



## Dynamics of Marriages and Divorces by Settlements in the Economic-Geographic Region of Guba-Khachmaz

**Tural Sh. Bayramov**

*bayramovtural777@mail.ru*

*H. A. Aliyev, Azerbaijan National  
Academy of Sciences*

*orcid.org/0000-0002-5691-3760*

*JEL Code: J12, R10*

*Received: 13.10.2020*

*Revised: 14.11.2020*

*Accepted: 12.01.2021*

*Available Online: 21.03.2021*

### *To cite this document*

Bayramov, T., Sh. (2021). Dynamics of Marriages and Divorces by Settlements in the Economic-Geographic Region of Guba-Khachmaz. Equinox, Journal of Economics, Business & Political Studies, 8 (1), 46-63. doi:10.48064/equinox.810195

### *Abstract*

*The article describes the number of marriages and divorces in the urban-rural population in Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region and its separate administrative districts during 2001-2015. The number per person is also shown in the tables and relevant analyzes were conducted. Also, separate schedules of marriages and divorces in urban and rural settlements in the economic-geographical region during 1995-2019 were compiled and analyzed. Also, the share of marriages and divorces in 2019 and the number map per thousand people were compiled.*

*Ensuring sustainable socio-economic development requires the creation of new networks for processing agricultural products and increasing the level of service to the population. It is known that the socio-economic development of the region, the availability of a sufficient number of jobs, the creation of new jobs and the creation of services in accordance with the needs of the population create conditions for demographic development, as well as it has a positive effect on the dynamics of marriage.*

*Low socio-economic conditions of the population have led to the migration of able-bodied population living in urban and rural areas to other regions and foreign countries. This also has a negative impact on demographic indicators of the population living in settlements. As a result, the number of marriages in the region declined, and the number of divorces increased. Within the State programs on socio-economic development of the regions, new jobs were created to improve the living conditions of the population in the economic and geographical area. While employment of labor resources and the increase in natural population growth have a positive impact on demographic growth, it is still not enough.*

**Keywords:** *Marriages, Divorces, Settlements, Region*

## 1. Introduction

Natural population growth, its age and gender characteristics play a key role in the formation of demographic indicators. Along with natural growth, marriage and divorce are also one of the main factors influencing the demographic development of the population. Due to the socio-economic difficulties created by the “transition period” in the early 1990s, able-bodied people of marriageable age left their homes and migrated to nearby regions or foreign countries. This has had a negative impact on the decline in natural population growth, the active participation of the population in the region in the migration process, the dynamics of marriages and divorces.

The sex-age and marriage-family composition of the population is formed under the influence of demographic, socio-economic and political factors. The high level of natural population growth in demographic processes creates favorable conditions for the formation of marriage and family structure of the population.

As in other regions of the country, the natural-geographical conditions, economic-geographical position, the general level of development of productive forces and its regional features have determined and are determining the settlement of the population in the Guba-Khachmaz (North-East Area of Azerbaijan Republic) economic-geographical region. The territory of this economic-geographical region has been inhabited by the Azerbaijani people since ancient times. Favorable natural and geographical conditions have created a good basis for intensive settlement and land acquisition, and have led to an increase in the demographic potential of the population. This can be explained by the relatively good socio-economic base of the villages of the Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region and the more favorable position of these settlements.

Favorable natural-geographical conditions and its variation in altitude zones allow to deal with different economic sectors. The proximity of the economic-geographical region to Russia and the passage of railways and highways, oil and gas pipelines of national importance through this area stimulated the demographic development of the population. The unimpeded sale of agricultural products to the Russian market has a positive impact on the demographic development of the region's population, the employment of the able-bodied population and the growth of the rural population.

The economic-geographical region has a favorable geographical position with oil, natural gas, agriculture, fruit growing, vegetable growing, grain crops, animal husbandry and processing industry. As based on the use of natural resource potential in the economic region, a diversified structure of industry and agriculture has been created. But modern potential does not provide a growing population of jobs and urban growth, social services lags behind modern requirements.

But for the time being, the functioning of objects in the light and food industries has not been fully restored. Ensuring sustainable socio-economic development requires the creation of new networks for processing agricultural products and increasing the level of service to the population. These measures will lead to the regulation of demographic development.

## 2. Literature Review

Both local and foreign scholars had discussed the issue of marriage and divorce, which are the main demographic indicators of the population in their study. According to Bruce Phillips and William Griffiths (2004), family-marriage relationships are a long-term process that results from respect, loyalty and commitment. Having a successful family relationship provides the foundation for raising children. According to them, the family model will reduce the number of divorces and increase the number of marriages. At the same time, scientists have noted the socio-economic problems created by the divorce, noting the model of divorce in their research. Unemployment, social problems, family conflicts and drug abuse were the main factors behind the breakdown of families and the increase in the number of divorces.

