

Data in Table 1.9 shows that the median age for females in 1961 was higher than that for males (17.8 and 16.2 years, respectively). This variation is due to higher mortality rates among females less than 15 years of age than among males. The later decline in these rates, in addition to the slight increase in fertility levels in the 1960's, led to the decline in median age in 1979 for both sexes.

As a result of the sharp decline in fertility levels, the median age began to rise steadily in 1979 for males and females alike. However, between 1979 and 2002, the rise was higher for females than for males (32% as opposed to 27%, respectively).

Household Indicators

Average Size of Private Households

A private household is made up of one or more persons who occupy an independent housing unit or part of it with one member acting as the head. Members of private households employ the income of the head of the household and/or some of its members for expenditures, are usually related and share all meals or some of them.

Historically, the household structure in Jordan is characterized by relatively strong bonds. This, along with high fertility levels in the past decades, has led to an increase in the average household size. As Table 1.10 shows, the 1979 and 1994 censuses indicate an average of more than six persons in Jordan's private households.

Due to declining fertility levels in the past decade and at the outset of the new millennium, the average private household size dropped to 5.7 persons (or by 15%) in 2002 from that observed in 1979. However, the average is still larger in certain governorates, such as Madaba, Mafraq, Ajloun, Jerash, Tafila and Ma'an.

One of the results noticed in Table 1.10 is the low average private household size in the Aqaba governorate (5.6 persons in 1979 and 1994) in comparison to other governorates. This low average is due to the fact that this governorate contains the city of Aqaba, which is characterized by small-sized households; a large population of government and private employees who live alone, without

Table 1.9:
Population Median Age by Sex Taken from the 1961, 1979 and 1994 Censuses and the Estimation for 2002

Year	Median Age (Years)	
	Male	Female
1961	16.2	17.8
1979	15.3	14.8
1994	19.0	18.3
*2002	19.4	19.6

* Department of Statistics, "Statistical Yearbook," 2002.

Fig. 1.9:
Population Median Age by Sex Taken from the 1961, 1979 and 1994 Censuses and the Estimation for 2002

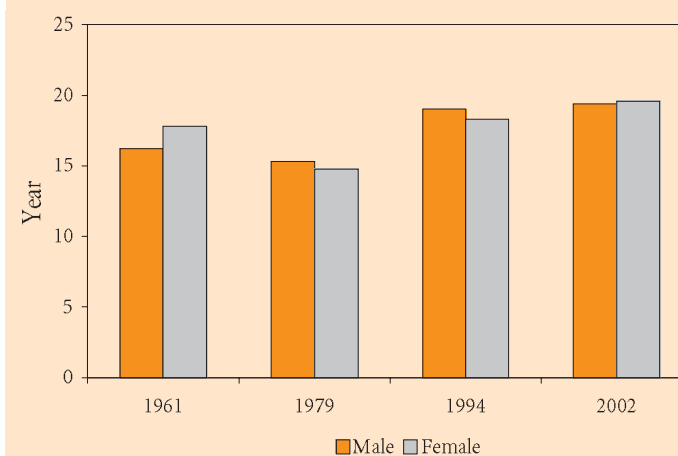


Table 1.10:
Average Private Household Size by Governorate Taken from the 1979 and 1994 Censuses and an Estimation for 2002

Governorate	Average Household Size (Persons)		
	1979	1994	*2002
Amman	6.6	5.8	5.3
Balqa	6.4	6.3	5.9
Zarqa	7.0	6.3	5.5
Madaba	7.3	6.6	6.2
Irbid	6.9	6.4	5.9
Mafraq	6.7	6.8	6.4
Jerash	6.4	6.6	6.2
Ajloun	6.8	6.4	6.2
Karak	6.8	6.4	6.0
Tafila	6.1	6.4	6.3
Ma'an	6.5	6.5	6.4
Aqaba	5.6	5.6	5.9
Total	6.7	6.1	5.7

* Department of Statistics, "Statistical Yearbook," 2002.

