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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**



**WOMEN AND MEN IN ALGERIA  
A STATISTICAL PORTRAIT**

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## Foreword

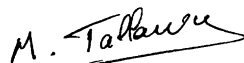
*Women and Men in Algeria: A Statistical Portrait* is one of several publications produced under the umbrella of ESCWA's regional project, *Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries*, which aims to enhance the capacities of national statistical offices in Arab countries and to produce and disseminate gender statistics.

This project is funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND). Since 1997, the project has been undertaken by 12 Arab countries, namely Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

Additionally, since December 1998, national activities corresponding to the project have been implemented in Algeria through joint collaboration between the Centre National d'Etudes et d'Analyses pour la Planification (CENEAP), the Office National de Statistiques (ONS) and concerned ministries and governmental organizations. Additional support was provided by country offices of UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

This booklet offers a statistical portrait of the status of women and men in Algeria based on the original Arabic document entitled "Women and Men in Algeria: Statistical Portrait" that was produced by CENEAP.

I would like to thank the Social Statistics and Indicators Team in the Social Development Division for their preparation of this booklet.



MERVAT TALLAWY  
Executive Secretary

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Special thanks go to Ms. May Baydoun, who was assigned to draft the content of the booklet.

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## INTRODUCTION

Marked disparities in the status of women and men exist everywhere. The need to collect, analyse and present data from a gender-perspective is critical for illuminating these differences. In this regard, gender statistics raise awareness on key gender issues, and serve as a basis for policy-making and programming. They are also used to assess the extent of improvement in women and men's lives.

*Women and Men in Algeria: A Statistical Portrait* provides trend analysis of the population by gender in various domains of life for the period 1962-1997. Analysis is presented by area of residence and across different social strata, such as the economically active, unemployed, housing characteristics and household headship. Data were based mainly on general population and housing censuses, as well as other specialized economic activity surveys. However, not all data were disaggregated by sex.

*Chapter I*

**DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

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## ***DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS***

### **I. Population**

The age-sex distribution of the population was based on annual estimates from general population and housing censuses and annual vital registration reports on principal demographic events – namely, births and deaths. Estimates for the age-sex distribution of the population were prepared by the National Office of Statistics. The age distribution of the population in 1970 was derived from the results of the national socio-demographic survey that was conducted in three phases during the period 1969-1971. Phase 1 covered a sample of 355,000 individuals (59,085 households), yielding information by region and area of residence on basic demographic parameters (nuptiality, birth, fertility, death), as well as other socio-demographic characteristics of the population.

#### **A. Overall population trends**

Between 1970 and 1990, major demographic changes occurred in Algeria. The population increased by almost three-fold, from 13.3 million to 25.04 million. Population estimates for 1998 were 29.3 million. Table 1 offers further data on the population for the period 1901-1998.

Trends in basic demographic parameters, namely the crude birth rate (CBR), crude death rate (CDR) and rate of natural increase (RNI) for the period 1967-1997 are depicted in Figure 1. The rate of natural increase (RNI) remained greater than 3% between 1962 and 1985, leading to a rapid growth in population. However, this rate declined markedly as of 1986, reaching 1.6% in 1997.

**Table 1**  
**Population of Algeria, selected years in the period 1901-1998**

Year of census	Total Population	Female population
1901	4,089,000	NR*
1931	5,588,000	NR*
1954	8,745,000	4,025,000
1966	11,460,047	5,638,343
1977	15,645,491	7,872,431
1987	22,600,957	11,175,465
1998	29,272,343	14,471,744

\* Not reported in the census results.

*Sources: Population censuses, 1901-1998 (RGPH) /National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

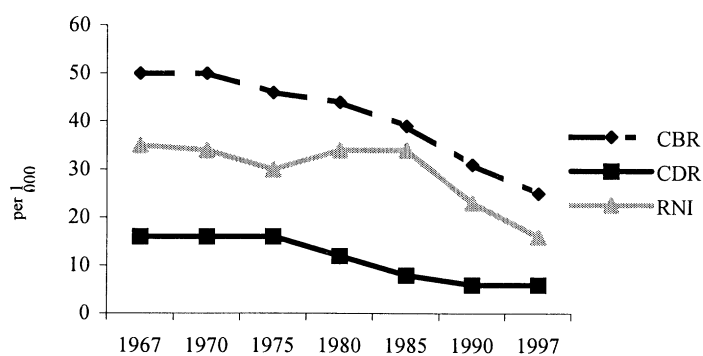
Figure 2 illustrates the composition of the population by gender for selected years in the period 1970-1998. Women outnumbered men over the entire period, notwithstanding the under-registration of the female population.

The observed gender imbalance was triggered by the participation of Algerian men in wars, mainly the National Liberation War that lasted more than seven years (1954-1962) and both World Wars. Another explanatory factor is the international emigration movement of Algerian men between 1960 and 1970. It is worth noting that emigration was officially restrained in 1973.

In 1990, the situation was reversed with a mild predominance of the male population. The sex ratio (W/M) dropped from 1.04 in 1970, to 1.01 in 1980, stabilizing at 0.97 in 1990 and 1998.

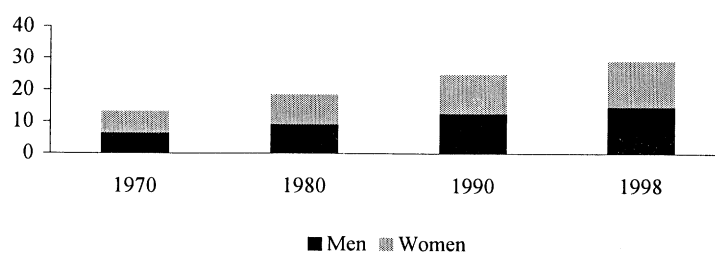
The mild predominance of men over women may be related to the persistent under-registration of the female population in certain regions of the country.

**Figure 1**  
Trends in basic demographic parameters, selected years in the period 1967-1997



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1967, 1977, 1987 and 1998; Annual estimations for 1970, 1980 and 1990 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 2**  
Composition of the population by gender (in millions), selected years in the period 1970-1998



Source: Population census (RGPH), 1998; Annual estimations for 1970, 1980 and 1990 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

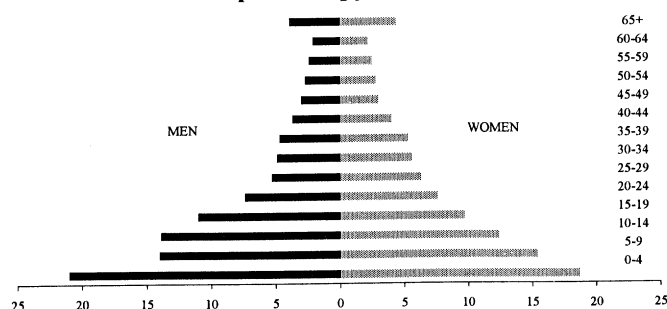
## B. Changes in age structure

Figures 3a through 3d depict the composition of the Algerian population by age and gender in 1970, 1980, 1990 and 1998 respectively. The age distribution of the Algerian population between 1970 and 1990 shows a dominance of younger age groups (less than 15 years and less than 20 years). However, a marked reduction in the proportion of these age groups occurred in the mid-1980s. Although the population aged less than 15 years increased from 41.0% in 1970 to 46.5% in 1980, by 1998 it decreased to 36.1%. Similar findings were noted for those aged less than 20 years.

The proportion of the population aged 20-60 years grew from 35.2% in 1970 to 40.9% in 1990. In 1998, this age group composed 45% of the total population. This trend is linked to the rapid reduction in the proportion of young age groups and the slow ageing of the population. An approximate 5-point increase per decade in the proportion of 20-60-year-olds was noted.

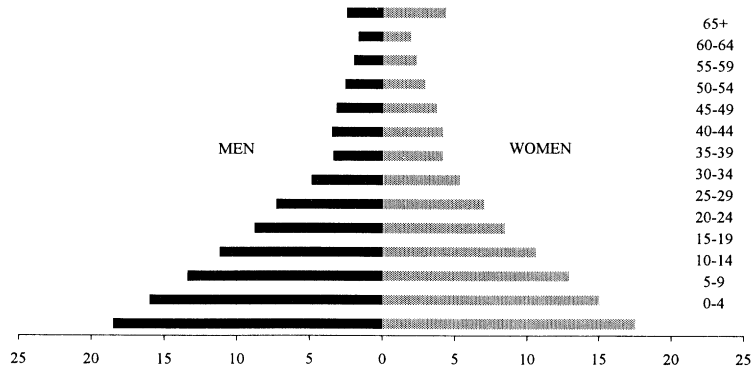
The elderly composed a small percent of the total population in the years 1970, 1980 and 1990. In fact, the percent of elderly as of the total population, decreased from 6.2% in 1970 to 5.6% in 1990. However, data for 1998 shows a 6.5% increase in the proportion of elderly. This suggests that the onset of population ageing processes is related to higher life expectancy.

**Figure 3a**  
**Population pyramid, 1970**



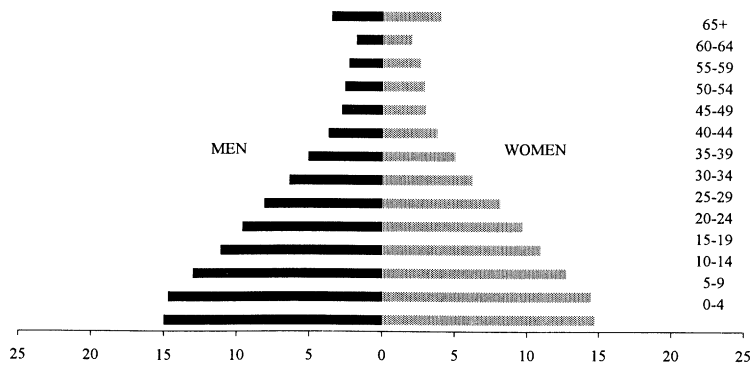
Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1998; Annual estimations for 1970, 1980 and 1990 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 3b**  
**Population pyramid, 1980**



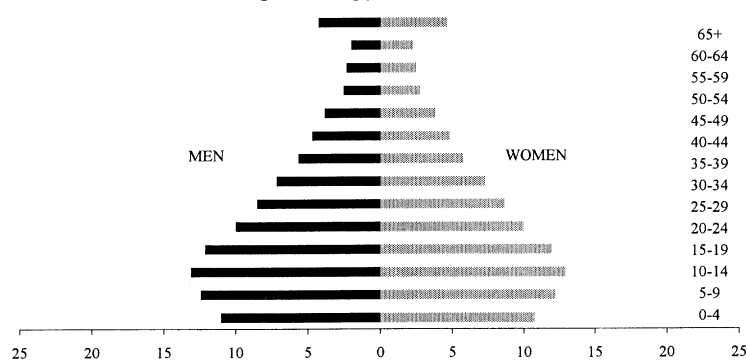
Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1998; Annual estimations for 1970, 1980 and 1990 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 3c**  
**Population pyramid, 1990**



Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1998; Annual estimations for 1970, 1980 and 1990 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 3d**  
**Population pyramid, 1998**



Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1998; Annual estimations for 1970, 1980 and 1990 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

As for age distribution by gender, a predominance of boys was observed for the younger age groups (less than 15 years and less than 20 years). The sex ratio (W/M) for these age groups ranged between 0.96 and 0.95. Since women are universally expected to outlive men, the female elderly population exceeded its male counterpart. Refer to table 2 for trends in the sex ratio by age groups between 1970 and 1998.

**Table 2**  
**Trends in sex ratio (W/M) by age group, selected years in the period 1970-1998**

Age group	Year			
	1970	1980	1990	1998
0-19	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96
20-59	1.17	1.07	0.99	0.98
60+	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.10
Total	1.04	1.01	0.97	0.97

Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1998; Annual estimations for 1970, 1980 and 1990 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

### C. Rural-urban distribution

The rapid urbanization that occurred following the country's independence in 1962 is reflected in the distribution of the population by area of residence (urban or rural). Table 3 depicts the percent distribution of the population by area of residence in 1970, 1987, and 1996.

While 35.0% of the population was living in urban areas in 1970, by 1987 this proportion reached 49.7%. In 1996, over 51% of the Algerian population were dwelling in urban areas.

**Table 3**  
**Percent distribution of the population by area of residence, selected years**  
**in the period 1970-1996**

Area of residence	Year		
	1970	1987	1996
Urban	35.1	49.7	51.2
Rural	64.9	50.3	48.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987; Annual estimations for the year 1970; Results of national survey on income and workforce participation, 1996 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

In terms of gender composition, the majority of the population in rural areas were women in 1970, on account of the high volume of men migrating to urban areas in search of employment. While the ratio of women to men for those less than 20 years revealed a predominance of men in both rural and urban areas, in all other age segments women dominated. In rural areas, the proportion of women in the age group 25-44 years was higher than the corresponding proportion in urban areas, due to internal migration and emigration movements.

## II. Nuptiality

### A. Marital status by age and sex

Since the 1970s mean age at first marriage for both women and men has been increasing. Among women, mean age at first marriage increased from 18.4 years in 1970 to 27.6 years in 1998. The corresponding age among men increased from 24.4 years in 1970 to 31.3 years in 1998. Refer to table 4 for the mean age at first marriage by gender for selected years in the period 1966-1998.

**Table 4**  
Mean age at first marriage by gender, selected years in the period 1966-1998

Gender	Year of Census			
	1966	1977	1987	1998
Women	18.1	20.9	23.7	27.6
Men	23.2	25.3	27.7	31.3

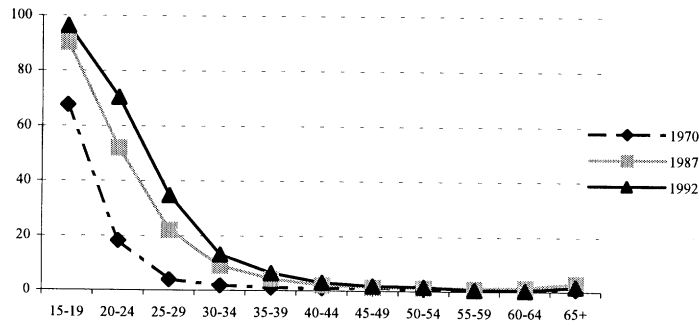
*Source: Population censuses (RGPH), 1966-1998 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

Figures 4a and 4b shows trends in the percent of singles by age among women and men respectively for the period 1970-1992. Among women aged 15 years or more, the proportion of singles increased from 17% in 1970 to 62% in 1990. The corresponding proportion among men increased from 34% in 1970 to 69% in 1990.