Betsey Stevenson (2006) noted that some married couples make decisions based on their budgets by thinking in advance about having children and how many children they will have. This is a key factor that has a positive effect on the formation of the family budget. According to the scientist, if there are fundamental changes in the law on divorce, it will reduce the number of divorces. He also pointed out that unsuccessful marriages and early marriages are among the main factors that negatively affect the increase in the number of divorced couples. According to Stevenson, the correct allocation of the family budget and increased investment in children's education are the main indicators that strengthen family relationships.

According to Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers (2007), employment and the improvement of the socio-economic status of the able-bodied population are the main factors influencing the growth of marriages. Wars, job losses as a result of economic crises, and deteriorating social conditions are factors contributing to the increase in divorces. At the same time, scientists note that the reduction in the number of marriages is negatively affected by the desire of young people to live together. Thus, in high-income European countries, young people with higher education view family and marriage relations as an outdated tradition and prefer to live together. Scientists point out that such desires of young people are the factors that lead to a decrease in the number of marriages and an increase in the number of children born out of wedlock.

Barbara L. Wolfe (2008) showed that the number of divorces in industrialized countries has increased year by year. He also said that divorce has a negative impact on the social and psychological conditions of women and children. When

young people get married, they make a commitment to protect their long-term family relationships. However, in the case of divorce they evade these obligations.

Barantseva and Natalia A (2018) noted that twentieth-century marriage and family relationships were very different from twentieth-century marriages. At that time, young people worked together for the long-term marriage and education of their children, respecting family and marriage relations. Today, young people prefer to live together rather than the traditional family model. This leads to a decrease in the number of marriages. In addition, the low socio-economic status of the population and socio-psychological tensions among newlyweds were among the reasons for the increase in the number of divorces. Continuation of this trend has a negative impact on the deterioration of age and gender, demographic indicators and the level of natural growth of the population.

Eminov Z.N (2005; 2007; 2016) noted that the employment of the labor-intensive population has a positive effect on the increase in the number of marriages. He further noted that the increase in employment in rural areas, the creation of jobs in accordance with the needs of the population will lead to an increase in the level of natural growth and the number of marriages. As the highest rates of natural population growth are in rural areas, it is important to create new jobs so that people do not leave the countryside. This will both prevent rural discharges and have a positive impact on reducing the number of divorces.

Imran Rasul (2005) noted that the number of divorces has increased in modern times compared to previous years. Increased competition in the labor market, problems in the employment of the able-bodied population as a result of increasing needs in the family as the number of children increases are the factors that lead to an increase in the number of divorces. Divorce by mutual agreement increases the likelihood that both parties will be together again in the future.

Marianne P. Bitler, Jonah B. Gelbach, Hilary W. Hoynes, and Madeline Zavodny (2004) were reports that social programs introduced in Europe in the late twentieth century discouraged young people from marrying. Thus, the main purpose of the program was to help women with children. Considering that most young people in European countries prefer to live together than in traditional marriages. Thus, according to the authors, this program had led to a decrease in the number of marriages.

Rafael Gonzalez-Val and Miriam Marchen (2018) note that socio-economic indicators have a direct impact on family-marriage relations. Just as unemployment affects divorce, the high level of employment of the able-bodied population has had a positive effect on the number of marriages. Rising unemployment is forcing able-bodied people to leave their homes in search of work. The increase in migration has affected the demographic development of the population and the decrease in the number of marriages.

According to Susmita Roy (2011), job losses and unemployment as a result of the economic crisis lead to the dissolution of marriages. If one of the married couples loses his job, it does not affect the marital relationship. However, if the husband's unemployment period is prolonged, it will lead to the dissolution of the marriage. At the same time, the decline in employment has led to an increase in the number of divorces.

### **3. Material and Method**

The article uses the works of scientists and researchers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on marriages and divorces, as well as data from the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Statistical, comparative analysis, cartographic methods were used in the research.

### **4. Analysis and Discussion**

The Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region, which covers the northeast of the country, includes the administrative districts of Gusar, Khachmaz, Guba, Shabran and Siyazan. The population is located in 6 cities, 21 settlements and 474 rural settlements in the economic and geographical region.

According to the statistics as of 01.01.2020, the territory of the economic and geographical region is 6,96 thousand km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 554,7 thousand people, including the urban population of 183,4 thousand people and the rural population of 371,3 thousand people. The population density was 80 people per 1 sq. km. This region accounts for 8,0% of the population, 5,5% of the population, 3,4% of the urban population and 7,8% of the rural population.

In Europe prior to the 1990s reforms, the welfare system was widely regarded as providing disincentives to marriage because it primarily allocated benefits to single women with children. Some studies have concluded that more generous welfare programs were associated with higher rates of female household headship and nonmarital fertility and lower rates of marriage.

