

A. GENERAL

This publication presents data on marriages and divorces that were performed in Israel in 2010–2012. It is a sequel of the special publications series on Vital Statistics in Israel.¹

Each year, the Central Bureau of Statistics publishes annual data on marriages and divorces in Israel in the *Statistical Abstract of Israel*. The data include marriages of Jews that were conducted in rabbinical courts, marriages of Moslems and Druze that were performed in Sharia Courts, and marriages of Christians that were carried out by authorized officiating ministers.

The data provide information about the scope of marriages and divorces by religion, by various geographical classifications, by age, and more. Similarly, a calculation of various rates is included, such as the crude marriage and divorce rates, the rate of persons marrying relative to non-married persons in the population at specific ages, and the rate of persons divorcing relative to the married population (see Section C: "Terms, Definitions, and Explanations").

This publication includes all the tables published annually in the *Statistical Abstract of Israel* as well as additional information.

The data do not include marriages performed abroad. Data on the subject exist as of 2000 and appear in the report "Marriages of Israelis Abroad 2000–2013."²

In addition, the Media Release published by the CBS on the occasion of Tu B'Av includes data of the number of Israeli who reported to the Population Immigration and Border Authority on marriages abroad. These data include late reports on marriages of Israelis in previous years.

¹ From 1965 until 1993, the publication on the topic of Vital Statistics included the data on marriage and divorce, births, and mortality. In 1994 the publication was split into three separate publications (on the topics of marriage and divorce, births, and mortality). The previous publication in the series on this topic was: *Vital Statistics: Marriages and Divorces – 2008–2009* (Publication No. 1551).

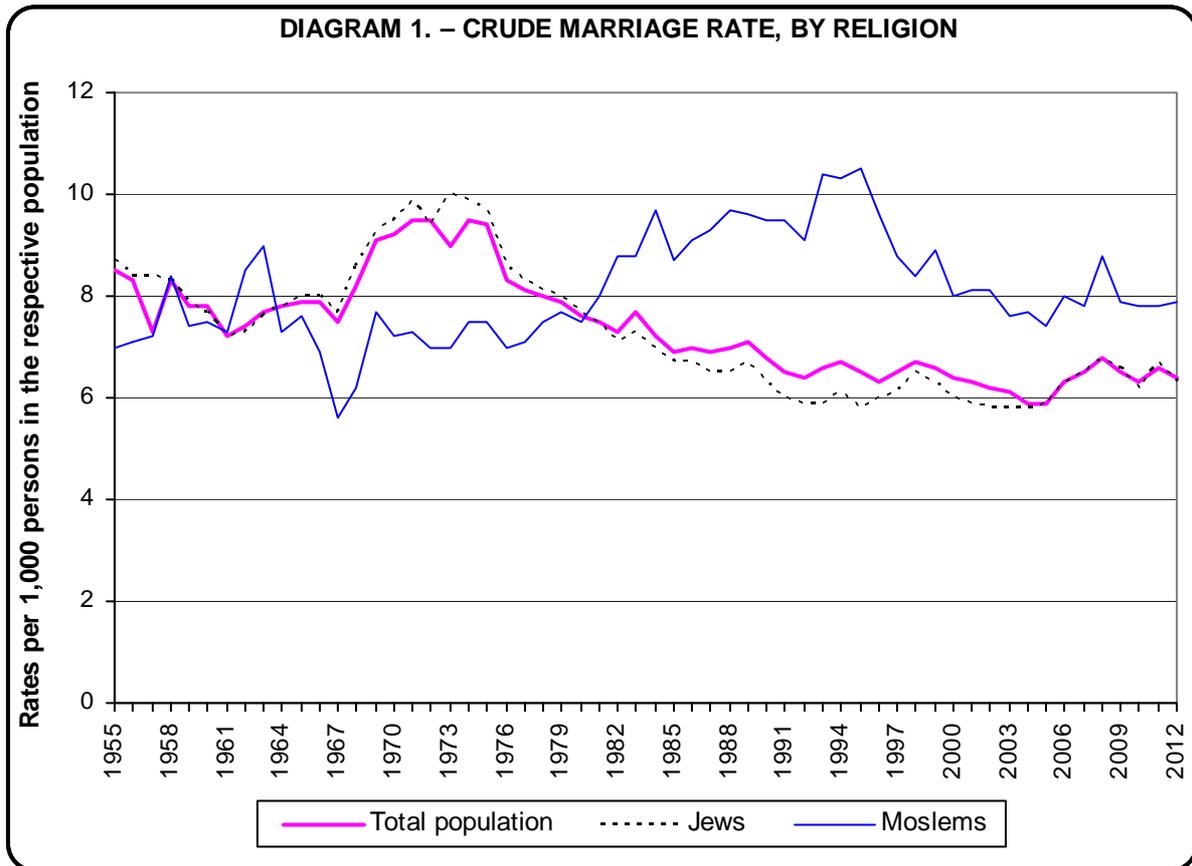
² See the publication on the CBS website:
http://www.cbs.gov.il/www/population/marriage_divorce/hagdarot_ni2014–2000.pdf

B. MAIN FINDINGS

Marriages

In 2012, 50,474³ couples married in Israel. Of those, 37,751 (75%) were Jews, 10,766 (21%) Moslems, 865 (1.7%) Christians, and 942 (2%) Druze.

Crude Marriage Rate⁴ (Table 1)



- The crude marriage rate⁵ in Israel has been declining since the 1970's in both the general population as well as among members of all religions, except for the Moslem population in which the crude marriage rate rose until the middle of the 1990's, when it began to decrease.

