



مركز الإحصاء
STATISTICS CENTRE

Marriage and Divorce Statistics, 2011

Issued on: December 2012

Social Studies Series: (1)

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Introduction

This report presents statistics on marriage and divorce in Abu Dhabi Emirate during the period 2002–2011. It contains marriage contracts, crude, general and refined marriage rates, (SMAM) singulate mean age at first marriage as well as divorce cases, crude, general and refined divorce rates.

The first section provides a brief summary of the key statistics supported by figures to highlight trends, regional variation and seasonal patterns.

The second section provides detailed statistical tables for readers who wish to analyse the data more closely.

The main source for these statistics is the Judicial Department - Abu Dhabi (ADJD). SCAD acknowledges the productive partnership with ADJD which aims to continually improve the coverage and quality of marriage and divorce statistics.

The Explanatory Notes section at the end of this report provides an explanation of the key terms and technical concepts used for marriage and divorce. Readers are encouraged to refer to that section in conjunction with reading the statistics and information outlined in the report.

Key Indicators 2011

Marriage

Total	5,708
Male Citizens	3,521
Male Non-citizens	2,187

Crude Marriage Rates (per 1000 population)

Total	2.7
Male Citizens	15.5
Female Citizens	14.8
Male Non-citizens	1.7
Female Non-citizens	6.3

Divorce

Total	1,803
Male Citizens	1,136
Male Non-citizens	667

Crude Divorce Rates (per 1000 population)

Total	0.9
Male Citizens	5.0
Female Citizens	4.2
Male Non-citizens	0.5
Female Non-citizens	2.2

Key Points

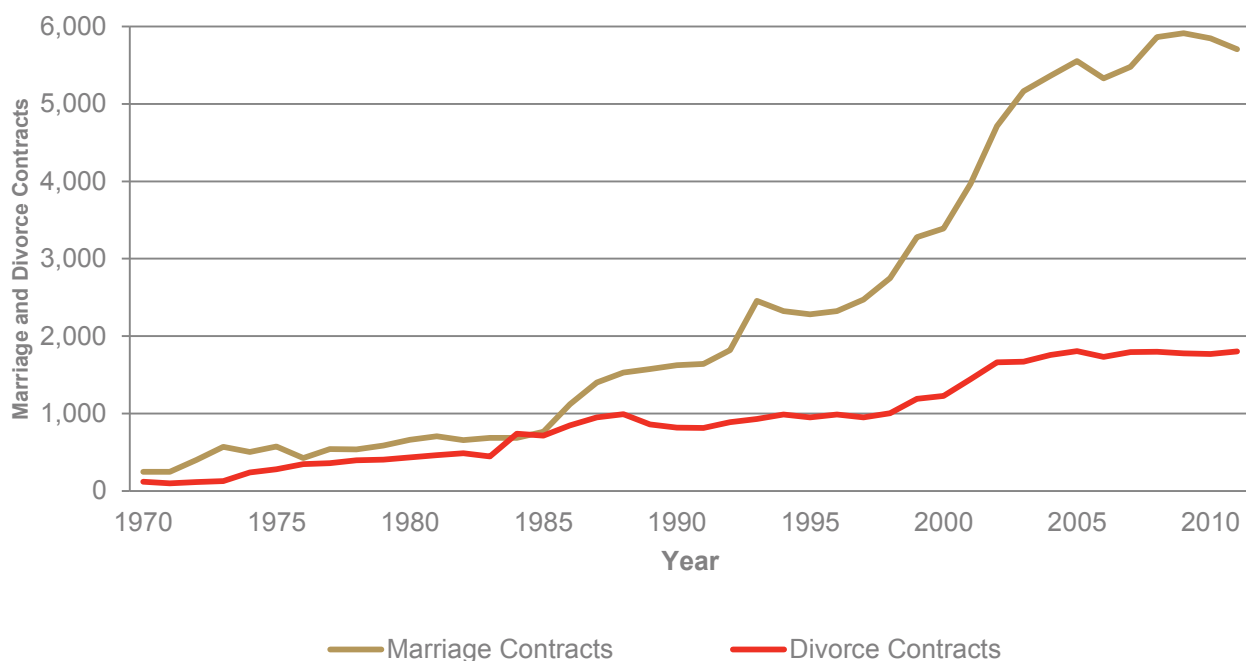
- In 2011, there were 5,708 marriages contracts compared with 4,714 and 5,328 in 2002 and 2006 respectively. Representing a rise of 21.1% in nine years. However, there was a decrease of 140 (2.39%) from 5,848 in 2010.
- The Crude Marriage Rate decreased to 2.7 marriages per 1000 population in 2011, while it was 3.9 marriages per 1000 population in 2002.
- The Crude Marriage Rate was highest level in Al Ain region with 3.8 marriages per 1000 population in 2011.
- While in 2002, only 72.1% of the male citizens married female citizens, this percentage increased to reach 76.4% in 2011.
- There were 1,803 divorces in 2011 compared with 1,661 in 2002, representing a rise of 8.54% in nine years.
- In 2011, the Crude Divorce Rate reached 0.9 with its highest level in Al Ain region with 1.0 divorces per 1000 population.
- In 2011, the Crude Divorce Rate decreased by 0.5 divorces per 1000 population compared with 2002.

Marriage and Divorce Trends

The total number of marriages registered in 2011 in Abu Dhabi Emirate was 5,708. This was 4.1 times the 1,402 marriages registered in 1987.

By comparison, there were 951 divorce cases in Abu Dhabi Emirate in 1987. It increased to 1803 cases in 2011, representing an increase of only 1.9 times during this period.

