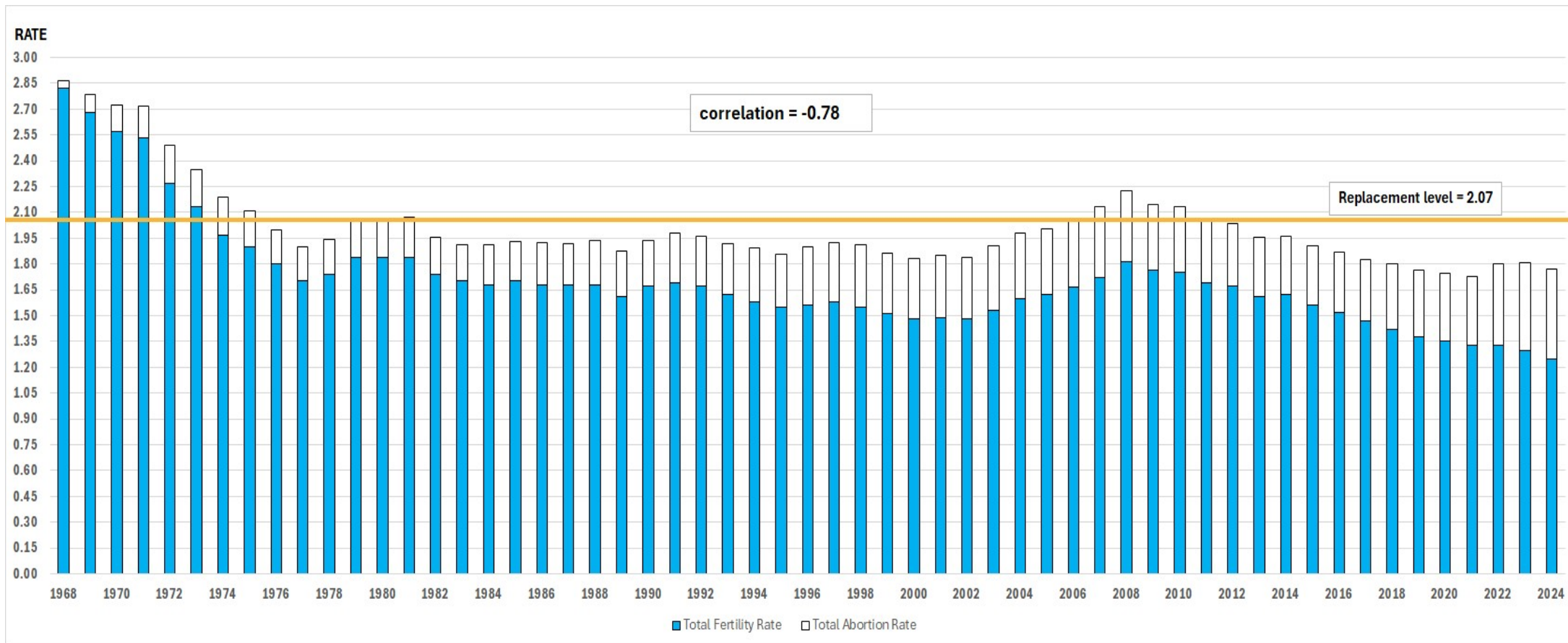


# TRENDS OVER TIME IN SCOTLAND AND OVER SUCCESSIVE BIRTH COHORTS IN FERTILITY AND ABORTION.

Figure 1. Total fertility rates and total abortion rates in Scotland, 1968 to 2024.



Total fertility rates as published by National Records of Scotland are shown with total fertility rates derived from age-specific data in Abortion Statistics Scotland and official mid-year population estimates.

The decline in the Scottish birth rate and the increased rate of abortions since the 1967 Abortion Act took effect is shown in Figure 1. The correlation is -0.78 over this epoch.

It is apparent that the shortfall below replacement level of live births is largely accounted for by the numbers of abortions.

