

# **Indicator Report**

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## **The Social and Economic Situation of the Jordanian Woman - An Overview**

The demanding Interest in achieving tangible indicators in human development made the planners realize the important role played by the society individuals (men and women) in the development process, and the necessity to derive utmost and ideal benefits from the human resources. The issues relating to the woman have topped the priorities of the economic and social plans. The right of the woman in total participation in the process of development and equal opportunities between men and women in various walks of life became a part of literature and development plans.

Women are half of society, they are supposed to completely contribute to the development process and to profit from its advantages as well. Based on that, there is a need to detect the different types of predominant gender gaps, and to identity how much they affect the society's development course in order to take the actions required for women's empowerment and equality, not only in terms of burdens and responsibilities, but also in sharing resources and benefits.

Since the nineties, the United Nations convened three significant conferences: the Conference of Population and Development in Cairo –1994, the Conference of the Social Summit in Copenhagen 1995, and The World Women Conference in Beijing-1995, all of which adopted the aim of bridging gender gaps and implementing equality between the two sexes. Accordingly, most of the Arab states have endorsed the recommendations of those conferences and exerted efforts to social economic development process and to reinforce their status and positions in order to accomplish women's active participation and presence in all domains of life.

Jordan is considered as one of the forerunner countries in exerting efforts for improving the situation of the Jordanian woman in all social, economic and political spheres as a fundamental component in comprehensive development. For this purpose, Jordan has established institutional mechanisms and strategies to ensure mainstreaming the woman into the development process which has lead to tangible achievements in various fields. As a result, women's issue has accomplished a qualitative leap and progress including decision making posts in the political, economic, social, cultural, health, educational and labor fields.

Despite the fact that the Jordanian constitution devotes the principle of equality between the two sexes and the fact that the political environment in Jordan contributes to enhancing women's human rights, there are still some obstacles hindering woman's progress and full equality with men in respect of rights and duties in certain laws, especially those that are related to the labor market and civil status. Since monitoring equality between men and women is a focal point of interest of decision markers and policy planners, and stemming from those

tendencies, various countries in the region have acceded to the agreements aiming at the realization of equality between the two sexes.

## Demographic Setting in Jordan

This chapter attempts to identify the demographic situation and trends in Jordan over nearly a three decade period. It covers the main features of the Jordanian population according to its size, growth, structure, spatial distribution, basic and social marital characteristics, fertility, mortality, migration, household size and the availability of household public amenities. Sex differentials are identified. The data available in this chapter is based on various population censuses and sample survey findings.

### Population Size

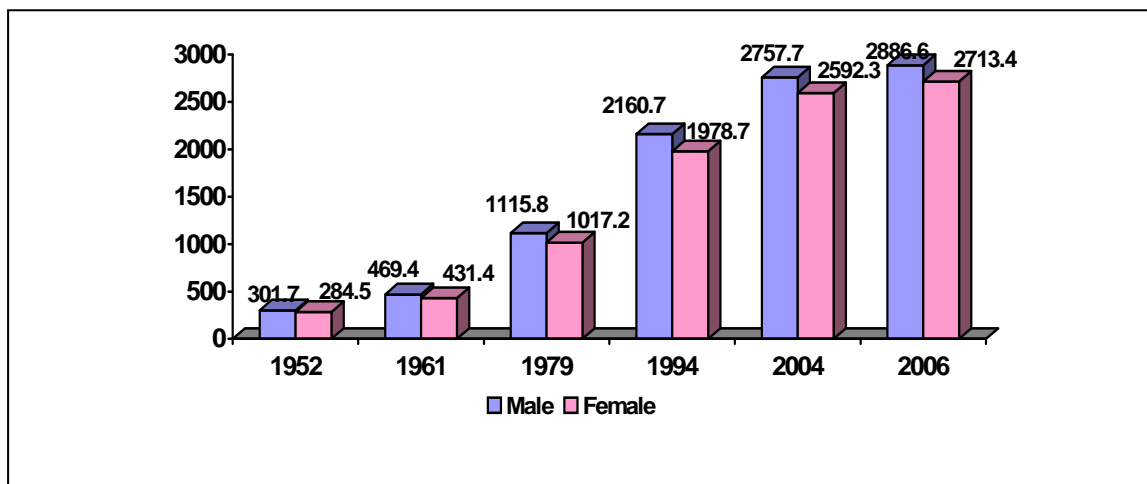
The population actually living in Jordan, according to censuses increased from about 900.8 million in 1961 to 2133 million in 1979, then to 4139.4 in 1994 and 5350.0 million in 2004.

Table 2.1 shows the increase was higher among males than females. The noticeable increase occurred between 1961 and 1979, where the population more than doubled (137%) in 18 years. This rapid growth in population size was a result of marked differentials in birth and death rates on one hand, and migration flows, particularly forced migration from occupied Palestine in 1984 and the west bank and Gaza Strip in 1967 on the other hand.

**Table 2.1: Number of Population According to the Censuses (1961, 1979, 1994, 2004) and the Estimate Number for 2006 by Sex ( 000 )**

Years	Population by Sex		
	Total	Male	Female
1952	586.2	301.7	284.5
1961	900.8	469.4	431.4
1979	2133	1115.8	1017.2
1994	4139.4	2160.7	1978.7
2004	5350.0	2757.7	2592.3
*2006	5600.0	2886.6	2713.4

Department of Statistics, " Statistical Yearbook "2006



**Figure 2.1: Number of Population According to the Censuses (1961, 1979, 1994, 2004) and the Estimate Number for 2006 by Sex ( 000 )**