The work incentives created by welfare reform to effects on marriage and divorce. Improved labor force outcomes for women as a result of welfare reform could either increase or decrease the utility of being single relative to being married. An increase in women's earned income could lead to lower marriage rates and higher divorce rates if the independence effect dominates or to higher marriage rates and lower divorce rates if the stabilizing effect dominates (Bitler etc., 2004).

Marriage couples make decisions such as whether or not to have children, how many children to have, whether to buy a house, whether one spouse should invest in more education, and how to divide home versus market work. That situation affect both the value of their marriage in the future and their outside options. These investments have long been recognized by economists as a central part of marriage.

Divorce laws affect the incentive to invest in marriage-specific capital for several reasons. First, if divorce reform raises the divorce rate, then each spouse is less likely to reap the benefits of marriage-specific capital, reducing the incentive to jointly invest. To the extent that the change in divorce laws shifts bargaining power within the household, then decisions about marital investments may change, particularly if couples differ in their preferences for particular marital investments. Furthermore, once a marriage-specific investment has occurred, the returns are pure rents, and hence the incentive to jointly invest may depend upon the ability of the couple to commit to a specific distribution of future rents, which is likely shaped by divorce law. Finally, couples may use investment in marriage-specific capital strategically over-investing today so as to constrain their future selves to prefer to remain married than to divorce. As such, robust investment in marriage-specific capital may be used to partially offset the incomplete enforcement of marriage contracts by the state.

Investment in marriage-specific capital appears to be affected by the legal regime governing the right to divorce. The empirical evidence demonstrates that a switch to unilateral divorce reduces couples' willingness to make substantial investments early in their marriage. Couples are less likely to have children in the first two years, are less likely to support each other sequentially through school, and are more likely to have two full-time workers in the labor force and greater female labor force participation. Some of these investments may simply be being postponed, while others may never be made. Furthermore, these results are largely invariant to the laws governing property division (Stevenson, 2006).

As in other regions of the country, marriage and divorce form the main demographic base of the population in the Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region. As a result of the general socio-economic processes taking place in the country, changes have taken place in the development of marriages and divorces. One of the factors that have a positive impact on the natural growth of the population in the region, especially in rural areas, as in our country, is the increase in the number of marriages. The increase in divorces has a negative impact on the breakdown of families and the threat to the successful future of children, their formation as patriots and personalities.

The nature of family life in America has changed dramatically over the past fifty years. Fewer persons are marrying than ever before, those who marry do so later in life and more marriages are now broken by divorce than death. Understanding the cause and effects of these changes is important for a number of reasons. First, changing marital patterns have implications for individual behavior over the life cycle, such as labor market attachment, savings and fertility. Aggregated across households, these changes will have considerable macroeconomic implications. Second, the decline in marriage is of concern if marriage is viewed as a good thing, in that there are positive private and social returns to marriage. Indeed shows a

robust correlation between being married and having better health, earning higher wages, and accumulating more wealth.

Moving from a mutual consent to a unilateral divorce regime then has two opposing effects on the incentives to marry. On the one hand, individuals now know they cannot be stuck in a marriage they would prefer to leave. On the other hand, they may be in a marriage in which they prefer to stay but their spouse prefers to leave.

Overall, the move to unilateral divorce may lead to selection into marriage such that newly matched couples are less likely to divorce than the existing couples. This selection effect may then offset the pipeline effect of unilateral divorce leading to higher divorce rates among existing married couples. It is this latter effect that has been focused on in the public policy debate on the reform of divorce laws. This result is also in contrast to the view that more liberal divorce laws simply reduce the costs of exiting marriage and so increase divorce payoffs. If so, the prediction from almost any search model would be that because individuals then become less selective in their original marriage decision, marriage rates should rise moving from mutual consent to unilateral divorce (Rasul, 2005).

As can be seen from Table 1, the number of marriages in the urban population of Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region during 2001-2005 was 1129, and the number of divorces was 194. The number of marriages in rural areas (2272) was 2.0 times higher than in urban areas, and the number of divorces (123) was 1.6 times lower.

**Table 1:** The number of marriage and divorce in the economic-geographical region of Guba-Khachmaz (thousand people)

	2001-2005				2006-2010				2011-2015			
	urban population		rural population		urban population		rural population		urban population		rural population	
	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce
Guba-Khachmaz	1129	194	2272	123	1618	221	3038	190	1536	316	3081	248
Gusar	136	30	458	54	214	42	611	61	203	81	607	44
Khachmaz	392	73	708	41	537	81	903	59	532	99	926	95
Guba	229	47	787	15	314	37	1099	47	320	53	1134	68
Shabran	191	22	222	11	288	33	304	21	258	45	282	33
Siyazan	181	22	97	2	265	28	121	2	223	38	132	8

Different dynamics of the number of marriages and divorces by settlements can be observed in different administrative districts. The number of marriages (392) and divorces (73) in Khachmaz administrative district was higher than in other administrative districts. The highest number of marriages in rural areas was registered in Guba (787) and Khachmaz (708) administrative districts.

