

About this publication	Description
Publication title	Births, marriages and deaths - Preliminary Annual
Description	<p>Tables containing provisional data on births, stillbirths, deaths, cause of death, marriages and civil partnerships registered in Scotland. All of this information is broken down by sex and local authority; the numbers of deaths are broken down by age, cause and NHS board area.</p> <p>The Preliminary Annual publication also contains counts of divorces and dissolutions of civil partnerships. This publication also contains counts of divorces and dissolutions of civil partnerships.</p>
Theme	Population and Migration
Topic	Population and Migration
Format	The tables are available as Excel workbooks, CSV files and PDF files. The publications themselves do not say anything about the figures, but the accompanying news releases include brief commentaries.
Data source(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information provided to the Registrar when a birth, stillbirth, marriage, civil partnership or death is registered</li> <li>• Any additional information provided by, for example, the Procurators Fiscal</li> </ul>
Date that data is acquired	Preliminary annual publication: throughout the calendar year, and in the first two months of the following calendar year.
Publication Release date	Annually in March
Frequency	Annual
Timeframe of data and timeliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth, stillbirth, marriage, civil partnership and death registration records – received throughout the year, a week or so after registration.</li> <li>• Divorces and dissolutions - data received throughout the year, a few weeks after decrees are granted.</li> <li>• Follow-up information from other sources may be received several months afterwards (NB: the content of the statistical dataset is 'frozen' in the middle of the next calendar year).</li> </ul>
Continuity of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no breaks in the series for the total numbers of births, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths.</li> <li>• There may be differences between years in the way in which the underlying data were processed, for example, due to technical advances or changes.</li> <li>• There are occasional version changes to the International Classification of Diseases etc which is used to assign cause of death codes to death and stillbirth records. For some causes of death this could result in a break in the definition/series.</li> <li>• There is a break in the series for stillbirths in 1992, due to the Stillbirth (Definition) Act re-defining them.</li> <li>• The basis for publishing divorce figures was changed for the 2008 figures onwards. The time series was revised back to 1985 using the new basis of counting divorces based on the date of decree rather than the date of processing. This change made very little differences to the number of divorces in most years.</li> </ul>

Revisions statement	<p>Revisions and corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group corporate policy statement on revisions and corrections - a copy of which is available on the <a href="#">Scottish Government</a> website.</p> <p>The figures in these publications are superseded each year by more detailed annual tables, published in August, which contain finalised figures for the previous calendar year and its quarters. These take account of additional information that was received subsequently. However, the overall totals change by only slight percentages.</p> <p>National Records of Scotland (NRS) 'freezes' its statistical databases for the calendar year for births, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships or deaths around the middle of the following year, so there should be no subsequent revisions to the figures due to late returns or corrections. If there were any revisions due to changes in the way in which the information was processed, they would be mentioned in the publication and (unless their effects are small) the accompanying news release.</p> <p>However, the figures for divorces and dissolutions of civil partnerships may subsequently be revised slightly, if any late returns are received.</p>
Concepts and definitions	Some definitions are contained in footnotes to the tables where appropriate. Other, more detailed definitions are available from the NRS website.
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	In order to give users timely access to data throughout the year, provisional tables are produced quarterly, rather than waiting for finalised information which becomes available in the following August. The statistics are used by Scottish, UK and Local Government, NHS Boards, journalists, researchers and members of the public.
Accuracy	There is very little error in the counts and breakdowns, as few, if any, events are not registered.
Completeness:	The published statistics cover Scotland as a whole, and provide figures for each NHS Board and local authority.
Comparability	NRS is the only source of information on all births, marriages, deaths etc in Scotland. The NHS have some comparable information although NRS data are generally considered to be of a higher quality.
Accessibility	It is the policy of the National Records of Scotland (NRS) to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the <a href="#">Accessibility</a> section of the NRS website.
Coherence and clarity	<p>The statistics are provided in Excel, PDF and CSV formats. They are designed to be consistent, and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate.</p> <p>Coherence: the statistics in the tables have been on the same standard basis for a number of years.</p>

Value type and unit of measure	Most of the statistics are simply the numbers of events broken down in various ways(e.g., by age, sex and area). Some other types of figure are provided (e.g., rates per 1,000 population).
Official Statistics designation	National Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Assessed by UK Statistics Authority, report can be found within the <a href="#">UK Statistic Authority - Assessments</a> section on the NRS website
Help email	<a href="mailto:customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk">customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk</a>  There is also a <a href="#">contact form</a> on the NRS website.
Date this form was published	5 August 2011