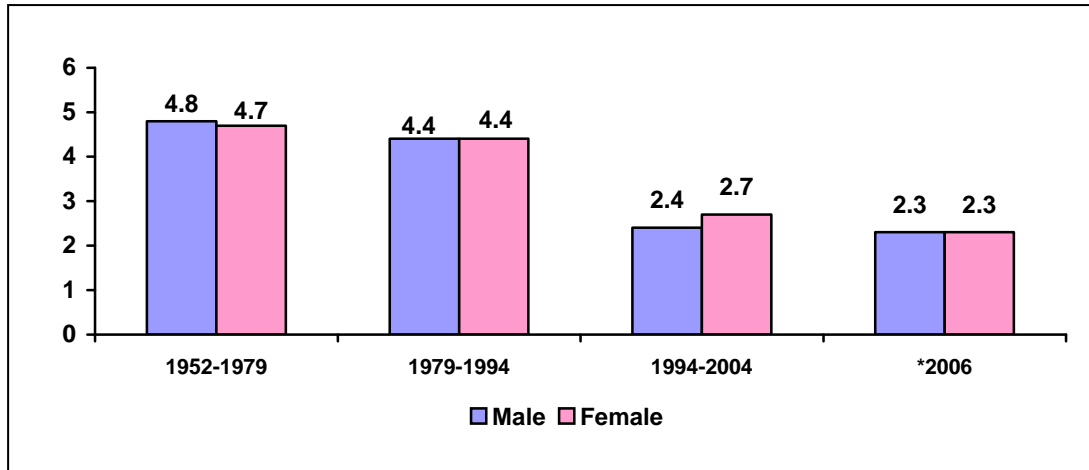
It is noteworthy that the accelerated growth in population size between 1979 and 1994, where the increase in population reached 2 million in 15 years is attributed to the influx of Arab and foreign workers, and the return of tens of thousands of Jordanian abroad as a result of the Gulf crisis in 1990.

### Population Growth Rates

The Population Growth depends on various elements some of which are direct ones such as births, deaths and migration, which may have either positive or negative effects. Moreover, there are certain other elements having indirect effects such as late marriage and application of the family planning methods that have impact upon fertility. For many decades, the population growth in Jordan is regarded among the highest rates in the world. It reached its peak of 4.8 percent during 1952-1979 and 4.4 Between 1979 and 1994, that made the population of Jordan increased in size eight folds. The population growth during 1952-1979 was high due to the decline in mortality and high net migration than to changes in fertility levels, which remained almost constant. However, the slight decrease in population growth between 1979-1994 resulted from the widening gap between birth and death rates, and the reciprocal flows of migration. (Table 2.2).

**Table 2.2: Population Growth Rates by Sex for Selected Periods**

Reference Periods	Total	Rates of Growth (%)	
		Male	Female
1952-1979	4.8	4.8	4.7
1979-1994	4.4	4.4	4.4
1994-2004	2.6	2.4	2.7
*2006	2.3	2.3	2.3



**Figure 2.2: Population Growth Rates by Sex for Selected Periods  
Population Spatial Distribution**

But since the mid nineties and the beginning of the millennium, the growth rate declines sharply to reach 2.5 % annually. The achieved decrease in the growth rate in Jordan was due to the sharp decline in the fertility levels on the one hand, and the retreat of the net international migration contribution on the other. The population growth rate for 2006 stands at 2.3 % annually and is expected to continue to decline over the coming years on account of a further decline in fertility levels (expected to reach about 2 children per woman in the year 2020). Even counting with somewhat lower rates of population growth rates, the projections foresee the size of Jordan's population to be 7.5300.000 persons in the year 2020 and 8.360.000 in the year 2030.

The reciprocal internal and external migration flows, as well as differing levels of regional development, led to substantial disparities regarding the spatial distribution of Jordan's population at both the Governorate and regional levels. The largest proportion of Jordan's population or about two thirds (63%) of the total population lived in the Middle Region, which constitutes 17% of the Jordan's total area (the Middle Region consists of Amman, Balaqa, Zarqa and Madaba governorates). North Region which consists of Irbid, Mafraq, Jerash and Ajloun governorates, has the second largest proportion of population (about 27%) on almost one-third (1/3) of the kingdom's total area. (Table 2.3).

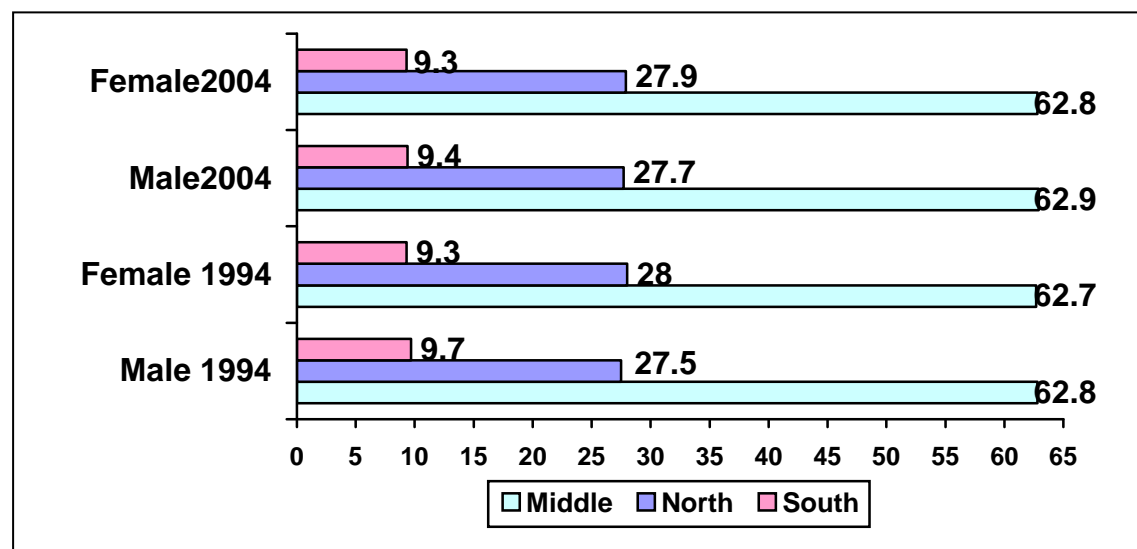
Furthermore, the South Region which consists of Karak, Tafeila, Ma'an and Aqaba governorates and forms half of the total area of the kingdom, is the less inhabited region with only 9.5 percent of total Jordan's population.

The high density of the population in the middle region is basically due to the fact that it comprises Amman Governorate (the capital, where as two-fifths (2/5) of the total population live in it) being an administrative, commercial and

economic center, which attracts people, especially males, in search for better job opportunities.

