



**MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**FOR THE PUBLICATION OF STATISTICS ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE,  
MALAYSIA, 2023**

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**NUMBER OF MARRIAGES WAS 214,824, DECREASED 0.5 PER CENT WHILE  
DIVORCES WAS 62,890, INCREASED 43.1 PER CENT IN 2022**

**PUTRAJAYA, 23<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023** – Department of Statistics, Malaysia has released the report on Marriage and Divorce Statistics, Malaysia, 2023 which presents the statistics on marriage and divorce for 2021 & 2022 by demographic characteristics at national, state and administrative district. Statistics on marriage and divorce are an important input used for the formulation of social policies to strengthen the family institutions in Malaysia. It is also a useful source of reference for researchers and academia.

Commenting on the report, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "The number of marriages was 214,824 in 2022, a decrease of 0.5 per cent as compared to 215,973 in 2021. The median age for grooms remained at aged 28.0 years in 2022 while median age for brides increased to 27.0 years as compared to 26.0 years in 2021. The decrease in the number of marriages was contributed by a decrease of 4.1 per cent in the number of Muslim marriages in 2022 (168,726) as compared to 2021 (176,002). Three states that registered the high decrease of Muslim marriages were W.P. Putrajaya (19.6%), followed by Perak (12.8%) and Terengganu (11.3%). Meanwhile, the number of Non-Muslim marriages increased at 15.3 per cent from 39,971 (2021) to 46,098 (2022). Three states recorded the high increase of Non-Muslim marriages were Terengganu (40.2%), Johor (26.6%) and Negeri Sembilan (21.1%)".

*This report also shows that overall general marriage rate for grooms decreased from 46.0 to 45.3 per thousand population of unmarried males aged 18 years and over. A similar trend was also recorded for brides, which decreased from 47.6 to 47.1 per thousand population of unmarried females aged 16 years and over. In tandem with the increase in the overall number of marriages, general marriage rate for Muslim grooms also decreased from 60.4 to 57.3 per thousand population of unmarried Muslim males aged 18 years and over. A similar trend was also recorded for Muslim brides, which decreased from 62.0 to 59.1 per thousand population of unmarried Muslim females aged 16 years and over. Meanwhile, general marriage rate for Non-Muslim grooms increased from 22.4 to 25.7 per thousand population of unmarried Non-Muslim males aged 18 years and over. Similarly, general marriage rate for Non-Muslim brides increased from 23.6 to 27.0 per thousand population of unmarried Non-Muslim females aged 16 years and over.*

*Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also said, "Almost seven per cent of total marriages in 2022 were between grooms and brides of different ethnic groups. The number of inter-ethnic marriages decreased 15.4 per cent from 16,346 (2021) to 13,883. The inter-ethnic marriages among Muslim was 44.2 per cent and 55.8 per cent for Non-Muslim".*

*He added that the highest number of marriages falls under the age group 25-29 years for both grooms and brides. The statistics also showed that the oldest groom and bride in 2022 were 92 and 86 years old, respectively. On the other hand, 2.9 per cent males aged 65 years and over married younger females aged 24 years and below while 3.5 per cent females aged 65 years and over married younger males 24 years old and below.*

*Petaling district recorded the highest number of marriages in 2022 for both Muslim and Non-Muslim. The number of Muslim marriages for Petaling, Selangor was 8,602 followed by Johor Bahru, Johor (7,770) and Ulu Langat, Selangor (6,347). Similarly, for Non-Muslim, the district of Petaling, Selangor recorded 3,304 marriages followed by Johor Bahru, Johor (2,676) and Klang, Selangor (2,307).*

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also said "The number of divorces increased 43.1 per cent from 43,936 (2021) to 62,890 (2022). The number of Muslim divorces registered an increase of 45.8 per cent in 2022 (46,138) as compared to 2021 (31,650). The increase was attributed to cases that were carried forward from years. Three states recorded the high increase of Muslim divorces were Kedah (113.6%), followed by Sabah (94.5%) and Perlis (83.5%). Similarly, Non-Muslim divorces also increased 36.4 per cent from 12,286 (2021) to 16,752 (2022). Three states recorded the high increase of Non-Muslim divorces were W.P. Putrajaya (500.0%), followed by Johor (61.5%) and Melaka (59.0%). The highest number of divorces falls under the age group 35-39 years for grooms, while for brides under the age group 30-34".

