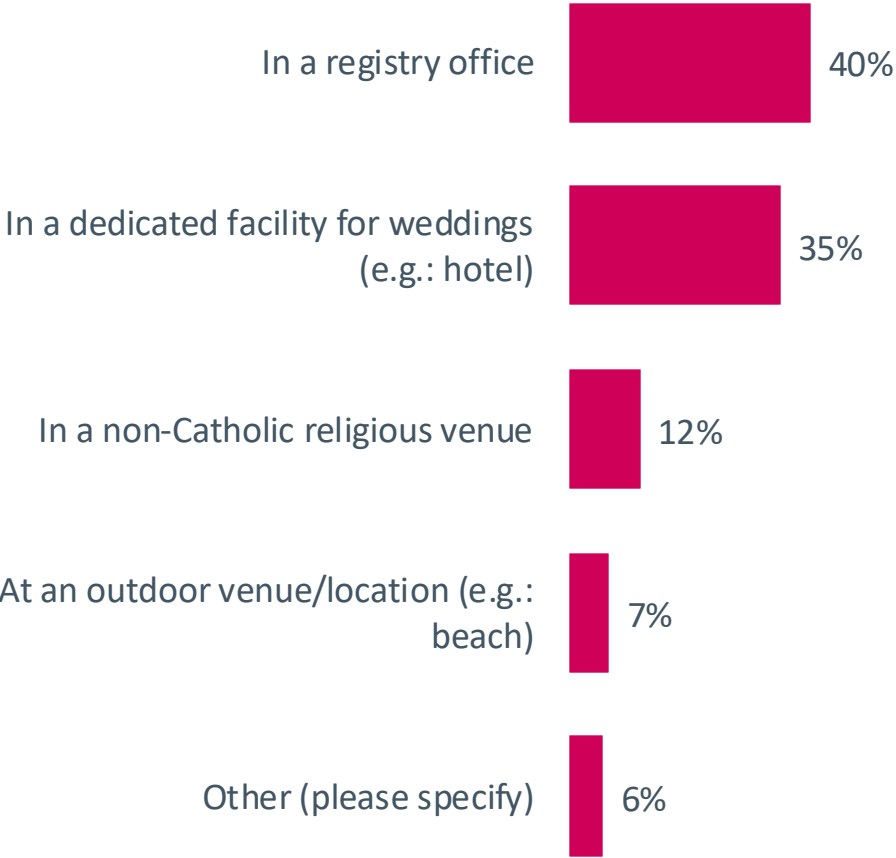


Among those who did not get married in a Catholic Church, the majority got married in either a registry office (40%) or a dedicated wedding venue (35%). A significant minority (40%) would have considered being married by a Catholic priest if it was an option.

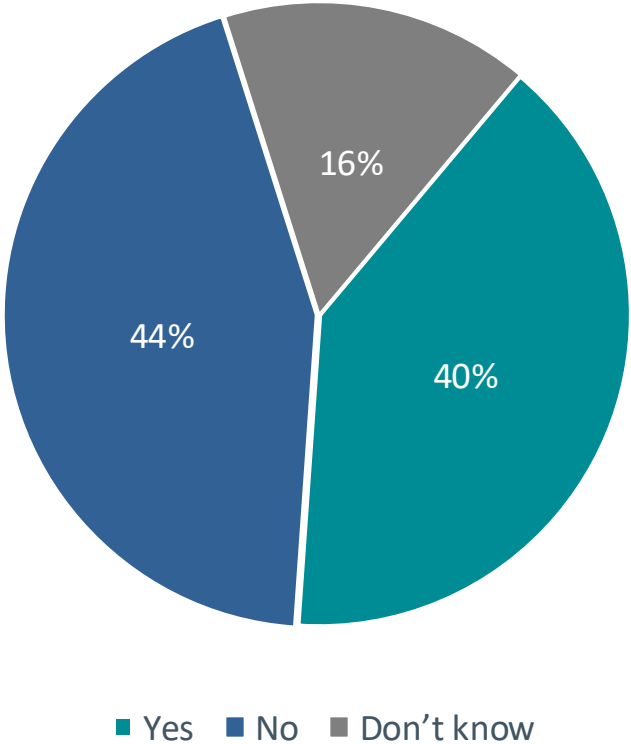


(Base: All who did not get married in a Catholic Church - 91)

