

# Birth Rate, Death Rate and Natural Increase

The population of a country or region may change due to natural factors. Some of these natural factors include any changes in birth rate or death rate. The natural increase or decrease may also cause population change.

There are two main contributors to population change. There are natural factors such as changes in birth and death rates, additionally, migration patterns may contribute to population change.

**Birth Rate (BR):** This is the number of live births per 1000 of population per year. It is calculated by dividing the number of live birth by the total population multiplied by 1000  
$$\text{Live Births} / \text{Total Pop} \times 1000$$

**Death Rate (DR):** This is the number of deaths per 1000 of population per year. It is calculated by dividing the number of deaths by the total population multiplied by 1000.  
$$\text{Death} / \text{Total Pop} \times 1000$$

**Natural Increase (NI):** This is where the birth rate of a given region outweighs the death rate of said region. This is therefore calculated by subtracting the birth rate from the death rate. Where this is positive there is a natural increase, however if a negative sum is arrived then this suggest a **natural decrease**.  
$$\text{BR} - \text{DR} = \text{NI}$$

This visual representation captures the facets of population change that is we have three main factors hinging on the outcome for a total population. These are the birth and death rates as well as migration.

