

# High Level Summary of Statistics

## Population and Migration

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## Scotland's Population

### Recent Trends

Last updated: April 2017

The latest estimate of Scotland's population (on 30 June 2016) is 5,404,700 – the highest ever and an increase of 31,700 people (0.6%) since 30 June 2015.

The increase in Scotland's population between mid-2015 and mid-2016 has been driven by migration. In the year to mid-2016, in-migration exceeded out-migration by approximately 31,700 people. This included a net gain of around 22,900 people from overseas and a net gain of around 8,800 people from the rest of the UK.

The number of deaths in the year to mid-2016 exceeded the number of births by approximately 800, compared with 2,000 in the previous year to mid-2015. The year-on-year change was driven by approximately 1,800 fewer deaths, partially offset by around 600 fewer births.

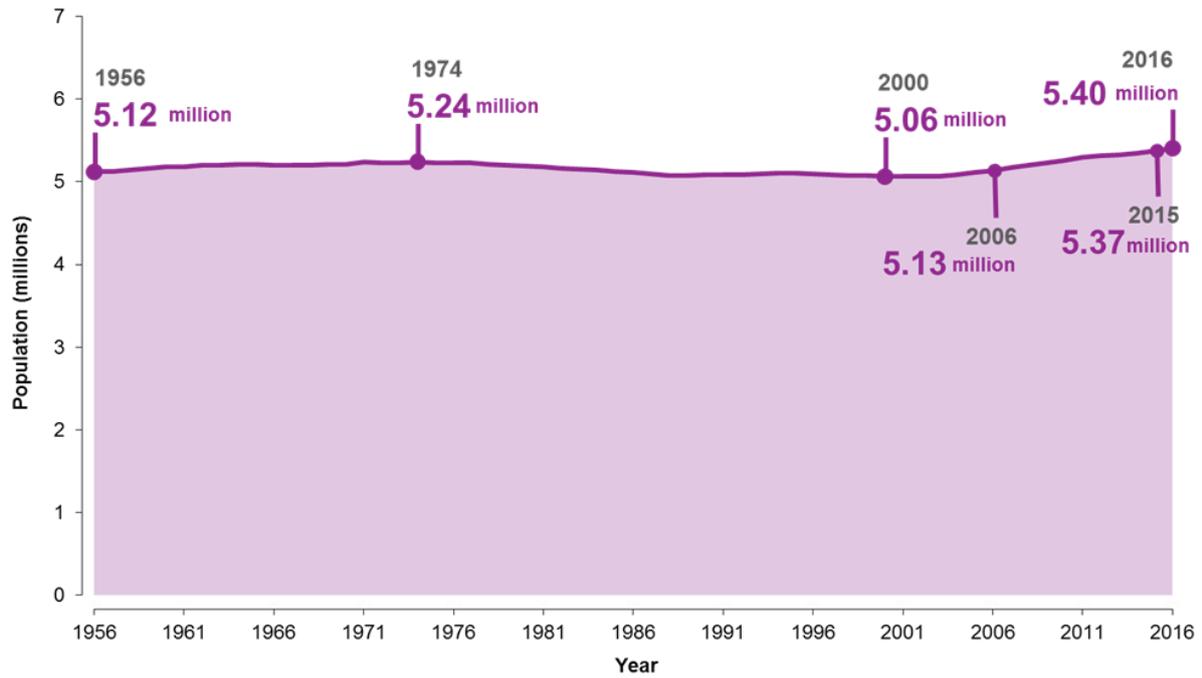
Other changes between mid-2015 and mid-2016 (including changes in the prison population, and changes in the number of armed forces stationed in Scotland) resulted in an increase of approximately 800 people.

40,400 people came to Scotland from overseas and 17,500 left Scotland to go overseas. This resulted in an increase in net migration to Scotland from overseas in the year to mid-2016, with a net gain of 22,900 compared with 19,600 in the previous year. This is due to 2,600 more migrants arriving in Scotland from overseas (40,400 compared with 37,800 in the previous year) and 700 fewer migrants leaving in Scotland to go overseas (17,500 compared with 18,200 in the previous year).

Net migration to Scotland from the rest of the UK has increased from approximately 8,400 in the year to mid-2015 to 8,800 in the year to mid-2016. The net gain of 8,800 in the year to mid-2016 came from an inflow of 46,300 (a decrease of around 800 from the previous year) and an outflow of 37,500 (a decrease of around 1,300 from the previous year), meaning that the increase in net migration to Scotland from the rest of the UK is being driven by a lower level of out-migration partially offset by fewer in-migrants.

The rise in Scotland's population in the last ten years should be seen in the context of the relative stability of the population over the last 60 years. The population last reached a peak of 5.24 million in 1974 before falling to 5.06 million in mid-2000 and then rising to a new high in mid-2016 of 5.40 million.

**Estimated population of Scotland, 1956 to 2016**



**Link**

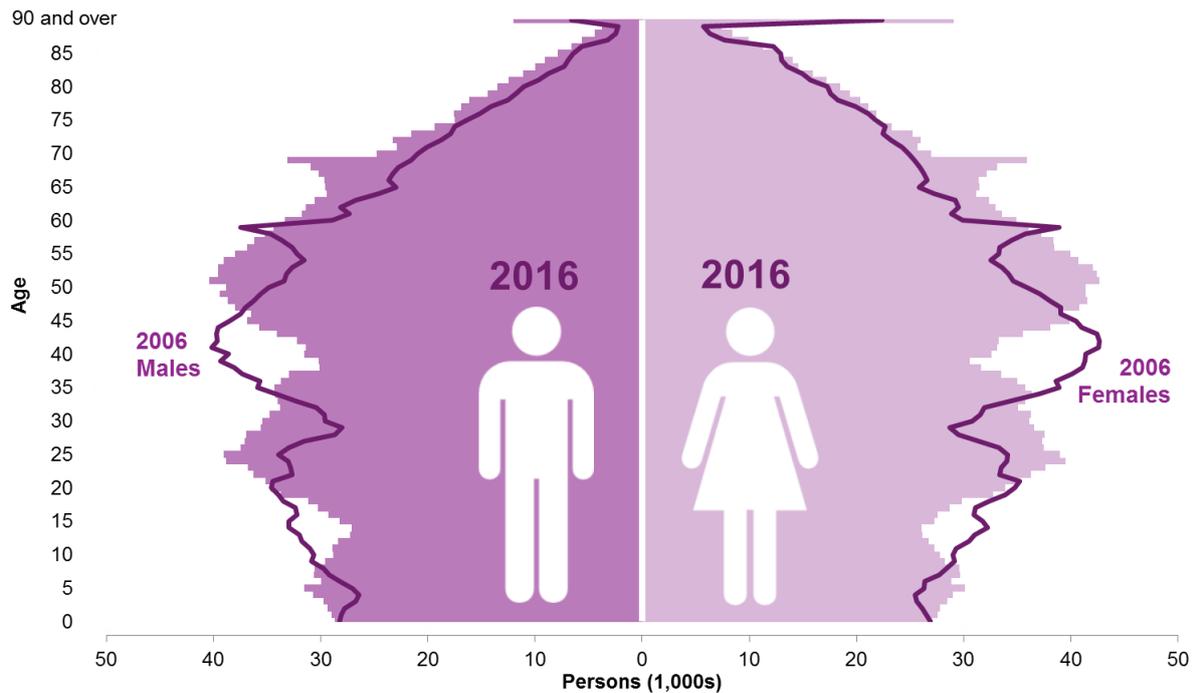
[Mid-2016 Population Estimates Scotland](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Age Structure

Last updated: April 2017

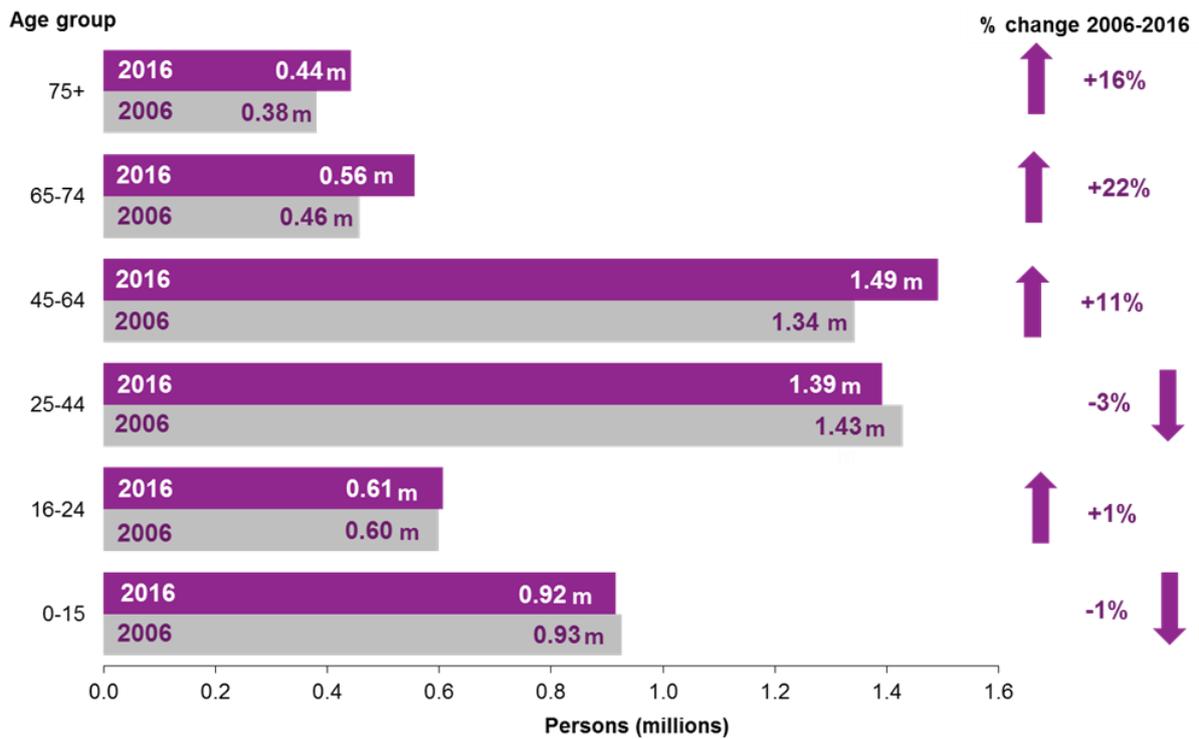
In mid-2016, 17% of the population were aged under 16, 65% were aged 16 to 64 and the remaining 18% were aged 65 and over.

### Estimated population by age and sex, mid-2006 and mid-2016



The ageing of the population is evident in the rises in the older age groups over the last 10 years (+11% in the 45-64 age group, +22% in the 65-74 age group and +16% in the 75 and over age group), while some of the younger age groups have seen a much smaller increase (+1% for the 16-24 age group) or have even decreased (-3% for the 25-44 age group and -1% for the 0-15 age group).

