

Births, deaths and other vital events

Fourth quarter 2018

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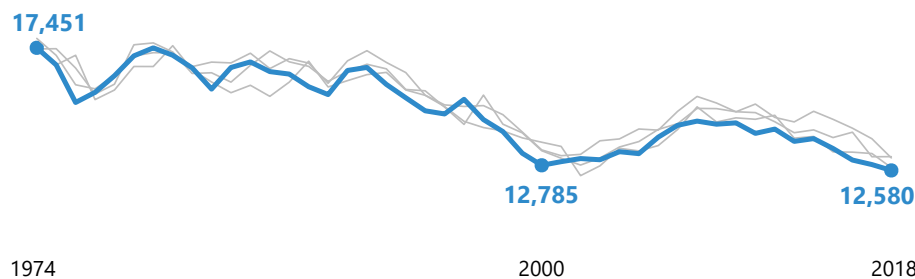


This release presents provisional figures for vital events which were registered in Scotland in the period from 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2018, inclusive. The tables provide statistics of births, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths.

Quarter 4 births at lowest ever level

There were 12,580 births in 2018 quarter 4, the lowest ever quarter 4 total and 5.9% lower than the average of the last 5 years.

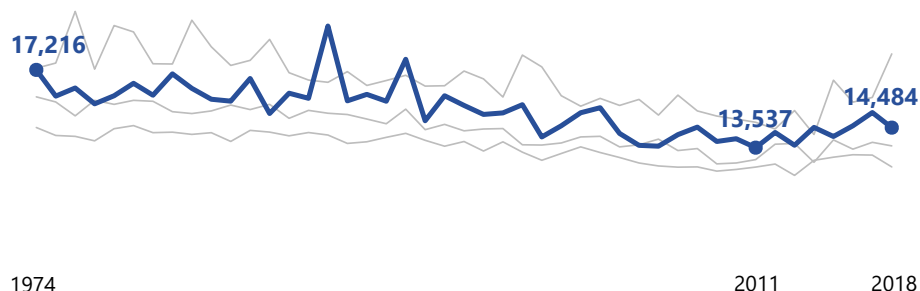
Number of births by quarter (Q1, Q2, Q3, **Q4**)



Quarter 4 deaths fall but are higher than 5 year average

There were 14,484 deaths in 2018 quarter 4, 4.7% lower than the same period last year, but 0.6% higher than the average of the last 5 years.

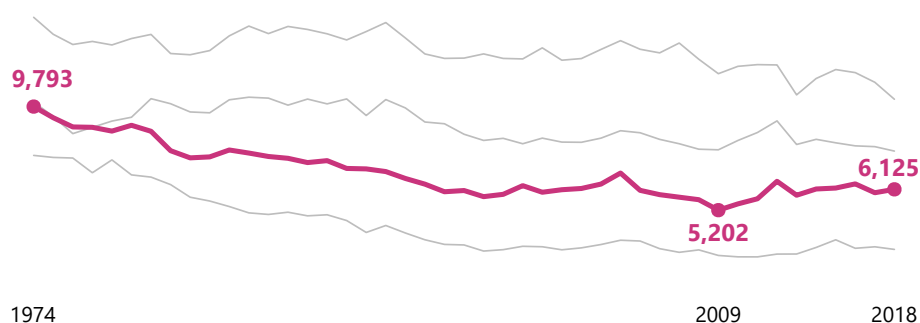
Number of deaths by quarter (Q1, Q2, Q3, **Q4**)



Quarter 4 marriages increase

There were 6,125 marriages in 2018 quarter 4, 3% higher than the same quarter last year and 18% higher than the quarter 4 low point in 2009.

Number of marriages by quarter (Q1, Q2, Q3, **Q4**)



Infographic page

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The tables and chart above have been made available as [Excel spreadsheets](#) and can also be viewed in [Comma Separated Value \(CSV\)](#) format.

When opening the spreadsheet files your browser, depending on how it's been configured, will prompt to either open the file or save it to disk.

Maximum file size is 137 Kb.

1. Main points

- There were 12,580 births, 14,484 deaths and 6,125 marriages were registered between October and December 2018.
- At 12,580, the number of births registered in the fourth quarter was 1.8 per cent lower than in the same period of 2017. This fall takes the quarter four total to its lowest level since civil registration began in 1855.
- The total number of quarter four births fell to a previous low of 12,785 in 2000. It then rose to 14,540 in 2008 before falling in more recent years. Compared to the quarter three average for the last 5 years, births are 5.9 per cent lower.
- Expressed as a rate, there were 9.2 births per 1,000 population.
- At 14,484, the number of deaths registered was 714 (4.7 per cent) lower than in the same period of 2017 but 0.6 per cent higher than the quarter four average for the last 5 years.
- Expressed as a rate, there were 10.6 deaths per 1,000 population.
- Compared with the fourth quarter of 2017:
 - The number of cancer deaths fell by 1.6 per cent to 4,264;
 - The number of deaths from coronary heart disease fell by 5.4 per cent to 1,675;
 - The number of deaths from dementia and Alzheimer's disease fell by 11.6 per cent to 1,596;
 - Deaths from respiratory diseases fell by 16.7 per cent to 1,511;
 - There were 1,003 deaths from cerebrovascular disease (a decrease of 1.3 per cent).
- The provisional figures also show there were 6,125 marriages in total, 150 more than during the fourth quarter of 2018 (a rise of 2.5 per cent). There were 227 same-sex marriages, 1 fewer (0.4 per cent) than in the same period of 2017. Of the same sex marriages registered in the fourth quarter, 25 (11.0 per cent) were changes from civil partnerships.
- There were 24 civil partnerships (14 male and 10 female), 1 more than during the fourth quarter of 2017).

