

Vital Events Reference Tables

2018

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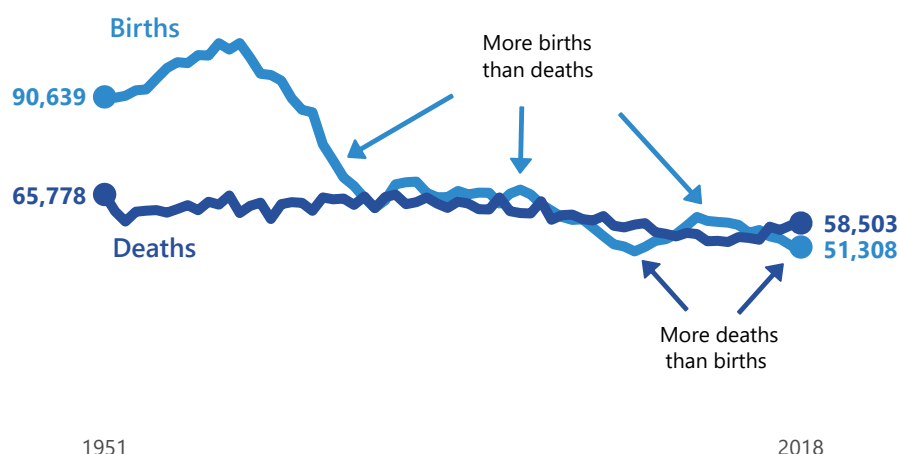
This release presents final figures for vital events which were registered in Scotland in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, inclusive. The tables provide statistics of births, adoptions, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths.

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

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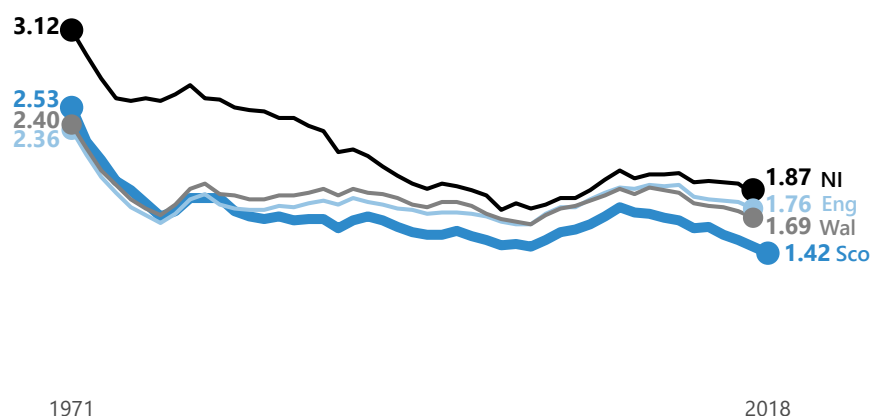
Births and deaths



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.

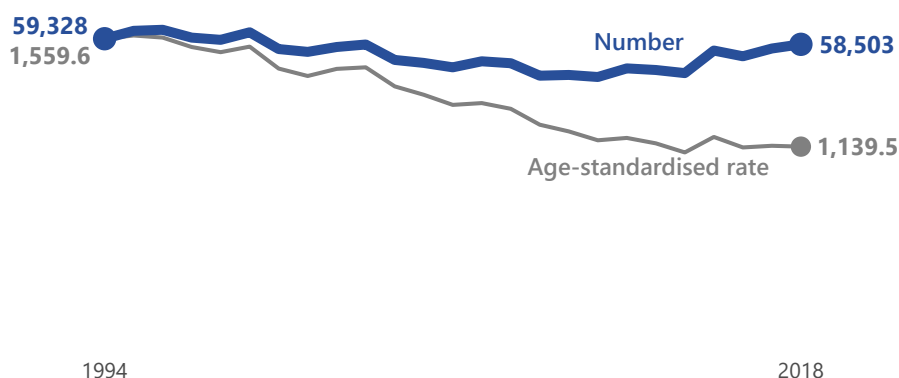
Total fertility rates, UK countries



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.

