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Economic Statistical Analysis of Marriage and Divorce Indicators of the Population

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Abstract: This article provides an economic and statistical analysis of divorce processes in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Using official statistical data for the period 2018–2024, the dynamics of divorces at the national and regional levels are examined, and their relationship with key socio-economic factors is assessed. The results reveal a steady upward trend in the number of divorces in recent years. A particularly sharp increase is observed in the post-pandemic period, indicating the high sensitivity of the institution of marriage to economic and social shocks. Regional analysis shows that higher divorce rates are concentrated in areas with greater urbanization and economic activity. The findings highlight the need to improve family and demographic policies and to develop evidence-based measures aimed at strengthening the institution of marriage and enhancing social stability.

Keywords: divorce, demographic processes, economic and statistical analysis, regional disparities, urbanization, family institution, social stability, post-pandemic effects, population statistics.

1. Introduction

The processes of marriage formation and divorce among the population occupy an important place in the system of demographic processes and have a direct impact on the social stability of society, the strength of the family, and the processes of population reproduction [1]. Marriage and divorce indicators appear not only as socio-cultural phenomena, but also as economic-demographic processes closely linked to the level of economic development, employment conditions, income stability, housing conditions, and the state's family policy. For this reason, the economic-statistical analysis of marriage and divorce is one of the topical areas of modern demographic research [2].

In recent years, significant changes have been observed in marriage and divorce processes worldwide. The intensification of urbanization, instability in the labor market, the lengthening of the period of education among young people, and the rising economic activity of women are leading to a delay in the age of marriage and, in some countries, to an increase in divorce rates. These processes require a reconsideration of the family's functions as a socio-economic institution and a deep statistical analysis of marriage and divorce indicators [3].

In the Republic of Uzbekistan as well, the socio-economic reforms carried out in recent years, the expansion of the urban way of life, and labor migration processes are influencing the formation of marriage and divorce indicators. On the one hand, the

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preservation of traditional family values is ensuring a relatively high marriage rate; on the other hand, economic factors and social adaptation processes are observed to be causing an increase in divorce cases in certain regions [4]. In the first half of 2025, more than 95 thousand marriages were registered in Uzbekistan. At the same time, more than 23 thousand divorces were also recorded. Simply put, every fourth marriage is ending in divorce. According to statistics, divorces are increasing, while marriages are no longer as stable as before. These circumstances reinforce the need for an economic-statistical analysis of marriage and divorce processes by region [5].

From an economic-statistical point of view, marriage and divorce indicators are shaped in connection with the population's income, employment level, housing provision, and the social protection system. For this reason, analyzing these indicators dynamically, regionally, and structurally is of great importance for assessing the economic stability of the family, identifying the internal patterns of demographic processes, and improving family-demographic policy on a scientific basis [6].

2. Literature Review

Scientific research devoted to studying marriage and divorce processes in recent years has been deepening from the perspective of economic shocks, institutional changes, and labor market factors. These studies are distinguished by interpreting marriage and divorce not as passive demographic phenomena, but as a set of economic decisions [7].

Hoehn-Velasco and co-authors empirically assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on marriage and divorce processes. Using event-study and difference-in-differences methodologies based on national administrative records for Mexico, the authors found that the flow of marriages and divorces sharply decreased during the pandemic period. The results of the study show that marriage and divorce indicators are highly sensitive not only to economic well-being, but also to the operating regime of government services and institutional restrictions [8].

Komura and Ogawa studied the behavior of marriage and divorce processes during states of emergency using the example of Japan. Based on prefecture-level panel data, the authors found that the declaration of a state of emergency led to a statistically significant decrease in the number of marriages and divorces. The study scientifically demonstrates the adaptability of marriage and divorce processes to short-term economic and social shocks [9].

Kim and Kim, in their research on South Korea, analyzed the relationship between the regional epidemiological situation (infection intensity) and marriage and divorce flows. Based on panel regression models, the authors found that in regions where the pandemic intensified, marriage and divorce indicators decreased in the short term. This study shows that marriage and divorce decisions can be explained not only by demographic but also by economic-psychological factors [10].

Hoehn-Velasco and Penglase, using an institutional approach, assessed how the introduction of "no-fault unilateral divorce" laws in Mexico affected the divorce rate. Through an event-study design, it was found that the liberalization of divorce legislation led to an increase in the number of divorces in the short term. The study scientifically substantiates that marriage and divorce statistics are directly linked to legal institutions [11].