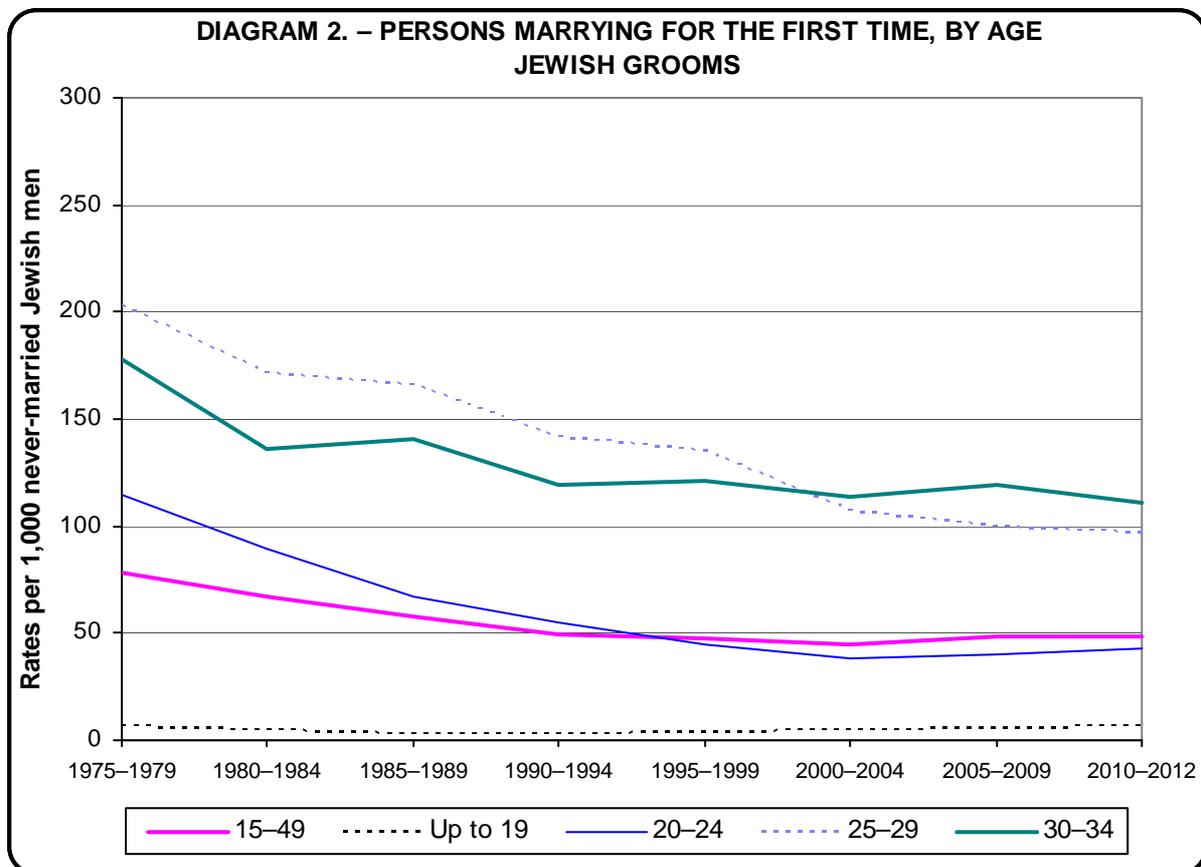
³ This includes cases where the religion was unknown.

⁴ Number of cases of marriage per 1,000 persons.

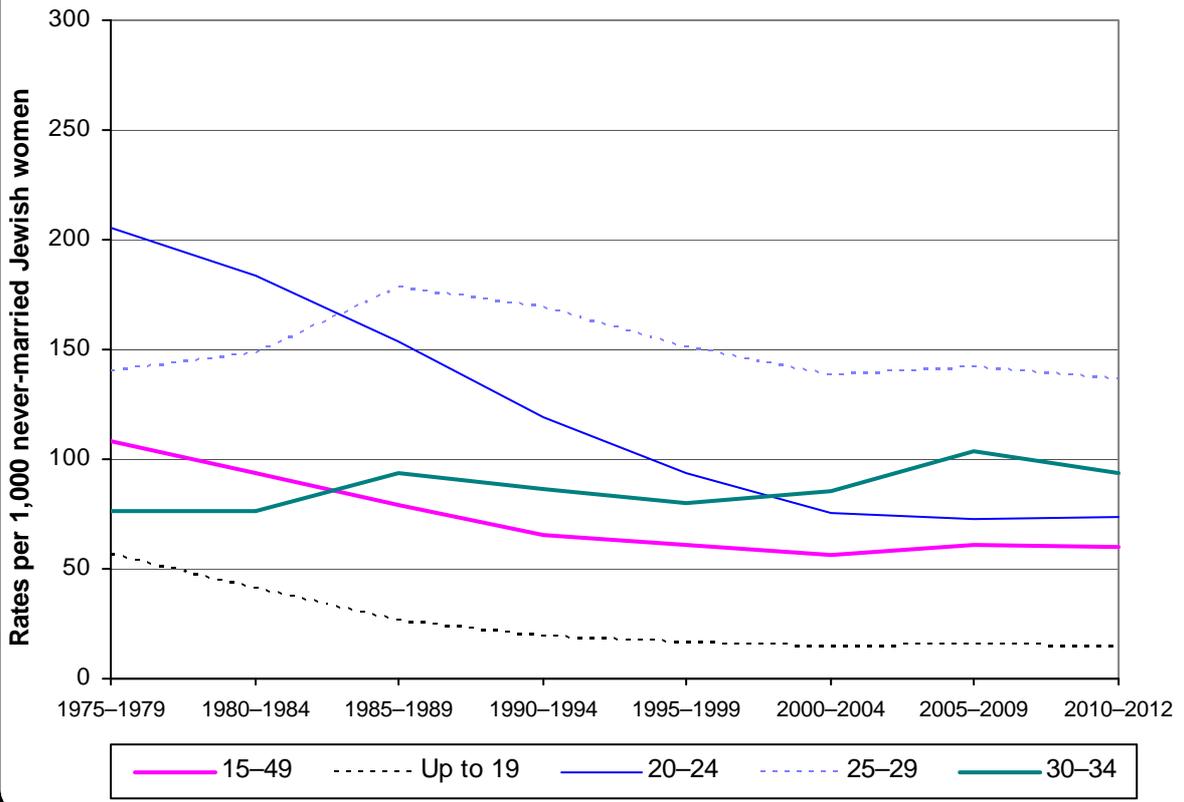
⁵ It should be noted that the crude marriage rate is not a sufficiently sensitive indicator for estimating the scope of marriage because it is impacted by the population's age composition and because it includes both first marriages and remarriages.