**Table 2.3: Percentage Distribution of Population by Governorate and Sex, 1994 and 2004 Censuses (in 000)**

Governorates	Years and Sex					
	Total	1994		2004		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Amman	38.1	38.1	38.0	38.8	38.7	38.9
Balqa	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.6
Zarqa	15.4	15.4	15.5	14.9	15.0	14.8
Madaba	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5
Middle Region	62.8	62.8	62.7	62.9	62.9	62.8
Irbid	18.2	18.0	18.4	17.8	17.7	17.9
Mafrq	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.7
Jerash	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Ajloun	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
North Region	27.8	27.5	28	27.8	27.7	27.9
Karak	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.0
Tafila	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5
Ma'an	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
Aqaba	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.3	1.9
South Region	9.4	9.7	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	4139.4	2160.7	1978.7	5350.0	2757.7	2592.3

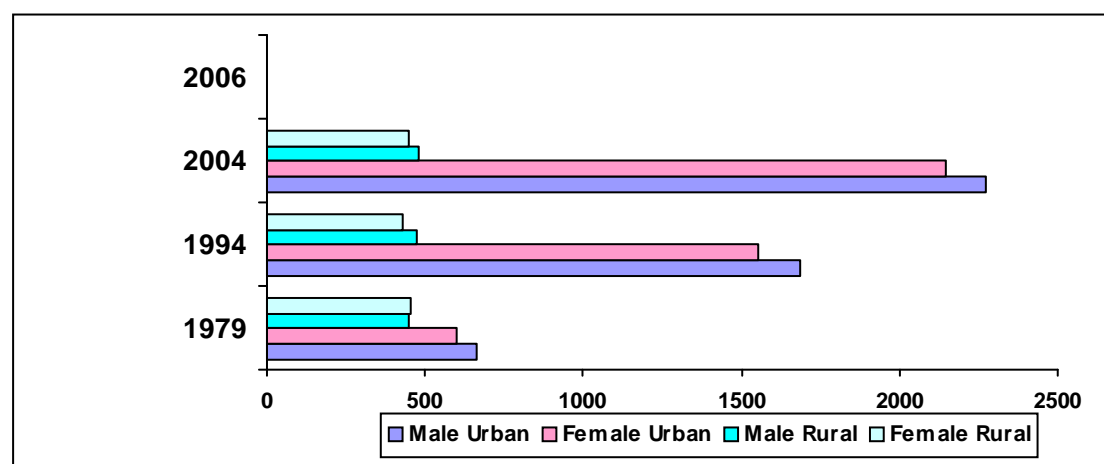


**Figure 2.3: Percentage Distribution of Population by Sex and Region from 1994 and 2004 Censuses (in 000)**

Rural to urban<sup>1</sup> migration has been a determining factor in the modification of spatial distribution in Jordan, resulting in the growth of the urban population for several decades. While 51.5 percent of the population lived in rural areas in 1961, the 1994 census figures show that the majority of population-nearly 80 percent- were living in urban areas then it increased up to reach 82.6 percent in 2004 (Table 2.4). Between the two censuses of 1979 and 1994, the urban population grew at an annual rate of 6.4 percent (which was mainly due to the definition used for classifying urban and rural areas), and declined to reach 3 percent between the 1994 census and 2004 census, while the rural population had only a 0.3 percent growth rate between the 1979 census and 1994 census and declined sharply to 0.06 percent during the 1994 census and 2004 census.

**Table 2.4: Population by Sex and Type of Locale from 1979, 1994, and 2004 Censuses (in 000)**

Years	Sex and Type of Locale					
	Total	Urban		Total	Rural	
		Male	Female		Male	Female
1979	1266.6	665.0	601.6	866.3	450.8	415.5
1994	3238.7	1687.5	1551.2	900.7	473.2	427.5
2004	4419.0	2275.1	2143.9	931.0	482.6	448.4
2006	4625.6	2381.4	2244.2	974.4	505.2	469.2



**Figure 2.4: Population by Sex and Type of Locale from 1979, 1994, and 2004 Censuses and the Estimation for 2006 (in 000)**

### Age-Sex Structure

The population age and sex structure is currently different from what it had been before because the rate of children under 15 years dropped from 50.7% in 1979 to 37.3 % in 2006 (Table 2.5), in favor of the labor-aged population (15

<sup>1</sup> The Jordanian definition of urban areas is each locality of 5000 population or more depending on the results of the General Population and Housing Census of 1994 and 2004 rural areas include all localities of less than 5000 population.

to 59). The decline in the proportion of the youngest age group (0-14) is true for both males and females, It was slightly higher among females than males (37.5 % and 37.2 % respectively). Although the decline in the childbirth rate in this age group is considered an indicator of a real decrease in fertility, the Jordanian society is still viewed as a young society. This Percentage (where children below 15 years of age constitute nearly two fifth of total population) reflects the magnitude of challenges which would face Jordan in its efforts to provide education and health services and employment opportunities for this age group in the near future. These indicators also reveal a high dependency ratio (The number of children under 15 years and old people 65 years or more per 100 persons in the age group (15-64) years) for Jordanian population to 70 in 2006 compared to 84 individuals in 1979.

Consequently, the ratio of population in working ages 15-59 rose from 45.2% in 1979 to 57.5% in 2006, while the ratio of the older population (60 years and above) rose from 4.1% in 1979 to 5.2% in 2006.