In tandem with the increase in the number of divorces, the general divorce rate for males increased from 6.1 (2021) to 8.7 (2022) per thousand population of married males aged 18 years and over. A similar trend was also observed for females, increased from 6.2 (2021) to 8.9 (2022) per thousand population of married females aged 16 years and over. The general divorce rate for Muslim males increased from 7.1 (2021) to 10.4 per thousand population of married Muslim males aged 18 years and over in 2022. A similar trend was also observed for Muslim females which increased from 7.3 (2021) to 10.6 per thousand population of married Muslim females aged 16 years and over. For Non-Muslim, the general divorce rate for Non-Muslim males increased from 4.4 (2021) to 6.1 (2022) per thousand of married Non-Muslim males aged 18 years and over. The general divorce rate for Non-Muslim females increased from 4.5 (2021) to 6.1 per thousand of married Non-Muslim females aged 16 years and over in 2022.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides a catalog of data and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis of various data and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

DOSM will conduct the Agricultural Census in 2024. Please visit <https://www.myagricensus.gov.my/> for more information. The theme is "Agriculture Census, Key to Agriculture Development".

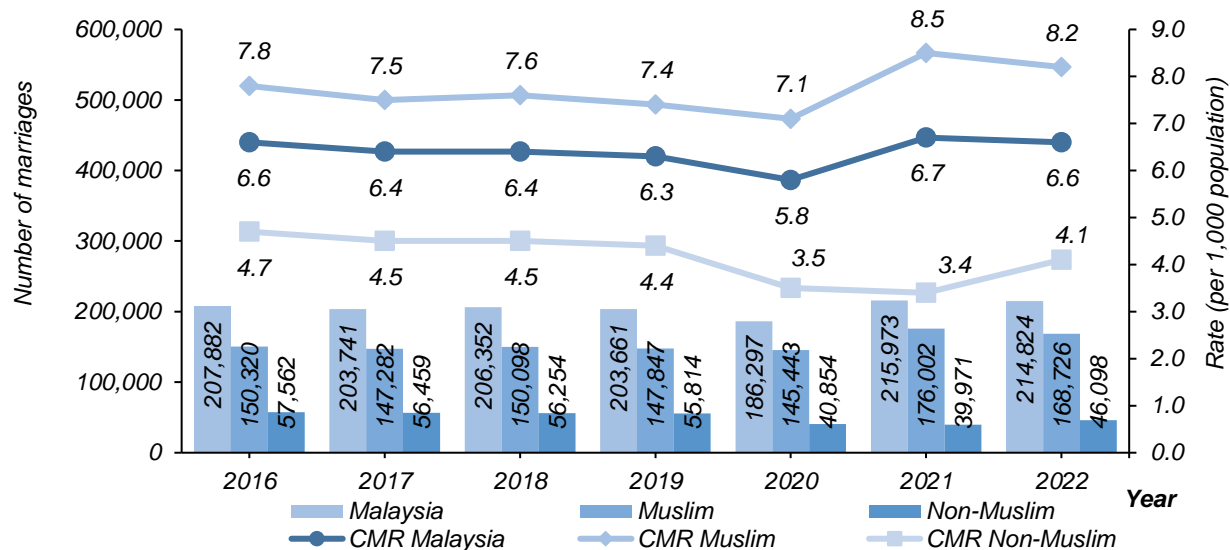
**Embargo:** Only to be published or disseminated at **1200 hour, Thursday, 23<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

*The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th each year. MyStats Day theme is “Statistics is the Essence of Life”.*

