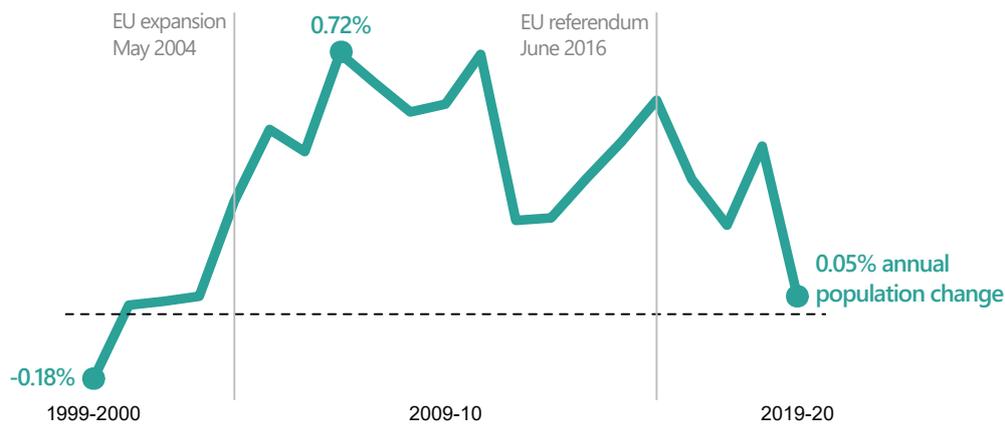


Scotland's population growth has slowed

The latest estimate of Scotland's population (on 30 June 2020) is 5,466,000.

Population growth in the latest year was 0.05% (2,700 people), the slowest since mid-2003. This was mainly due to higher numbers of deaths and lower levels of net migration.

Annual percentage change in number of people

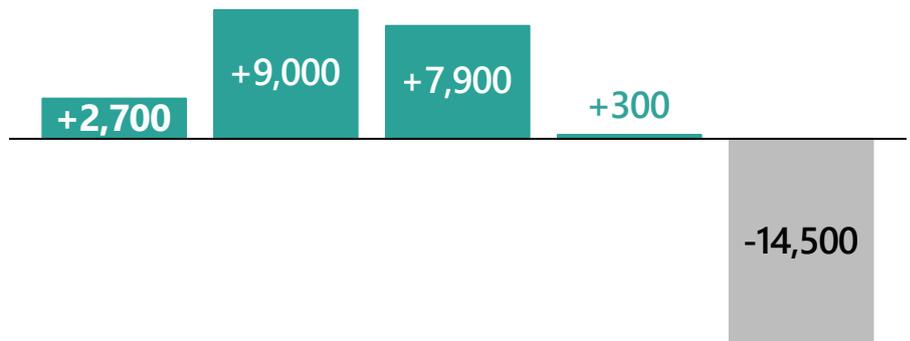


More deaths than births slows population growth

Over the latest year

- there were 14,500 more deaths than births
- 9,000 more people moved to Scotland from the rest of the UK than left
- 7,900 more people moved to Scotland from overseas than left

Total change, Net migration rest of UK, Net migration overseas, Other changes (e.g. armed forces and prisoners), Natural change (births minus deaths)

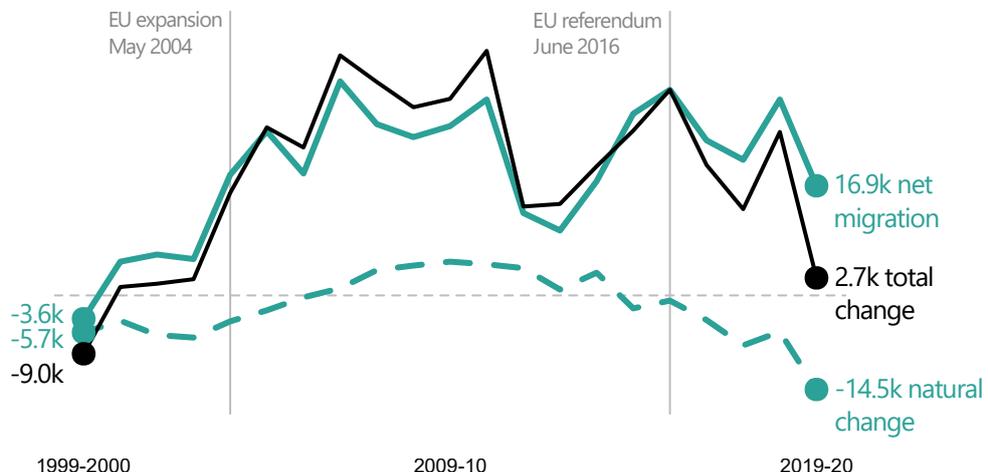


Migration main driver of population growth

Migration has been adding to the population for the last two decades. However, net migration in 2019-20 was the lowest since 2012-13.

