

Table 4 - Demographic Yearbook 2000

Table 4 presents, for each country or area of the world, basic vital statistics including in the following order: live births, crude birth rate, deaths, crude death rate and rate of natural increase, infants deaths and infant mortality rate, the expectation of life at birth by sex and the total fertility rate.

Description of variables: The vital events and rates shown in this table are defined as follows: ¹⁰

LIVE BIRTH is the complete 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, of definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live-born regardless of gestational age.

DEATH is the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (post-natal cessation of vital functions capability of resuscitation). This definition therefore excludes foetal deaths.

Infant deaths are deaths of live-born infants under one year of age.

Expectation of life at birth is defined as the average number of years of life for males and females if they continued to be subject to the same mortality experienced in the year(s) to which these life expectancies refer.

The total fertility rate is the average number of children that would be born alive to a hypothetical cohort of women if, throughout their reproductive years, the age-specific fertility rates for the specified year remained unchanged.

Crude birth rates and crude death rates presented in this table are calculated using the number of live births and the number of deaths obtained from civil registers. These civil registration data are used only if they are considered reliable (estimated completeness of 90 per cent or more). If, however, registered birth or deaths for any given country or area are less than 90 per cent complete, then estimated rates are presented. First priority is given to estimated rates provided by the individual countries or areas. If suitable official estimated rates are not available, or if rates are only available for years prior to 1996, then rates prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat ²⁶ are presented. It should be noted that in the case of some small countries or areas for which civil registration is estimated to be less than 90 per cent complete, and for which no estimated rates are available, rates calculated using these data are presented. These rates appear in italics.

Similarly, total fertility rates and infant mortality rates presented in this table are calculated using the number of live births and the number of infant deaths obtained from civil registers. If, however, the registration of births or infant deaths for any given country or area is estimated to be less than 90 per cent complete, then official estimated rates are presented when possible. If no suitable estimated total fertility rates or infant mortality rates are available, rates calculated using unreliable vital statistics are presented and are shown in italics. If available, total fertility rates and infant mortality rates estimated by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat ²⁶ are presented in place of unreliable vital rates.

The expectation-of-life values are those provided by the various national statistical offices. If official data are not available or if data are only available for years prior to 1996, then estimates of these values prepared by the United Nations Secretariat ²⁶ are included. These are indicated by footnote.

Rate computation: The crude birth and death rates are the annual number of each of these vital events per 1 000 mid-year population.

Total fertility rates are the sum of age-specific fertility rates. The standard method of calculating the total fertility rate is the sum of the age-specific fertility rates. However, if the rates used are fertility rates for 5-year age groups, they must be multiplied by 5. When the basic official data with which to calculate these rates have not been available, estimates prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat ²⁶ have been included; these are indicated by footnotes.

Infant mortality rates are the annual number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1 000 live births (as shown in table 9) in the same year.

Rates of natural increase are the difference between the crude birth rate and the crude death rate. It should be noted that the rates of natural increase presented here may differ from the population growth rates presented in table 3 as rates of natural increase do not take net international migration into account while population growth rates do.

Rates that appear in this table have been calculated by the Statistics Division of the United Nations unless otherwise noted. The exceptions include official estimated rates, many of which were based on sample surveys, and rates estimated by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

Rates calculated by the Statistics Division of the United Nations presented in this table have not been limited to those countries or areas having a minimum number of events in a given year. However, rates based on 30 or fewer live births, infant deaths, marriages or divorces are identified by the symbol. (♦)

Reliability of data: Rates calculated on the basis of registered vital statistics which are considered unreliable (estimated to be less than 90 per cent complete) appear in italics. Estimated rates, either those prepared by the individual countries or areas or those prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, have been presented whenever possible in place of rates calculated using unreliable vital statistics.

The designation of vital statistics as being either reliable or unreliable is discussed in general in section 4.2 of the Technical Notes. The technical notes for tables 9, 15 and 18 provide specific information on reliability of statistics on live births, infant deaths and deaths, respectively.

Rates of natural increase that were calculated using crude birth rates and crude death rates considered unreliable, as described above, are set in italics rather than roman type.

Since the expectation-of-life values shown in this table come either from official life tables or from estimates prepared at the United Nations Secretariat, they are all considered to be reliable.

Limitations: Statistics on births, deaths and infant deaths are subject to the same qualifications as have been set forth for vital statistics in general in section 4 of the Technical Notes and in the technical notes for individual tables presenting detailed data on these events (table 9, live births; table 15, infant deaths; table 18, deaths).

In assessing comparability it is important to take into account the reliability of the data used to calculate these rates, as discussed above.

It should be noted that the crude rates are particularly affected by the age-sex structure of the population. Infant mortality rates, and to a much lesser extent crude birth rates and crude death rates, are affected by the variation in the definition of a live birth and tabulation procedures.

Also, because this table presents data in a summary form, symbols that appear in other tables are not presented here due to lack of space. Provisional data are not so indicated, and rates based on vital events which are tabulated on the basis of date of registration, rather than date of occurrence, are not so designated. For information on these aspects, the reader should consult the more detailed vital statistics tables in this Yearbook.

Coverage: Vital statistics rates, natural increase rates and expectation of life are shown for 217 countries or areas.