

Vital Statistics

Annual Report
2023

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Introduction

The 2023 Annual Report of births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages and domestic partnerships is compiled by the Vital Statistics Unit of Service Nova Scotia. Data on vital events occurring in Nova Scotia has been published since 1917. The information presented in the following charts and tables is based upon data collected on vital event registrations.

The *Vital Statistics Act* (Chapter 494 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1989) requires that all births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages, and domestic partnerships in the province be registered with the Vital Statistics Office.

Vital Statistics is also responsible for administration of the *Marriage Act* and *Change of Name Act*.

The provincial registration system serves two primary functions:

1. to obtain and preserve the documentary evidence necessary to provide individuals with official proof of the facts concerning a birth, death, stillbirth, marriage or domestic partnership; and
2. to provide information and statistics to health professionals and planners for public health surveillance, health education and promotion, epidemiological research, and health planning.

Vital Event Data

This report summarizes information on vital events for residents that occurred in the province. It excludes non-residents events except where specifically noted. Statistics relating to Nova Scotia residents who gave birth, were married or died outside the province are also excluded. Marriage statistics summarize all events that for residents or non-residents that occurred in the province.

Data for a particular year is usually published in the following year. However, some data are published with a lag of more than a year. The contents of this publication are based on the most current data available at the time of publication.

To maintain confidentiality, identifying information for individuals is not disclosed. Nova Scotia Vital Statistics, along with all other Canadian provinces and territories, shares data with Statistics Canada for further compilation, analysis, reporting, and comparison. Information on vital events that occur to Canadians outside their province of usual residence is made available through their publications.

Time Periods

This report covers events occurring in the calendar year 2023. Selected tables present aggregate data across a number of years.

Population Data

Population estimates were provided by the Demography Division of Statistics Canada.

Acknowledgments

Vital Statistics would like to acknowledge and thank the many groups and individuals who ensure complete and accurate recording of vital events, including our division registrars of births, deaths, and stillbirths located in hospitals and funeral homes, deputy issuers of marriage licenses, physicians who certify causes of death and stillbirth, and the Provincial Medical Examiner's office at the Department of Justice.

Other Information and Contact Information

More information on the Vital Statistics Unit of Service Nova Scotia is available on our website at www.novascotia.ca/vitalstats. The most recent Annual Report may be accessed online.

Further information about vital events in Nova Scotia can be accessed on the Nova Scotia Open Data Portal at <https://data.novascotia.ca/>.

For answers to questions about this report, contact:

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Summary of Operating Statistics

Vital Statistics is mandated to provide the public with services relating to vital events that occur in Nova Scotia, in accordance with the *Vital Statistics Act*. To meet this mandate, the office is responsible for maintaining the provincial registry for births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages, and domestic partnerships and for issuing certificates for these events. The registry maintains data that assists in the decision-making process for health planning and monitoring, policy formulation and comparisons with other jurisdictions across time, and for preparing statistics for the public for business planning, trend analysis, etc. Additional services, provided under the *Marriage Act* and the *Change of Name Act*, include: registration of clergy and civil marriage officiants, issuance of marriage licenses, and registering legal changes of name.

Services provided, Vital Statistics 2023:

SERVICES	TOTAL NO:
BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES ISSUED	28,479
BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, STILLBIRTHS, AND DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS REGISTERED	20,608
CHANGES OF NAME PROCESSED	546
MARRIAGE LICENSES SOLD	4,598
AMENDMENTS PROCESSED (INCLUDING DELAYED REGISTRATIONS AND ADOPTIONS)	1,503
TOTAL SERVICES	55,734

Service Channels Used by Customers:

SERVICE CHANNELS	TOTAL NO:	PERCENTAGE
MAIL	4,235	13%
INTERNET	26,355	79%
COUNTER SERVICE	2,532	8%

On a Typical Day in Nova Scotia in 2023

22 LIVE BIRTHS OCCURRED IN THE PROVINCE:

- 11 males and 11 females*
- 2 babies were born every 7 days to teenage mothers*
- 2 live births were registered with no father named*
- 11 low birth weight babies were born every 7 days (< 2500 grams)*
- 1 multiple birth occurred every 2 days*
- 1 stillbirth occurred every 10 days*