Contents

1.	Main points	7
2.	Introduction.....	8
3.	Adoptions	8
4.	Births	8
5.	Stillbirths and Infant Deaths.....	8
6.	Deaths	8
7.	Marriages and Civil Partnerships.....	9
8.	Background to these statistics.....	9
	Notes on statistical publications.....	11
	Related organisations	13

List of tables

[Section 1: Summary](#)

Table 1.01(a)	Population and vital events, Scotland, annual averages 1855-60 to 2011-15
Table 1.01(b)	Population and vital events, Scotland, 1971 to 2018
Table 1.02	Births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships, numbers and rates, Scotland, quarterly, 2007 to 2018
Table 1.03	Estimated population, births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships, numbers and rates, by administrative area, Scotland, 2018
Table 1.04	Births, deaths and death rates by administrative area, resident and not resident in Scotland, 2018
Table 1.05	Standardised mortality ratios (based on Scotland experience) for selected causes, by administrative area, Scotland, 2018
Table 1.06	International populations and vital statistics rates, selected countries, latest available figures
Table 1.07	Summary comparisons with other countries of the United Kingdom

[Section 2: Adoptions and re-registrations](#)

Table 2.01	Adoptions, Scotland, 1930 - 2018
Table 2.02	Adoptions by age of child and relationship of the adopter(s), 2018
Table 2.03	Adoptions by type of adoption and by type of adopter(s), 1999 - 2018

[Section 3: Births](#)

Table 3.01(a)	Live births, numbers and percentages, by age of mother and marital status of parents, Scotland, 1946-50 to 2011-15
Table 3.01(b)	Live births, numbers and percentages, by age of mother and marital status of parents, Scotland, 2000 to 2018
Table 3.02	Live births, numbers and percentages, by marital status of parents and type of registration, Scotland, 1974 to 2018
Table 3.03	Live births outside marriage, numbers and percentages, age of mother and type of registration, Scotland, 1974 to 2018
Table 3.04	Birth rate, gross and net reproduction rates and general and total fertility rates, Scotland, 1971 to 2018
Table 3.05	Fertility rates by age of mother and marital status of parents, Scotland, 1971 to 2018
Table 3.06	Age-specific birth rates, per 1,000 female population, Scotland, 1951 to 2018
Table 3.07(a)	Cumulative fertility, by (assumed) birth cohort and selected age, Scotland, up to 2018
Table 3.07(b)	Cumulative fertility, for selected (assumed) birth cohorts, Scotland, up to 2018
Table 3.07(c)	Cumulative fertility, 1935-1999 (assumed) birth cohorts, Scotland, up to 2018
Table 3.08	Live births, numbers and fertility rates by marital status of parents, type of registration and administrative area, Scotland, 2018
Table 3.09	Live births, by country of birth of mother and administrative area, Scotland, 2018
Table 3.10	Live births, country of birth of mother by country of birth of father, Scotland, 2018
Table 3.11	Live births, stillbirths and maternities, by sex of child, marital status of parents and age of mother, Scotland, 2018
Table 3.12	Live birth, stillbirth and maternity rates per 1,000 women, by sex of child and age of mother, Scotland, 2018
Table 3.13	Live births by country of birth of mother, Scotland, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016 to 2018
Table 3.14	Live Births, Stillbirths and Maternities, by sex of child, marital status of parents and age of mother, Scotland and administrative areas, 2018

- Table 3.15 Live births, numbers by age of mother and age of father, and the average ages of mothers and fathers, Scotland, 2018
- Table 3.16 Fertility rates (per 1,000 women) by age group and administrative area Scotland, 2018

[Section 4: Stillbirths and infant deaths](#)

- Table 4.01 Live births, stillbirths, perinatal, neonatal, post neonatal and infant deaths, Scotland, 1946 to 2018
- Table 4.02 Stillbirth, perinatal, neonatal, post neonatal and infant death rates, Scotland, 1946 to 2018
- Table 4.03 Infant death rates, by age, Scotland, 1946 to 2018
- Table 4.04 Stillbirths, by sex and cause, Scotland, 2008 to 2018
- Table 4.05 Infant deaths, by sex and cause, Scotland, 2008 to 2018
- Table 4.06 Stillbirth rates, by sex and cause, Scotland, 2008 to 2018
- Table 4.07 Infant death rates, by sex and cause, Scotland, 2008 to 2018

[Section 5: Death rates, by sex and age, Scotland](#)

- Table 5.01(a) Death rates, by sex and age, Scotland, 1946-50 to 2011-2015
- Table 5.01(b) Death rates, by sex and age, Scotland, 2001 to 2018
- Table 5.02 Deaths, by sex, age, and administrative area, Scotland, 2018
- Table 5.03 Deaths, by country of birth of deceased, Scotland, 1971 to 2018
- Table 5.04 Deaths, by sex, age, and ethnic group, Scotland, 2018