The highest increase in the proportion of singles among women was noted in age groups 15-20 years, 20-24 years and 25-29 years. In the latter group, more than one third of women were single by the year 1992, as compared to only 4% in 1970 and 25% in 1987. Among women in the reproductive age (15-49 years), 50% were found to be single in 1992.

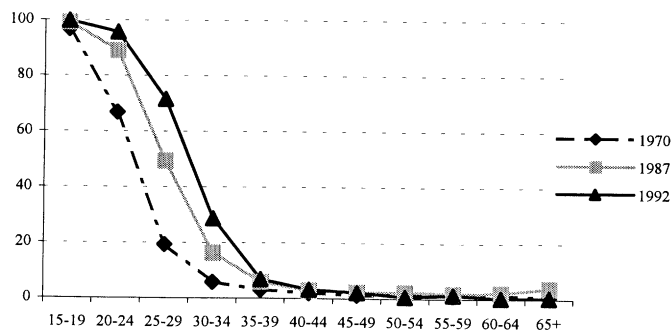


**Figure 4a**  
**Percent of single women by age, selected years in the period 1970-1992**



Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1987; Sociodemographic survey, 1970; PAPCHILD survey, 1992 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 4b**  
**Percent of single men by age, selected years in the period 1970-1992**



Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1987; Sociodemographic survey, 1970; PAPCHILD survey, 1992 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

Trends in the percent distribution of the population aged 15 years or more by marital status and gender for selected years in the period 1970-1998 are shown in table 5.

The increase in the proportion of singles among women lead to a reduction in the percent married for both men and women. Among women aged 15 years and above, the percent married decreased from 63.8% in 1970 to 31.8% in 1998. Among men in the same age category, this proportion decreased from 63.6% in 1970 to 30.3% in 1998. Similarly, the segment of widowed women declined from 15.9% in 1970 to 5.1% in 1998. The decline in this segment among men, from 1.5% in 1970 to 0.4% in 1998, was less notable than that of women.

The difference in the proportion of widows among women and men can be explained by the more frequent remarriage among men, which is promoted by society even at old age. In addition, the difference in age between married couples is also a main determinant of this gap. In fact, taking the elderly group aged 65 years or more, 61.6% of women were widowed in 1987, as compared to only 8.1% among men. Similar gaps were noted in the 1970s and later in the 1990s.

A decline in the percent divorced was observed both among women and men between 1970 and 1998. The steepest decrease among women occurred between 1970 and 1987, when the percent dropped from 3.8% to 2%. Among men, it ranged from 1.2% in 1970 to 0.3% in 1998. The frequency of remarriage among both genders is the main explanatory factor behind this decline.

**Table 5**  
**Trends in the percent distribution of population aged 15 years or more by marital status, selected years in the period 1970-1998**

Year of Census	Marital status							
	Single		Married		Widowed		Divorced / Separated	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
1970	16.5	33.7	63.8	63.6	15.9	1.5	3.8	1.2
1987	43.6	43.6	46.4	43.7	7.9	0.7	1.6	0.3
1992	48.1	48.1	42.3	40.0	7.8	0.6	1.9	0.4
1998	61.8	61.8	31.8	30.3	5.1	0.4	1.2	0.3

Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1987 and 1998; Socio-demographic survey, 1970; PAPCHILD survey, 1992 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

## **B. Nuptiality differentials by area of residence**

Table 6 shows the percent distribution of the population by marital status, area of residence (urban/rural) and gender in 1970 and 1992. Variations in nuptiality were mostly noted in urban areas, with an increase in the mean age at first marriage for both women and men. Among women, the mean age at first marriage increased from 21 years in 1970 to 26.9 years in 1992. In contrast, the corresponding age in rural areas among women was 18.2 years in 1970 and 24.4 years in 1992.

Similarly, among men residing in an urban setting, mean age at first marriage increased from 25.5 years in 1970 to 31.2 years in 1992. Men in rural areas married at the age of 23.2 years in 1970 and 28.8 in 1992.

Between 1970 and 1992, the mean age at first marriage among women increased more rapidly in rural areas (by 6.2 years) than in urban ones (5.9 years). The delayed entry into marriage is associated with improved access to the educational system. In the same period, the delay of marriage among men in urban and rural areas was the same (around 5.6 years).

When considering the distribution of the female population by marital status and area of residence, it appears that during the period 1970-1992, the proportion single was higher in urban settings, especially among those aged less than 35 years. In 1987, half of rural women aged 20-25 years were married, in comparison to only one third in urban areas.

The proportion widowed or divorced among women was greater in urban than in rural areas. Factors behind this gap include differentials in familial stability and a higher chance of remarriage in rural settings, knowing that the status of young divorced or widowed women is less accepted in those areas. Among men, no difference was observed in marital status between residential areas. The frequency of remarriage among men was comparable in both settings.

**Table 6**  
**Percent distribution of the population by marital status, area of residence, and gender, years 1970 and 1992**

Year of Census	Marital status								
	Single		Married		Widowed		Divorced / Separated		
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	
<b>1970</b>									
Urban	19.2	35.2	60.2	62.1	16.1	1.3	4.4	1.3	
Rural	12.8	31.4	70.1	65.4	14.5	1.9	2.5	1.3	
<b>1992</b>									
Urban	49.2	60.0	40.3	38.9	8.1	0.6	2.5	0.4	
Rural	47.0	57.8	44.3	41.2	7.5	0.7	1.2	0.3	

*Sources: Socio-demographic survey, 1970 and PAPCHILD survey, 1992 / National Office of Statistics.*

### III. Births

#### A. Trends in crude birth rate

Table 7 presents trends in the number of births and crude birth rates for selected years in the period 1970-1997. The crude birth rate declined from 50 births per 1,000 in 1970 to 39.9 births per 1,000 in 1990.

The distribution of births by age of the mother indicated a clear reduction in adolescence pregnancy, from 10.7% in 1970 to 4% in 1990. This rapid decline is mainly attributed to the increase in the mean age at marriage. Throughout the period 1970-1997, adolescence pregnancy was more prevalent in rural areas, even though the urban-rural gap had markedly decreased by 1980.

Whereas the highest number of births was found for women in the age group 20-24 years in 1970 and 1980, it shifted to the 25-29 year age group by 1990, as a result of lower fertility rates and delayed age at first marriage.

Trends in nuptiality produced a noteworthy reduction in adolescence pregnancy rate, with a positive and undeniable effect on maternal and child health. However, the intrinsic value of children, women's maternal role and perceptions of self-fulfilment within the family and society, resulted in a significant number of births among women aged 25-40 years.

**Table 7**  
**Number of births and crude birth rates, selected years in the period 1970-1997**

Year	Number of births	Crude Birth Rates (CBR)
1970	603,376*	50.16
1975	667,484*	46.05
1980	760,000	43.86
1985	864,000	39.50
1990	775,000	30.94
1995	771,000	25.33
1997	653,000	22.47

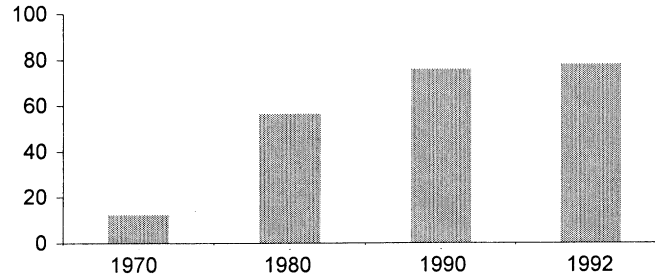
\* Unadjusted numbers recorded in vital registries.

Sources: Annual estimates of births registered in the civil status registries, 1970-1997 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

Figure 5 depicts the proportion of deliveries conducted in a professionally assisted environment for the period 1970-1992. This proportion increased from 12.4% in 1970 to 76% in 1990.

Stratified data by area of residence was available for the years 1970 and 1992, showing a wide gap in the proportion of deliveries conducted in a professionally assisted environment between urban and rural areas. In fact, in 1970, this proportion in urban areas was 30.5%, in contrast to only 4.3% in rural areas. By 1992, these proportions increased to 87.6% and 69.6% in urban and rural areas respectively.

**Figure 5**  
**Proportion of deliveries conducted in a professionally assisted environment, selected years in the period 1970-1992**



Sources: *Annual estimates of births registered in civil status registries, 1970-1990*; *PAPCHILD survey, 1992* / *National Office of Statistics (ONS)*.

#### **IV. Fertility**

Total fertility rate declined from 8.36 births per woman in 1970 to 3.51 births per woman in 1995. This decline was attributed both to the delay in the age at first marriage and the increasing use of contraceptive methods. Analysis of age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) shows that the most significant decline occurred among women aged less than 20 years. The peak of fertility, which was observed for those aged 25-30 years in 1970, shifted to the age group 30-35 in 1985 and 1995. Refer to table 8 for trends in age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rates for selected years in the period 1970-1995.

The poor diffusion of contraceptive methods during the 1970s led to a quasi-natural fertility pattern in both urban and rural settings. Throughout the period 1970-1995, fertility rates in rural areas were consistently higher than those in urban areas, with the gap between the two growing from 0.8 point-difference in 1970 to 1.7 in 1992.

However, between 1970-1992, fertility rates in urban areas declined at a faster rate, with a 3.7 point-difference, as compared to a 2.8-point difference in rural areas. This can be explained by higher access to modern contraceptive methods in urban areas.

In the same period, the extent of decrease in fertility rates among women aged 15-19 years was greater in rural areas than urban areas. In 1992, peak of fertility in urban areas was among the age group 30-34 years, as compared to 25-29 year age group in rural areas.

**Table 8**  
Trends in age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) and total fertility rates (TFR), selected years in the period 1970-1995

Year	Age group							TFR
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	
1970	114	338	388	355	282	153	42	8.36
1977	97	284	341	336	266	128	27	7.40
1980	69	288	330	286	264	125	25	6.96
1985	43	240	298	308	236	101	22	6.24
1990	23	148	222	223	186	86	17	4.50
1995	21	122	167	172	140	65	15	3.51

Sources: Population census 1977; Socio-demographic survey, 1970; Annual estimates 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

Age at last birth shifted from 30-34 years in 1987 to 35-39 years in 1998. This trend implies the need for greater surveillance on pregnancies, given that late motherhood, like early ones, pose significant risks to maternal and child health.

Minimal nationwide information was available on birth intervals. The first birth interval was estimated to range between 30.7 and 32.6 months in 1986. In 1992, first birth interval was estimated at 30.4 months. In addition, half of the women had their first birth after 16 months of marriage. The mean interval between births doubled between 1970 and 1990, as a result of higher contraceptive use.

Women's education level did not particularly determine the mean interval between births, since the gap between birth intervals for illiterate and educated women was only 3.3 months wide (29.7 and 33 months respectively). The high value placed on bearing children and

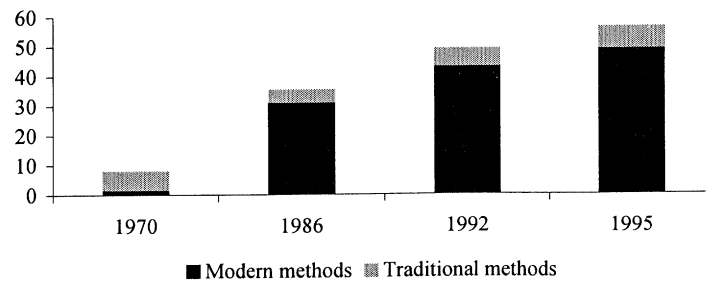
the social pressure to accelerate the process of inheritance resulted in a great desire among women to affirm their fertility closely after marriage, regardless of social class.

## V. Contraception

The rate of contraceptive use increased from 8% in 1970 to 56.9% in 1995. This trend is linked mostly to the widening of family planning services offered by the public sector in 1983, as well as to behavioural changes associated with modernization and awareness campaigns in keeping with national population policies.

Traditional methods have been replaced with modern contraceptives, whose proportion of use increased from 1.5% in 1970 to 49% in 1995. Whereas the impact of modern contraceptives was mostly noted in urban areas in 1970, by the 1995, their diffusion over the whole Algerian society resulted in equal use between urban and rural areas. Figure 6 illustrates trends in the percent use of traditional and modern contraception for selected years in the period 1970-1995.

**Figure 6**  
**Trends in percent use of contraception by type of method, selected years in the period 1970-1995**



Sources: *Socio-demographic survey, 1970; ENAF, 1986; PAPCHILD survey, 1992; MDG, 1995 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

The most commonly used contraceptive method since the 1980s has been the 'pill' (75% of women using contraception). It is followed by the intra-uterine device (IUD), with a proportion of 7% in 1995. This small but increasing trend is linked to the promotion of IUD use in



national programs. Sterilization has not been utilized as a method of family planning. Table 9 and shows trends in the percent use of contraception by method for selected years in the period 1970-1995.

**Table 9**  
Trends in percent use of contraception by method,  
selected years in the period 1970-1995

Contraceptive method	Year			
	1970	1986	1992	1995
Any modern method	1.5	31.1	43.1	49.0
Pill	--	26.4	38.7	43.4
IUD	--	2.1	2.4	4.1
Condoms	--	0.5	0.7	0.8
Injections	--	0.6	0.2	0.04
Other methods	--	1.5	1.1	0.3
Any traditional method	6.5	4.4	6.0	7.5
Breastfeeding	--	--	4.0	4.4
Safe period	--	0.6	1.7	2.4
Withdrawal	--	3.1	1.8	0.6
Total	8.0	35.5	50.8	56.9

Sources: Sociodemographic survey, 1970; ENAF, 1986; PAPCHILD survey, 1992; MDG, 1995 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).

Table 10 shows trends in the percent use of contraception by age for selected years in the period 1970-1995. In 1986, the most prevalent use of contraception was observed among women aged 35-39 years. By 1995, it was among those aged 30-34 years.

Among women aged less than 20 years, contraceptive use increased from 17% in 1986 to 43.5% in 1995. Women aged more than 45 years also increased their use of contraceptives. In 1995, 33.5% of women in the 45-49-year-old age group were using contraceptives as compared to 23.9% in 1986.