Figure 1: Marriage and Divorce Contracts , 1970 to 2011



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi, Emirate of Abu Dhabi – Judicial Department

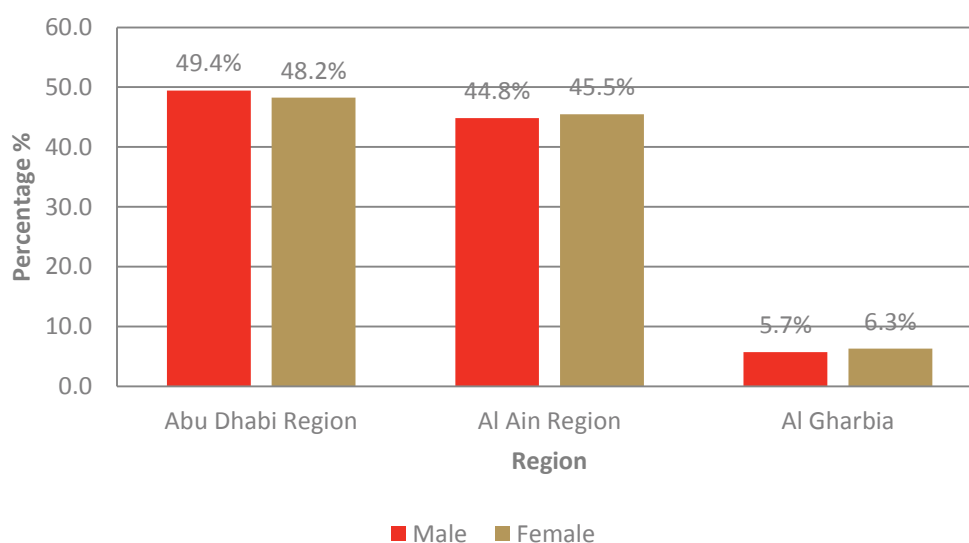
Marriage Indicators

Marriage Contracts

Administrative records show a rise in marriages in Abu Dhabi Emirate in the registrations. The number of marriage contracts in 2002 totalled 4,714. It increased significantly to reach 5,328 contracts in 2006. Then, it continued rising until it reached 5,708 contracts in 2011, representing an increase of 21.1% during 2006 to 2011.

Classifying marriage by citizenship, the number of male citizen marriages decreased from 3642 in 2010 to 3521 in 2011. Similarly, male non-citizen marriages decreased over the same period. Across the regions, 49.4% of male citizen marriages registered in Abu Dhabi Region and 44.8% and 5.7% of the male citizen marriages were registered in Al Ain region and Al Gharbia region respectively. The same pattern applied to female citizens' marriage contracts with 48.2%, 45.5 % and 6.3 % for Abu Dhabi Region, Al Ain Region and Al Gharbia respectively.

Figure 2: Percentage Distribution of Citizen Marriage Contracts by Region and Gender, 2011

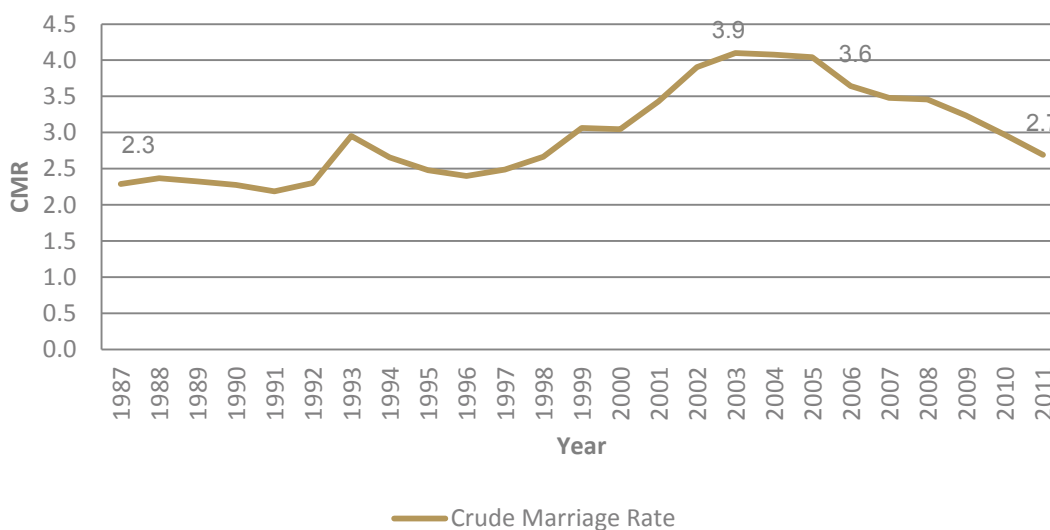


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Crude Marriage Rate

In 2002, the Crude Marriage Rate (CMR) was 3.9 marriages per 1000 population. It decreased steadily until 2006 to reach 3.6 marriages per 1000 population. Moreover, in 2010 to 2011 the CMR declined from 3.0 to 2.7 respectively.

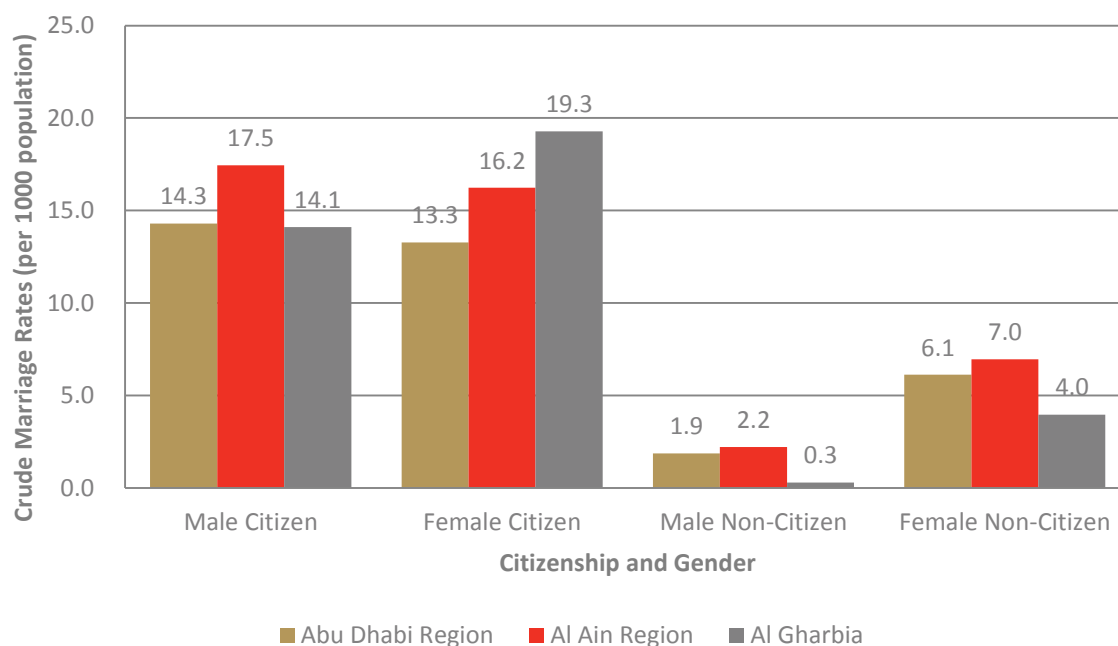
Figure 3: Crude Marriage Rate (per 1000 population) 1987 to 2011