2. Introduction

This release presents provisional figures for vital events which were registered in Scotland in the period from 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2018, inclusive. The tables and chart provide statistics of births, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths, including:

- quarterly figures for Scotland for each of the past ten years;
- the totals for each Local Authority and NHS Board area for the latest quarter; and
- more detailed analyses of the numbers of deaths (for example cross-classified by sex, cause and NHS Board area) for the latest quarter.

3. Commentary

The number of births in the fourth quarter of 2018 is the lowest quarter four total since records began. This is the second record-low number of quarterly births in a row, with quarter three births also falling to its lowest level in 2018.

The total number of quarter four births fell to a previous low of 12,785 in 2000. It then rose to 14,540 in 2008 before falling in more recent years. There is no single reason for the fall in the number of births, but possible causes may include the postponement of childbearing until older ages, often meaning that women will have fewer children; and economic uncertainty influencing decisions around childbearing, particularly given that the beginning of the recent fall coincided with the financial crash a decade ago.

The number of deaths registered in the fourth quarter of 2018 fell compared to the recent peak recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017, but was slightly higher (0.6 per cent) than the average of the previous 5 years.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 2017 there were falls in the numbers of deaths from many of the most common causes of death. The number of deaths from cancer, coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, respiratory disease, dementia and Alzheimer's disease all fell.

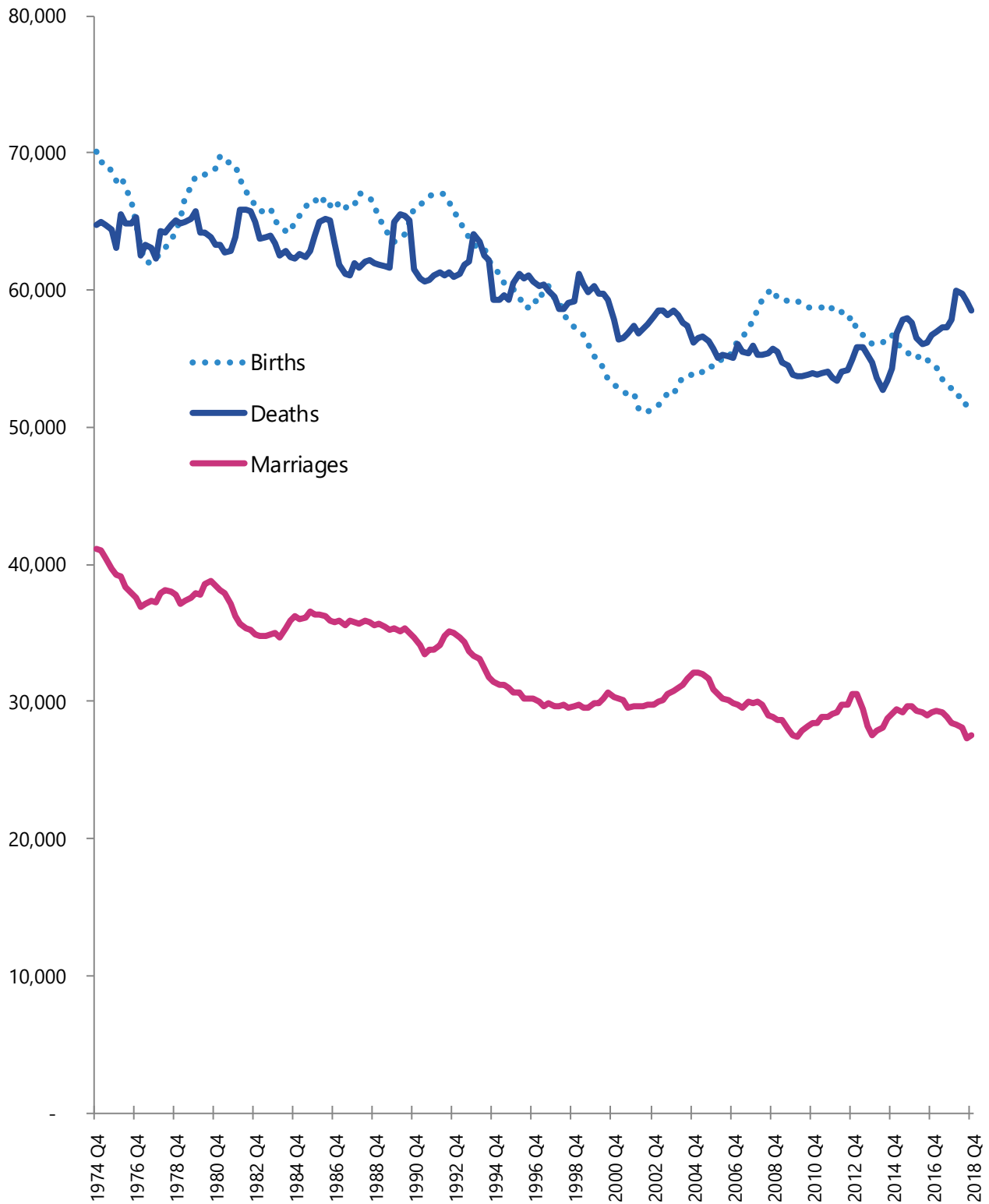
Over the longer term, deaths from coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease have decreased considerably whilst the number of deaths from cancer and respiratory disease has risen slightly. There has been a relatively large increase in the number of deaths from dementia and Alzheimer's disease with such deaths now accounting for more than 10 per cent of all deaths compared to 5 per cent a decade ago.