30 DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE PROVINCE:

- 16 males and 14 females*
- 6 deaths were due to diseases of the circulatory system including:*
 - 3 - deaths from heart disease*
 - 1 - death from cerebrovascular diseases*
- 7 deaths were due to cancer including:*
 - 1 - from lung cancer*
- 2 deaths were due to diseases of the respiratory system*
- 1 death resulted from accident or violence*
- 1 death due to diabetes*
- 1 death every 3 days were due to Alzheimer's disease*
- 1 infant death occurred every 11 days*

12 MARRIAGES WERE SOLEMNIZED:

- 10 were civil ceremonies and 2 were performed by religious representatives*
- 8 marriages were to couples where both parties were marrying for the first time*

1 DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP DECLARATION WAS FILED EVERY 6 DAYS

Summary of Vital Events

Since 1952 the population of Nova Scotia has increased by approximately 62%. Demographic and social changes have had a dramatic impact on vital events. The birth rate has fallen to less than half the rate seen in the early 1960's, yet mortality rates have grown. The net result, in 2023, is a 'natural decrease rate' of -2.9, as the number of deaths were greater than the number of births this year. Emigration and immigration are not included in natural population growth rates.

- In 2023 there were 7,918 live births in Nova Scotia. The number of live births increased by 74 births from 7,844 births in 2022. The birth rate is 7.5 births per 1,000 population.
- There were 10,996 deaths of Nova Scotia residents in 2023, 277 fewer deaths than the previous year. The death rate was 10.4 deaths per 1,000 population. The leading causes of death in Nova Scotia are diseases of the circulatory system and cancer; in 2023, deaths from these causes made up 44.1% of all deaths.
- A total of 4,421 marriages were solemnized in 2023. The marriage rate per 1,000 population is 4.2, lower than the 2022 rate of 4.5. Marriage statistics include all marriages that took place in the province, including those where one or both parties were non-Nova Scotia residents.
- There were 38 stillbirths in 2023. The stillbirth rate was 4.8 per 1,000 total births (live births and stillbirths).
- In 2023 there were 38 infant deaths (age at death less than 1 year) in the province, for an infant mortality rate of 4.8 per 1,000 live births. Of these 38 infant deaths, 26 were neonatal deaths, occurring to infants under 1 month of age. The infant death rate in the past five years has ranged from 3.3 to 5.0.

Table I
Population of Nova Scotia
1952–2023

The population of the province in the following table is given for reference purposes and comparison for the period 1952-2023

YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
1952	653,000	1988	897,000
1953	663,000	1989	904,000
1954	674,000	1990	910,000
1955	684,000	1991	915,000
1956	695,000	1992	920,000
1957	703,000	1993	924,000
1958	712,000	1994	927,000
1959	720,000	1995	928,000
1960	729,000	1996	931,000
1961	737,000	1997	932,000
1962	741,000	1998	932,000
1963	745,000	1999	934,000
1964	749,000	2000	934,000
1965	753,000	2001	932,000
1966	756,000	2002	935,000
1967	763,000	2003	936,000
1968	770,000	2004	938,000
1969	777,000	2005	938,000
1970	784,000	2006	934,000
1971	797,000	2007	933,000
1972	802,000	2008	936,000
1973	812,000	2009	939,000
1974	819,000	2010	942,000
1975	827,000	2011	944,000
1976	835,000	2012	945,000
1977	840,000	2013	940,000
1978	845,000	2014	942,000
1979	849,000	2015	943,000
1980	853,000	2016	924,000
1981	855,000	2017	953,000
1982	860,000	2018	960,000
1983	869,000	2019	971,000
1984	877,000	2020	974,000
1985	885,000	2021	992,000
1986	889,000	2022	1,020,000
1987	893,000	2023	1,059,000

Population as of July 1 of year shown, rounded to nearest thousand.
Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division

