Section III of this Bulletin, entitled "Marriages and Divorces", presents data on registered marriage and divorce in the ESCWA region from 2000 to the most recent year for which data are available. The mean age at first marriage estimated from the most recent population census and/or household survey is also provided.

Tables 63-64 present total numbers of marriage and divorce cases since 2000 in ESCWA countries, in addition to latest available data from family surveys and population censuses on mean age at first marriage by nationality and sex in the ESCWA countries.

Table 63 presents annual data on the number of registered marriages in ESCWA countries during 2000-2011. The data show that the number of marriages increased in all ESCWA countries. However, the number of registered marriage did not change significantly in Egypt, Jordan, Qatar and United Arab Emirates during 2009-2011.

Table 64 presents recent data for age at first marriage from different data sources such as population census and household surveys in the ESCWA countries. The highest mean age at first marriage for men was 29 years in Jordan, Kuwait, Syrian Arab Republic and Egypt, and for women, it ranged between 23 and 28 years in the majority of the ESCWA countries. The lowest mean age at marriage for men was 25 years in Palestine, and for women, it was 19 years in Palestine. Moreover, data from six countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and United Arab Emirates) show that there were variations between nationals (citizens) and non-national (non-citizens) mean age at marriage. Non-national married later than their nationals’ counterparts. For example, in Qatar, mean age at marriage was 30 years for non Qatari men and 27 years for Qatari men; it was 27 years for non Qatari women and 24 years for Qatari women in 2011.

As table 65 indicates, the number of divorces increased significantly by 35 per cent in Lebanon, Jordan and Qatar to 48 per cent in Syria and doubled in Egypt from 2006 to 2011. The number of divorces increased by 8 percent in Lebanon in 2011. The increase was the lowest (29 per cent) in the United Arab Emirates during the

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وأخيراً يظهر الجدول 66 تطور الحالات الواردة و الجنس من مصادر مختلفة مثل التعداد السكاني أو المسوحات الائتمانية. لا يمكن مقارنة البيانات بين الدول و ذلك لأن البيانات تحتوي على بيانات المواطنين و غير المواطنين فمثلاً تزيد نسب المتزوجين الذكور عن نظرائهم النساء في دولة قطر و يعود ذلك إلى أن العمال المهاجرين غالبًا يتركون نسائهم في بلادهم.