I. POPULATION ESTIMATES AND VITAL STATISTICS IN THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREA

1. Population

The population of the Government controlled area is estimated at 888,000 at the end of 2019, compared to 875,900 at the end of 2018, recording an increase of 1.4%.

The proportion of children below 15 was estimated at 16.0% while the proportion of persons aged 65 and over increased to 16.3% in 2019, compared to 22.3% and 11.3% respectively in 2000. There was a gradual increase in the proportion of old-aged persons and a decrease in the proportion of children, demonstrating the ageing process of the population.

Concerning the religious groups which belong to the Greek Cypriot community, at the end of 2019, the Armenians constituted 0.4% of the community, Maronites 0.8% and Latins 0.1% of the Greek Cypriot community.

The permanent residents of foreign citizenship were estimated at 161,000 at the end of 2019, constituting a proportion of 18.1% of the total population in the Government controlled area.
2. **Fertility**

In 2019, the number of births in the Government controlled area increased to 9,548 from 9,329 the year before, giving a crude birth rate of 10.8 per 1,000 population.

The total fertility rate which describes the reproductive behaviour unaffected by changes in the age composition of the population, remained fairly low during the past few years. The total fertility rate for 2019 was estimated at 1.33, remaining at the same level as in the previous year. The total fertility rate decreased gradually during the past years, from its local peak of 2.5 in 1982. Since 1995, the total fertility rate remains below the replacement level of 2.10.

Cyprus has one of the lowest proportions of extra-marital births in Europe and fertility is mainly marital fertility. In 2019, 2,020 children were born out of wedlock constituting a proportion of 21.2% of the total number of births.

The mean age of women at the birth of their first child was 29.6 years in 2019, while the mean age at birth irrespective of the order of the child was 31.2 years.
3. **Mortality**

The number of deaths in the Government controlled area reached 6,239 in 2019, compared to 5,768 in 2018. The crude death rate for 2019 increased to 7.1 deaths per 1,000 population, from 6.6 in 2018.

Life expectancy at birth was estimated at 80.1 years for males and 84.2 years for females in 2019, compared to 80.7 years for males and 84.6 for females in 2018.

Infant mortality has admittedly reached a very low level, estimated at 2.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019.

4. **Migration**

Net migration in Cyprus has been positive from 1983 to 2011. For the period 2012-2015, net migration has been negative. As from 2016, net migration became positive again. In 2019, it was estimated at 8.797.

Long-term immigrants (Cypriots and foreigners arriving for settlement or for temporary employment for 1 year or more) were 26,170 in 2019, compared to 23,442 in 2018.

The number of emigrants (Cypriots and foreigners who had resided in Cyprus for at least one year) was estimated at 17,373 in 2019 compared to 15,340 in 2018.
5. Marriages

The total number of marriages in 2019 increased to 14,854 from 13,783 the year before. As in the past few years, a large number of foreigners who married in Cyprus by civil marriage were not residing in Cyprus. Out of 10,681 civil marriages celebrated in 2019, only 3,673 were civil marriages of residents of Cyprus. Thus the total number of marriages of residents totaled 7,846 and the crude marriage rate for residents was calculated at 8,9 per 1,000 population.

The number of ecclesiastical marriages increased from 3,918 in 2018 to 4,173 in 2019.

As mentioned above, civil marriages of residents of Cyprus numbered 3,673 or 34,4% of the total civil marriages celebrated in Cyprus. In most cases, in 59,1% of the civil marriages of residents of Cyprus, the groom and the bride were of foreign nationality, in 17,4% the groom was Cypriot and the bride of foreign nationality, in 7,6% of the cases the bride was Cypriot and the groom of foreign nationality and 15,5% cases concerned Cypriot spouses.

Citizens of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Romania were the main nationality groups of foreign grooms, residents of Cyprus, who had a civil marriage in 2019, while for brides the main nationalities were respectively Romanian, Indian, Russian and Filipino.

First marriages for both partners constituted 78,3% of marriages of residents, 14,6% were remarriages for one partner and 6,9% were remarriages for both partners.
Mean age of male residents of Cyprus at first marriage was calculated at 30,8 years, 31,9 for ecclesiastical marriages and 29,2 for civil. Similarly, mean age of women at first marriage was calculated at 29,5 years, 29,9 for ecclesiastical marriages and 28,9 for civil. Age at first marriage continues to be lower in rural than in urban areas for both grooms and brides.

![Chart5: Mean age at first marriage for groom and bride, 1974-2019](image)

6. **Divorces**

The total number of divorces in 2019 increased to 2,308, from 2,114 in 2018. The crude divorce rate was calculated at 2,62 per 1.000 population in 2019, as compared to 2,43 in 2018. The total divorce rate, which shows the proportion of marriages that are expected to end up in divorce, rose to 361,7 per 1.000 marriages in 2019, from 41,6 per 1.000 marriages in 1980.

A proportion of 52,8% of divorced couples reported no dependent children under 18 years old, 25,5% reported one, 16,5% two and 3,8% reported three or more dependent children. The median duration of marriage was estimated at 9,0 years in 2019.
7. **Comparison of demographic indicators of Cyprus with the European Union countries**

The population of Cyprus accounts for 0.2% of the total population of the 28 European Union countries. Cyprus has the third smallest population ranking behind Malta and Luxembourg which had a total population of 514.600 and 626.100 at the end of 2019 respectively.

The rate of natural increase of Cyprus (3.7 per 1.000 population) is much higher than the EU average (-0.8 per 1.000 population).

