



STATISTICAL REPORT  
**DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE RATES**  
**FOR EMIRATIS - EMIRATE OF DUBAI**  
2016-2020



## Emiratis, Targeted Groups

Emirati population is defined as all usual residents within the geographical boundaries of Dubai at certain time, regardless of the emirate that issued the family book/ passport/ decree summary (Marsoom) for them.

The table below shows the number of Emirati population usually residing in Dubai and the targeted groups for measuring marriage and divorce rates:

### Number of Emirati population usually residing in the Emirate of Dubai 2016 - 2020 (mid-year)

Statement	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Number of Emiratis in mid-year	228,125	239,315	249,400	258,950	267,350
Number of Emiratis aged 15 years and over in mid-year	153,694	161,238	168,000	174,460	180,145
Number of Married Emiratis aged 15 years and over in mid-year	71,692	73,360	76,780	79,660	82,295
Number of Unmarried Emiratis aged 15 years and over in mid-year	82,002	87,878	91,220	94,800	97,850

Source: Dubai Statistics Center

## Marriage & Divorce Rates for Emiratis

### Divorce Rates

**Divorce rates for Emiratis in Dubai continued to decline gradually, reaching approximately 2.0 divorces per 1,000 Emiratis at marriage age.**

The data below shows that divorce rates for Emiratis in Dubai are gradually declining between 2016 and 2020. The general divorce rate for 2020 was 1.99 divorces per 1,000 Emiratis living in Dubai at marriage age, in cases where both spouses are Emirati citizens. This rate is the lowest among the years under study due to the circumstances that accompanied the Covid 19 pandemic and the associated precautionary measures.

It is worth mentioning that the divorce incidents registered at Dubai Courts are all divorce cases that are registered in Dubai during the years under study «Including cases of divorce by trial registered during the year 2020 as received from Dubai courts».

### Clarification

The process of measuring divorce rates is considered among the aspects that are statistically systematic at the international level and is measured by statistical agencies using standardized methodologies and concepts. The rates of Crude Divorce, General Divorce and Refined Divorce are considered as the most important rates associated with this social phenomenon.

**Crude Divorce Rate:** It means the number of divorce cases per 1,000 population. If applied on a particular group of the population, such as Emiratis for example, it is calculated by taking the number of divorce cases of Emiratis recorded during the year per 1,000 Emirati population in the mid of the same year.

**General Divorce Rate:** It's the number of divorce cases per 1,000 of the population who are in the marriage age regardless of their social status. If applied on a particular group of the population, such as Emiratis for example, it is calculated by taking the number of divorce cases of Emiratis per 1,000 Emirati population at marriage age, regardless of their social status, in the mid of the year.

**Net (Refined) Divorce Rate:** is the number of divorce cases per 1,000 married population in mid of the year. If applied on a particular group of the population, such as Emiratis for example, it is calculated by taking the number of divorce cases of Emiratis per 1,000 married Emiratis in the mid of the year.

**Divorce Rates (per 000) for Emiratis in Dubai 2016-2020 (Both spouses are Emirati<sup>1</sup>, Emirati husband and Emirati wife)**

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crude Divorce Rate for Emiratis	2.30	2.26	1.66	1.53	1.34
General Divorce Rate for Emiratis at Marriage Age	3.42	3.36	2.46	2.28	1.99
Net (Refined) Divorce Rate for Married Emiratis	7.32	7.37	5.38	4.98	4.35

Source: Dubai Statistics Center

**Divorce Rates (per 000) for Emiratis in Dubai 2016-2020 (one of the spouses is Emirati<sup>2</sup>)**

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crude Divorce Rate for Emiratis	1.46	1.42	1.02	0.91	0.97
General Divorce Rate for Emiratis at Marriage Age	2.16	2.11	1.51	1.35	1.44
Net (Refined) Divorce Rate for Married Emiratis	4.63	4.63	3.31	2.96	3.15

Source: Dubai Statistics Center

**Divorce Rates (per 000) for Emiratis in Dubai 2016-2020 (total number of divorce cases<sup>1+2</sup>)**

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crude Divorce Rate for Emiratis	3.76	3.68	2.67	2.44	2.31
General Divorce Rate for Emiratis at Marriage Age	5.58	5.46	3.97	3.63	3.43
Net (Refined) Divorce Rate for Married Emiratis	11.95	12.01	8.69	7.95	7.50

Source: Dubai Statistics Center

**Divorce Cases Registered in the Emirate of Dubai 2016 -2020**

Statement	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Emirati Husband/ Emirati Wife <sup>(1)</sup>	525	541	413	397	358
Emirati Husband/ Non-Emirati Wife* <sup>(2)</sup>	332	340	254	236	259
Non-Emirati Husband/ Non-Emirati Wife	1,313	1,279	1,362	1,096	1,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>1,867</b>

\* Includes cases of Emirati with Non-Emirati for both male and female.