Table II

Live Births, Deaths and Natural Increase, with Rates, Nova Scotia, 1966-2023

YEAR	LIVE BIRTHS	RATE*	DEATHS	RATE*	EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS	NATURAL INCREASE/DECREASE RATE
1966-1970	71,083	18.7	33,112	8.6	37,971	9.9
1971 - 1975	67,135	16.6	34,207	8.4	32,928	8.2
1976 - 1980	62,518	14.8	34,642	8.2	27,876	6.6
1981	12,079	14.1	6,958	8.1	5,121	6
1982	12,325	14.3	6,941	8.1	5,384	6.2
1983	12,401	14.3	7,047	8.1	5,354	6.2
1984	12,378	14.1	6,913	7.9	5,465	6.2
1985	12,450	14.1	7,315	8.3	5,135	5.8
1986	12,358	13.9	7,255	8.2	5,103	5.7
1987	12,110	13.6	7,112	8	4,998	5.6
1988	12,182	13.6	7,412	8.3	4,770	5.3
1989	12,533	13.9	7,516	8.3	5,017	5.5
1990	12,870	14.1	7,388	8.1	5,482	6
1991	12,016	13.1	7,255	7.9	4,761	5.2
1992	11,874	12.9	7,544	8.2	4,330	4.7
1993	11,568	12.5	7,559	8.2	4,009	4.3
1994	11,099	12	7,770	8.4	3,329	3.6
1995	10,726	11.6	7,687	8.3	3,039	3.3
1996	10,573	11.4	7,751	8.3	2,822	3
1997	9,952	10.7	8,044	8.6	1,908	2
1998	9,448	10.1	7,995	8.6	1,453	1.6
1999	9,427	10.1	7,568	8.1	1,859	2
2000	8,977	9.6	7,813	8.4	1,164	1.2
2001	8,757	9.4	7,803	8.4	954	1
2002	8,545	9.1	7,921	8.5	624	0.7
2003	8,536	9.1	7,997	8.5	539	0.6
2004	8,638	9.2	8,168	8.7	470	0.5
2005	8,481	9	8,200	8.7	281	0.3
2006	8,426	9	8,029	8.6	397	0.4
2007	8,801	9.4	8,281	8.9	520	0.6
2008	9,134	9.8	8,161	8.7	974	1.0
2009	8,896	9.5	8,174	8.7	722	0.8
2010	8,787	9.3	8,288	8.8	488	0.5
2011	8,827	9.3	8,525	9.0	302	0.3
2012	8,685	9.2	8,368	8.9	317	0.3
2013	8,405	8.9	8,815	9.4	-410	-0.4
2014	8,577	9.1	8,662	9.2	-84	-0.1
2015	8,144	8.6	9,317	9.9	-1,173	-1.2
2016	8,277	9.0	8,940	9.7	-663	-0.7
2017	8,200	8.6	9,494	10.0	-1,294	-1.4
2018	7,904	8.2	9,661	10.1	-1,757	-1.9
2019	8,407	8.3	9,778	10.1	-1,371	-1.8
2020	7,599	7.8	9,999	10.3	-2,400	-2.5
2021	8,122	8.2	10,178	10.3	-2,056	-2.1
2022	7,844	7.7	11,273	11.1	-3,429	-3.4
2023	7,918	7.5	10,996	10.4	-3,078	-2.9

*Rate per 1,000 estimated population based on figures shown in Table 1.

