

STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – REGISTRAR GENERAL QUARTERLY REPORT (Provisional Statistics for Quarter 1 2022)



9:30am Wednesday 25 May 2022

Registrar General Quarterly Report: Provisional Statistics for Quarter 1 2022

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has today published the Registrar General Quarterly Report: Quarter 1 2022.

These vital events statistics, which cover 1 January to 31 March 2022, show a provisional total of 4,523 deaths registered in that period. The rate of deaths per 1,000 population decreased from 9.8 in Quarter 4 2021, to 9.5 in Quarter 1 2022. Covid-19 was the underlying cause of 295 (6.5%) of these registered deaths. This brings the provisional total number of registered deaths with an underlying cause of Covid-19 to 3,771 since the start of the pandemic (i.e. March 2020).

In comparison, the provisional number of deaths where Covid-19 was *mentioned anywhere* on the death certificate since March of 2020 to Quarter 1 2022 was 4,459. This means that Covid-19 was the underlying cause of death in 84.6% of all deaths that mentioned Covid-19 on the death certificate.

The provisional number of deaths in Quarter 1 2022 where the underlying cause was cancer was 1,151 (25.4%), while 441 (9.8%) were due to non Covid-19 respiratory conditions and 415 (9.2%) were due to ischaemic heart disease. On average, over the previous five years (2017-2021) 24.8% of deaths in Q1 2022 were due to cancer, 13.6% from respiratory conditions and 9.9% from ischaemic heart disease.

There were 48 suicide deaths (excluding events of undetermined intent) registered in Quarter 1 2022, an increase of 4 from the number registered in Quarter 4 2021 (44), and a decrease of 28 from the number registered in Quarter 1 2021. These data should not be interpreted as the number of suicides *occurring* during Quarter 1, however, due to the time lag for such deaths to be investigated by the Coroner and then subsequently registered.

Quarter 1 2022 saw 5,451 births registered. This is an increase from the 5,418 births registered in Quarter 4 2021, and is showing a return to the slight overall downward trend in the number of births observed before the pandemic impacted birth registrations.

During Quarter 1 of 2022, 1,024 marriages and 9 civil partnerships were registered. For comparative purposes there were 676 marriages and 6 civil partnerships registered in the same Quarter of 2021. The number of marriages is now more in line with the level expected for the same time period each year pre-pandemic. Civil partnerships has always shown a variation in the number registered.

Of the 1,024 registered marriages in Quarter 1 2022, 30 (2.9%) were same sex marriages (including both civil and religious marriages). Almost two-thirds (19) of the 30 same-sex marriages were female unions. Three of the same-sex marriages were conversions from a previous civil partnership. Seven opposite-sex civil partnerships were registered in Quarter 1 2022 and there were no conversions from a previous marriage.

NISRA

May 2022

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The "Registrar General Quarterly Report - Quarter 1, 2022" contains standard, provisional statistics based on information sourced from the General Register Office relating to vital events in Northern Ireland which were registered from 1 January to 31 March 2022. Quarterly statistics on births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland can be found at:
<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/registrar-general-quarterly-tables-quarter-1-2022>
2. Differences between NISRA's weekly provisional Covid-19 death statistics and the quarterly provisional totals reported here are as follows:
 - NISRA weekly provisional death statistics, which are based on death registration information collected by the General Register Office, count all deaths where Covid-19 was **mentioned** on the death certificate by the doctor who certified the death, whether or not Covid-19 was the primary underlying cause of death. The figures include cases where the doctor noted that there was suspected or probable coronavirus infection involved in the death.
 - Statistics quoted in the Quarterly Report are presented based on the **primary underlying cause** of death, which have been classified using the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD10). As a result the weekly totals of Covid-19 related deaths will usually be higher than the quarterly figures quoted as some of the weekly deaths where Covid-19 was mentioned go on to be coded as not having Covid-19 as the underlying cause of death.
 - From the week beginning 22 March 2021 (week 12), new ICD-10 codes issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) were also used alongside the two codes that were previously used to code deaths involving Covid-19. The new code contributing to the total number of deaths due to Covid-19 is U10.9 (Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with Covid-19, also referred to as the 'Kawasaki-like syndrome', which is an uncommon effect of Covid-19). These are counted in addition to the existing codes U07.1 (Covid-19, virus identified through laboratory testing) and U07.2 (Covid-19, virus not identified, but Covid-19 is suspected through clinical or epidemiological diagnoses). In addition, the following new codes have also been introduced: U08.9 Personal history of Covid-19, unspecified; U09.9 (post Covid-19 condition, where the death occurred after rather than during acute, or ongoing Covid-19); U11.19 (Need for immunisation against Covid-19, unspecified); and U12.9 (Covid-19 vaccines causing adverse effects in therapeutic use, unspecified). (ICD-10) codes U08.9, U09.9, and U11.9 can't be assigned the underlying cause of death.