Where did you get married



Considered being married by a priest

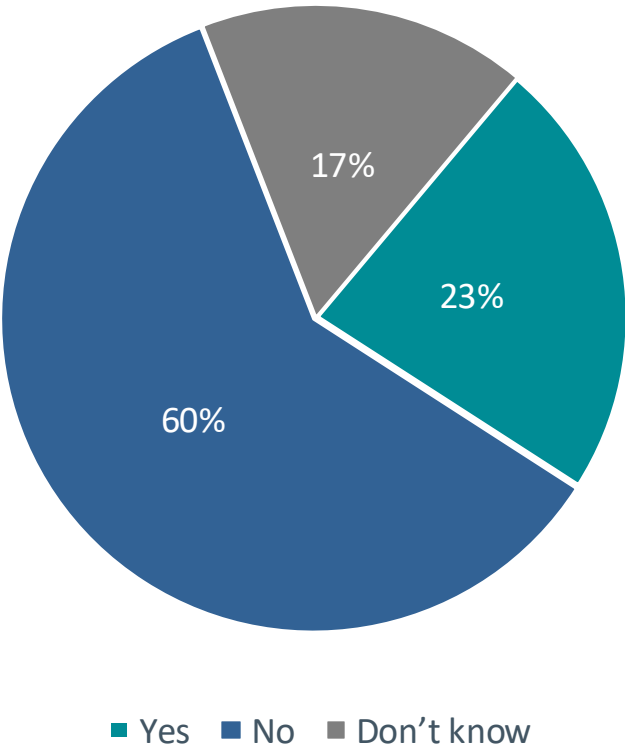


Q4b. Where did you get married?
Q4c. If you could have been married by a Catholic priest at the venue you were married in (so a sacramental service but not in a church), would you have considered being married by a Catholic priest if such an option was available?

Among Roman Catholics not married in a Catholic Church, fewer than 1 in 4 (23%) know about the option of a Convalidation ceremony.



(Base: All who did not get married in a Catholic Church - 91)