The quarterly tables, which can be downloaded from the [National Records of Scotland\(NRS\) website](#), contain further detailed statistics on births, deaths and other vital events, including figures for NHS Boards and local authority areas.

Figure 1 shows the numbers of births, deaths and marriages for successive periods of four quarters (e.g. the figure for "2016 Q2" covers 2015 Q3 to 2016 Q2, inclusive). For the four most recent quarters combined there were 51,308 births. This is the fourth lowest combined total; three periods ending in 2002 each had slightly lower totals than the four quarters ending 31 December 2018.

Figure 1: Births, deaths and marriages registered in successive periods of four quarters

(e.g. the figure for "2016 Q2" covers 2015 Q3 to 2016 Q2, inclusive; and the figure for "2012 Q3" covers 2011 Q4 to 2012 Q3, inclusive)



4. Background to these statistics

This is a quarterly publication. NRS collects the underlying data on a daily basis, as and when each event is registered. The statistics for 2018 are all provisional.

Information about (for example) the sources, methods, definitions and reliability of these statistics is available from the following NRS web site pages [general background information on Vital Events statistics and background information on points which are specific to statistics about deaths](#). These figures are directly comparable with those for other parts of the UK, there are no significant differences across the UK in how Vital Events data are collected and processed.

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

More detailed commentary on the final Vital Events statistics for calendar years as a whole (including some comparisons of the figures for different years, for parts of Scotland and for some other countries) can be found in the relevant chapters of [Scotland's Population - the Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends](#).

Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) (available on the UK Statistics Authority website).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is National Records of Scotland's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Information on background and source data

Further details on data source(s), timeframe of data and timeliness, continuity of data, accuracy can be found in the 'About this Publication' document that is published alongside this publication on the NRS website.

National Records of Scotland

We, the National Records of Scotland, are a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration. Our purpose is to collect, preserve and produce information about Scotland's people and history and make it available to inform current and future generations. We do this as follows:

- Preserving the past – We look after Scotland's national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.
- Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.
- Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the [Statistics](#) section of our website. Scottish Census statistics are available on the [Scotland's Census](#) website.

We also provide information about [future publications](#) on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government [ScotStat website](#).

You can also follow us on twitter [@NatRecordsScot](#)

Revisions and Corrections

We, the National Records of Scotland, label any revisions and corrections that we have applied to any of our statistics. These revisions and corrections are clearly marked on the webpage of the publication as well on our [revisions and corrections](#) page available on the NRS website.

Where applicable, revisions will also be carried out in accordance with the [revisions policy for population, migration and life events](#) statistics available on the ONS website.

Enquiries and suggestions

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Related organisations

Organisation	Contact
<p>The Scottish Government (SG) forms the bulk of the devolved Scottish Administration. The aim of the statistical service in the SG is to provide relevant and reliable statistical information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.</p>	<p>Office of the Chief Statistician and Strategic Analysis Scottish Government 2W, St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG</p> <p>Phone: 0131 244 0442</p> <p>Email: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot</p> <p>Website: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics</p>
<p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for producing a wide range of economic and social statistics. It also carries out the Census of Population for England and Wales</p>	<p>Customer Contact Centre Office for National Statistics Room 1.101 Government Buildings Cardiff Road Newport NP10 8XG</p> <p>Phone: 0845 601 3034 Minicom: 01633 815044</p> <p>Email: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.ons.gov.uk/</p>
<p>The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is Northern Ireland's official statistics organisation. The agency is also responsible for registering births, marriages, adoptions and deaths in Northern Ireland, and the Census of Population.</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency Colby House Stranmillis Court Belfast BT9 5RR</p> <p>Phone: 0300 200 7836</p> <p>Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.nisra.gov.uk</p>

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