The average private household size in Jordan decreased by around one person—from 6.7 persons to 5.7—between 1979 and 2002.

their families accompanying them; and a large number of guest workers.

Average Household Size by Sex of Head

The average size of female-headed households, whether in 1979 or in 1994 (Table 1.11), is nearly less by two persons than those

households headed by men. However, the average is still high for female-headed households (about 5 persons) in urban and rural areas. This high average clearly indicates the new roles women are taking on as well as reflects the socio-economic and psychological burdens they are faced with in managing their household affairs and taking decisions in the husband's absence or due to marriage dissolution by either divorce or widowhood.

Table 1.11:
Average Private Household Size by Sex of Head of Household and Type of Locale Taken from the 1979 and 1994 Censuses

Sex of Household Head	1979			1994		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Male	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.2	6.1	6.7
Female	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Total	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.0	6.0	6.5

Fig. 1.10:
Average Private Household Size by Sex and Type of Locale Taken from the 1979 and 1994 Censuses

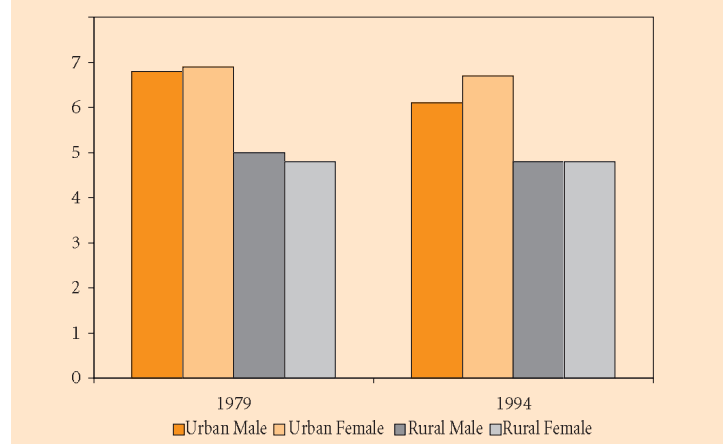


Table 1.12:
Percentage Distribution of Private Households by Sex of Head of Household and Type of Locale Taken from the 1979 and 1994 Censuses

Sex of Head and Urban/Rural		1979	1994	*2002
Male	Total	91.2	90.4	87.4
	Urban	90.7	90.1	86.9
	Rural	91.9	91.5	89.5
Female	Total	8.8	9.6	12.6
	Urban	9.3	9.9	13.1
	Rural	8.1	8.5	10.5
Total	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Urban	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Rural	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Department of Statistics, "Employment Survey: Annual Report 2002," Amman.

Heads of Private Households

A noticeable increase in female-headed households occurred between 1979 and 1994 in both urban and rural areas (Table 1.12). The proportion of private households headed by women increased from 9 percent in 1979 to 10% in 1994, then to about 13% in 2002 (or by 43% between 1979 and 2002).

The increase in the proportion of female-headed households was noticeably higher in urban (41%) than in rural areas (30%). The overall increase in female-headed households is mainly due to the dissolution of marriage by divorce or widowhood as well as to the slight increase in the proportion of one-person, female-headed households.

The above-mentioned data indicates that the social, economic and psychological burdens on women who run household affairs and take family-related decisions alone are growing over time. While women headed one in 11 households in 1979, they headed one in 10 in 1994 and one in eight in 2002.

Availability of Public Amenities and Durables

Public amenities in Jordan developed markedly in the final decades of the past century. Table 1.13 illustrates that in 2001 the vast majority of households (97%) used the public water network for drinking and other household purposes and that almost all households (99%) used public electricity.

Despite the considerable improvement in the provision of public sewage between 1986 and 2001, 40% of Jordan's households still lack this service. In 2001, one in five households used a ground or fixed telephone service, compared with one in four households in 1986.

