

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS v2.0)
(User oriented)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: VITAL STATISTICS – DEMOGRAPHIC INDICES

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1. Contact		<u>Top</u>
1.1 Contact organisation	HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY	
1.2 Contact organisation unit	POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT AND COST OF LIVING STATISTICS DIVISION – POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS SECTION	
1.3 Contact name	GEORGIA THYMOGLOU	
1.4 Contact person function	HEAD OF SECTION	
1.5 Contact mail address	Pireos 46 & Eponiton Str., 185 10 Piraeus	
1.6 Contact email address	<u>g.thymoglou@statistics.gr</u>	
1.7 Contact phone number	(+30) 213 135 2175	

2. Metadata update		Top
2.1 Metadata last certified	12.09.2024	
2.2 Metadata last posted	12.09.2024	
2.3 Metadata last update	12.09.2024	

3. Statistical presentation		Top
3.1 Data description		
<p>This area includes vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages, registered partnerships, divorces) during the reference year. The main variables are age, sex, marital status, citizenship, country/place of birth, place of usual residence (Region, Regional Unit, Municipal Unit), level of education, occupation, cause of death, place of incidence etc.</p> <p>It also includes demographic indicators (Total Fertility Rate, Mean Age of the Mother at Childbearing). The sources of the data are administrative records (Civil Registries).</p> <p>As regards divorces, up to 2017, ELSTAT collected data on final divorce decisions issued by the Courts of First Instance on an annual basis. As of 2018, with the implementation of Law 4509/2017, art. 22, the divorces are registered at the Registry Office where the marriage was registered. To this end, data on divorces are also derived from the Information System of the Ministry of Interior.</p>		
3.2 Classification system		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical classification: six-digit geographical division code of the Country "KAPODISTRIAS 2009" and since 2013 eight-digit geographical division of the Country "KALLIKRATIS". • Classification of professions: two-digit code STEP '92 and since 2013 two-digit ISCO 08. • Education level classification: national codes and since 2013 ISCED codes. • Classification of diseases: four-digit ICD 09 codes and since 2013 four-digit ICD 10 codes. • Nationality classification: two-digit national classification codes. 		
3.3 Sector coverage		
Vital statistics		
3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions		
<p>"Usual Resident Population of a country/geographical region" is the number of persons who have their usual residence in that country/geographical region during the reference year.</p> <p>"Usual residence" is the place where a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment, or religious pilgrimage. The following persons alone are considered to be usually residents of the geographical area in question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those who have lived in their place of usual residence for a continuous period of at least 12 months before the reference year; or • those who arrived in their place of usual residence during the 12 months before the reference year with the intention of staying there for at least 1 year. <p>"Average population" is the mid-year population (30th June) as the average between two consecutive years.</p> <p>"Age" is the number of completed years between the date of birth of a person and the date of reference.</p> <p>"Live Birth" is the birth of a child that is breathing or showing any other evidence of life, regardless of gestational age.</p> <p>"Gestational age" is the number of gestational weeks having proceeded before the childbirth.</p> <p>"Stillbirth" is fetal death, regardless of the length of pregnancy.</p> <p>"Total Births" is the sum of live births and stillbirths.</p> <p>"Number of births" is the number of previous live births or stillbirths of the mother (Parity).</p> <p>"Total Fertility Rate" is the average number of live children a woman would have delivered at the end of her reproductive age if, having survived, she had experienced the age-specific fertility conditions of the reference year. The total fertility rate is used to determine the generation replacement level which in</p>		

developed countries is 2.1.

"Mean age of the mother at childbearing" the mean age of women when delivering a live child.

"Death" is the permanent disappearance of all signs of vital functions at any time after birth.

"Crude Mortality Rate» is the number of deaths, during the reference year, per of 1,000 average population.

"Main cause of death" is the disease or injury which caused the sequence of morbid events which directly led to death, or the circumstances of accident or violent act causing fatal injury.