[Section 6: Deaths – causes](#)

- Table 6.01 Deaths, by sex and cause, Scotland, 2008 to 2018
- Table 6.02 Deaths, numbers and rates, by sex, age and cause, Scotland, 2018
- Table 6.03 Deaths, by sex, cause and administrative area, Scotland, 2018
- Table 6.04 Deaths, by sex, age and cause, Scotland, 2018
- Table 6.05 Deaths by frequency of cause by sex, numbers and percentages, Scotland, 1986 to 2018
- Table 6.06 Death rates from malignant neoplasms (all sites), by sex and age, Scotland, 1950 to 2018
- Table 6.07 Death rates from malignant neoplasms, by sex, age and selected sites, Scotland, 1950 to 2018
- Table 6.08 Death rates from ischaemic heart disease, by sex and age, Scotland, 1950 to 2018
- Table 6.09 Death rates from cerebrovascular disease, by sex and age, Scotland, 1950 to 2018
- Table 6.10 Deaths from road transport accidents, by sex and age, Scotland, 1946 to 2018
- Table 6.11 Intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent, Scotland, 1981 to 2018
- Table 6.12 Deaths from poisoning, by sex and cause, Scotland, 2018
- Table 6.13 Deaths aged under 90, years of 'working life' lost and years of 'life to age 90' lost due to mortality from selected causes, per 10,000 population, Scotland, 2018
- Table 6.14 Average age at death, selected causes, Scotland, 1979 to 2018
- Table 6.15 Leading causes of death, by sex and age, Scotland, 2018

[Section 7: Marriages and Civil Partnerships](#)

- Table 7.01(a) Marriages, by sex and age, Scotland, 1946-50 to 2011-15
- Table 7.01(b) Marriages, by sex and age, Scotland, 1974 to 2018
- Table 7.02 Same-sex marriages, by sex and marital status, Scotland, 2018

Table 7.03(a)	Mean age at marriage, by sex and marital status, Scotland, 1855 to 2018
Table 7.03(b)	Marriages, by sex and marital status, Scotland, 1974 to 2018
Table 7.04	Marriages, percentages by marital status of persons marrying, Scotland, 1855 to 2018
Table 7.05	Marriages, religious forms and other beliefs, by selected denomination, 2018
Table 7.06	Marriages, numbers and percentages, by method of celebration, Scotland, 1946 to 2018
Table 7.07	Marriages, by denomination, Scotland, 2018
Table 7.08	Marriages, by country of birth, Scotland, 2018
Table 7.09	Marriages, by country of residence, Scotland, 2018
Table 7.10	Civil Partnerships, by sex, Scotland, 2005 to 2018
Table 7.11	Civil Partnerships, sex and age groups in combination of younger partner and older partner, 2018

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

1. Main points

- There were 51,308 live births registered in 2018, the lowest annual total since 2002 and the second lowest annual total since records began in 1855.
- There were 190 stillbirths in 2018, a rate of 3.7 for every thousand live and still births. This was the lowest stillbirth rate ever recorded.
- There were 163 infant deaths, a rate of 3.2 for every thousand live births in 2018. This equalled the previous lowest ever infant death rate which was recorded in 2015.
- The number of deaths registered in 2018 was 58,503, an increase of 1.1 per cent on the number in 2017 and represented the highest annual total since 1999. This increase was driven by a particularly high number of deaths registered in quarter one of 2018.
- Compared with 2017:
 - the number of deaths from cancer increased by 0.3% to 16,256;
 - respiratory deaths increase by 4.0% to 7,128
 - deaths from ischaemic heart disease fell by 1.7% to 6,615;
 - there were 6,484 deaths from dementia and Alzheimer's disease, a fall of 1.0%; and
 - cerebrovascular deaths (3,831) were 2.4% lower.
- The leading cause of death in 2018 was ischaemic heart disease (11.3% of all deaths) followed closely by dementia and Alzheimer's disease (11.1% of all deaths). Lung cancer was the third most common cause of death, accounting for 6.8% of all deaths.
- The leading cause for men was ischaemic heart disease (13.9% of all deaths) whereas for women it was dementia and Alzheimer's disease (14.4% of all deaths)
- There were 27,525 marriages in 2018. The lowest number recorded since 2009. Of these, 979 were same sex marriages.
- There were 65 civil partnerships in 2018, 38 involving male couples and 27 involving female couples.