Rate of First Marriages (Table 2)

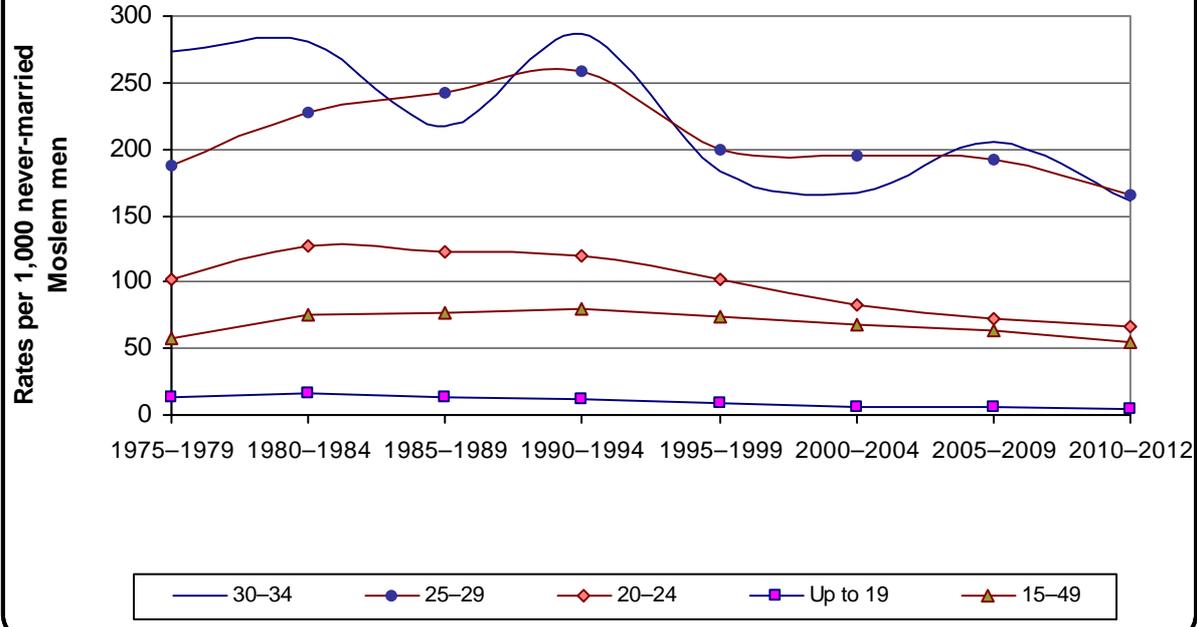
- Since the mid-70's, there has been a declining trend in the rate of first marriages among Jewish grooms in all age groups, although in the last decade there was a slight increase in the rate of first marriages at the ages up to 19 and 20–24.
- Among Jewish brides aged up to 19 and 20–24 there was a decrease in the rate of first marriages. Correspondingly, there was an increase in the rate of first marriages among brides aged 30–34.
- Among Moslem grooms aged up to 19 and 20–24 there was a continuous decrease from the beginning of the 1980's in the rate of first marriages, and in the beginning of the 1990's there was a decrease in the rate of first marriages among grooms aged 25–29. Among Moslem grooms aged 30–34, there was a fluctuation in the rate of first marriages – the rates of first marriages in 2012 among this age group were lower than the corresponding rates in the second half of the 1970's.
- Among Moslem brides there was a decrease in the rate of first marriages at the ages up to 19 since the second half of the 1970's. Correspondingly, there was a rise in the rate of first marriages at the ages 20–24.



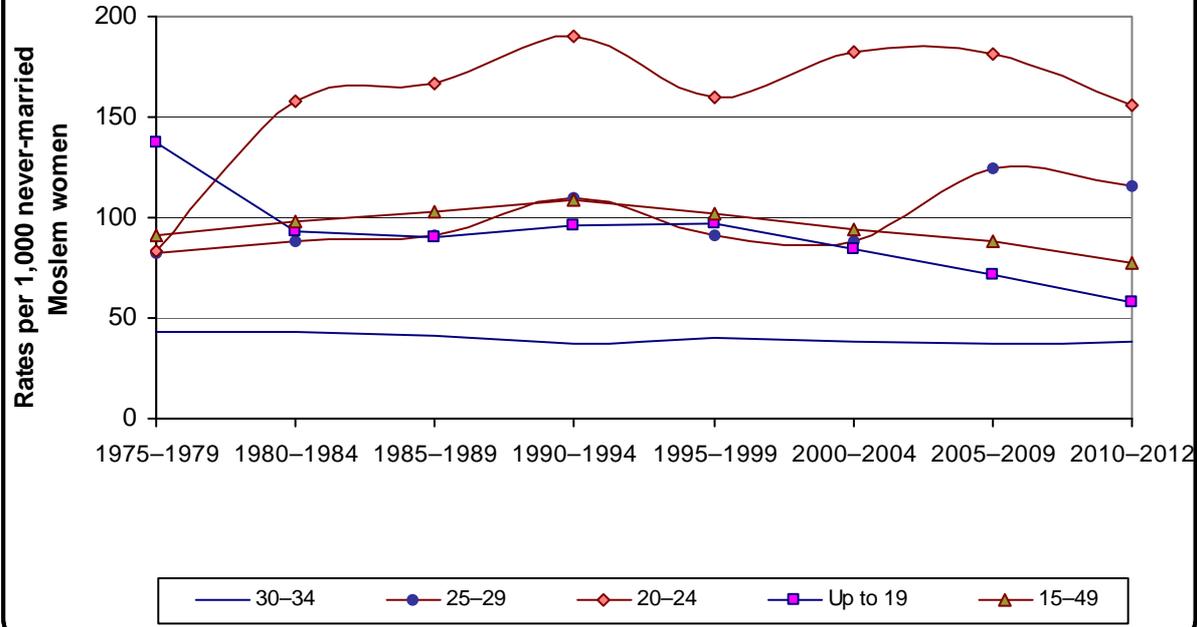
**DIAGRAM 3. – PERSONS MARRYING FOR THE FIRST TIME, BY AGE
JEWISH BRIDES**



**DIAGRAM 4. – PERSONS MARRYING FOR THE FIRST TIME, BY AGE
MOSLEM GROOMS**



**DIAGRAM 5. – PERSONS MARRYING FOR THE FIRST TIME, BY AGE
MOSLEM BRIDES**



Marriage Age (Table 5)

