Introduction

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is pleased to present the fourteenth issue of the Bulletin on Population and Vital Statistics in the ESCWA Region.

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide available data and statistics on ESCWA countries’ vital events (births, deaths, marriage and divorce) and population size and composition from national sources (registration system, censuses and surveys).

This issue includes vital statistics and indicators for the years 2000 to 2011. The Bulletin has been revised where some changes have been introduced in each of its three sections. The first section presents data on population size and composition in the ESCWA region; the second section presents data on fertility and mortality; and the third section provides statistics and indicators related to marriage and divorce.

Following a recommendation made during the ninth session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee, data in this bulletin were only taken from national sources, and were compiled mainly from a questionnaire prepared by ESCWA.

We hope that this Bulletin will meet the needs of data users, especially researchers, academics and those working in the field of population, reproductive health and development by providing a comprehensive picture on population growth and its dynamics.

ESCWA is grateful to member countries for their collaboration in producing the Bulletin.

This publication was prepared by Ismail Lubbad, Zeina Sinno and Raffi Shirinian.