In 2006-2010, the number of marriages in the urban population in the economic-geographical region (1618) was 1.4 times higher than in 2001-2005, and the number of divorces increased relatively to 221. The number of marriages in the rural population increased by 1.3 times compared to the previous year and was 3038, and the number of divorces increased by 1.5 times and was 190.

It is clear from the analysis of individual administrative districts that the highest number of marriages and divorces in the city population was registered in Khachmaz administrative district. Respectively, the number of marriages was 537, and the number of divorces was 81. According to the number of marriages in Khachmaz administrative region, it was 1.4 times higher than in 2001-2005. The highest number of marriages in rural areas was in Guba and Khachmaz administrative districts. 1099 and 903 marriages were registered respectively.

The number of marriages and divorces in Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region during 2011-2015 differed from the previous statistics. Thus, the number of marriages in the urban population in the economic-geographical region decreased compared to 2006-2010 and amounted to 1536 marriages, while the number of divorces increased 1.4 times and amounted to 316 divorces.

The recent rise in divorce rates in industrialized countries has generated a great deal of attention from researchers and policy makers. Many worry about the negative economic consequences of divorce for women and children, and there is some evidence that more liberal divorce laws have negative effects on long-term outcomes for children. On the other hand, recent research suggests that divorce increases physical and psychological well-being for both partners. Thus it seems clear that divorce legislation has potential effects on large segments of the population and on several important dimensions related to both economic and psychological well-being.

Individuals behave rationally, have full information and have transferrable utilities. After each period's marriage decision individuals receive a wage shock, thus marriage decisions will take into consideration wage uncertainty. Individuals will marry if and only if the expected value of getting married exceeds that of remaining single. The decision to obtain a divorce depends on the value of each spouse's outside option relative to that within marriage. Household's decisions are assumed to be governed by partial commitment or by no commitment. With partial commitment, the couple can obtain a divorce if and only if both spouses desire to do so. With no commitment either couple can initiate a divorce. With partial commitment spouses cannot change their bargaining position during the duration of the marriage.



Rather the bargaining process occurs at the time of marriage, and since divorce is only available with both spouses consent neither spouse has the ability to change the bargaining position. On the other hand, if households are governed by no commitment, spouses' bargaining positions within the household can vary across periods and during the length of the marriage. The bargaining position within marriage depends on the current situation rather than that which existed at the time of marriage (Wolfe, 2008).

Able-bodied people are unable to find jobs that meet their needs and, as a result, leave their settlements and actively participate in migration processes. This factor has a direct impact on the demographic development of the region's permanent population, as well as changes in the number of marriages and divorces.

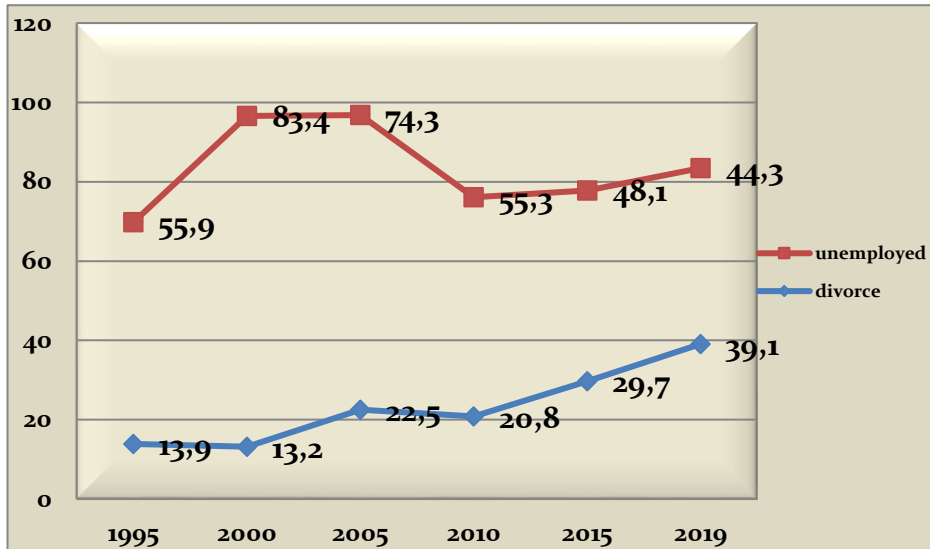
In the economic-geographical region, the number of marriages in the rural population increased slightly compared to 2006-2010, 3081 marriages, and the number of divorces increased again and increased by 248 divorces or 1.3 times. The highest number of marriages in urban and rural areas was in Khachmaz (532 marriages) and Guba (1134 marriages) administrative districts. The highest number of divorces in settlements was registered in Khachmaz administrative district, which was 99 and 95 divorces, respectively.