Hoehn-Velasco and Penglase, examining the interaction of marriage and divorce processes with the labor market, found that the liberalization of divorce legislation increased women's participation in the labor market. Regression analyses conducted on the basis of panel data show that marriage and divorce processes are closely linked to economic independence [12].

Adilkhanova and Aliyev (2024), in a context close to the CIS region, studied the macroeconomic determinants of marriage and divorce processes using the example of Azerbaijan. Using ARDL and cointegration models based on time series for 2000–2022, the authors found that economic growth, unemployment, and inflation have a long-term effect on marriage and divorce indicators. This study reveals the dependence of marriage and divorce processes on macroeconomic cycles [13].

3. Material and Methods

In this study, the population's marriage and divorce indicators are analyzed based on an economic-statistical approach. The study uses official data published by national statistical bodies and international organizations. In assessing marriage and divorce processes, the number of marriages, the number of divorces, and their coefficients per 1,000 population are taken as the main statistical indicators.

In the course of the analysis, dynamic series and regional comparison methods are applied, identifying the change in marriage and divorce indicators over time and their differences across regions. The results obtained are summarized in connection with economic and social factors, serving to describe the characteristics of the formation of marriage and divorce processes.

4. Results and Discussion

The changes observed in the marriage and divorce processes of the population worldwide show that demographic processes are becoming increasingly linked to socio-economic conditions. Overall, on a global scale, a delay in the age of marriage, the expansion of forms of cohabitation outside marriage, and a relatively high divorce rate are observed. These trends are explained by urbanization, rising levels of education, women's increasing activity in the labor market, and growing economic independence. From an economic-statistical point of view, this situation confirms that marriage and divorce decisions are increasingly determined by economic expectations and risks alongside traditional social norms [14].

In developed countries, the slowdown in marriage formation is often linked to young people's expectation of having stable income and housing conditions. Instability in the labor market and high housing prices are emerging as factors delaying marriage. At the same time, although the divorce rate remains high in some countries, its rate of growth is slowing and moving into a stabilization phase. This indicates that the institution of marriage is becoming increasingly adaptable, meaning that marriage and divorce processes are being reshaped in line with socio-economic changes in society [15].

In developing countries and those with transition economies, marriage and divorce processes have a more complex picture. On the one hand, the preservation of traditional family values ensures a relatively high marriage rate; on the other hand, economic migration, employment instability, and income inequality are emerging as factors that increase the risk of divorce. International studies show that during economic crises the number of marriages may decrease, while divorces may decrease in the short term and then rise again during the economic recovery phase. This demonstrates the sensitivity of marriage and divorce indicators to economic cycles.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, marriage and divorce processes have distinctive features against the backdrop of world trends. Because traditional family values remain strong in the country, the marriage rate remains relatively high. At the same time, in recent years, urbanization processes, the lengthening of the period of education, and the difficulties young people face in entering the labor market are gradually leading to a delay in the age of marriage. This indicates that marriage indicators are differentiating across regions.

As for divorce indicators, although a relatively low level has been maintained in Uzbekistan, a slow upward trend is observed in some regions. Economic-statistical analysis shows that divorces are increasingly recorded in urban areas and regions with high economic activity. This is explained by the increase in women's economic independence, the expansion of their participation in the labor market, and changes in the demands placed on family relationships. At the same time, the fact that divorce indicators remain at a relatively low level reflects the influence of social institutions and cultural factors aimed at supporting the family.

The results obtained show that marriage and divorce processes in Uzbekistan are directly related to economic factors, and employment, income stability, housing conditions, and the social environment play an important role in their formation. While the stability of marriage indicators is of great importance for ensuring social stability and demographic balance in the country, a deep economic-statistical analysis of divorce processes creates the necessary scientific basis for improving family-demographic policy.

Overall, the processes taking place in the world and in Uzbekistan show the need to study marriage and divorce indicators not only as a social phenomenon, but as a system of economic decisions. Economic-statistical analysis is of great scientific and practical importance in identifying the internal patterns of these processes, assessing regional differences, and developing effective policy measures aimed at supporting the family.