Regarding the possession of durable goods, Table 1.13 indicates that one-third of Jordan's total number of households in 2001 possessed a private car and that a great majority of households owned a television set, refrigerator or washing machine. Additionally, nearly one-third (30%) of Jordanian households possessed a satellite dish, one in five owned a cellular phone, one in ten owned a computer and less than 3 percent had home Internet access.

Marriage Indicators

Marital Status

The proportion of never-married males and females aged 15 and over increased remarkably between 1979 and 2002. The percentage of increase varied between sexes, where it was much higher among females (49%) than among males (26%) (Table 1.14). The increase in the proportion of those never married brought about a decline in the proportion of those married from both sexes, with slight variations between males and females.

The proportion of married males dropped by 10 percentage points (or 17%), compared to 12 percentage points (or 19%) for married females between 1979 and 2002. This decline is attributed to a set of social and economic factors which led to a rise in the age at first marriage for both sexes alike.

Table 1.14 also reveals a slight increase in the proportion of divorced females (from 1 percent in 1979 to 1.3 percent in 2002), while the proportion of widowed females dropped by 1 percentage point (or 14%) in the same period. This data supports the aforementioned (see 1.3.3) growing rise in the proportion of female-headed households due to marriage dissolution by either divorce or widowhood. As previously stated, this indicates the growing socio-economic and psychological burdens on women in managing their household affairs.

The table shows that the proportion of married males from the total number of males in their category is less than that of married females from the total number of females in their category. This is true for all the years studied. In other words, there are 108 married females to every 100 married

Table 1.13:
Percentage Distribution of Private Households by Availability of Public Amenities and Durables in 1986, 1997 and 2001

Availability of Public Amenities and Durables	*1986	**1997	***2001
Public water network	91.4	95.9	97.0
Sewage network	27.9	55.3	60.0
Public electricity network	94.0	98.1	99.1
Ground telephone network	26.1	38.3	59.1
Private car	24.3	27.8	32.6
Television	85.9	91.8	94.5
Refrigerator	77.9	84.3	91.5
Washing machine	78.0	-	92.1
Air conditioner	-	2.7	5.0
Satellite dish	-	7.3	30.3
Cellular phone	-	-	20.6
Internet	-	-	2.6
Computer (PC)	-	-	10.0

* Department of Statistics, "Internal and Migration and Human Resources Survey, 1986," Amman, 1987.

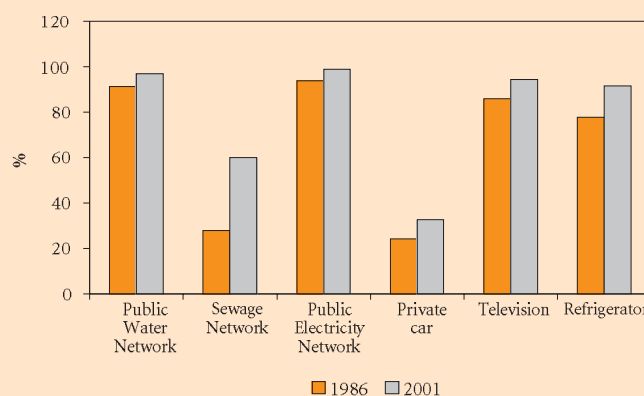
** Department of Statistics, "Employment Survey," 1997.

*** Department of Statistics, "Employment Survey, Second Round," 2001.

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Fig. 1.11:

Percentage Distribution of Private Households by Availability of Amenities and Some Durable Goods in 1986 and 2001



males in 1979, 110 females in 1994 and 105 females in 2002. This difference is primarily attributed to the occurrence of polygamy in Jordan.

Table 1.14 also indicates that the proportion of divorced and widowed males is less than that of females. The reason behind this is that most divorced and widowed males remarry after divorce or widowhood. In addition, the proportion of those divorced for both sexes is very low (0.8 percent).