The changing age structure of Scotland's population, mid-2006 to mid-2016



**Link**

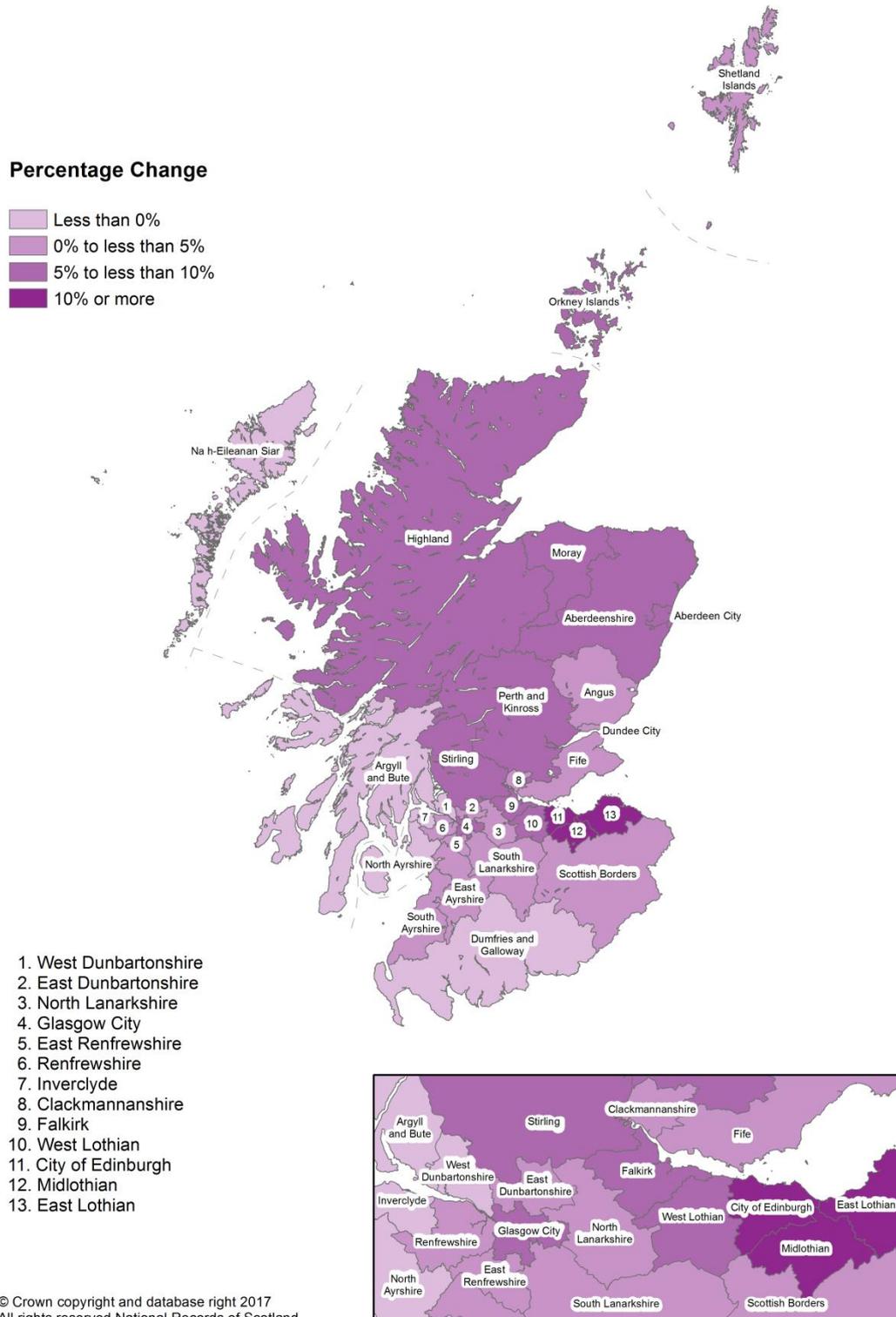
[Mid-2016 Population Estimates Scotland](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

### **Changes within Scotland**

Last updated: April 2017

From mid-2006 to mid-2016, amongst council areas the largest percentage increases in have occurred in City of Edinburgh (+12.2%), East Lothian (+10.9%) and Midlothian (+10.8%). In six council areas; Argyll and Bute (-4.1%), Inverclyde (-3.8%), West Dunbartonshire (-1.7%), North Ayrshire (-0.7%), Na h-Eileanan Siar (-0.6%) and Dumfries and Galloway (-0.2%), the population has decreased since mid-2006.

Percentage population change between mid-2006 and mid-2016



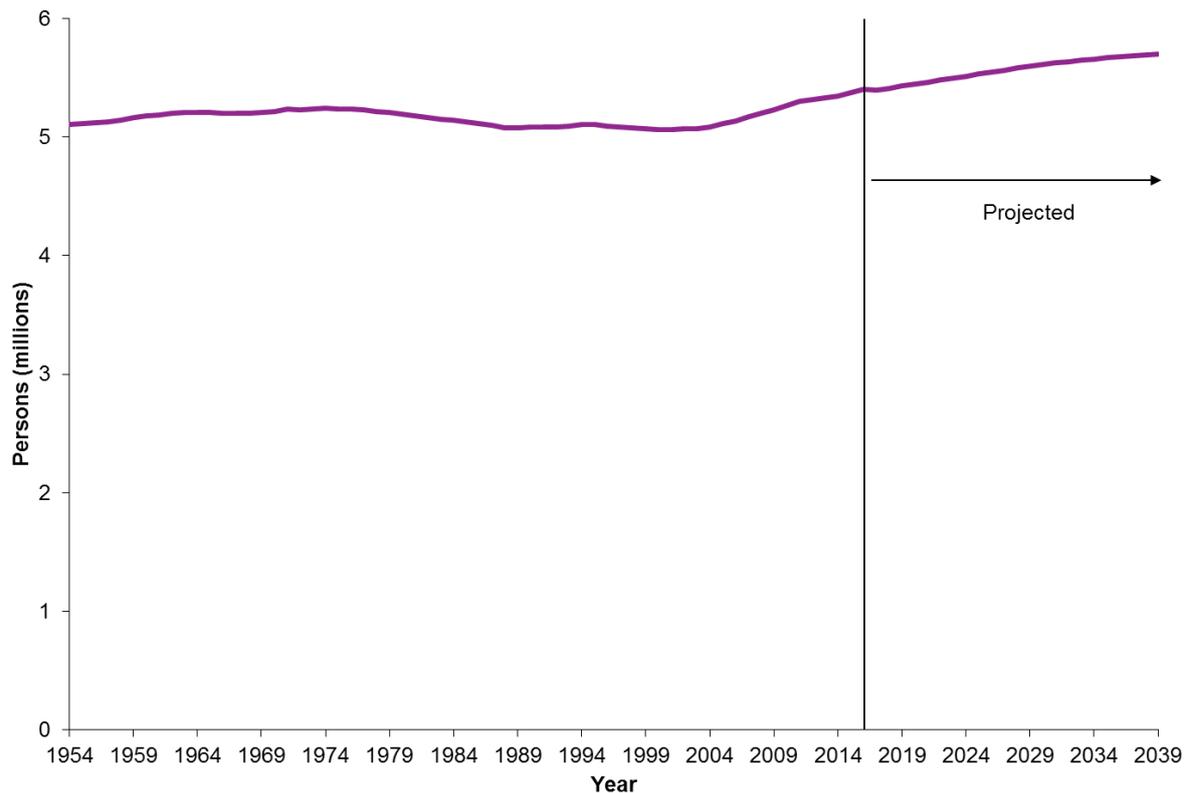
**Link**  
[Mid-2016 Population Estimates Scotland](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Projected Population

Last updated: October 2016

The latest population projections are based on the estimate of Scotland's population at 30 June 2014. These projections, based on existing trends and making no allowance for the future impact of government policies and other factors, show the total population of Scotland rising from 5.35 million in 2014 to 5.7 million in 2039. Longer term projections show the population continuing to rise.

### Estimated population of Scotland, actual<sup>1</sup> and projected<sup>2</sup>, 1954-2039



#### Link

[Population projections](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

#### Footnote

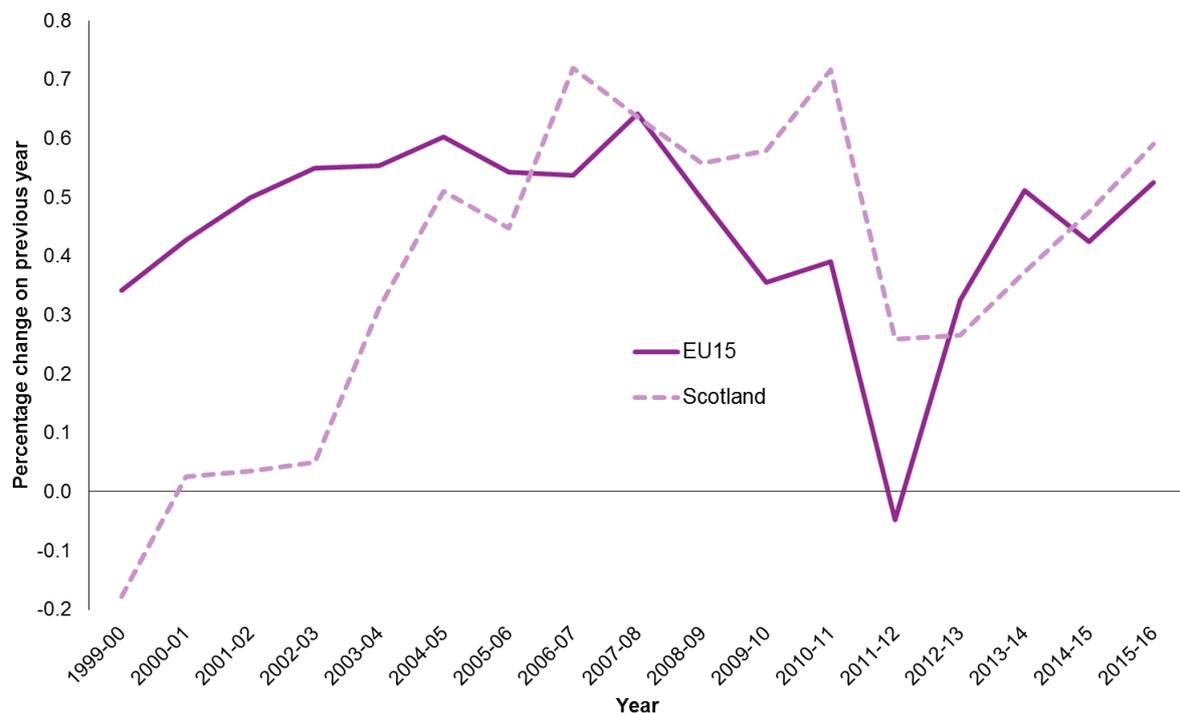
- 1) Mid-year population estimates.
- 2) 2014-based population projections.

## Population Growth and Healthy Life Expectancy

Last updated: April 2017

The EU15 is comprised of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Over the period 1998 to 2006 the population of the EU15 grew at a higher rate than the population of Scotland. Scotland's population growth has increased and the population is at its highest ever level, between 2015 and 2016, Scotland's population grew by 0.59%, whilst the population of the EU15 grew by 0.52%. The Scottish Government has set a target to match average European (EU15) population growth over the period from 2007 to 2017, supported by increased healthy life expectancy in Scotland over this period.

### Annual Population Growth, EU15 and Scotland, 1999-00 to 2015-16

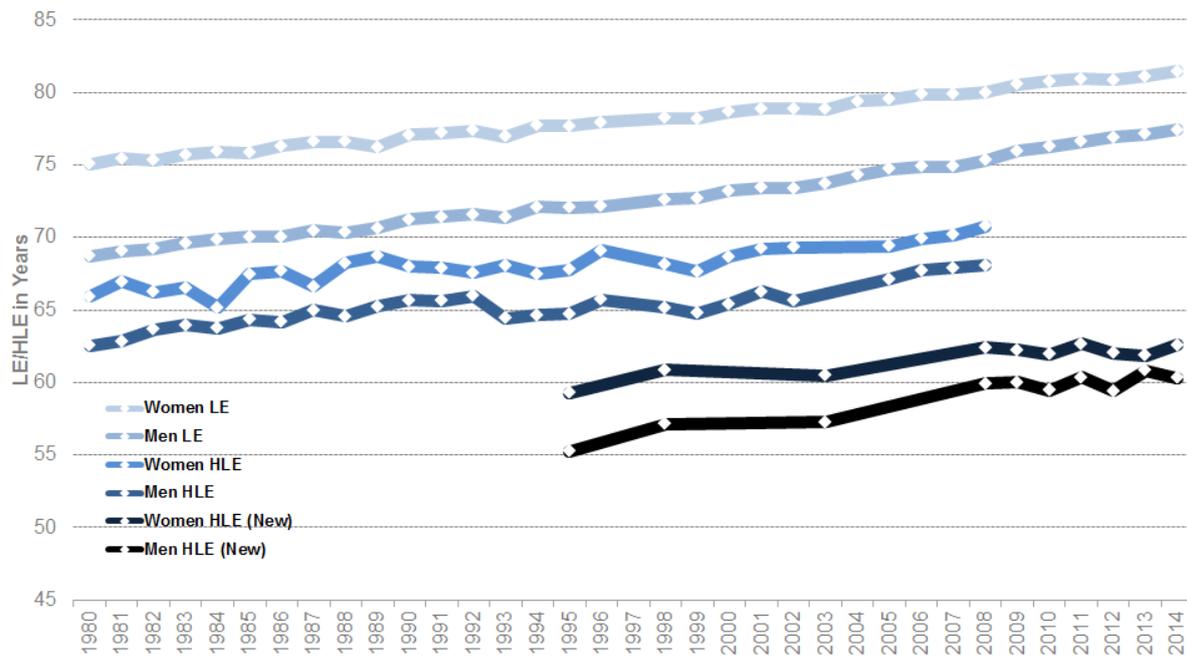


Source: Eurostat, and National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Note: EU15 population is at 1 January each year.

