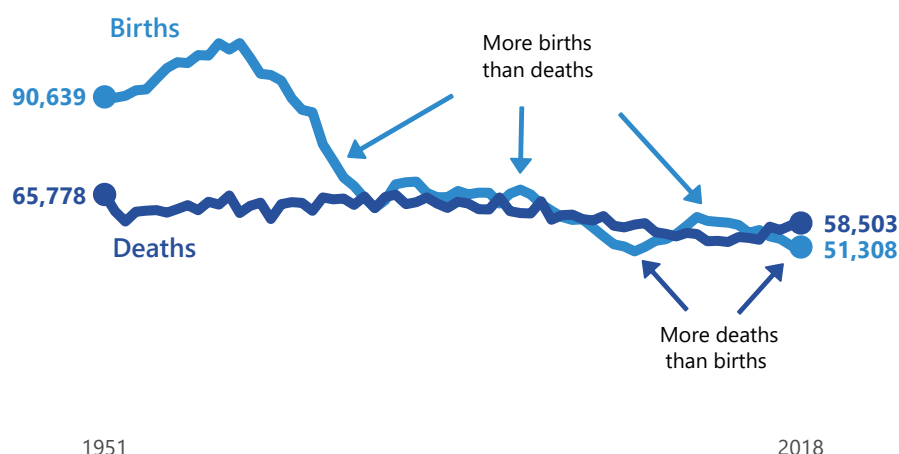


There were more deaths than births

2018 is the fourth year running where there were more deaths than births. The gap - often referred to as negative natural change - was 7,195

*

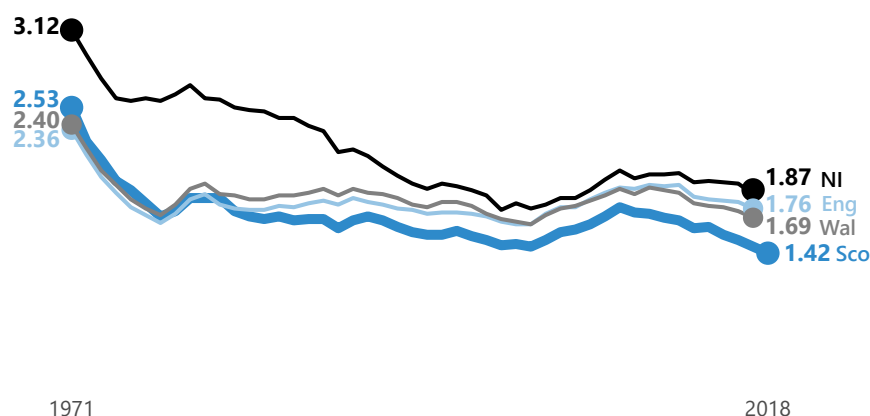
Births and deaths



Scotland's fertility lowest in UK

Until 1970, Scotland's total fertility rate (TFR) was slightly higher than that for England and Wales. However, since the early 1980s, Scotland's TFR has dropped steadily and is now the lowest of the UK countries.

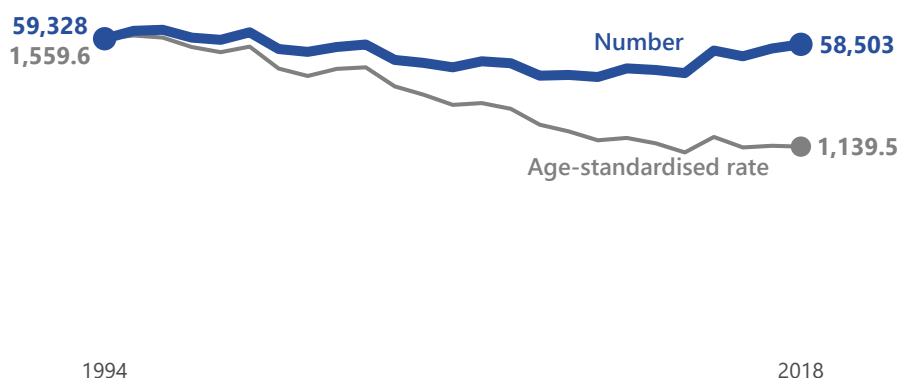
Total fertility rates, UK countries



Number of deaths has increased

The number of deaths increased by 1.1% to 58,503 in 2018. The age-standardised death rate (which accounts for the ageing population) has been largely stable since 2012.

Deaths, numbers and rates



* Rate per 100,000 population based on the ESP 2013.