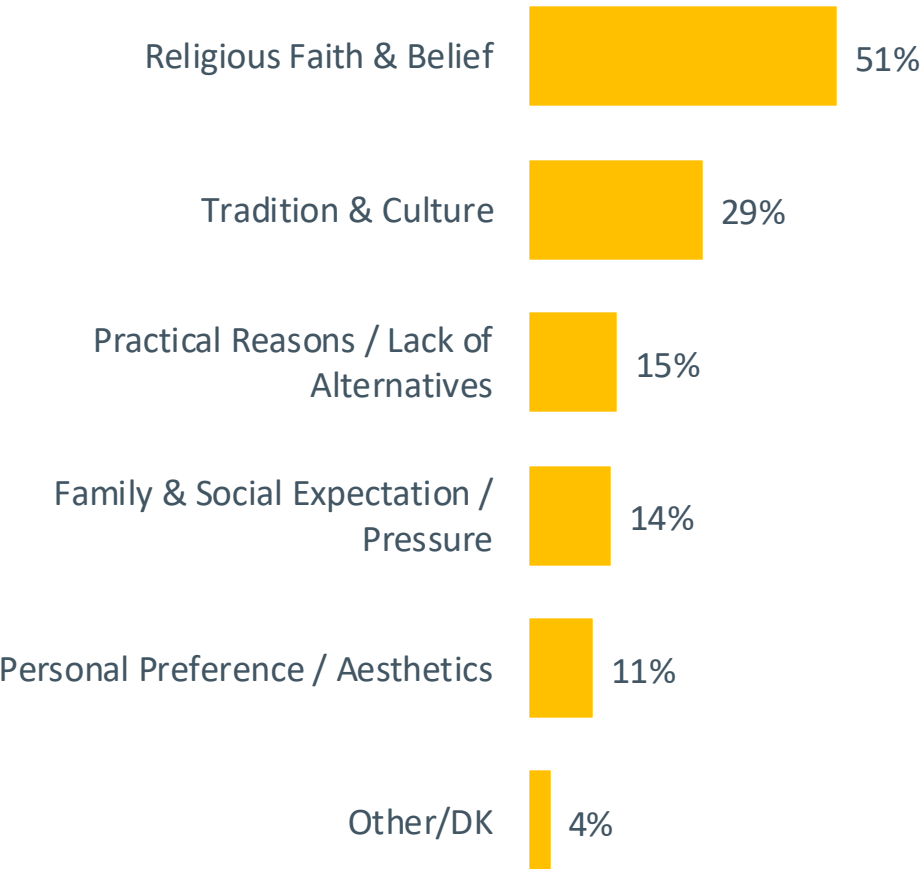


Q4d. Did you know that a Catholic who is already married in a civilly valid ceremony can at any later date have a Catholic marriage ceremony called a 'Convalidation' Ceremony (which means that the marriage would be equally recognised by the State and the Church)? Would this be potentially of interest to you?