The age composition of the population portrays a somewhat younger age-structure than the European average. The proportion of persons aged 65 and over is among the lowest, while at the same time the proportion of children below 15 is among the highest.

The abrupt decrease of fertility in Cyprus recorded during the nineties and the increase of the fertility indicator in some European countries in the last few years, resulted in placing the total fertility rate of Cyprus below the average of the European Union countries (1.6 for the year 2018).

Life expectancy at birth in Cyprus is above the average of the European Union (78.3 years for males and 83.6 years for females for the year 2018).

II. **SOURCES OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

*Birth Statistics* up to 1998 were estimates obtained using the Chandrasekar Deming method. As from 1999, birth statistics are based solely on registered events occurring during the year, which are registered up to May of the following year.

In the tables referring to births by age of mother, in the age group 15-19 years, there may be cases for which the mother has not completed the 15th year of age.

*Death Statistics* up to 2004 were estimates obtained through matching of registered deaths with data provided on special forms by priests of cemeteries using the Chandrasekar Deming method. As from 2005 death registration was almost complete, complimented with data provided by priests without any additional estimation. As from 2013, the use of data provided by priests has been terminated due to the fact that the coverage of death registration was considered sufficient.

The total number of deaths up to the year 2012 included all deaths which occurred in Cyprus (of both residents of Cyprus and non-residents) and deaths of residents of Cyprus which occurred abroad and were buried in Cyprus. As from 2013, the number of deaths includes the deaths of residents of Cyprus only.
**Marriages** are compiled by the staff of the Statistical Service from the Registers at the ecclesiastical districts of Cyprus. The Armenian, Maronite and Catholic Churches report their marriages directly to the Statistical Service. Data concerning civil marriages are obtained from the Ministry of Interior. As from 2003, it has been possible to disaggregate civil marriages of non residents. **Divorces** are obtained from family courts. In the total number of divorces, there may be a limited number of divorces by non residents of Cyprus.

**Migration statistics** are based on the results of the Passenger Survey (long-term immigrants as from 1997 and emigrants as from 2002), as well as on administrative and other sources available to the Statistical Service.

**Population estimates** for the Government controlled area are based on Census results updated annually to take account of the components of change, births, deaths and net migration. Intercensal estimates are revised when new Census figures become available. Population estimates for the period 2002-2011 have been revised on the basis of the results of the Census of Population 2011.

### III. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

**Crude birth, death, marriage and divorce rates** are respectively the numbers of births, deaths, marriages and divorces per 1.000 population.

**Gross reproduction rate** shows the number of daughters a woman would have if she experienced the age specific fertility rates of a given year and she lived until the end of her reproductive life.

**Sex ratio at birth** gives the number of male births per 1.000 female births.

**General fertility rate** is the number of births per thousand women in the reproductive age-groups, 15-49.

**Age specific fertility rate** is the number of births occurring to women of a given age-group during a year divided by the total number of women in that age-group. It is usually expressed per 1.000 women.

**Age specific mortality rate** is the number of deaths of a population of a given age-group divided by the population of that age-group.

**Annual growth rate** is the increase (or decrease) of the population in year T in relation to the total population in year T-1. The population is as at mid or end of the year.

**Net migration** is the balance between in-migration and out-migration. It may be expressed as a rate per 1.000 mid-year population.
Immigrants are persons who enter Cyprus with the intention to settle in Cyprus or to stay for one year or more.

Emigrants are persons who have left Cyprus with the intention to settle abroad or to stay for one year or more. This category also includes persons who depart from Cyprus after staying more than one year in the country on the expiry of their contract of employment or students after completion of their studies.

Net reproduction rate shows the number of daughters a woman would have if she experienced the fertility and mortality of a given period.

De facto population comprises all the persons who were actually present in the country at a given time. This concept had been applied during all Population Censuses up to 1960.

De jure population comprises all the persons who have their usual residence in Cyprus. This concept was used in Censuses and population estimates after 1960.

Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn baby is expected to live if mortality in the various age-groups remains at the level of the period on which the life expectancy is computed.

Infant mortality rate is the ratio of deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births of the same year.

Age dependency ratio is the total number of persons under 15 years old and the elderly population aged 65 and over in relation to the population 15-64 years old (per 100 population 15-64 years old).

Aged/Child ratio is the number of persons aged 65 and over per 100 persons aged under 15 years.

Live birth order is the biological birth order of the present child taking account of all live births of the mother.

Total fertility rate gives the number of children a woman would have if she experienced the age specific fertility rates of a given year and she lived until the end of her reproductive life i.e. until her 50th birthday.

Total first marriage rate, is the summation of age specific first marriage rates observed in a given year and represents the probability of first marriage.

Total divorce rate is the proportion of marriages that are expected to end up in divorce (per 1,000 marriages).
Natural increase is the excess of births over deaths. When expressed as a rate per 1,000 population it is the difference between the crude birth rate and the crude death rate.

IV. EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

0 = Magnitude zero  
n.a = Not applicable  
... = Data not available  
r = Revised data

V. DETAILED TABLES

The complete set of detailed tables referring to Demographic Statistics 2019, are available in Excel files in the sections presented below, at the website of the Statistical Service, at the following link:


- POPULATION:
  A. POPULATION AT CENSUS YEARS  
  B. POPULATION ESTIMATES IN THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREA

- BIRTHS, DEATHS, MIGRATION:
  C. BIRTHS  
  D. DEATHS  
  E. MIGRATION

- MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES:
  F. MARRIAGES  
  G. DIVORCES