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This infographic report is a summary of the publication Scotland’s Population — Registrar General’s Annual Review of Demographic Trends 2015 (SG/2016/86) published by the National Records of Scotland.
Population
Scotland's population was at its highest ever level in 2015

The estimated population of Scotland on 30 June 2015 was 5,373,000 - the highest ever.

Scotland’s population increased by 0.5 per cent between 2014 and 2015.

The population of Scotland has increased by 6 per cent since the recent low of 5,063,000 million was estimated in 2000.
Since mid-2000, the population increase has mostly been due to net in-migration in Scotland.

From the 1950s to early 1970s, Scotland had more births than deaths and net out-migration. More recently Scotland’s population has been increasing mostly due to net in-migration.

In the year to 30 June 2015:
- 28,000 more people came to Scotland than left (net migration).
- there were 2,000 more deaths than births (natural change).
18% of the population were aged 65 and over on 30 June 2015 in Scotland

In mid-2015 there were more people aged 65 and over than aged under 16.

The baby booms of 1947 and the 1960s can be seen as a sharp peak at age 68 and the bulge around age 50.

The higher number of females aged 75 and over reflects their longer life expectancy.

* For illustration purposes only people aged 89 and under are shown
Scotland's population is projected to rise and to age

If current trends continue, Scotland's population is projected to rise from 5.37 million in 2015 to 5.70 million in 2039.

Scotland's population is also projected to age. The number of people of pensionable age and over per 1,000 people of working age is projected to increase from 311 in 2015 to 397 in 2039.
The populations of most European countries are projected to increase over the next few years.

Scotland’s population is projected to rise by 7 per cent between 2014 and 2039 compared with 15 per cent for the UK as a whole.

* For illustration purposes only selected countries are shown.
The number of births continued to fall in 2015 in Scotland

There were 55,098 births registered in Scotland in 2015.

There were 1,627 (3 per cent) fewer births in 2015 than in 2014 and 12,845 (19 per cent) fewer births than in 1975.

The average age of mothers increased from 26.0 in 1975 to 30.2 in 2015. Similarly, the average age of fathers increased from 28.4 in 1975 to 32.8 in 2015.
In 2015 there were 28,210 (51 per cent) births to unmarried parents compared to 6,314 (9 per cent) in 1975.

This increase largely occurred in births to unmarried partners who were in a relationship rather than in births registered solely in the mother’s name.

In 2015 more than half of babies were born to unmarried parents in Scotland
In Scotland in 2015 most births were to mothers who were born in the UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>41,082</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of UK</td>
<td>5,018</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joined EU 2004 onwards</td>
<td>3,138</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,008</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU pre-2004</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eighty four per cent of births in 2015 were to mothers who had been born in the UK, including 75 per cent who were born in Scotland. Eight per cent of mothers had been born elsewhere in the European Union (EU) including 6 per cent who were born in countries which joined the EU in 2004 or later.
Deaths
The number of deaths increased in 2015 but has decreased over the longer term in Scotland.

There were 57,579 deaths registered in Scotland in 2015. There were 3,340 (6 per cent) more deaths than in 2014, but 5,546 (9 per cent) fewer deaths than in 1975.

The death rate also fell over that 40 year period from 12.1 deaths to 10.7 deaths per 1,000 population.
Cancer accounted for more than a quarter of deaths in Scotland in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>16,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory system diseases</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ischaemic heart disease</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental and behavioural disorders</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other circulatory diseases</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular disease</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous system and sense organs diseases</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digestive system diseases</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1,892</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2015, over a quarter of all deaths were due to cancer (28 per cent), 13 per cent of deaths were due to respiratory system diseases and 12 per cent were due to ischaemic (coronary) heart disease.
In 2015 stillbirth and infant deaths rates were the lowest ever in Scotland.

There were 211 stillbirths and 175 infant deaths in 2015.

Both stillbirth and infant death rates were the lowest ever recorded in Scotland in 2015.

The legal definition of a stillbirth changed during 1992 to include losses from 24 weeks onwards. It had previously been 28 weeks onwards.
Life expectancy
Life expectancy at birth is increasing and the gap between males and females is decreasing in Scotland.

Since 1981 life expectancy in Scotland has increased, rising from 69.1 years for males and 75.3 for females born around 1981 to 77.1 for males and 81.1 for females born around 2014.

The gap in life expectancy between females and males decreased from 6.2 years for those born around 1981 to 4.0 years for those born around 2014.
There was a difference between life expectancy in the most and least deprived areas of Scotland. This was more pronounced for men (12.5 years) than for women (8.5 years) for those born around 2012.