**Table 2.5: Percentage Distribution of Population from the 1979, 1994 Censuses and the Estimation for 2006 by Age Groups and Sex**

Age Group	Years and Sex					
	1979		1994		2006	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	18.4	19.0	14.6	15.2	12.7	12.81
5-9	16.7	17.1	13.4	14.0	12.54	12.67
10-14	14.3	14.5	12.6	13.0	11.94	12.00
15-19	11.3	11.1	11.6	11.7	10.96	10.99
20-24	8.2	7.5	11.3	10.6	10.65	10.53
25-29	5.9	5.5	9.7	8.6	9.14	8.75
30-34	4.9	5.2	6.7	6.4	7.9	7.76
35-39	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	6.4	6.29
40-44	4.1	4.1	3.4	3.4	4.72	4.74
45-49	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.2	3.32	3.37
50-54	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.46	2.57
55-59	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.2	2.12	2.34
60-64	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.98	1.89
65+	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.6	3.17	3.29
Unspecified	-	-	0.1	0.1	-	-
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	1115.8	1017.2	2160.7	1978.7	2886.6	2713.4

Population Pyramid for Jordan, 1979

Population Pyramid for Jordan, 2006

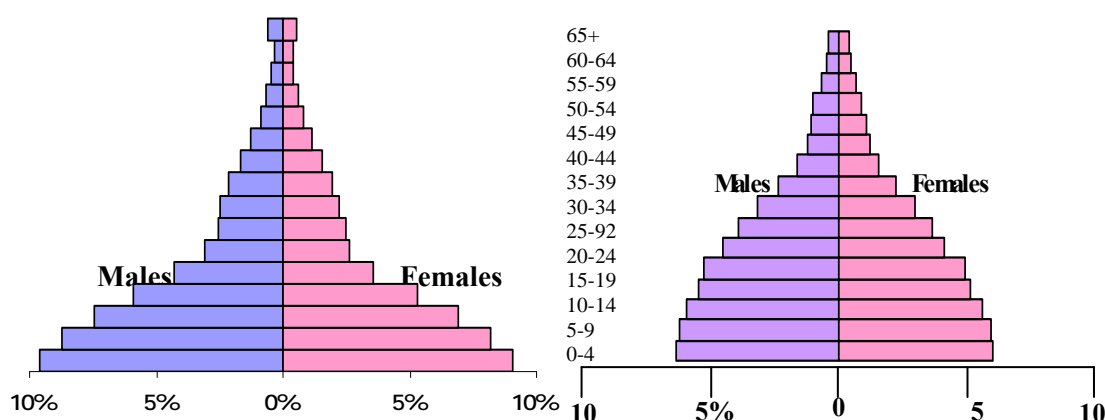


Figure 2.5: Population Pyramid, 1979 & 2006

### Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females or vice versa. Table 2.6 shows that there are less females than males in Jordan across all age groups, except in ages between 55-59 years where females exceed males. The reason of excess males over females is due to the changes in mortality patterns among males as a result of the improvement in health and living conditions in Jordan, and to the sharp decline in their mortality levels, which eventually narrowed the gap between sexes.

Table 2.6: Sex Ratio by Age Group, 1994 Census & the 2006 Estimation

Age Group	Sex Ratio and Years	
	1994	2006
0-4	105.2	105.5
5-9	104.7	105.3
10-14	105.2	105.9
15-19	108.1	106.1
20-24	116.1	107.6
25-29	123.5	111.1
30-34	114.8	108.3
35-39	109.1	108.2
40-44	107.5	105.9
45-49	98.3	104.8
50-54	115.0	101.8
55-59	111.5	96.4
60-64	107.6	111.4
65+	101.9	102.5
Total	109.2	106.4

## Fertility Rates

Fertility is one of the most important elements of population growth, which demonstrates the reproductive behavior modes leading to population increase. During the 1970s and 1980s of the twentieth century Jordan witnessed an increase in fertility levels. The Jordanian Fertility Survey conducted in 1976 showed that the Total Fertility Rate was 7.4 children per female in the reproductive age (15-49). The 1983 Fertility and Family Health Survey indicated a slight decline in the rate which recorded 6.6 children per female.

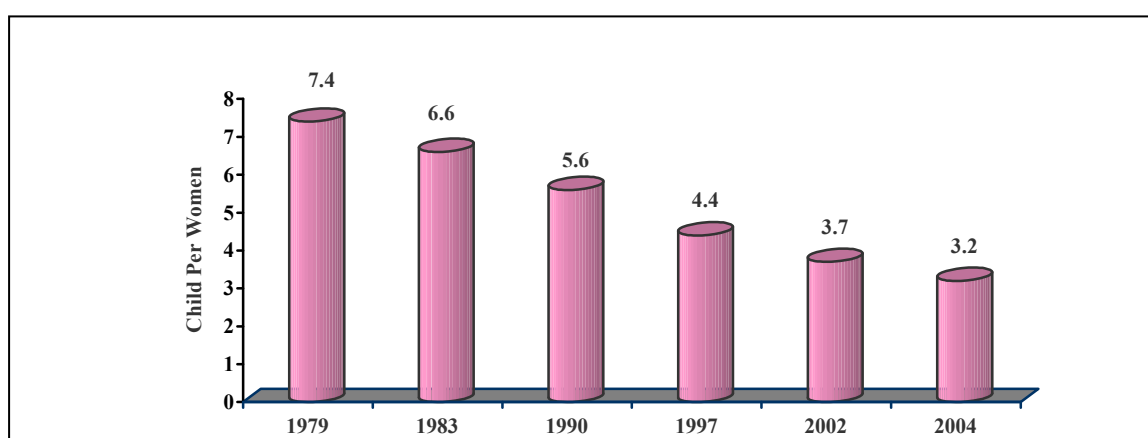
The rate has declined significantly since the beginning of the 1990s. The 1990 Population and Family Health Survey showed that the rate was 5.6 children per female with a decrease of 24.3 % compared with the 1976 survey\*.

The rate continued to decrease but at a faster pace than before, reaching 4.4 and 3.7 children according to the results of the Population and Family Health Surveys in 1997 and 2002 respectively. The rate is estimated at 3.2 children per female at the end of 2005. There is a significant difference between urban and rural areas in terms of the Total Fertility Rate as shown in table 2.7.

**Table 2.7: Total Fertility Rate by Urban-Rural for Selected Years**

Year	Place of Residence		
	Urban	Rural	Total
1990	5.2	6.9	5.6
1997	4.2	5.0	4.4
2002	3.5	4.2	3.7
2005	3.1	3.5	3.2

Population and Family Health Surveys 1990,1997, 2002 & Estimates for 2005



**Figure 2.6: Total Fertility Rate for Selected Years**

Population and Family Health Surveys 1990,1997, 2002 & Estimates for 2005

The decline in fertility levels in Jordan occurred among all age groups; however, the most significant decline is what has been observed among teenagers. At the same time, the age-specific fertility rate (number of live births for women in a specific age group divided by the number of women in that age group) is the highest for the 25-29 age group during the period 1990-2002.