Fig. 1.12:
Percentage of Never-Married and Married Population Aged 15 and Above in 1979 and 2002

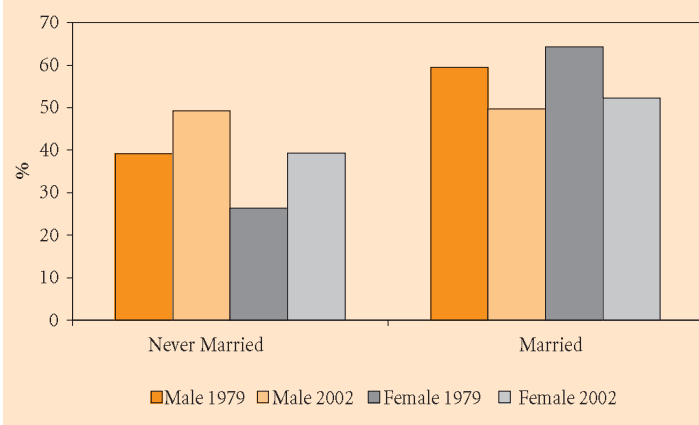


Table 1.14:
Percentage Distribution of the Population Aged 15 and Above by Marital Status and Sex Taken from the 1979 and 1994 Censuses and for 2002

Marital Status	1979		1994		*2002	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never Married	39.1	26.3	45.5	34.0	49.3	39.3
Married	59.5	64.3	53.5	58.7	49.7	52.2
Divorced	0.4	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.4	1.3
Widowed	1.0	8.4	0.6	6.3	0.6	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Department of Statistics, "Employment Survey: Annual Report 2002," Amman.

Table 1.15:
Marriage and Divorce Rates Among the Population Aged 15 and Above for the Selected Years

Year	Crude Marriage (Rate in 000)	Crude Divorce (Rate in 000)
1980	7.0	1.2
1985	7.5	1.4
1990	9.7	1.5
1995	8.3	1.5
2000	9.0	1.6
2001	9.6	1.7

Source: Department of Statistics, "Statistical Yearbooks" for the abovementioned years.

Table 1.16:
Marriages, Divorces and Marital Divorce Rate for the Selected Years

Year	No. of Marriages	No. of Divorces	Marital Divorce Rate%
1980	15,597	2729	17.5
1985	20,152	3687	18.3
1990	32,706	5074	15.5
1995	35,501	6315	17.8
2001	49,794	9017	18.1

Source: Department of Statistics, "Statistical Yearbooks" for the years studied.

Marriage and Divorce Rates

The crude marriage rate (the number of registered marriages in a certain year per 1,000 of the overall population in the same year) slightly oscillated during the years 1980-2001 (Table 1.15). At the beginning of the 1990's, the rate rose sharply in comparison to the 1980's, with an increase from 7 per 1,000 of the population in 1980 to 9.7 per 1,000 in 1990. This increase is due to the effects of the Gulf crisis in 1990, in which tens of thousands of Jordanians returned to Jordan and got married during that year.

The crude divorce rate (the number of divorces in a certain year per 1,000 of the population in the same year) rose steadily in the last two decades (1980-2001), from 1.2 per 1,000 in 1980 to 1.7 per 1,000 in 2001 (or by 42%).

Marital Divorce Rate

This measure represents the number of divorces in a certain year divided by the number of marriages in the same year. Figures in Table 1.16 indicate that the marital divorce rate does not follow a clear pattern but, rather, fluctuates during the years under study. In general, this rate tends to stabilize at around 18%, on the average, during the years under study, except for 1990, where it declined to 16%. This decline is attributed to the return of tens of thousands of Jordanians from the Gulf states after the 1990 Gulf crisis, upon which many of them got married. This led to a jump in marriage cases by 62% in 1990 from that observed in 1985.

