

Vital Events Reference Tables

2019

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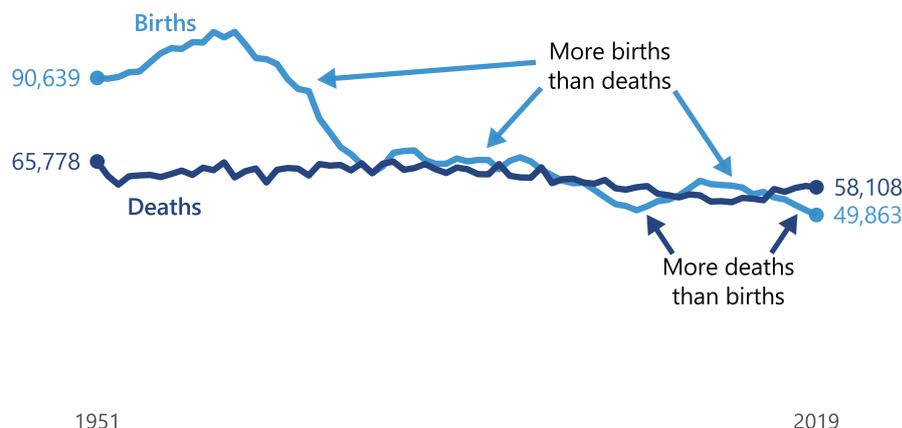


This release presents final figures for vital events which were registered in Scotland in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019, inclusive. The tables provide statistics of births, adoptions, stillbirths, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths.

There were more deaths than births

2019 is the fifth year running where there were more deaths than births. There were 8,245 more deaths than births. This is often referred to as negative natural change.

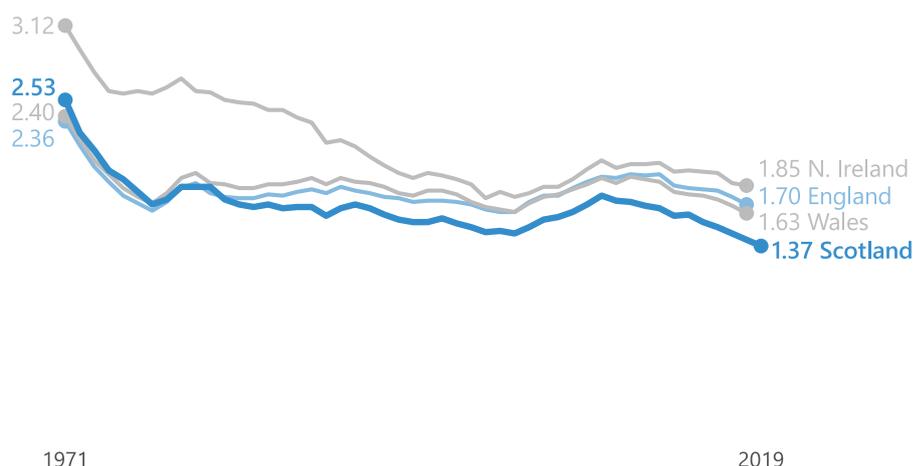
Births and deaths



Scotland has the lowest fertility in the 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 UK fertility rates, UK countries*

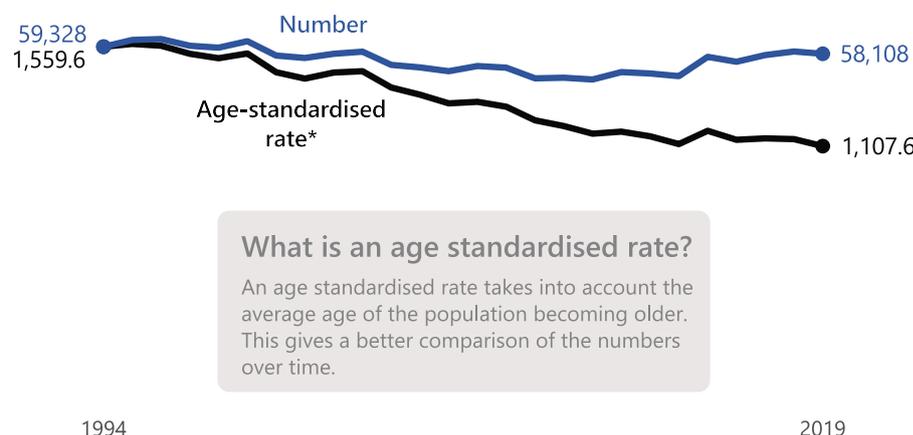


* Most recent values for England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2018

The number of deaths has increased

The number of deaths decreased by 0.7% to 58,108 in 2019, but has been on an upward trend since 2011.

