Population by Country of Birth and Nationality

1. Notes on Tables

1.1 Table 1 shows estimates of the Scottish population by council area and country of birth.

Table 2 shows estimates of the Scottish population by council area and nationality.

1.2 All tables are produced using the Annual Population Survey (APS).

Updates:

1.3 Tables 1 and 2 are updated on an annual basis.

1.4 The -council area and Scotland total figures differ from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) mid-year population estimates as the APS excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent and people in most other types of communal establishments (for example hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).

1.5 Figures have been rounded independently and may not add to totals.

1.6 Symbols shown in the table below have been used in the Population by Country of Birth and Nationality tables.

'.' No contact	This value is used where the APS has had no contact with any resident with a particular country of birth or nationality.
':' Not available	This value is used where estimates for a geographical area are not available in the source data.
'c' Not available due to disclosure control	This value is used where an estimate cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality reasons, as there have been less than three APS contacts.
'0~' Rounded to zero	This value is used where an estimate or a confidence interval rounds to zero. All estimates and confidence intervals in these tables are rounded to the nearest thousand, so 0~ indicates that the unrounded value is less than 500.

2.   Country of birth and nationality

2.1   Nationality refers to that stated by the respondent during the interview. It is possible that an individual's nationality may change, but the respondent's country of birth cannot change. This means that country of birth gives a more robust estimate of change over time.

2.2   There are two main reasons for differences between nationality and country of birth:

- As those born abroad remain in the UK they often apply to become British nationals.

- Many people born abroad have British nationality. For example, this may be the case for people whose parents were in the military services and were based abroad when they were born.

2.3   The preferred measure of defining migration is to use country of birth because this cannot change, whereas nationality can change over time.

3.   The Annual Scottish Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey

3.1   The APS comprises data from the LFS, plus data from the Annual Local (Area) Labour Force Survey Boosts for England, Scotland and Wales.

3.2   The LFS collects a wide range of information from people resident in private households including data on country of birth and nationality. The data can be used as an indicator of the non-UK born or foreign born migrant numbers in the UK. The population covered is all people resident in private households. The LFS excludes most communal establishments although it does cover most staff resident in National Health Service accommodation. Students in halls of residence are covered by proxy through their parents and thus foreign students living in halls of residence are not likely to be covered – though those living in private households will be. The impact of this coverage of communal establishments is that the number of foreign born migrants may be under-reported.

3.3   The APS data are published on an annual basis, covering the period January to December.

3.4   The APS data for Scotland (which includes the boost to the LFS sample in Scotland) includes approximately 23,000 households each year. The survey is carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

3.5   Further information on the Annual Population Survey and Labour Force Survey is available on the ONS website.

4. Definitions and terms – Standard error and confidence intervals

4.1 Standard error is an estimate of the margin of error associated with a sample survey.

4.2 A confidence interval provides an estimated range of values in which an actual data value is likely to fall. The confidence interval provided is 95 per cent. This means that, across the dataset as a whole, the confidence intervals are expected to contain the true values around 95 per cent of the time. It is obtained as:

1.96 x standard error

4.3 If the confidence interval is higher than the estimate, it is not considered reliable for practical purposes.