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

The results shown indicate that the CMR in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi was 2.7 marriages per 1000 population in 2011. This rate varies between different regions of the Emirate, reaching its highest level in Al Ain region with 3.8 marriages per 1000 population, followed by Abu Dhabi 2.5 marriages per 1000 population and Al Gharbia 1.1 marriages per 1000 population. The Crude Marriage Rates showed no significant difference between the rate of male and female citizens except in the Al Gharbia where the CMR for the males was 14.1 while it was 19.3 for the females. In addition, for non-citizens, the CRM for males is significantly less than the CRM for the females as shown in the figure below

Figure 4: Crude Marriage Rates (per 1000 population) by Region, Citizenship and Gender, 2011

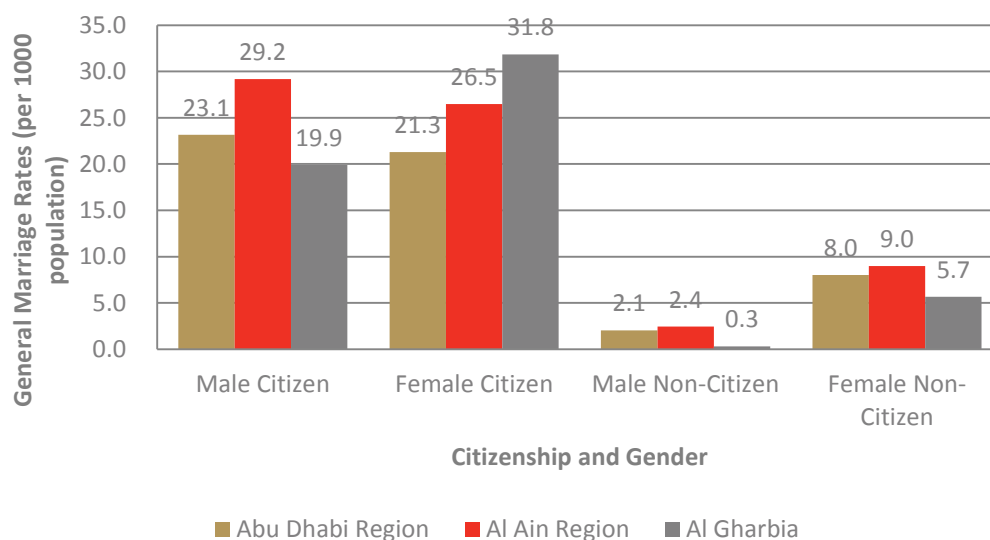


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

General Marriage Rate

The General Marriage Rate (GMR) in the Abu Dhabi Emirate in 2011 was 3.3 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above. Among citizen married male, the GMR reached 25.2 while it reached 23.9 among citizen married females. The value of GMR varies between the regions of the Emirate among which Al Ain region ranked top, with 4.8 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above, followed by Abu Dhabi 3.0 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above and the Al Gharbia 1.2 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above.

Figure 5: General Marriage Rates (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by Region, Citizenship and Gender, 2011

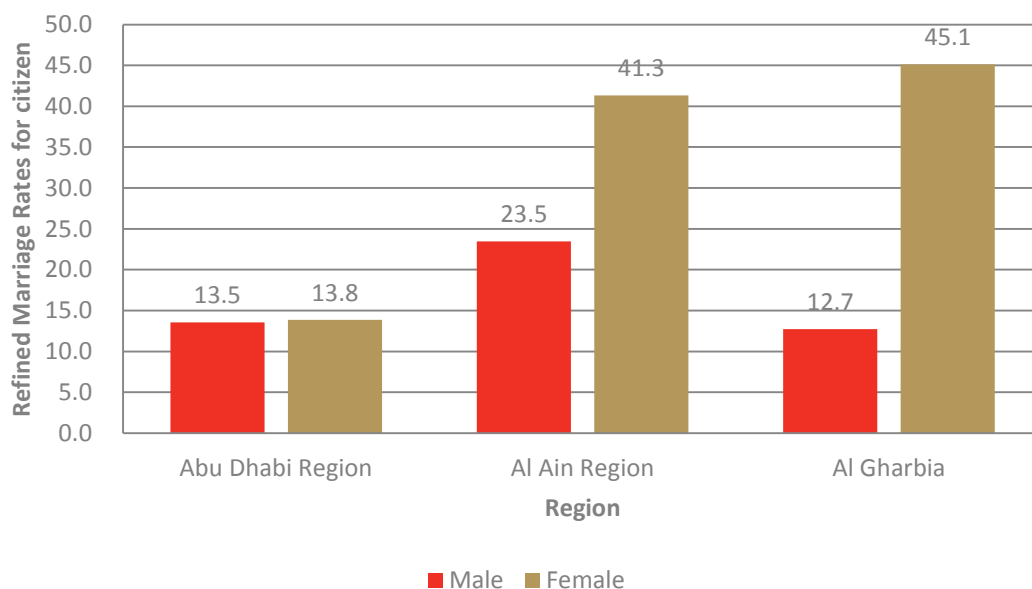


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Refined Marriage Rate for Citizens

The Refined Marriage Rates for 2011 vary by region and gender, reaching its highest level for males in Al Ain Region at 23.5 marriages of males, per 1000 unmarried male at aged 15 years or above. Its highest level for females was in Al Gharbia at 45.1 marriages of females, per 1000 unmarried female at aged 15 years or above.

