

Burgerlijke Stand/Civil Registration

1. Official name of the source and its English translation	Burgerlijke Stand/Civil Registration
2. Purpose of the source:	
2.a. Why was this source created?	This systematic registration was created by the government to get control of the population, and also to replace the religious marriage and baptism registers, which were kept quite poorly, and give only a limited amount of information, while in the Dutch province of Groningen systematic registration of deaths was missing until the start of 1806 (although numerous death registers on a local level have survived)
2.b. Who created it?	It was officially created by Napoleon, starting August 1811. It was part of the governmental integration of the Netherlands in the French Empire (some parts are even in French language). However the registration was actually done by the local municipal government. In the countryside the major or a secretary was usually responsible for keeping the records, in larger municipalities civil servants. Two copies have been made, one for the collection of the provincial government, while the other one was kept in the municipality.
3. Scope: What group of the population was documented in this source?	All people born, dying or marrying in a certain municipality. When people had their official residence somewhere else, a copy of the certificate was sent to that municipality.
4. Time period: When the information of the sources was recorded? Please indicate the start and the end date.	The registration starts, as mentioned 1 August 1811, and goes on until nowadays. Official birth and death certificates were made only one to usually not more than three days after the event, with only a few exceptions. Marriage certificates were made up the same day as they were signed by both bride and groom.
5. Geographical area: What territory is covered by the source?	The civil registration covers the whole territory of the Netherlands, in some southern parts it starts even a few years later.
6. Content: What was recorded?	Birth certificate: mentions the name of the mother (sometimes age and occupation, especially in the case of illegitimate children); the name of the father who is usually declaring the birth, and in that case his age and occupation is also mentioned; the name of the child, the birth date and hour (often different from the date of the certificate: a well-known source of small mistakes), the locality (villages) where the child is born (sometimes even an address), the names, occupations, ages and place of residence of two (nearly always male) witnesses (and their relation to child born). In absence of the father the birth could be declared by a midwife. Until well after 1850 it was quite usual in the Groningen countryside to not only mention the family-name but also the patronymic name (in the first decade or so after 1811 numerous people did not have a family-name, and accepted it years later, causing confusion and identification problems). The person who declares the birth and the witnesses signs the certificate (if able). NB: in the database the witnesses were not recorded and also not the hour, the signature of the father was recorded. Death certificate: mentions the name of the deceased, age,

	<p>sex and occupation and place of birth and nearly always also the name of the parents (in the first decade or two they are sometimes missing, and there are also numerous mistakes in their names), and sometimes also information where they lived and what occupation they had at that moment or previously (the occupational information is not very systematic). Next to this, the names, ages and occupations of the two witnesses who declare the death are reported. It is mentioned in what relation they stand to the deceased (often neighbours or the village policeman). The witnesses sign the certificate (if able). NB: again the names of the witnesses were not covered in the database.</p> <p>Marriage certificate: mentions next to the marriage date and place, the names, age (sometimes even birth date), birth place, occupations, place of residence, names of parents (and where they live and what occupation they have, and if they give consent) of the bride and the groom. Sometimes additional information is supplied, for instance on military service, on grandparents and on the death of the parents (only in the first decades of the nineteenth century). For four witnesses information is given on the names, age, occupation and residence, and also their relation to the bride or groom. The certificate is signed by bride, groom, present parents and witnesses (if able).</p>
7. Language of written material: original sources and documentation	Usually in Dutch, only in 1811-1813 in rare cases in French.
8. Preservation and storage:	
8.a. Completely preserved	In Groningen, completely preserved, thanks to the double system just mentioned, one copy in the Municipal Archives, and one copy in the Provincial Archives (Groninger Archieven).
8.b. Partially destroyed by personnel according to systematic criteria	
8.c. Partially destroyed or damaged for other reasons	
8.d. Reorganized by producer of the source	
8.e. Reorganized by record linkage procedures	
8.f. Where the original records are stored (name of the archive or institution)?	
9. Documentation:	
9.a. Completely documented and accessible by:	
9.b. Partially documented and accessible by:	The source has been digitalised, and lately also largely been scanned (scans publicly available on internet: www.alle.groningers.nl), the scans are connected to an index, that gives much but not all information in the sources.
9.c. No documentation, but accessible by:	