Levels of healthy life expectancy (HLE) for women and men have been gradually increasing since 1980. A new methodology was introduced in 2009. A partial back series calculated using the new methodology shows that levels of HLE based on the new methodology have been increasing at a similar rate to those based on the old methodology. In 2014, healthy life expectancy for men was 60.3 years, whilst for women the figure was 62.6 years. There was very little change in average levels of healthy life expectancy between 2013 and 2014, increasing from 61.3 to 61.5 years. Although female HLE increased from 61.9 to 62.6 years, male HLE declined from 60.8 to 60.3 years.

Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth, 1980 to 2014



Source: Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland

Notes

More information on the change in the methodology can be found in the source publication, [Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland](#), available on the ISD website.

Figures from 1995 to 2008 are based on the Scottish Health Survey. Data from 2009 onwards are from the Scottish Household Survey.

Links

[Mid-Year Population Estimates](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

[Europe in Figures](#) (Eurostat website)

[Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland](#) (Scottish Public Health Observatory website)

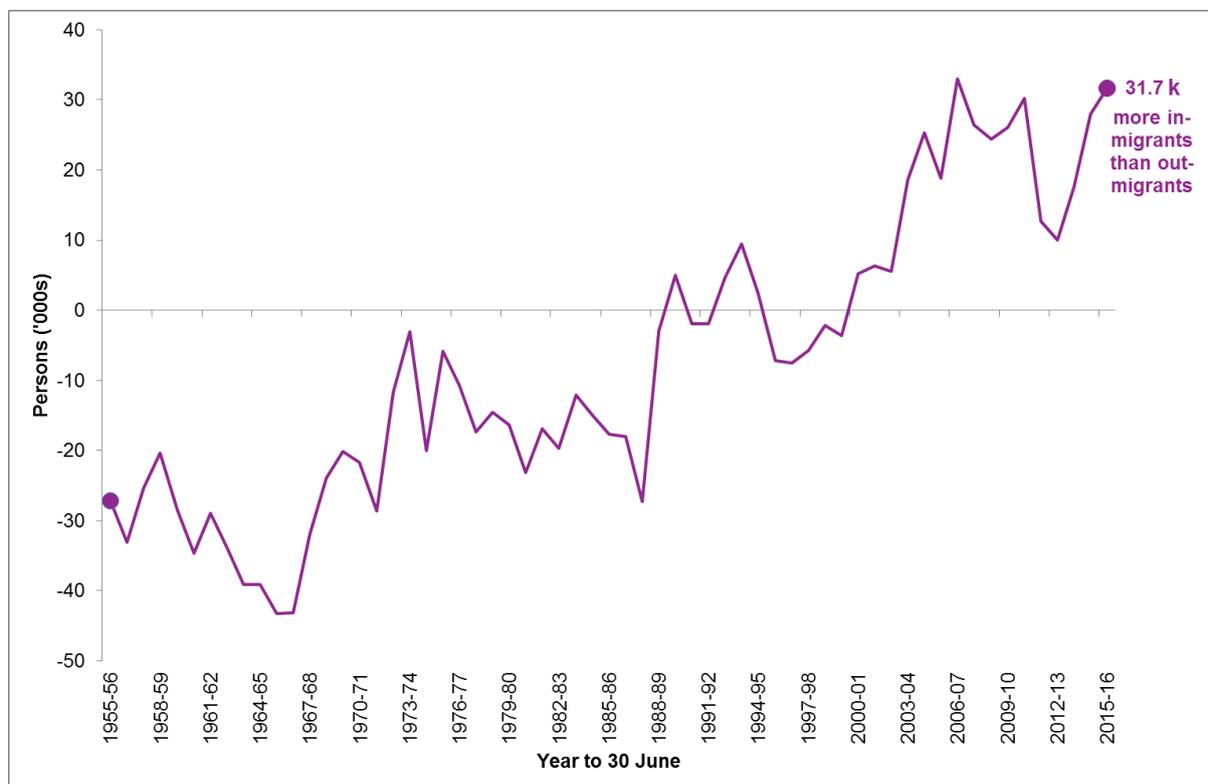
## Migration

### Trends in Migration

Last Updated: April 2017

Historically, Scotland has been a country of net out-migration, with more people leaving to live elsewhere than moving to live in Scotland. However, since the 1960s, net out-migration has greatly reduced, and from 1990 onwards Scotland has mostly experienced net migration gains. Scotland has now entered a period of net in-migration. Between 2003-04 and 2010-11, there were net gains of at least 18,600 per year. In 2006-07 the net migration gain was 33,000, the highest since these estimates started in 1951. However, in 2011-12 net migration had fallen to 12,700 and in 2012-13 net migration fell again to 10,000. Since this point, net migration has risen to the most recent figure of 31,700 in the year to mid-2016.

### Net migration, Scotland, 1955-56 to 2015-16



Source: National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) patient movements, Office for National Statistics Long-Term International Migration, and the National Records of Scotland rebased international migration estimates for mid-2001 to mid-2011.

Note: From the year 2001-2002 onwards, the migration estimates do not include movements to/from the Armed Forces

The rise in net migration from mid-2015 to mid-2016 is a result of more people coming to Scotland from overseas, and fewer people leaving Scotland to go to overseas and the rest of the UK. The small fall in the number of people coming to Scotland from the rest of the UK was offset by the other components of migration.

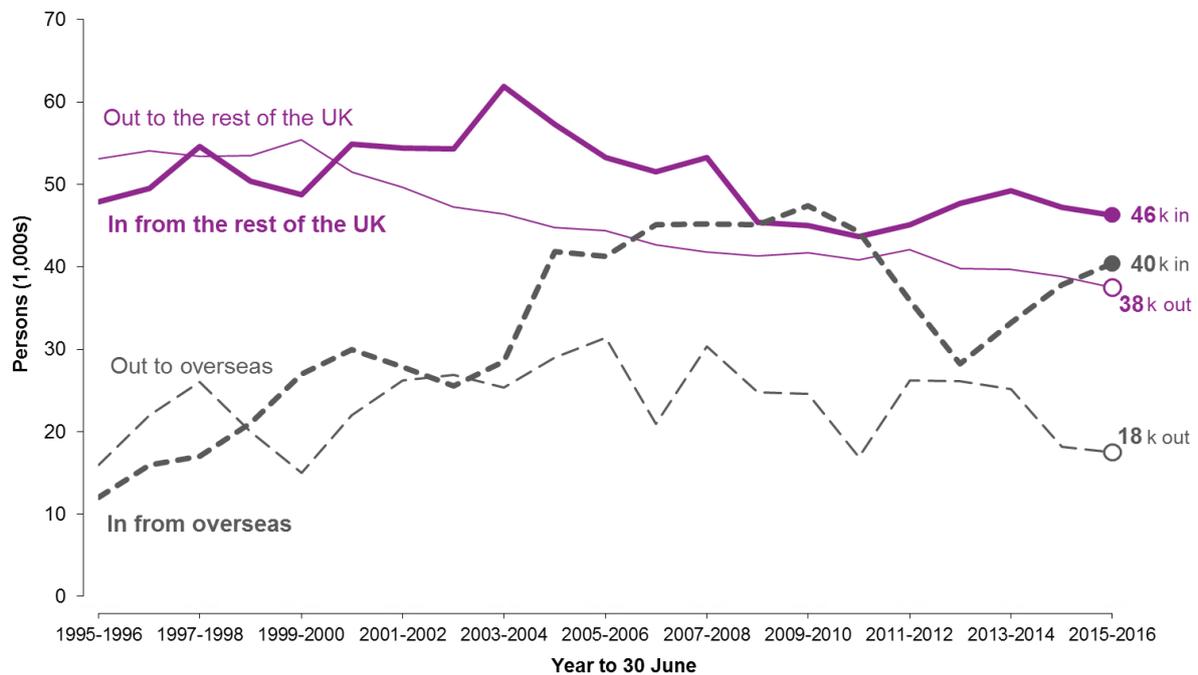
## Origin and Destination of Migrants

Last Updated: April 2017

In-migration from overseas has increased by 2,600 in 2015-16 following an increase of 4,600 in 2014-15. Out-migration to overseas decreased by 700 to 17,500 in 2015-2016. This resulted in net in-migration to Scotland of around 22,900 people from overseas.

The number of people coming to Scotland from the rest of the UK has decreased by 900 in the last year to 46,300. The recent peak of 61,900 was recorded in 2003-04. There was a larger decrease in outward migration of 1,300 to 37,500 in 2015-16. This resulted in a small increase in net migration from the rest of the UK to 8,800 compared with 8,400 the previous year.

### Migration to and from the rest of the UK and overseas, 1995-96 to 2015-16



Source: Office for National Statistics Long-Term International Migration and the National Records of Scotland rebased international migration estimates for mid-2001 to mid-2011.

#### Links

[Migration data](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

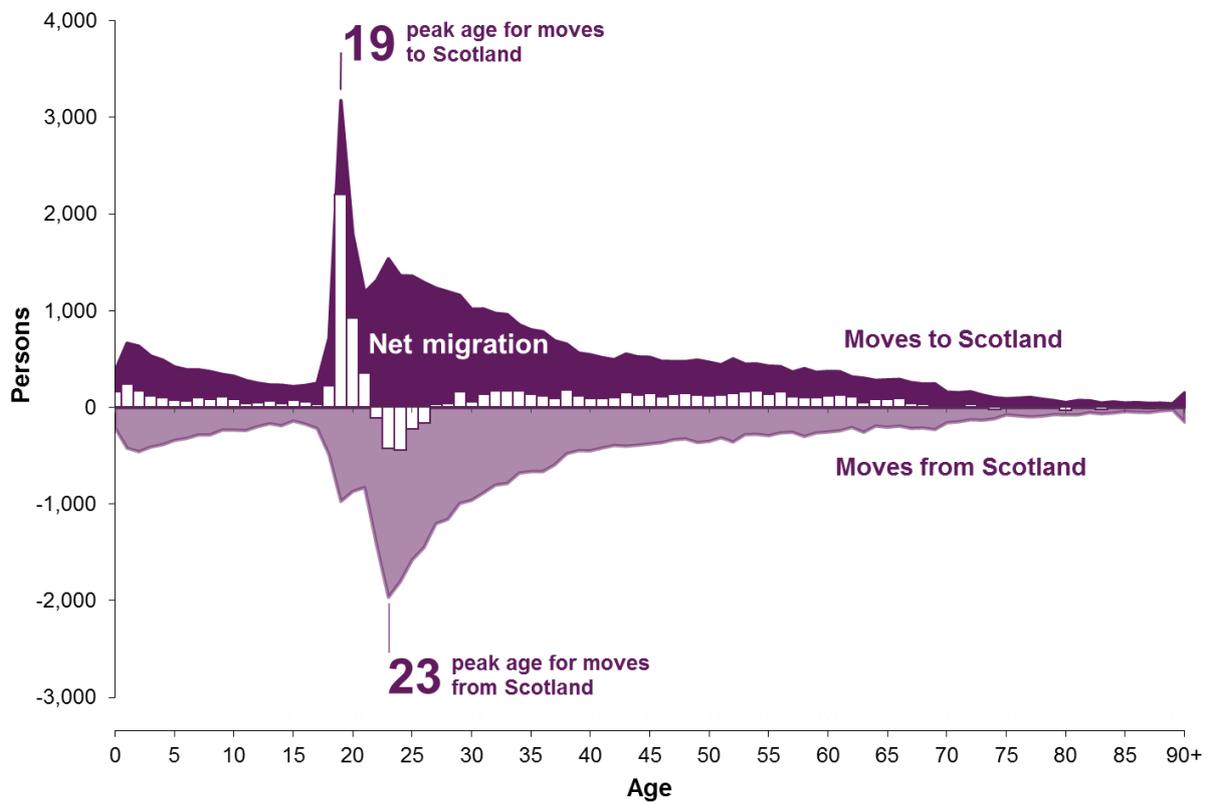
[International Migration estimates](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