Source: Dubai Courts

## Clarification

There are many statistical reports in general and those related to divorce rates in particular handled by some studies and media include inaccurate statistical indicators and outputs. This is due to the fact that they were issued from non-competent bodies that do not have sufficient information and inputs or that are not calculated in accordance with the internationally accredited scientific statistical methodologies. No doubt such numbers might have negative feedback on their users, the public opinion, and might also have social reflections. Therefore, Dubai Statistics Center always emphasizes on the importance of relying on the official figures issued from statistical bodies as being the competent bodies and their outputs are marked with high accuracy and reliability.

## Marriage Rates

**Crude Marriage Rate is defined as** the number of marriage cases for every 1,000 population. If applied on a particular group of the population, such as Emiratis for example, it is calculated by taking the number of marriage cases of Emiratis recorded during the year per 1,000 Emirati population in the mid of the same year.

**General Marriage Rate** is the number of marriage cases for every 1,000 of the population who are in the marriage age regardless of their social status. If applied on a particular group of the population, such as Emiratis for example, it is calculated by taking the number of marriage cases of Emiratis per 1,000 Emirati population at marriage age, regardless of their social status, in the mid of the year.

**Net (Refined) Marriage Rate** is the number of marriage cases per 1,000 unmarried population (who have not previously married, divorced and widowed of both genders) in mid of the year. If applied on a particular group of the population, such as Emiratis for example, it is calculated by taking the number of marriage cases of Emiratis per 1,000 unmarried Emiratis in the mid of the year.

## Marriage Rates (per 000) for Emiratis in Dubai 2016-2020 (Both spouses are Emirati<sup>1</sup>, Emirati husband and Emirati wife)

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crude Marriage Rate for Emiratis	4.80	4.39	3.87	3.69	4.84
General Marriage Rate for Emiratis at Marriage Age	7.12	6.52	5.74	5.48	7.18
Net (Refined) Marriage Rate for Unmarried Emiratis	13.34	11.96	10.58	10.08	13.22

Source: Dubai Statistics Center

### Marriage Rates (per 000) for Emiratis in Dubai 2016-2020 (one of the spouses is Emirati<sup>2</sup>)

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crude Marriage Rate for Emiratis	2.93	2.90	2.81	2.70	2.94
General Marriage Rate for Emiratis at Marriage Age	4.35	4.30	4.17	4.01	4.36
Net (Refined) Marriage Rate for Unmarried Emiratis	8.16	7.90	7.68	7.38	8.03

Source: Dubai Statistics Center

### Marriage Rates (per 000) for Emiratis in Dubai 2016-2020 (total number of marriage contracts<sup>1+2</sup>)

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Crude Marriage Rate for Emiratis	7.73	7.29	6.68	6.40	7.78
General Marriage Rate for Emiratis at Marriage Age	11.47	10.82	9.92	9.49	11.55
Net (Refined) Marriage Rate for Unmarried Emiratis	21.50	19.86	18.26	17.47	21.26

Source: Dubai Statistics Center

### Marriage Contracts Registered in Emirate of Dubai 2016-2020

Statement	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Emirati Husband/ Emirati Wife <sup>(1)</sup>	1,094	1,051	965	956	1,294
Emirati Husband/ Non-Emirati Wife* <sup>(2)</sup>	669	694	701	700	786
Non-Emirati husband/ Non-Emirati Wife	2,696	2,651	2,778	2,943	2,986
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,459</b>	<b>4,396</b>	<b>4,444</b>	<b>4,599</b>	<b>5,066</b>

\* Includes cases of Emirati with Non-Emirati for both male and female.

Source: Dubai Courts