On the other hand, marriages and divorces increased by over three-fold each (319% and 330%, respectively) from 1980 to 2001.

Singulate Mean Age at Marriage

Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) denotes the mean number of years a person spends before his/her first marriage. In other words, it is the average age at which a person gets married for the first time. The SMAM has risen steadily for both sexes, but with varying values (Table 1.17). The value of the SMAM for males increased from 26 years in 1979 to 29 years in 2002 (or by 13%), while for females it rose from 21 years in 1979 to 27 years in 2002 (or by 27%).

The rise in the SMAM for both sexes is mainly attributed to a variety of socio-economic factors, among which are the growing cost of marriage; household-building requirements; the increasing tendency, especially among females, to attain higher education; and the improvement in females' participation in economic activity, which has afforded women more freedom in choosing who to marry and the most appropriate time for marriage.

The differential in the SMAM between sexes can be explained in light of the narrowing age gap between males and females at first marriage. In other words, males have become more inclined to marry females closer to their age, as opposed to males in the past who married women who were 15 or more years younger than them.

Marriage Frequency Rate

The marriage frequency rate (MFR) refers to the number of re-marriages in a particular year divided by the total number of marriages in the same year. Data in Table 1.18 indicates that the MFR for both sexes is increasing steadily over time. The rate for males rose by 5 percentage points, or 34% (from 13.7% in 1985 to 18.4% in 2001), while it increased for females by 4 percentage points, or 55% (from 6.9 percent to 10.7%), during the same period. The higher increase for females is likely ascribed to positive changes in Jordanian society's view towards the marriage of divorced and widowed women.

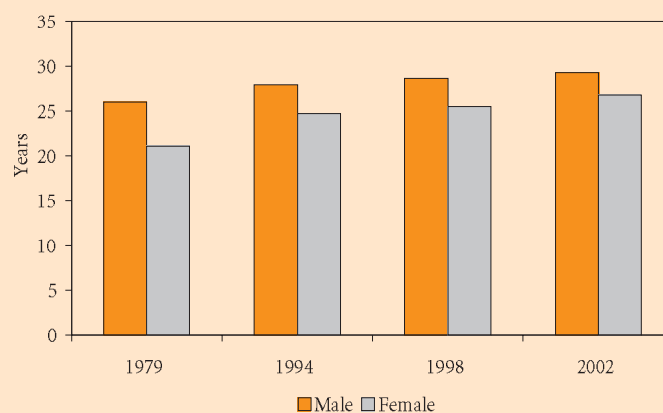
Table 1.18 also shows that the MFR for males is almost as twice as that for females in all the years under study. This difference is attributed to polygamy in Jordan, on the

Table 1.17:
Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage by Sex Taken from the 1979 and 1994 Censuses and for the Selected Years

Year	Mean Age Years	
	Male	Female
1979	26.0	21.1
1994	27.9	24.7
*1998	28.6	25.5
*2002	29.3	26.8

* Department of Statistics, "Statistical Yearbooks" for the abovementioned years.

Fig. 1.13:
Singulate Mean at First Marriage by Sex Taken from the 1979 and 1994 Censuses and for the Selected Years



one hand, and to the inclination of divorced and widowed males to remarry more than females do, on the other.

Between 1979 and 2002, the singulate mean age at marriage increased by 3 years for males and 6 years for females, or by 13% and 27%, respectively. This increase is attributed to a variety of socio-economic factors .

Table 1.18
Marriage Frequency Rate Among the Population Aged 15 and Above by Sex for the Selected Years

Year	Marriage Frequency Rate (%)	
	Male	Female
1985	13.7	6.9
1990	14.2	8.1
1995	15.2	8.9
2001	18.4	10.7

Source: Department of Statistics, "Statistical Yearbooks" for the years studied.