Among those who were married in a Catholic Church, faith is the dominant motivator, followed by cultural tradition. A notable portion also married in the Church due to practical constraints or social/family pressure.



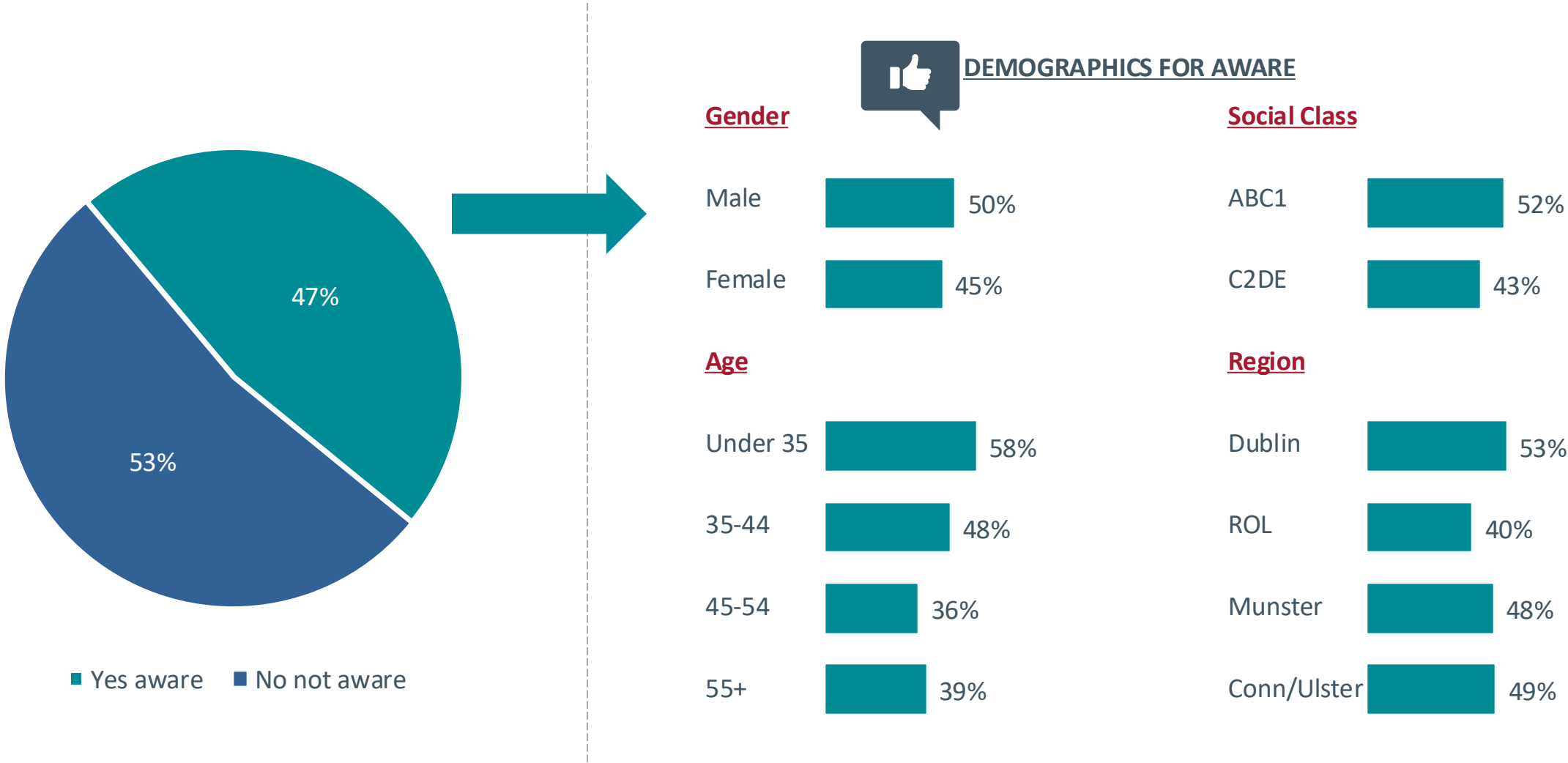
(Base: All who did get married in a Catholic Church - 360)