**Figure 2. Scottish national birth cohorts of women, 1952 to 1980. Cumulated abortion rates (16-49) and cumulated fertility rates (15-44).**

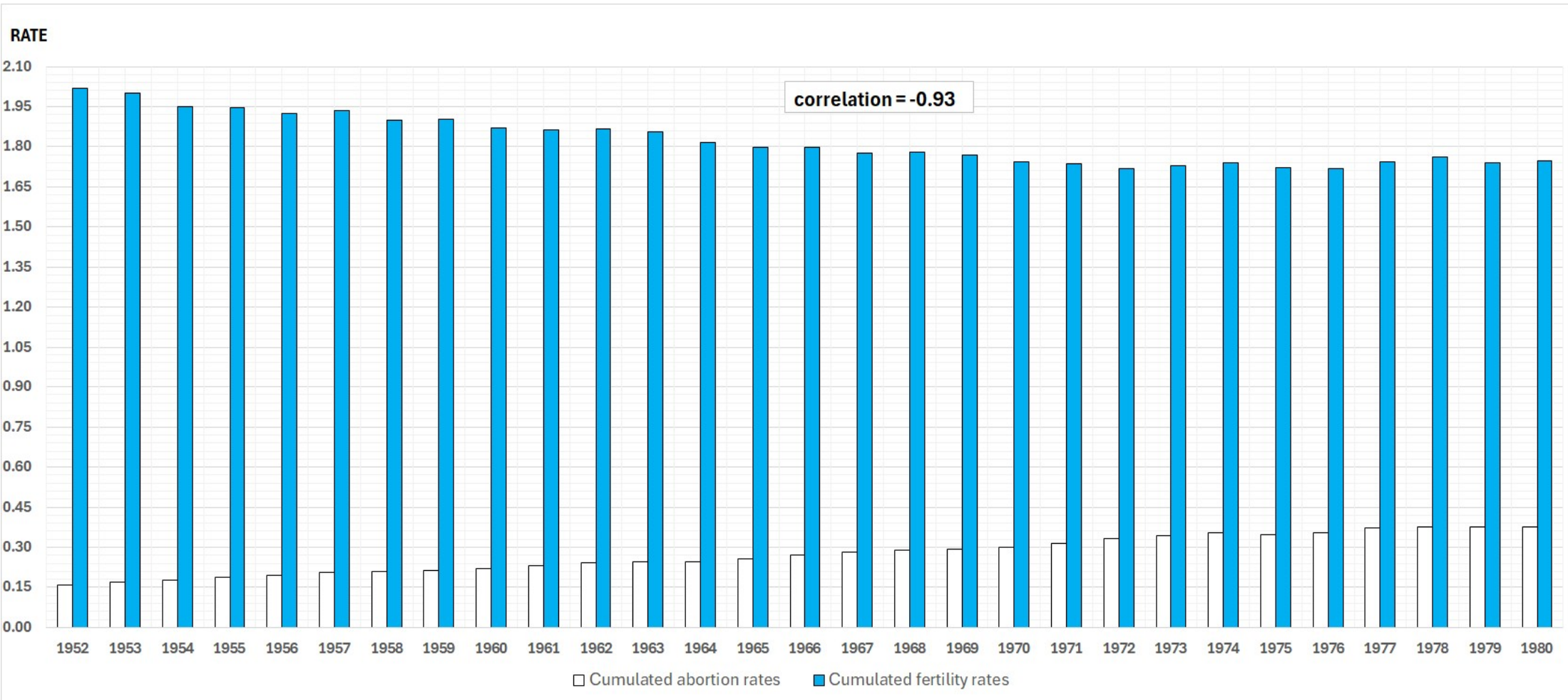


Figure 2 shows how the comparative trend is manifest for successive birth cohorts of women for the span of years for which we have data from the epoch since 1968. The correlation between cumulated birth rates and cumulated abortion rates is  $-0.93$ . The average age of women giving birth to children has risen to over age 30 while the average age of women having abortion continues to be around ages 23 to 24. The trends shown for successive birth cohorts run more exactly parallel than the trend over time.