

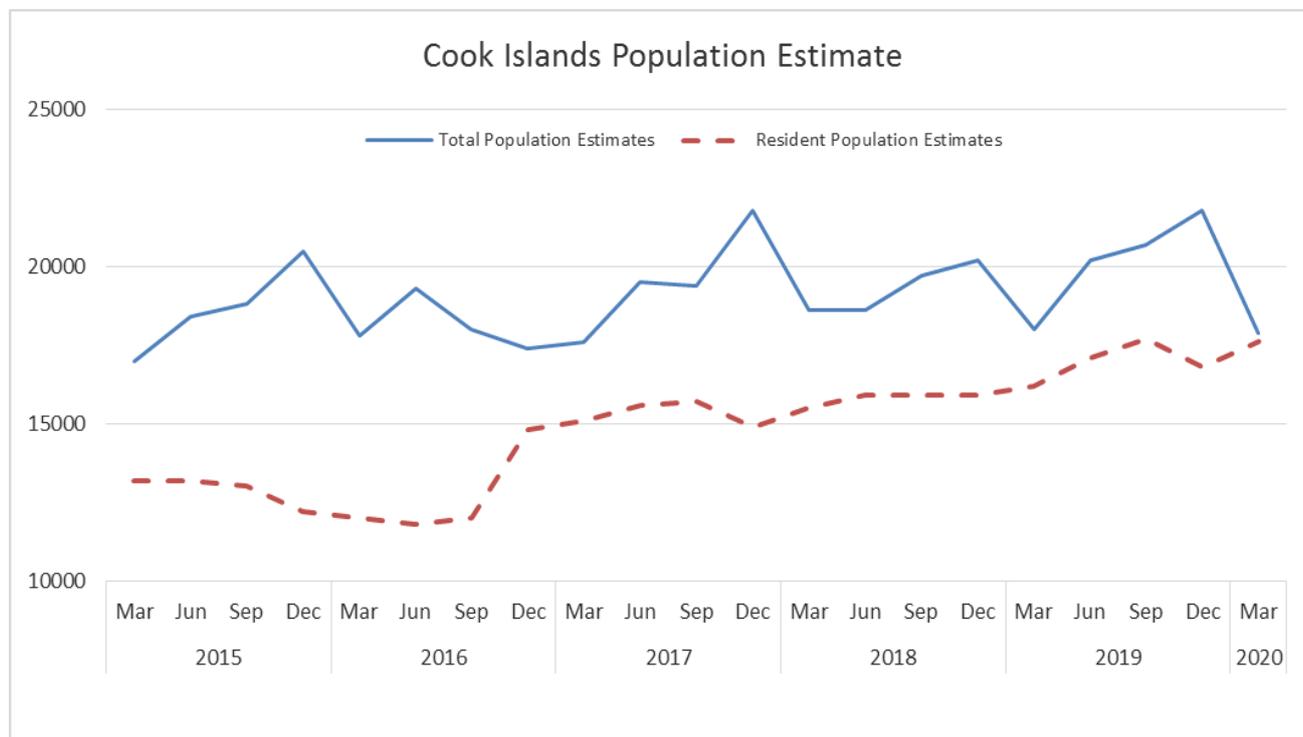
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS
COOK ISLANDS
STATISTICAL BULLETIN

VITAL STATISTICS AND POPULATION ESTIMATES
JUNE QUARTER 2020

Population Estimates

In June quarter 2020, estimated total population for the Cook Islands dropped by 17.9 percent (3,900 persons) to reach 17,900 and the Resident population increased by 4.8 per cent (800 persons) over December quarter 2019.

The biggest factor affecting this estimate is due to closure of overseas borders to people entering the country and to help stop the mounting threat or spread of the pandemic COVID-19.



Births

Total births recorded for this quarter March 2020 was 63 births. This averages to five births per week showing a decrease of 16.7 percent (9 births) when compared to December quarter 2019. The number of births to women aged 20-24 (15 births) showed the highest for March quarter 2020, followed by women aged 25-29 (11 births).