Less than half (47%) of unmarried Roman Catholics are aware of different types of marriage services offered by the Catholic Church. Awareness declines with age, from 58% of under 35s to 39% of those aged 55+.



(Base: All who are not married - 308)

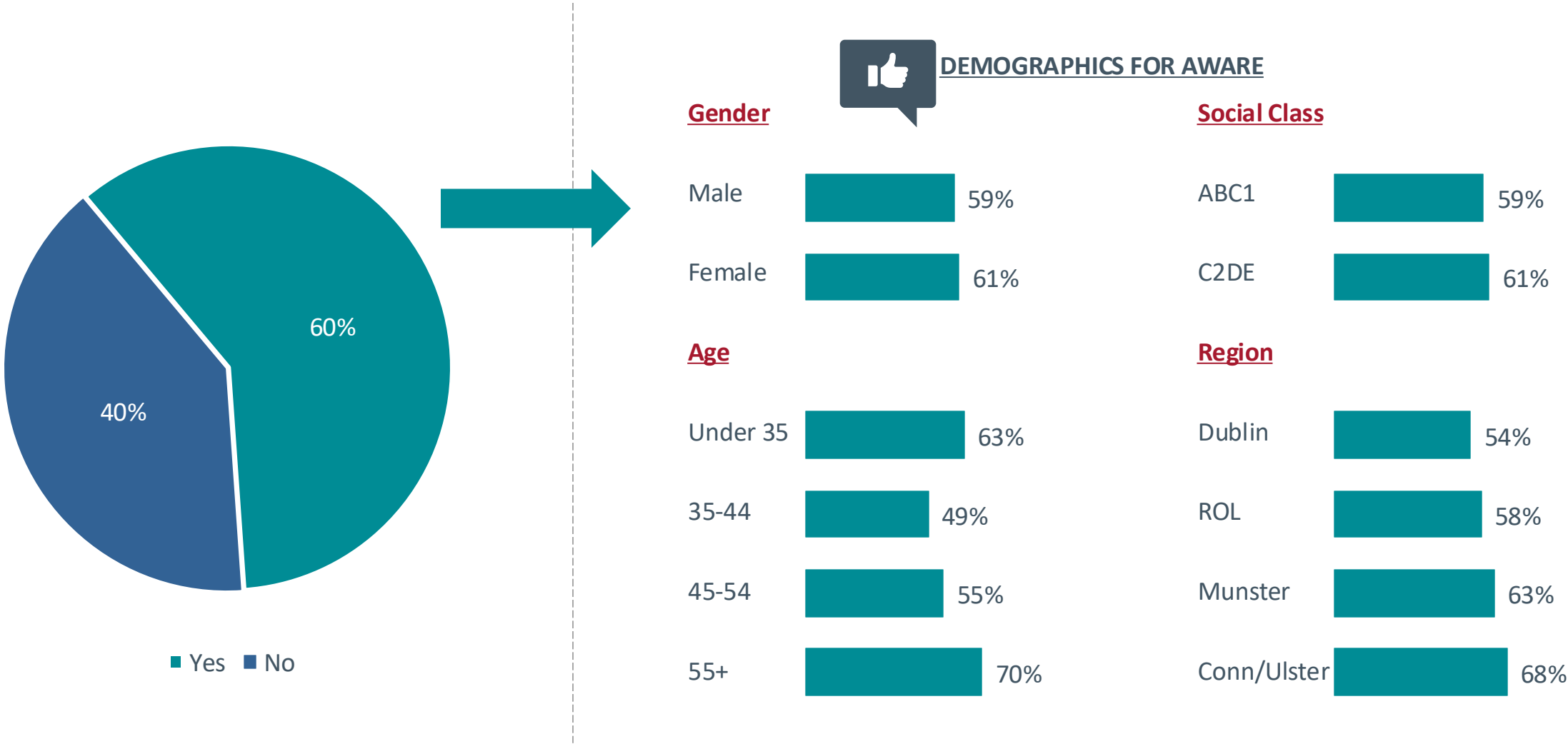


Q6. Are you aware that there are different types of marriage services available in Catholic Churches, e.g.: some include the Mass and some don't, which might suit a couple where, say, only one is baptised Catholic?

The majority (60%) of unmarried Roman Catholics would want to marry in a Catholic Church.



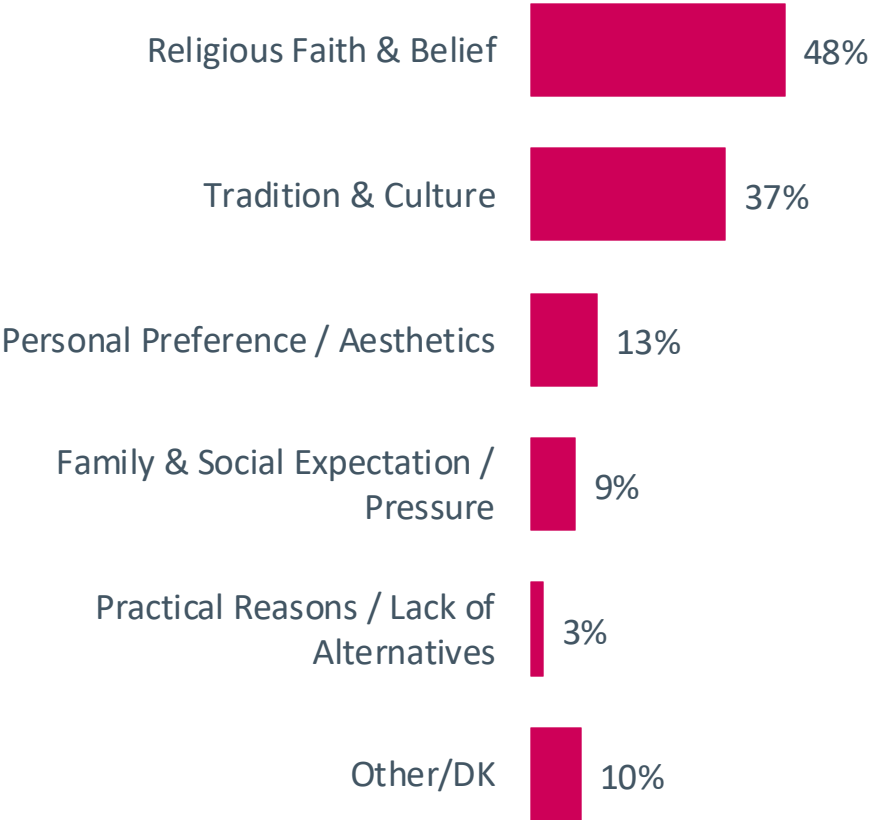
(Base: All who are not married - 308)



