

Vital Statistics
Methodology

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1. Objective

Vital Statistics have the main objective of ascertaining the number of births, marriages and deaths that take place within the Spanish territory, as well as the main characteristics relating to these demographic phenomena.

2. Type of operation

Vital Statistics obtain aggregate data in the form of tables, with the breakdown levels of Autonomous Communities, provinces, capitals, municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, and in some tables, reaching a municipality level.

3. Content

Vital Statistics, which basically refer to the births, marriages and deaths occurring within the Spanish territory, constitute one of the most traditional statistical operations in the National Statistics Institute. The first volume was published in 1863 by the National General Board of Statistics, and contains data on the period from 1858 to 1861, which was obtained from parish registers. Since that time, information has consistently been published in Spain regarding these demographic phenomena, with the sole interruption during the period from 1871 to 1885, the time when the Civil Register was implemented, and from which data was subsequently obtained for these statistics.

The demographic concepts used for the compilation of these publications have been practically the same every year, without any variations other than those caused by the change in the information source, which fundamentally consists of the replacement of baptised persons by those registered in the Civil Register, and of Catholic marriage by civil marriage.

3.1 Birth Statistics

As with the rest of the Vital Statistics, the Birth Statistics collect the data from the statistical registers filled out at the time of registering these demographic facts in the Civil Register. This circumstance has traditionally motivated the use, in the Vital Statistics, of the concepts of newborn, deceased infant, marriage and death, with the meanings given them in the Civil Code.

Bearing in mind that, for civil purposes and according to the previous wording of Article 30 of the Civil Code1, "a foetus will only be classified as born if it has a human-like appearance and lives for twenty-four hours completely outside the mother's womb", the birth and death statistics compiled up until 1975 did not adjust to the internationally recognised demographic contents, since they did not include those live birth infants who died before the first 24 hours of existence, since the Civil Code calls them "deceased infants" (Art. 745).

Although the use of this concept does not noticeably alter the global figures of births and deaths, it does considerably modify some specific death rates (infant, neonatal, perinatal, etc.). In order to negate this drawback, it was necessary to extract, from the so-called Miscarriage Statistics, the live births, to calculate the "rectified rates".

Since 1975, the concept of birth in the tables presenting the results of the Vital Statistics is identified by the biological term "live birth", which is that used in the demographic field, with the corresponding effect on the concept of death.

With the new wording of article 30 of the Civil Code (third final provision of Law 20/2011 of 21 July, of the Civil Register) it is necessary to fulfil the administrative requirements for statistical purposes, if the child is a live birth and deceases within the first 24 hours of life, a childbirth register and a death register. The instrument used for the data collection is the Childbirth Statistical Register.

¹ Royal Decree of 24 July 1889 and its subsequent amendments.

3.1.1STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION VARIABLES, BOTH DIRECT AND DERIVED

The variables used in these statistics are the following:

Civil Register (Registry of births, marriages and deaths)

Province of registration of birth

Municipality of registration of birth

Day of registration of birth

Month of registration of birth

Year of registration of birth

Volume of registration of birth in the Civil Register

Page of registration of birth in the Civil Register

Sheet of registration of birth in the Civil Register

Day of registration in the Deceased Infants Registry of the stillborn infant or live birth infant who died in less than 24 hours

Month of registration in the Deceased Infants Registry of the stillborn infant or live birth infant who died in less than 24 hours

Year of registration in the Deceased Infants Registry of the stillborn infant or live birth infant who died in less than 24 hours

Day of childbirth

Month of childbirth Year of childbirth

Province where the childbirth took place

Municipality where the childbirth took place

Day of childbirth

Month of childbirth

Year of childbirth

Place of birth.- health care centre, home or other

Assisted childbirth.- by health care staff or unassisted by health care staff

Multiplicity of childbirth.- singleton, twins, triplets, quadruplets or more

Normality of childbirth.- normal or dystocia (abnormal or difficult labour)

Caesarean.- with caesarean or without caesarean

Weeks of pregnancy.- 37 weeks or more (to term), less than 37 weeks (premature)

