

# STATISTICS PRESS NOTICE – REGISTRAR GENERAL QUARTERLY REPORT (Provisional Statistics for Quarter 4 2022)



9:30am Thursday 23 February 2023

## Registrar General Quarterly Report: Provisional Statistics for Quarter 4 2022

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has today published the Registrar General Quarterly Report: Provisional Statistics for Quarter 4 2022.

These vital events statistics, which cover 1 October to 31 December 2022, show a provisional total of 5,002 births registered, meaning that there was a total of 20,859 births registered in the 2022 calendar year. The total for quarter 4 is a decrease from the 5,353 births registered in Quarter 3 2022 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 4 of 2022, a provisional total of 1,604 marriages and 17 civil partnerships were registered. In total, 2022 saw 8,564 marriages and 43 civil partnerships registered. For comparative purposes there were 1,852 marriages and 9 civil partnerships registered in the same Quarter of 2021.

Of the 1,604 registered marriages in Quarter 4 2022, 64 (4.0%) were same sex marriages (including both civil and religious marriages). More than half (36) of the 64 same-sex marriages were female unions. Seven of the same-sex marriages were conversions from a previous civil partnership. Twelve opposite-sex civil partnerships were registered in Quarter 4 2022 and there were no conversions from a previous marriage.

A provisional total of 4,483 deaths were registered in Quarter 4 2022, bringing the total provisional number of deaths registered in the calendar year of 2022 to 17,159. The rate of deaths per 1,000 population decreased to 9.5 in quarter 4 2022 from 9.7 in quarter 4 2021. Covid-19 was the underlying cause of 105 (2.3%) of these registered deaths bringing the provisional 2022 total to 655 and compares with 1,849 in 2021.

The provisional number of deaths in Quarter 4 2022 where the underlying cause was cancer was 4,637 (27.0%), while 1,972 (11.5%) were due to non Covid-19 respiratory conditions and 1,592 (9.3%) were due to ischaemic heart disease. This brings the provisional, annual total for 2022 to 4,637 deaths from cancer, 1,927 respiratory (non-covid) deaths, and 1,592 deaths from ischaemic heart disease.

There were 49 suicide deaths (including events of undetermined intent) registered in Quarter 4 2022. This gives a provisional annual total of 203 deaths from suicide registered in 2022, a decrease from 233 deaths registered in 2021. These data should not be interpreted as the number of suicides *occurring* during Quarter 4, however, due to the time lag resulting from the need for these deaths to be investigated by the Coroner and then subsequently registered.

**NISRA**

**February 2023**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The "Registrar General Quarterly Report - Quarter 4, 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 October to 31 December 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-4-2022>
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. Quarterly data on suicide deaths were revised in line with the findings of the suicide review (<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/cause-death/suicide-deaths>) and were first reflected in the Quarter 2 released on 23 August 2022. Please note, this includes 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](#) and for Scotland by the [National Records of Scotland](#). Similar figures for the Republic of Ireland are available from the Central Statistics Office Ireland.
7. All media queries to Department of Finance Press Office at [dof.pressooffice@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dof.pressooffice@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.
8. Further information on the statistics provided in this publication can be obtained from NISRA Customer Services at:  
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