Part I. The Vital Statistics of Norway: an Historical Review

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Demographers are usually faced, in their work, with difficulties caused by changes in the reliability, scope and meaning of vital and census statistics in individual countries as well as by difficulties due to differences in the statistical systems of different countries. The first step in overcoming these difficulties is to see exactly what such changes or differences mean, and it is for this purpose that we hope in time to publish various papers dealing with the development of census and vital statistics in different countries. The present paper, prepared with the permission of Dr Arne Skaug, Director of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office, is the first part of a study of the statistics of Norway. The remaining parts will be published in subsequent issues of Population Studies.

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