Exact number of weeks of pregnancy

Given name of the mother

First surname of the mother

Second surname of the mother

Day of birth of the mother

Month of birth of the mother

Year of birth of the mother

ID card of the mother.- National ID Passport, ID for foreign nationals

Nationality of the mother.- Spanish or foreign

Country of nationality of the mother

Moment of acquisition of the nationality of the mother.- birth or subsequently

Place of birth of the mother.- Spain or abroad

Province of birth of the mother

Municipality of birth of the mother

Country of birth of the mother.- for those mothers born abroad

Place of residence of the mother.- Spain or abroad

Province of residence of the mother

Municipality of residence of the mother

Country of residence of the mother.- for those mothers resident abroad

Type of road of the residence of the mother

Name of the road of the residence of the mother

Street number of the residence of the mother

Entrance number of the residence of the mother

Block number of the residence of the mother

Staircase number of the residence of the mother

Floor number of the residence of the mother

Door (flat number) of the residence of the mother

Postal code of the residence of the mother

Highest level of studies completed by the mother

Profession, trade or main occupation of the mother

Marital status or cohabitation situation of the mother.- Married, single, separated or divorced, widowed

First marriage

Day of the current marriage

Month of the current marriage

Year of the current marriage

Mother lives with common law partner

First stable union

Day of the beginning of the current stable union

Month of the beginning of the current stable union

Year of the beginning of the current stable union

Number of children she has had throughout her life, counting this delivery (living and dead)

Number of live births in previous deliveries

Day of birth of the previous child

Month of birth of the previous child

Year of birth of the previous child

Place of birth of the previous child.- Spain or abroad

Province of birth of the previous child

Municipality of birth of the previous child

Country of birth of the previous child.- for those previous children born abroad

Nationality of the previous child.- Spanish or foreign

Country of nationality of the previous child

Given name of the father

First surname of the father

Second surname of the father

Day of birth of the father

Month of birth of the father

Year of birth of the father

ID card of the father.- National ID, Passport, ID for foreign nationals

Nationality of the father.- Spanish or foreign

Country of nationality of the father

Moment of acquisition of the nationality of the father.- birth or subsequently

Place of birth of the father.- Spain or abroad

Province of birth of the father

Municipality of birth of the father

Country of birth of the father.- for those fathers born abroad

Place of residence of the father.- the same or a difference residence as that of the mother

Residence of the father.- Spain or abroad

Province of residence of the father

Municipality of residence of the father

Country of residence of the father.- for those fathers resident abroad

Type of road of the residence of the father

Name of the road of the residence of the father

Street number of the residence of the father

Entrance number of the residence of the father

Block number of the residence of the father

Staircase number of the residence of the father

Floor number of the residence of the father

Door (flat number) of the residence of the father

Postal code of the residence of the father

Highest level of studies completed by the father

Profession, trade or main occupation of the father

Given name of the newborn

First surname of the newborn

Second surname of the newborn

Nationality of the newborn.- Spanish or foreign

Country of nationality of the newborn

Sex of the newborn

Weight of the newborn

Live birth or stillbirth

The newborn lived more than 24 hours or less than 24 hours

For stillborn infants or live birth infants who live less than 24 hours, the following variables are used:

Main illness or condition of the foetus or newborn

Main illness or condition of the mother, which affected the foetus or newborn

First digit of the code of the cause of death of the newborn

Second and third digits of the code of the cause of death of the newborn

Fourth digit of the code of the cause of death of the newborn

Autopsy.- an autopsy was performed or no autopsy was performed

Whether the infant died before or during childbirth.- for stillborn infants

Size of the municipality of registration

Size of the municipality of the childbirth

Size of the municipality of birth of the mother

Size of the municipality of residence of the mother

Size of the municipality of birth of the father

Size of the municipality of residence of the father

Size of the municipality of birth of the previous child

Age of the mother, in complete years, at the birth of the child

Age of the mother, in complete years, on marrying

Age of the mother, in complete years, at the beginning of the stable relationship

Years married

Years of the mother in a stable relationship

Order of birth.- this refers to the number of live births that the mother has had throughout her life, including this delivery

Birth interval.- this is understood to be the period of time elapsing between two consecutive births. The first interval, or the protogenesic interval, refers to the period of time between the date of marriage and the date of the first birth.

Age of the father, in complete years, at the birth of the child

3.2 Late Foetal Death Statistics

From a theoretical perspective, a late foetal death is the death of a viable product of conception, before complete expulsion or extraction from its mother. This viability is precisely what serves to differentiate between late foetal deaths and miscarriages. Traditionally, the World Health Organisation identifies the viability of a foetus with a gestational age of more than 28 complete weeks of pregnancy. Nevertheless, currently, the W.H.O. recommends the use of the weight criterion at the time of expulsion or extraction of the foetus, although the number of grams that should be considered as the limit for viability is subject to debate.