2. Introduction

This release presents final figures for vital events which were registered in Scotland in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, inclusive. The tables provide statistics of births, adoptions, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths. Provisional figures have been released throughout the last year on a quarterly basis. The publication of the reference tables represents the final statistics for 2018 and supersedes the provisional quarterly figures.

3. Adoptions

There were 471 adoptions in 2018, 13 per cent fewer than in 2017. This is around half the number in the mid-1980s and less than a quarter of the number of the late 1960s.(Table 2.01)

Only 13 per cent of children adopted in 2018 were aged under two. Eight per cent were aged 15 or over. (Table 2.02)

4. Births

There were 51,308 live births registered in 2018, the lowest annual total since 2002 (51,270) and the second lowest annual total since records began in 1855. Births have been falling over the long term and fell to their lowest point in 2002 before increasing to reach a recent high point of 60,041 in 2008 and have decreased steadily since then.

There were more boys born than girls with 1,054 boys for every 1,000 girls. Just over half of all live births (51%) were to unmarried parents. Multiple births accounted for 1.5% of all maternities with 753 maternities involving twins and 6 involving triplets or more. (Table 1.01b)

5. Stillbirths and Infant Deaths

There were 190 stillbirths in 2018, a rate of 3.7 for every thousand live and still births. This was the lowest stillbirth rate ever recorded.

There were 163 infant deaths, a rate of 3.2 for every thousand live births in 2018. This equaled the previous lowest ever infant death rate which was recorded in 2015. (Table 1.01b)

6. Deaths

The number of deaths registered in 2018 was 58,503, an increase of 1.1 per cent on the number in 2017 and represented the highest annual total since 1999. This was driven by a particularly high number of deaths registered in quarter one of 2018, with numbers registered in the other three quarters remaining at similar, or slightly lower, levels to the year before. (Tables 1.01b, 1.02)

Compared with 2017 the number of deaths from cancer increased by 0.3 per cent to reach 16,256. Deaths from ischaemic heart disease fell by 1.7 per cent to 6,615 and cerebrovascular deaths (3,831) were 2.4 per cent lower than the previous year. There were 6,484 deaths from dementia and Alzheimer's disease, a fall of 1.0 per cent since 2017.

Deaths from respiratory diseases increased by 4.0% to 7,128. Within this, there were 361 influenza deaths, up from 136 the year before. Whilst the proportion of respiratory deaths where influenza was the underlying cause was relatively small (5 per cent), it is likely that influenza was a contributory factor in many more. (Table 6.01)

The leading cause of death for all persons in 2018 was ischaemic heart disease, accounting for 11.3 per cent of all deaths. This was closely followed by dementia and Alzheimer's disease which accounted for 11.1 per cent of deaths. The leading cause differed by sex with males being most likely to die from ischaemic heart disease (13.9 per cent of male deaths) and females most likely to die from dementia and Alzheimer's disease (14.4 per cent of female deaths). The leading cause also differed greatly by age group, with accidental poisoning being the leading cause for the 20-34 and 35-49 year old age groups, ischaemic heart disease for 50-64 year olds and 65-79 year olds and dementia and Alzheimer's disease for 80-89 and 90+ year olds.(Table 6.15)

7. Marriages and Civil Partnerships

There were 27,525 marriages in 2018, the lowest number recorded since 2009. Of these, 979 were same-sex marriages. (Table 1.01b)

Just under half of all marriages were civil ceremonies (13,596). Of the religious and other belief bodies which carried out the remaining 13,929 ceremonies, the most common denominations were Humanist Society Scotland (3,320), Church of Scotland (2,789), Independent Humanist Ceremonies (1,322) and The Roman Catholic Church (1,079). (Table 7.07)

There were 65 civil partnerships in 2018, five fewer than in the previous year. 38 of these involved male couples and 27 involved female couples. (Table 7.10)

8. Background to these statistics

This is an annual publication. NRS collects the underlying data on a daily basis, as and when each event is registered. Provisional data are published on a quarterly basis around 10 weeks after the end of the quarter. These annual figures represent the final figures for the calendar year and supersede the provisional quarterly figures already published.

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.

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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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