Social and economic factors have led to an increase in marriages, and wars have led to an increase in divorces. The increase in the number of divorces after World War II provides a basis for this conclusion. Also, uneducated women have a higher divorce rate than educated women. In the United States, young people with higher education view marriage as an "outdated tradition" and prefer to live together rather than formally. Accordingly, the number of marriages in the United States is low and the number of divorces is high. In high-income and industrialized countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and France, young people live according to the Nordic model. Thus, they live together informally for 3-5, sometimes 5-8 years, and therefore the number of children born out of wedlock increases every year (Stevenson and Wolfers, 2007).

As can be seen from the graph (Figure 1), the rate of unemployed and divorced in the Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region for 1995-2019 is given. It is clear from the analysis of the graph that the increase in the rate of unemployed has a direct impact on the increase in the rate of divorces. In 1995, the rate of unemployed in the economic-geographical region was 55.9 percent. The rate of divorces was 13.9 percent.

Although the share of divorces decreased in 2000 (13.2%), the share of the unemployed increased 1.5 times compared to the previous year and amounted to 83.4%. The increase in the share of unemployed in the region has led to the migration of able-bodied people. The increase in the number of migration has had a negative impact on the demographic development of the population, the violation of age and gender, the increase in the number of marriages.

**Figure 1:** The rate of divorces and unemployed in the economic-geographical region of Guba-Khachmaz for 1995-2019 years



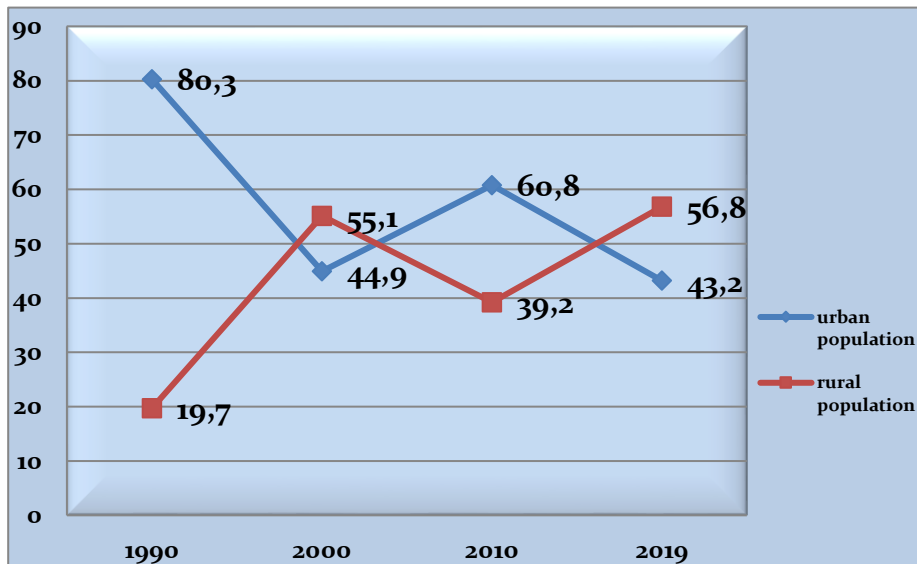
The share of unemployed in the economic-geographical region in 2010 (74.3%) decreased by 1.3 times compared to 2005 and was 55.3%. In the same year, the number of new jobs created in the economic-geographical region was 5,965, and the number of permanent jobs was 2,472. The increase in the number of jobs has had a positive impact on the socio-economic conditions of the population in the region, leading to a decrease in the number of unemployed. The share of divorces increased 1.5 times compared to 2000 (13.2%) and amounted to 20.8%. The breakdown of family and marriage relations, the migration of the able-bodied population to neighboring regions or Russia in search of work, women's working careers and the desire to work are among the factors influencing the age of marriage and divorce.

Marriages and divorces are one of the demographic indicators of the population and determine natural growth, which is the main source of population growth. The high number of marriages in cities is due to the migration of the population to cities, the large number of young people in cities and the rapid development of new industrial cities in the country [7].

It is clear from the analysis of the graph (Figure 2) that the rate of divorces in the Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region has different dynamics. Thus, although the rate of divorces in the rural population in the economic-geographical region in 1990 was 19.7 percent, the rate of divorces in the urban population was 4.1 times higher. Over the next 10 years, the number of rate in urban areas decreased, but increased in rural areas.

After 2010, there was an increase in the number of divorces in urban and rural areas. Thus, the share of divorces in urban areas increased by 1.3 times compared to 2000 (44.9%) and amounted to 60.8%. The low living standards of the population and the lack of jobs in accordance with the needs of the able-bodied population have led to an increase in the migration of the permanent population in the settlements. The active participation of the region's population, especially hard-working young people, in migration processes has contributed to the decline in the number of marriages.