Figure 6: Refined Marriage Rates for Citizens by Region and Gender, 2011

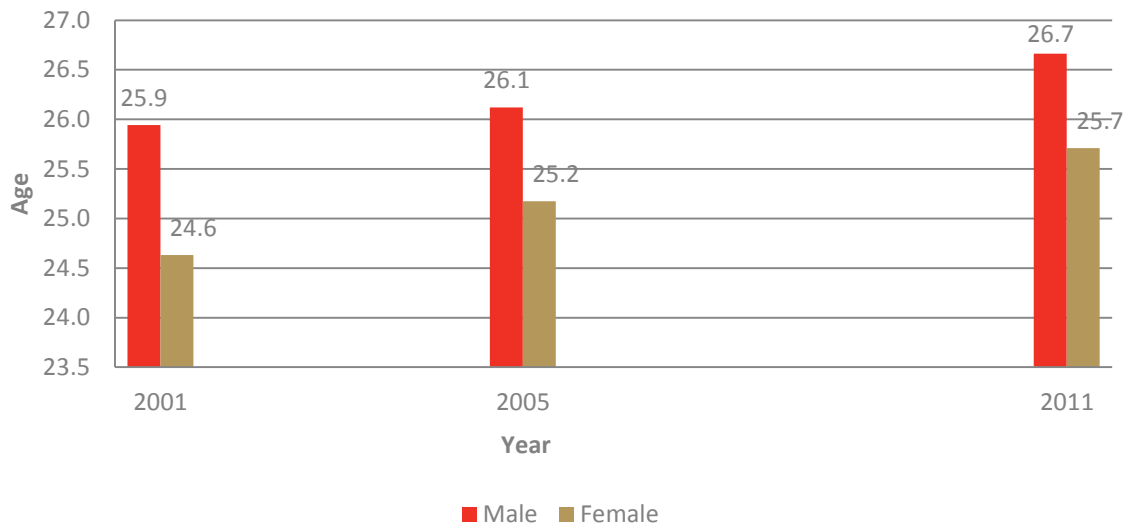


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Singulate Mean Age at first Marriage for Citizens

The median age at first marriage (SMAM) of Abu Dhabi Emirate in 2011 was 27.7 years for males and 26.1 years for females. In general, SMAM has increased about one year from 2001 to 2011. For male citizens, SMAM rose from 25.9 years in 2001 to 26.7 years in 2011. For female citizens, it rose from 24.6 years to 25.7 years in the same period.

Figure 7: Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage for Citizens by Gender, 2001, 2005 and 2011

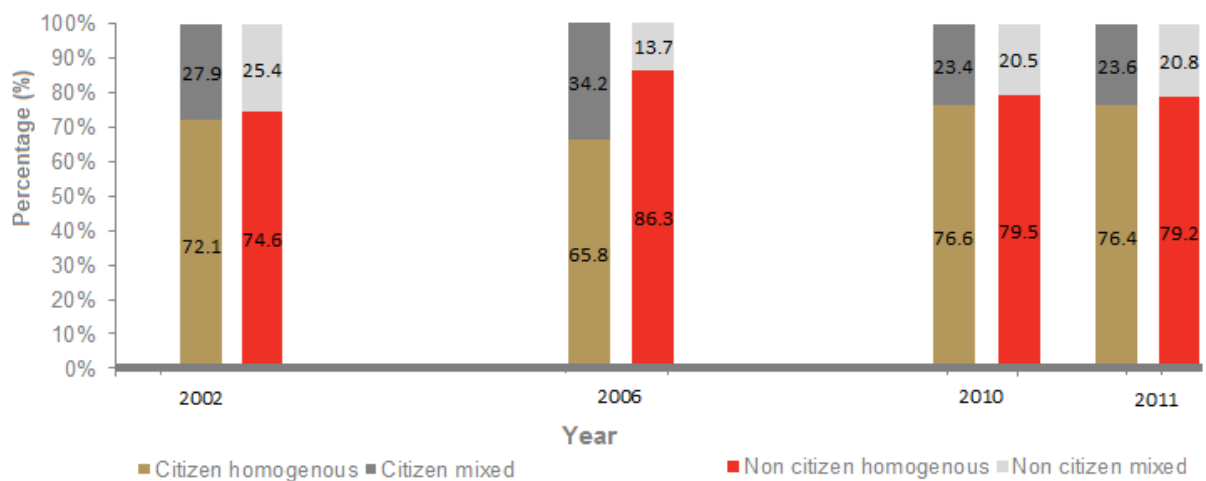


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Mixed Marriages

In 2011, there were 1286 marriage contracts where one of the spouses is citizen while the other is not citizen. While in 2002, only 72.1% of the male citizen married female citizen, this percentage increased to reach 76.4% in 2011.

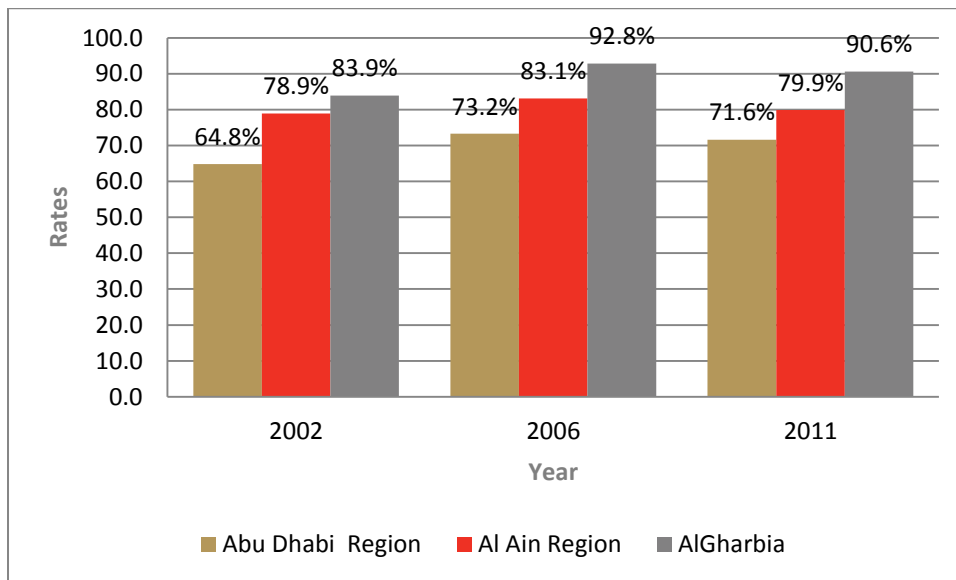
Figure 8: Male Marriage Rates by Citizenship, 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2011



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Moreover, the percentage of the male citizens who married female citizens declined in 2011 compared to 2006 in all regions. Nevertheless, Al Gharbia male citizens had the highest prospective to marry female citizens 90.6% than other regions in 2011. Also, the percentage in Abu Dhabi Region and Al Ain Region were 71.6% and 79.9% respectively.