"Neonatal death" is death occurring among live births during the first 28 days.

"Neonatal mortality" is the ratio of deaths of infants under 28 days of age during the reference year to the number of live births in the same year. The ratio is expressed per 1,000 live births.

"Infant mortality" is the ratio of deaths of infants under one year of age during the reference year to the number of live births in the same year. The ratio is expressed per 1,000 live births.

"Perinatal mortality" is the ratio of infant deaths under one week of age and stillbirths during the reference year to the number of total births (including stillbirths) in the same year. The ratio is expressed per 1,000 total births.

"Life Expectancy at Birth" is the average number of years a newborn person is expected to survive if current mortality conditions prevail during their lifetime (as derived by Life Tables).

"Citizenship" is the special legal bond between a person and his own State, acquired by birth or by naturalization, whether by declaration, choice, marriage, or other means, in accordance with national legislation.

"Country/place of birth" is the country/place of residence (at current borders, if information is available) of the mother at the time of birth or, if not available, the country (at current borders, if information is available) in which the birth took place.

"Dependency ratio" is the ratio of dependent members (persons aged 0-14 and 65 and over) to the number of persons of productive or working age (aged 15-64).

"Old Age Dependency ratio" is the ratio of the number of persons aged 65 and over to the number of persons of productive or working age (aged 15-64).

"Aging ratio" is the ratio of the number of persons aged 65 years and over to the youngest average population (aged 0-14).

Statistical unit

Individuals or vital events

3.6 Statistical population

The usual resident population of the Greek territory. Vital events that occur abroad to usual residents of the country are not recorded.

3.7 Reference area

The whole of the Country. The lower level of geographical analysis is the Municipal Unit.

3.8 Time coverage

Since 1956

3.9 Base period

Not applicable

4. Unit of measure

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Integer numbers, indicators, ratios, and rates.

5. Reference period

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Calendar year

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

The legal framework governing the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:

- [Greek Statistical Law No 3832/2010, as in force](#)
- [Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority \(ELSTAT\), 2012 \(Government Gazette 2390 B, 28.08.2012\)](#)
- [Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System \(Government Gazette 4083 B, 20.12.2016\)](#)
- [Greek Commitment on Confidence in Statistics \(Government Gazette 40 A, 29.02.2012\)](#)
 - [More information](#)
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009 on European statistics, as amended by Regulation \(EU\) 2015/759](#)
- [European Statistics Code of Practice \(CoP\) - revised edition 2017](#)
 - [More information](#)
- [REGULATION \(EU\) 2016/679](#) OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)
- [Presidential Decree 73/2019 \(Government Gazette No 114, Issue A,04.07.2019\)](#): "Organization of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)" (Available only in Greek)
- [Law 4624/2019 \(Government Gazette A'137 / 29.08.2019\)](#) "Hellenic Data Protection Authority, measures implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 for the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and transposition (into national law) Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 and other provisions " (Available only in Greek)

The Legal Framework is detailed in the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/legal-framework>.

Vital statistics are regulated by the legislation as follows:

- Law 344/76 concerning the "Registration of vital events" as amended.
- Law 1329/1983 "Implementation of the constitutional principle of equality of men and women in the Civil Code, its introductory law, commercial law and the Code of Civil Procedure, as well as some modernization of the provisions of the Civil Code concerning the family law".
- The Civil Code as codified by Presidential Decree 456/1984 (and amended by the law 4509/2017).
 - Article 1438 A.K - Marriage dissolution with a divorce issued by means of an irrevocable court decision.
 - Article 1439 A.K - Serious impairment of the marital relationship
 - Article 1440 A.K - Spouse missing.
 - Article 1441 A.K - Divorce of mutual consent.
- Law 4509/2017
 - Article 22 - the possibility of marriage dissolution by written agreement of the spouses, with the presence of attorneys for each of them is introduced. The settlement is concluded with a notarial deed. The Law came into force in 2018.