**Table 10**  
Trends in percent use of contraception by age of women,  
selected years in the period 1970-1995

Age group	Year			
	1970	1986	1992	1995
15-19	8	17.1	26.4	43.5
20-24		26.8	39.6	52.3
25-29		36.5	52.7	62.4
30-34	7	40.3	56.1	63.8
35-39		44.7	56.4	63.1
40-44	8	42.2	52.2	53.8
45-49		23.9	38.9	33.5
Total	8.0	35.5	50.8	56.9

*Sources: Sociodemographic survey, 1970; ENAF, 1986; PAPCHILD survey, 1992; MDG, 1995 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

Trends in percent use of contraception by area of residence for selected years in the period 1970-1995 are shown in table 11. The gap in contraceptive use between urban and rural was most accentuated in 1970, such that less than 1% of women in rural areas were users. This gap stabilized at 23-point difference in 1986 and 1992, with similar rates of increase in prevalence noted in both urban and rural areas. By 1995, equity in contraceptive use (gap: 0.03) was achieved as a result of increasing use in rural areas. This advancement noted in rural areas may be linked to larger health coverage, as well as higher motivation among couples, and mainly among women.

**Table 11**  
Trends in the percent use of contraception by area of residence,  
selected years in the period 1970-1995

Area of residence	Year			
	1970	1986	1992	1995
Urban	12.5	38.6	57.5	57.2
Modern methods	5.0	33.3	46.5	48.4
Rural	4.0	29.6	44.1	56.6
Modern methods	0.0	26.8	35.6	49.7

*Sources: Sociodemographic survey, 1970; ENAF, 1986; PAPCHILD survey, 1992; MDG, 1995 /National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

## VI. Mortality

Crude death rates (CDR) decreased markedly over the years, from 16.4 per 1,000 in 1970 to 6.4 per 1,000 in 1997. The decrease is mostly attributed to a decline in infant and child mortality, and to better accessibility to health services. The establishment of free-of-charge medical services in 1974, and global efforts to develop infrastructure and improve educational levels, have also contributed to lower crude death rates.

Between 1970 and 1990, the child mortality rate (1-4-year-olds) among boys was higher than the corresponding rate among girls. However, according to the PAPCHILD survey that was conducted in 1992, girls aged 1-4 years had a slightly higher rate of mortality than boys in the same age group.

**Table 12**  
Trends in crude infant mortality rates, child mortality rates and crude death rates, selected years in the period 1970-1996

Year	IMR Infant mortality rate (<1year)			CMR Child mortality rate (1-4 years)			CDR Crude death rate
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	
1970	141.0	142.0	141.5	218.0	235.0	226.5	16.45
1980	93.2	101.4	97.3	107.3	114.3	110.8	11.77
1985	76.6	80.0	78.3	81.8	84.5	83.3	8.40
1990	55.5	60.0	57.8	65.7	71.4	68.5	6.03
1996	54.4	59.5	56.9	56.9	61.5	59.2	6.03

*Source: Population estimates from civil state registries for vital events and population censuses (RGPH), 1970-1996 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

Mortality differentials by area of residence were observed in the 1970s and 1990s. In 1970, the infant mortality rate in urban areas was around 122 deaths per 1,000 live births, as compared to 150 deaths per 1,000 live births in rural areas. Child mortality rates in urban and rural areas were 164 and 257 per 1,000 respectively. Although the urban-rural gap in child mortality rate had diminished to approximately a 25 point-difference by 1992, it remained relatively high.

Mortality rates among girls, whether in urban or rural areas, were generally lower than those of boys, except for the age group 1-4 years. Mortality rates for boys aged less than 5 years were higher than corresponding rates among girls by 8.4 points in urban areas and 16.5 points in rural ones. However, mortality among girls aged group 1-4 years in both urban and rural areas was higher than that of boys, by approximately 3-point difference.

In 1970, mortality rates among women of the reproductive age group (15-49 years) was higher than those of men in the same age group, mainly due to maternal deaths that were still prevalent in that period. However, by the 1980's and into the 1990's, improvements in the health care sector triggered a decline in the maternal mortality ratio.

The first nationwide study conducted in 1989 revealed that 230 maternal deaths resulted for every 100,000 live births in Algeria. A similar study conducted three years later, in 1992, revealed a slight drop in this ratio, to 215 maternal deaths per 100,00 live births. Both findings were considered over-estimates, since the studies included maternal deaths that occurred within 10 years preceding the study.

In 1992, a significantly higher maternal mortality ratio was observed in rural areas than urban ones (224 versus 202 deaths per 100,000 live births respectively). This differential is highly associated with the proportion of deliveries conducted in a professionally assisted environment.

Information on the causes of maternal mortality was not available at the time when data for this booklet was collected. However, preliminary analysis suggested that 9% of maternal deaths were caused by abortion, which came in the fifth place after the following causes: haemorrhage; puerperal infections; hypertension; and difficult labour (uterine rupture).

Table 13 shows the trend in life expectancy in years, at different ages and by gender during the period 1970-1996. Life expectancy at 5 years is higher than that at birth, mainly due to relatively elevated infant mortality rates. Life expectancy at birth increased from 53 years in 1970 to 67.7 years in 1996.

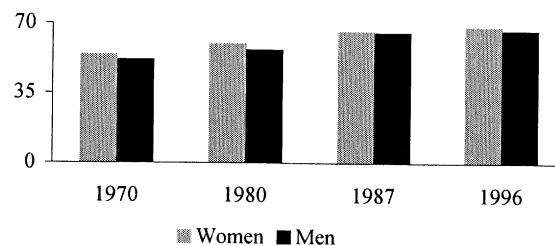
**Table 13**  
Trends in life expectancy at different ages (in years) and by gender, selected years in the period 1970-1996

Age	1970		1980		1987		1996	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
00	54.5	52.1	59.8	57.0	66.3	65.7	68.4	66.8
05	60.9	59.2	64.5	61.7	66.6	65.1	71.1	69.8
15	52.4	50.4	55.5	52.6	57.5	56.0	58.3	56.9
25	44.5	39.7	46.7	43.8	48.3	46.9	48.9	47.9
50	23.2	21.3	25.5	23.5	25.7	24.4	26.2	25.9
60	15.1	13.5	17.4	16.4	17.5	16.3	17.8	17.7

Source: Population estimates from civil state registries for vital events and population censuses (RGPH), 1970-1996 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

Figure 7 depicts the gender gap in life expectancy at birth for selected years in the period 1970-1986. The figure shows that life expectancy at birth is consistently higher among girls than boys, notwithstanding steady increases in both.

**Figure 7**  
Trends in life expectancy at birth, selected years in the period 1970-1996



Sources: Population estimates from civil state registers for vital events and population censuses (RGPH), 1970-1996 / National Office of Statistics (ONS)

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*Chapter II*

SOCIAL SECURITY, HEALTH AND MIGRATION

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## ***SOCIAL SECURITY, HEALTH AND MIGRATION***

### **I. Disabled population**

The frequency distribution of disabled population by nature of disability, gender and zone dispersion in the year 1998 are presented in table 14. There were more men than women among the disabled population (53.7% and 46.3%, respectively). The overall prevalence of disability in the same year was 5.8% for men and 5.1% for women. Moreover, disabilities caused by chronic conditions were more widespread among women, whereas all other causes and types prevailed among men, especially motor and mental disabilities. Approximately 70% of the disabled were residing in county towns, whereas the remainder were equally distributed between small towns and dispersed zones.

Most of the disabled population fell within the age group 55- 69 years. However, variations across age groups existed by the nature of disability as follows:

- 15-39 years: highest proportion of motor disability
- 10-34 years: highest proportion of auditory disability
- 60 + years: highest proportion of visual disability
- 10-44 years: highest proportion of mental disability
- 10-19 years and 80 +years: mostly multiple disabilities
- 40-74 years and 0-4 years: mostly chronic conditions.

### **II. Mortality trends and health situation: 1995-1997**

The identification of the principal causes of death strongly contributes to the determination of health priorities and orientation of health policies. In 1995, the National Institute of Health revived a unit responsible for the collection and analysis of such data. It was discovered that only 13% of deaths occurring in hospitals were declared to the Civil Registration. The distribution of deaths by underlying cause that occurred in hospitals in the years 1995 and 1997 are presented in table 15.

**Table 14**  
**Frequency distribution of disabled population by nature of disability,**  
**gender and zone dispersion, year 1998**

	Nature of Disability							Total
	Motor	Auditory	Visual	Mental	Multi	Chronic disease	Other	
<b>Women</b>	<b>77,183</b>	<b>24,025</b>	<b>60,117</b>	<b>47,930</b>	<b>34,726</b>	<b>262,526</b>	<b>229,852</b>	<b>736,359</b>
County town	52,040	15,122	39,738	30,927	23,257	202,855	167,618	531,537
Small town	11,898	3,839	10,400	7,828	5,533	32,011	35,165	106,674
Dispersed zone	13,245	5,064	9,979	9,175	5,936	27,680	27,069	98,148
<b>Men</b>	<b>148,870</b>	<b>39,936</b>	<b>86,081</b>	<b>91,548</b>	<b>42,372</b>	<b>250,447</b>	<b>193,950</b>	<b>854,104</b>
County town	98,196	23,277	55,378	60,157	27,298	186,379	135,760	586,445
Small town	22,400	7,062	14,398	15,228	7,099	31,898	30,228	128,313
Dispersed zone	28,274	9,597	17,205	16,163	7,975	32,170	27,962	139,346
Sex ratio (M/W)	1.93	1.66	1.43	1.91	1.22	0.95	0.84	1.16

*Source: Annual Report of the National Office of Statistics (ONS); (RGPH, pp. 89-98).*

**Table 15**  
**Distribution of deaths by underlying cause, years 1995 and 1997**

Underlying Cause	Year			
	1995		1997	
	No.	%	No.	%
Symptoms/Unclassified	2,312	11.70	3,842	22.50
Infectious/Parasitic	2,001	10.00	1,716	10.00
Respiratory infections	402	2.00	544	3.20
Maternal causes	125	0.63	93	0.54
Perinatal causes	5,116	25.80	3,678	21.50
Neoplasms	933	4.70	687	4.00
Diabetes	536	2.70	370	2.20
Endocrine nutritional	511	2.60	297	1.80
Nervous	201	1.00	92	0.54
Circulatory	3,170	16.00	2,787	16.40
Respiratory	813	4.10	445	2.60
Digestive	774	3.90	605	3.50
Genito-urinary	583	3.00	386	2.30
Skin	16	0.08	7	0.04
Musculoskeletal	21	0.10	14	0.08
Congenital	397	2.00	334	2.00
Other NCDs	35	0.17	44	0.25
Trauma/poisoning	1,914	9.70	1,112	6.60
Total	19,860	100.0	17,063	100.0
AIDS	410	-	-	-
Fatal road accidents	799	-	-	-

*Source: Analysis of mortality from hospital records, 1995-1997 / National Institute of Public Health (INSP).*

#### **A. Distribution by gender and age**

As evident in table 16, which shows the distribution of deaths by gender and age in the period 1995-1997, over one-half of the deaths that occurred were those of men. During this period, the highest

proportion of death occurred mostly at two extreme age groups, namely young children (0-4 years) and the elderly (60 years or more).

**Table 16**  
**Distribution of deaths by gender and age, period 1995-1997**

	Year					
	1995		1996		1997	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Gender</b>						
Women	8,237	42.0	5,881	43.2	7,165	42.0
Men	11,514	58.0	7,745	56.8	9,795	57.4
<b>Age</b>						
0-4	8,109	41.0	4,967	36.4	6,480	38.0
5-14	780	4.0	562	4.1	674	4.0
15-29	1,297	6.6	932	6.8	1,206	7.0
30-44	1,624	8.2	1,170	8.6	1,342	8.0
45-59	1,892	9.6	1,343	9.8	1,686	10.0
60+	6,037	30.6	1,059	34.0	5,675	25.5
<b>Total</b>	19,739	100.0	13,626	100.0	17,063	100.0

*Source: Analysis of mortality from hospital records, 1995-97 / National Institute of Public Health (INSP).*

#### **B. Distribution by classes of disease**

Overall, the burden of each disease remained stable with time, although deaths with ill-defined causes were shown to double in proportion from 11% to 22%. This trend may be related to lack of awareness among practicing physicians or certifiers about the importance of cause of death statement on the official death certificate. It is noteworthy, however, that deaths caused by perinatal disorders decreased from 25.8% in 1995 to 21.5% in 1997, as shown earlier. Refer to table 17 for the distribution of deaths by classes of underlying causes in the period 1995-1997.

**Table 17**  
**Distribution of deaths by classes of underlying causes, period 1995-1997**

	Year					
	1995		1996		1997	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>I. Communicable, perinatal and maternal</b>	7,644	38.5	4,784	35.1	6,031	35.4
<b>II. Non-communicable</b>	7,990	40.3	5,587	41.0	6,068	35.6
<b>III. Injuries</b>	1,914	9.6	1,178	8.7	1,122	6.6
<b>IV. Unclassified causes</b>	2,312	11.7	2,076	15.3	3,842	22.5
<b>Total</b>	19,860	100.0	13,626	100.0	17,063	100.0

*Source: Analysis of mortality from hospital records, 1995-97 / National Institute of Public Health (INSP).*

### III. AIDS

According to the Directorate of Prevention at the Ministry of Population and Health, Pasteur Institute estimates that by 1998 there were 410 cases of AIDS. Among these, 22 were new cases registered during the first three trimesters of 1998. HIV seropositive cases amounted to 865, 60 of which were newly registered cases.

Modes of transmission included unprotected sexual relationships, direct contact with blood through specific tools (e.g. scissors), injections and toothbrushes.

In response to the spread of AIDS epidemic in Algeria, several actions have been undertaken:

- 1989: Establishment of the National Laboratory for the prevention of sexually transmissible diseases, including AIDS.

- 1991: Mandatory control of blood and organ donation, by providing equipment and training the personnel of 129 health centres all over the country.
- 1992-1993: Awareness campaigns and celebration of World AIDS day to prevent transmission by sexual relationships.
- Patients infected with HIV and AIDS are followed up by university hospitals and health centres.

#### **IV. Road Accidents**

According to the services of the General Directorate for National Security (GDNS), in 1997 road accidents resulted in 799 deaths and 12,566 injuries.

Misreading road signs was one of the deadliest causes (32% of cases), followed by personal driving mistakes (29%).