Despite this lack of international standardisation regarding weight, the difficulty in obtaining exact weights of all foetuses at the end of expulsion, and above all, that in Spain there is only an obligation of communicating, to the Civil Register,

the foetal deaths of foetuses older than 180 days of gestation (Art. 45 of the Law of 8 June 1957), this means that for the purposes of these statistics, the criterion of considering a late foetal death to be that of a foetus that has died and has a weight of 500 grams or more.

It must be noted that the content of the Late Foetal Death Statistics is the continuation of what was, until 1974, the so-called Miscarriage Statistics, if the earlier version included live birth infants who died during the first 24 hours of life, and all of the foetal deaths stated, irregardless of their time of gestation. The Late Foetal Death Statistics imply a greater uniformity in their content and a better adaptation to the medical-biological terminology, since as stated, the concept of miscarriage solely means the expulsion or extraction of an unviable product of conception from the body of the mother.

The characteristics used to classify late foetal deaths are similar to those used in the tabulation of births. It is only necessary to highlight that, in order to be able to study perinatal mortality in detail, we have included in late foetal deaths the causes thereof, encoding them to four digits, according to the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (I.C.D.) of the W.H.O.

The instrument used for the data collection, in this case as well, is the Childbirth Statistical Register.

3.2.1STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION VARIABLES, BOTH DIRECT AND DERIVED

The variables included in these statistics are the same as in the Birth Statistics

3.3 Childbirth (Delivery) Statistics

The Birth Statistics and Late Foetal Death Statistics are completed with the Childbirth Statistics. The definition of childbirth used in these statistics coincides with the medical-biological concept, that is, the expulsion or extraction of a viable product of conception from its mother. Therefore, miscarriage or expulsion of the unviable foetus is excluded.

The reason for the statistical treatment of Childbirth as an independent phenomenon lies in that it shows, as a whole, viable fertility, as it encompasses both births and late foetal deaths.

The relationship existing among these three concepts is as follows:

Singleton deliveries + 2 times the twin deliveries + 3 times the triplet deliveries + ... = births + late foetal deaths.

The content of the Childbirth Statistics is the continuation of the previously socalled Birth Statistics, which included all deaths stated, irregardless of the time of gestation.

The base information is obtained through the Childbirth Statistical Register.

3.3.1STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION VARIABLES, BOTH DIRECT AND DERIVED

The variables included in these statistics are the same as in the Birth Statistics, including information relating to each newborn in multiple deliveries.

3.4 Marriage Statistics

The Marriage Statistics experienced an important variation in the year 2005, for the purpose of the entry into force of Law 13/2005, of 1 July (B.O.E. of 2 July 2005), modifying the Civil Code in terms of the right to marry. Said law allows marriages between persons of the same or different sexes, with complete and equal rights and responsibilities, irregardless of the composition of said marriages. The sex variable of each of the spouses was introduced in the statistical register. These statistics include all marriages registered in the Civil Register.

This analyses the characteristics of both different-sex marriages and same-sex marriages. The study variables are the following: place of registration of the marriage and month of celebration, form of celebration (Catholic religion, another religion or solely civil), previous residence of each spouse, planned place of residence of the married couple, year of birth, age and profession of both spouses, marital status, sex, nationality.

Two types of register are used for the information collection, the Statistical Marriage Register and the Ecclesiastical Marriage Register.

3.4.1STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION VARIABLES, BOTH DIRECT AND DERIVED

The variables used in these statistics are the following:

Civil Register (Registry of births, marriages and deaths)

Province of celebration / registration of the marriage

Municipality of celebration / registration of the marriage

Year of registration of the marriage

Month of registration of the marriage

Day of registration of the marriage

Volume of registration of the marriage in the Civil Register

Page of registration of the marriage in the Civil Register

Sheet of registration of the marriage in the Civil Register

Year of celebration of the marriage

Month of celebration of the marriage

Day of celebration of the marriage

Type of celebration of the marriage.- By the Catholic religion, by any other religion, solely civil