3. Death Statistics in Northern Ireland are based on deaths which have been registered with the General Register Office (GRO). There are some situations where the registration of the death can be delayed, specifically where the death has been accidental, unexpected or suspicious, and must be referred to the Coroner. A death which is suspected to be suicide must therefore be referred to the Coroner and can only be registered after the Coroner has completed his/her investigation. The time taken to carry out this investigation can result in a delay in registration. Given the delay in registration of suicide deaths, these deaths may not appear in published statistics until subsequent years.
4. Since 2001, in line with the rest of the UK, the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD10) is used to classify cause of death. The codes used for 'Suicide and self-inflicted injury' are X60-X84 and Y87.0 and the codes used for 'Undetermined intent' are Y10-Y34 and Y87.2. NISRA has been recommending that users of suicide statistics wishing to carry out *trend analyses* refer to the subset of **self-inflicted harm only (ICD-10 codes X60-X84, Y87.0)** due to the ongoing review in relation to the quality of reported suicide figures. Users should note that the outcome of the review and a revised timeline of data from 2015 will be published tomorrow 26 May 2022 and will be available on the NISRA website:
[Suicide Deaths | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Quarterly data on suicide deaths will be revised in line with the findings of the suicide review and will be reflected in the Quarter 2 release schedule for 23 August 2022. Please note, this will include a break in the series between 2014 and 2015. This means that data before 2015 is not directly comparable with data from 2015 onwards.

5. Due to the coronavirus situation, a number of registration offices reduced routine processing of births and marriage registrations with effect from 15th March 2020, and continued priority was given to death registrations. As a result, the number of births and marriages registered during Quarter 2 2020 were unusually low. Additionally, birth registrations during the 3rd Quarter of 2020 were unusually high because the backlog from Quarter 2 2020 began to be addressed.
6. Corresponding information for England and Wales is published by the [Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk) and for Scotland by the [National Records of Scotland](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk). Similar figures for the Republic of Ireland are available from the Central Statistics Office Ireland.
7. The Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019 enabled same sex civil marriages through the Marriage (same-sex Couples) and Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) (NI) Regulations 2019. The regulations came into force on the 13 January 2020 with the first same sex civil marriage taking place on the

11 February 2020. The legislation also enabled opposite-sex civil partnerships to take place. On the 1 September 2020 the Marriage and Civil Partnership (NI) Regulations 2020 introduced same-sex religious marriage. From the 7 December 2020 the Marriage and Civil Partnership (NI)(No2) Regulations 2020 allowed a same-sex couple to convert a previous civil partnership to a marriage. The regulations also permitted opposite-sex couples to convert a previous marriage to a civil partnership.

8. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at dof.pressoffice@finance-ni.gov.uk or on Tel: 028 90816724. The Executive Information Service operates an out of hours service **For Media Enquiries Only** between 1800hrs and 0800hrs Monday to Friday and at weekends and public holidays. The duty press officer can be contacted on 028 9037 8110.
9. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:
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