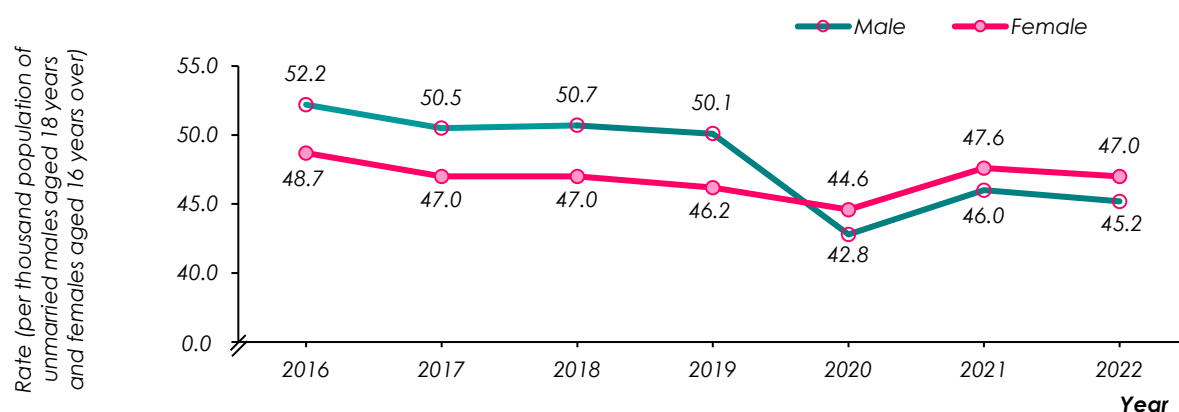
**Notes:**

- i. General Marriage Rate refers to the number of male marriages per thousand population of unmarried males aged 18 years and over or female aged 16 years and over.*
- ii. General Divorce Rate refers to the number of male divorces per thousand population of married males aged 18 years and over or female aged 16 years and over.*

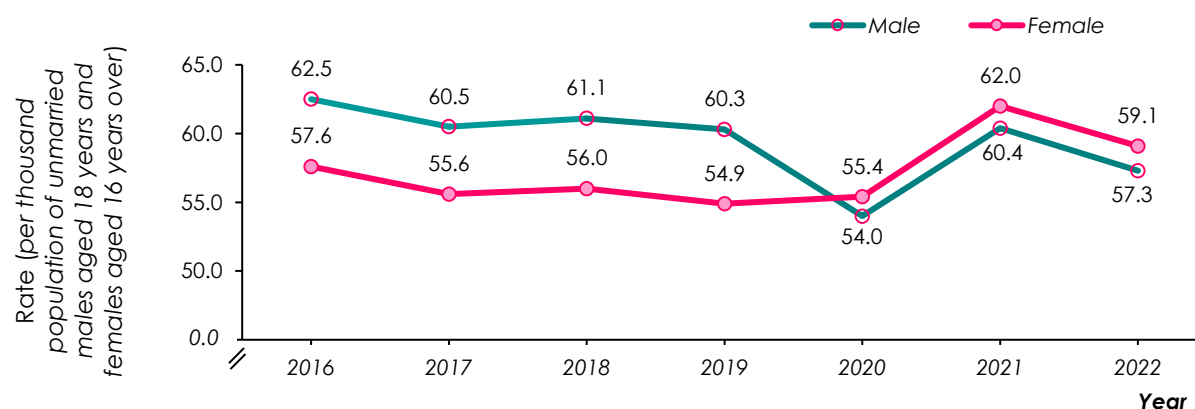
**Chart 1: Number of marriages and Crude Marriage Rate (CMR), Malaysia, 2016-2022**