Pedestrians were the source of the accident in 20% of the cases, and alcohol drinking was the cause in 589 accidents (4%).

Road-accident related deaths were lower in urban areas than rural ones (23% and 77% respectively). A similar tendency is observed for non-fatal accidents (38% vs. 62%).

Moreover, touristic vehicles were involved in 63% of road accidents, followed by heavy-duty vehicles (16%).

#### **V. Occupational injury and illness**

Table 18 indicates the distribution of work-related accidents by gender in 1989 and 1999. It is evident that the number of work-related accidents declined tremendously, from 62,219 in 1989 to 24,357 in 1998.

Serious injuries, however, did not decrease significantly, when compared to those that simply resulted in work disruption. Serious injuries exceeded 4,000 cases in both 1989 and 1998.

An increasing trend was observed for work-related deaths, from 421 in 1989 to 827 in 1998. This confirms the previous finding that while the overall number of occupational injuries is declining, severity is increasing.

Gender differentials were noted in occupational injury and illness. The proportion of women experiencing work-related accidents increased to a greater extent than men, especially in relation to accidents leading to work disruption and serious injuries.

**Table 18**  
**Distribution of work-related accidents by gender, years 1989 and 1998**

Gender		Work-disrupting accidents		Serious work-related accidents		Work-related deaths	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1989	Women	2,420	3.9	249	4.2	5	1.2
	Men	59,799	96.1	5,633	95.8	416	98.8
	Total	62,219	100.0	5,882	100.0	421	100.0
1998	Women	1,262	5.2	275	6.0	9	1.1
	Men	23,096	94.8	4,305	94.0	818	98.9
	Total	24,357	100.0	4,580	100.0	827	100.0

*Source: Prevention directorate of the National Fund for Social Insurance and prevention of work-related accidents.*

## VI. Migration

Since 1911, emigration has abounded, primarily to France and Belgium, in view of political, economic and natural events that affected the both coasts of the Mediterranean region. For example, the second Empire's policy was conducive to the massive expropriation of

land holdings from Algerian peasants and their redistribution at the profit of the colonizing party.

In addition, the economic crisis that affected France in 1915 resulted in the recruitment of 78,000 Algerian workers in 1918, whose number increased to 90,000 by 1920. Variations in the registration of new workers from Algeria were noted in the period 1922-1924, and 1935 as well as during the period of crisis 1929-1930. The 1954 census counted 211,000 Algerians in France, of whom 20,000 were women and children. Between 1954 and 1962, the number of Algerian families in France increased from 7,000 to 30,000.

Following independence and the War of Liberation, the Algerian economy faced major problems. The supply of potentially economically active individuals exceeded market demand, inducing more emigration to France. See table 19 for migration movements to and out of France between 1962 and 1964.

**Table 19**  
**Migration movements to and out of France, period 1962-1964**

Year	Migration movement	
	Entry to France	Return to Algeria
1962	180,000	155,000
1963	262,000	211,500
1964	269,000	225,700

*Source: based on CENEAP databases*

However, between 1974 and 1976 emigration was no longer related to the economic development of France, but rather to Algeria's process of industrialization. Algerian professionals outside the country were re-integrated into Algerian enterprises. The worsening economic situation of the 1980s, especially that of the job market, provoked public authorities to adopt strategies leading to the definitive return of Algerian workers from foreign countries. The number of Algerians returning to their home country between 1982 and 1990 amounted to 153,000 individuals, of whom 56,000 were women.



During the 1950s, 94% of emigrants in France were men. However, by 1990 the gender imbalance had decreased significantly such that 59% of emigrants were men and 41% were women. Emigration movements of women during the 1990s remained higher in proportion to men. Based on the 1990 census, out of the 24,264 single-parent Algerian families living in France, 20,480 were woman-headed (35.2% of women were widowed and 31.7% were divorced). See Table 20 for the distribution of emigrants to France by gender for selected years in the period 1946-1990.

**Table 20**  
**Distribution of emigrants to France by gender and year of emigration,**  
**selected years in the period 1946-1990**

Year	Gender			
	Women		Men	
	No.	%	No.	%
1946	509	2.3	21,605	97.7
1954	13,655	6.4	198,020	93.5
1962	57,707	16.5	292,777	83.5
1968	126,408	26.6	347,404	73.3
1975	227,600	32.0	483,090	68.0
1982	304,880	38.3	491,040	61.7
1990	253,946	41.3	360,261	58.7

*Source: Population censuses and surveys in France, 1946-1990.*

Moreover, out of all the communities living in France, the Algerian community had the highest unemployment rate (31% versus 12% in all France), particularly among the youth. Registered demand for employment between 1990 and 1993 is presented in table 21.

**Table 21**  
**Registered demand for employment, period 1990-1993**

	Year				
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1993/1990
Women	25,175	28,353	27,814	31,149	+24%
Men	48,391	52,973	56,870	60,576	+25%
Total	73,566	81,326	84,684	91,725	+24%

*Source: based on CENEAP databases*

As of 1992 and due to insecurity in the country, a significant exodus of nationals took place, with Algerians fleeing to nations all over the world. By the end of 1996, this phenomenon affected 420,000 individuals, according to ONS statistics. As of 1994, France incorporates around 90% of Algerian emigrants. Registration of Algerians at the level of international consulates in 1997 follows this distribution:

- France: 912,544
- Other European countries: 63,727
- Maghreb: 43,299
- Middle East: 9,507
- Africa: 1,849
- America: 11,876
- Asia: 586

*Chapter III*

WORK AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

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## ***WORK AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY***

### **I. Trends in economic activity: 1966-1998**

#### **A. Economically active population**

The economically active population refers to a country's labour force. It includes all individuals of a specific age group, usually 15-64 years, that utilize their labour in the production of goods and services, either in paid employment or self-employment. The economically active population includes people currently working, formerly working or looking for work. While the Algerian population grew from 11.46 million in 1966 to 29.3 millions in 1998, the economically active population increased from 2.56 million to 8.17 million in the same period.

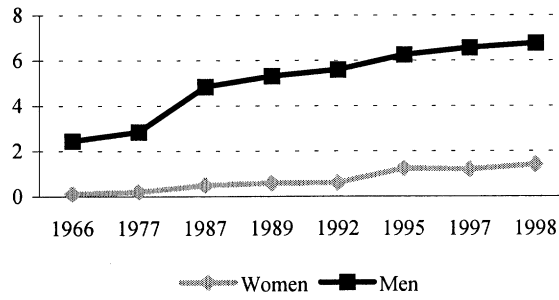
In addition, the economically active female population grew four times more rapidly than the overall economically active population, from 109,000 in 1966 to 1.41 million in 1998. Women's share of the labour force increased from 10% during the period 1966-1992 to 17% in 1998. See figure 8 for trends in the economically active population by gender for selected years in the period 1966-1998.

#### **B. Employed population**

The employed population consists of all individuals who are compensated for their activity, irrespective of age. They should work at least for one hour per week. This category includes those who are benefiting from a pension or retirement plan, but are working. Employed persons also include people on sick leave (less than 3 months), youth on military service, trainees, family and home-based workers.

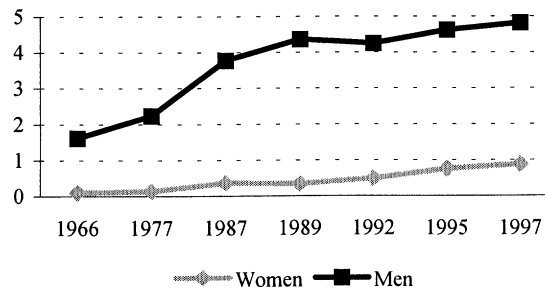
Figure 9 illustrates trends in the employed population by gender between 1966 and 1997. In this period, the employed population increased from 1.72 million to 5.71 million. Whereas, the number of employed men increased in proportion to the growth of the overall population, the corresponding number of women increased 8-fold, from 95,000 in 1966 to 890,000 in 1997. Women's liberation movements have largely contributed toward women's greater participation in national economies.

**Figure 8: Trends in the economically active population (in millions) by gender, selected years in the period 1966-1998**



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998; Employment Status, 1992; Survey on living conditions, 1995; Activity, employment and unemployment in the third trimester, 1997 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 9: Trends in the employed population (in millions) by gender, selected years between 1966-1998**



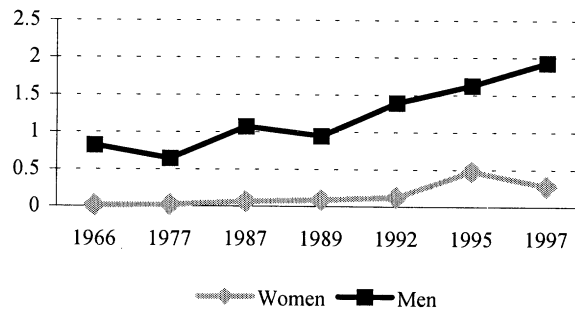
Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998; Employment status, 1992; Survey on living conditions, 1995; Activity, employment and unemployment in the third trimester, 1997 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

### C. Unemployed population

The unemployed population is the segment of the economically active population that may or may not have worked previously and was looking for a job at the time of the survey.

Figure 10 depicts trends in the unemployed population by gender between 1966 and 1997. In this period, the number of unemployed persons increased from 0.84 million to 2.21 million. Unemployment among men increased from 0.83 million to 1.93 million. In contrast, the number of unemployed women increased by 18.6 fold. Whereas 13% of the economically active female population was unemployed in 1966, the corresponding rate in 1995 was 38%. Unemployment was highest among the youth, especially those aged 16-19 years (60-65%). Youth unemployment among women was 75% in 1995.

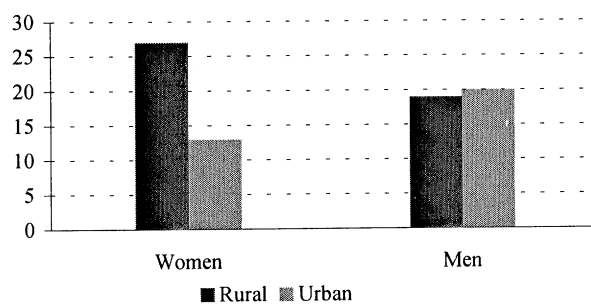
**Figure 10**  
Trends in the unemployed population (in millions) by gender, 1966-1997



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998; Employment status, 1992; Survey on living conditions, 1995; Activity, employment and unemployment in the third trimester, 1997 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

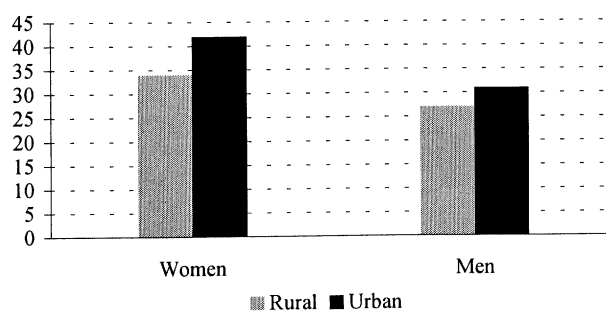
Unemployment, as a proportion of the economically active population, was more pronounced in urban settings than rural areas, with a 7-9 point-difference. Figures 11a and 11b show the percent of unemployed among the economically active population by gender and area of residence in the years 1987 and 1995 respectively.

**Figure 11a: Percent unemployed among economically active population by gender and area of residence, year 1987**



Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1987; Survey on living conditions, 1995 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 11b: Percent unemployed among economically active population by gender and area of residence, year 1995**



Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1987; Survey on living conditions, 1995 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).



## II. Characteristics of the employed population

### A. Employed population: 1987 census

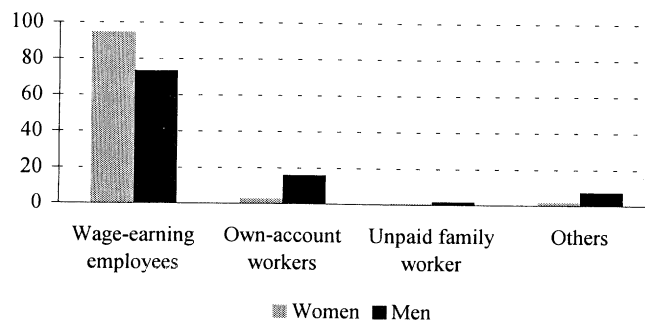
#### 1. Employment status

Based on the census conducted in 1987, the employed population consisted of 4,113,779 individuals, of whom 8.82% were women. Three-quarters of the employed population lived in agglomerations.

Figure 12 shows the distribution of the employed population living in agglomerations by employment status and gender in 1987. Women composed 11.17% of employed persons living in agglomerations. Ninety-five percent of these women were wage-earning employees. In contrast, among men in the same category, 73% were wage-earning employees and 16% were own-account workers.

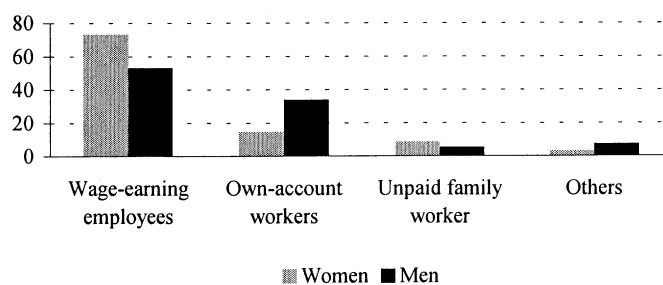
Within dispersed zones, greater variability in employment status among the employed population was observed. In fact, out of the 1,013,288 individuals in that category, 2% were women. Those women were mostly wage-earning employees (73.04%), and to a lesser extent own-account workers (14.95%). A significant proportion consisted of unpaid family workers (8.63%). See figure 13 for the distribution of the employed population living in dispersed zones by employment status and gender in 1987.

**Figure 12: Percent distribution of employed population living in agglomerations by employment status and gender, year 1987**



Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 13**  
**Percent distribution of employed population living in dispersed zones by employment status and gender, year 1987**



Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

## 2. Wage-earning employees: gender differentials

### a. Type of occupation

Wage-earning men and women employed in liberal and scientific professions constituted 68.73% and 27.24%, respectively of employed men and women in these professions.

Administrative and services personnel comprised 72,798 and 61,991 paid female employees, respectively. These correspond to 17% and 14.5% of the total female employed population in these types of occupations.

In addition, only 3,273 women were employees in top management and constituted 5.73% of the total workforce.