**Table 2.8: Age-Specific Fertility Rates for Selected Years**

Age Group	Fertility Rates		
	Year		
	1990	1997	2002
15-19	49	43	28
20-24	219	172	150
25-29	296	246	202
30-34	264	206	184
35-39	188	144	122
40-44	79	48	43
45-49	19	11	5
Total Fertility Rate Rate	5.6	4.4	3.7

Source: Population and Family Health Surveys 1990,1997, 2002

The decline in fertility levels in Jordan was due to numerous socio-economic developments that the country has witnessed. Some of those developments were increase in urbanization, women's educational standard, bachelorhood, women's contribution in economic activities and the increase of the mean age at first marriage which reached 26.7 years among females and 29.7 years among males during 2006, as compared to 24.7 years for females and 27.9 years for males in 2000. On the other hand, the prevalence of using family planning means contributed to decreasing in child birth, so that the rate of using those means jumped from 40 % in 1990 to 52.6 % in 1997 to 56 % in 2002 and is estimated at 60 % in 2005.

## **Mortality Levels**

### **Crude Death Rate**

The expansion of health services and the improvements of the different health indicators have resulted in the decline of the crude death rate (the annual number of deaths per 1.000 people during a particular time) which in turn contributed towards the increase in life expectancy at birth for both males and females. The crude death rate has dropped sharply by 70 percent for both males and females in the last four decades and the outset of the new millennium (1961-2006) (Table ).

**Table 2.9: Crude Death Rate by Sex for Selected Years (000)**

Year	Crude Death Rate		
	Total	Male	Female
1961	18.0	19.3	16.8
1976	14.0	15.0	13.1
1979	12.0	14.6	9.9
1987	7.0	8.5	5.8
1994	5.0	6.0	4.2
2003	6.7	7.0	6.4
2006	7.0	8.1	6.0

Source: Man and Woman: Statistical Portrait, 1999

### Maternal Mortality Rates and Mother's Health

During their reproductive life mothers are susceptible to various dangers especially during pregnancy and at delivery . Therefore, the Jordanian health sector has given great importance to providing mothers with health care at pregnancy and delivery, in order to reach and manage high risky pregnancy, secure and facilitate access to health care services, and ensure competent staff for that purpose. Currently, the rate of women using family planning means comes to (55.8%), taking into account the variations between rural and urban areas, so the more urbanized areas have relatively higher rates of using family planning means.

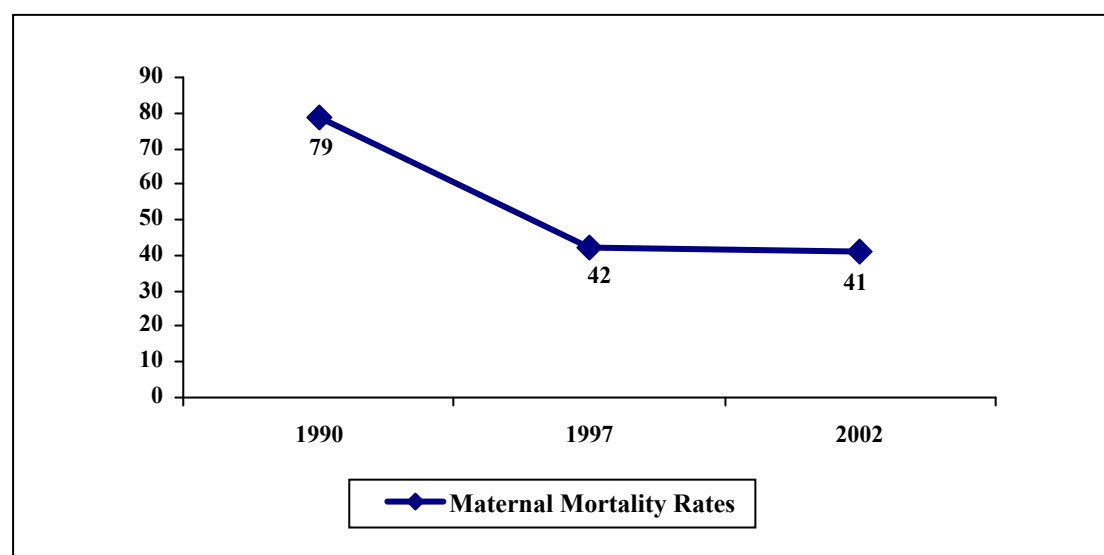
The indicators of women's health practices during pregnancy show that 97 % of women in rural areas receive care versus 99% in urban areas. This variation is due to the easiness of accessibility to health care services in both areas.

**Table 2.10: Mothers Mortality Rates, Deliveries Presided Over by Trained Medical Staff Rates, and Prevalence of Family Planning Means Rates, 1990, 1997 & 2002**

Indicator	1990	1997	2002
Mother Mortality Rate Per 100.000 Living Births	79	41	41
Rate of Deliveries Presided Over by Trained Medical Staff	87	97	99.5
Rate of Prevalence of Family Planning Means	35	52.6	55.8

Population and Family Health Surveys 1990,1997, 2002

Undoubtedly, the issue of reproductive health is pertinent to population policies, which are concerned with socio-economic development. Health indicators printout that maternal mortality rates have sharply declined from 79 death per 100.000 living births in 1991 to 41 death per 100.000 living births in 2002. Under the prevailing conditions, maternal mortality rates are expected to show further decline.



