Population Estimates
Cook Islands Population was estimated at 17,700 for March Quarter 2019, declining by 12.4 percent over December quarter 2018 (20,200). Resident population estimate stood at 15,800.

Births
Registered births totaled to 40 for March quarter 2019, decreasing by 35.5 percent over the December quarter 2018 (62 births). This is an average of three births per week. The number of births to women aged 20-24 (15 births) showed the highest for March quarter 2019, followed by women aged 25-29 (10 births).

Deaths
Total number of deaths recorded stood at 22 deaths (averaging to 2 deaths per week) decreasing by 15.4 percent when compared to previous quarter 2018 (26 deaths).

Crude rates
The total crude birth rates (births per 1,000 populations) have decreased by from 2.5 averaging to two births to every thousand population. The total crude death rate for the March quarter 2019 was estimated at 1.4 per thousand populations.
**Infant mortality rate**
Infant mortality rate (deaths to under 1 year age per 1,000 live births) for increased from 7.2 per thousand in 2010 to 7.6 per thousand in 2011. In real numbers there was 2 infant deaths in 2011. Total deaths for 2011 was 72 a decrease of 24.2 over 2011, but this number do not reflect deaths of Cook Islanders occurring abroad.

![Births, Deaths and Natural Increase](image)

**Marriages**
The total number of marriages officiated in the Cook Islands for the March quarter 2019 was 114 (averaging to 10 marriages per week). This is a 39.4 percent decrease when compared to the December quarter 2018. Of these marriages, about 86 percent were non-residents and 14 percent were Cook Island residents.

Further information about this release can be obtained from the Statistics Office.

Taggy Tangimetua  
Government Statistician  
April 2019
Explanatory Notes

Introduction

The Population and Vital Statistics reports on the total and resident population estimate base on vital events of birth and deaths plus net migration data derived from tourism migration data. It also reports on the various vital events such as births, deaths and marriages that occurred within the Cook Islands. Some basic demographic crude rates such as for birth, death and infants deaths including natural increase are also reported in this release.

Computation of Crude Rates

Crude rates of birth, death and infant deaths are also compiled from these events.

The formula used in computing these rates are as follows:

\[
\text{Crude Birth Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Births}}{\text{Total Resident Population}} \times 1,000
\]

\[
\text{Crude Death Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Deaths}}{\text{Total Resident Population}} \times 1,000
\]

\[
\text{Infant Mortality Rates} = \frac{\text{Total Infant Deaths}}{\text{Total Births}} \times 1,000
\]

\[
\text{Natural Increase} = \text{Total Crude Birth Rate} \text{ less Crude Death Rate}
\]

Data Source

The records of births, deaths and marriages are compiled from the records of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registrar of the Ministry of Justice. For the islands outside of Rarotonga, the Deputy Registrars of each island furnish these records directly to the Cook Islands Statistics Office.

Coverage

All records are compiled for each inhabited island of the Cook Islands and are tabulated by the date of occurrence of the event. Often these records are reconciled with the Ministry of Health (MOH) records to ascertain the compilation of one indicator for the Cook Islands.