Within the services and the agricultural sector, paid female employees were much less numerous, representing only 1% of the total workforce. Even men constituted only 30% of the total number. See table 22 for the percent distribution of paid employees among the total working population by type of occupation in the year 1987.

**Table 22**  
**Percent of wage-earning (paid) employees among the total employed population by type of occupation, year 1987**

Type of occupation	% Wage-earning employee from total working	
	Women	Men
Scientific/Liberal	27.24	68.73
Top Management	5.73	76.40
Administrative personnel	14.47	79.88
Trade personnel	0.76	26.64
Services workers	17.97	74.36
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishery	0.42	29.30
Manoeuver/Mechanical	2.06	79.92

*Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

**b. Sector of activity**

The 'services, trade and transport' sector comprised the highest percentage of wage-earning female employees out of the total female workforce (14%). In contrast, only 58% of the male workforce were wage-earning employees in that sector. Whereas, 76% of the workforce in the industrial sector consisted of wage-earning men, female paid employees comprised only 7%.

Within the construction and public works sector as well as the agricultural sector, very small proportions consisted of paid female employees (1.64% and 0.59%, respectively). In contrast, paid male employees in these sectors constituted 87.00% and 35.35%, respectively.

For all sectors of activity, it is worth noting that female and male paid employees constituted 8.82% and 91.18% of the total economically active population, respectively. The percent distribution of wage-earning (paid) employees among the total working population by sector of activity in 1987 are presented in Table 23.

**Table 23: Percent distribution of wage-earning (paid) employees among the total employed population by sector of activity, year 1987**

Sector of activity	% Wage-earning employee from total working	
	Women	Men
Agriculture	0.59	35.35
Construction/Public works	1.64	87.38
Industry	7.17	75.72
Services/Trade/Transport	13.91	57.70
Total	8.82	91.18

*Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics*

**B. Trends in the economically active population by sector of activity: 1987-1996**

Between 1987 and 1996, the proportion of economically active women increased from 8.8% to 12.6%. The most notable increase was in the services sector, whereby the proportion of working women increased from 14% to 18%. A small decline was observed in the case of the industrial sector, whereby the proportion of working women decreased from 8.24% in 1987 to 7.74% in 1996. See table 24 for the distribution of the economically active population by sector of economic activity and gender for the period 1987-1996.

**Table 24: Distribution of the employed population (in thousands) by sector of economic activity and gender, years 1987 and 1996**

Sector of activity	Year					
	1987			1996		
	W	M	W/T(%)	W	M	W/T(%)
Agriculture	9.7	713	1.34	11	664	1.66
Industry	66.7	743	8.24	46	594	7.74
Construction/Public works	11	645.8	1.67	12	618	1.94
Services/Trade/Transport	275.5	1,648.6	14.3	556	3,082	18.04
Total	362.9	3,750.4	8.62	625	4,957	12.61

*Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987; Survey of income and workforce participation, 1996 / National office of Statistics (ONS).*

### **III. Informal sector of activity**

#### **A. Definition**

The informal sector may be defined as a group of activities ascribed to the non-agrarian private sector, not registered in tax or social security services, nor represented in any statistical database service. They are illegal types of activities, because they are neither declared, given their nature, nor tolerated by the law. Hence, the informal sector, as defined in this study, includes the following:

- The self-employed and employers that are not registered in tax services;
- Wage-earning employees and trainees in the non-agrarian private sector that are not affiliated with a social security fund;
- Non-agricultural family help;
- Wage-earning employees in agriculture or in the formal sector having a non-agrarian secondary activity;
- Housewives, unemployed and other inactive members who exercise commercial activities, even if their status was initially declared as 'unoccupied'.

#### **B. Informal work and employment status, 1987**

The census that was carried out in 1987 was unable to capture informal employment. Estimations from the 1992 database have shown that the informal sector represented 31.8% of the total non-agricultural employed population and 26.1% of all types of employment. The proportion of women participating in the non-agricultural informal sector was around 17.2% of the total.

Most women in the non-agrarian informal sector were either partially employed or housewives having a non-declared type of economic activity (28.7% and 60.71%, respectively). Approximately one-half of men were own-account workers and more than one third were uninsured wage-earning employees. The distribution of informally employed non-agrarian workers by gender and employment status for 1987 are presented in table 25.

**Table 25**  
**Distribution of informally employed non-agrarian workers by gender and employment status, year 1987**

Employment status	Women		Men	
	No.	%	No.	%
I. Partially employed women	61,100	28.7	---	---
II. Trainees/non-agrarian family help/uninsured	810	0.38	28,852	3.00
III. Own account non-agricultural or agricultural employees with secondary activity	5,388	2.52	478,892	49.89
IV. Undeclared non-agricultural employers	274	0.13	4,161	0.43
V. Uninsured wage-earning employees or insured having secondary activity	9,907	4.65	363,782	37.90
VI. Housewives having a non-declared type of economic activity	129,400	60.71	---	---
VII. Unemployed having a non-declared type of economic activity	6,234	2.9	84,246	8.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>213,113</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>959,933</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**C. Informal work and sector of activity, 1987**

Table 26 shows the distribution of the informally employed population by gender and sector of activity in 1987. Overall, both men and women working in trade and commerce were to a great extent in the informal sector (81.8% and 70.8%, respectively). However, wide gender gaps and higher proportions among women in the informal sector were observed with respect to other sectors of activity, namely the industry and non-administrative services (38.7 and 33.1 point-difference, respectively). In contrast, men had higher proportions than women in the transportation and construction/public works sectors.

**Table 26**  
**Distribution of informally employed population by gender and sector of activity, year 1987**

Sector of activity	Formal & Informal (Men)	Informal (Men)		Formal & Informal (Women)	Informal (Women)	
	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%
Industry	659,039	124,042	18.80	150,724	86,598	57.45
Construction/ Public works	645,804	230,551	35.70	10,954	--	--
Transportation	206,330	67,717	32.8	9,029	1,029	11.40
Trade & commerce	406,895	332,838	81.8	21,314	15,105	70.87
Non-administrative services	440,746	204,745	46.4	138,893	110,381	79.47
Administrative services <sup>1</sup>	667,915	--	--	218,967	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,026,729<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>959,893</b>	<b>31.71</b>	<b>551,908<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>213,113</b>	<b>38.71</b>

<sup>1</sup> General directorate of public function, employment, 1987

<sup>2</sup> Including 17,129 'undeclared'

<sup>3</sup> Including 2,027 'undeclared'.

Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

#### **D. Integration of informal employment into economic activity: adjusting indicators**

##### 1. Economically active population

Reporting on the informal sector within the national statistical system has led to higher figures corresponding to the economically active population, which increased in 1987 by 362,753 or around 8.78% for both genders. Among women, the percent increase was even more drastic and amounted to 62.40% (n=227,447). In other words, almost two-thirds of the added number was the result of female informal activity. Taking the

agrarian population alone, a similar pattern was observed See Table 27 for the adjusted number of economically active population due to the addition of the informal sector for 1987.

**Table 27: Adjusted number of economically active population due to the addition of the informal sector, year 1987**

	All sectors		Agriculture	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Initial working population	364,487	3,768,001	9,713	713,051
Housewives with secondary occupation	157,128	---	27,682	---
Partially occupied women	63,000	---	1,900	---
Unemployed with secondary activity	7,319	135,306	1,085	51,059
Total	591,934	3,903,307	40,380	764,110
Increase (N)	+227,447	+135,506	+30,667	+51,059
Increase (%)	+62.40%	+3.60%	+75.94%	+7.16%

Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

## 2. Unemployed population

In addition, the informal sector had its impact on unemployment. Revision of the unemployed segment of the Algerian population in 1987 resulted in a marked reduction in number that was of equal importance between men and women. Nevertheless, it is believed that the burden of unemployment remains overestimated.

## 3. Rates of employment and unemployment

As a result of changes in absolute numbers, rates of employment and unemployment were altered as well. Comparison between initial and adjusted situations are shown in Table 29 and these include all sectors of economic activity. Overall, the economically active population, based on traditionally administered census questionnaires, was under-estimated in



1987 by 220,128 (or around 4%). Similarly, the employed population was underestimated by 8.07% while the unemployed population was overestimated by 14.29%.

In addition, while rate of employment slightly increased, rate of unemployment witnessed a sizeable change from 21.64% to 17.17% or a reduction of 3.47 points. This change is even more important among women, with 5.40 points decrease.

**Table 28: Adjusted number of the unemployed population, 1987**

	Women	Men
Initial burden of unemployment	65,260	1,075,740
Unemployed with secondary activity	7,319	135,306
Unemployed without secondary activity	57,941	940,434
% Reduction in burden	-11.22%	-12.58%

*Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

**Table 29: Adjusted economically active population, employment and unemployment rates, year 1987**

	Initial situation		Adjusted situation	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Employed population	364,487	3,768,001	591,934	3,903,307
Unemployed segment	65,260	1,075,740	57,941	940,434
Active population	429,747	4,844,014	649,875	4,843,741
Total aged 15+	5,375,914	4,586,689	5,375,914	4,586,689
Total population	9,467,195	8,245,998	9,467,195	8,245,998
Employment rate I*	3.85%	45.69%	5.82%	47.33%
Employment rate II**	6.78%	82.15%	10.26%	85.10%
Unemployment rate***	15.19%	22.21%	9.79%	19.41%

\* Employed over the total population

\*\* Employed over population aged 15 years or more

\*\*\* Unemployed over active population.

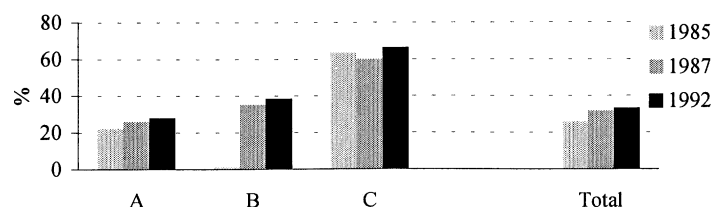
*Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).*

### E. Importance of the informal sector in Algeria: time trends for the period 1985-1992

Figures 14 and 15 shows trends in informal employment by sector of activity in 1985, 1987, and 1992. The greatest increase in informal employment occurred between 1985 and 1987, and to a lesser extent between 1987 and 1992. Between 1985 and 1987, the greatest growth in informal employment was in the 'construction and public works' sector of activity (group B).

The volume of informal employment almost doubled between 1985 and 1992, from 777,000 to 1,413,000. This difference can be explained by the prevalence of the socio-economic crisis during the first phase that resulted in the differential growth of the informal sector, especially in the construction and public works. Among women, informal employment increased from 213,113 in 1987 to 349,110 in 1992. Hence, the overall increase was 63.81%, and the annual increase was estimated at 10.37%. It is worth noting that the rate of increase in informal employment among women was higher than that of men.

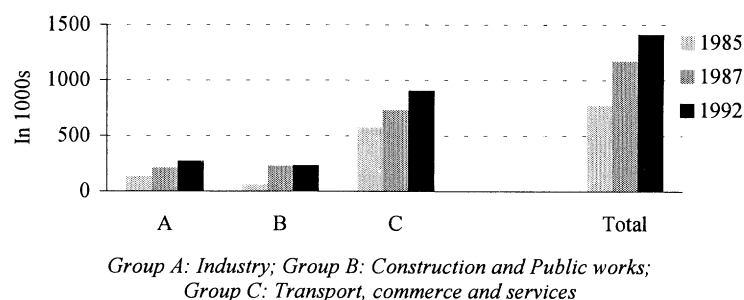
**Figure 14**  
**Trends in informal employment by sector of activity for both genders, years 1985, 1987, 1992**



*Group A: Industry; Group B: Construction and Public works; Group C: Transport, commerce and services*

*Sources: (1) 1985: Comparative study of Mashrek and Maghreb under the supervision of Jacques CHARMES, ORSTOM, France, 1989; (2) 1987: Population Census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS) (3) 1992: "L'économie informelle, cas de l'Algérie" by M. KELKOUL, Alger, 1998.*

**Figure 15**  
**Trends in the volume of informal employment by sector of activity, both genders**



Sources: (1) 1985: *Comparative study of Mashrek and Maghreb under the supervision of Jacques CHARMES, ORSTOM, France, 1989*; (2) 1987: *Population Census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS)* (3) 1992: *"L'économie informelle, cas de l'Algérie"* by M. KELKOUL, Alger, 1998.

#### IV. Inactive population

##### A. Trends by gender, 1987-1998

In 1987, 96% of women were inactive compared to 58% of men. By 1998 inactivity among women and men had decreased to 90% and 53.3% respectively.

Taking the total population as a denominator, inactivity among women fell from 47.27% to 44.63% and among men decreased from 29.10% to 26.46%. Refer to table 30 for the distribution of the population by activity status and gender in 1987 and 1998.

##### B. Age and sex structure of the inactive population, 1987

Among women, the lowest rates of inactivity (over the grand total) were noted for the age groups 20-24 years (43%) and 25-49 years (45%). Inactivity was most accentuated among elderly women aged 60 years or more (49.07% of the total population).

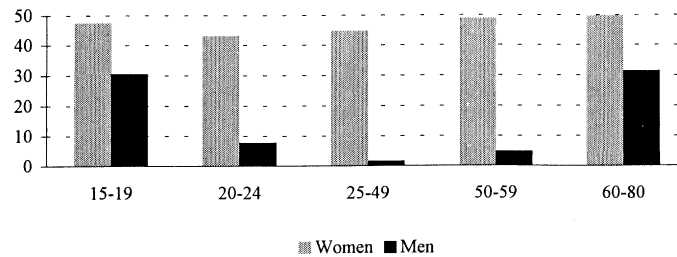
**Table 30: Distribution of the population by activity status and gender, 1987 and 1998**

	1987 Census		1998 Census	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
15-19	1,224,842	1,248,468	1,528,729	1,797,514
20-24	1,092,410	1,110,256	1,443,167	1,481,823
25-49	2,721,653	2,768,471	4,369,842	4,441,921
50-59	615,449	571,530	746,687	723,076
60+	661,215	636,872	999,048	944,658
<b>Total (15 +)</b>	<b>6,315,569</b>	<b>6,335,597</b>	<b>9,388,992</b>	<b>9,287,473</b>
Active population	492,442	4,848,660	1,406,004	6,761,620
<b>Inactive population</b>	<b>10,683,203</b>	<b>6,576,832</b>	<b>13,065,315</b>	<b>8,039,404</b>
Total population (all ages)	11,175,645	11,425,492	14,471,319	14,801,024
Grand Total (Both genders)	22,601,137		29,272,768	
% Inactive/grand total	47.27%	29.10%	44.63%	26.46%
%inactive/total population	95.60%	57.56%	90.28%	53.32%

Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1987 and 1998 / ONS

The proportion of inactive men over the total population aged more than 15 years of age was around 12%. Some differentials exist according to age groups. For instance, men aged 15-19 years and those aged 60 years or more had the highest rates of inactivity (31%). The lowest rates of inactivity among men were found for the age group 25-49 (1.73%), followed by the age group 20-25 (7.84%). The proportion inactive among women and men out of the total population in corresponding age groups in 1987 are presented in figure 16.