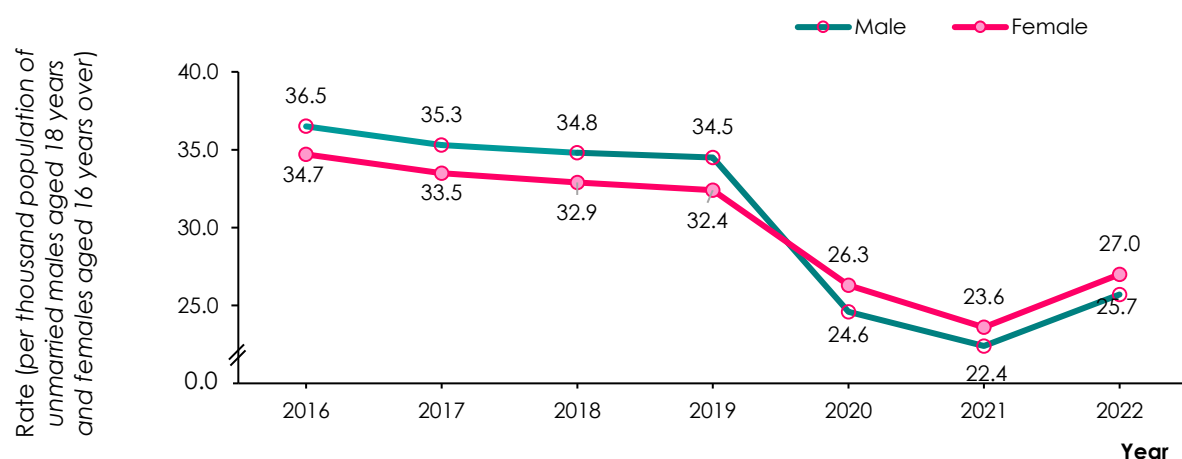
**Chart 2 (a): General Marriage Rate (GMR), Malaysia, 2016-2022**



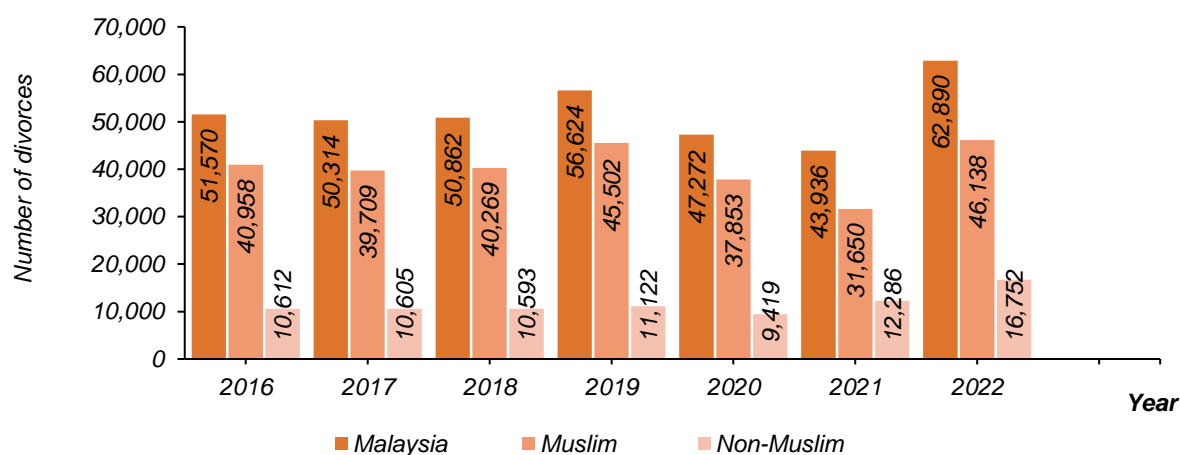
**Chart 2 (b): General Marriage Rate (GMR) Muslim, Malaysia, 2016-2022**