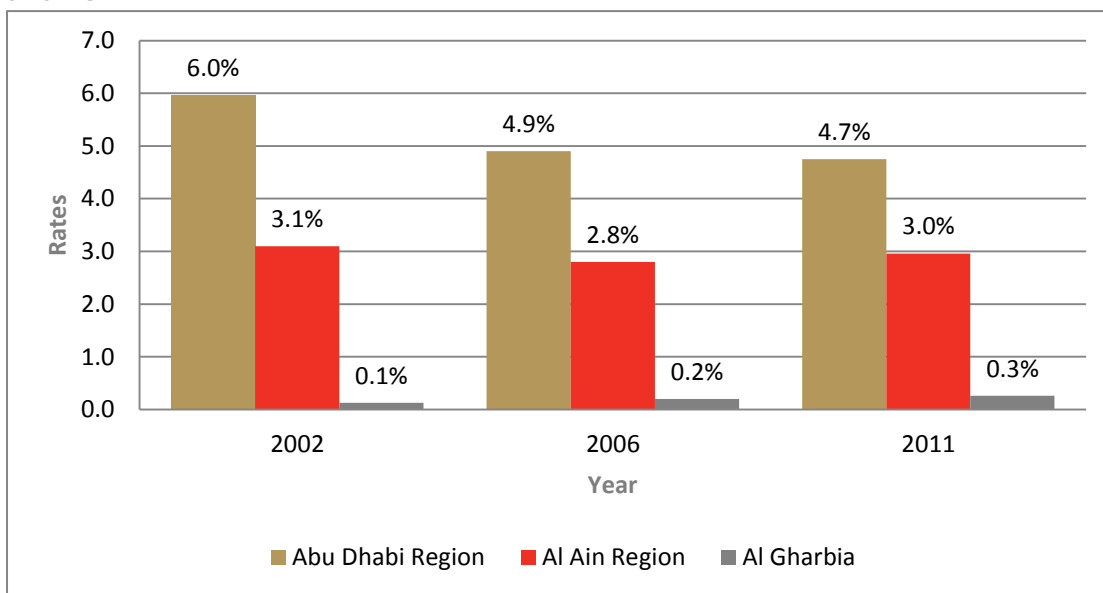
Figure 9: Citizen Homogenous Marriage Rates by Region, 2002, 2006 and 2011



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

On the other side, Abu Dhabi Region has the highest rate of male non-citizens who married female citizens from 2002 until 2011. In 2002, the rate of male non-citizens who married female citizens was 6.0% in Abu Dhabi Region followed Al Ain Region with 3.1% . Also, it decreased for all regions in 2006 except Al Gharbia. While in 2011, the rate decreased again to reach 4.7% in Abu Dhabi region, 3.0% in Al Ain region and rose relatively in Al Gharbia 0.3%.

Figure 10: Marriage Rates between Female Citizens and Male Non- Citizens, 2002, 2006 and 2011



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

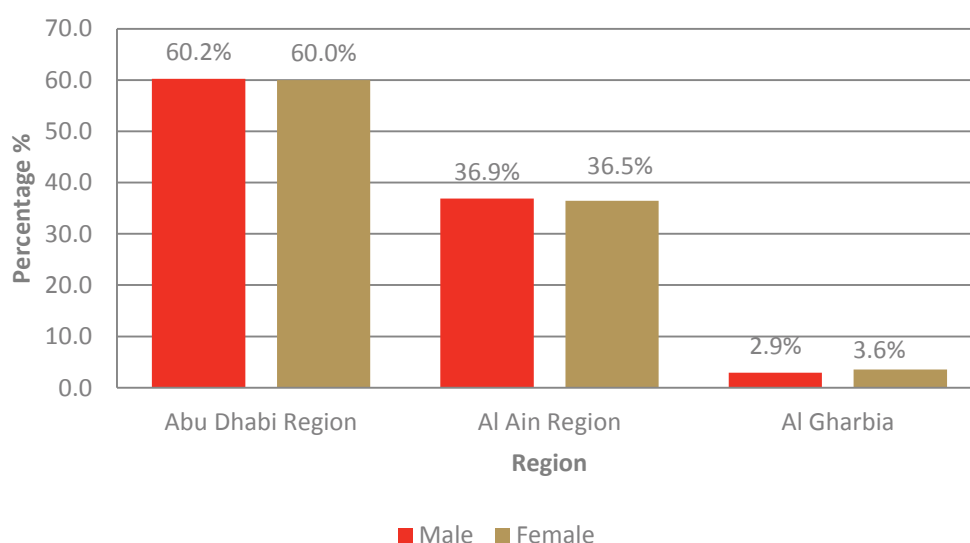
Divorce Indicators

Divorce Contracts

Administrative records show a rise in Divorces in Abu Dhabi Emirate in the registrations. The number of divorce contracts in 2002 totaled 1661. It increased to reach 1733 contracts in 2006. Then it increased until it reached 1803 contracts in 2011, representing and rose of 4.04% during 2006 to 2011.

On other hand, the number of citizen male divorces rose from 2010 to 2011. Also, 60.2% of citizen males' divorces registered in Abu Dhabi Region were 36.9% and 2.9% of the citizen males' divorces were registered in Al Ain Region and Al Gharbia respectively. The same pattern applied to female citizens' divorce contracts with 60.0%, 36.5 % and 3.6% for Abu Dhabi region, Al Ain region and Al Gharbia respectively

Figure 11: Percentage Distribution of Citizen Divorce Contracts by Region and Gender, 2011

