

METADATA

VITAL STATISTICS - ESTIMATES OF POPULATION

Organisation of vital statistics

Sources of information for vital statistics are the Register Offices of the municipalities and communes.

The Register Offices are obliged to provide vital statistics on the basis of article 37 of Legislative Degree 3627/1956 "Organisation of the National Statistical Service of Greece" as well as the relevant circulars and instructions of the N.S.S.G.

Statistical definition of vital events

Events that constitute statistical data are defined on the basis of definitions given by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, in order vital statistics to be comparable. These definitions are in use from 1956 without changes and are quoted here below.

Marriage is the legal union of persons of opposite sex. The legality of the union in Greece may be established through celebration according to the dogma or religion of the parties for religious marriage while, for civil marriage, by following the proceedings of Law 1250/1982 concerning "Establishment of civil marriage in Greece".

Live birth is the completed expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. All live born infants should be registered and counted as such irrespective of the period of gestation or whether alive or dead at the time of registration, and if they die at any time following birth they should also be registered and counted as death.

Death is the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place. The definition therefore excludes foetal deaths.

Stillbirth is the birth of infant which does not breathe after extraction from the mother or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart or definite movement of voluntary muscles, as death of the foetus occurred after gestation of twenty-eight completed weeks and over, prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother.

Statistical questionnaires and completion filling in

Statistical questionnaires are of three forms : marriage questionnaire, birth questionnaire and death questionnaire. There is also a special written report by which statistical questionnaires of each Register Office are forwarded to the local Regional Statistical office. The first page of each statistical questionnaire contains the questions to be answered and the column for the code number of each answer, while the second page contains instructions on the way of each question of the questionnaire is filled in.

The Registrars complete statistical questionnaires at the same time they register the events in their books. It is necessary the statistical questionnaire to be completed simultaneously with the registration, because the registration does not contain information on some of the questions contained in the corresponding statistical form

and, therefore, these have to be completed on the basis of the answers of the person who reported the event (marriage, birth, death).

More specifically, statistical questionnaires are completed as follows :

- a. For a marriage registration, a record of marriage is completed at the same time.
- b. For a live birth registration, there are two cases :
 - b.a. At birth of one alive child, a certificate of birth is completed at the same time with the registration.
 - b.b. For birth of twins, there are two registrations of birth but only one certificate of birth is completed that contains separately identity information for each child (sex, weight, etc.). The same applies to triples, etc.
- c. For death registration there are three cases.
 - c.a. For stillbirth, at the same time with the registration of birth (reporting that the infant is no longer alive), a certificate of birth is completed with the indication that the infant was born dead as well as the cause of the stillbirth.
 - c.b. For death a statistical death form is completed together with the death registration.

Estimates of population. Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

Annual inter-censal estimates of population are given by sex and age groups.

The inter-censal population estimates are based on the Census of Population, which is carried out every ten years updated annually from the births, deaths occurring meanwhile as recorded in the vital statistics movements from municipalities registers and estimated migration . The most recent data came from population census was held on March 17, 1991. The last census carried out on March 18, 2001.

The definition used for measuring population is the de facto measure. Residents absent from the country at the time of the census are excluded while visitors present at the time of the census are included.

The Immigrants from the census population and from administrative source (for every year) are classified by sex and age groups, country of origin and citizenship. The data for immigrants from the administrative source are sub-estimated, but from the year 2003, we aim to use more completed data from other administrative source. The data for Emigrants are not available. The periodicity for the data of population is annual and the timeliness is 10 months after the end of the reference year.

The annual estimates for the period after the most recent census are permanent for the first five years while for the next five years are preliminary until the next census takes place. When final data from this census become available the inter-censal estimates are revised and are then considered final.

Publications of data

The collected and analysed vital statistics appear in the issues of the National Statistical Service of Greece and became available to State services, private institutions, individuals, international Organisations and users.

Publications of the NSSG including data on vital events of Greece, estimated population, life tables and demographic projections.

Monthly Statistical Bulletin
Annual Statistical Yearbook of Greece
Mouvement Naturel de la Population de la Grece

Single Release entitled « Estimated Population »

Publications of Eurostat and other International organizations

The “Demographic Year Book” of the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT)

The “Recent Demographic Developments in Europe” of the Council of Europe
Data also sent and publish from the United Nations and the World Health Organization.