Table A: Median Age at First Marriage, by Religion

Religion		1992	2012	Change in 1992–2012
Jews	Grooms	26.8	28.0	1.2
	Brides	24.0	25.9	1.9
	Average age gap	2.8	2.1	-0.7
Moslems	Grooms	24.8	26.4	1.6
	Brides	21.0	21.9	0.9
	Average age gap	3.8	4.5	0.7
Christians	Grooms	28.6	29.9	1.3
	Brides	23.6	25.4	1.8
	Average age gap	5.0	4.5	-0.5
Druze	Grooms	24.9	28.1	3.2
	Brides	20.4	23.2	2.8
	Average age gap	4.5	4.9	0.4

- During the past twenty years the median age at first marriage increased by a period of nearly a year among Moslem brides to 3.2 years among Druze grooms.
- In 2012, the age difference between brides and grooms marrying for the first time among Jews was 2.1 years, approximately half the difference found among Moslems, Christians and Druze (4.5–4.9 years).

Persons Marrying, in Large Localities (Table 12)

Among the large localities (numbering 200,000 residents and more), the highest rates of marriage⁶ in 2012, both among men and women, were in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

⁶ Per 1,000 men and women aged 15–49.

Table B. – Persons Marrying in Large Cities, 2012

City	Grooms	Brides	Rates of men marrying	Rates of women marrying
Jerusalem	6,555	6,892	34.6	36.7
Tel Aviv-Yafo	3,640	3,518	32.7	33.0
Haifa	1,333	1,339	22.0	22.5
Ashdod	1,291	1,383	26.8	28.3
Rishon LeZiyyon	1,344	1,347	24.2	24.0
Petah Tiqwa	1,080	1,104	22.4	22.6

Remaining Single (Table 4)

An analysis of Jewish never-married men and women, based on the rate of those married in 2012 among the population of never-married men and women of all ages, indicates that 146 per 1,000 men aged 45, and 135 per 1,000 women of that age remained single.

Marriages Abroad Notified to the Population Register in 2012

In 2012, 9,509 marriages conducted abroad in which at least one spouse was registered in the Population Register were reported to the Register.⁷ In 38% of the cases (3,633 couples) both spouses were registered in the Register, in 62% of the cases (5,876 couples) only one spouse was registered there.⁸ In sum, there were 13,142 persons registered in the Register in Israel who married abroad.⁹

Jewish Couples Marrying, by the Bride and Groom's Origin (Tables 17, 18)

- The tables show a tendency among Jews to marry spouses from the same groups of origin and continents of birth. These findings are derived, inter alia, from the inclination of immigrants from Ethiopia and the former USSR who arrived in Israel in 1990 or after to marry spouses from the same countries.
- In 2012, 68% of the Jewish brides **born** in Asia-Africa married grooms from there (compared with brides born in other continents, of whom less than 2% married grooms who were also Asian-African born). In the same year, 85% of the Ethiopian-born brides

⁷ Some of the marriages abroad were conducted in civil institutions and others are religious, but the CBS cannot distinguish between them absolutely. It should be noted that examinations in the past reveal that nearly 10% of those included in the Population Register who married abroad did this during a consecutive stay of more than a year abroad and the centre of their life was not in Israel (see Shlomo Nahir [2011]). *Time Required for Notification of Marriages of Israelis Performed Abroad*. Working Paper Series No. 59. Jerusalem: CBS.)

⁸ There is no demographic data (such as religion and age) on persons not registered in the Population Register.

⁹ For further information see: Media Release: "Selected Data on the Occasion of Tu B'Av 2014."

(comprising 66% of all Jewish brides of Asian-African origin) married grooms who were also born in Ethiopia.

Similarly, 46% of the Jewish brides whose origin is of Asia-Africa married in 2012 grooms of the same origin (by contrast to brides of European-American origin and those of Israeli origin of whom only 19% and 24%, respectively, married grooms of Asian-African origin). In the same year, 86% of the brides of Ethiopian origin (comprising 9% of all Jewish brides of Asian-African origin) married grooms of the same origin.

- In 2012, 41% of the Jewish brides born in Europe-America married grooms from there (compared with brides born in other continents, of whom less than 6% married grooms from Europe-America). In the same year, 45% of the immigrants from the former USSR who arrived in 1990 or after (comprising 61% of the Jewish brides born in Europe-America) married grooms who immigrated from the former USSR in the same years.