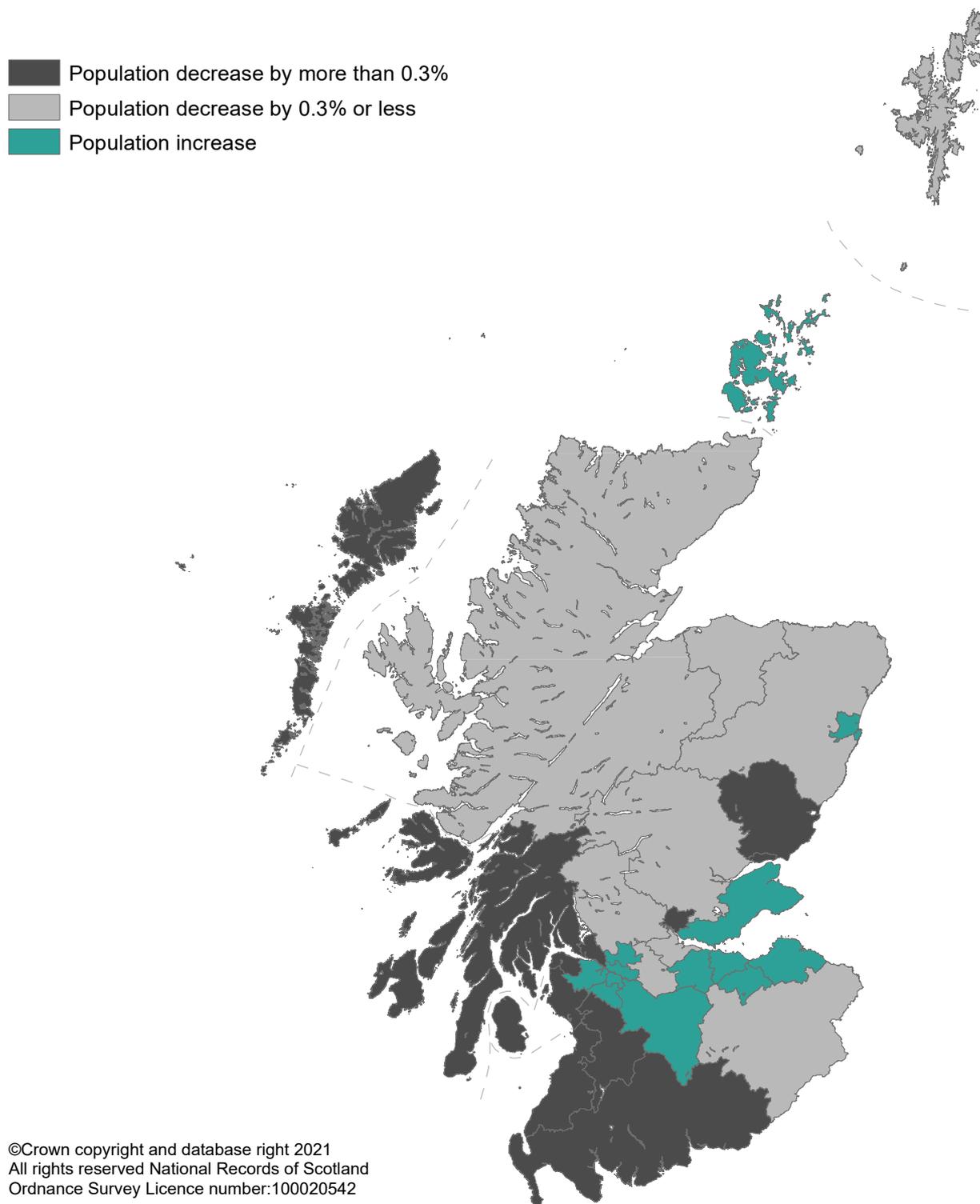
There were more deaths than births in each of the last six years. The latest natural decrease was the largest on record.

Number of people



Population change varies across Scotland's council areas

Over the last year, 20 (out of 32) of Scotland's council areas decreased in population. Areas facing greatest depopulation were mainly in the west of the country. In contrast, the 12 areas experiencing population growth were mostly around the central belt.



It is important to remember that within every council area, there are pockets of both growth and depopulation. NRS' small area population estimates for mid-2020 will be published in autumn 2021 – these can be used to help understand how the population of local areas are changing.