**Figure 16: Proportion inactive among women and men out of the total population in corresponding age group, 1987**

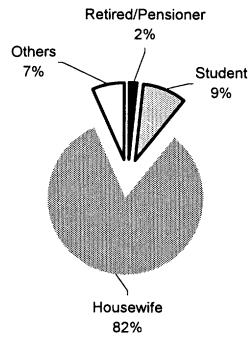


Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

### C. Inactivity, individual status and gender, 1987

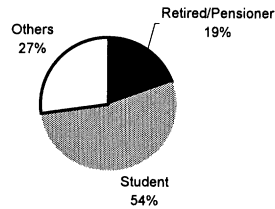
Figures 17a and 17b show the distribution of inactive women and men respectively by individual status in 1987. The majority of inactive women were housewives (83%), followed by students (10%). Among men, students represented 53% of the male inactive population, while the retired and the pensioners accounted for 19% of the total.

**Figure 17a**  
Distribution of inactive women by individual status, year 1987



Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 17b**  
Distribution of inactive men by individual status, year 1987



Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

Among inactive women, the status of housewife is prevalent in all age groups, especially among those aged 25-49 (95%) and those aged 50-59 years (86%). As expected, the proportion of female students among the inactive population is highest for the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 years (23% and 7% respectively). See table 31 for the proportion of women by individual status and age group among the total inactive population within each age group in 1987.

**Table 31**  
**Proportion of women by individual status and age group among the total inactive population within each age group, year 1987**

Individual status	Age group					
	15-19	20-24	25-49	50-59	60+	15+
Housewives	32.0	77.0	95.0	86.0	33.0	66.0
Students	23.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
Retired	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	5.0	1.0
Others	6.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	23.0	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>80.0</b>

Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

*Chapter IV*

SCHOOLING, LITERACY & EDUCATIONAL  
ATTAINMENT

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## *SCHOOLING, LITERACY and EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT*

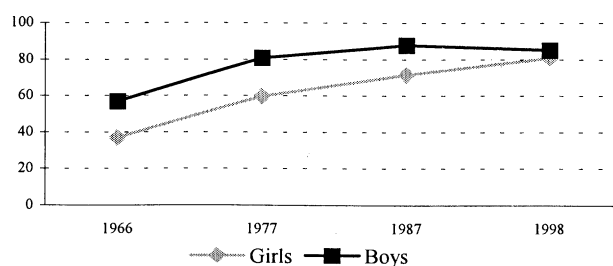
### **I. Illiteracy**

The average level of education of the Algerian populace regressed markedly under French occupation. In fact, the occupying power undertook a systematic policy of closing schools and forbidding the use of the Arabic language. Thus, by the time Algeria gained its independence, illiteracy was widespread. The struggle against illiteracy took two directions:

- Creation of the '*Centre National d'Alphabétisation*' (CAN) or the National Literacy Centre.
- Schooling of the youth (6-14 years) by widening school networks and implementing a policy of voluntarism to recruit Algerian teachers as well as to call for technical cooperation. The '*Institut Pédagogique National*' (IPN) was responsible for the provision of basic didactic tools.

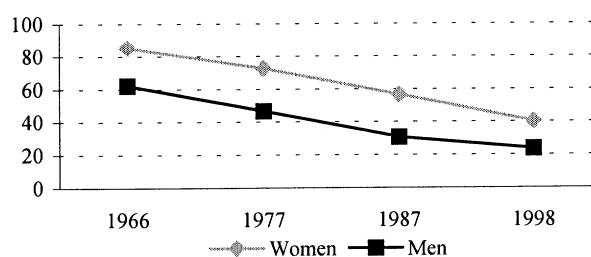
Exceptional results, namely elevated levels of schooling and lower illiteracy rates, were achieved. Figures 18 and 19 depict trends in school enrolment rates of 6-14-year-olds and illiteracy rates by gender for selected years in the period 1966-1998 respectively.

**Figure 18: Trends in school enrolment rate (6-14 years), selected years in the period 1966-1998**



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 19: Trends in illiteracy rate, selected years in the period 1966-1998**



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

Illiteracy rates were highest among the elderly (88%) and women of all ages (40%). The rate of illiteracy (23%) among men was almost half that of women. Illiteracy was particularly pronounced in rural areas.

Marked improvements in literacy rates were evident among women, especially in rural areas. Among men, improvements in literacy rates were similar between areas of residence. See table 32 for illiteracy rates by age and gender in 1987.

**Table 32**  
**Illiteracy rates by age and gender, year 1987**

Age	Gender	
	Women	Men
10-19	26.55	7.86
20-59	69.52	37.75
60+	96.06	79.48
Total	56.66	30.75

Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

## **II. Educational attainment**

Between 1987 and 1998, major changes occurred in secondary and tertiary education. The proportion of women in these two levels increased. While the proportion of women in secondary education increased from 7.35% to 12.10%, their proportion in tertiary education increased from 1.92% to 3.62%.

Improvements in access to primary education were more pronounced than those in secondary and tertiary education. The proportion of women having attained primary education increased by 10 points during the same period (from 16% to 26%) in rural areas and by 5 points in urban areas.

Despite efforts to promote education between the 4<sup>th</sup> primary and the 1<sup>st</sup> secondary levels by ensuring free education for all students and automatic promotion to higher classes for half of them, the success rate in the official baccalaureate exam declined from 70% in 1970 to 25% in 1995. This sharp decline has led to a slow increase in gross enrolment in tertiary education.

## **III. General and technical education at the secondary level**

During the 1980s, technical education took precedence over general education. Constituting less than 10% of total education at the onset of the 1980s, enrolment rates in technical education more than doubled to 22% between 1991 and 1992. A greater preference for technical education was evident among boys than girls. Table 33 presents the number of students in secondary education by type of education for selected periods between 1982 and 1992.

In the year 1997/1998, the two most popular sections in general education among girls were 'natural and experimental sciences' (43%) and 'literature' (42%). 'Technology' was less popular among girls (3.10%), as compared to boys (11.43%). Within the technical branches, the most popular ones among girls were 'technical accounting' (49%), followed by 'chemistry' (17%). The distribution of students registered in secondary education by type of education, branch and gender is presented in Table 34.

**Table 33: Number of students in secondary education by type of education, 1982-1992**

Year/Type	Girls		Boys	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>1982-1983</b>				
General	103,565	95.94	155,877	87.00
Technical	4,379	4.06	13,198	13.00
Total	107,944	100.0	179,135	100.0
<b>1987-1988</b>				
General	222,817	84.80	240,883	73.2
Technical	39,957	15.20	88,126	26.8
Total	262,774	100.0	329,009	100.0
<b>1991-1992</b>				
General	291,551	85.05	297,214	72.3
Technical	51,237	14.95	113,945	27.7
Total	342,788	100.0	411,159	100.0

Source: based on CENEAP databases

**Table 34: Distribution of students registered in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of secondary education by type of education, branch and gender, 1997/1998**

Type/branch	Girls		Boys	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Human Sciences	94,938	32.26	45,455	21.37
Islamic Sciences	18,962	6.44	9,397	4.42
Foreign Language	10,962	3.72	3,638	1.71
Natural Sciences	127,591	43.35	106,003	49.84
Exact Sciences	12,887	4.37	14,096	6.63
Economics/Business	20,743	7.05	19,011	8.84
Civil Engineering	3,174	1.07	7,078	3.33
Electrical Engineering	3,935	1.34	8,725	4.10
Mechanical Engineering	1,959	0.40	8,443	4.00
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>294,307</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>212,690</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TECHNICAL</b>				
Mechanics	1,424	6.45	9,807	22.86
Electronics	1,432	6.24	3,776	8.80
Electrotechnical	2,596	11.75	6,942	16.18
Construction/Public works	1,986	9.00	6,475	15.09
Chemistry	3,709	16.79	4,839	11.28
Technical Accounting	10,939	49.77	11,063	25.79
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>22,086</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42,902</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>471,302</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>407,788</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: based on CENEAP databases

#### IV. Gender differences in school performance

A number of studies were able to prove that girls achieve better results at school as compared to boys up till the intermediate educational level. Secondary education is the gateway to upper level studies and this fact leads parents to place more attention on boys' achievement rather than girls'.

Table 35 depicts the success rate in the baccalaureate exam by gender in the year 1994. The overall success rate for the 1994 baccalaureate session was higher among girls than boys with a gender gap of 1.15%. Girls performed better than boys in all branches, except 'exact sciences,' 'economics and business,' and 'land surveying.' More surprisingly, within the branches of technical education where they are the least represented, girls perform better than boys, with the gender gap often exceeding 10 points. In 'general education', the gender gap was highest in 'literature and human sciences'.

**Table 35**  
**Success rate in the baccalaureate exam by gender, year 1994**

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Literature	9.79	6.65
Islamic Sciences	13.31	11.98
Foreign Language	21.27	12.98
Exact Sciences	21.10	22.14
Natural Sciences	18.04	14.12
Technology	4.00	3.63
Economics/Business	9.99	11.34
Biochemistry	21.29	17.96
Industrial Chemistry	22.40	17.16
Technical Accounting	26.81	23.02
Electronics	52.00	41.17
Electrotechnical	57.20	46.17
Mechanics	46.37	36.79
Land Surveying	20.51	20.88
Construction/Public works	36.06	32.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.66</b>	<b>14.14</b>

*Source: FEROUKHI D., Evaluation des connaissances à travers l'examen du baccalaureat, Institut National de Recherche en Pédagogie (EX IPN), 1995.*

## V. University-level specialization

Based on the distribution of students registered at the university level the following can be concluded:

- Whereas the proportion of women registered in 'engineering sciences' increased from 0.1% in 1970 to 2.1% in 1990, the corresponding proportions among men were 2.1% and 33.0% for the respective years.
- The number of women registered in 'medical sciences' increased between 1970 and 1980 so that by the end of the 1980s, similar proportions of women and men were registered in 'medical sciences'.
- 'Natural sciences' (biology and earth sciences) occupied the same position (19-24%) throughout the past two decades. This situation is an outcome of the free access to university level education that prevailed until the early 1980s. In 1984, a 'numerus clausus' system was installed for the university card of those registered in 'medical sciences', 'computer sciences' and 'architecture'. This policy was enacted to orient fresh high school graduates towards 'engineering', thus reducing the deficit experienced in that branch of specialization.
- By the end of the 1980s, short training, which was previously restricted to the Institute of Technology, was developed for all universities.

## VI. University-level performance

One of the most common evaluative measures for educational institutions of higher studies is the mean delay in graduation in reference to the official mandatory period for each program. Table 36 presents the effective duration of higher studies for 1991-1993 cohorts. Delays in completing courses for graduation were shorter among women in all disciplines. Gender gaps reached up to 12 months of delay, namely in the area of pharmacy and in short training curricula.

**Table 36**  
**Effective duration of higher studies in years: 1991-1993 cohorts**

	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
I. ANNABA		
Medicine (6 years)	7.04	7.87
Dental surgery (4 years)	5.10	6.00
Pharmacy (4 years)	4.71	5.75
II. Short Training (DEUA)		
BEJAIA (3 years)	4.32	5.16
III. D.E.S (USTHB) (4 years)	5.23	5.96
IV. Engineering (USTHB) (5 years)	5.99	---
V. Teaching Diploma (4 years)	4.50	4.74
VI. Architecture (EPAU) (5 years)	5.62	6.15

*Source: FEROUKHI D., Insertion professionnelle des diplômés de l'enseignement supérieur, Unité de Recherche, INPS, 1999.*

Another interesting indicator is the 'age at graduation'. Based on the same study, women graduated at a younger age than men in all disciplines. This leads to lower costs of education among women. See Table 37 for 'age at graduation' from higher studies for 1991-1993 cohorts.

**Table 37**  
**Age at graduation from higher studies, 1991-1993 cohorts**

	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Engineering Sciences (USTO)	24.56	25.68
Engineering Sciences (Blida)	25.17	26.01
Technical Teaching Diploma	23.89	24.65
Higher Studies Diploma (DES)	24.50	25.10

*Source: FEROUKHI D., Insertion professionnelle des diplômés de l'enseignement supérieur, Unité de Recherche, INPS, 1999.*

## **VII. Comparative performance in the labour market**

One way of gauging the return on investing in university level education may be the mean duration between graduation and first employment. Except for few cases (such as medicine for the class of 1990 and dental surgery for the class of 1992), entry to the labour market was experienced with more hardship among female graduates. Hence, superior curricular performance among women does not seem to be sufficiently valued by the labour market. Indeed, many employers place emphasis on other selection criteria (such as potential absence rates and difficulty in mobility) rather than scholastic performance for the same degrees obtained.



*Chapter V*

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

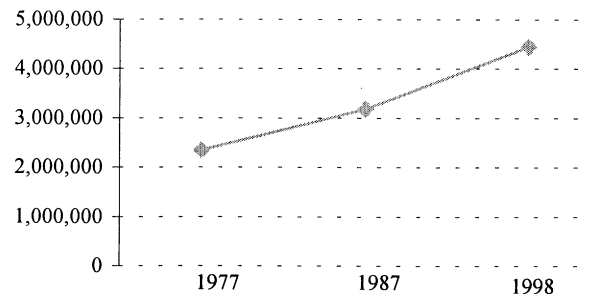
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## HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

### I. Number of households: 1977-1998

Data derived from the latest three censuses revealed a considerable increase in the number of households (both single and multi-family), from approximately 2.345 million in 1977 to 4.45 million in 1998. This represents a growth of 89% within the 22-year time frame. Figure 20 shows the number of households for selected years in the period 1977-1998.