### Age of Migrants

Last Updated: April 2017

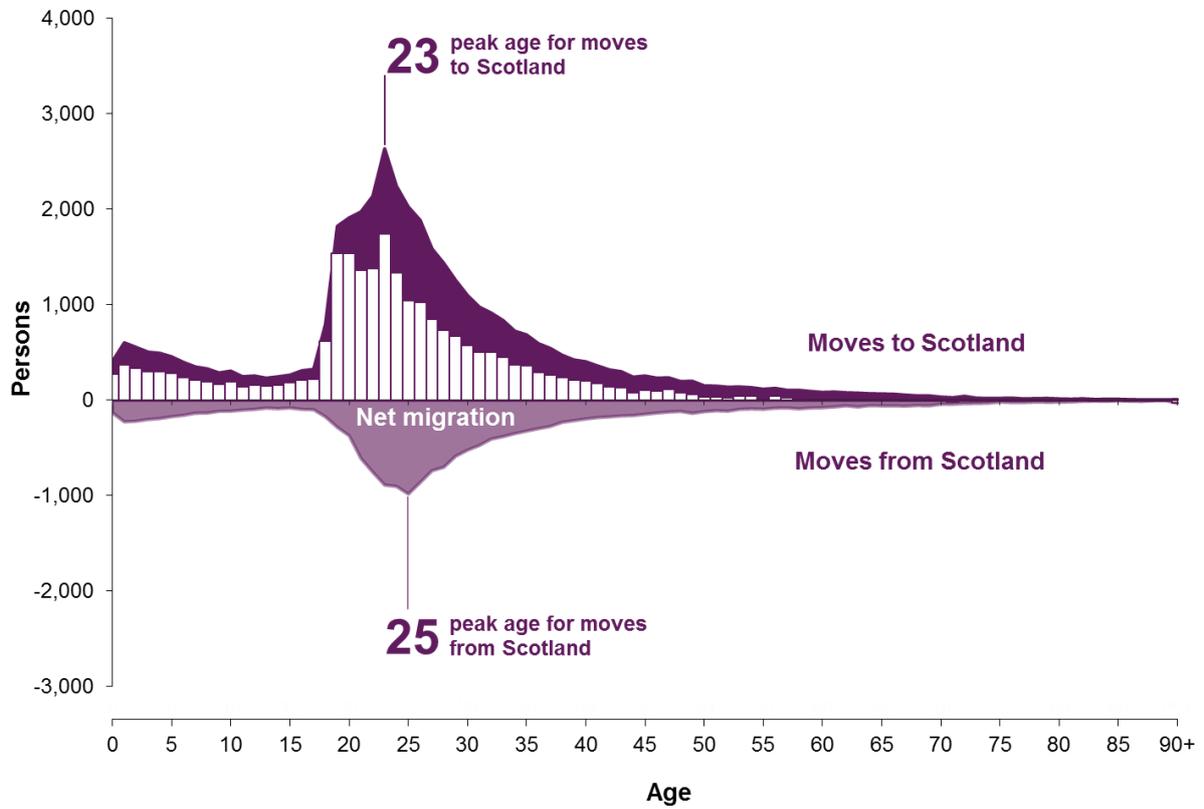
The peak age for migration into Scotland from the rest of the UK is 19, at which age there is a marked migration gain. The peak ages for migration out of Scotland to the rest of the UK are between 22 and 26 and this results in a net migration loss at these ages. These large in and out flows result from an influx of students from outside Scotland starting higher education, followed by a move out of Scotland after graduation.

### Migration between Scotland and the rest of the UK, by age, mid-2015 to mid-2016



In contrast to moves to Scotland from the rest of the UK, the peak age for migration into Scotland from overseas are ages 22 to 25. The largest net migration gains are for ages 19 to 24. There was net-in migration to Scotland from overseas for each single year of age 66 and under.

**Movements between Scotland and overseas, by age, mid-2015 to mid-2016**



## Migration and the distribution of people in Scotland

Last Updated: April 2017

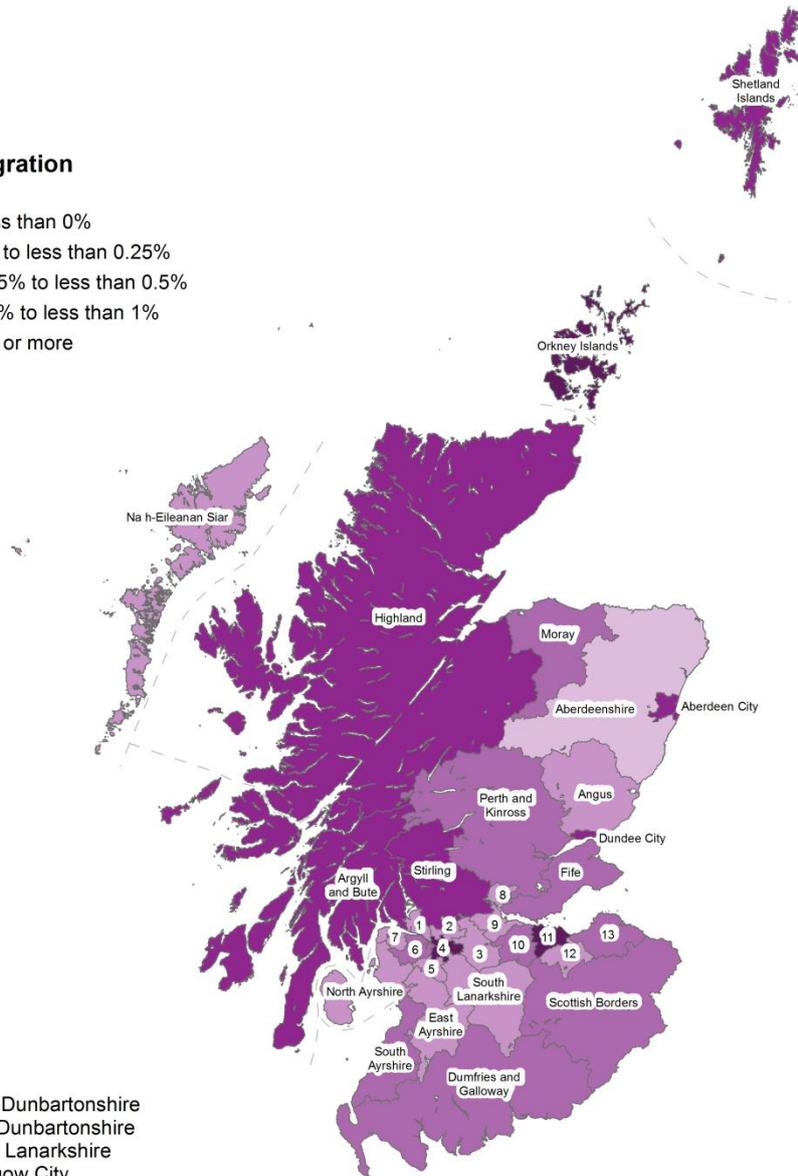
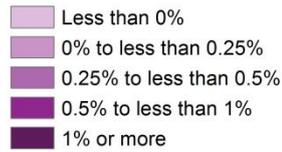
In the year to mid-2016, the highest net migration gains from areas outside Scotland, as a proportion of the resident population, were in the City of Edinburgh, Glasgow City and Orkney Islands. These areas all experienced a population increase of more than one per cent due to net in-migration from areas outside of Scotland (including the rest of the UK and overseas combined). Aberdeenshire was the only council area to have net out-migration to areas outside Scotland from mid-2015 and mid-2016.

### Link

[Migration data](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

**Net migration with areas outside Scotland as percentage of population by Council area, mid-2015 to mid-2016**

**Net Migration**



1. West Dunbartonshire
2. East Dunbartonshire
3. North Lanarkshire
4. Glasgow City
5. East Renfrewshire
6. Renfrewshire
7. Inverclyde
8. Clackmannanshire
9. Falkirk
10. West Lothian
11. City of Edinburgh
12. Midlothian
13. East Lothian



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## Improvements in Migration Statistics

Last Updated: April 2016

Since the early 2000s, and especially since Eastern European Countries joined the EU in May 2004, migration has played a larger part in Scotland's demographic change than in the previous decade. So it has become more important to have high quality statistics on migration and the population, for policy development and for planning and providing public services. NRS was part of an inter-departmental effort, led by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), to improve the estimates of migration and migrant populations in the United Kingdom, both nationally and at a local level. The ONS website has more information on the Migration Statistics Improvement programme including the programme's final report.

The new information provided by the 2011 Census has allowed us to review our methodology and make improvements to elements of the rolling-forward process. Further analysis of census data, particularly relating to migration, and continuing work to incorporate new data sources, will help us to improve our methods and be confident that we continue to capture population change into the next decade and beyond.

### Link

[Migration estimate methodology](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Births

### Births in Scotland

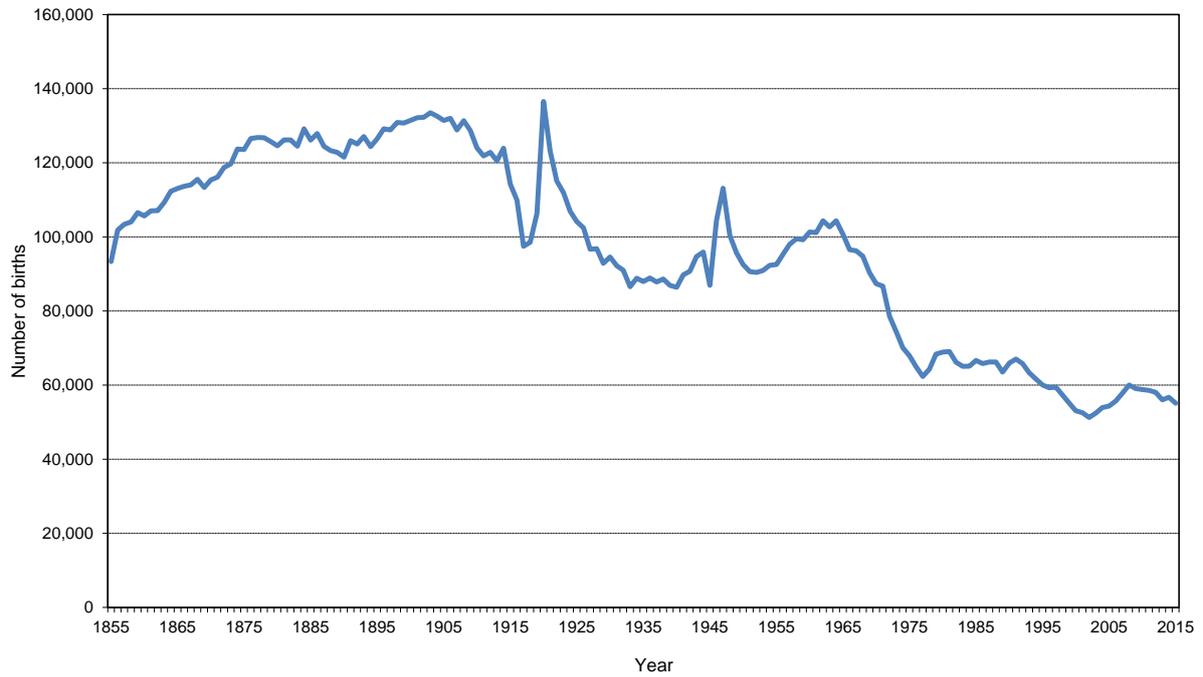
Last updated: August 2016

The number of births registered in Scotland in 2015 was 55,098: 1,627 (2.9%) fewer than in 2014. There have now been decreases in the number of births in six of the seven most recent years. The total in 2015 was 4,943 (8.2%) lower than the 2008 peak, and it was well below the peak of over 100,000 per year in the early 1960s, and the level of around 65-70,000 per year between the mid-1970s and the early 1990s. The proportion of births to unmarried parents (including births registered solely in the mother's name) was 51.2% in 2015. The level was higher than ten years previously (47.1% in 2005) and considerably higher than the 33.7% in 1995, 18.5% in 1985 and 9.3% in 1975.

