

| About this publication | Description |
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| Publication title | Births, marriages and deaths - Quarterly |
| Description | 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. |
| 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"> • Information provided to the Registrar when a birth, stillbirth, marriage, civil partnership or death is registered. • Any additional information provided by, for example, the Procurators Fiscal. |
| Date that data is acquired | Quarterly publication: throughout the quarter, and in the first two months of the following quarter. |
| Publication Release date | Quarterly March, June, September, December |
| Frequency | Quarterly |
| Timeframe of data and timeliness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth, stillbirth, marriage, civil partnership and death registration records – received throughout the year, a week or so after registration. • 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). |
| Continuity of data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no breaks in the series for the total numbers of births, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths. • There may be differences between years in the way in which the underlying data were processed, for example, due to technical advances or changes. • 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. • There is a break in the series for stillbirths in 1992, due to the Stillbirth (Definition) Act re-defining them. |
| 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 Scottish Government 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> |

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| | 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. |
| 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 to make its website and products accessible according to published guidelines. More information is available in the Accessibility section of the NRS website. |
| Coherence and clarity | The statistics are provided in Excel, CSV and PDF formats. They are designed to be consistent, and incorporate comparable historical data where appropriate. Coherence: the statistics in the tables have been on the same standard basis for a number of years. |
| 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 UK Statistics Authority - Assessments section on the National Records of Scotland website. |
| Help email | statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk Further details are available from the Contact Us page on the NRS website |
| Date this form was published | 11 September 2014 |