



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh Central Statistics Office

Preas Ráiteas Press Statement

Annual Reports of Marriages, Births and Deaths from 1864 to 2000 inclusive

The CSO has today released on their website <http://www.cso.ie/shorturl.aspx/214> the series of Annual Reports on Marriages, Births and Deaths in Ireland from 1864 to 1886 and from 1922 to 2000¹ inclusive. These reports from the CSO archives have been scanned and converted into Portable Document Format (PDF) and are searchable on the web. Annual reports for the years 2001 to 2011 are already available on the CSO website www.cso.ie

The first annual report of the Registrar-General of Marriages, Births and Deaths in Ireland was for the year 1864 and was published in 1869 by Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) and these annual reports have continued to be published. From 1922 to 1952 the reports were published by the Registrar-General for Saorstát Éireann. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has compiled and published Vital Statistics reports since 1953. Some of the long term trends include:

Births

- ◆ There were 136,414 births in 1864² which represented 24.0 per 1,000 of the population. By 1922 this had fallen to 58,849 registered births or 18.6 per 1,000 of the population. In 1964 there were 64,072 registered births which represented 22.5 per 1,000 of the population and in 2011, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 74,033 live births in Ireland (this was 16.2 per 1,000 of the population).
- ◆ In 1864 there were 5,180 births (or 3.8% of all births) which were stated as being "illegitimate". By 1922 there were 1,520 or 2.6% of births which were stated as being "illegitimate" and this fell slightly in 1964 to 1,292 or 2.0% of all live births. By 2011 the number of births outside of marriage/civil partnerships represented over one-third or 33.9% (25,091) of all live births.
- ◆ The ratio of boys to girls has remained stable over time. While it was 105.6 boys to 100 girls in 1864, it was 106.5 boys to 100 girls in 1922 and 104.6 boys to 100 girls in 1964. In 2011 it had risen slightly to 104.9 boys to 100 girls.

Deaths

- ◆ There were 93,144 deaths registered in 1864, a death rate of 16.4 per 1,000 of the population. In 1922 the number of deaths had fallen to 44,547 which equated to 14.1 deaths per 1,000 of the population. By 1964 there were some 32,630 registered deaths, equivalent to a rate of 11.5 per 1,000 of the population in that year. In 2011 there were 28,456 registered deaths in Ireland, equivalent to a rate of 6.2 deaths per 1,000 of the population, continuing the consistent downward trend in the death rate since 1864.

¹ The Annual Reports on Marriages, Births and Deaths for the years 1887 to 1921 were published by the Register-General and these reports are already available on the CSO website. See link below: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp128.htm>

² Data for 1864 is the whole island of Ireland. Data for 1922 onwards is for the current state.

.../more



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Bóthar na Sceiche Airde
Corcaigh
Éire

Oifig i mBaile Átha Cliath
+353 1 4984000

Central Statistics Office
Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland

Dublin Office
+353 1 4984000



LoCall 1890 313 414 (ROI)
0870 876 0256 (UK/NI)
+353 21 453 5000
+353 21 453 5555