Table 1. Number of marriages registered, in units (total)

Region	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Republic of Uzbekistan	311379	310899	296751	305211	296689	283808	271776
Republic of Karakalpakstan	14450	14259	11561	15746	14857	13565	13166
Andijan region	30342	29998	27725	26740	25847	25055	23476
Bukhara region	16065	15974	15771	16923	16200	15713	14954
Jizzakh region	13967	13831	13929	13318	12716	11863	11165
Kashkadarya region	31595	31175	30847	30582	32189	30908	29256
Navoi region	9012	8939	9080	9210	8510	7951	7538
Namangan region	26449	26971	24955	25038	23454	23264	22333
Samarkand region	37449	36159	33385	36270	34056	32209	31425
Surkhandarya region	26829	27681	24790	26497	26762	24874	23263
Syrdarya region	8310	8562	8903	8065	7710	7212	6873
Tashkent region	25129	25529	26122	25692	23197	21307	20111
Fergana region	35448	34959	34067	32804	32052	31121	29179
Khorezm region	16032	15793	13991	15543	16636	16414	1

The process of marriage formation among the population is one of the important demographic indicators reflecting the socio-economic stability of society, demographic reproduction, and the state of family institutions. Changes in the number of marriages are directly related to the composition of the population, age structure, employment level, income stability, and social environment, giving it particular scientific significance from the point of view of economic-statistical analysis. For this reason, analyzing marriage indicators by year and region makes it possible to identify the deep socio-economic processes taking place in society.

Analysis of the table data shows that during 2018–2024, an overall downward trend was observed in the number of marriages registered in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Specifically, while 311.4 thousand marriages were recorded nationwide in 2018, this

figure had decreased to 271.8 thousand by 2024. This indicates that marriage formation processes have been slowing in recent years.

The sharp decrease in the number of marriages in 2020 is directly related to the pandemic, during which economic uncertainty, restrictions, and disruptions in the operation of administrative services delayed marriage decisions. Although a relative recovery in the number of marriages was observed in 2021, the decline continued in subsequent years. This indicates that marriage processes have still not fully recovered in the post-pandemic period, and that the long-term impact of socio-economic conditions has persisted.

Regional analysis shows that the regions with the highest number of marriages are traditionally Samarkand, Fergana, Kashkadarya, and Andijan. In these regions, the large population size, the high share of young people, and the strong preservation of traditional family values ensure a relatively high number of marriages. At the same time, a consistent decrease in the number of marriages is observed in these regions as well during 2022–2024.

The low number of marriages in Navoi and Syrdarya regions is explained by the small population size as well as urbanization and migration processes. In Tashkent region, the sharp decrease in the number of marriages deserves particular attention from an economic-statistical point of view, and this situation may be related to labor migration, the delay in the age of marriage, and the expansion of the urban way of life.

From an economic-statistical point of view, the decrease in the number of marriages shows that the population's decisions about marriage are increasingly becoming tied to economic factors. Income stability, housing issues, employment levels, and future economic expectations directly affect marriage decisions. In this respect, the decline in marriage indicators is emerging as a statistical expression of the deepening socio-economic transformations in society.

The table data show that, despite marriage formation processes remaining relatively stable in Uzbekistan, significant changes are occurring in recent years under the influence of economic and social factors. This situation calls for a deep economic-statistical analysis of marriage indicators and for the scientific improvement of policy measures aimed at supporting the family.

The process of divorce among the population is one of the important demographic indicators reflecting the social stability of society, the strength of family institutions, and the level of development of socio-economic relations. The number of divorces and its dynamics are closely linked to the population's standard of living, degree of economic independence, employment conditions, urbanization processes, and changes in the system of social values. For this reason, analyzing divorce indicators from an economic-statistical point of view creates an important scientific basis for improving family-demographic policy.

This table reflects the change in the number of divorces in the Republic of Uzbekistan and its regions during 2018–2024. The choice of this period is significant in that it covers the pre-pandemic stable stage, the pandemic years, and the subsequent adaptation processes. This makes it possible to statistically assess how sensitive divorce processes are to external economic and social factors.

Table 2. Number of divorces, in units (total)

Region	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Republic of Uzbekistan	32326	31389	28233	39349	48733	49198	45135
Republic of Karakalpakstan	1344	1243	1028	1467	2067	1933	1755
Andijan region	4149	3650	3125	3945	5013	5480	4781
Bukhara region	1755	1724	1517	2084	2561	2485	2329
Jizzakh region	1098	1079	1068	1283	1730	1679	1696

Kashkadarya region	1626	1567	2010	2867	3471	3376	2989
Navoi region	997	942	931	1224	1431	1492	1258
Namangan region	2508	2392	2104	3171	4389	4395	4123
Samarkand region	3725	3468	2961	4174	4904	4639	4599
Surkhandarya region	1885	1889	1600	2264	2804	3047	2893
Syrdarya region	1112	1104	1093	1411	1761	1582	1505
Tashkent region	3740	3583	2958	4086	5080	4826	4570
Fergana region	3070	3192	2841	4295	5451	5773	4800
Khorezm region	1025	1027	1098	1507	2137	2322	1924

Analysis of the table data shows that during 2018–2024, an overall upward trend was observed in the number of divorces in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Specifically, while 32.3 thousand divorces were recorded nationwide in 2018, this figure had reached 45.1 thousand by 2024. This indicates that divorce processes have been intensifying in recent years.