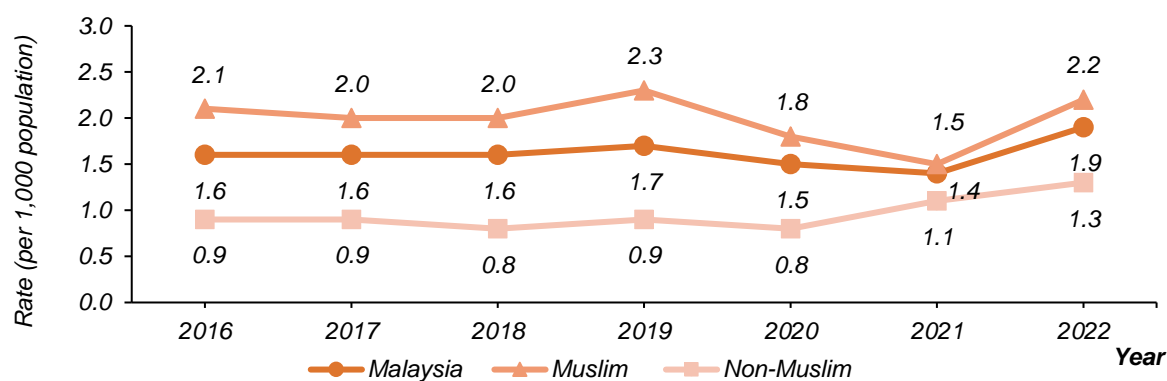
**Chart 2 (c): General Marriage Rate (GMR) Non-Muslim, Malaysia, 2016-2022**



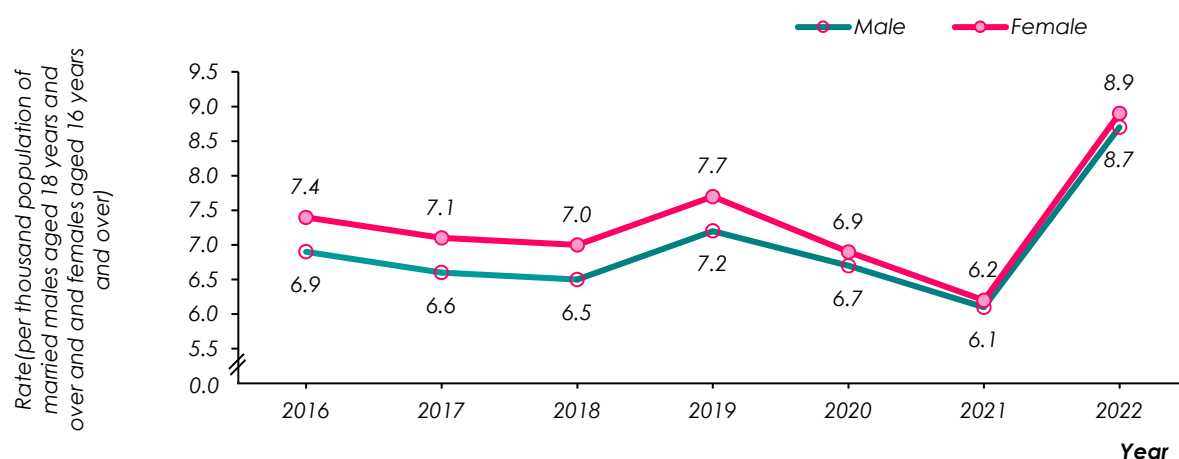
**Chart 3 (a): Number of divorces, Malaysia, 2016-2022**