Deaths

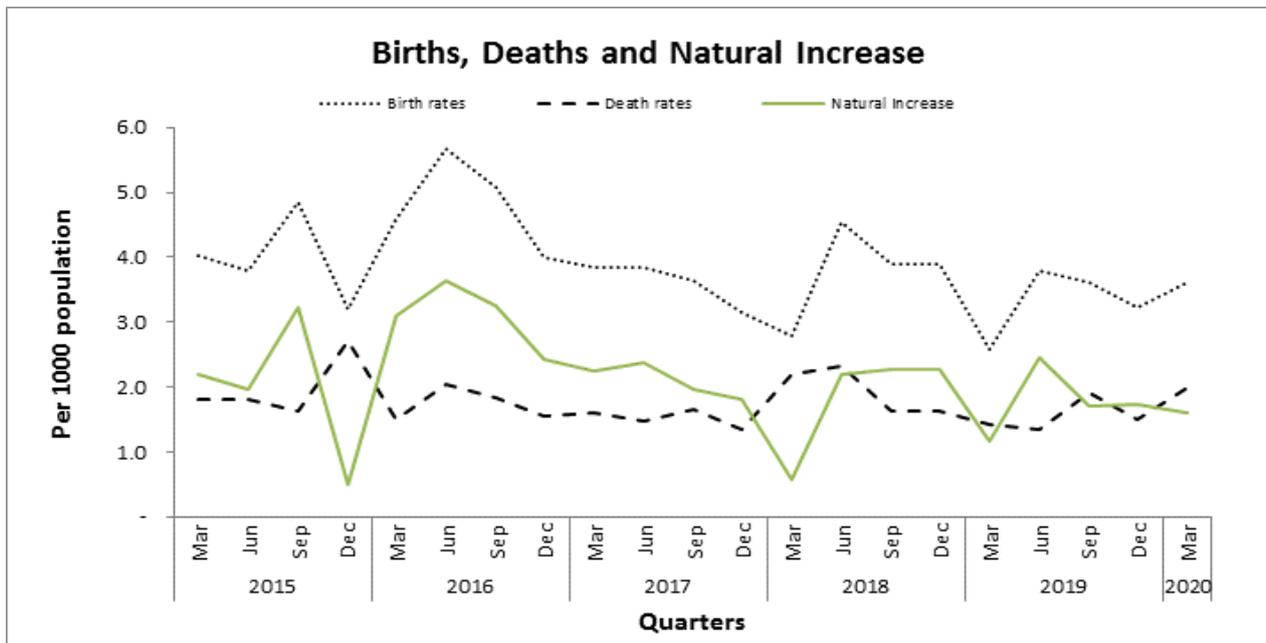
Total number of deaths recorded stood at 35 deaths, 23 deaths were males and 12 were females. Increasing by 40.0 percent when compared to December quarter 2019 (25 deaths) and averaging to 3 deaths per week. This number do not reflect deaths of Cook Islanders occurring abroad.

Crude rates

The number of live births occurring in December quarter 2019 per 1000 population stood at 3.6 averaging to almost 4 births per 1000 population. The annual number of deaths occurring per 1000 mid-year population for March quarter 2020 stood at 1.6, averaging to almost two deaths per 1000 population.

Infant mortality rate

Infant mortality rate (deaths to under 1 year age per 1,000 live births) increased from 4.5 per thousand in 2017 to 16.7 per thousand in 2018 and decreased to 8.9 per thousand in 2019. In real numbers there was 1 infant death in 2017, 4 infant deaths in 2018 and 2 infant deaths in 2019.



Marriages

Cook Islands marriage rate hit a record low in June quarter 2020. The total number of marriages officiated in the Cook Islands for the March quarter 2020 was 101 (averaging to 8 marriages per week). This is a 11.4 percent decrease when compared to the March quarter 2019. Of these marriages, about 89 percent were non-residents and 11 percent were Cook Island residents.

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

Taggy Tangimetua
Government Statistician
May 2020

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:

$$\text{Crude Birth Rate} = \text{Total Births} / \text{Total Resident Population} * 1,000$$

$$\text{Crude Death Rate} = \text{Total Deaths} / \text{Total Resident Population} * 1,000$$

$$\text{Infant Mortality Rates} = \text{Total Infant Deaths} / \text{Total Births} * 1,000$$

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

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.