**Figure 2:** The rate of divorces in the economic-geographical region of Guba-Khachmaz for 1990-2019 years



Marriage has long been a revered social institution. Often portrayed as the embodiment of commitment and devotion, it lays a foundation for lasting companionship and the rearing of children. Of the many aspects that generate the cherished notion of “family”, few tend to be more important than marriage. Despite these traditional sentiments, the sanctity of marriage has been challenged in the past few decades, as the number of people marrying has stagnated and divorce rates have increased. There are common causal factors for changes in trends to marry and divorce. However, the rise in marriage breakdown has typically attracted more focus because of the greater problems it is perceived to create. Depression and other psychiatric problems, social withdrawal, child abuse, and drug use have all been mooted as consequences of family failure (Phillips and Griffiths, 2004).

In Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region, the share of divorces in the urban population in 2019 was 43.2%, and the share of divorces in the rural

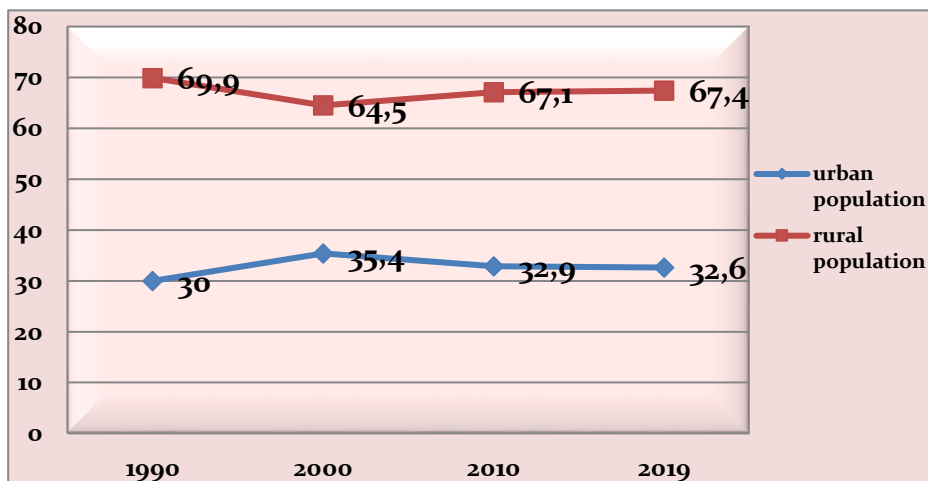
population was 56.8%. The creation of basic jobs in urban areas and the higher level of social infrastructure in urban areas than in rural areas have had a negative impact on the demographics of the rural population by accelerating migration.

In the 60's and 80's of the last century, marriage and family relations were very different from modern marriage. Low socio-economic conditions of the population, socio-psychological mismatch between newlyweds have led to an increase in the number of divorces among young people. Nowadays, young people prefer to live together outside of marriage than in the traditional family model. This has led to a deterioration in the age and gender characteristics of the population, an increase in the number of divorces and children born out of wedlock, and the emergence of significant differences between demographic indicators in settlements. In rural areas, able-bodied people leave their homes and migrate to larger cities in order to find work. The declining number of young people in rural areas and the increase in the number of older people have led to "demographic aging" (Barantseva, 2018).

As can be seen from Figure 3 in the Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region, the rate of marriages in 1990 was 30 percent for the urban population and 69.9 percent for the rural population. In 2000, the rate of marriages in the urban population decreased by 1.8 times compared to 1990. In the economic-geographical region in 2010 there was an increase in the rate of marriages in urban and rural areas. There were 32.9 percent and 67.1 percent marriages, respectively.

Improving the living standards of the population in the region, the availability of jobs in accordance with the needs of the working population has had a positive impact on the development of demographic indicators. The number of marriages increase has had a positive affect natural increase level of population.

**Figure 3:** The rate of marriages in the economic-geographical region of Guba-Khachmaz for 1990-2019 years



Rising unemployment rates in the economy can subject marital relationships to a lot of stress. This is true of even those couples who have jobs as they are gripped with anxiety and fear. Anecdotal evidence suggests that divorce rates fell sharply during the Great Depression. More recently, following the recession and the slump in the housing market in the US, many couples are realizing that they do not have enough resources to take on life as singles. Shifts in the unemployment rate can affect marriages in at least two ways. Firstly, it can affect the non-pecuniary component of match quality.

Rising unemployment rates in one's sector may lead to a change in one's personality, say, by making one more acrimonious. This can potentially lead to a divorce. Secondly, a rise in the unemployment rate can affect marital surplus by changing the amount of expected income one would have access to within marriage relative to singlehood. Staying married enables one to have some control over spouse's income even if one were to lose his/her job. This pecuniary component of match quality depends on the husband's and the wife's job loss probabilities, which in turn depends on the unemployment rate in their respective sectors. When the unemployment rate in the spouse's sector is low, a small increase in one's sector specific unemployment rate may initially reduce the odds of a divorce. However, if the unemployment rate in the spouse's sector is high, the possibility of reaping pecuniary benefit out marriage diminishes and further increases in the unemployment rate in one's sector may increase the marriage dissolution probability (Roy, 2011).