Chart I

Birth and Death Rates, Nova Scotia 1966-2023

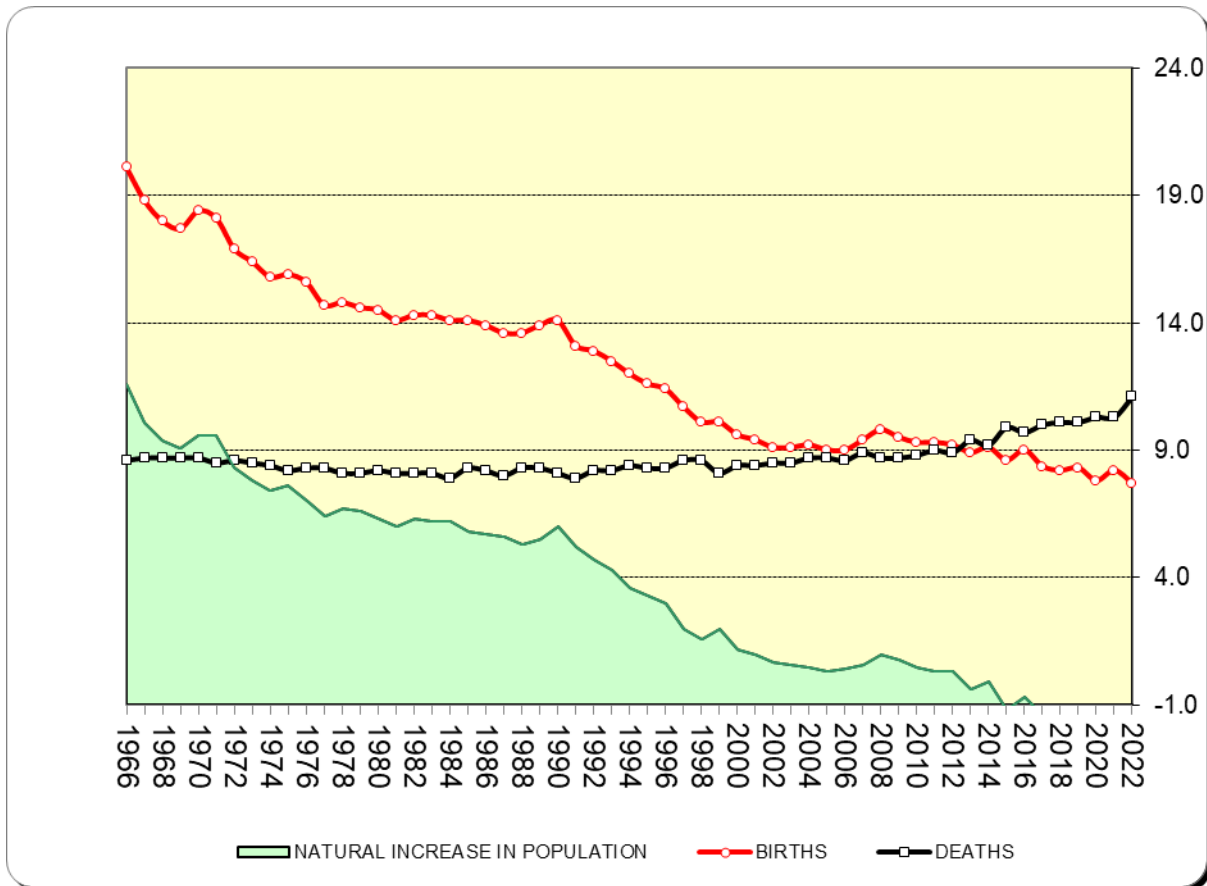


Table III

**General Summary of Live Births, Still births and Deaths by County, with Rates, Nova Scotia,
2023**

COUNTY	POPULATION (Estimated)	TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS		EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS	NATURAL INCREASE/ DECREASE RATE*	STILLBIRTHS***		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR	
		TOTAL	RATE*	TOTAL	RATE*			TOTAL	RATE**	TOTAL	RATE**
ANNAPOLIS	22,989	178	7.7	324	14.1	-146	-6.4	3	16.9	0	0.0
ANTIGONISH	21,253	176	8.3	227	10.7	-51	-2.4	1	5.7	0	0.0
CAPE BRETON	109,945	770	7.0	1,416	12.9	-646	-5.9	1	1.3	9	11.7
COLCHESTER	55,334	402	7.3	648	11.7	-246	-4.4	1	2.5	1	2.5
CUMBERLAND	32,068	221	6.9	454	14.2	-233	-7.3	0	0.0	1	4.5
DIGBY	18,088	105	5.8	269	14.9	-164	-9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
GUYSBOROUGH	7,596	56	7.4	144	19.0	-88	-11.6	1	17.9	0	0.0
HALIFAX	492,199	3,948	8.0	3,889	7.9	59	0.1	24	6.1	19	4.8
HANTS	47,088	407	8.6	484	10.3	-77	-1.6	0	0.0	2	4.9
INVERNESS	18,182	117	6.4	247	13.6	-130	-7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
KINGS	67,263	499	7.4	712	10.6	-213	-3.2	4	8.0	0	0.0
LUNENBURG	51,900	281	5.4	672	12.9	-391	-7.5	2	7.1	1	3.6
PICTOU	46,043	301	6.5	616	13.4	-315	-6.8	0	0.0	3	10.0
QUEENS	10,972	55	5.0	146	13.3	-91	-8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
RICHMOND	9,672	70	7.2	109	11.3	-39	-4.0	0	0.0	1	14.3
SHELBURNE	14,428	97	6.7	195	13.5	-98	-6.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
VICTORIA	7,718	49	6.3	88	11.4	-39	-5.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
YARMOUTH	25,956	186	7.2	326	12.6	-140	-5.4	1	5.4	1	5.4
TOTAL	1,058,694	7,918	7.5	10,966	10.4	-3,048	-2.9	38	4.8	38	4.8