Since the mid-1970s, there has been a trend towards having children at older ages. The percentage of births to mothers aged under 20 fell from about 11% (on average) between 1976 and 1980, and around eight% in 1991-95, to four% in 2015. Mothers aged 20-24 accounted for roughly a third of all births in 1976-1980, about 22% in 1991-95, and 16% in 2015. The percentage of births to mothers aged 25-29 has also fallen since the mid-1970s: it was around 35% in 1976-1980, about 36% in 1991-95, and 28% in 2015. As a result, women aged over 30 accounted for over half of all births in 2015: 32% were to mothers aged 30-34, 17% were to 35-39 year olds and four% were to women aged 40 and over.

Eighty four% of births in 2015 were to mothers who had been born in the UK, including 75% to women who were born in Scotland. A further eight% of mothers had been born in other European Union (EU) countries, including five% from the countries which joined the EU in 2004 (like Poland). Commonwealth countries were the birthplace of five% of mothers, including two% from the Indian sub-continent.

### Live births in Scotland 1855-2015



Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS) Registration data

**Link**

[More Information on Births](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Births – Variation within Scotland

Last Updated: August 2016

In 2015, the overall birth rate for Scotland was 10.3 births per 1,000 population (of both sexes and all ages). An equivalent figure can be calculated for each council area and for each NHS Board area. However, comparing the 'crude' birth rates of different areas could present a misleading picture, because of differences between them in the proportion of the population who are women of child-bearing age, and (in particular) women in the peak child-bearing ages. Therefore, the comparisons that appear below use birth rates which have been 'standardised' for differences in the age/sex-distribution of the population in each area.

Standardised rates which are based on the age/sex-distribution of the population of Scotland as a whole enable comparisons of the birth rates in different parts of Scotland with each other, and with the overall birth rate for Scotland, which are not affected by differences in their populations' age/sex-distributions. It should be noted that these are standardised versions of the overall birth rate (not rates whose denominators are the female populations of child-bearing age), and that the normal year-to-year fluctuations in the numbers of births will mean that areas with small populations may sometimes have rates that are unusually high, or unusually low.

Among the council areas, standardised birth rates in 2015 were highest in Midlothian (13.2 per 1,000 population), Aberdeenshire (12.4), Clackmannanshire (also 12.4) and Scottish Borders (12.3). Standardised birth rates in 2015 were lowest in the City of Edinburgh (7.8 per 1,000 population), Aberdeen City (8.7), Stirling (8.8), Dundee (8.9) and Glasgow City (also 8.9). There may be a tendency for the highest birth rates to be in 'rural' council areas, and the lowest birth rates to be in 'large urban' council areas.

Among the NHS Board areas, the standardised birth rates were highest in Borders (12.3) and lowest in Lothian (9.2). All the other NHS Board areas had standardised birth rates which were between 9.7 (Greater Glasgow & Clyde) and 11.6 (Shetland), and therefore not greatly different from the overall Scottish figure of 10.3 per 1,000 population.

### Link

[More Information on Births](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Births European Comparison

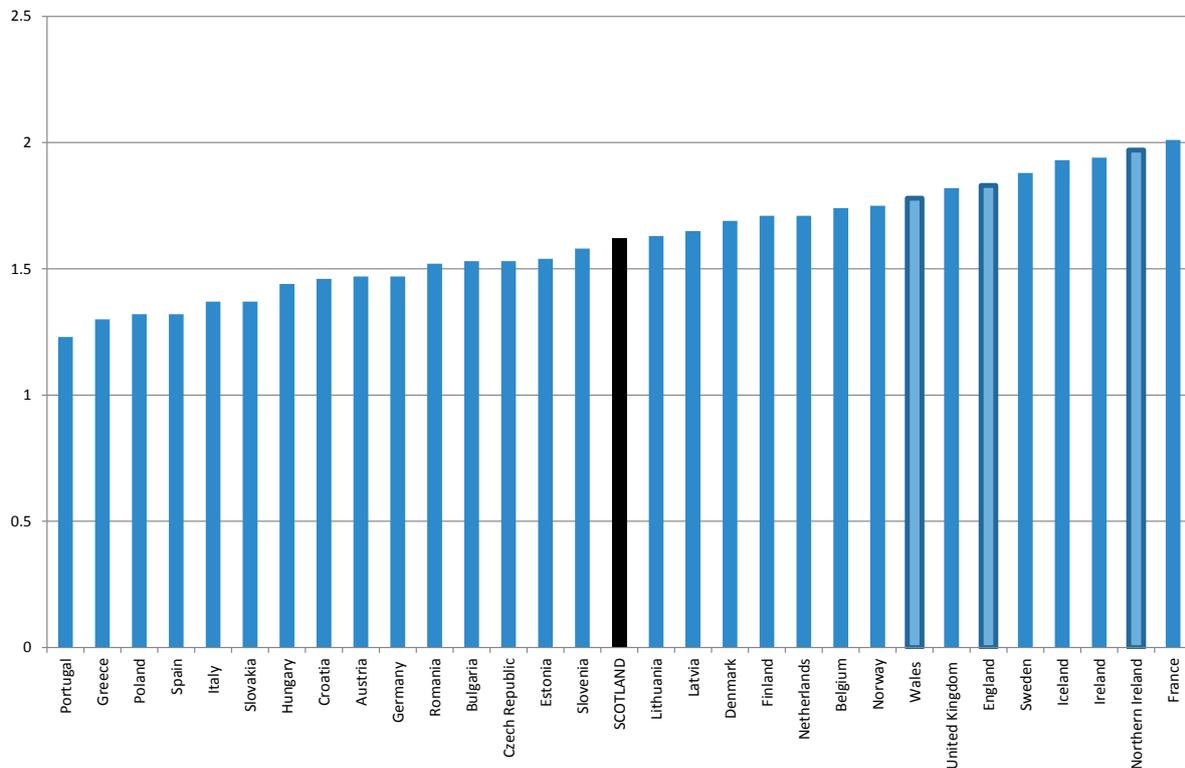
Last updated: August 2016

Scotland's overall birth rate was 10.3 per thousand population in 2015. The other figures given on this page are for 2014, because that is the latest year for which the statistics given below are readily available for a wide range of European countries.

The Scottish birth rate is lower than those of other parts of the UK: in 2014, Scotland's rate was 10.6, England's 12.1, Wales' 10.8 and Northern Ireland's 13.3.

The chart shows the value of the total fertility rate<sup>3</sup> for a wide range of European countries. In 2014, Scotland's total fertility rate (1.62) was higher than those of most of the other countries covered, such as Germany (1.47), Spain (1.32) and Italy (1.37) and was above that for the European Union (EU28) as a whole (1.58). However, Scotland's total fertility rate was below that of the UK as a whole (1.82) and some European countries, such as France (2.01), Iceland (1.93) and Sweden (1.88).

### Total Fertility Rate, Selected European Countries – 2014



Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Eurostat

#### Link

[Information about other European Countries](#) (Eurostat website)

#### Footnote

3) The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is a commonly used summary measure of fertility levels calculated by summing the age-specific rates for a single year. It gives the average number of children that a group of women would expect to have if they experienced the observed age-specific fertility rates in each of their childbearing years. For a population to replace itself, the TFR needs to be around 2.1.

## Deaths

### Deaths in Scotland

Last updated: August 2016

The number of deaths registered in Scotland in 2015 was 57,579. This was 3,340 (6.2%) more than in 2014. This was the largest number since 2003, when 58,472 deaths were registered in Scotland. However, it was lower than in all but one of the years before 2003, and was the thirteenth lowest total recorded since the introduction of civil registration in 1855. The lowest figure ever was 53,661 in 2011.

In 2015, just under half of all deaths were due to the so-called 'three big killers':

- cancer - 16,093 deaths, 28% of all deaths;
- ischaemic (coronary) heart disease - 7,142 deaths, 12%; and
- cerebrovascular disease - 4,303 deaths, seven%.

The types of cancer with the largest numbers of deaths included cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lung (4,047 deaths), bowel cancer (1,601 deaths), cancers of the lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue (1,149 deaths), breast cancer (992 deaths), prostate cancer (986 deaths) and cancers of the oesophagus (816 deaths).

Since 1980, the total number of deaths from the so-called 'three big killers' has reduced, falling from 65% of all deaths during 1980-82 and 1990-92, to 58% during 2000-02 and to 48% in 2015. The proportion of deaths caused by coronary heart disease has fallen from 29% in 1980-82 to 12% in 2015, and by cerebrovascular disease from 14% to seven%. However, the number of deaths from cancer rose by 16% (from an average of 13,903 per year in 1980-1982 to 16,093 in 2015); as a proportion of all deaths, it increased from 22% to 28% (mainly due to the 10% fall in the total number of deaths from all causes, from 64,050 per year in 1980-82 to 57,579 in 2015).