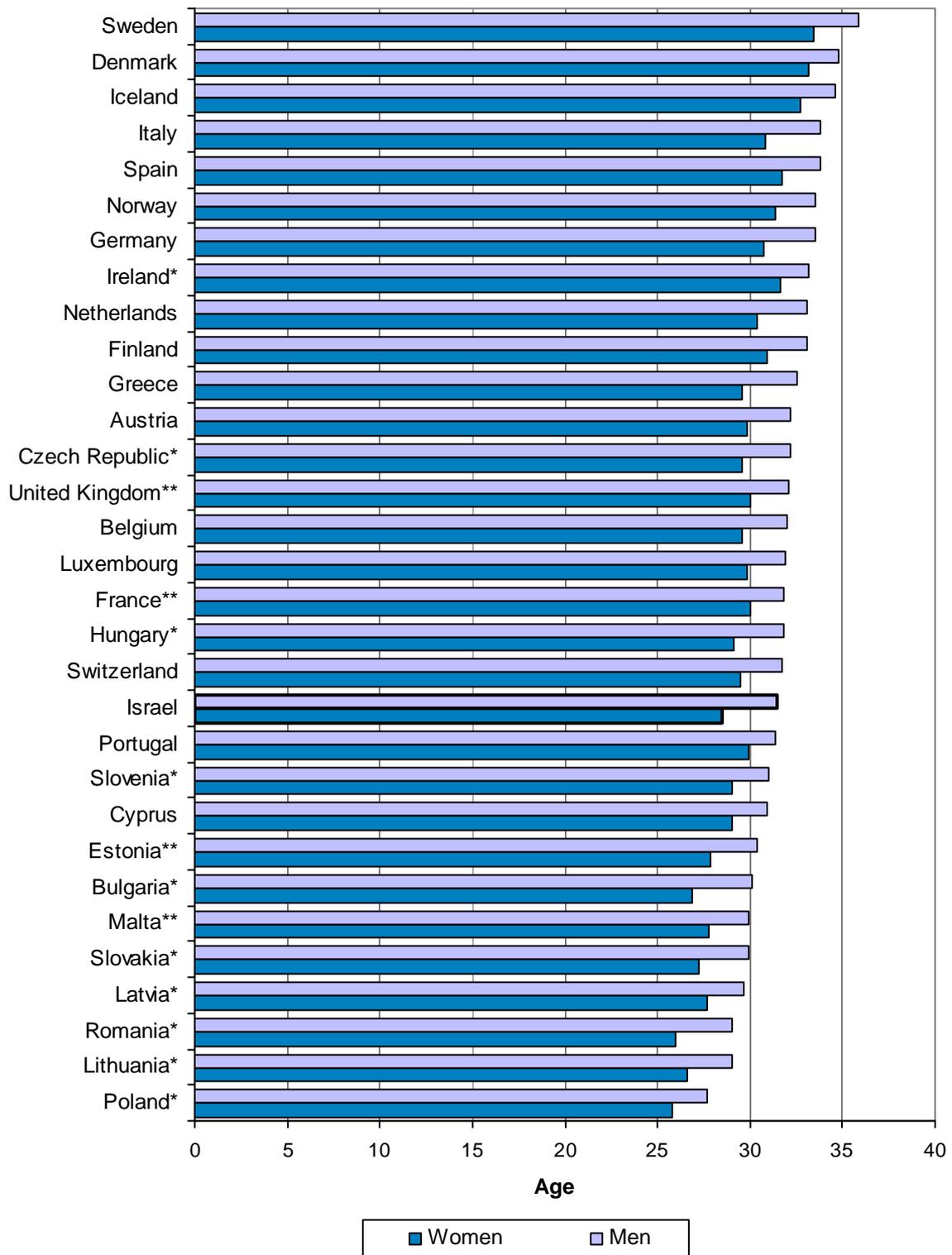
Similarly, 43% of the Jewish brides of European-American origin married grooms of the same origin in 2012 (by contrast to brides of Asian-African origin and those of Israeli origin, of whom only 15% and 17%, respectively, married grooms of European-American origin).

International Comparison

- Israel's crude marriage rate in 2012 (6.4 per 1,000) was higher than the corresponding rate in the OECD countries, which ranged between 2.9 in Bulgaria and 8.0 in Turkey.¹⁰
- The weighted average age of the first marriage of grooms in Israel in 2012 was 31.5. This age varied in OECD countries, in the same year, in the range of 27.7 in Poland to 35.9 in Sweden.
- The weighted average age of the first marriage of brides in Israel in 2012 was 28.5. This age varied in OECD countries, in the same year, in the range of 25.8 in Poland to 33.4 in Sweden.

¹⁰ Source: The Eurostat website and United Nations (2013). *Demographic Yearbook 2012*. New York: Author.

**DIAGRAM 6. – MEAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE (WEIGHTED) IN OECD COUNTRIES⁽¹⁾
2012**



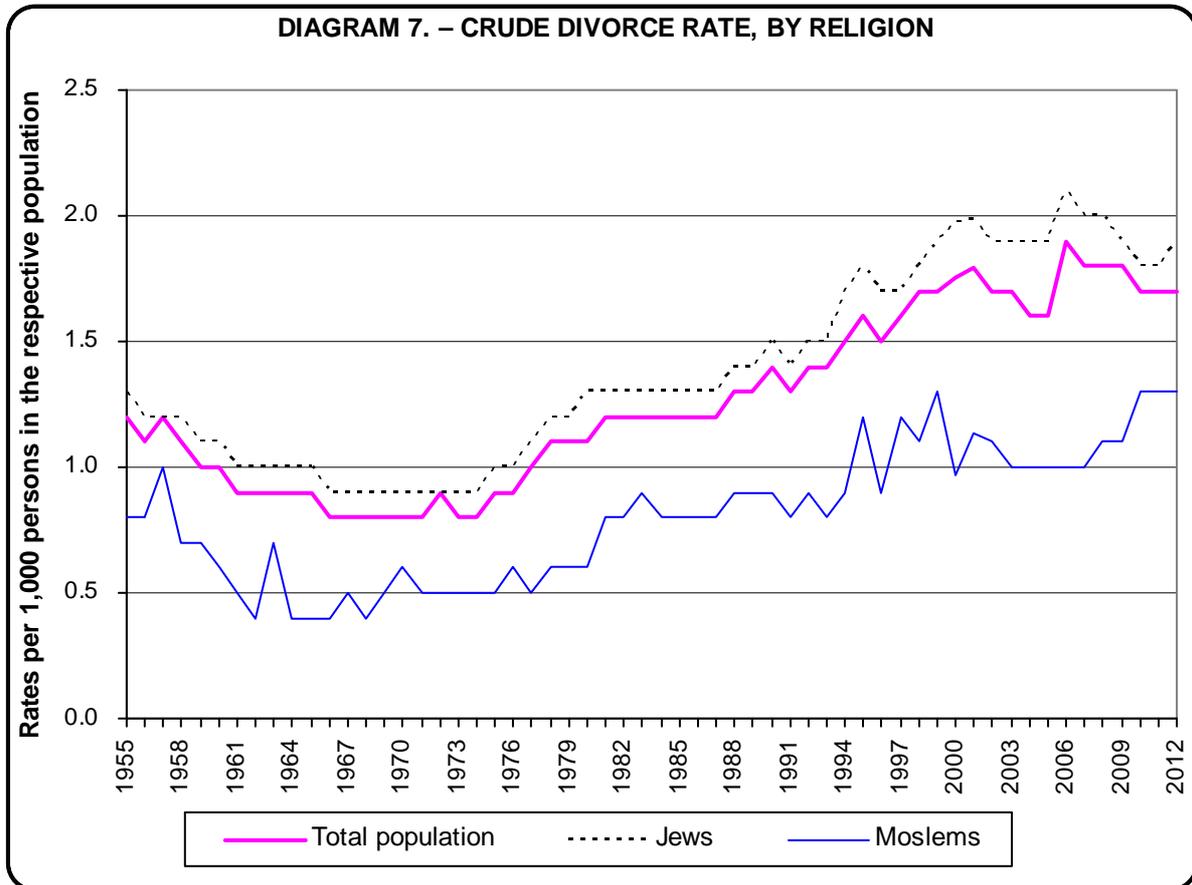
(1) Source: the UNECE website. Regarding the difference between the regular and weighted averages, see Section D: "Methodology": "Calculation Methodology".