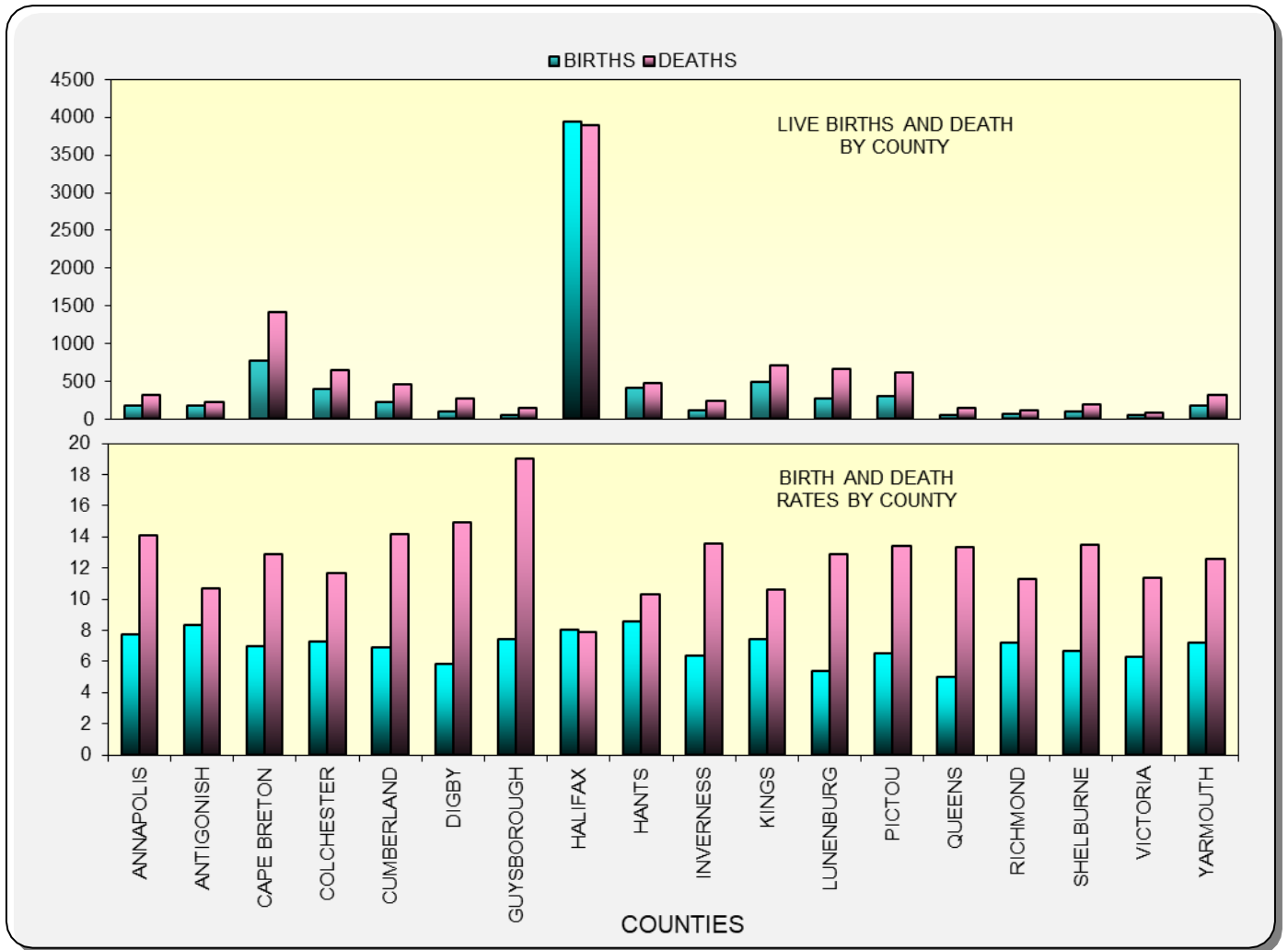
* Rate per 1,000 estimated population

** Rate per 1,000 births

*** Stillbirths 20+ weeks gestation

Chart II

Live Births and Deaths with Rates by County 2023



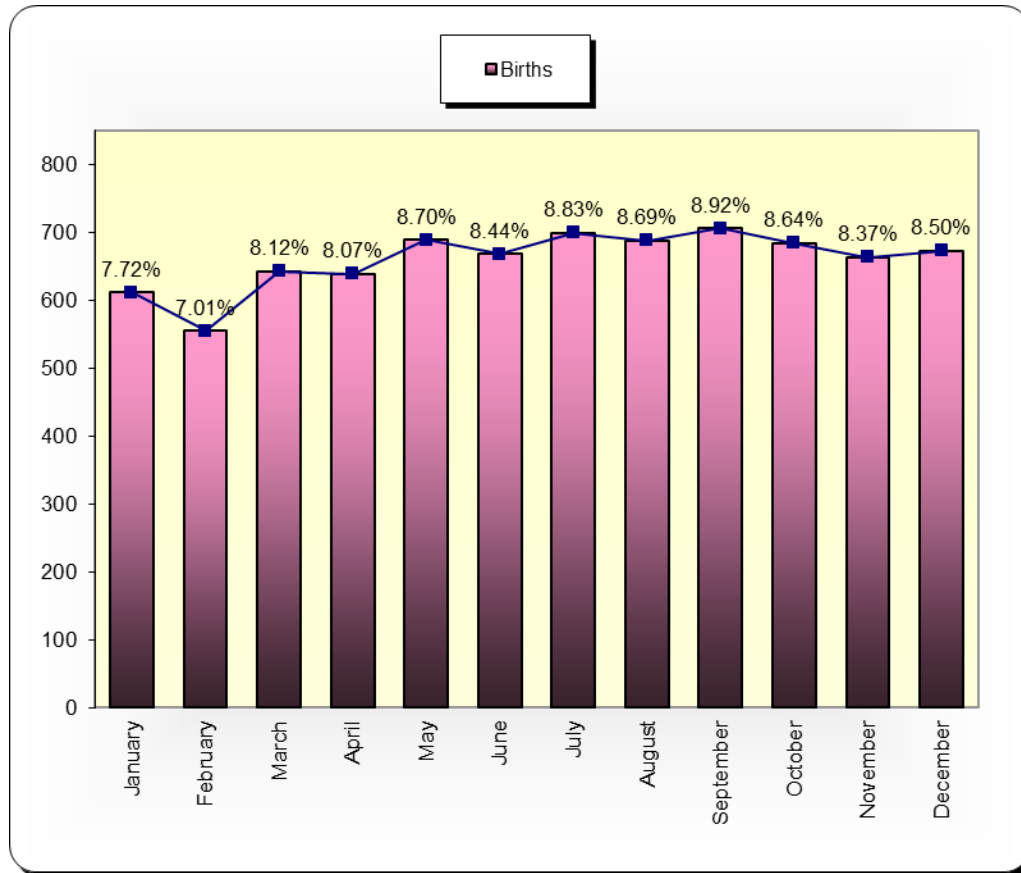
Top 20 Baby Names for 2022-2023

2022				2023			
GIRLS		BOYS		GIRLS		BOYS	
FIRST NAME	COUNT	FIRST NAME	COUNT	FIRSTNAME	COUNT	FIRST NAME	COUNT
VIOLET	43	OLIVER	59	OLIVIA	34	OLIVER	45
CHARLOTTE	42	JACK	49	CHARLOTTE	34	HENRY	45
EMMA	38	WILLIAM	41	SOPHIA	28	THEODORE	44
OLIVIA	38	OWEN	39	ISLA	27	JACK	40
AMELIA	33	HENRY	37	VIOLET	25	NOAH	38
ELLIE	32	THEODORE	35	HARPER	25	WILLIAM	35
SADIE	30	NOAH	34	IVY	24	OWEN	34
HARPER	29	LEVI	32	HAZEL	23	BENJAMIN	34
LILY	28	GRAYSON	31	MAEVE	23	LEVI	30
ISLA	27	LIAM	31	AVA	22	HUDSON	29
NORA	27	BEAU	30	AMELIA	22	LIAM	29
ABIGAIL	26	THEO	29	ELLIE	22	JACKSON	29
IVY	26	HUDSON	28	SADIE	22	THOMAS	27
SOPHIE	24	JACKSON	28	SOPHIE	21	JAMES	26
ELLA	23	THOMAS	28	LILY	21	BENNETT	25
EVELYN	23	ETHAN	26	RUBY	20	ARTHUR	24
ISABELLE	23	JOHN	26	NORA	20	MAVERICK	23
SCARLETT	23	WYATT	26	ELLA	20	LUCAS	23
AVERY	22	BENJAMIN	25	EVELYN	19	THEO	23
EVERLY	21	LUCAS	25	EMMA	19	BEAU	22
LAYLA	21	ROWAN	25	ELEANOR	19	ETHAN	22
				SCARLETT	19	WESLEY	22

* Alternate spellings of names that sound alike (such as Catherine, Katherine, and Kathryn) are not combined.