**Figure 2.7: Maternal Mortality Rate (100,000 live Births) for Selected Years**

Population and Family Health Surveys 1990,1997, 2002

### Child Mortality Rates

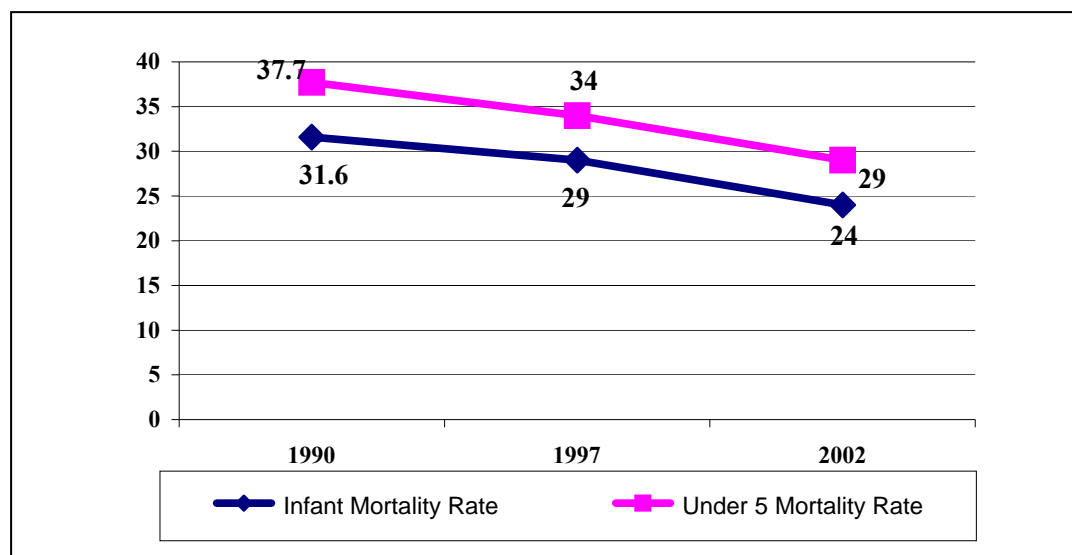
The improvements in health services in Jordan has led to a significant decline in the infant and child mortality rates. Infant mortality levels dropped to 32% for males (from 36.4 per 1000 births in 1990 to 20 per 1000 live births in 2002) compared to 38% for females (from 37.3 per 1000 births in 1990 to 23 per 1000 live births in 2002), where as the under five mortality dropped by 34% for both males and females between 1990 and 2002. Figures in Table 2.11 shows that child mortality rates, regardless of age, have dropped significantly in the last twelve years (1990-2002) with slight differentials between sexes.

**Table 2.11: Child Mortality Rates by Sex for Selected Years (in 000)**

Child Category	Years and Sex					
	1990		1997		2002	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Infants	36.4	37.3	34.3	23.4	25.0	23.0
Under five mortality	42.2	42.7	37.9	29.9	28.0	28.0

Population and Family Health Surveys for 1990, 1997 and 2002.

This decline is a natural result of the increase in the immunization coverage against infectious disease, which led to the decrease in the incidence of these diseases.



**Figure 2.8: Child Mortality Rates for Selected years (in 000)**

Population and Family Health Surveys for 1990, 1997 and 2002.

### Life Expectancy at Birth

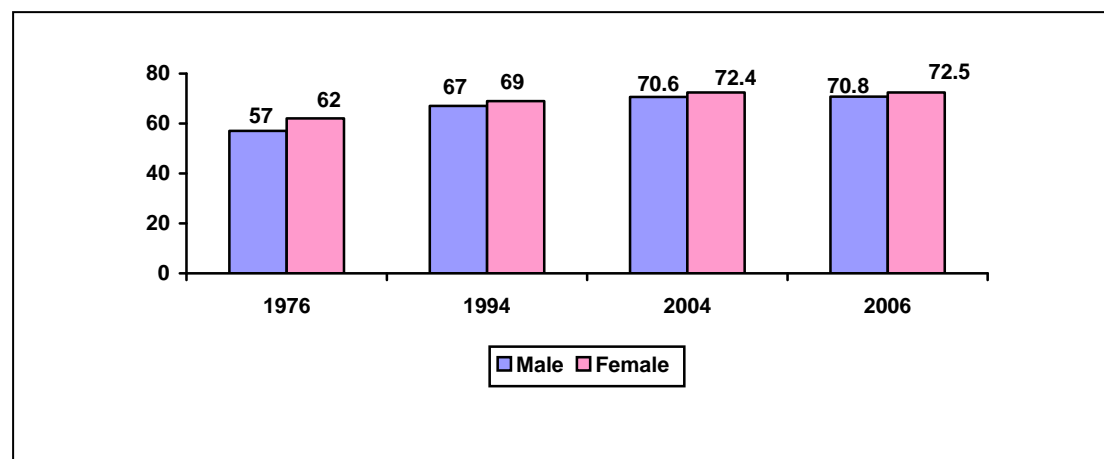
This measure represents the average number of years a birth would live if he/she was subject to the observed mortality rates. The last quarter of the past century (1976-2005) has shown a tangible increase in the expectation of life for males and females in Jordan. The number of years added to the expectation of life for males reached 14 years (from 57 years to 71 years) compared with 10 years for females (from 62 years to 72 years) (Table 2.12). Obviously, this increase reveals how much progress was attained in the country.

**Table 2.12: Expectation of Life at Birth by Sex for Selected Years**

Year	Male	Female
1976 <sup>(1)</sup>	57.0	62.0
1987 <sup>(1)</sup>	64.0	68.0
1994 <sup>(1)</sup>	67.0	69.0
2004 <sup>(2)</sup>	70.6	72.4
2006 <sup>(2)</sup>	70.8	72.5

Man and Woman: Statistical Portrait, 1999 - Statistical Yearbook, 2002.

The pace of increase in the expectation of life for males, compared with females, is attributed to the wide gap between the two sexes in the said period, and to the slow pace in the expectation of life for females because it was already high. Based on the present prevailing trends, the expectation of life in 2020 is envisaged to reach 75 years for females, opposite to 72 years for males.



**Figure 2.9: Life Expectancy at Birth by Sex for Selected Years**

Source: Man and Woman: Statistical Portrait, 1999 - Statistical Yearbook, 2006.

### Marital Status

Information on nuptiality is of particular interest because marriage is a primary indicator of the exposure of women to the risk of pregnancy. Marriage patterns are important for an understanding of fertility. Early age at first marriage is associated with high fertility.