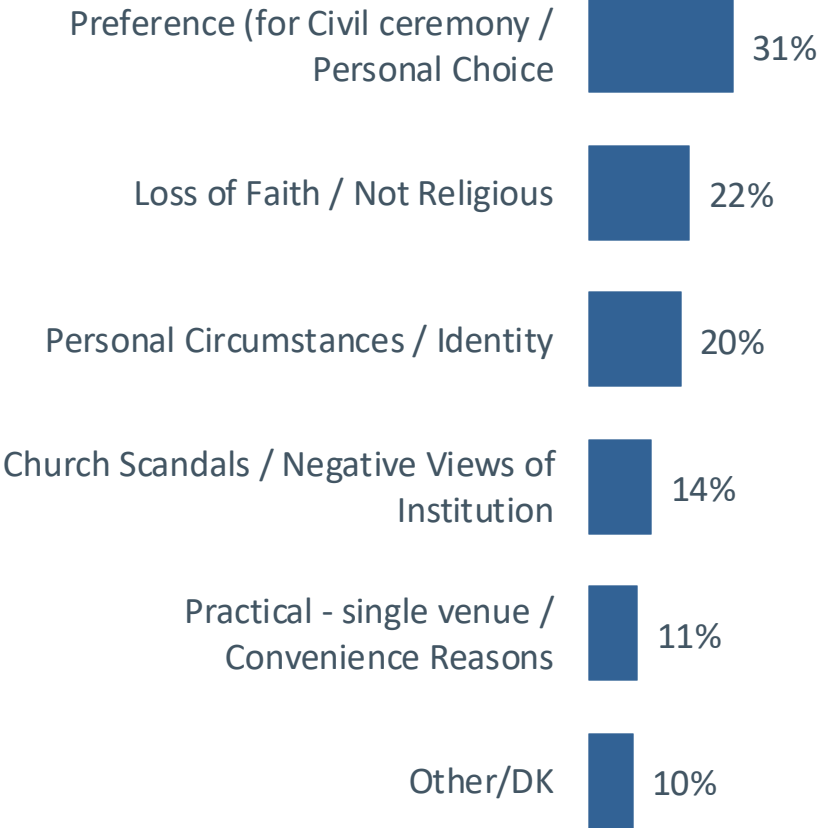
The main reason for wanting to get married in a Catholic Church is religious belief, followed by tradition and cultural significance. Among those who would not want to get married in a Catholic Church, 31% have another preference (e.g. Civil ceremony).



Would want to get married in a Catholic Church
(n=185)



Would not want to get married in a Catholic Church
(n=122)



Q7b. Why would you want to get married in a Catholic Church?
Q7C. Why would you not want to get married in a Catholic Church?



Conclusions and Insights

- **Religious identity is lower among younger adults:** While 76% of all adults identify as Roman Catholic, this drops significantly to 53% among 25-34 year olds.
- **The Catholic Church is still central to Roman Catholic marriages:** Overall, 80% of married Roman Catholics were married in a Catholic Church. The likelihood increases with age: 60% of under 35s versus 91% of those aged 55+.
- **Religious belief and tradition drive church weddings:** The main reasons for marrying in a Catholic Church are religious belief, tradition, and cultural significance. Some also marry due to social/family pressure or practical reasons.
- **One fifth (20%) of married Roman Catholics were not married in a Catholic Church:** Among this group, 40% were married in a registry office, and 35% in a dedicated wedding venue. Notably, 40% would have considered a Catholic priest-led ceremony if it had been available outside the church. Only 23% know about a Convalidation ceremony – a church blessing of a civil marriage.
- **Awareness and intentions among the unmarried are mixed:** 60% of unmarried Roman Catholics say they want to marry in a Catholic Church. However, less than half (47%) are aware of the different marriage options available within the Church. Awareness is higher among younger people (58% of under 35s) and declines with age (39% for 55+).



info@amarach.com



01 410 5200



www.amarach.com



amarach.research



@AmarachResearch