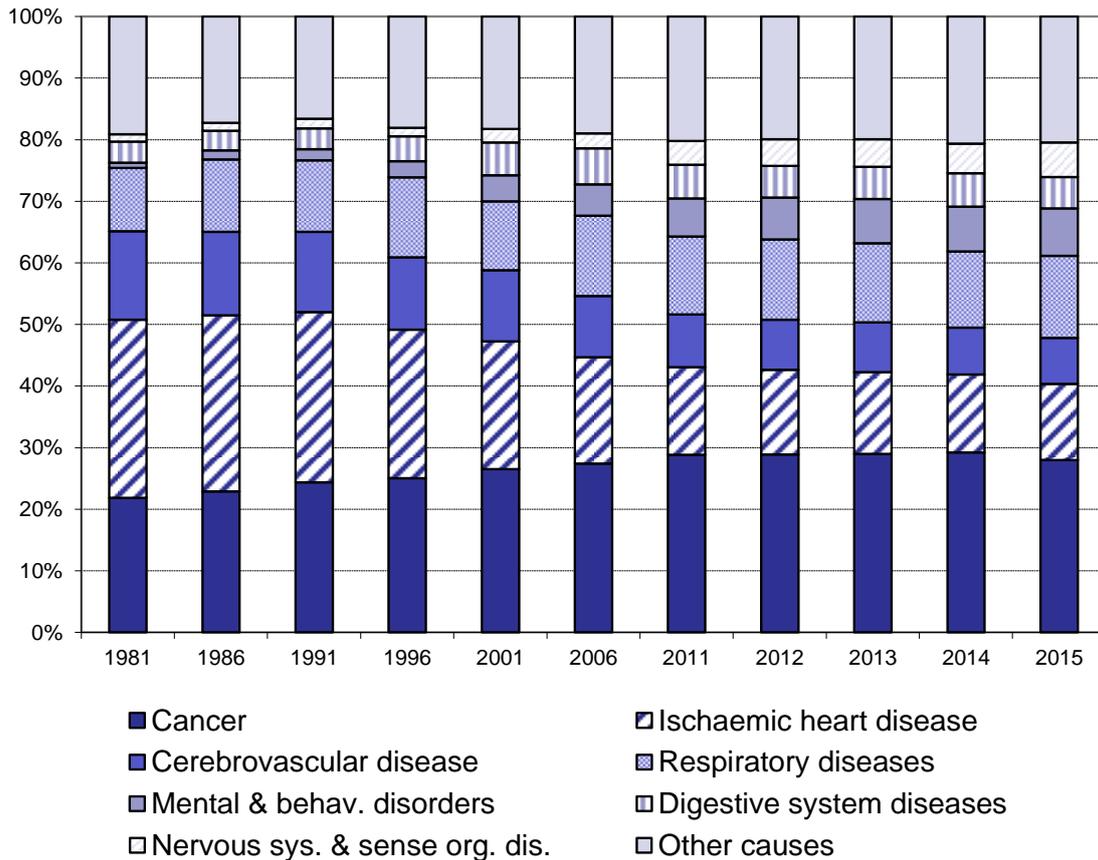
Other major causes of deaths registered in 2015 included:

- respiratory system diseases (e.g. pneumonia or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) 7,669 deaths, or 13% of all deaths;
- mental and behavioural disorders (e.g. dementia) 4,427 deaths, or eight%;
- diseases of the circulatory system other than coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease (e.g. other forms of heart disease) 4,323 deaths, or eight%;
- diseases of the nervous system and the sense organs (e.g. Alzheimer's disease) 3,228 deaths, or six%;
- diseases of the digestive system (e.g. chronic liver disease) 2,926 deaths, or five%;
- accidents (e.g. falls, transport accidents) 1,892 deaths, or three%;
- diseases of the genitourinary system (e.g. renal failure) 1,211 deaths, or two%;

- endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (e.g. diabetes) 1,066 deaths, or two%; and
- certain infectious and parasitic diseases (e.g. septicaemia) 755 deaths, or one%.

There were 175 deaths of infants (children aged under one) in 2015.

### Causes of death in Scotland



Source: NRS Registration data

#### Links

[More information about Deaths](#) (National Records of Scotland (NRS) website)

[Death Certificates and Coding the Causes of Death](#) (NRS website)

## Deaths – Variation within Scotland

Last Updated: August 2016

In 2015, the overall death rate for Scotland was 10.7 deaths per 1,000 population. An equivalent figure can be calculated for each council area and for each NHS Board area. However, comparing the 'crude' death rates of different areas could present a misleading picture, because of differences between their populations' age-structures and their balances between the sexes. Therefore, the comparisons that appear below use death rates which have been 'standardised' for differences in the age/sex-distribution of the population in each area.

Standardised rates which are based on the age/sex-distribution of the population of Scotland as a whole enable comparisons of the death rates in different parts of Scotland with each other, and with the overall death rate for Scotland, which are not affected by differences in their populations' age/sex-distributions. However, it should be noted that the normal year-to-year fluctuations in the numbers of deaths will mean that areas with small populations may sometimes have rates that are unusually high, or unusually low.

Among the council areas, standardised death rates in 2015 were highest in Glasgow (13.4 per 1,000 population), West Dunbartonshire (12.7), North Lanarkshire (12.4), Dundee City (11.9), Inverclyde (11.8) and North Ayrshire (11.7). Standardised death rates in 2015 were lowest in East Dunbartonshire (8.4 per 1,000 population), East Renfrewshire (8.6), Orkney Islands (8.7) and Perth and Kinross (9.0).

Among the NHS Board areas, the standardised death rate was highest in Greater Glasgow and Clyde (11.8) and Lanarkshire (11.7), and lowest in Orkney (8.7). All the other NHS Board areas had standardised death rates which were between 9.8 (Western Isles) and 11.2 (Ayrshire & Arran) per 1,000 population, and therefore did not differ greatly from the overall Scottish figure of 10.7 per 1,000 population.

### Link

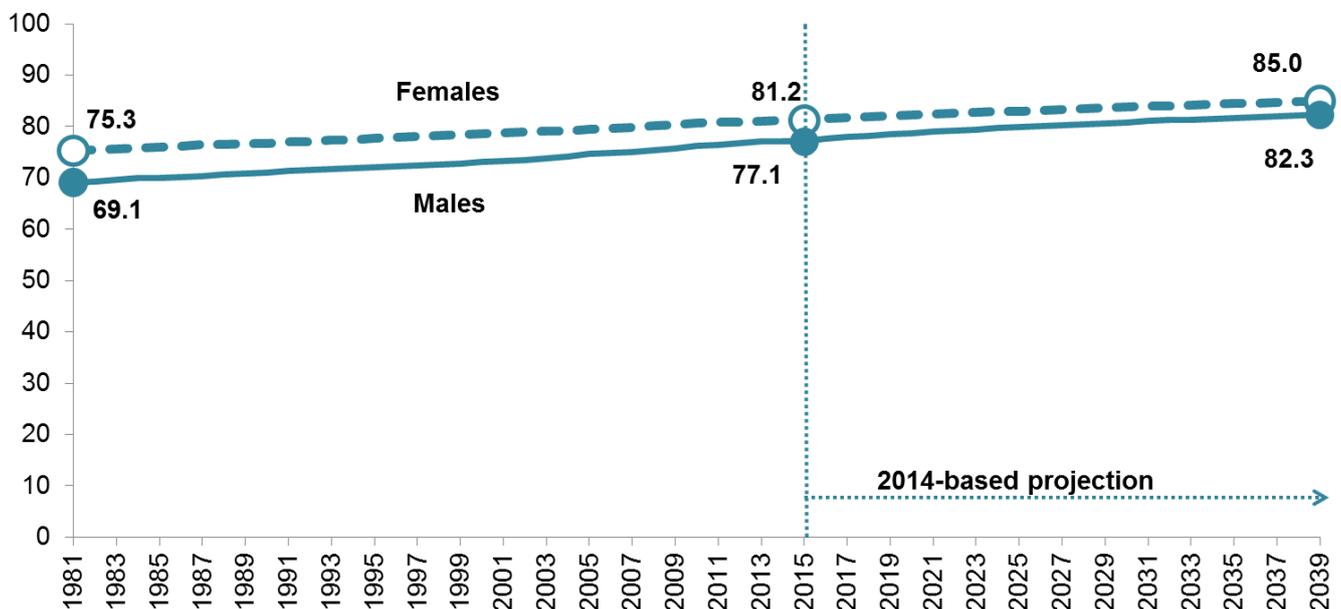
[More Information about Deaths](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Life Expectancy in Scotland

Last Updated: September 2017

The expectation of life at birth is a commonly used measure of mortality which is particularly helpful in comparing the 'health' of a nation over time and for making comparisons with other countries as well as for areas within Scotland. The expectation of life at birth in Scotland has improved over the last three decades, increasing from 69.1 years for males and 75.3 years for females born around 1981 to 77.1 years and 81.2 years respectively for those born around 2015. The 2014 based projections show that life expectancy at birth is projected to continue to increase, rising to 82.3 years for males and 85.0 years for females by 2039.

### Expectation of life at birth, Scotland, 1981-2039



Figures to 2015 are based on three years of data. For example, the 2015 figure uses data for 2014-2016.

Source: Figures to 2015 from National Life Tables, Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Figures from 2016 onwards are projected single year-of-age life expectancies, ONS.

#### Link

[Life Expectancy at Scotland Level](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Life Expectancy UK and European Comparison

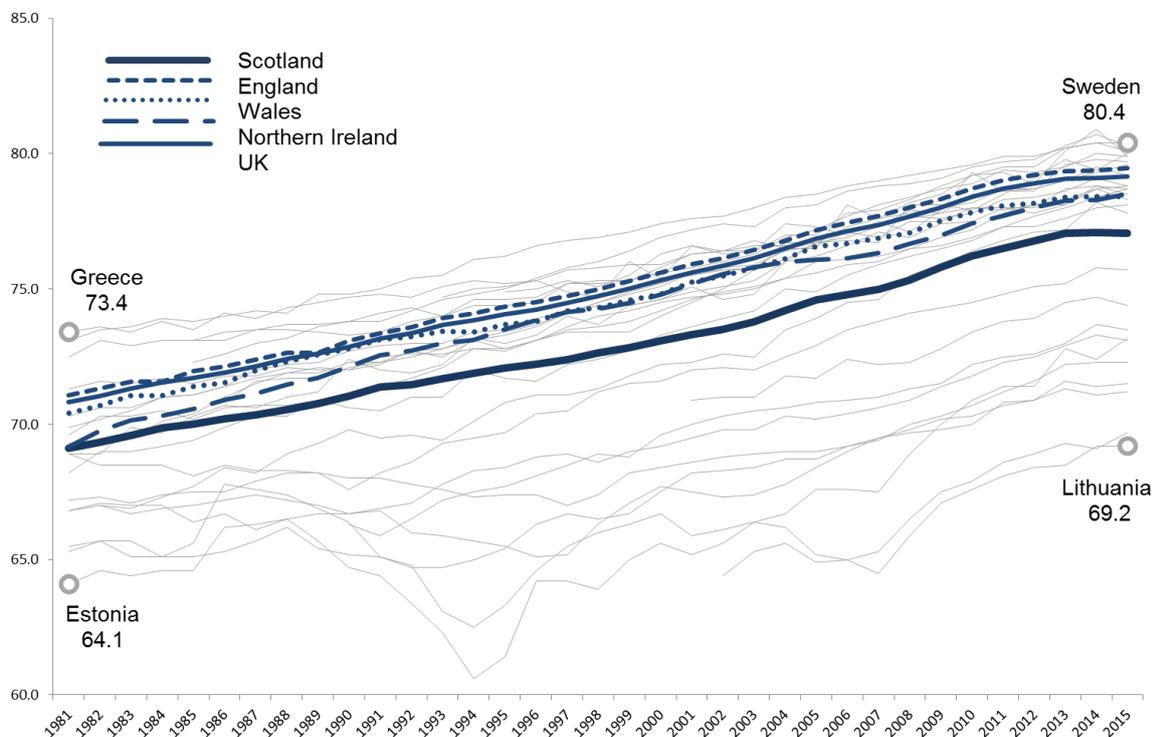
Last updated: September 2017

Life expectancy in Scotland, is still below the UK average, which was 79.2 years for males and 82.9 years for females in 2014-2016. It is also lower when compared with the other countries within the UK. Males in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can expect to outlive males in Scotland by around 2.4 years, 1.4 years and 1.4 years respectively. Females in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have a life expectancy which is longer by 1.9 years, 1.2 years and 1.1 years respectively than that of females in Scotland.

For males, the gap between Scotland and the country with the highest life expectancy in the EU-28 has narrowed over the past 32 years. In 1980-82 the gap between Greece (highest at the time) and Scotland was 4.3 years while in 2014-16 the gap between Sweden (current highest) and Scotland is 3.3 years. Over the same period, the gap between Scotland and the country with the lowest male life expectancy has widened. In 1980-82 the gap between Scotland and Estonia was 5 years while in 2014-16 the gap between Scotland and Lithuania is 7.9 years.

On the other hand, for females the gap between Scotland and the country with the highest life expectancy in the EU-28 has become wider over this period. In 1980-1982 the gap between Sweden and Scotland was 4.0 years while in 2014-16 the gap between Spain and Scotland is 4.6 years. Meanwhile the gap between Scotland and the country with the lowest female life expectancy has remained almost the same. In 1980-1982 the gap between Scotland and Romania was 2.9 years while in 2014-16 the gap between Scotland and Bulgaria is 3 years.