Vital statistics are also regulated by European legislation as follows:

- Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Demographic statistics (L330/39)
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 205/2014 laying down uniformed conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on European demographic statistics, as regards breakdowns of data, deadlines and data revisions

6.2 Data sharing

Not applicable

7. Confidentiality

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7.1 Confidentiality - policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Law 3832/2010 as in force, by Articles 8, 10 and 11(2) of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System and by Articles 10 and 15 of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

More precisely:

ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

https://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1609796/ELSTAT_Statistical_Confidentiality_Policy_EN.pdf/c79e5ac8-469c-433d-b4e6-8433319b21d2

Protection of personal data

ELSTAT abides by the commitments and obligations arising from the applicable EU and national legislation on the protection of the individual from the processing of personal data and the relevant decisions, guidelines and regulatory acts of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.

Pursuant to the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data [Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)], ELSTAT implements the appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring adequate level of security against risks for the personal data it collects and has access to, in the context of carrying out its tasks, in order to meet the requirements of this Regulation and to protect these personal data from any unauthorised access or illegal processing.

The personal data collected by ELSTAT are used exclusively for purposes related to the conduct of surveys and the production of relevant statistics. Only ELSTAT has access to the data. The controller is the person appointed by law pursuant to the relevant provisions concerning the Legal Entities of Public Law and the Independent Authorities. The data are stored in the databases of ELSTAT for as long as required by the relevant legislation.

Legal basis of the processing: Article 6, para 1(c) and 1(d) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

<https://www.statistics.gr/el/privacy-info>

7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment

- ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of

individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

- a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
 - b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.
- The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.
- ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:
- a) an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted;
 - b) the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, and the time needed for the research;
 - c) a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his/her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.
- Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to make recommendations to the President of ELSTAT on:
- the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
 - the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
 - the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.
- The staff of ELSTAT, under any employment status, as well as the temporary survey workers who are employed for the collection of statistical data in statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, who acquire access by any means to confidential data, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for the statistical purposes of ELSTAT. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any purpose.
- Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any civil servant or employee of ELSTAT constitutes the disciplinary offence of violation of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.
- ELSTAT, by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting from ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical

confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanction.

- Pursuant to the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data [Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)], ELSTAT implements the appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring adequate level of security against risks for the personal data it collects and has access to, in the context of carrying out its tasks, in order to meet the requirements of this Regulation and to protect these personal data from any unauthorised access or illegal processing.

8. Release policy [Top](#)

8.1 Release calendar

Each year ELSTAT publishes a release calendar containing the precise release dates of statistics for the following year.

8.2 Release calendar access

The calendar is distributed to the press and is available to all interested parties free of charge. This calendar is also posted on ELSTAT's website (<http://www.statistics.gr/en/home/>) under the item "[Releases Calendar](#)".

8.3 User access

In line with the Community legal framework and the European Statistics Code of Practice, ELSTAT disseminates national statistics on ELSTAT's website respecting professional independence and, in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

In this content, data are released simultaneously to all interested parties and users through the announcement of data on Vital Statistics, which is posted on the website of ELSTAT (<http://www.statistics.gr/en/home/>) according to the release calendar. This announcement is also available by e-mail to all interested parties. In addition, data are transmitted to Eurostat on predefined dates. Neither users nor the government have access to the data prior to their publication.

9. Frequency of dissemination [Top](#)

Annual

10. Accessibility and Clarity [Top](#)

10.1 Statistical data release

Annual data on Vital Statistics are released 9 months after the reference year. The latest available release concerns data on vital statistics for 2022.

Provisional data on Weekly Deaths according to the international standard of weeks ISO8601 are released on a monthly basis, 5-7 weeks after the last reference week.

10.2 Publications

e-publications:

- Greece in Figures (quarterly edition) (<https://www.statistics.gr/en/greece-in-figures>)
- Living Conditions in Greece (bimonthly edition) (<https://www.statistics.gr/en/living-conditions-in-greece>)
- Infographics (<https://www.statistics.gr/en/elstat-infographics>)

10.3 On-line database

Releases, tables and timeseries are available through the link:

<https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/pop>

10.4 Micro-data access

ELSTAT provides users with anonymized microdata of statistical surveys it conducts.