* Data for 2011. ** Data for 2010.

Divorces

In 2012, 13,685 couples were divorced in Israel,¹¹ thereof: 11,037 Jews, 1,786 Moslems, 123 Christians, and 140 Druze.

Crude Divorce Rate (Table 19)



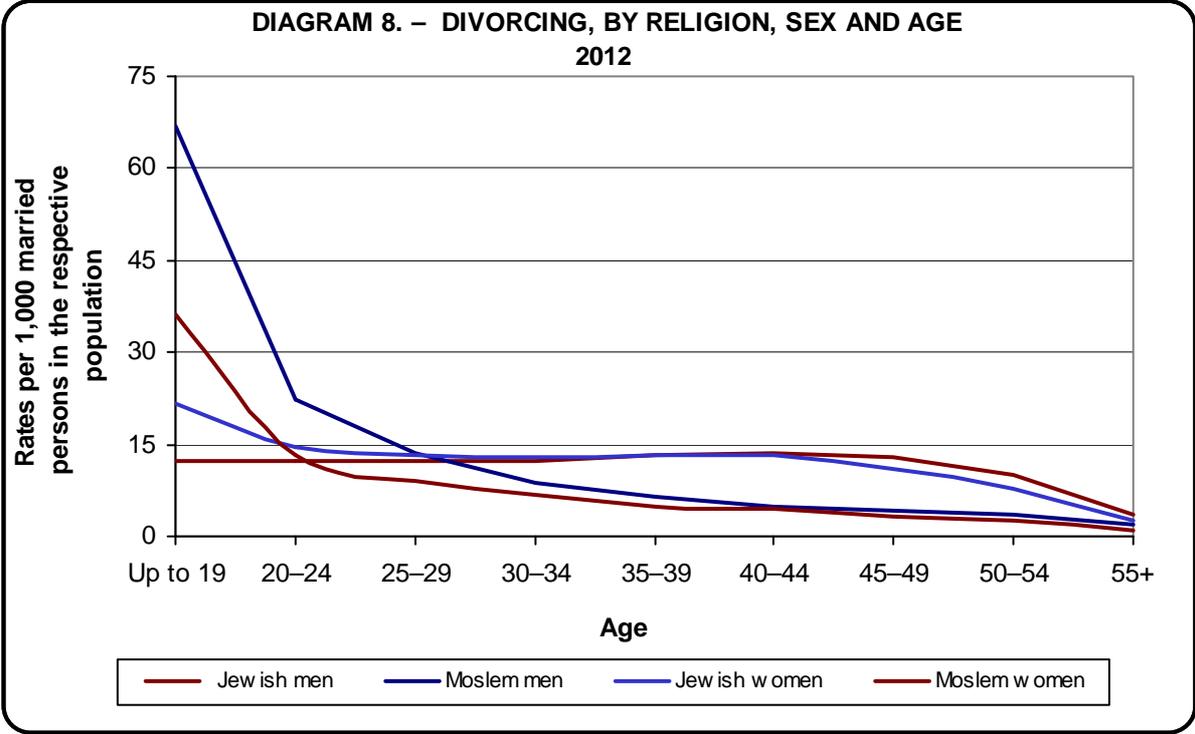
- In 2012, crude divorce rates were 1.7 per 1,000 persons in the total population; 1.9 per 1,000 Jews; 1.3 per Moslems; 0.8 per Christians; and 1.1 per 1,000 Druze.
- These rates are twice the corresponding ones at the beginning of the 1970's among both Jews and Moslems.

Divorce Rate within Married Persons (Table 22)

Since the early 1970's, the divorce rate for men and women in all age groups, both among Jews and among Moslems, has increased. For example, the divorce rate among Jewish men aged 40–44 increased from 3.8 per 1,000 married men in 1972 to 13.7 per 1,000 married

¹¹ The total includes cases in which the religion was unknown.

men in 2012. Correspondingly, the divorce rate among Jewish women aged 40–44 increased from 3.3 per 1,000 married women in 1972 to 13.1 per 1,000 married women in 2012.