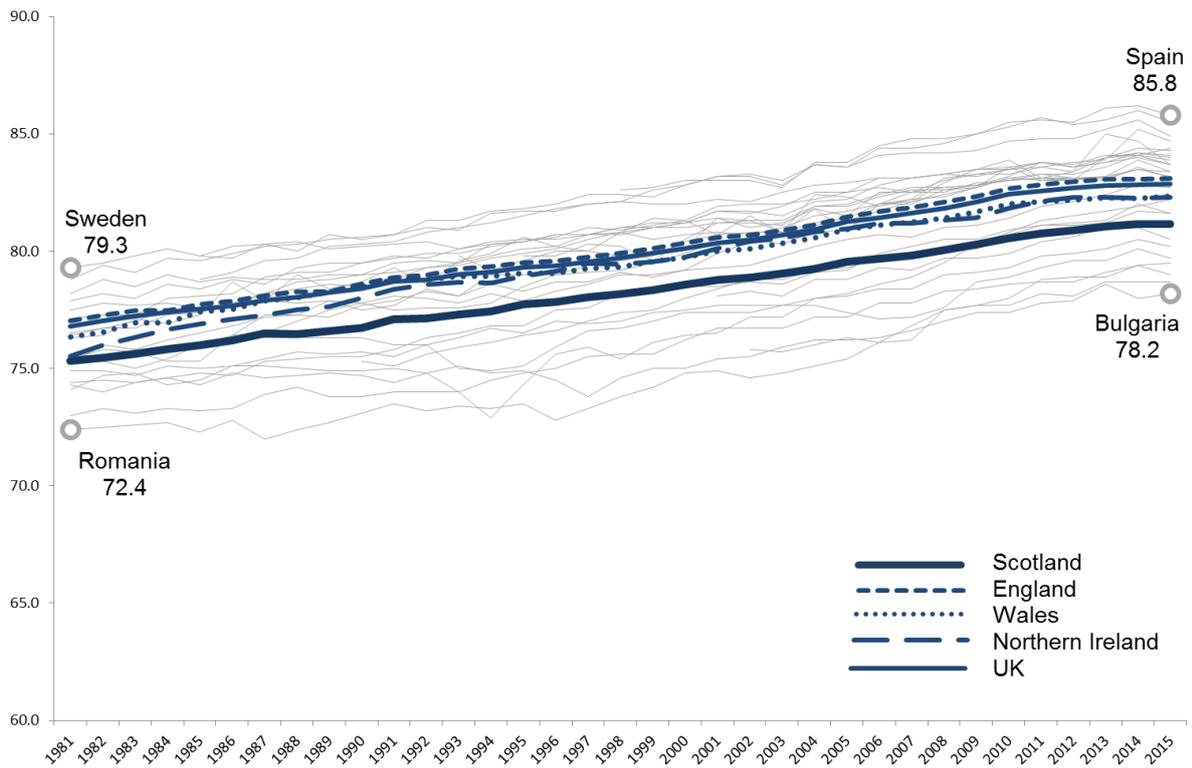
### Life expectancy at birth in European Union countries, 1981 to 2015, Males



#### Footnote

1) Figures are based on three years of data. For example, the 2015 figure uses data for 2014-2016. Source: Office for National Statistics and Eurostat. The scale differs from the corresponding female figure.

### Life expectancy at birth in European Union countries, 1981 to 2015, Females



**Footnote**

1) Figures are based on three years of data. For example, the 2015 figure uses data for 2014-2016.  
Source: Office for National Statistics and Eurostat. The scale differs from the corresponding male figure.

**Link**

[European Mortality](#) (Eurostat website)

## Households

### Households and Housing

Last Updated: June 2017

In 2016, there were 2.45 million households and 2.58 million dwellings in Scotland. Ninety-six per cent of dwellings were occupied (refer to the figure below), while 79,100 dwellings were vacant and 26,100 dwellings were second homes.

#### Proportion of dwellings which are occupied, vacant and second homes, September 2016

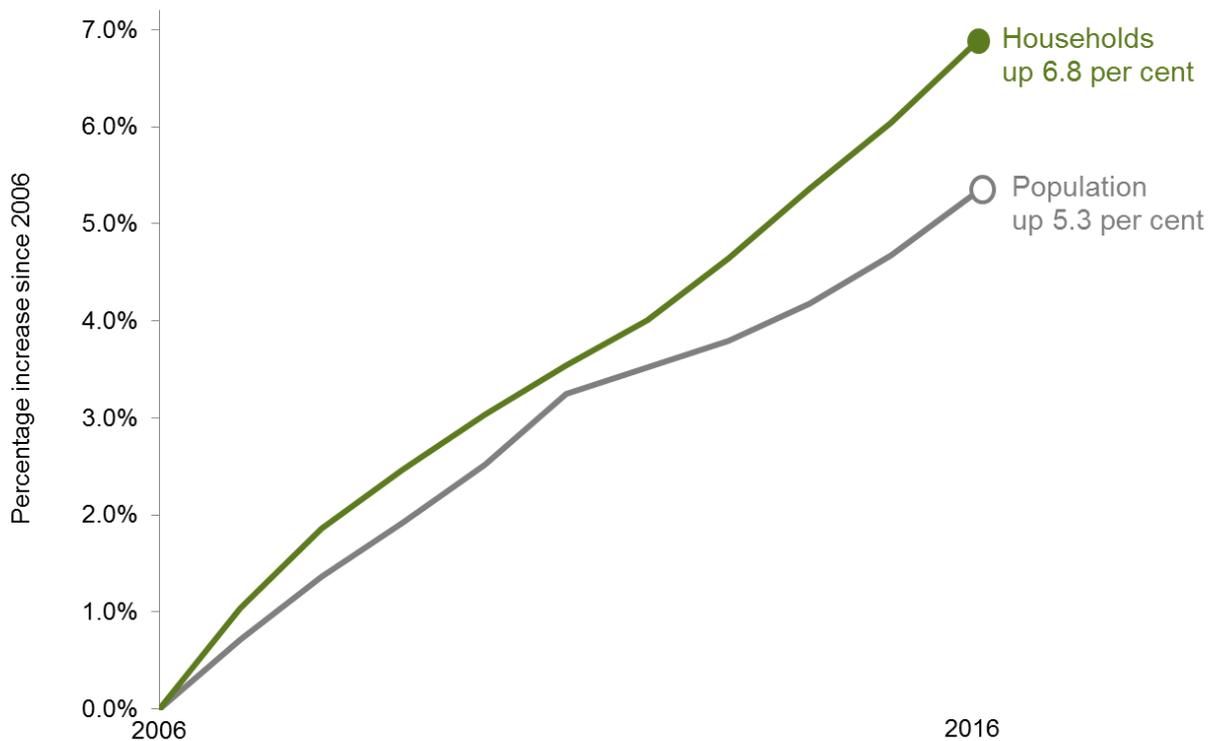


Source: NRS Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2016

Over the last 10 years, the number of households has increased by around 157,000 (seven per cent, refer to the figure below). The number of households has increased in every council area, and the increase in the number of households ranged from one per cent in Inverclyde, to 13 per cent in the Orkney Islands.

Over the same period, the number of dwellings has risen by 160,000 (seven per cent). The number of dwellings has risen in all council areas except for Inverclyde, which has seen a 0.8 per cent decrease in dwellings.

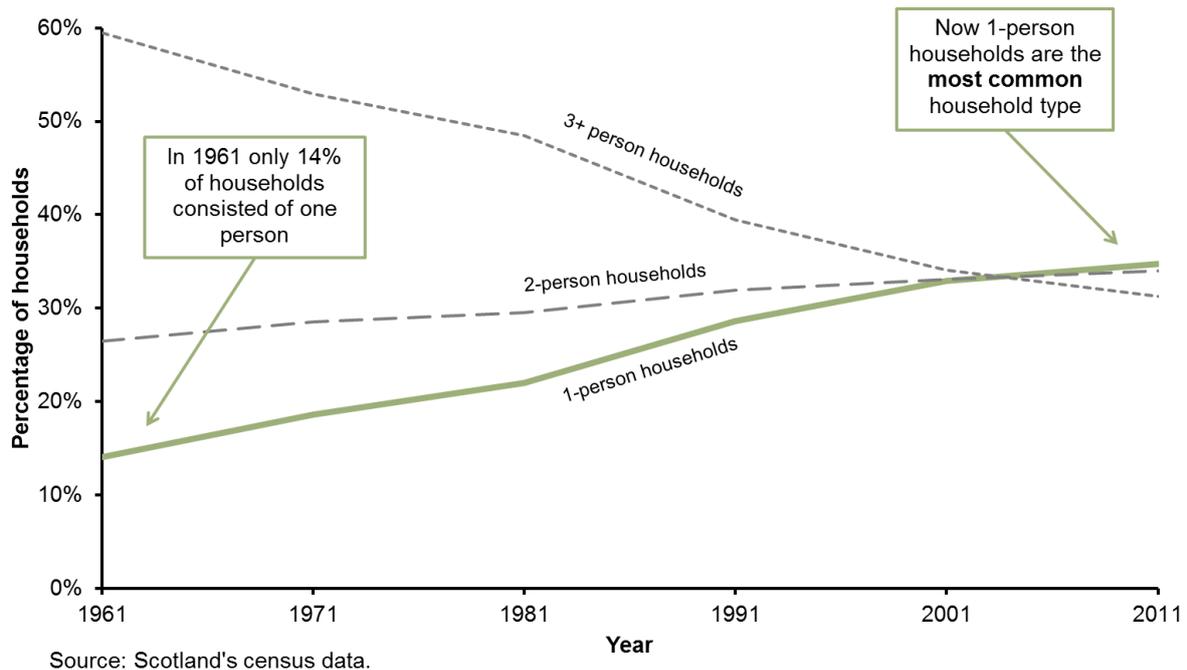
Trends in households and population, June 2006 to 2016



Source for population: National Records of Scotland Mid-Year Population Estimates

The number of households rose faster than the population (observe the figure above). This is because people are increasingly living alone or in smaller households. This is partly due to changes in the way we live, and partly because Scotland's population is ageing, as older people are more likely to live alone or in smaller households. Over the last 50 years, one-person households have gone from being the least prevalent household type, to the most prevalent type, according to the census (refer to the figure below). In 2015 nearly 900,000 people were living alone.