Province of residence of the married couple

Municipality of residence of the married couple

Country of residence of the married couple

Type of road of the residence of the married couple

Name of the road of the residence of the married couple

Street number of the road of the residence of the married couple

Staircase number of the residence of the married couple

Floor number of the residence of the married couple

Flat (door number) of the residence of the married couple

First surname of spouse 1

Second surname of spouse 1

Given name of spouse 1

Year of birth of spouse 1

Month of birth of spouse 1

Day of birth of spouse 1

Sex of spouse 1

ID card of spouse 1. - National ID, Passport, ID for foreign nationals

Country of nationality of spouse 1

Acquisition of nationality of spouse 1. - birth, acquired subsequently

Province of birth of spouse 1

Municipality of birth of spouse 1

Country of birth of spouse 1

Marital status of spouse 1 - single, widowed, divorced

Year of death of the previous spouse if spouse 1 is widowed

Month of death of the previous spouse if spouse 1 is widowed

Day of death of the previous spouse if spouse 1 is widowed

Order number of the current marriage if spouse 1 is widowed

Year of divorce if spouse 1 is divorced

Month of divorce if spouse 1 is divorced

Day of divorce if spouse 1 is divorced

Order number of the current marriage if spouse 1 is divorced

Province of residence of spouse 1

Municipality of residence of spouse 1

Country of residence of spouse 1

Type of road of the residence of spouse 1

Name of the road of the residence of spouse 1

Street number of the residence of spouse 1

Staircase number of the residence of spouse 1

Floor number of the residence of spouse 1

Door (flat number) of the residence of spouse 1

Educational level of spouse 1

Profession of spouse 1

First surname of spouse 2

Second surname of spouse 2

Given name of spouse 2

Year of birth of spouse 2

Month of birth of spouse 2

Day of birth of spouse 2

Sex of spouse 2

Id card of spouse 2. - National ID, Passport, ID for foreign nationals

Country of nationality of spouse 2

Acquisition of nationality of spouse 2.- birth, acquired subsequently

Province of birth of spouse 2

Municipality of birth of spouse 2

Country of birth of spouse 2

Marital status of spouse 2 - single, widowed, divorced

Year of death of the previous spouse if spouse 2 is widowed

Month of death of the previous spouse if spouse 2 is widowed

Day of death of the previous spouse if spouse 2 is widowed

Order number of the current marriage if spouse 2 is widowed

Year of divorce if spouse 2 is divorced

Month of divorce if spouse 2 is divorced

Day of divorce if spouse 2 is divorced

Order number of the current marriage if spouse 2 is divorced

Province of residence of spouse 2

Municipality of residence of spouse 2

Country of residence of spouse 2

Type of road of the residence of spouse 2

Name of the road of the residence of spouse 2

Street number of the residence of spouse 2

Staircase number of the residence of spouse 2

Floor number of the residence of spouse 2

Door (flat number) of the residence of spouse 2

Educational level of spouse 2

Profession of spouse 2

Size of the municipality of registration

Size of the municipality where marriage was celebrated

Size of the municipality of residence of the married couple

Size of the municipality of birth of spouse 1

Size of the municipality of birth of spouse 2

Size of the municipality of residence of spouse 1

Size of the municipality of residence of spouse 2

Age, in complete years, of spouse 1

Age, in complete years, of spouse 2

3.5 Death Statistics

As can be derived from the above, on treating the Birth Statistics and the Late Foetal Death Statistics, the statistical concept of death traditionally used in Spain comprised all the deaths of persons who had lived for more than 24 hours. As of 1975, this concept has been broadened to include live birth infants that die in the first 24 hours of life. This change is fundamental, as it implies the adoption of the death criterion recommended by the International Organisations.

Worth noting is that deaths are classified according to age and year of birth. The age at death is calculated as the difference between the date of death and the date of birth, with the exception of infants younger than 24 hours old. Another important modification introduced is the classification of deaths according to residence, although the classification by place of death remains. As in the rest of the Vital Statistics, the demographic phenomena are classified by residence, except if a table expressly indicates another classification criterion.

Worth a special mention is the study of deaths according to cause of death, which had been tabulated to three digits according to the International Classification of Diseases of the W.H.O., and which, starting in 1975, was extended to a fourth digit, which is the maximum specification allowed by the I.C.D.

The information is included in the unified Medical Death Certificate / Statistical Death Register (CMB/BED). The Statistical Childbirth Register is used as the source of information only for the cases of live births that decease in the first 24 hours of life and as long as the corresponding CMD/BED has not been located. In those deaths occurring in violent or unclear circumstances, requiring judicial intervention, no medical death certificate is issued, and therefore, the registration in the Civil Register is carried out with a Court order. In this type of death, the document that includes both the order for registration in the Civil Register and the information regarding the causes of death is another document, known as the Judicial Statistical Death Register (BEDJ), filled in by the Court.

