

## Wedding facts & figures

The traditional wedding is back in style these days, with the average cost of walking down the aisle more than \$4,000, according to *Bride's* magazine, which puts the average cost of a reception at \$2,000.

The traditional rule that the bride's family pays for everything has blurred somewhat, and often the groom's family pitches in.

maids dresses can cost \$70 to \$180 each.

The first photograph of a bride was made in 1854 by a pair of daguerotypists named Southworth and Hawes.

Weddings in Thailand take place in even-numbered months because marriages involve pairs.

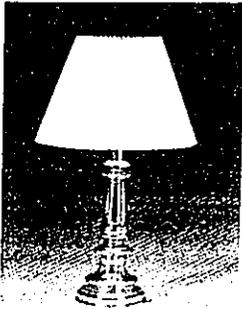
The Thai believe a marriage in an odd-numbered month, except the ninth month, means that one of the partners won't live long.

One of the major costs of a wedding is the bridal gown. A recent survey pegged the average cost of the bride's gown at about \$400. Most veils, which are extra, cost more than \$100. Brides-

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