The user must submit an official request to the Data Dissemination Section of the Statistical Information and Publications Division of ELSTAT through the portal of ELSTAT, <https://www.statistics.gr/en/home>, at the following link:

[“Statistical data request”](#)

For confidential reasons, access to micro-data is granted to users only under strict conditions and by always adhering to the relevant procedure. More information is available in the following link:

https://www.statistics.gr/en/other_anonymized_provision_data

10.5 Other

Users may access the digital library of ELSTAT through the link below:

<http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/>

or the Eurostat webpage:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

The provision of data upon request to the Data Dissemination Section is also possible. In this case, requests must be submitted through the portal of ELSTAT, at the following link:

<https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-data-request>.

10.6 Documentation on methodology

The methodology for the compilation of vital statistics is laid down by ELSTAT, taking into account international practices and in particular Eurostat’s recommendations, guidelines and standards.

Metadata on vital statistics including detailed information on the sources and the methodology applied is available on ELSTAT’S website (<https://www.statistics.gr/en/home>) through the link:

<https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/pop>

Vital events registration forms and guidelines are available only in Greek language:

https://www.statistics.gr/el/birth_registration_form

https://www.statistics.gr/el/birth_registration_guidelines

https://www.statistics.gr/el/civil_marriages

https://www.statistics.gr/el/religious_marriages

https://www.statistics.gr/el/guidelines_registration_marriages

https://www.statistics.gr/el/death_registration

https://www.statistics.gr/el/death_registration_guidelines

10.6.1 Metadata completeness – rate

Complete metadata on the compilation of vital statistics are available on ELSTAT’s website (<https://www.statistics.gr/en/home>).

10.7 Quality documentation

<https://www.statistics.gr/en/quality-asureance-framework>

11. Quality management

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11.1 Quality assurance

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) aims to ensure and further improve the quality of statistics produced and maintain the confidence of users in them. This is achieved through the Quality Policy of ELSTAT which is posted on the website of ELSTAT and is available at the following link: <http://www.statistics.gr/en/policies>.

The principles governing the European Statistics Code of Practice, in combination with the [Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System \(ESS-QUAF\)](#) consist a common quality framework in the European Statistical System.

Moreover, vital statistics are based on European Regulations, which defines scope, definitions of variables and characteristics of the data.

11.2 Quality assessment

Due to legal obligations and ELSTAT's quality checks, errors in vital statistics are very rare and the results are considered to be of high accuracy. There is a longtime experience in the compilation of vital statistics. Furthermore, concepts, definitions and methodology follow European and international standards and guidelines.

Logical and arithmetic controls are performed to verify quality standards. Births and marriages information are in general more reliable compared to deaths for which the registration forms are completed by the funeral services and therefore several information is may not adequately verified.

12. Relevance

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12.1 User needs

Vital statistics are widely used for planning actions, monitoring and evaluating programmes in several policy areas in the social and economic fields, such as analysis of population ageing and its effects on sustainability and welfare, evaluation of fertility as a background for family policies, evaluation of the economic impact of demographic change, calculation of demographic indicators.

The main users of vital statistics are the following:

- Ministries and other Public Organizations
- Researchers (universities, research centers etc.)
- Companies of private sector
- Journalists
- Natural persons and citizens

At international level, data are used by Eurostat, United Nations (UN) etc.

12.2 User satisfaction

A survey on users' satisfaction is conducted by ELSTAT, the results of which are available at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey>.

12.3 Data completeness

Data covers almost 95% of the user needs. All data provisions set by European regulations on mandatory level are fulfilled.

13. Accuracy and reliability

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13.1 Overall accuracy

Primary data are drawn from the Ministry of Interior since 2013 and they are accurate and reliable.