Fig. I.14:
Marriage Frequency Rate Among the Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Sex for the Selected Years

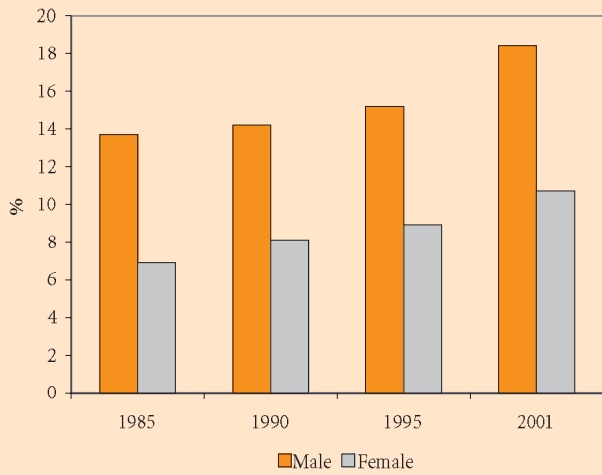
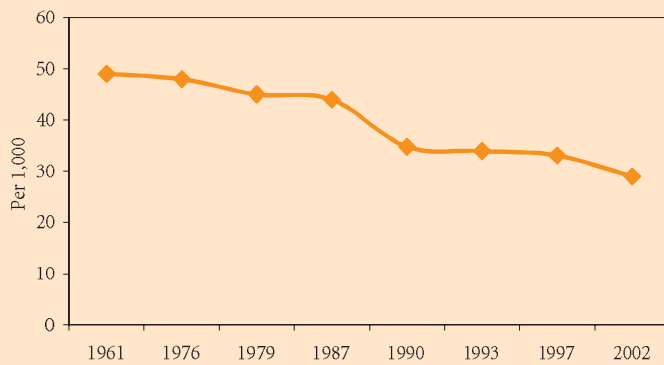


Table I.19
Crude Birth Rate for the Selected Years (in 000)

Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1961	49.0	1990	34.8
1976	48.0	1993	34.0
1979	45.0	1997	33.1
1987	44.0	2002	29.0

Source: Department of Statistics, "Man and Woman: A Statistical Portrait," 1999.

Fig. I.15:
Crude Birth Rate for the Selected Years



Fertility Levels

Crude Birth Rate

The crude birth rate (CBR) is defined as the annual number of live births per 1,000 people in a particular period. Before the mid-1970's, the CBR was both high and relatively stable at about 50 per 1,000 people. By the 1970's, it began to decline gradually, and then it dropped sharply in the late 1980's and early 1990's (Table 1.19). The pace of decline was very slow (15 births per 1,000 people—or about 30%) during the 30-year period of 1961 to 1990; however, from 1990-2002, it accelerated downward by 17%.

In general, the CBR dropped by 40% during the last four decades (1961-2002). This decline was due to socio-economic changes in Jordanian society during those decades, the rise in the age of first marriages and the more prevalent use of family planning methods.

Fertility Rates

Age-specific fertility rates (ASFR's) and the total fertility rate (TFR) are the most important and common measures of fertility. Table 1.20 reveals that the ASFR declined substantially across all age groups, especially among young females. It declined by 60% (from 71 births per 1,000 females in 1976 to as low as 28 births in 2002) for females aged 15-19, and by 50% (from 300 births in 1976 to 150 births in 2002) for females aged 20-24.

The TFR is the sum of age-specific fertility rates multiplied by the length of age intervals. It represents the average number of children a woman would have by the end of her reproductive period if she were subject to the observed ASFR's and provided that she survives until the end of that period.

Data in Table 1.20 indicates that the TFR was 3.7 births per woman in 2002, which is 50% lower than the rate observed in 1976 (7.4 births). The pace of decline is noticeably faster in the more recent period. The decline was 11% between 1976 and 1983 (from 7.4 to 6.6 births per woman), 15% between 1983 and 1990 (from 6.6 to 5.6 births), 21% between 1990 and 1997 (from 5.6 to 4.4 births) and 16% between 1997 and