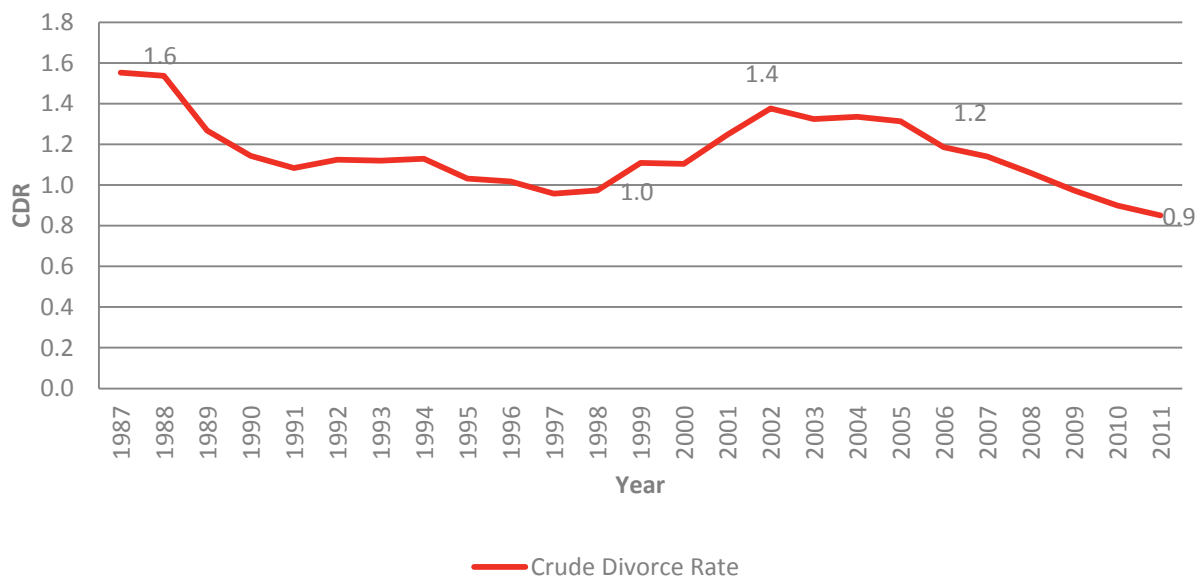


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Crude Divorce Rate

In 1987, the Crude Divorce Rate was 1.6 per 1000 population and it decreased to 1.0 in 1998 then increased to 1.4 in 2002. There is a clear decline in the crude divorce rate in 2006 and 2011 reached 1.2 and 0.9 per 1000 population respectively.

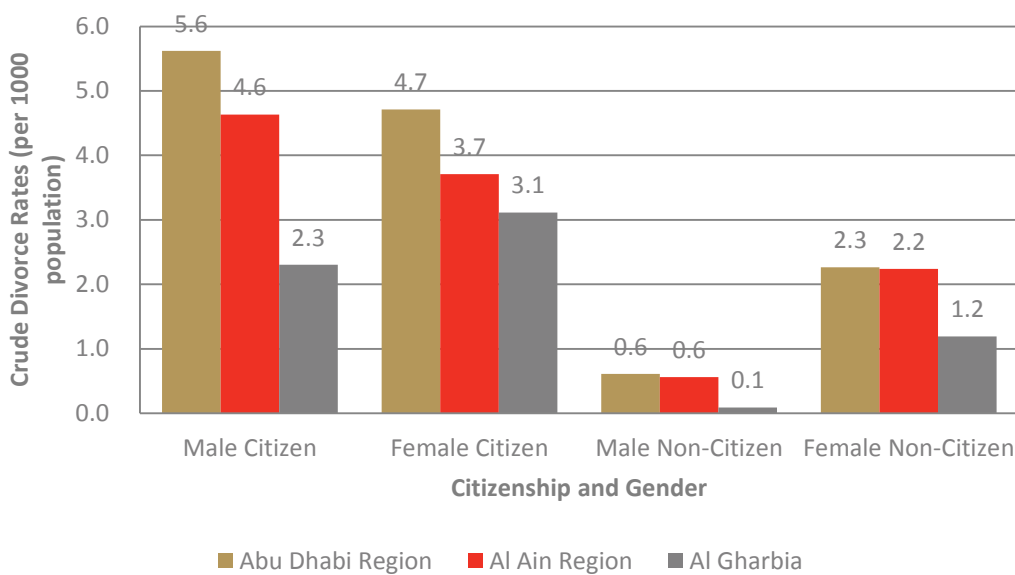
Figure 12: Crude Divorce Rate (per 1000 population) 1987 to 2011



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

The Crude Divorce Rate (CDR) in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi was 0.9 divorces per 1000 population in 2011. The value of this rate varies between the regions of the Emirate, reaching its highest level in Al Ain Region with 1.0 divorces per 1000 population, followed by Abu Dhabi Region 0.9 divorces per 1000 population, and then the Al Gharbia 0.2 divorces per 1000 population. In general, the highest level of CDR for male and female, citizen or non-citizen in Abu Dhabi Region followed Al Ain Region and Al Gharbia. Moreover, CDR for male citizens and female citizens was 5.6 and 4.7 per 1000 population respectively in Abu Dhabi Region. Also, the CDR in Al Ain Region was 4.6 for male citizens and 3.7 for female citizens. Female citizens had higher CDR than male citizen in Al Gharbia. The CDR showed significant difference between the rate of male and female non-citizen except in Al Gharbia where the CDR for male was 0.1 while it was 1.2 for female, while Abu Dhabi Region 2.3 and 0.6 for female and male respectively.

Figure 13: Crude Divorce Rates (per 1000 population) by Region, Citizenship and Gender, 2011

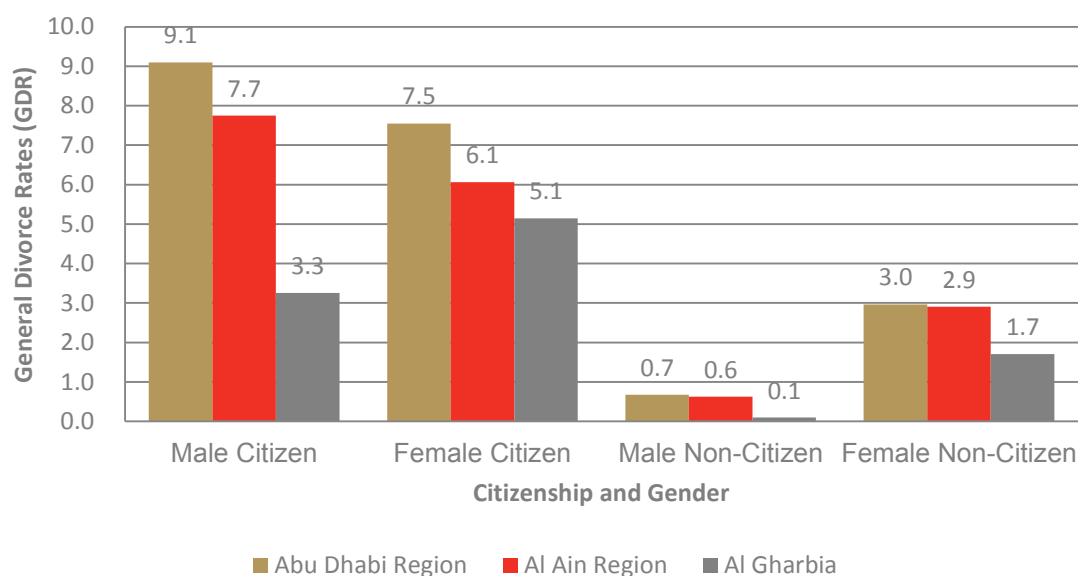


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

General Divorce Rate

The General Divorce Rate (GDR) in the Abu Dhabi Emirate in 2011 was 1.0 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years and above. The value of this rate varies geographically in the Emirate, reaching its highest level in Al Ain Region at 1.3 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years and above, followed by Abu Dhabi at 1.1 divorces (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above, and Al Gharbia 0.2 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years and above. Abu Dhabi Region has the highest GDR for citizen and non-citizen followed Al Ain Region and Al Gharbia.