13.2 Sampling error

Not applicable because the survey is exhaustive.

13.3 Non-sampling error

Due to the type of data (administrative) possible non-sampling errors are related to measurement and processing errors. Their detection is achieved through detailed checks.

13.3.1 Coverage Error

Vital events that are registered in the Civil Registries with a long delay (>1 year) are not registered in the ELSTAT database.

13.3.1.1 A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable

13.3.1.2 A3. Common units (percentage)

Not applicable

13.3.2 Measurement error

It may be due to incorrect information provided which is corrected after contacting the relevant authorities.

13.3.3 Non-Response Error

There are only a few cases of missing values of variables from Registries.

13.3.4 Processing Error

It is related to incorrect values during entry or processing which are detected and corrected after checks.

13.3.5 Errors from Model Application

Not applicable

14. Timeliness and punctuality

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14.1 Timeliness

Annual data are announced nine (9) months after the end of the reference year.

14.2 Punctuality

Data are disseminated according to the scheduled timetable.

15. Coherence and comparability

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15.1 Comparability - geographical

Data are comparable at regional and local level.

15.2 Comparability over time

Data on vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages) are compiled since 1956 and are comparable over time. As regards divorces, up to 2017, ELSTAT collected data on final divorce decisions issued by the Courts of First Instance on an annual basis. From 2018 onwards, data are collected via the Information System of Ministry of Interior on divorces by mutual consent (dissolution of marriage by notarial act) and contested divorces (irrevocable court decisions, i.e., which cannot be contested by legal action). The available variables collected are: type of divorce, sex and age of the divorced, duration and type of marriage (religious - civil), Region of usual residence. Data on the reasons of divorce and the party against whom the divorce was

issued are no longer available in the Information System of Ministry of Interior. Due to these changes, data on divorces from 2018 onwards are not fully comparable with data up to 2017.

15.3 Coherence cross-domain

Not applicable.

15.3.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics

15.3.2 Coherence – National Accounts

15.4 Coherence – internal

Vital statistics are used for the purposes of the compilation of estimated population. In addition, in combination with the results of two consecutive Population Censuses, vital statistics are used as inputs for the revision of the migration and estimated population data of the intercensal years.

16. Cost and burden

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Not applicable

17. Data revision

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17.1 Revision policy

The revision policy of ELSTAT is available on the portal of ELSTAT, at the following link:
[Revision Policy](#).

17.2 Revision practice

Vital statistics are subject to revision after integration of new data or following the completion of the processing, review and dissemination of the data on causes of death for each reference year.

18. Statistical processing

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18.1 Source data

The sources used are administrative records (marriage-birth-divorces declarations, death certificates) from the country's municipal civil registries.

18.2 Frequency of data collection

Monthly

18.3 Data collection

Employees of Registry Offices register the Death Certificates in the Registrations Information System of the Ministry of Interior. ELSTAT draws the information required for statistical purposes from the Ministry's central database.

18.4 Data validation

The validation of the data is initially carried out through logical and numerical checks by ELSTAT and in the next phase by Eurostat.

18.5 Data compilation

Fertility statistics are compiled mainly by sex, age of the mother, gestational age, birth weight, parity, marital status and education of the mother, multiplicity of birth (simple, twin, triplet etc.) place of birth, usual residence of the mother, method of delivery (normal or cesarian), person who assisted during labor (doctor, midwife or other), citizenship, country of birth etc.

Nuptiality statistics are compiled mainly by age, usual residence, marital status and/or number of previous

marriages of groom and bride, citizenship, country of birth etc.
Mortality statistics are compiled mainly by sex, age, place of usual residence, cause of death, education, marital status, place of incidence, citizenship, country/place of birth, place of incident etc.
Statistics on divorces are compiled mainly by age, place of usual residence, duration and type of marriage (religious - civil) etc.
Time series for basic variables begins in 1980.

18.5.1 Imputation – rate

Not applicable

18.6 Adjustment

18.6.1 Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable

19. Comment

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