**Figure 20**  
Number of households, selected years in the period 1977-1998



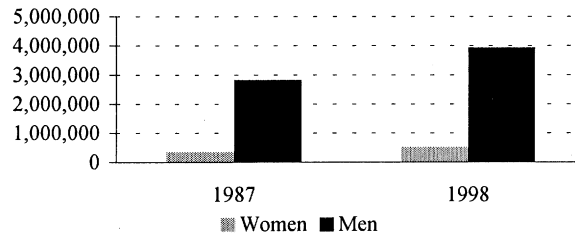
Sources: Population Censuses (RGPH), 1977, 1987 and 1998 / National Office of Statistics (ONS)

#### A. Structure by gender of head

Figure 21 shows the distribution of households by gender of the head for 1997 and 1998. Over the past decade, headship was predominantly male and the proportion of woman-headed households did not change significantly, growing from 11% in 1987 to 12% in 1998.

Stability in gender structure of household heads was accompanied by dynamic changes in terms of geographical distribution of households, age of heads and household size.

**Figure 21**  
**Distribution of households by gender of head, years 1987 and 1998**



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1987 and 1998 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

### B. Structure by area of residence

Table 38 presents the distribution of households by geographical location in 1987 and 1998. Between these two years, the proportion of households in dispersed zones decreased from 27% to 17%.

**Table 38: Distribution of households by geographical location, years 1987 and 1998**

Geographical location	1987		1998	
	No.	%	No.	%
Agglomerations	2,339,403	73.0	3,672,864	83.0
Dispersed zones	843,734	27.0	773,530	17.0
Total	3,183,137	100.0	4,446,394	100.0

Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1987 and 1998 / National Office of Statistics (ONS)

### C. Structure by age of head

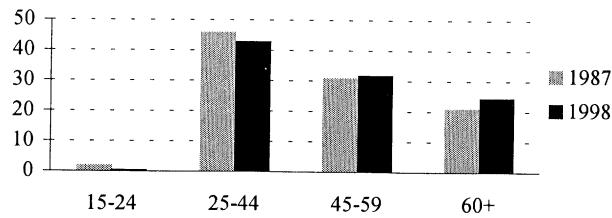
As a result of population ageing, the proportion of elderly (60 years or more) among heads of households more than doubled between 1987 and 1998, from 21% to 24%. Middle-aged heads of households (45-49 years) constituted 31% of total heads in 1987 and 32% in 1998. On the other hand, the younger age group (15-24 years) was reduced in proportion from 2% to less than 1% between the two study years. A similar trend was observed for the age group 25-44 years (46% to

43%). See figure 22 for the distribution of households by age of head in 1987 and 1998.

#### D. Structure by household size

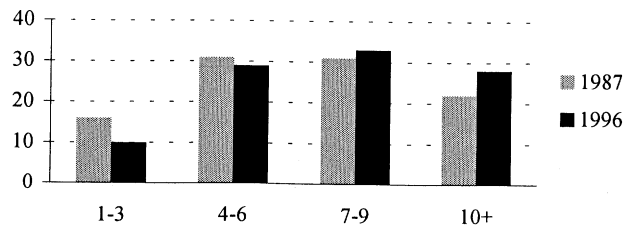
The distribution of households by size in 1987 and 1998 are presented in figure 23. The proportion of households that incorporated 10 persons or more increased from 22% in 1987 to 28% in 1996. In contrast, the proportion of small households (1-3 individuals) decreased from 16% to 10%. Medium-sized households (4-9 individuals) remained relatively unchanged, accounting for the majority of households.

**Figure 22: Percent distribution of households by age of head, 1987 and 1998**



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH), 1987 and 1998 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

**Figure 23: Percent distribution of households by size, 1987 and 1996**

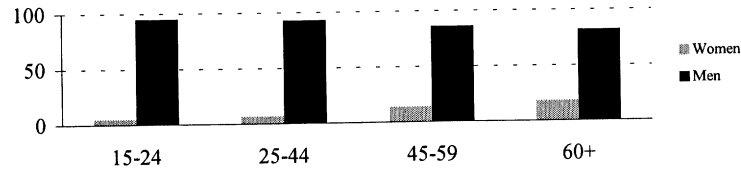


Sources: Population census (RGPH), 1987; Survey of income and workforce participation (1996) / National Office of Statistics (ONS)

### E. Structure by gender & age of head and household size

Data on the age and sex distribution of heads of households were not available for the latest census (1998), thus figures from the 1987 census are referenced. Figure 24 shows that the proportion of households headed by women increased linearly with the age of woman, from 5% in the age group 15-24 years to 18% for older women (60+). This pattern is probably linked to the commonly observed higher mortality rate among men in older age groups.

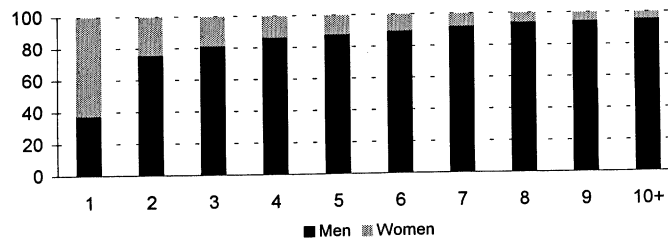
**Figure 24: Percent distribution of heads of household by age and gender, 1987**



*Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics*

The distribution of households by size and gender of head are shown in Figure 25 and Table 39. Whereas only 1.20% of men were living alone, the proportion of women in single households was as high as 15.94%. In contrast, close to one-quarter of male-headed households incorporated 10 individuals or more, as compared to only 8.32% of woman-headed households.

**Figure 25: Percent distribution of household heads for each household size by gender, year 1987**



*Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics*

**Table 39: Distribution of head of households by gender and household size, year 1987**

Household Size	Number		Rel. Freq.		Cum. Freq.	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
1 person	55,918	33,855	15.94	1.20	15.94	1.20
2 persons	43,750	135,852	12.47	4.80	28.41	6.00
3 persons	42,649	186,571	12.15	6.59	40.56	12.59
4 persons	38,952	250,558	11.10	8.85	51.66	21.44
5 persons	40,017	293,027	11.40	10.35	63.06	31.79
6 persons	37,717	327,493	10.75	11.56	73.81	43.35
7 persons	28,183	331,257	8.03	11.72	81.84	55.07
8 persons	19,619	322,257	5.59	11.38	87.43	66.45
9 persons	14,909	272,069	4.25	9.61	91.68	76.06
10 +	29,189	678,565	8.32	23.94	100.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>350,903</b>	<b>2,832,234</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	--	--

Source: Population census (RGPH), 1987 / National Office of Statistics

## II. Housing characteristics and facilities

### A. Trends in population and housing, 1966-1998

The latest census that was undertaken in 1998 counted 5,021,000 housing units, out of which 4,102,000 were inhabited or around 81.64%. Inter-censal comparison shows that the proportion of housing units that were inhabited increased by 30.6% between 1977 and 1987, and by 37% between 1987 and 1998. Inhabited residential units had an average occupancy ratio of 6.10 individuals per housing unit in 1966. A major increase of inhabitants per housing unit was noted two decades later, reaching 7.54 in 1987. This figure slightly declined to 7.14 in 1998. Refer to Table 40 for trends in population and housing for selected years in the period 1966-1998.

**Table 40: Trends in population and housing, 1966-1998**

	Year of Census			
	1966	1977	1987	1998
Residing population (1000s)	11,640	15,645	22,601	29,272
Inhabited housing units(1000s)	1,982	2,291	2,992	4,102
% Increase in inhabitation	--	15.6%	30.6%	37.1%
Occupancy ratio*	6.10	6.83	7.54	7.14

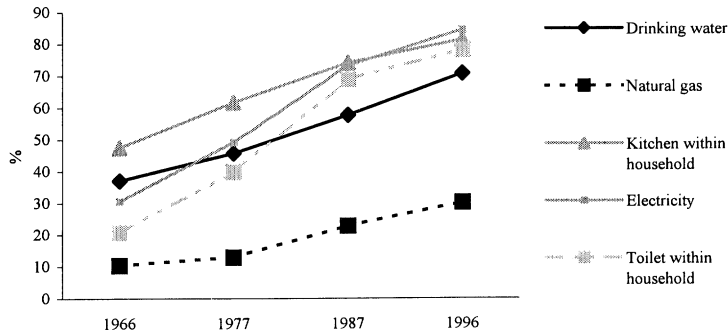
\* Number of persons/ housing unit

Sources: Population censuses (RGPH): 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998 / ONS

## B. Housing facilities

The enlargement of inhabited space was accompanied by efforts from public authorities to link housing units with the public network for the distribution of drinking water, electricity and natural gas. Trends in housing facilities for selected years in the period 1966-1998 are illustrated in Figure 26.

**Figure 26**  
Trends in housing facilities, selected years in the period 1966-1998



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH) : 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998  
/ National Office of Statistics (ONS).

### 1. Access to drinking water

In order to satisfy their domestic needs, households rely on a variety of public and private drinking water sources. The distribution of drinking water sources for 1987 and 1998 are shown in figure 27. The situation for the year 1998 can be summarized as follows:

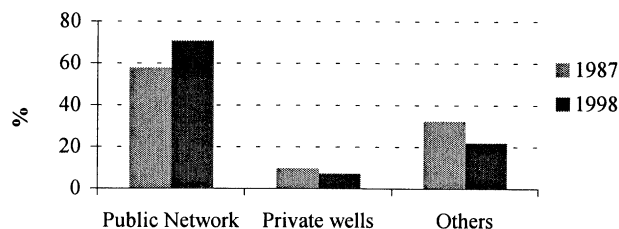
- 2,903,310 housing units (70.78% of total households) were supplied with drinking water through public networks
- 294,240 housing units (7.18%) used well water
- 904,510 housing units (22.04%) acquired their water from various other sources, including public fountains or water vendors.



Modes of water supply evolved between 1987 and 1998 in the following manner:

- A minor decline in the use of well water, from 9.74% 7.18% of housing units, was noted
- A major drop in the use of other sources was noted from 32.43% to 22.04%.
- Households with access to the water network increased from 37% in 1966 to 71% in 1998.

**Figure 27**  
**Distribution of drinking water sources, years 1987 and 1998**



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH): 1987 and 1998 / ONS

Trends in water networking show that in spite of the increase in national coverage, rates differed significantly between areas of residence. In fact, whereas coverage rates in urban areas increased from 55.52% in 1987 to 67.17%, the corresponding figures in rural areas were 2.31% and 3.61%. Moreover, the proportion of households supplied from privately constructed wells declined at a faster rate in urban areas as compared to rural settings. Table 41 presents the distribution of housing units by source of drinking water and area of residence in 1987 and 1998.

## 2. Access to toilet facilities

Access to toilet facilities improved markedly from 21% in 1966 to 81% in 1998. Differentials were noted across areas of residence, whereby 88% of households in agglomerations had access to toilet facilities by 1998, as compared to only 48% in dispersed zones. These proportions correspond to 3,249,500 and 369,657 households, respectively. At the individual level, they correspond to 20,920,072 and 2,688,917 persons, respectively.

**Table 41: Distribution of housing units by source of drinking water and area of residence, years 1987 and 1998**

Mode of water supply	1987		1998	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>I. Public water network</b>				
Overall	1,730,257	57.83	2,903,312	70.78
Agglomerations	1,661,147	55.52	2,755,337	67.17
Dispersed zones	69,210	2.31	147,975	3.61
<b>II. Supply from water wells</b>				
Overall	291,418	9.74	294,242	7.18
Agglomerations	157,657	5.27	109,737	2.68
Dispersed zones	133,761	4.47	184,505	4.50
<b>III. Other sources</b>				
Overall	970,297	32.43	904,511	22.05
Agglomerations	383,387	12.81	525,395	12.81
Dispersed zones	586,910	19.62	379,116	9.24

Sources: Population censuses (RGPH: 1987 and 1998) / ONS

### 3. Access to electricity

In matters related to electricity, the proportion of housing units supplied with power increased from 30% in 1966 to 85% in 1998. However, this progress was more notable in agglomerations as compared to dispersed zones. In fact, electrical energy was distributed to 72% of housing units in agglomerations in 1998, as compared to 64% in 1987. In contrast, only 9% of housing units in dispersed zones were supplied with electricity in 1987 and 12% by 1998. In 1997 the coverage of the public distribution network of electrical energy was as follows:

- In agglomerations, 3,249,500 households, corresponding to a population of 20,665,739 individuals, representing 88% of population residing in these areas.
- In dispersed zones, 550,544 households, corresponding to 4,004,700 individuals, representing 71% of those residing in these zones.

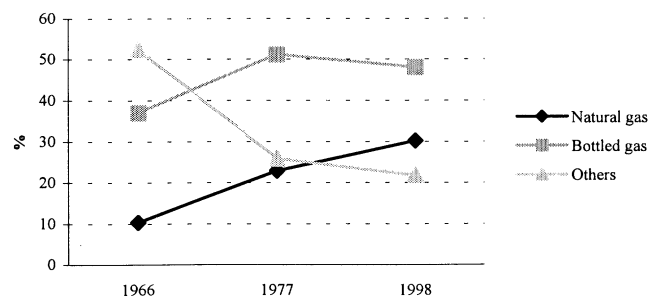
### 4. Access to combustibles

Types of combustibles utilized by households for cooking or other domestic activities include natural gas supplied through public

distribution networks, liquefied gas sold in bottles, or other traditional source of energy, such as wood and charcoal. The availability of natural gas through the expansion of public networks has facilitated the use of this type of energy for domestic purposes.

In 1966, more than half of households (53%) were using traditional combustible material, mainly wood and charcoal. In the same year, 47% were supplied with natural gas through public networks or liquefied gas in bottles. By 1998, more than three quarters were using natural or liquefied gas (78%), and only 22% were using other combustibles. Figure 28 shows the distribution of housing units by type of combustible for selected years in the period 1966-1998.

**Figure 28**  
**Distribution of housing units by type of combustible, selected years in the period 1966-1998**



Sources: Population censuses (RGPH): 1966, 1977 and 1998 / National Office of Statistics (ONS).

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*Chapter VI*

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

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## ***THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY***

### **I. Empowerment of women**

Following independence, various national plans were initiated aimed at improving status and conditions of women. These initiatives lead to notable improvements in their health, educational achievements and employment opportunities. However, relatively little progress was made in terms of women's political empowerment.

