Introduction

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

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, based on national sources (registration system, censuses and surveys).

This issue includes vital statistics and indicators for years 2000 to 2012. The Bulletin has been revised and changes have been introduced in each of its three sections. The first section presents data on population size and composition in the Arab 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 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.

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1 ESCWA Statistical Committee, ninth session, Beirut, 13-15 October 2010.