Figure 14: General Divorce Rates (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by Region, Citizenship and Gender, 2011

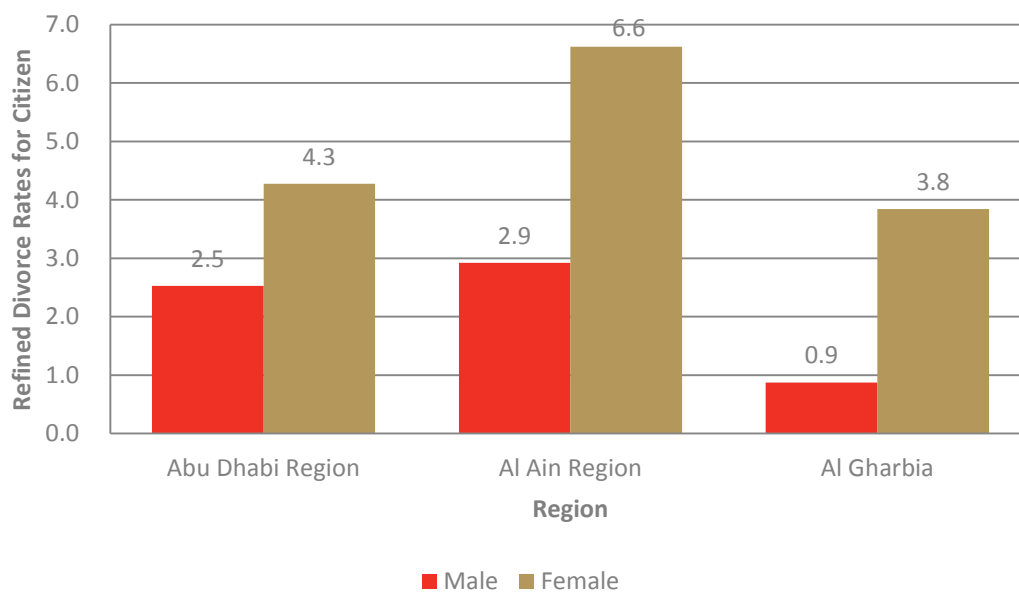


Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

Refined Divorce Rate for Citizens

This rate varies between the regions of the Emirate, being highest in Al Ain Region, with 2.9 and 6.6 divorces for male and female respectively per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years and above, followed by Abu Dhabi Region where divorce rate for male 2.5 and female 4.3 per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years and above. Finally, Al Gharbia had the lowest refined divorce rate.

Figure 15: Refined Divorce Rates for Citizens by Region and Gender, 2011



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

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Table 1: Change in the Contracts of Marriage and Divorce by Citizenship and Gender, 2010 & 2011

Marriages/Divorces/Years	2010	2011	Change number	%
Marriage Contracts	5,848	5,708	-140	-2.39
Citizens				
Males	3,642	3,521	-121	-3.32
Females	3,242	3,145	-97	-2.99
Non- Citizens				
Males	2,206	2,187	-19	-0.86
Females	2,606	2,563	-43	-1.65
Divorce Contracts	1,769	1,803	34	1.92
Citizens				
Males	1,091	1,136	45	4.12
Females	820	897	77	9.39
Non- Citizens				
Males	678	667	-11	-1.62
Females	949	906	-43	-4.53

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, Emirate of Abu Dhabi - Judiciary Department

Table2: Registered Marriages by Region, Citizenship and Gender

Region, Citizenship, Gender and Years	2002	2006	2010	2011
Abu Dhabi Emirate	4,714	5,328	5,848	5,708
Citizens				
Males	3,012	3,375	3,642	3,521
Females	2,605	3,066	3,242	3,146
Non- Citizens				
Males	1,702	1,953	2,206	2,187
Females	2,109	2,262	2,606	2,563
Abu Dhabi Region	2,707	3,159	3,347	3,226
Citizens				
Males	1,522	1,742	1,818	1,741
Females	1,268	1,537	1,603	1,518
Non- Citizens				
Males	1,185	1,417	1,529	1,485
Females	1,439	1,622	1,744	1,709
Al Ain Region	1,785	1,976	2,250	2,224
Citizens				
Males	1,304	1,466	1,614	1,578
Females	1,175	1,365	1,441	1,430
Non- Citizens				
Males	481	510	636	646
Females	610	611	809	794
Al Gharbia	222	193	251	258
Citizens				
Males	186	167	210	202
Females	162	164	198	198
Non- Citizens				
Males	36	26	41	56
Females	60	29	53	60

Source: Emirate of Abu Dhabi - Judicial Department

Table3: Crude Marriage Rates (per 1000 population) by Region, Citizenship and Gender, 2011

Citizenship / Gender	Total	Abu Dhabi	Al Ain	Al Gharbia
Total	2.7	2.5	3.8	1.1
Male Citizens	15.5	14.3	17.5	14.1
Female Citizens	14.8	13.3	16.2	19.3
Male Non-Citizens	1.7	1.9	2.2	0.3
Female Non-Citizens	6.3	6.1	7.0	4.0

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Table4: General Marriage Rates (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by Region, Citizenship and Gender, 2011

Citizenship / Gender	Total	Abu Dhabi	Al Ain	Al Gharbia
Total	3.3	3.0	4.8	1.2
Male Citizens	25.2	23.1	29.2	19.9
Female Citizens	23.9	21.3	26.5	31.8
Male Non-Citizens	1.9	2.1	2.4	0.3
Female Non-Citizens	8.2	8.0	9.0	5.7

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Table 5: Refined Marriage Rates for Citizens (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by Region and Gender, 2011

Gender	Total	Abu Dhabi	Al Ain	Al Gharbia
Males	16.6	13.5	23.5	12.7
Females	21.2	13.8	41.3	45.1

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Table 6: Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage (SMAM*) by Citizenship and Gender

Citizenship / Gender /Years	1995	2001	2005	2011
Grand Total				
Males	27.0	27.3	26.7	27.7
Females	24.4	25.2	25.1	26.1
Citizens				
Males	25.3	25.9	26.1	26.7
Females	23.7	24.6	25.2	25.7
Non-Citizens				
Males	27.2	27.5	26.8	27.8
Females	24.5	25.3	25.1	26.3