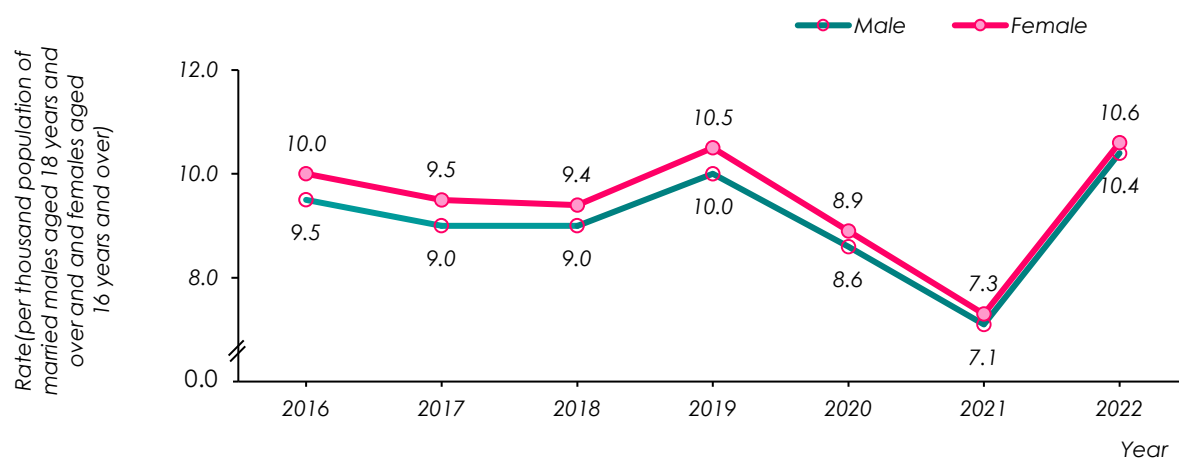
**Chart 3 (b): Crude Divorce Rate (CDR), Malaysia, 2016-2022**



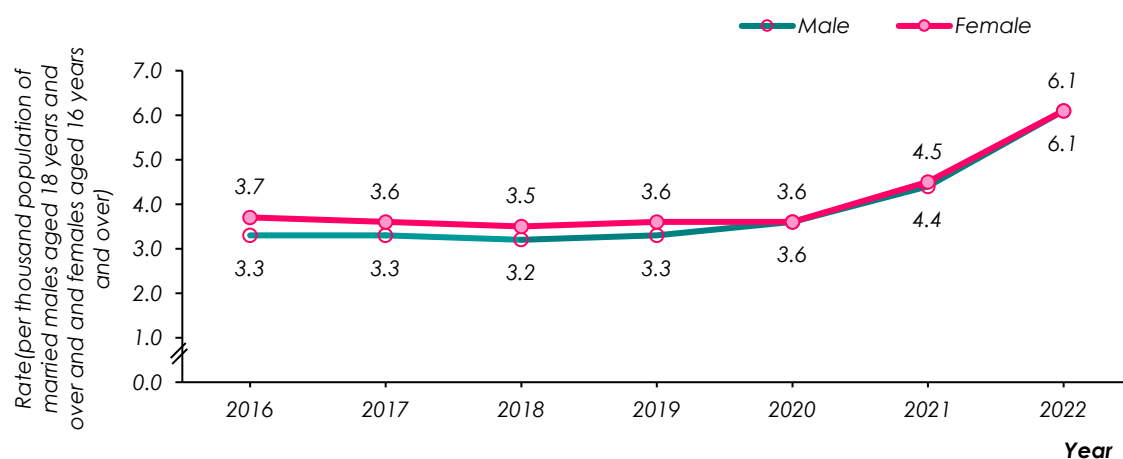
**Chart 4 (a): General Divorce Rate (GDR), Malaysia, 2016-2022**



**Chart 4 (b): General Divorce Rate (GDR) Muslim, Malaysia, 2016-2022**



**Chart 4 (b): General Divorce Rate (GDR) Non-Muslim, Malaysia, 2016-2022**



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**Table 1: Number of marriages and Crude Marriage Rate (CMR) for selected country, 2021 and 2022**

<b>Country</b>	<b>2021</b>		<b>2022</b>	
	<b>Number of marriages</b>	<b>CMR</b>	<b>Number of marriages</b>	<b>CMR</b>
<b>Malaysia</b>	215,973	6.7	214,824	6.6
<b>Singapore</b>	28,329	6.5	29,389	6.7
<b>Kuwait</b>	16,393	6.5	13,656	4.7
<b>Palestine</b>	45,018	8.6	43,430	8.1
<b>Turkiye</b>	561,710	6.7	574,358	6.7

*Note: The rates are per 1,000 population*

*Source: National Statistical Offices*

*Released by:*

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA  
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