Deaths, numbers and rates



What is an age standardised rate?
 An age standardised rate takes into account the average age of the population becoming older. This gives a better comparison of the numbers over time.

The age-standardised death rate fell by 3% in 2019, although it has been largely stable since 2014.

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

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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 49,863 live births registered in 2019, the lowest annual total since records began in 1855.
- There were 174 stillbirths in 2019, a rate of 3.5 for every thousand live and still births. This was the lowest stillbirth rate ever recorded.
- There were 165 infant deaths, a rate of 3.3 for every thousand live births in 2019. This is slightly higher than the rate in 2018 (3.2) but low in historical terms.
- The number of deaths registered in 2019 was 58,108, a decrease of 0.7 per cent on the number in 2018 but the second highest annual total since 2003.
- The age-standardised mortality rate per (which takes account of the changing population structure) was 1107.6 per 100,000 people in 2019, a decrease of 3 per cent on 2018. Historically, age-standardised mortality rates have fallen consistently over time but there has been little change since 2014.
- There were 26,007 marriages in 2019. The lowest number ever recorded. Of these, 912 were same sex marriages.
- There were 83 civil partnerships in 2019, 50 involving male couples and 33 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 2019, 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 2019 and supersedes the provisional quarterly figures.

No tables have been published for chapter 6 (causes of death) and selected tables in other chapters which include cause of death breakdowns are not included. This is due to delays in information received from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) which are required to determine the cause of death. These tables will be published at a later date once the information has been received. Please refer to [our website](#) for more information on the reasons for this delay.

3. Adoptions

There were 472 adoptions in 2019, an increase of 1 compared to 2018. 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 15 per cent of children adopted in 2019 were aged under two. Seven per cent were aged 15 or over. (Table 2.02)

4. Births

There were 49,863 live births registered in 2019, the 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 1,063 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 717 maternities involving twins and 9 involving triplets or more. (Table 1.01b)

5. Stillbirths and Infant Deaths

There were 174 stillbirths in 2019, a rate of 3.5 for every thousand live and still births. This was the lowest stillbirth rate ever recorded.

There were 165 infant deaths, a rate of 3.3 for every thousand live births in 2019. This is slightly higher than the rate in 2018 (3.2) but low in historical terms. (Table 1.01b)

6. Deaths

The number of deaths registered in 2019 was 58,108, a decrease of 0.7 per cent on the number in 2018 but the second highest annual total since 2003. Quarter one deaths were much lower in 2019 than in 2018 (which had a particularly high number of deaths driven by a bad flu season) but were actually higher than 2018 for the remainder of the year (Tables 1.01b, 1.02)

The age-standardised mortality rate per (which takes account of the changing population structure) was 1107.6 per 100,000 people in 2019, a decrease of 3 per cent on 2018. Historically, age-standardised mortality rates have fallen consistently over time but there has been little change since 2014. The rate among males (1,275.0 per 100,000) is higher than among females (971.2 per 100,000).

Glasgow City had the highest age-standardised mortality rate of all local authority areas (1,349.3 per 100,000) followed by Inverclyde (1,289.4) North Ayrshire (1,280.0) and West Dunbartonshire (1,275.5).

The age-standardised mortality rate for under 75s (sometimes referred to as premature mortality) fell by 1% since 2018 and has also been fairly stable since 2014. Among under 75s there is also a higher rate among males (515.0 per 100,000) compared to females (342.2 per 100,000).

7. Marriages and Civil Partnerships

There were 26,007 marriages in 2019. The lowest number ever recorded. Of these, 912 were same sex marriages. (Table 1.01b)

Just under half of all marriages were civil ceremonies (12,635). Of the religious and other belief bodies which carried out the remaining 13,372 ceremonies, the most common denominations were Humanist Society Scotland (3,276), Church of Scotland (2,225), Independent Humanist Ceremonies (1,270) and The Roman Catholic Church (911). (Table 7.07)

There were 83 civil partnerships in 2019, 18 more than in the previous year. 50 of these involved male couples and 33 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.

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

Please contact our Statistics Customer Services if you need any further information.

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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 McAuley House 2-14 Castle Street Belfast BT1 1SA</p> <p>Phone: 028 9034 8100</p> <p>Email: info.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.nisra.gov.uk</p>

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