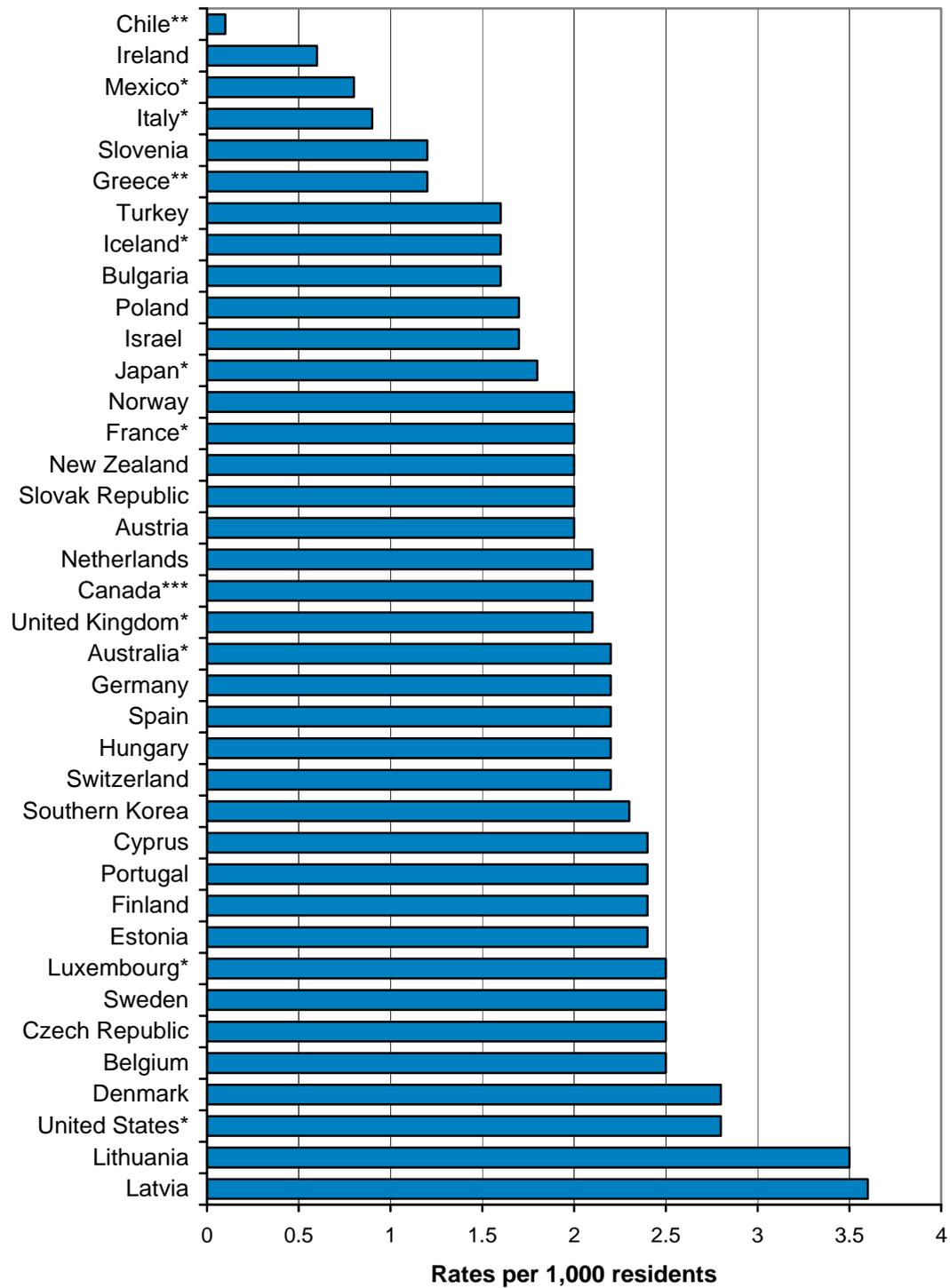
Jewish Couples Divorcing, by Duration of Marriage (Table 21)

- Of all Jewish couples who married in Israel in the 1970's and the beginning of the 1980's, approximately 0.2%–0.3% were divorced in the first year of their marriage. By contrast, of the Jewish couples who married in 2012 nearly 0.5% divorced in the first year of their marriage.
- Of all Jewish couples who married in Israel at the beginning of the 1970's nearly 12% divorced after 15 years of marriage. By contrast, among the Jewish couples who married at the mid-1990's approximately 20% divorced after that period of time.

International Comparison

The crude divorce rate in Israel is relatively lower than that of most OECD countries. In 2012, the rate in Israel was 1.7 per 1,000. In the same year, the rate in OECD countries ranged from 0.1 per 1,000 in Chile to 3.6 per 1,000 in the Latvia.

**DIAGRAM 9. – CRUDE DIVORCE RATES IN OECD COUNTRIES⁽¹⁾
2012**



(1) Source: The Eurostat website and United Nations (2013). *Demographic Yearbook 2012*. New York: Author.

* Data for 2011 ** Data for 2010 *** Data for 2008.

C. Terms, Definitions, and Explanations

Crude marriage rate: The number of marriages per every 1,000 residents.

First marriage rate: Number of those marrying per every 1,000 residents in the average population of never-married residents, at age 15 and over.

General marriage rate: Number of marriages per every 1,000 residents at age 15 and over.

Crude divorce rate: Number of divorces per every 1,000 residents.

Median age at marriage/divorce: The age at which half of the persons marrying/divorcing are younger and the other half are older.

Type of Locality: Classification of localities in Israel into urban and rural according to the number of residents in the locality.

Urban localities All localities with 2,000 or more residents and are classified by size (also including localities of a rural character with over 2,000 residents). In the 2008 Census, new divisions were made in the classification of urban localities. Localities with 200,000 residents or more were split into two categories: 200,000–499,000 residents and 500,000 residents and above.

The category 2,000–9,999 residents was split into two groups as well: 2,000–4,999 and 5,000–9,999 residents.

In the category 2,000–4,999 residents the classification of rural localities is done according to their organizational affiliation (kibbutzim, moshavim).

Rural localities include all localities with fewer than 2,000 residents (even if not agricultural or rural in character).

The rural localities are classified as follows:

Moshav is a rural locality, organized as a co-operative society which has the right to agricultural farm land, as defined by the Israel Land Administration. These localities consist of family units, each of which is an independent economic entity. Part of the production and economic administration is carried out by the co-operative society, the degree of co-operation being determined by the members.

Collective moshav is a rural collective locality, where production and marketing are collective and consumption is private.

Kibbutz is a rural collective locality where production, marketing and consumption are collective.

Institutional locality: An Institution that has the characteristics of a locality and is not within the municipal boundaries of another locality.

Communal locality: A locality organized as a co-operative society, which has no right to farm land, and where the domains and extent of co-operative activities (production, consumption, municipal and social activities) are determined by the members.

Other rural locality: A locality numbering less than 2,000 residents which is not included in any of the other categories described above.

Living outside localities: Residents living outside the boundaries of any locality. In the places inhabited by this population, not all of the definitions of a locality (appearing above) do apply. This group is included in the rural population.

D. Methodology

Sources and Explanations

As of 2008, the only source of data on marriage and divorce is the Population Register. Until 1996, the sole source of data was marriage and divorce certificates.

Marriage and divorce certificates of Jews were obtained from rabbinical courts. Marriage and divorce certificates of Moslems and Druze were obtained from the Sharia Courts, and the certificates of Christians were obtained from the authorized officiating ministers.

As of 1997, data on marriages and divorces of Christians and Druze originate from the Population Register.