It is clear from the analysis of the second table that the number of marriages and divorces per thousand people in Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region during 2000-2019 differed from the indicators of the neighboring economic-geographical region. In 2000, Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region was higher than Sheki-Zagatala and Mountainous-Shirvan economic-geographical regions in terms of the number of marriages per thousand people (6.4 marriages) in the city population. According to the number of divorces per thousand people (0.4 divorces) in the rural population, the highest rate falls on the share of this economic-geographical region.

**Table 2:** The number of marriage and divorce in the economic-geographical regions (per thousand people)

	2000				2010				2019			
	urban population		rural population		urban population		rural population		urban population		rural population	
	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce	marriage	divorce
Guba-Khachmaz	6,4	0,8	5,5	0,4	9,9	1,7	9,7	0,5	6,4	1,9	6,5	1,2
Shaki-Zagatala	6,2	0,6	5,8	0,3	8,4	1,0	8,6	0,6	6,2	1,8	6,7	1,3
Daghlig-Shirvan	5,2	0,8	5,7	0,3	9,2	1,1	9,3	0,5	7,7	1,2	6,6	1,1

The effects of the business cycle are usually measured in terms of unemployment rates, or price and poverty indices, but it also has strong social and individual implications. For instance, economic conditions can affect family stability. Individual decisions about getting married or divorced, or planning a pregnancy, can vary considerably depending on the employment situation of the spouses. The first perspective leads to a positive association between the unemployment rate and divorce, although the effect should be greater when the variables are lagged, since the stress of decreasing employment opportunities takes time to affect marital stability. From the cost-of-divorce perspective, a job loss can generate economic constraints, making access to a potentially-costly divorce more difficult; for that, the increase in the unemployment rate should be inversely related to the divorce rate.

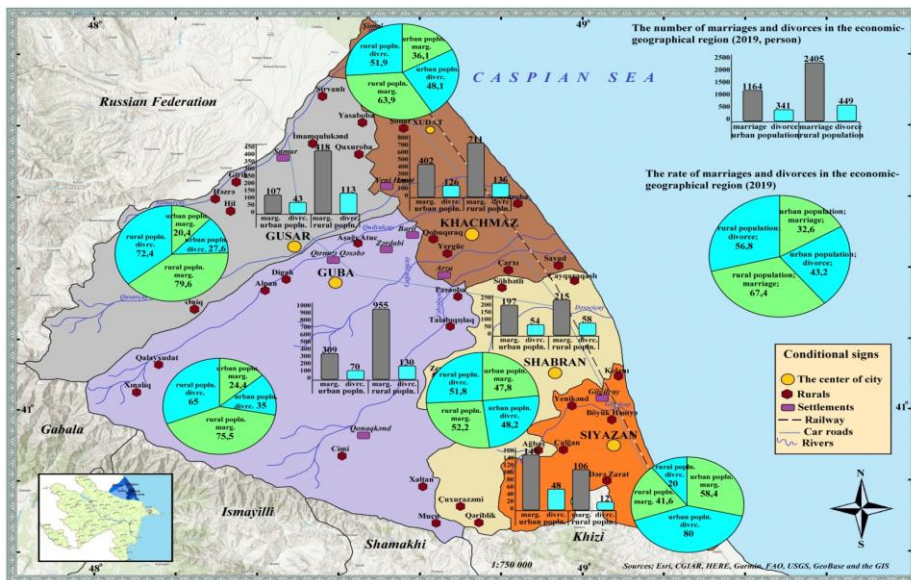
Divorce rates may be low, either because marriage rates are low or because marriages are less likely to end in divorce. To explore this issue, we could have used an alternative definition of divorce rates, measured as the annual number of divorces per 1,000 of the married population. This analysis would have been less reliable due to the scarcity of data on the total number of marriages, which is only available when each census is collected, normally every 10 years. Another potential problem with the use of the unemployment rate is that variations in the rate can be due to changes in marriage and divorce situations. Non-married women appear to be more likely to enter the labor market than married women; then, in the case that fewer individuals married or many individuals become divorced, more women may be participating in the labor market. Nevertheless, it is not clear whether decreases or increases in women's participation in the labor market correspond with variations in the overall unemployment rate. Additionally, the rise in divorce rates has been found to account for a very small part of the increase in female employment rates (Gonzales-Val, 2018).

In 2010, the highest number of marriages per 1,000 people in urban and rural areas was registered in the Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region. There were 9.9 and 9.7 marriages, respectively. The lowest rate was in the Sheki-Zagatala economic-geographical region. The number of divorces per thousand people in Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region was 1.7 divorces per thousand people. As for the rural population, the lowest number of divorces per thousand people was registered in Guba-Khachmaz and Mountainous-Shirvan economic-geographical regions and was 0.5 divorces.