3.5.1STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION VARIABLES, BOTH DIRECT AND DERIVED

The variables used in these statistics are the following:

Civil Register (Registry of births, marriages and deaths)
Province of death / registration
Municipality of death / registration
Year of registration of the death
Month of registration of the death
Day of registration of the death
Volume of registration of the death in the Civil Register
Page of registration of the death in the Civil Register
Sheet of registration of the death in the Civil Register
First surname of the deceased

Second surname of the deceased

Given name of the deceased

Year of birth of the deceased

Month of birth of the deceased

Day of birth of the deceased

Sex of the deceased

ID card of the deceased.- National ID, Passport, ID for foreign nationals

Hour of death

Year of death

Month of death

Day of death

Place of death.- Private home, Hospital Centre, Socio-Healthcare Residence, Another place

Country of nationality of the deceased

Province of birth of the deceased

Municipality of birth of the deceased

Country of birth of the deceased

Province of residence of the deceased

Municipality of residence of the deceased

Country of residence of the deceased

Type of road of the residence of the deceased

Name of the road of the residence of the deceased

Street number of the road of the residence of the deceased

Staircase number of the residence of the deceased

Floor number of the residence of the deceased

Door (flat number) of the residence of the deceased

Marital status of the deceased

Profession of the deceased

First digit of the code of the cause of death

Second and third digits of the code of the cause of death

Fourth digit of the code of the cause of death

Immediate cause of death

Intermediate cause of death

Initial or essential cause of death

Other processes

Age in complete years

Age in complete months

Age in complete days

Size of the municipality of registration of the death

Size of the municipality of birth of the deceased

Size of the municipality of residence of the deceased

Reduced cause of death

Cause of perinatal death

Cause of infant death

4. Characteristics of the statistical process

4.1 Administrative source of the data

The administrative source of the data in the Vital Statistics is the Civil Register.

4.2 Legal basis of the administrative source

Article 20 of the Regulation of the Civil Register Law, states that the Civil Register Authorities shall submit, to the National Statistics Institute, through their Delegations, the birth, marriage and death registers. This article is pending updates after the Regulation of the new Law of Civil Register is implemented.

4.3 Observation units to which the primary data of the administrative source refers

The observation units are the births, marriages and deaths registered in the books of the Civil Register.

4.4 Collection method for the original administrative data

The data is collected from the corresponding childbirth, marriage and death registers, published for this same purpose by the National Statistics Institute. These registers are sent to each Civil Register, where they are completed and returned to the INE Delegation in the corresponding province.

These registers are recorded in the computers of the provincial delegations of the INE. There, they carry out the necessary verifications and correct any errors detected. The Electoral Census is notified of deaths, in order to proceed to delisting the deceased. Each Municipal Council is notified of births and deaths, in order to proceed to delisting the deceased and registering the births. In those provinces in which there is a partnership agreement with the Autonomous Community for the compilation of these statistics, the former must send the latter the recording and documentation established in the signed agreement.

Subsequently, all of the information is transmitted to the Central Services of the INE, where the data processing continues, carrying out the phases of filtering and automatic imputation, until the corresponding publications are obtained.

4.5 Frequency of collecting the original administrative data

The data is collected monthly.

4.6 Collection method for the data for statistical purposes based on the original administrative data

The complete listing of the original administrative data is presented, for each phenomenon, in the following points:

4.6.1 BIRTHS

Civil Register (Registry of births, marriages and deaths)

Province of registration of birth

Municipality of registration of birth

Day of registration of birth

Month of registration of birth

Year of registration of birth

Volume of registration of birth in the Civil Register

Page of registration of birth in the Civil Register

Sheet of registration of birth in the Civil Register

Day of registration in the Deceased Infants Register of the stillborn infant or live birth infant who died in less than 24 hours

Month of registration in the Deceased Infants Register of the stillborn infant or live birth infant who died in less than 24 hours

Year of registration in the Deceased Infants Register of the stillborn infant or live birth infant who died in less than 24 hours