information@cso.ie
www.cso.ie

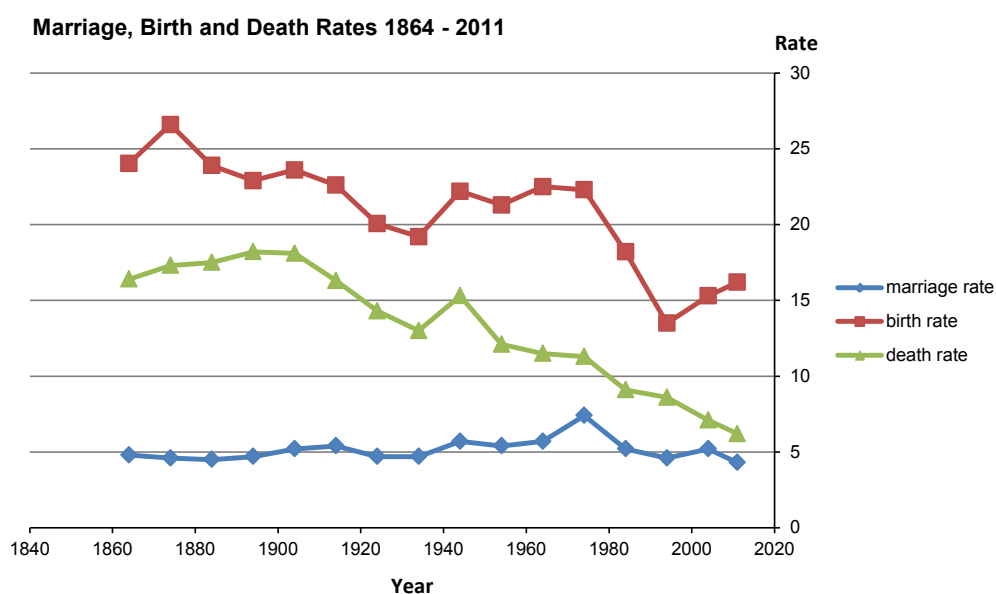
- ◆ While just over three-quarters of deaths occurring in 2011 were attributed to 3 main causes i.e. diseases of the circulatory system, neoplasms and the respiratory system, a different picture emerges for other years. For example, nearly 20% of the deaths (18,440) in 1864 were from Miasmatic diseases. These include deaths from Scarlatina, Croup, Whooping-cough, Fever, Small-pox, Diarrhoea, Measles, and Dysentery etc. Of the 44,547 deaths in 1922, some 4,614 persons died from Tuberculosis, with 3,345 dying from Bronchitis, nearly 2,800 from Pneumonia and 1,812 from Influenza. By 1964 diseases of the heart were cited as the underlying cause of death in 10,303 cases while 4,962 died from cancer. While 1,072 died as a result of an accident or other external causes, 401 died due to tuberculosis and a further 316 died from influenza.
- ◆ Deaths of those less than 1 year accounted for 14.4% or 13,425 of total deaths in 1864. In 1922 there were 4,054 deaths of those aged less than one year old. Common causes of death were listed as atrophy, debility, marasmus, convulsions, pneumonia, bronchitis, diarrhoea and enteritis and premature birth. There were 1,712 infant deaths in 1964 (including 458 who died as a result of congenital malformations, 279 from whooping cough, influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases; birth injuries were cited for 145 infant deaths). By 2011 there were 262 cases of infant mortality.

Marriages

- ◆ There were 27,406 marriages entered into in 1864 while 15,141 marriages were registered in the Irish Free State in 1922. There were 16,128 marriages registered in 1964 and by 2011 this had climbed to 19,855. Overall however the marriage rate per 1,000 of the population has remained remarkably consistent since 1864 when it was 4.8. The rate was also 4.8 in 1922 while rising to 5.7 in 1964 and decreasing to 4.3 in 2011.
- ◆ There were 1,032 males that were under 21 years when they married in 1864, but almost 5 times as many females (4,976) were under 21 when they wed. Although the Marriage Registers in 1864 contained a column to insert the age of each person on marriage, it was sufficient to state if the parties were “of full age” or a “minor”. Of the 54,812 persons married that year, some 24,352 (10,574 men and 13,778 women) signed the register with marks suggesting the absence of an elementary education. By 1922 some 14,740 (97.3%) of husbands and 14,884 (98.3%) wives signed the marriage register or certificate; the remainder made a mark. In 10% of marriages that year, one or both of the contracting parties had been married previously.

Other points of interest

- ◆ In 1864, the island of Ireland was treated as having 8 Registration Divisions and the estimated population in the middle of 1864 was over 5.7 million. The estimated population of the Saorstát Éireann area in the middle of 1922 was 3.2 million. In April 1964, the estimated population was 2.8 million while the estimated population in the state in 2011 was 4.6 million, an increase of 43.8% and 64.3% respectively from the population in 1922 and 1964.
- ◆ The earlier annual reports 1864 – 1921 contained information on emigration. Meteorological observations/weather are contained in the reports for 1864 to 1932.



A special thanks to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) for making the annual reports for the years 1887 – 1921 available and these are already accessible on the CSO website www.cso.ie

For further information, contact Carol Anne Hennessy on 021 453 5307 or Marie Crowley 021 453 5016.

Central Statistics Office

30th April 2014

– ENDS –