Table 2.13 showed slight fluctuations in the Crude Marriage Rate (the number of registered marriages in a certain year per 1000 of the overall population in the same year) for the past decades. In general, this rate rose by 41% (from 7.5 per 1000 in 1985 to 10.6 per 1000 in year 2006). In addition, during the same period, the Crude Divorce Rate (the number of divorces in a certain year per 1000 of the population in the same year) increased from 1.4 per 1000 in 1985 to 2 per 1000 in year 2006).

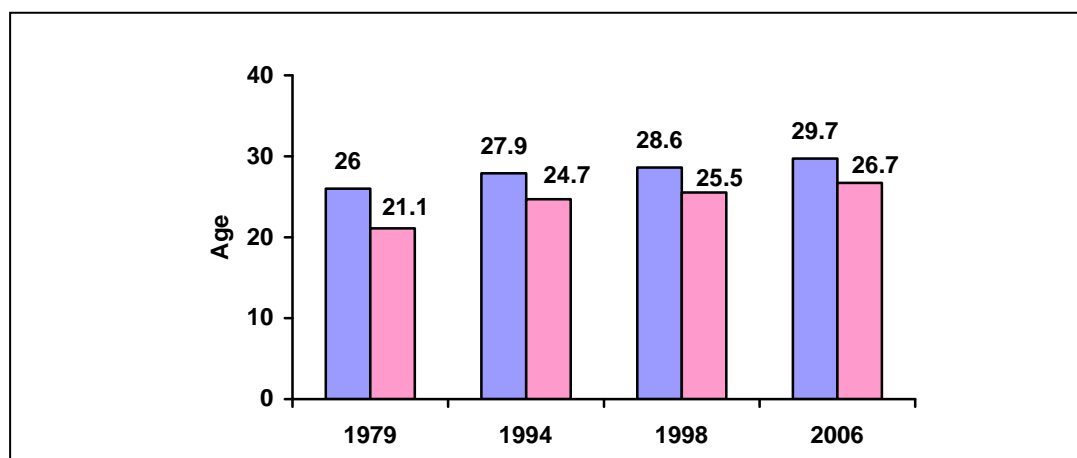
**Table 2.13: Crude Marriage and Divorce Rates Among Population Aged 15+ for Selected Years**

Year	Crude Marriage Rate (1000)	Crude Divorce Rate 1000)
1985	7.5	1.4
1990	9.7	1.5
1995	8.3	1.5
2000	9.0	1.6
2005	10.3	1.9
2006	10.6	2.0

Statistical Yearbook, for the abovementioned years.

## Singulate Mean Age at Marriage SMAM

Socio-economic changes had significant impacts on the attitudes of people towards early marriage in Jordan. SMAM (the mean number of years a person spends before his/her first marriage or in other words, the average age at which a person gets married for the first time) for females has increased significantly from 21.1 years in 1979 to 24.7 years in 1994, and then to 26.7 years in 2006. It increased also for males from 26 years in 1979 to 27.9 years, then to 29.7 years in 2006.



**Figure 2.10: Singulate Mean Age at First Marriage (Years) by Sex for Selected Years**

Source: Census Population and Household, 1979, 1994 Employment and Unemployment Survey 2006

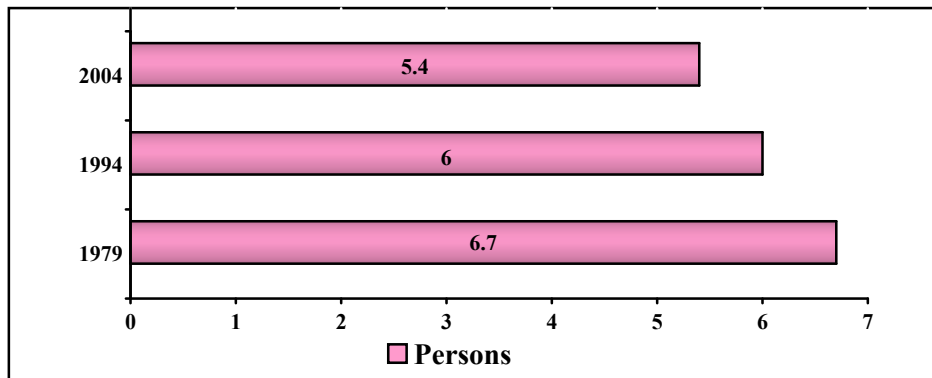
The rise in the SMAM for both sexes is mainly attributed to a variety of socio-economic factors, among which are the growing cost of marriage, household-building requirements, the increasing tendency, especially among females, towards attaining higher education, as well as to the improvement in female's participation in economic activity, which enable woman to opt her husband more freely and at the most appropriate time.

The differential in SMAM between sexes can be explained in light of the narrowing age gap between males and females at first marriage. In other words, males, at least, became more inclined to marry females of their same age or close to it, or a little younger, on the contrary of what was prevailing in the past, where men used to marry women almost 15 or more years younger than their age.

In addition to the tendency among women to marry later, the percentage of never married females increased sharply from 26.4 per cent in 1979 to 38.7 percent in 2006. This, which may be due to many socio-economic and demographic factors such as the spread of education, and participation in the labor force.

## Average Size of Households

The Decline in the fertility rate prompted a decrease in the rate of the average size of private household from 6.7 persons in 1979 to 5.4 persons in year 2004.



**Figure 2.11: Average Households Size, 1979, 1994 and 2004 Censuses**

It is noticed that there is a variation in family size in both rural and Urban areas especially the large households (more than 7 members) whose rate in rural areas is nearly twice that of urban areas, versus lowered rates of small sized households in rural areas in comparison with urban areas.

**Table 2.14: Percentage Distribution of Households by Size of Family, 1994 and 2004 Censuses**

No. of Family Members	1994		2004	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1-4	35.3	33.3	41.3	36.2
5-7	35.7	28.8	41.0	35.6
7+	29.0	37.9	17.7	28.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.15 presents average household size by domains in 1994 and 2004. It appears from the table that the overall average size of household has decreased slightly during the period, from 6.2 in 1994 to 5.4 persons in 2004. This downward trend in the size of household is witnessed in all the domains.