Day of the childbirth

Month of the childbirth

Year of the childbirth

Province where the childbirth took place

Municipality where the childbirth took place

Given name of the mother

First surname of the mother

Second surname of the mother

ID card of the mother

Day of birth of the mother

Month of birth of the mother

Year of birth of the mother

Country of nationality of the mother

Province of birth of the mother

Municipality of birth of the mother

Country of birth of the mother

Province of residence of the mother

Municipality of residence of the mother

Country of residence of the mother

Type of road of the residence of the mother Name of the road of the residence of the mother Street number of the residence of the mother Floor number of the residence of the mother Marital status of the mother Day of the marriage Month of the marriage Year of the marriage Given name of the father First surname of the father Second surname of the father ID card of the father Day of birth of the father Month of birth of the father Year of birth of the father Country of nationality of the father Province of birth of the father Municipality of birth of the father Country of birth of the father Province of residence of the father Municipality of residence of the father Country of residence of the father Type of road of the residence of the father Name of the road of the residence of the father Street number of the residence of the father Floor number of the residence of the father Given name of the newborn First surname of the newborn Second surname of the newborn Sex of the newborn

4.6.2 DEATHS

Civil Register (Registry of births, marriages and deaths)
Province of death / registration of the death
Municipality of death / registration of the death
Year of registration of the death
Month of registration of the death
Day of registration of the death
Volume of registration of the death in the Civil Register
Page of registration of the death in the Civil Register
Sheet of registration of the death in the Civil Register

First surname of the deceased Second surname of the deceased Given name of the deceased ID card of the deceased Year of birth of the deceased Month of birth of the deceased Day of birth of the deceased Province of birth of the deceased Municipality of birth of the deceased Country of birth of the deceased Marital status of the deceased Country of nationality of the deceased Province of residence of the deceased Municipality of residence of the deceased Country of residence of the deceased Type of road of the residence of the deceased Name of the road of the residence of the deceased Street number of the road of the residence of the deceased Floor number of the residence of the deceased Year of death Month of death Day of death

4.6.3 MARRIAGES

Civil Register (Registry of births, marriages and deaths) Province of celebration / registration of the marriage Municipality of celebration / registration of the marriage Year of registration of the marriage Month of registration of the marriage Day of registration of the marriage Volume of registration of the marriage in the Civil Register Page of registration of the marriage in the Civil Register Sheet of registration of the marriage in the Civil Register Year of celebration of the marriage Month of celebration of the marriage Day of celebration of the marriage Type of celebration of the marriage First surname of spouse 1 Second surname of spouse 1 Given name of spouse 1 Year of birth of spouse 1

Month of birth of spouse 1 Day of birth of spouse 1 Sex of spouse 1 Marital status of spouse 1 Country of nationality of spouse 1 ID card of spouse 1 Province of residence of spouse 1 Municipality of residence of spouse 1 Country of residence of spouse 1 Type of road of the residence of spouse 1 Name of the road of the residence of spouse 1 Street number of the residence of spouse 1 Floor number of the residence of spouse 1 First surname of spouse 2 Second surname of spouse 2 Given name of spouse 2 Year of birth of spouse 2 Month of birth of spouse 2 Day of birth of spouse 2 Sex of spouse 2 Marital status of spouse 2 Country of nationality of spouse 2 ID card of spouse 2 Province of residence of spouse 2 Municipality of residence of spouse 2 Country of residence of spouse 2 Type of road of the residence of spouse 2 Name of the road of the residence of spouse 2 Street number of the residence of spouse 2 Floor number of the residence of spouse 2

4.7 Statistical forms

The following statistical registers are used:

- Statistical Register of Childbirth, Births and Late Foetal Deaths: this reflects the information on all the childbirths registered in the Civil Register, and on their characteristics, such as multiplicity, mortality, data on the parents, data on the newborn(s), etc.
- Unified Medical Death Certificate / Statistical Death Register (CMB/BED): this reflects the information of the deceased persons and their characteristics

- Judicial Statistical Death Register: this reflects the information on the deaths occurring in violent or unclear circumstances, requiring judicial intervention.
- Statistical Marriage Register: this includes the information on the marriages registered in the Civil Register, and their characteristics.
- Ecclesiastical Marriage Register: this is used by the Catholic Church for those marriages celebrated by this religion. There is a frequent case of marriages celebrated by the Catholic religion, for which a statistical register is used because the parish does not have ecclesiastical registers. Its content is similar to that of the statistical marriage register.