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

* Average number of years lived unmarried before first marriage for those who will ultimately marry before age 50 years

Table7: Mixed Marriages by Region, Citizenship and Gender

Region, Citizenship, Gender and Years	2002	2006	2010	2011
Abu Dhabi Emirate	4,714	5,328	5,848	5,708
Male Citizens				
Female Citizens	2,172	2,649	2,790	2,691
Female Non- Citizens	840	726	852	830
Male Non-Citizens				
Female Citizens	433	417	452	455
Female Non- Citizens	1,269	1,536	1,754	1,732
Abu Dhabi Region	2,707	3,159	3,347	3,226
Male Citizens				
Female Citizens	987	1,276	1,314	1,247
Female Non- Citizens	535	466	504	494
Male Non-Citizens				
Female Citizens	281	261	289	271
Female Non- Citizens	904	1,156	1,240	1,214
Al Ain Region	1,785	1,976	2,250	2,224
Male Citizens				
Female Citizens	1,029	1,218	1,288	1,261
Female Non- Citizens	275	248	326	317
Male Non-Citizens				
Female Citizens	146	147	153	169
Female Non- Citizens	335	363	483	477
Al Gharbia	222	193	251	258
Male Citizens				
Female Citizens	156	155	188	183
Female Non- Citizens	30	12	22	19
Male Non-Citizens				
Female Citizens	6	9	10	15
Female Non- Citizens	30	17	31	41

Source: Emirate of Abu Dhabi - Judicial Department

Table8: Registered Divorce by Region, Citizenship and Gender

Region, Citizenship, Gender and Years	2002	2006	2010	2011
Abu Dhabi Emirate	1,661	1,733	1,769	1,803
Citizens				
Males	1,098	1,140	1,091	1,136
Females	798	831	820	897
Non- Citizens				
Males	563	593	678	667
Females	863	902	949	906
Abu Dhabi Region	1022	1130	1201	1170
Citizens				
Males	608	693	707	684
Females	413	476	529	538
Non- Citizens				
Males	414	437	494	486
Females	609	654	672	632
Al Ain Region	574	562	512	583
Citizens				
Males	440	418	346	419
Females	346	330	256	327
Non- Citizens				
Males	134	144	166	164
Females	228	232	256	256
Al Gharbia	65	41	56	50
Citizens				
Males	50	29	38	33
Females	39	25	35	32
Non- Citizens				
Males	15	12	18	17
Females	26	16	21	18

Source: Department of the Judiciary - Abu Dhabi

Table 9: Crude Divorce Rates (per 1000 Population) by Region, Citizenship and Gender, 2011

Citizenship / Gender	Total	Abu Dhabi	Al Ain	Al Gharbia
Total	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.2
Male Citizens	5.0	5.6	4.6	2.3
Female Citizens	4.2	4.7	3.7	3.1
Male Non-Citizens	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.1
Female Non-Citizens	2.2	2.3	2.2	1.2

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Table 10: General Divorce Rates (per 1000 Population aged 15 years and above) by Region, Citizenship and Gender, 2011

Citizenship / Gender	Total	Abu Dhabi	Al Ain	Al Gharbia
Total	1.0	1.1	1.3	0.2
Male Citizens	8.1	9.1	7.7	3.3
Female Citizens	6.8	7.5	6.1	5.1
Male Non-Citizens	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.1
Female Non-Citizens	2.9	3.0	2.9	1.7

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Table 11: Refined Divorce Rates for Citizens (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by Region and Gender, 2011

Gender	Total	Abu Dhabi	Al Ain	Al Gharbia
Males	2.5	2.5	2.9	0.9
Females	4.9	4.3	6.6	3.8

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

This report contains certain terms specific to marriages and divorces. They include the following terms:

Crude Divorce Rate

The crude divorce rate within a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of divorces (and not the number of divorced couples) per 1000 population in that region/country in the specified year/period of time.

$$\frac{\text{Number of divorces during the reference year}}{\text{Estimated population in the middle of the of that year}} * 1000$$

Crude Marriage Rate

The crude marriage rate in a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of marriages (and not the number of married couples) per 1000 population in that region/country during that year.

$$\frac{\text{Number of marriages during the year}}{\text{Estimated population in the middle of the year}} * 1000$$

General Divorce Rate

The General Divorce Rate in a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of divorces (and not the number of divorced couples) for every 1000 of the population aged 15 years and above in that region/country in the specified year/period of time.

$$\frac{\text{Number of divorces during the reference year}}{\text{Estimated population aged 15 years and above in the middle of that year}} * 1000$$

General Marriage Rate

The general marriage rate in a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of marriages (and not the number of married couples) per 1000 population aged 15 years and above.

$$\frac{\text{Number of marriages during the year}}{\text{Estimated population aged 15 and above in the middle of that year}} * 1000$$

Refined Divorce Rate

The refined divorce rate within a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of divorces (and not the number of divorced couples) per 1000 married population aged 15 and above in that region/country in that year/period of time.

$$\frac{\text{Number of divorces during the year}}{\text{Estimated married population aged 15 years and above in the middle of that year}} * 1000$$

Refined Marriage Rate

The refined marriage rate in a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of marriages (and not the number of married couples) per 1000 unmarried population (who have never been married, or who are divorced or widowed) aged 15 years and above within that region.

$$\frac{\text{Number of marriages during the year}}{\text{Estimated population who have never been married or who are divorced or widowed aged 15 year and above in the middle of the year}} * 1000$$

Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage

Average number of years lived unmarried before the first marriages for those who will ultimately marry by age 50.

Data sources

The marriage and divorce indicators used in this study were calculated on the basis of the statistical figures issued by the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department and the population estimates prepared by the Statistics Centre- Abu Dhabi.

Abbreviations used

ADJD	Emirate of Abu Dhabi - Judicial Department
CDR	Crude Divorce Rate
CMR	Crude Marriage Rate
GDR	General Divorce Rate

GMR	General Marriage Rate
SCAD	Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi
SMAM	Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage

Cautionary Note

It is important to note that the ratio of divorces to the number of marriages in a given year does not represent the rate of divorces for that year, because the divorces relate to marriages of many previous years. For this reason, this ratio should not be used to evaluate trends in divorce rates.

More information and next release

For more information about Marriages and Divorces in Abu Dhabi Emirate, please visit the statistics link on the SCAD website at <http://www.scad.ae>

The next release is expected in December 2013