The decrease in the number of divorces in 2020 is explained by restrictions on the operation of courts and civil registry (ZAGS) offices under pandemic conditions, as well as social uncertainty. However, starting in 2021, a sharp increase in the number of divorces was observed, which is linked to accumulated family problems from the post-pandemic period and the execution of delayed divorce decisions. The fact that the number of divorces remained high in 2022–2023 shows that this process is becoming a stable trend.

Regional analysis shows that the regions with the highest number of divorces are Tashkent, Samarkand, Fergana, and Andijan regions. In these regions, the large population size, relatively high level of urbanization, and socio-economic activity are affecting the high number of divorces. In particular, a significant increase in the number of divorces was observed in Fergana and Samarkand regions during 2021–2023.

The relatively low number of divorces in Navoi, Jizzakh, and Syrdarya regions is explained by the small population size and the stronger preservation of traditional family relations. The increase in the number of divorces in the Republic of Karakalpakstan reflects the influence of socio-economic conditions, migration processes, and employment-related factors.

From an economic-statistical point of view, the increase in the number of divorces shows that the stability of family relations is becoming increasingly tied to economic factors. The expansion of women's participation in the labor market, the growth of economic independence, and the strengthening of the urban way of life are making it relatively easier to make divorce decisions. At the same time, housing issues, income instability, and the insufficiency of social support mechanisms are emerging as factors that intensify family conflicts.

Overall, the table data show that divorce processes in Uzbekistan have been intensifying in recent years, and that this situation is an important statistical expression of socio-economic transformations. A deep economic-statistical analysis of these processes is of great scientific and practical importance for developing social policy measures aimed at strengthening the family.

5. Conclusions

The economic-statistical analyses conducted showed that divorce processes in the Republic of Uzbekistan have intensified significantly in recent years. The overall upward trend in the number of divorces during 2018–2024 confirms that the socio-economic factors affecting the stability of family relations are growing stronger. In particular, the sharp increase in the number of divorces in the post-pandemic period showed that the

institution of marriage is highly sensitive to external economic and social shocks. This situation revealed the need to interpret divorce processes not only as a social phenomenon, but as a process closely linked to the economic environment and employment conditions.

The results of the regional analysis showed that divorces are recorded more frequently in regions with high population density, relatively developed urbanization, and high economic activity. This means that regional economic conditions, labor market opportunities, and the level of social infrastructure play an important role in divorce processes. At the same time, the fact that the number of divorces remains relatively low in some regions shows that the influence of traditional family values and social control mechanisms remains strong.

The results obtained substantiate the need for a deep economic-statistical analysis of divorce processes. An increase in the number of divorces may, in the long run, lead to a rise in social costs, an intensification of problems related to children's well-being, and an increase in the share of socially vulnerable groups in the labor market. For this reason, it is of great importance to develop scientifically grounded demographic and socio-economic policy measures for managing these processes.

Based on these conclusions, it is advisable to put forward the following recommendations. First, in assessing divorce processes, it is necessary not to limit the analysis to absolute indicators alone, but to constantly monitor divorce coefficients per 1,000 population and marriage-to-divorce ratios. This will help identify real differences between regions and reveal hidden trends. Second, in regions with a high number of divorces, social programs aimed at supporting the family in particular, family counseling services, psychological assistance, and employment support mechanisms should be strengthened.

Third, increasing economic stability, providing young families with housing, and creating stable sources of income should be recognized as important factors strengthening marriage stability. Fourth, forming official statistics on marriage and divorce in greater detail by region and social group, and developing an open data base, will improve the quality of scientific research and the effectiveness of policy decisions.

The economic-statistical analysis of divorce processes, based on the results obtained, serves as an important scientific-practical basis for improving family-demographic policy, strengthening social stability, and enhancing population well-being.

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