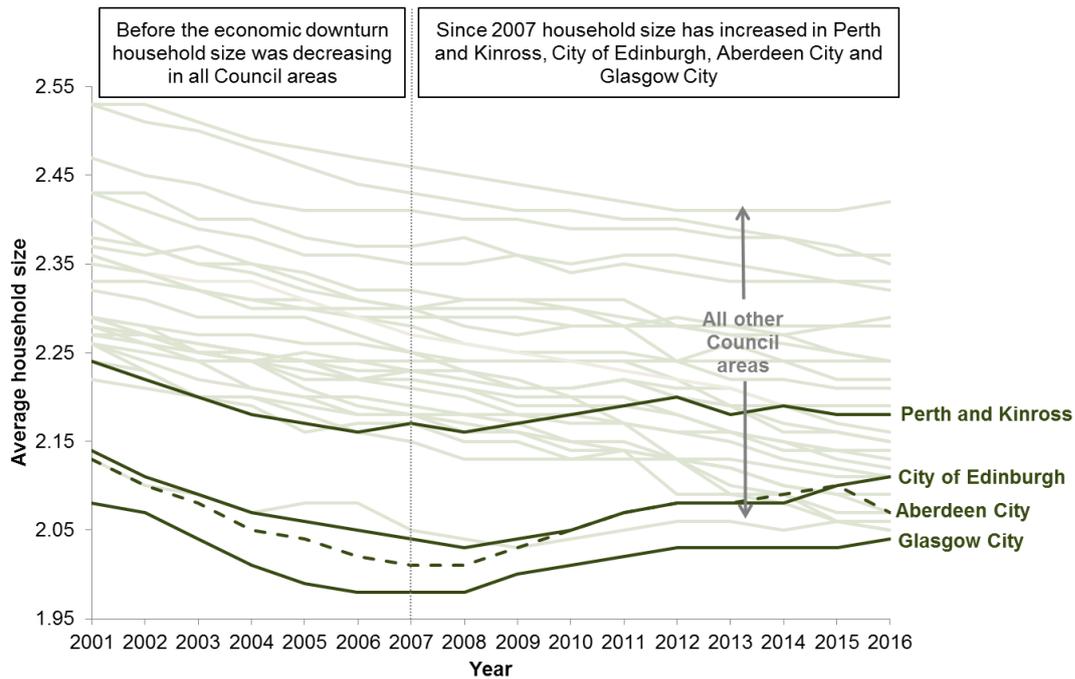
### Change in household type in Scotland, 1961 to 2011



Average household size in Scotland has fallen from 2.20 people per household in 2006 to 2.16 in 2016. However, the decline in average household size in Scotland is slowing, and average household sizes have been rising in the city council areas of Aberdeen City, City of Edinburgh and Glasgow City, and in Perth and Kinross, since the onset of the economic downturn in 2007/8 (observe the figure below).

The economic downturn has had an impact on the formation of new households. Levels of house-building fell markedly and there have been changes in the living arrangements of young adults, with more young adults living with their parents or renting rather than buying a home. This is linked to the affordability of home ownership. This will have contributed to the slowing of the decline in average household size, which means that household numbers have been increasing more slowly. It remains to be seen if this is a temporary effect or longer lasting.

**Average household size in each council area, June 2001 to 2015**



Source: National Records of Scotland Mid-year household and population estimates and Scotland's Census 2001 and 2011

Remote rural areas continue to have the highest percentage of dwellings that are either vacant or second homes (5.3 and 6.8 per cent respectively, compared to 2.9 and 0.5 per cent in large urban areas). The council areas with the highest percentage of dwellings that are vacant are the Orkney Islands (6.9 per cent), Na h-Eileanan Siar (6.5 per cent) and the Shetland Islands (6.4 per cent). Argyll and Bute is the council area with the highest percentage of second homes (7.1 per cent) followed by Na h-Eileanan Siar (5.3 per cent), Highland (3.5 per cent) and the Orkney Islands (3.5 per cent).

**Link**  
[Household estimates and projections](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Household Projections

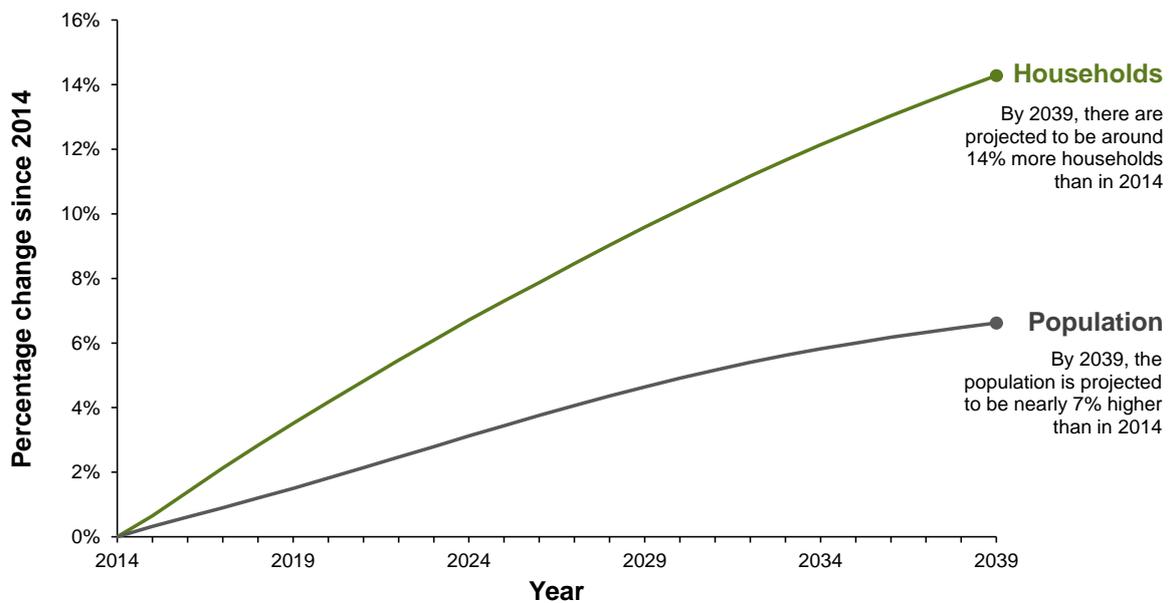
Last Updated: January 2017

By 2039, the number of households in Scotland is projected to increase by 14% to 2.76 million – an average annual increase of about 13,800 households. Over the same period, Scotland’s population is projected to increase by seven%.

This rise in population explains some of the increase in household numbers over the projection period. However, the household projections increase by a larger percentage than the population projections. This is the result of more people living alone or in smaller households.

Scotland’s population is also ageing. The number of people aged 65 or over is increasing much faster than the number of children and younger adults. This has an impact on household structure as children tend to live in larger households and older people in smaller ones.

### Projected change in number of households and population in Scotland 2014 to 2039



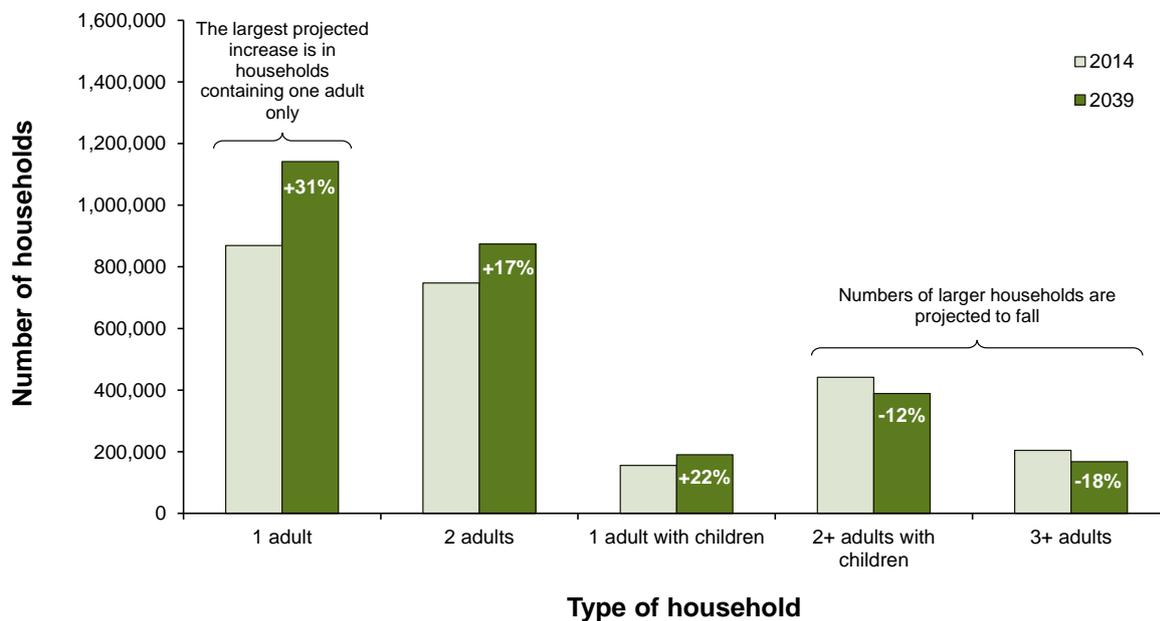
Source: Household and Population Projections for Scotland, National Records of Scotland (NRS), 2014-based

## Household type

The chart below shows the numbers of households of each type in 2014 and the projected number in 2039. There is a projected increase in households containing just one adult (an increase of under a third) with nearly a quarter of people aged 16 or over projected to live alone by 2039.

There are also smaller projected increases in households with two adults (an increase of almost a fifth), and households with one adult with children (an increase of almost a quarter). In contrast, the number of larger households is projected to fall, with households containing two or more adults with children, or three or more adults, projected to decrease by over an eighth.

**Projected number of households in Scotland by household type: 2014 and 2039**



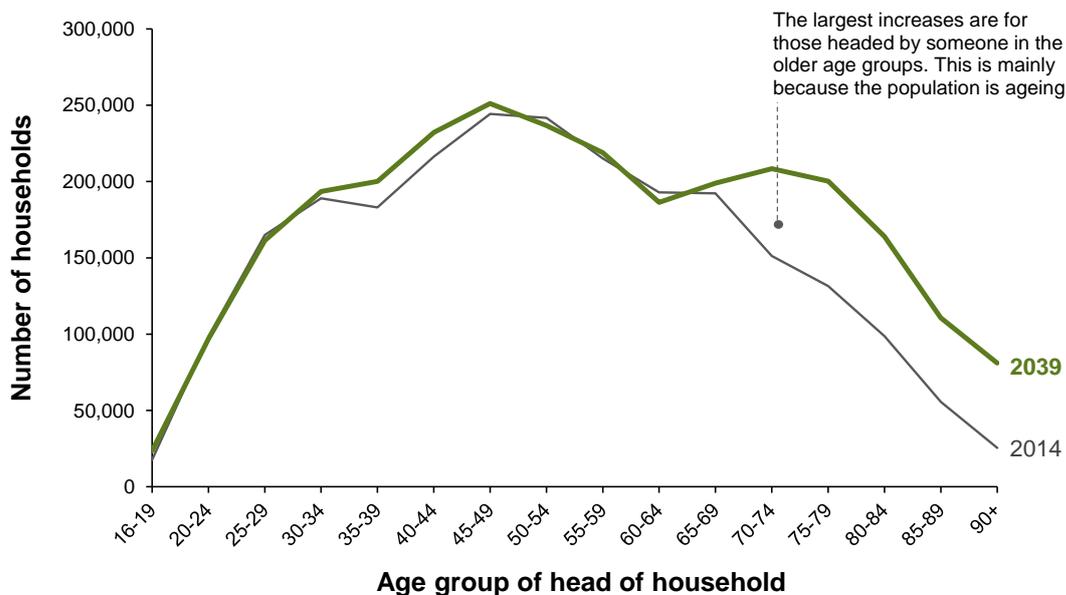
Source: Household Projections for Scotland, National Records of Scotland (NRS), 2014-based

## Age group

The chart below shows the number of households in 2014 and the projected number in 2039, by the age of the head of household. Scotland's population is ageing, with a projected increase in the number of people in the older age groups. This trend is reflected in the household projections, with the greatest increases shown in households headed by people aged 65 or over (an increase of over a half, from 654,700 to 963,400 households, between 2014 and 2039). The number of households headed by someone aged 85 or over is projected to more than double from 81,000 to over 191,800.

The number of households headed by someone under 65 is also projected to increase, but much more slowly than households headed by older people. By 2039, numbers of such households are projected to increase by just two%, to around 1.80 million

**Projected number of households in Scotland by age of head of household, 2014 and 2039**



Source: Household Projections for Scotland, National Records of Scotland (NRS), 2014-based

**Link**

[Household estimates and projections](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## **The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends**

The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends is published in July or August of each year. The report provides a summary of the main demographic trends in the previous calendar year. It also includes a 'specialised' chapter which focuses on a particular topic of interest.

### **Publications available on the National Records of Scotland website**

[Registrar General's Annual Review](#)

[Population Estimates Statistics](#)

[Population Projections](#)

[Occasional paper on Migration from the 2001 Census](#)

[Household Estimates and Projections](#)

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