#### **A. Women in judicial laws**

Equality between women and men, in rights and duties, was warranted by the Constitution (February 1989 and revised in 1996), which claims "under the law, citizens are equal and should not be subjected to discrimination based on birth race, gender, opinion or any other social or personal condition." Gender equality is ingrained in laws in various domains, including civil rights, penal code, as well as administrative and commercial rights, as described briefly below.

##### **1. Employment**

Laws determining work relations were revised in 1990 and condemn all forms of gender discrimination concerning access to employment positions and compensation. Special dispositions are foreseen for women, especially in terms of security and maternity leaves. It is worth noting that women are not allowed to work on tasks that are dangerous or health threatening. They are suspended during their pre- and postnatal periods and can benefit from breastfeeding hours within their work schedule. In addition, pregnant women are not allowed to work at night or during official vacations.

##### **2. Social security**

Social security protects women in cases of maternity or retirement. In fact, working mothers benefit from 14 weeks of paid maternity leave, with a 100% rate of compensation and full coverage of medical costs related to delivery. Non-working women who have the right to social insurance can benefit from a social allowance under the heading 'maternal insurance'. In terms of retirement, women have the right to

end their service at the age of 55 (instead of 60), with the possibility to reduce it by one year per offspring with a limit of three years.

### 3. The right to education

Women's access to the educational system changed dramatically following the country's independence. Education became a constitutional right not liable to gender discrimination. Primary school became obligatory and free of charge for all children between six and fourteen years of age and for both genders.

## B. Progress in literacy and schooling

### 1. Literacy

With the onset of the 1990s, the Algerian state undertook a nationwide battle to eradicate illiteracy among women living in one-third of the country's underserved *wilayas*. Progress in schooling induced a major reduction in illiteracy rates among women, from 85.4% in 1966 to 40.27% in 1998, as discussed below.

### 2. Schooling

School enrolment rate among girls aged 6-14 years increased from 36.8% in 1966 to 80.73% in 1998. The gender gap, though still unfavourable for girls, decreased markedly. Refer to Table 42 for the gender gap in school enrolment for 6-14-year olds in selected years in the period 1966-1998.

**Table 42**  
Gender gap for school enrolment (6-14 year-olds), selected years in the period 1966-1998

Year of census	Girls	Boys	Gap (G-B)
1966	36.90	56.80	-19.9
1977	59.60	80.80	-21.2
1987	71.56	87.75	-16.19
1998	80.73	85.28	-4.55

Sources: Population censuses (RGPH) : 1966, 1977, 1987 and 1998  
/ National Office of Statistics (ONS).



Table 43 shows trends in the proportion of women in different educational levels for selected years in the period 1967-1998. Women's enrolment at different levels of education has consistently increased, reaching almost 50%. However, between 1983 and 1998, progress in women's schooling was most rapid at the secondary and tertiary levels. By 1998, equity in all levels of education between women and men was almost attained.

Disparities in schooling among women exist in dispersed zones, rural areas and agglomerations. The rate of enrolment among girls decreased by half in dispersed zones as well as in certain *wilayas* of the South and the high plains. In addition, dropout from schools was reportedly more prominent among girls in rural areas.

**Table 43**  
Trends in the proportion of women in different educational levels, selected years in the period 1967-1998

Educational level	1967	1977	1987	1995	1998
Primary	37.4	40.5	44.0	45.9	46.65
Intermediate	29.1	35.2	40.7	44.1	47.20
Secondary	25.6	30.4	43.5	49.8	54.89
Higher studies	--	23.3	35.0	42.0	--

Sources: Délégation au plan et éducation nationale

The remoteness of school establishments and the often lack of transportation, constitute the main causes for school dropout among adolescent girls. At the national level, dropout or exclusion rates are most elevated among girls at the outset of primary education (3.2% versus 2.5% among boys). These losses are more linked to the socio-cultural context than to school performance among young girls.

By 1995, 47% of women had access to professional training. However, the majority of women trained in more traditional fields, such as manufactured goods and handicrafts. However, a small but growing number of women are opting for professional training in more 'modern' sectors, such as 'office work', 'chemistry', 'industrial drawing' or 'information technology.'

### C. The problem of family legislation: family code

Gender disparities in the Algerian family code (law number 84-11), especially in matters related to marriage, divorce and custody of children have been widely criticized by the feminist movement. The following dispositions are among the most contested issues:

- *Polygamy*: The family code allows men to marry up to four women under certain conditions, such as the consent of the first spouse and equity of treatment between co-spouses.
- Filing for *divorce* remains under male control since women cannot initiate the process unless under special circumstances determined by the law.
- *Granting the house* after divorce: The law grants women the right to housing. However, this right is constrained by the spouse's possibilities. Hence, this disposition does not apply when there is only one house, which is the most common pattern.
- *Parental custody* is not granted to women except in the case of husband's death.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to revise the family code with an eye to achieving gender equality. In 1996, the National Committee for the Preservation and Protection of the Family was created to conduct rethink the Algerian family code from a gender perspective. This organization was first conceived for consultation and was composed of representatives from different executive departments, national institutions and associations. In the same year, an amendment to the family code was passed and the *Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) was adopted by a presidential decree on, two decades after its promulgation.

Other initiatives to revise the family code were undertaken by the Conseil Supérieur Islamique, which organized in October 1999 a seminar on this topic.

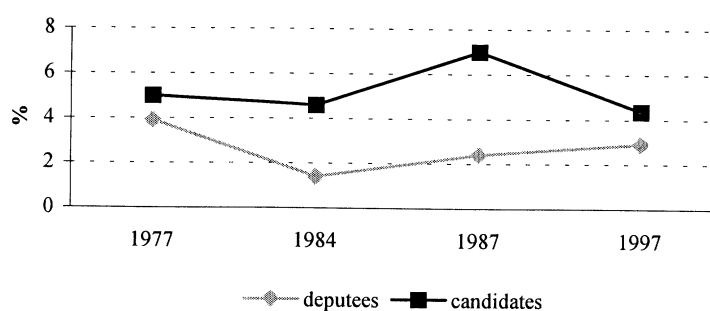
Nonetheless, a number of regulations favourable toward women exist, such as fixing the legal age at marriage at 18 years for women and 21 years for men, requiring the consent of both parties to validate marriage, and guaranteeing women's right to exercise control over personnel property.

## II. Administrative and political functions

### A. Women and decision-making

Political and administrative functions in Algeria have been carried out by men for a long time. In fact, the proportion of women deputies in the National Popular Assembly (APN) decreased from 3.9% in 1977 to 2.9% in 1997. In terms of candidature, the proportion of women decreased over the years, although their absolute number had increased. The number of female candidates in parliamentary elections increased from 39 in 1977 (5%) to 338 in 1997 (or around 4.36% of the overall number of candidates). Figure 29 depicts the percent of women in parliament and candidates in parliamentary elections for selected years in the period 1977-1997.

**Figure 29: Percent of women in parliament and candidates in parliamentary elections, selected years in the period 1977-1997**



Source: Assemblée Populaire Nationale (APN)

It is worth noting, however, that women were almost non-existent in certain departmental positions of the APN. In fact, women neither headed APN departments nor commission bureaus, with a few exceptions, such as the commission for validation of mandates or the provisional commission. In contrast, with respect to the National Council (Conseil National), three women were members of departments in certain commissions, namely as rapporteur for the foreign affairs commission; president of the commission on health, labour and national solidarity; and vice president for the commission of culture, information, youth and tourism. Very few women held

governmental positions between 1994 and 1997 (one or two out of 35 to 45 ministerial portfolios). Women's representation in higher administrative levels and the judicial body is, without doubt, still limited, although progress since the beginning of the 1990s is tangible and can be linked with women's better access to higher education.

#### 1. At the local level

In 1998, only one woman was occupying a position of communal responsibility. Around sixty women assumed this function during the 1980s. In 1999, and for the first time since independence, a woman was appointed the position of *wali*.

#### 2. At the administrative level

Since 1990, ten women were given the highest administrative responsibilities of the State, such as ministers or state secretaries. However, their representation in top-level administrative positions was still weak (3%) in comparison to the total number. Nonetheless, in absolute numbers, women's representation in such positions increased by 80% between 1990 and 1995, from 60 to 108.

#### 3. At the level of the judicial system

In 1998, women in higher magistracy accounted for 23.53% of the total, or 544 out of 2,324. These were distributed as follows:

- Supreme Court: 34 women out of 172 (19.7%).
- Courts: 124 women out of 673 (26.4%).
- Ministry of justice: 29 women out of 95 (30.2%).

Women are increasingly competing to access magistracy positions. By 1999, the number of women magistrates had reached 794.

#### 4. At the level of foreign affairs

By 1998, 29 women (7.92% of the total) were working in the central administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In external services, there was 44 women, or 8.89% of the total. Seven women occupied positions in higher functions.

## 5. At the level of national security

Training for women in the functions of national security was undertaken again after having been frozen since 1988. In 1999, 400 women agents of the public order graduated from the police academy of Ain Benian, whereas 200 women were accepted as trainees to become inspectors and officers at Constantine. In 1998, one woman was principal commissary, eleven were commissaries and around one hundred were officers.

### B. Employers

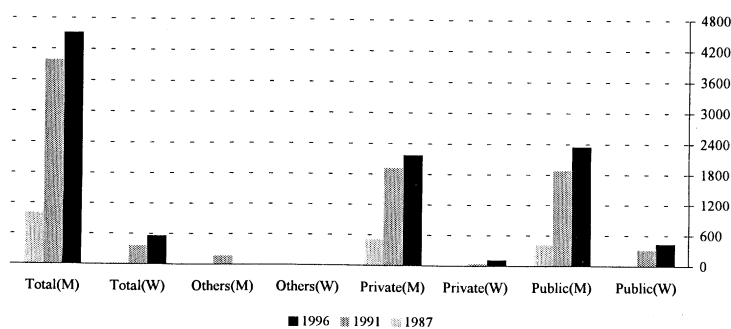
The gender distribution of employers for selected years in the period 1987-1996 is depicted in Table 44. The number of employed women and men by public and private sector for selected years in this period are shown in figure 30.

**Table 44: Employers by gender, selected years in the period 1987-1996**

	1987	1990	1996
Women N	2,400	1,300	5,000
%	3.18	2.05	6.77
Men N	73,000	62,000	68,900
%	96.82	97.95	93.23

*Source: based on CENEAP databases*

**Figure 30: Number of employed men and women by public/private sector (in 1000s), 1987-1996**



*Source: based on CENEAP databases*

**Table 45**  
**Employment in the local collectivities by age and gender**

Age group	Mastery		Execution		Management		Total	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
18-30	1,858	5,619	1,246	5,120	780	1,078	3,884	11,817
31-40	2,261	15,931	1,472	19,701	456	3,349	4,189	38,981
41-50	2,709	14,298	398	16,776	56	915	3,163	31,989
51-54	1,190	4,126	131	4,461	8	177	1,329	8,764
55	354	1,086	21	1,261	0	42	375	2,389
56	264	911	26	1,014	0	44	290	1,969
57	315	993	28	1,104	0	37	343	2,134
58	234	861	9	1,061	0	37	243	1,959
59	179	833	8	990	0	33	187	1,856
60	201	717	6	909	0	25	207	1,651
61+	409	1,142	13	771	0	33	422	1,946
Total	9,974	46,517	3,358	53,168	1,300	5,770	14,632	105,455

*Source: based on CENEAP databases*

### III. Associative Movement

The participation of women in civil society indirectly through the associative movement constitutes a factor that is favourable in reinforcing their integration into the parliamentary system and within elected local assemblies.

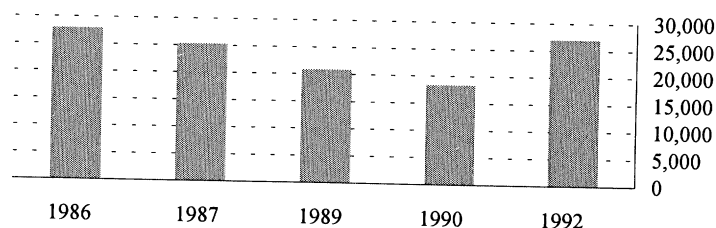
In fact, as a result of political openness and remodelling of legislation based on intervening associations as of 1990, the associative movement was considerably reinforced and enlarged. Women benefited from this new dynamic. We currently count more than ten National Women Associations, and about 50 associations that have more restrained means to intervene.

These associations struggle directly for the empowerment of women and the protection of their rights and interests in diverse corporations (women entrepreneurs and managers), and work in favour of disadvantaged female groups (women in poverty and those living in rural areas). This action allowed the emergence of woman in civil

#### IV. Penal population and gender

The number of men and women that represent the penal population is shown in Figure 31. The distribution of the penal population aged under 18 (minors) by gender is shown in Table 46.

**Figure 31: Trends in penal population, 1986-1992**



*Source: based on CENEAP databases*

**Table 46: Distribution of minor (< 18 years) penal population by gender**

Age group	Girls		Boys	
	No.	%	No.	%
<13	57	5.28	1,022	94.72
13-6	146	4.42	3,154	95.58
16-18	120	1.83	6,444	98.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>2.95</b>	<b>10,620</b>	<b>97.05</b>

*Source: based on CENEAP database:*

#### V. Institutional mechanism for the empowerment of women

Until 1994, no structure responsible for the empowerment of women existed at the governmental level. The creation of the ministerial department responsible for the national solidarity of the family filled somewhat the prevailing void in that matter. This ministry primarily contributed to the promotion of women's status included also missions related to family protection.

The first organization explicitly working towards promoting the status of women is the 'Permanent Committee of Follow-up and Evaluation', which was first created by the chief of government in May 13<sup>th</sup> of 1996, with the objective of evaluating the status of recommendations that came out of the workshop on the protection and promotion of women stated above. This committee was responsible for the follow-up of the Beijing conference on women.

This permanent committee, presided by the Ministry charged with national solidarity and that of the family, was composed of 41 members out of whom 17 were under the office of ministers and public institutions, 16 under that of the associative movement and 8 higher rank personalities.

This committee was supposed to proceed with the evaluation of activities undertaken in different domains such as education, health, employment, communication, justice or access to political power, and report it regularly to governmental authorities.

This organization constitutes a great progress whereby it groups diverse sensibilities within the same arena of dialogue, which translates itself into the disposition of public authorities to empower and protect women and their participation as a citizen.

This step forward if sustained will allow the country to deal with challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



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