Marriages and divorces are one of the main indicators of the formation of family-marriage relations. Their dynamics are important for regulating the population, the formation of sex and age, reducing migration. During the years of independence, the deterioration of the financial situation of the population, the difficulty of providing jobs and housing has led to a decrease in marriages and divorces. Divorces occur mainly in the first years of marriage, so their dynamics are interrelated (Eminov, 2007).

The map (Figure 4) was shown the different dynamics of marriages and divorces in urban and rural settlements of Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region. As can be seen from the map, in 2019, the number of marriages was 1164 people by urban settlements in the economic-geographical region. Also, the number of divorces was 341 people by urban settlements. The number of marriages was 2405 people in the rural settlements. As well as, the number of divorces was 449 people in the rural settlements. In the rural areas the indicators of marriages and divorces was higher than urban areas.

**Figure 4:** The dynamics of marriage and divorce in the economic-geographical region of Guba-Khachmaz (2019)



In Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region, the share of marriages and divorces in the urban population was lower than in the rural population. Thus, the share of marriages in the rural population was 67.4%, 2.1 times higher than the share of marriages in the urban population (32.6%). The share of divorces was 56.8% in the rural settlements.

Marriage and divorce are one of the demographic indicators of the population and determine natural growth, which is the main source of population growth. Marriages are more common in rural areas. The total number of marriages and divorces in the regions is formed according to the population (Eminov, 2016).

## 5. Conclusions

Thus, taking into account the dynamics of the number of marriages and divorces in the Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region and a comparative analysis of statistical indicators, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. From the analysis of statistical indicators in Guba-Khachmaz economic-geographical region it is clear that in the first years of independence the absolute number of marriages in urban and rural settlements was high, but after 2010 it decreased and the absolute number of divorces increased. At present, the tendency to increase the absolute number of divorces continues both in the general economic-geographical region and in its individual regions.
2. Due to the low socio-economic conditions of the population, especially young people in the economic-geographical region, the breakdown of family relations, early marriage, forced marriage of girls has led to a decrease in the number of marriages and divorces.



## References

- Barantseva, Natalia A. (2018). Dynamics of marriage-family relations of the population of the south of Krasnoyarsk Kara in the late 1940s-1980s. *Toms State University Journal*, 428(3), 54-63.
- Barbara L. Wolfe. (2008, June). Divorce and Divorce Reform: A reconciliation of results at odds. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266268483\\_Divorce\\_and\\_Divorce\\_Reform\\_A\\_reconciliation\\_of\\_results\\_at\\_odds](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266268483_Divorce_and_Divorce_Reform_A_reconciliation_of_results_at_odds).
- Betsey Stevenson. (2006). The Impact of Divorce Laws on Marriage-Specific Capital. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 25(1), 75-94.
- Betsey Stevenson, Justin Wolfers. (2007). Marriage and Divorce: Changes and their driving forces. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(2), 27-52.
- Bruce Phillips, William Griffiths. (2004). Female Earnings and Divorce Rates: Some Australian Evidence. *Australian Economic Review*, 37(2), 139-152.
- Eminov Z.N. (2005). The population of Azerbaijan. Baku: Chiraq.
- Eminov Z.N. (2007). Demographic bases of family-marriage relations in Daglig-Shirvan economic-geographical region. Works of the Azerbaijan Geographical Society. (pp. 310-315). Mountain geosystems of Azerbaijan; problems and perspectives, Baku.
- Eminov Z.N. (2016). The dynamics of marriages and divorce in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan National Academy of Science Institute of Geography named after academic H.A.Aliyev. (pp. 77-83). Problems of population and demographic development in the Sheki-Zagatala economic-geographical region, Baku.
- Imran Rasul. (2005). Marriage Markets and Divorce Laws. *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, 22(1), 30-69.
- Marianne P. Bitler, Jonah B. Gelbach, Hilary W. Hoynes, and Madeline Zavodny. (2004). The Impact of Welfare Reform on Marriage and Divorce. *Journal of Demography*, 41(2), 213-236.
- Rafael Gonzales-Val, Miriam Marcén. (2018, August). Unemployment, Marriage and Divorce. *Applied Economics*, 50(13), 1495-1508, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00036846.2017.1366642?journalCode=raec20>.
- Regional analysis of demographic processes in the Republic of Azerbaijan. (2003). Baku.
- Susmita Roy. (2011, July). Unemployment Rate and Divorce, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1475-4932.2011.00746.x>.

Bayramov, T., Sh. (2021). *Dynamics of Marriages and Divorces by Settlements in the Economic-Geographic Region of Guba-Khachmaz*. *Equinox, Journal of Economics, Business & Political Studies*, 8 (1), 46-63. doi: 10.48064/equinox.810195

The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. (2020). *Demographic Indicators of Azerbaijan*. Baku.

The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The number of natural increase, birth and death of Azerbaijan Republic by urban and districts for 1990-2019 years. Retrieved from July 7, 2020. <https://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/>