Chart III

Births by Month with Percentages, Nova Scotia 2023

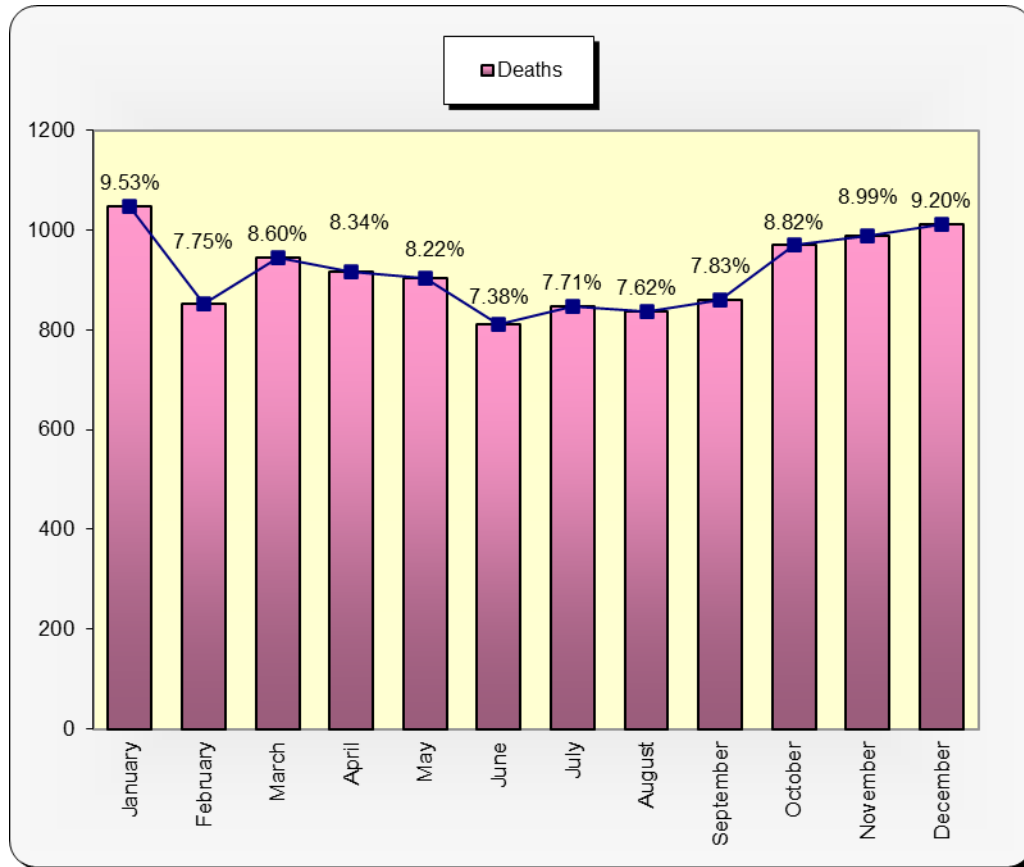


Births by Month, Nova Scotia 2023

MONTH	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NO. OF BIRTHS	611	555	643	639	689	668	699	688	706	684	663	673

Chart IV

Deaths by Month with Percentages, Nova Scotia 2023

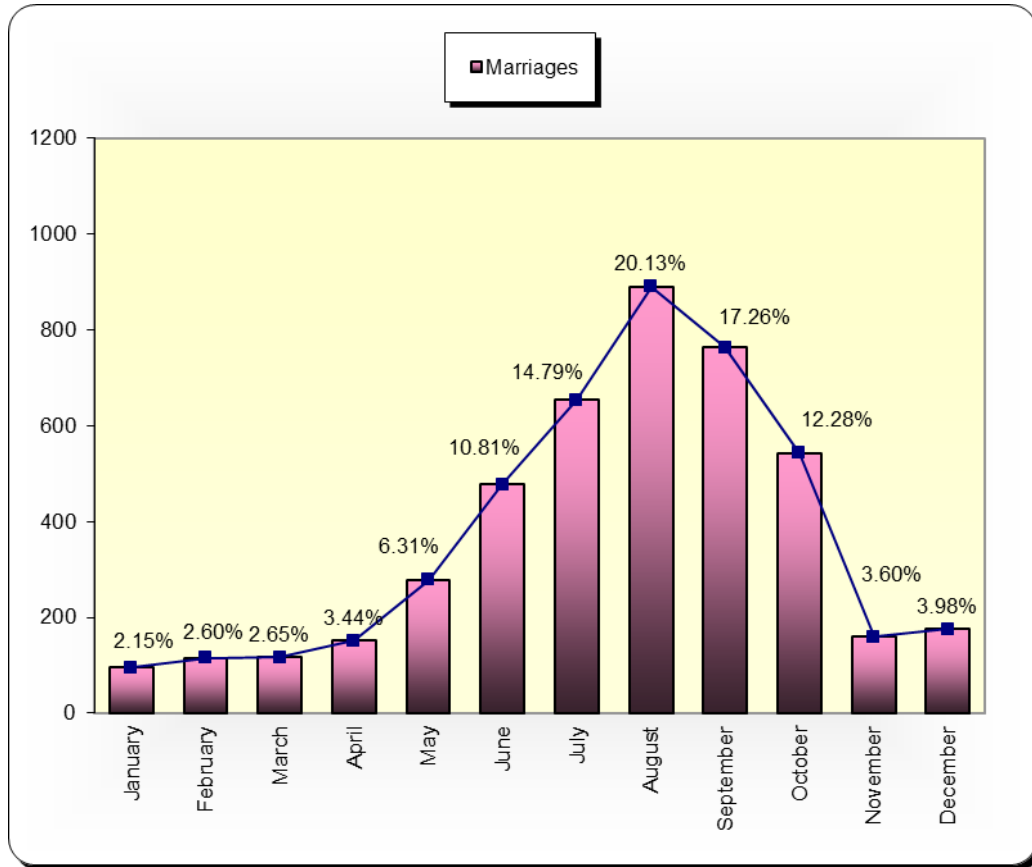


Deaths by Month, Nova Scotia 2023

MONTH	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NO. OF DEATHS	1048	852	946	917	904	811	848	838	861	970	989	1012

Chart V

Marriages by Month with Percentages, Nova Scotia 2023



Marriages by Month, Nova Scotia 2023

MONTH	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUS	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NO. OF MARRIAGES	95	115	117	152	279	478	654	890	763	543	159	176