As of 2004, the data on marriages of Jews also originate from the Population Register.

As of that year, data on divorces of Jews as well as data on marriages and divorces of Moslems that were obtained from marriage and divorce certificates have been completed through the Population Register.

Data on marriages include those that were recorded in religious institutions authorized to perform marriages in Israel, in cases where at least one spouse is registered in the Population Register.

Data on marriages of every year do not include marriages performed abroad (whether civil or religious) or "alternative marriages" performed in Israel which are not in an acknowledged religious framework.

Data on divorces include those that were recorded in religious institutions authorized to conduct divorces in Israel or in family courts, in cases where at least one spouse is registered in the Population Register. Until 2005, the data did not include divorces conducted in a family court.

Until 2005, data on marriages and divorces obtained from the Population Register did not include cases in which one spouse was not Israeli.

As of 2006, data obtained from the Population Register include cases in which one spouse is not a resident of Israel, as well as cases in which couples are not of the same religion. The data also include cases in which the Population Register does not indicate the place of the marriage or divorce. However, in these cases records of entries and departures from Israel reveal that the marriage or divorce took place when the couple was in Israel.

As of 2010, the data include couples with a status of matrimonial partnership. In 2011, 28 couples were registered in this framework, and in 2012, 41 couples

There is no information regarding the characteristics of spouses who are not residents of Israel (e.g., age, and marital status prior to the marriage or divorce), and those cases are recorded as “unknown.”

Cases in which the religion of one spouse is unknown (e.g., when that spouse is not a resident of Israel) are registered according to the religion of the second spouse.

Cases of marriage and divorce in which the groom is Moslem and the bride is Jewish are included in marriages of Moslems.

Every other case of marriage and divorce of couples who are not of the same religion, or marriages and divorces in which the religion of both spouses is unknown, are not included in the framework of any religion, but only in the total calculation of marriages and divorces.

In the tables that present religion, the religion is that of the couple even if data are given for each spouse separately.

As of 2008, the data include marriages and divorces that took place within three years prior to the one specified. Those cases were not included in data published in the past for the years when the marriages and divorces took place, because of late reporting to the Population, Immigration and Border Authority.

The data on marriages for 2010 include 1,959 marriages that took place in 2007–2009 and were reported late. Of those couples, 1,058 were Moslem, 783 were Jewish, 85 were Christian, and 8 were Druze. The data on marriages for 2011 include 3,697 marriages that took place in 2008–2010 and were reported late. Of those couples, 1,171 were Moslem, 2,401 were Jewish, 103 were Christian, and 18 were Druze. The data of marriage in 2012

include 2,660 cases which occurred in 2009–2011 and were recorded late, thereof 1,425 Moslem couples, 1,078 Jewish couples, 109 Christian couples, and 26 Druze couples.

Due to the inclusion of cases which occurred in the past, the number of Moslem teenagers who married increased considerably. A large part of them were residents of Jerusalem.

The data on divorce in 2010 include 413 cases which occurred in 2007–2009 and were recorded late, thereof 241 of Moslem couples, 144 Jewish couples, 7 Christian couples, and 2 Druze couples. The divorce data for 2011 include 675 cases which occurred in 2008–2010 and were recorded late, thereof 274 of Moslem couples, 364 Jewish couples, 8 Christian couples and 4 Druze couples. The data for divorce in 2012 include 800 cases which occurred in 2009–2011 and were recorded late, thereof 278 Moslem couples, 491 Jewish couples, 7 Christian couples and 5 Druze couples.

Between 1967 and 1976, Arab Israeli brides who married non-Israeli grooms were not included (for the most part, the grooms were Arab residents from the Judea, Samaria and Gaza Areas).

Marriages and divorces in East Jerusalem are included as of 1973; and in the Golan – as of 1987.

Due to problems in the definition of the Bedouin population that is located in the South, marriage rates for those living outside localities are not presented separately.

Calculation Methodology

All the **rates**, averages, etc. that were based on 5 to 19 cases per 1,000 persons are placed within parentheses, whereas those that are based on fewer than 5 cases are marked with two periods (..).

The calculation of rates since 1969 is based on the population including potential immigrants. Annual rates are based on current population estimates according to the last census – except for estimates relating to 2008, which are based on the 1995 census. As of 2009, population estimates are based on the 2008 Census.

Age at marriage or divorce: The calculation of age is done according to the month and year of birth and month and year of marriage and divorce, respectively. In the tables the age refers to the number of years of life of the person on his last birthday. Until 1990, the month of birth was not taken into account in the calculation of this age.

The average age is:

$$\frac{\sum xf_x}{\sum f_x} + 0.5$$

Where:

x=age

f_x= number of cases at age x.

Weighted average age of the first marriage: This calculation of age is done using rates of first marriages by age. This is done in order to adjust for the impact of differences in the age composition of different population groups. The formula for computation of weighted average age of the first marriage is:

$$\frac{\sum x r_x}{\sum r_x}$$

Where:

x=age group; for persons aged 15–49 years, based on groups spanning five years. (In this formula, the average is calculated by multiplying by the number at the middle of the age group. For example, for the age group 15–19 years, multiply by 17.5). If the calculation is made for an age group spanning only one year, one half year is added to the average age. This is done, because age relates to the person's last birthday, i.e., the number of full years that the person completed.

r_x = Specific rate of first marriages at age x: The number of marriages of never-married men and women at a specific age, divided by the total population of never-married men and women of that age.

Note that the weighted average age of the first marriage in this publication is intended only for international comparisons.

"Probability of First-Marriage" (q_x) and "Remaining Never-Married" (I_x) in Tables 3–4:

q_x – The probability of marrying between age x and age x+1. The column presents the proportion of those who married between age x and age x+1 out of never-married persons of age x. The values of q_x are derived from the values of m_x according to the following formula:

$$q_x = \frac{m_x}{1 + \frac{1}{2}m_x}$$

I_x – The number of persons remaining never-married at exact age x out of 1,000 never-married persons (1,000 = I₀). The values of I_x are calculated based on the values of q_x that allow the calculation of the number of remaining never-married persons at age x-1.

$$I_x = I_{x-1} (1 - q_{x-1})$$

m_x – Rate of marriages at age x.