The gap in life expectancy between females and males was also larger in the most deprived areas (6.4 years) than in the least deprived areas (2.4 years).

Life expectancy at birth was lowest in the most deprived areas of Scotland for people born around 2012.
Life expectancy in Scotland in a European context

Life expectancy in Scotland has been lower than the other UK constituent countries and most countries in Western Europe for both males and females for more than 30 years.

Life expectancy for Scotland, the UK and for the European countries with the highest and the lowest life expectancies for females and males born around 2013 are shown.
Since the start of 21st century, Scotland has experienced net in-migration rather than net out-migration.

Scotland has historically been a country of net out-migration. However, since the year to mid-2001 Scotland has been in a period of net in-migration.

In the year to mid-2015, Scotland had net in-migration of 28,000.
In-migration to Scotland from the rest of the UK has been higher than out-migration to the rest of the UK since the year to mid-2001.

In-migration from the rest of the UK has been higher than in-migration from overseas in every year except for the two years to mid-2010 and mid-2011.
In the year to mid-2015 most migrants to and from Scotland were aged between 16 and 34

Of in-migrants to Scotland, 49 per cent from the rest of the UK and 68 per cent of those from overseas were aged 16 to 34 years in the year to mid-2015.

In-migrants from the rest of the UK peaked at age 19, and out-migrants peaked at ages 23 and 24. This is largely due to students starting higher education in Scotland, followed by them leaving after their graduation.
Marriages and civil partnerships
5.6% of marriages involved same sex couples in Scotland in 2015

In 2015 there were 29,691 marriages registered in Scotland, of which 28,020 were opposite-sex couples and 1,671 were same-sex couples.

2015 was the first full year following The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 coming into force. The number of civil partnerships was 64, the lowest annual number since The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force.
Over the past 40 years in Scotland the average age at first marriage has increased from 24.3 to 33.6 years for males and from 22.5 to 31.9 years from females, an increase of more than nine years for both sexes.
In 2015, 52 per cent of all marriages were civil ceremonies compared to 35 per cent in 1975.

Overall, the number of religious and other belief marriages has fallen by 44 per cent. Within that group there have been declines in Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic ceremonies and an increase in the total of other religious and other belief ceremonies.

* Other religious and other beliefs, inc. Humanist
Adoptions
The 504 adoptions in Scotland in 2015 was the highest annual total for nearly 20 years.

504 adoptions were recorded in 2015. This was 49 more than in 2014 and was the highest number recorded since 1996. This is around half the number recorded per year in the mid 1980s, and less than a third of the 1975 total.
Of the 504 children adopted in 2015, 73 per cent were adopted by non-relatives of the child and 23 per cent were adopted by a step-parent.

Almost three-quarters of children adopted in Scotland in 2015 were adopted by non-relatives

- Non-relatives: 73% (368)
- Step-parents: 23% (115)
- Other relatives: 4% (21)
Adoptions by age of child in 2015 in Scotland

Of the 504 children adopted in 2015, the biggest single age group was 2, accounting for 20 per cent of all adoptions. Adoptions of children aged 10 and over were 14 per cent of the total.
Households and housing
The number of households in Scotland is projected to increase.

In mid-2015, there were 2.43 million households in Scotland, which is an increase of around 160,000 over the past ten years.

The number of households is projected to increase to 2.78 million by 2037, an average annual increase of approximately 16,000 households.
Overall in Scotland in 2015, 3 per cent of homes were empty and 1 per cent were second homes, though there were wide differences across the country. Remote rural areas had the highest percentage of dwellings that were vacant and second homes.

96% of homes were occupied in 2015 in Scotland

- Occupied homes: 2,451,790 (96%)
- Empty homes: 78,475 (3%)
- Second homes: 27,317 (1%)
The number of households has risen faster than the population in Scotland

People are increasingly living alone or in smaller households. This is partly because Scotland’s population is ageing, as older people are more likely to live alone or in smaller households.

Because the average number of people per household has fallen, the number of households has grown more rapidly than the number of people in Scotland.
This infographic report is a summary of the main statistics report, which has much more detail.

The sources used include Scotland’s Census 2011, administrative data, and data collected from council areas in Scotland.

The main report, this infographic report and more can be found via the following weblinks:

**Scotland’s Population — Registrar General’s Annual Review of Demographic Trends 2015**

**Scotland’s Population 2015 — Infographic report**

**More infographics by National Records of Scotland**
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