The statistical childbirth register changed its format and its content in the year 2007. This new register has modified its format to adapt it to the recording techniques by means of optical character recognition. Moreover, changes have been made in the content therein, for the purpose of being able to analyse the influence of the characteristics and the socio-demographic changes of the current population on fertility. New variables were introduced, such as: place of birth of the mother and the father, moment of acquisition of nationality for the mother and the father, educational level of the mother and the father, marital status of the mother and cohabitation situation with common law partners, place of birth and nationality of the previous child, nationality of the newborns in the current delivery, information from the autopsy and time of death for those life born infants deceased before 24 hours of life and stillborn infants. There are Castilian and bilingual versions.

The statistical marriage register changed its content in the month of July 2005, for the purpose of adapting it to the latest modification in Law 13/2005, of 1 July (B.O.E. of 2 July 2005), modifying the Civil Code in terms of the right to marry. Said law allows marriages between persons of the same or different sexes, with complete and equal rights and responsibilities, irregardless of the composition of said marriages. The sex variable of each of the spouses was introduced in the statistical register. There are Castilian and bilingual versions.

The ecclesiastical marriage register has not had changes in its content. There are Castilian and bilingual versions.

Subsequently, the statistical marriage register changed its format and its content on 1 January 2008. This new register has modified its format to adapt it to the recording techniques by means of optical character recognition (OCR). Moreover, changes were made in the content thereof, including new variables, such as: educational level of the spouses, ID card numbers (D.N.I., passport, ID for foreign nationals) of the spouses, acquisition of nationality, etc. Likewise, the terminology was adapted, changing the terms husband/wife to spouse1/spouse2.

The statistical death register changed its format and its content in the year 2009. Likewise, as in the Childbirth and Marriage registers, this has included the necessary transformations in the format of the CMD/BED, in order to adapt the information collection to the optical character recognition (OCR), and has changed the content therein, modifying the way of asking the questions. There are Castilian and bilingual versions

5. Dissemination plan and frequency of dissemination

The final results describe the characteristics of the childbirths, births, late foetal deaths, marriages and deaths occurring in Spain throughout a given year. They are disseminated annually on a national level, and with distribution by Autonomous Community, province, capital and municipality.

The final results corresponding to year t are published in December of year t+1, along with the microdata files from which these results are obtained.

The preview results are broken down by month, and are disseminated every six months, in June and December each year. The preview results referring to the first half of the year t are published in December of year t , and those referring to all the months of the complete year t are published in June of year t . The publication of preview results corresponding to all of the months of the complete year update those already published referring to the first semester thereof.

Annex: provisional results of the Vital Statistics

In general, we can state the nature of the calculation methodology itself for the provisional results of the Vital Statistics has nothing to do with the customary practices in demographic estimation and projection. This methodology does respond, however, to something much simpler than a true prospective analysis, since it is based on the simple regularity in the management terms and the processing of the information on the demographic events occurring, from their source of origin (Civil Registers) to ascertaining and inclusion in the databases of the National Statistics Institute (INE).

Thus, the estimation, at a given moment in time, of the total events occurring in a given month, is carried out from the number of events occurring in said month, of which until the time of estimation, there is knowledge in the central services of the INE, and an expansion coefficient thereof that is based on the regularity in the lag of the arrival of said information from its original source to the INE. That is, said expansion coefficient replicates the arrival rate of the information from the previous year in the events that are being received from the current year.

For this purpose, the **lag** variable is defined as the number of months that an event occurring in Spain in a given month takes to arrive at the central services of the INE, from the Civil Register of its province of registration, from the month

it of its occurrence. Then, $n_{m,a^{-1}}$ represents the total events (births, deaths or marriages) occurring in Spain during month m of year a^{-1} and $n_{m,a^{-1}}^r$ the number of such events that have been received in the central services of the INE until lag month r. We then define the **expansion coefficient** corresponding to month m of year a for lag r as quotient:

$$CE_{m,a}^{r} = \frac{n_{m,a-1}}{n_{m,a-1}^{r}}$$

Then, $n^r_{m,a,k}$ represents the total number of events (births, deaths or marriages) occurring in Spain in month m of year a, in a subpopulation defined by a series of basic demographic characteristics, indicated as a whole by k, received in the central services of the INE up until month r. The estimation of the total such events occurring in Spain in month m of year a of type k, $\hat{n}_{m,a,k}$, then yields:

$$\hat{n}_{m,a,k} = CE_{m,a}^r \cdot n_{m,a,k}^r$$

It must be taken into account, that as a result of this estimation process, the figures of the estimated demographic events generally show decimal numbers.