**Table 2.15: Average Household Size by Governorate, 1994 & 2004 Censuses**

Governorate	Private Household Size & Year	
	1994	2004
Amman	5.8	5.1
Balaqa	6.3	5.6
Zarqa	6.3	5.4
Madaba	6.6	5.7
Irbid	6.4	5.6
Mafraq	6.9	6.2

Jerash	6.6	6.0
Ajloun	6.4	5.8
Karak	6.4	5.7
Tafila	6.4	5.7
Ma'an	6.6	6.0
Aqaba	5.8	5.6
Total	6.2	5.4

### Heads of Private Households

A noticeable increase in female-headed households has occurred between 1979, 1994 and 2004 population censuses. The proportion of private households headed by women increased from 8.8 percent in 1979 to 9.6 percent in 1994, then to about 10.5 percent in 2004. The overall increase 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 results of these censuses show that rate of female-headed households are approximate in both rural and urban areas.

**Table 2.16: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sex of Headship and Place of Residence , 1979, 1994 & 2004 Censuses**

Sex of Headship	Place of Residence	Years		
		1979	1994	2004
Men	Kingdom	91.2	90.4	89.5
	Urban	90.7	90.1	89.4
	Rural	91.9	91.5	90.2
Female	Kingdom	8.8	9.6	10.5
	Urban	9.3	9.9	10.6
	Rural	8.1	8.5	8.9

Source: Census Population and Household, 1979, 1994, 2004

Table 2.17 indicates that the percentage of females headed households in year 2004 census was the highest in Al Tafila Governorate (11.6 per cent). In contrast, the lowest percentage of females headed their households in both censuses was observed in Aqaba Governorate reflecting the clear impact of male migration to the Governorate.

**Table 2.17: Percentage Distribution of Households by Governorate and Sex of Headship, 1994 and 2004 Censuses**

Governorate	Sex of Headship & Years			
	1994		2004	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Amman	90.5	9.5	89.2	10.8
Balqa	90.8	9.2	90	10
Zarqa	90.1	9.9	90.1	9.9
Madaba	91.4	8.6	90	10

Irbid	89.9	10.1	89.4	10.6
Ma'raq	92.0	8.0	90.5	9.5
Jarash	89.1	10.9	89.7	10.3
Ajloun	89.0	11.0	89.0	11.0
Karak	90.8	9.2	89.4	10.6
Tafiela	91.1	8.9	88.4	11.6
Ma'an	91.0	9.0	89.1	10.9
Aqaba	93.4	6.6	93.9	6.1
Total	90.4	9.6	85.5	10.5

### Average Size of Private Households

It is noticeable that the women generally head small-sized households, so that the rate of women-headed households with 1 to 4 members reaches (66.13) while this rate drops to (7.26) when a household is composed of more than 7 members. The same rates for male household-heads amounts to (57.59 ) and (10.96) successively.

**Table 2.18: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sex of Headship and Number of Family Members, 2004**

No. of Family Members	Sex of Headship	
	Male	Female
1-4	57.59	66.13
5-7	31.45	26.61
7 and above	10.96	7.26
Total	100.0	100.0

Census Population and Household, 2004 Department of Statistics (DoS)

### Internal Migration

There are many elements to produce the phenomenon of internal migration in Jordan. They relatively had different effects on migrants exporting and receiving regions.

The results of the 1994 Population and Housing Census revealed that around 10.4% of the total number of Jordanians living in Jordan had changed their usual place of residence, where as the results of the 2004 Census showed that this rate has decreased to 7.9%.

The 2004 Census data revealed that both male and female immigrants (immigrants usually defined as those born in a different country from where they are now living- they are "foreign-born" as opposed to "native-born") were likely to move to Aqaba Governorate in the south region which recorded the highest immigration rate, while Ajlon Governorate recorded the lowest in receiving the male migrants. Furthermore, Irbid Governorate in the north region recorded the lowest in receiving the female migrants.

The increase in the rate of immigration for Aqaba Governorate is due to the transformation of Aqaba to a private economic zone which contributed to the creation of new work opportunities and constituted a pull factor for migrants.

Regarding emigration, The 2004 Census data revealed that Ma'an Governorate had the largest rate of emigrants for both male and female, while the lowest rate of emigrants for both male and female was recorded in Amman Governorate. Socio-economic factors such as lack of job opportunities and income inadequacy were the reasons behind the high rate of emigration in Ma'an Governorate.

**Table 2.19: Internal Migration Rates by Place of Birth, Sex & Governorate, 2004 Censuses**

Governorate	Immigrates			Emigrants			Net Migration		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Amman	8.0	7.6	8.3	5.3	4.6	6.1	2.6	3.0	2.3
Balqa	9.5	7.9	11.1	12.3	11.5	13.1	-2.8	-3.6	-2.0
Zarqa	12.1	11.1	13.1	10.8	9.5	12.2	1.3	1.7	0.9
Madaba	8.4	6.5	10.5	11.0	9.9	12.1	-2.6	-3.4	-1.7
Irbid	3.4	3.0	3.9	6.4	5.8	7.0	-3.0	-2.8	-3.1
Mafraq	9.5	8.2	10.8	6.5	6.0	6.9	3.0	2.2	3.8
Jarash	5.2	3.6	6.9	8.7	7.4	10.0	-3.5	-3.9	-3.1
Ajlon	3.9	2.9	4.9	12.5	12.1	13.0	-8.6	-9.1	-8.0
Karak	5.3	4.5	6.2	11.3	12.0	10.7	-6.0	-7.5	-4.4
Tafiela	8.2	7.2	9.2	12.2	13.2	11.3	-4.0	-5.9	-2.1
Ma'an	5.8	5.2	6.3	13.3	13.6	13.0	-7.5	-8.3	-6.7
Aqaba	24.1	24.8	23.4	8.4	7.7	9.2	15.7	17.1	14.2
Kingdom	7.9	7.2	8.6	7.9	7.2	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.0