Scotland's population is projected to increase

The population of Scotland is projected to rise from 5.40 million in 2016 to 5.58 million in 2026, and to continue to rise to 5.69 million in 2041 – an increase of 5% over the 25 year period.

Scotland's population is projected to age

The population is projected to age as the large number of people around age 50 in 2016 become age 75 by 2041.

This is the effect of baby boomers of the 1960s ageing over the next 25 years.

Scotland's elderly population is projected to increase

People aged 75 and over are projected to be the fastest growing age group in Scotland. The number of people aged 75 and over is projected to increase by 27% over the next ten years and by 79% over the next 25 years.
All of the projected increase in Scotland’s population over the next 25 years is due to net in-migration to Scotland.

The number of deaths is projected to be higher than the number of births every year over this period.

Why is Scotland’s population projected to increase?

All of the projected increase in Scotland’s population over the next 25 years is due to net in-migration to Scotland.

The number of deaths is projected to be higher than the number of births every year over this period.

How does Scotland compare with the rest of the UK?

Scotland’s projected population growth of 5.3% over the next 25 years compares with a figure of 11.1% for the UK as a whole.

Only Wales is projected to experience a lower level of population increase than Scotland.

The level of projected population change varies under different assumptions

Variant projections give an idea of the uncertainty around projections, and show the effect on the projected population under different plausible assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration.